



MIGRATION FOR DEVELOPMENT



EC-UN Joint Migration & Development Initiative

ANNEX A: TEMPLATE FOR PROGRESS REPORT AT OVERALL PROJECT LEVEL

Project number and title:	<i>P-069 Maximizing the Gains and Minimizing the Social Cost of Overseas Migration in the Philippines</i>
Reporting period:	<i>1st of October 2009 to 31 May 2011(as amended)</i>
Total funding amount approved for the project:	<i>\$288,626</i>
Name of the overall Project Coordinator and organization to which he/she belongs:	<i>Estrella Dizon-Anonuevo Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiatives Inc.</i>
Names of the other project partners:	<i>Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli-CISP</i>
Overall Objective of the project:	<i>Increased awareness of the Filipinos and other stakeholders on the issues of migration and development and migrant social and civil rights in Italy Migrants organizations and HTAs enabled to build their knowledge on migrants rights and welfare issues, financial literacy, counseling, organizing and alliance building and develop their capacity to deliver economic and social services to their members and to help create community development projects in partnership with different stakeholders Migrant families and NGOs, Local Government Units, schools, cooperatives, rural banks and other stakeholders are involved in initiatives in addressing the social cost of migration and in tapping the resources of migrants for the development of the OFWs, their families and communities</i>
Key expected results for the entire project	<i>2,000 copies of Guide for Filipinos in Italy disseminated 1 forum on Migration and Development for local authorities carried out in Italy 10 public meetings held in Italy 4 capacity building modules for 30 leaders of migrants held Mentoring of 6 organizations in Italy and 8 echo seminar delivered in Italy Operation of center for Filipino migrants in Italy 1 International Conference in Italy held 4 training of trainers on financial literacy for 120 stakeholders in the Philippines Mentoring of 120 trainees on financial literacy and 20 echo seminar on financial literacy 3 OFW centers set-up and 3 MOA signed</i>

	<p>3 development projects set-up 1 OFW desk set-up 2 teachers training for 60 teachers conducted 360 families encoded in the data base</p>
Key activities for the entire period:	<p>Printing and Dissemination of the Guide for Filipino Migrants in Italy Fora and consultation meetings on nexus on migration and development addressed to local authorities and associations in Italy and Philippines Capacity building activities on migrants rights , sexual and reproductive issues, leadership, organizing and others in Italy Operation of a Filipino Migrant Centers in Italy and the Philippines Conduct of International Conference on Minimizing the Cost and Maximizing the Gains of Overseas Migration in Italy Trainers Training on financial Literacy in the Philippines Mentoring of trainees and echo seminar on financial literacy in the Philippines and Italy Setting up/replication of development projects in the Philippines Training of teachers for school based program in addressing the social cost of migration Encoding of OFWs and families in the data base</p>

While writing this report please remember that the report should provide an overall view at project level, reflecting the work/achievements of all the project partners. The report should cover **all the duration of the project**.

1. Overview of project implementation for the entire duration of the project (maximum 1.5 page)

Please answer each of the following:

- a) Please input here a concise summary of the main achievements reached during project implementation by all the project partners, specifying the activities, outputs and achievements towards project objectives. Complete details should be provided for the last period of the project that has not been covered in previous progress reports.

Objective 1: Increased awareness of the Filipinos and other stakeholders on the issues of migration and development and migrant social and civil rights in Italy with the following outputs:

- 2,000 copies of the Guide for Filipino migrants in Italy printed and disseminated
- 8 public meetings with members of the Filipino community in Italy with 260 participants were held in the cities of Rome, Florence, Terni and Turin.
- 1 forum with local authorities, non-government organizations and migrants organizations in the Province of Rome.
- 8 consultations and fora on Migration and Development Nexus with local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders were held in the Provinces of Laguna, Batangas and Cavite.

Objective 2: Capacity building of Migrants organizations and HTAs on migrants rights and welfare issues, financial literacy, counseling, organizing and alliance building to deliver economic and social services to their members and to help create community development projects in partnership with different stakeholders and conducted the following outputs:

- 29 migrant leaders trained as trainers in conducting financial literacy in Italy from the cities of Rome, Padova, Milan, Torino, Brescia, Bologna, and Florence.
- 2 seminar on rights and duties of migrants in Italy involving 30 migrant leaders

- 14 echo-seminars on Financial Literacy and Counseling were conducted by the trainees reaching out to 419 migrants
- Consultations meeting with Hometown associations on partnership with local government in the Philippines on migration and development initiatives.

Objective 3: Build the capacities of Migrant families and NGOs, Local Government Units, schools, cooperatives, rural banks and other stakeholders involved in initiatives in addressing the social cost of migration and in tapping the resources of migrants for the development of the OFWs, their families and communities by implementing the following outputs:

- 4 training of trainers on financial literacy for migrants and families given to 115 Local government unit staff, Department of Education teachers, NGOs, cooperatives and OFW family leaders in the Philippines from the provinces of Laguna, Batangas, Cavite, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Abra, La Union and Pampanga.
- 110 trainees monitored and mentored
- 20 echo seminars conducted with 885 migrants and families reached in the Philippines
- 2 (4-day) trainings on setting up OFW Center conducted to 50 participants from the municipalities of the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Bicol
- 4 MOAs signed and assisted in setting up 3 OFW centers in the province of Batangas and the municipality of Mabini and Cuenca in Batangas.
- 3 Development projects were set up: Coop Mart in Sta Rosa, Alaminos, Laguna; Ekolife Homestay Ecotour in San Pablo City and School-based Program in Mayantoc, Tarlac
- 2 (5-day) training of teachers on setting up School Based Programme in Addressing the Social Cost of Migration.
- 613 children joined the Batang Atikha Savers Club
- Monitoring and Data Base on the participants of the financial literacy developed and 475 OFWs encoded

b) Please give some indications about the context (political, economic, social) in which the project unfolded. Highlight any negative interaction.

There is great expectation on the new government in the Philippines with regards to its responsiveness to the plight of the migrants and its priority on good governance. These created openness on the part of the national and local government agencies in addressing issues to minimize the cost and maximize the gains of migration. However, we realized greater need for migration and development advocacy since the awareness of the government cannot come overnight.

At the national level, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, the government agencies traditionally involved with affairs of immigrants has included migration and development as their priority issue. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, the arm of the government involved with welfare issues of the overseas workers has prioritized setting up migrant crisis center in partnership with the LGUs. However, both the national and local government are unaware of what migration and development is all about. The Secretary of Labor, in one of the consultation with Atikha mentioned that migration and development should be with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and not priority agenda of the Department of Labor. NEDA who is in-charge of crafting the development plans of the government is also in the dark on how to integrate migration in the development plans since they do not want to look like they are encouraging migration. Aside from saying that migration is not a strategy and that we should create jobs locally, the present government still has to put its act together to craft a strategic direction on migration.

The local governments are more aware of the issues and potential of migration since they are confronted with these experiences sometimes even at the personal level. It is not difficult to sensitize them on these issues since the magnitude of migration in our area Region 4 is huge, where about 16.7% of the population are living and working abroad. This is the reason for the overwhelming response of local government and other stakeholders on our migration and development advocacy forum. Although local governments are willing to create migration resource centers, they do not have the capacity to create and operate programs for migrants and families left behind. There

is great need for capacity building in setting up programs and services for migrants and families left behind. Instead of one training, we already conducted 2 trainings on setting up One Stop Migration Resource Centers but at the moment there are 35 cities and municipalities and 7 provinces requesting for our assistance to provide capacity building for them.

The financial crisis has created problems as well as opportunity for the project. The capacity of the migrants to save and/or provide philanthropy for development projects decreased due to decrease in jobs but at the same time it created awareness for the migrants and their families on the need to save and invest for their future. They are more open to our seminar on financial literacy and addressing family issue.

Initiatives on financial literacy will always be confronted with the cultural issues of Filipinos of “family centeredness and family support” Filipinos grow up with the conviction that if one member of the family is well off, they have to support the other members of the family. This culture breeds dependency and is one of the main reasons for the lack of savings and investments of the migrants. This is also the culprit for their indebtedness. Our financial literacy is sensitive to this issue but at the same time it teaches them strategy on how to cope with family expectation without necessarily sacrificing themselves and their future. This is easier said than done. This is a very emotional and complex issue that requires more than just a seminar on financial literacy but changing people’s mindset on how we help the family and how we view migration. It requires intervention from institutions that shape our values such as the church, school and the media.

On the part of the Italian society, Filipino migrants are considered in a positive light since they are efficient, hardworking, uncomplaining and do not pose any threat to the government. They keep to themselves and do not avail of government services. However, these “positive traits” also makes them invisible in the eyes of the Italian government. This project also served as bridge between the Filipino migrants and the Italian government making both of them aware of the issues and possibilities for partnership not only with migrants in Italy but also their local government in the Philippines.

c) Please describe the management and coordination arrangements in place between project partners (i.e. communication channels, coordination meetings, field trips etc.).

The advancement in information and communication technology made it easy for the project partners to communicate and coordinate the initiatives happening on both sides of the corridor. Emails, chat, skype meeting and face to face coordination and planning of strategic activities were done. The project established also e-groups and facebook accounts to monitor and mentor not only project partners but also other migrants and stakeholder in the Philippines involved in project implementation.

Of course implementing projects where partners are far from each other poses a challenge. It is not only distance but also methods of work and organizational culture differs so sometimes there are some unmet expectations. However, in implementing this project, this has not become a big issue since there is great tolerance, understanding and sensitivity to the diversity that each partner brings to the table.

2. Review of Project Performance (maximum 2 pages)

Please answer each of the following:

- a) Referring to the project document, work plan and logical framework, please highlight for each of the following any discrepancy in terms of achieving:

For each of the above, if discrepancies happen, please explain why and which remedy actions were taken. Please also highlight impact on the work of project partners e.g. did one partner experience delays because some inputs from another partner were behind time?

Project Objectives and Project Activities

All of the project objectives and project activities were carried out. There has not been any discrepancy. Some of the activities even exceeded the project expectation. There has only been adjustment as to the time of implementation in the work plan.

Project Outputs

Activity 1.2 Eight (8) Public forum held instead of the target Ten (10) public meetings in Italy. This is due to difficulty with the schedules of the migrants.

Activity 2.1 Two out of the 4 trainings on migrant's rights, reproductive health, organizing and project management were not conducted. Finding a common time for the migrant leaders was a challenge. This is because of the various social, family and religious obligations that they have to contend with considering that they only have 1 day off.

Activity 2.5 Support the launching of fund raising campaigns of HTAs for development project they will identify for their communities of origin- convened 5 HTAs but the fund raising is still to commence. There was a difficult time engaging the hometown associations in supporting development projects. This is because of the following: changing traditional way of gift giving is difficult and requires painstaking information and value formation; majority of the migrants in Italy because of the financial crisis are not in a position for engagement in diaspora philanthropy (They are more interested in making both ends meet and coping with their indebtedness.); conflict among leaders in some hometown associations has delayed some of the implementation of their fund raising.

Activity 3.1 Training of trainers on financial literacy and peer counseling among NGOs, local government, migrant families - only 115 participants attended instead of the 120 targets. Some of those who confirmed were not able to attend.

Activity 3.2 Mentoring of trainees and conduct of echo seminar on financial literacy and peer counseling in the Philippines- There were 105 trainers (deficit of 10 participants) mentored out of 115 participants since some of those trained already changed their work and others are still to conduct echo seminar. The delay is due to unavailability of funds of local government. However target participants of echo seminar exceeded by 285 participants.

- b) When discrepancies have occurred, the project logical framework and workplan were revised. Please attach the final versions in annex to the report, as a basis for performance measuring and monitoring.*

(Chato did you change your logframe or workplan?)

3. Lessons Learned from project implementation to support the JMDI overall codification process of knowledge and practices in the field of migration and development (maximum 3 pages)

As you know, one of the objectives of the JMDI is to analyze and codify practices developed by civil society actors to support policy-making at national and international levels. This is why we need to learn from you! The questions below are intended to support this process. Please do not hesitate to bring other point to our attention that you think will be relevant for the codification process.

Please answer each of the following:

- a) Compared to other initiatives you know of, please highlight to which extent **your project has developed or implemented innovative and interesting methodologies/approaches** in relation to the objectives of the JMDI call for proposals you applied for (please refer in annex to the list of JMDI objectives defined for the four thematic windows).*

In line with the JMDI objectives in relation with the four thematic windows, defined during the Call for Proposals, this project is working towards the following:

Migrant Remittances

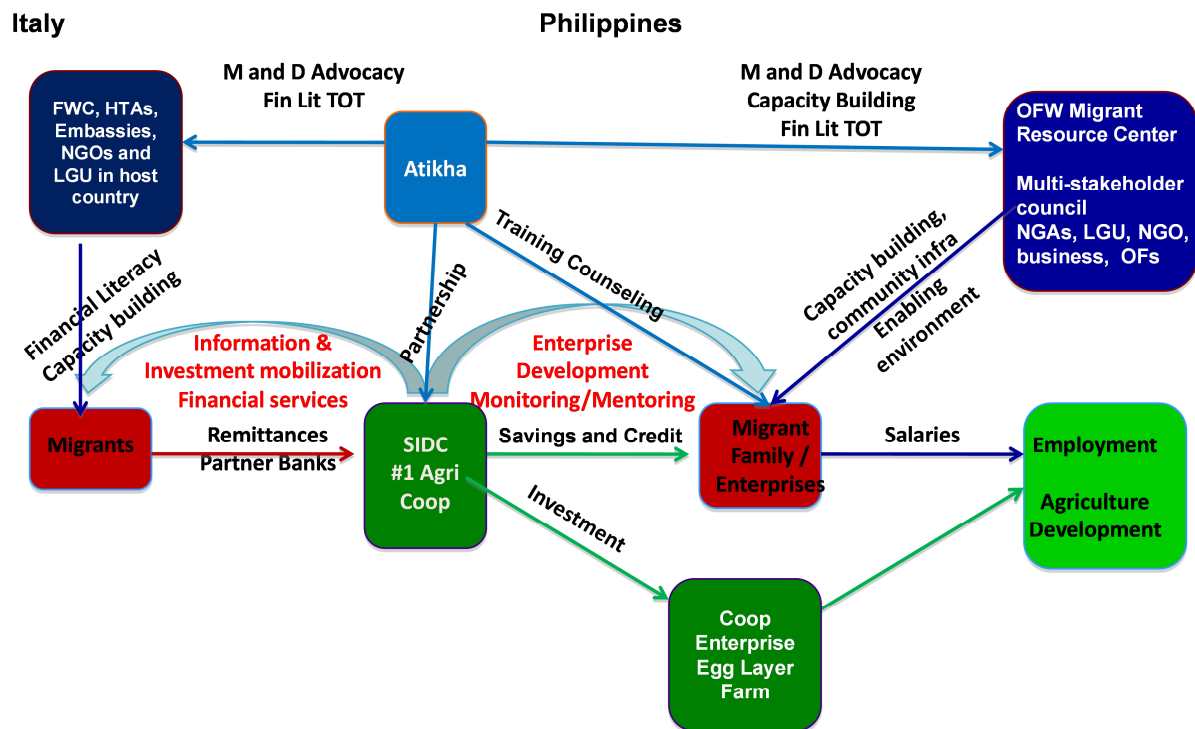
Objective 3: Reinforcing capacities of senders and recipients to further the impact of remittances on development

Objective 4: Encouraging collective investment of remittances for development

One of the innovative approaches that we have developed in this project is engaging migrant’s investment in agricultural development through financial literacy and investment with the largest agri-based cooperative in the Philippines.

Most of our communities are in the rural areas and we saw the need to direct funds towards agricultural development to create jobs and economic opportunities for their families and other members of the community. To mobilize collective remittance, we need to identify a migration corridor where thousands of migrants are coming from the same province of origin and working in the same city or county of destination. This is because sustained initiatives on both sides of the corridor are necessary for the success of pooling migrant savings and investment. This could not be achieved by investment road shows alone. Since about 50,000 of the migrants in Laguna and Batangas are working in Italy, and we have FWC and CISP in the area that is willing and able to work on collective remittance, we chose Italy as the country of destination.

Pooling Migrant Investment in Agriculture : Atikha CISP FWC Experience



In the Philippines, we chose Laguna and Batangas since Atikha has already developed social capital with the local government, schools, private sector at the province level and several cities and municipalities.

Mobilizing pooled savings and investment is a tough job because it is not easy for the migrants to part with their hard earned money. They have to develop trust in the company or enterprise where they will invest. We have to partner with a very successful social enterprise that can absorb the savings and investment of the migrants, invest them in rural development and help create jobs for their families. Atikha partnered with Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC), the largest agri-based cooperative in the Philippines who is operating the following businesses: hog-raising, feed mill, rice mill, egg layer farm, coop mart, gasoline station, water refilling station and others.

Another hurdle we need to address is the remittance cost. We need to lower remittance charges to encourage them to save regularly. Otherwise this will not be interesting investment for them. We negotiated with Landbank, Metrobank and Banco de Oro to lower their remittance charge from Euro 8 to Euro 1 for pooled remittance to SIDC.

Addressing the issues and needs of the migrants and ensuring the productive use of their remittance requires the involvement of more stakeholders especially the local government. In areas like Region 4 where 16.7% of the population is migrants, the impact of migration – social cost and economic potential- is massive. The local government unit (LGU) plays an important role in addressing the social cost and in tapping the potential of remittance towards the development of the migrants and their communities. The national government agencies (NGAs), LGUs together with other stakeholders need to create an enabling environment for investment and economic development. Since migration is a cross cutting issue, the stakeholders involved in the initiative at the local level are government agencies and civil society organizations and business sector involved with migrants such as NGOs, faith based organizations, chamber of commerce, cooperatives, rural banks and they form task force/ council on migration and development.

After conducting the various capacity building to the migrant leaders and the other stakeholders especially on financial literacy and packaging investments for the pooled savings for SIDC, Atikha together with SIDC and FWC conducted massive financial literacy campaign and cooperative organizing in Italy and in Batangas and Laguna.

The investment of migrants in SIDC involves buying minimum shares of PHP 100,000 in SIDC Egg Layer Farm Project payable in one year. For the migrants in the Europe this will mean savings of Euro 150 per month.

Aside from their earnings of their investment, the SIDC migrant member and their family also enjoy other benefits and services such as: business opportunities for migrants and families, entrepreneurship training and training and counseling. The business opportunities being provided by the cooperative are part of the value chain of the cooperative enterprises of SIDC and they provide assistance in technology transfer, capital and marketing to their members.

The savings of the migrants are pooled by the banks and deposited to the account of SIDC in the Philippines. The time deposit in-turn is used to lend to the members including the families of the migrants and the capital share are invested in the egg layer farm.

Aside from the egg layer farm, a SIDC cooperative Mart was already set-up in Sta. Rosa, Alaminos Laguna also known as the Italian Village of Laguna. About 2,000 residents of Sta. Rosa are working in Padova and Milan in Italy. Savings and credit cooperative is also being planned to be set-up in Mayantoc Tarlac and Mabini in Batangas. There have been Meriendster (snack stand) already being operated by families of OFWs. 6-9 Convenience Stores of SIDC owned and operated by families of migrants are also being set-up. At the moment, there are 400 members of the SIDC migrant collective and have mobilized around PHP 4 M (Euro 67,000) in less than 1 year.

Migrants Rights

Objective 1: Enhancing migrants' role in development through protection of their rights

Objective 2: Mitigating the negative impact of migration on family members' rights in countries of origin

Migrant's rights Objective 2 -

School Based Program Addressing Social Cost of Migration on the Children

The School based program on addressing the social cost of migration on the children left behind is an innovative intervention. Atikha was able to develop teaching materials and manuals and provide intensive training for teachers to capacitate them in implementing school based program for children of OFWs. Atikha identified schools with high concentration of migrant children as pilot schools for this project. The teachers have very positive response to this project since most of them are confronted with the children who are suffering from various psychosocial issues as a result of long-term separation from their parents. The seminar developed for the children involves the following issue:

- *Understanding Realities of Parents abroad- children are not aware of difficult working conditions of parents abroad*
- *Positive and Negative Effects of Migration- teaches them to appreciate their role in mitigating negative impact of migration*
- *Addressing Communication Gap-teaches the value of communication and strategies to bridge gap*
- *Value of Education-some children do not like to study anymore since they do not need college degree to work as domestic helpers abroad*
- *Savings Consciousness*
- *Gender sensitivity in respond to the feminization of migration where girls are left with housework*
- *Peer Counseling- since most children inform their peers about their problems and not adults so children are taught listening skills and when to refer their friends to professionals*
- *Young entrepreneurship – to make them feel that they can do productive initiatives and combat culture of dependency on remittance*

The various teaching activities introduced are very much appreciated by the teachers since they were specially designed for children. Issues and interventions were introduced through games and play shops so the children enjoy the activities while they learn. Although the activities were designed for the children, the teachers enjoyed the activities themselves and were found meaningful. After the training are conducted to the teachers, mentoring of the teachers on the conduct of the activities to their students was done by Atikha. A Memorandum of Agreement with the school on establishing school based program were also done between Atikha and school officials.

The Batang Atikha Savers Club (youth savers club of the children of migrant workers) has also been one of the innovative approach in addressing the issues of migration. Children are informed of the realities of migration and taught to value the hard earned money of their parents, to avoid splurging and luxurious lifestyle. Teaching them young to save, to become young entrepreneur and to be responsible prevents the growing problem of dependency of the families left behind. Instead of being the "social cost", when empowered, they become role models of the community.

Migrant communities

Objective 2: Reinforcing the capacities of migrant communities for development

Objective 3: Creating sustainable networks among migrant communities for development

Financial Literacy Seminar Objective 2:

If there is one best practice worth mentioning in this project, it will be the financial literacy training of trainers seminar, mentoring of trainees and echo-seminar conducted to migrants in Italy and their families in the Philippines. (Please see attached article on financial literacy)

Migrant communities Objective 3:

Setting Up One Stop Migration Resource Centers and Multi-stakeholder Coordinating Councils on Migration and Development

The project enabled Atikha to develop a capacity building program for local government and other stakeholders involved in migration and development. Although local governments and other stakeholders are willing to provide services for migrants, they do not have the capacity to implement these programs and services. To enable the LGUs to provide services to migrants, Atikha developed capacity building seminars for local government units and other stakeholders such as; Migration and Development Study Mission , Setting Up One Stop Migration Resource Centers, Case Management , and Integrating Migration in Development Planning and Developing Migration and Development Initiatives. This capacity building activities are preparatory trainings for partner LGUs in setting up **One Stop Migration Resource Centers** and in setting up **Multi-stakeholder coordinating council on Migration and Development** .

The series of Migration and Development Forum conducted by Atikha had been very successful in creating awareness among the local governments in Region 4. As an offshoot of the series of consultations on migration and development an **Ad hoc Committee on Migration and Development** was created at the regional level. The integration of Ad hoc Committee as part of the committees of the Regional Development Council was approved and this is currently being chaired by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Region 4A and co-chaired by Atikha. The committee coordinates the various government and private sector initiatives on migration and development, ensure the integration of migration in development planning both in minimizing the cost and maximizing the gains of migration and to oversee pilot initiatives on migration and development. This is the first time in the Philippines that migration is considered an issue worth integrating in the Regional Development Council in the Philippines and in the local development planning. .

b) Which are the main lessons you have learned while setting up and implementing your project? For each of the following please highlight which are the **strengths and weaknesses** of the:

- Tools you have set up to mobilize/communicate with your target group;

The tools developed to communicate with the target group are the following:

- Brochures of Atikha and CISP/FWC are effective tools in creating awareness especially to government, private sector, organizations and other key stakeholders that should be included in this initiative. The fact that it is indicated in the brochure that this is part of the EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative also provides additional credibility to the partner organizations.
- Guide for Filipino Migrants in Italy- the brochures are effective in augmenting the information provided to the families and prospective migrants and migrants in Italy who have just arrived.
- Website and Facebook of Atikha – these are effective tools in providing current information of initiatives of Atikha. They are also used as vehicles for invitation of activities both in the Philippines and in Italy.
- Internet (e-mails and chat) and text messaging for monitoring and mentoring – this is the most effective communication system and most of the partners are monitored to their emails and text messages for urgent messages and communication.
- Skype – General staff meeting of both countries are organized through skype. Coordinating the schedule of meeting and technical problems sometimes get in the way. However, it gives a sense of feeling of being part of a bigger team and that coordination and cooperation among the different partners is critical to the success of the project.
- Communication/coordination channels you have put in place with key stakeholders (such as governments, local authorities, trade unions etc.) to ensure visibility and ownership;
 - In areas where OFW Migration Resource Centers are being set up, a coordinating committees composed of the various stakeholders are being organized to ensure not only smooth coordination but also ownership of the initiative. The coordinating council also

builds trust and working relationship among the various stakeholders and prevents competition which is a usual problem confronted by NGOs and government agencies providing similar services. This also ensures that all stakeholders are active from planning to implementation of activities.

- *All activities and initiatives ensure that all the various stakeholders are acknowledged in tarpaulins, invitations, programs, and directional signs.*
- *Strategies you have developed to integrate your project within the wider development objectives at regional and national levels to avoid repetitive/disconnected actions;*

Atikha has integrated its initiatives at the municipal, provincial and regional level. This is the reason why provincial and regional consultations on migration and development have taken place. This resulted in the creation of Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and Development at the Regional Development Council. At the national level, Atikha advocates for the integration of its initiatives with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the programs and services for migrants are coordinated with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Atikha together with other NGOs crafted Migration and Development Advocacy Agency for the Aquino government such as the creation of a high level inter-agency Task Force on Migration and Development. At the moment, there is no single government agency which looks into migration and development issues and intervention.

In Italy, FWC and CISP have initiated advocacy work with the Province of Rome and a Sister Province Partnership is being worked out between the province of Rome and the province of Batangas.

- *Structures/methodologies you have put in place to reach project objectives (what works, what does not work and why?);*

Organizing and Networking of the migrants and families is a very important work that should be done if we are to create impact on the lives of the migrants and their families. However, this is a challenging task since on the part of the migrants, their limited time (live-in arrangement and Sunday free time) makes it difficult to organize meetings and capacity building activities with them. It requires a lot of patience and hard work to organize each and every meetings with them. The majority of the migrants are still unorganized and aside from having an operational center which serves as a venue for meeting the various leaders, community based organizing including house to house meetings should also be encouraged and enhanced to be able to reach to the majority who are not organized by the church or civic organizations. For the families left behind, school based organizing not only of children but also of relatives should be enhanced. School-based Financial Literacy for caretakers is a good strategy in reaching the families.

Mainstreaming migration and development initiatives through the local government and schools is an effective strategy to be able to reach out to the migrants and families in their numbers. The creation of the OFW Migration Resource Centers is a much needed intervention but this should be augmented by school based and community based organizing / interventions as well. A multi-stakeholder coordinating council on migration and development that oversees the setting up and operation of the OFW Migration Resource Center ensures the sustainability and participation of various stakeholders.

The development of capacity building modules and materials in setting up OFW Migration centers, conducting financial literacy for migrants and families left behind and setting up school based program on addressing the social cost of migration have been effective strategies in mainstreaming the interventions of Atikha to the LGUs and schools.

The capacity building of the migrant leaders has been effective and empowering for most of them. HTAs and migrant organizations oftentimes are informal networks and they need capacity building to become effective leaders and relevant organizations. The leaders who were tapped by the project have continuously shown their

passion and commitment to implement the various initiatives and have continuously inspire the other leaders to participate in this initiative to ensure that the migrants would in the long-term contribute to the development of their families and communities.

The financial literacy continuous to be a much sought after training and more migrant trainers and stakeholders are required. The financial literacy is a much needed intervention especially in this time of financial crisis where resources of migrants continue to be depleted by joblessness, underemployment and increasing standard of living. Now more than ever, the families left behind should be mindful of the way they use the hard earned money of the migrants.

- *Strategies you developed to ensure project sustainability;*

The overall strategy of mainstreaming interventions provided by Atikha and CISP/FWC to the national government, local government, migrant organizations and schools ensures the project sustainability. Initial stage of putting this in place has been achieved by the series of training of trainers, teachers training, financial literacy trainings conducted by Atikha and CISP/FWC. Local legislation is ensured for the financial commitments by the government for the programs and services of the OFW Migrant Center. Memorandums of Agreements have been signed with partner cooperatives and schools to ensure the continuity of the training programs for migrants and families.

- *Monitoring strategies you have established.*

The tools used for the data base and monitoring has been developed and continuously enhanced to be effective not only in tracking the data on migrants and families left behind but also in assessing the impact of intervention provided by the different stakeholder.

Group Facebook Account and also group email were found very effective in monitoring and mentoring the various activities with migrants.

- c) *To which extent do you think your approach/methodology could be replicated in other countries? What do you think is specific to the countries covered by your project?*

The financial literacy training of trainers for migrants was already replicated in the United Arab Emirates upon the request of the Ministry of Labor of UAE. The training was conducted by Atikha for the migrant leaders and embassy officials from the Philippines, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan and the Ministry of Labor of UAE. The participants from other countries mentioned that 95% of the information is relevant to them. 5% constitute for the cultural reasons of each country for the lack of savings and investment of migrants which they are able to augment in the discussion.

Study mission on migration and development of other countries such as Uzbekistan and other African countries who visited Atikha and provided orientation on the various interventions are requesting for partnership for replication of the initiatives to their countries. Uzbekistan and Burundi are currently working out partnership for replication of financial literacy program of Atikha.

- d) *Please indicate/describe how you have contributed to/shared your lessons learned and sought help from other members of the JMDI community of Practice (M4D) during the reporting period. Please also indicate if you have updated your dedicated project page on the Community of Practice. **(Please remember that all JMDI grantees should be active members of the M4D Community of Practice)***

We participate in the M4D Community of Practice in sharing whatever relevant experience we have in the thematic discussion.

For photo documentation: Log on to www.atikha.org