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Partnerships for safe and healthy young workers

From country to country, the entry point for public engagement, and young worker safety and health concerns vary considerably. The Project facilitated the dynamic exchange of initiatives and tools, innovative partnerships, and good practices in supporting OSH policies and legislation to better address young worker vulnerability.

Funded by the US Department of Labor, the project brought together OSH experts and stakeholders including workers' and employers' representatives, government officials, educators, civil society, and development partners to advance and promote OSH for young persons, with a focus on those above the minimum age of work up to 24 years.

CONTACT US

SafeYouth@Work Project
Labour Administration,
Labour Inspection and Occupational
Safety and Health Branch (LABADMIN/OSH)
International Labour Office
Route des Morillons 4,
CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0) 22 799 6111
Email: safeyouth@ilo.org
Website: <http://bit.ly/SAFEYouth>

The SafeYouth@Work Project theory of change mandates youth engagement as key to laying the foundation for a sustainable culture of safety and health prevention, building on synergies with national priorities and complementary development initiatives. The Project sought to promote young worker rights by strengthening their voice in the world of work. The concerns and aspirations of young people matter as well as our collective actions to inform them and integrate them in core decision making processes.

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OSH National Systems More Responsive to Young Worker Concerns

Assisting countries to establish, strengthen and improve national OSH systems for the benefit of young workers above the minimum age of work up to 24 years



SafeYouth@Work Project
Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers

Results

-  **8** countries with strengthened OSH systems and enhanced OSH prevention culture
-  **1,300** members of workers' and employers' organizations trained on OSH issues, rights, and practices, including for young workers
-  **5** national legislations on OSH strengthened, including for young workers
-  **4** new National Action Plans developed
-  **3** new National OSH Profiles adopted
-  **25** guidelines on OSH good practices for young workers adapted to national context
-  **4,000** youth engaged in OSH awareness and promotional activities
-  **800** labour inspectors and administrators trained on young worker OSH issues
-  **800** national tripartite committee members and key stakeholders trained on OSH for young workers



Building a culture of safety and health for *young workers*

Every day, approximately 7,600 people die from occupational accidents or diseases and more than one million people suffer injury on the job. Younger workers experience the highest rate of work-related injuries due to many causes, including a lack of awareness of safety rules and worker rights; limited job skills and work experience; a lack of training in job tasks or hazard prevention; long working hours; inadequate supervision; and, unsuitable job assignments.

The SafeYouth@Work Project, a cornerstone of the ILO's Global OSH Flagship Programme – "Safety and Health for All" was launched in 2015, bringing young people to the table to develop solutions to improve OSH for young workers and to promote a culture of prevention. The successes of the SafeYouth@Work Project span eight countries and four years of intensive advocacy, research, policy support, capacity building and awareness raising on the specific OSH concerns of young workers.



DATA
Assisting countries to collect and effectively use relevant OSH data



LAWS
Improving legal frameworks to better protect young workers



CAPACITY
Strengthening capacity to address workplace hazards and risks



AWARENESS
Raising awareness on hazards and risks faced by young workers

“Youth is the future of work. ILO calls on all of its partners to join its commitment.”
Guy Ryder
Director-General, ILO



Spotlight on impact stories

We invite you to explore “Our Impact, Their Voices”, a collection of stories highlighting the work and impact of women and men globally helping to build a culture of prevention and improve the safety and health of young workers.





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Reliable OSH data - safer workplaces for young workers

Better data drive the development of more effective prevention measures and provide the rationale for key initiatives such as integrating OSH into technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Better data also strengthen OSH management systems within enterprises and facilitate effective allocation of scarce public resources.

The SafeYouth@Work Project helped identify knowledge gaps and carried out targeted research on young worker OSH vulnerability. The Project facilitated better reporting by employers and workers

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through relevant training guidance and tools.

Through innovative partnerships with young workers, government ministries, and workers' and employers' organizations, the SafeYouth@Work Project helped to improve data collection and analysis on OSH for young workers.

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Better OSH Data Collection and Use

*Assisting countries to
collect and effectively
use more timely,
accurate and relevant
OSH data*



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Results

Indonesia

- Youth representatives integrated into the national body responsible for OSH data collection

Myanmar

- 1st ever OSH module in labour force survey and training for data collectors

The Philippines

- OSH policy and enforcement bodies with strengthened capacity for data collection, analysis and use
- Enterprise level training on OSH reporting to support enhanced national reporting requirements

Viet Nam

- Groundbreaking OSH research provides important data on young worker injury rates and supports youth-relevant policy recommendations



Tripartite engagement for better OSH data collection on *young workers*

Young workers suffer the highest rate of work-related injuries of any age group. This is due to many factors including their limited work experience and training, and a lack of awareness of safety rules and worker rights. The absence of age-disaggregated OSH data often prevents an analysis of the true scope, nature, causes and impact of occupational accidents and diseases.

Sound data on OSH establish the evidentiary basis for policy making and measuring progress, and are essential for the development and implementation of strategies and programmes addressing young workers' OSH vulnerability.



Governments must lead the effort to strengthen national systems for recording and reporting occupational accidents and diseases



Employer accountability for recording and notifying occupational injuries and diseases should be enhanced



Young workers must be actively encouraged and supported to speak up about workplace hazards and risks

“As young workers, we are now empowered and knowledgeable on how we do OSH reporting.”

Joey Adrias,
Vice-President,
FFW Local Union,
The Philippines



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Youth voices contribute to improving OSH legal and policy frameworks

Creating space for youth voices to be heard promotes OSH for all workers, and OSH policies addressing the specific needs of young workers, including youth in hazardous occupations, can help secure decent work for all. Targeted legislation, greater coherence between TVET and the labour market and strengthened advocacy and awareness about OSH rights at work

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are key to protecting young workers. In this effort, youth voices are paramount.

The SafeYouth@Work Project successfully demonstrated good practices for engaging youth to strengthen OSH legislation, regulations, policies and programmes for young workers.

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Better OSH Legislation, Regulations, Policies and Programmes

*Improving OSH legal
and policy frameworks
to better protect young
workers on the job*



SafeYouth@Work Project
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Results



Argentina

- First National Action Plan on Health and Safety for Young Workers



Ivory Coast

- First National Action Plan on Child Labour with integrated OSH provisions



Indonesia

- First National OSH Profile developed with significant youth input



Myanmar

- New OSH Law incorporates significant youth employment provisions
- First National OSH Profile addressing young worker vulnerability



The Philippines

- New OSH Law mandates complete job safety training for all workers especially to those entering work for the first time



Strengthening legal and policy frameworks to protect *young workers* better

Strong national OSH legislation, policies and programmes are key to protecting the physical and mental health of young workers, including the many young people working in the informal economy.

The ILO SafeYouth@ Work Project combined research, advocacy and action to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to better protect the safety and health of young workers. The project worked at multiple levels and with a range of tripartite actors including legislatures, educational and training institutions, employer groups, trade unions and youth organizations.



Active youth involvement in design and implementation of OSH policies, programmes and regulations



Engagement of **social partners and key stakeholders** in social dialogue on OSH



Innovative partnerships to build OSH capacity and sustain impact at national, regional and global level



Integration of **OSH tools and systems** into existing national institutions and mechanisms

“The SafeYouth@ Work Project placed OSH on the national agenda along with other important regulatory issues.”
 Christianne Sosa
 Director,
 Labour Affairs,
 Ministry of Labour and Social Security,
 Uruguay”



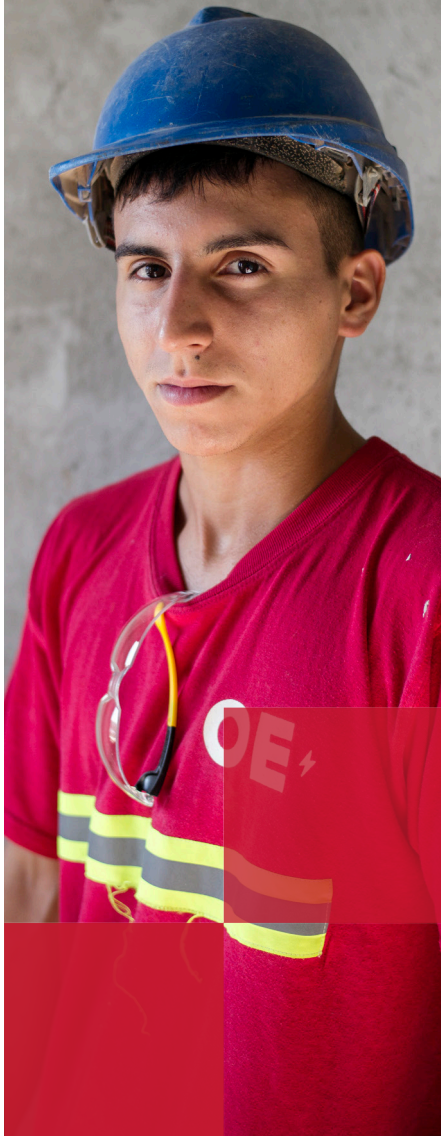
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Capacity-building tailored to the OSH needs of young workers

Dialogue with young workers is necessary to eliminate OSH hazards, minimize workplace risks and improve working conditions. To effectively represent young workers, OSH representatives need to be more aware of the risk factors faced by young workers and should be provided with guidance on how to better address the OSH vulnerabilities of young workers.

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The SafeYouth@Work Project established innovative partnerships with a range of tripartite actors to expand OSH capacities including academic and training institutions, youth organizations, national OSH councils, private business councils and regional associations.

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Greater OSH Capacity

Strengthening the capacity of tripartite partners to address workplace hazards and risks



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Results



Argentina

- OSH mainstreamed into TVET framework for the agriculture sector



Colombia

- Produced cohort of tripartite OSH trainers



Ivory Coast

- Cocoa producers trained as OSH trainers



Indonesia

- Labour inspectors trained on OSH for young workers
- Introduction of enterprise OSH Committees with young worker participation



Myanmar

- Labour inspectors trained on OSH for young workers
- OSH content introduced in industrial and agricultural TVET programmes



Uruguay

- OSH content introduced in Forestry and Food Service TVET programmes



Viet Nam

- Expanded labour inspection capacity in informal sector
- OSH content introduced in industrial TVET programmes



Building OSH knowledge among governments, employers and *young workers*

Sustainable progress on OSH for young workers requires more than improvements in data and laws and policies to address young workers' needs. It requires increased capacity from the tripartite constituents and other relevant stakeholders. Strengthening OSH capacity in governments, employers' organizations and trade unions allows them to take greater responsibility to protect young workers.

ILO's SafeYouth@Work Project strengthened national capacity on OSH for young workers, improving the quality and relevance of tripartite engagement and interministerial collaboration.



Empowerment of young people to become champions for OSH is an important driver in building a culture of prevention on OSH



Community-based, institutional "multiplier" training is an effective tool to spread a culture of OSH prevention



Cross-sectoral partnerships and mainstreaming awareness of young worker vulnerability is key to improving OSH capacity for youth

“ILO Training of Trainers is a breakthrough for defining and clarifying the role of the key actors on OSH. Government of the Philippines”



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Youth participation in the creation of an OSH culture of prevention

Where there is a culture of prevention, there is respect for the right to a safe and healthy work environment at all levels.

Directly involving young workers and their organizations in the development and implementation of preventive measures is critical to creating a generation of safe and healthy workers.

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The SafeYouth@Work Project's awareness-raising initiatives varied according to national contexts and were linked to global awareness objectives on safety and health, as well as to one another through regional and project-wide platforms.

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Improving OSH Advocacy for the Benefit of Young Workers

Raising awareness and building the knowledge base on the need to prioritize the hazards and risks faced by young workers



SafeYouth@Work Project
Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers

Results



Argentina

- Safety and health for young workers prioritized on national public policy agenda
- Engagement of tripartite actors on improving young worker safety and health via regional consultative process



Colombia

- Innovative multi-level partnership deepens OSH awareness in agriculture sector



Indonesia

- National OSH Council Youth Task Force established



Myanmar

- Global winner of 2017 SafeYouth@Work Media Competition



The Philippines

- Youth Champions conduct national OSH campaign
- Boy Scouts of the Philippines introduce OSH Merit Badge



Uruguay

- National TV/Radio campaign and OSH application for youth



Viet Nam

- Youth Champion facilitated national tripartite OSH forum
- “Go home safe” online peer-to-peer platform launched
- National OSH learning curriculum launched



Increasing global awareness of the hazards and risks faced by young workers

Conducting OSH awareness and disseminating knowledge on young worker safety is critical. Awareness-raising campaigns on OSH that use real-world experiences to teach young workers conveys essential information to sensitize workers, parents, employers, schools, and communities about young workers' rights and vulnerabilities.

To raise awareness of young workers' vulnerability, the ILO SafeYouth@Work Project worked to increase global understanding of the hazards and risks faced by young workers. Actively engaging youth in building this expanded knowledge base and creating awareness and changing attitudes and behaviours on safety and health for young workers, is crucial to building a culture of prevention, which is a pillar of the Project strategy.



Enhancing OSH knowledge and awareness among young workers is critical



Active engagement of youth is crucial to OSH awareness-raising



Applying real-world experiences is essential when teaching young workers about OSH

“The impact of this campaign in ensuring the safety and health of young workers is immeasurable. Walter Miglionico, Workers' Organization Representative, CONASSAT, Uruguay”



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