



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

November/2021

▶ 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)
- ▶ National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)
- ▶ Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP),
- ▶ Federation of Free Workers (FFW),
- ▶ Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU),
- ▶ National Trade Union Center of the Philippines (NTUC Phl),
- ▶ Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO),
- ▶ Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)



Donor

Government of Japan



Duration

June 2021 – June 2022



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 cities and provinces outside of Metro Manila affected by the pandemic.

▶ 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):

- Project Launching
- Project Inception Phase (Stakeholder Consultation, Baseline Assessment)
- Digital Business Development Services and Digital Financial Services Mapping in the Philippines
- Promotional campaign for Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE)
- Training of Trainers on prevention of COVID 19 applying the Work Improvements in Small Enterprises (WISE)
- Training of Trainers on Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) with Digitalize Your Business (DYB)
- Adaptation of Financial Education training program
- Dialogue between the public-health and labour sectors on safe return to work








A delivery driver wears a mask and unloads essential items amid the COVID-19 lockdown, Muntinlupa City, Philippines.

All photos: © ILO

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