

## **2018 IACAT ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the 2018 US Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report that was released on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, one hundred ninety (190) countries were assessed. Of the 190 countries assessed under the minimum standards, 39 countries were placed in Tier One, 81 in Tier Two, 43 were placed in the Tier Two Watch List, and 23 countries were in Tier Three. The Philippines is among the 39 countries placed in Tier 1 and holds the distinction to be the only Southeast Asian country ranked alongside developed countries since 2016. Being in Tier 1 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.

Also, in the 2018 Global Slavery Index released by the Walk Free Foundation, an Australia-based global human rights organization dedicated to eradicating human trafficking crimes, the Philippines retained its ranking since 2014 as 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia in terms of government response. The Philippines is also currently ranked as 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Asia-Pacific region (next to Australia and New Zealand) and 36<sup>th</sup> globally out of the 181 countries included in the study. Based on the report, the Philippines acquired a high government response rating (BB), noting that the government has taken significant steps to fight human trafficking. These include short-term victim support services, a criminal justice framework that criminalizes some forms of modern-day slavery, a body to coordinate the response, and protection for vulnerable sectors.

While the Philippines remained in Tier One and fully meets the minimum standards, the US TIP Report observed that the government did not improve the availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims, particularly specialized shelter care, mental health services, access to employment training and job placement, and services for male victims. Further, the government did not vigorously investigate and prosecute officials allegedly involved in trafficking crimes or punish labor traffickers. Thus, while the recommendations for the Philippines has decreased from ten to nine action points that need to be addressed in the reporting period, the following recommendations were previously highlighted and the need to address the same is imperative:

1. Increase the availability of specialized shelter and mental health services for victims of trafficking, including child victims of online sexual exploitation and male victims;
2. increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict perpetrators of trafficking, particularly complicit officials and labor traffickers;

3. increase resources for anti-trafficking task forces to support coordinated operations, protection services, and timely preliminary investigation and prosecution of trafficking, including in cases involving online sexual exploitation of children;
4. increase efforts to identify and assist child labor trafficking victims;
5. expand the number of victim and witness coordinators to assist anti-trafficking task forces and increase efforts to prevent re-traumatization caused by multiple interviews;
6. expand government support for follow-up services for trafficking victims that facilitate reintegration, including increased access to job training and employment;
7. develop and implement programs aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts, including child sex tourism and online child sexual exploitation;
8. increase efforts to protect children demobilized from armed groups; and
9. implement improved and consistent data collection across agencies.

## **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.<sup>1</sup>

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;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 20, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

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.<sup>2</sup>

### **IACAT Secretariat**

The DOJ shall establish a Secretariat to assist the Council in the performance of its functions.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

### **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.<sup>6</sup>

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;

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<sup>2</sup>Section 21, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

<sup>3</sup> Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

<sup>4</sup> Section 128, Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364.

<sup>5</sup> Section 127, Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364.

<sup>6</sup> Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

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;
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. <sup>7</sup>

## **4 KEY RESULT AREAS**

### **I. Advocacy and Prevention**

#### **A. Legislative Development**

- Draft Bills and/or position papers were submitted to Congress for the Strengthening of the Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program (WPSBP).
- Drafting of the 2018 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. No. 6981 otherwise known as "The Witness Protection, Security and Benefit Act".
- A Technical working group composed of the National Prosecution Service (NPS) prosecutors and the NBI investigators is currently working on the development of Guidelines on Cybercrime Investigation and Prosecution, which aims to provide a synchronized and structured approach for both prosecutors and investigators for the effective implementation and enforcement of R.A. No. 10175, which includes cases involving online child abuse and exploitation.
- A Technical working group composed of the National Prosecution Service (NPS) prosecutors and relevant stakeholders are set to finalize the "Guidelines on Plea Bargaining of Trafficking in Persons Cases" pursuant to Rule 116 of the 2000 Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure, as amended. Specifically, it provides that the accused, with the consent of the offended party and the prosecutor, may be allowed by the trial court to plead guilty to a lesser offense which is necessarily included in the offense charged. To attain the laudable objectives of the rules on plea bargaining and in order that the disposition of criminal cases may be expedited as uniformly as possible by

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<sup>7</sup> Section 22, Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364.

eliminating unnecessary and costly litigations, the IACAT has proposed for uniform guidelines to govern the said procedure.

- The CFO convened a technical working group (TWG) on 22 September and 6 October 2017 in compliance with Section 8 of RA 10906 (“Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act”) which requires the promulgation of the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the law. The TWG is composed of CFO, Bureau of Immigration (BI), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Philippine Information Agency (PIA). On 12 January 2018, the CFO finalized the draft IRR and submitted it for the approval of the Department of Justice.
- There are five (5) bills pending in both houses of Congress (1 in Senate and 4 in the House of Representatives) that decriminalize the women in prostitution and penalize the demand side or the users/perpetrators of prostitution.

## **B. Policy and Program Enhancement**

- On 25-26 October 2018, the DICT conducted its first Philippine Cybersecurity Conference in Davao City. One of the highlights of the said conference is the discussions on child online protection.
- On 23-24 November 2018, the DICT conducted a Child Online Protection Summit with the theme “Enabling Dynamic Partnerships: the Role of Everyone to Protect Children and Young People Safe and Secure Online.”
- DICT is currently finalizing the Child Online Safeguarding Policy. Thus, on 20 November 2018, the DICT conducted a consultation in Iloilo City with around 80 stakeholders coming from various national government agencies (NGAs), non-government offices and the academe. The one-day event was the last leg of the series of consultations conducted by the Consumer Protection Group of the DICT. The consultation was in line with Republic Act 10929 or “An Act Establishing the Free Internet Access Program in Public Places in the Country.”
- In line with its child protection policy, provisions on prohibition on access to pornography and protection of children by developing mechanisms and standard for the protection of children were included in RA 10929 or the “Free Internet Access in Public Places Act.”
- The DICT led the first Digital Parenting Conference on 17 November 2018 as one of the key events for the National Children’s Month. The said conference was conducted to raise awareness among parents on the responsible use of Internet and technology and equip them on the guidance and protection of children in this digital age especially those born in late 1990s as they are most in need of supervision on the use of digital technologies.

- Already on its final-drafting stage, the creation of the NBI Manual and Standard Operating Procedures for TIP and OSEC cases is aimed at improving the efficiency of investigations and operations involving TIP-OSEC cases. The manual shall include provisions on Victim handling and aftercare.
- 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 the “18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children”.
- DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2018-53 for the Localization of the Standards in Building communities that protected children from trafficking to enjoin Local Chief Executives to comply with the provisions of RA 10364 and other related issuances and ensure the widest dissemination of IACAT Resolution No. 03-2017 on the adoption of the Standards in Building Communities that Protect Children from Trafficking. The Standards was developed by the Philippine Against Child Trafficking (PACT) adopted by the IACAT. This is in line to the DILG’s support on the implementation of laws and policies to prevent children in emergencies from being victimized of trafficking pursuant to Republic Act No. 10821, otherwise known as the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act. The Comprehensive Emergency Program was developed by the DSWD in partnership with Save the Children.
- DOLE Task Force against Illegal Recruitment, Recruitment of Minor Workers and Trafficking in Persons was created pursuant to DOLE Administrative Order No. 551, Series of 2018, issued on 11 October 2018. The said DOLE Task Force composed of the following officials:

Chair:	Undersecretary for Overseas Employment Administration
Vice Chair:	POEA Administrator
Members:	OWWA Administrator
	International Labor Affairs Bureau Director
	Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns Director

- Joint Assessment Compliance Visit and Occupational Safety and Health Investigation. DOLE in its continuous effort to combat trafficking in persons has been strictly enforcing its recruitment and placement policies to prevent illegal recruitment in local employment. The Department, through its Regional Offices, likewise has been conducting extensive labor inspection to prevent child and forced labor. In fact, the Department’s Regional Offices has been consistently adopting a Joint Assessment Compliance Visit and Occupational Safety and Health Investigation to ensure compliance to anti-child labor, illegal recruitment and trafficking policies.

The Single-Entry Assessment Approach (SEnA) was also utilized to provide a speedy, impartial, inexpensive and accessible settlement procedure for all issues

arising from employer-employee relations to prevent them from ripening into full blown disputes. The general public has also been continuously guided by the Department through its advocacy activities conducted through media and seminars.

- DOLE issued the Administrative Order No. 142, Series of 2018 re: Guidelines on the Profiling of Child Laborers and Provision of Services to Remove them from Child Labor to which DOLE Regional Offices conducted orientation to Government Internship Program beneficiaries who were tapped as enumerators for the profiling of child laborers.
- The Supreme Court of the Philippines, during its En Banc session on 3 July 2018, approved the Rule on Cybercrime Warrants. It provides for rules of procedure that shall respond to the technical requirements of cybercrime prosecution and aid the cybercrime courts in the exercise of their special jurisdiction. In particular, it sets out the specific requirements for application for issuance of various cybercrime warrants provided under R.A. no. 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.
- The DFA signed Department Order No. 15-2017 on the Revised Guidelines on the Utilization of the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) and Department Order No. 16-2017 on the Revised Guidelines on the Disbursement of the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund. It expanded the coverage and services of the LAF and ATN and continue to provide utmost priority in extending assistance to victims of trafficking in persons overseas.
- Pursuant to Sec. 3 of Republic Act 10022<sup>8</sup>, the Department directed all Philippine Foreign Service Posts (FSP) to review their previous evaluation and **certification** in light of developments within their areas of jurisdiction. FSPs were instructed to

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<sup>8</sup> **REPUBLIC ACT No. 10022**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED, FURTHER IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Section 3.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Deployment of Migrant Workers.* - The State shall allow the deployment of overseas Filipino workers only in countries where the rights of Filipino migrant workers are protected. The government recognizes any of the following as a guarantee on the part of the receiving country for the protection of the rights of overseas Filipino workers:

"(a) It has existing labor and social laws protecting the rights of workers, including migrant workers;

"(b) It is a signatory to and/or a ratifier of multilateral conventions, declarations or resolutions relating to the protection of workers, including migrant workers; and

"(c) It has concluded a bilateral agreement or arrangement with the government on the protection of the rights of overseas Filipino Workers:

*Provided, That the receiving country is taking positive, concrete measures to protect the rights of migrant workers in furtherance of any of the guarantees under subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) hereof.*

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"For this purpose, the Department of Foreign Affairs, through its foreign posts, shall issue a certification to the POEA, specifying therein the pertinent provisions of the receiving country's labor/social law, or the convention/declaration/resolution, or the bilateral agreement/arrangement which protect the rights of migrant workers.



certify the country/ies within their jurisdiction as either compliant or non-compliant only. These certifications are important to ensure that the rights of the Filipinos are protected overseas.

- In line with the implementation of the Child Protection Compact Partnership, the following policies and programs relevant to address Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSEAC) were developed:
- DSWD developed the Psychosocial Care and Therapeutic Intervention for Victims-Survivors and At-Risk on Child Pornography or OSAEC which is an intervention program for victims-survivors under the residential care facilities. It is based on the Trauma Informed Care and Trauma Aware First Response (TAFR) framework which will provide a pro-active psychosocial intervention for all children admitted to the facilities and it focuses on: Awareness, Healing and Recovery and Reintegration. The intervention also considers the two (2) factors, social and economic, contributing to OSAEC and addressing the psycho-social effects of abuse to the victim-survivor will also address the trend to having second generation perpetrator;
- Child Online Protection (COP) Manual for Residential Care Facilities and Community –Based Settings which aims to increase the understanding on child online sexual exploitation. It also serves for educating children and youth on the safe and responsible use of technology. Its ultimate goal is to instill awareness among children on online risks and dangers that may lead to child pornography victimization.
- A Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2017-0001 was issued by the Department of Health (DOH) which sought to harmonize existing processes and procedures involving medical repatriation and formalize inter-agency coordination and cooperation among government agencies in the Philippines. This would properly implement the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP). Under the memo-circular, the DOH through its Migrant Health Unit (MHU) shall act as the central coordinating body for all medical repatriation cases from different referring agencies and shall maintain the official database for medical repatriations.

The IMRAP procedures have three (3) phases:

1. Pre-Arrival – from the time of identification of overseas Filipinos for medical repatriation in the destination country until his/her departure and travel back to the Philippines;
2. Travel and Arrival – during the flight and upon arrival at the port of entry in the Philippines
3. Post-Arrival – after arrival in the Philippines until referral to a medical facility, temporary shelter, or place of residence with proper endorsement to the next of kin (NOK) and or referral to DSWD and or relevant agencies for provision of social welfare programs and other support services.

The DOH in cooperation with other government agencies will facilitate the provision of the needed assistance/services such as airport assistance and initial

medical assessment/evaluation, ambulance conduction, referral and/or confinement in DOH hospital, endorsement to non-DOH health facilities, financial assistance, PhilHealth membership coverage, medical escort services and psycho-social counseling.

### **C. 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. 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. 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.

POEA conducted community-based PEOS with a total of 30,517 participants -- 9,935 males, 10,848 females and 9,736 with unspecified sex. Supervised Online PEOS with a total of 798,589 participants – 263,478 males, 529,057 females and 7,054 with unspecified sex;

The POEA has entered into partnerships with 50 local government units and 1 non-government organization on information dissemination campaign against illegal recruitment and human trafficking. Conducted 48 anti-illegal recruitment and anti-trafficking in persons seminar nationwide, with 1,695 male participants and 1544 female participants

#### **Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Trafficking Persons Campaign Seminar by POEA**

The POEA conducted a total of 16 sessions of Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Trafficking Persons Campaign Seminar in Luzon (Regions III, IV-A, IV-B and NCR), benefiting 1138 male participants, 587 female participants. Five (5) of the sessions are entirely funded by the POEA, in which one (1) of the sessions, Global Filipino Movement Foundation, a faith-based NGO, was invited as a speaker to discuss 10 Reminders to Avoid Illegal Recruitment and Human Trafficking. Eleven (11) are funded by the local government units for the benefit of its constituents.

The POEA conducted 1 session of Anti-Illegal Recruitment and Anti-Trafficking Persons Campaign Seminar in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, benefiting 17 male participants, 50 female participants. This session is funded by the local government unit of the Province of Lanao del Norte for the benefit of its constituents. The Center for Migrant

Advocacy, an NGO, was invited as a speaker to discuss the Role of the Local Government Unit in the fight against Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons.

### **Capability Enhancement Training by POEA**

A Capability Enhancement Training on Overseas Employment Program, including Laws on Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons, were conducted for the legal interns of Bulacan State University-College of Law, with 5 male and 17 female participants. The object of the training was to orient the legal interns how to provide legal assistance to the POEA client-victims of illegal recruitment and human trafficking. Currently, the Legal Interns are assisting POEA lawyers in providing legal assistance in POEA.

### **CFO's Community Education Program**

The Community Education Program (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 Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Person Act and the Republic Act 10364 or the Expanding the Trafficking in Persons Act 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 covers-up raising public awareness on various issues concerning migration, intermarriages and existing government policies. It is also linked to various programs directed against illegal recruitment, mail-order bride scheme, documentation fraud, among others.

From April to October 2018, the CEP has covered 12 provinces and 23 cities/municipalities. An estimated total of 4,122 number of attendees directly benefited during the campaign.

### **World Day Against Trafficking Week-long Celebration**

The celebration of the World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT) with the theme of "Better Lives Through Safer Migration: Stop Human Trafficking" consists of the following activities led and funded by IACAT member-agencies:

- Free **medical and dental assistance** was provided to total of eighty-one trafficking victims housed in Haven for Women, Muntinlupa City on June 30, 2018. This is in partnership with the Muntinlupa City Health Office with the provision of boxes of medicines and a dental bus that can cater 2 patients at the same time.
- The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) organized the screening of the film ***Across the Crescent Moon*** on 31 July 2018. The film tackles human trafficking, drug smuggling, inter-faith relationship and true to life encounters of modern day slavery attended mostly by students from schools around Metro Manila.
- A simultaneous **Symposium on International Migration and Human Trafficking** conducted by IACAT member-agencies was held on 1 August 2018 attended by a total of **402 students** in the following Schools:
  - PCW : Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Sta. Mesa, with 150 student
  - BI: Polytechnic University of the Philippines – Paranaque, with 177 students
  - DOLE : Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, with 75 students

The topics include international migration, human trafficking and the 1343 actionline against Human Trafficking

- The IACAT, in partnership with AAPTIP, launched the following Anti-Trafficking Knowledge products which were conceptualized, formulated, and developed through series of consultation and technical working group meetings with anti-trafficking champions and other relevant stakeholders:
  - The Money Laundering Dimension of Trafficking in Persons
  - Victim Witness Information Sheet
  - Guidelines on the Referral System

These knowledge products are testament of the government's relentless resolve to address TIP. The Guidelines on the Referral System is a practical guide for anti-trafficking advocates on how to effectively and efficiently handle TIP cases. Complementing the guidelines is the Victim Witness Information Sheet, containing vital information in an easy to understand language (English, Filipino, Bisaya, Bikolano and Ilokano). Finally, the handbook on the Money Laundering Dimension of TIP provides a stronger framework for the integration of money laundering investigations in TIP cases in order to break the cycle of human trafficking. Furthermore, the handbook provides a potent tool against trafficking syndicates by effectively crippling their resources and going after the proceeds of the crime.

- The IACAT, together with DOLE and City of Caloocan, conducted a **Job Fair with Legal clinic** which was participated by **36 companies, 26 of which are direct employers and the other 10 are overseas employment agencies**. 439 job seekers registered to the event and 123 of them were hired on the

spot while 119 were scheduled for further interview. The activity aimed to address the increasing number of displaced and unemployed OFW returnees to find a valid and legal occupation suitable to their work experiences and skills.

- The WCPC personnel also visited selected schools and provided students with relevant information to include, among others, the indications when a TIP is being committed against them and the appropriate offices/agencies to be informed about the incident.
- Region VII also held a week-long series of program and activities with adaptation of a local theme: **“Komunidad Palig-onon, Human Trafficking Sumpuon”**. The opening of WDAT was held on 28 July 2018 at the Robinsons Galleria, Cebu City where an art exhibit was launched through a mini concert participated by local Cebuano artists who performed dance number and songs. A total of 278 participants attended not inclusive of the audience from the mall. The location was chosen to open the celebration to the public.
- Region XI likewise conducted an **On-The-Spot Poster Making Contest** open to all Region XI residents ages 13-17 years old. The contest was held at the Activity Center of Abreeza Mall and it was participated by around 60 youth from all around the region. Top 12 entries were announced and posted on the facebook account of IACAT Region XI, three winners were awarded in the International Day Against Trafficking Celebration.

## International Day Against Trafficking

For this year’s celebration, IACAT exerted serious efforts to advance anti-trafficking works in the prevention and advocacy campaigns both in local and international arena, with the following major activities:

- **4th Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking** that gathers relevant partners from Philippine Government Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Foreign Missions, and Institutions from the private sector to continue the conversations and coordination on three proposed policy agenda in relation to (1) Seafarers and Fishers, (2) Domestic and Tourist Workers and (3) Online Sexual Exploitation of Children. Highlight of the event is the commitment of the Philippine Legislators (Senators and Representatives) to champion the proposed policy agendas. *(further details provided under the Partnership and Networking)*
- **2018 IACAT Advocacy Run** with the theme of **“Run Free from Modern-Day Slavery”**, an Advocacy Run organized by IACAT held on 8 December 2018 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Complex in Pasay from 4:30 am to

7:30 am. Almost 2,000 advocates joined the run which aims to increase public awareness against TIP, call for the renewal of commitment against human trafficking, and rally all advocates against trafficking.

- **Signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with Blas Ople Center** in response to increasing number of migrant workers becoming victims of sex and labor trafficking predominantly via debt bondage. The MOA entails several programs from creation of a Task Force Against the Trafficking of OFWs, conduct of capacity-building activities, and development of an online case support and management system. *(further details provided under the Partnership and Networking)*
- CFO launched the new logo of the **1343 Actionline** with the tagline “**Break All Chains**” to signify the fight to end modern day slavery. The tagline was the winning design of the CFO logo contest for the 1343 Actionline held in 2018.
- **Launched of the new IACAT website** – [www.iacat.gov.ph](http://www.iacat.gov.ph), this time under the “.gov.ph” domain. The website is now available and will provide public information and assistance through monitoring and addressing various complaints on trafficking, aside from its relevant features on various anti-trafficking programs of IACAT and mandate.
- IACAT XI started the celebration with motorcade along the busy highways of Tagum City and a culmination program at the Robinsons Mall, Tagum City. During the said event, top 3 winners of the Region Wide On-The-Spot Poster making Contest held during the WDAT celebration on 30 July 2018.
- IACAT XI likewise conducted its first Trafficking in Persons Victim-Survivors Summit on 11 December 2018, a region-wide gathering of victim-survivors in one venue. A total of 65 TIP victim-survivors attended the summit to evaluate government’s efforts in combating human trafficking in the country. Several workshops (joint and separate) were also conducted to manage expectations, share of experiences, and discuss pressing issues concerning TIP. At the end of the Summit, a call to action and creative presentation were respectively crafted and developed by the participants to embody their aspirations and dreams.

## **18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW)**

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) led the 2018 annual observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW to raise awareness among all stakeholders that the VAW is a public issue of national concern. With the theme “ **VAW-free community starts with Me**”, the 2018 campaign gave emphasis on the role of all Filipinos in combating violence against women and girls in the country. The 2018 campaign also focused on primary prevention to reduce incidents of VAW across the country by letting

people understand VAW from the point of view of victims-survivors to ignite compassion from stakeholders so that they would not commit, condone, or remain silent about VAW.

The “VAW Experiential Museum” is one of the major activities during the 2018 18-Day Campaign to End VAW which happened on December 4-7, 2018. It was a four-day interactive and site-specific walk-through event which provided the audience the opportunity to be immersed and witness different forms of VAW as portrayed in the stage-plays about familiar situations and social institutions such as the home, school, workplace, community, and even in digital media.

In partnership with DSWD, the PCW also launched the “VAW Mapathon” for the creation of VAWC Desks and Centers Information Map or the “VAWmapPH:Violence Against Women and Children Resources Map”. The map serves as a tool that can be used by VAW victims and their families/friends to know where to go and who to call for help.

Other major activities conducted during the campaign was the online release of the radio commercials on street harassment/anti-catcalling radio plugs in partnership with DDB Group Philippines. VAW: The Unspoken Words II was released with three new videos developed on Date Rape, Revenge Porn and Trafficking. These videos are hoped to develop compassion and concern towards the victim-survivors.

Around 600 individuals from more than 70 organizations (national government agencies, private sector, and civil society organizations) attended the event.

### **Women and Children Protection Division (WCPD) Summit**

The 2018 WCPD Summit was conducted with the objective of analysing and sharing best practices and relevant experiences which can be used in furthering their duties and commitments in the field. 460 participants composed of WCPD investigators, women and children protection advocates, partners from other law enforcement agencies, WCPC Advisory Council, government and Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, as well as representatives from the legal and academic institutions from across the country attended the event.

### **Labor Education Seminar by DOLE**

The Department’s Regional Offices conducted various labor education seminar orientations to at least 39,839 individuals composed of PESO Managers, students, guidance counselors, barangay officials, workers and commuters to increase public awareness. IEC materials were also distributed during the orientation.

To prevent children from becoming victims of child labor, the Department has profiled and identified 300 child laborers and were provided educational assistance.

Nine hundred eighty-three (983) child laborers were also provided with various assistance such as referral to Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), alternative learning system of the Department of Education (DepEd), medical assistance from Department of Health (DOH), Skills Training provided by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) while 451 became beneficiaries of Project Angel Tree.

#### **D. Other Awareness Campaigns**

- PNP distributed a total of 2,735 copies of Standard Operating Procedure on Trafficking in Persons Manual to various Police Regional Offices so as to capacitate the WCPD personnel nationwide in handling cases of trafficking, among others concerning women and children.
- PNP also engaged the community through TV, radio and Facebook Live Interviews, printing and distribution of information materials, and posting of information materials in the social media platforms. Topics tackled in these settings were the mode of the commission of the crime and the special laws penalizing such crime. During these activities, the community were also encouraged to immediately report incidents to concerned agencies through contact details provided.
- PCW redesigned, reprinted and distributed 6,865 copies of the Anti-Trafficking flyer/briefer during the following PCW organized activities:
  1. 2018 Women's Month Celebration in GSIS Theatre, Pasay City, Kalibo, Aklan,
  2. University of Southeastern Philippines, Davao City, in "Biyaya ng Pagbabago"
  3. caravan launching in Quezon City last April 2018
  4. 18-Day Campaign to End VAW activities from November 25 to December 12, 2018. Soft copies were also uploaded in PCW GAD digital library.
- IACAT Nationals and Regions attended to several press conference to tackle current issues on human trafficking and to inform the public of the different projects and programs of IACAT.
- The IACAT supported and participated the "Kabisig Philippine Government Expo and Trade Fair 2018 with the theme "Pamahalaan at Mamamayan: Kapit-bisig sa Pagbabago at Kaunlaran" on July 10 – 12, 2018 at the Trinoma Mall, Quezon City. This is a one-stop government information exhibit which features office profiles, service facilities, projects, programs and accomplishments. This was participated by over twenty government agencies that showcased their respective programs toward aggressive information dissemination.
- The IACAT supported the launched of the AlamBaU.ph, a Philippine online hub and resource center that educates, supports, and connects stakeholders towards the protection of Filipino children against online sexual abuse and exploitation (OSAEC). This was developed by DAKILA and The Asia Foundation (TAF) in collaboration with other stakeholders working on combating OSAEC. The



website was made especially for kids, teens, parents, and teachers which can be viewed through different local dialects allowing all intended viewers to understand and appreciate the content. It provides relevant information from signs and elements of OSAEC to hotlines and education materials of various agencies and organizations working against OSAEC.

- IACAT Advocacy Committee (ADVOCOM) and partners printed and published the following information materials:
  - 10,000 copies of Primers of RA No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364
  - 10,000 copies of Primers of RA 10906 or the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act
  - 50,000 copies of IACAT 1343 Actionline Posters
  - 10,000 copies of IACAT 1343 Actionline Stickers
  - 1,000 copies of IACAT 1343 Actionline Polo Shirts
  - 50,000 copies of Victim Witness Information Sheets translated from English language to four (4) local languages: Filipino, Ilokano, Bisaya, and Bikolano
  - 1,700 copies of the Money Laundering Dimension of TIP and on-going revision of the Training Manual on Investigations and Prosecution of TIP cases

#### **E. Capacity-Building Activities**

IACAT member-agencies continued to conduct trainings for prosecutors, law enforcers, social workers and front line workers on the expanded anti-trafficking law and other skills critical to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons including protective care and assistance to victims.

#### **DOJ**

IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces all over the country conducted a total of **one hundred thirty-six (136) training, capacity-building and seminars** on basic, specialized and advanced TIP and other related topics which were attended by a total of **6,593 participants**. 2,098 came from private sectors and non-government organizations while 4,495 are government personnel. 19 of the total trainings were organized and conducted by DOJ-IACAT and Task Forces, while 117 were organized by other member agencies and partners, in which activities IACAT assisted by providing resource speakers.

#### **DSWD**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted **Trauma Informed Care Trainings** to DSWD personnel that will assist them in addressing possible trauma of victim-survivors of trafficking. TIC refers to how organizations and service providers think about and respond to survivors of trauma. It encompasses an understanding of the prevalence of trauma, its impact on survivors and the complex path to recovery. TIC is grounded between the service provider's approach and the

survivor's feeling of self-worth that will empower and help the survivor's recovery from the traumatic experiences.

This year, the Field Offices simultaneously conducted the Gender Responsive Case Management for Social Workers of RRPTP and Residential Care Facilities handling TIP cases to enhance their skills in managing and handling victim-survivors of trafficking utilizing the principle of human rights, gender and strengths perspective.

Further, the multi-disciplinary approach was spearheaded by the Department to partner government, non-government organizations and private sector in providing adequate services needed by victim-survivor of trafficking towards their recovery and reintegration. Partner agencies have an obligation to cooperate effectively with the relevant authorities in other government, non-government and other stakeholders in order to ensure a comprehensive service to victims-survivors of trafficking.

<b>Field Office</b>	<b>Training</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
XI	Multi-Disciplinary Team Training in Handling and Managing Cases of OSEC for Municipal Social Welfare	Aug. 22-24, 2018
IV-A	Training on Trauma Informed Care for LGU and Centers and Institution Social Workers	Jun 27-29, 2018
III	Orientation on the RRPTP cum Protocol on Rescue Operation	July 17-19, 2018
V	Learning Intervention on Trauma Informed Care	June 20-22, 2018
VII	Training on Recovery, Social and Economic Reintegration for Trafficked Persons and OSEC for Service Providers	May 23-25, 2018
I	Barangay and Youth Volunteer Against Trafficking Assembly cum Training	June 2018
NCR	Gender Responsive Case Management (40 participants)	Oct. 2 – 6, 2018
NCR	Multi-Disciplinary Team Training in Handling and Managing Cases of OSEC To capacitate stakeholders and front liners in managing and handling victim-survivors of OSEC. (100 participants)	May 22-25, 2018

In sum, there were 16 capacity building activities on the following:

- a. Training on Psychosocial Recovery and Socio – Economic Reintegration of Trafficked Persons for Social Workers
- b. Multi-Disciplinary Approach in Handling TIP and OSEC

- c. Training on Trauma Informed Care
- d. Training on Case Management of Victim-Survivors of Trafficking
- e. Capacity Building for Direct Service Providers on Addressing Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
- f. Orientation on RRPTP cum Protocol on Rescue Operation
- g. Barangay and Youth Volunteer Against Trafficking Assembly cum Training
- h. OSEC Orientation to PNP-WCPD and Barangay Social Workers

## PNP

The PNP-WCPC participated in several training workshops provided by the government and NGOs (e.g. AAPTIP AND IJM). There were 5 relevant courses conducted with the following details:

<b>Training/Course Title</b>	<b>No. of Batches</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>
Trafficking in Persons Specialist Investigation Course (TIPSIC)	2	58 PNP	AAPTIP
Basic Trafficking in Persons (BTIP) Seminar	3	147 PNP	PNP
Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Training	1	50 PNP	IJM
Advance Investigative Workshop (AIW) on ICAC	1	20 PNP 2 NBI	IJM
Training in Anti-Child Pedophile	1	26 PNP	PNP
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>275 PNP 2 NBI</b>	

## DFA

DFA Foreign Service Posts organized 14 specialized Anti-TIP Training with a total of 763 participants. The seminars were held in Los Angeles, Santiago, Washington DC, Chongqing, Hong Kong, Cairo, Damascus, and Muscat. 40 Officers and personnel at overseas posts also attend TIP-related training conducted by various agencies and organizations and sponsored by ILO, IOM and foreign embassies. The DFA's Foreign Service Institute also held a Foreign Service Officers' course to introduce basic procedures in protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of OFWs, resulting in training for 57 Foreign Service Officers.

## **BI**

BI conducted the Basic Immigration Officers Course (BIOC) attended by 100 immigrations officers in 2018. 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.

## **CFO**

CFO conducted two seminars on the issues of Filipinos in Intermarriage. The seminars discussed the following: 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.

## **DILG**

Recognizing the magnitude and complexity of TIP at the local level, the DILG in partnership with IACAT Secretariat and concerned government agencies, conducted two (2) batches of Capacity Building Seminars, as follows:

- Batch 1 on May 3-5, 2018 in Makati City for the Local Government of Makati City; and
- Batch 2 on October 16-18, 2018 at the Bayview Hotel, Manila for seven (7) Cities and Municipalities of Regions II, IV-A, and NCR, namely: Mabalacat, Pampanga, Meycauayan, Bulacan, Bacoar and Imus, Cavite, Taguig City, Caloocan City and Pateros

The capacity building for LGUs comprises of 6 modules, to wit: 1. Situationer on Migration and TIP; 2. Legal Frameworks; 3. Approaches in Developing Local Anti-TIP Ordinance; 4. Formulation of Local Protocol in Handling Victims of Trafficking with Workshop; 5. Steps in the Development of Anti-TIP Ordinance with sharing of Good Practices; and 6. Development of Ordinance with Workshop. Drafting of Local Ordinances to combat Trafficking in Persons for the eight (8) cities/municipalities is the expected output for this activity.

## **POEA**

The POEA organized the conduct of six (6) Multi-Stakeholders Round-up Against Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Minors/Underaged Female Migrant Domestic Workers in Mindanao, particularly in Parang and Buluan, Maguindanao and Cotabato City. The Round-ups were facilitated by different member-agencies of IACAT, local government unit, with one NGO partner, and recruitment industry associations. These

round-ups were in response to the 169 Bureau of Immigration endorsed-cases of deferred departures due to age disqualification of female domestic workers to KSA from Mindanao. The Round-ups were participated by 426 adult males and 318 adult females, who are different stakeholders from the local government units, including law enforcers, members of the academe, community leaders, and members of the NGOs.

Simultaneously, a similar campaign designed for the community youth leaders and senior high school leaders was conducted, *called Youth Leaders' Roundup Against Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Minors/Underaged Female Migrant Domestic Workers*. This was participated by 153 males and 346 females.

Two of the Round-ups were funded by an international organization. One Round-up was funded by two (2) private recruitment industry associations, partners of POEA. Three Round-ups were funded by the local government units.

Further, Region XII in Mindanao is among the source region of victims of minor/under aged female migrant domestic workers. On August 1, 2018, the POEA, with the funding support of ILO, conducted a Roll-Out of the National Illegal Recruitment Case Monitoring System in Region XII in General Santos City, participated by law enforcers, PESO managers and administrative officers of prosecution offices in Region XII. It was made a venue to apprise the participants of the issue and engage their support in the campaign against recruitment and deployment of minor/underaged female migrant domestic workers.

## **DOLE**

The DOLE's Regional Offices conducted various labor education seminar orientations to at least 39,839 individuals composed of PESO Managers, students, guidance counselors, barangay officials, workers and commuters to increase public awareness. IEC material was also distributed during the orientation.

Further, pursuant to DOLE Administrative Order No. 142, Series of 2018 (Guidelines on the Profiling of Child Laborers and Provision of Services to Remove them from Child Labor), the DOLE Regional Offices, including the DOLE NCR and DOLE Region 7 conducted orientation to Government Internship Program beneficiaries who were tapped as enumerators for the profiling of child laborers.

On 30 July – 3 August 2018 and 28 -31 August 2018, the DOLE conducted Orientation on the Database on Profiled Child Laborers and Database on Working Child Permit. The said orientation aimed to orient the ODLE Regional/Provincial/ Field Office child labor focal persons on the features and use of the : a) Working Child Permit Database and; b) Database on Profiled Child Laborers.

## **F. SIGNIFICANT TRAININGS WITH PARTNERS**

## Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership

- **Trauma Informed Care Training**

IACAT together with the implementing partners, The Salvation Army and the World Hope International, conducted a Trauma Informed Care Training for social workers on September 5-7, 2018 at the Palm Grass, The Cebu Heritage Hotel Cebu City.

The training was facilitated by certified coaches on trauma and its effects, coping strategies, processing of the trauma experience and future need in terms of safety and recovery. The training also introduced a therapeutic model that focuses on impairing traumatic memories from traumatic stress reaction through education about the natural reaction to trauma, mastery of coping skills, and desensitization to traumatic memories.

- **Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (POSE 2.0)**

Pursuant to the Child Protection Compact (CPC) partnership between the US government and the Philippine government to jointly implement a plan to address the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) and Child Labor Trafficking (CLT) in the Philippines which was signed last 11 April 2017, the International Justice Mission (IJM) and its consortium conducted the two **“Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation” (POSE) Trainings on 5 - 8 March 2018 and 9 – 11 October 2018..**

IJM is one of the key implementers identified by the US Government to assist the Philippine Government on CPC implementation. The said training will support effective law enforcement and prosecution of online sexual exploitation cases and help frontliners maximize obtaining and presenting digital evidence. The training was attended by **40 Prosecutors and 17 investigating LEA** from different Regions who have been handling and prosecuting trafficking in persons (TIP) cases, most of whom are members of IACAT Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (ATTF).

Seminar/Training	Date	Venue	Participants
Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children	5-8 March 2018	Cebu City	11 Prosecutors 2 Law Enforcers 10 IJM Prosecutors
Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation of Children	9-11 October 2018	Grand Hyatt Hotel, Taguig City	29 Prosecutors 15 Law Enforcers 5 IACAT Secretariat Officer 17 IJM Prosecutors

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>
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- **OPDAT Training (November 27-29, 2018)**

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, IACAT intelligence agents, 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 2018, the following trainings by the US DOJ OPDAT were conducted, to wit:

<b>Seminar/Training</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Workshop on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) For Investigators, Prosecutors and other IACAT Partners	13-14 June 2018	LM Metro Hotel, Zamboanga City	8 Prosecutors 10 Law Enforcers
Workshop on Countering Trafficking in Persons (TIP) For Region III Prosecutors and IACAT OpCen Agents	27-28 November 2018	Hotel Euro Asia, Angeles City	18 Prosecutors 25 IACAT Agents
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>61</b>

- **AAPTIP Trainings:**

<b>Seminar/Training</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Advanced Competency Enhancement Training for Judges, Prosecutors, Legal Researchers, Social Workers and Law Enforcement Investigators Handling TIP Cases	13-14 June 2018	PHILJA Training Center, Tagaytay City	12 Judges 10 Prosecutors 7 Court Social Workers 9 Law Enforcers 10 Paralegal
Prosecutor's Training of Trainers	5-9 March 2018	PHILJA Training Center,	9 Prosecutors

		Tagaytay City	
TIP Specialist Investigators Course	07 - 17 May 2018  8 June 2018	Bayview Hotel, Manila Island Cove, Cavite	53 Law Enforcers
Brownbag Discussion in Using Digital Forensic Evidence in TIP for OSEC Cases	26 June 2018	Hotel Jen, Pasay City	15 Prosecutors
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>125</b>

#### **G. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 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 2018, the IACAT 1343 Actionline received **53** reports, from calls and online or web reporting. From these reports, a total of **31** victims were assisted and served.

**Table 07. Breakdown of Received Reports from 2011 to 2018**

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Calls received through the Actionline</b>	<b>No. of Actual Case Reports received through calls and other modes</b>	<b>No. of Victims</b>
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
<b>2018</b>	<b>4,510</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>31</b>
Total	39,012	606	555

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 555 victims.

#### **H. 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 **32,929** passengers had their departures deferred due to incomplete/improper travel documents, misrepresentation, non-compliance to required papers in 2018. Vast majority of the passengers is deferred from departing due for doubtful purpose of travel and required to submit additional documents.

<u>OPERATIONS: DEPARTURE</u>	<u>ALLOWED</u>	<u>%</u>
FOR SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	27,137	82.5
FRAUDULENT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	97	.29
MISREPRESENTATION	1,885	5.73
UNVERIFIED EMPLOYMENT VISA	176	.54
NON-COMPLIANCE W/ PREVIOUS DEFERRED DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS	3,301	10.02
REFUSAL TO UNDERGO TCEU SECONDARY INSPECTION	5	.01
FRAUDULENT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS	10	.03
POSSIBLE TIP	318	.97
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>32,929</b>	<b>100%</b>

The BI, through the Travel Control Enforcement Unit (TCEU), remained strict in performing its mandate and were able to turn-over **352** potential cases of human trafficking to IACAT Task Forces. This number represents only 1% of the total number of passengers deferred by the BI.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Indorsed to IACAT	667 (1.5%)	104 (0.4%)	<b>352 (1.07%)</b>
Indorsed to POEA	601 (1.3%)	55 (0.2%)	<b>13 (.04%)</b>

Further, if the data in 2018 will be compared to the previous two years, it would reflect that an average of 36% of the total passengers referred for secondary inspection are usually deferred/disallowed to depart.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Allowed Departure	66,631 (59.52%)	56,446 (65.78%)	<b>62,317 (65.42%)</b>
Deferred Departure	45, 316 (40.48%)	29,357 (34.22%)	<b>32,929 (34.57%)</b>

Total	111,947	85,803	95,246
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## **I. Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Structures at the Local Level**

Acknowledging the importance of the roles and responsibilities of LGUs in the effective implementation of laws and issuances against Trafficking in Persons, the DILG continues to monitor the compliance of the Local government units on related laws.

Per monitoring report from the DILG Field Offices regarding LGU compliance on the establishment of the **Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women and Their Children** per RA 9208 (as amended) and RA 9262, as of December 31, 2018 the following percentage of compliance were reached:

- **56% (45) of the total 81 provinces** in the country have organized Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (PCAT-VAWC);
- **79% (115) of the total 145 cities** nationwide have established the City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (CCAT-VAWC); and
- **77% (1,151) of the 1,489 municipalities** in the country has Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (MCAT-VAWC)

For the localization of the anti-trafficking efforts at the community level, there are other basic institutions being utilized such as the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and Violence Against Women – Desk (VAW-Desk) as parallel mechanisms in the barangay to prevent trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The BCPC is an umbrella organization established in barangays that addresses VAW cases in a gender-responsive manner, managed by a person designated by Punong Barangay. Recognizing the importance of these structures, both could be a good tool to help prevent and address the trafficking of women and children at the community level.

As of December 2018, around 85.85% (36,094) of the total 42,044 barangays have already established its BCPC, while around 89.72% (37,223) of the 42,044 total barangays have existing VAW-DESK facilities.

## **II. Protection, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

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

DSWD implements the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons since 2011. RRPTP is a comprehensive program that ensures adequate recovery and reintegration services is provided to trafficked persons. Utilizing a multi-sectoral approach, it delivers a complete package of services that will enhance the psychosocial, social and economic needs of the clients. It also enhances the awareness, skills and capabilities of the clients, the families and the communities where

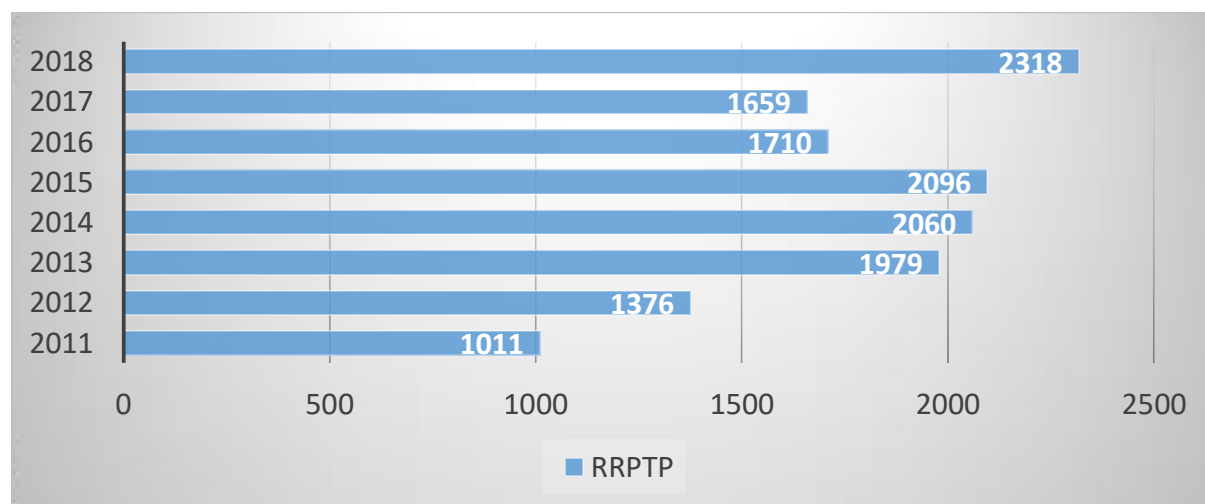
the trafficked persons will eventually return to. It also improves community-based systems and mechanisms that ensures the recovery of the victims-survivors, and prevent other family and community members from being victims of trafficking.

In 2018, the RRPTP served and assisted a total of **Two Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen (2,318)** identified trafficked persons. **1,732 (75%)** clients served are women while 611 (26%) are minors.

**No. of Trafficking Victim Served through RRPTP 2017 & 2018**

		2017		2018	
Purpose		Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illegal Recruitment		298	16.7%	295	12.7%
Labor Trafficking	Forced Labor	508		507	
	Involuntary Servitude		40.8%		22.74%
	Slavery	108		--	
Sex Trafficking		30		20	
Sex Trafficking	Prostitution	151		289	
	Sexual Exploitation	215	25.7%	391	39.3%
	Pornography	150		230	
Child Trafficking		54	.3%	64	2.7%
Removal/Sale of Organs		7	.6%	1	.04%
Repatriation		22	11.1%	40	1.72%
Adoption		4	.2%	4	0.2%
Others (Intercepted, Rescued)		112	6.8%	477	20.6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1659</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2318</b>	<b>100%</b>

Through the years of RRPTIP implementation, a total of **14,209 trafficked victims** were assisted and served, 17% of which comprises minor victims.



As noticed, **2018 recorded the highest number of trafficked victims served under the RRPTP**. This may be attributed to the increase in the operations conducted by law enforcement agencies 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. 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.<sup>9</sup>

## **B. Distressed and Undocumented Overseas Filipinos**

### **Social Welfare Attaché Office of the DSWD**

The Social Welfare Attaché Office (SWATO) acts as central authority of the DSWD on matters related to international and local social services for trafficked persons, undocumented and distressed Overseas Filipinos and their families and is responsible in the performance of the management functions to efficiently and effectively deliver timely responsive and appropriate services

Based on reports by the SWATO, a total of **24,859** Distressed Overseas Filipinos were served and assisted, showing 92% increase compared to the previous year with only 12,949 clients. Of the said number, 8,483 were documented and 13,832 were undocumented. The clients were served from the following source of referrals:

Source Of Referrals	Male	Female	Total
Malaysia	3,228	3,285	6,513
Jeddah, KSA	2,235	2,290	4,525
Dubai, UAE	1,082	2,853	3,935
Kuwait	497	1,750	2,247
Riyadh, KSA	511	1,302	1,813
Qatar	248	1,263	1,511
Hong Kong	158	1,126	1,284
Other Countries (referrals from different Agencies with no SWAtts)	281	206	487
OFWs Family Member in Philippines	1,350	1,194	2,544
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,590</b>	<b>15,269</b>	<b>24,859</b>

7% (1,666) of the clients served are victims of Trafficking in Persons and Illegal Recruitment. This is 361% more than the TIP victims served in the previous year. The

<sup>9</sup> Sec. 15. Coordination with DSWD, LSWDO, NGO and other relevant government agencies prior to the conduct of law enforcement operation.

increase may be attributable to the amnesty program for visa violations of the United Arab Emirates and detainees in Sandakan Sabah and undocumented children born at Post.

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.

### **DFA Foreign Service Posts**

The DFA assisted approximately 3,475 alleged victims of trafficking in persons and illegal recruitment case from January – December 2018, served at the following Regions:

Region		
Americas	408	12%
Asia and the Pacific	751	22%
Europe	97	3%
Middle East Africa	2,219	64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>100%</b>

Assistance includes referral to appropriate agencies, coordination with the host government, contract buy-out, repatriation, shelter, provision of personal necessities in the shelter, medical aid, financial assistance, and payment of legal fees.

### **CFO Assistance-to-Nationals**

During the reporting period, the CFO assisted five (5) reported human trafficking cases under its Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Program, a separate source of cases aside from the CFO's 1343 Actionline. These five (5) cases involved labor trafficking. Victims are (1) male and four (4) female and were trafficked in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and USA.

Children victims of trafficking were placed in Haven for Children, Haven for Women and Girls and in the Reception and Study Center for Children (RSCC) for children ages 0-6. Male children were placed in Nasyon ng Kabataan and Haven for Children. These children were provided the package of services while at the center which includes psychological services and referral to other professionals whenever necessary.

### **C. Residential Care Facilities**

To date, 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).

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Name of Residential Care Facility</b>	<b>Clients Served</b>	<b>Location (Region)</b>	<b>Total Number of Facilities</b>
<b>Children</b>	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, X, XII, CARAGA	11
<b>Youth and Women</b>	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
<b>Older Persons</b>	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
<b>Individual and Family in Crisis Situations</b>	HerSpace	Male & Female	VII	1
	Jose Fabella Center	Male	NCR	1
	Processing Center for Displaced Person	Male & Female	IX	1

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

DSWD staffs including center staffs were 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 pursues empowerment where people sees their values and status, planning and implementing interventions and monitoring and evaluating their progress towards their successful recovery and reintegration with their families and into their communities.

Currently, the DSWD has an ongoing construction of separate and exclusive facility for TIP male victims. This facility is aimed to provide a specialized care to ensure recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victim into the mainstream society.

Special services for victims with disabilities such as assistive devices or access to sign language interpreters were being facilitated when assessed to be needed by the TIP victim under the custody of the DSWD. Further, most of the residential care facilities of the DSWD have accessibility features to cater to persons with disability pursuant to BP 344 or the Accessibility Law and the DSWD Accreditation Standards for Residential Care Facilities.

The case management of PWD-TIP victims are being handled by case workers/managers who have special skills needed and assisted by another worker with the needed skill, to ensure that communication is not hampered between the two and that correct assessment or appreciation of the nuances of the case is made by the case manager leading to provision of appropriate intervention to the victim-survivor of TIP. However, as of the reporting period, no TIP victims with special needs were assisted.

#### **D. Other Structural Development for TIP Victims**

- In June 2018, the DSWD held the ground breaking ceremony for the establishment of a Residential Care Facility for Male Victims of Trafficking in Mindanao in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Tagum City. This facility is aimed to provide a specialized care to ensure recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked victim into the mainstream society. The initiative is funded through the PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) PILLAR II. The PAMANA is a national government's program and framework for peace and development, implemented in areas affected by conflict and communities covered by existing peace agreements.
- The NBI-AHTRAD inaugurated the Child-Sensitive Interview Room at the office of the Anti-Human Trafficking Division held last 22 June 2018. This Child-Sensitive Investigation Room is equipped with state of the art equipment suitable for conducting Child Forensic Interview. Built in accordance with internationally accepted standards, it has a child-friendly space with a safe and neutral setting, free from unnecessary distractions. Adjacent is a viewing room where documentation of the interview may be made by investigators and social workers.

The project was made possible with the support of the Federal Government of Australia and the Asia Foundation.

#### **E. Victim Witness Coordinator's (VWC) Program**

This year, additional VWC was hired and detailed in Region XI to assist Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force XI in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases and ensure that the needs and rights of the victims are attended to.

The VWC program continues to provide concrete output in terms of assisting victims in the preparation of their court trial and availing government services and protection with a total of **two hundred twenty-five (225)** victims/witnesses served and assisted.

#### **F. IACAT Operations Center**

The IACAT Operations Center (OpCen) as support unit to the investigation, prosecution, and protection of victims of trafficking, located and supported **fourteen (14) victims and witnesses (10 were minors, all females)** to meet with prosecutors and testify in court. This reporting period, there were several witness location conducted but witnesses were not found or no longer interested to testify in Court, thus the decrease compared to the previous year. OPCEN also provided transportation and security assistance to **eighty-six (86) TIP victims and witnesses (62 were minors and mostly females)** for their scheduled court hearings and legal briefings, contributing to the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

Further, this year, OpCen vigorously augmented and assisted the law enforcement agencies in conduct of **thirteen (13) anti-trafficking operations**, particularly in major and big operations which require more intelligence agents to secure the vicinity and assist large number of rescued victims. As a result, **four hundred fifty-two (452) victims (82 were minors, mostly females) were rescued** and **twenty-five (25) persons were apprehended**.

Since 2013, OPCEN operatives located and persuaded a total of **two hundred thirty-two (232) 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 **eight hundred seven (807) 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.

**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
2018	86	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>232</b>

#### **G. Other Victim Care Services provided by IACAT Member Agencies**

- POEA continuously provides free legal assistance to all victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking in person. The free legal assistance extends to preparation of sworn statement, appearance of POEA lawyers as Special Counsel for the complainants during preliminary investigation, and continuation of legal service in courts as Special Collaborating Prosecutors.
- BI provides temporarily custody inside BI's offices in the ports of entries to safeguard them against unjust opinion from other travelers and/or other airport personnel until the time they are all indorsed to IACAT task force.
- The DOH in cooperation with other government agencies will facilitate the provision of the needed assistance/services such as airport assistance and initial medical assessment/evaluation, ambulance conduction, referral and/or confinement in DOH hospital, endorsement to non-DOH health facilities, financial assistance, PhilHealth membership coverage, medical escort services and psycho-social counseling pursuant to the implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP).
- The Philippine Embassies and Consulates provide the following services:
  1. Request host countries to secure the safety and the welfare of Filipino victims and ensure respect for their human rights.
  2. Provide temporary shelter, basic necessities, and emergency medical and other necessary services to Filipino victims overseas, both males and females.
  3. Repatriate Filipino victims upon their consent. If the victim is a minor, then repatriation shall be mandatory. This entails negotiation and payment of exit visas, immigration penalties, and payment of airline tickets.
  4. Provide lawyers and payment for legal costs:
    - a. For the prosecution of traffickers in the host country; or
    - b. The application of social benefits for the Filipino victim as allowed by the host country
  5. Referral to appropriate rehabilitation of reintegration service providers (DSWD, NGOs, etc.)
    - a. Organize TIP awareness workshops/fora for members of the Filipino community.
    - b. Some Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) maintain a shelter called the Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center (MWOFRFC) where victims of TIP temporarily reside while waiting for the resolution of their cases or their repatriation.

- The following care services are available to trafficking victims as provided for in the Manual of Operation in the management of Child Labor, Illegal Recruitment and Trafficking in Persons:
  - DOLE lawyers shall provide legal counselling to victims of IR, local trafficking and child labor.
  - Endorsement to Livelihood Assistance under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program.
  - Job Search Assistance - Focal persons shall register the victims in the Phil-Jobnet or refer the victim with the nearest PESO or to private employment agencies with the job orders suitable to the victim.
- To prevent children from becoming victims of child labor, DOLE has profiled and identified 300 child laborers and was provided educational assistance. Nine hundred eighty-three (983) child laborers were also provided with various assistance such as referral to Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), alternative learning system of Department of Education (DepEd), medical assistance from Department of Health (DOH), Skills Training provided by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) while 451 became beneficiaries of Project Angel Tree.
- Project Angel Tree is a component of the DOLE's Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program which provides an array of social services that ranges from food, clothing, educational assistance or school supplies and even work and training opportunities made available by sponsors or benefactors or "angels" to child laborers and their families. It aims to improve the economic and social conditions of child laborers and their families and increase the number of allies and advocates of child labor preventions and elimination. In addition, 1,085 parents of identified child laborers in various regions were provided a livelihood assistance in the amount of Php20,000.00 each.

### **III. Prosecution and Law Enforcement**

#### **A. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Operations**

##### **National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)**

The NBI-Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) conducted thirty-two (32) operations nationwide causing the arrest of sixty-seven (67) offenders and the rescue of six hundred twenty (620) victims. One hundred twenty three (123) of whom are minors. In 2018, NBI-AHTRAD investigated a total of two hundred one (201) Illegal Recruitment cases, 75 (37%) of which were filed in Court.

This year, AHTRAD significantly increased its operations with more than 191% compared to the previous year. Further, a Child Sensitive Interview Room equipped with state of the art equipment suitable for conducting Child Forensic Interview was established and inaugurated on 22 June 2018. The Child Sensitive Interview Room was built in accordance with internationally accepted standards, it has a child-friendly space with a safe and neutral setting, free from unnecessary distractions. Adjacent is a viewing room where documentation of the interview may be made by investigators and social workers.

### Philippine National Police (PNP)

The PNP has investigated a total of **three hundred (300)** TIP cases, which resulted to the **rescued of 1,039 victims and arrested 498 suspects**.

#### PNP Anti-Trafficking Operations 2018

		2018
<b>No. of Rescued Victims</b>	Male Adults	102
	Female Adults	460
	Male Minor	107
	Female Minor	370
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1039</b>
<b>Suspects</b>	Arrested	298
	At-Large	200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>

These investigation were broken down according to the following exploitative purposes:

Sexual Exploitation (Traditional/Prostitution)	<b>182</b>
Sexual Exploitation (OSEC/Pornography)	<b>41</b>
Sale of Organ	<b>0</b>
Forced Labor	<b>39</b>
Slavery	<b>8</b>
Engaging in Armed Conflict	<b>4</b>
Other Types of Exploitation	<b>26</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>

The entrapment and rescue operations were conducted in coordination with the local police, in partnership with the DSWD, and with the support of the Destiny Rescue Philippines, a local NGO, and the International Justice Mission (IJM).

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 1,962 anti-trafficking operations conducted through the combined efforts of PNP and NBI.

**Table Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2018**

		<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Total</b>
PNP	Operations	222	201	267	329	233	206	<b>300</b>	<b>1758</b>
	Victim Rescued	963	455	804	1505	1118	669	<b>1039</b>	<b>6553</b>
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	375	245	377	566	421	390	<b>498</b>	<b>2872</b>
NBI	Operations	27	26	38	48	22	11	<b>32</b>	<b>204</b>
	Victim Rescued	257	383	397	303	112	40	<b>620</b>	<b>2112</b>
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	110	106	118	151	52	14	<b>123</b>	<b>674</b>

The operations significantly increase in 2018 with the robust efforts of law enforcements through the support and assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations and International counterparts.

## **B. DOLE Sagip Batang Manggagawa**

The Sagip Batang Manggagawa (or Rescue the Child Laborers) is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child laborers in extremely abject conditions. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions which is composed of the DOLE, DSWD and law enforcement agencies as core members. From April to September 2018, the SBM Quick Action Teams conducted four (4) rescue operations, two (2) in the National Capital Region and 1 each in Regions VI and VIII) wherein 18 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.<sup>10</sup>

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 composed of **two hundred twenty-six (226)** prosecutors. 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. In 2018, the total the number of persons convicted is **446** in **446** TIP convictions since 2005, as reflected below:

TIP Convictions 2005 -2018		
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
2012	26	32
2013	26	35
2014	58	61
2015	54	52
2016	45	55
2017	58	48
<b>2018</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>446</b>

Note that conviction this year has increased by 97% compared to the previous year.

### Surveillance and Rescue Operations

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<sup>10</sup> Chapter 6: Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice of the Philippine Development Plan 2017 - 2022

From 2012 to 2018, the task forces assisted law enforcers in the conduct of **four hundred seventeen (417)** operations rescuing **three thousand thirty-three (3,033)** and identified and arrested **six hundred forty two (642)** offenders.

**ATTF Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2018**

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
<b>2018</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>3,033</b>	<b>642</b>

For the Port-Based operations, 6 Task Forces received and processed **one thousand nine hundred seventy-nine (1,979)** deferred departure incidents since 2012.

**Table 21. Port-Based Operations 2012-2018**

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
<b>2018</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>13,214</b>	<b>157</b>

## 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	
<b>2018</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>2,098</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>30,121</b>	<b>45,451</b>	

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

There is a significant progress in the implementation of the Prosecutor's TIP Case Management System (PTCMS) since it was launched in 2017. The PTCMS is a web-based intranet application being utilized by the Regional Prosecutor's Office through the 16 Anti-Trafficking Task Forces to assist in the monitoring, handling and managing of TIP cases. IACAT Secretariat is strictly monitoring the regular case updates on the PTCMS with the development of a monitoring tool specific to ensure the compliance of all IACAT Administrative Staff in-charge of updating the PTCMS.

A case monitoring team and IACAT Administrative Staff assigned to 16 Task Forces were mobilize to monitor and update TIP cases in Prosecutor's Offices and Regional Trial Courts. To assist IACAT on the case monitoring, Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) of the Supreme Court issued the following:

- OCA Circular No. 20-2018: directing all Judges and Clerks of Court of the RTC to furnish IACAT a copy of decisions in Trafficking in Persons; and
- OCA Circular No. 208-2018: directing all Judges, Clerks of Court and/or Officer-in-Charge of the RTC to allow IACAT Administrative Staff direct access to court records pertaining to Trafficking in Persons cases.

#### **E. Statistical Reports on TIP Cases**

In 2018, IACAT monitored one hundred forty (140) TIP cases filed and pending before the Prosecutor's Offices and Regional Trial Courts.

##### **TIP Cases Filed with DOJ in 2018**

Status of Trafficking Cases	Number of TIP Cases	%
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Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	18	13%
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	14	10%
Filed in Court	108	77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

#### **TIP Cases from the passage of RA 9208 to present**

<b>Status of Trafficking Cases for Investigation, 2003-2018</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%age</b>
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	50	1.5%
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	419	11.5%
Pending Petition for Review	5	.2%
Filed in Court	2912	86.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3386</b>	<b>100%</b>

IACAT also monitored the cases filed before the Regional Trial Courts and the data would show that most cases (40%) are still undergoing trial. 39% of cases either dismissed, archived, or with standing warrant of arrest. The remaining 21% are the decided cases.

<b>Status of Trafficking Cases Filed in Court, 2003-2018</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%age</b>
On Trial	1171	40%
Dismissed in Court	489	17%
Archived	520	18%
With Standing Warrant of Arrest	121	4%
Submitted for Decision	12	.4
Decided	599	20.6%
<i>Acquittals</i>	- 155(26%)	
<i>Convictions</i>	- 444(74%)	



Total	2912	100%
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#### F. Court of Appeals Decided Cases

Assailed Judgment of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) before the Court of Appeals	Decision of the Court of Appeals	Relevant Points from the Court of Appeals Decision
<p>RTC of Quezon City, in Criminal in Criminal Case No. GL-Q-12-176703 for Qualified Trafficking in Persons and Criminal Case No. GL-Q-12-176704 for violation of Section 5(c) of Republic Act No. 7610.</p> <p>On Judgment dated March 29, 2017, the trial court acquitted all the accused Carmelita Tizon, Gloria N. Osorio, Nida R. Vicente, Maria Victoria S. Portem, Elena M. Osi, Julieta P. Castro, Angelina A. Nilo, to the exception of accused Tizon, who was solely convicted in Criminal Case No. GL-Q-12-176704.</p>	<p>On 3 May 2018, the Court of Appeals <b>MODIFIED</b> the decision convicting the six (6) accused-respondents for violation of Qualified Trafficking of Minors under Section 4(e) of R.A. No. 9208 and Child Prostitution under Section 5(c) of R.A. No. 7610.</p> <p>They are sentenced to serve the penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of Php2,000,000.00 for Qualified Trafficking of Minors and penalty of imprisonment of 12 to 16 years for violation of Child Prostitution.</p> <p>While, accused-respondent Julieta P. Castro is Acquitted in both Criminal Cases.</p>	<p>1. Double Jeopardy</p> <p>The rule on double jeopardy is not absolute. The state may challenge the acquittal of the accused: (1) where the prosecution is deprived of a fair opportunity to prosecute and prove its case, tantamount to a deprivation of due process; (2) where there is a finding of mistrial; or (3) where there has been a grave abuse of discretion.</p> <p>2. In proving that the accused-respondent were guilty of the crimes charged</p> <p>The trial court inexplicable failed to consider all the attending circumstances of the cases declaring that there was no proof that accused-respondents hired or maintained the victim-witnesses for prostitution and pornography despite the straightforward and corroborative statements of prosecution witnesses. The prosecution presented minor victims themselves who categorically testified on their respective age, how they were referred to the club, the acts that they were made to do, and more importantly, the fact that the accused-respondents maintained them as GROs and profited from their acts of prostitution and pornography. While the police authorities, on their part, narrated that when they conducted the entrapment operation, they personally saw the unlawful activities happening inside Grand Amihan.</p> <p>3. Conspiracy</p>

		<p>In addition to proving the elements of the offenses charged, the testimonies of the victim-witnesses also established conspiracy among the accused-respondents. Direct proof is not essential to show conspiracy. It need not be shown that the parties actually came together and agreed in express terms to enter in to and pursue a common design. Proof of concerted action before, during or after the crime, which demonstrated their unity of design and objective is sufficient. As categorically recounted by the victim-witnesses under oath, the actions of the accused-respondents reveal a “common purpose and a community of interest indicative of conspiracy”, and that is to maintain them as GROs of Grand Amihan for purposes of exploitation by offering them as GROs of Grand Amihan for purposes of exploitation by offering them for prostitution and pornography, for profit and advantage.</p>
<p>RTC of Angeles City, in Criminal Case No. 14-11293 for violation of R.A. No. 9208</p> <p>The assailed Decision dated 9 October 2015 acquitted Laynie Yumul y Bigol of the crime charged.</p>	<p>On 27 June 2018, the Court of Appeals <b>REVERSED and SET ASIDE</b> the decision of the lower Court. The Appellate Court hereby finds accused-respondent Laynie Yumul y Bigol guilty of Qualified Trafficking of Minor and sentenced to suffer the penalty of life imprisonment and to pay a fine of Php2,000,000.00.</p>	<p>1. The trial court in its assailed Decision formulated its own list of elements that exonerated the accused-respondent.</p> <p>The elements that should only be proved by the Prosecution are (1) if AAA is a minor at the time of the commission of the offense against, which was already established by her birth certificate; (2) whether accused-respondent recruited, obtained, hired, provided, offered, transported, transferred, harbored, or received AAA, a minor, for the purpose of exploitation, any of which constitute as an act of trafficking of persons enumerated under Section 3(a) in relation to Section 4(a) of R.A. No. 9208. The second element was proved by AAA’s extensive testimony on how she was hired and maintained by Yumul in order to be sexually exploited in X Bar.</p> <p>The demand of the trial court on further proof on whether Yumul employed certain</p>

		<p>means to facilitate the trafficking and whether the latter conspired with other persons in exploiting AAA, a minor is unnecessary and indicative of arbitrariness.</p> <p>2. Defense of accused-respondents that he had no knowledge of AAA's age and that it was AAA's mother, who allegedly made AAA work in X Bar.</p> <p>These defenses by Yumul, even if true, have absolutely no bearing upon this case of human trafficking. Neither good faith nor lack of knowledge of the victim's age cannot operate in favor of the accused.</p> <p>3. AAA's delay in identifying Yumul in open Court</p> <p>This delay should not be taken against her as she was able to offer an acceptable reason for such during her cross-examination. Further, the Court of Appeals agreed to the OSG's position that a clear identification of the person of the accused by the private complainant is not a requirement, as the identity of Yumul was never even made an issue in this case.</p>
<p>On 15 April 2015 Decision of RTC of Pasay City, the court finds accused Aquilina M. Marajas guilty of Illegal Recruitment in Criminal Case No. R-PSY-12-055571-CR and sentenced to suffer the indeterminate penalty of imprisonment ranging from 6 to 10 years, and to pay a fine of P200,000.00.</p> <p>In Criminal Case No. R-PSY-12-05572, accused Aquilina M. Marajas and Raymond Pilac (BI</p>	<p>On 6 June 2018, the Court of Appeals rendered the following judgement:</p> <p>The Decision for Illegal Recruitment case against Aquilina M. Marajas was <b>AFFIRMED with MODIFICATION</b> that increasing her indeterminate penalty of imprisonment to 12 – 20 years and shall pay a fine of P1,000,000.00.</p> <p>The Decision for</p>	<p>Prosecution failed to present sufficient evidence of accused-appellant Pilac's participation in the commission of the crime of Trafficking in Persons as principal by direct participation or as conspirator for the following reasons:</p> <p>1. Accused-appellant Pilac assessment of private complainant and her travel documents was pursuant to the DOJ Memorandum dated February 3, 2012. That he did not subject private complainant to secondary inspection because the latter had a Chinese visa, which could only be obtained after submission of the necessary documents, and he observed that private complainant was decent. Mere lapses of accused-appellant Pilac can not be</p>

<p>Officer) guilty of violation of Section 5(e ) of R.A. No. 9208 and sentenced to suffer the penalty of 15 years imprisonment and each to pay a fine of P500,000.00.</p>	<p>Trafficking in Persons against Aquilina M. Maranas is likewise <b>AFFIRMED</b>.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Decision for Trafficking in Persons against Raymond Pilac was <b>REVERSED and SET ASIDE</b>. Resultantly, accused-appellant Raymond M. Pilac is <b>ACQUITTED</b>.</p>	<p>equated to criminal intent. Further, although the Counsel of the accused-appellant Pilac failed to file his Formal Offer of Documentary Evidence, the RTC should have considered such Memorandum, being a government issuance and should have taken judicial notice thereof, without need of evidence under Section 1, Rule 129 of the Rules of Court.</p> <p>2. Prosecution witnesses failed to present and state accused-appellant Pilac's overt acts which could have shown that he knowingly facilitated, assisted or helped in the exit of private complainant from the country for the purpose of promoting trafficking in persons. It is basic in the rule of evidence that bare allegations, unsubstantiated by evidence, are not equivalent to proof. The Court of Appeals note that evidence of intentional participation is imperative in criminal prosecution.</p> <p>3. Prosecution failed to show that accused-appellant Marajas and accused-appellant Pilac conspired to commit the alleged crime of Trafficking in Persons. A review of the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses reveals that there were no coordinated movements – before, during, and after the commission of the crime – between Marajas and Pilac. The Court of Appeals reiterate that criminal conspiracy must always be founded on facts, not on mere inferences, conjectures and presumption, thus it must be proven just like any other crime accusation, that is, independently and beyond reasonable doubt.</p>
<p>RTC of Tagum in Criminal Cases Nos. 19762 to 19769, 20112 and 20113.</p> <p>The case consists of ten (10) criminal complaints for Qualified Human Trafficking as well as</p>	<p>On 26 September 2018 ruling of the Court of Appeals, the appellate court found sufficient basis to <b>REVERSED</b> the findings of the trial court and found the accused Marian Sedano y Rebuta guilty</p>	<p>Public Respondent gave great weight to the fact that the Private Complainants themselves voluntarily applied to work at the Bar and they misrepresented their ages to qualify for such work</p> <p>The Appellate Court ruled that as explicitly stated in the law, the elements of means is irrelevant and need not be</p>

<p>violation of R.A. 7610, as the victims therein were four minors. The RTC in its decision acquitted both the accused in all the cases.</p> <p>This the first conviction of RATTF XI by was of Petition for Review before the Court of Appeals</p>	<p>of five (5) counts for violation of Section 4(a), qualified by Section 6(a) of Republic Act 9208, as amended by Republic Act 10364, in relation to Section 12-D paragraph 2, Article VIII of R.A. No. 7610 as amended by R.A. No. 9231.</p> <p>The Appellate court sentenced the accused of Life Imprisonment and was fined Php 2,000,000.00 for each count. Each of the minor victims were likewise awarded Php 500,000.00 as moral damages and Php 100,000.00 as exemplary damages.</p>	<p>proven when the victim involved are children. In here, the minority of the 5 Private Complainants were proven through their respective birth certificate. They being mere children, they are already considered victims of trafficking even if the means employed, as enumerated in the law, is wanting. The victim's consent is rendered meaningless due to the coercive, abusive or deceptive means employed by perpetrators of human trafficking. Even without the use of coercive, abusive or deceptive means, a minor's consent is not given out of his or her own free will.</p>
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## **G. International Cooperation**

### **PNP International Operations**

- PNP in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Malaysia, the WCPC rescued 37 female and Singapore recruited as wine sellers and entertainers in the bars but ended up as sex workers. The conduct of investigation resulted to filing of cases against 14 local facilitators and 9 immigration officers who assisted the victims.
- The Office of the Police Attache in Pakistan has reported a TIP case in Tajikistan involving 26 Overseas Filipino Workers allegedly working illegally in an Orphanage Institution in Dushanble, Tajikistan. There were 11 female adult victims who were able to come back to the Philippines. They were interviewed and subjected to medical examination. The case is under investigation in coordination with the BI, DOLE/POEA, and NBI

### **INTERPOL Notices**

The PCTC maintains coordination with other law enforcement agencies through Information Exchange. To sustain the Philippine Government's initiatives against human trafficking, Interpol NCB-Manila maintains several projects such as I-24/7 Global Police Communication System, and INTERPOL Notices.

The PCTC participated the INTERPOL-Singapore activity entitled "Tabletop Training on Investigating Trafficking in Human Beings" held at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation, 18 Napier Road, Singapore on 20-24 August 2018. The said activity was organized for law enforcement officers with the aim of enhancing their capacities to identify and combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling criminal networks.

### **Reports from National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)**

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) notifies the OOC for every report, which averages from 100 to 200 reports on a daily basis. These reports are being assessed and evaluated by the OOC through the IACAT Intelligence Agents detailed therein, based on the CyberTipline Level provided by the NCMEC. Notable investigations and/or prosecutions are as follows:

- By virtue of an NCMEC Report stating that a certain person in Dagupan City, Pangasinan is selling child exploitative images (CEI) online, the OOC was able to conduct physical and technical surveillance on, and was able to obtain a search warrant against the subject on 02 July 2018. Seized from the subject were laptops, mobile phones, and storage devices, which proved positive for CEI during the initial forensic stage conducted by the OOC Forensic Examiner.
- In June 2018, the OOC requested by the NBI to assist in the implementation of a search warrant in Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte, against an American national, who was reported committing prohibited acts under R.A. No. 9775. In particular, the OOC personnel conducted initial forensic incident response on the computer of the subject, which resulted positive for existence of CEI. This led to the apprehension of the subject.

### **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 2018, a total of **199** 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 18% compared to number of RSOs denied entry in 2017.

### **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)**

The Philippine government continued to cooperate with other countries in the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

(MLAT). In 2018, DOJ Legal Division received and processed 17 requests for international cooperation on an investigation involving trafficking. 7 of which were completed and the remaining is still on-going. The requesting countries are Netherlands, Australia, Indonesia, UK, Norway, Peru, Sweden, Israel, and France.

#### **IV. Partnership and Networking**

##### **A. Local Network and Partnership**

#### **Appointment of the selected Non-Government Organization (NGO) Representatives**

Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9208, otherwise known as the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003,” as amended by R.A. No. 10364, otherwise known as the “Expanded Anti-Trafficking Act of 2012” established the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) composed of representatives from eleven (11) government agencies and three (3) representatives from non-government organizations (NGO) who shall include one (1) representative each from among the sectors representing women, overseas Filipinos, and children, with proven record of involvement in the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons shall be nominated by the government agency representatives of the Council for appointment by the President for a term of three (3) years.

The IACAT Secretariat following the Amended Guidelines on nomination and selection process for the NGO Sectoral Representatives (Resolution No. 005 s. 2018) which was approved and adopted in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regular Council Meeting held last 29 June 2018 opens to the Council the nomination the NGO Sectoral Representatives.

Thus, the Council recommends to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the appointment of the following NGOs and its representatives, who have been selected by a majority vote by the Council, for a term of three (3) years, and may be re-appointed for another three-year term, as the Council's sectoral representatives, to wit:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>NGO</b>	<b>Representatives</b>
<b>Women</b>	Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific	Primary: Jo Enrica “Jean” Enriquez Alternate: Aurora De Dios
<b>Children</b>	International Justice Mission	Primary: Atty. Samson D. Inocencio Secondary: Atty. Noel R.

		Eballe
<b>Overseas Filipinos</b>	Blas F. Ople Policy Center	Primary: Susan “Toots” V. Ople Secondary: Jerome A. Alcantara

## **PLAN International Memorandum of Agreement**

On 29 November 2018, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and child-focused development organization Plan International Philippines signed a Memorandum of Agreement in an effort to forge a stronger partnership and renew commitment to ending human trafficking and labor exploitation in the country. Signed by Department of Justice Secretary and IACAT Chairperson Menardo Guevarra and Plan International Philippines Country Director Dennis O’Brien, the Agreement intends to strengthen the multi-sectoral approach and develop multi-pronged efforts against human trafficking and labor exploitation. Under the MOA, Plan International Philippines, through its Safeguarding Against and Addressing Fishers’ Exploitation at Sea (SAFE Seas), Collaborative Action Against Trafficking (CAAT), Cyber Safe Spaces, and Girls Advocacy Alliance (Alliance) initiatives, shall provide support to related efforts of IACAT and recommend policies and programs that address human trafficking and labor exploitation.

## **Memorandum of Agreement with Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute**

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute signed a Memorandum of Agreement geared towards intensifying efforts to protect Overseas Filipino Workers from labor exploitation. In particular, the MOA provides that the parties shall:

- 1) Create a Task Force Against the Trafficking of OFWs, which shall be under the supervision of the IACAT Secretariat, that would serve as a hub for monitoring, tracking, and building up of cases against the forced labor trafficking of OFWs in partnership with relevant IACAT member-agencies.
- 2) Conduct capacity-building activities for designated members of the task force and ensure effective coordination with other IACAT member-agencies.
- 3) Develop an online case support and management system to monitor priority cases involving victims of human trafficking overseas with data analytics on the nature, trends, and dynamics of trafficking for OFWs for



policy making and program development; said case management system will be in compliance with the data privacy law.

This was signed on 10 December 2018 as one of the highlight of the International Day Against Trafficking celebration.

### **Development Academy of the Philippines**

IACAT was created to coordinate and monitor the implementation of R.A. 9208 and R.A. 10364, or the “Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012,” with the Department of Justice as the lead agency.

There is a need to have a stable management staff to ensure continuity of work. At present, the IACAT staff is composed of 10% DOJ Plantilla personnel performing IACAT Work in addition to their regular duties; and 90% or 126 personnel hired under a 6-month contract.

The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) known for its technical excellence and resource center on harnessing the creative capacity of human resources and leveraging knowledge (intellectual capital) for development, will assist IACAT for developing a proposed organizational structure and functional Statements for the IACAT Secretariat that fall squarely in the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission.

### **#Wetoo Campaign**

The Information Caravan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons is a program initially conceptualized by the Bureau of Immigration-Gender and Development Focal Point System (BI-GADFPS) through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to help alleviate and address the increasing number of victims of trafficking who are mainly women and children. The information caravan will popularize the mechanism of “Women Empowerment to address Trafficking of Women Overseas” or the #WeToo Campaign to address the adverse effects of trafficking.

The #WeToo Campaign is a potentially effective platform for other government agencies to collaborate and synergize with the Bureau of Immigration to promote their programs that will address Trafficking, promotion of Opportunities available in the country and providing right information for the jobs Overseas.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the IACAT member agencies, other partner agencies and civil society organizations to embark on a program entitled “The Information Caravan on ATIP PLUS Project 2018” or #WeToo Campaign was adopted and approved by the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) during

its regular council meeting (RCM) on 6 April 2018. With this, the Resolution Authorizing the Secretary of Justice as Chairperson of the IACAT to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the #WeToo Campaign was duly approved.

### **Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP) Philippines Working Group Meeting**

Initially launched in the United States in 2006, the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (FCACP) is a groundbreaking alliance between private industry and the public sector in the battle against commercial child pornography. It is managed by the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) and its sister organization, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). In the summer of 2009, ICMEC opened an office in Singapore, demonstrating its commitment to building the Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP). The APAC FCACP has been actively mapping out priorities and work streams, as well as expanding engagement with multiple stakeholders

On 18 October 2018, the APAC-FCACP Philippines Working Group continued the discussion on data-sharing and identified instances / situations / scenarios where there may be a need to review legal statutes that impede cross-sector / cross-department / intra-department / intra-industry collaboration and engagement. Next steps include finalizing and identifying key challenges that would require legal review and subsequent amendment to enable the diverse stakeholders on the WG to better combat online commercial sexual exploitation of children. On-going conversation with the National Privacy Commission on data privacy issues will be pursued, particularly advocating for changes to select statutes in existing legislation identified. There will also be continuous efforts to bring in the Philippines banking industry and other local remittance companies in the market place to engage with the working group.

### **Partnership with LGUs and NGO**

- The POEA has entered into partnerships with 50 local government units and 1 non-government organization on information dissemination campaign against illegal recruitment and human trafficking. Conducted 48 anti-illegal recruitment and anti-trafficking in persons seminar nationwide, with 1,695 male participants and 1544 female participants.
- Initial discussion on the possible partnership of IACAT XI with the Radio Emergency Operations Network, Inc. Region XI also known as RECON CENTRAL XI, a non-partisan, non-profit civic group concerned with public service, safety and security. Members of the said group are active volunteers of the Davao City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office which provides communication during disasters and

calamities. The group is also recognized and accredited by the PNP Communication Electronics Group Region XI and currently in cooperation with O.C.D. XI as a chartered member of the Rapid Emergency Telecommunication Team.

- IACAT XI signed a Memorandum of Agreement with LGU of Compostella Valley Province and the latter is officially a member of the network of IACAT XI. With this MOS signing, the commitment of the province of Compostella Valley in the fight against human trafficking was strengthened and joint projects in the province is being conceptualized.

## **B. International Network and Partnership**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking**

On 6 December 2018, Philippine government agencies, non-government and civil society organizations, Manila-based embassies and foreign missions as well as the international community came together at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Complex for the 4th Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking, a platform for continuing conversations to achieve a holistic and multidisciplinary cooperation in the fight against human trafficking in the Philippines. The Dialogue is anchored on the Manila Declaration to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking signed by 19 countries in 2015, including the Philippines.

The International Dialogue on Human Trafficking or the “Manila International Dialogue” is a gateway for the Philippines to engage more closely with the international community in order to catalyze an effective international response to trafficking in persons. Justice Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra led the event and emphasized the value of strong international cooperation.

The highlight of the Dialogues is the presentation of the specific policy recommendations that are necessary in addressing the existing gaps and challenges in the Philippine anti-trafficking response. Justice Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay-Villar led the ceremonial turnover of the policy agendas, underscoring the primary role of legislators in shaping the Philippine anti-trafficking response.

Senators Bam Aquino and Sherwin Gatchalian, as well as Representatives Bernadette Herrera-Dy, Sol Aragones, Marlyn Alonte and Cesar Sarmiento, were in attendance for the event and committed to champion the proposed policy agendas. The Dialogues have been organized by the Department of Justice Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking since 2015.

### **CPC High Level Dialogue to Mark Progress**

To mark the progress made in CPC implementation, the 1<sup>st</sup> High Level Dialogue to Mark Progress was conducted in two pilot Regions, National Capital Region (NCR) and Region 7 on 6 November 2018 and 7 November 2018, respectively.

The Dialogue was an opportunity for all participating Government Agencies and key implementing partners to discuss its respective efforts towards the overall objectives of the CPC partnership, as well as identify challenges and discuss activities planned for the year ahead. The CPC Partnership goal is to *improve the capacity of the Philippines and civil society to prosecute and convict child traffickers, to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care for child victims of these crimes, and to prevent online child sexual exploitation and child labor trafficking from occurring*. Dr. Kari Johnstone, Acting Director of the US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) will be attending to affirm U.S. support and commitment in the CPC implementation.

This CPC partnership also expanded IACAT's connection to new NGOs such World Hope International, The Salvation Army and World Vision International that assist IACAT in the implementation of the programs.

### **Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

In 2018, the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons concluded its 5-year program (2013-2018) with a remarkable 57 trainings, 60 meetings, 138 activities, and 21 workshops attended by 2,042 participants. These are in line with the implementation of 7 projects that focused on the improvement of the effective and ethical investigation of TIP and related cases for law enforcement agencies, effective and ethical prosecution of TIP cases for Prosecutors, and fair and timely adjudication of TIP cases for Judges.

As a project ender, IACAT and AAPTIP organized the last National Program Steering Committee to highlight the significant accomplishments and change stories in the implementation of AAPTIP in the Philippines held in August 2019. Further, the last Regional Steering Committee was also held to finally showcase the successful implementation of AAPTIP in the Regional level.

### **Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangement with Australian Embassy Manila for the ASEAN-ACT**

With the conclusion of the Australia – Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP: 2013 – 2018), the Government of Australia (GOA) is set to implement the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Program (ASEAN-ACT), a 10-year program (2018 – 2028) with an estimated AUD 80 Million investment that will continue Australia's work in enhancing the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons in

Southeast Asia. This includes support for the implementation of ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP).

The ASEAN-ACT follows the structural and operational mechanisms established in the implementation of the AAPTIP, with the retention of the National Program Steering Committee (NPSC) and the Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC). The NPSC will be responsible for the oversight of the Program/s activities in the Philippines while the RPSC will be responsible for oversight of the Program's regional activities. Both Committees are comprised of appointees both from the GOA and GOP.

On 21 December 2018, the Memorandum of Subsidiary Arrangement was finally signed by the Philippine government represented by Secretary of Justice Menardo I. Guevarra and the Australian Government, represented by Mat Kimberley, Chargé d'affaires of the Australian Embassy Manila.

**Investigative Trainings on Trafficking in Persons in partnership with United States Department of Justice - Criminal Division, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (USDOJ/OPDAT) and Philippine Society of Criminologists and Criminal Justice Professionals (PSCCJP)**

Investigative Trainings were held last 13-14 June 2018 at LM Hotel Zamboanga City and 28-29 November 2018 in partnership with USDOJ/OPDAT and PSCCJP. These trainings are designed to enhance the competencies of the law enforcers, social workers and prosecutors in combating human trafficking. It aims to better equip the participants with knowledge and skills in investigating and building up solid human trafficking cases to ensure a conviction as well as to establish better coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders..

**C. Government Assistance to Other Countries**

**Training of Cambodia's Royal Academy for Judicial Professionals**

ASEAN Skills Course on Trafficking in Persons for Specialist Prosecutors Training. As part of IACAT's commitment under the AAPTIP and ACTIP, ACP Ann Karen L. Go and ACP Ruth Bernabe attended as resource speakers during the abovementioned ASEAN Skills Training. The two prosecutors are the product of an intensive ToT program for specialist prosecutors in the Philippines and have developed the necessary skills in training and facilitating TIP seminars and workshops. Thus, they are chosen to co-facilitate the 5-day seminar and share their knowledge to Cambodian counterparts.

In a letter of appreciation from AAPTIP, it was noted that the two representatives demonstrated innovative training techniques to twenty-five participants from the

Cambodia's Royal Academy for Judicial Professionals. Further, the said event was also an opportunity for the Philippines to benchmark regional prosecutorial cooperation in addressing trafficking in persons and not just on law enforcement and legal investigative cooperation with the exchange of contact information between the Philippine and Cambodian prosecutors.

### **Zimbabwe Study Tour**

On 11 July 2018 a delegation from Zimbabwe National Defense University conducted a study tour in the Philippines. Assistant City Prosecutor Rey P. Inciong as the resource speaker gave briefings about IACAT as an institution as well as on the human trafficking situation in the Philippines and the country's strategy to address this issue.

### **Thailand Policy Meetings**

On 28-29 November 2018 the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the Royal Thai Government conducted a policy and practical level meetings with relevant government agencies involved in addressing trafficking in persons in the Philippines to share knowledge as well as best practices on anti-trafficking in persons. The delegation went to Haven for Girls at Marillac Hills Alabang on 29 November 2018 to have an actual experience on how to manage a safe house for trafficking in persons survivors.

Previous to the meeting, upon the request of the Royal Thai Government, the Philippine Government through the Department of Justice, humbly shared the Philippine's relevant programs and summary of accomplishments in addressing human trafficking. This information sharing is consistent to our commitment on the ASEAN Convention of Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) which strongly encourages cooperation and exchanged of expertise between and among ASEAN Member States in combating human trafficking. The Philippine Government is one with the Thai Government on its effort to step-up in combating this serious crime amidst complex regional and global challenges.

### **Strengthening Cooperation to Combat Trafficking in Persons Through the ASEAN Region**

As the ASEAN Lead Shepherd on Trafficking in Persons, in collaboration with concerned Philippine government agencies, participated in several events that tackled anti-trafficking in persons initiatives, as follows:

- 1) Consultative Meeting between Bali Process and SOMTC on Trafficking in Persons in Bangkok Thailand in May 2018;
- 2) ASEAN Practitioners Workshop on Criminal Justice Responses to TIP on May 22-24, 2018;

- 3) Regional Program Steering Committee Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on September 13-15, 2018 relative to the culmination of the AAPTIP;
- 4) 18<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in Putrajaya, Malaysia on September 23-28, 2018;
- 5) 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on October 29 – November 2, 2018;
- 6) ASEAN Committee on the Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) November 29 – December 2, 2018

### **Joint Workshop on Child Sexual Exploitation**

In October 2018, the OOC partners with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes for the organization of the Joint Workshop on Child Sexual Exploitation; 4th Regional Legal Research Group (RLRG) Meeting and the 2nd UNODC Southeast Asian Criminal Justice/law Enforcement Working Group on Online Child Sexual Exploitation.

The said Joint Workshop provided ongoing collaborative support among the ASEAN Member States (AMS) on legislative and operational reform matters relevant to addressing child sexual exploitation (CSE). In the said joint workshop, the participants of the RLRG Meeting exchanged information on the recent developments in their legislation, while the participants of the Law Enforcement Working Group discussed a wide variety of issues associated with the operations of combatting CSE

### **Tabletop Exercise for ASEAN Law Enforcers and Prosecutors to Enhance Cross-Border Joint Investigations and Operations on Trafficking in Persons Related Cases**

The PCTC, as the SOMTC Philippines Secretariat, in collaboration with the DILG, led and conducted the “Tabletop Exercise for ASEAN Law Enforcers and Prosecutors to Enhance Cross-Border Joint Investigations and Operations on Trafficking in Persons Related Cases” on March 20-22, 2018 in Boracay, Philippines.

The tabletop exercise (TTX) aimed to enhance the law enforcement and prosecution capacities of ASEAN Member States, including its neighboring countries China, Japan, and Republic of Korea (ROK) on responding effectively to the complex issues and concerns of TIP cases. There were a total of 36 police/immigration officers and prosecutors who participated the Tabletop Exercises; 4 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs); and 3 local SMEs/facilitators. The implementation of this project has been approved for funding by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Fund (APTCF).

The PCTC facilitated the “Tabletop Exercise to Strengthen the Capacity of the Relevant Philippine Agencies in Dealing with Cross-Border Trafficking in Persons Related Cases” which was held in Alabang, Muntinlupa City on August 28-30, 2018. The activity aimed to strengthen the capabilities of the different participating agencies and NGOs across the country. There were more or less 35 police/immigration

officers and prosecutors who participated the Tabletop Exercises; and 3 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). The implementation of this project was funded by the Government of the Philippines through the International Commitments Fund (ICF).

## **VII. Major Challenges and Constraints**

Despite serious efforts by the Philippines to intensify 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.

Based on the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), about nine percent of the estimated 39.2 million Filipinos aged 6 to 24 years old were out-of-school children and youth (OSCY).

However, 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.

The Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, or Republic Act 10931, was signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte in August 2017. The law will cover fees of students in 112 state universities and colleges, 78 local universities and colleges and technical-vocational education and training programs beginning this school year. The program is considered Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's "biggest social justice program" for higher education and is meant to remove a fundamental "barrier" to higher education in the Philippines: cost.

For this year, an estimated P40 billion was allocated for the program, according to CHED. Of this amount, P16 billion will be for free higher education, P7 billion for free technical-vocational education, P15.9 billion for subsidy, P1 billion for the student loan program and P11 million for a tracking and reporting system.

### **Lack of manpower or personnel to support the full implementation of antitrafficking 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 establish a centralized system for collection, harmonization and interpretation of data that can serve as a hub to provide guidance in the development of better policies and programs.

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.

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 all criminal cases filed throughout the country.

### **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.

#### **Lack of formal specialized training for IACAT Secretariat personnel.**

Although the IACAT coordinates capacity-building trainings and seminar-workshops for stakeholders, there has been no formal specialized training for IACAT Secretariat personnel under the U.S. Department of Justice or the Federal Bureau of Investigation ( FBI ) or the International Law Enforcement Academy ( ILEA ) based in Bangkok, Thailand on Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation ( CSEC and OSEC ) which the IACAT needs for keeping itself abreast with current developments and trends in combatting human trafficking.

#### **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.

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.