



International  
Labour  
Organization



## ▶ Young Futuremakers Thailand – Promoting Youth Employability

April 2021

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### ▶ At a glance



#### 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 persons with disabilities



#### Donor

Standard Chartered Foundation and UNICEF



#### Duration

February 2021 – April 2022



#### Target beneficiaries

Youth, in particular disadvantaged young women and young persons with disabilities



#### Geographical focus

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

### ▶ Background

The COVID-19 crisis has led to a massive disruption of the economy and labour market in Thailand, with disproportionate impacts on youth employment. Young people experience job disruptions, disruptions in education and training, and difficulties transitioning from school to work and moving between jobs.

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, young people (aged 15-24) in Thailand were in a vulnerable labour market situation and faced constraints in their transition from school to work. Young women are more likely to be unemployed than young men. In 2019, the unemployment rate was 5.3 per cent for young women compared to 3.4 per cent for young men. The overall youth unemployment rate further increased in 2020 from 4.5 per cent in Q3 of 2019 to 6.2 per cent in Q3 of 2020. Furthermore, the share of youth who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) was estimated to be 14.9 per cent in 2019, with young women more likely than young men to be NEET (Source: ILOSTAT, Labour force survey).

Despite improved educational accessibility for youth, there is a mismatch between skills that youth possess and the skills that employers seek. Young persons with disabilities (PWD) are even less likely to be in employment or conditions of decent work when compared to their peers. The COVID-19 crisis has further increased the vulnerability of those already at a disadvantage in the labour market, including young PWD and young women from low-income households.

The socio-economic impact of COVID-19, labour market trends and the demographic shift towards an ageing society in Thailand highlight the need to promote youth employability, skills development and decent and productive employment opportunities for young people in the socio-economic recovery.

## ► Objectives

The project is a part of the Futuremakers by Standard Chartered initiative and takes a systemic approach in supporting disadvantaged young women and young persons with disabilities in the labour market, through the provision of demand-led technical skills training, employability training, career guidance and job placements.

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

### **Improving employment-related knowledge and skills of disadvantaged young women and young persons with disabilities.**

The project aims to provide youth with pre-employment technical and employability skills training along with employment services to help facilitate their entry into job placements or work-based learning experiences. The demand-led trainings will take into account the need for soft skills, entrepreneurial learnings as well as green dimensions as sectors and businesses restructure to become more environmentally friendly. The trainings will also include capacity building and soft skills training to build young people's confidence, self-esteem, and aspirations. After completing the trainings, the project aims to provide youth with employment services through job fairs and support job placements and work-based learning experiences through collaborations with the Ministry of Labour, social partners, enterprises and other key stakeholders.

### **Leveraging and strengthening institutional resources and capacities to provide tailored skills training and employment services**

The project will work closely with key stakeholders on training selection, occupational focus and training curricula review. The project will adapt existing curricula or design tailor-made curricula, which will provide young people with the knowledge and skills that are relevant to business recruitment needs and improve employability, as well as entrepreneurship guidance on starting a business. The project will also work to develop tools and strengthen

capacity of public employment services to provide career guidance and employment services tailored to the needs of young people, including young PWD.

### **Engaging employers' and workers' organizations on inclusive workplaces, policies, and practices to support the employment of excluded young people**

The project aims to engage employers' and workers' organizations in its implementation to support the labour market integration of youth. This may include collaboration on job placements and work-based learning experiences, as well as their engagement to increase awareness on labour rights and opportunities to improve employers' perceptions of the abilities and potential of disadvantaged young people and PWD.






Together, the three project components seek to improve the employability of young women and young PWD, particularly young persons with visual impairments, 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 PWD associations

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