



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING (IACAT)
Republic of the Philippines

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
For the Reporting Period: CY 2017

Submitted by:

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INTRODUCTION

Philippine Government Efforts Against Trafficking In Persons

In the 2017 United States (US) Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report that was released on the 27th of June 2017, 187 countries were assessed. Of the 187 countries assessed under the minimum standards, 36 countries were placed in Tier One, 80 in Tier Two, 45 were placed in the Tier Two Watch List, and 23 countries were in Tier Three. In all, there were 21 downgrades, meaning a country moved down a level, and 27 upgrades.¹

The Philippines is among the 36 countries placed in Tier One and holds the distinction to be the only Southeast Asian country ranked alongside developed countries since last year. Being in Tier One means that the Government of the Philippines fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and that the government continued to demonstrate serious and sustained efforts during the reporting period. The serious and sustained efforts was demonstrated by convicting and punishing more traffickers, identifying more victims through proactive screening procedures, and expanding its efforts to prevent trafficking of Filipino migrant workers.

While the Philippines remained in Tier One and fully meets the minimum standards, the US TIP Report observed that the government did not expand the availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims, particularly mental health care and services for male victims. Further, the government did not vigorously investigate and prosecute government officials allegedly involved in trafficking crimes or expand its pilot program to address the backlog of trafficking cases in the courts.² Thus, the recommendations for the Philippines has increased from nine to ten action points that need to be addressed in the next reporting period.³

¹ Quote from Ambassador-at-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Susan Coppedge during the Special Briefing on June 27, 2017; <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/06/272212.htm>

² <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2017/271264.htm>

³ Increase the availability of specialized comprehensive services that address the specific needs of trafficking victims, with a particular focus on expanding access to mental health care and services for male victims; Increase efforts to achieve expedited victim-centered prosecution of trafficking cases, especially in cases involving child victims; Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute officials for trafficking and trafficking-related offenses; Increase efforts to identify internal labor trafficking victims, especially children, and prosecute labor trafficking cases; Expand the victim and witness protection program to cover an increased percentage of trafficking victims throughout criminal justice proceedings; Develop and implement programs aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts, including child sex tourism and online child sexual exploitation; Expand government support for long-term specialized services for trafficking victims that may be provided by the government or NGOs; Expand efforts to prevent re-traumatization caused by multiple interviews and facilitate timely reintegration of child victim witnesses with community-based follow-up services; Increase training for community members and military and law enforcement personnel on appropriate methods to protect children officially disengaged from armed

Legal Framework

Republic Act No. 9208, "An Act To Institute Policies To Eliminate Trafficking In Persons Especially Women And Children, Establishing The Necessary Institutional Mechanisms For The Protection And Support Of Trafficked Persons, Providing Penalties For Its Violations, And For Other Purposes", otherwise known as **the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003"** ("Act") came into effect on June 19, 2003. It mandated the creation of IACAT.

On February 6, 2013, Republic Act No. 10364, "An Act Expanding "An Act To Institute Policies To Eliminate Trafficking In Persons Especially Women and Children, Establishing The Necessary Institutional Mechanisms For The Protection And Support Of Trafficked Persons, Providing Penalties For Its Violations, And For Other Purposes" otherwise known as the **"Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons of 2012"** was approved and became effective on March 1, 2013.

Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking ("IACAT")

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking ("IACAT") is composed of the **Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ)** as **Chairperson** and the **Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** as **Co-Chairperson** with the following as members:

- (a) Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- (b) Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- (c) Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- (d) Administrator, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA);
- (e) Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration (BI);
- (f) Chief, Philippine National Police (PNP);
- (g) Chairperson, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW);
- (h) Chairperson, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO);
- (i) Executive Director, Philippine Center for Transnational Crimes (PCTC);
- (j) One (1) representative from an NGO representing the women sector;
- (k) One (1) representative from and NGO representing the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) sector; and
- (l) One (1) representative from an NGO representing the children sector.⁴

groups and vigorously investigate allegations of abuse by officials; and Develop and implement a data collection system across Interagency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) agencies to facilitate monitoring, analysis, and reporting of government-wide anti-trafficking activities, including victim identification, services provided, investigations, prosecutions, and convictions disaggregated by common data elements such as type of trafficking and age and sex of identified victims.

⁴ Section 20, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

IACAT has the following specific powers and functions:

1. Formulate a comprehensive and integrated program to prevent and suppress the trafficking in persons;
2. Promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Act;
3. Monitor and oversee the strict implementation of the Act;
4. Coordinate the programs and projects of the various member agencies to effectively address the issues and problems attendant to trafficking in persons;
5. Coordinate the conduct of massive information dissemination and campaign on the existence of the law and the various issues and problems attendant to trafficking through the local government units (LGUs), concerned agencies, and NGOs;
6. Direct other agencies to immediately respond to the problems brought to their attention and report to the Council on action taken;
7. Assist in filing of cases against individuals, agencies, institutions or establishments that violate the provisions of the Act;
8. Formulate a program for the reintegration of trafficked persons in cooperation with DOLE, DSWD, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), LGUs and NGOs;
9. Secure from any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government or from NGOs and other civic organizations such assistance as may be needed to effectively implement the Act;
10. Complement the shared government information system for migration established under Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995" with data on cases of trafficking in persons, and ensure that the proper agencies conduct a continuing research and study on the patterns and scheme of trafficking in persons which shall form the basis for policy formulation and program direction;
11. Develop the mechanism to ensure the timely coordinated and effective response to cases of trafficking in persons;
12. Recommend measures to enhance cooperative efforts and mutual assistance among foreign countries through bilateral and/or multilateral arrangements to prevent and suppress international trafficking in persons;
13. Coordinate with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other NGOs in monitoring the promotion of advertisement of trafficking in the Internet;
14. Adopt measures and policies to protect the rights and needs of trafficked persons who are foreign nationals in the Philippines;
15. Initiate training programs in identifying and providing the necessary intervention or assistance to trafficked persons; and

16. Exercise all the powers and perform such other functions necessary to attain the purposes and objectives of the Act.⁵

IACAT Secretariat

The DOJ shall establish a Secretariat to assist the Council in the performance of its functions.⁶

The IACAT Secretariat provides support for the functions and projects of the Council and has the following functions:

1. Coordinate and monitor, under the direction of the Executive Director, the implementation of the policies and guidelines promulgated by the Council;
2. Establish, maintain and manage a central database on trafficking in persons;
3. Provide secretariat, records keeping and other services to the Council; and
4. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Council.⁷

The Secretary of Justice shall determine the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Secretariat. Such organizational structure and staffing pattern shall be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval.⁸

Head of Secretariat

The Secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of DOJ upon the recommendation of IACAT.⁹

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, as amended and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations ("Revised IRR"), the Executive Director shall be under the supervision of the Council through its Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, and shall be under the direct supervision of the Secretary of Justice.

The Executive Director shall perform the following functions:

1. Act as secretary of the Council and technical and administrative head of its Secretariat;
2. Advise and assist the Chairperson in formulating and implementing the policies, plans and programs of the Council, including mobilization of the members agencies of the Council as well as other relevant government offices, task forces, and relevant entities;
3. Serve as principal assistance to the Chairperson in the overall supervision of Council's administrative business;
4. Oversee all operations and activities of the Council;


⁵Section 21, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

⁶ Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

⁷ Section 128, Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364.

⁸ Section 127, Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364.

⁹ Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

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5. Ensure the effective and efficient performance of the Council, in particular the prompt implementation of the Council's objectives, policies, plans and programs;
 6. Propose effective allocation of , and mobilization of resources;
 7. Prepare and submit annual and other periodic reports to the Council, the President and Congress on the state of the anti-trafficking campaign in the country; and
 8. Perform such other duties as the Council may assign.¹⁰

¹⁰ Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

4 KEY RESULT AREAS

I. Advocacy and Prevention

A. Legislative Development

- On 29 July 2017, RA 10927 amended Section 10 of the AML Act on Freeze Orders. The amendment provides that the Court of Appeals (CA) may initially issue a freeze order for a period of 20 days. Within the 20-day period, the CA shall conduct a summary hearing, with notice to the parties, to determine whether or not to modify or lift the freeze order or extend its effectivity. The total period of the freeze order issued by the CA under this provision shall not exceed six months.

The amendment further provides that the freeze order shall be limited only to the amount of cash or monetary instrument or value of property that the court finds there is probable cause to be considered as proceeds of a predicate offense. The freeze order or asset preservation order shall not apply to amounts in the same account in excess of the amount or value of the proceeds of the predicate offense. Previously, all monetary instruments or property “related” (i.e. proceeds and instrumentalities) to unlawful activity can be frozen.

- A draft amendatory bill was endorsed to both Houses of Congress in August 2017, and was adopted in *toto* under House Bill No. 6184 entitled, “**An Act Amending Republic Act 10175** otherwise known as the **Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.**” The proposed amendatory bill integrates the concept of cybercrime investigation wherein investigating prosecutors will be assigned to supervise the investigation being conducted by the law enforcements authorities. Under this set-up, law enforcers shall take guidance from the investigating prosecutors in the process of conducting investigations, especially when the former needs advice and assistance with matters concerning laws and rules of procedure and evidence-gathering. It is envisioned that this proposition will ensure the success of cybercrime investigation and prosecution.
- The **Rule on Cybercrime Warrants and Related Issuances**, which fills in the gaps between the current Rules of Court and the RA 10175, was formulated initially by the Department of Justice (DOJ) technical working group (TWG) lead by the Office of the Cybercrime (OOC). The said Rule is on its final stage of deliberation by Court En Banc and it is envisioned that the same will be promulgated by the Supreme Court (SC) by first quarter of 2018.
- In August 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte approved **RA 10929**, otherwise known as “**An Act Establishing The Free Internet Access Program In Public Places In The Country And Appropriating Funds Therefor,**” also known as the “**Free Internet Access in Public Places Act.**” This act mandates the State to develop a child online safeguarding standards and mechanisms, including child online safeguarding policy. Further, access to pornographic websites is prohibited, with particular emphasis on the protection

of children against child pornography as stated in Section 11 of the same Act. Its Implementing Rules and Regulation provides for strict compliance, in conjunction with existing laws and rules, that all participating internet service providers (ISP)s shall block access to internet websites, applications or programs which promote or provide direct or indirect access to online sexual abuse and exploitation material on children, including child sexual abuse and exploitation materials, livestreaming or live online child sexual abuse or exploitation or any similar content in any form. Moreover, consistent with Section 9 of ACP Act, all participating ISPs are bound to comply with the duties of ISPs so enumerated in the said law.

- In an effort to revise the penal code provision on prostitution, the PCW actively and continuously advocates in the 17th Congress via the Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA), for the decriminalization of prostituted persons through:

Amendment of the Revised Penal Code provision by:

- redefining prostitution and persons exploited in prostitution
- targeting the demand side by shifting the criminal liability to buyers or facilitators of the act;
- treating prostituted persons as victims;
- according higher penalties to those committing child prostitution

Enactment of an Anti-Prostitution bill that provides for the shifting of the criminal liability to the buyers or customers, business owners and users perpetuating prostitution and treating persons in prostitutions as victims of the system.

The PCW strongly advocated for the inclusion of a provision in the proposed new Criminal Code of the Philippines that will address the demand side of prostitution by making the purchase of sexual services a proscribed conduct. It is deemed necessary for such provision in the new Criminal Code because while the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2003 (RA 9208), as amended by the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (RA 10364) (collectively the "Expanded Act") partially addresses the issue for those trafficked persons who end up in prostitution, the lack of any provision in the criminal code to penalize the demand size of prostitution would mean decriminalization of the acts of exploiting the prostitution of another. Shifting of the criminal liability from the prostituted persons to the buyers or customers, business owners and users of prostituted persons is consistent with international instruments such as: the Convention for the Suppression of the Trafficking in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

B. Policy and Program Enhancement

Pursuant to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking's (IACAT) mandate to establish and implement preventive and protective measures to suppress TIP, including the prosecution of traffickers, IACAT has convened and participated in several TWGs to formulate manuals, guidelines and other similar instruments to enhance victim identification procedures, protection and assistance to trafficked persons, investigation and prosecution of cases, and strengthen inter-agency collaboration:

Table 01. Formulated and Approved IACAT Resolutions in 2017

No.	Resolution	Purpose
001	Authorizing the Secretary of Justice as Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking to sign the Child Protection Compact Partnership	This Resolution seeks to enter into a non-legally binding instrument on the Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership which enumerates the obligations of US and Philippine Government to implement shared plans that intend to improve Philippine Government and civil society organizations capacity to prevent online child sexual exploitation (OCSE) and child labor trafficking (CLT). On 11 April 2017, both parties formally signed the CPC partnership in view of the increase in the prevalence of OCSE and CLT and the need to address the evolving nature of trafficking.
002	Recommending the Appointment of an Executive Director of the IACAT Secretariat	Under the Expanded Act, the IACAT Secretariat is headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by and under the direct supervision of the Secretary of Justice, upon the recommendation of the Council. In the 38th Regular Council Meeting held on 2 March 2017, the Council unanimously recommended the appointment of Prosecutor Darlene R. Pajarito as IACAT Secretariat Executive Director.
003	Adopting the Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking	IACAT in partnership with the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT), a non-government organization (NGO) advocating the welfare and protection of children against trafficking in persons with the assistance of various NGOs, developed the Standards to guide duty-bearers, advocates and stakeholders in strengthening the capacities of communities from the Barangay, Municipal, City, and Provincial levels to effectively formulate programs in the prevention of child trafficking, and implementation of interventions against trafficking in persons.
004	Adopting the Guidelines on the Grant of Financial Assistance to Victims of Trafficking	The Guidelines prescribe a standard procedure on the application, evaluation, and grant of the financial assistance to victims of trafficking. This is to ensure regular financial support to victims of trafficking who are complainants or witnesses in a pending or active trafficking case before the regular trial court, or in a related case before any administrative forum.
005	Adopting the Guidelines on Data Collection and Monitoring for Management of Knowledge on Trafficking in Persons	This is in compliance with the IACAT's mandate to ensure the harmonization and standardization of databases, including minimum data requirements, definitions, reporting formats, data collection systems,

and data verification systems. This includes nine standard templates to institutionalize uniform databases and reporting formats for data collection and monitoring, as well as set the procedures thereof, for strict compliance by all concerned agencies.

IACAT members were directed to separately issue its respective memorandum, order or circular on the adoption, implementation, and dissemination of the standard templates and submission of reports to IACAT Secretariat within the prescribed period, for the information and guidance of their respective relevant national units and regional and other sub-national offices.

006	Adopting the "Guidelines on the Referral System involving Trafficking in Persons Cases"	This provides a standard procedure on case referral concerning possible victims or victims of trafficking, including repatriates, and in addressing their concerns and providing them the necessary assistance as mandated by law.
007	Adopting "The Victim-Witness Coordinator Safety Protocol for Victim Assistance Visits"	The Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC) Program is a pilot project implemented by the IACAT with support from the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP). This is in response to the significant numbers of TIP cases that have been severely weakened or dismissed because victim-witnesses refused to cooperate during the investigation, prosecution, and trial of TIP cases, despite the availability and provision of the mandatory services.
008	Adopting the "2017-2021 National Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking"	As a result of four consultative summits held in September, October, December 2016, and February 2017, IACAT crafted the National Strategic Action Plan for the period from 2017 to 2021. This plan contains the vision and mission of IACAT and defines the strategic direction of its plans and programs for the next five years.
009	Adopting the Manual on "Money Laundering Dimension of Trafficking in Persons"	This manual is an updated version of its first issuance launched in 2013, primarily prompted by the corresponding amendments to the Expanded Act and the AMLA, with the end goal of enjoining relevant Council members, most specially law enforcement agencies to conduct parallel financial investigation with Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and use civil forfeiture and related remedies in TIP cases to cripple, if not paralyze the finances of the traffickers.
010	Adopting the "Guidelines on the Nomination and Selection of Sectoral Representatives to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking"	This guidelines provide a standard procedure on identifying, screening, nominating, selecting, and recommending for appointment to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the three NGO representatives to represent the women, overseas Filipinos, and children sector before the Council.
011	Adopting the "Protocol on Blacklisting of Recruitment Agencies, Illegal Recruiters and Persons Who are Involved in Trafficking in Persons"	POEA developed a TIP Online Monitoring System (TIP Blacklist), which is a central database of all available information and data on reported, suspected, tried, and convicted human traffickers and/or local recruitment agencies that were alleged to be involved in said activities including, but not limited to, pending and

	<p>decided cases against traffickers and agencies. This aims to aid law enforcement action and inform that public of such list subject to certain limitation.</p> <p>The Protocol on Blacklist was formulated to prescribe the access and use of the information contained in the POEA-IACAT TIP Blacklist, including the procedures for inclusion and delisting of recruitment agencies for overseas employment, illegal recruiters and persons who are involved in TIP, and TIP-related cases, in the TIP Blacklist.</p>
012	<p>Adopting the "Protocol on the Access, Distribution, and Conduct of Operations on the TIP And IR Priority Targets"</p> <p>This Protocol was a result of the Joint IACAT-Presidential Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment (PTFAIR) activity on "Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Illegal Recruitment (IR) Target Validation and Crime Assessment Workshop" intended to identify and validate different personalities suspected as human traffickers and illegal recruiters, as well as their modus operandi/typology, routes and the demography of victims, in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. This governs the access and distribution of the TIP and IR Priority Targets, and conduct of operations by reason thereof.</p>
013	<p>Resolution Adopting the "Adopting the 2017 Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-Bound Passengers"</p> <p>To be adopted ad referendum. To keep up with the trends, changing modus operandi of human traffickers and illegal recruiters, as well as the revisions of government policies, both local and international, IACAT revisited the said Guidelines in 2017. One of the proposed revisions is the general guidelines on turnover of deferred departure passengers, travel documents, investigation and other related incidents to include a more detail procedure on turning over of records and reports, and provide systematic reporting and monitoring of all deferred departure records to all concerned agencies. Five technical working group meetings were convened for this purpose since August – December 2017.</p>

The IACAT also supported and participated in the formulation of various strategic action plans and programs organized by partners and member-agencies. This effort is part of IACAT's mandate to ensure the development of policies and programs supportive of and consistent with the objectives of the Expanded Act¹¹:

- 1. Development of Module on Anti-Trafficking for Local Government Units.** Recognizing the magnitude and complexity of TIP at the local level, the DILG in partnership with IACAT Secretariat and concerned government agencies, developed a skill enhancement module on Anti-Trafficking for LGUs. The module aims to strengthen the capacities of local government to provide concrete response in addressing trafficking in persons. It focuses on educating local government officials about anti-trafficking laws and policies, referral mechanism, and how to develop a model local ordinance on TIP. DILG, CFO, DSWD, PACT, IJM and IACAT Secretariat plans to conduct the roll-out of this

¹¹ Section 16 (a) of the Implementing Republic Act No. 9208, as amended.

module in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao cities and municipalities in March 2018 and onwards.

- 2. Formulation of the Guidelines on the Establishment of Violence Against Women and Children (VAW) Desk.** The Guidelines sought to establish the parameters for institutionalizing an immediate response mechanism for VAWC cases including potential TIP cases, in public and private hospitals. It aims to build a safe and non-threatening assessment and referral process for potential victims of such abuses, in order to adequately provide services for them, starting with the creation of a service desks in hospitals manned by specifically hired healthcare providers trained in detecting and responding to abuse and trauma patients.
- 3. Development of A Strategy Paper on Addressing the Trafficking of LGBTI Persons.** In an effort to initiate actions to address the trafficking of lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer intersex (LGBTI) persons, a round-table discussion (RTDs) on the subject was hosted by IACAT Secretariat, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). For this purpose, an ad hoc committee on LGBTQI tasked to develop a framework and outline strategic interventions to address the issue was convened to document narratives and surface key issues, gaps, and challenges relevant to the trafficking of LGBTI persons.
- 4. Development of the Agusan del Sur Provincial Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.** This is a three-year Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking highlighting the key action agenda and priorities of the Provincial Government in combating trafficking in persons, for adoption by all municipal and city governments under its jurisdiction.
- 5. Development of the Butuan City Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.** City Government of Agusan del Sur developed its three-year Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking and identified key programs, projects, and activities for the local government in combating trafficking in persons (TIP).
- 6. Formulation of the UNICEF Philippines Country Programme.** The IACAT Secretariat participated in the TWG meetings on the formulation of the UNICEF Philippines Country Programme. IACAT Secretariat strongly advocated for the identification of targets specific to addressing the issue of OCSE and CST. Also discussed was the convergence of the different councils and committees that are involved in addressing the issues on OCSE and CST. IACAT and the IACACP, with the support of UNICEF, initially set a 3-day TWG Meeting developing the guidelines on the convergence of the two councils.
- 7. Dialogue with Heads of Missions of the Government of Republic of the Philippines during the DFA Global Conference of Heads of Posts “Strategic Plan 2017-2022.”** IACAT Secretariat presented the IACAT strategic directions and priority initiatives for the year 2017 during the module

on ***Assistance-to-Nationals***, which was attended by over 50 Ambassadors and Consuls from the Middle East region at the Diamond Plaza, Legaspi Street, Makati City on 1 February 2017. The IACAT also enriched the discussions on the implementation of the DFA Strategic Action Plan for 2017-2022 with the mission of promoting and protecting Philippine interests in the global community, specifically on matters relevant to TIP.

8. The Wholistic Transformation Resource Center Foundation, Inc. (WTRC) held the **"Esther Project Brainstorming and Planning Session"**. IACAT Secretariat gave a brief overview of the landscape of trafficking in the Philippines and highlighted the gains and challenges of IACAT's and its partners' efforts in combatting human trafficking. The Session sought to identify gaps and solutions in the recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficked victims, primarily on an effective mechanism that transitions victims placed in long-term shelter-based interventions into independent living situations. The Session resulted in the development of a program to be established by WTRC, with guidance from IACAT.
9. **Development of the Region IV-A Strategic Action Plan Against Human Trafficking.** IACAT provided technical assistance to the Region IV-A (CALABARZON) Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (RIACAT-IVA) Strategic Action Planning at the Makati Palace Hotel, Makati City.
10. **Workshop on the Development of the Advocacy and Communication Plan for the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC).** The workshop was organized by the CWC to develop an effective communication strategy towards achieving PPAeVAC goals held in Baguio City.
11. **Development of implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Law.** The CFO has initiated the creation of a TWG for this purpose to discuss the initial structure and content of the IRR.
12. **National Study on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in the Philippines.** As part of its mandate to develop a national research program, IACAT serves as a member of the **Research Advisory Board** for the National Study on Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) in the Philippines funded by UNICEF. It aims to systematically collect data on the nature and scope of online sexual abuse and the exploitation of children in the Philippines and with the following key objectives:
 - **Child Victims:** To describe the profile, characteristics, and experiences of victims of OSAEC and how these experiences impact their development, psychosocial functioning, and relationships, and to describe their socio-cultural environment;

- **Offenders/Perpetrators:** To describe the characteristics of offenders and facilitators of OSAEC in the Philippines, and the mechanisms by which they are able to operate and exploit children online;
- **Private Sector:** To identify the role of private sectors (financial sectors, and internet service providers, network providers, and app developers) in facilitating and mitigating online sexual abuse and exploitation of children; and
- **Case resolution and Management (Institutional Framework):** To identify current challenges encountered by law enforcement agencies, social workers, and the courts in the management of the victims of OSAEC.

A Stock-Taking Meeting on Child Online Protection Initiatives was organized for this purpose. In attendance were several child online protection partners who shared and discussed their respective child protection programs, plans, challenges and responses to provide the partners a better scope of the problem and the anti-online child trafficking initiatives in preparation of UNICEF's next Country Programme for 2019-2022 as well as of the progress report of the Philippines in addressing online child exploitation that will be shared in the WEProtect Global Alliance Summit to be held in February 2018. UNICEF Regional consultant Ms. Emma Day presented the Global and Regional Initiatives to address Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children including UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and the Terminology Guidelines developed by the Inter-Agency Working Group in Luxemburg.

13. Consultation on the GCM. On 23-24 August 2017, DFA held the initial consultation on GCM with IACAT member agencies. IACAT provided a resource person to discuss the Philippines responses on TIP and smuggling of migrants. On 5-6 October, 2017, IACAT extended assistance as resource person and discussed the "International and Legal Cooperation In Combatting Trafficking In Persons." This consultation was organized by Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, involved participants from the civil society organizations. On 18-19 October 2017, DFA held the final consultation on the GCM with different relevant duty bearers and stakeholders in attendance. The results of both consultations were collated by DFA purposely to form part of the Philippine inputs into the GCM to be forwarded to United Nation. These inputs, however, were further discussed during the regional consultations on 6-7 November and 4-5 December, 2017 in Thailand and Mexico respectively.

14. Development of action papers relating to trafficking of domestic workers; of tourist workers; of seafarers; and on-line child exploitation. These action papers were presented and discussed during the 3rd International Dialogue on Human Trafficking on 14 September 2017. The presentations contain achievements and relevant efforts, lessons learned, existing challenges, best practices, gaps, and recommendations for the present administration.

C. Third National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking

With the recent entry into force of the Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and faced with new national goals and targets under the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022) towards the realization of Ambisyon Natin 2040, the 25-year long term vision for the Philippines, the Philippine Government continues to reaffirm its commitment towards the eradication of human trafficking in the Philippines. In response to the challenge, the National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2017-2022) was recently adopted and approved by the IACAT. The new strategic plan, while retaining the 4Ps approach, now focuses on key thematic issues such as combating forced labor and the growing menace of OCSE.

The development of a draft 5-year national strategic action plan (2017-2021) was the result of three separate national consultations held from 2016 to 2017 involving member agencies of IACAT, IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (ATTF), and civil society organizations. This plan went through a final validation process among the member-agencies and partners of IACAT.

Please see Appendix A for Strategic direction and key action plans for 2017-2021.

D. Anti-TIP Awareness Programs

Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) by POEA

The **PEOS** is a public information service provided to any individual contemplating on working overseas. It is an educational strategy for worker protection and empowerment given to the general public and prospective job seekers who would like to voluntarily attend the seminar. In PEOS, the overseas jobseeker is provided relevant information on overseas employment, particularly the legal modes of recruitment, the procedures and documentary requirements in applying, the advantages and disadvantages of overseas employment, as well as the government services available to overseas job applicants and hired workers. Moreover, he is taught on how to detect IR activities by informing him of the modus operandi of illegal recruiters. The PEOS is pursued in two major forms, i.e. the regular mass-based PEOS and PEOS Online. The mass-based PEOS is done in local communities, schools/universities, churches, etc.

Anti-Illegal Recruitment/Trafficking-in-Persons (AIR/TIP) Seminars by POEA

The **AIR/TIP Seminar** is given to law enforcers, prosecutors, Public Employment Service Officers, and barangay officials to inform them of the law on IR (Republic Act 8042, as amended by R.A. 10022) and the Expanded Act). Also discussed in this seminar are the modus operandi of IR, as well as the tips on how to detect and avoid IR activity.

Capability Enhancement Trainings (CETs) by POEA

The CET on the Overseas Employment Program is a trainers' training undertaken for program partners from various government and non-government entities to meet the objective of the program in reaching out to the grassroots through the multiplier effect. The POEA trains its partners to conduct PEOS themselves. For the first three awareness campaigns, POEA utilized generally funds appropriated from the national budget although local government units sometimes offered to fund the activities themselves.

AIR-TIP Campaign by DOLE

The AIR-TIP Campaign targets communities, especially those vulnerable to IR and TIP participated in by 34,634 persons. Around 1,610 information and education materials were distributed.

As part of the Anti-Child Labor Advocacy, regions reported the distribution of education supplies to 362 children, 200 parents and 100 partner agencies. More than P2.78 Million worth of livelihood assistance was also granted to 538 individuals for the establishment of various business projects such as bakery, meat processing and fishing business.

Community Education Program (CEP) by CFO

The CEP is a nationwide annual information campaign in coordination with various government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units and academic institutions that caters to assist prospective migrants in making informed decisions regarding working or migrating abroad, generate community involvement on migration concerns and getting in touch with their homeland, Philippines.

The CEP has also been an avenue for the CFO to raise awareness to the public about the Anti-Trafficking Law as prospective migrants may also be possible victims of human trafficking. This is also to mobilize the public as they can act as agents of the law in protecting the victims and in case they may have knowledge of perpetrators. CEP also raises public awareness on various issues concerning migration, intermarriages and existing government policies. It is also linked to various programs directed against IR, mail-order bride scheme, documentation fraud, among others.

The CEP covers the following topics:

- Introduction to CFO and CEP;
- Overview of International and Philippine Migration;
- Filipinos in Intermarriage;
- Illegal Recruitment;
- Human Trafficking; and
- IACAT-ADVOCOM and 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking.

A total of 7,977 number of attendees directly benefited during the campaign.

Pre-departure Education Program by OWWA

Pre-departure Education Program – is a major component of OWWA’s information and education program for departing OFWs designed to help them cope with adjustment difficulties during the first six months of stay and work at overseas jobsites, as well as hasten the integration into their work environment. Under this are the following:

- a) PDOS a mandatory orientation-seminar aimed to orient departing migrant workers with basic information that are most beneficial to them, e.g. work standards, general profile of the country of destination, stages of the OFW’s life abroad, health and safety, travel tips, airport procedure, and government programs & services. The orientation seminars are country-specific and in some case, skill specific.
For 2017, a total of 638,796 OWWA members underwent before working abroad.
- b) Language Training and Culture Familiarization is a training provided for OWWA members to equip them with basic skills in speaking the language of the country they will work. In CY 2017, a total of 186, 790 departing OWWA OFW members were trained.

Awareness Campaigns by DFA Foreign Posts (25 FSP)

Foreign Service Posts have regular engagements with the Filipino communities in the countries under their jurisdictions through consular outreach missions, as well as other community gatherings, enabling them to monitor possible irregularities in employment statuses.

Please see [*Appendix B*](#) for other efforts reported by Philippine Foreign Service Posts in eliminating all forms of trafficking.

Synchronized Barangay Assembly Day by DILG

This is a venue that gives residents the opportunity to hear and discuss with barangay officials the development and concerns in their community.

In a memorandum issued by DILG last 20 September 2017, all barangay officials were urged to conduct Barangay Assembly in compliance with Section 397 of the Local Government Code of 1991. In line with this, DILG instructed every barangay to include the TIP as one of the topics to be discussed during the barangay assembly, specifically the salient features of the Expanded Act, IACAT 1343 Actionline, and referral system. As a result, 94.89% **(39,880)** of the total 42,036 barangays nationwide conducted the Barangay Assembly highlighting the discussion of, among others, salient features of the Expanded Act, popularization of 1343 anti-trafficking hotline, and other community-related anti-trafficking concerns.

Policy Issuance to Support the National Advocacy Campaign on Anti-Trafficking Related Activities

In support of the national advocacy on anti-trafficking, DILG issued Memorandum Circular enjoining all local government units to observe and conduct relevant activities for the celebration of the "World Day Against Trafficking". Similarly, the Department circulated a Memorandum for all local government units to observe the celebration of "18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children".

World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT) Activities on July 27, 2017 at the AG New World Manila Bay Hotel

National Conference on Trafficking in Persons and the Philippine Commitment to the ASEAN and APA

The National Conference was an opportunity for all anti-trafficking stakeholders in the Philippines to understand the ACTIP and the APA as a regional instrument that can improve national interventions and enhance international relations in combating TIP. Furthermore, through the conference, Philippine stakeholders were able to appreciate the Philippine regional and national commitments to the ASEAN APA, and align their organizations' plans and programs in the stream of interventions and identify points for collaboration in pursuit of the commitments.

Dinner Reception for Anti-Trafficking Advocates

To cap the conference, IACAT hosted a dinner reception to celebrate the WDAT as well as to express its gratitude to all anti-trafficking stakeholders in the country whose interventions have been instrumental in keeping the country's rank on Tier 1 in the 2017 US Trafficking In Persons Report. Selected organizations and agencies that have been material to the operations of the IACAT were given certificates of appreciation.

International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT).

In commemoration of the **IDAT**, the following activities were held:

- **Survivors' Day: Survivors Empowering Survivors** held on 11 December 2017 at Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. More than **50** survivors were given art and theater experience which include, among others, painting, poetry, and theater workshops. The art works were then presented at the Civil Society Organizations Summit. No price tag was placed on the paintings. Anti-trafficking advocates willingly paid a hefty price for two paintings to the joy of the survivors-painters.
- **Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and Families Christmas Party** held on 12 December 2017 at SM Aura Activity Center. This was conducted by the Blas Ople Foundation to give appreciation to the hard work, sacrifices, and contribution to national development of our OFWs and their families.
- **2nd PNP Summit on Women and Children: Strengthening Institutional Capacity in Responding and Preventing Online Child Sexual Exploitation of Children (OCSE)** held on 13 December 2017 at Bayview Park

Hotel, Manila. More than **50** police officers from the National Capital Region attended to further build the institutional capacity of the PNP-WCPC to counter and reduce trafficking initiatives on OCSE, enhance the knowledge and skills in the investigation protocol processes of OCSE, and improve the skills in handling victims of OCSE. A workshop was held in the afternoon and the participants were able to come up with a draft outline of a manual of operations on OCSE cases. This manual is one of the projects IACAT is pursuing, thru the PNP under the CPC Partnership.

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Summit** held on 14-15 December 2017 at the Century Park Hotel, Manila. More or less **160** participants from government agencies and CSOs from the women, children, and overseas workers' sectors (national and regional). The event provided the opportunity to consult the participants and to collate their inputs on the development of the Regional Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of Victims of TIP, specifically the good practices in countering TIP based on six identified areas to address the needs of victims of TIP. It likewise served as venue to showcase the art works of survivors.
- **Migrant Workers Summit** held on 18 December 2017, at the Philippine International Convention Center. This is in line with the policy pronouncement of President Rodrigo Duterte on providing assistance to overseas Filipinos and bringing government services closer to migrants, including the reintegration program. The activity also highlighted the various reintegration programs and services offered to returning OFWs, trafficking victims, and other overseas Filipinos. These services cover psycho-social, livelihood and investment, and employment, among others. Part of the Forum were four MOF-related activities such as (1) Film Showing on Migration, (2) Book Launch of "Migrants' Stories, (3) Migrants' Voices," and (4) Cultural Presentation and Awarding Ceremony for the Migration Advocacy and Media Awards.
- **Song Writing and Music-Video Competition:** Since its creation in 2011, the IACAT XI Network has conducted several notable anti-TIP advocacy projects for Region XI which usually coincides with the celebration of the IDAT. The Task Force and the network acknowledged that "music" is the universal language of mankind and is an effective tool in getting the message across the chosen audience, regardless of age, gender, and ethnicity. Thus, in 2017, a region-wide song writing and music-video competition was launched and opened to all Filipino residents of Region XI ages 15 and above, except professional composers and video makers. The purpose of the project is to increase public awareness on human trafficking, its red flags or indicators, IACAT and its functions, and how to report human trafficking incidents. With the rise of social media as an instrument of communication, marketing, and community engagement, IACAT XI received several entries. Five music videos officially passed the evaluation board, and the music video that received the most number of likes and hearts on IACAT XI facebook page, won the competition.
- **Joint Advocacy Campaign on TIP & VAWC:** Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force-IV in partnership with Regional IACAT – Violence Against Women and Children, MiMaRoPa (RIACAT-VAWC) held a Joint Advocacy Campaign on TIP

& VAWC to maximize resources and participation of member agencies in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

18-Day Campaign to End VAW by PCW

The PCW led the 2017 annual observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW), with the theme “VAW-free community starts with me”. The campaign emphasized everyone’s commitment and contributions to ending VAW and continued pursuit for common vision of a VAW-free community. **938** individuals from NGAs, LGUs, private sector, and CSOs participated

The Campaign kicked-off on 24 November 2017 at the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) Theatre in Quezon City. The activity served as a venue to present the situation of VAW in the Philippines and likewise launch the Strategic Plan of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC).

The PCW also launched the “VAW Experiential Museum” as one of the major activities. This three-day interactive museum aimed at making the public understand the difficult experiences of VAW victim-survivors by making use of their senses (see, hear, and feel) and appealing to their emotions.

Other major activities were the “ORANGE YOUR ICON for 18 Days Advocacy Initiative” and “VAW: The Unspoken Words”. The ORANGE YOUR ICON is on its third year, and aimed to strengthen the Anti-VAW advocacy in the tourism sector where women can become vulnerable and become victims of sexual exploitation, prostitution and trafficking. Moreover, “VAW: The Unspoken Words” project aimed to make the public understand the difficult experiences of VAW victim-survivors using free-verse poetry and images presented in five videos developed narrating various forms of VAW which include VAW in the Home, VAW in the Work place, VAW in the School, VAW in Public Spaces and Online Harassment. These videos aim to develop compassion and concern towards the shared vision of a VAW-free community.

The budget spent for the Campaign activities was P1,935,000.00 which came from PCW’s General Appropriations Act (GAA) Fund and sponsorship fund from Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Office of the President (OP), and Department of National Defense (DND)

#NotForSale

Executive Director Darlene R. Pajarito attended as a panelist during the **#NotForSale** campaign launch on 17 October 2017 at the Sulu Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City. The campaign activity engaged relevant sectors in the society to make the eradication of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) as one of its priorities in line with the national agenda of the Philippines.

3rd International Dialogue on Human Trafficking

This dialogue recognized the significant contribution of the multi-stakeholder collaboration in implementing anti-trafficking measures in the country in partnership with the Netherlands Embassy.

This year, the Philippine government continued the conversations and revisited the recommendations made by the technical working groups (TWGs) on Household Service Workers and Tourist Workers, Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, and Seafarers and Fishers. Partners from foreign missions, international organizations, civil society organizations, and government agencies expressed their renewed commitment to improve national interventions and enhance international relations in combatting TIP, as laid down in the Manila Declaration and the 2017-2021 National Strategic Action Plan, as well as in conformity with the regional commitments to the ASEAN Convention on TIP and ASEAN Plan of Action. Five more Foreign Missions signified to join the commitment to combat trafficking in persons.

E. Other Anti-TIP Information Campaign

- **Policy Issuance to Support the National Advocacy Campaign on Anti-Trafficking Related Activities.** In support of the national advocacy on anti-trafficking, DILG issued a Memorandum Circular enjoining all local government units to observe and conduct relevant activities for the celebration of the “World Day Against Trafficking”. Similarly, the Department circulated a Memorandum for all local government units to observe the celebration of “18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children”.
- The PCW redesigned, reprinted and distributed an estimated 6,000 copies of the Anti-Trafficking flyers and briefers. The budget spent for this activity came from the GAA of the IACVAWC Fund, GSIS, and PCSO. The flyers were distributed during the PCW organized activities. Soft copies were also uploaded in PCW website.
- The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) supported and assisted the following information dissemination:
 - Dissemination of CFO-IACAT Press Releases to tri-media
 - Sent Media Advisory for the coverage of IACAT events
 - SMS information campaign on anti-trafficking to PIA recipients from the Central Office and the regions.
 - Provided a link up to the present for Actionline 1343 to PIA website (please see below the sample crawling banner in PIA website)
 - Participated in the International Dialogue event last Sept. 2017
 - Provided proposal for the nationwide awareness campaign through
 - Tarpaulin posting and monitoring but did not push through
- The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) conducted seven Cybersecurity Caravans focusing on child online protection in partnership with the private sector specifically security solutions providers.
- CFO developed a primer on RA 10906 or the “Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act of 2016” targeting Filipinos in intermarriage, advocates of migrants and women rights; and reproduced stickers of the IACAT 1343 Actionline for the general

public funded by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and IACAT.

- Additional 2,000 copies of the **Labor Exploitation Dimensions of Trafficking In Persons** were printed through the support from AAPTIP. Copies were distributed to all 24 ATTfEs, while others were distributed during the training activity on Investigating and Prosecuting Labor Trafficking Cases that IACAT conducted in July and October 2017 involving participants from the different member agencies of IACAT and its LGU counterparts.
- Philippine Foreign Service Posts use social media, among others, to reach out to Filipinos overseas by regularly posting advisories and reminders about TIP and IR. For example, Los Angeles PCG provided a link in its website and Facebook page to encourage Filipino community members to vote for the Philippine entry in the ASEAN Youth Video Competition on Human Trafficking Awareness. Post created an informational video about trafficking and posted it in its website during Anti-Human Trafficking Week. Post also showed it for a week at its Community Hall.

F. Capacity-building Activities

In 2017, IACAT, through the efforts of all IACAT member agencies and Regional Task Forces, conducted a total of **238 trainings** which were attended by a total of **15,067 participants**. 8,679 came from private sectors and non-government organizations while 6,388 are government personnel.

Here is the breakdown on number of government personnel trained:

Table 2. No. of Government Personnel Trained CY 2016

Government Personnel	No. of Government Personnel Trained
Judges	45
Prosecutors	358
Law Enforcers	3086
Social Workers	577
Other Govt. Personnel, Barangay Officials	2322
Total	6,388

In the 238 trainings conducted, 61 trainings (27%) were organized and conducted by DOJ-IACAT and Regional Task Forces, while 177 (73%) were organized by other member agencies and partners, in which activities IACAT assisted by providing resource persons.

In sum, below is the list of skills enhancement seminars conducted for designated government officials, law enforcers and service providers:

Table 02. Specialized Anti-TIP Training 2017

Lead Agency	Seminar/Training	Description	No. of Training Conducted	No. of Trained Personnel
DSWD	Trauma Informed Care	Sixteen (16) Field Offices conducted one (1) training each on Trauma Informed Care and Case Management on TIP, Enhancement Training on Handling Cases of Trafficking and On Line Child Abuse and Caring for the Caregivers	16	626 National Social Workers and LGU Social Workers
DSWD	Capability building on uncovering and addressing Online Sexual Exploitation of Children	Aims to improve the knowledge of the participants on the impact of OSEC and the complexity involved in recovery which will help the participants manage the cases more effectively and efficiently and prevent the further victimization to potential victims. This was held on 6-10 November 2017 at Emiramona Garden Hotel, Tagaytay City	1	56 Regional Focal Persons on TIP and led-secretariat of the IACACP from the field offices including ARMM and SWO-IIs
BI	Bureau of Immigration Program – Basic Immigration Officers Course (BIOC)	This is part of the workforce capability development and technical skills enhancement program conducted by the Bureau of Immigration Center for Training and Research in which new Immigration Officers were trained before deployment to their respective airport terminals. BIOC training comes from the national budget while recurrent and/or update trainings were from BI's special funds.		1,000 Immigration Officers
DFA-FSI	Courses on Assistance-to-Nationals for Foreign Personnel	Topics include Trafficking in Persons, Illegal Recruitment, and cases of Trafficking in Diplomatic Households	1	
	Foreign Service Officer's Cadetship Course	This special course will introduce to the participants the basic procedures in protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of OFWs. Through workshops, participants will be immersed in the pressing cases that ATN officers attend to. It also includes skills training in basic counseling, as well as an orientation in gender sensitivity and migration issues, including the Expanded Act and IACAT	1	57
	Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS)	Conducted PDOS for five batches of DFA private staff and household members	5	
DFA Foreign Service Posts	Trafficking-Related Trainings	Details provided below	12	314
PNP	Basic TIP Training	The Training Service, Philippine National Police conducted a Basic TIP Training On December 11-15, 2017. This course was funded by the Annual Gender and Development Budget of the Training Service.	1	37
DOLE	Law Compliance Officer on Child Labor (LLCO)	DOLE, thru Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) conducted a Basic Training for Labor Laws Compliance Officer at Ramada Manila Central, Binondo, Manila. The training was conducted to broaden the knowledge of the Department's LLCOs on relevant policies and new regulations taking into account the ILO core conventions and other relevant international labor standards and enhance their knowledge of processes in the implementation	1	49 LLCOs nationwide

		of the developmental approach to labor law compliance.		
	Training Program for Newly-hired Employee and POLO Personnel	The training program contains induction programs, classroom training of Pre-Deployment Training and Immersion Program (PDTIP). For this year, four batches (Labbats, Bahaghari Class, AS, & WelOf) were trained. These batches also underwent DFA-FSI-PDOS.	7	4 Batches
CFO	Seminar on the Issues of Filipinos in Inter-marriage	Overview of Filipino Marriage Migration, Civil Registration Laws and Procedures, Review of Marriage Laws in the Philippines, Anti-TIP Law, Anti-Mail Order Spouse Law, and 1343 Actionline.	2	54
US-OPDAT/ IACAT	Anti-TIP Specialized Training	Details provided below	15	73 Prosecutors 45 Law Enforcers 19 Social Workers Law Enforcers 19 Social Workers 29 Other Gov't Personnel 442 Academe
AAPTIP/ IACAT	Anti-TIP Specialized Training	Details provided below	16	32 Judges 132 Prosecutors 134 Law Enforcers 27 Social Workers 36 Other Gov't Personnel
Anti-Trafficking Task Forces	Skills Enhancement Seminar for Social Workers and Law Enforcers on Combatting Human Trafficking and Victim Protection for Trafficked Persons	Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force II conducted a series of seminar to strengthen and enhance the knowledge and skills on inter-agency coordination and cooperation in assisting victims of TIP and enhance critical understanding and appreciation of roles and responsibilities as well as skills in engaging the criminal justice system. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-11 August 2017: Japi Hotel, Cauayan City, Isabela 24-25 August 2017: Nassim Hotel and Beach Resort, Sta. Ana, Cagaya 21-22 September 2017: Wilmer Resort Hotel and Restaurant Corporation, Santiago City, Isabela 19-20 October 2017: Highlander Hotel and Restaurant, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya 	4	132 Law Enforcers 75 Social Workers 82 Other Gov't Personnel
Total			82	3,470

The DFA conducted 12 specialized anti-TIP trainings and seminars through Philippine Foreign Service Posts and trained a total of **302** participants, to wit:

Table 03. Foreign Service Post Anti-TIP Trainings 2017

Lead Agency (DFA)	Seminar/Training	Description	No. of Training Conducted	No. of Trained Personnel
Bangkok PE	Workshop on Migration-related Consular Issues	Bangkok PE partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Thailand on 16 June 2017 by hosting a one-day Workshop on Migration-related Consular Issues which was attended by representatives from all Embassies of the ten ASEAN member states. Human Trafficking was discussed by an IOM trafficking expert	1	8
Brussels PE/PM	Forum on "Human Trafficking: Laws, Policy and	Lecture-seminar on existing Belgian and EU legal frameworks on TIP, different forms of exploitation,	1	15



	Intervention in Belgium” on 11 August 2017, at the Embassy	distinctions between TIP and smuggling, and PAG-ASA’s experience on handling TIP cases. PAG-ASA, a Brussels-based NGO which provides humanitarian and legal assistance to trafficking victims, was invited as speaker/facilitator		
	Anti-Human Trafficking Seminar initiated by the PE on 19 November 2017	The seminar was initiated by the Embassy in coordination with POLO-Canberra and attended by diplomats, FilCom Leaders, and OFWs. Resource persons are Labor Attache of Canberra PE, Fil-AM Lawyer, and a representative from Sister Margaret Ng, Coordinator, Australian Catholic Religions Against Human Trafficking	1	35
Canberra PE	Updates on Immigration and Labour Reforms Affecting OFWs in Australia	The seminar is part of the regular professional development training conducted by the Embassy. The two (2) seminars related to TIP were conducted on 18 and 30 May 2017 by Labour Attache Rodolfo Sabulao.	2	20 (approximately)
Doha PE	Lecture on TIP, VAWC, and Obligation of Parents as well as the Rights of Children for 64 wards of MWOFRFC	This was organized through its Social Welfare Attache.	1	50 (approximately)
Los Angeles PCG	Know Your Rights Seminar for Filipino workers, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division (WHD)	The seminar was a by-product of the Arrangement Establishing an Understanding between the Consulate and WHD signed last 27 February 2017. The lecturers from WHD discussed about their role in investigations and enforcement and how they attend to human trafficking concerns.	1	50
Manama PE	Legal Forum on Bahrain’s Human Trafficking and Labor Laws	Post conducted a legal forum/consultation with Maha Jaber Law Firm, Post’s legal retainer, and participated in by Embassy, POLO-OWWA, SSS, Pag-ibig personnel, and MWORC wards. Lawyers from Maha Jaber Law Firm, discussed Bahrain’s Human Trafficking and labor laws. Also included in the discussion were the immigration processed concerning work visas, and procedure during investigations conducted by the police authorities and public prosecutors.	1	32
Toronto PCG	Modern Day Slavery: Human Trafficking and People Smuggling	Ottawa PE DCM Francisco Noel Fernandez III shared tips on how to spot illegal trafficking among OFWs. The seminar also provided updates on guidelines for employing domestic workers in a diplomatic household.	1	15
Ottawa PE	TIP in Diplomatic Households		1	15
	Modern Day: Human Trafficking and People Smuggling		1	15
Oslo PE	Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar (PAOS) for Filipino AU Pairs	This was organized by the Embassy aimed at continuing the Philippine Government’s measures in promoting the welfare of Filipino Au Pairs	1	47 au pairs, plus Filipino community representatives and 12 Embassy personnel

Total**12****302**

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (US DOJ OPDAT) and Philippine Society of Criminologist and Criminal Justice Professionals (PSCCJP) have been working together with IACAT in conducting trainings and workshops aimed to provide the participants (composed of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, social workers, academe, and barangay officials) with working knowledge on the salient features of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking Law, as well as to establish better coordination among stakeholders. For 2017, the following trainings by the US DOJ OPDAT were conducted, to wit:

Table 04. Specialized Anti-TIP Training with OPDAT & PSCCJP CY 2017

Lead Agency	Seminar/Training		No. of Training Conducted	No. of Trained Personnel
DOJ-IACAT PCTC, US-OPDAT, PSCCJP	Advocacy Building Workshop on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Workshop for Prosecutors, Barangay Officials and the Academe	The workshop focused on the " <i>Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation against Trafficking in Persons and the Substantive Aspects of Republic Act No. 9208.</i> " <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 May 2017 at Go Hotel, Butuan City 23 August at Paradise Garden Hotel, Boracay 	2	18 Prosecutors 19 Other Gov't Personnel 27 Academe
DOJ-IACAT PCTC, US-OPDAT, PSCCJP	Affidavit Drafting Workshop on Trafficking in Persons for Investigators, Prosecutors and other IACAT Partners	This contains a practical workshop focused on drafting techniques, tips, and strategies to ensure a well-organized and proficient affidavit. Expert speakers from US DOJ OPDAT and PSCCJP, Inc. provided practical checklist for matters to include, best practices, and guidance to learn more from actual practice, feedback and experience. <p>The workshop provided law enforcers, prosecutors, criminal justice professionals, and criminology student with working knowledge on the "<i>Salient Features of Republic Act No. 9208, as Amended</i>" and "<i>Nuts and Bolts on Drafting An Affidavit.</i>"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-10 May 2017 at Go Hotel, Butuan City 24-25 August at Paradise Garden Hotel, Boracay 24-25 October 2017 at Hotel EuroAsia, Angeles City 	3	32 Prosecutors 45 Law Enforcers 19 Social Workers 10 Other Gov't Personnel 11 NGOs
DOJ-IACAT PCTC, US-OPDAT, PSCCJP	Training for Prosecutors on Trafficking in Persons	4-6 December 2017 at Diamond Hotel, Manila. Attended by prosecutors-members of the ATTF. The training aimed at improving the skills of prosecutor in handling TIP cases and in filing Information in court.	1	23 Prosecutors
DOJ-IACAT	Training-Workshop on Trafficking in	This training-workshop was attended by deans and faculty members of criminology	9	404

PCTC,
US-
OPDAT,
PSCCJP

Persons and
Environmental
Crimes in the
Philippines

schools in Regions **1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, NCR, CAR, Palawan and NCR.** The training aimed to assist the criminal justice professionals enhance their technical knowledge in emerging crime typologies in the country.

This is a three-year program of the OPDAT and PSCCJP introducing the "7 Steps Method of Investigation for Trafficking in Persons and Environmental Crimes for the Criminology Academe." On 11 August 2017, a closing program on the final installment of the program was held at the Diamond Hotel where PSCCJP presented and submitted a final report of the three-year program to its institutional partners, including the IACAT.

Total	15	608
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These trainings were mostly funded by US DOJ-OPDAT. IACAT, as its counter-part provided resource persons, support staff, and some limited funding. These activities resulted to a total of **15** trainings conducted involving a total number of **608** participants trained.

To highlight the commitment and partnership between IACAT and the AAPTIP to reduce the incentives and opportunities for TIP in the Philippines by enhancing the skills of law enforcers, prosecutors, judges in their respective roles relating to TIP cases, the following trainings were conducted, to wit:

Table 05. Specialized Anti-TIP Training with AAPTIP CY 2017

Seminar/Training	Description	No. of Training Conducted	No. of Trained Personnel
Financial Investigation Training on TIP Program	Human trafficking is a high-income, low risk business, thus it was recommended that investigations should always include a parallel financial inquiry. The said training aims to develop the skills and knowledge to implement and manage the use of financial investigation techniques to identify, sequester and seek the confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of trafficking crime. It further seek to develop deeper understanding of the topic through exploring useful investigative methods, sharing of best practices, study of the most successful and high profile cases, along with discussion of the problems of judicial practice in cases of money laundering associated with trafficking in persons. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15-18 May 2017 at Marco Polo Hotel, Cebu City; 11-16 September 2017 in Makati City (participated by Prosecutors from NCR, CAR, Region 1, 3, 4A, & 11) 	2	8 Judges 12 Prosecutors 31 Law Enforcers 3 Other Gov't Personnel
Training of Trainers for Basic and	On 28 March 2017, under the Prosecutors Professional Development Program of IACAT and AAPTIP, six	1	7 Prosecutors



Advance Competency Enhancement Training	specialist prosecutor-trainers attended the said training to improve their skills in conducting and facilitating an IACAT trainings, as well as delivering their lectures.		
Philippines Specialist TIP Prosecutors Professional Development on Cross Examination	The cross-examination of suspects and of witnesses by prosecutors and defense counsel is a key phase of the adjudication process under the common law countries such as the Philippines. The training was conducted to increase the DOJ TFATIP member-prosecutors' trial skills, specifically cross-examination skills and to illustrate victim-sensitive techniques in the preparation of victims for cross-examination at trial. The training was conducted last 17-18 April 2016.	1	19 Prosecutors
Advanced Competency Enhancement Training for Judges, Prosecutors, Legal Researchers, Social Workers and Law Enforcement Investigators Handling TIP Cases	The Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) and AAPTIP, in coordination with the IACAT conducted this intensive, two-and-one-half-day, live-in, multi-disciplinary training program designed to improve the competencies of the stakeholders involved in the criminal justice response to Trafficking in Person (TIP). Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the international and domestic legal framework on TIP and will increase the competencies in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating TIP cases. The training was conducted last 29-31 March 2017 at the PHILJA Training Center, Tagaytay. Participants of this training were graduates of the 13-15 September 2016 Competency Enhancement Training on Trafficking in Persons (CET-TIP)	1	10 Prosecutors 12 RTC Judges 12 Legal Researchers 7 Court Social Workers 4 Law Enforcers
ASEAN Regional Workshop on Effective Investigation and Prosecution of TIP for Labour Exploitation	On 6-8 June 2017, IACAT, with the support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the AAPTIP, conducted the ASEAN Regional Workshop in Dusit Thani Hotel. The participants were able to share and document regional and national practices and experiences; proper identification of cases; investigation and prosecution of TIP cases involving labor trafficking; and available legal remedies for migrant workers. Moreover, domestic and regional cooperation and coordination were strengthened.	1	
Trainers Evaluation For Specialist TIP Prosecutors.	AAPTIP, in coordination with IACAT, held a 3-day Trainers Evaluation for Specialist TIP Prosecutors from 19-21 April, 2017 in Tagaytay City. Eight prosecutors who previously underwent basic training on trafficking in persons were specially chosen to be trained and become the second pool of trainers on the Basic and Advance Course on Trafficking in Persons. At the same time, it was also the venue for the first pool of prosecutors-trainers to facilitate a full 3-day training course. The prosecutors-participants are all members of the IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces from different regions. The new trainers-prosecutors will be given the opportunity to help facilitate an anti-trafficking training this year as their first exposure as trainers.	1	8 Prosecutors
ASEAN Practitioner Workshop on	This workshop's specific objectives are: (1) to review, revise and agree to the draft ASEAN Training Program on International Legal Cooperation in TIP; and (2) to	1	2 Prosecutors 1 State Counsel

International Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons	review and finalize revisions to the ASEAN Handbook on International Legal Cooperation in TIP. Davao Prosecutor Robert Razon and State Counsel Grace Quintana attended the said workshop.		
	Held on 16-18 May 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.		
ASEAN Skills Course on Trafficking in Persons for Specialist Prosecutors	This was conducted on 17-21 July 2017 in Metro Manila, participated by 23 prosecutors from different regions, covering in detail the provisions of international and domestic TIP and other related laws as well as gender-sensitive prosecutorial skills and litigation techniques. It was designed to enhance the skills of specialist-prosecutors handling human trafficking cases.	1	23 Prosecutors
Workshop on Identifying, Investigating and Prosecuting Labour Trafficking Cases	<p>This workshop aims to develop the participants' skills in identifying, investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases; reinforce the participants' appreciation and engagement in the referral system involving TIP cases, including labour trafficking; and foster agreement on the next steps on rolling out the referral system guidelines on labour trafficking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-14 July 2017 attended by IACAT Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force–Region VIII (RATTF-VIII) together with the representatives from IACAT member agencies, and Local Government Unit of Tacloban City; • 25-27 October 2017 attended by members of nine (9) Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force with the most reported cases of Labour Trafficking and IACAT Member agencies in NCR. 	2	24 Prosecutors 11 Law Enforcers 12 Social Workers 5 other Gov't Personnel
Prosecutor's TIP Case Management System (PTCMS)	On 9 November 2017, the PTCMS was rolled out to 16 Task Forces consisting of Prosecutors and Administrative Staff where each task force were given desktops, laptops, printers, and hard drives with installed PTCMS and necessary software applications. The training was the introduction on how to generally use the PTCMS with actual demonstration and help of user guide (print and video presentation).	1	16 Prosecutors 16 Administrative Staff
Competency Enhancement Training on Trafficking in Persons (CET-TIP)	The PHILJA and AAPTIP in coordination with the IACAT conducted on 22-24 August 2017 at the PHILJA Training Center, Tagaytay City, this intensive, two-and-one-half-day, live-in, multi-disciplinary training program designed to improve the competencies of judges, prosecutors, social workers, and police investigators in handling trafficking in persons cases. 11 Prosecutors from Region I participated in this activity aimed to enhance the capacity of participants to investigate, prosecute, and decide various forms of TIP occurring at various settings and requiring different interventions in terms of proper application and enforcement of Expanded Act, and other related laws.	1	12 Judges 11 Prosecutors 8 Court Social Workers 9 Law Enforcers
Roll-out Training on the Standard Operations Procedure (SOP) on Trafficking In Persons	The SOP on TIP will address the current trends of TIP. The training equipped the investigators with the skills and understanding on how to handle TIP cases and current trends and how to conduct proactive approaches in management of cases and treatment of victims.	2	59 Police Officers

	June 27-28, Somerset Millenium Makati		
	June 29-30, Somerset Millenium Makati		
Specialist Anti-Trafficking Unit Commander's Course	The course is designed to develop the pre-existing supervisory skills of the participants within the specific setting of a specialist anti-trafficking unit and the operational challenges that such units commonly encounter. Participants are Officers of other ranks that have been identified as high-potential and who may be expected to hold command or supervisory rank within a specialist human trafficking unit in the future.	1	20 Police Officers
Total		16	362

In the same extent, these foregoing trainings were mostly funded by AAPTIP, and IACAT, as its counter-part provided resource persons, support staff, and some limited funding. These activities resulted to a total of **16** trainings conducted involving a total number of **362** participants trained.

G. Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Structures at the Local Level

Cognizant of the important roles and responsibilities of LGUs in effective implementation of the Expanded Act, the DILG DSWD, and DOJ issued a Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-01 urging all provincial governors, city, and municipal mayors to establish a Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (LCAT-VWAC). Among the functions of LCPC is to establish a parallel functional structure at the local level that will monitor and oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Expanded Act and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004.

Per monitoring report of DILG Field Offices regarding LGU compliance on the said memorandum, as of December 2017, 47% (38) of the 81 provinces in the country has an organized Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (PCAT-VAWC). At the city and municipality level, 74% (108) of the 145 cities nationwide has established the City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (CCAT-VAWC) while 71% (1,062) of the 1,489 municipalities in the country has Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (MCAT-VAWC).

In view of localizing anti-trafficking efforts in the community, the barangay may utilize the BCPC and VAW-Desk as parallel mechanism in the barangay to prevent trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The BCPC is an umbrella organization established in barangay for all children's concerns and the VAW Desk is a facility in every barangay that addresses VAW cases in a gender-responsive manner, managed by a person designated by the Barangay Captain. Recognizing the importance of these structures, both are useful tools to help prevent and address the trafficking of women and children at the community level.

As of December 2017, around 50% (20,966) of the 42,036 barangays has already established its BCPC while around 89% (37,224) has existing VAW-DESK facility.

Per Field Reports on the LCAT-VAWC's Accomplishments, the following are among the various anti-trafficking programs and interventions that have been and are currently being implemented at the local level through the LCAT-VAWC, to wit:

- ✓ Capacity Building Activities
- ✓ Advocacy Campaign
- ✓ Issuance of Executive Order
- ✓ Provision of Legal and Medical Assistance
- ✓ Provision of Shelter Assistance to Victims of Trafficking
- ✓ Provision of After-Care Program

Note: The Monitoring Form is currently being revised to capture the list/number of LGUs with Interventions.

H. Implementation of IACAT 1343 Actionline

The IACAT 1343 Actionline is the first telephone hotline dedicated to combat human trafficking and other related cases. The main function of this hotline is to receive and immediately respond to requests for assistance, inquiries and referrals from the victims, their families and the public pertaining to Human Trafficking. The service has been expanded to accommodate online reporting and text messaging. In 2017, the IACAT 1343 Actionline received **59** reports, 46 from calls and 12 from online or web reporting. From these reports, a total of **61** victims were assisted and served. 55 are females and six are males, nine of whom are female minors.

Table 06. Nature of Verified Case Reports in 2017

	No. of Case reports
Human Trafficking	17
Illegal Recruitment	6
Others	36
Total	59

Table 07. Breakdown of Received Reports from 2011 to 2017

Year	No. of Calls received through the Actionline	No. of Actual Case Reports received through calls and other modes	No. of Victims
2011	7,177	69	64
2012	7,762	127	95
2013	4,265	67	60
2014	4,221	75	72
2015	2,863	82	108
2016	3,731	74	64
2017	4,483	59	61
Total	34,502	553	524

Based on the above table, only two percent of the calls received were verified to be reports for violation of the Expanded Act or other related laws. The 98% consists of inquiry calls, test calls, wrong number calls, drop calls, prank calls, follow-up calls and abandoned calls. However, the calls relating to TIP had been instrumental in the rescue and repatriation of 553 victims.

On 31 July 2017, the RTC Branch 106 in Quezon City rendered a judgement¹² convicting the accused Ramil Cañete of qualified trafficking and imposed the penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of Php 2,000,000. This case was a result of a report received through the IACAT 1343 ActionLine at 3:00 AM on 28 October 2015. Upon learning that the minors were at the Crest Hotel in Cubao, Quezon City, IACAT, through the CFO, requested assistance from the Cubao Police Station Seven resulting to the rescue of two minors. The Court found accused to have taken advantage of the minority and vulnerability of the two minors from Cebu who were brought to Manila for a promised modeling job that supposedly will earn them Php 60,000 each. The boys were not given any modelling job and the Court found the accused to have sexually exploited the minors.

I. Implementation of the Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International Bound Passengers

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has always adhered to the mandates provided by The Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 (C.A. 613) as supplemented by DOJ M.C. No: 036 or the IACAT Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-Bound Passengers.

A total of **29,357** passengers had their departures deferred due to incomplete/improper travel documents, misrepresentation, non-compliance to required papers in 2017. The BI, through the Travel Control Enforcement Unit (TCEU), remained strict in performing its mandate and were able to turn-over **104** potential cases of human trafficking to IACAT Task Forces.

Table 08. Number of Passengers Referred to IACAT

Month	No. of Passengers
January	14
February	7
March	12
April	21
May	10
June	0
July	6
August	4
September	2
October	7
November	9
December	12
Total	104

¹² Date of promulgation: July 31, 2017.

The BI likewise reported that **55** others are believed to be victims of illegal recruiters.

Table 09. Number of Passengers Referred to POEA

Month	No. of Passengers
January	4
February	8
March	7
April	10
May	2
June	2
July	3
August	1
September	3
October	4
November	2
December	9
Total	55

The number of passengers referred for secondary inspection last 2017 was considerably smaller (85,803) as compared to 2016 (111,947). Also, the number of compliant passengers who were referred for secondary inspection last 2017 saw an increase in number as compared to 2016. Below are the figures for reference

2016:

Allowed Departure: 66,631 (59.52%)
 Deferred Departure: 45, 316 (40.48%)
 Total: 111,947

Indorsed to IACAT: 667 (1.5%)
 Indorsed to POEA: 601 (1.3%)

2017:

Allowed Departure: 56,446 (65.78%)
 Deferred Departure: 29,357 (34.22%)
 Total: 85,803

Indorsed to IACAT: 104 (0.4%)
 Indorsed to POEA: 55 (0.2%)

Without any formal evaluation or study, it can only be presumed that the figures above appear to indicate the possibility that most travellers are now more aware on the necessary travel documents prescribed under the Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-Bound Passengers. Note that BI follows the same guidelines as last year and is duty-bound to allow or disallow departure base on the requirements for each category of passengers under said guidelines.

Further, to keep up with the trends, changing modus operandi of human traffickers and illegal recruiters, as well as the revisions of government policies, both local and international, IACAT revisited the said Guidelines. New provisions and/or requirements were added, with the following significant revisions:

1. **Passengers involving children** pursuant to the Administrative Order No. 12, Series of 2017 Re: Omnibus Guidelines for Minors Travelling Abroad and Inter-Country Adoption Board;
2. **Holders of visas:** The United States of America (USA) "T" visa (victim of human trafficking); USA visa (victim of criminal activities); Australian Visa Subclass 060 Bridging F Visa; Australian visa DH 852 (Referred Stay – Permanent); and other relevant visa class issued by foreign countries for similar purposes will be exempt from secondary inspection for humanitarian purposes as long as said passenger does not have any derogatory records in the BI;
3. **Special Travel Exit Clearance** pursuant to the Revised POEA Rules, Section 70. The POEA shall issue special clearances for travel abroad for Philippine Registered Ship's conduction manned by locally employed seafarers. Likewise, it shall cover seafarers who will undergo orientation and such other analogous circumstances, as a requirement prior to their employment. A guideline shall be issued by the Administration for the implementation of this section;
4. **On-The-Job Trainee/s or Participants from International Students Affairs Program** and such other Trainee/s required in compliance to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Guidelines;
5. **General guidelines** on turnover of deferred departure passengers, travel documents, investigation and other related incidents include a more detailed procedure on turning over of records and reports, and provide systematic reporting and monitoring of all deferred departure records to all concerned agencies; and
6. The Basis of the provision or requirements were also incorporated as footnotes in the proposed Revision for easy reference.

However, pending the approval of the revisions *ad referendum*, BI continues to strictly implement the existing Guidelines and defers the departure of passengers on the following grounds: (1) when a passenger is in possession of fraudulent documents; (2) has a doubtful purpose of travel (e.g. tourist worker); or (3) is a possible victim of trafficking.

J. Preventive Measures Against Child Labor Trafficking

Philippine Program Against Child Labor Development Action Plan 2017-2022: With the reactivation of the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) and reconstitution of the NCLC Sub-committees, several projects were actively implemented, as follows:

- Convening Actors to Reduce Child Labor and Improve Working Conditions in Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (CARING GOLD) Project. This global project will run for 3.5 years from 2016 to 2019. The implementing partner is Ban Toxics, a NGO that has first-hand observation of the hazardous work in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM). This is intended to increase capacity of national and global stakeholders in addressing child labor and working conditions in ASGM.

- **Shield Against Child Labor Project.** The project was conceptualized in 2016 in partnership with various agencies and organizations. The main objective is to remove children from child labor especially those who are engaged in the worst forms of child labor, with three sub-objectives, to wit:
 - Establish an operational Child Labor Local Registry System. In partnership with International Labor Organization (ILO), a consultant will be commissioned to develop said system that will be used for the profiling of child laborers at the barangay level;
 - Strengthen the system of convergence of services for the child laborers and their families through the establishment of a barangay-based helpdesk; and
 - Raise awareness, knowledge, and skills of child laborers and their families and other implementers such as the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).

The SHIELD Project was launched at the national level on 12 January 2017 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City. It was then launched in the following pilot areas: Catanauan, Quezon on 24-28 April 2017 where deep-sea fishing is common; Labo, Paracale, and Jose Panganiban in Camarines Norte on 5-9 June 2017 where mining operations are rampant; and Kananga and Ormoc City in Leyte on 8-12 May 2017 where the number of migratory sugar cane workers or 'Sacada' is high.

- **Technical Learning Session on Extracting Child Labor Data from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS).** This was held on 4 August 2017 intended to train the participants on using the software for extracting child labor data from the CBMS for them to be able to assist in the identification of child laborers to be removed from child labor by 2022.

Preventing the Use of Child Soldiers

On this issue of Children in Armed Conflict, there is a pending bill, Senate bill 1474 entitled "Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict" which provides for the rights and treatment of children involved in armed conflict.

CWC has developed the web-based reporting of cases of children in armed conflict as a way of implementing the Monitoring, Reporting, and Response System (MRRS). The web-based system was recently finished and is now being presented to the members of the **Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed-Conflict (IAC-CIAC)** for comments and enhancement before its finalization. These efforts are in-line with the implementation of the UN-CRC Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

The DILG supports the IAC-CIAC by virtue of **Executive Order No. 56: The Framework for a Comprehensive Program for Children in Armed Conflict**, which aims to effectively address the alarming involvement of children in armed

conflict, either as combatants, couriers, spies, medics, cooks, or their recruitment for sexual purposes or in any other similar, non-combatant capacity. The Executive Order No. 56 as amended by Executive Order No. 138 includes the provision for the national government and LGUs to formulate and integrate the enhanced CIAC Program in their respective annual plans, programs, and projects consistent with their mandates and further providing therein, specific functions of the IAC CIAC including the establishment of a MRRS.

Likewise, the DILG, through Comprehensive Local Intervention Program (CLIP) aims to facilitate the mainstreaming of former rebels, including former child soldiers, as productive citizens of the society. Specifically, CLIP provides intervention, such as livelihood assistance, support to relocation, reintegration assistance, and other healing and reconciliation initiatives, to former rebels. To implement the program, the CLIP Committed at the Provincial/HUC Level is created with functions, not limited to, development of CLIP Implementation plan, profiling of former rebels, and ensuring the convergent efforts in the delivery of services for former rebels, including former child soldiers.

II. Protection, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

A. Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP)

The DSWD oversees the implementation of the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP), a comprehensive package of services for the individual victim-survivor of TIP, the immediate family and the community at large. The RRPTP has the following major program components: (1) capability enhancement for service providers; (2) direct services to trafficked persons; (3) upgrade of temporary shelters; (4) implementation of the National Referral System and updating and maintenance of the National Recovery and Reintegration Database; and (5) advocacy.

In 2017, the RRPTP has served and assisted a total of **One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Nine (1,659)** identified trafficked persons. Most of the clients served are women and the highest number of purpose of trafficking is for forced labour.

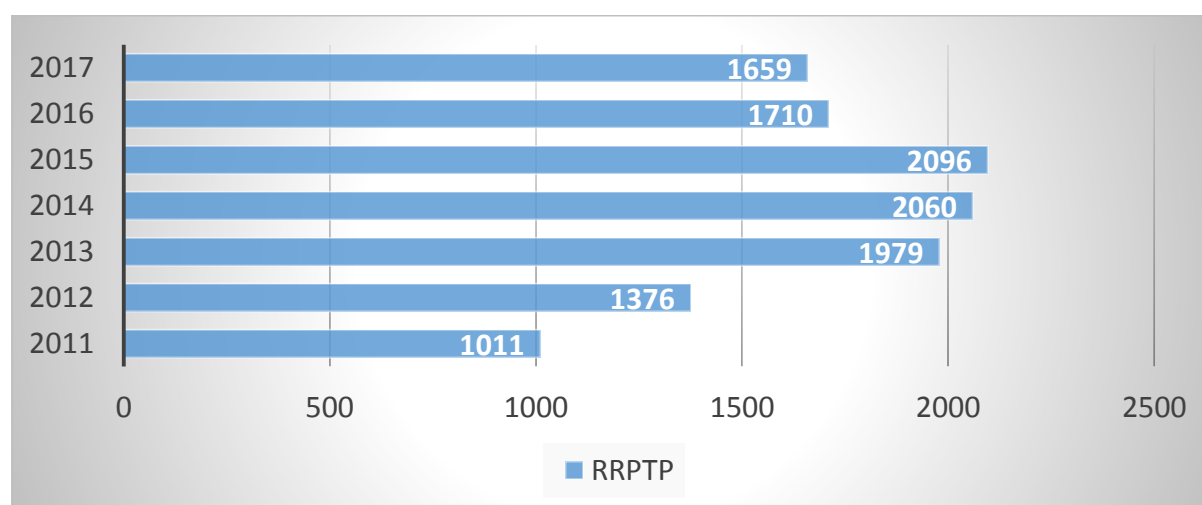
Table 10. No. of Trafficking Victim Served through RRPTP 2016 & 2017

		2017		2016	
Purpose		Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illegal Recruitment		298	16.7%	530	31%
Labor Trafficking	Forced Labor	508	40.8%	193	14%
	Involuntary				
	Servitude	108		35	
	Slavery	30		4	
Sex Trafficking	Prostitution	151	25.7%	209	27%
	Sexual Exploitation	215		194	
	Child Pornography	150		62	

Child Trafficking	54	.3%	11	0.6%
Removal/Sale of Organs	7	.6%	55	3%
Repatriation	22	11.1%	14	0.8%
Adoption	4	.2%	3	0.1%
Others (Intercepted, Rescued)	112	6.8%	404	23.5%
Total	1659	100%	1713	100%

Based on the figures, there was a significant increase by more or less 50% on the number of trafficked victims involving illegal recruitment, labor trafficking, and child pornography as compared to the 2016 data. This can be viewed that efforts on labor trafficking and OSEC are high, with the active involvement of the IACACP, OOC, and other partners for OSEC, while the intensified operations against labor trafficking are taking its course through victim identification in 2017. The data would also show a growing awareness in the sector as to prevention and detection that helps law enforcement agents, duty bearers, and service providers to be vigilant.

Through the years of RRPTIP implementation, a total of **11, 891 trafficked victims** were assisted and served, 17% of which comprises minor victims.



The data would show an increasing trend from 2011 to 2015 with a decrease in 2016 and 2017. This may reflect various factors that can be linked to the operations conducted by law enforcement agencies such as PNP and NBI since most of the victims served were endorsed as a result of successful rescue operations.

Note that in every law enforcement operation, it is imperative that a social worker is present during the operation. This is done in coordination either with the DSWD, the LSWDO of the place where the operation will be conducted, or with an accredited NGO that services trafficked persons. The DSWD, LSWDO or NGO social worker or any registered and accredited social worker shall provide protection and assistance to trafficked persons as soon as they are in the custody of the authorities. In cases where there is a large number of trafficked persons to be rescued, the attending social

worker may, prior to or after the rescue, request reinforcement from the nearest DSWD Field Office, LSWDO of NGO shelter.¹³

Please see report on prosecution and law enforcement for comparative data.

B. Distressed and Undocumented Overseas Filipinos

Social Welfare Attaché Office of the DSWD

Based on reports by the Social Welfare Attaché Office of the DSWD, a total of 12,949 clients were served and assisted. 74% (9,615) are comprised of distressed and undocumented/irregular Overseas Filipinos, 4% of which identified to be trafficking victims.

Table 11. DSWD – Social Welfare Attaché Office

POST	2017
Riyadh Ms. Maricel Deloria	301
Jeddah Dir. Priscilla N. Razon	5
Malaysia Mr. Bernard N. Bonina	26
Kuwait Ms. Nilda Oliva	10
Hongkong Elizabeth Dy	4
UAE (Isabel Sy-Nillas)	4
Qatar (Judith Bacwaden)	11
TOTAL	361

Case categories comprised of 330 (91%) labor trafficking, 11 (3%) sex trafficking, and 20 (6%) unknown.

Common services provided to the clients are provisions of basic needs (food assistance, toiletries, clothing and financial assistance), other services, i.e. (reintegration planning, capability building or orientation for Filipino Community members, jail visit, and provision of help) psychosocial services (counseling, emotional healing/value inculcation) and referral of clients to different agencies.

¹³ Sec. 15. Coordination with DSWD, LSWDO, NGO and other relevant government agencies prior to the conduct of law enforcement operation.

DFA Foreign Service Posts

The DFA assisted approximately 1,476 alleged victims of trafficking in persons. In 2017, the DFA disbursed approximately USD 452,935.78 from its Assistance-to-Nationals Fund to cover among others, the airfare ticket, meal allowance, and medical needs exclusively for the victims of TIP. Some victims were assisted in collaboration with the host governments, local NGOS, the Filipino community, and international organizations such as IOM.

Filipino Workers Resource Centers (FWRC)

The following are reports gathered from some of overseas posts:

- Abu Dhabi – 1098 OFWs (79 documented and 1,019 undocumented)
- Malaysia – 159 OFWs (130 were repatriated, 2 cases are under investigation and 27 sheltered at MWOFRFC)
- Kuwait – 214 cases (133 were repatriated, 34 back in Kuwait and 47 outside of Kuwait, and being monitored)

A total of 1,097 wards were admitted to the Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center (MWOFRFC) Abu Dhabi in 2017. Of these number, 79 were documented HSWs while 1,019 were lured into going to the UAE through illegal channels.

OWWA - Repatriation & Assistance Division (RAD)

For 2017, the RAD facilitated provision of the following services to repatriated OFWs:

Table 12. Repatriated OFWs

Services	Landbased		Seabased		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Provision of Air Tickets	203	130	0	0	333
Airport Assistance	3,157	5,496	0	0	8,653
Halfway Home Accommodation	21	131	0	0	152
Domestic Transport/Fare	22	23	0	0	45
Total	3,403	5,780	0	0	9,183

Moreover, with the OWWA's Relief Assistance Program for displaced OFWs, a total of 450 workers from Syria received Php 10,000 each as financial assistance from 2011-2017.

Based on DFA data, there were 50 OFWs repatriated from Syria, three were victims of labor trafficking and all were undocumented OFWs.

Assistance given to the repatriates included livelihood trainings (pastillas making, homemade longganisa, reading and learning sessions, etc.), recreational activities (Zumba, film showings), and referrals to OWWA for reintegration assistance upon repatriation.

Damascus PE notes that the Syrian Government requires refund of deployment costs before the TIP victims can be repatriated.

C. Residential Care Facilities


There are 44 residential care facilities available in the country for victims of trafficking: 24 (for children); 13 (for women); 1 (male); 4 (for older persons); 2 (processing center); details below.

Table 13. Residential Care Facilities

Sector	Name of Residential Care Facility	Clients Served	Location (Region)	Total Number of Facilities
Children	Reception and Study Center for Children (Male and Female)	Male & Female	NCR, CAR, II, III, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII	11
	Nayon ng Kabataan	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Marillac Hills	Female	NCR	1
	Home for Girls	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, CARAGA	11
Youth and Women	Haven for Women	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, IX, X, NCR	9
	Haven for Women and Girls	Female	CAR, II, V, XI	4
Older Persons	Golden Acres: Haven for Elderly	Male & Female	IV-A	1
	GRACES (Golden Reception and Center for the Elderly and other special needs)	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Home for the Elderly/Aged	Male & Female	IX, XI	2
Individual and Family in Crisis Situations	HerSpace	Male & Female	VII	1
	Jose Fabella Center	Male	NCR	1
	Processing Center for Displaced Person	Male & Female	IX	1
TOTAL				44

The services under the direct service intervention of RRPTP are available and accessible to trafficking victims staying at the residential care facilities.

DSWD staff, including center staff, are capacitated on handling trafficked victims utilizing the gender responsive case management which is the process of analyzing the problems and needs of trafficked persons and their families that starts from the



recognition of gender biases and pursuit of empowerment where people sees their values and status. It also includes planning and implementing interventions and monitoring and evaluating their progress towards their successful recovery and reintegration with their families and into their communities. The case manager shall ensure that comprehensive services are provided to trafficked persons through center and community based services.

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) built half way houses or shelter facilities at some ports and lends it to NGOs to serve potential trafficking victims. Currently, there are six shelters at different ports in the country built for such purpose. The occupancy and operation of the six shelters that was previously operated by an NGO had been turned-over to PPA and IACAT is currently operating one of the shelters located at the Manila North Harbor.

Another shelter is located at the NAIA built by Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA). MIAA and an NGO recently renewed its Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) this January 2018. This shelter is critical in anti-trafficking operations since NAIA is a major exit point.

The IACAT however has invested in a transitory home for rescued victims by providing resources for the operation of a shelter in Quezon City operated by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit. Victims rescued by the NCRATTF, IACAT Operations Center (OPCEN) and other law enforcement agencies are brought to this shelter for protective custody, and immediate psychosocial counseling, among other services.

DFA has also operationalized the first temporary shelter for distressed overseas workers including trafficked persons, separate from the Overseas Filipinos Welfare and Resource Center managed by the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

D. Victim Witness Coordinator's (VWC) Program

On 17 April 2017, the AAPTIP officially turned over the Victim-Witness Coordinator's Project to the IACAT Secretariat, in a ceremony held at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel, Bocobo Extension, Malate, Manila. As a way forward, IACAT Secretariat intends to institutionalize the program by including a plantilla position for VWCs in the proposed IACAT organizational structure and ensure that there is one VWC per region under the supervision of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force Heads.

Pending the approval of IACAT Secretariat plantilla position, a **1-Day Session on the VWC** was conducted to roll-out the program to 24 IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces during the ATTF Summit on 8 November 2017. The VWC Program was introduced to the ATTF as a good strategy to improve prosecution that can contribute to higher conviction rate. The VWC is a support person who works under the supervision of the ATTF head, whose main function is to ensure that the needs and rights of the victims

are attended to. It was recommended that each ATTF hire a VWC to assist them in providing utmost care and attention to their respective victims-witnesses.

At present, only one VWC continued the program after it was turned over to IACAT Secretariat. The VWC assigned to the DOJ Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (TFATIP) resigned due to delays in the approval of the contract of service. Despite this challenge, the VWC assigned to the NCRATTF was able to assist **eighty six (86)** victims-witnesses since the implementation of the program in July 2015. These victims-witnesses were provided the following assistance:

Table 14: VWC's Assistance Provided

Assistance	No. of Victims/Witnesses
Transportation/ Security Assistance & Meals	74
Livelihood Assistance from DSWD	5
Medical Assistance	4
Educational Assistance	1
Processing of Documents & Applications	51
Death/Burial Assistance	1

Out of these victims, **29** have already testified in court and **45** are waiting for trial schedule. However, there were 12 victims/witnesses originally enrolled to VWC program but refused to testify and cooperate during the proceedings.

Table 15: Attendance of Victims/Witness in Court Hearings

	No. of Victims/Witnesses	Percentage
No. of Victims/Witness who Completed Testifying in Court	29	34%
No. of Victims/Witness with on-going hearing	45	52%
No. of Victims/Witness who refused to testify	12	14%
Total	86	100%

E. IACAT Operations Center

The IACAT Operation Center (OpCen) generally acts as a support unit to the investigation and prosecution activities of the prosecutor's offices, law enforcement units and other agencies, as well as on the protection of trafficking survivors. For this year, OpCen served as a vital component to the over-all performance of these offices and agencies, with the following major accomplishments:

- **Transportation and Security Assistance (TSA): 81 TIP Victims/Witnesses** (53 female minors, 25 female adults, and three male adults) were provided TSA for their attendance in various legal briefings,

scheduled court hearings and other related matters on 55 occasions. This is lower by 44% compared to previous year.

- **TIP victim/witness Location Assistance (WLA):** (four female minors, 14 female adult, one male minor, and one male adult) were located in different areas in the country and was persuaded to appear and testify before the Court. They were also escorted and provided security by OPCEN personnel. This is lower by 55% compared to the previous year.
- Apprehended **five perpetrators**;
- Risk Assessment and Assistance:
 - **130 deferred passengers** assisted and processed as possible victims of human trafficking or other related crimes
 - **2,149 repatriated OFWs** and **15 Filipino Deportees** assisted and secured together with DSWD social workers and OWWA representatives; and
 - **1,686 domestic passengers** (99% minors) bound to Manila from far flung provinces underwent the risk assessment program in coordination with the Social Workers of VFFI and on-board sea marshals at Pier 4 Manila Seaport Terminal. These minors were interviewed and released to their respective relatives only upon presentation of proper documentation.

Since 2013, OPCEN operatives located and persuaded a total of **two hundred eighteen (218) victims/witnesses** in different areas in the country and escorted them to appear and testify before the Court. It also provided transportation and security assistance to **seven hundred twenty one (721) TIP victims/witnesses** for their scheduled court hearings and legal briefings. All these efforts to secure the appearance of these victims and witnesses in Prosecutor's Office and in courts greatly contributed to the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

Table 16: OPCEN Victim/Witness Assistance

Year	Transportation and Security Assistance (TSA)	Victim/Witness Location
2013	155	19
2014	94	58
2015	247	75
2016	144	45
2017	81	21
Total	721	218

III. Prosecution and Law Enforcement

A. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Operations

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

The NBI-Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) conducted 11 anti-trafficking operations, rescuing 40 identified trafficked victims and resulting to the arrest of 14 alleged traffickers. Further, 190 Illegal Recruitment Cases were processed, 95 of which were recommended for filing.

Philippine National Police (PNP)

In 2017, PNP conducted a total of **234** anti-TIP operations which resulted in the rescue of **771** victims, identification of **433** suspected traffickers, **211** were arrested. Of the 234 operations, **67** (29%) are still under investigation, **125** (53%) filed at Prosecutor's Office, **34** (15%) filed in Court, and 8 (3%) victims refused to execute affidavit.

Table 17. PNP Anti-Trafficking Operations 2017

Purpose		2017
No. of Operations	PNP Initiated operations	126
	Cases Reference to PNP	33
	Walk-in	75
	Total	234
No. of Rescued Victims	Male Adults	101
	Female Adults	314
	Male Minor	73
	Female Minor	283
	Total	771
Suspects	Arrested	211
	At-Large	222
	Total	433

PNP, through the Women and Children Protection Center (WCPC), and NBI-AHTRAD, have been instrumental in law enforcement operations since the government has intensified its effort against trafficking in persons. From the data collected, a total of 2,037 anti-trafficking operations conducted through the combined efforts of PNP and NBI.

Table 18. Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2017

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
PNP	Operations	222	201	267	329	233	206	1486
	Victim Rescued	963	455	804	1505	1118	669	5616
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	375	245	377	566	421	390	2417
NBI	Operations	27	26	38	48	22	11	172
	Victim Rescued	257	383	397	303	112	40	1492
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	110	106	118	151	52	14	551

The data of PNP and NBI follow the same pattern as the RRPTP. This may be interpreted in two ways. For instance, in 2016, the government underwent a transition period which generally affected the entire operations and administrative processes. However, the data shows a continuous decline in 2017. One challenge identified is that funds for operations and surveillance can only be taken from the Confidential Funds which require numerous requirements for approval. The difficulty to access such funds affects the conduct of the operation to which by the time the release of funds is approved, the proposed operation is no longer workable or available. On the other hand, the decrease may be presumed to indicate less trafficking incidents because of intensified anti-trafficking efforts advanced by the Government for the past years.

In all of these, however, IACAT cannot accurately identify and assess the reasons behind the decline on the number of operations, number of victims served and assisted including the number of TIP cases filed without a formal study and assessment. It is thus, highly recommended that a research study be conducted on the impact of law enforcement approach or the criminal justice system to provide concrete assessment and solutions.

B. DOLE Sagip Batang Manggagawa

Three regions reported the rescue and return of 15 minors to their respective parents. Three of these parents were referred and provided with livelihood assistance. One of the minors, a *kasambahay*, was turned over to City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) of Malabon.

There were also two separate entrapment operations conducted on IR where the recruiters or proprietors were arrested and taken into custody by the PNP CIDG-NCR.

Meanwhile, the Sagip Batang Manggagawa Quick Action Teams had conducted 16 rescue operations, from 1 April to 31 December 2017, wherein 43 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

C. Anti-Trafficking Task Forces

The establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Task Forces is consistent with one of the strategies to deliver justice real-time under the Strategic Framework for Pursuing a Swift and Fair administration of Justice in the Philippine Development Plan 2017 – 2022, one of which is to streamline investigation and prosecutorial processes. Under this strategy, PNP is directed to coordinate with the prosecutors even during case build-up to acquire technical guidance in securing evidence that will generate successful prosecution to conviction.¹⁴

At present, a total of **twenty four (24)** taskforces have already been established in strategic locations based on critical entry or exit points in the country and the place of origin or source area of TIP victims. In 2017, the Task Forces have a remaining of **two hundred three (203)** prosecutors from a total of **two hundred forty (240)** prosecutors last year. They are responsible in enhancing the local operatives' enforcement of the law, particularly in surveillance/rescue operations and build-up of TIP cases, thus ensuring that the incidents are reported, referred and filed in a local prosecutor's office acquiring jurisdiction thereon and at the same time spearheading the preventive initiatives and activities designed to minimize illegal entry/exit of the recruited victims.

Here are the major accomplishments of the taskforces in three (3) areas:

Prosecution of TIP Cases

The establishment of ATTF significantly contributed to the increase in the prosecution of TIP Cases. From 2011 to December 2017 (7 years), Philippines sustained a conviction rate of almost 6 times more than the convictions recorded from the 6 years prior (2005-2010). To date, the total the number of persons convicted is **353** in **327** TIP convictions since 2005. This clearly shows the government's resolve in curbing human trafficking despite all the gaps and limitations in the criminal justice system. Further, the average trial duration of TIP cases has been significantly reduced from 5 to 2 years.

Table 19. TIP Convictions 2005 -2017

Year	Number of Convictions	Number of Persons Convicted
2005	7	6
2006	0	0
2007	3	4
2008	5	4
2009	10	11
2010	17	15
2011	23	30

¹⁴ Chapter 6: Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice of the Philippine Development Plan 2017 - 2022

2012	26	32
2013	26	35
2014	58	61
2015	54	52
2016	45	55
2017	53	48
Total	327	353

Surveillance and Rescue Operations

From 2012 to 2017, the task forces assisted law enforcers in the conduct of **three hundred seventy five (375)** operations rescuing **two thousand eight hundred nineteen (2,819)** and identified and arrested **five hundred eighty five (585)** offenders. Operations that ripened into trafficking in persons cases are being handled and prosecuted by task force members, in which the same are being given priority in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice. In 2017, of the 33 operations conducted, 32 (97%) resulted to case filed at the Prosecutor's Office and 23 of the said cases (72%) have already been filed in Court.

Table 20. ATTF Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2017

Year	Number of Operations	Number of Victim's Rescued	Number of Alleged Offenders
2012	82	764	157
2013	71	467	97
2014	82	638	110
2015	64	441	133
2016	43	263	40
2017	33	246	48
Total	375	2,819	585

For the Port-Based operations, 6 Task Forces received and processed **one thousand nine hundred three (1,903)** deferred departure incidents since 2012.

Table 21. Port-Based Operations 2012-2017

Year	Number of Profiling/Deferred Departure/Interception and Rescue Incidents	Number of Victim's Rescued	Number of Alleged Offenders Intercepted
2012	183	852	21
2013	355	1919	30
2014	362	2046	36
2015	464	3940	21
2016	453	2404	28
2017	86	1233	10
Total	1,903	12,394	146

Trainings and Capacity Building

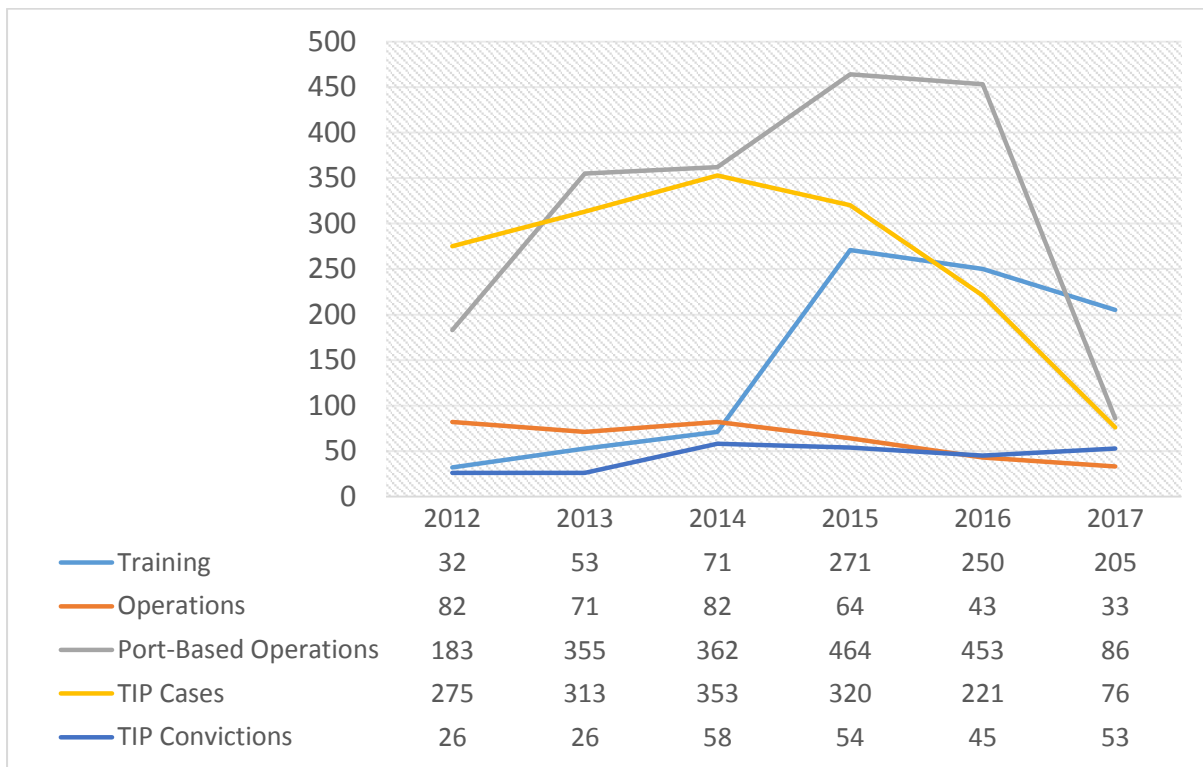
ATTF organized and supported **882** trainings since 2012. These trainings were participated by **69,009** government personnel and private sectors such as Secondary and Tertiary Students, Faculty, Academe, Hotel Managers, Hotel Staff and Security, Bus Operators /Drivers.

Table 22. Task Force Anti-TIP Trainings 2012-2017

Year	Number of Trainings		Number of Participants	
	Organized	Attended as Resource Speaker	Government Personnel	NGOs & Private Sector
2012	21	11	2,284	936
2013	34	19	892	1,302
2014	59	12	3,728	9,569
2015	100	171	6,987	11,028
2016	46	204	6,494	11,997
2017	36	169	5,271	8,521
Total	296	586	25,656	43,353

Compared to the previous years, there was a decrease on the number of trainings organized and funded by the IACAT Secretariat. However, this decrease did not have a significant effect on the number of personnel trained. This can be attributed to the fact that there was an increase on the number of trainings supported by IACAT through provision of resource speakers. IACAT task force members are also now highly trained to conduct their own TIP trainings as a result of the previous capacity building trainings they have attended. Further, IACAT member agencies and local government units are allocating more budget on anti-trafficking efforts such as capacity building and trainings for its respective personnel. International partners are also aggressively supporting the training programs of the Government by providing or supporting several TIP trainings for our front-liners.

In summary, below is a graph of Anti-Trafficking Task Forces accomplishments since 2012 to fully understand the extent of task forces significant contribution in all key result areas:



The data shows that interventions, programs, policies, and efforts invested in the previous years greatly affect the performance for this year and the upcoming years. For 2017, data on trainings, operations and TIP cases declined but the TIP convictions has increased compared to 2016 data. The increase in conviction can be explained by the fact the ATTF composed of prosecutors who are primarily mandated to prosecute cases are doing their duties without need of additional resources and support. However, filing of TIP cases dependent on operations, complaints filed before the Prosecutor's Offices and conduct of trainings and operations are dependent on available resources and support.

It is still recommended to have formal and thorough research study in all of these data to avoid assumptions and misinterpretation of data and to provide a more accurate assessment of ATTF performance.

D. Prosecutor's TIP Case Management System (PTCMS)

The PTCMS was likewise introduced to 16 Regional ATTF during the ATTF Summit. It is a web-based intranet application that will be used by the Regional Prosecutor's Office through the ATTF to assist in the monitoring, handling and managing of TIP cases. With the roll out of the PTCMS throughout the regions, a more accurate, relevant reporting of TIP cases is expected. This will ensure better data analysis and prioritization of TIP cases and speedy dispensation of justice.

However, during the roll-out training, several issues and concerns on the transmission of actual data from the central office to the regions occurred. With this, the actual

implementation was delayed pending the technical corrections on the system. On January 2018, the transmission of the actual raw data has officially been set. However, there are reported delays on the transmission due to technical deficiency.

On the assumption that the transmission of data will be successful and all the 16 ATTF will be using the system as expected, IACAT and AAPTIP will conduct a Validation Workshop to be attended by all the end-users to provide their respective assessment and feedbacks on April 2018. This is in line with the three phases of the project and to ensure that all functionality requirements as agreed are met.

E. Statistical Reports on TIP Cases

In 2017, IACAT monitored seventy six (76) TIP cases filed and pending before the Prosecutor's Offices and Regional Trial Courts.

Table 23. TIP Cases Filed with DOJ in 2017

Status of Trafficking Cases	Number of TIP Cases	Number of Accused	Number of Victims	% (TIP Cases)
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	35	105	124	47%
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	3	6	3	4%
Filed in Court	38	66	77	49%
Total	76	177	204	100%

The number of filed cases is 65% lower than the 2016 TIP cases, as shown below. The figure is a domino effect of the number of operations conducted considering that not all operations are filed as a TIP case (others are being filed for illegal recruitment or other related laws). It can also be an indicator of an inefficient monitoring system for failure of other Task Forces to comply with the monthly updates on TIP cases. A separate study and analysis will be provided for this purpose to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for non-compliant Regions, as well as the monitoring tool of IACAT Secretariat.

Table 24. TIP Cases filed by Year

Year	Number	Year	Number
2017	76	2009	282
2016	221	2008	280
2015	320	2007	188
2014	353	2006	112
2013	313	2005	93
2012	275	2004	33
2011	393	2003	3
2010	311	Total	3253

As to the progress of TIP cases filed before the Prosecutor's Offices, majority or 86.8% are cases filed in court while only 1.5% are still pending for preliminary investigation (PI). 11.5% were dismissed on PI and .2% pending Petition for Review.

Table 25. TIP Cases from the passage of RA 9208 to present

Status of Trafficking Investigation, 2003-2017	Cases for Number	%age
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	49	1.5%
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	377	11.5%
Pending Petition for Review	5	.2%
Filed in Court	2822	86.8%
Total	3253	100%

IACAT also monitored the cases filed before the Regional Trial Courts and the data would show that most cases (42.6%) are still undergoing trial. 40% of cases either dismissed, archived, or with standing warrant of arrest. The remaining 17% are the decided cases.

Table 26. Status of TIP Cases Filed in Court 2003-2017

Status of Trafficking Cases Filed in Court, 2003-2017	Number	%age
On Trial	1204	42.6%
Dismissed in Court	489	17%
Archived	503	18%
With Standing Warrant of Arrest	147	5%
Submitted for Decision	12	.4
Decided	467	17%
<i>Acquittals</i> - 109(23%)		
<i>Convictions</i> - 358(77%)		
Guilty of Trafficking in Persons - 330(92%)		
Guilty of other related laws - 28 (8%)		
Total	2822	100%

It is noted that there have been inquiries as to whether the number of TIP conviction is adequate compared to the size of the problem. Based on the data and comparing the TIP conviction to the total number of cases filed in court, the TIP conviction is only 13%. Thus, the same cannot be said to be adequate. However, there are arguments that the most reasonable formula to measure the successful prosecution of cases is to compare the conviction rate to the number of acquittals, as both are decided cases that has already undergone a full-blown trial. Thus, based on the said formula, the 17% decided TIP cases will show that 77% are convictions while only 23% are acquittals.

F. Supreme Court Jurisprudence

On 11 January 2017, the Supreme Court (SC) AFFIRMED with MODIFICATION the decision dated 9 March 2015 of the Court of Appeals in the case of People of the Philippines vs Jeffrey Hiran y Rodriguez under G.R. No. 223528.

The SC resolved Hiran's three arguments:

1. Inconsistencies in the witnesses' testimonies – the SC ruled that the supposed inconsistencies pertained to minor details that, in any case, could not negate Hiran's unlawful activity and violation of R.A. No. 9208. Moreover, the Court has ruled time and again that factual findings of the trial court, its assessment of the credibility of witnesses and the probative weight of their testimonies and the conclusions based on these factual findings are to be given the highest respect. As a rule, the Court will not weigh anew the evidence already passed on by the trial court and affirmed by the CA;
2. Issue on instigation – the SC ruled that he was merely entrapped by authorities, as it was established during trial that Hiran had been recruiting and deploying young girls for customers in sex trade. The IJM personnel approached him for girls precisely because of his illicit activities. Also, Hiran was not first approached for prostitutes by police or government authorities, but by investigators of IJM, which is a non-profit and non-governmental organization. IJM only sought coordination with the police officers after Hiran, Sarmiento and Villagrancia had determined to meet on June 27, 2007 for the transaction with the purported Korean customers. Clearly, there could be no instigation by officers, as barred by law, to speak of.
3. Failure of the arresting officers to observe R.A. No. 7438 – The Court clearly pointed out that even if it considers the alleged failure of the apprehending police officers to inform Hiran of the Miranda rights upon his arrest, there is no sufficient ground for the Court to acquit him. The CA correctly explained that any defect in the arrest of the accused was cured by his voluntary act of entering a plea and participating in the trial without raising the issue.

Given the foregoing, the Court found "no cogent reason to reverse Hiran's conviction for qualified trafficking under R.A. No. 9208. The RTC and CA correctly imposed the penalty of life imprisonment and fine of P2,000,000, applying Section 10(c) of the Expanded Act.

It further ruled that damages in favour of the victims should also be awarded in line with the case of People vs. Casio where each victims is entitled to Php 500,000 as moral damages, and Php 100,000 as exemplary damages supported by Article 2219 of the New Civil Code.

G. International Cooperation

1. INTERPOL Notices

The Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC), as the secretariat of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB)-Manila, successfully assisted the international law enforcement community in investigating and solving the following cases:

ARRESTED BRITISH CHILD ABUSER IN INDIA WITH RED NOTICE PUBLISHED BY INTERPOL NCB MANILA

On 28 July 2017, a British National, was arrested in India after he was flagged down by authorities through an INTERPOL Red Notice sought by local authorities. NCB Manila published the Red Notice on 26 May 2017 under Control No. A-4862/5-2016 for violating Republic Act No. (RA) 9208 (Anti-Trafficking In Persons Act”), as amended by RA 10364 (Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003”), (collectively the “Expanded Act”); and RA 7610 otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.”

NCB MANILA REQUESTED PUBLICATION OF RED NOTICE FOR AMERICAN NATIONAL

On 13 September 2017, NCB Manila published the Red Notice for violating the Expanded Act. It was reported that on 13 December 2011, the accused, an American national, engaged for a fee the sexual service of a 13-year-old minor.

NCB MANILA REQUESTED TO LOCATE AND ARREST OF THE FUGITIVE FILIPINO NATIONAL

Red Notice was issued for fraud against a Filipino national on 2 May 2017. Searches generated a hit on 11 November 2017 and NCB Manila and NCB Singapore were correspondingly informed. On 17 November 2017, the BI, using the FIND system was able to intercept the accused upon his arrival from Singapore at the Manila International Airport. BI thereafter turned-over the said fugitive to the PNP.

2. Reports from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

DOJ - OOC is the Point-of Contact (POC) for the NCMEC. OOC is provided with access to the Virtual Private Network (VPN) and gets notified every time NCMEC receives a report for online sexual exploitation that has a Philippine nexus – either the offended party or the offender is the Philippines. An average of 3,700 reports of online child exploitation per month are being received by the OOC where either the offended party or the offender is in the Philippines. All these NCMEC reports are being shared with the IACAT, IACACP, PNP, and NBI, for appropriate action.

In 2017, OOC was able to investigate and have the following travelling sex offenders blacklisted in the BI records:

- b. Scot Roulston (Australian) – blacklisted;
- c. Farhanipour Gholamreza (Australian) – arrested but eventually acquitted from the criminal charge for violation of RA No. 9775 or Anti-Child Pornography Act, and RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act;
- d. Ted Weits, David Ronald, and Craig Lewis (US) – blacklisted;
- e. John Doe aka “Jeppek”(Denmark) – OOC has already applied for his inclusion in the BI Blacklist. BI has yet to resolve the application;
- f. John Doe a.k.a. “Bevan” (New Zealand) – OOC has already applied for his inclusion in the Blacklist. BI has yet to resolve the application; and
- g. Chris Smith (U.K.) – OOC has already applied for his inclusion in the BI Blacklist. BI has yet to resolve the application.

3. Registered Sex Offenders

The BI receives intelligence reports from international organizations or from other countries regarding the possible arrival in the Philippines of known Registered Sex Offenders (RSO). In 2017, a total of **168** identified **RSOs** were denied entry from all international ports, pursuant to Section 29 (a) (3) of Commonwealth Act No. 613, as amended, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act. The number has increased by 30% compared to number of RSOs denied entry in 2016.

H. Financial Investigation

- The Philippine government through the active participation of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) has strengthened the financial investigation aspect human trafficking crimes, with the following notable accomplishments:
 - **National Risk Assessment (NRA) on Money and Laundering and Terrorism Financing.** The NRA looked into the threats posed by predicate offenses¹⁵ to money laundering. Among the predicate offenses examined is TIP. Under the first NRA published in July 2016 covering the period of 2011-2014, it was seen that the threat of TIP was assessed as **high**. In December 2017, the AMLC published the 2nd NRA which covers the period 2015-2016. Under the 2nd NRA, the threat posed by TIP was downgraded to Medium following the country’s upgrade in rating from Tier Two to Tier One in 2016 and the improvement in ranking in the 2016 Global Slavery Index from number 29 (2014) to number 33 (2016).

¹⁵ Section 3(i), AMLA, as amended

Furthermore, for the given period, the AMLC was able to file a petition for civil forfeiture covering the amount of approximately Php 11.4 Million. The filing of the civil forfeiture and other ML-related cases were initiated following the cooperation and coordination between the AMLC and other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) concerned, as well as in part request for assistance from a foreign jurisdiction. The domestic cooperation also resulted in the arrest and indictment of perpetrators for violation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Law.

- **Suspicious Transaction Reports related to Human Trafficking.** Covered Persons are required to submit covered transactions reports (CTRs) and suspicious transaction reports (STRs) within five (5) days from date of transaction¹⁶. The CTRs and STRs are submitted in a secured format via web portal and lodged in the AMOC database for analysis. The Financial Intelligence Analysis Staff (FIAS) of the AMLC Secretariat is the primary unit tasked to collect and analyze all the STRs and CTRs.

For years 2014 – 2017, the following STRs were submitted in relation to predicate offense of Violations of the ATIP Law and Violations of the Anti-Child Pornography (ACP) Act¹⁷:

Table 03. STRs in relation to TIP

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Violations of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act	189	62	57	2,956
Violations of the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2008	281	292	443	2,048

In 2017, the number of STRs submitted in relation to TIP marked an increase of 960% as compared to the STRs submitted for years 2014-2016. This does not account for STRs submitted in relation to the ACP Act, which is also related to TIP cases.

Money service businesses (MSBs) account for 99.2% of the TIP-related STRs submitted in 2017, as opposed to 44% in 2016. There were no TIP related STRS submitted by MSBs in 2015. With respect to violations of the ACP Act, MSBs account for 99.85%, 97% and 78% for the STRs submitted in 2017, 2016 and 2015 respectively.

¹⁶ AMLC Resolution No. 61, dated 20 July 2016.

¹⁷ STRs tagged under the Violations of ACP Act may also be related to the Violations of the ATIP Act.

The increasing trend in the submission of TIP-related and Child Pornography-related STRs by MSBs show a growing awareness in the sector as to detection of possible TIP cases. This will greatly assist the AMLC in its financial investigation.

- **Financial Investigation and Prosecution.** One of the primary functions of the AMLC is to initiate investigations of covered and suspicious transactions money laundering activities and other violations under the AMLA, as amended. It has allocated at least two (2) financial investigators and one (1) legal officer who specializes in TIP cases.

Since 2015, the AMLC has filed fourteen (14) TIP-Related cases, as follows:

Table 04. STRs in relation to TIP

	No. of Petitions/ Complaints/ Case Filed
Bank Inquiry	7
Civil Forfeiture	2
Freeze Order	4
ML Complaint	1
Total	14

For 2017, one (1) of the bank inquiries conducted involves bank accounts of Filipina charged with Qualified TIP and Child Abuse before the Regional Trial Court in Lapu-Lapu City. Said Filipina is allegedly involved in the production and distribution of pornographic materials, as well as the live stream and physical abuse of minor children in exchange for fund transfers from different clients around the world.

The AMLC was also able to file one TIP-related money laundering complaint before the DOJ. The complaint is against two Filipinos, who operated a cybersex den in Pampanga City, allegedly victimized young girls, most of whom were minors, coming from far-flung provinces such as Capiz and Samar.

- **International Cooperation and Investigations.** From January to December 2017, the AMLC received four TIP-related requests for information from foreign counterparts. One request involved the use of forum (website) to entice less fortunate Philippine girls to earn a living by soliciting donations for a certain project from old men. Another request involved the use of a travel agency in facilitating the travel and accommodation expenses of Filipinos working illegally as caregivers in the United States of America (US).

The AMLC and a foreign counterpart agency also undertook a joint child pornography investigation involving an official of an international organization. The subject, who was a national of the other country, was reported to have been sending remittances to Filipino individuals who were arrested for facilitating child pornography in the Philippines.

- **Manual on the Money Laundering Dimension of TIP.** In 2017, the IACAT, AMLC, with support from AAPTIP drafted the Manual on the Money Laundering Dimension of TIP. The manual aims to help law enforcers, prosecutors, other front-liners, and victims of trafficking, use civil forfeiture and related remedies in TIP cases. The manual provides a stronger framework for the integration of money laundering investigations in TIP investigations/cases in order to effectively break the cycle of human trafficking. It provides procedural guidelines, requirements and practical tips in pursuing a bank inquiry, freezing of assets, and civil forfeiture. It presents how the AMLC and the IACAT can coordinate in investigating and prosecuting TIP cases. The manual also provides for actual cases which can help IACAT member-agencies in the investigation and development of TIP cases.

IV. Partnership and Networking

A. Local Network and Partnership

The IACAT has been continually collaborating with new partners in the campaign against trafficking in persons. For 2017, the following meetings and conferences were organized to facilitate stronger ties and coordinated actions against TIP:


1. **38th, 39th, and 40th Regular Council Meeting.** Pursuant to Section 125 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9208, as amended, the IACAT held three RCMs for this year. This is a high level meeting being participated by heads of IACAT member agencies and presided by the Secretary of the DOJ Vitaliano N. Aguirre III. The RCM is a venue for all IACAT member agencies to discuss the status of the implementation of the law, the current human trafficking landscape in the country, and the development of key policy directions and programming to address issues and gaps.

During the reporting period, 13 IACAT Resolutions were discussed, adopted, and approved to assist the IACAT in the implementation of anti-trafficking interventions and programs. The RCMs provided opportunity for member-agencies to identify agency focal persons and alternates of the Secretaries/Heads of Office for IACAT concerns and leveled off agency appreciation of the human trafficking situation in the country and the government's institutional responses.

2. **Anti-Trafficking Task Force Summit.** In furtherance to IACAT's strong commitment to intensify efforts to eliminate human trafficking, heads and members of 24 ATTFs all over the Philippines were gathered to address issues and challenges in the operational and administrative matters. Most of the concerns raised are regarding financial matters which were discussed and cleared by the DOJ Finance Service and reportorial requirements presented by the IACAT Secretariat. The task forces had the opportunity to capture the realistic assessment on the status of anti-trafficking interventions and operations in the regions emphasizing the major accomplishments from trainings, anti-trafficking operations to the prosecution of TIP cases. At the end, the ATTF renewed its commitment to improve performance and coordinated actions.
3. **Focus Group Discussion with the Judiciary.** The IACAT Secretariat, in coordination with the Supreme Court Office of the Court Administrator and support from IJM and AAPTIP, held two focus group discussions (FGD) with the Judiciary in National Capital Region and Central Visayas on 17 March and 20 November 2017, respectively. The FGD sought to engage selected justices and judges in an in-depth discussion and elicit their insights and feedback on TIP convictions, reversals, and other dismissals for purposes of sharing and developing positive approaches that can improve prosecution and adjudication of TIP cases.

The RTD yielded the following results:

1. For purposes of keeping a real-time update on TIP case disposals and Jurisprudence, an agreement:
 - 1.1. with the Office of the Court Administrator to issue a Circular directing Judges to provide a courtesy copy to the IACAT on all TIP case disposals;
 - 1.2. that the IACAT shall make manifestations with the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court to furnish IACAT a courtesy copy of all TIP case disposals;
 - 1.3. that IACAT shall consult with the PHILJA on the subject of institutionalizing an Electronic Alert System on court decisions on TIP.
2. A collective appreciation and recommendation to:
 - 2.1. strengthen the task force mechanism especially on the practice of collaborative case build up between law enforcement agents and Prosecutors;
 - 2.2. develop greater knowledge and capacities through the publication and utilization of relevant manuals, especially on handling child victims and use of images as evidence; and support for the initiative of developing a HelpBook on TIP for duty bearers;

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- 2.3. revisit and review the rules on digital evidence, including presenting a witness using the internet via Skype or similar means, where the witness is overseas at the Philippine Embassy; it is recommended further that Office of the Court Administrator to provide guidance on the matter;
 - 2.4. invite the Court of Appeals Justices in trainings to allow them to share how they review, deliberate, resolve cases, and arrive at decisions of affirmations or reversals; and
 - 2.5. conduct more forums of similar nature and objectives; and include law enforcement officers in the invitation.
 3. A consensus on the following perspectives and approaches:
 - 3.1. **Non-knowledge of the minority of a victim as a defense.** TIP is considered *malum prohibitum*, thus non-knowledge of the victim's minority is irrelevant. However, to ensure that a conviction can be secured, evidence of minority should be presented and that the minority must be alleged in the information.
 - 3.2. **Quantum of evidence.** Prosecutors should not rely solely on expert testimony or other testimonial evidence but should also present an "unbroken chain" of circumstantial and corroborative evidence. Prosecutors should always consider both admissibility and weight of evidence. Prosecutors should not hesitate to use videotaped interviews of victims as evidence under the rule on examination of a child witness, but must always corroborate this with other pieces of evidence.
 - 3.3. **Conspiracy.** On the matter of charging owners, floor managers, and other actors, prosecutors should be able to prove conspiracy.
 - 3.4. **Blanket reservations.** The nature of a testimony must always be specified.
 4. **Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the PNP** agreed to include anti-TIP efforts in their plans, such as the conduct of an OFW Briefing in Malaysia, and a study mission on the plight of distressed Filipinos (deportees) in Sabah.
 5. **Office of The Court Administrator (OCA)** agreed to discuss the updates on TIP cases, such as the convictions, dismissals, appeals, and other related matters (quarterly meetings).
 6. **Integrated Bar of the Philippines - Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IBP-IPBA)** agreed to explore partnerships in providing pro-bono legal services or conducting free legal aid clinics for trafficked or distressed Filipinos overseas, and conducting anti-trafficking advocacy and education activities in Filipino communities abroad.

7. **Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and IJM** endeavored to continue conversations with IACAT Secretariat on the creation of an Anti-Trafficking Task Force within the OSG that can assist existing task forces in handling trafficking cases where applicable and represent task force members when cases are filed against them in the performance of their duties.
8. **World Vision Philippines (WVP) and IJM** will implement a five-year massive advocacy and awareness raising project targeting vulnerable communities in the Philippines. The project seeks to reduce vulnerabilities to sex trafficking and OCSE through provision of preventive and protective information to vulnerable groups.

Operationalization of Halfway Houses for Potentially Trafficked Persons in Various Ports. The Bahay Silungan Sa Daungan (BSD)s were built by the PPA specifically to function as temporary shelters for individuals rescued by the IACAT ATTFs. In a month, on average, these shelters cater to at least 100 potential victims. PPA previously partnered with VFFI to operate the BSDs. However, since 2012, VFF has been unable to maintain the said shelters due to operational and resource challenges. Discussions among DOJ, DSWD, and PPA are currently being conducted on the operationalization of the BSDs or halfway houses located at the ports of Matnog in Sorsogon, Lipata in Surigao, Batangas, Zamboanga City, and Manila North Harbor.

9. DSWD Consultation Meeting re: **TIP Halfway House** was attended by IACAT on 10 August 2017 at the Provincial Capitol of Palawan, Puerto Princesa, Palawan. IACAT shared the processes for the operationalization/management of existing Halfway House and assist them on the legal parameters that must be observed should identified stakeholders agree to enter into partnership. IACAT strongly supports this endeavor to expand the availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims.
10. **National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) Sub-Committee on Law Enforcement.** IACAT is a member of the NCLC Sub-Committee on Law Enforcement. As member of the Sub-committee, IACAT will contribute to strategic directions, policy formulation, and program development for the committee to ensure enforcement of the anti-child labor law, and other local and international instruments to end hazardous child labor.
11. **Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP).** In line with the convergence of the IACACP and IACAT on the issue of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) as indicated in the National Response Plan (NRP) for OSAEC, IACAT attends the **Regular Meeting of the IACACP**. Relevant updates on the implementation and progress of existing programs and policies were presented and discussed, highlighting the ways toward better collaboration of these programs. Further, the IACAT's proposal to the IACACP

to co-chair the Technical Working Group on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children for the Manila Dialogues was approved.

12. **National Kidney and Transplant Institute to address issues of Organ Trafficking.** Dr. Benita Padilla of the National Kidney and Transplant Institute met in a series of meetings with IACAT Secretariat to discuss the issues and challenges of organ trafficking in the Philippines. These challenges include the lack of information among the medical personnel about human trafficking, thus their inability to identify the indicators or red flags of organ trafficking and to appropriately report to the proper authorities. It was agreed that closer coordination with the relevant stakeholders in the medical field should be established to help formulate the agenda on how to build the capacities of the medical personnel and the law enforcement agents as well. IACAT Secretariat mentioned that there was a series of IACAT TWG meetings on the draft guidelines on how to investigate and prosecute organ trafficking in 2014 and that there is a need to present the draft to the medical personnel for their comments and inputs. This aims to achieve better coordinated efforts among the medical professionals and the IACAT in policy development and capacity building in the area of human trafficking for the purpose of removal/sale of organs. NKTi and DOH agreed to host the TWGs meetings to develop the guidelines on pre-donation and post-donation screening, including screening forms and questionnaires.
13. **4th General Meeting with the theme: "Working Together in Restoring Human Dignity" with Philippine Inter-Faith Movement Against Trafficking.** IACAT Secretariat presented the Philippine situation on trafficking and the responses of the Government in addressing the gaps and challenges. During the open forum, faith-based constituents expressed appreciation on the updates and they had the opportunity to ask more specific government responses on prevention and prosecution of TIP cases, and how to empower the victims to prevent re-victimization.
14. **Department of Information and Communications Technology** held the **Child Online Protection (COP) Summit** from 23-24 November 2017 at the New World Manila Bay Hotel, Manila. IACAT Secretariat presented the Priorities and Investments on COP under the 5-year National Strategic Plans of IACAT. A panel discussion ensued thereafter together with other relevant presenters. This activity provided a platform to discuss the challenges and identified solutions related to adopting various approaches on child online safety. Further, IACAT Secretariat also presented the US-Philippines CPC Partnership in behalf of both Governments, specifically its three objectives and intended implementation within the next four years.
15. **Overseas Filipino Workers Briefing on TIP and other Related Laws** was held from October 7-8, 2017 in Hong Kong. This was a joint activity of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force-XI and Integrated Bar of the Philippines

(IBP), Davao Chapter. The event provided the Filipino migrants and workers in Hong Kong an update on the anti-trafficking law, initiatives, and responses to address the issues and concerns of the Filipino migrants and workers relative to their employment and stay in Hong Kong. The IBP lawyers on the other hand provided inputs on civil matters which also proved very helpful. The team also conducted a one-on-one consultation with the participants-Filipino workers and provided immediate legal advises and assistance.

16. **National Conference on Trafficking in Persons** organized by the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation – Integrated Development Center on July 5-7, 2017 at Montebello Villa Resort Hotel in Cebu City. Various representatives from member-agencies of the IACAT, including ATTf heads from the DOJ attended the conference. The conference served as a venue to identify current challenges in combating TIP, as well as, the current trends and responses on the ground with proposed recommendations.
17. **International Conference on Women Empowerment Against Modern Day Slavery** convened on 22 July 2017 by the Religious for Peace Asia (ACRP) in collaboration with the IJM, the Uniharmony Partners Manila, the University of Santo Tomas Institute of Religion, and Simbahayan Community Development Office. Various religious community, faith-based organizations, human rights advocates groups and other members of the civil society organizations, both local and international, attended the 3-day conference. Aside from plenary discussions, they likewise had the opportunity to have break-out group sessions and shelter visits where they interacted with some trafficked victims. IACAT Secretariat was invited to talk about the Philippine gains and challenges, as well as its responses and anti-trafficking initiatives in combatting human trafficking. The conference resulted in the issuance of a **“Manila Statement on the Multi-Faith Approach to Women Empowerment Against Modern Day Slavery”** with nine recommendations which included the need for the religious communities (1) to pressure lawmakers to take action and provide relief to victims of trafficking, and (2) to support the criminal justice system in their fight against human trafficking.
18. **Inter-Agency Briefing and Dialogue: Learning Best Practices and Engaging Stakeholders to Prevent, Reduce, and Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Philippines** organized by the Philippine DOLE and US Department of Labor on 18 July 2017. Several international non-government agencies, committee on child labor and IACAT Secretariat attended the dialogue and shared its anti-child labor and anti-online child exploitation initiatives. After identifying key opportunities for accelerating work towards eliminating child labor in the Philippines, and the challenges, the dialogue concluded with common actions to be taken to accelerate the elimination of child labor in the Philippines.

B. International Network and Partnership

Table 27. International Networking and Partnership 2017

Child CPC Partnership between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines

On 11 April 2017, the US and Philippine Governments, through its authorized representatives, signed the CPC Partnership. The CPC Partnership is a multi-year plan that documents the commitment of the two governments to achieve shared objectives aimed at reducing child trafficking by building effective systems of justice, child protection, and prevention of violence, abuse, and exploitation of children.¹⁸ The partnership will be in effect for four years, and the implementation will be piloted in NCR and Region 7.

This was formally launched in Manila and Cebu City, Central Visayas on 19 and 20 October 2017, respectively. The US State Department awarded IJM and its consortium (which includes World Vision Philippines and still-to-be-determined foster care institutions) as its key implementer for CPC Prosecution and Prevention objectives. These objectives include to improve the capacity of relevant duty bearers to prosecute and convict child traffickers, and to prevent OCSE and CLT from occurring. On the other hand, Salvation Army and its consortium World Hope International, is the key implementer for the CPC Protection objectives to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care for child victims.

A 2-Day Workshop on CPC Activity Identification organized by IJM was held last 27-29 November 2017 at the Mercure Hotel, Quezon City to enable CPC-identified duty bearers to specify the activities or projects that needs to be done to achieve the objectives of the CPC under prevention, prosecution, and protection. IACAT Secretariat presented the 2-year Work and Financial Plan of the Philippine Government at 10 Million a year for the guidance of the duty-bearers and the implementers.

ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and ASEAN Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (APA)

The ACTIP was signed by the ASEAN Leaders during the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015. As a way forward towards the implementation of both ACTIP and APA, the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Work Plan, also referred to as the "Bohol TIP Work Plan" has been developed by SOMTC Philippines in November 2016 through the collaborative efforts of relevant ASEAN **sectoral bodies or organs** working towards combating TIP. The said **work plan** is envisioned to drive the work of the ASEAN on **TIP** from 2017-2020 consistent with the APA timeline.

On 3-4 May 2017, the ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Collaboration Meeting was conducted to finalize the "Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020" towards the Implementation of ACTIP and APA, and the Strengthening Implementation of the ACTIP Through the Establishment of a System of National Representation. The Bohol TIP Work Plan highlights harmonized regional activities to combat TIP in the four thematic areas of the APA. It further includes the expected outputs of each activity and its implementation status that will be used

18 Authority: section 1202 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-4), amended the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to add a new section 105A(d), which authorizes the Secretary of State to provide assistance to a country that enters into a child protection compact with the United States for purposes of preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, and abuse against children and supporting policies and programs that reduce the trafficking of minors by building sustainable and effective systems of justice, prevention, and protection.

as reference in monitoring and evaluating the work plan. The Work Plan will undergo reporting twice annually and will be evaluated twice, mid-term and final, for the duration of the Work Plan. A monitoring and evaluation tool will be developed taking into consideration the tool used to monitor the APSC Blueprint.¹⁹

During the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (11th AMMTC) and the Second Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (2nd SAMMRRVE) from 18-21 September 2017 at the Conrad Hotel, Manila, the This Bohol TIP Workplan was adopted in principle by the ASEAN Ministers and was endorsed *ad referendum* on 13 November 2017 which was duly noted by the ASEAN Leaders on the 31st ASEAN Summit.

Implementation of the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons

A Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangement (MSA) between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines was signed on 3 July 2014 in relation to the implementation of the AAPTIP projects. Under the MSA, AAPTIP will be implemented to support the development needs of the Philippine Government to reduce the incentives and opportunities for TIP in the ASEAN region.

A **National Program Steering Committee (NPSC)**, composed of representatives of IACAT participating agencies (like DOJ, DILG, DOLE, NBI, PCTC, PNP, DSWD, IACAT OPCEN, DFA, POEA, BI, SC, PHILJA, and OCA) convenes every quarter of the year. This committee oversees the implementation of annual national work plans involving eight projects, with technical support from AAPTIP Philippine Office.

A **Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC)** as the international or regional counterpart, meets annually to review the annual consolidated progress reports of AATIP and provides input to the periodic assessment of the AAPTIP. RPSC likewise provides strategic direction for AAPTIP, particularly with regard to its regional initiatives. The 4th RPSC Meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6 July 2017. The meeting focused on the updates of AAPTIP's activities in the seven ASEAN member states and highlights of AAPTIP and Regional Program.

Australian Embassy Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) had a consultation meeting with the IACAT member agencies to provide feedback on the status of DFAT supported Anti-Trafficking projects in the Philippines, particularly the AAPTIP, and to determine potential future investments.

Please refer to capacity-building activities for details on specialized anti-TIP trainings funded by AAPTIP.

United States Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training

The US DOJ OPDAT and PSCCJP have been working together with IACAT in conducting trainings and workshops aimed to provide the participants (composed of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, social workers, academe, and barangay officials) with working knowledge on the salient features of the Expanded Act, as well as to establish better

¹⁹ Bohol TIP Workplan 2017-2020

coordination among stakeholders. In 2017, 15 capacity building and seminars for 73 Prosecutors, 45 Law Enforcers, 19 Social Workers, 29 other Government Personnel, and 442 Academe.

Please refer to capacity-building activities for details on specialized anti-TIP trainings funded by OPDAT.

UNICEF Workshop on Strengthening Collaboration among the Government Agencies, ICT Industry, and NGO for the Protection of Children Against OCSE held at the Dusit Thani Hotel, Makati City from March 7 - 9, 2017.

Organized by UNICEF to develop a system for collaboration among duty bearers and stakeholders on detecting and responding to OCSE cases. In particular, for IACAT, a mechanism for collaboration with the IACACP was discussed. A TWG to identify the points of convergence and formulate the system will be convened.

5th & 6th Bilateral Meetings between the PNP and the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) held on 24-25 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia & 18-19 October 2017 in Dusit Thani, Makati City

This is part of the Philippine government's effort on sustaining strong cooperation with foreign governments to pursue international law enforcement actions in combating human trafficking particular on the cross border cases and joint investigations. Several PNP law enforcers and one DOJ prosecutor attended the meeting.

Third International Dialogue on Human Trafficking supported by the Netherlands Embassy on 14 September 2017 at New World Hotel, Makati City.

This dialogue recognized the significant contribution of the multi-stakeholder collaboration in implementing anti-trafficking measures in the country.

This year, the Philippine government continued the conversations and revisited the recommendations made by TWGs on Household Service Workers and Tourist Workers, Online Sexual Exploitation of Children, and Seafarers and Fishers. Partners from foreign missions, international organizations, civil society organizations, and government agencies expressed their renewed commitment to improve national interventions and enhance international relations in combatting TIP, as laid down in the Manila Declaration, 2017-2021 National Strategic Action Plan, in conformity with the regional commitments to the ASEAN Convention on TIP and ASEAN Plan of Action. Five more foreign missions signified to join the commitment to combat TIP.

SWEETIE 2.0 Project Demonstration by the Terre Des Hommes

Government agencies participated in the demonstration of the Sweetie 2.00, an artificial intelligence (a "Chatbot") specifically designed to identify perpetrators engaged in illegal online activities. This is organized by Terre des Hommes Netherlands, an international organization actively working against OCSE. The said demonstration is intended to encourage Philippine law enforcement agencies to utilize this proactive tool and innovative approach to monitor illegal online activities against our children. Chosen representatives were identified within the participating agencies and organizations and were trained as potential operators.

Early in 2017, a special screening of the documentary “Children of the Webcam”, an investigative documentary on online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines produced by Spring Films, was held at the Trinoma Cinemas, Quezon City.

“Children of the Webcam” is a powerful and disturbing film about the rapid growing new phenomenon of child sexual abuse via the webcam. Brought together by a common desire to protect the vulnerable victims and by their shared own childhood experiences, filmmaker Jacco Groen follows the painstaking quest of journalist Peter Dupont. During the film, the makers transform from investigative journalists into undercover pedophiles infiltrating a webcam-network, into Police-assistants contributing to a major rescue raid in the Philippines of a children’s cybersex den. Over 500 individuals were able to watch the film at the screening.

Practitioners’ Workshop for the Regional Multi-sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs to TIP Victims in accordance with ACTIP from 1-3 September 2017 in Phuket, Thailand.

The workshop gathered all National TIP Specialists and two TIP Practitioners from each ASEAN member states to develop a common regional approach to identify individuals who have been subjected to TIP and to address their needs as well as protect their rights in pursuance to its obligation under the ACTIP and APA. The Multi-sectoral guidelines is structured under six critical areas with guiding principles for review to ensure that a wholistic victim-centric approach is applied in addressing the needs of the victims of trafficking in the ASEAN region. These areas are as follows:

1. Victim Definition and Identification;
2. Victim Protection and Support;
3. Special Measures for Victim-Witnesses;
4. Special and Additional Measures for Child Victims;
5. Access to Remedies; and
6. Return, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Victims.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC),

IACAT representatives are one of the panelist in the **Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in Vienna, Austria on 6-8 September 2017** and in the **Working Group on Human Smuggling on 11-13 September 2017**. The Philippines sent IACAT Executive Director Darlene Pajarito as a panelist in the Working Group on TIP. Effective criminal justice responses to TIP, centered on addressing the protection and assistance needs of different groups and types of victims, with particular reference to victims of trafficking within mixed migration movements, were tackled. Organized by United Nations, 81 countries attended and participated in the working group sessions. Assistant Secretary Juvy R. Manwong and Atty. Mary Grace Quintana attended the Working Group on Human Smuggling.

Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration (ADFM) Fifth Meeting was held in **11-12 September 2017** at Conrad Hotel, Manila City.

The ADFM is a leading regional forum for independent and inclusive policy development on forced migration. The meeting aimed to consolidate progress made within ASEAN and the Bali Process on TIP, forced labour and slavery, as well as regional responses to sudden displacement. IACAT made a presentation on the landscape of TIP in the Philippine and its national and regional responses. The key areas on which progress were sought during the meeting were the following:

- The 'toolkit' needed for Bali Process members to activate emergency responses to displacement.
- How the focal point system for the ACTIP can be further developed under the auspices of the SOMTC.
- Collaboration between ASEAN and the Bali process on TIP and displacement issues.
- Preparedness of regional institutions for climate-related displacement.
- New employment opportunities for refugees.
- A positive regional agenda for the Global Compacts processes and the ADFM's contribution.

National Consultation on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) in August and October 2017

On 23-24 August 2017, DFA held the initial consultation on GCM with IACAT member agencies. IACAT provided a resource person to discuss the Philippines responses on TIP and smuggling of migrants. On 5-6 October, 2017, IACAT extended assistance as resource person and discussed the "International and Legal Cooperation In Combatting Trafficking In Persons." This consultation was organized by Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, involved participants from the civil society organizations. On 18-19 October 2017, DFA held the final consultation on the GCM with different relevant duty bearers and stakeholders in attendance. The results of both consultations were collated by DFA purposely to form part of the Philippine inputs into the GCM to be forwarded to United Nation. These inputs, however, were further discussed during the regional consultations on 6-7 November and 4-5 December, 2017 in Thailand and Mexico respectively.

PNP-WCPC strong local and international linkages


The strong commitment and dedication of local and international agencies paved the way in having a unified intelligence build-up to operate and ensured the safety of our community against abuse and exploitation. They also helped our police officers in sponsoring various activities such as holding specialized courses, trainings, schoolings and seminars. This ensures that the support would make for a better and motivated police service to our society. Below are the collaborative efforts of the PNP WCPC for 2017:

- The creation of the ICAC Office, which is under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division was in partnership with the IJM;
- Continuous bilateral meetings and Transnational Investigation Cooperation with the RMP;
- For foreign training, 20 Police Officers were given international workshops mostly funded by IJM and AAPTIP.

Given the high priority the Philippines places on combatting TIP, the Philippines, participated in high-level meetings and conferences, and supported and co-sponsored the resolutions on international cooperation against TIP:

i. Transnational Investigative Cooperation (TIC) Between the Royal Malaysian Police and the Philippine National Police

PNP, with support from IACAT and AAPTIP, conducted six bilateral meetings on cross-border cooperation with the Royal Malaysia Police to closely



collaborate efforts on addressing TIP for sexual exploitation through the Zamboanga-Sabah corridor. Two of these meetings were conducted within the reporting period.

The meetings paved the opportunity for PNP and RMP to identify focal points for cooperation and successfully established the operational framework that facilitated an effective working relationship. The focal units were able to build trust, and familiarize themselves with the systems and processes in the counterpart country. This has resulted to improve efforts on TIP investigations from sharing of actionable information, joint investigation, to the arrest of TIP personalities and rescue of victims in the backdoor exits of both countries.

ii. Philippine-USA Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD) Coordination

Philippines participated in the 7th Philippines-US BSD held at in Washington D.C., USA on 29 November to 1 December 2017 to discuss the US-Philippine 2018 Action Plan with key areas on transnational crime financing, trafficking in persons and illicit, and enhancing border security control. Different law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies were invited to share their inputs on crimes involving violations of environmental laws, terrorism laws, drug trafficking laws, human trafficking laws and other related matters, and how to improve technical investigative methods; continue effective efforts to reduce demand of illicit drugs and controlled substances; and combat hard-core cartels through effective criminal enforcement.

iii. Multi-stakeholder Hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 23 June 2017, UN Headquarters in New York

The hearing provided Member States, all observers of the General Assembly, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, academic institutions and the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the process leading to the High-Level Meeting of the Plenary of the General Assembly on September 2017.

During the panel discussion entitled, "Trafficking in Persons in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda," the Philippines delivered a statement highlighting the Philippine Government's perspective on the use of the GPA-TIP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the fight against trafficking in women and girls.

iv. Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, 06 – 08 September 2017, Vienna, Austria

The Philippines, through IACAT Executive Director Darlene Pajarito, participated as a panelist on Agenda Item 2: Effective Criminal Justice Responses To Trafficking In Persons centered on groups and types of victims, with particular reference to victims of trafficking within mixed migration movements. In this session, Philippines shared its national experience on effective criminal justice response to TIP that specifically addresses 3 issues namely (1) provision of immediate protection and support; (2) access to remedies and the provision of legal assistance; and (3) assistance related to gender, by presenting the Victim Witness Coordination (VWC) Program and its successful implementation. The VWC stationed at the prosecutor's office is assigned to promote the rights of and protect the victims, from the commencement of the case until its termination. Duties of the VWC include coordinating with stakeholders, facilitation of delivery of support and protection services, identification of needs and threats to the victim, and provide personal attention to promote trust.

v. Security Council Open Debate on Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations, 21 September 2017, New York, USA

The Philippines, in its statement, highlighted its one-country team and multi-stakeholder approach to trafficking in persons in consolidating the mandates, efforts, resources, and interests of the duty-bearers and stakeholders to come up with a robust response, which has resulted in promoting awareness and mainstreaming of interventions down to the grassroots.

The Philippines also introduced the Gender-based Violence Cluster, composed mainly of law enforcers, social welfare service providers who specialize in gender issues, and civil society representatives. The Cluster is tasked to address the needs of women and children in conflict situations, especially in mitigating vulnerabilities to sexual violence and trafficking. The Cluster develops and implements programs for access to protective information, psychosocial, and trauma informed care, protective custody, and access to education and economic opportunities.

vi. High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, 27 – 28 September 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

The Philippines underscored the need for a creative, multi-sectoral, and comprehensive approach in addressing the problem, and highlighted

relevant legislation, government policies, and programs implemented by the country in the fight against trafficking in persons.

The Philippines called on all stakeholders to reaffirm its resolve to assist and protect the victims, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, and end its occurrence. The Philippines also expressed its support and commitment to prevent trafficking in persons by pledging USD 10,000 to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons.

vii. UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children

The Philippines pledged USD 10,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons during the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action which was held on 27 – 28 September 2017 in New York, USA.

The Trust Fund's mandate is to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons. The Fund supports actions by specialized NGOs around the world that ensure that women, children and men who have been exploited by human traffickers are identified, treated humanely as victims of a crime, and provided with the assistance, protection and support necessary for their physical, psychological and social recovery and reintegration back into their communities.

viii. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC)

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is mandated to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the UN-CRC. To be able to realize the provisions in the UN-CRC, the “Strategic Framework for the Plan Development for Children” or “Child 21” was developed to serve as guide for the various sectors and stakeholders in crafting child-focused plans and strategies. In line with this, the first, second, and now the third National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), which is complementary with the Philippine Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, was crafted with the involvement of the government agencies, non-government agencies, the civil society organizations, the private sector and religious groups. The NPAC will be cascaded to the local and barangay levels.

ix. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

Philippines conducted several consultations among government and NGOs to discuss and validate Philippine Government perspectives and priorities for the GCM and drew a set of recommendations and guiding framework in preparation for the negotiations of the GCM which is slated to be

adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA.

x. Resolutions

- *Strengthening and Promoting Effective Measures and International Cooperation on Organ Donation and Transplantation to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons for the Purpose of Organ Removal and Trafficking in Human Organs*

The aim of the resolution is to promote cooperation among various agencies and organizations involved in dealing with these issues. The resolution requests the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to develop international guidelines on health, criminal, and human rights aspects relating to both forms of trafficking.

- *Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons*

The resolution aims to convene a meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against TIP at the level of principals to drive progress related to the coordination of activities with a view to promoting efficient and effective use of resources while avoiding duplication across agencies and organizations, including in the context of the implementation of the UN GPA to Combat TIP and aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to preventing and combatting trafficking in persons to achieve tangible results.

C. Government Assistance to Other Countries

Table 28. Philippine Government Assistance to Other Countries

Policy Workshop on National Referral Mechanism in Aoluguya Hotel, Harbin, China from 11-12 January, 2017

IOM organized and sponsored a policy workshop in China. IACAT Executive Director participated as an Expert and presented the following topics:

- Organizational structure of IACAT and its legal mandate as the main coordinating body of 26 agencies that oversees and monitors the strict implementation of the Expanded Act; and
- The Philippine national referral system in the handling of TIP cases and the provision and delivery of mandatory services to trafficking victims.

It was also an opportunity to learn the referral system of the Republic of China and United Kingdom.

Transnational Investigation Cooperation Meeting Between Royal Malaysian Police and the Philippine National Police at the Dusit Thani, Makati City on 23-24 February 2017

In partnership with the AAPTIP, the meeting was intended for prosecutors and law enforcers from the Philippines (Philippine National Police) and Malaysia (Royal Malaysian Police) to align on mechanisms for the conduct of joint anti-trafficking investigation and prosecution involving both countries. The Meeting conceded common agreement on ensuring the protection and promotion of the rights of trafficked victims from rescue to investigation; and establish focal person in both countries to ease in exchanging and sharing information.

Promoting Cross Border Cooperation to Better Address Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in human Beings. Held in Holiday Inn Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from March 21-23, 2017,

IACAT presented the Philippine National Referral System, its gains and challenges and the responses made. This was in coordination with Mongolia's Crime Prevention Council under the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs with support from the International Organization on Migration-Beijing and Mongolia. IACAT's participation strengthens international cooperation with Mongolian authorities as it progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive legal and policy framework on combating human trafficking.

UNODC Child Protection Study Tour on 27 March 2017

IACAT participated in the Child Protection Study Tour organized by the UNODC. The participants were criminal justice officials from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. The UNODC has identified that the Philippines' child protection system offers valuable knowledge and experience for the delegates to learn more about effective legal measures and best practices in combating child sexual exploitation. It was also acknowledged that the Philippines has expertise in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of OCSE in travel and tourism, both online and offline and protecting the rights and welfare of child victims in the process. With the Office of Undersecretary Reynante B. Orceo as Undersecretary-in-Charge of the Council for the Special Protection of Children as lead, representatives from the IACAT, CWC, OOC, DILG, DSWD and IACACP presented their programs on child protection, in particular, addressing the issue of OCSE.

ASEAN Workshop: Addressing Barriers to Gender Equality in the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons on 20 May to 1 June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand


The workshop was chaired by the SOMTC which aims to promote gender responsive approaches throughout the ASEAN region. IACAT Executive Director Darlene R. Pajarito attended as Resource Speaker to discuss the "*Victim Witness Coordinators (VWC) Program*." Col. Angela Rejano of the PNP-WCPC presented the PNP-Mentoring Program. These projects are being implemented by IACAT in collaboration with AAPTIP. After the presentation of the successes and challenges in the implementation of the VWC Program, Lao PDR and Myanmar committed to discuss further the possibility of implementing a VWC or a similar program in their country.

ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children's Right Advisory Group and National TIP Specialist on the Regional Multi-Sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of TIP Victims, 15-16 May, 2017, Bangkok, Thailand; and 1-3 September, Phuket, Thailand.

In the implementation of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children's Rights (ACWC) Work Plan 2016-2020, ACWC Thailand is spearheading the implementation of the "Regional Multi-Sectoral Guidelines and Procedures to Address the Needs of Trafficking in Persons Victims (Guidelines)." The objectives of this project include (1) to develop a common regional approach to identify individuals who have been subject to crimes of trafficking in person and address their needs and protect their rights; and (2) to assist ASEAN and its Member States in their efforts to implement commitments under the ACTIP and APA, specifically in the area of providing more protection for the victims. To deliberate on the framework for the Guidelines as well as to seek guidance on its scope and content, ACWC Thailand sought from each ASEAN Member States to identify a National TIP Specialist. Executive Director Darlene Pajarito was nominated by DSWD to represent the country as a National TIP Specialist. After the two consultations in Thailand, IACAT presented the draft to IACAT member agencies, partners, and civil society organizations in a national consultation on 14-15 December 2017 to gather inputs from the Philippines on the regional guidelines.

Malaysian Study Visit on 21 November 2017

IACAT Secretariat hosted a Study Visit composed of delegates from Malaysia, through the support and assistance of the IOM. The IACAT Secretariat presented the landscape of trafficking in the Philippines,



the gaps and challenges, as well as the Philippine responses, including about the victim identification and assistance. The Malaysian delegation expressed appreciation on the sharing of Philippine experience and shared their experiences as well, in relation to trafficking cases to or via Malaysia. They mentioned that Philippines and Malaysia have similar organizational structure.

IOM Workshop for Lawyers, Prosecutors, and Judges on Best Practices on Counter-Trafficking Laws held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 28-29 September 2017.

IACAT participated in the workshop in support of the Mongolian government judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers from central and provincial government levels as well as private practitioners, to learn from the experience of international experts and reflect on how to apply international key capacity-building activities in the area of counter-trafficking as the country is progressing towards the establishment of a comprehensive legal and policy framework in combating human trafficking.

Major Challenges and Constraints

Although Philippines has intensified its efforts in the fight against TIP, there are still several deficiencies that hamper the full implementation of the government's anti-TIP initiatives.

Lack of good education programs for out-of-school youth. Out-of-school youths are among the vulnerable sectors in the TIP landscape. They are exploited as child laborers, prostitutes, drug runners or mules, and child warriors. The 2016 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) showed the country has about **3.8 million out-of-school children and youth** or about ten percent of the 39 million Filipinos with age range six to 24 years old.

Over the last decade, the Government of the Philippines has embarked on an ambitious education reform program to ensure that all Filipinos have the opportunity to obtain the skills that they need to play a full and productive role in society. The government has backed up these reforms, particularly over the last five years, with substantial increases in investment in the education sector. Between 2010 and 2015, spending on basic education increased by 60 percent in real terms, and per student funding levels has increased considerably. Increases in the availability of key inputs have also significantly increased access to basic education.²⁰

Lack of manpower or personnel to support the full implementation of anti-trafficking programs and interventions. The lack of manpower remains to be a major challenge among many government agencies. To improve the delivery of services to victims of trafficking and to respond to trafficking initiatives, there is a need to increase the number of law enforcement agents or officers, social workers, labor inspectors, assistance-to-national officers, foreign service officers, financial investigators, cybercrime investigators, and prosecutors.

Investment by LGUs on anti-trafficking interventions remains low. Though there are some cities and municipalities which have been identified as model LGUs in countering human trafficking in their respective jurisdictions, there are still many LGUs that need guidance on the development of a good work and financial plan and how to implement the same. Their lack of political will and understanding about the nuances of human trafficking further impede the need to give priority and investment on anti-trafficking interventions.

Absence of a Knowledge Center and Lack of solutions-based research. There is a need to established a centralized system for collection, harmonization and interpretation of data that can serve as a hub to provide guidance in the development

²⁰ <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/14406> Assessing Basic Education Service Delivery in the Philippines : Public Education Expenditure Tracking and Quantitative Service Delivery Study

of better policies and program. Among the limitations on the government's ability to collect data are as follows:

- Delay on data transfer or submission of required reports;
- Lack of competent personnel to handle the management of data collection and monitoring system;
- Lack of personnel to analyze data;
- Complex and multifarious structure of the government; and
- Lack of accountability clause for non-compliance on the reportorial requirements.

Lack of organization structure and plantilla position for IACAT Secretariat personnel. At present, IACAT Secretariat functions under an *ad hoc* structure. It is manned and managed by DOJ organic personnel on a part-time-detail-designation and support by 130 non-organic personnel hired by DOJ on a 6-month contract. This structure has affected the continuity, effectivity, and efficiency of work of the IACAT Secretariat.

Need for more support to strengthen the operations of the anti-trafficking task forces and law enforcement agencies. IACAT supports the operational and administrative management of the 24 task forces all over the country for operation, training, and administrative matters. They are monitored and evaluated by way of the accomplishment reports on all key areas such as on rescue and surveillance operations conducted, cases initiated, handled and monitored and the trainings and capacity building seminar organized and partnership established. IACAT also funds covert operations of law enforcement agencies.

On the prevention of re-traumatization of victims and their reintegration. There are key deficiencies in ensuring full recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons. Despite significant investments from the national government on this direct intervention, there are still reports on re-victimization. This may be due to the fact that most rescued survivors, even after acquiring a multitude of skills, remain unemployed or without access to capitalization, or the skills acquired do not match the needs in the job market. A streamlined referral and preferential treatment for trafficked survivors must be established, especially in terms of access to education, livelihood, and employment. Assistance from point of rescue to reintegration, including financial assistance for the victim and his or her family, must be provided, especially for those who have filed cases against their abusers. Aftercare monitoring must also be strengthened. Similarly, health and wellness indicators must be standardized as measures to ascertain level of preparedness for reintegration of survivors among all welfare providers.

Re-traumatization must also be addressed through the development of non-victim-burdening investigation and prosecution. Good practices in prosecution must include utilization of child and women friendly spaces or videotaped interviews of victims in court proceedings, non-invasive evidence gathering, as well as case-build up and investigation that do not rely heavily on victim testimony to achieve conviction.

On Exploring and addressing vulnerabilities of specific sectors–IPs, PWDs, LGBTI. The government is yet to conduct evidence and solutions-based research on the vulnerability of specific sectors of society, albeit their victimization is documented.

On Investigation and Prosecution. Among the key deficiencies in the prosecution of TIP cases are parallel financial investigation with the AMLC, availing of civil remedies like asset forfeiture and payment of damages after conviction.

On the Community-based prevention programs. There is a need to integrate anti-trafficking interventions in poverty alleviation programs and increase resiliency at the household and community level through provision of economic opportunities. Moreover, within the Prevention Key Result Area, interventions that address poverty such as those that provide access to basic services, increase household income, or generate local community engagement in anti-trafficking efforts, need to be established.

On monitoring and maintaining database. Although there is an existing database in some government offices, the same is not readily accessible to other government agencies. No centralized database containing relevant information regarding TIP and IR for information sharing between and among concerned agencies has been developed. DOJ is currently working on the National Justice Information System (NJIS). It is an ambitious but feasible database on all criminal cases, including TIP, that will link to other relevant agencies' database and allow access to data.

There is also a need to fully monitor the reintegration of about four million out-of-school youth as reported by the National Youth Commission (NYC) in 2013. These out of school youth are highly vulnerable to human trafficking.

Other concerns are:

- a. Complicity of some immigration officials and other government employees with illegal recruiters and human traffickers in allowing the exit of trafficking victims without complying with departure formalities;
- b. Need to widen network to expand the dissemination of information and education materials;
- c. Need to continue building the capacities of duty bearers and stakeholders at the grassroots level on how, when, where to report violations of TIP and other related laws;
- d. Need to improve referral and feedback system among duty bearers and stakeholders; and
- e. Need to improve coordination among local and international law enforcement agencies.

Universal Challenges

Different interpretation of the definition of TIP

Xiamen Philippine Consul General (PCG), Guangzhou PCG, and Shanghai PCG reported that their trafficking cases usually involve Filipinos working as household service workers (HSW). They were recruited illegally and exploited in the workplace. However, Chinese authorities do not consider these cases as human trafficking but as violations of Chinese immigration laws. Violators are required to pay penalties for illegal stay and illegal employment. In some cases compulsory detention before the issuance of exit visa or clearance, is imposed.

PE in Damascus notes that the challenge in resolving the recent trafficking cases being handled by the Embassy arises from the different interpretation of “trafficking” applied by the Syrian Government. Specifically, the current trafficking cases being handled by PE in Damascus are not viewed by the Syrian Government as such, but rather as cases of legitimate overseas deployment. Therefore, the Syrian government is inclined to consider requests of agents to recover their deployment costs as valid civil claims.

The clandestine recruitment of pub girls from the Philippines is not considered a crime of human trafficking under Singapore law. In spite of this constraint, the Philippine Embassy in Singapore periodically reports the cases of pub girls to the Criminal Investigation Department of the Singapore Police Force.