

26 October 2021

### Migration and COVID-19 Policy Series

Warm greetings!

We are pleased to share with you the three-part Migration and COVID-19 Policy Series. The series of papers is an initiative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) – Scalabrini Migration Center (SMC) project titled, Direct Hiring of Overseas Filipino Workers – Policy Research and Development of Risk Assessment and Due Diligence Guidelines which is funded by the IOM Development Fund (IDF).


In response to the policy challenges generated by the pandemic, the project organized a series of webinars to tackle critical policy questions related to labor migration trends and prospects. The huge numbers of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) repatriated in 2020 prompted questions on return and reintegration. Even as OFWs continue to return home in the present, many Filipinos still look overseas to resume or start their interrupted work. Against the backdrop of an ongoing pandemic, questions and concerns surfaced on the governance of overseas employment, the potential rise of irregular migration, and prospects for landbased and sea-based employment in the immediate future.

Webinars on these three topics were organized between October and November 2020. Resource speakers from the POEA presented relevant data, policies, and advisories. The SMC put together highlights from the POEA presentations, key conclusions and debates which came up in the discussions, and updates on data and policies as of 15 January 2021 to produce the following:

- Policy Brief 1: The Pandemic and the Governance of Labor Migration: Not Business as Usual
- Policy Brief 2: The Spectre of Irregular Migration in the Time of COVID-19
- Policy Brief 3: Post COVID-19 Labor Migration Prospects and Trends

We thank the multi-stakeholder participants who joined the webinars and shared their views and perspectives.

Sincerely,



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Chief of Mission  
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