



**Gender, Remittances and Development:**  
*a case study on  
Filipinos in Italy*

**The Filipino Women's Council**  
**Rome, Italy**  
at the

**Knowledge Fair**  
**EC-UN Joint Initiative on Migration &  
Development**

**Brussels Dec 1- 5, 2008**





**13th**

**largest migrant  
community with  
113,907 population**

# **Filipinos in Italy**

**as of December 30, 2006**

**3rd**



**biggest number of  
women migrant  
workers with 70,694  
or 62.1 %**

# The Filipino Women's Council

*FWC was established May 1991 by a group of committed Filipino women migrants who volunteered their time to provide support to the social and psychological needs of Filipino women and children in Rome. Today FWC continues to exist through the support of some of its founding members and new members who are of course volunteering their time.*

# What we do

1. Counselling, intercultural mediation, referral services
2. Capacity building
3. Lobby, advocacy and awareness raising
4. Networking and partnership
5. Research works -

- IOM on EQUAL - publication of community-action research *“Me, Us and Them: realities and illusions of Filipina domestic Workers”*, (2004);
- Università Roma Tre - EQUAL programme in 2005, research on good practices on *“Networking among native and migrant women’s in Europe”*, (2005/2006)
- UN-INSTRAW-UN-IFAD-FWC research on gender, migration and remittances, (2006/2008).

# Who are we


Photo of core group





# The study

QuickTime™ e un  
decompressore TIFF (Non compresso)  
sono necessari per visualizzare quest'immagine.



# Objectives of the study

- **Assess the impact of remittances** sent by migrants on household food security and rural development;
- **Capacity building** activities promoted by migrant associations in order to improve the living conditions;
- **Increase awareness** of Filipino migrants in **promoting rural development** in their communities of origin and available alternatives for sending remittances.

# Good practices

- First study on gender, migration & development focused with the participation of a migrant women's organization;
- social cohesion strengthened among members involved through support and collaboration on the overall phase of the study;
- research capacity and networking strengthened within organizations;
- a model migrant association in Rome with the focus on gender;
- giving back the research to the community. •

## Concrete outcomes

- Migrant community empowerment to start up and strengthen an HTAs originating from 5 provinces in the Philippines (Pampanga, Tarlac, Ilocos Sur, Batangas, and Oriental Mindoro);
- exchange visits with Italian farming cooperatives in Rome;
- start up of community development projects;
- scaling up of project with Philippine and Italian NGO partners.

# Challenges and obstacles

- Pre designed project by non-Filipinos;
- small budget;
- no follow-up and dissemination from the international partners;
- integrity of FWC at stake because of expectations from community Rome and hometowns;
- no direct funding to migrant associations.

# Lessons Learned

- Action research without actions;
- gender differences on remittances better understood; (redefinition of head of household, decision making);
- stimulated migrant associations on innovative project ideas beyond “band-aid” approach;
- publication of a bi-lingual documentation necessary that could assure high level of awareness-raising;

## ....lessons learned.....

- research as a powerful tool for FWC's credibility in advocacy and capacity to concretize actions at local and national levels;
- enhanced leadership and empowerment;
- research and analysis skills;
- improved understanding of the role of women migrant workers as powerful agents of change.



**Thank You!**

