



PHILIPPINES

STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FOR PPE AND MEDICAL DEVICES

Global trade is growingly embedded within value chains and is governed by quality and standards requirements. Despite trade liberalization and globalization in recent years, many exporters still face substantial challenges to meet and prove conformity with market entry requirements, and face technical barriers to trade that hinder their ability to access markets.

This is where the Global Quality and Standards Programme (GQSP) aims to make a difference. The GQSP represents an innovative approach developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Switzerland through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) to strengthen the quality and standards compliance capacity in selected value chains of partner countries to facilitate market access for SMEs.

The GQSP Philippines was designed to provide support to government institutions and local manufacturers of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other essential goods, such as medical devices and sanitation products, as a reaction to the major challenge encountered during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Philippines was facing significant shortages of adequate supplies of PPE that met quality and safety standards to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases and to protect healthcare workers against infection. In the cooperation of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) the project aims to strengthen the quality infrastructure, facilitate the adoption of standards and access to state-of-the-art testing laboratories for PPE, medical devices and sanitation products. This will ensure adequate, accessible, fit-for-purpose and safe PPE, medical devices, and sanitation products for the general population and health workers.



AT A GLANCE

Counterparts

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Duration

1 year, starting 1 July 2022

Implementing agency

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Donor

Switzerland, through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Budget EUR 300,000



THE PROJECT

In order to achieve the project objectives, the project has already addressed successful pathways by:

- » Assisting the Philippine government to achieve their goal of improving their national quality infrastructure ecosystem. The project, in collaboration with the DTI and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), will develop the Philippine Laboratory Policy that will take into consideration the short-, medium- and long-term testing needs of the country through a holistic approach. New laboratory policy will guide development of testing infrastructure in the country with high impact on the manufacturing sector's competitiveness and market access.
- » Enabling PPE producers to access accredited testing and making production more competitive by providing direct assistance to the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) Medical Textile Laboratory to develop a time-business plan that will include the short-, medium- and long-term objectives and development goals of the laboratory, including the scope of services and their target market for testing services.

MILESTONES

The GQSP Philippines has moved into the implementation phase following the release of the Special Presidential Authority and the government's signing of the Project Document on 29 June 2022. On 23 July 2021, UNIDO together with the DTI held a virtual national launching of the UNIDO Laboratory Policy Guidelines, aimed at helping countries like the Philippines address needs related to the development and strengthening of laboratory infrastructure, a key component of any national quality infrastructure. The event led to the government's interest to develop its own national laboratory policy.

