

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. Quality, productive employment for youth in the Philippines is a key priority for the government and is supported by a range of development partners, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which has played a leading role in this area since 2011. ADB, together with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), undertook work to significantly reform employment facilitation services and to pilot-test the JobStart Philippines (JSP) program. The Government of Canada is another critical partner on youth employment, funding two large ADB technical assistance (TA) projects: Employment Facilitation for Inclusive Growth and Improving Competitiveness in Tourism. On the strength of the pilot tests conducted through these programs, the Government of the Philippines has rolled out both programs nationally. To support the nationwide rollout of JSP, in 2016 the Government of Canada approved cofinancing of approximately \$7.5 million to expand JSP's reach and facilitate its implementation. ADB also supports the linkages between quality education and employment through the Senior High School support program. In 2017, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and ADB co-published a report that looks at implementation of employment and skills development strategies in the Philippines.

Major Development Partners

Development Partner	Project Name	Duration	Amount (\$ million)
Employment Facilitation			
ADB	Support for the Nationwide Rollout of JobStart Philippines (cofinanced by the Government of Canada)	2015–2020	8.8
ADB	Senior High School Support Program	2014–2019	300.0
ADB	Employment Facilitation for Inclusive Growth (financed by the Government of Canada)	2013–2017	5.6
ADB	Improving Competitiveness in Tourism (financed by the Government of Canada)	2013–2017	7.1
ADB	Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program, Subprogram 1	2015–2017	300.0
ILO	Decent Work Country Program: Philippines	From 2016	()
UN and AECID	MDG-F 1942: Youth, Employment and Migration (Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth)	2015–2016	()
USAID	YouthWorks PH	2018–2022	32.0
USAID	Industry Road Maps and Youth Employment Generation	From 2015	()
USAID	Mindanao Youth for Development Program	2013–2018	11.0

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AECID = Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation), ILO = International Labour Organization, UN = United Nations, USAID = United States Agency for International Development.

Source: Asian Development Bank

2. Several other development partners are also working in the area of skills and employment. The International Labour Organization (ILO) provides support on policy development and labor regulatory reform to the government. The joint program between ILO, several United Nations agencies and Spain through the Achievement Fund of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG-F) is also supporting the youth employment agenda through one-stop-shop centers for young migrants or children left behind by migrating parents. The centers provide information and services on employment, reintegration, and safe migration, and they

provide referrals to education and training programs. The United States Agency for International Development is playing a growing role in the agenda, supporting industry road maps and recently launching a new youth employment program called YouthWorks PH in partnership with Philippine Business for Education. The program aims to help youth transition into sustainable, quality employment through a combination of technical training and referral services. The United States Agency for International Development also supports a youth development program in Mindanao, where significant additional barriers to employment exist. The European Union has also expressed interest in entering the youth employment facilitation space and is currently in discussions with ADB to explore cofinancing to further extend the reach of JSP.

3. ADB is currently the only major development partner with a large proposed program in youth employment facilitation during 2019–2021. The government and local and international development partners, including ADB, are coordinating and collaborating in other thematic areas to enhance complementarity of support and to maximize synergies. ADB will continue to engage in policy dialogue and provide technical support in critical thematic areas, such as institutionalization and localization of employment services, standardization and professionalization of public employment services, expansion of enterprise led-learning networks, and linkages with technical education and skills development institutes.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

4. The Philippine Development Forum is the primary mechanism of the government to facilitate policy dialogue and promote coordination of assistance of all its development partners in support of the country's development agenda. In addition to the main development partners mentioned in the table, key stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, and academia are involved in policy dialogue and contribute to policy development and implementation. Broad coordination helps support complementarity of interventions and reduces the risk of duplication in order to maximize development results.

5. In the area of labor and employment, multiple development coordination mechanisms take place at various levels, consistent with the complexity of issues and the range of stakeholders and interventions. The DOLE holds responsibility for the labor and employment development plan, which articulates interventions for employment creation over the 6-year period aligned with the Philippine Development Plan, 2017–2022. The labor and employment development plan is used to coordinate and align development partner contributions on specific issues and themes. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) chairs an interagency technical working group on employment generation. The technical working group provides for higher-level policy dialogue on employment policy direction and concerns. Development partners, including ADB, are invited to attend these meetings as resource persons and have regularly presented to the group on various issues. There is also the Tripartite Industrial Peace Council comprising unions, employers, and the DOLE. This council ensures that both private sector and worker's ideas and concerns are reflected in the Philippines' labor policies.

C. Achievements and Issues

6. The Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program has had a clear impact on youth employment facilitation in the Philippines. Through the JSP component, 35 local government units have participated in the JSP as of March 2019. Furthermore, over 17,000 youth have accessed the program, of which almost 60% have been young women. Among young people who have completed JSP program components, an average of 66% have been

able to transition into permanent employment. The government has passed legislation to institutionalize JSP and mandate its nationwide rollout. Additionally, the employer-led skills grant scheme piloted under ADB's Employment Facilitation for Inclusive Growth TA project has been officially adopted and was fully funded by the government budget as of 2017. The government has worked to standardize and professionalize a public employment service competency framework, which will promote more consistent delivery of employment facilitation services across the country.

D. Summary and Recommendations

7. Strong employment facilitation, particularly for youth, remains a priority for the government. ADB will continue to support employment reforms through a combination of programmatic lending, TA, and policy dialogue. While coordination with development partners has been strong, it is necessary to actively engage the private sector to ensure labor policies and programs reflect the needs and demands of employers. Coordination between the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and DOLE will also be important to improve the linkages between skills development and workplace needs, especially in the face of potential labor market shifts related to the fourth industrial revolution (the adoption of advanced robotics and artificial intelligence by industry and services). ADB will continue to pursue knowledge generation activities along with partners like the ILO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and to share the outputs of this knowledge work with the NEDA technical working group on employment generation.