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# ▶ Bringing Back Jobs Safely under the COVID-19 Crisis in the Philippines: Rebooting Small and Informal Businesses Safely and Digitally

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## ▶ At a glance



### Partners

- ▶ Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its relevant attached bureaus and agencies
- ▶ Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)
- ▶ Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) including the Philippine Trade Training Center (MSME Academy) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
- ▶ National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)
- ▶ Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)
- ▶ Department of Health (DoH)
- ▶ National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)
- ▶ OSH Networks (regional) and Safety Training Organizations
- ▶ Federation of Free Workers (FFW)
- ▶ Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)
- ▶ National Trade Union Center of the Philippines (NTUC Phi)
- ▶ Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO)
- ▶ Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)



### Donor

Government of Japan



### Duration

15 June 2021 - 31 March 2023



### Target beneficiaries

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and unemployed/underemployed resorting to alternative livelihood under the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Geographical focus

Philippines with an emphasis on Super Typhoon Odette-affected regions

## ▶ Project goal and strategy

**Goal:** The project will contribute to improving the safety and health of workers in MSMEs in the non-metropolitan regions of the Philippines and mitigating the negative socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

**Strategy:** As a major COVID-19 response support of the Government of Japan and ILO for the Philippines, the project intends to supplement the on-going efforts of the Government of the Philippines and social partners in addressing the COVID-19 challenges and filling the gaps with ILO's expertise in occupational safety and health (OSH) and MSME development. Building on the integrated strategic policy framework of the ILO for COVID-19 response, the project will build on the existing ILO programmes in the country and leverage other key interventions in such areas as responsible supply chain, skills development, social finance, and formalization of informal economy. With support of Japan, it also seeks linkages and synergies with other Japan-funded programmes and collaboration of the business community in the country. In order to reach out to a large number of MSMEs, the project relies on the multiplier effect of training-of-trainers (TOT) and communication optimized for MSME audience.

Relationship with the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITCILO) will be reinforced in this project in adapting training tools into digital platforms to widen access of MSMEs and boost information dissemination.

## ► **Main activities**

1. Support provision of quality training for MSMEs outside Metro Manila on a) OSH-cum-productivity measures including COVID-19 prevention and mitigation (COVID OSH) and b) digital entrepreneurship.
2. Provide internet connectivity and related business support services to regional MSMEs via the first pilot of the “Innovation Hubs” of DICT and its satellite network.
3. Establish an interdisciplinary knowledge management system between public health and the world of work and strengthen sustainable delivery capacity of COVID OSH expertise in the Philippines.
4. Communicate the MSME success stories to induce behavioural changes among non-beneficiary MSMEs.

## ► **Expected outcomes**

The project will achieve the stated goal by producing the following three outcomes:

- Workplace of regional MSMEs is made safer and more productive in the New Normal environment with the prolonged COVID-19 risks.
- Regional MSMEs and alternative livelihoods have reduced the risk of COVID-19 infection and enhanced productivity with digital modalities for business operations.
- Awareness among non-beneficiary MSMEs strengthened and knowledge exchange promoted among them on the advantages and modalities of safe workplace and digitalized business operation.

The project contributes to the Global Call to Action for a human-centered recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and, the Decent Work Country Program in the Philippines.

Activities (Recent and ongoing):

### 1. **Trainings offered:**

#### **a. OSH-cum-productivity** (including COVID-19 prevention and mitigation)

- Training on the Prevention of COVID-19 and OSH, applying the ILO Work Improvements in Small Enterprises (WISE) Methodology (WISE for COVID Plus) following the participatory action-oriented training (PAOT) methodology of the ILO for micro and small enterprises

- Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) with multiple dimensions of productivity enhancement combined with the new “COVID-OSH module”

#### **b. Digital Entrepreneurship**

- Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) with the integration of the Digitalize Your Business (DYB) Guide
- Training of Financial Education for entrepreneurs and MSMEs with updated guidance on the digital financial services

For more details on the training events, please visit the project website: [https://www.ilo.org/manila/projects/WCMS\\_814829/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/manila/projects/WCMS_814829/lang-en/index.htm)

2. **Development of online learning versions of SIYB and Financial Education with ITC-ILO**
3. **Design and Development of Digital Transformation Centre - Innovation Hubs in Luzon (Pampanga), Visayas (Cebu), and Mindanao (TBD)**
4. **Design and Development of the Knowledge Management System that will capture OSH improvements in MSMEs and informal businesses**
5. **Cooperation with workers’ organizations like the Federation of Free Workers for capacity-strengthening on OSH**
6. **Cooperation with the Department of Health in expanding capacities for promoting healthy workplaces**
7. **Strategic partnerships**
  - Signed DOLE-ILO Memorandum of Agreement
  - Signed DTI-ILO Memorandum of Understanding



*Davao del Norte Province micro-entrepreneurs and workers attend the Work Improvements in Small Enterprises (WISE) for COVID Plus Training of Entrepreneurs and co-create action plans to enhance OSH in their workplaces. © ILO/J. Bacal*

### ► **Contact details:**

**Tonilyn Lim**  
Chief Technical Adviser  
ILO Country Office for  
the Philippines  
E: [limt@iloguest.org](mailto:limt@iloguest.org)

**Bea Arnela Parungo**  
MSME Digitalization  
Coordinator  
ILO Country Office  
for the Philippines  
E: [parungo@ilo.org](mailto:parungo@ilo.org)

**Josefa “Joy” Bacal**  
Occupational Safety and  
Health Coordinator  
ILO Country Office  
for the Philippines  
E: [bacal@iloguest.org](mailto:bacal@iloguest.org)

 ILO.ORG  
 ILOAsiaPacific  
 ILOTV  
 ilomanila  
 ilomanila  
[ilo.org/manila](https://ilo.org/manila)