



Facts and figures

Filipino migration

- An estimated 8.5 million Filipinos -or 10 percent of the population- are working abroad.
- Of the 2 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) deployed in 2008, female OFWs were estimated at 968,000 (48.4%). This is an increase of 13 percent from the 857,000 deployed to the year before.
- More than 3 million immigrants live in Italy and most come from other European Union countries. About 1.3 million Filipino migrants work in Italy; about 700,000 of them are women employed in domestic work.
- Filipino emigration to Italy ranked second to the United Kingdom with the biggest number of OFWs in Europe in 2006.
- Figures estimated that these are 128,080 Filipinos in Italy—23,108 permanent residents, 84,972 temporary/documented workers and 20,000 migrants without valid residence or work permits.
- The study area of Lemery is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the region of Batangas. It is divided into 46 barangays, or sectors, and has a population of 72,790 in 15,417 households. The barangay Ayao-Iyao is estimated to have the greatest number of OFWs in Italy with about 40% of its total household population (200 of 500 households).

Remittances

- In 2008 migrants' remittances to the Philippines totalled about US \$ 16.4 billion, accounting for over 10 percent of the national GDP. In 2007 Italy was the 4th top source of remittances to the Philippines.
- Of the 325 households in this study, almost 8 out of 10 the primary remittance senders is a female family member. Nine out of 10 (87.7%) of primary senders are engaged in domestic work.
- 89.2% of the households surveyed receive remittances on a monthly basis, ranging from a minimum of P1,000 (US \$ 20) to a maximum of P50,000 (US \$ 1000); with an average of about P12,500 (US \$ 275).
- Remittances contribute to the survival and improvement of household living conditions. Seven out of 10 households (69.5%) have no income apart from the remittances they receive and 8 out of 10 households (83.4%) stated that remittances comprise more than 76% of their total household income.
- The most common expenditures of the remittance money are current household expenses (food, clothing, rent, services of water, electricity and telephone). 54.% of households also spend remittances on the education of the household members.

Recommendations

- Integrate gender perspective into country-level remittance and development strategies and programs.
- Fully implement and monitor of the Overseas Filipino Act of 1995.
- Forge multi-lateral and bilateral agreements with countries receiving Filipino workers in order to achieve the full protection of the rights and welfare of migrant populations.
- Strengthen the relationship between the utilization of remittances for local economic development by supporting local governments to provide resources for financial literacy and social benefits and tax incentives to remittance recipients interested in starting businesses.
- Encourage the inter-connection between remittance stakeholders with community-based financial institutions such as rural banks, thrift banks, cooperatives and microfinance institutions.

