ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN REINTEGRATION SERVICES FOR FILIPINA MIGRANT WORKERS

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Over 10 per cent of the population of the Philippines is living and working abroad. 2 percent of them are women.

Filipina migrant workers are employed blue- to white-collared work, although most are blue-collared workers.

Majority of those deployed are women: HSWs, Nurses, Caregivers

A lot of Filipina migrant workers are in East Asia and the Middle East.
ISSUES & CHALLENGES
PRE-NRCO
- No motherly presence for family members left behind

- A big share of the demographics of female OFWs are unskilled or low-skilled

- Most distressed OFWs are women

- Female OFWs are more vulnerable to threats and disturbance especially during crisis situations
Remittances from female OFWs worldwide are relatively lower than their male counterpart. Of the total OFW remittances in 2012, around 32.3 percent came from female OFWs.

There is a lack of value transformation agenda for overseas Filipino workers (female workers included) or their immediate dependents; thus previous reintegration programs have not reached a desired outcome which offers itself as an alternative and viable option to migrant work.
ADDRESSING THE GAPS
Establishment of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO)

- **2007**: The National Reintegration Center for OFWs, through the issuance of the Department Order 79-07, was established.

- **2010**: The NRCO was further institutionalized through the enactment of Republic Act 10022, which is the amended statute of the same name in 1995, The Migrant Workers and Filipino Overseas Act.
NRCO Structure

DOLE Secretary

CENTER DIRECTOR

Policy and Program Division

Program Coordination and Monitoring Division

Workers’ Reintegration and Technical Support Division

Personnel: Central – 21 Regions - 16

Cordillera Administrative Region
Ilocos Region
Cagayan Valley
Central Luzon
National Capital Region
Southern Tagalog
Bicol Region
Western Visayas
Eastern Visayas
Central Visayas
Western Mindanao
Northern Mindanao
Caraga Region
South Eastern Mindanao
Central Mindanao

DOLE REGIONAL OFFICE
GOAL: To improve the quality of life of migrants, their families and communities and achieve reverse migration

Financial Capital Objective:
Channel remittances towards enhanced savings and productive investments

Human Capital Objective:
Promote transfer and use of knowledge, skills and capacities for the benefit of the home country

Social Capital Objective:
Enable migrant communities to contribute to national development by tapping networks of migrant communities in the receiving countries that can be harnessed for development
REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
Small Business Management Training & Financial Awareness Seminar

2B Reintegration Program

Livelihood Assistance

Assist WELL

Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay!

Sa Pinas Ikaw, ang Ma’am/Sir!
Livelihood Assistance Grant since 2011, as of July 2014

Out of the 12,203 beneficiaries, 7,907 returning female OFWs have benefitted from the Grant, which is 71% of the total.
A training cum-production/employment intervention intended to bring about improved socio-economic well-being of female returning OFWs

A strategy to reduce their socio-economic vulnerability by expanding their employment opportunity.
3,720 returning female OFWs have since availed of the Program, since 2011 when it started.
Jennifer Blanco: *Massage Therapist*

Attended the Massage Therapy training and was employed as an instructress on Massage Therapy through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Jen Lyn Osano: *Rice Sack Bags*

Attended training in sewing and received sewing machine as her starter kit; produces 1,400 sacks per week and delivers to 24 stall owners from 5 stall owners in 2011; earns P15,000-P20,000 monthly.
Success stories

Nancy Dacuman, - PLANT NURSERY
- From 500 seedlings of cacao in 2011, expanded to 60,000 seedlings of cacao, lemonade and lansones with the help of the Reintegration Livelihood Program
  - Every 6 mos., she earns 300,000-500,000 Php net. She was able to buy additional lots for her business, save for her children’s education and have their house repaired.

Rizalie Bracamonte - from retailer to wholesaler
- From retailer to wholesaler, started her dried fish business, and secured mayor’s permit with the assistance of the Reintegration Livelihood Program
  - She was able to expand her business, registered it to DTI and is earning P30,000 – 40,000 a month.
“Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma’am/Sir!”

Program

A program reintegrating Filipino household service workers that have passed the Licensure Exam for Teaching to practice their profession in the Philippines.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES for 2014:
- Meetings with Department of Education
- Orientation and Coordination Activities with Partner-Schools for Refresher Course
- Preparatory activities for Ceremonial Launch in HK
- Drafting of MOAs with Partner-Schools
Lessons Learned after the Inception of the National Reintegration Program
- Enhance or strengthen information management system (profiling and survey of potential returnees)

- Develop a reintegration network
  - between and among service providers
  - between and among assistance recipients

- Collection of best practices through international and/or regional fora

- Advocate and observe gender sensitivity in program implementation
- Giving importance to the role of female workers to their families left behind

- Support mechanisms
When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonders of this world
That is when, and only when
We come to it

- Maya Angelou
Thank you and have a good day.