

# PHILIPPINE BORDER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Monitoring the movement of people across borders has become a more complex and challenging process in the world today. The Philippines, due to its physical location amongst many countries in active economic transition and owning a border amongst over 7,000 islands, is by no means immune to this trend. It faces the challenge of serving as a way station for both regular and irregular migration, for regular and irregular transportation of goods, and as such can form a potential base for expanded transnational crime activities.

## Strengthening Migration Management

Irregular migration, in particular, has often been associated with a State's level of security and stability. Cognizant of this fact and in light of the emerging counter-terrorism considerations, all governmental stakeholders involved in migration management in the Philippines recognize the need for a more integrated and better coordinated border management mechanism. Enhanced border and migration management can strengthen law enforcement, information analysis and intelligence sharing. These in turn foster the positive aspects of orderly migration, which is vital to Philippine society.

## Enhancing Border Management Capacity

Against this background, the Philippine Border Management Project (PBMP) aims to contribute to the efforts of the Government of the Philippines to strengthen and enhance its border management capacity to more effectively manage migration in accord with international norms and protocols. It also strengthens the government's ability to meet the objectives of the European Union and the United Nations, in particular the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) pertaining to the fight against terrorism and combating international crime, and therefore enhances national security and institutional capacity building.

The project builds upon the results of a series of missions of the EU to the Philippines which focused on border management and counter-terrorism issues. The findings of these missions concur and confirm the need for increased intervention in the areas of information analysis, intelligence-led law enforcement, information technology applications for the establishment of a secure data management system as well as identity document quality and production that would lead to the elaboration of a Border Management Strategy for the Philippines involving the main Philippine agencies active in this field.

## Philippine Border Management Project

Recognizing the International Organization for Migration (IOM) experience in migration management, the Government of the Philippines requested IOM's assistance in addressing the above-mentioned needs. The IOM PBMP project was developed embracing key governmental efforts to enhance border management capacity. This three-year project is expected to facilitate (1) the promotion of best international border management standards; (2) the efficient sharing of intelligence information among border management agencies through a secure and linked IT system; (3) the prevention of the circulation of false identity documents and (4) the marked increase of the capacity of border management senior and technical staff through training activities.

The PBMP project has four modules targeting five pilot sites namely, Manila, Cebu, Zamboanga, Laoag and Davao.



For further information, please contact:



### Philippine Border Management Project

25/F Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas  
Makati City, Philippines  
Tel: 848-1260 | Fax: 848-7244  
Email: pbmp@iom.int  
Website: www.iom.int/pbmp

## Donor and Project Partners

In promoting targeted cooperation and collaboration on the four modules of activities, the project enlists the commitment of Philippine governmental institutions and authorities involved in migration management, border control and combating terrorism. These include the Bureau of Immigration (BI), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), the Philippine Centre for Transnational Crime (PCTC), and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by IOM in partnership with the above-mentioned governmental agencies.

## THE MODULES

# 1

### BORDER MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES REVIEW AND

**ANALYSIS.** It involves the review and analysis of current data on established border management best practices in other countries including appropriate legislation and policies with the Philippines' own respective mechanisms. It aims to help relevant agencies focus better on priority issues and instruments that might require adjustments towards the fulfilment of the overarching project objective of enhanced border management capacity. It further facilitates common understanding by concerned authorities of how Philippine policy and practice measure against such standards and therefore address priority management shortcomings through subsequent modules.

# 2

### INFORMATION SHARING – INTEGRATED DATA MIGRATION

**SYSTEM (IDMS) AND COMMON DATABASE DEVELOPMENT.** This module intends to strengthen and upgrade the Philippines' interagency border control information management through the establishment, maintenance and use of an integrated and secure IT data management system or IDMS. Building on the significant investments already made in this area by individual border management agencies, this module establishes the actual means, protocols and abilities to better exchange select information between existing and continuing individual agency local information systems. IDMS design and functionality, cognizant of international and regional border management and population standards and norms, will significantly enhance the Government of the Philippines and partner security agency liaison and relative data processing.

# 3

### DOCUMENT INTEGRITY – TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS AND

**AWARENESS-RAISING.** This module focuses on technology applications improvement activities (in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs' Machine Readable Passport Project) and awareness-raising campaign via multi-media information dissemination to reach relevant officials across the country who prepare and authenticate original documents (such as birth and marriage certificates, etc.) essential to establish personal identity. Activities are intended to reach as far as the municipal and community levels, initially in the project's target cities, where the basic documentation that constructs an individual's identity is first created.

# 4

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

This module addresses the unique conditions of different levels of border control officials by seniority as well as between agencies dealing with common concerns. For senior managers, the specific training focus will be leadership, policy, assessment and planning while supervisors, line officials and local government personnel will have a more operational orientation. Training of Trainers will be organized, utilizing staff members from the respective Philippine agencies. This synergy will generate appropriate curricula and materials to foster a cascading and continuing training atmosphere within participating agencies.



This project is funded by the European Union



This project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.