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CIFAL Philippines - Migrant Repatriation: Challenges and Opportunities – A Case Study on Lebanon

Population

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| Type: | Webinar |
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| Zone du programme: | Decentralize Cooperation Programme |
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| Personne de référence de l'événement: | cifalphilippines@up.edu.ph |
| Partenariat: | CIFAL Philippines |

ARRIÈRE PLAN

"The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hezbollah (operating from Lebanon) escalated dramatically in 2024, particularly following the assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in September 2024, which intensified hostilities on both sides. However, rising tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border

had already been observed since 2023, fueled by broader regional dynamics such as Israel's confrontations with Palestinian groups and Iran's growing influence in supporting Hezbollah. In response to these escalating tensions, the Philippine government raised its alert level for Lebanon from Alert Level 2 (restriction phase) to Alert Level 3 (voluntary repatriation phase) in October 2023, initiating efforts to facilitate the safe return of Filipino nationals to the Philippines. The Philippines has an estimated seventeen thousand Filipinos in Lebanon and a little over thirty thousand in Israel. With the safety and security of its citizens abroad paramount, the Philippines often conducts repatriation operations in collaboration with other countries and/or various regional/international organizations. In an era marked by complex migration flows and conflict-driven displacement, building resilience has become essential for migrants and the communities they settle in or return to. Social protection, repatriation, and reintegration strategies are critical tools in supporting migrants' rights, safety, and long-term stability. This webinar will explore comprehensive approaches to managing migration in crisis settings and examine the current experience in Lebanon, focusing on policies and practices that prioritize protection, inclusion, and resilience. Through cross-sectoral insights, participants will learn about practical frameworks and innovations in crisis response and repatriation for migrants affected by conflict.

● Sub-topic 1: Social Protection for Moving Migrants in Conflict Zones ● Sub-topic 2: Cross-border Collaboration to Facilitate Movement of Migrants affected by Conflict ● Sub-topic 3: Strategic Tools and Recommendations "

OBJECTIFS DE L'ÉVÉNEMENT

"1. Provide a foundation for understanding social protection's role in safeguarding migrants and refugees affected by conflict, including access to essential services, legal rights, and economic support. 2. Examine the ongoing repatriation efforts led by the Philippine Embassy and the Department of Migrant Workers in Lebanon through this case study. 3. Explore challenges, considerations, and best practices for voluntary and safe repatriation, focusing on how to ensure informed decision-making, protection of human rights, and avoidance of forced returns, as it relates to the Lebanon case study. 4.

Highlight the need for partnerships across governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations in building effective social protection and resilience programs for migrants in crisis situations. 5. Engage participants in discussions on policy recommendations that support migrant resilience, focusing on inclusive legal frameworks, economic empowerment, and safeguarding human rights in conflict settings."

CONTENU ET STRUCTURE

" Welcome remarks delivered by Michelle R. Palumbarit, Ph.D., Director of UP-CIFAL Philippines Overview on the webinar delivered by the Moderator: Dominador A. Salanga, Department of Migrant Workers, Morocco Session on Social Protection for Moving Migrants in Conflict Zones Speakers: Jessaline E. Gallenito, Department of Migrant Workers, Lebanon; and Catherine Jade David, Department of Migrant Workers, Philippines Researchers: Bernard Bonina (Department of Migrant Workers, Philippines), Soheil Hosseinian (International Organization for Migration (IOM), Iran), Kimberly Nicole Yu (Embassy of Ireland in the Philippines), Liezl Mangaliman (Embassy of Ireland in the Philippines), Jessie Fabro (Department of Migrant Workers, Philippines), Isabelle Calalang (Embassy of Ireland in the Philippines), Maria Emelita Jose (Department of Migrant Workers, Lebanon), Edwin Año (Department of Health, Philippines) Cross-border Collaboration to Facilitate Movement of Migrants affected by Conflict Speaker: Edwin Año, Department of Health, Philippines Researchers: Bernard Bonina, Catherine Jade David, Jessaline Gallenito, Soheil Hosseinian, Liezl Mangaliman, Jessie Fabro, Isabelle Calalang, Maria Emelita Jose Strategic Tools and Recommendations Speaker: Joy Eva Bohol, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Switzerland; and Researchers: Bernard Bonina, Catherine Jade David, Soheil Hosseinian, Kimberly Nicole Yu, Liezl Mangaliman, Jessie Fabro, Isabelle Calalang, Maria Emelita Jose, Edwin Año Question & Answer facilitated by Dominador A. Salanga. He also delivered the Closing Remarks of the webinar.

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MÉTHODOLOGIE

The webinar was conducted online via Zoom. Participants will be required to register before attending.

AUDIENCE VISÉE

"● Migrant Workers ● Migration Professionals ● Government Employees and Foreign Ministries handling migration concerns ● Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations ● International Organizations, including United Nations groups"