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Analysis Matrix: Gender dimensions of the Philippine health laws and policies



Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 9710 - Magna Carta of Women of 2009 https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2009/08/14/republic-act-no-9710/	The Magna Carta of Women is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women The Magna Carta of Women is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in marginalized sectors. Section 5. The State as the Primary Duty-Bearer. - The State as the primary duty-bearer, shall: - Refrain from discriminating against women and violating their rights; - Protect women against discrimination and from violation of their rights by private corporations, entities, and individuals; and - Promote and fulfil the rights of women in all spheres, including their rights to substantive equality and non-discrimination.	“Migrant workers” is the term used for Filipinos who are engaged in work in a State of which they are not legal residents. Although they are overseas, it is the duty of the State to ensure their protection and promote their rights and welfare, regardless of status, whether documented or undocumented Prior to deployment, the State shall provide skills and language training, as well as cultural orientation. While working overseas, the State shall keep abreast with and be guided by progressive developments in the human rights of women under international law and the design of policies, laws, and other measures to promote the objectives of this Act Section 37 provides that a Gender Focal Point Officer shall be in the Philippine Embassies and Consulates. DFA Department Order No. 14-12, s. 2012 (Gender and Development Focal Point System) - Section 4.b states that the GAD Focal Point Officer must have at least five years of experience in working with gender-related matters and has attended intensive training on GAD and GAD-related areas such as Violence Against Women, Migration and HIV-AIDS. Before deployment of OWWA Welfare Officers and Assistants, their month-long training includes topics relevant to women's health. When OFWs return, the State shall promote skills or entrepreneurship development.
	The State shall fulfil these duties through law, policy, regulatory instruments, administrative guidelines, and other appropriate measures, including temporary special measures. Recognizing the interrelation of the human rights of women, the State shall take measures and establish mechanisms to promote the coherent and integrated implementation, and enforcement of this Act and related laws, policies, or other measures to effectively stop discrimination against and advance the rights of women.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	The State shall keep abreast with and be guided by progressive developments in the human rights of women under international law and design of policies, laws, and other measures to promote the objectives of this Act The Magna Carta of Women of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9710) defines a Gender and Development Program (GAD) as a development process that is participatory and empowering, equitable, sustainable, free from violence, respectful of human rights, supportive of self-determination and actualization of human potential. It seeks to achieve gender equality as a fundamental value that should be reflected in development choices and contends that women are active agents of development, not just passive recipients of development.	
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018 https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11223_2019.html	People-oriented approach for delivery of health services Section 2 (d). A people-oriented approach for the delivery of health services that is centered on people's needs and well-being, and cognizant of the differences in culture, values, and beliefs.	At the regional level, HIV and Mental Health medical support can be strengthened through provision of medical experts, health workers, personnel and facilities.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995) https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2013/ra_10606_2013.html	Declaration of policy to institute a comprehensive medical care for all Filipinos, with emphasis on women “Section 2. Declaration of Principles and Policies. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost and to provide free medical care to the poor. Towards this end, the State shall provide comprehensive health care services to all Filipinos through a socialized health insurance program that will prioritize the health care needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), women and children and provide free health care services to indigents.	Public health services is offered “for all groups such as women, children, indigenous people, displaced communities and communities in environmentally endangered areas, while the Program shall focus on the provision of personal health services.” The OFW families benefit from the Health Insurance Act but only to a certain extent as they have to shoulder expenses for medication. Only particular illnesses are covered and this does not include the long years of treatment of mental health.
RA No. 11166 - Philippine Comprehensive Policy on HIV and AIDS, 2018	An act strengthening the Philippine Comprehensive Policy on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention, Treatment, Care, and Support, and, Reconstituting the Philippine National Aids Council (PNAC), repealing for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8504, otherwise known as: “Philippine Aids Prevention and Control Act of 1998”, and appropriating funds for an act strengthening the Philippine Comprehensive Policy on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention, Treatment, Care, and Support, and, reconstituting the Philippine National Aids Council (PNAC), repealing for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8504, otherwise known as The “Philippine Aids Prevention and Control Act of 1998”, and appropriating funds.	The Province of Cebu has already put up an HIV Treatment Hub. This is part of the devolution process where dependence on the national office becomes less and less and the capacity of the region, province and cities and municipalities becomes more acute. This is not only true for consultation, but access to corresponding medicines as well.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	Section 5. Rights of service users Service users shall enjoy , on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis, all rights guaranteed by the Constitution as well as those recognizes under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all other relevant international and regional human rights conventions and declarations, including the right to: (b) Exercise all their inherit civil, political, economic, social, religious, educational, and cultural rights respecting individual qualities, abilities, and diversity of background , without discrimination on the basis of physical disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, language, religion or nationality, ethnic, or social origin Section 14. Quality of Mental Health Services. - Mental health services provided pursuant to this Act Section 26. Capacity building, reorientation, and training. In close coordination with mental health facilities, academic institutions, and other stakeholders, mental health professionals, workers, and other service providers shall undergo capacity building, reorientation, and training to develop their ability to deliver evidence-based, gender-sensitive, culturally appropriate and human rights-oriented mental health services, with emphasis on the community and public health aspects of mental health.	Mental health services shall be provided “respecting individual qualities, abilities, and diversity of background , without discrimination on the basis of physical disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, race, color, language, religion or nationality, ethnic, or social origin” However, there is lack of psychiatrists in regions and in Philippine embassies or consulates where OFW populations are significant.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022 https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/republic_acts/ra%2010022.pdf	Shared Government Information System for Migration (SGISM) Section 13. Section 20 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows: “Section 20. Establishment of a Shared Government Information System for Migration. – “The inter-agency committee shall convene to identify existing data bases which shall be declassified and shared among member agencies. These shared data bases shall initially include, but not be limited to, the following information: “(h) A tracking system of past and present gender disaggregated cases involving male and female migrant workers, including minors; The Department of Labor and Employment has established the OFW Assistance Information System (OASIS) https://www.dole.gov.ph/php_assets/uploads/2020/06/OASIS-Form-as-of-9-June-2020-9-pm.pdf	The Government Information System Management (GISM) is intended to be implemented through inter-agencies with shared database that tracks past and present gender disaggregated cases involving male and female migrant workers. The Migrant Workers and other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center will offer gender sensitive programs and activities to assist particular needs of women migrant workers. Within Philippine embassies located in countries with a significant population of Filipino migrant workers, a Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center shall be established, providing a range of gender-sensitive services including counseling, legal aid, welfare assistance, social integration programs, registration of undocumented workers, human resource development, and gender-specific support for women migrant workers, operated jointly by government agencies and staffed by foreign service personnel, service attaches, and officers from host countries, with coordination by the Labor Attache and a counterpart assistance center at the Department of Foreign Affairs.
	Declaration of policy on the State's guarantee of equality before the law of men and women. employer.” 1. Rule 1 – General Provisions Section 1. Declaration of Policies (d) The State affirms the fundamental equality before the law of women and men and the significant role of women in nation building. Recognizing the contribution of overseas migrant women workers and their particular vulnerabilities, the State shall apply gender sensitive	To enhance migration governance, an inter-agency committee consisting of relevant government departments and agencies, such as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Commission on Filipino Overseas, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Department of Tourism, Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration, National Bureau of Investigation, and National Statistics

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	criteria in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs affecting migrant workers and the composition of bodies tasked for the welfare of migrant workers. Definition of Gender Sensitivity 2. Rule 2 – Definition of Terms (q) Gender Sensitivity – refers to cognizance of the inequalities and inequities prevalent in society between women and men and a commitment to address issues with equal concern for the respective interest of the sexes. Section 3. Definitions. – For purposes of this Act: a. “Migrant worker” refers to a person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a legal resident to be used interchangeably with Overseas Filipino Worker. b. “Gender-sensitivity” shall mean cognizance of the inequalities and inequities prevalent in society between women and men and a commitment to address issues with concern for the respective interests of the sexes. c. “Overseas Filipinos” refers to dependents of migrant workers and other Filipino nationals abroad who are in distress as mentioned in Sections 24 and 26 of this Act. Anti-illegal recruitment programs, mandate for comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar. 3. Rule VI – Anti-Illegal Recruitment Programs	Office, will establish a shared government information system, with a gender focus, facilitating data exchange and collaboration, including shared master lists, legal case inventories, statistical profiles, information on legal systems and immigration policies, and a tracking system for gender-disaggregated cases, among other relevant information, to better address the needs and rights of migrant workers and overseas Filipinos. DOLE has established the OFW Assistance Information System (OASIS) LIMITATION: The website is inaccessible.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Section 23. Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS). The POEA shall strengthen its comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation Program through the conduct of seminars that will discuss topics such as legal modes of hiring for overseas employment, rights, responsibilities and obligations of migrant workers, health issues, prevention and modus operandi of illegal recruitment, and gender sensitivity. The POEA shall inform migrant workers not only of their rights as workers but also of their rights as human beings, instruct and guide the workers how to assert their rights and provide the available mechanism to redress violation of their rights. Role of DOLE to provide a Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipino Resource Center. 4. Rule X – Role of DOLE D. Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipino Resource Center Section 18. Services The Migrant Workers and other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center shall provide the following services: g. Gender-sensitive programs and activities to assist particular needs of migrant workers; Role of the LGU in preventing illegal recruitment. 5. Rule XII – Role of LGU Section 1. Role in Anti-Illegal Recruitment and the Overseas Employment Program.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. To carry out this task, the following shall be undertaken by the LGUs: d. Establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in their respective localities, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country or state of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer. Inter-agency sharing of information 6. Rule XIV Shared Government Information System For Migration Section 4. Declassification and sharing of existing information The Inter-Agency Committee shall convene to identify existing databases, which shall be declassified and shared among member agencies. These shared databases shall initially include, but not be limited to, the following information: h) A tracking system of past and present gender disaggregated cases involving male and female migrant workers, including minors;	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center Section 19. Establishment of a Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center. - Within the premises and under the administrative jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in countries where there are large concentrations of Filipino migrant workers, there shall be establish a Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center with the following services: - Counseling and legal services; - Welfare assistance including the procurement of medical and hospitalization services; - Information, advisory and programs to promote social integration such as post-arrival orientation, settlement and community networking services for social integration; - Institute a scheme of registration of undocumented workers to bring them within the purview of this Act. For this purpose, the Center is enjoined to compel existing undocumented workers to register with it within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, under pain of having his/her passport cancelled; - Human resource development, such as training and skills upgrading; - Gender sensitive programs and activities to assist particular needs of women migrant workers; - Orientation program for returning workers and other migrants; and	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	h. Monitoring of daily situations, circumstances and activities affecting migrant workers and other overseas Filipinos. Inter-Agency Committee for a Shared Government Information System for Migration Section 20. Establishment of a Shared Government Information System for Migration. - An inter-agency committee composed of the Department of Foreign Affairs and its attached agency, the Commission on Filipino Overseas, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, The Department of Tourism, the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Immigration, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the National Statistics Office shall be established to implement a shared government information system for migration. The inter-agency committee shall initially make available to itself the information contained in existing data bases/files. The second phase shall involve linking of computer facilities in order to allow free-flow data exchanges and sharing among concerned agencies. Inter-agency committee for a shared government information system, with a gender focus, facilitating data exchange and collaboration, including shared master lists, legal case inventories, statistical profiles, information on legal systems and immigration policies, and a tracking system for gender-disaggregated cases, among other relevant information, to better address the needs and rights of migrant workers and overseas Filipinos.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	The inter-agency committee shall convene to identify existing data bases which shall be declassified and shared among member agencies. These shared data bases shall initially include, but not limited to, the following information: a. Master lists of departing/arriving Filipinos; b. Inventory of pending legal cases involving Filipino migrant workers and other Filipino nationals, including those serving prison terms; c. Master lists of departing/arriving Filipinos; d. Statistical profile on Filipino migrant workers/overseas Filipinos/Tourists; e. Blacklisted foreigners/undesirable aliens; f. Basic data on legal systems, immigration policies, marriage laws and civil and criminal codes in receiving countries particularly those with the large numbers of Filipinos; g. List of labor and other human rights instruments where receiving countries are signatories; h. A tracking system of past and present gender disaggregated cases involving male and female migrant workers; and i. Listing of overseas posts which may render assistance to overseas Filipinos, in general, and migrant workers, in particular.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10364 - Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (amending RA No. 9208 of 2003)	Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees the respect of individual rights. In pursuit of this policy, the State shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures and development of programs that will promote human dignity, protect the people from any threat of violence and exploitation, eliminate trafficking in persons, and mitigate pressures for involuntary migration and servitude of persons, not only to support trafficked persons but more importantly, to ensure their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the mainstream of society. It shall be a State policy to recognize the equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families. United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime Including its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and all other relevant and universally accepted human rights instruments and other international conventions to which the Philippines is a signatory.	To prevent illegal recruitment, RA No. 10022 specifies the role of the LGU “establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in their respective localities, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country or state of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer.”

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Republic Act No. 8972 - Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000	(c) "Parental responsibility" - with respect to their minor children shall refer to the rights and duties of the parents as defined in Article 220 of Executive Order No. 209, as amended, otherwise known as the "Family Code of the Philippines."	It is the policy of the State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor. Limitation: Implementation is ongoing in the Philippines but not among OFs in their countries of work.
RA No. 10354 - The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012	Section 3 (b) respect for protection and fulfillment of reproductive health and rights which seek to promote the rights and welfare of every person particularly couples, adult individuals, women and adolescents. (d) The provision of ethical, medically safe, legal, accessible, affordable, non-abortifacient, effective and quality reproductive health care services and supplies is essential in the promotion of people's right to health, especially those of women. (e) The State shall promote and provide information and access to all methods of family planning.	Section 3 (d) The provision of ethical, medically safe, legal, accessible, affordable, non-abortifacient, effective and quality reproductive health care services and supplies is essential in the promotion of people's right to health, especially those of women. (e) The State shall promote and provide information and access to all methods of family planning.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
BARMM Executive Order No. 0015 s. 2021 (20 Dec 2021) - Expanding the Bangsamoro Task Force against Trafficking (BTFFAT) to Bangsamoro Inter-agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence against Women and their Children (BIACAT-VAWC)	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region has areas with high incidence of interceptions of potential trafficked victims and cross-border trafficking. The BIACAT-VAWC will strengthen and intensify the effort to protect the BARMM constituents against human trafficking and violence against women and children and other forms of abuses	The Department of Health (DOH) issued Department Memorandum No. 2023-0142 on April 11, 2023 addressed to all the DOH regional offices (i.e. Centers for Health Development), including the BARMM Ministry of Health, reiterating the provisions in RA No. 10022 on the establishment of Medical Facilities for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) in DOH hospitals. Limitation: This is yet a work in progress
RA No. 7877 - Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995	City of Mandaluyong Ordinance 698, S-2018, which seeks to “uphold the rights of all Filipinos especially those discriminated against based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE).” The policy of the Mandaluyong City government is to afford equal protection to LGBTQI people as guaranteed by our Constitution and to craft legal legislative measures in support of this aim. https://outragemag.com/mandaluyong-city-passes-lgbt-anti-discrimination-ordinance/ Quezon City Ordinance No. Sp 2357, S. 2014. The 2014 Quezon City Gender-Fair Ordinance (QCGFO) criminalizes discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or expression. With similar societal contexts, these two cities legislated two different anti-discrimination ordinances. http://quezoncitycouncil.ph/ordinance/SP/sp-2357,%20s-2014-1.pdf	LGUs that have ordinances to implement this RA are Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Baguio City and Cebu City. Limitation: While the Lower House passed a version of an anti-LGBT discrimination bill in September, its Senate version faces stiff opposition from religious groups and conservative senators.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	Cebu City Ordinance No. 2660, which recognizes members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community and creates a body that protects them and looks after their welfare. The ordinance also provides specific penalties for the following offenses: maliciously humiliating someone in public due to sexual orientation; Inflicting physical harm on an individual due to sexual orientation; vexing, harassing, threatening, whether verbal or physical; subjecting the individual to jokes, pranks, and humor based on sexual orientation. https://cebucity.news/2022/08/18/mayor-signs-ordinance-protecting-lgbtq-community/ Baguio City 2017 Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of the City of Baguio (ADOCB) The new law prohibits discrimination and enforces equality and espouses equal protection of the law regardless of religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, disability, and/or age. https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/127556/baguio-city-council-passes-anti-discrimination-law.	

Analysis Matrix: Localization of Philippine health laws and policies

2 Annex

Analysis Matrix: Localization of Philippine health laws and policies



2 Annex

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018 https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11223_2019.html	An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System Section 6. Service Coverage. (a) Every Filipino shall be granted immediate eligibility and access to preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative care for medical, dental, mental and emergency health services, delivered either as population-based or individual-based health services: provided, that the goods and services to be included shall be determined through a fair and transparent HTA process; (b) Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, PhilHealth shall implement a comprehensive outpatient benefit, including outpatient drug benefit and emergency medical services in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) created under Section 34 hereof; The DOH and the local government units (LGUs) shall endeavor to provide a health care delivery system that will afford every Filipino a primary care provider that would act as the navigator, coordinator, and initial and continuing point of contact in the health care delivery system: provided, that except in emergency or serious cases and when proximity is a concern, access to higher levels of care shall be coordinated by the primary care provider; and (d) A people-oriented approach for the delivery of health services that is centered on people's needs and well-being, and cognizant of the differences in culture, values, and beliefs.	PhilHealth membership of OFW OWWA Region VII cited a problem of perception on the part of the OFWs vis-à-vis PhilHealth membership: some do not see membership with the health insurance program as necessary while they are at work abroad because their medical needs are covered by the contract and the employer shoulders their medical insurance while they are there This notion limits the medical benefits the OFW gets to himself/herself. Membership in PhilHealth also covers their immediate family members, thus, unburdening the eligible OFW-member from the financial concerns of hospitalization and medical treatment costs once a family member meets an accident or catches a disease.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018	DOH Administrative Order No. 2012-0012 Rules and Regulations Governing the New Classification of Hospitals and other Health Facilities in the Philippines https://hfsrb.doh.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ao2012-0012.pdf. Center for Health Development (CHD) is the regional health office of DOH DOH Department Circular 2017-0371 DOH Position on the New Online Registration System for Pre-Employment Medical Examination of Overseas Filipino Workers DOH Department Order 2021-0496 “Guidelines for Port-to-Port Collaboration for Healthcare for Filipinos in Sabah” “The DOH, through its Task Force for the Provision of Health Services to Filipinos in Sabah, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia, together with Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (KLPE) / Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), and Sabah National Security Council (NSC), agreed to strengthen coordination through Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for port-to-port collaboration for health care for Filipinos from the Temporary Detention Centers (TDCs) in Sabah” (Final Report IFRC). DOH 2017-0371. DOH position on the New Online Registration System for PEME of OFWs DOH 2006-2119 Creation of DOH Clinic at OWWA Building DOH 2021-0469 Guidelines for Port-to-Port Collaboration for Healthcare for Filipinos in Sabah	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	PhilHealth No. 011-A-2011 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2011/circ11-A_2011.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 19, s. 2017 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2017/annexes/0019/AnnexA-MedicalCaseRates.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 24, s. 2015. PhilHealth Circular No. 024 s. 2015 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2015/circ024-2015.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 035, s. 2015 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2015/circ035-2015.pdf. PhilHealth Circular No. 015, s. 2012 https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/circulars/2012/circ15_2012.pdf. 1. 001-2015. PhilHealth Coverage for Confirmed cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). 2. 007-2012. Amendment to PhilHealth Circular no. 22 on the New Premium Contribution of Overseas Workers Program (OWP). 3. 0025-2013. Implementation of the OWP Premium and payment schemes effective CY 2014 (PhP 2,400 minimum per year). 3. 0025-2013. Implementation of the OWP Premium and payment schemes effective CY 2014 (PhP 2,400 minimum per year). 4. 0031-2013. The shift of provider payment mechanism from Fee-for-Service to Case-based payment. Universality that states that “the National Health Insurance Program shall “give the highest priority to achieving coverage for the entire population with at least a basic minimum package of health insurance benefits.”	PhilHealth remains one of the most reliable means in assisting OFs and their family members with health problems because PhilHealth is the implementing agency of the Universal Healthcare System. PhilHealth programs all-encompassing in terms of scope and coverage. Every PhilHealth card-bearing Filipino may avail of pertinent PhilHealth programs. To date, PhilHealth reaches out to the indigents or the poorest of the poor among Filipinos Limitation: Local government units (LGUs) are observed to have been the best mechanism in bringing in people to access PhilHealth services. Many local indigents enter the database of PhilHealth, thanks to the LGUs. Otherwise, they would have remained unregistered sections in the fringes of our society Some OFWs observed however that since indigent individuals received their PhilHealth cards for free, their membership fee is practically financed by the government. The formal working sectors of our economy, those paying their contributions in PhilHealth and considered the backbone of the insurance institution, claim they essentially subsidize the indigents availing of PhilHealth programs In Region 7. It seems to be the common problem of members of the Family Circle who were at one time in the immediate past have been OFWs themselves

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	5. 025-2013. Implementing Guidelines on Medical and Procedure rates. 6. 2929-0014. Premium Contribution and Collection of Payment of Overseas Filipinos Members. 7. 2021-0009. PhilHealth Coverage for Outpatient Hemodialysis benefit package to Maximum of 144 sessions for CY 2021. 8. 2021-0021. Benefit Packages for SARS CoV-2 Testing RT-PCR Tests (Plate-based and Cartridge-based). 9. 2022-003. Benefit Packages for Inpatient Management of Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and Clarification of Coverage of Probable Cases . 10. 2022-0005. Implementing Guidelines for the PhilHealth Konsultasyon Sulit at Tama (PhilHealth Konsulta) Package (Revision 1). 11. 2022-0032. Governing policies of the Konsulta The National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) was established in 1995 with the passage of Republic Act (RA) 7875. PhilHealth took over the Medicare functions previously administered by the Philippine Medical Care Commission (PMCC) since 1972. “Section 6. Mandatory Coverage. – All citizens of the Philippines shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Program. In accordance with the principles	Limitation: Health insurance used to be accessed by them in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. This used to be paid by their employers based on their contracts. But the problem with that is that the insurance stops the moment the contract of an OFW is finished. They, therefore, come home without any access to health cards or insurance

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	of universality and compulsory coverage enunciated in Section 2(b) and 2(l) hereof, implementation of the Program shall ensure sustainability of coverage and continuous enhancement of the quality of service: Provided, That the Program shall be compulsory in all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide, notwithstanding the existence of LGU-based health insurance programs: Provided, further, That the Corporation, Department of Health (DOH), local government units (LGUs), and other agencies including nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other national government agencies (NGAs) shall ensure that members in such localities shall have access to quality and cost-effective health care services.” “(c) Violations of an Employer – “(1) Failure/Refusal to Register/Deduct/Remit the Contributions – Any employer who fails or refuses to register employees, regardless of their employment status, or to deduct contributions from the employee’s compensation or remit the same to the Corporation shall be punished with a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (PhP 5,000.00) multiplied by the total number of employees of the firm. “Any employer or any officer authorized to collect contributions under this Act who, after collecting or deducting the monthly contributions from his employee’s compensation, fails to remit the said contributions to the Corporation within thirty (30) days from the date they become due shall be presumed to have misappropriated such contributions	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	“(2) Unlawful Deductions – Any employer or officer who shall deduct directly or indirectly from the compensation of the covered employees or otherwise recover from them his own contribution on behalf of such employees shall be punished with a fine of five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) multiplied by the total number of affected employees “If the act or omission penalized by this act be committed by an association, partnership, corporation or any other institution, its managing directors or partners or president or general manager, or other persons responsible for the commission of the said act shall be liable for the penalties provided for in this act Devolution – The Program shall be implemented in consultation with local government units (LGUs), subject to the overall policy directions set by the national government; Section 22. Establishment. – the corporation shall establish a Local Health Insurance Office, hereinafter referred to as the office, in every province or chartered city, or wherever it is deemed practicable to bring its services closer to members of the program. However, one office may serve the needs of more than one province or city when the merged operations will result in lower administrative cost and greater cross-subsidy between rich and poor localities. Section 29. Payment for indigent contributions. – contributions for indigent members shall be subsidized partially by the local government unit where the member resides. The corporation shall provide	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	An act establishing a national mental health policy for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of integrated mental health services, promoting and protecting the rights of persons utilizing psychosocial health services, appropriating funds therefor and other purposes Section 37. Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Government Units (LGUs). - The LGUs shall: a. Review, formulate, and develop the regulations and guidelines necessary to implement an effective mental health care and wellness policy within the territorial jurisdiction of each LGU, including the passage of a local ordinance on the subject of mental health, consistent with existing relevant national policies and guidelines; b. Integrate mental health care services in the basic health care services, and ensure that mental health services are provided in primary health care facilities and hospitals, within their respective territorial jurisdictions; c. Establish training programs necessary to enhance the capacity of mental health care service providers at the LGU level, in coordination with appropriate national government agencies and other stakeholders; d. Promote deinstitutionalization and other recovery-based approaches to the delivery of mental health care services;	Regional facilities for mental health should be upgraded and the number of psychiatrists increased. To help OFWs, DOH established a hotline and/or teleconsulting service for OFWs. One has simply to dial 1348 and a proficient agent will receive the call. During the first year of this system, DOH hired a calling center to handle this but that did not prove effective enough because call center agents would not know how to deal with specific concerns of individual OFWs. What the DOH did was to train people from the agency to manage the teleconsulting service center, which eventually proved to be much more effective and helpful. The plan is to cascade this to the different regions starting June 2023 This did not use to be a major concern. Yes, HIV was given much more emphasis until COVID came. The relatively long quarantine period, 14 days, for every OFW coming home plus the possibility of having contracted COVID when the results of the tests come in, drove a lot of them to mental stress DOH established a 24/7 hotline or teleconsulting for anyone needing consultation to call. Anyone could dial directly 1348 and receive this service from the agency Mental Health Mental health issues have come to the fore in recent times. More than the teleconsulting services, the number of specialists and those specializing in psychiatry has grown dramatically in the past few years exactly because of the perceived and actually growing need for them. A case in point in this regard

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	e. Establish, reorient, and modernize mental health care facilities necessary to adequately provide mental health services, within their respective territorial jurisdictions; f. Where independent living arrangements are not available, provide or facilitate access to public housing facilities, vocational training and skills development programs, and disability or pension benefits; g. Refer service users to mental health facilities, professionals, workers, and other service providers for appropriate care; and h. Establish a multi-sectoral stakeholder network for the identification, management, and prevention of mental health conditions. (1) Inpatient Benefit Package: Pneumonia High Risk. Urinary Tract Infection (2) Out-Patient Benefit Package: Hemodialysis (3) Konsulta Benefit Package (4) Z Benefit Package: Breast Cancer (Stage 0 to IIIA), Kidney Transplantation (5) Special Benefit Package: Animal Bite Treatment Package, Outpatient HIV /AIDS Package “Section 40. Duties and functions. - The Council shall exercise the following duties; (d) Coordinate the activities and strengthen working relationships among national government agencies, LGUs, and nongovernment agencies involved in mental health promotion;	is the Vicente Soto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City DILG mental health initiative for OFWs So far, DILG does not have a major program for mental health among OFWs, but it does conduct mental health awareness meetings with the help of DOH and OWWA Mental distress among Overseas Bangsamoro Workers MSSD could hardly cope with the cases of OBWs who are mentally distressed. More professionals are needed Limitation: This is one of the gaps that the BARMM needs to address – the lack of mental health professionals who could directly assist workers repatriated and are suffering from mental health problems having been traumatized. Now, patients are directed to Davao City for exams and tests or to see mental health specialists. This means corresponding travel expenses for the families of OBW in distress Such problems are being discussed for appropriate solutions by the Bangsamoro Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC (BIACAT-VAWC), which includes MOLE, MOH and MSSD However, there is also an issue of institutionalization of this coordinative mechanism: most of the representatives vary from time to time, meeting to meeting. There is therefore no consistency in the representation of agencies as alternates vary.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Section 16. Under Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, add new paragraphs (c) and (d) with their corresponding subparagraphs to read as follows: “(d) Local Government Units. – In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. To carry out this task, the following shall be undertaken by the LGUs: “(d.1) Provide a venue for the POEA, other concerned government agencies and non-government organizations to conduct PEOS to their constituents on a regular basis; “(d.2) Establish overseas Filipino worker help desk or kiosk in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes aspects of overseas employment. Such desk or kiosk shall, as be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing.” Rule VIII – Role of DFA Section 1. Assistance to Nationals as the Third Pillar of Philippine Foreign Policy Assistance to nationals is the third pillar of Philippine foreign policy. Pursuant to the Philippine Foreign	Section 16 d. 2. Establish Overseas Filipino Worker Help Desk or kiosk in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes aspects of overseas employment. Such desk or kiosk shall, as be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2017-0001 - Integrated Policy Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP) for Overseas Filipinos; jointly by 7 government agencies: DOH, DFA, DOLE (OWWA, POEA), DSWD, DILG, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); signed on 17 June 2017.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Service Act of 1991 and the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, as amended, the DFA is mandated to formulate and implement policies and programs to promote and protect the rights and welfare of Filipino migrants, and provide consular and legal assistance to overseas Filipinos in distress. RULE XI - Role of DOH Section 1. Regulation of Medical Clinics The Department of Health (DOH) shall regulate the activities and operations of all clinics which conduct medical, physical, optical, dental, psychological and other similar examinations, hereinafter referred to as health examinations, on Filipino migrant workers as requirement for their overseas employment. Pre-Employment Medical Examinations (PEME) for overseas work applicants shall be performed only in DOH- accredited medical clinics and health facilities utilizing the standards set forth by DOH. Pursuant to this, the DOH shall ensure that: (e) Within a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of the Act, all DOH regional and/or provincial hospitals under local government units shall establish and operate clinics that can serve the health examination requirements of Filipino migrant workers to provide them easy access to such clinics all over the country and lessen their transportation and lodging expenses; Section 5. Issuance of Guidelines. Within sixty (60) days from effectivity of these Rules,	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	the DOH shall issue the pertinent guidelines to implement the provisions of this Rule. Rule XII - Role Of LGUs Section 1. Role in Anti-Illegal Recruitment and the Overseas Employment Program. In the fight against illegal recruitment, the local government units (LGUs) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in partnership with the POEA, other concerned government agencies, and non-government organizations advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs, shall take a proactive stance by being primarily responsible for the dissemination of information to their constituents on all aspects of overseas employment. To carry out this task, the following shall be undertaken by the LGUs: a. Launch an aggressive campaign against illegal recruitment. They shall provide legal assistance to victims of illegal recruitment and, when necessary, coordinate with appropriate government agencies regarding the arrest and/or prosecution of illegal recruiters. They shall report any illegal recruitment activity to the POEA for appropriate action; b. Provide a venue for the POEA, other government agencies, NGOs, and trained LGU personnel to conduct Pre-Employment Orientation Seminars (PEOS) to their constituents on a regular basis; c. Establish OFW help desks or kiosks in their localities with the objective of providing current	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Establish OFW help desks or kiosks in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes and aspects of overseas employment. Such desks or kiosks shall, as far as practicable, be fully computerized and shall be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed agencies in good standing; and d. Establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in their respective localities, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country or state of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer	
	Section 15. Repatriation of Workers; Emergency Repatriation Fund – The repatriation of the worker and the transport of his personal belongings shall be the primary responsibility of the agency which recruited or deployed the worker overseas. All costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by or charged to the agency concerned and/or its principal. Likewise, the repatriation of remains and transport of the personal belongings of a deceased worker and all costs attendant thereto shall be borne by the principal and/or local agency. However, in cases where the termination of employment is due solely to the fault of the worker, the principal/employer or agency shall not	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	in any manner be responsible for the repatriation of the former and/or his belongings The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in coordination with appropriate international agencies, shall undertake the repatriation of workers in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events without prejudice to reimbursement by the responsible principal or agency. However, in cases where the principal or recruitment agency cannot be identified, all costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by the OWWA For this purposes, there is hereby created and established an emergency repatriation fund under the administration control and supervision of the OWWA, initially to consist of one hundred million pesos (PhP 100,000,000.00), inclusive of outstanding balances Section 17. Establishment of Re-Placement and Monitoring Center - A Re-placement and Monitoring Center is hereby created in the Department of Labor and Employment for returning Filipino migrant workers which shall provide a mechanism for their reintegration into the Philippine society, serve as a promotion house for their local employment, and tap their skills and potentials for national development The Department of Labor and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, formulate a program that would motivate migrant workers to plan for productive options such as entry into highly technical jobs or undertakings, livelihood and entrepreneurial development, better wage employment, and investment of savings	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	For this purpose, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Technology Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), and other government agencies involved in training and livelihood development shall give priority to return who had been employed as domestic helpers and entertainers Section 18. Functions of the Re-Placement and Monitoring Center - The center shall provide the following services: - Develop livelihood programs and projects for returning Filipino migrant workers in coordination with the private sector; - Coordinate with appropriate private and government agencies the promotion, development, re-placement and the full utilization of their potentials; - Institute in cooperation with other government agencies concerned, a computer-based information system on skilled Filipino migrant workers which shall be accessible to all local recruitment agencies and employers, both public and private; - Provide a periodic study and assessment of job opportunities for returning Filipino migrant workers	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2017-0001 - Integrated Policy Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program (IMRAP) for Overseas Filipinos; jointly by 7 government agencies: DOH, DFA, DOLE (OWWA, POEA), DSWD, DILG, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO); signed on 17 June 2017.	
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021	Section 24. Coordination with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment - The Department shall closely coordinate with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) on the training, protection, and deployment of overseas Bangsamoro workers. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed to affect or impede the authority of the Bangsamoro MOLE on labor, employment, and occupation. For the avoidance of doubt, transferred field offices of the POEA and other related offices pursuant to Republic Act No. 11054, or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), shall be excluded from the Act's coverage The issuance of all forms of OEC for rehires or Balik-Manggagawa shall be free of charge effective July 29, 2023.”	Memorandum No. 110 effective July 29, 2023 provides, “In the interest of the service and in accordance with the Department Circular No. 02, Series of 2023, the issuance of all forms of OEC for rehires or Balik-Manggagawa shall be free of charge effective July 29, 2023.” Cooperation between BARM and DMW Section 24. The Department of Migrant Workers shall collaborate closely with the Bangsamoro Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) to ensure coordination in the training, protection, and deployment of overseas Bangsamoro workers while recognizing and respecting the authority of the Bangsamoro MOLE in labor, employment, and occupation matters, and clarifying that transferred field offices of the POEA and related offices under the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) are excluded from the coverage of the act Efforts on the part of the MOLE-BARM and DMW to share data that is now underway must be pursued to its successful completion MOLE also provides social benefits to those who are sick, disabled, met accidental or natural death. Php

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021		200,000 for those who died while at work, while those died of natural causes, Php 100,000. Since 2020, five families have availed of the first; another eight families have availed of the second. On top of these, there were five beneficiaries who applied for disability assistance and another five for dismemberment assistance since 2020. Each of them received Php 100,000 MOLE's Overseas Welfare Bureau does everything to disseminate the information about this program. Some gap in information dissemination, however, is noted in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawitawi. It is possible program information may not have reached the widest population of OBWs and their families in these areas. During PEOS and PDOS, MOLE-BARMM hands out materials to OBWs with useful information and contact persons and their numbers Two Bangsamoro Autonomous Acts (BAAs) pertaining to overseas employment have already been passed into law. The first is BAA No. 9, which is aimed at regulating recruitment agencies operating in the BARMM. The second is BAA No. 19 or the or an act institutionalizing policies for Bangsamoro overseas employment and establishing a standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of Overseas Bangsamoro Workers (OBWs) and their families. DOH Department Memorandum No. 2023-0142, on the other hand, would benefit many OBWs who to date still go to Davao for their medical exams because of the absence of accredited counterpart clinics in the BARMM. The Department Order reiterates the need to

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021		establish Medical Facilities for Overseas Workers and Seafarers (MFOWS) in DOH hospitals. Meanwhile, EO No. 154 s. 2021 orders the establishment of the OFW Hospital, and the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee on the OFW Hospital. With the operationalization of the OFW hospital in Pampanga, it could now provide medical services to the OFs and their dependents. Not only this. Under this EO it's not just responsive through the provision of immediate medical services to the OFs and their dependents; it is also doing proactive activities like info dissemination and scientific research on common diseases among OFs to prevent these as required in Section 2B of the EO Based on initial research effort, the common disease is hypertension among OFs in Region 3 and most of those afflicted are from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or from Middle East, in general As of end-March 2023, the OFW hospital has already assisted 10,000 plus OFs, most of whom are outpatients, after almost one year of operation. As of the same period, 40 in-patients were served by the hospital since it started receiving such patients last October 2022. All of those served since the start of the hospital operation were free of charge Active membership in OWWA is required to avail of the services of the OFW hospital

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016	Chapter VII, Section 26. Duties and Responsibilities of the OWWA Secretariat. – The OWWA Secretariat shall perform and assume the following duties and responsibilities: (a) To implement all decisions and policies promulgated by the Board including investment and fund management; (b) To manage programs and implement the delivery of welfare services to its members, both local and overseas, supported by advocacy and information campaign programs; (i) To establish and maintain linkages and networks with social and institutional partners, both local and international;	OWWA Membership Fee of USD 25, which gives every OFWs access to all programs and services of OWWA. Payment is compulsory for all OFWs leaving the country for the first time The coverage is two years. Therefrom, membership fee is paid voluntarily OWWA grants benefits as an exception depending on the cases presented with the required proofs Limitation: Only active members can avail of the OWWA programs. This policy is implemented in the different regions Most Overseas Filipinos do not seek membership with OWWA because they think that it is only for OFWs. Those OFWs whose membership have expired and have not been renewed voluntarily by the OF are no longer eligible to avail of OWWA programs and services. MEDplus, for example, is a program meant to match up to a maximum of P50,000 what PhilHealth gives to individual OFWs beneficiaries. This, however, covers only those who are active members of OWWA The Unified Repatriation Assistance Program This is a big help to those OFs who are terminally ill. Coordinative work between OWWA and DOH is secured even before the actual repatriation to ensure smooth operation. From the airport, upon repatriation, the patient is endorsed to DOH, which determines the hospital where the patient is to be brought for treatment and confinement

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016		All necessary information regarding pertinent assistance to the OFWs with terminal illness from PCSO and other agencies are then forwarded to OWWA for coordination Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a multistakeholder group including DOH, DFA, OWWA, to say a few, formulated a set of standard operating procedures should emerging and recurring infectious diseases happen. Limitation: When the pandemic broke out, many of these SOPs became irrelevant considering the actual response to and management of the pandemic The SOPs have since never been revisited OWWA-supervised OFW Family Circles OWWA-supervised OFW Family Circles are now based in major cities and towns at the very least. These Family Circles (FCs) used to be with National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NCRO), which conceptualized and spearheaded their creation. At present, OFW FCs serve as the frontline information and coordinative mechanism of OWWA vis-à-vis OFWs and the family members they left behind. The role of OFW FCs became more pronounced during the pandemic when closer coordination with OFW families was paramount, primarily those with OFWs being repatriated for various reasons especially health. OWWA of late developed a livelihood program for OFW FCs. Existing Family Circles may apply for a

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016		financial grant of up to P1 million for the group's livelihood enterprise e.g. rice retailing, to provide the circle with a means to generate additional income for the officers and members and their respective families. More often than not, OFW FCs are managed by former OFs who settled already back in their respective towns. Some groups have developed certain strengths and skills. For example, FCs in Region IV-a demonstrated skills in building up database of OFs in their corresponding jurisdictions. This started in the pandemic when close coordination was required between repatriated OFs and their families. The OFW FCs served as the mechanism for such coordination under of course the supervision of the local OWWA offices. Even on the verge of a pandemic-free period, OFW FCs in such region chose to sustain the arrangement with line agencies and LGUs, town- and barangay-level alike, for the OF and families' concerns. Of late, however, some OFW FCs in the south seem to be preoccupied by the management of their livelihood grants from OWWA, which is understandable. They subscribe to OWWA requirements and timeline as the fund is disbursed to them in several tranches. They consider this a priority as it is an opportunity for them to transition from earning abroad and use their acquired skills in managing small enterprises here to continue providing for themselves and their families.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 7111 - Overseas Workers' Investment Fund Act of 1991	(3) To issue special receipts through accredited financial institutions or certified couriers abroad as evidence of Government's guarantee for the workers' foreign exchange remittances;	The State is to protect and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas workers; to pioneer and develop innovative means to provide incentives; and to uplift the workers' families' living standards. It is likewise the policy of the State to reduce the foreign debt burden in order to better achieve sustained economic growth by way of tapping the unofficial and informal remittances of said workers.
Executive Order No. 203 - Establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (IAC-SGISM), 24 Jan 2000	The EO predicates the following which intentionally and directly favor and benefit OFWs – “WHEREAS, the State recognizes not only the important contribution of overseas migrant workers to the country, but also the vulnerable situations they are often placed in; “WHEREAS, in order for the government agencies to fully, swiftly and in unity address general and specific concerns of migrant workers and overseas Filipinos, there is need for government agencies to have access to related information...”	The establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (SGISM) was ordered by the EO in 2000. However, the work started only in August 2010 (According to POEA). Data sharing will involve DFA, DOLE, DOJ and DOT and other agencies. Some initiatives include POEA e-Verification system, Workers Registry, DOLE Skills Data Warehouse, NCMB Online Case Verification Project, OWWA OF membership data and collection reports, POLOs provision of assistance to OFs onsite Yet, there are only 35 MWOs abroad. In Saudi Arabia where OFs are more than one million, officials are shared with other cities and countries like Egypt and Sudan. office sharing is also done among select countries in Europe Efforts on the part of the MOLE-BARM and DMW to share data that is now underway must be pursued to its successful completion. Limitation: While there is no doubt about the applicability of the said Executive Order to benefit OFWs one way or another, its implementation at the local leaves

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Executive Order No. 203 - Establishment of an Inter-Agency Committee to develop and implement the Shared Government Information System for Migration (IAC-SGISM), 24 Jan 2000		much to be desired. The EO secures the inter-agency collaboration and sharing of OFW info at the national level for better design and planning of most appropriate programs and services to address their conditions and vulnerabilities. How this shared information system for migration worked during the pandemic, which is a test of the system, remains a lingering question. The pandemic seemed to have underlined that not only information at the national (macro) level is necessary, but rather information at the local (micro) level as well as the pandemic hit the individual OFWs and their families directly The health dimension of OFWs seemed to have not been included in the shared information system for migration, which probably would have assisted the agencies much better in terms of effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with cases of COVID-19 and other related diseases among OFWs during this medical crisis.
RA No. 9189 - Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003	Section 6. Personal Overseas Absentee Registration. – Registration as an overseas absentee voter shall be done in person. Qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad who failed to register under Republic Act No. 8189, otherwise known as the “The Voters Registration Act of 1996”, may personally apply for registration with the Election Registration Board of the city or municipality where they were domiciled immediately prior to their departure from the Philippines, or with the representative of the Commission at the Philippine	The system of voting overseas, although now electronically assisted, is still not perfect, if not absent, in areas far from the center. Not all OFWs are registered and are not able to cast their vote. For other OFWs, especially those in the Middle East, when elections are held on a non-day off, they cannot vote. Transportation expenses are also a hindrance to their participation in voting.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments that have jurisdiction over the locality where they temporarily reside. Subject to the specific guidelines herein provided, the Commission is hereby authorized to prescribe additional procedures for overseas absentee registration pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 8189, whenever applicable, taking into strict consideration the time zones and the various periods and processes herein provided for the proper implementation of this Act. The embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments shall transmit within (5) days from receipt the accomplished registration forms to the Commission, after which the Commission shall coordinate with the Election Officer of the city or municipality of the applicant's stated residence for verification, hearing and annotation in the permanent list of voters.	
RA No. 11315 - Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act of 2019	Creation of Quezon City Community-Based Monitoring System Coordinating Board (QC CBMS-CB) https://quezoncity.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/EO-8-S-22-Creation-of-Quezon-City-Community-Based-Monitoring-System-Coordinating-Board-QC-CBMS-CB.pdf CBMS is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process. in the process. The provincial city / municipal coordinating board is responsible in overseeing CBMS operations in their respective locality, ensuring logistic and other requirements are in place prior and	The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall serve as the lead agency in the implementation of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and shall monitor the data collection by cities and municipalities to ensure adherence to official concepts, definitions and standards of poverty statistics. It involves the generation of data at the local level which serves as a basis in targeting households in planning, budgeting and implementation of government programs geared towards poverty alleviation and economic development. This system merges the methodologies used in data collection activities of all national agencies.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Lucena City (Quezon Province) Ordinance No. 2769 s. 2021 – Creating the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC), 27 Sep 2021	Section 4. Functions, duties and responsibilities of the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center. The Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC) shall have the following powers and functions: A). Information 1. To gather information on a range of topics, such as relevant laws and procedures relating to migration and migrants' rights and responsibilities, as well as the ability to keep up with any changes to these procedures. 2. To establish and maintain a database pertaining to a master list of OFWs residing in Lucena City, classified according to occupation, job category, civil status, gender, by country of destination, including visa classification, name, address, and contact number of the employer. 3. To provide information on the costs of remittances and engage with providers directly to advocate for reductions in the costs of transfers. 4. To facilitate the use of remittances for productive investments by providing information on opportunities for making such investments like comprehensive information on philanthropic investment opportunities in the city for migrants and their families; and information on business-related investment opportunities for returnees and migrants. 5. To provide information for	Migrant Resource Center is established in Lucena City. This can be a model of other cities in Region 4A

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Lucena City (Quezon Province) Ordinance No. 2769 s. 2021 – Creating the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC), 27 Sep 2021	employment abroad, OWWA benefits and other OFW concerns. 6. To launch massive information campaign against illegal recruitment in the entire city B). Program and policy-formation 1. To formulate and implement policies, plans and programs for the promotion of the welfare of OFWs. 2. To coordinate the services of the Local Government Unit, the DFA, DOLE, POEA, NRCO, DSWD, DTI, OWWA, and TESDA and such other necessary services and counseling of non-government and community-based organizations and people's organizations for OFWs and their families. 3. To integrate the various programs and services of the city government to the inclusion of our OFWs and serve as intermediary of all programs and services for OFWs and their families in Lucena City; 4. To integrate the migrant workers' issues and concerns in the development plan of the City of Lucena. 5. To institutionalize an OFW Day in recognition of the outstanding contribution of OFWs in Lucena City. C. Local benefits and services: 1. To provide legal services on matters concerning the welfare of the OFW and their families; 2. To provide social benefits for OFWs like disability, death and burial benefits due to natural causes or accident while working overseas; 3. To provide education, scholarship, and training assistance to OFW-dependents through the Dalubhasaan ng Lungsod ng Lucena and Lucena Manpower and Skills Training Center; 4. To assist in the repatriation of distressed OFWs with psycho-social counseling, stress debriefing, and transport services for their onward travel to their respective	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	homes in Lucena City; 5. To assist in the organization, development, and strengthening of associations of OFWs in Lucena; 6. To facilitate reintegration of returning Lucena OF by providing assistance concerning livelihood, entrepreneurship, savings, investments and financial literacy; 7. To offer other services to OFWs such as predeparture and pre employment trainings and anti-illegal recruitment seminars Whereas, the establishment of OFW help desk will greatly benefit the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) and their families in Lucena City;	
Zamboanga City Executive Order No. BC 570-2020 - Guidelines for Returning Overseas Filipinos and Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)/ Inbound Travellers, 5 Jun 2020	An act providing guidelines for returning overseas Filipino and locally stranded individuals / inbound travelers	Guidelines for returning overseas Filipinos and locally stranded individuals / inbound travelers
RA No. 10364 - Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (amending RA No. 9208 of 2003)	Section 16 (c). Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – shall ensure the strict implementation and compliance with the rules and guidelines relative to the employment of persons locally and overseas. It shall likewise monitor, document and report cases of trafficking in persons involving employers and labor recruiters	Limitation: There are regions where trafficking in persons, particularly OFs, are rampant. Although several initiatives have been undertaken, the practice continues, especially in Region 9 where OFs go back and forth to Sabah.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10364 - Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012 (amending RA No. 9208 of 2003)	Section 16 (e). National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) – shall actively participate and coordinate in the formulation and monitoring of policies addressing the issue of trafficking in persons in coordination with relevant government agencies. It shall likewise advocate for the inclusion of the issue of trafficking in persons in both its local and international advocacy for women's issues. Section 16 (j). Local government units (LGUs) – shall monitor and document cases of trafficking in persons in their areas of jurisdiction, effect the cancellation of licenses of establishments which violate the provisions of this Act and ensure effective prosecution of such cases. They shall also undertake an information campaign against trafficking in persons through the establishment of the Migrants Advisory and Information Network (MAIN) desks in municipalities or provinces in coordination with DILG, Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), NGOs and other concerned agencies. They shall encourage and support community based initiatives which address the trafficking in persons An act establishing a Community-Based Monitoring System and appropriating funds for a CBMS, which is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-075 - Establishment of the DILG OFW Desks and Designation of DILG-OFW Desk Officers at the Regions, Provinces, Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), 23 Apr 2020	OWWA is hereby authorized to issue the certifications it may deem appropriate to the concerned OFWs.” In this regard, all Regional Directors and BARM Minister of Local Government are directed to perform the following: 1. Establish their respective OFW Desks; 2. Designate the Regional, Provincial, HUC and ICC OFW Desk; and 3. Submit the names and contact details of all the designated Regional, Provincial, HUC and ICC OF Desk Officers to the undersigned, through the National Barangay Operations Office for consolidation, the soonest time possible or NLT 26 April 2020. The City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer shall be the DILG-OFW Desk Officer of the component city and municipality concerned. All designated OFW-Desk Officer are directed to monitor all returning OFWs within their respective areas of jurisdiction and enjoined to perform the following: 1. Immediately coordinate with the Local Chief Executives (LCE) concerned and provide them with the relevant information of the concerned OFW; 2. Ensure that LGUs provide all necessary assistance to OFWs; 3. Monitor the health status of the concerned OFW, through the City/Municipal Health Workers, Barangay Health Workers and/or the	The main idea is to make the LGU responsive to the needs of the OFWs and the family members they left behind. Highly Urbanized Cities and a few Provinces and towns have established DILG OFW Desks, while some have delegated it to the Public Employment Service Office (PESO). An offshoot of this issuance is the creation of a one-stop shop for OFWs where all the information and needs of OFWs that may be addressed by the LGUs and local counterparts of line agencies may be pooled under this OFW Desk for easy access. This DILG Memorandum Circular calling for the formation of OFW Desk in each LGU may have given impetus to LGU-DMW Memorandum of Agreement. Quezon City recently launched this partnership. The same is what happened in Calamba, Laguna and in San Fernando, Pampanga in Central Luzon. The general purpose of this tie-up is to ensure mechanisms which will guarantee LGU-DMW cooperation in matters affecting OFWs. Limitation: In most cases, the OFW Desk functions are assumed by the Public Service & Employment Office, an adjunct of the Department of Labor & Employment. To whom the functions as indicated in the Memorandum

Analysis matrix: Alignment of Philippine health laws and policies with international standards



Law	Annotation	Commentary
Labor Code of the Philippines, 1974 (as amended)	Article 49. Administration of training programs. The Council shall provide, through the Secretariat, instructor training, entrepreneurship development, training in vocations, trades and other fields of employment, and assist any employer or organization in training schemes designed to attain its objectives under rules and regulations which the Council shall establish for this purpose. The Council shall exercise, through the Secretariat, authority and jurisdiction over, and administer, on-going technical assistance programs and/or grants-in-aid for manpower and youth development including those which may be entered into between the Government of the Philippines and international and foreign organizations and nations, as well as persons and organizations in the Philippines. In order to integrate the national manpower development efforts, all manpower training schemes as provided for in this Code shall be coordinated with the Council, particularly those having to do with the setting of skills standards. For this purpose, existing manpower training programs in the government and in the private sector shall be reported to the Council which may regulate such programs to make them conform with national development programs. Article 18. Ban on Direct Hiring. No employer may hire a Filipino worker for overseas employment except through the Boards and entities authorized by the Secretary of Labor. Direct hiring by members of the diplomatic service, officials and employees of international organizations and such other employers as may be allowed by the Secretary of Labor is exempted from this provision.	Philippine Labor Code is not applicable to foreign countries of work.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
1987 Philippine Constitution	Article II, Section 2. The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations Article VII, Section 21. No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate Article VIII, Section 5 (2). Review, revise, reverse, modify, or affirm on appeal or certiorari, as the law or the Rules of Court may provide, final judgments and orders of lower courts in: (a) All cases in which the constitutionality or validity of any treaty, international or executive agreement, law, presidential decree, proclamation, order, instruction, ordinance, or regulation is in question. Article XIII, Section 18 (7). Monitor the Philippine Government's compliance with international treaty obligations on human rights; Article XIV, Section 19 (1). The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.	Relevant to migrant health is: Article II, Section 2. The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	(2) All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors Article XVIII, Section 4. All existing treaties or international agreements which have not been ratified shall not be renewed or extended without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate.	
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042 as amended by RA No. 10022	Section 1. Paragraphs (a), (e), (g) and (h) of Section 2 of Republic Act. No. 8042, as amended, otherwise known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995,” is hereby amended to read as follows: “(a) In the pursuit of an independent foreign policy and while considering national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and the right to self-determination paramount in its relations with other states, the State shall, at all times, uphold the dignity of its citizens whether in country or overseas, in general, and Filipino migrant workers, in particular, continuously monitor international conventions, adopt/be signatory to and ratify those that guarantee protection to our migrant workers, and endeavor to enter into bilateral agreements with countries hosting overseas Filipino workers.”	This law amends and strengthens the State’s mandates and obligations (stipulated in the original 1995 law) in protecting the rights and welfare of OFWS and their families, particularly: • Adherence to international conventions, national sovereignty, independent foreign policy, territorial integrity, national interest and right to self-determination as State Policies • POEA to give out travel advisories regarding migration and adherence to international standards on human and worker’s rights • DFA to make an assessment of rights and avenues of redress under international and regional human rights mechanisms • Compliance of the State to international laws in the deployment of overseas Filipino workers • Functions of the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) • Deployment of Filipino migrant workers to countries that adhere to international laws

Law	Annotation	Commentary
		• Adherence by DOH -accredited medical clinics to international laws and standards • Rule on the deployment of migrant workers which require that OFWs are deployed only in countries where their rights are protected • Deployment of OFWs to ocean-going ships must comply with international laws and standards to protect the rights of seafarers and sea-based OFWs • Mandate for the POEA and DFA to prepare labor situationers • Role of the DOH in the regulation of medical clinics.
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018	1. PhilHealth Circular No. 007 s. 2012: New Premium Contributions of Overseas Filipino Workers Program. 2. PhilHealth Circular No. 0025 s. 2013: Implementation of the OWP Premium and Payment Schemes. 3. PhilHealth Circular 2020-014. Premium Contribution and Collection of Payment of Overseas Filipino Members Former President Duterte signed the Universal Health Care (UHC) bill into law (Republic Act No. 11223) that automatically enrolls all Filipino citizens in the National Health Insurance Program and prescribes complementary reforms in the health system. “This gives citizens access to the full continuum of health services they need, while protecting them from enduring financial hardship as a result.” (WHO, Philippines)	“It is a time for celebration in the Philippines. President Rodrigo Duterte has just signed a Universal Health Care (UHC) Bill into law (Republic Act No. 11223) that automatically enrolls all Filipino citizens in the National Health Insurance Program and prescribes complementary reforms in the health system. “This gives citizens access to the full continuum of health services they need, while protecting them from enduring financial hardship as a result” (WHO, Philippines). Limitation: In Singapore, work permit holders undergo medical examination by a Singapore-registered doctor prior to starting work with employer. If they are certified as medically-unfit, their work permits will be revoked. Domestic workers undergo medical check-up every 6 months (6ME) to screen for pregnancy & infectious diseases such as syphilis, HIV and TB. (Clarín, personal communication June 15, 2023). OFs with medical condition, who are past the employable age of 40, experiencing urgent family matters return home.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10606 - National Health Insurance Act of 2013 (amending RA No. 7875 of 1995)	Mandate to establish a Philhealth office in every Philippine Consular Office which shall process, review, and pay claims of Filipinos. Section 16 of the Act ("Powers and Functions") mandates that: "The Corporation shall have the following powers and functions: "(u) To establish an office, or where it is not feasible, designate a focal person in every Philippine Consular Office in all countries where there are Filipino citizens. The office or the focal person shall, among others, process, review and pay the claims of the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs	The health insurance that is paid by the foreign employer to their respective government or private insurance companies is not transferable to the Philippines upon return of the OF. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) --now the DMW-- issued Memorandum Circular No. 10 s. 2022 in March 2022 on the Implementing Guidelines on the Expanded Compulsory Insurance Coverage for Rehires and Direct Hires. The enhanced insurance coverage, which will now include returning OFWs, was promulgated during the COVID-19 pandemic in consonance with the goals of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to ensure the safety of the OFWs. No additional cost to the OFW - "The insurance coverage for each OFW shall be secured by the recruitment agency. Non-compliant foreign employers may be disciplined motu proprio or upon the initiative of the OFWs concerned." Limitation: The health insurance that is paid by the foreign employer to their respective government or private insurance companies is not transferable to the Philippines upon return of the OF.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	Section 2. Declaration of Policy. The State affirms the basic right of all Filipinos to mental health as well as the fundamental rights of people who require mental health services. The State commits itself to promoting the well-being of people by ensuring that: mental health is valued, promoted and protected; mental health conditions are treated and prevented; timely, affordable, high quality, and culturally-appropriate mental health care is made available to the public; mental health service are free from coercion and accountable to the service users; and persons affected by mental health conditions are able to exercise the full range of human rights, and participate fully in society and at work free from stigmatization and discrimination. The State shall comply strictly with its obligations under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, and all other relevant international and regional human rights conventions and declarations. The applicability of Republic act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, to person with mental health conditions, as defined herein, is expressly recognized. Section 31. Duties and Responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). - The CHR shall: d. Establish mechanisms to investigate, address, and set upon complaints to impropriety and abuse in the treatment and care received by service users, particularly when such treatment or care is administered or implemented voluntarily; e. Inspect mental health facilities to ensure that service users therein are not being subjected	Teleconsulting / Telemed. This mechanism is crucial especially among those who may have developed mental illnesses as such conditions tend to be stigmatized.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	to cruel, inhumane, or degrading conditions or treatment; f. Investigate all cases involving involuntary treatment, confinement, or care or service users, for the purpose of ensuring strict compliance with domestic and international standards respecting the legality, quality, and appropriateness of such treatment, confinement, or care; and g. Appoint a focal commissioner for mental health tasked with protecting and promoting the rights of service users and other persons utilizing mental health services or confined in mental health facilities, as well as the rights of mental health professionals and workers. The focal commissioner shall, upon a finding that a mental health facility, mental health professional, or mental health worker has violated any of the rights provided for in this Act, take all necessary actions to rectify or remedy such violation, including recommending that an administrative, civil, or criminal case be filed by the appropriate government agency. Section 33. Complaint and Investigation. - The DOJ, CHR and Department of Justice shall receive all complaints of improprieties and abuses in mental health care and shall initiate appropriate investigation and action Further, the CHR shall inspect all places where psychiatric service users are held for involuntary treatment or otherwise, to ensure full compliance with	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	domestic and international standards governing the legal basis for treatment or otherwise, to ensure full compliance with domestic and international standards governing the legal basis for treatment and detention quality of medical care and living standards In the spirit of total care for the individual with mental illness -- while there is no one-to-one correspondence between this Act and the universal instrument “Principles for the protection of persons with mental illness and the improvement of mental health care,” which was adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 46/119 on December 17, 1991 -- both documents are aligned.	
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021	Section 6. Powers and Functions - To carry out its mandate, the Department shall: (e) Support and assist the DFA and relevant government agencies in building strong and harmonious partnerships with counterpart and relevant agencies in foreign countries in order to facilitate the implementation of strategies and programs for the protection and promotion of the right and well-being of OFWs and their families and to continuously monitor economic, political, and labor developments therein; (f) Support and assist the DFA in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral agreements, initiatives and programs, including intergovernmental processes, which primarily concern labor migration; (g) Represent, in coordination with and under the guidance of the DFA, interests pertaining to OFWs, in bilateral, regional, and multilateral fora and international bodies.	The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) will take over the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) functions from Department of Foreign Affairs starting July 1, 2023 Following the agreements with the Department of Migrant Workers, BARMM supports the needs of its Overseas Bangsamoro Workers (OBWs) The case of Kota Kinabalu is very challenging for MOLE-BARMM. It has assisted those who have been repatriated together with MSSD. Their assistance is hinged on the commitment those repatriated will no longer go back to Kota Kinabalu for employment. Whether the OFs will return to Sabah is yet unknown. MOLE- BARMM is allowing those repatriated time to rest and later decide on the matter.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016	Section 6. Functions. – The OWWA shall exercise the following functions: (h) To ensure the implementation of all laws and ratified international conventions within its jurisdiction. Section 26. Duties and Responsibilities of the OWWA Secretariat. – The OWWA Secretariat shall perform and assume the following duties and responsibilities: (i) To establish and maintain linkages and networks with social and institutional partners, both local and international; Section 35. Benefits and Services to OFWs. – (3) Education and Training Benefits. – A member, or the member's designated beneficiary, may avail any of the following scholarship programs, subject to a selection process and accreditation of participating institutions: 1. Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program. – For technical or vocational training scholarship; 2. Education for Development Scholarship Program. – For baccalaureate programs; and 3. Seafarers' Upgrading Program. – To ensure the competitive advantage of Filipino seafarers in meeting competency standards, as required by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions, treaties and agreements, sea-based members shall be entitled to one upgrading program for every three (3) membership contributions.	Teleconsulting / Telemed. Adjacent to the conference room in the Office of the Regional Director, OWWA, Region III is a teleconsulting operation catering to our OFs from the region. This is very important for the following reasons: • Filipinos do not talk about their physical problems for fear of losing their jobs. • They are used to self-treatment. • Filipinos help each other; self-medication comes from friends who they consider have better knowledge of and experience in the possible ailments they have. • Filipinos prefer to speak with Filipino doctors who they believe sympathize and empathize with them. Limitation: Teleconsulting results are not honored by doctors in countries where OFs are employed such as KSA.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981	Article 4 - Each member shall, in the light of national conditions and practice, and in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers, formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent national policy on occupational safety, occupational health and the working environment. - The aim of the policy shall be to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment. Article 8 Each Member shall, by laws or regulations or any other method consistent with national conditions and practice and in consultation with the representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to Article 4 of this convention	There are several health-related ILO Conventions not ratified by the Philippine government as of September 2023. It is the aim of these conventions to clarify the roles of employees, employer, and member-national governments and provide regulations applicable to labor in general, but can also be applied to overseas work. Some examples are prevention of accidents, injuries, and the causes of hazards in the workplace. The content of the conventions may be reviewed in light of their applicability to policies for national policies. Moreover, there may be particular conditions and practices pertaining to migrant health that may guide and be included in drafting of Bilateral Agreements with countries of work of OFWs Other conventions not ratified are specific to agriculture, fishing or industry where OFWs are found. Health cases of cancer, injury, maternity, likewise pollution, also have specific conventions.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981	Article 9 1. The enforcement of laws and regulations concerning occupational safety and health and the working environment shall be secured by an adequate and appropriate system of inspection. 2. The enforcement system shall provide for adequate penalties for violations of the laws and regulations Article 10 Measures shall be taken to provide guidance to employers and workers so as to help them to comply with legal obligations Article 11 To give effect to the policy referred to in Article 4 of this Convention, the competent authority or authorities shall ensure that the following functions are progressively carried out: a. the determination, where the nature and degree of hazards so require, of conditions governing the design, construction and layout of undertakings, the commencement of their operations, major alterations affecting them and changes in their purposes, the safety of technical equipment used at work, as well as the application of procedures defined by the competent authorities;	• C167 - Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 • C184 - Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 • C188 - Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 • C174 - Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 • C121 - Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 [Schedule I amended in 1980] • C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960 • C139 - Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 • C148 - Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 • C183 - Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 • C181 - Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (See Annex B International Laws: Alignment)

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C155 - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981	b. the determination of work processes and of substances and agents the exposure to which is to be prohibited, limited or made subject to authorization or control by the competent authority or authorities; health hazards due to the simultaneous exposure to several substances or agents shall be taken into consideration; c. the establishment and application of procedures for the notification of occupational accidents and diseases, by employers and, when appropriate, insurance institutions and others directly concerned, and the production of annual statistics on occupational accidents and diseases; d. the holding of inquiries, where cases of occupational accidents, occupational diseases or any other injuries to health which arise in the course of or in connection with work appear to reflect situations which are serious; e. the publication, annually, of information on measures taken in pursuance of the policy referred to in Article 4 of this Convention and on occupational accidents, occupational diseases and other injuries to health which arise in the course of or in connection with work; f. the introduction or extension of systems, taking into account national conditions and possibilities, to examine chemical, physical and biological agents in respect of the risk to the health of workers.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
ILO C161 - Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985	Article 3 1. Each Member undertakes to develop progressively occupational health services for all workers, including those in the public sector and the members of production co-operatives, in all branches of economic activity and all undertakings. The provision made should be adequate and appropriate to the specific risks of the undertakings. 2. If occupational health services cannot be immediately established for all undertakings, each member concerned shall draw up plans for the establishment of such services in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers, where they exist. 3. Each member concerned shall indicate, in the first report on the application of the Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization, the plans drawn up pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article, and indicate in subsequent reports any progress in their application.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960	Article 7 1. Appropriate levels shall be fixed in accordance with Article 6 for workers who are directly engaged in radiation work and are-- a. aged 18 and over; b. under the age of 18. 2. No worker under the age of 16 shall be engaged in work involving ionizing radiation. Article 8 Appropriate levels shall be fixed in accordance with Article 6 for workers who are not directly engaged in radiation work, but who remain or pass where they may be exposed to ionizing radiation or radioactive substances. Article 9 1. Appropriate warnings shall be used to indicate the presence of hazards from ionizing radiation. Any information necessary in this connection shall be supplied to the workers. 2. All workers directly engaged in radiation work shall be adequately instructed, before and during such employment, in the precautions to be taken for their protection, as regards their health and safety, and the reasons thereof.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960	Article 10 Laws or regulations shall require the notification in a manner prescribed thereby of work involving exposure of workers to ionizing radiation in the course of their work. Article 11 Appropriate monitoring of workers and places of work shall be carried out in order to measure the exposure of workers to ionizing radiation and radioactive substances, with a view to ascertaining that the applicable levels are respected. Article 12 All workers directly engaged in radiation work shall undergo an appropriate medical examination prior to or shortly after taking up such work and subsequently undergo further medical examinations at appropriate intervals. Article 13 Circumstances shall be specified, by one of the methods of giving effect to the Convention mentioned in Article 1, in which, because of the nature or degree of the exposure or a combination of both, the following action shall be taken promptly: a. the worker shall undergo an appropriate medical examination; b. the employer shall notify the competent authority in accordance with its requirements;	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C115 - Radiation Protection Convention, 1960	c. persons competent in radiation protection shall examine the conditions in which the worker's duties are performed; d. the employer shall take any necessary remedial action on the basis of the technical findings and the medical advice. Article 14 No worker shall be employed or shall continue to be employed in work by reason of which the worker could be subject to exposure to ionizing radiations contrary to qualified medical advice.	
C121 - Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 [Schedule I amended in 1980]	Article 4 1. National legislation concerning employment injury benefits shall protect all employees, including apprentices, in the public and private sectors, including co-operatives, and, in respect of the death of the breadwinner, prescribed categories of beneficiaries. 2. Any Member may make such exceptions as it deems necessary in respect of-- a. persons whose employment is of a casual nature and who are employed otherwise than for the purpose of the employer's trade or business; b. out-workers;	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
C191 - Safe and Healthy Working Environment (Consequential Amendments) Convention, 2023	Article 1 (3). The words “a safe and healthy working environment” shall be added as a new subparagraph (e) of Article III of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended; as a new subparagraph (e) of Article 3(2) of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); and in Article 5 of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), after the words “employment and occupation”.	



Analysis matrix: Applicability of Philippine health laws and policies to OFs and their families



Law	Annotation	Commentary
Labor Code of the Philippines, 1974 (as amended)		Starting a business in the Philippines upon reintegration may not be attractive to OFs because they have experienced receiving regular salaries overseas.
RA No. 9710 - Magna Carta of Women of 2009		The State shall progressively realize and ensure decent work standards for women that involve the creation of jobs of acceptable quality in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity.
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	Section 5. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows: “Section 6. Definition. – For purposes of this Act, illegal recruitment shall mean any act of canvassing, enlisting, contracting, transporting, utilizing, hiring, or procuring workers and includes referring, contract services, promising or advertising for employment abroad, whether for profit or not, when undertaken by non-licensee or non-holder of authority contemplated under Article 13(f) of Presidential Decree No. 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines: Provided, that any such non-licensee or non-holder who, in any manner, offers or promises for a fee employment abroad to two or more persons shall be deemed so engaged. It shall likewise include the following acts, whether committed by any person, whether a non-licensee, non-holder, licensee or holder of authority: “(4) Impose a compulsory and exclusive arrangement whereby an overseas Filipino worker is required to	Section 16 d. 2. Establish Overseas Filipino Worker help desk or kiosk in their localities with the objective of providing current information to their constituents on all the processes aspects of overseas employment. Such desk or kiosk shall, as be linked to the database of all concerned government agencies, particularly the POEA for its updated lists of overseas job orders and licensed recruitment agencies in good standing. DILG has released Issuance for HELP Desk. Highly Urbanized Cities and a few Provinces and towns have established OFW Help Desk, while few have delegated it to the Public Employment Service Office (PESO)

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	undergo health examinations only from specifically designated medical clinics, institutions, entities or persons, except in the case of a seafarer whose medical examination cost is shouldered by the principal/shipowner; Section 16. Under Section 23 of Republic Act No. 8042, as amended, add new paragraphs (c) and (d) with their corresponding subparagraphs to read as follows: “(c) Department of Health. – The Department of Health (DOH) shall regulate the activities and operations of all clinics which conduct medical, physical, optical, dental, psychological and other similar examinations, hereinafter referred to as health examinations, of Filipino migrant workers as a requirement for their overseas employment. Pursuant to this, the DOH shall ensure that: ” (c.1) The fees for the health examinations are regulated, regularly monitored and duly published to ensure that the said fees are reasonable and not exorbitant; ” (c.2) The Filipino migrant worker shall only be required to undergo health examinations when there is reasonable certainty that he or she will be hired and deployed to the jobsite and only those health examinations which are absolutely necessary for the type of job applied for or those specifically required by the foreign employer shall be conducted; ” (c.3) No group or groups of medical clinics shall have a monopoly of exclusively conducting health examinations on migrant workers for certain receiving countries;	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	” (c.4) Every Filipino migrant worker shall have the freedom to choose any of the DOH-accredited or DOH-operated clinics that will conduct his/her health examinations and that his or her rights as a patient are respected. The decking practice, which requires an overseas Filipino worker to go first to an office for registration and then farmed out to a medical clinic located elsewhere, shall not be allowed; ” (c.5) Within a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, all DOH regional and/or provincial hospitals shall establish and operate clinics that can be serve the health examination requirements of Filipino migrant workers to provide them easy access to such clinics all over the country and lessen their transportation and lodging expenses, and; ” (c.6) All DOH-accredited medical clinics, including the DOH-operated clinics, conducting health examinations for Filipino migrant workers shall observe the same standard operating procedures and shall comply with internationally-accepted standards in their operations to conform with the requirements of receiving countries or of foreign employers/principals “Any foreign employer who does not honor the results of valid health examinations conducted by a DOH-accredited or DOH-operated clinic shall be temporarily disqualified from the participating in the overseas employment program, pursuant to POEA rules and regulations. “In case an overseas Filipino worker is found to be not medically fit upon his/her immediate arrival in	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	the country of destination, the medical clinic that conducted the health examination/s of such overseas Filipino worker shall pay for his or her repatriation back to the Philippines and the cost of deployment of such worker. Rule IV – Illegal Recruitment Section 3. Other Prohibited Acts. d. Impose a compulsory and exclusive arrangement whereby an OFW is required to undergo health examinations only from specifically designated medical clinics, institutions, entities or persons, except in the case of a seafarer whose medical examination cost is shouldered by the principal/shipowner; Rule VI - Anti-illegal Recruitment Programs Section 23. Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar (PEOS) The POEA shall strengthen its comprehensive Pre-Employment Orientation Program through the conduct of seminars that will discuss topics such as legal modes of hiring for overseas employment, rights, responsibilities and obligations of migrant workers, health issues, prevention and modus operandi of illegal recruitment, and gender sensitivity The POEA shall inform migrant workers not only of their rights as workers but also of their rights as human beings, instruct and guide the workers how to assert their rights and provide the available mechanism to redress violation of their rights	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	Section 24. Partnership with LGUs, other Government Agencies and NGOs The POEA shall maintain and strengthen its partnership with LGUs, other government agencies and NGOs advocating the rights and welfare of OFWs for the purpose of dissemination of information on all aspects of overseas employment For this purpose, the POEA shall continuously provide the concerned entities with updated lists of licensed agencies and entities and information materials such as brochures, pamphlets, posters, as well as recent anti-illegal recruitment laws and regulations for distribution to their respective constituents. Rule X - Role of DOLE Section 2. POLO Functions. The DOLE overseas operating arm shall be the POLO, which shall have the following functions and responsibilities: 1. Ensure the promotion and protection of the welfare and interests of OFWs and assist them in all problems arising out of employer-employee relationships; Section 15. Functions of the NRCO (e) Develop and implement other appropriate programs to promote the welfare of returning Filipino migrant workers; (g) Develop capacity-building programs for returning overseas Filipino workers and their families, implementers, service providers, and stakeholders;	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995)	Section 18. Services The Migrant Workers and other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center shall provide the following services: i. Monitoring of the daily situation, circumstances and activities affecting migrant workers and other overseas Filipinos;	
Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	Section 19. Personnel Each Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Center shall be staffed by Foreign Service personnel, a Labor Attaché and other service attachés or officers who represent Philippine government agencies abroad. The following personnel may be assigned to the Center: a. Psychologists, Social Workers, and a Shari'a or Human Rights Lawyer, in highly problematic countries as categorized by the DFA and DOLE and where there is a concentration of Filipino migrant workers;	
	Rule XI - Role of DOH Section 1. Regulation of Medical Clinics. The Department of Health (DOH) shall regulate the activities and operations of all clinics which conduct medical, physical, optical, dental, psychological and other similar examinations, hereinafter referred to as health examinations, on Filipino migrant workers as requirement for their overseas employment. Pre-Employment Medical Examinations (PEME) for overseas work applicants shall be performed only in	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	DOH- accredited medical clinics and health facilities utilizing the standards set forth by DOH. Pursuant to this, the DOH shall ensure that: (a) The fees for the health examinations are regulated, regularly monitored and duly published to ensure that the said fees are reasonable and not exorbitant. The DOH shall set a minimum and maximum range of fees for the different examinations to be conducted, based on a thorough and periodic review of the cost of health examinations and after consultation with concerned stakeholders. The applicant-worker shall pay directly to the DOH-accredited medical clinics or health facilities where the PEME is to be conducted. (b) The Filipino migrant workers shall only be required to undergo health examinations when there is reasonable certainty as certified by the hiring recruitment/manning agency pursuant to POEA Rules and Regulations that he/she will be hired and deployed to the jobsite and only those health examinations which are absolutely necessary for the type of job applied for or those specifically required by the foreign employer shall be conducted; (c) No group or groups of medical clinics shall have a monopoly of exclusively conducting health examinations on migrant workers for certain receiving countries (d) Every Filipino migrant worker shall have the freedom to choose any of the DOH-accredited or DOH- operated clinics that will conduct his/her health examinations and that his/her rights as a patient are	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	respected. The decking practice, which requires overseas Filipino workers to go first to an office for registration and then farmed out to a medical clinic located elsewhere, shall not be allowed; Rule XIII – Repatriation of Workers Section 5. Emergency Repatriation The OWWA, in coordination with DFA, and in appropriate situations, with international agencies, shall undertake the repatriation of workers in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events, without prejudice to reimbursement by the responsible principal or agency within sixty (60) days from notice. In such case, the POEA shall simultaneously identify and give notice to the agencies concerned Section 15. Repatriation of Workers; Emergency Repatriation Fund – The repatriation of the worker and the transport of his personal belongings shall be the primary responsibility of the agency which recruited or deployed the worker overseas. All costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by or charged to the agency concerned and/or its principal. Likewise, the repatriation of remains and transport of the personal belongings of a deceased worker and all costs attendant thereto shall be borne by the principal and/or local agency. However, in cases where the termination of employment is due solely to the fault of the worker, the principal/employer or agency shall not in any manner be responsible for the repatriation of the former and/or his belongings	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in coordination with appropriate international agencies, shall undertake the repatriation of workers in cases of war, epidemic, disasters or calamities, natural or man-made, and other similar events without prejudice to reimbursement by the responsible principal or agency. However, in cases where the principal or recruitment agency cannot be identified, all costs attendant to repatriation shall be borne by the OWWA For this purposes, there is hereby created and established an emergency repatriation fund under the administration control and supervision of the OWWA, initially to consist of one hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00), inclusive of outstanding balances Rule XVI - Compulsory Insurance Coverage For Agency-Hired Workers Section 1. Migrant Workers Covered In addition to the performance bond to be filed by the recruitment/manning agency under Section 10 of the Act, each migrant worker deployed by a recruitment/manning agency shall be covered by a compulsory insurance policy which shall be secured at no cost to the said worker. (g) Compassionate visit. When a migrant worker is hospitalized and has been confined for at least seven (7) consecutive days, he shall be entitled to a compassionate visit by one (1) family member or a requested individual. The insurance company shall pay for the transportation cost of the family member or	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 10022 - Migrant Workers Act of 2009 (Amending RA No. 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995) Omnibus Rules and Regulations of RA No. 8042/RA No. 10022	requested individual to the major airport closest to the place of hospitalization of the worker. It is, however, the responsibility of the family member or requested individual to meet all visa and travel document requirements; (h) Medical evacuation. When an adequate medical facility is not available proximate to the migrant worker, as determined by the insurance company's physician and/or a consulting physician, evacuation under appropriate medical supervision by the mode of transport necessary shall be undertaken by the insurance provider, and; (i) Medical repatriation. When medically necessary as determined by the attending physician, repatriation under medical supervision to the migrant worker's residence shall be undertaken by the insurance provider at such time that the migrant worker is medically cleared for travel by commercial carrier. If the period to receive medical clearance to travel exceeds fourteen (14) days from the date of discharge from the hospital, an alternative appropriate mode of transportation, such as air ambulance, may be arranged. Medical and non-medical escorts may be provided when necessary. This provision shall be without prejudice to the provisions of Rule XIII of these Rules and Regulations Section 3. Duty to disclose and assist It shall be the duty of the recruitment/manning agency, in collaboration with the insurance provider, to sufficiently explain to the migrant worker, before his/	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018	her departure, and to at least one of his/her beneficiaries the terms and benefits of the insurance coverage, including the claims procedure Also, in filing a claim with the insurance provider, it shall be the duty of the recruitment/manning agency to assist the migrant worker and/or the beneficiary and to ensure that all information and documents in the custody of the agency necessary for the claim must be readily accessible to the claimant.	
RA No. 11223 - Universal Health Care Act of 2018	Section 4 (f). Direct contributors refer to those who have the capacity to pay premiums, are gainfully employed and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning, professional practitioners, migrant workers, including their qualified dependents, and lifetime members Chapter III, Section 9. PhilHealth shall provide additional Program benefits for direct contributors, where applicable: Provided, that failure to pay premiums shall not prevent the enjoyment of any Program benefits: Provided, further, that employers and self-employed direct contributors shall be required to pay all missed contributions with an interest, compounded monthly, of at least three percent (3%) for employers and not exceeding one and one-half percent (1.5%) for self-earning, professional practitioners, and migrant workers	DOH Department Order 2021-0496 “Guidelines for Port-to-Port Collaboration for Healthcare for Filipinos in Sabah” This is implemented in Region 9 Center for Health Development and BARMIM for deported Filipinos from and not for Filipinos in Sabah. “The DOH, through its Task Force for the Provision of Health Services to Filipinos in Sabah, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia, together with Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur (KLPE) / Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA), and Sabah National Security Council (NSC), agreed to strengthen coordination through Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for port-to-port collaboration for health care for Filipinos from the Temporary Detention Centers (TDCs) in Sabah” [IFRC Final Report]

Law	Annotation	Commentary
		LIMITATION: The initiative is temporary. The main driver of the migration from Mindanao is the perception of better livelihood options in Sabah, together with security concerns in some parts of Mindanao that have further challenged peoples' livelihoods. This is the reason why Filipinos go back and forth to Sabah In Region 9, those who avail of health assistance are hospitalized in Cotabato Regional Medical Center (CRMC), to which MSSD has access.
RA No. 11959 - Regional Specialty Centers Act of 2023 https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2023/08/24/republic-act-no-11959/		This is part of the administration's efforts to establish and institutionalize healthcare centers in the region, ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare services for all DOH-run hospitals are East Avenue Medical Center, Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, National Center for Mental Health, National Children's Hospital, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Philippine Orthopedic Center, and Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, among others. GOCC hospitals, on the other hand, are Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Heart Center, and Philippine Children's Medical Center.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11036 - Mental Health Act of 2018	Chapter VIII, Section 39. The Philippine Council for Mental health (a) operationalize (1) the country's target and strategies in protecting the rights of Filipinos with mental health needs and in promoting mental health and the well-being of Filipinos, and establish (2) a rational, unified and integrated service delivery network for mental health services including the developmental human resources and information system for mental health	Limitation: Repatriated OFW with mental health problem is brought to the hometown but medication is covered only for few weeks or months.
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021	In this Act, the term “reintegration program” refers to a range of measures aimed at facilitating the successful and sustainable return of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Philippine society, encompassing initiatives such as livelihood projects, wellness programs, financial literacy programs, and similar projects, tailored to the individual needs and skills of returning OFWs. Section 3. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act, the following terms and phrases are defined as follows: (i) Reintegration program - refers to a measure of a set of measures intended for mainstreaming and sustainable return of OFWs into Philippine society, including, but not limited to, livelihood projects, wellness programs, financial literacy programs and other similar projects: Provided, That reintegration programs shall be based on the specific needs and skills of returning OFWs; Section 6. Powers and Functions - To carry out its mandate, the Department shall: (d) Protect and promote the welfare, well-being, and interest of	“Reintegration program” refers to a range of measures aimed at facilitating the successful and sustainable return of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Philippine society, encompassing initiatives such as livelihood projects, wellness programs, financial literacy programs, and similar projects, tailored to the individual needs and skills of returning OFWs.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 11641 - Department of Migrant Workers Act of 2021	the families of OFWs in accordance with this Act, consistent with the constitutional policy of upholding the sanctity of the family as a basic autonomous social institution and of valuing the vital role of youth in national-building; The Department of Migrant Workers shall establish and implement a comprehensive national reintegration program that encompasses all stages of work migration, providing support in various areas such as economic, social, psychosocial, gender-responsive, and cultural aspects, including skills certification, social protection, financial services, and the reintegration of survivors of violence against women and trafficking in persons, with the National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) as the lead office coordinating efforts across relevant government agencies. Section 17. Full-Cycle National Reintegration Program - The Department shall develop and implement a full cycle and comprehensive national integration program for both documented and undocumented OFWs, which shall be embedded in all stages of migration for work beginning from pre-deployment, on-site during employment, and upon return, whether voluntary or involuntary. The reintegration program shall cover the different dimensions of support needed by the OFW such as economic, social, psychosocial, gender-responsive, and cultural, including skills certification and recognition of equivalency for effective employment services, and shall ensure contribution to national development through investments and transfer of	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	technology from skilled or professional OFWs. The reintegration program shall include promoting access to social protection instruments and financial services, and reintegration of survivors of VAW and trafficking in person. For this purpose, the NRCO shall serve as the lead office of the Department and shall coordinate all OFW training, programs, and services of the TESDA, the DTI, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology, the DOLE, and local government units, among other.	
RA No. 10801 - Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Act of 2016	Chapter IX, Section 35. Benefits and Services to OFWs. –(2) Health Care Benefits. – Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, the OWWA shall develop and implement health care programs for the benefit of member-OFWs and their families, taking into consideration the health care needs of women as provided for in Republic Act No. 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women, and other relevant laws. OWWA shall provide gender-responsive reintegration programs, repatriation assistance, loan and credit assistance, on-site workers assistance, death and disability benefits, health care benefits, education and skills training, social services, family welfare assistance, programs and services for women migrant workers and other appropriate programs that provide timely social and economic services. To provide prompt and appropriate response to global	Benefits and Services to OFWs.(2) Health Care Benefits. Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, the OWWA shall develop and implement health care programs for the benefit of member-OFWs and their families, taking into consideration the health care needs of women as provided for in Republic Act No. 9710, or the Magna Carta of Women, and other relevant laws.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	emergencies or crisis situations affecting OFWs and their families Benefits and services to OFWs are classified as: reintegration, repatriation assistance, loan and other credit assistance, workers assistance and onsite services, and social benefits (death and disability, scholarships, education and training, healthcare, and other extension services Reintegration of OFWs, taking into consideration the needs of women migrant workers, is one of the core programs of the OWWA	
RA No. 7111 - Overseas Workers' Investment Fund Act of 1991	Section 8 (4). Health/hospitalization insurance for the family of the workers for the duration that the worker continuously holds on to at least Two thousand dollars USD 2,000 worth of PDRC; "It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of Filipino overseas workers; to pioneer and develop innovative means to provide incentives; and to uplift the workers' families' living standards. It is likewise the policy of the State to reduce the foreign debt burden in order to better achieve sustained economic growth by way of tapping the unofficial and informal remittances of said workers."	This fund has twin purposes as stipulated in the law's policy declaration: "It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of Filipino overseas workers; to pioneer and develop innovative means to provide incentives; and to uplift the workers' families' living standards. It is likewise the policy of the State to reduce the foreign debt burden in order to better achieve sustained economic growth by way of tapping the unofficial and informal remittances of said workers." It directly covers all documented OFWs and indirectly their respective families.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 8972 - Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000	The State to promote the family as the foundation of the nation, strengthen its solidarity and ensure its total development. Towards this end, it shall develop a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children to be carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and other related government and nongovernment agencies.	
RA No. 10354 - The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012	Section 3 (h). The State shall respect individuals' preferences and choice of family planning methods that are in accordance with their religious convictions and cultural beliefs, taking into consideration the State's obligations under various human rights instruments. (k) Each family shall have the right to determine its ideal family size: Provided, however, That the State shall equip each parent with the necessary information on all aspects of family life, including reproductive health and responsible parenthood, in order to make that determination Section 12 (c), Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is the duty of the State to protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution and equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.	This Act shall be known as "The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012. The State recognizes and guarantees the human rights of all persons including their right to equality and nondiscrimination of these rights, the right to sustainable human development, the right to health which includes reproductive health, the right to education and information, and the right to choose and make decisions for themselves in accordance with their religious convictions, ethics, cultural beliefs, and the demands of responsible parenthood.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
RA No. 1082 - Rural Health Unit Act of 1954		This was passed in 1954 and was meant to cover the whole local population regardless of socio-economic stature.
RA No. 1891 - Health and Dental Services in the Rural Areas, 1957 (amending RA No. 1082 of 1954)	An amendment to RA No. 1082 of 1954, this 1957 amendments were meant to further classify the composition of rural health units from two categories or types as originally conceived in RA No. 1082 to eight categories or types. Source: https://elibrary.judiciary.gov.ph/thebookshelf/showdocs/2/10426	These amendments do not in any way change the coverage of beneficiaries for the RHU services.
RA No. 11332 - Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, 2019	Section 4 (e). To establish effective mechanisms for strong collaboration with national and local government health agencies to ensure proper procedures are in place to promptly respond to reports of notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern, including case investigations, treatment, and control and containment, including follow-up activities;	This is a public health issue and therefore covers the whole Philippine population
RA No. 6675 - Generics Act of 1988	An act to promote, require and ensure the production of an adequate supply, distribution, use and acceptance of drugs and medicines by their generic names Section 2 Policy of the State to promote drug safety by minimizing duplication in medications and/or use of drugs with potentially adverse drug interactions. Section 2 of the Act states its policies, of which the second policy states – “To ensure the adequate supply of drugs with generic names at the lowest possible cost and endeavor to make them available for free to indigent patients.”	The law is universal in coverage and intent

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2013-006 - Guidelines on Rule XI (Role of DOH) in the Omnibus Rules and Regulations Implementing the Migrant Workers Act of 1995 as Amended by RA 10022, 7 Feb 2013	Sets DOH standard guidelines for all DOH accredited medical clinics conducting Pre-Employment Medical Examination (PEME) for land based overseas work applicants and seafarers (for domestic or overseas employment) -- medical, physical, optical, dental, psychological and other similar examinations. Sets the standards for the scope, fees, quality and practices for PEME, including prohibition of “decking practices” and ensuring the freedom of OFW to choose DOH-accredited/operated clinic to conduct the PEME.	Medical facility for overseas workers and seafarers BAA No. 9, which is aimed at regulating recruitment agencies operating in the BARMM. Not a few of OBWs still go to Davao for their medical exams because of the absence of accredited counterpart clinics in the BARMM. This law addresses this among other issues involved in processing of application for overseas employment.
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-075 - Establishment of the DILG OFW Desks and Designation of DILG-OFW Desk Officers at the Regions, Provinces, Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), 23 Apr 2020	IATF Resolution No. 14 amending paragraph B (3) of IATF Resolution No. 1 s. 2020 to include accommodation of distressed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), to wit: (d). Distressed OWFs, subject to guidelines issued by the OWWA in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Department of Health (DOH).	Improvement of delivery of services to OFWs and their family members left behind Capacitate the LGU focal personnel in charge of extending services to OFWs for better, more effective and efficient manner. Bigger budget for LGU OFW Desks to enable it to operate much more effectively, broadly and inclusively. This will not only allow LGU OFW Desks to have operating funds for the sole purpose of assisting OFWs, but also for additional personnel if necessary to fulfill its OFW-related mandate

Law	Annotation	Commentary
DILG Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2021-015 - Quarantine Protocols of Local Government Units for Returning Overseas Filipinos, 8 Feb 2021	General Guidelines: (1). The DOH, through its Migrant Health Unit (NIHU), shall act & the central coordinating body for all medical repatriation cases from different referring agencies and shall maintain the official database for medical repatriations. It shall prepare a quarterly and annual report for distribution to all relevant agencies, for their reference. (2) For Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), it is the primary responsibility of the private employer/principal or licensed recruitment agency who deployed the Filipino to work abroad to repatriate its employee when the latter faces a medical emergency overseas. As a policy of the State to provide adequate protection for Overseas Filipino Workers, licensed recruitment agencies are required to provide compulsory insurance to its deployed workers.	1. A comprehensive menu of accessible services and benefits for OFWs 2. Comprehensive information as to source and amount of accessible funds for OFWs from All agencies in each locality 3. Streamlining of requirements and making a common set of them for all agencies in the locality to make services and benefits easily accessible for the OFWs and their family members left behind. All these go beyond the one-stop-shop concept and embrace a one-system arrangement for all agencies to subscribe to.
		This MC is the implementation at the local levels of two previous issuances from the National Task Force against COVID-19 in August 2020 providing operational guidelines on the management of Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs) and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) January 2021 (Resolution No 96, S. 2021) providing guidelines for the testing and quarantine protocols for all persons allowed entry in the Philippines including ROFs Both directly concern returning overseas Filipinos including OFWs.

Law	Annotation	Commentary
DILG Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2021-015 - Quarantine Protocols of Local Government Units for Returning Overseas Filipinos, 8 Feb 2021	(3) For purposes of inter-agency facilitation and coordination, cases of medical repatriation, whether documented or undocumented, are categorized into two groups, namely: (i) Coordinated- medical repatriation cases coordinated with the post and endorsed to relevant government agencies, prior to arrival in the Philippines (ii) Uncoordinated - medical repatriation cases without prior coordination with the post and/or relevant government agencies and are identified only upon arrival in the Philippines. (4) Based on the category of medical repatriation cases, the following are the corresponding procedures in each of the three phases of medical repatriation management, namely (1) Pre-Arrival the phase from the time of identification of OFs for medical repatriation in the destination country until the OFs' departure and travel back in the Philippines (ii) Travel and Arrival the phase during the flight and upon arrival in the port of entry in the Philippines (iii) Post-Arrival-the phase after arrival in the Philippines until referral to: (1) a medical facility; (2) temporary belter, or (3) place of residence, with proper endorsement to the NOK and/or referral to DSWD and/or relevant agencies for provision of social welfare programs and other support services. (5) All relevant government agencies shall use the Unified Medical Repatriation Assistance Form (UMRAF) (See Annex A) for proper referral, documentation, monitoring and reporting of medical repatriation cases. 3.2.2. Establish necessary collaborative networks and partnerships with other government instrumentalities, including other LGUs to ensure the smooth implementation of their respective protocols.	

Law	Annotation	Commentary
DILG MC No. 2020-087 - Duties and Responsibilities of Local Government Officials, DILG Regional Directors and Field Officers, PNP and Others Concerned on the Management of Returning OFs and Locally Stranded Individuals, 21 May 2020	VIII. Specific Guidelines. A. Pre-Arrival. 3. The referring agencies, in consultation with the Post, shall also identify the needed assistance/services enumerated as follows: (i) Airport Assistance and Initial Medical Assessment/Evaluation - the service being provided by the DOH Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) and/or the MIAA to the OF upon arrival. (ii) Ambulance Conduction - the service primarily being provided by the relevant agencies including, but not limited to OWWA, MIAA DOH, referral hospital, local government units (LGU), etc. to transport the patient from the port of entry to the designated health facility and/or place of residence. (iii) Referral to and/or Confinement in DOH Hospital - the service being facilitated by the DOH-MHU and Health Emergency Management Bureau Operations Centres (HEMB-OPCEN), which recommends appropriate health facilities nationwide under the DOH, that will deliver corresponding medical care to the medically repatriated OF. (iv) Endorsement to non-DOH facilities the support being provided by the DOH-MHU for proper referral and advanced coordination with non-DOH health facilities, such as the Philippines General Hospital, LGU managed hospitals and private healthcare facilities, among others. (v) Financial Assistance - the support needed for payment of hospital bills, procurement of medicines, and other related medical services, which is usually provided through, but not limited to, the following: a) DOH Medical Assistance Program; b) DSWD's Assistance to Individuals/Families to Crisis Situation; c) Philippine Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) fund; and other funding agencies (vi) PhilHealth	This DILG MC rolls out the responsibilities of LGUs, DILG officials and the PNP in managing ROFs and Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)

Law	Annotation	Commentary
	Membership Coverage- the mandatory health insurance coverage for all Filipinos. Active membership coverage entitles the member and its qualified dependents to the PhilHealth benefit packages. Inactive members shall update payment before they can avail of the packages. (vii) Medical Escort Services - the special assistance provided that necessitates the services of an flight medical doctor/allied health professional, usually for psychiatric and other complicated cases. (viii) Psychosocial Counselling- the services provided by the DSWD, which aims to undertake Psycho-Social Processing (PSP).	
DILG MC No. 2020-075 - Establishment of the DILG Overseas Filipino Workers' (OFW) Desk and Designation of DILG-OFW Desk Officer at the Regions, Provinces, Highly-Urbanized Cities (HUCs) and Independent Component Cities (ICCs), 23 Apr 2020	IATF Resolution No. 14 amending paragraph B (3) of IATF Resolution No. 1 s. 2020 to include accommodation of distressed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), to wit: (d). Distressed OWFs, subject to guidelines issued by the OWWA in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), and the Department of Health (DOH).	One of the functions of the OFW Desk officer in all levels of local government is – “Ensure that LGUs provide all necessary assistance to OFWs.”

Law	Annotation	Commentary
DILG MC No. 2018-62 - LGU's Roles and Responsibilities in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Assistance Program for Overseas Filipinos (IMRAP), 4 May 2018	This MC ensures that all local government units are compliant with their roles and responsibilities in the medical repatriation program as stipulated in the Paragraph IX, No. 6 of the "Integrated Policies Guidelines and Procedures in the Implementation of the Inter-Agency Medical Repatriation Program" or the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2017-0001 of June 2017.	All local government units are compliant with their roles and responsibilities in the medical repatriation program.
DILG MC No. 2020-006 - Guidelines on the Functionality of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC), 20 Jan 2020	This MC is the localized operationalization of the role of the inter-agency Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children to help ensure the realization of the goals of RA No. 9262 otherwise known as Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004.	This directly concerns women hoping to be productively employed abroad but instead become victims of human trafficking and the threat of/actual violence that may ensue from it.
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Memorandum Circular No. 16 s. 2022 - Revised Guidelines on Implementation of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS), 22 Aug 2022	Guidelines on the implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation	The Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AIC) provides funding of medical expenses or food and education of dependents. Limitation: All beneficiaries must be hospitalized in the Philippines, not abroad

Law	Annotation	Commentary
Isabela Province Executive Order No. 03 s. 2022 – Organizing the Isabela Provincial Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Coordinating Board, 9 Mar 2022	CBMS is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring. The State shall adopt a community-based monitoring system which generates updated and disaggregated data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions, and monitoring impact over time disaggregated data, that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process	CBMS plays an important role in the lives of OFWs once one's family falls under the poverty threshold, which also happens to OFW families when the bread winner, the OFW, is out of work, repatriated for various reasons and does not have alternative livelihood source here.
Lucena City (Quezon Province) Ordinance No. 2769 s. 2021 – Creating the Lucena City Migrant Resource Center (MRC), 27 Sep 2021 DOH Department Order 2006-2019	Section 3(d). Migrant Worker or Overseas Filipino Worker – A person who is to be engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State which he or she is not a legal resident. A person to be engaged in a “remunerated activity” refers to an applicant worker who has been promised or assured employment overseas and acting on such promise or assurance sustains damage and/or injury;	DOH Department Order 2006-2019 “Creation of the Department of Health Clinic at the OWWA building”.
Senate Bill 1415 - Overseas Filipino Workers in Distress Act of 2022 (filed in the Senate in October 2022)	Section 3. Creation of Fund. - A Special Assistance Fund, in the form of an automatic appropriation, for Overseas Filipino Workers in Distress, in the amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) is hereby created. The fund shall be utilized for the following purposes: a. Repatriation	The bill is pending approval at the Senate Committee on Migrant Workers of the current (19th) Congress. The primary purpose of the proposed law is to create a Special Assistance Fund for OFWs in distress, which will be automatically appropriated and programmed each year, and used for specified distress purposes only. OWWA shall be the primary implementing agency.

Philippine health laws and policies relevant to Overseas Filipinos and their families: Mapping and rapid analysis

The Philippines has put in place a broad set of laws, policies and programmes that seek to protect the rights and well-being of Overseas Filipinos, including Filipino migrant workers as well as their families. These laws, policies and programmes cover the different phases of the migration cycle - from predeparture to reintegration. This technical paper analyses the laws and policies relevant to the health of Overseas Filipinos (OFWs) and their families. It entails mapping of Philippine migrant health laws and policies at the national and local levels, annotating and analysing these using multiple lenses: gender, localization, alignment with international labour migration standards, and applicability to OFWs for their families.

The mapping and rapid appraisal focuses on the status of the policies including their strengths and innovations, gaps and weaknesses, and recommendations and opportunities for reforms to better respond to the needs of OFWs and their families. This paper does not interpret international labour standards but makes references to these instruments in gauging the alignment of Philippine laws with international labour standards. The results aim to contribute to the repository of Philippine migrant health laws, policies, programmes, and services to help inform advocacies on the subject.

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