



## **INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING (IACAT)**

Republic of the Philippines

# **ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

For the Reporting Period: CY 2019

Submitted by:

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## Overview of the Country's Trafficking in Persons Situationer

The country continues to be a source and destination country for trafficking.

The trafficking of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia and Qatar remains to be rampant. The brutal death of OFW Jeanalyn Villavende in Kuwait triggered a total deployment ban for the said country, and congressional review of the bilateral labor agreement between the Philippines and Kuwait signed in 2018.


OFWs usually travel to the UAE on a tourist visa. Once there, they will try to seek employment and change their tourist to working visas. This effectively circumvents the deployment procedures of the Philippine government, as implemented by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). Others go to the UAE through other countries such as Malaysia or Thailand which do not require a visa for Filipino nationals. From UAE, some of the trafficked victims were sent to places like Sudan, Tajikistan, and Iraq. Other victims were brought legally to a labor-receiving country e.g. Kuwait but then brought to a neighboring country such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain or even to Europe by their employer and continue to work without a valid working visa.

There were also reports of unabated human trafficking activities involving third country recruitment of OFWs to work illegally in Russia, Turkey, China, Iraq and Poland. Filipino nationals travel to Turkey from countries which does not require a visa for Filipino nationals such as Hong Kong to work illegally as household service workers. Filipinos females are being trafficked to China by way of Vietnam. The latest cases involved Filipino female nationals who were paid to be impregnated through artificial insemination and deliver a child for a fee (surrogates). Some enter China as tourist and remain to illegally work as household service workers.

The Philippines is also a transit hub for connecting flights (i.e.: TWN-MNL-LAX, etc.). As such, there are instances that transiting foreigners using fraud/fraudulently acquired travel documents (i.e.: passports, entry visas, etc.) are intercepted by BI while in the airports.

The Philippines is also becoming a destination country for trafficked online gaming workers from China. This is a cause of concern because most of these workers do not have the prerequisite work documents and have not been briefed about Philippine labor and immigration laws. Because of their irregular status, these workers are subjected to exploitation and unfair labor practices. This underscores the need for the Philippines to pass its own anti-human smuggling law, while also strengthening government efforts to address trafficking in persons from China to the Philippines.

A study entitled 'A Risk Assessment on the Philippines' Exposure to External Threats based on submitted Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) was published by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) in the second semester of 2019. The said study aimed to measure the exposure of the country to various threats originating within and outside Philippine jurisdiction and to provide information on the



generation, movement and behavior of illicit funds related to the top predicate crimes in the country.

Trafficking in Persons was among the top predicate crimes identified in the study. The bulk of the financial activities linked to human trafficking as gathered from the STRs from 2013 to 2017 were inflows from other jurisdictions comprising of 3,028 STRs or 92.47%, with USA as the top source of cash flows in terms of volume and peso value measured at 44.56%, followed by Canada at 9.40%, United Kingdom, Slovakia and Germany. Majority of the said inflows were linked to cyber and child pornography, sex trafficking through publication of sex-related advertisements, facilitation of prostitution, human and child sex trafficking and qualified trafficking in persons and violations of the child abuse law. Based on the study, the proceeds of human trafficking entered the country wherein majority of which were coursed through money changers and remittance agents.

Internal or domestic human trafficking also remains a major concern in certain areas in the Philippines that are known as “red light districts” that attracts foreigners who wish to engage in “sex tourism.”

## Government Anti-Trafficking Leadership and Coordination

The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) is composed of 11 government agencies and three NGOs, is the primary entity tasked with coordinating, monitoring, and overseeing the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate national anti-trafficking in persons efforts. The Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development serve as Chair and co-Chair of IACAT and lead the government efforts to ensure the full implementation of the expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (republic Act No. 10364).

The IACAT is being assisted by the IACAT Secretariat under the direct supervision of the Department of Justice. The IACAT Secretariat provides support for the functions and projects of the IACAT, including coordinating and monitoring the implementation of policies and guidelines promulgated by the IACAT, among others.

## Philippine Government Efforts Against Trafficking In Persons

The Philippines has retained its “Tier 1” ranking in the US Trafficking in Persons Report for four years in a row. 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.

The recognition was made possible through a comprehensive, coordinated and concerted response of all Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) member agencies to counter trafficking in persons. Further, IACAT follows and implements anti-trafficking programs in accordance with four key result areas: (1) Prevention and Advocacy; (2) Protection, Recovery, Rehabilitation and

Reintegration; (3) Prosecution and Law Enforcement; and (4) Partnership and Networking.

## II. PREVENTION AND ADVOCACY

### A. Legislative and Policy Development

#### **IACAT Plea Bargaining Advisory No. 1, series of 2019**

On 27 December 2019, Secretary of Justice and Chairperson of IACAT signed the very first Advisory on Plea Bargaining in cases filed under Republic Act No. 9208, as amended. This is intended to guide Prosecutors on the appropriate use of plea bargaining in human trafficking cases, honoring the rights of the victim, the accused, and the interests of the State. Successful plea bargain agreements will significantly reduce the cost of administering justice, allowing for the sustainable and timely prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking cases.

#### **Memorandum Circular No. 2020-006 “Guidelines in Monitoring the Functionality of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC)”**

On 20 January 2020, DILG issued the Memorandum Circular No. 2020-006 for the implementation of the new Guidelines in Monitoring the Functionality of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC). The said Memo Circular directs all Provincial Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, BARMM Minister of Local Government, DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers, and other concerned to assess the functionality of and strengthen the LCAT-VAWC as the primary mechanism to address TIP and VAWC.


This is in response to the need to effectively assess the performance of LCAT-VAWCs to serve as basis for policy and capacity development to strengthen the capability of LGUs in combating trafficking in persons (TIP) and eliminating violence against women and children.

Under the guidelines, a list of performance indicators and ratings is provided that would help LGUs assess the level of functionality of LCAT VAWC, as follows:

- Basic - if the LCAT-VAWC obtained a rating of 20% and below
- Progressive - if the LCAT-VAWC obtained a rating of 21% to 50%
- Mature - if the LCAT-VAWC obtained a rating of 51% to 80%
- Ideal - if the LCAT-VAWC obtained a rating of 81% and above

The monitoring of LCAT-VAWC functionality shall be conducted annually or every 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of every year starting CY 2020. The period to be assessed shall be the previous year.

#### **Republic Act No. 11299 or an Act Establishing the Office of the Social Welfare Attaché**



The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress passed Republic Act No. 11299 or the “Act Establishing the Office of the Social Welfare Attaché,” amending for the purpose of Republic Act No 8042 otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995, as amended, and for Other Purposes. The same was signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 17 April 2019. The said law provides for the establishment of the office of the Social Welfare Attaché (SWA) at the Home Office and the Foreign Posts, increase the number of SWA to be deployed and intensify the program and administrative component of the International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals (SWSFN).

**Policy review to amend/revise Department Order No. 141, Series of 2014, the Rules Governing Recruitment and Placement by Private Employment Agencies (PEA)**


The DOLE, through the Bureau of Local Employment, conducted policy review to amend/revise Department Order No. 141, Series of 2014, or the Rules Governing Recruitment and Placement by Private Employment Agencies (PEA) to address recurring issues and concerns of stakeholders engaged in recruitment and placement for local employment.

As a result of separate consultations with private agencies facilitating employment of domestic workers, industry workers and DOLE regional implementers, distinct policy guidelines for PEAs facilitating employment of domestic and industry workers were crafted to meet specific needs of such agencies but with common provisions on qualifications, disqualifications, registration requirements, process and procedure, resolving administrative complaints and reportorial requirements.

On the rules governing PEA for domestic workers, the relevant provisions under the Kasambahay Law were included in the policy proposal, strengthening the recruitment procedure through the coordinated efforts of DOLE Field Office, PESO and Barangay Office. It likewise retained the requirement that the employer, during placement, must ensure that the recruited workers will be provided decent employment by household employers. On the other hand, the proposed amendment for PEA recruiting industry workers similarly fortifies recruitment procedure particularly the authority to recruit of agency representatives issued by DOLE Regional Office having jurisdiction over the venue of the recruitment activity. This is to safeguard recruits from becoming victims of trafficking in persons through forced labor.

Further, the DOLE is currently undertaking policy formulation that would govern the conduct of pre-employment activities of private entities using digital platform to prevent or curb possible illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons.

**Legislative Advocacy for the amendment of Revised Penal Code on Prostitution**



In view of the mandate set under Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women, the PCW actively advocated for the amendment and/or repeal existing laws that are discriminatory to women, which include among others, the Revised Penal Code provisions which penalizes prostitution. This advocacy is embodied in the Women's Priority Legislative Agenda for the 18th Congress which was launched by the PCW last August 2018.

The Legislative proposal focused on shifting the criminal liability to the demand side of prostitution (i.e. buyers/customers of sexual services, persons exploiting persons in prostitution), and treating persons in prostitution as victims of the system. This is consistent with international instruments such as the: Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993.

To date, four bills relative to this legislative proposal have been filed in the 18th Congress (House Bill No. 1149, House Bill No. 2335, Senate Bill No. 785, and Senate Bill No. 501).

**Support for the passage of the Ingress Prohibition of Alien Sex Offenders Act (IPASOCA) or House Bill (HB) 6257**


There is an observed correlation between the prevalence of OSEC and commercial sexual exploitation of children, especially in the context of tourism and travel. A preventive and protective legislation, the Ingress Prohibition of Alien Sex Offenders of Children Act (IPASOCA) or House Bill (HB) 6257 effectively bars aliens who have been convicted of a sexual offense perpetrated against children from entering the Philippines, is being deliberated at the House Committee level currently. Supporting and encouraging further discussions on this policy is recommended, as well as the promulgation of a complementary Executive Order for the same purpose.

**Proposed amendment on the Republic Act No. 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009**

Considering that online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) is highly dynamic in nature, programs, policies, and services must adequately respond to changing trends to proactively address it. Therefore, a review of Republic Act 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 is imperative, for purposes of updating the 9-year old legislation and strengthening its provisions and its implementing rules and regulations. In the review, special emphasis must be given to ensuring compliance with Section 9 of the current law (strengthening and harmonizing it with any other laws to settle any issues that were encountered in the implementation), enabling and empowering the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) and its Secretariat, and adhering to globally-accepted principles, approaches, and terminologies.

**Proposed amendment on the Republic Act 4200 or the Anti-Wiretapping Law**





In investigating and prosecuting online sexual exploitation cases, duty-bearers report challenges in effecting proactive and efficient surveillance and case build up. Part of the challenge is the prohibitions provided for under Republic Act 4200 or the Anti-Wiretapping Law. This has significantly crippled law enforcers and compromised cases. Therefore, similar to Senate Bill 44 which seeks to amend Section 3 of RA 4200 to exempt Money Laundering, Coup d etat, and violation of the anti-dangerous drugs law cases, among others, a REVIEW of RA 4200 is recommended with the end in view of exempting trafficking in persons cases and online sexual exploitation cases from the prohibition.

Furthermore, conversations on the use of Judicial Affidavit Rule, the Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses and the Cyberwarrants Rule, especially in the context of ensuring child protection principles are observed, is warranted.

## **B. Anti-TIP Awareness Programs**

### **Major Anti-Trafficking Awareness Campaigns**

- **World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT)**

Pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/68/192 designating July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (WDAT) adopted in 2013, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) commemorated World Day Against Trafficking on 30 July 2019, with the theme *“Isang Bayan, Isang Paninindigan, Laban sa Trafficking ng Mamamayan”*


This year’s theme aims to raise awareness of the human trafficking situation in the Philippines, to highlight the gains, as well as reinforce the alliances and partnerships among government agencies, civil society, and the international community in the fight against human trafficking.

This year, the IACAT launched the infomercial entitled “Human, Hindi Laruan” which depicts the threats and risks of online sexual exploitation on our children. This was played in different SM Cinemas nationwide and LRT2 platforms. A poster version was also printed and disseminated to different ports, terminals, and public places to inform the public about the dangers of OSEC. IACAT Task Forces and partners in the different Regions also conducted simultaneous activities (i.e. Advocacy Walk, Fun Run, School Caravan, Forum on Human Trafficking) to expand the anti-trafficking awareness campaign in their respective area of jurisdiction.

- **International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT)**

IACAT also celebrates the IDAT every 12<sup>th</sup> of December as per Proclamation 1172 series of 2006. For 2019, IACAT focused on recognizing core individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions in ending human trafficking and modern slavery through active coalition building, effective delivery of services to victims, successful law enforcement and prosecution, and progressive advocacy and awareness-raising through education and public policy intervention.





Part of the celebration is the continued expansion of IACAT networks in the international arena through the conduct of 5<sup>th</sup> Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking. The dialogue brought together a total of 200 partners from Government Agencies, NGOs, LGUS, International Organizations, private, and Foreign Mission.

PCW also conducted 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, including massive information dissemination on human trafficking which was integrated in the youth-oriented activities (i.e. Anti-VAW Expo, Youth Forum, Film Showing) conducted during the campaign. The campaign ended on 12 December with a Solidarity Walk dubbed as “*Kilos Lakad: Wakasan and Karahasan sa Kababaihan*” which was participated by 919 representatives from various national government agencies.

### **Awareness Campaigns conducted by IACAT member Agencies**

- **Community Education Program (CEP) by CFO**

The CEP, a nationwide annual information campaign in coordination with various government agencies, NGOs, LGUs and academic institutions assisted prospective migrants in making informed decisions about working or migrating abroad. CFO, through CEP, has covered 14 provinces and 40 areas, 28 cities, and 12 municipalities with an estimated 8,716 number of attendees directly benefitted from the campaign.

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

The AIR/TIP Seminar is given to law enforcers, prosecutors, Public Employment Service Officers, and barangay officials to inform them of the law on IR (Republic Act 8042, as amended by R.A. 10022) and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. Also discussed in this seminar are the modus operandi of IR, as well as the tips on how to detect and avoid IR activity. The POEA conducted a total of 31 AIR/TIP campaigns in various Provinces, Cities and Municipalities nationwide and forged a total of 64 Memorandum of Agreements with LGUs.

A total of 3,556 local Barangay Officials, Public Employment Service Officers, and Members of the Local Police Force benefited from these activities which were all funded by POEA.

- **Roadshow on Anti-Trafficking in Persons**

IACAT gathered approximately 1,000 barangay officials, local leaders, and general public in Cagayan De Oro City, General Santos City, Polomolok City and Koronadal City (all in Mindanao areas) during the IACAT Roadshow on Anti-Trafficking in Persons. The said Roadshow intends (1) to raise level of awareness in the assessment of the current local and international landscape of trafficking in persons, identifying areas of issues and opportunities and corresponding action; and

(2) to influence policy makers in the development of policies concerning trafficking in persons through knowledge-sharing.

Local leaders and Barangay Officials signified their support to the fight through a commitment signing.

- **Capacity Building for LGUs – Development of Local TIP Ordinance**

In 2019, IACAT intensively cascaded anti-trafficking programs to various LGUs through capacity building and development of Local TIP Ordinance. Participants are composed of Barangay Officials, LGUs officials, and local social workers with the main purpose of coming up with Local TIP Ordinance.

Date   Venue	Partners	Areas Covered	No. of Participants
23-25 Jan   Park Inn Radisson Clark, Angeles, Pampanga	Plan International Phils.	Mariveles, Bataan, Cabanatuan, Palayan,	52
13-15 Aug   Casa Canitoan, Crgy. Canitoan, Cagayan De Oro	Balay Mindanao	5 LGUS of Misamis Oriental covered by Balay Mindanao	86
28-30 Aug   Islandersville Inn, Dapa, Surigao del Norte	IACAT Funded	Dapa, General Luna, Claver, and Surigao del Norte	30
16-18 Oct   Summit Hotel, Tacloban City	Plan International	Ormoc City, Liloan City, San Ricardo and Tacloban City	37
3-5 Dec   The VIP Hotel, Cagayan De Oro	IACAT Funded	Opol, Laguindingan, El Salvador, Gitagum, and Alubijid, Misamis Oriental	33
<b>Total</b>			<b>238</b>

As a result, thereof, the following Local TIP Ordinances were issued:

- **City Ordinance No. 89, series of 2019**  
Mabalacat City, Province of Pampanga  
Date issued: 12 April 2019  
Title: An Ordinance to Implement and Enforce the Provision of the Republic Act No. 9208, as Amended by R.A. No. 10364, and for Other Purpose
- **Municipal Ordinance Order No. 2020-255**  
Municipal of Liloan, Province of Southern Leyte  
Date issued: 27 January 2020  
Title: Anti-trafficking in Persons Ordinance of the Municipal of Liloan, Southern Leyte
- **Ordinance No. 2019-032**  
Municipal of San Ricardo, Southern Leyte  
Date Issued: December 16, 2019

Title: An Ordinance to Implement and Enforce the Provision of the Republic Act No. 9208, as Amended by R.A. No. 10364, and for Other Purpose<sup>7</sup>.

### **Awareness Campaigns conducted by other Government Agencies**

- **TourISMWORCS – Tourism Integrates, Supports and Mind Women’s Rights and Child Safety by DOT**

The Department of Tourism (DOT) launched the TourISM WoRCS program that will initiate a series of training and seminars that promote sustainable tourism practices with special focus on ensuring that the rights of children and women are protected. It will also facilitate the establishment of “child safe and women in tourism” focal persons in every regional office.

The DOT also levelled-up its commitment to help train tourism front liners, empowering them to play a role in prevention, reporting and responding to the need to protect women’s and children’s rights. DOT also put in place a policy that requires tourism workers such as tour guides, to learn about Gender and Development and Child Safe Tourism. Further, an Inter-agency Working Group for Child Safe Tourism Philippines will be established to provide Child Safe information to travelers in the Philippines.

To date, DOT already conducted Child safe Tourism Seminars in Pampanga, Davao, and Cagayan De Oro.

- **Awareness Campaign on Online Safety by DepEd**

The Department of Education (DepEd) has embarked in a massive awareness campaign on online safety. First is the creation of a cyber-safety lesson plan which aims to teach and equip children on life skills particularly on personal safety, privacy in general, and online integrity. Part of this cyber-safety lesson is the video on online sexual exploitation of children that illustrate the danger online. The video also introduced the website [www.cybersafe.asia](http://www.cybersafe.asia) that contains range of resources and materials on how to educate ourselves and our children on being safe online. Second, a nationwide Training of Trainers on cyber-safety protection is being conducted by DepEd that trains teachers and Division personnel on how to cascade information on online safety. For this year, DepEd already capacitated more than 600 teachers and School personnel in 11 Regions this year and set to add 5 more Regions next year.

- **CyberSafePH by DICT**

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) developed and implemented the CYberSafePH, an awareness campaign and capacity building program with a three-year roadmap geared towards combatting online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and cyberbullying. The program is being implemented into four (4) categories:

- **CyberGuardians** - is a network of stakeholders composed of government agencies, private institutions, NGOs, CSOs, and individuals with a

- common mission of co-creating a CyberSafePh for child protection against online sexual exploitation and cyberbullying
- **CyberCare Lab** - Digital Parenting seminars are conducted covering all regions of the Philippines
- **CyberCampus Champion** - Developing youth champions in partnership with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) and Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP)
- **CyberSave our Children** - provide psychosocial support/guidance for the victims of cybercrimes in partnership with DSWD through the Philippine Mental Health Association, ECPAT and IJM

### **C. Capacity-Building Activities**

#### **Multi-Disciplinary Training on the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP)**

DSWD conducts RRPTP Multi-Disciplinary training to establish clear roles and collaboration among member agencies in the provision of psychosocial recovery, social and economic reintegration services to victim-survivors of trafficking. The training was attended by 75 participants composed of social workers and law enforcement officers from the Philippine National Police.

#### **Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation (POSE) Training**

The International Justice Mission (IJM) in partnership with the U.S. DOJ Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (US DOJ OPDAT) and Digital Freedom Network conducted two (2) batches of Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation (POSE) Training for 2019. The POSE training module includes casework and subject matter experts from the Philippines and United States specializing in digitally investigating and prosecuting OSEC. The course objectives are to (1) support effective law enforcement and prosecution of OSEC, and (2) help frontliners maximize obtaining and presenting digital evidence.

IACAT support comes in securing the participation of resource speakers from the Philippines and attendance of the invited Prosecutors by securing the necessary Travel Authority, as well as limited funding.

#### **Training on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children for Prosecutors and Law Enforcers**

The IACAT Secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (RATTF), conceptualized a training module for OSEC with the assistance of International Justice Mission, National Prosecution Service, DOJ's Legal Service and Special Project Division, Office of the Cybercrime, and the Philippine National Police. This was implemented in the following Regions:

<b>Region</b>	<b>TF</b>	<b>Date   Venue</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
I	RATTF 1	03-04 Oct   Awesome Hotel Convention	

		Center, San Juan, La Union	47 Prosecutors 19 Law Enforcers
II	RATTF 2	16-17 Oct   Japi Hotel, Brgy. Sillawit, Cauayan City, Isabela	20 Prosecutors 16 Law Enforcers
VIII	RATTF 8	13-14 Nov   Leyte Park Resort and Hotel, Tacloban City	35 Prosecutors 23 Law Enforcers
XI	RATTF 11	18-22 Nov   Marco Polo Hotel Davao City	13 Prosecutors 16 Law Enforcers
XII	RATTF 12	28-30 Oct   Eighty-Eight Hotel, Koronadal City	13 Prosecutors 16 Law Enforcers
<b>Total</b>			<b>115 Prosecutors 90 Law Enforcers</b>

This training module is somehow patterned after the POSE training module to cascade and train more Prosecutors and Law Enforcers in different Regions. However, modules for Region XII contain basic topics and exercises to adopt with the needs of the participants.

### **Training on Labor Trafficking**

RATTF 2 conducted a Training on Labor Trafficking to understand the labor exploitation dimensions of trafficking in persons, including topics on special investigation and prosecution techniques, legal options and other remedies and victim assistance and protection, special investigation and prosecution techniques, and case referral on domestic trafficking. A total of 130 participants Government Agencies such as, DSWD, DOLE, NBI, PNP, BJMP, DepEd, POEA, OWWA, CHR, TESDA, other PIA were trained

### **Multi-Disciplinary Training on handling and Managing TIP and Victim Protection**

As part of the intensified effort to capacitate key officials and personnel in LGUs, IACAT works with partners in the local level in conducting Multi-Disciplinary Trainings on handling and managing TIP and victim protection.

<b>Date   Venue</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
5-8 March   Gateway Hotel, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte	Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation-Int. Dev. Center Inc.	52
19-21 March   Pope Francis Pastoral Cener/Islandersville Inn, Dapa, Surigao del Norte	Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation-Int. Dev. Center Inc.	40
3-5 April   The Legend Villas Hotel, Mandaluyong City	Plan International, Phils.	26
24-26 July   Britania, Surigao del Norte	Department of Health and DSWD Caraga	33
17-20 Sep   Quest Hotel Clark, Pampanga		52
26-29 Nov   Brgy. Bukal, Calamba, Laguna	LGU, Makati City	51
<b>Total</b>		<b>254</b>

### **Basic Immigration Officers Course (BIOC)**

The Bureau of Immigration continues to conduct the BIOC which is part of orientation training for new Immigration Officers prior to beginning work airports. BI's batch 21 graduated last third quarter of 2019 with thirty-one (31) Immigration Officers.

### **Border Control Officers Module II (BCOM II)**

BI also conducted the BCOM II for thirty (30) Duty Immigration Supervisors (DIS) last 17 October 2019. It is a refresher course for DIS to update their skills and knowledge regarding Immigration concerns.

### **Trainings conducted by DSWD**

DSWD Field Offices in the Regions conducted **twenty-three (23) trainings** in partnership with the IACAT Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces as Resource Speaker and co-organizer.

Field Office	Training	Schedule/ Venue	Fund Source	No of Participants
I	Orientation on Human Trafficking and Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC)	July 30, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
I	Orientation on Human Trafficking and Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC)	December 11-13, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
CAR	Provincial Consultation with Stakeholders on the Functionality of LCAT-VAWC	October 28-30, 2019	RRPTP Fund	40
CAR	Strengthening the Capacity of LGU Partners and Stakeholders in advocating Anti-Violence Against Women and Trafficked Persons	December 2-5, 2019	RRPTP Fund	45
II	Training on Gender Responsive Case Management	October 23-25, 2019	RRPTP Fund	20
III	Paralegal Training for Service Providers from LSWDOs, Inter-Agency Members and Community-Based Social Workers.	September 25-26, 2019	RRPTP Fund	45
V	Training on Trauma Informed Care	July 17-18,	RRPTP Fund	22

		2019		
VIII	Orientation on Laws Protecting Women and Children Against Trafficking in Person for the victim-survivors and their Parents	November 6, 2019 at Tacloban City	RRPTP Fund	40
VIII	Orientation on Republic Act 9208 as amended by Republic Act 10364 also known as the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act	December 18, 2019 at Brgy. Santa Fe, Abuyog, Leyte.	RRPTP Fund	40
IX	Orientation on Human Trafficking together with the RRPTP program and services in collaboration with the International Social Services to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development officers together with their Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officers, Commission on Higher Education Officers, Department of Interior and Local Government and City Social Welfare and Development Officers	September 12, 2019, in Dipolog City, Zamboanga Del Norte	ISSO Fund	25
IX	Orientation about Human Trafficking together with the RRPTP program and services in collaboration with the International Social Services to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development officers together with their Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officers	November 15, 2019 in Isabela City, Basilan.	RRPTP Fund	25
IX	Training on Anti-Human Trafficking in Person to the Barangay Officials and School Principals	November 18-20, 2019 in Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay Province.	LGU Zamboanga Sibugay	25
IX	Capability Building and Video Development Workshop on Violence Against Women Celebration	November, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
IX	Orientation about Human Trafficking together with the RRPTP program and services in collaboration with the International Social Services to the SWADT and MSWDO.	December 05, 2019 in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay Province.	RRPTP Fund	25
IX	Orientation on the Referral System for RRPTP to service providers to C/MSWDO	July 18-19, 2019 in Tagbilaran, Bohol.		25



X	Case Management Training on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children to CSWDO of Iligan City	March 19-21, 2019 at Cagayan De Oro City.	RRPTP Fund	25
X	Local Council Against Trafficking, Child Pornography and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-CO-VAWC) Regional Conference.	December 16-17, 2019 at Pearlmont Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City.	RRPTP Fund	25
X	Conducted school caravan in partnership with the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force	Pilgrim College and Lumbia National High School.	RATTF	25
X	Multi-Disciplinary Training on Handling Trafficked Persons and OSEC Cases	December 9-11, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
XI	TIP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Summit	November 28-29, 2019	RRPTP Fund, DOLE XI, CHR XI, CSWDO	25
XI	Trauma Informed Care Orientation	October 15-16, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
Caraga	Buntis Congress which discussed the salient provisions of Republic Act 9262 or Anti-Violence against Women and their Children, Maternal and Childcare, Exclusive Breastfeeding and Modus Operandi of Trafficking	November 22, 2019 at Cabadbaran City.	RIACAT-VAWC	25
Caraga	Training on Handling Online Sexual Child Abuse	October 9-11, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25
NCR	Training on Handling Case of TIP and OSEC	September 4-6, 2019	RRPTP Fund	25

We note that IACAT Task force members have been instrumental in the successful conduct of various capacity-building or training conducted by Government Agencies, Nov-Government Organizations, and other partners. In fact, most of the abovementioned training were organized or assisted by Task Force members as Resource Speaker or Facilitator.

For 2019, a total of 122 capacity-building activities were organized and assisted by IACAT Task Forces, 33 of which were organized and 89 were assisted through provision of Resource Speakers and as subject matter experts.

#### **D. Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking Structures at the Local Level**

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, 57 provinces (70%) out of 81 provinces in the country have already organized Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (PCAT-VAWC). At the city/municipal level, 127 (88% ) of the total 145 cities nationwide have established the City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (CCAT-VAWC) while 1,237 (83%) out of 1,489 municipalities in the country have established the Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (MCAT-VAWC).

As of 31 December 2019, 38,811 (92.30%) of the total 42,045 barangays have already established its **Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC)**, while around 39,039 (92.85%) out of the 42,045 total barangays have existing VAW-DESK facilities. The BCPC is a mechanism at the barangay level that handles concerns of children while Barangay VAW Desk addresses cases that concerns violence against women in a gender-responsive manner. Further, as of 31 December 2019, there are 28,674 and 28,292 barangays with operational BCPC and Barangay VAW Desks, respectively.

Attached herewith are the DILG comprehensive reports on the following:

- (1) Summary of Number of LGUs with organized LCAT-VAWC as of December 2019 – Annex “\_\_\_”
- (2) Barangay compliance on the establishment of VAW Desk National Summary as of December 2019 – Annex “\_\_\_”
- (3) Barangay VAW Desk functionality for CY 2018 National Summary as of December 31, 2019 – Annex “\_\_\_”
- (4) 2018 Functionality of Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) National Summary as of December 2019 – Annex “\_\_\_”

## E. Implementation of IACAT 1343 Actionline

The IACAT 1343 Actionline is the first telephone hotline dedicated to combat human trafficking and other related cases. The main function of this hotline is to receive and immediately respond to requests for assistance, inquiries and referrals from the victims, their families and the public pertaining to Human Trafficking. The service has been expanded to accommodate online reporting and text messaging.

In 2019, IACAT 1343 Actionline received **41** case reports involving **31** identified victims. Out of the case reports, 12 are suspected human trafficking, 5 are illegal recruitment, and 2 are mail-order spouse scheme.

Year	No. of Calls received through the Actionline	No. of Actual Case Reports received through calls and other modes	No. of Victims
2011	7,177	69	64
2012	7,762	127	95

2013	4,265	67	60
2014	4,221	75	72
2015	2,863	82	108
2016	3,731	74	64
2017	4,483	59	61
2018	4,510	53	31
<b>2019</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,255</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>586</b>

Based on the above table, only 2% of the calls received were verified to be case reports for violation of trafficking in persons or other related offenses. 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 586 victims.

#### **F. Implementation of the Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International Bound Passengers**

In 2019, a total of **111,688 passengers** were referred to the Travel Control Enforcement Unit (TCEU) of the Bureau of Immigration for secondary inspection. 66% were allowed to depart while 34% were deferred or disallowed to depart mostly for dubious or fake travel documents or tagged as tourist workers.

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Allowed Departure</b>	<b>66,631</b> (60%)	<b>56,446</b> (66%)	<b>62,317</b> (65%)	<b>73,166</b> (66%)	<b>258,560</b> (64%)
<b>Deferred Departure</b>	<b>45,316</b> (40%)	<b>29,357</b> (34%)	<b>32,929</b> (45%)	<b>38,522</b> (34%)	<b>146,124</b> (36%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,947</b>	<b>85,803</b>	<b>95,246</b>	<b>111,688</b>	<b>404,684</b>

#### **G. Disallowed Entry of 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). From 2016 to 2019, a total of **136 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.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>RSO</b>
2016	118
2017	168

2018	199
<b>2019</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>

## II. PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION

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

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

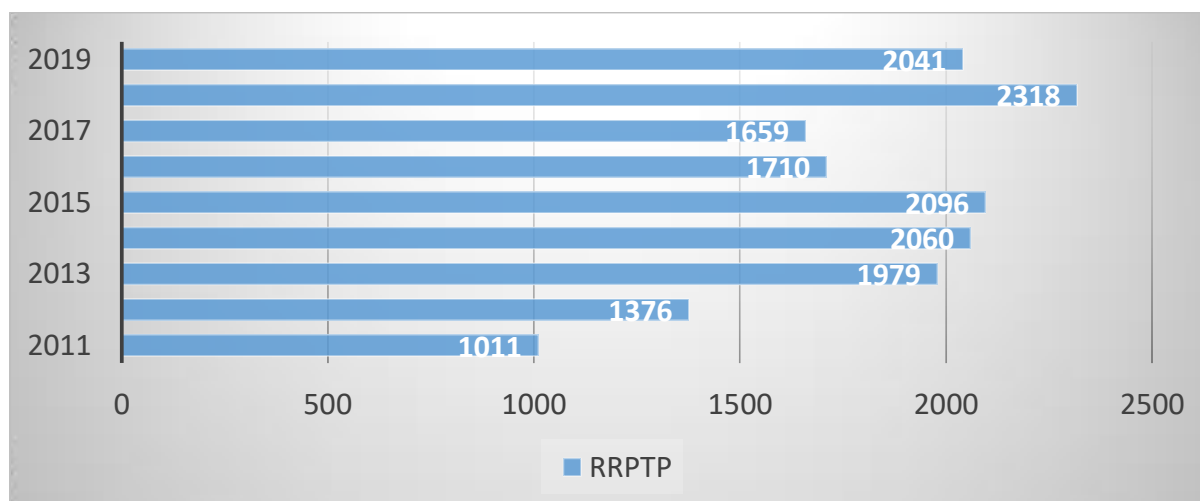
In 2019, the RRPTP has served and assisted a total of **Two Thousand Forty One (2,041)** identified trafficked persons. Most of the clients served are women and the highest number of purpose of trafficking is for forced labour.

<b>Nature of Exploitation</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>%</b>
Forced Labor	232	578	810	40
Child Pornography	68	190	258	13
Prostitution	15	221	236	12
Sexual Exploitation	9	224	233	11
Illegal Recruitment	53	174	227	11
Intercepted/Offloaded	13	39	52	3
Illegal Adoption	4	9	13	1
Removal of Organs	7	19	26	1
Repatriation	0	16	16	1
Slavery	0	4	4	0
Child Trafficking[1]	1	7	8	0
Others exploitations	74	84	158	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>1565</b>	<b>2041</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
0-6 years old	47	2
7-12 years old	53	3
13-17 years old	363	18

18-30 years old	760	37
31-59 years old	660	32
60 years old and above	8	0
Not indicated	150	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2041</b>	<b>100</b>

Through the years of RRPTP implementation, a total of **16,250 trafficked victims** were assisted and served, 17% of which comprises minor victims.



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

Note that in every law enforcement operation, coordination with DSWD, or the local social welfare and development officer (LSWDO) of the place where the operation will be conducted, or an accredited NGO that services trafficked persons, is a must to ensure the presence of a social worker during the operation. 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 nearest DSWD Field Office/LSWDO/NGO.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 15. Coordination with DSWD, LSWDO, NGO and other relevant government agencies prior to the conduct of law enforcement operation.

Pursuant to the DSWD Administrative Order No. 01, series of 2019 – Management Reorganization of the DSWD Central Office, the International Social Services Office (ISSO) shall be 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. In particular, the psychosocial services are the distinct and valuable contribution of the Social Welfare Attaches as a regular member of the One-Country Team Approach (OCTA).

In 2019, SWA served a total of 32,557 OFs. The number increased by 31% compared to the previous year with only 24,859 clients. The clients were served from the following country of deployment:

COUNTRIES	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
Malaysia	6,105	6,569	12,674	39%
Dubai & Abu Dhabi, UAE	1,313	4,417	5,730	18%
Hong Kong	629	2,731	3,360	10%
Riyadh, KSA	729	1,701	2,430	7%
OFWs Family in Philippines	1,143	1,145	2,288	7%
Kuwait	515	1,713	2,228	7%
Qatar	285	1,858	2,143	7%
Jeddah, KSA	436	738	1,174	4%
Other Countries	120	410	530	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,275</b>	<b>21,282</b>	<b>32,557</b>	<b>100%</b>

**9% or 2,788** of the clients served are victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Illegal Recruitment (IR). This is 68% more than the TIP and IR victims served in the previous year. The increase is caused by the continued repatriation of the stranded, overstayed, and victims of maltreatment during the Humanitarian and Amnesty program by the Government and detainees in Sandakan Sabah and undocumented children born at Post.

### **DFA Foreign Service Posts**

In 2019, there were **8,118 victims** assisted by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts: Illegal Recruitment (4,479 victims), Forced Labor (3,581 victims), Organ Trafficking (2 victims), Marriage Migration (34 victims), Illegal Recruitment (4,479 victims).

Region	Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labor	Organ Trafficking	Marriage Migration	Illegal Recruitment	Total
Asia Pacific	7	254	2	34	796	<b>1,092</b>
Middle East	15	3,053	0	0	3,471	<b>6,539</b>
Americas	0	4	0	0	89	<b>93</b>
Europe	1	6	0	0	119	<b>126</b>
Africa	0	264	0	0	4	<b>268</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3,581</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4,479</b>	<b>8,118</b>

The DFA ushered in the expanded role of other government agencies (DSWD, NBI, PNP, DOJ, BI) in providing post-arrival services to all human trafficking

victims repatriated by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts. Since October 2019, **1,143 repatriates** have been benefited by this renewed, whole-of-government approach to assisting trafficking victims: UAE (776), Lebanon (205), Kuwait (104), China (1), Hong Kong (2), Libya (3), Oman (1), Saudi Arabia (4) and Syria (3).

### **C. Efforts to Address Child Labor Trafficking**

#### **Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM)**

The SBM is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child labor 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 January to December 2019, a total of fifteen (15) rescue operations were conducted through the Sagip Batang Mangagawa mechanism wherein a total of 36 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

<b>DOLE Office</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>No. of Rescue Operations</b>	<b>No. of Child Laborers Rescued</b>
	NCR	11	21
	7	1	2
	8	2	12
	11	1	1
	Total	15	36

This brings to a total of 1,022 rescue operations conducted wherein a total of 3,629 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions since 1993.

#### **Preventive Measure Against Child Soldiers**

The Philippines passed into law Republic Act No. 11188 otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict last January 2019. The law aims to effectively undertake the protection of the welfare of children in situations of armed conflict from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect, cruelty, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development, taking into consideration their gender, cultural, ethnic and religious background.

The IRR was signed on 4 June 2019.

Under the new law, children are declared as "zones of peace," and should be protected from all forms of abuse and violence..The law also aims to "prevent the recruitment, re-recruitment, use, displacement of, or grave child rights violations against children involved in armed conflict." Among the prohibited acts in the new



law are killing, torture, intentional maiming, rape, abduction, recruitment of children into government armed forces and other armed forces, food blockade, hamletting, arbitrary detention and denial of humanitarian access.

Pursuant to Section 25 of the Act, the Inter-Agency Committee on Children Involved in Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC) created by Executive Order No. 138 shall now be known as the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC-CSAC). This inter-agency committee is created to effectively undertake the protection of the welfare of children in situations of armed conflict as well as the proper implementation of the Act.

## D. Residential Care Facilities

### DSWD Facilities

There are **44 residential care facilities** available in the country for victims of trafficking: 24 (for children); 13 (for women); 1 (male); 4 (for older persons); 2 (processing center); details below. Presently, only data on DSWD-managed centers in the Philippines catering to victim-survivors is available.

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

Family Crisis Situations	in	Female		
	Jose Fabella Center	Male	NCR	1
	Processing Center for Displaced Person	Male & Female	IX	1

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

In the residential care facilities, the following services are provided geared towards the recovery and rehabilitation of the clients:

- Psychosocial Services – interventions that seek to restore/develop social functioning of the residents from admission to discharge and preparation for family reunification and community reintegration.
- Home Life Services – provision of basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter and the development of values and appropriate social skills.
- Educational Services – opportunities for formal, non-formal and special education in preparation for independent living or discharge from the Center.
- Productivity/Livelihood Services - provision of therapeutic and productive activities aimed at developing or utilizing the vocational skills of clients for self-development and/or in preparation for future economic independence.
- Legal Services – This refers to the provision of legal assistance to victims-survivors thru referrals in a case a victim-survivor files a case in court against her perpetrator.
- Health Services – provision of medical and dental examination and treatment; psychological/psychiatric assessment and evaluation as well as special care.
- Recreational and other Cultural Activities – activities that promote the physical, social and cultural development of the residents through indoor and outdoor activities.
- Dietary Service - provision of appropriate and nutritious food to meet the nutritional needs of the clients.
- Spiritual Enrichment – activities that seek to enhance the moral, and spiritual development of the residents.
- Community Participation – involvement of clients in selected community activities designed to develop their sense of social responsibility and community belongingness.
- Therapeutic Services – Enhancement of their self-image through the discovery and understanding of their potentials and capacities leading to change or acquisition of appropriate values and attitudes about themselves, their families and to the larger community

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

comprehensive services are provided to trafficked persons through center and community based services.

### **Establishment of New Facilities for Trafficked Victims**

- **IACAT Tahanan ng Inyong Pag-asa (IACAT-TIP) Center**

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has been true to its mandate as the State's engineering and construction arm when it has extended its mandate to assist IACAT on addressing the needs for lack of shelters and facilities for trafficked victims. On 31 July 2019, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the construction of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking –Tahanan ng Inyong Pag-asa or IACAT-TIP Center and expected to be completed on 30 July 2020 in time for the celebration of the World Day Against Trafficking (WDAT) 2020.

IACAT TIP Center will serve as one-stop-shop for processing the complaints or tips regarding the trafficking of person reports located at Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City.

- **Bahay Kanlungan sa Paliparan (BKP)**

BKP is a temporary shelter/safe house for trafficked persons and persons-at-risk, especially women and children, which shall provide a 24-hour service or a one-stop-shop, including temporary protective care and psychological services, counselling, and other services to walk-in, referred, and rescued victims of human trafficking, and for referrals in pursuing legal action against illegal recruiters and traffickers. This will serve as an airport halfway/safe house at Puerto Princesa International Airport.

The establishment is pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOJ-IACAT, DSWD, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP), and City Government of Puerto Princesa (CGPP) signed on 3 April 2020. Based on the agreement, the CAAP will allocate P30 million under its Gender and Development fund for the construction and establishment of the BKP. The provincial government of Palawan on the other hand, will allot funds for the operation and maintenance of the facility including hiring of social worker and house parent who will supervise the residents of the BKP.

On IACAT's part, the DSWD will provide technical assistance in handling trafficking cases and victim processing, and the DOJ will assist in the facilitation of access to legal assistance.

- **Residential care facility for male victims of trafficking**

As a response by the Philippine Government to the 2018 Global Trafficking in Persons Report, DSWD is on the process of constructing the Residential Care Facility for male victims in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. This facility is aimed to provide a specialized care to ensure recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked male victims 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.

This is expected to be completed by March, 2020.

### **E. Victim Assistance, Witness Protection Investigations, and Prosecutions**

The government has several programs and policies that helped or encouraged victims to assist or participate in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases:

1. Support from IACAT Operation Center (OPCEN)
2. Provision of the mandatory services (Section 23, Expanded Act)
3. Immunity from suit (Section 88-89, Revised IRR, Expanded ATIP Act)
4. Closed-door investigation and trial (Section 90-91, Id.)
5. Prohibition from undue publicity (Section 93, Id.)
6. Irrelevance of past behavior (Section 94, Id.)
7. Preferential entitlement under the DOJ WPSBP (Section 95, Id.)
8. Entitlement to Financial Assistance provided by the DOJ BOC
9. Support from Anti-Trafficking Task Forces
10. Victim Witness Coordinator Assistance

#### **IACAT OpCen**

In 2019, the OpCen as support unit to the investigation, prosecution, and protection of victims of trafficking, located and supported **14 victims and witnesses** to meet with prosecutors and testify in court. It also provided transportation and security assistance to **171 TIP victims and witnesses** for their scheduled court hearings and legal briefings, contributing to the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases.

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
2019	171	14
Total	978	246

#### **Preferential entitlement under the DOJ WPSBP**

The Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program (WPSBP) assisted **forty (40) trafficked victims** in 2019. Eleven (11) witnesses are from the National Capital region and while twenty-nine (29) covered witnesses from other Regions.

## **Entitlement to Financial Assistance provided by the DOJ BOC**

The Board of Claims granted financial assistance to **twenty-seven (27) trafficked victims** under its Victims Compensation Program.

## **Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC)**

The VWC program is intended to support victim-witnesses in their participation in the criminal justice system, specifically to minimize the likelihood that a victim will withdraw cooperation before the trial and to strengthen the capacity of the prosecution to have a stronger TIP case. Additional four (4) VWCs were hired and assigned in Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Forces 2, 6, 7, and 9, making the total VWC hired to six (6) in 2019.

A total of **291 victims-witnesses** were provided assistance by the VWCs, mostly female minors. Out the total victims served, **264 (90%)** of whom agreed to testify in Court and only **27 (10%)** refused to testify for reason that their traffickers are closely related to them (mother, sister, or friend).

No. of Victim/Witness who Completed testifying in Court	78
No. of Victim/Witness with on-going hearing	186
No. of Victim/Witness who refused to testify	27
<b>Total No. of Victim/Witness under VWC</b>	<b>291</b>

## **Utilization of Videotaped In-Depth Interviews (VIDI) KIT**

PNP-WCPC and IJM have worked on utilizing measures under the Rule on Examination of a Child Witness (RECW), particularly videotaped in-depth interviews (VIDIs). Based on IJM's data, VIDIs have been used to protect 91 victims in 37 OSEC cases from having to appear at inquest so far.

This was launched on July 30, 2019 as part of the WDAT celebration with the goal to assemble and turnover at least four (4) VIDI toolkits to PNP-WCPC through corporate sponsors and government funding. The effect will be increased opportunities to utilize this child-protective prosecution innovation.

IJM, with the support of IACAT as NGO member representing children sector, remains committed in equipping its external partners on their knowledge and expertise in using the VIDI kits as a child protective measure in OSEC law enforcement and prosecution. These trainings engaged law enforcers in briefing them on the legal bases of using the said equipment kit, how to handle and use it, and provide further background of the kit.

## **Other Legal Services**

1. POEA provides free legal assistance to all victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons. This extends to preparation of sworn statement, appearance of POEA lawyers as Special Counsel for the complainants during

preliminary investigation and continuation of legal service to court as Special Collaborating Prosecutors.

2. DFA, through its FSPs, provides free legal advice, counselling, shelter, financial assistance, translation services, and legal assistance. FSPs endorse statements of human trafficking victims to the Home Office and to IACAT to aid the investigation and prosecution of human traffickers in the Philippines. Prior to their repatriation, the officials of the Philippine Embassies and Consulates would obtain the statements of the Filipino victims which will be basis of subsequent investigation by other government agencies upon their arrival in the Philippines. Moreover, the IACAT member agencies are informed of the arrival of the repatriated trafficking victims so that appropriate assistance at the airport will be extended, including obtaining new statements and validating earlier statements made, if any.

### III. PROSECUTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### A. Statistical Reports on TIP Cases

Out of all the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases monitored all over the Philippines and filed before the Prosecutor's Offices, **87%** have already been filed in Court. In 2019, the IACAT Secretariat has recorded additional **221 TIP cases** which have been filed in the Prosecutor's Offices, **194** representing **88%** of the total TIP cases filed in Court .

Status of Trafficking Cases for Investigation, 2003-2019	Number	%age
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	51	1.0%
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	448	12.0%
Filed in Court	3104	87%
Total	<b>3604</b>	<b>100%</b>

For status of cases in Courts, **42%** of the cases are either dismissed, archived or the accused are at-large with standing warrant of arrest, **36%** are still pending trial, while **22%** have already been decided, with **74%** conviction rate as of 2019.

Status of Trafficking Cases Filed in Court, 2003-2019	Number	%age
On Trial	1154	36%
Dismissed in Court	679	21%
Archived	567	18%
With Standing Warrant of Arrest	114	3%
Decided	708	22%
<i>Acquittals</i> 184(26%)	-	

<i>Convictions</i> 524(74%)	-		
Total		<b>3222</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is noted that there have been inquiries as to whether the number of TIP conviction is adequate compared to the size of the problem. Based on the data and comparing the TIP conviction to the total number of cases filed in court, the TIP conviction is only 16%. Thus, the same cannot be said to be adequate. However, there are arguments that the most reasonable formula to measure the successful prosecution of cases is to compare the conviction rate to the number of acquittals, as both are decided cases that has already undergone a full-blown trial. Thus, based on the said formula, the 22% decided TIP cases will show that 74% are convictions while only 26% are acquittals.

### **B. Court of Appeals (CA) Decided Cases**

The CA resolved fifteen (15) appealed trafficking in persons cases, fourteen (14) of which affirmed in toto or modified the decisions of the lower courts. Only one (1) reversed the appealed decision.

On affirmed cases, the CA made modifications mostly by increasing and/or imposing the correct damages and fine as prescribed under Section 10 of R.A. No. 9208. For instance, in one case, the appellate court ruled that while the lower court correctly sentenced appellant to suffer the penalty of life imprisonment and to pay a fine of P2,000,000.00, it failed to consider that he was indicted of five counts of Qualified Trafficking in Persons. Thus, the appellant was made to pay a fine of P10,000,000.00. In another case, the CA increased the payment of moral damages from P200,000.00 to P500,000.00 and exemplary damages from P50,000.00 to P100,000.00. Lastly, in several cases, it was ruled that all damages awarded in all the criminal cases shall earn legal interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum from the date of finality of the judgment until fully paid.

With respect to the appealed case where the appellant or accused was acquitted, CA took notice on the uncorroborated and inconsistent testimony of the private complaint. Upon review of the said testimony, although private complaint narrated in her direct testimony how she was pimped by accused-appellant on two (2) different occasions, she admitted during her cross-examination that in truth and in fact, accused-appellant was not the one who pimped and arranged clients for her. Further, it was revealed and admitted by the private complainant herself that the criminal charges were actually intended against her actual pimp, and that Liezel (an influential person to her) urged her to include accused-appellant in the criminal complaint.

To view the copy of Court of Appeals' decisions, you may go to this link <http://services.ca.judiciary.gov.ph/casestatusinquiry-war/> and enter the following case number to search:

Place	Case Number	Date Promulgated by CA	Ruling
Caloocan City	08573	10-Apr-19	Affirmed



Quezon City	41147	7-May-19	Affirmed
Manila City	39420	30-May-19	Affirmed with Modification
Quezon City	09413	18-Jun-19	Affirmed with Modification
Quezon City	07023	8-Jul-19	Affirmed with Modification
Naga City	09192	9-Aug-19	Affirmed with Modification
Manila City	11868	3-Sep-19	Affirmed with Modification
Muntinlupa City	09665	18-Sep-19	Reversed Accused is Acquitted
Calamba City, Laguna	10164	23-Sep-19	Affirmed with Modification
Angeles City	10112	14-Oct-19	Affirmed with Modification
Mandaluyong City	11715	15-Oct-19	Affirmed
San Fernando City, Pampanga	12111	15-Oct-19	Affirmed with Modification
Nueva Vizcaya	10364	15-Oct-19	Affirmed
Lapu-lapu City	03014	28-Nov-19	Affirmed with Modification
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	42983	10-Jan-20	Affirmed with Modification

### C. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Operations

The Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) investigated and conducted 153 anti-TIP operations; 142 (93%) cases filed with the Prosecutor's Office, 7 (5%) are still under investigation, 4 (2%) involved reported victims who refused to file complaint.

A total of 729 identified TIP victims were rescued, 425 (58%) of whom are adult and 304 (42%) are minors. The operations also identified 258 suspected traffickers, 222 were arrested while 36 remain at-large. Of the total number of operations, 86 were cases of commercial sex trafficking/ prostitution, 31 online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC)/ pornography, 7 labor trafficking (forced labour and slavery), and 29 other types of exploitation.

On the other hand, the National Bureau of Investigation-Anti Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) conducted a total of 55 rescue and entrapment operations which resulted in the rescue of 504 identified trafficked victims and arrest of 234, while 3 remain at-large.

PNP-WCPC and NBI-AHTRAD have been instrumental in law enforcement operations since the government has intensified its efforts against trafficking in persons. From the data collected, a total of 2,170 anti-trafficking operations conducted through the combined efforts of PNP and NBI.

#### Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2019

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
PNP	Operations	222	201	267	329	233	206	300	153	1911
	Victim Rescued	963	455	804	1505	1118	669	1039	729	7282
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	375	245	377	566	421	390	498	258	3130
NBI	Operations	27	26	38	48	22	11	32	55	259
	Victim Rescued	257	383	397	303	112	40	620	504	2616
	Arrested/	110	106	118	151	52	14	123	237	911

	Identified Offender									
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## D. Anti-Trafficking Task Forces

The establishment of the Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (ATTF) 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, Law Enforcement Agencies are 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>2</sup>

At present, a total of **twenty four (24)** task forces have already been established in strategic locations based on critical entry or exit points in the country and the place of origin or source area of TIP victims. In 2019, the Task Forces have a total membership of **two hundred thirty-six (236)** 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 task forces in three (3) areas:

- **Trafficking in Persons Convictions**

The IACAT has monitored and recorded **522 TIP convictions** against **532 persons convicted** giving justice to 1229 trafficked victims, 695 (57%) of whom are minors.

In 2019, Philippines sustained a high number of convictions with **70 TIP convictions**. This is more than the average number of conviction since the Philippines has intensified its effort on human trafficking in 2010. This resulted to the conviction of **77 perpetrators**, the second highest recorded number of convicted perpetrators since the enactment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

Year	Number of Convictions	Number of Persons Convicted
2005	7	6
2006	0	0
2007	3	4
2008	5	4
2009	10	11

<sup>2</sup> Chapter 6: Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice of the Philippine Development Plan 2017 - 2022

2010	17	15
2011	21	29
2012	26	32
2013	25	33
2014	58	60
2015	53	51
2016	44	54
2017	61	60
2018	122	96
2019	70	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>532</b>

- **Surveillance and Rescue Operations**

ATTFs are established and designed to assist the law enforcers in the investigation and case build-up of TIP cases. In 2019, ATTFs assisted **40 anti-trafficking operations** rescuing **210 trafficked victims** and identified and arrested **62** offenders in 2019. All of these cases resulted to the filing of TIP cases or TIP-related offences.

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
2018	42	214	57
<b>2019</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>3,243</b>	<b>704</b>

For the Port-Based operations, 6 ATTFs received and processed **1,002 passengers with suspicious, fake and incomplete travel documents** in 2019.

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
2018	76	820	11
<b>2019</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>14,216</b>	<b>163</b>

- **Trainings and Capacity Building**

ATTFs are also composed of Prosecutors who are subject matter experts on handling and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases and other related crimes. They are being tapped as Resource Speakers in various anti-trafficking seminars and capacity-building activities for the government to keep pace with the fast-evolving human trafficking crime. For 2019, ATTFs organized and supported **122** capacity-building activities with a total of **6,987** participants from both Government and Non-Government sectors.

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
2018	19	117	4,495	2,098
<b>2019</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>5,411</b>	<b>1,576</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>35,562</b>	<b>47,027</b>

#### **E. Efforts to Address Government Complicity in TIP crimes**

The IACAT is strictly implementing a zero tolerance policy on any form of complicity of government officials in trafficking-related incidents. Thus, reports of allegations against government officials are thoroughly investigated. In 2019, most of the allegations on government complicity on trafficking-related incidents are pointing to the alleged corrupt and illegal activities in the entry and exit point of the Philippines. There are also reports and cases on the involvement of Police Officers in allowing illegal brothels to operate and even owners of one. With respect to the issuance of fraudulent documents such as passport, the same is a continued serious concern for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

With all the reports and allegations, the IACAT Chairperson strongly urged all member agencies to proactively investigate and report any allegations on the involvement of government officials and employees on corrupt practices. Below are the actions taken and/or ongoing actions being done by IACAT member agencies:

- The IACAT Chairperson issued Department Order No. 186 dated 22 April 2019 directing and granting authority to the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct immediately an in-depth investigation and case build-up on the alleged human trafficking syndicates at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and Other Airports. The progress of the investigation

and case build-up shall be reported directly to the Secretary of Justice. Moreover, BI reshuffled its officials holding key positions at the NAIA and two other airports as part of management's thrust to revitalize the agency's operations. The revamp also aims to prevent fraternization in the workplace, which has been pinpointed as one of major sources of corruption in government, according to the BI Ports Operations Division Chief.

- The DOJ, through the Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (TFATIP) is handling the preliminary investigation against the 9 immigration personnel identified to have facilitated departure clearance to repatriated Overseas Filipinos. The preliminary investigation stage has already been concluded and the resolution was already endorsed to the Office of the Prosecutor General for approval.
- The BI through the Travel Control Enforcement Unit (TCEU) has assigned TCEU personnel at the PPIA to conduct check and balance on the discretion of the BI personnel at the primary inspection on allowing and disallowing passengers to leave the country. TCEU, likewise, initiated the investigation of the BI personnel involved on their alleged involvement in the new TIP scheme in PPIA.
- The DFA is investigating the Regional Consular Office (RCO) in Cotabato where most passports of distressed Filipinos were issued. In fact, DFA is studying the possibility of closing it down because aside from corruption, RCO Cotabato personnel are facing threats to their lives, leaving them with no choice but to process the requested fraudulent passports.
- On 6 June 2019 Secretary of Justice issued a direct order to the BI to:
  1. **Strictly observe and implement** MC No. 036 dated 15 June 2015 (IACAT's Revised Guidelines on Departure Formalities for International-Bound Passengers)
  2. **Take additional precautions**, including the conduct of secondary inspection, if necessary, when processing the travel documents of -
    - a. Passengers, especially women and/or children, using passports issued by the DFA's Regional Consular Office in Cotabato; and/or
    - b. Passengers, especially women and/or children, travelling along, with a tourist visa and bound to the Middle East
  3. **Coordinate** with the NAIA Task Force, IACAT Secretariat or other concerned offices and agencies in instances where further inspection might delay and/or prevent departure of persons, especially women and children, who appear to be at risk of being trafficked or exploited, for the provision of immediate/appropriate assistance and services.
- IACAT also reactivated the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Task Force Against Trafficking (NAIATFAT) with strong and dedicated twenty (20) Prosecutors from Department of Justice (DOJ) main, Office of the City Prosecutors (OPC) Pasay City and OCP Paranaque City. The reactivation resulted to the enhanced inter-agency coordination of all law enforcement units and Bureau of Immigration, including airlines at the NAIA.

- With the increasing involvement of Police Officer in the business of prostitution dens, IACAT is now working closing with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) Legal Affairs to ensure a corresponding administrative charges will be filed against erring Police Officers.

On 9 August 2019, a member of the Police Force with a rank of Police Inspector was found guilty of Qualified Trafficking together with two other accused and was sentenced to suffer life imprisonment and a fine of P2 Million.

Two of the private complainants positively identified the accused and testified that the accused Police Officer is the owner or at least had a major stake in the bar as evidenced that he had a tarpaulin with his picture and name printed on it at the back of the bar, he would not pay whenever he orders drinks, he used or had sex with the entertainers of the bar in the bar fine room without paying, he also gave orders to the bar employees and took money from the cashier's box in the presence of the employees with no reaction.

## **F. Integrated Case Monitoring System (ICMS)**

There is also greater attention being given to forced labor trafficking cases with the newly-developed ICMS that the IACAT member-agencies shall be using to facilitate joint action on cases involving migrant workers. The IACAT Secretariat will be directly managing the ICMS that will be populated with case referrals coming from the different member-agencies. This is part of an ongoing partnership between the IACAT and the Blas F. Ople Policy Center through the support of the US-based international NGO known as the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS). Users' training on how to use the ICMS is now in full swing, with the NBI-NAIA Task Force, IACAT Secretariat Staff, OWWA Repatriation Unit Staff and the Ople Center case handlers as the first batch of trainees.

# **IV. PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING**

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

<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
MOA between CFO and Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)	2-Apr-19	Provision of free legal assistance to overseas Filipinos in distress including victims of human trafficking illegal recruitment
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CFO and Grab Philippines	3-Jul-19	Partnership on anti-trafficking advocacy wherein Grab shall incorporate to its driver and passenger apps access to 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking where transport network vehicle (TNVS drivers and passengers can report any suspicious acts related to suspected human trafficking activities.
MOA for the IACAT TIP Center (Tahanan ng Inyong Pag-Asa)	31-Jul-19	This MOA is intended to seal the commitment of the two IACAT lead agencies (DOJ and DSWD) on the establishment and construction of the IACAT TIP Center that will served as

		one-stop-shop for processing the complaints or tips regarding the trafficking of person reports.											
MOA for the Anti-Trafficking and OSEC Legal Aid Project	30-Jul-19	DOJ-IACAT VII signed a MOA with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Cebu City Chapter and International Justice Mission (IJM), Cebu Field Office for the implementation of the “Anti-Trafficking and OSEC Legal Aid Project” to provide free legal representation and service to the victims of OSEC and human trafficking in the prosecution of their perpetrators through the IBP Legal Aid Program and in close collaboration with DOJ IACAT prosecutors and public prosecutors.											
MOA for the Bahay Kanlungan sa Paliparan (BKP)	3-Apr-19	DOJ-IACAT and DSWD entered into a MOA with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP), and City Government of Puerto Princesa (CGPP) for the establishment and construction of the BKP. The BKP is is a temporary shelter/safe house for trafficked persons and persons-at-risk, especially women and children, which shall provide a 24-hour service or a one-stop-shop, including temporary protective care and psychological services, counselling, and other services to walk-in, referred, and rescued victims of human trafficking, and for referrals in pursuing legal action against illegal recruiters and traffickers.											
MOA between Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and relevant Government Agencies for	Jan 2019 – Jan 2020	<p>The AMLC executed six (6) new MOAs for information sharing with relevant agencies and updated its MOAs with three (3) government agencies to expand the coverage of the Agreement and to include the recent amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) and Terrorism Financing. Details of the MOAs are as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>New MOAs</th><th>Updated MOAs</th></tr><tr><td>Bureau of Immigration on 17 January 2019</td><td rowspan="2">Philippine National Police Criminal Detection and Investigation Group (CIDG) on 26 February 2019</td></tr><tr><td>Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) on 29 January 2019</td></tr><tr><td>Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 21 June 2019</td><td rowspan="2">Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on 5 March 2019</td></tr><tr><td>PNP - Directorate for Investigation and Detective management on 14 August 2019</td></tr><tr><td>Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on 2 September 2019</td><td rowspan="2">Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on 24 April 2019</td></tr><tr><td>Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation on 21 January 2020</td></tr></table>	New MOAs	Updated MOAs	Bureau of Immigration on 17 January 2019	Philippine National Police Criminal Detection and Investigation Group (CIDG) on 26 February 2019	Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) on 29 January 2019	Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) on 21 June 2019	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on 5 March 2019	PNP - Directorate for Investigation and Detective management on 14 August 2019	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on 2 September 2019	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on 24 April 2019	Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation on 21 January 2020
New MOAs	Updated MOAs												
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Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) on 2 September 2019	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on 24 April 2019												
Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation on 21 January 2020													
AMLC engagement with Money Service Businesses (MSBs) and Banks	2018 - 2019	The AMLC engaged covered persons (CPs), particularly the Money Service Businesses (MSBs) and Banks, to enter into an Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) under the AMLC’s Public-Private Partnership Program (PPPP). Under the ISP, the CPs are required to provide information to the AMLC within the STR framework whenever the latter makes											



		targeted request for customer and transaction information. AS of this date, the AMLC has executed five (5) ISPs, two (2) of which were signed in 2018; while three (3) ISPs were signed in 2019. The IPS servers as a bilateral agreement between the AMLC and its private partners.
POEA MOAs with LGUs	2019	In the implementation of Anti-Illegal Recruitment/Trafficking in Persons (AIR/TIP) Seminars, POEA forged a total of 64 MOAs on the Convergence on Illegal Recruitment (IR) and TIP LGUs. Forging partnerships is a strategy to expand the network in the campaign against IR and TIP.

## B. International Network and Partnership

### ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT)

The ASEAN-ACT is a 10-year investment that will continue Australia's long running collaboration with ASEAN and its member states to end human trafficking in the region. The program will principally work on strengthening the justice sector response to human trafficking, while opening up new partnerships with allied government agencies, civil society and business. It will engage all 10 ASEAN Member States in some capacity and will continue national-level programming in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The IACAT and ASEAN-ACT signed the Subsidiary of Arrangement (SA) on 21 December 2018. In 2019, several planning workshop were conducted that resulted to the identification of the following projects to be supported by ASEAN-ACT:

Project	Brief Description
<b>Capacity Building for Agents in the Regional Offices on TIP case investigation</b>  Implementing Agency: <b>NBI</b>	The project will support NBI in developing policies in creating regional TIP units that are fully capable of handling TIP cases. TIP training of agents in the regions will be conducted in coordination with the NBI Academy. Further, this will also include training on Diplomatic Protocol Etiquettes as TIP investigations usually involve collaborating with foreign counterparts. This initiative will also include the roll out of the Manual of Operations for TIP investigations which is a great tool for TIP investigators.
<b>Introducing Anti-Trafficking Initiatives in Public Procurement Policy and Supply Chain Management</b>  Implementing Agency: <b>DOJ</b>	The project will introduce measures and policies that addresses human trafficking in public procurement and supply chains by capacitating a justice agency to influence a wider government initiative to lower the risks of trafficking in the area of procurement. The project will leverage the leadership of the Department of Justice and IACAT.
<b>Capacity Building for LGUs on the Development of Local Ordinance to combat Trafficking in Persons</b>  Implementing Agency: <b>DILG</b>	The project will entail LGU orientation on trafficking in persons and drafting of anti-trafficking ordinance incorporating guidelines on how LGUs will co-operate with justice actors. Taking into consideration LGUs capacity to support prosecutors, police, and social workers through tapping LGUs budget under the Gender and Development area. To complete the process, the need to monitor the implementation and impact of the undertaking shall be in place.

<b>Capacity Building for Specialist Prosecutors</b>  Implementing Agency: <b>DOJ</b>	The project will promote the Victim Compensation Program, rollout the Specialist TIP Prosecutors training program and integrate the victim witness coordination support in the prosecutors training. There will first be a re-development of the training curriculum for the creation of an addendum to the current training handbook. An update shall include a digest of the latest jurisprudence and new trial techniques in the prosecution of TIP cases and the VWC support. Then the rollout of the training program shall be conducted to cover all members of the task forces, and if time permits, other prosecutors who would need the capacity development.
<b>Adjudication Capacity Development and Mainstreaming Alternatives to Victim Testimony</b>  Implementing Agency: <b>Supreme Court (PMO, OCA and PHILJA)</b>	The project will scale up the competency-based program developed and approved by Philippine Judicial Academy (PHILJA) to reach a wider target from different judicial regions of the Philippines. This competency program is an intensive multi-disciplinary training program designed to improve the competencies of judges, prosecutors, social workers, police investigators, and court legal researchers in handling trafficking in persons cases.
<b>ASEAN Transnational Investigative Cooperation (TIC) on progress of Trafficking in Persons Cases</b>  Implementing Agencies: <b>PNP</b>	The project will support ASEAN Member States (AMS) in its transnational investigative cooperation in TIP cases. This initiative will include facilitating the conduct of bilateral meetings between AMS. The project will also respond to emerging needs in building cooperation and linkages between TIP investigators among AMS, for example training of specialist investigators and prosecutors.

### C. Bilateral Agreements

The Government of Republic of the Philippines and Government of the United Arab Emirates entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking on 26 September 2019. This trailblazing document will bring together the agency point of contacts of both governments and provide a platform for a more regular and transparent information exchange and sharing of best practices on the prevention and protection of trafficking victims. The MOU will likewise promote cooperation and assistance in repatriations and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, with special attention to minors or child victims. Further, this will foster a better understanding of the complex issues surrounding the realities of both governments both as sending and receiving states for migrant workers who more often than not become victims of trafficking.

The scope of cooperation includes:

1. To establish a mechanism for efficient, regular and transparent contact and exchange of information;
2. To share best practices in combatting human trafficking;
3. To exchange skills, knowledge and expertise related to the prevention and awareness of human trafficking and protection of trafficking victims, and support research and studies in this area;
4. To promote safety, human rights and best interest of trafficking victims within the legal framework of the two governments, including the development of appropriate care, protection and support for victims of trafficking;

5. To provide each one the widest cooperation and assistance in repatriation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking which should be done as expeditiously as possible;
6. To develop and utilize appropriate procedures for the rescue, protection, recovery and repatriation of victims of trafficking, in accordance with domestic laws, with particular attention to child victims; and
7. Other forms of cooperation


The Philippines also participated in the regional forums on human smuggling and trafficking issues, particularly the Bali Process, Colombo Process and the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

On the other hand, the POEA facilitated the signing of the following Bilateral Labor Agreements:

1. Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippine Republic on Basic Framework for the proper implementation of the law on the development of specified skilled workers of Japan; and
2. Joint Communiqué between the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippine Republic and the Department of Economic Development of the Government of Yukon, Canada.

The POEA likewise reviewed the following Bilateral Labor Agreements:

1. Sri Lanka - Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation
2. Czech Republic - Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation
3. Russia - Memorandum of Agreement between DOLE of the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of the Government of the Russian Federation concerning Human resource Deployment and Development
4. Swiss - Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and Swiss Federal Council on Professional and Technical Trainees
5. Taiwan - MOU between the Taipei Economic Cultural Office and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan on the Special Hiring Program
6. Taiwan Fisherman - MOU on the recruitment and employment of fishermen between the Taipei Economic Cultural Office and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office
7. Seychelles - Agreement on Labor Cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and Republic of Seychelles
8. Thailand - MOU on Labor Cooperation
9. Micronesia - MOU on Labor Cooperation
10. Trinidad and Tobago - MOU on Labor Cooperation
11. Romania - MOU on Labor Cooperation
12. Morocco - Agreement on Labor Cooperation
13. Slovenia - MOU on Labor Cooperation
14. Maldives - MOU on Labor Cooperation
15. Poland SEC - Employment Contract for skilled workers
16. Qatar SEC - Standard employment contract for workers in Qatar

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17. Standard employment contract for US bound workers
  18. Taiwan SEC - unified employment contract for Filipino workers bound for Taiwan
  19. Taiwan SEC Employment Contract for Fishermen
  20. Japan - Employment Contract for special skilled workers
  21. China - Standard employment contract for teachers

#### **D. Government Assistance to Other Countries**

##### **Case Conference with Czech Republic**

The Government of the Philippines through IACAT provided the necessary assistance to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in the investigation of certain visa applications screened by their office. A case conference was conducted and discussed possible remedy to avoid illegal migration and exploitation of Filipino citizens.

##### **Case Conference with Netherlands Embassy**

The case conference is about an ongoing investigation of a case of human trafficking, human smuggling, forgery of writings, money laundering and participating to a criminal organization both in Netherlands and in the Philippines. Employees of the Investigation Department of the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment of the Kingdom of Netherlands presented a view on exploring cooperation opportunities and to reach agreements with regards to the execution of requests for assistance.

##### **Study Visit of Ethiopia Government Officials**

A total of 13 delegates from Ethiopia participated in the Study Visit for the Philippines to share good practices and system on combatting human trafficking and irregular migration, challenges and experience on labour migration management and low-skilled migrants.

Representatives from Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2), Federal TVET, Immigration Authority, Attorney General Office, Amhara, Tigray, SNNPR, and Orimya Regional BOLSA Head, Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Union (CETU), and Private Overseas Employment Agencies Association attended the study visit.

##### **Kenyan Ministry of Labour and International Organization for Migration (IOM)- Kenya Study Visit**

A Kenyan delegation (headed by Principal Secretary Eng Peter K Tum) composed of twenty-one (21) officials from Kenyan Ministry of Labour and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kenya conducted a study visit to the Philippines. The study visit's objective is to learn about the Philippine Government's best practices on diaspora engagement, labour migration laws and policies, consular

assistance, bilateral labour agreements, migrant workers protection, and pre-departure orientations including counter-trafficking in persons mechanism.

Resource speakers from IACAT member agencies shared the Philippine effort in combating trafficking in persons.

### **Republic of the Union of Myanmar Study Visit**

The delegates are on study visit as part of the joint EU-ICMPD initiative “Migration EU eXpertise” (MIEUX). The objective of this EU Funded project is to support EU partner countries worldwide to better manage migration and mobility and improve networking status among participants and international counterparts. The Philippines will be the best venue for knowledge sharing with the visiting officials given its rich experience and expertise in migration management.

MIEUX has implemented a series of capacity building activities in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on labour migration. The final activity was the study visit to the Philippines with its goal to gain knowledge, experience and skills related to strategies, good practices opportunities and challenges in the field of labour migration and the country’s efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

Participants were Directors and Assistant Directors from Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) and Associate Project Officer from International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

### **E. International Investigations**

The AMLC responded to **nine (9) international requests** for information relating to trafficking in persons involving more than 20 subjects or persons of interest. These requests were received from financial intelligence units of Norway, USA, Netherlands, Singapore, and Japan.

The DOJ Legal continued to cooperate with other countries in the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases through the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). In 2019, DOJ Legal Division processed 14 incoming and outgoing requests for international cooperation on an investigation in relation to trafficking in persons cases, with the following details:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Crime</b>	<b>Assistance</b>	<b>Update</b>
INDONESIA (outgoing request)	trafficking in persons	Witness’ statement	<b>On-going</b> (trial in the Philippines is on-going.  Issues pertaining to the taking of the statement of the witness in Indonesia was allowed by the Philippine Supreme Court.  Said Decision is being questioned by the accused (currently

			pending with the SC).
PERU (incoming request)	<b>F.</b> aggravated trafficking in persons; aggravated child pornography	<b>G.</b> provision of information	<b>H. On-going</b>  Referred to the competent authority
NETHERLANDS (incoming request)	<b>I.</b> child pornography; fornification with minors	witness' statement	<b>J. On-going</b>  Referred to competent authority
FRANCE (incoming request)	rape of a minor; possession/ dissemination of child pornographic materials; criminal association	interview of the suspect, the victim and members of her family; provision of information; production of documents (bank records, travel records, etc.)	<b>On-going</b>  Referred to competent authorities
ISRAEL (incoming request)	organ trafficking	<b>K.</b> Provision of information/taking of witnesses' statement/ production of documents	<b>L. On-going</b>  Referred to the competent authority
NETHERLANDS (incoming request)	forgery; human smuggling	Taking of victim/ witness' statements	<b>M. On-going</b>  Referred to the competent authority
UK (incoming request)	child sexual exploitation	provision of evidentiary materials, witness' statement and court documents	<b>Completed</b>
FRANCE (incoming request)	rape and/or sexual assault	statement of witnesses; hear the potential victim; production of documents; "do everything possible to help the ongoing investigation"	<b>On-going</b>
NETHERLANDS (incoming request)	trafficking in persons; smuggling of human beings; fraud; money laundering; participation in a criminal organization in the Netherlands	search and seizure; interrogate suspect Duque; interview of individuals	<b>For compliance</b> (request for additional documents – statements of witnesses)
NORWAY (incoming request)	child pornography	provision all electronic evidence seized by PH law enforcement agency	<b>On-going</b>
	online abuse of children; online child pornography	production of documents/ physical evidence	<b>On-going</b>
SWEDEN (incoming request)	rape of a minor	locate and interview victims/witnesses; access the scene of the crime	<b>On-going</b>
US (outgoing request)	qualified trafficking in persons	witness' testimony; production of documents	<b>Completed</b>



BAHRAIN (incoming request)	trafficking in persons	witness' testimony	<b>Completed</b>
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