

# **Migration and Impact of Integration Policies on Social Cohesion:**

**The Philippine Experience focus  
on Reintegration Efforts**

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**Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Office of the  
Philippine President**

**Addressing Social Cohesion and Effects of Migrants' Integration in Europe and Asia**  
November 3-4, 2014  
Singapore



- I. Migration profile**
- II. Many faces of returnees**
- III. National programs and policies on reintegration in the Philippines**
- IV. Comprehensive system flows**
- V. Lessons learn and ways forward**



**Addressing Social Cohesion and Effects of Migrants' Integration in Europe and Asia**  
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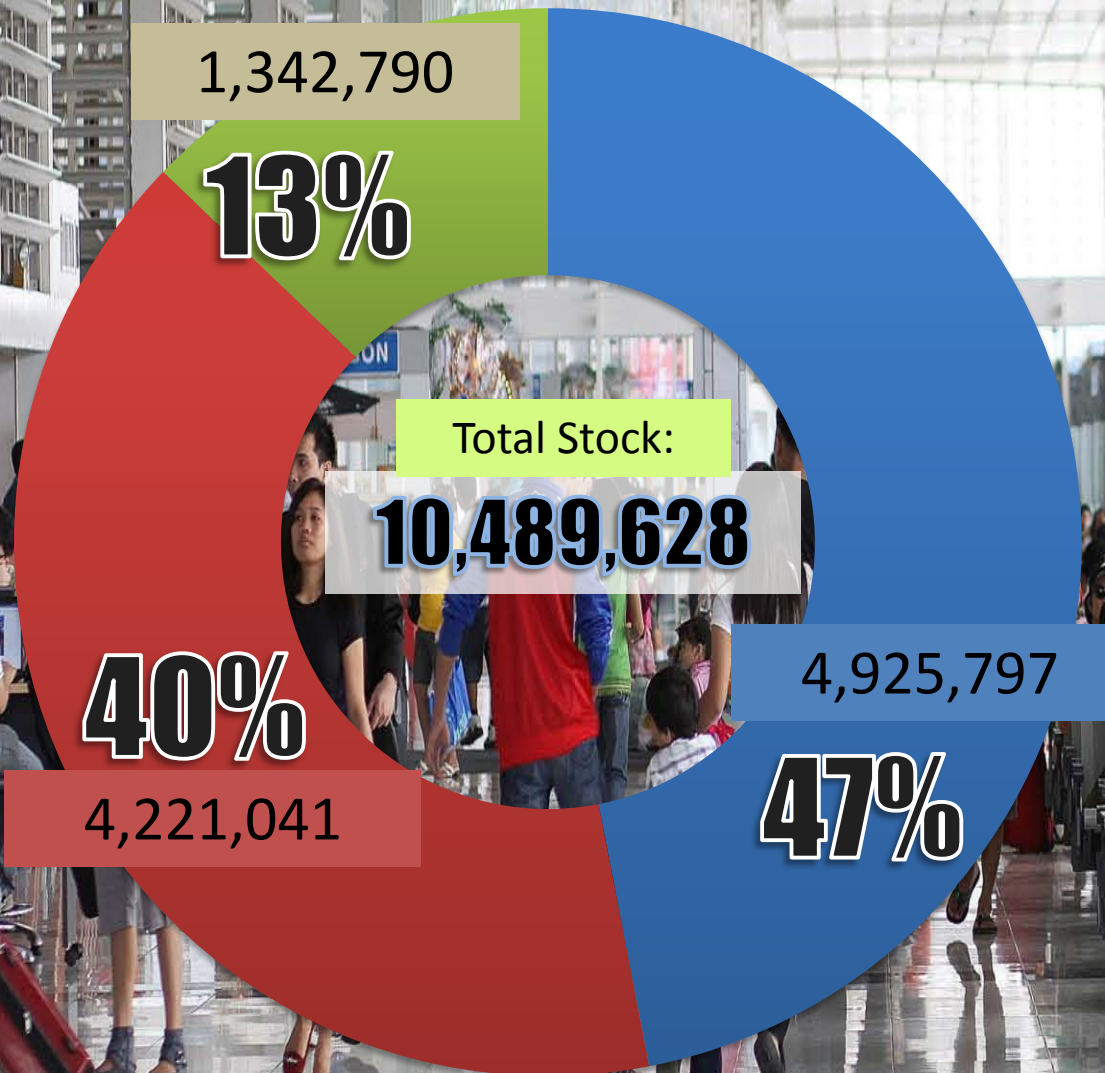
# CFO MANDATE

**To promote and uphold the interests, rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos**

**To preserve and strengthen ties with Filipino communities overseas**



# 2012 STOCK ESTIMATES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS



## PERMANENT

Immigrants, dual citizens, legal permanent residents abroad, stay does not depend on contract

## TEMPORARY

Employment-related, OFWs, students, trainees, entrepreneurs, etc. staying abroad 6 months or more and their dependents, etc.

## IRREGULAR

Not properly documented, without valid residence or work permits or overstaying in a foreign country



# TOP DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS



**UNITED STATES**

3,430,864



**AUSTRALIA**

384,637



**SAUDI ARABIA**

1,550,572



**JAPAN**

220,882



**CANADA**

842,651



**UNITED KINGDOM**

220,000



**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

679,819



**ITALY**

184,638



**MALAYSIA**

569,081



**SINGAPORE**

180,000

# FILIPINO DIASPORA IN NUMBERS

## STOCK ESTIMATE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (2000-2011)

Year	Permanent Residents	Temporary	Irregular	TOTAL
2000	2,551,549	2,991,125	1,840,448	7,383,122
2001	2,736,528	3,049,622	1,625,936	7,412,086
2002	2,807,356	3,167,978	1,607,170	7,582,504
2003	2,865,412	3,385,001	1,512,765	7,763,178
2004	3,204,326	2,899,620	1,039,191	7,143,137
2005	3,407,967	2,943,151	626,389	6,977,507
2006	3,568,388	3,093,921	621,713	7,284,022
2007	3,693,015	3,413,079	648,169	7,754,263
2008	3,907,842	3,626,259	653,609	8,187,710
2009	4,056,940	3,864,068	658,370	8,759,378
2010	4,423,680	4,324,388	704,916	9,452,984
2011	4,867,645	4,513,171	1,074,972	10,455,788

Source: data compiled from actual records of CFO, DFA, DOLE



**21,614** spouses/partners of foreign nationals  
counselled in 2013

**11,735** spouses/partners of foreign nationals  
counselled from January to June 2014



# PEER COUNSELING SESSION



- For Emigrants 13 to 19 years old
- Roughly 30% of migrants from the Philippines are from the youth sector,
- Discussion on issues of young migrants (i.e., anxiety, language barrier, rejection, discrimination, separation, bullying, stress, culture shock)





# IRREGULAR MIGRATION

- **1,342,790 irregular Filipino migrants** or roughly 12% of 2012 Stock Estimates
- More vulnerable to exploitation, discrimination and abuse due to their status
- Reform immigration laws, promote return of irregular migrants and implement regularization programmes

# PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS

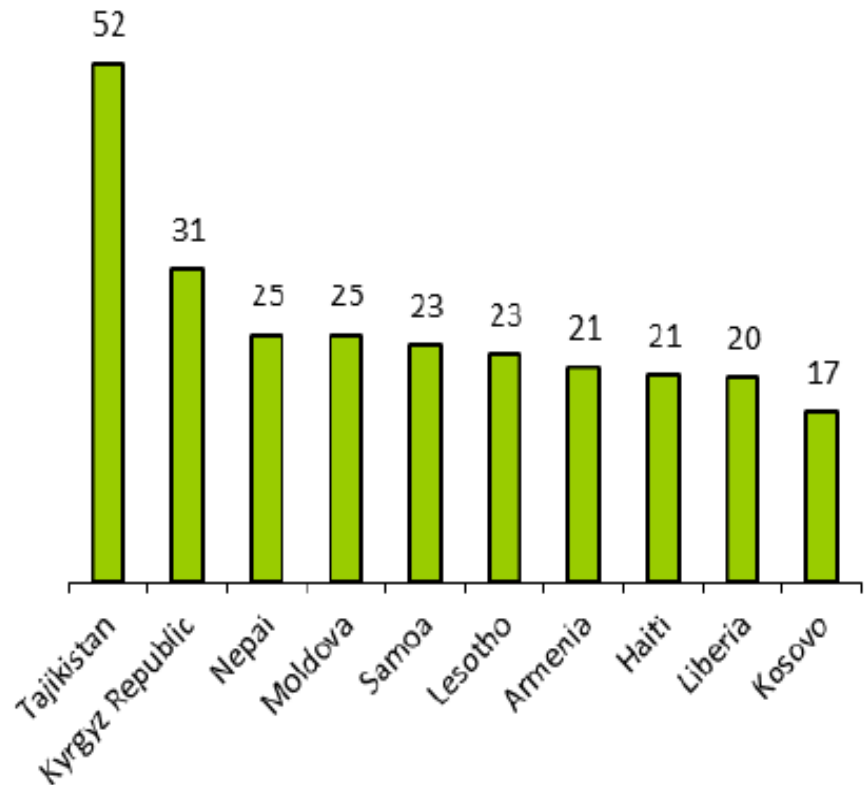
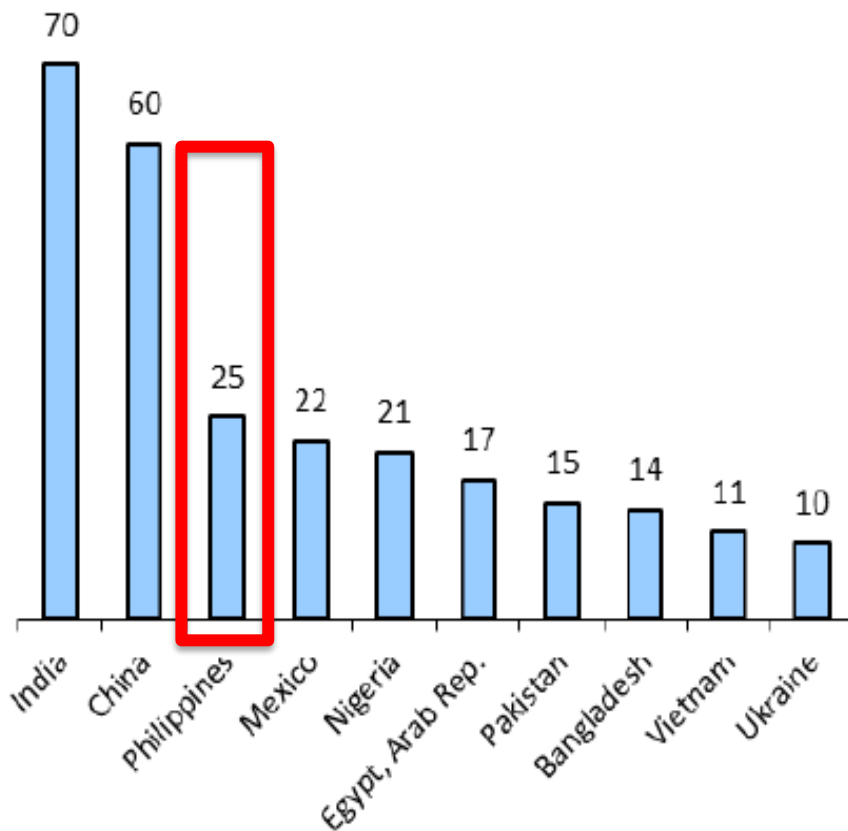


# OVERSEAS FILIPINOS' REMITTANCES

Figure 3: Top 10 recipients of remittances

(US\$ billion, 2013e)

(% of GDP, 2012)



# SUSTAINABLE IMPACT OF REMITTANCES

- ✓ Need to ensure remittances are channeled towards effecting sustainable growth in the local economy
- ✓ Develop options for migrants and educate them on how remittances can be better used
- ✓ Encourage migrants to start a savings program or support to prepare for their return to the home country, or invest in enterprises of migrant communities

“Policymakers will need to focus on leveraging remittances as a tool for economic development. **While remittances are private transfers, the government can ensure that the policy environment is conducive to the use of remittances for investment in well-considered financial products, in productive activities such as entrepreneurial undertaking as well as in better housing, education and healthcare for remitters and their beneficiaries**, improving the financial education of the overseas Filipino community and implementing measures to further promote the flow of remittances through the financial system that would help catalyze the development role of remittances.”



“From a government that treats its people as an export commodity and a means to earn foreign exchange, disregarding the social cost to Filipino families...

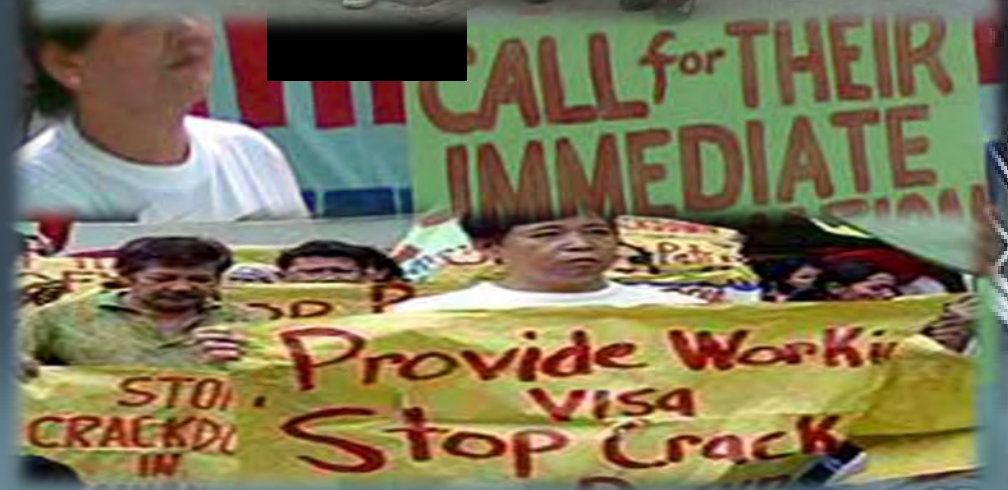
To a **government that creates jobs at home**, so that working abroad will be a choice rather than a necessity, and when its citizens do choose to become overseas Filipino workers, **their welfare and protection will still be the government’s priority.**”

A SOCIAL CONTRACT  
WITH THE  
FILIPINO PEOPLE



A composite image featuring a woman's face with striking green eyes and purple lips. The face is overlaid with a world map, where the landmasses are rendered in shades of brown and orange, and the oceans are a deep blue. The woman's eyes are looking directly at the viewer, and her expression is neutral. The overall composition suggests a global or multicultural theme.

**Overseas Filipino: the many  
faces of Returnees**






# SOURCES AND NATURE OF ATN CASES

- 
- Referral from Phil. Embassies / Consulates
  - Referral from the Public
  - Referral from the Office of the President
  - Referral from other Government Agencies
  - 1343 Actionline Against Human Trafficking

**SOURCES**

- 
- 
- N  
A  
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E**
- Location of Whereabouts
  - Mail-Order Bride Scheme
  - Domestic Violence Cases
  - Request for Financial Support
  - Abandonment by Foreign Spouse
  - Human Trafficking
  - Illegal Recruitment / Labor Disputes
  - Request for Repatriation Assistance
  - Death by Undetermined Cause

# LEGISLATIONS

- ❑ **Migrant Workers Act (1995 and 2010)**
- ❑ **Anti-Trafficking in Persons (2003 and 2012)**
- ❑ **Balikbayan (Returnee) Law (1995 and 2001)**
- ❑ **Balik Scientist Law (1975, 1980, 1986, 1993)**
- ❑ **Passport Act (1996)**
- ❑ **Overseas Absentee Voting (2003 and 2013)**
- ❑ **Dual Citizenship Law (2003)**
- ❑ **Kasambahay (Domestic Work) Law (2012)**

- ❑ **As of March 2013, the Philippines has:**
- ❑ **bilateral labor agreements for land-based workers with 24 countries**
- ❑ **bilateral social security agreements with 11 countries with 2 countries in progress**
- ❑ **signed 9 UN conventions, 8 ILO core conventions and 4 ILO conventions related to migration**

# NATIONAL POLICY

**“(b) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – shall implement rehabilitative and protective programs for trafficked persons. It shall provide counseling and temporary shelter to trafficked persons and develop a system for accreditation among NGOs for purposes of establishing centers and programs for intervention in various levels of the community. It shall establish free temporary shelters, for the protection and housing of trafficked persons to provide the following basic services to trafficked persons:**

- “(1) Temporary housing and food facilities;
- “(2) Psychological support and counseling;
- “(3) 24-hour call center for crisis calls and technology-based counseling and referral system;
- “(4) Coordination with local law enforcement entities; and
- “(5) Coordination with the Department of Justice, among others.

**Republic Act 9208 amended by RA 10364**

**Anti-Trafficking in Persons (2003 and 2012)**

**COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS  
OVERSEAS**

*Responding to the Challenges of Migration and Development*



# FACTS AND FIGURES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Philippines is classified as a **Tier 2 country** according to the US State Department.

PH is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor.

**ANTI - HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
ACTIONLINE  
1343**



**Report Human Trafficking!**

**Call or Text 1343**

Call **(02)1343** if outside Metro Manila

Or report through our website

[www.1343actionline.ph](http://www.1343actionline.ph)

Powered by:



# NATIONAL POLICY

**"SEC. 17. *Establishment of National Reintegration Center for Overseas Filipino Workers.* - A national reintegration center for overseas Filipino workers (NRCO) is hereby created in the Department of Labor and Employment for returning Filipino migrant workers which shall provide a mechanism for their reintegration into the Philippine society, serve as a promotion house for their local employment, and tap their skills and potentials for national development.**

Republic Act 8042 amended by RA 10022  
Migrant Workers Act (1995 and 2010)



# NATIONAL POLICY

**Sec. 6. Training Programs.** - The DOLE through the OWWA, in coordination with the TRC, TESDA, livelihood corporation and other concerned government agencies, shall provide the necessary entrepreneurial training and livelihood skills programs and marketing assistance to a *balikbayan*, including his or her immediate family members, who shall avail of the *kabuhayan* program in accordance with the existing rules on the government's reintegration program.

In the case of non-OFW *balikbayan*, the DOT shall make the necessary arrangement with the TLRC and other training institutions for possible livelihood training.

**Republic Act 6768 amended by RA 9174 (2002)**

**Balikbayan Law**



# NATIONAL REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

- The NRCO is under the Department of Labor and Employment
- Created for the returning Filipino migrant workers so they can access various mechanism of their reintegration to the Philippine society (local employment, and tap their skills and potentials for national development)
- in coordination with appropriate government and non-government agencies, serve as a **One-Stop Center** that shall address the multi-faceted needs of OFW returnees and their families.
- institutionalized in 1995 with the creation of the Re-Placement and Monitoring Center (RPMC) pursuant to R.A. 8042
- Institutionalized further as the **National Reintegration Center of OFWs (NRCO)** pursuant to R.A. 10022 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations



# **NRCO COMPONENTS**

- ✓ **Counseling (legal, business and psycho-social)**
- ✓ **Training and Capability Building**
- ✓ **Wage Employment Facilitation**
- ✓ **Entrepreneurial/Micro-Enterprise Development Assistance**
- ✓ **Legal Assistance**
- ✓ **Medical Assistance**
- ✓ **Repatriation Assistance**
- ✓ **Economic Assistance**





# NRCO BENEFICIARIES

**OFW Returnees** – those who have returned to the Philippines permanently or for good;

**Returning OFWs** – those returning to the Philippines because of finished contract but with the intention of working again overseas; or those returning for vacation purposes;

**Repatriated distressed OFWs** – those who returned to the Philippines because of employment and health-related problems; and those victims of illegal recruitment, human trafficking, abuse and exploitation, and armed conflict

**Families of** OFW Returnees, Returning OFWs and Distressed OFW Returnees



# NATIONAL POLICY

**"(d) Local Government Units. - In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment.**

Republic Act 8042 amended by RA 10022  
Migrant Workers Act (1995 and 2010)



# JOINT MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE PHASE 2 (JMIDI II)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



MIGRATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENT



**Funded by:**

European Commission and Swiss Agency for  
Development and Cooperation

**Implemented by:**

UNDP and its partners IOM, ILO, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UN  
WOMEN

**Duration:**

2013 -2015



**CFO is the  
official national  
government  
partner for the  
JMIDI Phase 2.**



DIASPORA TO DEVELOPMENT:  
**GLOBAL SUMMIT  
OF FILIPINOS IN THE DIASPORA**



[www.balinkbayan.gov.ph](http://www.balinkbayan.gov.ph)



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES  
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

# BaLinkBayan

Overseas Filipinos' One-Stop Online Portal  
for Diaspora Engagement

**Welcome to the BaLinkBayan Portal!**

BaLinkBayan comes from the Filipino word "*balikbayan*" (a returning overseas Filipino) and the English word "*link*" (a path for the flow of data). Now Filipinos all over the world can stay connected with the Philippines and get involved in diaspora-driven initiatives such as investments, philanthropy, and technology and skills transfer.

**"MAGBALIK-BAYANIHAN TAYO!"**



# BaLinkBayan

Overseas Filipinos' One-Stop  
Online Portal for Diaspora  
Engagement

[www.balinkbayan.gov.ph](http://www.balinkbayan.gov.ph)

## Portal Features

- INVEST
- VOLUNTEER
- DONATE
- GOV'T ONLINE SERVICES
- INTERACTIVE MAPS

**"Magbalik-bayanihan tayo!"**

# **Channeling Remittances for Development:**

## **Lessons Learned**



- 1. Improve remittance environment to encourage continued remittance flow**
- 2. Promote financial education among migrants and their families**
- 3. Multi-sectoral approach to return and reintegration for overseas Filipinos**
- 4. Business and investment perspective for collective remittance models**
- 5. Diversification of skills, profession, destination countries translate to resilience in remittance levels**



# REMITTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

- ✓ Advisory and policy-recommending body on channeling remittances for development
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder council: Central Bank of the Philippines, banks and non-banks, migration-related government agencies, migrants' organizations and NGOs representing migrants, academe and multi-lateral institutions
- ✓ Purpose:
  1. Recommend policies to create sustainable environment for businesses of overseas Filipinos
  2. Advocate to further reduce remittance fees
  3. Collaborate for conduct of financial education/ literacy for overseas Filipinos and their families left behind





**Kaalamang  
Pinansyal tungo sa  
Kaunlaran**



**CFO developed its own financial literacy modules and  
core trainers for financial literacy**





# SAMPLE RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION SYSTEM FLOWCHART

## PRE-RETURN PHASE

## RETURN PHASE

## REINTEGRATION PHASE

## CASE MANAGEMENT

### PRE-DEPARTURE ASSISTANCE

CFO, OWWA

### RETURN ASSISTANCE

OWWA, BI, DSWD

### REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

OWWA, CFO, NRCO, DILG, DSWD, IOM

Distressed Migrant Needing Assistance

In-take Interview  
CFO, DSWD, NRCO, OWWA

Preliminary Counseling  
OWWA, NRCO

Needs assessment (medical, psychosocial, economic)  
OWWA, IOM, DSWD

Temporary shelter  
OWWA

Medical assistance

Legal counseling  
DFA, OWWA

Arrangement of identity and/or travel documents  
IOM, CFO, OWWA

Coordination with national govt agencies, LGUs and/or family members  
IOM, NRCO, CFO, DILG, OWWA

Recovery of unpaid wages, belongings, benefits  
OWWA

Facilitate the release of human remains  
OWWA

Airport Reception  
IOM, CFO, OWWA, BI, DSWD

Debriefing  
OWWA

Immediate Medical Assistance  
IOM, OWWA

Immediate Psychosocial Assistance  
IOM

Temporary Shelter  
IOM, OWWA, DSWD

Coordination with appropriate agencies and/or family members  
IOM, CFO, BI, OWWA, NRCO

Release of human remains  
OWWA

Assistance in filing cases in NLRC POEA courts adjudication bodies  
OWWA

Legal Assistance

Transportation Assistance for Reunification with Family  
CFO, IOM, DSWD

OR

Resettlement Assistance (in case return to one's home address is not recommended)  
IOM

Psychosocial Assistance  
OWWA, IOM, NRCO, DSWD

Medical Assistance  
OWWA, IOM

Economic Reintegration Assistance (enterprise development, livelihood assistance, etc.)  
CFO, OWWA, DOST-TRC, NRCO, IOM, DTI-PITC, DSWD

Educational Assistance (formal, vocational, skills training, etc.)  
IOM, NRCO, OWWA, TESDA

Coordination with appropriate agencies, referring agencies, and/or family members  
IOM, DILG, NRCO, CFO, TESDA, OWWA

Preparation of Family  
NRCO, OWWA

Case monitoring  
IOM, NRCO, OWWA, CFO, DSWD, BI, DILG

Feedback  
OWWA, NRCO, DILG, IOM, DSWD

Maintenance of Information Database  
CFO/TESDA, OWWA, BI, DILG, NRCO, IOM, DSWD

### Sample Types of Distressed Migrants:

- Victims of human trafficking
- Irregular migrants
- Unregistered Filipino children born abroad
- Migrants granted amnesty
- Migrants returning with HIV/AIDS
- Migrants displaced due to natural disasters or political conflicts in their destination country
- Mail-order brides
- Victims of abuse
- Migrants returning with mental health illness
- Migrants returning with disabilities

NOTE: This flowchart incorporates recommendations from the 1st National Consultative Meeting held on 16 May 2011.

# RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESS

**OF  
RETURNEE**

**DFA/OWWA/POEA/  
NGO's / FAO's  
CFO**

INTAKE SCHEDULE  
COORDINATION  
REFERRAL  
DATA GATHERING / BANKING  
MONITORING

**DSWD**

REGIONAL RESPONSIVE DEBRIEFING  
(STRESS MANAGEMENT / CRITICAL  
INCIDENT STRESS / POST CRISIS SUPPORT)  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
DIAGNOSTIC REPORTS

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL  
SUPPORT HUBS**

- REGIONAL RESPONSIVE DEBRIEFING (STRESS MANAGEMENT / CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS / POST CRISIS SUPPORT)
- NEEDS ASSESSMENT
- DIAGNOSTIC REPORTS

DSWD is not yet ready to take on task

Current process

**REFERRAL TO AVAILABLE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**PRE-RETURN PHASE**

- Preliminary Counseling  
*OWWA, NRCO*
- Needs assessment (medical, psychosocial, economic)  
*OWWA, IOM, DSWD*
- Temporary shelter  
*OWWA*
- Medical assistance
- Legal counseling  
*DFA, OWWA*
- Arrangement of identity and/or travel documents  
*IOM, CFO, OWWA*
- Coordination with national gov agencies, LGUs and/or family members  
*IOM, NRCO, CFO, DILG, OWWA*
- Recovery of unpaid wages, belongings, benefits  
*OWWA*
- Facilitate the release of human remains  
*OWWA*

**RETURN PHASE**

- Airport Reception  
*IOM, CFO, OWWA, BI, DSWD*
- Debriefing  
*OWWA*
- Immediate Medical Assistance  
*IOM, OWWA*
- Immediate Psychosocial Assistance  
*IOM*
- Temporary Shelter  
*IOM, OWWA, DSWD*
- Coordination with appropriate agencies and/or family members  
*IOM, CFO, BI, OWWA, NRCO*
- Release of human remains  
*OWWA*
- Assistance in filing cases in NLRC POEA courts adjudication bodies  
*OWWA*
- Legal Assistance

**REINTEGRATION PHASE**

- Transportation Assistance for Reunification with Family  
*CFO, IOM, DSWD*
- Resettlement Assistance (in case return to one's home address is not recommended)  
*IOM*
- Psychosocial Assistance  
*OWWA, IOM, NRCO, DSWD*
- Medical Assistance  
*OWWA, IOM*
- Economic Reintegration Assistance (enterprise development, livelihood assistance, etc.)  
*CFO, OWWA, DOST-TRC, NRCO, IOM, DTI-PTTC, DSWD*
- Educational Assistance (formal, vocational, skills training, etc.)  
*IOM, NRCO, OWWA, TESDA*
- Coordination with appropriate agencies, referring agencies, and/or family members  
*IOM, DILG, NRCO, CFO, TESDA, OWWA*
- Preparation of Family  
*NRCO, OWWA*
- Case monitoring  
*IOM, NRCO, OWWA, CFO, DSWD, BI, DILG*
- Feedback  
*OWWA, NRCO, DILG, IOM, DSWD*
- Maintenance of Information Database  
*CFO/TESDA, OWWA, BI, DILG, NRCO, IOM, DSWD*

# REINTEGRATION AND SOCIAL COHESION



- ❑ **Creation of a harmonized and coordinated referral and follow-up services for overseas Filipino returnees;**
- ❑ **Successful and coordinated Recovery and Reintegration program for overseas Filipinos in distress must be holistic and multi-sectoral. This should address the psycho-social physical and economic needs of overseas Filipino returnees;**
- ❑ **The collaboration of experts and resources from the government and non-government sectors can create a more proactive and viable model of recovery and reintegration program;**
- ❑ **Sound pre-departure and return program and services for migrants and family members ensured by various stakeholders supported by local government ;**
- ❑ **Conduct research and implement research based intervention specific to OFs category that will facilitate provision of Individualized plan or program; and**
- ❑ **The responses extended should not be of short term in nature that it could not address recurrence of similar cases. Overseas Filipinos Returnees require a more proactive approach and comprehensive reintegration plan or program**

# WAYS FORWARD



- Engaging the diaspora as welfare and developmental partners;
- Capacitating the basic units (family, society, local government) by making them understand and appreciate the existence and multidimensional needs of migrant sector
- The importance public-private partnership (local, national and regional levels)
- Policy or long-term program for children and families left behind (i.e., guidance and counseling, mentoring and values formation program, post-arrival services and creation of migrant centers)
- Regular dialogue with families
- Pre-departure services for migrants and family members



**“Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat..”**

**Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

# Thank You

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## **COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

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