Implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

[redacted]

Country Philippines	
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Being primarily a country of origin, the Philippines is home to over 10 million overseas Filipinos and overseas Filipino workers, dubbed as OFWs. This diaspora of Filipino communities has prompted the country to ensure that Filipino migrants are safe and protected in all stages of migration.

Prior to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the Philippines has already put in place institutional efforts in response to the needs of its migrants. Policies, programs, and projects were crafted as the Philippines recognizes the tremendous contribution of our OFWs and Filipino migrants in the development of the country. With the adoption of GCM in 2018, the Philippines has seen a significant improvement in its services to migrants. Various migration-related services of the government, private sector, and civil society have been amplified, streamlined, and further developed to provide an all-encompassing approach throughout the migration process.

The GCM now serves as one of the main frameworks of the Philippines in its efforts for the protection of the rights of migrants and promotion of their welfare. It has proven to be a valuable framework *adversely*

affected. The Philippines remains steadfast in pursuing its commitments to the GCM for the rights and welfare of its migrants and for the improvement of migration governance in the country and internationally.

Meanwhile, of those employed, 15 percent experienced involuntary work arrangements

sectors. The Program

2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures

GCM Objectives:

4 Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
8 Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9 Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10 Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11 Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
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Recognizing reintegration as a key aspect of the sustainable return of OFWs, the Comprehensive OFW Reintegration Program (CORP), an OWWA-National Reintegration Center for OFWs

20.6 million) due to the unprecedented number of Filipinos who needed to be repatriated and distressed OFs in need of assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

Fund augmentation was pursued to accommodate more repatriation of migrants. In response to the DFA's call for additional funds for repatriation, the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*

encourage experts abroad to come and/or return to the country and share their expertise. There are about 242 Balik Scientists engaged since 2016.

b. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018). *Examples could include policy reforms undertaken, adoption of new laws, drafting of national-level implementation plans, entering into bilateral/ regional agreements, signature/ ratification of relevant conventions, engagement in dialogue processes.*

Social Welfare Attaches are now being deployed in Philippine Foreign

From 2016 to 2021, PHP 2781.892 million worth of financial and material donations though the LINKAPIL benefited 318,585 individuals from 177 selected provinces, cities, and municipalities in the Philippines. In 2021, the CFO facilitated PHP 5.80 million donations to the Philippines that benefitted 5,088 individuals from 25 provinces.

Diaspora engagement is

(including those in Iraq) and public protests in Lebanon which occurred in late 2019.[11]

The Social Security Act of 2018 (RA 11199). The Social Security Act covers all Filipinos including migrant workers and mandates entry into social security agreements (SSAs) with destination countries. Since the adoption of the GCM in December 2018, the Philippines entered into SSAs with Sweden and Luxembourg. The Philippines currently has a total of 15 SSAs with various countries. These are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Quebec, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK (including Northern Ireland). These SSAs include the salient features on the (1) Equality of Treatment, (2) Export of Benefits, (3) Totalization of Insurance Periods, and (4) Mutual Administrative Assistance, ensuring the protection of social security rights and allowing portability of social security for persons covered in the Agreements. [12] In line with Objective No. 22

d. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

The government has taken several safeguards to ensure the proper assistance, coordination, and protection of migrants, particularly in their countries of destination. These measures include the DFA's ATN services,[14] Crisis Management Committee, the Overseas Preparedness and Response Team (OPRT),[15] OFW Help Facebook page, and the OFW Desks, among others.

Started in September 2019, the OFW Help Facebook page has over 50,000 followers having a cumulative reach of over 1 million Facebook users in the past few months. The OFW Help Facebook page provides a one-on-one interaction with the next of kins (NOKs) or the migrant workers themselves through the Facebook Messenger app and garners an estimated average of 30 messages daily. It is the direct line of DFA to Filipino migrants, especially during the lockdown when OFs cannot go the Embassies or Consulates. The page is operated 24/7 by the DFA Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) and caters to both regular and undocu

Financial inclusion of OFs also requires that their families are banked; a universal digital identity can facilitate financial inclusion of OFs' families. Financial inclusion and governance can be improved through the National ID system. The National ID System will provide all Filipinos a digital identity which can facilitate financial inclusion by providing access to vital services that require a valid proof of identity, which many Filipinos lack. At the height of the global pandemic, the lack of a digital identity has delayed the distribution of assistance to many Filipinos. Should global shocks take place, services and assistance can easily be facilitated and delivered to OFs and their families through the distribution channels enabled by the PhilSys.

4. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration

GCM Objectives:

1 Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
3 Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
7 Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
17 Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse

launched an updated version of the OFW handbook to include information on overseas employment health safety protocols and other healthy reminders for OFWs to prevent COVID-19. The said handbook will also be written in local languages, including local dialects that would be easily understood by OFWs. [19]

- Seminars and information campaigns to reduce vulnerabilities. To equip outgoing Filipino migrants with information to ensure their security and welfare, orientation seminars are conducted during the pre-departure and post-arrival stages of migration. The online and mobile PDOS are being implemented by OWWA and OWWA-accredited PDOS learning centers (for OFWs) and by the CFO (for emigrants) to make services more

Further, the Philippines sponsors and facilitates the biennial UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions on Trafficking in Women and Girls which strongly urges governments to ensure coherence across laws and measures responding to migration, labor, and human trafficking to protect the human rights of migrant women and girls throughout the whole migration cycle, and to provide effective protection against trafficking. The Philippines also sponsors and co-facilitates with Indonesia the biennial UNGA resolution on Violence Against Women Migrant Workers which encourages States to address practical barriers, including language barriers, that women migrant workers may encounter in countries of destination, and provide them with adequate information about their rights, including rights to consular assistance, prior to their departure from their countries of origin. At the UN Human Rights Council, the Philippines is a lead sponsor of the previously annual but now triennial resolution on Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Girls.

To keep the momentum of regional cooperation for the GCM implementation, the GCM Champion Countries in Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, are leading a series of consultations with the theme *Accelerating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.* It aims to produce outputs that can contribute in the first IMRF, which will gather all Member States in 2022 to review the international implementation of GCM. For the first part of the series, the governments of the Philippines and Thailand organized the consultation on promoting access to health services for migrants

include a listing of government reintegration programs by different government agencies and the number of program beneficiaries per program. While this shows the willingness of many government

6. How is the Global Compact for Migration contributing to realizing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? What has your Government done to integrate the implementation of the Global Compact objectives into SDG implementation?

International migration and development issues have been mainstreamed in the chapters of the Philippines' medium term development plan, the PDP 2017-2022. The results of the consultations towards the formulation of the GCM National Implementation Plan served as inputs to the PDP Midterm Update, in which a separate chapter (Chapter 21) has been dedicated to address the needs of overseas Filipinos and international migrants in the Philippines (See Annex A).

The following migration-related SDGs are incorporated among the strategies in the PDP Chapter 21:

Goal 3: Health – accessibility of healthcare (including for mental health), universal healthcare, and health insurance among OFs.

Goal 5: Gender equality – incorporation of a gender-responsive reintegration preparedness program in all phases of migration, involving both OFWs and their families left behind

Goal 8: Decent work – ethical re08.26 Tm0 g0 G[OFWs)]TJETQq0.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 reW*nBT/F2

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Goal 10: Reduce inequality – financial inclusion initiatives; employment and livelihood support for repatriated OFWs
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities – inclusion of migration issues in Regional Development Plans (RDPs)
Goal 16: Peaceful Societies – eliminating human trafficking
Goal 17: Partnerships – GCM commitments; whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach

SDG target 10.C.1, "remittance costs

continuously address Filipino marriage migrants' concerns. The CFO has provided necessary assistance to the affected US Exchange Visitor Program Participants, Au Pairs and Permanent Migrants. In 2020, the CFO has assisted a total of 593 OFs (non-OFWs). On top of the PHP 10.213 million (CFO's contributions for measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic), the CFO also disbursed a total of PHP 10.036 million for the accommodations and meal allowance of repatriated Exchange Visitors Program participants (J1) and Au Pairs when they were stranded in Manila. The CFO has also coordinated with various concerned government agencies for their psychological and medical needs and for the conduct of the RT-PCR test for said clients.

- Philippine Green Lanes for Seafarers. Cognizant that seafarers are essential workers even in times of pandemic and other public emergencies, the Philippines established the Green Lane Policy for Seafarers through a Joint Circular of various Philippine Government agencies to facilitate the speedy and safe travel of seafarers, including their safe and swift disembarkation, and crew change during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Circular outlines the minimum standards and procedures which shall be observed by all seafarers, shipping companies (ship operators and ship owners), licensed manning agencies, airlines, and all other similar entities involved in the process of facilitating travel for the purpose of ship crew changes and repatriation. As a member state of the International Maritime Organization and International Labor Organization, the Philippines is also enjoined to implement the protocols of both organizations, including the IMO-ICAO1-ILO Joint Statement, and Information Note on Maritime Labour Issues and COVID-19.

vaccination program for other migrants, such as the foreign nationals in the Philippines, including refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, were fully implemented.

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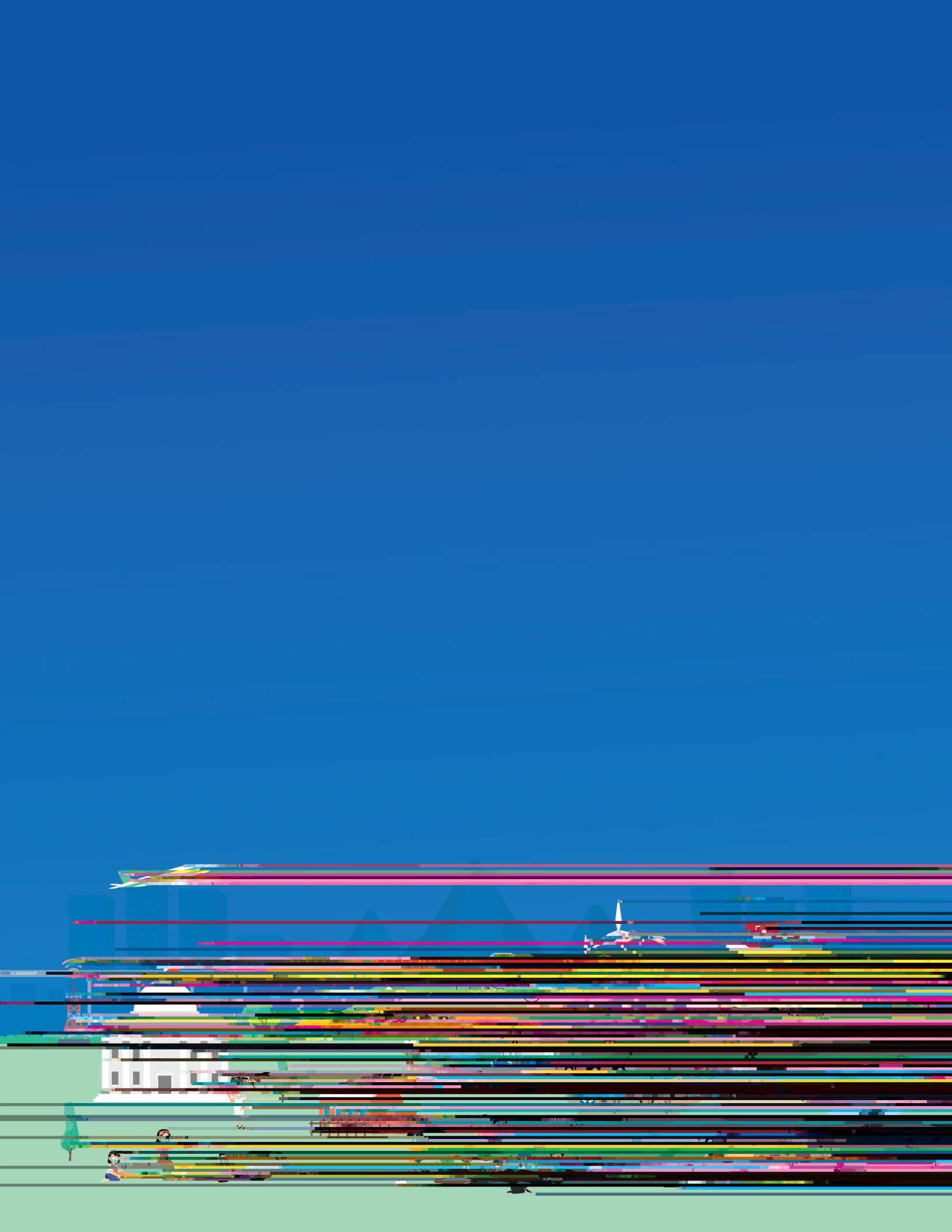
PROTECTING THE RIGHTS, PROMOTING THE WELFARE, AND EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINOS



Protecting the Rights, Promoting the Welfare, and Expanding Opportunities for Overseas Filipinos

International migration has been a significant aspect in the economic and social dynamics of the Philippines over the last four decades. In recent years, about two million Filipinos leave every year to temporarily work overseas, mainly in the Middle East and Asia. Another 80-90 thousand choose to permanently transfer to another country, mainly to

enabling safe, e cient, and reliable fund transfers have contributed to the decline in remittance cost; and nancial inclusion initiatives have channeled more remittances into savings and investment.

e Universal Healthcare Act, Social Welfare Attaché Act, Handbook for OFWs Act, and the Social Security Act of 2018 were enacted to enhance the social protection a orded to OFs.

e rst National Migration Survey was also conducted in 2018 to address the need for baseline data on the international mobility of Filipinos.

Source: POEA

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (YEAR)	TARGETS

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (YEAR)	TARGETS			
		2020	2021	2022	END OF PLAN
International remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted reduced (%)	4.7 (2016)	<4.0	<3.5	<3.0	<3.0
Percent of returnees successfully engaged in an income generating activity**	103.2 (2019)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes: * new indicator; ** revised indicator; h –increasing from previous year; tbc – to be con rmed

Strategic Framework

During the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, international migration and development (IMD) issues were mainstreamed in nine out of the 15 main chapters.

ese are the chapters dealing with governance, justice, culture, industry and services, human capital development, reducing vulnerabilities, science and technology, nancial inclusion, and security and safety. is re ects the crosscutting nature of migration and the need for a whole-of-government approach.

For this updated PDP, this chapter has been added to ensure greater coherence and comprehensiveness in discussing issues, relevant indicators, and strategies in relation to migration and development, towards a healthy and resilient Philippines. In line with this, new indicators to better monitor the government's progress on improving migration governance and harnessing the full bene ts of migration towards sustainable development have been identi ed.

e framework used in 2017 focused on protecting the rights and improving the well-being of OFs, whether here or abroad, strengthening their engagement in governance, and facilitating their participation in the country's development and

In line with the enhanced framework on migration, the following strategies have been expanded to ensure that the Chapter's objectives

Concurrently, the government will facilitate the movement of OFWs, especially essential workers needed by the global economy, without compromising the needs of the local economy.

The government will also explore options to

Improve mechanisms to monitor the

Tap the knowledge and other resources of OFs. Mechanisms through which overseas-based experts are able to share their knowledge and specializations with the academe, industry, and government will be strengthened. Likewise, institutional linkages will be fostered through Filipino professionals and experts abroad to induce more collaborations in research and

For the rest of the Plan period, the following legislative agenda will be pursued:

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Subsector Outcome 1: OFs' rights protected and well-being improved	
Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers	This will provide the legislative framework on the implementation of the standards set by international conventions and agreements, such as the Maritime Labor Convention 2006 on the working and living conditions and occupational safety and health, among others, for seafarers.
Subsector Outcome 4: Rights protected and well-being improved for foreign nationals in the country	
Amendments to the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940	The proposed amendments aim to strengthen legal and institutional framework, border control at ports of entry, and regulation and registration of foreign nationals within the country.
Amendment to Articles 40, 41, and 42 of Presidential Decree No. 442 or the Labor Code of the Philippines	This will enhance the country's labor market test, taking into account best practices in other countries.

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