



SUMMARY

The Development for Action Women Network (DAWN), in partnership with the UN Women, held a two-day webinar consultation dialogues titled: **Multi-stakeholders Coordination on Health Service for Women Migrant Workers on Gender-Based Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic** on July 14 and 15, 2020, via Zoom. These were livestreamed through various Facebook pages, including Rights Corridor.

Froilan Malit, Jr., Managing Director of Rights Corridor facilitated the question and answer portions of both webinars.

Video links:

The collaborative webinars aimed to contribute to the achievement of the Safe and Fair Project of ILO in Asia and the Pacific (specifically Objective 2), which acknowledges that migrant women workers are less vulnerable to violence and trafficking if the institutional quality of services and responses are multi-sectoral and coordinated.

The webinars also aimed to enhance understanding of the health and reproductive needs of women migrant workers subject to gender-based violence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and for DAWN to identify existing health services for women migrant workers (including potential and returning) with experiences of violence against women (VAW) and trauma, and mental health as a result of the lockdown/ECQ.

Furthermore, it highlighted the diversity of perspectives from various resource speakers (government, academe, and civil society groups) who shared various dynamic and complex analyses on the issues impacting migrant women workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Invited speakers for the two-day webinar were Ms. *Charisse Jordan* from UN Women who comprehensively examined the broader framework in understanding the **Gender-Based Violence Against Women Migrant Workers**; Ms. *Esperanza Cobarrubias*, officer-in-charge, RW0-3 at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) who presented information regarding the Philippine **OWWA's programs and services for Women Migrant Workers during the lockdowns, At the national level**; Ms. *Presentacion Pinaroc* who discussed **DSWD's national program, known as International Social Services Office (ISSO)**, which acts as the central authority on matters related to international services for overseas Filipinos; *Dr. Cindy Canlas*, Director of Region IV of Central Luzon Center for Health Development in the Department of Health (DOH) who specifically discussed **The Impact of COVID-19 on Women Migrant Workers' Health**; *Mr. Lito Soriano* who presented the **migration management flow chart indicating the different agencies of government that are involved in the overseas migration governance/management**; *Mr. Edmund Ruga*, ECMI Luzon Program Coordinator of the Catholic Bishops

Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (CBCP-ECMI) who focused on the ***Continuing Programs and Services for OFWs and their Families in times of Pandemic and in the New Normal Situation***; Ms. Merly Ople, President of OFW Watch in Tuscany, Italy and Chairperson of the OFW Watch Women's Committee who talked about on the ***Women Migrant Workers Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Italy***; Ms. Lucita J. Villanueva, OIC-Operations Division in the International Social Services Office (ISSO) of DSWD who explained the ***Interventions for Trafficked Women and those faced with Gender-Based Violence during the Pandemic***; and Dr. Jerry Jurisprudencia of the Department of Psychology in Mirriam College, a registered psychologist and guidance counselor, and member of Philippine Mental Health Association centers who spoke on the ***Impact of COVID-19 on the Mental Health of Women Migrants Workers***.

The two episodes have a total of 2,957 views and 43 shares as of July 23.

With these two webinars, DAWN, with the help of Rights Corridor, was able to draw the following recommendations for governments and other stakeholders on how to globally address the needs and concerns of the society, especially migrant women workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the suggestions, questions and comments made by all participants:

- Include a gender dimension angle (i.e. staff) within diplomatic missions' services
- Propose a health attaché who will monitor the health and well being of migrant workers in destination countries
- Simplify coordination services (between and among NGOs, government agencies)
- Integrate local and international academic scholars to better help government policymaking studies and research
- Conduct biannual reviews of government services related to women migrant health needs and services