

Migration Trends of Maguindanao Women

1

There are more than 280,000 adult women in Maguindanao (PSA, 2016). Employment options are limited. About 61% of women aged between 18-35 are unemployed or take care of home duties exclusively (IOM X, 2016).

2

With an average monthly income of US\$127 for women in Maguindanao (IOM X, 2016), migrating abroad is an option where they can earn more than three times as much (Kelly & Thompson, 2015).

3

Each year, approximately 14,000 women from Maguindanao migrate abroad for work (IOM, 2013). Young Filipino women and children from rural areas in the Philippines are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking abroad (US Department of State, 2016).

4

Of those who want to migrate abroad, half want to migrate out of necessity (i.e. to support family) (IOM X, 2016).

5

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the highest number of victims of trafficking and potential victims in ARMM are from the province of Maguindanao (RPDO-ARMM, 2014). In 2014, there were 387 victim-survivors of human trafficking in ARMM (RPDO-ARMM, 2015).

6

Many migrant domestic workers are deceived during recruitment about the nature of their job, working conditions, pay, living conditions, the identity of their employer, and more (OHCHR, 2015).

7

One of the main overseas opportunities for women is domestic work, which is often facilitated by recruitment agencies. Unfortunately, not all recruitment agencies are properly licensed and can trick and cheat these women for illegal profits (Varona, 2013).

8

Illegal recruitment practices can include: recruitment agencies not licensed by Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), unauthorized representatives from agencies, job offers without contracts, falsification of documents, tricking migrants to go to another country to work on a tourist visa and excessive placement fees (Varona, 2013).

9

In a 2016 survey of 400 women aged 18-35 in Maguindanao, a majority of them indicated that they wanted to migrate overseas for domestic work in Saudi Arabia (IOM X, 2016).

10

Traffickers can be people we know and trust, however many respondents in a recent survey in Maguindanao indicated that relatives who are recruiters can always be trusted (IOM X, 2016).

If you or someone you know is thinking of migrating abroad for work, visit www.poea.gov.ph or call POEA at 02-722-1144 or 02-722-1155 to check the legitimacy of your recruiter's license.

If you are already away from home and need help, contact IACAT through www.1343actionline.ph or at 1343actionline@cfo.gov.ph

IOM X is the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking. The campaign is produced in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Visit IOMX.org or contact IOMX@iom.int to learn more.

Works Cited

- International Organization for Migration (IOM), *Country Migration Report: The Philippines* (2013).
- IOM X, *IOM X Roadshow Baseline and Impact Evaluation* (October 2016 - forthcoming).
- Kelly, A. and Thompson, H. "The vanished Filipino domestic workers who disappear behind closed doors". *The Guardian*. 24 October 2015. Available from <https://www.theguardian.com>.
- OHCHR. *Behind closed doors Protecting and promoting the human rights of migrant domestic workers in an irregular situation* (2015). United Nations. New York and Geneva.
- Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), *Quickstat Maguindanao* (2017).
- Republic of the Philippines Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO-ARMM).
 - 2014 ARMM reactivates LCAT-VAWC. Available from <http://www.rpdoarmm.gov.ph>.
 - 2015 ACAT in Action. Available from <http://www.rpdoarmm.gov.ph>.
- US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (2016). Available from <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>.
- Varona, R. *License to exploit: A report on recruitment practices and problems Experienced by Filipino Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong* (2013). Alliance of Progressive Labour, Quezon City, Philippines.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE