

Promoting the Welfare of Our OFWs & Their Families: Access to Social Protection



Ellene A. Sana

PIDS Online Webinar, April 7, 2022, 2:00-4:20pm

Social Security as a Human Right & Pillar of Decent Work

- Art 22, UDHR --"Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security..."
- Art 25, UDHR --"Everyone has the right to ...necessary social services & the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood circumstance beyond his control."
- Art 9, ICESCR --"The State Parties to the Present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance."



"Everyone as a member of society, has the right to Social Security..."

Social security refers to *"..the protection which society provides for its members through a series of public measures... to offset the absence or substantial reduction of income from work resulting from various contingencies - to provide people with health care; and - to provide benefits for families with children"* [ILO 2000: 29]

Policies of exclusion
Unequal treatment/
Discrimination which
impact disproportionately
on low-waged MWs esp
WMW in low-waged & so-
called low-skilled jobs &
undocumented (CMA study
2012)

**Esp true for MWs in ASIA
GCC, SEA and East Asian CODs.**

**Shifting to private
service providers**



Migrants' Access to
Social Security and
Social Protection
remains a Big
Challenge

Largely responds to
immediate and temporary
protection, but wanting on
medium & long-term
benefits

The unprecedented expansion of social protection measures during the crisis demonstrates their critical role in promoting a swift and inclusive recovery

1700

New Social Protection Measures

in response to the COVID crisis...



however many measures are temporary, and most are concentrated in high or upper-middle income countries.

▶ Social protection and emergency relief

- ▶ Migrant workers are often excluded from COVID-19 social protection and emergency relief:
 - In Thailand, migrant workers in the formal sector are entitled to unemployment insurance.
 - ILO survey: **43%** of those who had lost their jobs received social protection or state-funded relief
- ▶ Workplace closures led to loss of income
- ▶ Increasing food insecurity
- ▶ Loss of remittances

- ▶ In 2020, **TRIANGLE in ASEAN** provided emergency assistance to 29,954 migrant workers affected by COVID-19.
- ▶ This support included PPE, food, hand sanitizers and other emergency assistance.
- ▶ The support was provided through 28 Migrant Worker Resource Centers (MRCs) and other partners in 5 countries.

PH Social Security Programs for OFWs & SSAs for Portability of Benefits

- OWWA Welfare Fund –mandatory for documented migrants; voluntary for undocumented (US\$25)
- Philhealth, PAG-IBIG, SSS including flexi-fund–mandatory (OFW pays)
- Employees' Compensation Commission Program –sea-based
- Compulsory Insurance for all agency-hired (PRAs pay)

Response to Covid:

- DOLE Akap
- OWWA repatriation and uwian na package of assistance, Tabang OFW
- DFA Repatriation etc



Gaps & Ways Forward

GAPS

- Exclusion of MDWs & Other Low waged workers in CODs' Labor and Social Laws
- More so for undocumented workers
- Low Level of Awareness on CODs' Social Security Programs
- No Pension Benefits in GCC

WAYS Forward

- Pro-active nego with CODs for social protection measures for MDWs
- Pro-active monitoring/ oversight of PRAs and employers for effective availment/enjoyment of rights as stipulated in the employment contracts
- Nego for long-term benefits in GCC; explore schemes for shared contributions...



GAPS & Ways Forward

GAPS

- Low level of awareness of OFWs on social protection programs of Ph government; more so OnSite
- Problems in re payments of contributions once OFW is abroad
- Weak reintegration programs

WAYS Forward

- Aggressively engage in sustained info campaign
- Devise ways for better, wider reach to OFWs particularly OnSite
- Revive the Kabayanihan Project to Harmonize/ coordinate programs, ease collections for Philhealth, Pag-Ibig, SSS
- Strengthen NRCO and its programs; make OWWA more strategic in terms of programs & services; use whole of government-whole of society approach



Final Comments

Social protection/ social security is meant to be a solidary/tripartite program by social partners (with employer/recruitment agency and duty bearers/ governments) to be sustainable and decent

PROBLEMA – OFWs lang ang nagbabayad

Not Sustainable

Inferior Package of benefits (Kakaunti) lalo na kung kasama ang pension plans.....

Key Takeaways

- **Invest** on social protection programs for **here and now**, during **emergency** situations and as **well for long term protection/benefits**
- **Must be inclusive, effectively accessed and enjoyed by all** including migrant workers, particularly the more vulnerable ones

perhaps we should promote that the ones who have less, must have more, in terms of social protection > social protection floors

- **For portability** of benefits and **totalization of contributions** –
 - **Legal frameworks** may need to be reviewed/ amended to be inclusive and responsive to the needs of the times (labor migration phenomenon) –
 - Policies of COO, COD, regional IGOs must be harmonized & simplified



CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY



CMA Vision

- a society where *justice*, *good governance*, *equal opportunity* and *gender equality* prevails.
- it is one where *migrants* enjoy equal *rights* and *protection* *regardless* of nationality, ethnicity, religion, gender, occupation or residency status.



CMA Programs

- ✓ Policy Advocacy
- ✓ Direct Assistance
- ✓ Capacity Building
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Research, Information,
Education



**CMA's Efforts in
Promoting effective access
to social security/ protection**



FIFTH CROSS-REGIONAL CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ASIA-MENA REGION

Social Protection for Migrant Workers • 7 October 2021, 4PM Manila / 10AM Cairo

Arabic-English-French Interpretation will be available

Register through: <https://bit.ly/3u3U48S>

Speakers:

- Ellene Sana, Executive Director, Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines
- Tanja Dedovic, Regional Thematic Specialist on Labor Mobility and Human Development, IOM Egypt
- TBC

Moderator: Julius Cangjel, Vice President for Research, Advocacy and Partnerships, Federation of Free Workers (FFW)

Info Campaign on the mandatory insurance in Church in Taiwan



Assistance in Facilitating ESB and other benefits of workers

GCM Obj22: Portability of SS & other earned benefits



Senate ratifies SSA with Japan.

Consultation on Social Protection for Migrants in PH & ASEAN in the context of Covid-19

Via Zoom, 12:00-5:00pm
January 28, 2022

Center for Migrant Advocacy | 15 Years of Service

Logos: CMA, MIGRANT FORUM in ASIA

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

A Survey of Social Protection Mechanisms and Recommendations for Reform

Center for Migrant Advocacy

June 2012

BANDIERE PER LA PACE
#AccliForPeace

Logos: ACCLIPATINE, ASSOCIAZIONI CRISTIANE LAVORATORI ITALIANI

Patronato Accli Filippine Nonprofit organization

Patronato Office in Manila¹⁴

WEBINAR

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT: OFW WELFARE AND EMPLOYMENT

APRIL 28 | 3 PM | ZOOM

Moderated by:



Hans Leo Caddac
Administrator
Overseas Workers
Welfare Administration



Ellene Sana
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy



Carmel Abao
Assistant Professor
Ateneo de Manila University
Department of Political Science



RAPPLER.COM

MovePH Webinar: Coronavirus employment

#BudgetWatch Webinar

FUNDING THE PH'S EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY IN 2021

October 8, 2020 | Thursday, 3pm



Zorayda Amelia "Mel" Alonzo
Convener, *representing AWARE, EVERYWOMAN*



Ellene Sana
Executive Director
Center for Migrant Advocacy



Cherry Lyn S. Rodolfo, PhD
Convener, *Safe Travel Alliance*

Moderated by:
JC Punongbayan
Rappler economics columnist

Budget Analysis by:
Zy-za Suzara
Executive Director, *ILeAD*



Kwentong OFW: IMPORMASYON AT AYUDA SA PANAHON NG PANDEMYA

Wednesday, 16 June 2021 | 2:00-4:30PM | Zoom
Register Now: bit.ly/OFWxFOIWebinar

THE SPEAKERS



Ms. Erica Jane Nevelgan
Co-convener
FOI Youth Initiative



Ms. Iryna Alcantara Abano
Advocacy Officer
Center for Migrant Advocacy



Ms. Sheila Grace Estrada
Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers, Hong Kong



Mr. Jordan Plaugen
Regional Office
Econ. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



THE REACTORS



Sec. Silvestre Bello III
Department of Labor and Employment



Mr. William Gois
Migrant Forum in Asia

Labor Attaché Ramon C. Pastrana
DOLE



Ms. Jenias Joy Chavez
Co-convener, *Right to Know, Right Now! Coalition* (Batangas)

WOMEN IN THE FRONTLINES

Hustisya sa Balik-OFWs: Sweldo't Benepisyo



Atty. Henry S. Rojas
President, *Lawyers Beyond Borders*



Anna Navarro
Case Officer, *CMA*



Ellene Sana
Executive Director, *CMA*

July 15 | 5-6 pm | fb.com/seesawchannel & [crossposted pages](https://crosspostedpages.com)

Usapang Everywoman 5th Episode | May 4, 5:30PM

Pauwi Sa Amin: Ang Hinaharap ng Returning OFWs



Aurora De Dios
EveryWoman



Carmelita Gopez Nuqui
Development Action for Women Network



Ellene Sana
Center for Migrant Advocacy

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT 'ABOT KAMAY ANG PAGTULONG' PROGRAM (DOLE-AKAP)

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 212-A, SERIES OF 2020
SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ON THE PROVISION OF DOLE-AKAP FOR OFWS

Marso 25- Abril 8, 2020:

Inilabas ng DOLE ang Department Order 212 para sa mga OFW na kailangan ng tulong pinansiyal. Magbigay ang DOLE ng P10,000 (o US\$200) sa mga OFW na naapektuhan ang trabaho sa abroad dahil sa pandemya.

Hunyo 23, 2020

Inilabas ang DO 212-A na nagbigay ng karagdagang patnubay at impormasyon na makakatulong sa mga OFW ngayong panahon ng COVID-19, na nagpapalawak ng sakop na OFW na pwedeng mag-apply sa programa.

Retrospective ito simula Pebrero 2020.

COVERAGE UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

DO 212-A

Kapagkat na ang un dokumentadong trabahador na hindi pa naranap ang kasabing regular status, ay hindi alalahanin ang DOLE-AKAP membership.

Kailangan sila ang lahat ng karamitang dokumento at disyapadong OFW status. Piliin mag-apply sa akap.

DO-212

Itatagpuan ang mga OFW na hindi pa naranap ang kasabing regular status, ay hindi alalahanin ang DOLE-AKAP membership.

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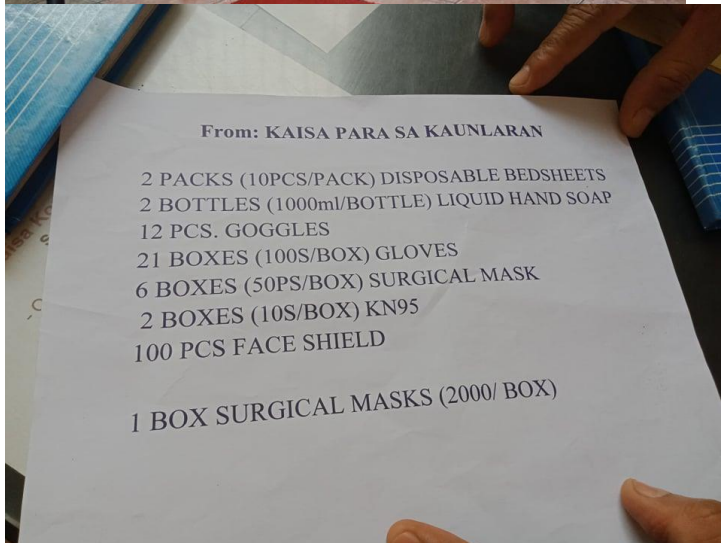
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CMA facilitates donation of PPEs for province of Bohol. Tapped private sector (Chinese Community in Manila) and office of Vice President Robredo. Delivery was courtesy of OWWA.

CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY (CMA PHILS) GIVES HELP TO REPATRIATED OFWS IN TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR

BY: Ernie Morte



Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA Phils), in coordination with local affiliate group, Poblacion Overseas Beneficiaries Association (POBA), in Tigaon, Camarines Sur, gave food packs to repatriated OFWs affected by the pandemic in November and last year (2020).



CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY (CMA PHILS) GIVES HELP TO REPATRIATED OFWS IN TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR

BY: Ernie Morte



POBA members and the repatriated OFWs expressed their appreciation and gratitude to CMA Phils and Ms. Sana and her staff who are based in Quezon City.



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Media/News Company

PAGE. 4 / BICOL EXPRESS / JANUARY 12, 2021

OFWs in NV get assistance from Center for Migrant Advocacy

BY: Joy Lyn P. Dung-ao

The Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA) through its Executive Director, Ms. Ellene A. Sana, coordinated with the NVSU Seed Foundation Project distribution of assistance to a total of 60 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Nueva Vizcaya. The event happened late November and early December 2020. Each OFW received a total package worth P1,3000.00 consisting of 25kg milled rice, one tray eggs, a cooking oil and twin packs of coffee mix.



NVSU took charge of distribution providing milled rice from the project bought by CMA. OFWs were informed through friends and relatives, contact barangay officials.



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OFWs in NV get assistance from Center for Migrant Advocacy

BY: Joy Lyn P. Dung-ao

OFWs were grateful to the project and expressed much appreciation in receiving the food aid from CMA. One recipient said, "This effort to reach out is very timely. I thank both CMA and NVSU for remembering OFWs in our province. Agyamanak la unay, Apo." NVSU also took the time to explain to all recipients what CMA is doing as a non-government organization promoting the welfare of OFWs in other provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.



JAN

4TH QUARTER 2020 / PAGE. 1



Bayanihan sa Ating mga Bagong Bayani! sa Lucena City, Talisay City, Mabitac, Laguna





CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY



Thank you for your attention!

**email: cma@cmaphils.net
www.centerformigrantadvocacy.com
<https://www.facebook.com/centerformigrantadvocacyph>**

