



Migration MPTF ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)
Country(ies)/Region	Philippines
Project Identification Number:	MPTF-124507
Convening UN Organization:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Participating UN Organization(s) (PUNOs):	International Labour Organization (ILO) United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
Key Partners: <i>(include Implementing Partner)</i>	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration-National Reintegration Center for OFWs (OWWA-NRCO), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA); Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA); Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), Women’s Legal and Human Rights Bureau (WLB), Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); workers’ and employer’s organizations; Local Government Units (LGUs), Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, Fair Employment Foundation.
Project Period (Start – End Dates):	27 October 2020 to 23 October 2022
Reporting Period:	27 October to 31 December 2020
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget:	<i>PUNO 1 (IOM): USD 750,000</i> <i>PUNO 2 (ILO): USD 500,000</i> <i>PUNO 3 (UN Women): USD 250,000</i> <i>Total: USD 1,500,000</i>
Total Funds Received To Date:	<i>PUNO 1 (IOM): USD 525,000</i> <i>PUNO 2 (ILO): USD 350,000</i> <i>PUNO 3 (UN Women): USD 175,000</i> <i>Total: USD 1,050,000</i>
Report Submission Date:	31 March 2021
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Migration Multi-Partner Trust

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Executive Summary

The Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance “BRIDGE” programme, convened by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and jointly implemented by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was officially activated on the 27 October 2020. In 2020, PUNOs held a number of coordination meetings including with the Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) on establishing and finalizing a) a communications plan which included the establishment of a BRIDGE Logo, b) a BRIDGE results monitoring and evaluation framework and tools, c) an official launch of the programme with the main Government counterpart, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), with the Resident Coordinator, UN Heads of Agencies, other Government counterparts and Civil Society, and d) a partners recognition event as part of the official launch. With the launch being held on International Migrants day, the event was followed by the Resident Coordinator speaking about the Migration MPTF Consultative Forum in Geneva, providing further coverage and profile to the BRIDGE programme. Lastly, the Philippine government accepted an invitation by the UN Network on Migration (Network) to be a GCM Champion Country, one of only 15 globally, which further highlights the role of the BRIDGE programme in supporting the country in pioneering and exploring different approaches to the implementation of GCM and contribute to the wider Network. The updated Philippine Development Plan has a new dedicated chapter on “Protecting the rights, promoting the welfare, and expanding opportunities for Overseas Filipinos” to take into account significant developments in international migration and development and the devastating effects of COVID-19.

Annual (or End-of Project)

1. Summary and Context

The BRIDGE Programme seeks to strengthen implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) in the Philippines, with a specific focus on two GCM objectives prioritized by the Government of the Philippines: Objective 6 to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work, and Objective 21 to cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission as well as sustainable reintegration. BRIDGE seeks to work on these two objectives through the lens of the GCM Thematic Area 4: Facilitating regular migration, decent work and enhancing the positive development effects of human mobility. It ensures Government initiatives promote fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration services are evidence-based, gender-responsive and coordinated through a people-centered, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. It also establishes mechanisms to translate evidence into policy and best practices through a 360-degree approach to the objectives and recruitment and reintegration through the migration cycle.

In the reporting period, the Philippines accepted the invitation of the UN Network on Migration (Network) to be a “Global Champion for the GCM”—one of only 15 countries globally to have that designation. Champion countries play a critical role in demonstrating support for the GCM, including to develop ambitious national GCM implementation plans, and this provides the BRIDGE programme greater context within the Philippines to meet its objectives and garner broader support from stakeholders. The Philippine government has embraced this commitment and undertaken steps to implement the GCM through its own National Implementation Plan and having a new dedicated chapter on “Protecting the rights, promoting the welfare,



and expanding opportunities for Overseas Filipinos” in the mid-term update of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

The reporting period marked the first three months of the joint programme implementation. The BRIDGE programme was formally launched on 16 December 2020 as part of the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos (Proclamation No. 276 dated June 21, 1988) and International Migrants Day (UN Resolution No. 55/93 dated February 28, 2001). The formal launch of BRIDGE was headed by Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., and the UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines Gustavo González. Supported by UN Heads of Agencies, Civil Society including the Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, important Government Counterparts to BRIDGE¹, relevant ambassadors representing countries supporting the MPTF Fund and MPTF representatives, the online launch was heralded as a success with widespread media coverage in multiple online and print publications². It was further livestreamed on Facebook and Twitter. This coverage was preceded by an Op-Ed of the UN Resident Coordinator and the IOM Chief of Mission Reimagining Human Mobility which covered BRIDGE and was published through multiple platforms.

During the reporting quarter, the PUNOs and the RCO met on several occasions to formalize regular meetings and establish key items of actions. During this time, BRIDGE has:

- Established monthly meetings with IOM leading as convener. This involved key staff from PUNOs in addition to support staff from the RCO including M&E, Media and coordination focal points.
- Created a communications plan³ for BRIDGE with the following objectives:
 - To engage and collaborate with government stakeholders and national partners on developing policies on recruitment and reintegration in the Philippines;
 - To produce evidence-based knowledge products and events that will inform government stakeholders and national partners of a more accurate depiction of recruitment and reintegration in the Philippines;
 - To launch workshops, trainings, and events that will enhance the capacities of recruitment/reintegration agencies and their case management practices, contributing to the protection of OFWs; and
 - To amplify the migrant voice on fair and ethical recruitment policies through awareness raising events.
- Established a BRIDGE Logo⁴ in coordination with PUNOs and the MPTF that serves to represent the project in a consistent manner while also complementing the MPTF and GCM logos. This was utilized in the December BRIDGE launch.
- Established a results monitoring and evaluation framework⁵ which includes plans, tools and methodologies to be used throughout the project. The framework will facilitate standardized and consistent monitoring of results and emerging outcomes across agency activities.
- Ensured partners visibility at the launch of the BRIDGE programme.

¹See Annex A3 for full participant list.

² See Annex A5 for full list of publications

³See Annex B1 for the full communications plan

⁴See Annex B2 for the logo

⁵See Annex C for the full results monitoring framework and tools



2. Results

During the reporting period, PUNOs focused on establishing guidelines and systems within the programme, such as the communications plan, monitoring frameworks, and monthly meetings and common virtual workspace, in order to ensure smoother implementation of programme activities in subsequent quarters. Discussions were held on planning follow-up technical sessions with line departments to adjust planned activities, streamline approach to partners, and ensure implementation can begin. Also considering the reporting period only covers two months since official project start, no outcomes and outputs were completed based on the results matrix for this reporting period. However, progress based on the results matrix is expected by the second quarter of 2021.



Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
OUTCOME 1: Fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration of migrant workers are promoted through whole-of-government and evidence-based approach that is gender-responsive.						
Indicator 1a: # of recruitment and reintegration initiatives proposed/ conceptualized, informed by consultative and evidence-based processes instituted by the project	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q2 of Y2, to be reported after completion in Q1 of Y3
Indicator 1b: % of government stakeholders and national partners engaged in the project reporting increased institutional capacity on data management and analysis	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q2 of Y2, to be reported after completion in Q1 of Y3
OUTPUT 1.1: Assessments conducted, and mapping on fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration in partnership with government and national partners is produced						
Indicator 1.1a: # inter-agency committees established/ strengthened	N/A	0			0	Progress to start in Q2 of Y2
Indicator 1.1b:	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q2 of Y2, to be reported after completion in Q2

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
# of research, reports, and knowledge products developed (with gender-responsive approach)						of Y3
Indicator 1.1c: # of government agencies and national partners engaged in stocktaking	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q3 of Y2
OUTPUT 1.2: Data collection and management system for improved evidence-based reporting and verification established						
Indicator 1.2a: # of feedback mechanisms and verification frameworks established	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q4 of Y2, to be reported in Q3 of Y3
Indicator 1.2b: # persons trained in data collection, management, analysis and verification	0	0			0	Progress to start in Q4 of Y2
OUTCOME 2: Improved policies and practices pertaining to fair and ethical recruitment, and sustainable reintegration that are informed by evidence-based data and international standards						
Indicator 2a: Approved Terms of Reference of a permanent inter-agency/ multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism	No	No			No	Progress to start in Q3 of Y2
Indicator 2b: % of government stakeholders and national partners engaged in the project reporting increased	N/A	0			0	Progress to start in Q3 of Y2

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
capacity on sustainable, gender-sensitive reintegration programming						
Indicator 2c: % of women OFWs trained reporting expanded opportunities for employment as a result of the training programme	N/A	0			0	Progress to start in Q3 of Y2
Indicator 2d: % of government stakeholders and national partners engaged in the project reporting increased capacity on case management	N/A	0			0	Progress to start in Q1 of Y3
OUTPUT 2.1: Interagency coordination mechanisms on fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable gender-sensitive reintegration operationalized						
Indicator 2.1a: Inter-agency and/or multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms established	No	No			0	Progress to start Q2 of Y2
Indicator 2.1b: # of integrated recruitment and reintegration framework and action plans drafted and/or updated	N/A	0			0	Progress to start Q2 of Y2
Indicator 2.1c: # of government agencies and national partners trained on sustainable gender-sensitive reintegration programming	N/A	0			0	Progress to start Q4 of Y2

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
OUTPUT 2.2: Effective and gender-responsive government reintegration services delivered						
Indicator 2.2a: # of local government units successfully completed pilot for joint programme on reintegration	0	0			0	Progress to start Q1 of Y3
Indicator 2.2b: # of training programmes for women OFWs established/enhanced	0	0			0	Progress to start Q4 of Y2
Indicator 2.2c: # of women OFWs trained under enhanced training programme/s	0	0			0	Progress to start Q1 of Y3
Indicator 2.2d: # of case management tools developed/enhanced	0	0			0	Progress to start Q4 of Y2
Indicator 2.2e: # of persons trained in enhanced case management	0	0			0	Progress to start Q1 of Y3
OUTCOME 3: Improved alignment of policy and practices to GCM objectives on reintegration and fair and ethical recruitment						
Indicator 3a: # of monitoring framework for measuring progress towards alignment to GCM objectives on reintegration and fair and ethical recruitment adopted	No	No			0	Progress to start Q3 of Y2
Indicator 3b: # of participants of the multi-stakeholder	0	0			0	Progress to start Q3 of Y2

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
events expressing their renewed interest in the ratification of ILO Convention 181						
OUTPUT 3.1: Initiatives to align policies to international standards on fair and ethical recruitment and gender-responsive reintegration supported						
Indicator 3.1a: # of advocacy and awareness-raising events organized	0	0			0	Progress to start Q1 of Y3
Indicator 3.1b: # of persons reached through advocacy and awareness-raising events	0	0			0	Progress to start Q1 of Y3
Indicator 3.1c: # of action plans addressing gaps related to fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable, gender-responsive reintegration published	0	0			0	Progress to start Q3 of Y2
OUTPUT 3.2: Adoption of ILO Convention 181 advocated and; understanding of the Convention by key stakeholders increased						
Indicator 3.2a: # of national multi-stakeholder events promoting the ratification of ILO Convention 181	0	0			0	Progress to start Q4 of Y2
Indicator 3.2b: # of government agencies and	0	0			0	Progress to start Q4 of Y2

Results Reporting Framework

INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period			Cumulative Results	Notes
		Y1 (2020)	Y2 (2021)	Y3 (2022)		
national partners who participated in multi-stakeholder events						

3. Partnerships

As the main Government counterpart of the BRIDGE programme, the PUNOs and RC worked closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) from the initial planning up to the execution of the launch. The close coordination with DFA ensured that the launch incorporated the needs of Government partners in terms of delivering the programme’s objectives and desired portrayal of the role of the Philippines as a GCM champion country, especially in the recruitment and reintegration practices in the country. BRIDGE also highlighted the role of Civil Society during the launch by inviting the President of the Blas F. Ople Policy Center & Training Institute, Ms. Susan Ople, to make a statement to represent the voice of migrant workers in the programme. The Ople Center is one of the key implementing partners of BRIDGE and has been a great influence in the field of Philippine labor and migration issues, even serving as the representative of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT). This whole-of-society collaborative initiative represented by the BRIDGE programme is envisioned to result in the successful implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, as a contribution to other international commitments for decent work and social justice for all workers, including migrant workers.

The launch likewise provided an opportunity to recognize the governments of Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and UK for their support for the BRIDGE programme.

In addition to Government, Civil Society, and Trade Union partners, BRIDGE invited media partners to the launch to support the propagation of the programme’s goals and help drive support for policies and practices on recruitment and reintegration, and to push forward the discussion of OFWs with the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and the International Migrants Day as the background. The media coverage of the programme and its launch was widely reported by news outlets.

Building on the momentum from the launch, PUNOs and the RC have started initial preparations and dialogue to hold an inception meeting in the first quarter of 2021 with key implementing Government, Civil Society partners and other UN agencies. The inception meeting aims to:

- Present an overview of the BRIDGE programme, highlighting the interlink and synergy across joint programme outputs and activities and the cooperation requested from partners in Government, Civil Society and relevant UN agency;
- Introduce the BRIDGE team’s members and identify focal points from partners in Government and Civil Society; and
- Provide an opportunity for partners to discuss joint programme outputs and identify any specific areas that require more assistance.

4. Cross-Cutting Issues

Marker Questions ⁶	
Human Rights Marker Score (A, B, C or N/A if none applies) Which of the following human rights marker applies to your proposal? A: The Human Rights Marker has largely been achieved B: The Human Rights Marker shows significant integration of human rights in the joint programme but some challenges remain. C: The Human Rights Marker shows a very partial integration of human rights in the joint programme	B

⁶ Please refer to the Migration MPTF Guidance Notes on the Human Rights Marker and Gender Marker, available in Annexes H and I, Migration MPTF Operations Manual.

During the launch, the programme was introduced to partners and guests to have activities not only leveraging the national implementation of the GCM through fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration, but also mainstreaming gender-responsiveness and protection of migrant rights.

5. Innovation, Good Practices and Lessons Learned

The programme launch was designed around the limitations of physical gatherings, which opened the opportunity for the event to be livestreamed online and reach a wider audience. The digital nature of the event also removed conventional issues from physical launches which now allowed for a smoother and more efficient production run. Expenditure on on-site components have been removed altogether while retaining the same production standard, albeit reimagined for the new normal.

6. Challenges Encountered and Measures Taken

The Philippines has imposed the longest and strictest community quarantines to contain the COVID-19 virus outbreaks. The BRIDGE programme applied an adaptive programming to take into account the impact of COVID 19. Adjustments were made on planned activities involving mass gathering and travel to accommodate mobility restrictions and local health protocols. This was already foreseen and thus only a few activities were scheduled to begin in the first quarter of the overall workplan, while other activities were scheduled with flexibility. Working around with the impact of COVID-19 to the activities highlights the importance of engaging national agencies, including the Department of Interior and Local Government, and close coordination with the LGUs involved. Mindful of mobility restrictions, PUNOs initiated actions to lay out the groundwork for the BRIDGE programme through the development of the communications plan and M&E framework, and having the official launch merged with partners recognition event. With these, the programme will be able to start implementation of activities more smoothly and catch-up with the outputs and outcomes set in the results framework within the first half of 2021.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The BRIDGE programme is in a prime position at the end of 2020 in terms of partnerships and operational preparations for implementation in 2021. The strategy applied during the launch paved the way for PUNOs to begin the initial work with key implementing partners and to raise public awareness of the BRIDGE programme on the plans and activities for 2021, particularly on improving policies and practices on fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration for OFWs. Having a new dedicated chapter in the updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 (Chapter 21: Protecting the rights, promoting the welfare, and expanding opportunities for Overseas Filipinos) provides impetus for the BRIDGE programme. In the wake of the devastating effects of COVID-19 on the world, it is ever clearer that strong, sustainable and responsive reintegration programming is needed to ensure that migrants are able to support themselves and their families, and are able to channel the skills and resources gained abroad productively into the Philippines.

With COVID-19 vaccination plans underway globally, international labor migration movements are expected to pick-up and there has been a growing discussion on how the BRIDGE activities would support the reintegration of returnees due to the pandemic and redeployment abroad in the new normal. Having the PUNOs convene regularly ensures that these concerns and other related issues, such as the developments in the creation of the Department of Filipinos Overseas noted in the Risk Management Plan, are addressed

immediately. The meetings also ensure that the programme is on track in terms of implementation of activities and administrative concerns like personnel hiring and reporting. The early establishment of communications plan and BRIDGE logo, as well as the results monitoring framework and tools will also guide the actions of all PUNOs in getting activities done moving forward.

For the first quarter of 2021, PUNOs will be focused on the hiring of personnel and setup of the programme structure in their respective agencies. An overall inception meeting and individual meetings with government and other partner agencies will be scheduled to discuss specific activities and cooperation in detail. Relevant materials and documents will be gathered in preparation for desk review and mapping activities. While there are no large events scheduled to happen for the first half of 2021, PUNOs are expected to have started implementation of certain activities with key agencies, which will be reported in detail in the mid-year report for 2021.