

**PVO/CORPORATE ATTACHMENT 4  
SUMMARY OF PROGRESS  
AS OF: DECEMBER 30, 2003**

**NAME OF PVO/CORPORATE GRANTEE** : AMERICAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR SOLIDARITY (ACILS)  
**PROJECT TITLE** : COMBATING TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES  
(ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT)  
**GRANT NUMBER** : AID 492-G-00-02-00022-00  
**APPROVED GRANT AMOUNT** : \$323,963  
**GRANT EFFECTIVITY DATE**: SEPTEMBER 16, 2002  
**GRANT COMPLETION DATE**: SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

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A. Quarterly Summary of Progress for the Period: October 1 to December 31, 2003

Actual Activities:

**1.) Project Administration**

- Held a half-day Partners Meetings to monitor implementation of the agreement to integrate the Project's advocacy plan into the Project's Performance Indicator Monitoring Matrix. The document was specifically developed to facilitate Project monitoring, assessment process and reporting. Also reviewed the Project's National Advocacy Plan developed earlier by members of the Project-initiated national Technical Working Group, and integrated additional activities designed to further strengthen efforts to address the trafficking problem per recommendations from participants to the Regional Forums and Regional Orientation held during the period. Ten persons (six women) attended, including members of the Project Management Committee, Project staff and representatives of key partner organizations.

**2.) Project Activities**

In pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Project, various strategies and activities were carried out during the period:

**2.1 Public Information and Media Campaign** - designed to raise awareness on the problem, enhance public appreciation for and encourage participation in the Project's anti-trafficking initiative:

- 2.1.1 **Conducted two, two-day Regional Forums on Anti-Trafficking (132 participants, 81 women)** to: (1) raise awareness on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; (2) generate/validate baseline information on: trafficking forms in the area; trafficking routes; modus operandi; monitored cases; existing government programs and services; and gaps and needs; (3) facilitate formation of local counterparts of the national TWG and establish procedures for effective coordination between the local and national TWGs, and (4) formulate action plans against trafficking in the regions. A total of 60 organizations were represented in these forums, including key national government agencies (14); local government units (six); union organizations (12); women advocacy and community-based organizations (15); youth organizations (4); media organizations (seven); and academia (two).

The Forums heard presentations on and discussed the Status of Trafficking of Persons in the Philippines/Government Interventions in Trafficking; Existing Activities and Future Anti-Trafficking Programs of Government Agencies; details of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003; and, to help implement and enforce the law on Anti-Trafficking, on Anti-Trafficking Local Instruments (Draft Local Ordinance on Trafficking and Standard Reporting Format in Trafficking and Trafficking-Related Offenses). As part of the two-day activity, workshops were held to generate information from participants on the extent of trafficking and inventory of existing programs (government and non-government) in their respective regions/locality; trafficking forms in the areas; trafficking routes; modus operandi; monitored cases; existing government programs and services; and local gaps and needs. Also crafted local action plans and local commitments, using as model the Advocacy and Implementation Plan developed by the national TWG. At the conclusion of the activity, forum participants signed a Memorandum of Agreement committing the participation of individuals or agencies/institutions/groups in anti-trafficking activities.

Following their participation in the Project-sponsored regional forum and interviews made with Project partners, three media organizations in Cebu City (two local newspapers: *Sun Star Daily and Freeman* and radio station *DYLA*), featured a news item on Project's anti-trafficking initiatives; presented data and information on the extent of trafficking problem in the Philippines, including the new anti-trafficking law and how the new instrument can be used by individuals/communities to prevent victimization and prosecute offenders. One of the country's leading national television stations (*GMAT*) also carried news features on the regional forum and the trafficking problem in the Philippines. At least a million Filipinos were positively reached as a result of the media coverage of the Project-sponsored activity.

2.1.2 **Five, half-day community-level forums and one, one-day province-level forum** were held at the initiative of Project-trained community advocates from partner organizations such as: LIFE (Local Initiatives for the Environment) and YES (Youth for Empowerment and Solidarity) in Leyte and Dumaguete (Eastern and Central Visayas) and Philippine National Police – PNP in General Santos City (Mindanao). These half-day forums a) identified migration/trafficking-related problems in the community; b) provided information and other relevant interventions to address concerns of migrants and their families; c) developed linkages with non-government organizations, academe, media, religious, civic groups and other government organizations, including law enforcement agencies at the community-level, to facilitate the flow of accurate and timely information to the provinces; and d) identified/linked-up with resource persons at the local level who could sustain community intervention on a regular basis. Other national government agencies, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Public Information Agency (PIA), and local government units were also engaged in the campaign. At least 182 individuals, (109 women), were reached during the period. Interaction from the participants surfaced information showing these areas as good venues for anti-trafficking work because they are either *origin or transit point in the identified trafficking route, or as destination of trafficking victims*. At the conclusion of each of these educational activities, focal persons and groups were identified to sustain anti-trafficking initiatives in the areas of General Santos City, Tacloban City, Palo, Leyte and Dumaguete City.

2.1.3 **Developed and published a compendium of "Anti-Trafficking Law, Rules and Local Instruments"**. A total of 1,000 copies were printed and distributed to various national agencies and local government units, international organizations, and Project partners at the national and community levels. This compendium contains the texts of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the Implementing Rules and Regulations, A Sample Ordinance to Implement and Enforce the Provisions of R.A. No. 9208 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (which is designed to guide community groups and local government units in enforcing the anti-trafficking law in their areas), A Sample Declaration of Commitment of Support to the Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Agenda and Programs of Government and Non-Government Organizations

(which is designed to guide other organizations and agencies in supporting and actively participating in the nationwide campaign against trafficking), the Standard Report Form for Trafficking and Trafficking Related Cases, and the Project's National Advocacy and Implementation Plan (which gives an overview of the Project's campaign against trafficking).

- 2.1.4 **Developed and printed 10,000 copies of the second edition of the Primer on the Anti-Trafficking Law (Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003).** The second edition of the Primer incorporated information contained in the IRR of the Anti-Trafficking Law which clarified items in the law, including roles and responsibilities of national agencies in anti-trafficking efforts, and stressed the responsibilities of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and local government units (LGUs) in the implementation of the law.

This Project-developed Primer and its predecessor edition, as well as the compendium, represent the only published information material on the Anti-Trafficking Law and its regulations in the Philippines as of December 2003. Given budget difficulties, government agencies DSWD, DFA and CFO have sourced their information materials on trafficking from the Project.

- 2.1.5 Distributed an additional 5,000 copies of Project-developed IECs as part of the campaign to disseminate information and raise public awareness on trafficking to offices of government agencies involved in the campaign against trafficking, LGUs, secondary schools, and various community-based organizations in areas reached by Project initiatives. Also distributed 200 copies of the list of accredited recruitment agencies provided by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). The list can serve as a first check against victimization for would-be workers overseas.

- 2.1.6 Maintained support for the Project's Anti-Trafficking website (<http://www.trafficking.org.ph>). The site was restructured during the period for better presentation and appreciation of materials. A total of 134 news articles and documents on trafficking were uploaded, including: a compendium of "Anti-Trafficking Law, Rules and Local Instruments"; POEA's "10 Don'ts to Avoid Illegal Recruitment" and "Update on restricted labor markets/skills; hotline numbers and contact persons of partner Gos and NGOs; various Project-developed IECs; and the final draft of the implementing rules and regulations for Republic Act 9208.

Through the website, a member of the US Navy who claimed to be working in Bahrain for about a year called on governments to assist trafficking victims, specifically Filipino and Thai women who worked as sex slaves in Bahrain and other Arab countries. Another reader pointed out the need to protect the safety of those who provide trafficking information to authorities. According to this reader, he has stories to tell but can't share them for fear of his safety. The Project provided the reader a personal e-mail address to which he can safely send information.

**2.2 Data Base Collection & Documentation:** The lack of statistics on the extent of the trafficking problem in the Philippines limits the government's ability to provide appropriate responses/intervention. To address this problem, the Project undertook activities designed to develop empirical data on the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly on women and children:

The absence of a standard reporting form and the varying interpretation by the different government agencies on trafficking and other related cases has been pointed out as one of the reasons why to this date, there is no solid data to show the extent of the trafficking problem in the Philippines. To address the problem, the Project developed a Standard Reporting Form for Trafficking and Trafficking-Related Cases. The

Project initiated a series of discussions/consultation meetings participated in by various government law enforcers and implementing agencies, with the view of getting a consensus on the appropriate reporting form that will be useful for all of the government agencies involved in efforts to prevent and suppress trafficking in person. After obtaining the PNP (Philippine National Police) Chief's comments and the suggested revisions integrated, the Project test-run the Standard Reporting Form in three places: Metro Manila, Cebu City in the Visayas, and Zamboanga City in Mindanao in cooperation with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM). The respondents for the pre-test were personnel and clients from WCCD-PNP, WCCPC-PNP, CIDG, PCTC, NBI, and DSWD Haven (all in Metro Manila), WCCD-PNP, PCTC and DSWD Haven (all in Cebu), and WCCD-PNP, DSWD-CIU and PCTC (all in Zamboanga). Participants gave positive response (not a single negative response) to the Standard Report Form, appreciating only one form for the reports (vs. the current three for the PNP). The Form is expected to facilitate documentation at the precinct level, help generate baseline data for use in better understanding the trafficking problem (no comparative data otherwise), and monitor statistical trends.

Data gathered during the pre-test showed that: *Zamboanga and Tawi-Tawi* are major jump-off points, using commercial passenger vessels; and that 22 trafficking syndicates identified by the law enforcers (of which 15 are operating in Zamboanga) have contacts with syndicates in points of destination, mostly to Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. Recorded data on trafficking in Zamboanga vary from one agency to another: the local DSWD has 108 cases of trafficking, while PCTC has 34 cases and 93 victims. Pre-test done in Cebu pointed to the Philippines as not only a country of origin but also a trafficking destination; about 1,004 monitored cases of trafficking in the region, a number of them involved domestic trafficking cases; PCTC Visayas Field Office still has to file a single case. It is interesting to note that findings from the pre-test validated the earlier research study conducted by NAPOLCOM on trafficking.

A number of recommendations for improving the Standard Report Form from the pre-test respondents were incorporated into the final Form. Action and program-oriented recommendations from the pre-test included: increasing awareness on the new anti-trafficking law and regulations, including for police, prosecutors, judges; improved security measure for passports and basic documents; need for crisis-intervention courses for front-line personnel; better services for trafficking victims and front-line personnel, including psychiatric care. The NAPOLCOM has officially endorsed the use of the Standard Report for use by PNP Women's Desks all over the country. In partnership with NAPOLCOM and WCC-PNP, a pilot training on the use of the standard report form for women's and children's desks in selected areas will be conducted after the requisite authority and training materials had been obtained and prepared.

The Project-developed Standard Reporting Form was also presented to members of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), who favorably endorsed the adoption of the reporting form by all government agencies involved in the delivery of programs and services for trafficking victims.

***2.3 Delivery of/Advocacy for Services to Victims of Trafficking: Project initiatives will be pursued to establish linkage/forged collaboration with government service providers toward improved intervention to rehabilitate/reintegrate trafficking victims and prosecute offenders/perpetrators of the malpractice.***

2.3.1. Meetings were held with officials of five LGU-managed provincial women shelters (Laguna Star Room; Bataan Bahay Panuluyan; Surigao City; Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte's Women Crisis Center; and Imus, Cavite Crisis Center) to follow up progress on various issues advanced by the Project. The Project-initiated campaign was designed to urge target LGUs to improve delivery of services of existing

shelters, including ways to secure accreditation from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for better access to additional resources and improved services, and development and monitoring of shelter performance indicators. Consultations were also held to encourage these shelters to expand the scope of issues tackled in their counseling sessions to include culture differences (for those involved in relationships with foreigners), values orientation, family planning/population control, and other reproductive health-related issues. Also collaborated with the provincial government of Laguna and provided technical assistance in negotiations for funding of a dedicated center for women, children, and senior citizens while the provinces of Agusan del Norte and in Bataan are currently being assisted on how to access funds to support planned improvement of facilities and services.

- 2.3.2. Conducted two, five-day Regional Orientation on Trafficking and Related Laws (one for Visayas-Mindanao, one for Luzon), to identify community advocates and develop local capacity to monitor, assist, and help process trafficking cases. The activity was also designed to equip community advocates with the ability to coordinate and sustain multi-sectoral anti-trafficking initiatives in their respective areas and complement efforts undertaken by the Project at the national level. Participants to the five-day program were provided with basic knowledge on trafficking and trafficking-related laws, including on how these instruments could be used in responding to cases on trafficking, and skills in processing and monitoring action on, inquiries/cases on trafficking. The program also enabled participants to acquire skills and proper techniques in the conduct of investigation before the police and fiscals/prosecutors, as well as in initiating, pursuing and actual filing of trafficking cases. A total of 46 participants (38 women) attended. Most of these participants were selected from the area-level community education programs (CEP) earlier conducted by the Project. Following their participation to the program, trained community-level advocates in Leyte and Dumaguete (Eastern and Central Visayas) and General Santos City (Mindanao), initiated the conduct of community-level forums to popularize the issue of trafficking, inform the public about the new anti-trafficking law and how this instrument could be used to prevent victimization of women and children in their respective communities.

**2.4 Advocacy and Networking Activities:** While there are a number of existing legal mechanisms, policies and programs to address the issue of trafficking of persons, particularly women and children, the same have not been fully realized (and the intent not fully realized) as evidenced by the growing incidence of trafficking of Filipino women and children, both internally and externally. The problem lies basically in the absence of strong legislation which directly address trafficking, poor or weak enforcement of trafficking-related laws, rules and policies as well as the lack of effective coordination (and therefore, duplication of efforts) among and between the implementing government agencies/institutions. In line with the Project's efforts to address these identified gaps and needs, the following interventions were undertaken during the period:

- 2.4.1. Project efforts during the quarter were focused toward influencing the formulation of the law's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). As part of the campaign, members of the Project's national Technical Working Group (Anti-Trafficking Project TWG) held a series of representation meetings with members of the newly- created IACAT's (Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking) Technical Working Committee tasked to draft the Anti-Trafficking Law's Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR). A written position paper was developed and presented to the IACAT's Technical Working Committee. Initiatives during the period resulted in the integration of a number of Project recommendations in the approved version of the IRR, including: (1) use of the government's legal assistance fund for trafficking victims; (2) inclusion in the IACAT of those other agencies with roles and responsibilities which are similar or common to All Council Member Agencies, such as the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO), NAPOLCOM, and Philippine Commission on Transnational Crime (PCTC); (3) provision of clear definition of *country of origin, country of destination, and transit country*; and (3) designation of joint task forces of anti-trafficking agencies for international airport or seaport; and (4) inclusion of arrests and warrants in investigations against traffickers for

more effective interception, arrest and investigation.

- 2.4.2. The Project also provided input in the drafting of the IACAT's Strategic Plan, the core document that defines the government's planned approaches, strategies, activities and the role of the different agencies in the fight against trafficking problem in the Philippines. These recommendations were presented and discussed during IACAT's two-day strategic planning workshop held in November 2003. Most of the Project's recommendations were incorporated in the draft IACAT Strategic Plan. Among the inputs advanced by the Project were: (1) massive requirement for information dissemination, including publication of duties and responsibilities of agencies and organizations; (2) capacity-building on trafficking for national government agencies (NGAs), NGOs and peoples' organizations (Pos); (3) training on trafficking for those providing quick responses, including those handling hotline operations and counseling; (4) inter-agency task forces at the national and local levels, so stakeholders are aware of developments and could make timely interventions and responses; (5) bridging the gap at the local levels, where certain NGAs in the IACAT are not operating or have no offices; (6) the huge area for intervention in after-rescue activities; and (7) incorporating the government's "A Strategic Action Plan for a National Coalition Against Trafficking of Human Beings (2003-2004), and the DFA-led Senior Government Working Group's National Strategy Against Trafficking.
- 2.4.3. Sustained campaign for the passage of local anti-trafficking ordinance through the conduct of representation meetings with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), target LGUs and various support groups. As the agency in charge of overseeing the affairs of the local governments, DILG's endorsement for the adoption of the Project-developed local ordinance is expected to expedite action on the proposed measure. Also invited local lawmakers to participate in the Project activities designed to create awareness on the trafficking issue and disseminate information on the new anti-trafficking law. As a result of their participation in these activities, at least two municipalities in Southern Luzon and another in Eastern Visayas initiated the filing of the anti-trafficking ordinance. Two of these municipalities (Imus and Cavite City in Southern Luzon) have approved on first reading, the adoption of the proposed ordinance, and are expected to be among the first localities with Ordinances against trafficking.

2.5. ***Establishment of Multi-Sectoral Trafficking Watch Group***: Pursued various activities to facilitate the establishment of a Multi-Sectoral Watch Group which shall be composed of trade unions, women/child labor/migrant worker-focused advocacy groups, and various government service providers, including the local government units. The initiative is part of the effort to strengthen cooperation and consolidate efforts among and between the trade union-led coalition of various civil society groups and the all-government National Coalition against trafficking.

- 2.5.1 Supported a total of three, one-day meetings of the Project-initiated national TWG on trafficking during the quarter, participated in by 60 persons (37 women), including key officials of the lead national government agencies in the anti-trafficking program. Discussions in these meetings focused on 1) proposed interventions to influence the Strategic Plan on trafficking of the IACAT; (2) revision of the Project-developed Standard Reporting Form to integrate comments from the Regional Forums and the Regional Orientation; (3) development of a trafficking module, for integration in the POEA's pre-employment orientation seminars (PEOS); (4) alternative mechanisms for bringing down and sustaining trafficking concerns to the community level; and (5) review of the Project's advocacy and implementation plan progress and schedule of activities. These meetings also provided a venue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration with members of the IACAT. At least seven members of the Project's TWG also sit as representatives of their respective agencies in the recently-created IACAT. The same officials are involved in the drafting of the Strategic Plan of the IACAT.

- 2.5.2 Sustained efforts to reach out to additional groups to participate in the anti-trafficking initiatives of the Project. These meetings resulted in the formal engagement of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL), a nationwide association of local legislators in the Philippines, and three women advocacy groups, (Women in Nation Building (WIN), Lihok Pilipina and LAW, Inc. (both based in Cebu).

### **Issues/Problems Encountered**

The Project's campaign to push national government agencies and local government units to effect improvements in the "delivery of services to victims of trafficking" have been held up by bureaucratic delays in the promulgation of the Anti-Trafficking law (RA 9208) IRR.

### **Action Taken/to be taken to address the issues**

The TWG will designate task forces to speed up action in these areas: shelters (facilities, performance standards, skills of personnel), counseling (building skills of counselors), sustaining services, reintegration/alternative employment (prevention, sustaining victims' resolve).

### **B. Cumulative Accomplishments as of: December 31, 2003**

Following are the cumulative results of various activities/initiatives undertaken during the past 15 months of Project implementation:

(1) At least 40,583 individuals, 351 organizations, 65 secondary schools and 387 villages in nine regions of the country (National Capital Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, Central Visayas, Western Visayas, Western Mindanao, and CARAGA) were directly reached by the Project through the implementation of various activities designed to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking and solicit support on the Project's anti-trafficking campaign. An additional one million Filipinos were positively reached through radio, television, and newspaper coverage of the Project activities and publication of position papers and advocacy letters. This number include:

- participants to various education exercises (13,876, including 7,985 women), including regional and community-level forums and community education programs conducted in partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the community-based advocates trained under the Program. These educational activities brought to the public's consciousness the various issues of migration/trafficking, including risks involved; salient features of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003; the law's draft implementing rules; government agencies and organizations involved in migration/anti-trafficking issues, their respective services, and how to access these services. These exercises also enabled the Project to identify potential partners at the local level to sustain Project initiatives.
- participants to the regional forums (132 participants, 81 women), attended by 60 organizations representing key national government agencies; local government units; union organizations; women advocacy and community-based organizations; youth organizations; media organizations; and academia enabled the Project to start a data base on: (i.) extent of trafficking and inventory of existing programs (government and non-government) in the regions and respective locality; (ii) trafficking forms; (iii) trafficking routes; (iv) modus operandi; and (v) monitored trafficking cases. The two-day exercise also facilitated the development of a multi-sectoral local anti-trafficking watch group with corresponding plans of action to complement the national initiative led by the Solidarity Center-supported Anti-Trafficking Project. At the conclusion of the activity, forum

participants signed a Memorandum of Agreement committing the participation of individuals or agencies/institutions/groups in anti-trafficking activities.

- recipients of various IEC materials (26,575), such as the Primer on the Philippine law on trafficking (15,000 copies), anti-trafficking poster-calendars (10,000 copies), Project Brochure and other IECs, including POEA's list of accredited recruitment agencies (1,575 copies).
- An additional one million Filipinos were directly reached by radio, television, and newspaper coverage of the Project position/advocacy letters and activities. Uploading of relevant information to the Public website broaden the Project's reach to areas outside the Philippines.
- Provided significant contribution toward efforts to disseminate information on the laws and rules to curb the trafficking practices through the various Project-developed IECs. For instance, the compendium of "Anti-Trafficking Law, Rules and Local Instruments" contains the texts of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, the Implementing Rules and Regulations, A Sample Ordinance to Implement and Enforce the Provisions of R.A. No. 9208 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (which is designed to guide community groups and local government units in enforcing the anti-trafficking law in their areas), A Sample Declaration of Commitment of Support to the Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings Agenda and Programs of Government and Non-Government Organizations (which is designed to guide other organizations and agencies in supporting and actively participating in the nationwide campaign against trafficking), the Standard Report Form for Trafficking and Trafficking Related Cases, and the Project's National Advocacy and Implementation Plan (which gives an overview of the Project's campaign against trafficking). The publication of the Primer on the Anti-Trafficking Law (Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003), and the second edition of the Primer which incorporated information contained in the IRR of the Anti-Trafficking Law, as well as the compendium, represents the only published information material on the Anti-Trafficking Law and its regulations in the Philippines by December 2003. Given budget difficulties, government agencies DSWD, DFA and CFO have sourced their information materials on trafficking from the Project. The list of accredited recruitment agencies provided by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and the subsequent dissemination of the document by the Project, serve as a first check against victimization for would-be overseas Filipino workers or otherwise.

(2) Facilitated the formation of a multi-sectoral national Technical Working Group (TWG) to spearhead Project implementation and, undertake joint and coordinated anti-trafficking initiatives. The Project TWG is composed of some 27 organizations, representing national government agencies, trade unions, non-governmental/peoples organizations, overseas workers' associations, community-based women and youth organizations; local government representatives and multi-sectoral coalition partners in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Bataan; and professional groups. These included at least 11 national government agencies (DOJ, DFA, POEA, DOLE, DSWD, NAPOLCOM, DILG, BI, WCC-PNP, PCTC, and CFO); trade unions (TUCP and its various local chapters in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao); and 15 national and community-based NGOs (Informal Sector Coalition of the Philippines (ISP), Ugnayan ng Manggagawang Pilipino sa Abroad (UPIMA), Youth for Empowerment and Solidarity (YES), Friends of Migrant Workers (KAIBIGAN), LPFI, LAW, Inc., LIFE, and WIN]; an association of municipal/city councilors (PCL); local government representatives and multi-sectoral coalition partners in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna and Bataan; and women lawyers' organization Federacion Internacional de Abogadas (FIDA). At least seven (7) members of the government's Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) are represented in the Project's national TWG.

The IACAT was created following the passage of the new anti-trafficking law (RA9208). The Council, chaired by the DOJ, is tasked to formulate a comprehensive and integrated program to promote and suppress the trafficking in person; promulgate the law's IRR and monitor and oversee its strict

implementation.

- Held a series of consultation meetings to enable members of the TWG to meet regularly (once a month) and, provide members with the venue to participate in the formulation of a national Advocacy Plan and jointly monitor implementation of planned activities in pursuit of identified common agenda, e.g., (i) *passage of the anti-trafficking bill*; (ii) *anti-trafficking local ordinance*; (iii) *reforms in the system and procedure at the Local Registrar's Office/Bureau of Immigration*; (iv) *improvement of data base on trafficking*; and (v) *provision of start up funds by LGUs for domestic violence/trafficking shelter and assistance programs for reintegration and trafficking prevention.* Details on the actual results of the joint initiatives are enumerated in item #3.

(3) Through joint initiatives with members of the Project TWG and the series of networking, advocacy and capability-building exercises undertaken by the Project, major strides were achieved toward efforts to bring about improvements in: (a) prevention of trafficking; (b) protection and assistance to victims and vulnerable groups; and (c) prosecution of traffickers.

***Toward the passage of an anti-trafficking measure:***

- The Project-initiated multi-sectoral Technical Working Group and its allies were one of the major groups that pushed for the passage of the country's anti-trafficking measure, through presentation of position papers, participation in Congressional hearings, mobilization activities and representation meetings. The new anti-trafficking law (Republic Act 9208) was enacted into law in May, 2003. Highlights of the new law include penalties of life imprisonment and a fine of P2 million to 5 million for qualified trafficking in persons acts; 20 years imprisonment and a fine of P1 million to 2 million for trafficking in persons acts; 15 years imprisonment and a fine of P500, 000 to P1 million for acts promoting trafficking in persons; and 6 months community service and a fine of P50,000 (*first offense*), and 1 year imprisonment and a fine of P100,000 (subsequent offenses) for the use of trafficked persons.
- Project input/recommendations integrated in the final draft of the Anti-trafficking law's Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), including: (1) use of the government's legal assistance fund for trafficking victims; (2) inclusion in the IACAT (Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking) those other agencies with roles and responsibilities which are similar or common to All Council Member Agencies; (3) provision of clear definition of *country of origin, country of destination, and transit country*; (4) designation of joint task forces of anti-trafficking agencies for international airport or seaport; and (5) inclusion of arrests and warrants in investigations against traffickers for more effective interception.

***Toward the adoption of a local anti-trafficking ordinance:***

- Project-developed local anti-trafficking ordinance endorsed by DILG for adoption by LGUs. Recognizing the crucial role local government units play in the actual implementation of the anti-trafficking law, the Project developed a local ordinance that requires local government units to adopt measures to gather data and disseminate information on trafficking; address training needs for personnel of concerned government agencies and community-based organizations who shall provide necessary interventions or assistance to trafficking victims; and provide temporary shelter/other related services to trafficking victims. The DILG Secretary has drafted a Memorandum Circular that enjoins local government units nationwide to pass local anti-trafficking ordinance and appropriate funds for its implementation. The ordinance integrated measures to enable LGUs to implement programs to gather data and disseminate information on trafficking; address training needs for personnel of concerned government

agencies and community-based organizations who shall provide necessary interventions or assistance to trafficking victims; and provide temporary shelter/other related services to trafficking victims. Resolutions to this effect were filed in at least three municipalities in the Project's pilot areas in Luzon and the Visayas, authored by local officials who benefited from the Project's capability-building programs. Two of these municipalities (Imus and Cavite City in Southern Luzon) have approved on first reading, the adoption of the proposed ordinance. The participation of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL) in the Project-initiated TWG is expected to encourage more LGUs to pass their own anti-trafficking ordinance.

***Toward more effective and responsive programs and services from public officials involved in trafficking issues and concerns:***

- In collaboration with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), conducted a test-run of the Project-developed Standard Reporting Form in three places: Metro Manila, Cebu City in the Visayas, and Zamboanga City in Mindanao in cooperation with the). The respondents for the pre-test were personnel and clients from WCCD-PNP, WCCPC-PNP, CIDG, PCTC, NBI, and DSWD Haven (all in Metro Manila), WCCD-PNP, PCTC and DSWD Haven (all in Cebu), and WCCD-PNP, DSWD-CIU and PCTC (all in Zamboanga). Participants gave positive response (not a single negative response) to the Standard Report Form, appreciating only one form for the reports (vs. the current three for the PNP). The Form is expected to facilitate documentation at the precinct level, help generate baseline data for use in better understanding the trafficking problem (no comparative data otherwise), and monitor statistical trends.

Data gathered during the pre-test showed that: *Zamboanga and Tawi-Tawi* are major jump-off points, using commercial passenger vessels; and that 22 trafficking syndicates identified by the law enforcers (of which 15 are operating in Zamboanga) have contacts with syndicates in points of destination, mostly to Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. Recorded data on trafficking in Zamboanga vary from one agency to another: the local DSWD has 108 cases of trafficking, while PCTC has 34 cases and 93 victims. Pre-test done in Cebu pointed to the Philippines as not only a country of origin but also a trafficking destination; about 1,004 monitored cases of trafficking in the region, a number of them involved domestic trafficking cases; PCTC Visayas Field Office still has to file a single case. It is interesting to note that findings from the pre-test validated the earlier research study conducted by NAPOLCOM on trafficking.

A number of recommendations for improving the Standard Report Form from the pre-test respondents were incorporated into the final Form. Action and program-oriented recommendations from the pre-test included: increasing awareness on the new anti-trafficking law and regulations, including for police, prosecutors, judges; improved security measure for passports and basic documents; need for crisis-intervention courses for front-line personnel; better services for trafficking victims and front-line personnel, including psychiatric care. The NAPOLCOM has officially endorsed the use of the Standard Report for use by PNP Women's Desks all over the country. In partnership with NAPOLCOM and WCC-PNP, a pilot training on the use of the standard report form for women's and children's desks in selected areas will be conducted after the requisite authority and training materials had been obtained and prepared.

The adoption and endorsement of the NAPOLCOM of the Project-developed Standard Report Form by PNP Women's Desks all over the country is a significant step toward efforts to address the lack of data and/or paucity of data on the extent of trafficking in the Philippines. Data gathered using the Project-developed Reporting Form will serve as a source document for the trafficking base being developed by the Philippine Commission on Transnational Crime (PCTC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Local Government (DILG). The

instrument was also presented to members of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), who favorably endorsed its adoption by all government agencies involved in the delivery of programs and services for trafficking victims.

- Project input considered in the drafting of the IACAT's Strategic Plan, the core document that defines the government's planned approaches, strategies, activities and the role of the different agencies in the fight against trafficking problem in the Philippines. Among the inputs advanced by the Project were: (1) massive requirement for information dissemination, including publication of duties and responsibilities of agencies and organizations; (2) capacity-building on trafficking for national government agencies (NGAs), NGOs and peoples' organizations (Pos); (3) training on trafficking for those providing quick responses, including those handling hotline operations and counseling; (4) inter-agency task forces at the national and local levels, so stakeholders are aware of developments and could make timely interventions and responses; (5) bridging the gap at the local levels, where certain NGAs in the IACAT are not operating or have no offices; (6) the huge area for intervention in after-rescue activities; and (7) incorporating the government's "A Strategic Action Plan for a National Coalition Against Trafficking of Human Beings (2003-2004), and the DFA-led Senior Government Working Group's National Strategy Against Trafficking.

The IACAT was created following the passage of the new anti-trafficking law (RA9208). The Council, chaired by the DOJ, is tasked to formulate a comprehensive women, children, and senior citizens; those in Agusan (*Mindanao*) and Bataan (*Luzon*) are being assisted for accessing funding for improvement of facilities and services.

- At least five LGU-managed shelters for women victims of domestic violence and abuse agreed to expand their services to include victims of trafficking as a result of networking, advocacy and educational activities initiated by the Project. An immersion program/education tour was sponsored for partners from the local government units (specifically the local police and other government service providers) to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge on investigating/handling trafficking cases; after-rescue activities, counseling and other direct services to domestic violence and trafficking victims. Technical assistance were also provided and enabled the province of Laguna to conclude negotiations for funding of a dedicated center for women, children, and senior citizens; those in Agusan and Bataan are being assisted for accessing funding for improvement of facilities and services.
- Obtained concrete commitment from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to expand coverage of the government's Legal Assistance Fund, to include trafficking victims. A letter was sent to DFA Sec. Blas Ople to seek clarification on the eligibility of trafficking victims to avail of the Legal Assistance Fund (as declared by the DFA representative to the Project TWG). The Project recommendation to expand coverage of the government's Legal Assistance Fund, to include trafficking victims was eventually integrated in the approved IRR for the anti-trafficking law.
- Developed and published a Directory of Service Providers as part of efforts to maintain regular communication between and among partners; and to provide trafficking victims and other vulnerable groups access to needed information and services. The directory, which includes contact numbers and names of focal persons of partner GOs, NGOs and POs, was uploaded to the Project website during the period.
- Project input adopted on the revised PEOS (Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar) module developed by the POEA. The enhanced module integrated a topic on trafficking, including the TUCP-led Anti-Trafficking Project. The instrument seeks to educate would-be overseas Filipinos on the dangers of trafficking and existing interventions, and is used in POEA's community-based anti-illegal recruitment campaign. The Project also forged formal partnership with POEA for a joint information dissemination campaign to reduce incidence of trafficking among would-be

overseas Filipino workers. At least two of POEA-developed IECs were uploaded in the Project website, including government advisories on hazardous destinations (restricted labor markets/skills) and "10 Don'ts to Avoid Illegal Recruitment".

- Collaborated with CFO in the conduct of community education programs on various migration and trafficking issues (a total of 168 programs, involving at least 10,392 individuals, 331 organizations, 44 secondary schools in 297 villages nine regions across the country, including far-flung areas in Mindanao). Other national government agencies, such as the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), Public Information Agency and local government units were also engaged in the campaign. Trained law enforcers and community advocates also conducted re-echo seminars (at least six forums, 182 participants) on the new anti-trafficking law to generate public interest on the issue and solicit support for the campaign. Participants to these educational activities spearheaded the conduct of re-echo exercises on the anti-trafficking law and regulations and various trafficking-related initiatives to popularize the issue and generate community-level support for the campaign.
- Set up functional multi-sectoral local committees on trafficking in four areas (General Santos City in Mindanao, Leyte in Eastern Visayas, and Dumaguete City and Tagbilaran City in Central Visayas) identified as among the major sending communities. Establishments of these local multi-sectoral communities came about as a result of the awareness-raising and educational activities conducted by the Project during the period. Two, five-day Regional Orientation on Trafficking and Related Laws (one for Visayas-Mindanao, one for Luzon), were held during the period (attended by 46 local leaders and advocates, 38 women), specifically designed to build the capacity of prospective community-level trafficking watch group members, enable them to coordinate and sustain multi-sectoral anti-trafficking initiatives. These leaders were also provided with basic skills and knowledge to enable them to participate in efforts to monitor, assist in, and help process trafficking cases.

Information and knowledge gained by law enforcers and advocates from the Project activities, including access to the telephone hotlines of concerned government agencies resulted in the actual rescue of four women (one of them a minor) who were illegally recruited to be trained in Manila to work as entertainers in Japan. Acting on the complaint filed by the mother of the youth-victim, Project-trained officers from the local Social Welfare & Development Office in General Santos City and Zamboanga City (both located in Mindanao) coordinated with the local Philippine National Police and conducted a successful rescue operation and facilitated the return of four young women victims of trafficking to their respective homes and the apprehension of the recruiter.

C. Quarterly Report on Sub-grantees for the Period: October 1 to December 31, 2003

NAME OF SUB-GRANTEE	LOCATION	PROJECT TITLE	APPROVED SUB-GRANT TO DATE	II's DISBURSEMENTS TO DATE	SUB-GRANTEE DISBURSEMENTS TO DATE
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Authorized Signatories:

In-Charge of Finance:

Signature :   
 Name : Catherine DG Reyes  
 Position : *Accountant*  
 Date Signed : 2/3/04

In-Charge of Operations:

Signature :   
 Name : Max Gregory Schulze  
 Position : *Field Representative*  
 Date Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

PVO/CORPORATE ATTACHMENT 3

QUARTERLY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN  
PERIOD COVERED: January 1 to March 31, 2004

NAME OF PVO/CORPORATE GRANTEE : AMERICAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR SOLIDARITY (ACILS)  
PROJECT TITLE : COMBATING TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE PHILIPPINES (ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT)  
GRANT NUMBER : AID 492-G-00-02-00022-00 EFFECTIVITY DATE: SEPT. 16, 2002  
APPROVED GRANT AMOUNT : \$323,963 COMPLETION DATE: SEPT. 15, 2004

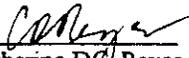
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE QUARTER  
BASED ON CURRENT LOP

- three, one to two-day Technical Working Group meetings
- three, one-day meetings with Project partners
- two, two-day training on the use of the Project-developed Standard Report Format
- two, four-day training on Gender, Trafficking Law and Trafficking-related Instruments
- one, one-day training on Dissecting the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (Towards its Effective and Efficient Implementation)
- Series of networking/advocacy/representation meetings with concerned government agencies/offices, local government units, and other prospective partner organizations
- Develop two new versions of the primer on the Anti-Trafficking Law: one in local language (Cebuano); and a popular translation of the English version
- Expand the Develop a Directory of Government Assistance Centers and other Service Providers outside the Project-initiated coalition.

Certified Correct:

Authorized Signatories

In-Charge of Finance:

Signature :   
Name : Catherine DG Reyes  
Position : Accountant  
Date Signed : 2/2/04

In-Charge of Operations:

Signature :   
Name : Max Gregory Schulze  
Position : Field Representative  
Date Signed : \_\_\_\_\_