

# Filipino Women in International Migration

*Situation Analysis, Policy Context  
and International Mechanisms*



This project is funded  
by the European Union.



## ABOUT UN WOMEN

---

**U**N Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN System's work in advancing gender equality.

Published in August 2015

Copyright © 2015 UN Women

### Disclaimer:

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily represent those of UN Women or any of its affiliated organizations. The sharing of this report with external audience is aimed at sharing general guidelines and does not constitute an endorsement by UN Women or institutions of the United Nations System. The text and data in this report may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes with attribution to the copyright holder.

### Published by:

UN Women Philippines  
Rooms 209, 211, 212 PSSC Building  
Commonwealth Avenue,  
Diliman, Quezon City,  
Philippines 1100  
[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)  
<http://asiapacific.unwomen.org>

Cover Photo: UN Women/Betsy Davis

Printed in the Philippines

## FOREWORD

---

In the Philippines, several government agencies are mandated to attend to migrants' concerns at various stages of the migration process, so much so that the country has often been regarded as a 'model' of migration management. The Philippines' ratification of key international instruments protecting migrant workers' rights in general, and particularly, of women migrant workers, further manifests the country's commitment in adhering to human rights standards to enhance the protection of migrant workers. Such commitment is solidified at the national level with the passage and implementation of corresponding laws and policies.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have contributed immensely in raising awareness on the situation and issues of migrant workers and in seeking accountability from relevant sectors. They provide critical support such as direct services, repatriation and reintegration assistance, mostly to women migrant workers.

However, the complexity of migration, including its gendered dimensions, brings challenges that remain unresolved despite the combined efforts of government and civil society. Responding to these challenges requires investment in evidence-based planning, human resources, funding and capacity development, among others, to enable effective engagement with key stakeholders, mechanisms and processes, as well as providing support and empowerment of migrant workers, especially women migrant workers.

Getting a more comprehensive and clear understanding of the situation of Filipino migrant workers requires accessible sex-disaggregated data and analysis of migration profiles. This publication aims to contribute to the available knowledge from a gender perspective. Given the data and analysis, priority concerns that duty bearers and claim holders need to address are highlighted. Policy and programs are reviewed to inform technical assistance and capacity strengthening activities and development of advocacy and capacity building tools.

Importantly, this paper highlights the contributions of women migrant workers to development, and advocates for the further strengthening and implementation of gender-sensitive policies, legislation and national development strategies that protect the rights of women migrant workers.



Roberta Clarke  
Regional Director and Representative in Thailand  
UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Bangkok, Thailand

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

UN Women extends sincere appreciation to Dr. Jean Encinas-Franco, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of the Philippines Diliman, with research assistance from Ms. Cristina Rubio-Pardalis. The development of the paper was done in close collaboration with Ms. Ryce Chanchai, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Additional guidance and inputs were provided by Ms. Sarah Gammage, Policy Advisor, Economic Institutions, UN Women Headquarters, New York; Ms. Allison Petroziello, Consultant, Training for Gender Equality, UN Women Training Centre, Santo Domingo; Ms. Jenna Hennebry and Mr. William Grass, International Migration Research Centre, Ontario, Canada; Ms. Maruja Asis; Ms. Stella Go; and representatives of relevant government and civil society organizations. UN Women specially acknowledges the inputs and support of the UN Women Philippines migration project team: Ms. Marilen Soliman, National Project Officer – Migration; and Ms. Rose Ariane Roxas, Programme and Finance Assistant.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

Significance of the Report .....	8
Framework of Analysis and Focus of the Report.....	9
Data and Methods.....	11
Structure of the Report .....	11

### **BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF PHILIPPINE**

<b>LABOR OUT-MIGRATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
----------------------------------	-----------

### **THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF FILIPINO WOMEN'S MIGRATION**

Economic and Labor Situation.....	15
Factors Contributing to Filipino Women's Labor Out-Migration .....	17

### **GENERAL TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FILIPINO WOMEN'S LABOR OUT-MIGRATION**

Permanent Migrants .....	20
Temporary or Contract-Based Migrants .....	21
Irregular or Undocumented Filipino WMWs.....	27
Profile of Filipino Women Migrant Workers.....	29
Main Occupational Categories and Other Migration Routes of Filipino WMWs .....	31

### **SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FILIPINO WOMEN'S MIGRATION**

Socio-Economic Impact .....	47
Social and Political Remittances .....	52

**POLICY ANALYSIS AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS IN  
PHILIPPINE LABOR OUT-MIGRATION**

Republic Act 8042, as amended by Republic Act 10022 .....54

Gender-Sensitive Criteria and WMW Representation.....57

Deployment Ban and Age Requirement.....58

Deployment to Selected Destination Countries .....59

Programs throughout the Stages of the Migration Cycle  
and Gender Issues .....60

Joint and Several Liability .....65

Social Protection and Path to Citizenship.....66

Legal and Administrative Assistance, Diplomatic and Consular Services ....68

Bilateral Agreements..... 71

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT  
BY CIVIL SOCIETY**

International Cooperation.....74

NGO Participation ..... 77

**MAIN FINDINGS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

On the Situation of Filipino WMWs.....80

Reasons for Labor Out-Migration .....80

Destination Countries .....81

Consequences/Impact of Filipino WMWs’ Labor Out-Migration .....81

Policy Analysis and International Commitments.....83

Recommendations .....85

**WORKS CITED.....90**

The Philippines is one of the world's top migrant-sending countries. Currently, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) estimates that there are 10.4 million<sup>1</sup> Filipinos abroad who are permanent, temporary, or irregular migrants<sup>2</sup>, located in more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Widely regarded as 'modern-day heroes', migrants send annual remittances amounting to from eight to ten per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Such huge money transfers place the Philippines among the global top three remittance-recipient countries (World Bank 2014, 4). Remittances, likewise, have provided the much-needed cushion to the economy during the recent global financial crisis (DOLE 2011, 13). In 2014 alone, Overseas Filipinos (OFs)<sup>3</sup> sent USD24.3 billion in cash remittances<sup>4</sup> (BSP 2014).

Besides financial transfers and the spread and magnitude of Filipino presence on a global scale, feminization of migration is an important characteristic of this out-migration trend. Nicola Piper (2008, 1292) argues that the phrase refers not only to the increase in number of women working abroad, but also to their huge participation in key migration routes. Additionally, it can mean the more marked autonomy of migrant women as workers and family breadwinners, compared to their role decades ago when they crossed borders as mere dependents (UN-INSTRAW 2010, 36).

Since the 1980s, Filipino women in large numbers have started to leave the country for work. Heightened globalization, lack of economic opportunities, policies, demographic shifts and the concomitant change in women's role in host countries have propelled this exodus. From the years 2001 to 2010,

- 1 This is a stock estimate collected by the CFO from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), embassies, and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). POEA collects data on outflows or deployment of temporary or contract-based migrants.
- 2 These are categories of Filipino migrants in the CFO database. Permanent migrants are those who are already citizens of other countries; temporary migrants are those whose jobs abroad are governed by a contract; and, irregular migrants are those who did not undergo the formal channels of emigration.
- 3 This term collectively refers to permanent, temporary, and undocumented Filipino migrants. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) is a label generally attributed to temporary or contract-based workers.
- 4 Remittances coursed through banks.

sixty per cent of newly hired land-based<sup>5</sup> temporary migrant workers were women (DOLE 2011, 11) in domestic work and caregiving jobs. Recent data from the POEA (2013) indicates that household service workers (HSW)<sup>6</sup> and nurse professionals are the top two occupational categories of new hires among Filipino women migrant workers (WMWs).

Forty years since state-sponsored labor out-migration in the Philippines began and over thirty years since the advent of the feminization of migration, a report on Filipino migrant women's situation is still lacking. Such a situation is not surprising, given that, according to Asis 2011 and Go 2002, there seems to be little connection between migration policymaking and research. Though data periodically released by the government are sex-disaggregated, it hardly focuses on gendered causes, WMWs and the processes and impacts of their migration. Thus, this paper hopes to complement and provide a more evidence-based approach in looking at the conditions of WMWs.

### *Significance of the Report*

Recent international developments have increased the impetus for a situation analysis of WMWs. The post-2015 development agenda is reported to include migration and development in its goals. Notably, for the first time, UN-member states are looking at potential commitments linking the two<sup>7</sup>. The Philippines has recently concluded bilateral agreements with Middle Eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia (in 2013) and Jordan (in 2012), regarding the deployment of domestic workers. It is currently in the process of reviewing the same instruments with other migrant-receiving states in the region, which is a primary recipient of Filipino women migrant workers (Baldoz 2014, 6).

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_22156](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_22156)

