

The COA is a pre-departure orientation project funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada

WHAT WE DO

- To provide immigrants of all categories, with accurate information about life in Canada
- To help immigrants develop realistic expectations regarding their settlement in Canada
- To increase and develop immigrants' awareness and skills necessary to experience a successful adaptation process, especially during their first six months of stay in Canada

COA Participants

In order of priority

- Refugees
 - Skilled Workers
 - Family Class
 - Provincial Nominees
 - Live-in Caregivers
 - Investors
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- Participation in COA sessions is voluntary and free of charge
 - For refugees, IOM works in coordination with Canadian Embassies for passport submission and deliveries, pre-departure medical examinations, and travel arrangements to Canada
 - For immigrant sessions, IOM relies on Canadian Embassies to make COA's invitations available to immigrants, who then contact IOM if interested in participating in an upcoming session

HIGHLIGHTS

- 11,261 trained worldwide
- 40 training locations in 34 countries
- 6 satellite sites, 111 mobile training missions, 15 permanent COA sites abroad

IOM Philippines

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In 1988, the Philippines became an IOM Member State – among the first Member States in Asia, with Manila as one of the first regional IOM offices in late 1996. In 2003, the Global Administrative Centre was established in Manila (now known as MAC), and provides global support in the areas of finance, human resources management, information technology, staff security, project tracking, and health claims processing, among others.

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The Manila Health Center was established in January 2013.

WHAT WE DO

- Runs the Manila Health Centre for immigration health assessments of 18,000 Canadian visa applicants a year
- Implements the pre-departure United Kingdom TB Detection Programme since February 2013 for 5,000 self-funded applications yearly
- Address health care and psychosocial well-being needs of affected populations in emergency settings

HIGHLIGHTS

The Manila Health Center has recently started with refugees' medical assessments, upon request.

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Background

The Philippines is considered a source, transit and destination country for trafficked persons. The Government of the Philippines, in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children of 2000, passed Republic Act 9208, also known as the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003”. It prescribes penalties for acts of trafficking in persons, acts that promote trafficking in persons and qualified trafficking in persons. This law was expanded in 2013, which added protection and prevention dimensions. The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) crafted their anti-trafficking plan in 2013.

Key Objective

In partnership with the Philippine Government, IOM Philippines aims to assist Filipino victims of trafficking (VoTs) to return safely to their families and assist them in reintegrating with their communities through the provision of economic assistance, medical, psychosocial and legal services.

1. Relevant partners and beneficiaries receive targeted counter-trafficking information
 - Provided during humanitarian and emergency operations and labor management projects.
 - Local message development and materials production for targeted users.
2. Identified Victims of Trafficking receive direct assistance
 - 142 individuals have been directly assisted since 2005 thru referrals.
 - These individuals have returned from various countries Asia (i.e. Japan, Kazakhstan), the Middle East (i.e. Syria, Jordan), North America (USA). With IOM’s support they were able to return back to the Philippines.
3. Works in partnership with the government, NGOs, and other agencies
 - Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), composed of eight government agencies including the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and three member non-government organizations (NGOs). IOM is a member of the IACAT-Advocacy and Communications group.
 - IOM Philippines also partners with local NGOs, such as Batis Center for Women and Visayan Forum Foundation, for some return or reintegration projects. And
 - ARMM IACAT for community-based prevention activities.
4. Reintegration of voluntarily returning migrants is facilitated
 - Usually includes return assistance from their destination countries to Manila or their local destination (e.g. facilitation of travel documents, air/land transport etc.).
 - Reintegration assistance is customized and can be in the form of livelihood support or technical training.
5. Family Reunification Assistance to VoTs in the United States
 - IOM Washington and IOM Philippines provide operational support and assistance to families of Filipino VoTs. Since 2005, the project has reunited 95 individuals with their families in the United States.
 - Since 2012, IOM Philippines has assisted 41 families to travel and reunite with their family member in the US. In 2013, 17 families have departed for the United States with IOM’s support.
 - As of January 2014, 19 families are waiting to be reunited with their family members in the US. Another 14 families are in the pipeline for reunification.

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Since 1992, IOM has supported the design and implementation of some of the largest peace process operations in the world, including in Mindanao. The second largest island of the Philippines, Mindanao is home to more than 20 million people of diverse ethno-linguistic backgrounds. Of this number, about 5 million are Muslims, who belong to at least 13 ethno-linguistic groups. IOM established its Cotabato sub-office in 2008 in response to the massive displacement and humanitarian needs brought about by the breakdown of GPH-MILF peace talks over the ancestral domains claim. Since then, IOM has cumulatively assisted about 2,328,545 displaced individuals (1,187,558 men and 1,140,987 women) or 465,709 displaced families with various cluster activities, community-based awareness and interactive sessions on CCCM, shelter and health, and prevention of human trafficking.

Current projects

- CERF- UFE and DFID (in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat provinces)
 - CCCM-DRR training, camp/evacuation center management support based on national/regional guidelines and international standards
 - Set up of alternative transitional shelter and distribution of non-food items for IDPs affected by floods and conflict
 - Repair of health posts and upgrade of health equipment or facilities
 - Interactive community mapping
- Japan (Humanitarian Communications component of Humanitarian Assistance to Mindanao)
 - Humanitarian communications (e.g. materials, trainings) for ARMM and Framework Agreement for Bangsamoro areas
 - Focus group discussions and policy dialogues (on displacements and impacts of gender and conflict) with the ARMM Regional Government and the FAB entities (e.g. Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC))
- Return and Reintegration Assistance for Victims of Trafficking (VoT)
 - Support to the Manila-based counter-trafficking unit for the VoT domestic returns and reintegration packages on technical assistance and basic livelihoods; includes coordination with ARMM IACAT

Partnerships

- Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT): UN-OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, WHO and MTB
- ARMM IACAT, ARMM regional government, BDA, BTC
- Civil society organizations (CSO): MTB, MYROi, HOM, Blas Ople Center

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General Background

Super-typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made landfall six times in the Philippines on the 8 November, 2013. According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) an estimated 14.1 million people have been directly affected by the typhoon, 4.1 million have been internally displaced and 1.1 million houses have been damaged across nine regions.

IOM's immediate priorities focus on its lead of the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster; as well as its large-scale humanitarian response operations conducted in the areas of shelter, non-food items (NFIs), health support, protection, with a focus on counter-trafficking and gender based violence, and a two-way communications network.

Displacement:

There are currently more than 26,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) still living in displacements sites including evacuation centres (ECs) such as schools, city halls and hospitals, and electricity systems have not yet been restored.

Shelter:

Government figures indicate that more than 320,000 households have received basic emergency shelter materials and almost 30,000 households received support for self-recovery through distribution of more durable materials, such as roofing, tool kits, cash and technical assistance.

Principal Objective:

To improve the well-being and living conditions of affected women, men, girls and boys; including those with disabilities and special needs; who are displaced, have returned or are planning to return to their places of origin.

Specific Objectives:

To provide safer and better living conditions for the IDPs through provision of emergency shelter, CCCM and health support in typhoon Haiyan affected areas.

Result	Indicators	Activities	Target	Reached	Remarks
CCCM	Functional CCCM committees with trainings	Training & deployment of Camp Managers, IDP profiling & organizing, coordination & referral of needs, EC upgrades	8	70%	Actual target: 100% coverage of major Ecs
	DTM reports	DTM roll-out, dissemination to clusters	12	40%	
Shelter	Families with ESK	Validation, orientation, distribution	410	100%	₱ 8,600 or € 145 / kit
	Families with RSK	Validation, orientation, distribution & installation	1639	10%	₱ 20,000 or € 337 / kit
	Persons with CFW	Selection & orientation	892	70%	₱ 14,600 or € 246 / worker
	Families with NFI	Selection, distribution	2100	100%	₱ 3,000 or € 51 / kit
Health	IDPs with health support information and services	Health triage and Psychosocial Intervention (flyers and group sessions)	16,200	30%	
	Health posts repaired/upgraded	Repair of health centers	8	10%	

Targets

A total of 8,604 families will benefit from CCCM support activities, 6,880 families from shelter and NFI solutions, 16,200 IDPs from health support information, and 892 persons will benefit from cash for work (CFW) across the three critical regions in the Visayas. Up to 4,000 typhoon-affected people in under-served towns of Northern Iloilo and Aklan will benefit from lifesaving care and referral services.

Status

CCCM Support

Support to local CCCM clusters, including camp management support to ECs through deployment of mobile camp management support staff. Training DSWD staff and camp volunteers from various civic organizations, NGOs, universities, faith-based and private sector groups on CCCM and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and gender-sensitivity activities to ensure responsive and effectiveness in the typhoon-affected context.

Shelter Coordination

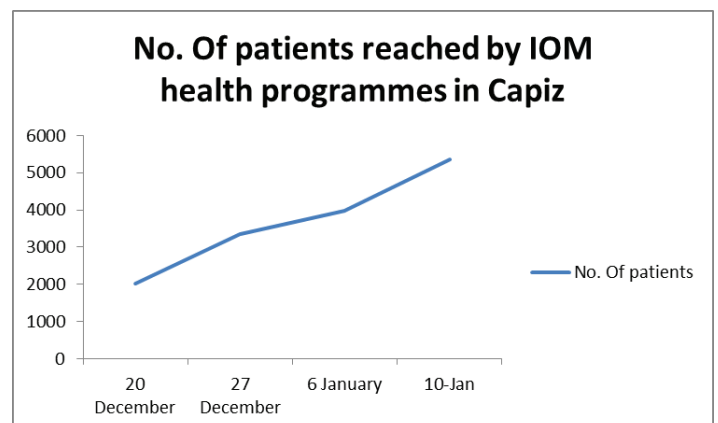
Preliminary field assessments have identified: (1) provisions of life-saving NFIs and care, and (2) maintenance of existing evacuation centres and transitional shelter as priorities among the broad range of humanitarian actions needed as the response expands. In addition, provision of appropriate shelter interventions to most vulnerable families, including some ethnic minority groups in adherence to SPHERE standards and the Cluster strategy is another priority.

Emergency Shelter Kits (ESK), Recovery Shelter Kits (RSK) and Non-food items (NFI)

IOM is providing ESKs and RSKs including urgent household items (CGI sheets, basic tools and other inputs to repair damaged and makeshift shelters, and tents for displaced people; non-food items, such as family kits, sleeping kits, sanitization and hygiene kits; care and maintenance of existing evacuation centres and transitional sites); combined with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). To date 58,694 households have received ESKs, 4,161 households have received RSKs and 30,478 households have received non-food items.

Health

IOM is working closely with DOH, WHO, Health Cluster and other partners to provide on-going information, guidance and response capacity to address these issues. IOM has identified, together with DOH, other priority health facilities that require similar assistance to kick-start revitalization of the existing health system in underserved and overstretched facilities in Capiz, Leyte, Iloilo, Aklan and Samar. IOM's support to health facilities in Capiz have assisted 5,366 patients including 3,982 outpatient consultations, 707 immunizations, and 56 medical referrals.



Remaining Gaps

- Scale of recovery shelter assistance to meet massive on-going needs. Solutions need to include rapid scale-up of recovery shelter provision for those in “build zones”, while at the same time ensuring appropriate transitional sites are found for those in “no-build zones”.
- There is also a pressing need to identify land and support for long-term, durable solutions for permanent return and/or relocation to avoid recurrent or prolonged displacement.
- Capacity building for displacement management at barangay level.
- Supporting health systems recovery by enhancing access to life saving primary health services primary health.

IOM YOLANDA RESPONSE

Counter-trafficking

To support the government's efforts in countering human trafficking through prevention and protection of displaced populations particularly women, girls and boys in 7 critical areas of interest across the Visayas region and in Metro Manila.

The Government of the Philippines, in response to the reporting of trafficking incidents and or interceptions being reported at the sea and airports, have through the DSWD and convening with the Protection and Inter-Cluster coordination mechanisms, raised the importance of providing awareness and establishing mechanisms to protect the internally displaced persons and most vulnerable from being victimized by criminal actors.

Displaced populations by the typhoon face particular vulnerability to human trafficking as their houses and livelihoods were completely destroyed, and they are in desperate need of food, physical security and income. Children and women are at higher risk of trafficking, as traffickers prey on their vulnerability such as being separated from parents and having lost breadwinners.

Many of the displaced persons are trying to leave the typhoon affected areas to 'safe zones', including Metro Manila and Cebu by using various means of travels, in many cases without having any reliable support systems or means of income at destination. Thousands of people have been reportedly displaced from the typhoon-impacted areas in the aftermath and now temporarily hosted at evacuation and reception centers/sites or spontaneous settlements. According to DSWD and DoH, an estimated of 17,000 persons that fled the impacted areas during an 8-day period (15 - 22 November) and a number remain at the Villamor AirBase and surroundings in Manila.

IOM's proposed counter-trafficking interventions are as follows:

1. Conduct awareness campaigns

- Conduct counter-trafficking awareness raising and training at national and local level, for affected populations targeting evacuation/ displacement sites, air and sea ports; through the dissemination of information, Education and communication banners and posters on counter-trafficking at the airport, schools and in several evacuations centres in Tacloban.

2. Capacity Building

- Assist government counterparts in providing capacity building and sensitization trainings at national and local level and especially for those in contact with victims and or populations at risk of being trafficked;
- Capacity building for counterparts (DSWD, IACAT, Clusters) and officers in detecting and prevention of trafficking cases, surrounding Migration Outflow Desks (MOD).
- Incorporation of CT and SGBV briefings in the orientation of barangay peacekeeping forces and protection volunteers on their roles and responsibilities in ensuring the safety and protection of the internally displaced populations in evacuation camps, in coordination with CCCM and relevant partners.
- Designation of gender and protection focal persons in IOM hubs, staff orientation on the Prevention and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Guidelines and the IASC GBV checklist for application in CCCM and Shelter cluster settings.

IOM YOLANDA RESPONSE

Gender-based violence

To support the capacity of Government of Philippines, cluster partners and community members to minimise risks associated to gender based violence, and ensure provision and safe access to multi-sectoral response to GBV through survivor-centered service for affected IDPs.

1. Protection and Partnership

- IOM is a member of the Protection Cluster for the Yolanda Response and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking Council (IACAT) Advocacy and Communications group
- Ongoing local collaboration with the Philippines Against Child Trafficking (PACT) on Training for Community Educators in collaboration with DSWD, City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), Terre Des Hommes (TDH), Asia Acts and other relevant partners.
- Support for local authorities protection and prosecution work through the provision of equipment for DSWD and local IACAT.

2. Upcoming activities

- Capacity-Building of Multi-Sectoral Service Providers on Preventing and Responding to Trafficking in Persons in Times of Emergencies (provincial and regional actors)
- Capacity-Building for Police Officers and other law enforcers from the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD)
- Community Educators' Training

The Labour Migration and Migration and Development Unit (LMMDU) of IOM Philippines undertakes upstream interventions, institutional capacity-building and empowerment programmes in overall migration governance.

The IOM Mission in the Philippines serves the strategic needs of the country in the area of migration governance which has evolved to respond to a wider span of institutional beneficiaries, notably the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), local government, civil society organizations, recruitment industry and other duty bearers. Its work caters to the interest of 5,000 estimated Filipino migrant worker departures daily to more than 220 countries of destination who remit more than US\$ 26 billion for 2013, majority of whom are facilitated by more than 1,000 recruitment agencies.

Migration Resource Center

Five Migration Resource Centers set up by IOM in four of the poorest provinces (Masbate, Antique, Maguindanao and Agusan del Sur) of the country and in one major source of migrants (Batangas) have resulted in bringing migration services down to the grassroots. This is expected to benefit an estimated population of 54,000 overseas migrants and their households. The capacity-building interventions brought different support sectors to the local level through specific terms of cooperation. The centers are supported by local government ordinances to ensure their institutionalization and sustainability. The experience is currently being replicated in three other sites, using an operations manual produced.

Migrant Rights Orientation and Safe Migration Campaign

Past projects of IOM involving the production of multi-media information materials and campaigns have contributed to raising the level of migrants' rights awareness and sharpening the gender and youth lens among duty bearers in migration governance. IOM had succeeded in a pilot project to introduce an integrative approach in the Campaign Against Illegal Recruitment, Trafficking and Irregular Migration (CAIRTIM), benefiting vulnerable populations of country's poorest provinces, which is being replicated in other sites. The campaign capacitated 638 law enforcement officers and pre-employment counsellors and reached out to 2,165 high school students in pre-employment counselling sessions and mass media campaigns.

IOM embarked on the provision of education subsidy to 748 high school students in 15 public schools in the four poorest provinces to bring back out-of-school youth and potential drop-outs into the basic education stream, saving them from high-risk migration and trafficking vulnerability.

Migrant Socio-economic Reintegration

IOM assisted in the institution building of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO), resulting in a positively evolving coordinating role and operational framework and a more solid foundation for financial literacy training for migrants and dependents. This further resulted in a well-trained network of more than 250 financial counsellors, including diaspora leaders in Italy, and paved the way for a migrant investment network nurtured by IOM's NGO partner.

As a focal institution of the first phase of the EU-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiatives (JMIDI), IOM monitored the project implementation by four NGO grantees to achieve results for the entrepreneurial empowerment of at least 4,000 direct beneficiaries among migrant dependents and beneficiaries as well as the strengthening of support programmes of civil society at the grassroots. Efforts shall be extended to local government in the second phase of JMIDI, in cooperation with UNDP.

Migration Information, Research and Policy Advocacy

Consonant to the 2011 GFMD Advocacy for Migration Profiles and to the Philippines' Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, IOM engaged the network of 55 government agencies and other sectors into cooperation to produce the first ever Country Migration Report: Philippines 2013 which now influencing migration policy development.

Knowledge inputs in migration covering a range of subjects have been supported by IOM, resulting in the adoption of new frameworks to help fill in the MDG deficits of the country. Studies on channelling remittances to development, assessment of the labour supply capacity of the Philippines vis-à-vis foreign demand and the Italy-Philippines migration and remittance corridors are among the recent productions.

The Philippines has also been a good platform to adapt global tools, such as the publication of the Global Migration Group on Mainstreaming Migration in Development Planning.

IOM was instrumental in bringing youth employment and migration in the mainstream of national development planning 2011-2016, in joint programmes with the UN Country Team, and in local development plans in Naga City, in partnership with local government.

Strategic Priorities Ahead

In response to expressed and observed needs of the government, IOM will implement and/or continue to mobilize funding support for the following areas:

- Capacity of government to manage migration crisis;
- Institution-building in migration governance in the Mindanao region, being accounted to contribute significantly to human trafficking and irregular migration cases;
- Capacitating local government to harness development potentials of migration gains;
- Professionalizing recruitment services to address overregulation