

# Save the Children's Youth Employment Programs

## Country Overview: Philippines

Save the Children's unique approach to livelihoods identifies and serves the most marginalized youth and creates job linkages through local market assessments, local private sector partnerships and a dynamic training approach that combines life skills, market-relevant skills and financial literacy topics. Our youth livelihoods programming in the Philippines is consistent with the growing shift towards urbanization and addresses the needs of both vulnerable populations and businesses within urban centers. It is built on years of expertise gained in over a dozen countries around the globe, including the Philippines where we've worked since 1981.

Save the Children's Youth Employment Programs are key to helping young people achieve successful futures by ensuring that they have access to job training and safe, meaningful employment.

### Youth Employment Program

The project is intended to strengthen skills to build opportunities and potential employment for out-of-school youth ages 15-24 in Taguig City, Pateros, Pasay City, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite. This is possible, in part, thanks to strong collaborations from local government, accredited technical and vocational institutions the private/business sector and other stakeholders.

Our strategies are to:

- Assess job market conditions and needs
- Inform and support training opportunities
- Build strong employment linkages
- Advocate for long-term change.

### Background

In the Philippines, more than 1.7 million youth ages 15-24 are out of school and unemployed. With the nation's growing population, comes a growing need for technical and life skills, entrepreneurial assistance and employment linkages that can complement and draw from the abilities



of young people and lead them – and their families – to

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

*Photo: Heidi Anicete*

greater economic success.

### Accomplishments

To date, the Youth Employment Program has had marked success in the Philippines in helping young people realize their potential and earn their way out of poverty. We began by conducting a job market analysis and at-risk youth skills needs assessment in Taguig City, Pateros and nearby areas, and we developed a database management system through pro-bono engagement with a corporate partner.

Because delivering our program well is a key factor in its success, we conducted training-of-trainer sessions on life skills with peer facilitators and Alternative Learning System instructional managers from Taguig City, Pateros, and Pasig City.

Reaching out to local youth, we adapted an employability skills curricula and delivered it to more than 2,700 young people, 1,213 of whom were females. This exceeded our reach target of 2,000. We also conducted Life Skills Entrepreneurial Training, and more than 400 youth (131 of whom were females) received an accredited skills competency assessment and certification support.

In addition, more than 250 out-of-school youth were sponsored for vocational technical training on metal arc welding, commercial cooking, electrical installation and maintenance. A finishing course for call center agents was also offered. Finally, to enhance engagement with our Youth Employment Program, we held a “Stakeholders Dialogue” involving national and local government agencies/offices, NGOs and private companies.

Most important, thanks to the program, 620 youth found employment, 180 secured apprenticeships and 64 have launched new enterprises or pursued managing small businesses.

### Future Plans

With the success of our Youth Employment efforts to date, we look forward to further improving and expanding the program by drawing on current learnings and best practices. Moving forward, we plan to conduct research on baseline and assessment of job conditions and needs in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and selected areas in Metro Manila.

Other goals include improving employment opportunities for 4,000 disadvantaged youth. This will be accomplished by developing a talent pool with market-relevant skills and qualifications through a peer-to-peer approach. The existing job-ready talent pool will be connected with organizations offering employment, entrepreneurship and mentoring opportunities.

Looking to the future, we will continue to advocate for long-term change with key stakeholders in order to ensure

### Mastering the Main Course



**Program students cook up a storm at the Signal Village Taguig City commercial cooking class. From traditional Filipino cuisine, to world-famous Italian staples to popular American desserts – if it tastes good, it's on the menu!**

Learning and practicing culinary skills is a favorite among youth seeking skills for the job market. During the program's commercial training course, students gain cooking skills, master new techniques, learn recipes and get advice on how to start a business – be it a restaurant or a catering concern.

"I feel that I have made a difference in my students' lives," says the program's commercial cooking instructor Maria Marzarita Limson Lice. "They leave inspired and proud of their accomplishments."

Many of the graduates were able to find jobs at local restaurants and some continue to send text messages to their teacher, asking for tips on purchasing cooking supplies because they want to start a business of their own.

sustainability and secure the best possible futures for the nation's youth.

**For additional information about Save the Children's Youth Employment Program, please contact:**

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