



Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers

SAFEYOUTH@WORK PROJECT

Every single day, **6,400 people** die from an occupational accident or disease, and **860,000 workers** are injured on the job. Younger workers, aged between 15 and 24, are highly vulnerable, and suffer up to a 40 per cent higher rate of non-fatal occupational injuries than older workers. Many factors contribute to this, including a lack of job skills, work experience and training; inadequate supervision; limited knowledge of OSH hazards and risk management; and, an absence of mechanisms to engage young workers and encourage them to understand and exercise their rights.

In response, the United States Department of Labor has funded the SAFEYOUTH@WORK PROJECT. This global initiative aims to improve the occupational safety and health of young workers above the minimum age of work up to 24 years, and establish a culture of prevention. To achieve this goal, the project will lead OSH interventions in 11 countries around the world and, in collaboration with Governments, employers' and workers' organizations, youth and other civil society organizations, educational institutions and international development partners. The project strategy has four main components:

- Help countries collect and effectively use timely and relevant OSH data;
- Work to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to better protect young workers;
- Tripartite constituents are better equipped to address workplace hazards and risks; and
- Global knowledge and awareness of the hazards and risks faced by young workers is better understood.

The SAFEYOUTH@WORK PROJECT is a key element of the ILO's OSH flagship programme: Occupational Safety and Health - Global Action for Prevention, and supports **the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on decent work and economic growth (8)**; the project will also contribute to the SDG on **good health and well-being (3)**.



In Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam the project will work intensively on all four strategic pillars. The project will also work in up to eight additional countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia, piloting a more limited set of interventions to promote OSH for young workers. The project's areas of focus include improving OSH in agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

Country highlights – Below are selected highlights on how the project works in practice. The project plans to draw from its country work to develop a body of good practices which can be widely adapted to different national settings.

Myanmar -- One key result the project seeks to achieve is that young workers in the construction and agriculture sectors know more about the importance of OSH and understand how to effectively address workplace hazards. The project will work on OSH awareness raising with employers' and workers' organizations. These organizations have existing networks which can be used to reach as many young workers as possible.

The Philippines -- An important objective will be to ensure that vocational skills training programmes and policies prepare young workers not only to accomplish their job tasks, but also to address OSH hazards and risks. The project will work with national TVET institutions to revise training curricula so that instructors can teach OSH management concepts hand in hand with job skills, making training courses more relevant to the realities of the workplace.

Viet Nam -- The project will support the Government to implement the new OSH Law and build a supporting framework of regulations to guide OSH inspectors in their day-to-day work. The extension of OSH coverage to workers in the informal economy means that young workers, many in their first job experience, will gain the benefit of safer and healthier workplaces.



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