

The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants, Migration and Development

Response from Quezon City

Title of policy/ action and main partners:

Established Partnerships through the Migration and Development Council

Main objective of the policy/ action:

The action aims to facilitate smooth referral systems of local and national government offices as well as non-government agencies, to achieve a more systematic implementation of services catering migrants and overseas Filipino workers.

Main results:

Through the action mentioned above, a Migrant Resource and Help Center was established in the Migration Division of the Quezon City Public Employment Service Office, where concerns of overseas workers, migrants and their family's concerns are coordinated and addressed. Furthermore, a database of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and migrant workers in the city is maintained thoroughly; BaLinkBayan, a one-stop online portal for Filipino Diaspora engagement developed in partnership with a national government agency - the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) is localized in the city; and, an easier formulation of appropriate programs for migrants in coordination with the offices involved in migration advocacy is operationalized.

Title of policy/ action and main partners:

Strict implementation of health protocols of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) on the national level that led to the creation of local inter-agency task force to localized and implement various guidelines such as social distancing, mandatory wearing of face masks and face shield in public areas, increased public sanitation machines, and isolation of special concerned areas.

Main objective of the policy/ action:

The main objective of the policy is to prevent the disease from spreading further and increase health awareness.

Main results:

Through the strict implementation of the health protocols, the current number of COVID cases in the city declined dramatically. In addition, the economic status of the city is currently on its recovery phase thus the economic progress is nearing back on its track.

Title of policy/action and main partners:

Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay (BPBH) reintegration program of OWWA undertaken in partnership with the QC PESO.

Main objective of the policy/ action:

The BPBH program (loosely translated to return to the Philippines, return to work) is a package of livelihood support/assistance intended to provide immediate relief to returning member-OFWs (distressed/displaced) amounting to a maximum Php 20,000.00 (approximately US\$400) as start-up or additional capital for the livelihood project. The program is implemented by OWWA in partnership with the QC PESO for OFWs who are residents of the city.

Main results:

A total of 55 beneficiaries (35 female, 20 male) received financial assistance from OWWA through QC PESO as start-up capital for a livelihood project.