

OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
Program Assessment Report
1st Quarter 2023

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is the lead government agency tasked to protect the interest and promote the welfare of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families.

For the period in review, the agency was able to serve 782,786 OFW-members through its various programs and services.

Membership Enrollment and Registration

The OWWA Membership Program registered 363,721 members, representing 163.64% of 222,275 quarterly target.

Education and Training

OWWA has institutionalized scholarship programs for OFWs and their dependents. Some are subject to qualification requirements like, the OFW Development Scholarship Program (ODSP) and Education and Livelihood Assistance Program (ELAP); selection process, like the Education for Development Scholarship Program (EDSP); and accreditation of partner institutions, like TESDA for the Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program (SESP) for vocational/technical skills training courses and Maritime Institutions for the Seafarers' Upgrading Program (SUP).

The program has provided training and grants to 6,066 OFWs/dependents broken down as follows: 5,436 for short-term courses 630 for baccalaureate degree courses for the period.

Comprehensive Pre-Departure Education Program

The Program is a mandatory orientation/seminar for all departing workers designed to prepare them for their life overseas. It is a government strategy to provide a learning process for all overseas bound workers to enable them to successfully adjust to their new work environment.

It consists of the following :

Country-specific Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) – a whole-day orientation for ready-to-leave OFWs consisting of a comprehensive module on employment, contract familiarization, profile of the country of destination, stages of the OFWs' life abroad, health and safety, airport procedures, government programs and services, and financial literacy.

Language Training and Culture Familiarization – a 3-6 day live-out capacity-building for Household Service Workers (HSWs) consisting of *language training*, *culture familiarization*, and stress management to prepare them for life overseas. Language courses offered are Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Italian, English and Hebrew.

For the period, a total of 185,085 ready-to-leave workers have undergone the orientation seminar, of which 37,651 were provided PDOS by our RWOs and 104,744 by accredited PDOS providers, and 42,690 HSWs for CPED.

Workers Assistance

This program refers to assistance provided to OFWs and their families whether in-country and on-site. In-country assistance includes requests for assistance (RFA) from families and next-of-kin (NOKs) for assistance from OWWA overseas posts for whereabouts of missing OFWs, checks/visits to OFWs in distress among others. On-site assistance refers to assistance provided by OWWA Welfare Officers assigned in 34 overseas posts. It includes psycho-social counselling, mediation/conciliation with employer, jail/hospital/work-campsite visits and paralegal assistance to OFWs who wish to pursue labor/welfare case against their employer in the host country. For in-country, the agency served 23,720 OFW families/NOKs, whereas, 19,049 OFWs for on-site assistance were reached.

Reintegration Program

The Reintegration Program is an approach to mainstream returning OFWs into the Philippine society. It consists of the following:

On-site Reintegration Preparedness Program (RPP) – the preparations for return to the country starts at the jobsites with free trainings/orientations on values formation, financial literacy, entrepreneurial development training (EDT), and techno-skills.

In-Country Reintegration – covers two (2) major components – the economic and psycho-social components.

The psycho-social component consist of capacity building through community organizing and maintaining OFW family circles (OFCs) and services

like social counseling, family counseling, stress debriefing; and training on values formation, financial literacy, entrepreneurial development training (EDT), and organizational development training for OFC members.

The economic component on the other hand, includes social preparation for individual or group livelihood projects, business and skills training, business loan and credit facilitation, and networking with support institutions.

The Economic Reintegration consists of the following :

- a. *The Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay!* a package of livelihood support/assistance intended to provide immediate relief to returning member-OFWs, to wit:
 - i. **cash assistance** amounting to **Php20,000.00** as start-up or additional capital for the livelihood project;
 - ii. entrepreneurship development training; and
 - iii. other services that will enable the target beneficiaries to start/manage a livelihood undertaking through self-employment, such as provision of marketing linkages and job referral.

- b. *Education and Livelihood Assistance Program (ELAP)* a program designed for survivors of deceased OFWs who were active OWWA members at the time of death and families of OFWs who are incarcerated/convicted and meted out the death penalty in foreign countries. It is intended to provide, aside from financial assistance for the continuing education of a qualified dependent, a livelihood activity in the amount of **Php15,000.00** to surviving members of the family to augment family income.

The agency helped 29,478 OFWs/families in upgrading skills through capacity building, trainings/seminars; provided cash assistance to 7,395 OFWs/dependents under Balik Pinas! Balik Hanapbuhay and extended livelihood assistance/grants to 174 OFWs' beneficiaries under ELAP.

Repatriation Program

The program consists of services such as bringing distressed/physically and mentally ill OFWs including the transport of human remains and personal effects back to the country.

Emergency repatriation is also carried out in the event of any political unrest or natural calamities in destination countries. Repatriated OFWs are accorded post repatriation assistance such as airport assistance, temporary shelter at the Halfway Home, stress debriefing/psycho-social counselling and provision of transportation services or fares for their on-ward travel to their provinces. For the

period, OWWA has assisted 96,987 workers. The agency facilitated the repatriation through the provision of tickets to 1,019 to workers and human remains, as well as provision of post-repatriation related services to 95,968 OFWs.

Social Protection Benefits

a. Disability and Death Benefits

An OWWA member is entitled to disability and dismemberment benefits for injuries sustained at worksite, and death and burial benefits for the duration of his/her employment contract.

For the period, the Agency provided social protection benefits to 718 OFWs' dependents/beneficiaries.

b. Supplemental Medical Assistance Program For OFWs (MEDplus)

MED plus is designed to provide supplemental medical relief for active OWWA and PhilHealth member-OFWs who are afflicted with dreaded diseases and were hospitalized, either at the jobsites or while in the Philippines. It is a financial assistance that aims to assist eligible avalees with relief in the payment of their hospital/medical bills that is equivalent to the PhilHealth benefits under its case rate system, but not to exceed Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP 50,000.00) per member.

There were 67 beneficiaries of the program for the reporting period.

c. Workers Assistance Program (WAP)

WAP is an assistance extended to OWWA members, active or non active, and/or their families, who are not eligible under any of the existing OWWA social benefit programs and services. It seeks to provide cash relief assistance to OWWA members in any one of the following circumstances which are not covered under the regular programs by the OWWA, namely: calamity, bereavement, disability, medical and relief assistance.

OWWA assisted to 18,807 beneficiaries of the program for this quarter.

****nothing follows****