



Annex E: Joint Programme Revision Template

**Migration MPTF
JOINT PROGRAMME REVISION TEMPLATE**

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)
Country(ies)/Region (or global initiative):	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)

NATURE OF THE AMENDMENT REQUESTED (select all changes that apply)		
Change of programme outcome/scope	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Change of budget allocation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Change between budget categories exceeded 20%</i>
Additional funding request	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Extension request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>6 months no-cost extension</i>
Addition of Participating UN Organization	<input type="checkbox"/>	



JUSTIFICATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines has been under several variations of lockdowns or community quarantines with varying regulations prevailing in different regions of the country at a given time. The fluid situation calls for flexibility in modality changes from the planned in-person to virtual conferencing in the first half of the programme lifetime, to the gradual shift back to in-person events in the last few months of implementation. The pandemic also meant that repatriation and recovery activities have been the priority of government partners on the ground, despite the strong government support for BRIDGE at the executive level.

The challenge of engaging government partners at the technical level has been exacerbated by the transition period surrounding the national elections and the creation of the new Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). As identified in the risk management plan at the onset, the establishment of DMW is having a major impact on the programme in terms of strategic realignment of target agencies and sustainability of outputs. While BRIDGE has managed to maintain government support, delays have become more pronounced at the operational level as the agencies and their personnel prioritize transition tasks particularly as they navigate issues and challenges arising from the transition, changes and uncertainties. There is also uncertainty about the future of data systems of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), and Philippines Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), which are currently being supported by BRIDGE for improvements, due to the development and transition to the new Management Information System (MIS) as written in the law establishing the DMW.

Similarly, the national elections caused a lull in the participation of agencies due to some activity bans and personnel restructuring during and after the election period. For instance, during the campaign period, delays were felt in terms of pushing forward activities planned with support of or in collaboration with local government units. Restructuring of regional migration inter-agency body is also anticipated, requiring time post-election before local implementation can stabilize. Nevertheless, the commitment to support local implementation of migration interventions remains as pilot testing of certain initiatives at the local level is a significant approach towards strengthening effective service delivery for migrant workers. Furthermore, as BRIDGE aims for coherent implementation of priority migration initiatives (national-regional-local), weight is given in implementing local initiatives with relevant inter-agency bodies.

The new government will officially assume office in July 2022 and it is hoped that the political situation and DMW transition will begin to stabilize upon the completion of appointments of new Cabinet Secretaries. Even as these two developments caused delays in the programme's implementation, they have also created new openings for BRIDGE to help shape the future direction of Philippine migration governance. In particular, BRIDGE co-organized a series of multi-stakeholder consultations on the Department of Migrant Workers Act to gather and consolidate inputs from key stakeholders, including government agencies, private recruitment agencies, employer groups, civil society organizations and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) groups. The consultation report was submitted to the Committee, which is responsible for the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the DMW. In the proposed revision, the activities that are yet to be fully implemented already takes into account the context of new migration governance, specifically tailoring interventions that will support eventual operationalization of the DMW.



The BRIDGE Joint Programme Team (JPT) therefore requests a 6-month no-cost extension, including changes in budget allocation and workplan of activities, as well as minor revisions in the results matrix, to account for the effects of the political transition and COVID-19 pandemic on the programme’s outputs and partners. The first three months of the requested extension will allow for catch-up implementation, while the last three months will be devoted to the joint, final independent evaluation of the programme. The JPT is taking into account institutional approaches to allow for portability and flexibility of the planned interventions given the expected transitions. A national-level Steering Committee meeting will also be held as soon as Cabinet appointments of partner agencies are completed in order to reinvigorate partnership with the new administration. The requested programme revision will allow for better strategic placement and interventions for partners and increases sustainability of outputs and outcomes.

Summary of budget changes:

	Change by Outcome	
Outcome 1	-22,820 (-6.2%)	In-person activities, especially for workshops and capacity-building activities, have been reintroduced and some contractual activities have been expanded. Budget for IT support have been reallocated as the assessment have shown that the supported agencies have minor need for system (software and hardware) enhancements.
Outcome 2	19,251 (4.8%)	In-person activities, especially for workshops and capacity-building activities, have been reintroduced. Budget was allocated for more activity-specific visibility. IT support was redirected more for contractual services to support design of systems and tools than software and hardware enhancements.
Outcome 3	15,032 (-9.8%)	Part of the budget for publication of NAPs were reallocated for NAP-related workshops in Outcome 2.

	Change by Category	
Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-1,985 (-13%)	Correction in Category for publications and activity-specific office/training supplies
Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture	-35,300 (-54%)	Decreased ICT support (software and hardware) for Outcomes 1 and 2
Contractual services	76,001 (-13%)	Reallocated contractual services in Outcomes 1 & 2
Travel	28,972 (43%)	Travel costs reintroduced in Outcomes 1 and 2 for in-person activities
Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	46,000 (new)	Correction in Category for activity with an implementing partner
General Operating and other Direct Costs	38,314 (18%)	Correction in Category and additional publications and visibility costs