

# Safe and Fair:

## Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region



### Programme Narrative - Philippines

*Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region* is part of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a global, multi-year initiative between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). *Safe and Fair* is implemented through a partnership between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Women (in collaboration with UNODC) with the overall objective (goal) of ensuring that labour migration is safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region. The *Safe and Fair* Programme is implemented in ten ASEAN countries, including the Philippines and mainstreams three cross-cutting themes: women's voice and agency, rights-based approaches, and broad engagement of stakeholders. The *Safe and Fair* Programme in the Philippines focuses on women Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), both



Photo: UN Women/Norman Gorecho

land and sea-based, at all stages of labour migration (pre-migration, transit, onsite, return). The project is conducted at the national and local levels in the Philippines, as well as in the countries of destination in ASEAN, and in selected migration corridors in East Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The *Safe and Fair* Programme in the Philippines is supervised and guided by the National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC). This is a tripartite-plus (multi-stakeholder) body that is chaired by Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) as the Vice-Chair.

### Programme Objectives

- Goal :** Make labour migration safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region.
- Objective 1:** Women migrant workers are better protected by gender-sensitive labour migration governance frameworks;
- Objective 2:** Women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking and benefit from coordinated responsive quality services;
- Objective 3:** Data, knowledge and attitudes on the rights and contributions of women migrant workers are improved.

**Partners in the Philippines:** Tripartite plus constituents (government, workers, employers and social partners) at the national and local levels. Government agencies/units include: the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of the Interior & Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), local government units (LGUs), Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), Sub-Committee on International Migration & Development (SCIMD), etc. Social partners include: organizations of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), both land- and sea-based; Filipino migrants and their families; recruiters and private sector groups; and civil society specifically migrant groups, women's groups, end-VAW and gender advocates, media, academe, etc.

**Partners in Abroad:** Philippine missions abroad (embassies, consulates and Philippine Overseas Labor Offices), government agencies, workers' organizations, employers' groups, and social partners in ASEAN and selected destination countries in East Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

**Donor:** The European Union

**Programme Duration:** 2018 - 2022

**Target Beneficiaries:** Filipino women migrant workers (potential, onsite, returnee) and their families.

**Geographical Focus:** The Philippines (national and local/sub-national levels), and destination countries of women OFWs in ASEAN, and selected corridors in East Asia and the GCC.



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## Programme Activities

### Activities/Deliverables under Objective 1:

- ✓ Pre-departure information on risks, safety and access to services;
- ✓ Protocol for rapid response management of labour exploitation and illegal recruitment cases;
- ✓ Policy on increasing women's access to regular and semiskilled/ skilled migration;
- ✓ Guidance on recruitment agent obligations for safe workplaces, including systems of monitoring;
- ✓ Increased capacity of national and sub-national government actors on risks of exploitation and violence, and available responses for women throughout the migration cycle;
- ✓ Increased capacity of local government units on prevention and response to exploitative recruitment;
- ✓ Increased capacity of employers and recruitment agents on gender responsive minimum standards in domestic work and manufacturing (regional tool).

### Activities/Deliverables under Objective 2:

- ✓ Narrow definition of VAW in the law reviewed/ addressed;
- ✓ Enhanced coordination of actors in facilitating access to services in the Philippines and overseas (protocol of response to VAW in migration);
- ✓ Participatory prevention approaches (with feedback loop);
- ✓ Stronger capacity of OSSC to respond appropriately to victims of violence and trafficking;
- ✓ System for provision of interpretation within service providers;
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of front line service providers; skills for service referral for victims of violence and trafficking.

### Activities/Deliverables under Objective 3:

- ✓ Research and knowledge products; good practices; interregional meetings, including support for key stakeholders and women MWs to attend these;
- ✓ Technical assistance, capacity-building, training on data collection and analysis on labour migration, gender, VAW, SDG and related data;
- ✓ Public awareness campaigns; campaign targeting tripartite plus constituents on the good practices for changing attitudes and behaviours.

## Key Outputs and Strategies

### Outputs under Objective 1:

- ✓ Gender equitable and rights-based policies and legislation that strengthen safe and fair labour migration for women; preventive counter-trafficking efforts;
- ✓ Increased capacity of regional, national and local government, social partners, human rights institutions, skills training institutions and civil society to implement gender-responsive policies and services for women MWs;
- ✓ Increased opportunities for women MWs to organize at the regional, national and local levels to enhance safe and fair migration and to address gender-based discrimination.

### Outputs under Objective 2:

- ✓ Rights-based and survivor-centred approaches integrated into laws, policies and practice on prevention and response to VAW, with a focus on women MWs;
- ✓ Stronger capacity of regional, national and local government, social partners and civil society to implement policy for coordinated multi-sectoral services provision for women MWs;
- ✓ Networks of women's groups, community-based organizations, labour unions and local government agencies on preventing violence and trafficking of women;
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of front-line services providers (health, social and criminal justice) to respond to the needs of women migrants experiencing violence and trafficking.

### Outputs under Objective 3:

- ✓ Research, data and good practices on safe and fair labour migration for women; these are used to inform policies and programmes;
- ✓ Public campaigns to change attitudes and behaviours towards women MWs, particularly targeting employers, recruiters, and gender-based duty-bearers and youth groups; campaigns addressing VAW, trafficking and gender based discrimination of women MWs.



Photo: ILO/J. Aliling

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