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Country Brief
Green Jobs in Asia Project

Project Description
The Green Jobs in Asia project directly contributes to the national programs and initiatives relating to climate change, environment and disaster management and recovery from the economic crisis. Through enhanced capacity of ILO constituents, sound policy guidance, the undertaking of gender-responsive field activities on green employment in specific economic sectors, the project aims to assist five Asian countries in shifting to a low-carbon, environmentally friendly and climate resilient economy that helps accelerate the jobs recovery, reduce social gaps, support development goals and realize decent work.

It is envisaged that upon completion of the project, ILO constituents and national partners will be knowledgeable about the impacts of climate policies on the labour market and the potential for gender responsive green jobs creation/maintenance. They will have acquired the capacity and the elements to take part in the national discussions on climate change and to respond to these changes, including in the context of the development and implementation of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs). They will also contribute to developing specific policies and programs for the promotion of green jobs employment opportunities in critical sectors.

The immediate objectives of the project are:

i. Promote the capacity of ILO constituents to engage in dialogue on green jobs through increased access to reliable sources of data and information on green jobs and training, including on the employment impacts of environment-related policies and good practices on green jobs;
ii. Green jobs mainstreamed in national labour and social policy of participating countries;
iii. Green Jobs demonstration programs which respond to the different needs of women and men, implemented in key sectors selected based on the basis of research and consultations.

ILO constituents are a key project target group with a view to creating the long-term capacity and the conditions of social dialogue to mainstream green jobs into social and employment policy, integrate Green Jobs policies into the DWCP, contribute actively to climate and environment related policies at the national level, and facilitate a just transition for enterprises and workers towards a low-carbon, environmentally friendly economy.
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In the Philippines, project objectives were focused on three main areas; namely, developing constituents’ capacity on green jobs, support for mainstreaming green jobs into national plans, policies and programmes, and the implementation of a pilot project aimed at demonstrating the potential for green jobs at the sectoral level.

Project accomplishments

Capacity Building
A tripartite foundation training on green jobs was successfully delivered in Manila in August 2011 to 45 participants from Government (Labour and Environment), Employers and trade union representatives. To date, 788 representatives from government, employers’ groups, trade unions, civil society and academia (approx. 35% female representatives) have been trained on green jobs concepts. This included 150 industry representatives who identified green jobs in 8 sectors (agriculture/fishery/forestry, manufacturing, green building, services, renewable energy, transport, tourism, and solid and waste) for the green jobs mapping estimation framework from June to July 2012.

The trade unions also developed a pool of 18 (10 male and 8 female) trainers of trainers (ToT) on green jobs utilising the training module entitled Green Jobs Orientation with Training Methods to Members and Negotiation Techniques. The Employers’ Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) formulated a Green Jobs Road Map, a green jobs position paper and perception survey on green jobs based on consultations with its members from February to April 2012. In addition, a Green Call to Action was signed by 8 conveners during the First Philippine Green Jobs Conference held 15-16 August 2011, affirming their commitment to promote green jobs. The conference was attended by more than 300 participants from ILO’s traditional tripartite partners as well as the Philippines’ National Climate Change Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the National Economic Development Authority, among others. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Federation of Free Workers (FFW) were part of the conveners and also presented their own papers on green jobs.

Policy
Policies for green jobs were included in the Philippine Climate Change Action Plan, and the National Labour and Employment Plan of 2011-2016 as well as the official document submission of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development to the Rio+20 Conference. In addition, an ad hoc Working Group for the Philippine Green Jobs Task Force was convened from an existing Technical Working Group, namely the National
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Tripartite Industry Advisory Council (NTAC) to support the green jobs mapping study in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The Association of Progressive Labor, ECOP and FFW have included green jobs in their action plans for the next five years. ECOP has also successfully completed a road mapping exercise and a position paper on green jobs. A policy brief outlining strategies for greening the social housing sector was finalized in June 2012 following consultations with key senior staff at the National Housing Authority (NHA). The policy brief was based on a guide developed to train NHA staff on the importance of green building concepts for use in future social housing construction projects.

*Demonstration Project*

The technical cooperation activities in the Philippines focused on social housing to introduce greener production methods and alternative livelihoods while building climate resilient infrastructure. The major partner was the National Housing Authority (NHA), under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). Currently, 64 male and 3 female trainees from Southville and 8 from Rodriguez, have gained knowledge and skills to produce modified hollow blocks made of recyclable materials while 34 female and 2 male have acquired the capacity for twining and weaving coco coir ropes for application as erosion control systems in selected project sites.

In addition, 47 engineers and technical staff of NHA, the local government unit of Rizal province, ECOP, trade unions, private developer and civil society representatives were trained on occupational safety, health and environmental practices in the context of construction. To date, 4 trainees are currently participating in further training to produce 6,000 modified concrete hollow blocks for walling systems in 10 housing units on a pilot basis, whilst 40 female trainees are engaged in training on twining and weaving coco-coir nets, which would be used towards the application of a 1,500 square meter coconut systems for soil erosion control. The draft green guide in socialized housing will serve as a training reference to at least 40 NHA staff in order to raise awareness on environmentally sensitive and climate resilient responsive measures in socialized housing in the Philippines. The project has been met with expressions of support from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and several leading workers’ associations (Building Workers International), who are interested in exploring the potential of replicating interventions in other climate sensitive areas, aimed at promoting livelihood diversification and employment generation among vulnerable groups through green construction initiatives in local communities.
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Challenges and opportunities

The Technical Cooperation Project implementation plan covered a comprehensive and multi-tiered approach to green jobs promotion (standards, green products and greening process; green skills, and decent work pillar) featuring outcomes on a medium and long term basis. However, due to additional preparatory processes (scoping study, feasibility study, implementation plan and the lead time involved with signing the Memorandum of Understanding) the implementation of the technical cooperation project has suffered important delays. Consequently, a number of expected outputs were not possible to deliver within the two year timeframe of the project’s initial phase. However, the strong endorsement of the project on the part of DOLE and workers’ groups and the interest shown in replicating pilot activities demonstrates the importance and validity of project interventions in the Philippines.

Lessons Learned

There is a need for the development of an overarching framework on green jobs in the Philippines with agreed long-term direction and support. Accordingly, focusing on the construction sector presents an opportunity for promoting green public procurement through more concerted supply and demand side initiatives, which can further drive the development of environmentally-friendly goods and services in the country. For example, efforts to employ the project strategy in areas affected by natural disasters— including Cagayan de Oro and Iligan— has shown promise, as reconstruction and recovery plans open options to generate sustainable livelihoods through the production of environmentally-friendly construction materials for the local market.