

Office of the President of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

CHAPTER IV – RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

MCW SECTION	Summary of Provision	Agencies	Highlights of Measures Taken	Outcome of Measures Taken
Section 9 – Protection from Violence	Protect all women from all forms of violence	PNP DSWD DOJ HoR Senate SC	<p>1. Guidance and Counseling Program (GCP)</p> <p>The predominantly female profile of marriage migrants paved the way for CFO to conduct the Guidance and Counseling Program (GCP) for Filipino spouses or partners of foreign nationals.</p> <p>For the past three decades, the CFO has been implementing the GCP for fiancé(e)s, spouses, and partners of foreign nationals or of former Filipino citizens. Republic Act 10906 and Republic Act 10364 (An Act Expanding the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012) require the conduct of mandatory pre-departure counseling services for Filipinos in cross cultural marriages.</p> <p>GCP is a customized Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar consisting of group guidance and counseling with a trained</p>	<p>Latest CFO records show that from 1989 to 2017, majority of the marriage migrants are female (91.4%). Out of the 542,436 marriage migrants registered with CFO, 495,961 or 91.4% are female while 46,764 or 8.6% are male.</p> <p>The United States consistently emerged as the top destination of spouses and partners accounting for 43.70, followed by Japan (22.92%) and Australia (7.71%).</p> <p>More than half or 53.63% of the Filipino spouses or partners have limited knowledge about the country of their foreign spouses or partners; while 10.68% of them have no knowledge at all. Only 35.69% professed to have sufficient prior knowledge of their destination country. Most of spouses and partners are from</p>

			<p>counselor as facilitator and a one-on-one one counseling. It is a country-specific program which aims to provide information and advice for Filipinos on the realities of cross-cultural marriage and family, adjustments and coping mechanisms, the marriage migrants' rights and obligations, basic immigration policies, available support network for women migrants in distress, among others.</p>	<p>the age bracket of 25-29 years old which is (30.48% of the total number, followed by 20-24 years old (23.13) and 30-34 years old (20%).</p>
			<p>2. Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Cases</p> <p>Aside from the pre-departure services being provided for Filipinos in intermarriage, the CFO's frontline division also responds to the issues and concerns of intermarriage through the Assistance to Nationals Program.</p> <p>Filipino spouses and partners of foreign nationals who are in distress or undergoing adjustments seek assistance or advice from CFO counselors.</p>	<p>From 2014 to 2019, CFO received an average of 45 cases annually which are being addressed by the ATN Service of the Commission. Among the nature of the cases were domestic violence, request for financial support from foreign spouse, abandonment of foreign spouse, illegal recruitment, human trafficking and violations of the Republic Act 10906 or the Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act. Facilitated marriages or violations of the requisites of marriage as specified in the Family Code of the Philippines are the common strategies of the marriage</p>

				<p>brokers. Filipinos who have contracted marriage through these schemes are mostly victims of human trafficking and domestic violence in their host countries.</p> <p>One of the notable accomplishments of the CFO in handling its ATN service is the conviction of two (2) marriage brokers. In a decision dated 20 February 2014, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court found two accused marriage brokers guilty of the violation of then Republic Act 6955 or the Anti-Mail Order Bride Act. The two accused matched the complainant with a Korean and facilitated her marriage the following day.</p> <p>A conviction for qualified trafficking was also handed by the Regional Trial Court in Pasay. The RTC rendered its decision against a mother who facilitated an Islamic wedding between her own lover and her minor daughter (14 years old). Through the CFO-GCP, the marriage migrant was intercepted. The victim's custody was temporarily transferred to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, while being</p>
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				assisted by the counselors and officers of CFO.
			<p>3. Watchlist of Foreign Sponsors' Database</p> <p>CFO maintains a Watchlist Database which contains information on foreign nationals who had history of domestic violence or involvement in trafficking, serial sponsorship, bigamy, adultery, child abuse, deception and fraud.</p>	<p>Through the CFO Watchlist, CFO counselors can extend appropriate counseling intervention to Filipinos whom these foreign nationals may sponsor for travel overseas. CFO also maintains the Multiple Sponsors Database which records the names of foreign nationals who have sponsored more than one Filipino spouse and other partners. From 2014 - 2018, there are 2,741 names of foreign nationals in the said Watchlist.</p>
			<p>4. In-depth Counseling Sessions</p> <p>A CFO counselor may temporarily withhold the issuance of a Guidance and Counseling Certificate, and require a counselee to undergo follow-up counseling sessions due to, but not limited to any of the following circumstances; foreign partner is included in the CFO Watchlist;</p>	<p>From 2014 – 2019, CFO provided in-depth counseling to 1,990 counsees, of which, 97.60% (1,942) of them were females.</p> <p>CFO Counselors suggest alternative intervention programs</p>

			prospective victim of human trafficking, mail-order spouse scheme, and domestic violence; presented or submitted dubious or fraudulent documents; case of misrepresentation; foreign partner may be an imminent threat to his/her life; or couple is aged 17 years and below.	to counselees with specific concerns, such as multiple or serial sponsorship, mail-order spouse scheme, illegal recruitment, or human trafficking.
			<p>5. Efforts in Fighting Human Trafficking</p> <p>As a member of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) and head of the Advocacy and Communication Committee, the CFO spearheaded the establishment of the 1343 Actionline Against Human Trafficking which was operationalized since March 2011.</p> <p>The hotline facility responds to emergency or crisis calls from victims of human trafficking and their families. It also serves as an avenue for the community to be actively engaged in the effort to fight human trafficking.</p> <p>Among the strategies of CFO also included, engaging and mobilizing various stakeholders and target</p>	<p>Since the establishment of the 1343 Actionline in 2011, 39,012 were already received, with 606 case reports. There were 555 victims recorded wherein 402 or 72% were women, while the remaining 153 (28%) were men.</p> <p>The nature of the cases that were reported were: human trafficking; illegal recruitment, mail-order spouse scheme, missing persons, domestic violence, prostitution, drug-related, cybercrime, harassment, labor dispute, among others.</p>

			groups such as the national and local government agencies; civil society groups; media institutions; international organizations; foreign government agencies; migrant associations; and other non-government organizations.	
			<p>6. <i>Community Education Program (CEP)</i></p> <p>CFO also undertakes annual Community Education Program (CEP) as an information campaign about various issues on migration, intermarriages, and existing government policies.</p> <p>The program seeks to assist prospective migrants in making informed decisions regarding overseas employment or permanent residence.</p> <p>The CFO coordinates with various government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), faith-based groups, local government units (LGUs), and academic institutions. It equally aims to generate community involvement on migration concerns.</p>	<p>CFO conducts the CEP to an average of 30 provinces annually.</p> <p>Through the CEP, we intensify public awareness about the realities of other pressing issues such as: inter-marriage, illegal recruitment, mail-order spouse, financial literacy campaign, and the existing government policies, programs and services of the current administration.</p>