

# Trafficking in Persons

Asia Pacific

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# Introduction

- By the end of this training, the participants are expected to:
  - ◆ Know the definition and different forms of trafficking
  - ◆ Have a better understanding of who are the victims and criminals
  - ◆ Know tips to avoid being trafficked
  - ◆ Understand who is vulnerable to being trafficked

# Global Magnitude of Trafficking



- Worldwide: 4 million
- Philippines: 60,000 to 100,000
- No agency – UN, government or NGO has given exact number due to its illegal & hidden nature - a CRIME

# Definition:

- - refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer or harboring, or receipt of persons *with or without the victim's consent or knowledge*, within or across national borders by means of threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the *purpose of exploitation* which includes at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, servitude or the removal or sale of organs.

# The Pushes:

- The #1 reason for migration or working over seas is economic
- We have the right to travel, work, learn, better ourselves...but should not be exploited when doing these things.
- Human rights violations against migrants / OFW's :
  - Restricted movement
  - Maltreatment
  - Sex trafficking
  - Illegal recruitment
  - Sexual harassment and rape



**Poverty**

*perpetuates*

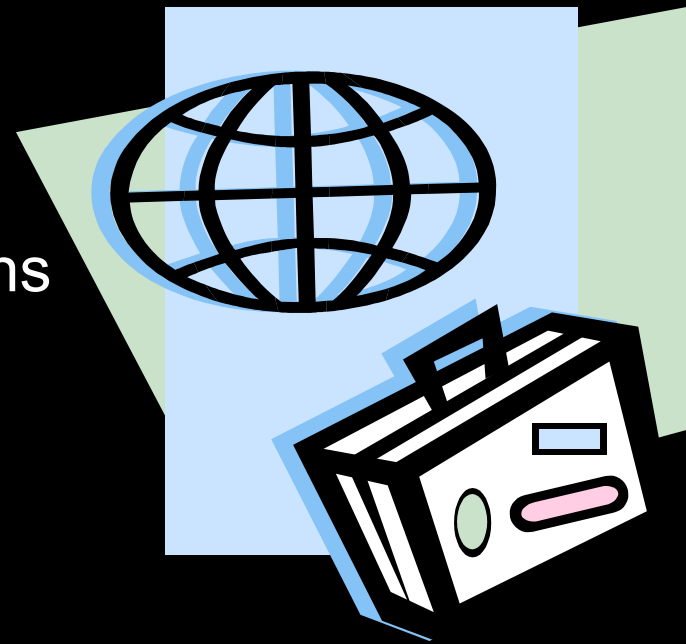
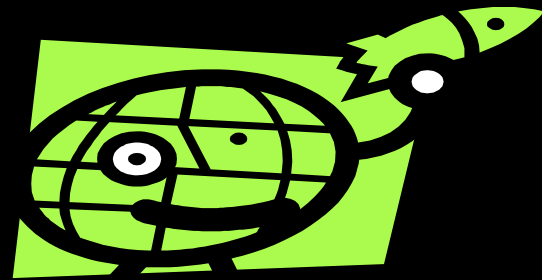
*perpetuates*

**Human  
Trafficking**

# The Pulls: A Hidden Problem

Top money earners for crime syndications:

1. Drugs
2. Weapons
3. Trafficking in Persons



# CHALLENGE:

Make the invisible

VISIBLE





# A Continuing Challenge

- A Human Rights Issue
- A Gender Issue: the most vulnerable sectors: women & children



# SAAN KA DADALHIN?



## TRABAHO o PANGAABUSO?

**Trafficking in Persons**- recruitment o pangangangalap, pagdadala, paglilipat, pagkanlong o pagtanggap ng mga tao, may pagsang-ayon o kaalaman man ng biktima o wala, sa loob o labas ng bansa; sa pamamagitan ng pagbabanta o paggamit ng puwersa at iba pang uri ng pamimilit, pagtangay (abduction), panlilinlang, panloloko, pang-aabuso ng kapangyarihan at posisyon, pansasamantala sa kahinaan ng isang tao, pagbibigay o pagtanggap ng kabayaran o anumang pakinabang upang makuha ang pagsang-ayon ng isang tao na may kontrol sa isang tao; para sa pagsasamantala, tulad ng prostitusyon, seksual na eksploytasyon, sapilitang pagpapatrabaho, pang-aalipin, pang-aalila, o ang pagtanggap o pagbenta ng mga bahagi ng katawan - R A 9 2 0 8

**ANTI-TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE 242-0792**

Para sa agarang tulong, lumapit sa Visayan Forum - Bahay Silungan sa Daungan (Port Halfway House) o sa Port Police, Coast Guard, Port Personnel o sa Crew ng sinasakyang Barko.

Ang VF Halfway House ay isang ugnayang proyekto ng:



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The Asia Foundation  
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Plan Philippines



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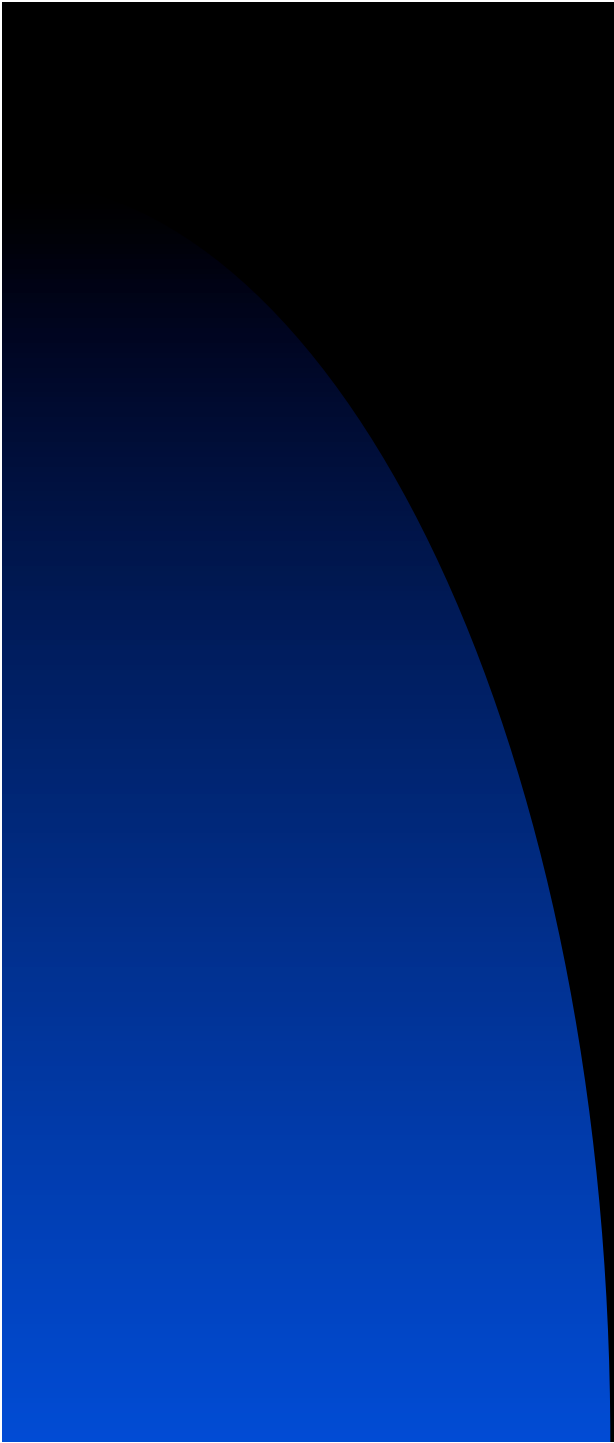
# Closely linked to:

- Prostitution
- Forced Labor
- Domestic Work
- Child Labor



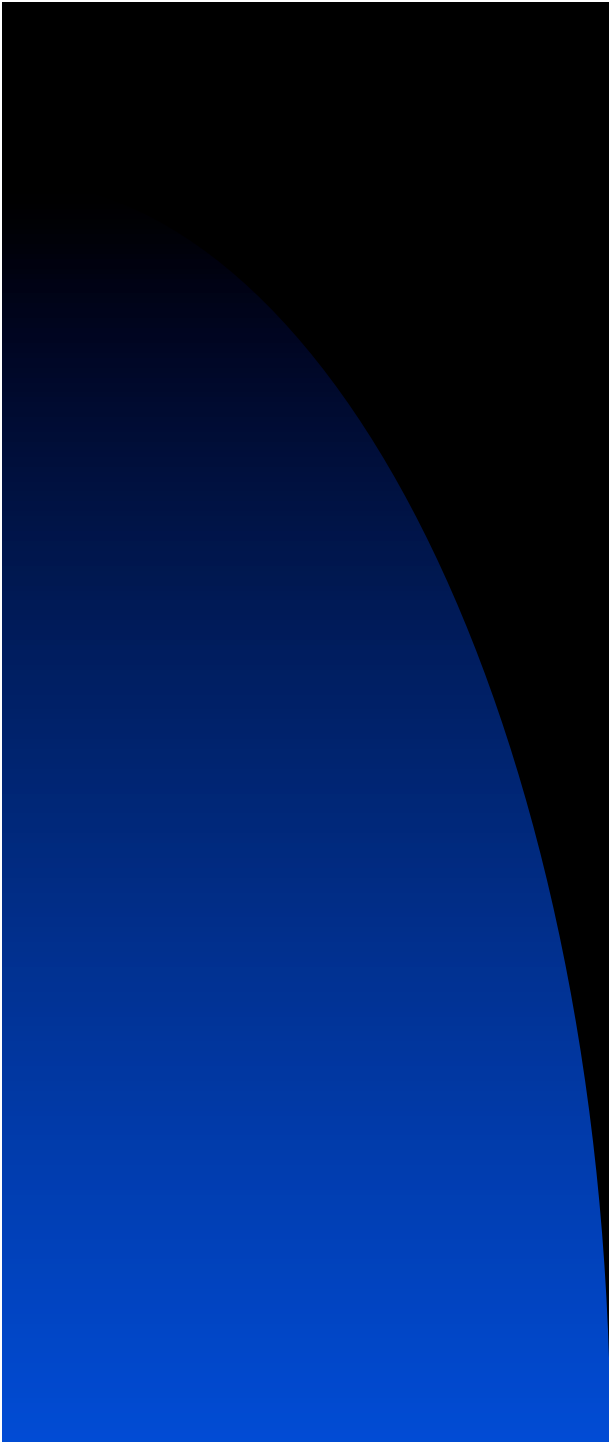
# Who is at risk?

- In Sex Trafficking, mostly women and children
- Profile of women:
  - ★ Poor, rural, little education
    - Exceptions are mail order brides / some entertainment jobs that require English speakers
  - ★ Single
  - ★ In unsuccessful and abusive marriages / failed love affairs
  - ★ Young girls who run away from home
  - ★ Single mothers with children

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- Factors which make women vulnerable:
    - ★ Poverty and lack of economic opportunities
    - ★ Low level education and lack of information about the recruitment process
    - ★ History of sexual abuse
      - Rape, incest, child molestation
    - ★ Family pressures
    - ★ Aspirations of being financially independent
    - ★ Alleged success stories of those who migrate for income abroad

# Who are the Recruiters?

- Profiles:
  - ◆ Most recruiters are friends of families and neighbors
  - ◆ Strangers or new acquaintances
  - ◆ Relatives and siblings
  - ◆ Promotions agencies and even religious groups (moonies)
- Nationalities include, but are not limited to: Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Lebanese, German, Egyptian, and Greek

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- Examples:
    - ◆ Many times older Filipino women are recruiters because of the trust and respect factor
    - ◆ Sometimes gay men are recruiters because they are seen as non-threatening
  - There are legal and illegal recruiters

# What are the Recruiters Tactics?

- “No work Season”
- Trickery, deceit, false promises
  - Fake Jobs
    - Domestic helper
    - “entertainers”
    - Jobs in a factory
    - Hostesses, waitresses
    - Salesperson
  - Bride Trade (MOB)
  - Forced and faked marriages
  - Paid travel fare and documentation
  - How much money can be made
- Use of threats
- Kidnapping and abduction

# What Happens to the Ones Trafficked?

- Entertainers, barmaids, GRO's
  - ◆ Many of these girls stay in country but the ones sent overseas use fake passports and documents, especially girls that are underage.
  - ◆ Some girls are met and housed by maintainers.
    - ★ In Japan it is often the Yakuza members, who rape the girls before taking them to the nightclub where they will work
  - ◆ Tactics can also be very subtle, makes it look like the girl chose to do this work.
  - ◆ Debt bondage





- Domestic Helper

- ★ At the mercy of male members of the family, even teenage boys.
- ★ Many legal recruiters of DH's

- Mail order brides (MOB)

- ★ Sometimes very little information about person
- ★ Great age difference
- ★ Husband forbids you to work, meet friends, or send money to your family

# Health Consequences:

- 68% of women OFW's are estimated to have been subjected to physical and sexual violence and exploitation.
  - This does not include sex trafficking/backdoor trafficking
- In one case study, of women forced into prostitution:
  - ◆ Over 60% reported drug use, forced and otherwise, on multiple occasions
  - ◆ 1/3 had vaginal and/or internal bleeding

# Staying in Prostitution:

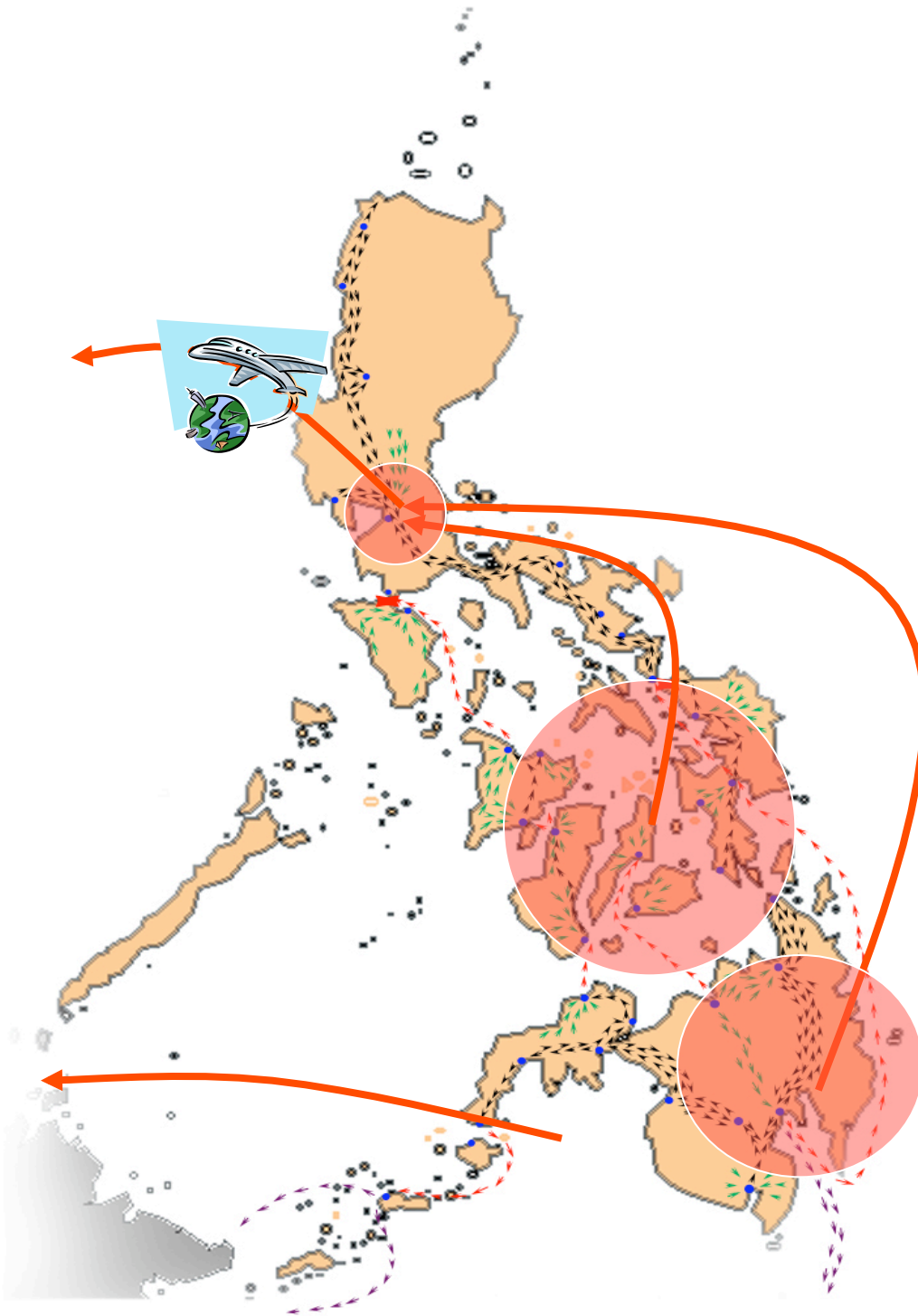
- Poverty/unemployment
- Lack of proper reintegration services and options
- Stigma and adverse social attitudes
  - ★ Many girls are shunned by their families and friends. After their horrible experience they have little or no support in their communities.
- Family pressure
- Acclimatization to the prostitution life
- Desperate loss of self

# How can we protect ourselves?

- Community action against trafficking
- Contact Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA)
- Get complete name and particulars of Agency and individual recruiter
- Documents must be legal and authentic: passport, visa, birth certificate, job contract (in advance, study the contract)
- Make copies of all documents
- Agency required to hand in deployment report to DOLE
- Contact local PNP when suspected recruiters come to the area

# Trafficking Routes

- International destinations: Japan, Middle East, Hongkong, Malaysia, Italy, Saipan
- Local trafficking is likely to be more prevalent than overseas trafficking
- Visayas and Mindanao are major source areas
- Shipping a major mode of transport, with 123 ports located all over the country
- Inter-island ferries are gateways and choke points of land routes



# The Challenge in Trafficking



## TRAFFICKING IS ...

- Not about consent
- Not just by deceptive means
- Not simply using poverty as an excuse

# The Challenge in Trafficking



## TRAFFICKING IS...

- About exploitation
- By taking advantage of victims' weaknesses and vulnerabilities
- Perpetuating poverty

# Things to Remember:

- **Trafficking is happening!**
- **Philippines:  
is a Source, Transit  
and Destination Area**
- **Most of recruiters are informal (e.g. relatives and friends) and are backed up by enterprising and unscrupulous persons**
- **Be sure to contact the Barangay Captain, local PNP, and Philippines Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) to investigate suspected recruiters.**
- **These women who have been forced into prostitution are not criminals, they are the victims.**





*Thank you!*



[www.visayanforum.org](http://www.visayanforum.org)