

Save the Children's Youth Employment Programs

Country Overview: Philippines

In the Philippines, unemployment in the youth sector is 15.7%, while youth account for nearly half (48.5%) of the country's unemployed.¹ With the nation's growing population comes a growing need for technical and vocational skills, entrepreneurial support and employment linkages that can empower young people and lead them – their families and their communities – to greater economic success and out of the cycle of poverty.

Save the Children's Youth Employment Program in the Philippines is designed with the growing shift towards urbanization in mind. It addresses the needs of both vulnerable populations and businesses within urban centers. Built on years of expertise gained in over a dozen countries around the globe, this program is key to helping young people achieve successful futures ensuring that they have access to market relevant training and can acquire the skills they need to secure safe and decent skilled jobs.

Youth Employment Program Strategies

The Youth Employment Program of Save the Children has a unique approach to livelihoods. It identifies and serves the most deprived and at risk youth, creating job linkages through local labor market assessments, private sector partnerships and a dynamic training approach on employability skills and entrepreneurship skills. This is possible, in part, thanks to robust collaborations with local government, accredited technical and vocational institutions, local and global businesses with operations in the Philippines, and other stakeholders.

Our strategies include:

- Train and support youth at scale
- Learn by building an evidence base through information and communications technology (ICT) and research
- Build partnerships for sustainability

Program Locations

The program is implemented in the cities of Manila, Quezon, Navotas, and Pasig in the National Capital Region as well as the provinces of Laguna, Cavite and Batangas in the Southern Tagalog Region and Tacloban City in Leyte Province.



¹ as referenced from 2013 Philippine Labor Statistics

A commercial cooking student in the Youth Employment Program carefully prepares his entry for a program-sponsored cooking contest.

Photo: Heidi Anicete

Target Beneficiaries

During the second phase of our program from 2015-2018, our goal is to reach 16,500 youth aged 15-24 who are currently enrolled in technical and vocational education and training institutions. Some 12,700 youth will be trained using a blend of e-learning approaches while the remaining 3,800 will be reached through face-to-face training. Of these youth 60%, or 9,900, will secure decent wage employment or start their own businesses.

Accomplishments to Date

Save the Children's Youth Employment Program reached more than 3,000 youth from 2012 to 2015. During our current second phase, based on new global research showing the life skills associated with workforce success, we have updated the employability skills curriculum delivered through schools and NGO partners to in-school deprived and at risk youth. We also based this revision on new detailed job market and youth needs assessments, conducted in the provinces of Laguna, Cavite and Batangas in 2015 and is now being implemented in selected areas in metro Manila.

In order to check that youth are learning what we teach,

we are in the process of locally adapting a tool to reliably measure in an affordable way participants' acquisition of employability skills. The Employability Skills Acquisition Tool (EA Tool) was pilot tested among selected youth to test the reliability of a Filipino version of the questionnaires. This EA tool will be used to measure acquisition of the 6 employability skills including self-control, positive self-esteem, communication skills, social skills, problem solving skills, as well as job search skills.

As of February 2016, more than 2,000 young people, 30% female, have been trained on employability skills. Entrepreneurship Skills Training was also conducted among 25 students in Laguna and Cavite, and youth with winning business plans were provided with start-up kits to establish their own businesses. In order for youth to validate their skills, 216 youth received an accredited skills competency assessment and certification support during the last quarter of 2015.

In terms of income-generating outcomes, an estimated 34-43% of the total trained youth through December 2015 were either employed, started their own businesses, undertook paid apprenticeship or on-the-job training.

Save the Children Philippines has established partnerships with 21 technical vocational education and training (TVET) institutions and 5 local government units in the 4 program areas. We are in discussions with companies and job portals such as CDO Food Sphere, Inc., Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation and Triple-E Manpower & General Services, Inc., Jobstreet, JobsDB and 88DB to

explore possible areas of collaboration for employment linkages.

Future Plans

We will further update and customize our curriculum and training methods to increase their relevance to growing economic sectors, such as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related vocations.

Youth guilds will be created not only as a source of support to graduates of our programs, but will also serve as a resource pool for employers looking for specific skills. Looking to the future, we will continue to engage and advocate with key stakeholders to ensure support to youth employment is sustained and to secure the best possible future for the nation's youth.

Tracking youth participants is a challenge, hence, innovations in information sharing shall be used through social media and SMS. We will also institute an online centralized database management system and mobile data collection to better monitor and evaluate our impact.

We plan to achieve scale through advocating for the adoption of our curriculum by the school system including preparing TVET instructors on how to use Employability Skills Training curriculum with their students. Other ways we will address the challenge of reaching deprived and at risk youth include innovative approaches to e-Learning and peer-to-peer training and mentoring through corporate and youth volunteer engagement.

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