



▶ Young Futuremakers Thailand - Phase II

February/2023

▶ At a glance



Main partners

- ▶ Ministry of Labour (MOL)
- ▶ Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
- ▶ Employers' Confederation of Thailand (ECOT), along with sectoral business associations
- ▶ Workers' organizations
- ▶ Enterprises, communities, and associations working with youth



Donor

Standard Chartered Foundation



Duration

September 2022 – December 2023



Target beneficiaries

Youth, in particular disadvantaged young women and men



Geographical focus

Thailand, with a primary focus on Bangkok and the provinces of Rayong, Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya, Nakhon Ratchasima, Songkhla, and Yala

▶ Background

The COVID-19 crisis had a negative socio-economic impact on young people in Thailand. The crisis led to multiple labour market shocks for young people. Youth experience disruption to education and training, job disruptions through job losses, reduced working hours and earnings, along with deteriorating quality of employment and difficulties in transitioning from school to work and moving between jobs in a recession. With the COVID-19 situation largely improved at the end of 2022, Thailand is continuing to move towards a labour market recovery. However, the emergence of multiple economic and political crises worldwide including increase in food and energy prices as well as inflation can affect this recovery process. The ILO Thailand labour market update found that employment of young women and men both fell by 7 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. The youth unemployment rate increased by 3 percentage points for both men and women, reaching a high of 6 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, young people (aged 15-24) in Thailand were in a vulnerable labour market situation. Despite improved educational accessibility for youth, there is still a mismatch between the skills that youth possess, and the skills demanded in the labour market. With the increased demand on the capacity of public employment services and skills development providers during the COVID-19 crisis, the uncertainty over the recovery, and a changing world of work, further strengthening of institutional capacities is required to tackle the challenges encountered by young people and to connect them to the labour market. These employment challenges have resulted in youth facing various obstacles when transitioning from school to work with many young people remaining excluded from employment opportunities.

► Objectives

With the continued support of Standard Chartered Foundation, the ILO launched the Young Futuremakers Thailand-Phase II project to support disadvantaged young women and men in the labour market, through the provision of demand-led technical skills training, employability training, career guidance and job placements.

The project takes a strategic approach to focus on systemic and integrated support for gender-responsive and inclusive labour market interventions.

Anchored in the UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, the project aims at:

Improving employment-related knowledge, skills and labour market transitions of disadvantaged youth

The project aims to provide youth, including young persons with disabilities, with pre-employment technical and employability skills training along with employment services to help facilitate their (re-) entry into job placements or work-based learning experiences. The training courses will be selected, adapted, and implemented in consultation with national stakeholders while taking into account the geographic and sectoral priorities. In addition, the trainings will also focus on capacity building and soft skills training to build young people's confidence, self-esteem, and aspirations. At the same time, the project will provide young people with employment services through job fairs, career guidance, placement support and work-based learning opportunities in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Employers' Confederation of Thailand, enterprises, workers' organizations and other key stakeholders.

Photos

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Strengthening institutional capacities to provide skills development and employment services

The project will work closely with key stakeholders including key public agencies and ministries to review and assess institutional awareness, outreach measures, and challenges encountered by disadvantaged youth in accessing training and employment services. Afterwards, the project will support piloting selected incentives, awareness, and outreach measures to enhance institutional capacities and integrated approach in providing employment services and skills development for youth, including through innovative and digital methods. The project will also work with stakeholders to adapt training curricula to targeted youth and align with the strategic plan of the DSD which aims to develop and update existing curriculums and skill standards. Moreover, the project will leverage engagement and social dialogue of employers' and workers' organisations in project activities to provide employment opportunities to youth including work-based learning opportunities.

Together, the project components seek to improve the employability of young people including young persons with disabilities, through skills, knowledge, and competencies that will enhance their ability to enter the labour market, secure and retain a job, cope with change, and be better prepared for a rapidly changing world of work.

To achieve this, the project will be implemented in close collaboration with local partners and key stakeholders, including:

1. Ministry of Labour (MOL) through the Department of Employment (DOE) and Department of Skill Development (DSD), as well as Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS)
2. Employers' Confederation of Thailand (ECOT) and sectoral business associations
3. Workers' organizations
4. Enterprises, communities, and associations working with youth

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► Contact details:

ILO Country Office for Thailand, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic

United Nations Building, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

T: +662 288 1234 (press 1 for ILO)

F: +662 280 1735

E: BANGKOK@ilo.org


W: ilo.org/Thailand

 ILO.ORG

 ILOAsiaPacific

 ILOTV

 ILOAsiaPacific

 iloinfo