OVERSEAS FILIPINOS AND THEIR REMITTANCES, AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

Migrant Workers and Remittances to Asia in the Time of a Pandemic

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Alvin P. Ang | Ateneo de Manila University
Jeremiah M. Opiniano | University of Santo Tomas
World's most globally dispersed migrants

4.8 M permanent migrants, 4.2 M temporary migrants, 1.2 M irregular migrants in 200+ countries, territories and ocean-plying vessels (2013 PHL government stock estimates)
Covid-19 and Overseas Filipinos

THE DFA ESTIMATES ANOTHER 100,000 WILL BE REPATRIATED

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPATRIATED OVERSEAS FILIPINOS
Facilitated/funded by the DFA as of 25 July 2020 (1200 H)

102,519 OFs REPATRIATED BY DFA SINCE FEB 2020
43,893 SEA-BASED OFs
58,626 LAND-BASED OFs

57.2%
42.8%

Repatriation operations are ongoing and Overseas Filipinos who wish to be repatriated must contact the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consulate General in their area.

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AMONG FILIPINOS ABROAD
AS OF 30 JULY 2020

9,407 TOTAL CONFIRMED CASES
*1,673 DOH IHR verified

3,279 UNDERGOING TREATMENT

5,462 RECOVERED / DISCHARGED

666 DEATHS
71 COUNTRIES / REGIONS WITH FILIPINO COVID-19 CASES

THE DFA ESTIMATES ANOTHER 100,000 WILL BE REPATRIATED
Possible Economic Impacts of Falling Oil Prices, the Pandemic, and the Looming Global Recession onto Overseas Filipinos and their Remittances

Alvin P. Ang and Jeremiah M. Opisano

The COVID-19 pandemic may well be the most challenging crisis facing the migration management system of the Philippines. The global dispersion of overseas Filipinos (estimated to be at least 10.3 million, in over 200 countries and territories) meets up with the global spread of the viral disease. Both the countries receiving overseas migrants and migrant-origin countries like the Philippines are now trying to survive, enlisting stimulus packages or rescue funds to meet the needs of their citizens.

Remittances flow from abroad are literally a major economic stimuli. This lifeline will then become whatever public funds the Philippine government is now unloading to meet urgent survival and social protection needs of Filipinos. The scale of Filipino households who continually receive foreign remittances? Around 12 percent of all Filipino households. Now or ever.

Cash remittances 2020:
A decline of about 20%


300,000 - 400,000 overseas Filipino workers most likely have lost jobs
Falling remittances, tourism and export receipts put pressure to increase borrowing.
Household impacts

REMITTANCES HAVE SUSTAINED HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION PRIMARILY THROUGH EDUCATION, HOUSING AND CONSUMING PATTERNS BOOSTING FINANCE, MALLS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
The potential impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the welfare of remittance-dependent households in the Philippines

Enerelt Murakami, Satoshi Shimizutani, and Eiji Yamada

Table 4 Potential impacts on household welfare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 forecast, pesos per month</th>
<th>Percent changes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No-COVID</td>
<td>With-COVID Scenario 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remittances</td>
<td>2,670.2</td>
<td>2,051.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per-capita household expenditure</td>
<td>5,066.3</td>
<td>4,956.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savings Deposit (new saving)</td>
<td>3.87</td>
<td>3.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan repayment</td>
<td>1.57</td>
<td>1.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This table summarizes the difference of projected outcomes between the non-COVID scenario and the two with-COVID scenarios (scenario 1 and scenario 2). Scenario 1 is based on the IMF baseline projections for per-capita GDP growth for 2020, assuming that the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020. Scenario 2 is based on the IMF alternative projections for per-capita GDP growth for 2020, assuming that the pandemic lasts longer in 2020.

JICA Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development
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Recommendations: International cooperation

- **Activate** international / multilateral cooperation (IOM, ILO, ADB, etc.) [technical assistance, funds) to ‘improve safety and welfare of migrant workers and their families’ (social protection, access to health, return migration)
- **Invoke** the [ASEAN Consensus for the Protection and Promotion of Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families](https://www.asean.org/fileadmin/template_professional/asean/statement/Consensus/ASEAN%20Consensus%20for%20the%20Protection%20and%20Promotion%20of%20Rights%20of%20Migrant%20Workers%20and%20their%20Families.pdf) to assist pandemic-affected migrant workers within and outside Southeast Asia
Thank you very much!
[ Maraming Salamat! ]

Alvin P. Ang  |  apang@ateneo.edu
Jeremiah M. Opiniano  |  jmopiniano@ust.edu.ph  |  jeremaiah.opiniano@adelaide.edu.au