



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL AGAINST TRAFFICKING (IACAT)

Republic of the Philippines

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

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Submitted by:

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Government Anti-Trafficking Leadership and Coordination

The IACAT (Council), composed of 11 government agencies and 3 NGOs, is the lead coordinating body in monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (Republic Act 10364) and serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate the Government's anti-trafficking efforts. The Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development serve as Chair and co-Chair of IACAT and lead the Council in the formulation and implementation of anti-trafficking policies and programs. They are ably supported by the IACAT Secretariat under the direct supervision of Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay-Villar.

The IACAT Secretariat operates as a central coordinating body that tends to the needs of eleven (11) major government offices and three (3) non-government organizations that form part of the Council. It also facilitates the daily anti-trafficking in persons operations of the government and monitors not only the strict implementation of the law, but also make sure that those who are mandated to implement it are within legal bounds. Further, it relentlessly establishes partnerships, within and outside Philippine territory, to create stronger ties to eliminate modern-day slavery and all forms of abuse.

Philippine Government Efforts Against Trafficking In Persons

The Philippines set a new record for being the first ASEAN country to have maintained a Tier 1 category ranking in the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2020 for five years straight. The country joins 34 states deemed as making significant progress in the eradication of modern-day slavery.

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.

I. PREVENTION AND ADVOCACY

A. RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

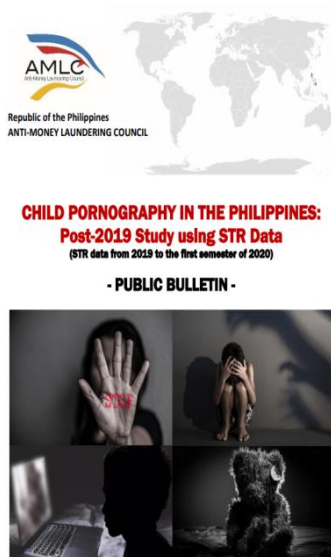
1. Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines: Analysis and Recommendations for Governments, Industry, and Civil Society



The International Justice Mission (IJM) launched the study on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines, in partnership with the IACAT, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and a variety of stakeholders, under the U.S. - Philippines Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership between the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) and the Government of the Philippines.

The study explored the nature and scale of internet-based child sexual exploitation in the Philippines; and examined the Philippines as a global hotspot for this crime. The data presented and analyzed will help inform decisions as well as sustain and enhance existing measures as the Philippines develop new solutions in order to accelerate the movement against OSEC in the country and around the globe.

2. Child Pornography in the Philippines: Post-2019 Study using STR Data (STR data from 2019 to the first semester of 2020)

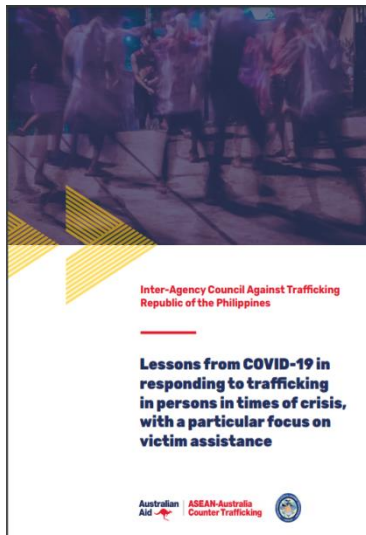


With the country largely going online, the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) examined the country's risk exposure to online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) in the study, "Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Crime with a Global Impact and an Evolving Transnational Threat." This risk assessment supplements the AMLC's 2020 updated study on "Child Pornography in the Philippines: Post-2019 using STR Data," The AMLC looked back at its first OSEC study, "A Study on Child Pornography in the Philippines using STR Data (2015 to 2018)," and assessed the impact of the initial report.

One notable finding is the surge in the number of persons-of-interest (POIs) from 3,282 POIs in the first study to over 22,132 POIs in the 2020 study, which translates to an increase of over 574 percent. Covered persons (CPs)

responded to the said study by filing appropriate suspicious transaction reports¹ (STRs) that led to the identification of these POIs. The study likewise enabled the identification of subjects and financial transactions related to child pornography in order to disrupt payments at source, thereby making the crime less profitable and ultimately protecting the victims, who unfortunately are poor Filipinos.

3. Policy brief: "Lessons from COVID-19 in Responding to Trafficking in Persons in Times of Crisis, with a Particular Focus on Victim Assistance"



The final version of the Policy Brief, “Lessons from COVID-19 in responding to trafficking in persons in times of crisis, with a particular focus on victim assistance” was completed and forwarded to IACAT on 1 September 2020. This was authored by ASEAN-ACT’s Dr. Marika Adam and developed in partnership with IACAT. The Policy Brief informs the country’s next round of counter trafficking policy planning to consider future crises as a factor. Capturing and consolidating the experiences shared and insights offered by counter-trafficking stakeholders in the Philippines, the Policy Brief addresses the impact of crisis and recommends policy considerations to different areas of trafficking in persons response.

4. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Judiciary

As part of the IACAT’s effort to increase knowledge in the prosecution, adjudication, and review of TIP cases, a series of online FGDs involving the key pillars of the criminal justice response to TIP were conducted. The said FGD is in partnership with the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) and Philippine Justice Academy (PHILJA) of the Supreme Court with the support of the ASEAN – Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT). The Justices, Judges, and Prosecutors participated in the FGD, and relevant inputs and best practices in cases where victims cannot be presented to testify were gathered. This activity spurred further commitment among the key pillars of the criminal justice system in crafting and utilizing better tools and innovative interventions to human trafficking during this pandemic.

¹ Suspicious Transaction is a transaction, regardless of amount, where (1) there is no underlying legal/trade obligation, purpose or economic justification, (2) the client is not properly identified, (3) the amount involved is not commensurate with the business of financial capacity of the client, (4) taking into account all known circumstances, it may be perceived that the client’s transaction is structured in order to avoid being the subject of reporting requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2021, as amended (AMLA), (5) any circumstances relating to the transaction which is observed to deviate from the profile of the client and/or the client’s past transactions, (6) the transaction is in any way related to an unlawful activity or any money laundering activity or offenses under the AMLA, (7) any transaction that is similar, analogous or identical to any of the foregoing.

5. Revised Manual on the Prosecution of Trafficking In Persons Cases

The IACAT completed the drafting of the Revised Manual on the Prosecution of TIP Cases. The revised version includes the detection of TIP cases and the procedures that must be followed by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) and other concerned agencies before a case for TIP may be filed, the best practices in prosecuting and establishing criminal liability, and summary of latest jurisprudence highlighting the key actions done by the prosecution. Further, the manual emphasized the importance for the law enforcement agents and prosecutors to be familiar with the services available to trafficked persons so that they may facilitate contact with and make use of relevant agencies in ensuring that all the necessary assistance and special needs of trafficked victims will be provided.

6. Children in Situation of Armed Conflict (CSAC) Handling Protocol

Specific to the handover procedures and management of children in situations of armed conflict, Section 26 of Republic Act 11188 sets the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC CSAC) to formulate the guidelines in handling children involved in armed conflict aligned to its provisions and its IRR. It comes with the primary objective of providing protection to CSAC through proper handling/management of cases.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the IAC CSAC successfully developed the CSAC handling protocol. Series of online consultations at the national and regional levels were conducted to guarantee the relevance of the protocol to reflect and respond to the ground realities.

Taking into account the interface of CSAC with the Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council and other experts on juvenile concerns were onboard during the conceptualization and finalization of the CSAC Handling Protocol. A section on the protocol prescribes specific guidelines on how to deal with a child involved in armed conflict (CIAC) who at the same time, is proven as a CICL. It provides for the services to be afforded to the child and reiterates that the child should be managed with full consideration of his/her best interest. The CSAC Handling Protocol also discourages detention of children being associated with armed force or groups. If such incident arises, it prescribes guidelines on how to hand them over for proper case management.

The protocol was formally adopted by the IAC CSAC last 29 September 2020 through a virtual signing ceremony by the heads of 15 government agencies. The ceremonial signing to adopt the CSAC Handling Protocol is a manifestation of the government pledge to protect and promote the rights of children in conflict situations. This assures the provision of appropriate services by equipping the responders the step-by-step procedures on how to efficiently respond to CSAC and grave child rights violations/concerns.

B. ANTI-TIP AWARENESS PROGRAMS

1. World Day Against Trafficking Against Trafficking in Person (WDAT)
2. International Day Against Trafficking (IDAT)




The 2020 WDAT and IDAT celebration focused on advocacy and awareness on emerging trafficking-related issues, particularly realities surrounding how human trafficking evolves and preys on our children and other vulnerable groups such as children, fishermen and Overseas Filipino Workers. Various international and local organizations, agencies, local government units, and other stakeholders virtually gathered together to share their studies and experience in relation to OSEC from the prevention, law enforcement and prosecution to the financial aspect of OSEC business, with a theme of *“Fighting Human Trafficking Amid A Global Pandemic.”*

IACAT Task Forces and partners in the different Regions also conducted simultaneous webinar activities to expand the anti-trafficking awareness campaign in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

3. BARANGAY IACAT Webinar



The Barangay IACAT was launched last year with the aim of reaching out to the Local Government Units, barangays, communities, and the general public to be able to fully understand the real and actual situation of TIP in the countryside by learning its nature and manifestations at the grassroots level. It serves also as an



avenue for the Local Government Officials, local partners and stakeholders to participate and involve themselves in the fight against human trafficking and illegal recruitment. The program delves into the discussion on where and how to report cases of illegal recruitment or TIP and highlights the crucial role of the barangay officials in preventing the spread and proliferation of these crimes.

These series of online Barangay IACAT activities were broadcasted live via Youtube, Facebook and Zoom platforms and were attended by more than One Thousand (>1K) participants nationwide, consisting of barangay officials, youth leaders, students, civil society organizations and the general public from the Provinces of Cebu, Pangasinan, Zamboanga del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Tarlac, Antique, Laguna, Rizal, Bukidnon, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Mindoro Occidental, and the Cities of Davao, Batangas, Pagadian, Sta. Rosa, and Tabaco.

4. Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Spotlight on International Cooperation and Financial Dimensions

The IACAT Secretariat organized the webinar on “Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Spotlight on International Cooperation and Financial Dimensions” that aims to intensify the current awareness campaign on trafficking in persons by focusing on online sexual exploitation of children and its intersections with money laundering. It provided the audience an overview of how private sector partnerships and international cooperation can help in curbing this crime. Participants included government personnel, practitioners, law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and other non-government partners who are working on financial investigations and those who are looking to learn more about the financial aspects or dimensions of online sexual exploitation of children and the role of the private sector in this field. The panelists include subject matter experts from the Anti Money Laundering Council, International Justice Mission, Western Union Philippines and the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

5. Learning Session: Introducing Anti-Trafficking Initiatives in Public Procurement Policy and Supply Chain Management

Last October 2020, the IACAT Secretariat organized the first webinar learning session to introduce several anti-trafficking initiatives in public procurement policy and supply chain management. The webinar engaged relevant government actors (i.e. Bids and Awards Committee members, officials and staff, procurement officers, etc) through an introduction of modern slavery concepts and how it is related to procurement and supply chain management. It aims to provide a better understanding on how government procurement policies can be used to prevent and combat modern slavery risks. The panelists/speakers are subject matter experts from the US Human Trafficking Legal Center and Verite.

6. Protecting Fishers from COVID 19 and Human Trafficking

A webinar on Protection of Fishers from COVID-19 and Human Trafficking was also conducted to shed light on the current situation of fish workers in the Philippines and how are they affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion focused on the responses of the government and private sector to the issues on forced labor/trafficking in persons in the fishing industry as well as raised the issue to a global and national level, especially government institutions and private sector.

7. 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. The CFO conducted its online CEP for local officials in Cavite City.

8. Capacity Building for LGUs – Development of Local TIP Ordinance

A Roundtable Discussion (RTD) was conducted on the Proposed Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance to the City of Manila. This RTD is an online gathering of civil society organizations, local government, private business sector and local legislators within the City of Manila to discuss and solicit support for the approval of the proposed Anti-Trafficking in Persons City Ordinance and explore policy development from the local legislators of Manila. At the end of the RTD, Councilor Joel Chua relayed his commitment to sponsor the ATiP ordinance in Manila City. He proposed that a technical working group should be created to work closely with his office to strategize for the submission of the draft ordinance to the Sangguniang Panlungsod and eventually for the passage of the said ordinance.

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

The Department of Tourism (DOT) implements the TourISM WoRCS program through the conduct of training and seminars that promote sustainable tourism practices with special focus on ensuring that the rights of children and women are protected.

The DOT in coordination with IACAT and ECPAT Philippines conducted four (4) runs of the TourISM WoRCS for the Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines (ATOP) Formulation of Local Ordinance webinars. The webinar was conducted via Zoom app with a total of 93 local Tourism Officers/participants coming in from the various LGUs all over the country. The webinar specifically targeted local tourism officers to assist in crafting local ordinances for the protection of women and children in the tourism industry.

The DOT through the ATOP will monitor number of local ordinances crafted and passed from the attendees of the webinar.

10. CyberSafePH by DICT

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) continues to conduct awareness campaign through the CyberGuardiansPH, a 3-year program geared towards combatting OSEC and cyber-bullying.

In 2020, webinars on OSEC were conducted and a short film entitled “Manila” was developed. The CyberGuardiansPH also created a Cyber Chat Season Ender “#WeACTasONE” and launched a new version of the Call to Action Music Video “Pas-Asa ng Bayan”, aired on TV Maria Sky Cable Channel 210 and CyberGuardians You Tube page.

C. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

The IACAT through the collaborative efforts and assistance of government agencies, NGOs, and partners support 82 capacity-building activities (122 in 2019), including 16 training programs organized by the IACAT Task Force, 26 training events the IACAT assisted, 14 training programs under the RRPTP, and 29 IJM’s organized and supported training programs. Specialized training topics for national and local government officials included the investigation and prosecution of cases involving forced labor and online sexual exploitation of children, as well as trauma-informed care for survivors and multidisciplinary case management.

In 2020, several training modules were reviewed and revised to adopt with the virtual requirements. For the Judiciary, the Philippine Justice Academy (PHILJA) has conducted a training of trainers (TOT) in February 2020 and is working on the migration of basic and advanced competency enhancement training in TIP online instead of face-to-face. The DOJ Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (TFATIP), in joint collaboration with the National Prosecution Service-Special Project Division, is also developing e-learning materials that are intended to go into the learning management system for Philippine prosecutors to enhance their skills in the effective investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases. Likewise, the National Bureau of Investigation is developing the Basic and Advanced Program of Instruction (POI) for trafficking in persons course. All of these ongoing conversion processes of face-to-face training modules to come up with online modules are conducted in support and assistance of the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT).

Here are some of the specialized trainings successfully conducted online:

Training	Organizers	No. and Type of Participants Trained
Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation (POSE) Online training	International Justice Mission in partnership with the U.S. DOJ Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance,	Trained 16 Prosecutors from different Regions and 6 law enforcers (2 PNP-WCPC Officers and 4 PNP-ACG Officers)

	and Training (US DOJ OPDAT).	
OSEC Remote Accelerated Casework Event (OSEC RACE)	International Justice Mission in partnership with PNP-WCPC, U.S. Government through its Child Protection Compact and the Australian Federal Police	20 WCPC personnel from different units who completed the casework event
Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Training for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors in Region XI	Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force XI	
Online Basic Training in Persons Seminar as part of Standard Training Program for PNP Officers Northern Police District Office – District Investigation and Detection Management Division		Trained 30 PNP personnel from NPD Headquarters (3 male and 27 female)
Online Training on Handling and Investigating Labor Trafficking Cases of OFWs	Blas F. Ople Policy Center with the support of the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS)	Enhanced the capacity of 34 Prosecutors who are conducting inquest or preliminary investigation and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases that are turned over by the Task Force Against the Trafficking of Overseas Filipino Workers.
Three-day Webinar Workshop on the Development of Referral System and Protocols cum Establishment of ATIP Helpdesk and Reporting Mechanisms with Plan International – Palawan	Plan International	78 Government personnel from Barangay Local Government, City Social Worker Development, Police Offices, Coast Guard, personnel from the Bureau of Immigration and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
Online Multi-Disciplinary Training on the Protocol for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation	International Justice Mission	40 Social Workers, Law Enforcers, Barangay, Municipal and Provincial Officers of Samar

D. MONITORING OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING STRUCTURES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

DILG has suspended the monitoring of LGUs compliant with the requirement to establish Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC), Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), and Barangay VAW Desks. Such suspension intends to allow LGUs, particularly Barangays, to focus in their response to health protocols and delivery of assistance to their respective constituent.

Thus, as of 31 December 2020, the LGU compliance on the establishment of these three local TIP-related structures remain the same, to wit:

LCAT-VAWC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70% (57) of the total 81 provinces in the country have organized Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (PCAT-VAWC);• 88% (127) of the total 145 cities nationwide have established the City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (CCAT-VAWC); and• 83% (1,237) of the 1,489 total municipalities in the country has Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women (MCAT-VAWC).
BCPC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 92.30% (38,811) of the total 42,045 barangays have already established its BCPC• 28,674 and 28,292 barangays with operational BCPC and Barangay VAW Desks
VAW Desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 92.85% (39,039) out of the 42,045 total barangays have existing VAW-DESK facilities

With the suspension of the monitoring works, DILG took this opportunity to develop an LCAT-VAWC operationalization manual as part of the ASEAN-ACT project of localization of counter trafficking in persons law. The project is intended to strengthen local government mechanisms against TIP and VAWC through capacity building and advocacy materials for effective awareness campaigns and local legislative measures appropriate to local contexts. In the last quarter of 2020, DILG and ASEAN-ACT conducted a consultation with selected LGUs to assess and evaluate the implementation and functionality of the LCAT-VAWC in preparation for the drafting of the said operationalization manual.

E. ANTI-TRAFFICKING HOTLINES

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 2020, IACAT 1343 Actionline received **55** case reports involving **31** identified victims.

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
2019	4,243	41	31
2020	4,075	55	31
Total	47,330	702	617

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 617 victims since 2011.

WCPC “ALENG PULIS” HELPLINE

With the birth of “Aleng Pulis”, the WCPC social media platform developed into two strands: as an **advocacy platform** and as a **helpline**. As an advocacy platform, it has successfully generated multiple posts dealing with diverse subjects and has registered over 30,000 photo-based posts and 4,000 videos on the average. As a helpline, it has registered an increase in direct messaging from individuals. These messages cover mostly concerns around financial and child support, general inquiries, situations of abuse (physical, psychological, verbal), and internet and computer-related offenses including distribution of nude photos and pornographic materials including those of children, online libel and cyberbullying, among others.

The WCPC Social Media (SocMed) Team has manifested commendable improvements in their response time, quality of their response and prompt referral to concerned units/offices. They have also displayed greater confidence in inter-acting with message-senders. A system for validating responses has been established and while complaints, queries, and concerns are not fully resolved, 55% of the direct messages received by the page have been responded to by the team directly, in most cases adequate guidance were provided.

eProtectKids Global Internet Hotline

The Department of Information and Communications Technology – Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) Philippines and INHOPE on the operation of Internet Hotline, which will be called eProtectKids. It is the country's first global internet hotline against Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) online. eProtectKids by ECPAT Philippines is a member of INHOPE, a network of 46 member hotlines worldwide that aims to quickly remove CSAM from the internet. Verified reports of CSAM will be forwarded to the CICC for appropriate government action and to the INHOPE network for taking down of contents hosted outside the Philippine jurisdiction. eProtectKids was launched on 9 February 2021 in the celebration of Safer Internet Day.

ENDOSEC Hotline

Smart Communications, Inc. and TNTph subscribers may now report incidents of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) directly to the PNP WCPC by **texting ENDOSEC (space) message to 7444-28473** (ATIPD).

POEA Hotline

POEA does not only maintain a hotline and email, it also activated its Facebook account, where most of the reports for IR and TIP come in. The Facebook account accommodates Filipino and English language.

AIRB contact number: 8721-0619 / 8721-0650

Email: poea.airb16@gmail.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/airbranch. This page has a reach of 25,700 viewers (2/3 women, 1/3 men)

During this pandemic, aside from above modes of communicating with the public, POEA likewise issued PLDT Prepaid Landline, as an alternate 24/7 operational phone, so even if the personnel are in quarantined, the public are assured that their concerns are addressed:

(632)8583-0590 to 8583-0594

The POEA likewise mainstreamed online legal assistance, where they simply need to log-in at <http://legalassistance.poea.gov.ph/>.

Adapting to the new normal, these supposedly alternative modes of service delivery became the mainstream tools, with 16,926 clients served. The platform was publicized via the News Releases posted in the POEA Website, POEA FB page and POEA Anti-Illegal Recruitment FB page, and the same has been covered in the Manila Bulletin on June 3, 2020.

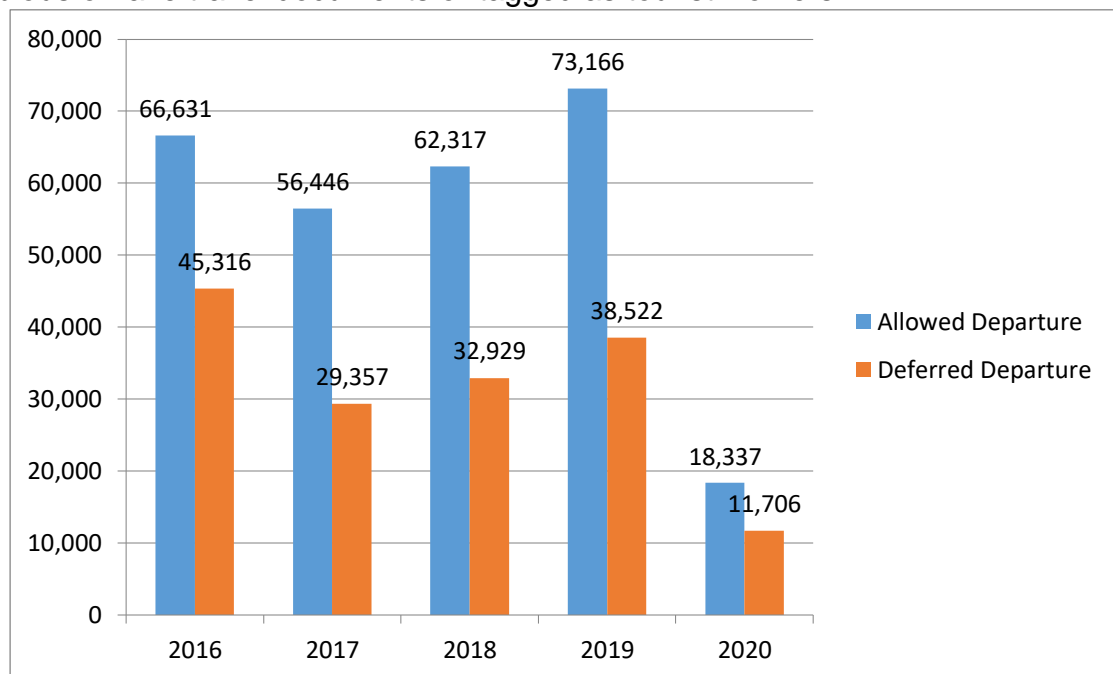
<https://mb.com.ph/2020/06/03/poea-boosts-anti-illegal-recruitment-campaign-through-online-legal-assistance-platform/>

OFW Help Hotline

Philippine Foreign Service Posts and DFA-OUMWA provided a 24/7 assistance page for all migrant workers, including likely victims of TIP. Through “OFW Help” Facebook page, OFWs and their family members were able to get in touch with the DFA-OUMWA for assistance and reports on the perpetuation of trafficking activities were promptly coordinated with the concerned Post.

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

In 2020, a total of **30,043 passengers** were referred to the Travel Control Enforcement Unit (TCEU) of the Bureau of Immigration for secondary inspection. 61% were allowed to depart while 39% were deferred or disallowed to depart mostly for dubious or fake travel documents or tagged as tourist workers.

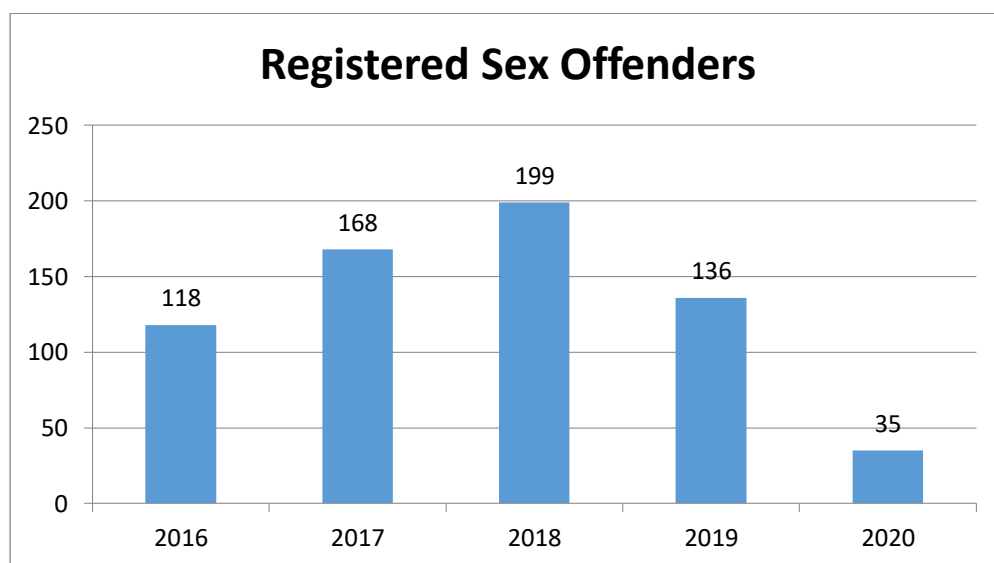


The data on the passengers referred to TCEU in 2020 was down by 73% compared to 2019 data, which can be explained by the strict implementation of enhanced quarantine measures and travel restrictions with temporary suspension of flights both international and domestic during the height of COVID 19 pandemic.

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). In 2020, only **35 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.



II. PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION

A. RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS (RRPTP)

The RRPTP has served **One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight (1,598) victim-survivors of trafficking**, 69% of whom comprises female victims in 2020. The number has decreased by 22% compared to the previous year because of unprecedented restrictions on movement and travel particularly on closure of borders. Moreover, the implementation of skeleton work force and work from home arrangement in government offices due to the required social distancing protocol also affects the RRPTP process during the enhanced community quarantine. Although there are already some relaxed implementation on the quarantine protocols, the same has not yet fully gained swift movement for our frontliners especially in securing their safety in dealing and handling trafficked victims.

A closer look at the data shows that there was a significant decrease of 61% on the number of victims of prostitution in 2020 compared to the 2019 figure. This basically shows the effect of temporary closure of bars and establishments that cater to prostitution activities. Another predominant decrease is on the number of victims of illegal recruitment with 44% compared to the previous year. This can be explained by temporary cancellation of deployment of Overseas Filipinos abroad due to travel restrictions both local and international. With regards to the number of victims of sexual exploitation, a decrease by 47% can also be attributed to the effect of the

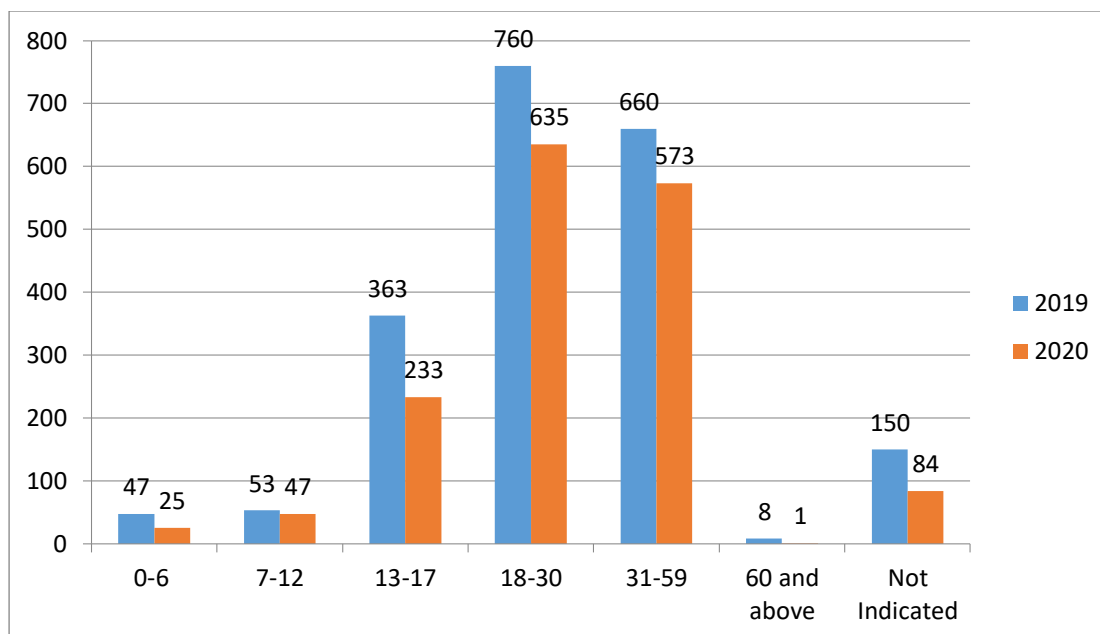
implementation of quarantine protocol where everyone is required to stay at home and is restricted to travel. The access for help for these victims was hampered by all of the restrictions to contain the COVID 19 virus from spreading.

A. Disaggregated by Sex and Exploitative Purpose

	2019			2020			%age of +/-
Nature of Exploitation	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL	
Forced Labor	232	578	810	295	508	803	-.9%
Child Pornography	68	190	258	56	131	187	-27%
Illegal Recruitment	53	174	227	3	125	128	-44%
Sexual Exploitation	9	224	233	7	117	124	-47%
Intercepted/Offloaded	13	39	52	19	92	111	+1.13%
Prostitution/CSEC	15	221	236	8	85	93	-61%
Slavery	0	4	4	2	19	21	+4.25%
Repatriation	0	16	16	4	2	6	-63%
Removal of Organs	7	19	26	4	0	4	-85%
Child Trafficking	1	7	8	0	3	3	-63%
Illegal Adoption	4	9	13	1	0	1	-92%
Others (Deferred/Alleged TIP/CSAC/OSAEC/ Prostitution)	74	84	158	22	95	117	-26%
Total	476	1,565	2,041	421	1177	1598	

B. Disaggregated by Age

With respect to age bracket, vast majority or 76% comprises adult victims, 19% minors and 5% not indicated in 2020. This 2020 data on age bracket is somehow consistent and similar to the age bracket of victims served in 2019 with 70% adult, 23% minor, and 7% not indicated.



C. Services Provided to Victim-survivors of Trafficking

There were 368 *victim-survivors of trafficking* provided with *livelihood assistance* which they used as a capital in establishing micro-enterprise such as sari-sari store, hog raising, buy and sell of *ukay-ukay* and fish vending. Meanwhile, 125 *victim-survivors of trafficking* were provided with *financial assistance* which they utilized for finding a job.

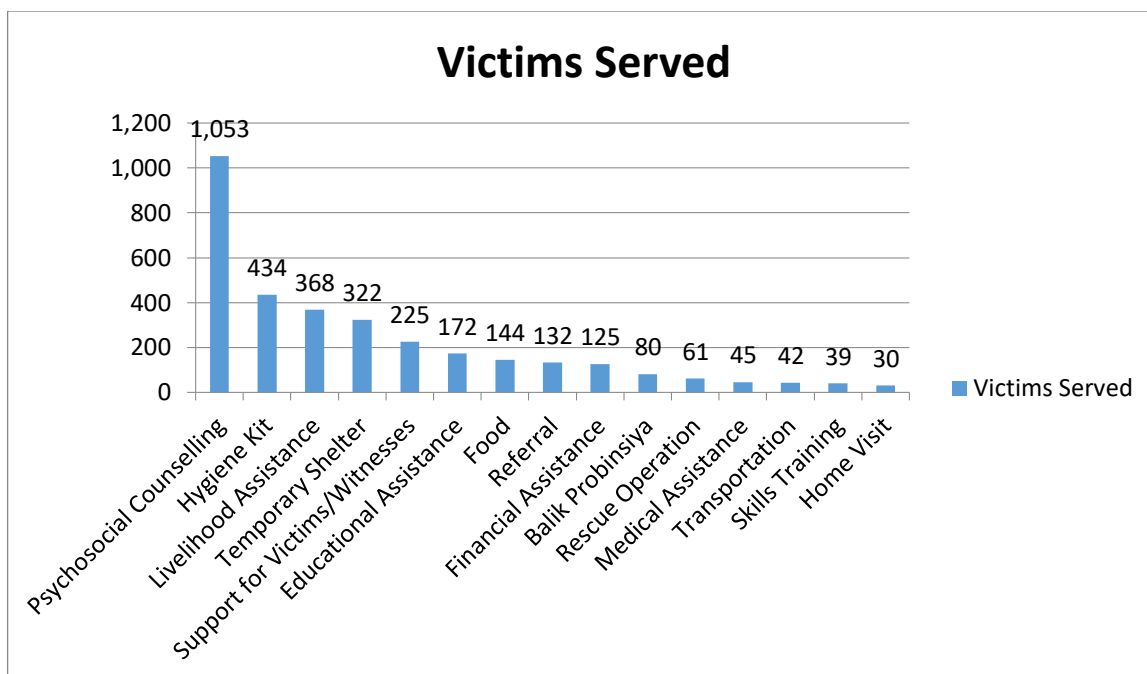
There were 39 *victim-survivors of trafficking* who availed the *skills training* in government accredited training facilities e.g. TESDA. The training is a preparatory activity for the survivors to acquire or enhance their capacity for future livelihood or employment for their economic reintegration.

42 *victim-survivors of trafficking* were provided with *transportation assistance* to cover transportation expenses in attending court hearing while eighty 80 *victim – survivors of trafficking* availed of the Balik Probinsya, which covers transportation expenses in going back to their respective provinces for eventual reintegration to their families and communities.

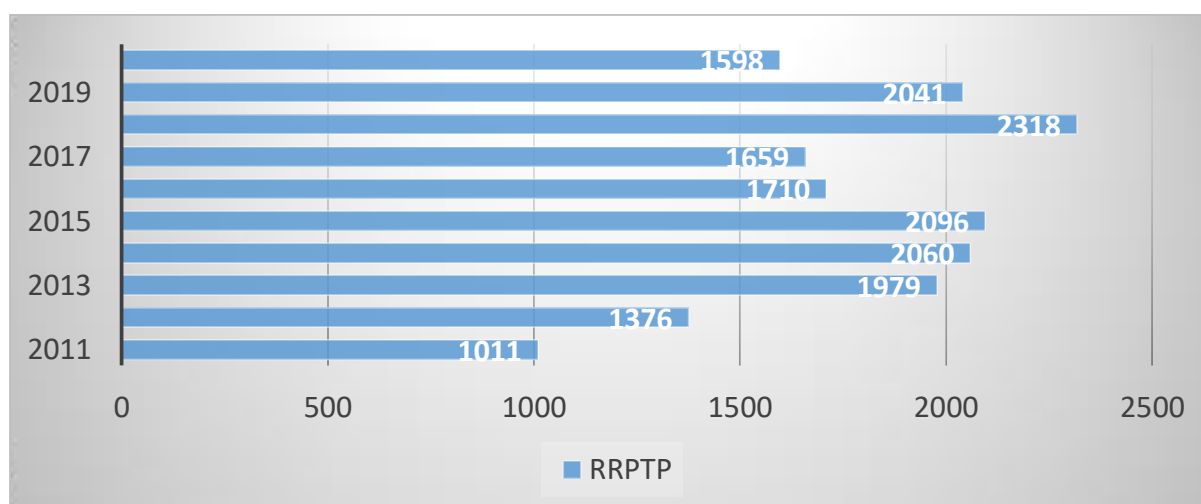
A total of 322 *victim-survivors of trafficking* were provided with *temporary shelter* in DSWD run residential care facilities like Haven for Women, Marillac Hills, Home for Girls, Processing Center for Displaced Persons and among others.

Psychosocial counseling was also provided to the 1,053 *victim-survivors of trafficking* to help them clarify and understand the effects of the victimization in their level of social functioning.

Medical Assistance was provided to 45 *victim-survivors of trafficking* and *Educational Assistance* was provided to 172 *victim-survivors of trafficking* to support their educational and medical needs as part of their psychosocial recovery and reintegration.



Through the years of RRPTP implementation, a total of **17,848 trafficked victims** were assisted and served, 21% of which comprises minor victims.



B. DISTRESSED AND UNDOCUMENTED OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

Social Welfare Attaché Office of the DSWD

The International Social Service Office (ISSO) which act as the central authority of the DSWD on matters related to international and local social services for trafficked persons, undocumented and distressed Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their families, served a total of 27,215 OFs. The number decreased by 16% compared to the previous year with 32,557 clients. The clients were served from the following countries of deployment:

COUNTRIES	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	%
Qatar	220	709	929	3%
Jeddah, KSA	449	651	1,100	4%
Kuwait	303	880	1,183	4%
Hong Kong	443	2,062	2,505	9%
Other Countries	1,499	1,740	3,239	12%
Dubai, Abu Dhabi, UAE	1,380	2,655	4,035	15%
Malaysia	2,003	2,299	4,302	16%
Riyadh, KSA	4,246	3,929	8,165	30%
OFWs Family in Philippines	907	850	1,757	6%
Total	11,450	15,765	27,215	100%

4% or 1,133 of the clients served are victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Illegal Recruitment (IR). This is 59% less than the TIP and IR victims served in the previous year. The decrease maybe brought about by the series of lockdowns and travel restrictions that may have prolonged unfavourable working conditions to OFs abroad.

Assistance to Repatriated OFWs

There were 2,575 trafficking victims assisted by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts: Illegal Recruitment (2,575 victims), Forced Labor (6 victims), Sexual Exploitation (8 victims), and unknown type of human trafficking (14 victims). This is 68% lower than the previous year, which again generally attributed to the global pandemic that disrupted the normal course of action and process in identifying and reporting possible trafficked victims.

Region	Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labor	Human Trafficking	Illegal Recruitment	Total
Asia Pacific				146	146
Middles East	8		14	2,369	2391
Americas					
Europe		6		28	34
Africa				4	4
Total	8	6	14	2,547	2,575

257 (10%) were endorsed to IACAT for further assistance. Prior to the arrival of repatriated victims at a Philippine port of entry, DFA informs the IACAT Secretariat and OFW Task Force members of the flight schedule or the pending arrival of the OFWs. IACAT Task Force members, including concerned government agencies and NGO partners coordinate to provide initial protective assistance upon arrival. In the event that the victim decides to pursue a case against the perpetrators, he/she is referred to the NAIA Task Force Against Trafficking (NAIATFAT) for assessment and

initial investigation. He/she will then be endorsed to the NBI-International Airport Investigative Division (IAID) for a full blown investigation.



Estimated 354 OFWs were chartered back home, including 8 medical repatriation and more than 20 wards with labor and police case.

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.

In 2020, the SBM conducted 8 rescue operations wherein 19 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitive working conditions. Of the 19 child laborers rescued, 7 were recruited for sexual exploitation while 12 were recruited for labor. Also in 2020, 2 bars were closed by the DOLE-National Capital Region for engaging 3 children in prostitution or obscene or lewd shows.

Protective Measure Against Child Soldiers

In 2020, a total of 11 Children Involved in Armed Conflict (CIAC) (9 Male, 2 Female) were provided with psychosocial intervention, temporary shelter, medical assistance and referred to respective LSWDOs for close monitoring. Five (5) CIACs were provided with medical assistance and one (1) of them received livelihood assistance. They were reintegrated with their families when it was verified that they were not involved in armed conflict and that they were just in the situation when the encounter happened.

On the other hand, the other six (6) CIACs were placed in a temporary shelter upon verifying that they are indeed involved in armed groups. Two (2) female CIACs were placed in Haven for Girls in Field Office VI while the other four (4) male CIACs were placed in RRCY in Field Office VI, temporarily.

The DSWD is continuously working on improving case management of former rebels including Children Involved in Armed Conflict (CIAC). On 15 June 2020, DSWD issued a memorandum regarding the crafting of a case management guide to support the social workers and other social service workers in handling cases of former rebels, and to ensure the successful reintegration of the latter into mainstream society. Relative to this, several activities have been conducted by the DSWD Field Offices including focus group discussions (FGDs) with former rebels and their family members and interviews with social workers engaged in managing their cases. Feedback from writeshops, and public consultations and presentations of the draft case management guide also informed this present version. As of January 2021, the case management guide is on the second draft.

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. The services in these residential care facilities are shared with other cases e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, abandoned / Neglected. The services under direct service intervention of RRPTP are available and accessible to trafficking victims staying at the residential care facilities.

Sector	Name of Residential Care Facility	Clients Served	Location (Region)	Total Number of Facilities
Children	Reception and Study Center for Children (Male and Female)	Male & Female	NCR, CAR, II, III, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII	11
	Nayon ng Kabataan	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Marillac Hills	Female	NCR	1
	Home for Girls	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, VIII, X, XII, CARAGA	11
Youth and Women	Haven for Women	Female	I, III, IV-A, VI, VII, IX, X, NCR	9
	Haven for Women	Female	CAR, II, V, XI	4

	and Girls			
Older Persons	Golden Acres: Haven for Elderly	Male & Female	IV-A	1
	GRACES (Golden Reception and Center for the Elderly and other special needs)	Male & Female	NCR	1
	Home for the Elderly/Aged	Male & Female	IX, XI	2
Individual and Family in Crisis Situations	HerSpace	Male & Female	VII	1
	Jose Fabella Center	Male	NCR	1
	Processing Center for Displaced Person	Male & Female	IX	1

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 IACAT has successfully constructed the Tahanan Ng Inyong Pag-asa (TIP) Center which is the first IACAT shelter and one-stop-shop that caters to victims of human trafficking. The T.I.P. center will serve as a temporary shelter for rescued trafficked victims while they wait for the arrival of their documents, trial dates, or their transport back to their hometown, among others. It will also serve as a one-stop-shop where complaints on trafficking in persons may be reported, where victims can avail of counseling services and their other concerns may be addressed—without having to go to the different agencies.

The TIP Center is a two-story building with a lot area consisting of 576.83. sq.m. more or less that can accommodate 24 women, 6 men, 14 girls, and 10 boys and is located at the Sanctuary Center, Welfareville, Mandaluyong City.



Inauguration of the TIP Center on 16 December 2020 with (left to right) Secretary Mark A. Villar (DPWH), Secretary Rolando Bautista (DSWD), Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra (DOJ), Rep. Neptali Gonzales.

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

In 2019, the City Government of Tagum, as proponent of the PAMANA project, donated one (1) hectare land area for the construction of the residential care facility (RCF) that can cater twenty (20) clients of male victims of human trafficking and twenty (20) clients of male children in situation and/or involved in of armed conflict. The total project cost is PHP 16,000,000.00. The construction started in 5 November 2018 and is set to be done last December 2020; while the pandemic did not stop the construction effort, it resulted in a very slow phase of construction i.e. delivery of materials and number of people working. The construction is aimed to be done by June 2021. The RCF is located at PAMANA Pilar II, Puro Tipaz, Bgy. Magugpo East, Tagum City.

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.

E. VICTIM ASSISTANCE, WITNESS PROTECTION INVESTIGATIONS, AND PROSECUTIONS

1. The IACAT Operations Center (OpCen) acts as a support unit to the investigation, prosecution, and protection of victims of trafficking. They provided witness location and security assistance to **16 victims-witnesses (5 minors)** to testify in Court and provided transportation and security assistance to **58 trafficked victims, 35 of whom are minors** and ensured their attendance at case conference or trial.

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
2020	58	16
Total	1,036	262

2. The Board of Claims granted financial assistance to **7 trafficked victims** under its Victims Compensation Program.
3. Trafficked victims enjoy preferential entitlement under the Witness Protection Security and Benefit Program that provides protection and security assistance, shelter, immunity from criminal prosecution, livelihood assistance, travel expenses, medical benefits, education for dependents, and job security. For 2020, **11 trafficked victims** were newly enrolled and served under the DOJ WPSBP.
4. The Victim Witness Coordinator (VWC) program, which is intended to support victim-witnesses in their participation in the criminal justice system, assisted additional **130 TIP victims-witnesses** in 2020. This makes the total victim served to 532 since the inception of the program in 2015. Out the total victims served, **465 (87%) agreed to testify in Court** and only 67 (13%) refused to testify for the following reasons: a) traffickers are closely related to them (mother, sister, or friend), b) they experienced threats to their life and/or the family, and c) embarrassment since some victims do not want to be identified as a victim of TIP.

No. of Victim/Witness who Refused to File Complaint	26
No. of Victim/Witness who Completed testifying in Court	170
No. of Victim/Witness with on-going hearing	200
No. of Victim/Witness who refused to testify	41

No. of Victim/Witness whose case is still under preliminary investigation	95
Total No. of Victim/Witness under (VWC)	532

5. To protect and prevent retraumatization of the victims during prosecution, IACAT supports the utilization of the Plea Bargaining Advisory issued in December 2019. This is intended to guide prosecutors on the appropriate use of plea bargaining in human trafficking cases. As a result, **27 or 33% of the total TIP conviction** were resolved through plea bargaining in 2020, mostly for cyber-sex trafficking and child pornography cases.
6. 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 109 victims who no longer had to appear during inquest proceedings and protected from potential retraumatization and revictimization.

Two (2) online VIDI orientations were conducted to further introduce the tool to law enforcers and social workers and expand the use during inquest proceeding and eventually in Courts.

III. PROSECUTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

A. ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS OPERATIONS

The Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC) investigated and conducted **161 anti-TIP operations, 149 (93%) of which were filed before the Prosecutor's Office**. Despite the challenges and restrictions brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic, PNP-WCPC still managed to increase its operation in 2020 by 5% compared to the number of operations in 2019. WCPC is now waiting for the approval of its request for its reorganization to attain the National Operational Support Unit (NOSU) status. Such a status will afford the WCPC increased authority, capability, and independence- all of which are essential for its administration- for the WCPC to better achieve its mandate as the lead anti-trafficking unit of the PNP.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTRAD) has likewise conducted **16 notable anti-trafficking operations, all of which were filed for inquest before the Prosecutor's Office**. It further investigated a total of 145 TIP cases, 87 were closed and terminated and 5 filed for prosecution.

These operations resulted to the rescue of 727 trafficked victims, 256 (35%) of whom were minors.

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 **2,341 anti-trafficking operations** conducted through the combined efforts of PNP and NBI.

Anti-Trafficking Operations 2012-2020

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
PNP	Operations	222	201	267	329	233	206	300	153	161	2,071
	Victim Rescued	963	455	804	1505	1118	669	1039	729	667	7,949
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	375	245	377	566	421	390	498	258	225	3,355
NBI	Operations	27	26	38	48	22	11	32	55	16	270
	Victim Rescued	257	383	397	303	112	40	620	504	68	2664
	Arrested/ Identified Offender	110	106	118	151	52	14	123	237	20	931

B. ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES

The DOJ continued to oversee and supervise the operations of the twenty-four (24) Anti-Trafficking Task Forces (ATTFs). A significant increase in manpower of these Offices was granted, especially with the number of Prosecutors designated to handle and prosecute TIP cases. For 2020, the ATTFs has a total of 376 Prosecutors assigned as Task Force members, an **increase by 140 or 59%** compared to 236 in 2019. These Task Forces are specially created to investigate and prosecute TIP cases in close collaboration with law enforcement agencies with respect to case build-up, as well as instrumental in the successful conduct of various capacity-building or training conducted by Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations, and other partners.

Here are the major accomplishments of the task forces:

- **Trainings and Capacity Building**

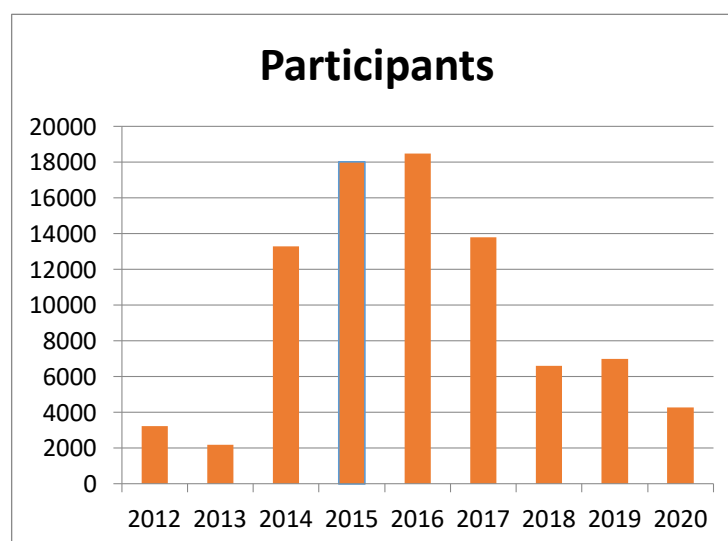
ATTFs are composed of Prosecutors who are subject matter experts on handling and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases and other related crimes. They are being tapped as Resource Speakers in various anti-trafficking seminars and capacity-building activities for the government to keep pace with the fast-evolving human trafficking crimes. For 2020, a total of **39 capacity-building activities** were organized and assisted by IACAT Task Forces that trained **4,270 participants**.

The number of trainings conducted in 2020 is down by 68% compared to 2019 due to the cancellation of planned trainings and seminars because of restrictions of face to face activities. Also, a portion of the IACAT budget was discontinued and repurposed for COVID response. However, IACAT still managed to convert some of the trainings online through the development of online training modules.

Year	Number of Trainings	
	Organized	Attended as Resource Speaker
2012	21	11
2013	34	19
2014	59	12
2015	100	171
2016	46	204
2017	36	169
2018	19	117
2019	33	89
2020	13	26
Total	507	818



Year	Number of Participants	
	Government Personnel	NGOs & Private Sector
2012	2,284	936
2013	892	1,302
2014	3,728	9,569
2015	6,987	11,028
2016	6,494	11,997
2017	5,271	8,521
2018	4,495	2,098
2019	5,411	1,576
2020	2,515	1,755
Total	38,077	48,782



Also observed is that the number of trainings conducted and participants trained are decreasing from 2017 to 2019. This is so because IACAT has invested on basic trainings and fundamentals on trafficking in persons between 2014 – 2016, while more specialized trainings and capacity-building activities are being done during the later years to address new trends and more pressing trafficking issues such as online sexual exploitation of children.

- **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 2020, the ATTFs assisted **29 anti-trafficking operations**, involving the rescue of **336 trafficked victims**, 212 (63%) of whom are minors. The operations also identified and arrested **43** offenders

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
2019	40	210	62
2020	29	336	43
Total	486	3,579	747

For the Port-Based operations, 6 ATTFs received and processed **304 passengers with suspicious, fake and incomplete travel documents** in 2020.

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
2019	90	1002	6
2020	65	304	0
Total	2,134	14,510	163

C. STATISTICAL DATA ON TIP CASES

Since the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, IACAT has monitored a total of 3,849, 60% or 2,297 of which were decided or resolved either archived, dismissed, or decided after a full blown trial or utilization of a victim-centered prosecution strategy such as plea bargaining. The remaining 40% or 1,552 are still pending for trial and with standing warrant of arrest.

Status	No. of Cases	%age
On Trial	1,442	37%
Dismissed in Court	742	19%

Archived			606	16%
With Warrant of Arrest (Accused at large)			110	3%
Decided			949	25%
Acquittals/ Reversals (30%)	RTC	284		
	CA	9		
	SC	2		
Convictions (70%)	RTC	643		
	CA	11		
Total			3,849	100%

Source of data: IACAT Database

From January to December 2020, there are a total of 393 trafficking in persons cases filed before the Regional Trial Courts all over the Philippines. This is 154 or 28% lower than the 547 TIP cases filed in 2019.

	FILED CASES												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
NCR	8	21	5	0	7	6	14	4	12	19	12	12	120
Region 1	8	2	2	0	1	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	25
Region 2	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	8	15
Region 3	3	5	3	0	3	3	2	5	3	1	7	5	40
Region 4	10	5	2	0	2	1	1	6	6	1	3	0	37
Region 5	3	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	0	2	17
Region 6	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	9
Region 7	11	1	3	0	4	2	0	2	1	2	3	2	31
Region 8	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	2	2	14
Region 9	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	11
Region 10	2	5	0	8	1	4	6	9	0	5	2	2	44
Region 11	7	2	1	0	2	6	1	0	1	0	0	6	26
Region 12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
TOTAL	56	48	19	10	24	27	33	28	35	35	38	40	393

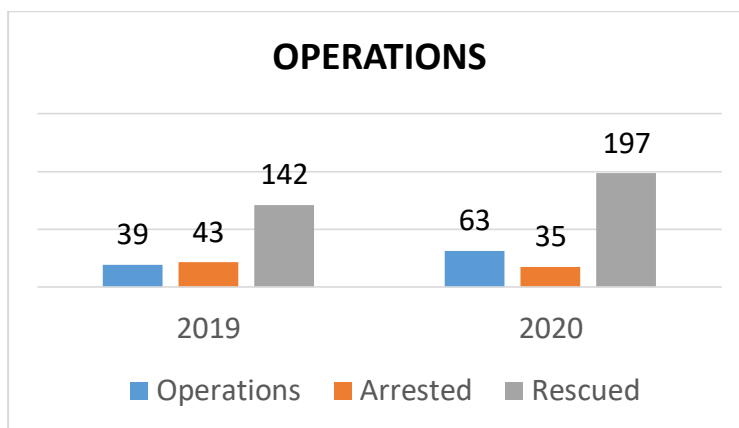
Source: Supreme Court of the Philippines

As a result of IACAT's active coordination with the Supreme Court of the Philippines through the implementation of Justice Coordination Mechanism System, the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) issued OCA Circular No. 20-2018 directing judges and clerks of court to furnish the IACAT with copy of decisions in

cases involving TIP cases. With the upgrading of the IACAT portal and the creation of a more secured e-mail account, the OCA issued OCA Circular No. 155-2020 directing judges to submit these decisions electronically through the updated email address of the IACAT.

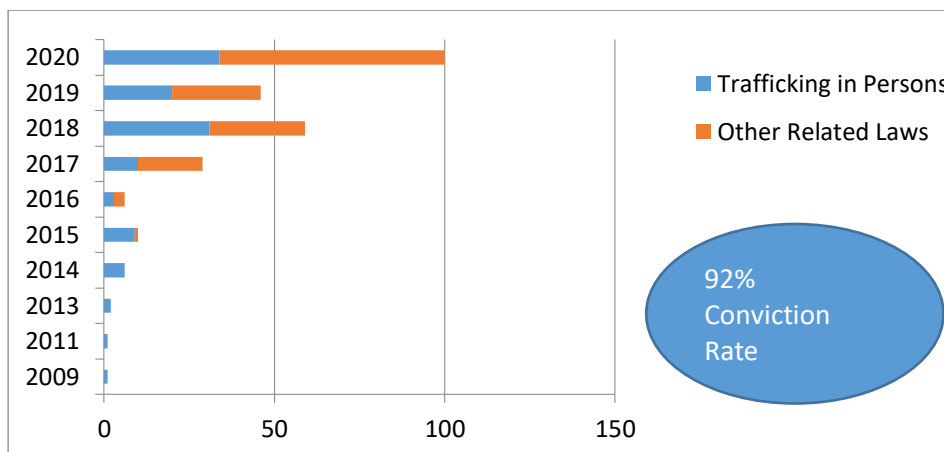
D. STATISTICAL DATA ON OSEC CASES

With the intensified efforts to address the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC), there was an increase in police operations conducted nationwide by 61% with 63 operations carried out in 2020 compared to the 2019 data with only 39 operations. The increase of operations resulted in the rescue of 197 identified trafficked victims of OSEC in 2020 which is higher by 55 compared to 2019 with only 142.



* Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children (PICACC) data

The increase in the number of operations conducted by LEAs in 2020 has eventually led to an exponential increase in convictions in OSEC cases. Consequently, this steady rise in the number of successful convictions has earned the DOJ a 92% conviction rate in OSEC cases, 53% of which are achieved through plea bargaining.



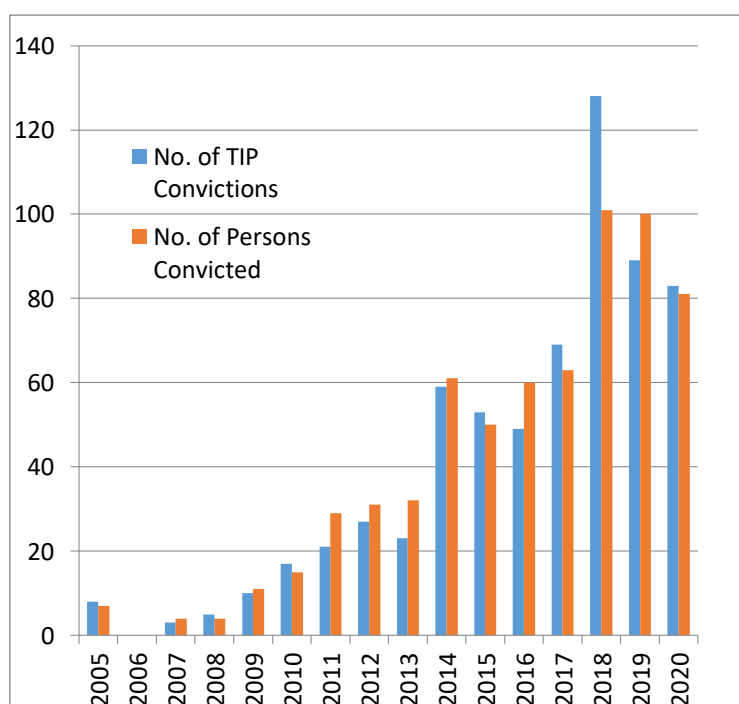
There is a significant increase of 117% on OSEC convictions with 100 in 2020 from 46 in 2019. Most of the 100 convictions (about 63%) were obtained through plea bargaining agreement, which means speedy termination of court cases without going through the rigors of trial. This is 21% higher than the plea bargaining agreement attained in 2019. In 2020, the fastest recorded timeline for a conviction was 3 months from the date of incident or rescue. This is a case against a Norwegian national together with his Filipina girlfriend who maintained a house which serves as a cybersex den. Both accused pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 6 years imprisonment and to pay a fine of PHP700,000.00.

E. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CONVICTIONS

The IACAT has monitored and recorded **644 TIP convictions** against **649 persons convicted**, giving justice to **1,583 trafficked victims, 933 (59%) of whom are minors** since the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2003.

With the unprecedented pandemic in 2020 which temporarily closed and limited government operations including case trial in Courts, the Philippines still managed to sustain a high number of conviction with **83 TIP convictions** with **81 persons convicted**, which is more than the average number of conviction since the Philippines has intensified its effort on human trafficking in 2010. One (1) conviction is for labor trafficking while eighty-two (82) are for sex trafficking, 34 (41%) of which are cyber-sex trafficking and pornography while the remaining 48 (59%) are for prostitution and sexual exploitation.

Year	No. of Convictions	No. of Persons Convicted
2005	8	7
2007	3	4
2008	5	4
2009	10	11
2010	17	15
2011	21	29
2012	27	31
2013	23	32
2014	59	61
2015	53	50
2016	49	60
2017	69	63
2018	128	101
2019	89	100
2020	83	81
Total	644	649



Moreover, IACAT also monitored 73 convictions on other TIP-related offenses such as RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), RA 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009), RA 10175 (Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012), Art 201 of Revised Penal Code (RPC) (Immoral doctrines, obscene publications and exhibitions, and indecent shows), and Art 336 of RPC (Acts of Lasciviousness).

F. COURT OF APPEALS (CA) DECIDED CASES

The CA, as an appellate tribunal, resolved thirteen (13) appealed trafficking in persons cases, all of which were affirmed in toto or with modification the decisions of the lower courts. 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:

Area	CA No.	Date of Promulgation by CA	Ruling
Bayombong	42983	10-Jan-20	Affirmed with Modification
Cebu City	03272	30-Jan-20	Affirmed with Modification
Batangas City	11025	18-Feb-2020	Affirmed with Modification
Baguio City	12908	8-Jun-2020	Affirmed with Modification
Manila City	12630	19-Jun-2020	Affirmed
Manila City	11965	6-Jul-2020	Affirmed with Modification
Makati City	10801	15-Jul-2020	Affirmed in Toto
Sorsogon City	12636	16-Jul-2020	Affirmed with Modification
Laoag City	12499	20-Aug-2020	Affirmed in Toto
Cebu City	02922	4-Sep-2020	Affirmed
Makati City	10964	23-Sep-2020	Affirmed
Baguio City	12661	26-Nov-2020	Affirmed with Modification
Pasay City	37982	15-Dec-2020	Affirmed with Modification

G. EFFORTS TO ADDRESS GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN TIP CRIMES

In October 2020, the IACAT initiated the drafting of the “**Guidelines on the Investigation and Monitoring of Trafficking in Persons Related Corruption Cases**” to provide procedures on the initiation of investigation, institution of complaint, both in criminal and administrative cases, as well as reporting and

monitoring of these cases. This would govern the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy on TIP-related corruption in government, recognizing that corruption has been identified to significantly facilitate trafficking in persons, thereby weakening and affecting the country's robust anti-trafficking response. An IACAT Council Resolution is currently under review by the council members which establishes and adopts guidelines in holding corrupt and erring public officials and employees accountable for their participation and/or facilitation, directly or indirectly, of the crime of Trafficking in Persons.

Pending such guidelines, IACAT has been strictly monitoring the developments of the following criminal or administrative cases or charges against government personnel:

- On October 23, 2020, formal charges were issued against 18 BI personnel who allegedly operated the pastillas scheme, a bribery scheme employed by some BI personnel relative to the entry of various Chinese nationals who are working at the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGO) without undergoing the usual immigration procedure for a fee.
- Entrapment operation was conducted against NBI Agent for allegedly taking bribes from members of the "pastillas gang" in exchange for their exclusion from criminal charges over the modus. Likewise arrested in the entrapment operation was his brother an immigration officer at the BI's medical section. Complaints for extortion under the Revised Penal Code and violation of the Anti-Graft Practices Act, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and Executive Order No. 608, which established a national security clearance system for government personnel with access to classified matters were filed against them.
- A Police Officer was charged for violation of Section 5(h) of R.A No. 9208, as amended by RA No. 10364 for willfully influencing or attempting to influence a witness-complainant in the investigation and prosecution of a criminal complaint for Qualified Trafficking by offering the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to witness-complainant's mother in exchange for the desistance of the witness-complainant.
- A joint panel of prosecutors was created to handle and prosecute a controversial trafficking in persons case involving a Police Officer. This was after the Supreme Court granted the transfer of venue from Region XII to Region XI to ensure impartial prosecution and trial of the case.
- An investigation has been launched by the Bureau of Immigration as to the circumstances of the repatriates, focusing on whether any BI personnel is involved in TIP schemes such as facilitating the departure of travellers without complying with the IACAT Departure Formalities. BI-Board of Disciplines (BOD) record shows:

BOD Statistical Data	
With Formal Investigation Report	39
With Pending Formal Investigation Report	64
With Preliminary Investigation Report	25
With Pending Preliminary Investigation Report	24
Pending Resolution	5
Dismissed from Service	1

- A total of 89 immigration officers have been charged before the Office of the Ombudsman for their involvement in the pastillas scheme, while 87 have also been placed by the Office of the Ombudsman under preventive suspension.
- A former Philippine Ambassador to Brazil, who was caught on video maltreating her household helper, has been dismissed from service. The dismissal order comes with accessory penalties such as cancellation of eligibility, the forfeiture of her retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

H. INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Blas Ople Center, with the assistance of the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS), and in cooperation with IACAT, launched the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) to efficiently monitor cases of human trafficking and the delivery of reintegration services to victim-survivors. This improves the services provided to the public by providing efficient monitoring of complaints of trafficking filed by OFWs. It also responds to the need for a centralized database containing relevant information regarding illegal recruitment and human trafficking. This will greatly improve information sharing between and among concerned agencies and delivery of government assistance.

IV. PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

A. LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

Bangsamoro Task Force Against the Trafficking of OFWs

On 21 January 2020, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has taken a groundbreaking step in combating human trafficking by signing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Blas Ople Policy Center, creating the Bangsamoro Task Force Against the Trafficking of OFWs.

ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking

The ASEAN-ACT is a 10-year investment that continues Australia's long running collaboration with the ASEAN and its member states to end human trafficking in the region. The program principally works on strengthening the justice sector's response to human trafficking, while opening up new partnerships with allied government agencies, civil society and business.

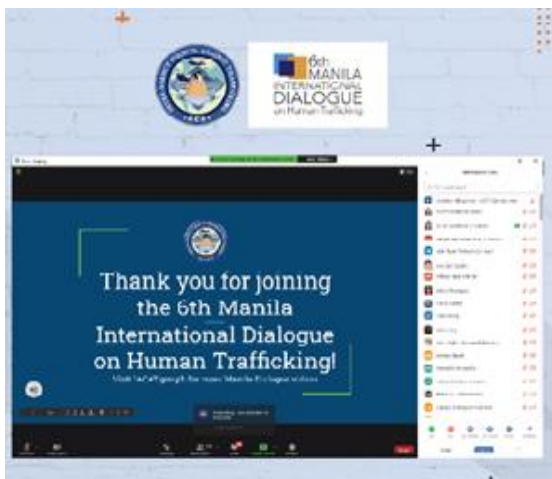
Relevant updates on the implementation of the 6 major programs were presented during the Regional Program Steering Committee meeting conducted online last December 2020.

Child Protection Compact Partnership

Since the inception of the CPC partnership with the Government of the United States, significant gains were already accomplished in combating online sexual exploitation of children. IJM and The Salvation Army, as key implementers of the program, have introduced several innovative solutions in the areas of prevention, investigation and prosecution, after-care services, as well as the expansion of network both local and international.

CPC has introduced three big wins for the Philippine Government: (1) the utilization of victim-centered prosecution strategies that further protects the child from potential retraumatization and revictimization; (2) ripple effect of the conduct of Prosecuting Online Sexual Exploitation (POSE) training to other Regions; and (3) the establishment of the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children (PICACC) which solidify international cooperation.

6th Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking



The 2020 Manila International Dialogue centered on the response of the government against human trafficking with the theme *“Modern Day Slavery during COVID-19: Challenges, Priorities, and Perspectives”*.

The Manila Dialogue is a platform for continuing conversations on TIP, participated in by various local and international organizations, government agencies, and foreign missions. The core of the Manila Dialogue is the product of discussions of three Technical Working Groups (TWGs), namely: (1) TWG on Household Service Workers and Tourist Workers; (2) TWG on Online Child

Exploitation (OSEC); and (3) TWG on Seafarers and Fisherfolks. It highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Government’s response to TIP and how COVID-19 exacerbated TIP, the challenges in addressing TIP during the pandemic, and how these cases be addressed.

Global Resolve Against Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Virtual Summit



The Virtual Summit is a result of the alliance of the IACAT with the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the International Justice Mission, as part of the CPC partnership. It successfully gathered hundreds of stakeholders and experts from all over the world, who shared promising strategies and best practices in combating the crime through international law enforcement collaborations, innovations in prosecution and aftercare, and partnerships with non-government organizations, private sector and other key players.

B. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS


1. Russia - Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines on Organized Recruitment and Deployment of Citizens of the Republic of the Philippines for Temporary Employment in the Territory of the Russian Federation
2. British Columbia, Canada - Terms of Reference for the MOU between the DOLE of the Republic of the Philippines and the Province of British Columbia of Canada as represented by the Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology (BC) Concerning Cooperation in Human Resource Deployment and Development (and hereinafter jointly referred to as the Participants)
3. Taiwan - Memorandum of Understanding on the Recruitment and Employment of Fishermen between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan
4. Swiss Guidelines - Guidelines on the Documentation and the Deployment of Filipino Trainees (Young Professionals/Stagiaires) from the Philippines under the Philippine-Swiss Agreement on the Exchange of Professional Trainees
5. Romania - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania and the DOLE of the Republic of the Philippines on the Cooperation in the Fields of Labor and Social Protection
6. Suriname - Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Suriname
7. Thailand - Memorandum of Agreement on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand

8. Micronesia - Memorandum of Agreement on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia
9. Trinidad & Tobago - Memorandum of Agreement on the Protection and Employment of Filipino Workers between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago
10. Yukon Canada - Memorandum of Agreement Between the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Yukon on the Employment and Protection of Filipinos Under the Yukon Nominee Program
11. Ontario Canada - Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation between the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines and The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development of the Province of Ontario, Canada
12. Portugal - Memorandum of Understanding on Labor Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Portugal
13. Korea - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea and the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the Republic of Korea under the Employment Permit System
14. Sri Lanka - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Employment and Labor of the Republic of Korea and the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to the Republic of Korea under the Employment Permit System
15. Taiwan – Memorandum of Understanding between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines and the Manila Economic and Cultural Office on the Special Hiring Program
16. Kuwait SEC - Standard Two-Party Recruitment/Employment Contract (Male/Female Domestic Workers) and the Standard Triple-Party Recruitment/Employment Contract (Male/Female Domestic Workers)
17. Taiwan – Special Hiring Program for Taiwan (SHPT) Unified Employment Contract (GPB)
18. Taiwan - Unified Employment Contract for Filipino Workers bound for Taiwan (PRA)
19. Poland SEC for Filipino Truck Drivers

C. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES

The Philippine government through IACAT has assisted the National Strategic Office to the Council for Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants (NSO-MAPO) of Malaysia in sharing Philippines best practices in combating human trafficking. This information sharing will be used by Malaysian authorities in developing its National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) 2021 – 2025.

The Philippines also engaged Malaysia in a Bilateral Meeting on Transnational Investigative Cooperation on Trafficking in Persons in July 2020. The current initiative supported by ASEAN ACT will continue the support to investigative



cooperation on TIP cases between ASEAN Member States. This initiative will include facilitating the conduct of bilateral meetings between ASEAN member states. The status of investigation of TIP cases as well as monitoring will be discussed during bilateral meetings. The case monitoring tool developed during AAPTIP will be used in addition to country-specific case monitoring system. The bilateral will also respond to emerging needs in building cooperation and linkages between TIP investigators among ASEAN member states.

IACAT with IJM also engaged in sharing best practices on prosecuting human trafficking OSEC cases. The event was hosted by the Trafficking in Persons Network (TIPNET), Thailand which was participated by 40 individuals composed of members of Thai law enforcement, government agencies, NGO partners, and IJM Thailand Field Office personnel.

D. INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS

On 29 April 2020, the Bahraini High Court convicted eight persons (seven Filipinos and one Bahraini police officer) for TIP. Those found guilty were sentenced to 7 years in prison and meted a fine of Php 264,717, and deportation after the completion of sentence. Five (5) Filipinos are already incarcerated in Bahrain while two (2) others remain at large and are presumed to be in the Philippines. The Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) of Bahrain also granted US\$3,000 to each victim-survivor from the Victim's Assistance Fund.

The case was a result of the activation of the IACAT OFW Task Force, highlighting the cooperation among agencies combating trafficking, particularly of the IACAT, led by Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra and the National Committee to Combat TIP (NCCTIP) of Bahrain, led by its Chairman and renowned anti-trafficking hero, Hon. Ausamah bin Abdullah Al Absi. This was made possible even without a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) between the countries involved.