

# Filipino Women in Italy

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*Organizing for Change*



**Charito Basa**

**Filipino Women's Council**

**13th**

**largest migrant  
community**

# **Filipinos in Italy**

**3rd**

**biggest number  
of women  
migrant workers**



IO, NOI E LORO:  
REALTA' E ILLUSIONI  
DELLE COLLABORATRICI  
FAMILIARI FILIPPINE

Un progetto di ricerca comunitaria  
del Filipino Women's Council

*Autrici:  
Charito Basa e Rosalud Jing de la Rosa*

**Me, Us, Them:**  
**Realities**  
**and**  
**Illusions**  
**of Filipina**  
**Domestic**  
**Workers**

**our research**  
**project**

**How do Italians perceive and understand this?**

**The role and contribution of Filipina domestic workers to Italian families and society**

**How do Filipina domestic workers see themselves?**



# **Why did they leave their families behind in the Philippines?**

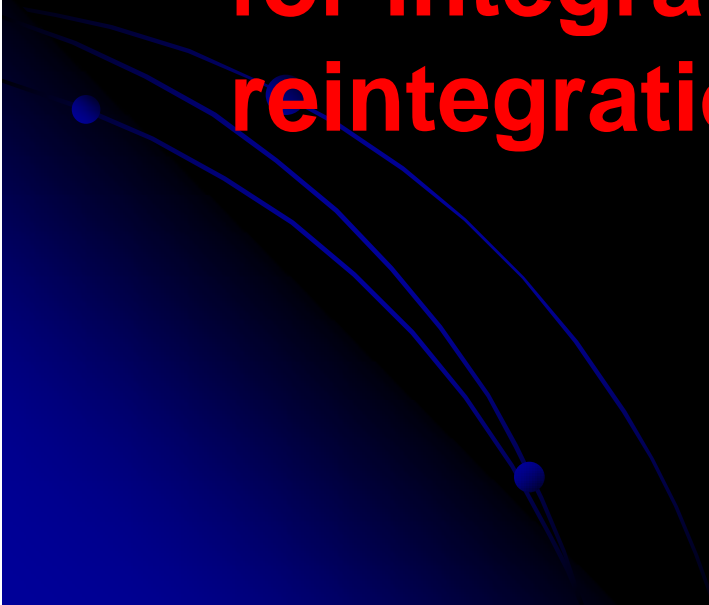
**Do they realize the impact of such separation on themselves and their families?**

**Are they ready to confront the situation? How?**

**How do we influence**

**accelerated and appropriate  
community actions**

**for integration in Italy and  
reintegration in the Philippines?**





## Focus Group Discussion

# Findings from Focus Group Discussions

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**Language as barrier:** needed for negotiations and integration

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**Why leave the Philippines?**

No options back home.

Urgent need to meet family obligations.

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**How do you make decisions?**

Head over heart: rational thinking.

Obligations from culture and religion

## **Findings from 43 Italian employers**

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**Complex employer - employee relationship**

**Good domestic helper image (stereotype)**

**Positive role in Italian society as “economically useful”**

## **Obstacles to change**

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**Low self-respect**

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**Long years of separation, breaking up of family structures**

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**Problems of the second generation: materialism, drugs, dropping out of school, teen-age pregnancy**

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**Endless work for income that are spent irresponsibly by beneficiaries**

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**Migration policies**

## **Driving forces for change**

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**Supportive family members**

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**Role model**

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**Learning to do professional work:  
research, translation, cultural mediation**

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**Able to help other women migrants  
in need**

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**Increased knowledge on issues and  
how to confront problems**



# **The Gender Dimensions of Remittances:**

**Their Flows, Uses and  
Development Impacts**

# HOW MUCH DO WE SEND?

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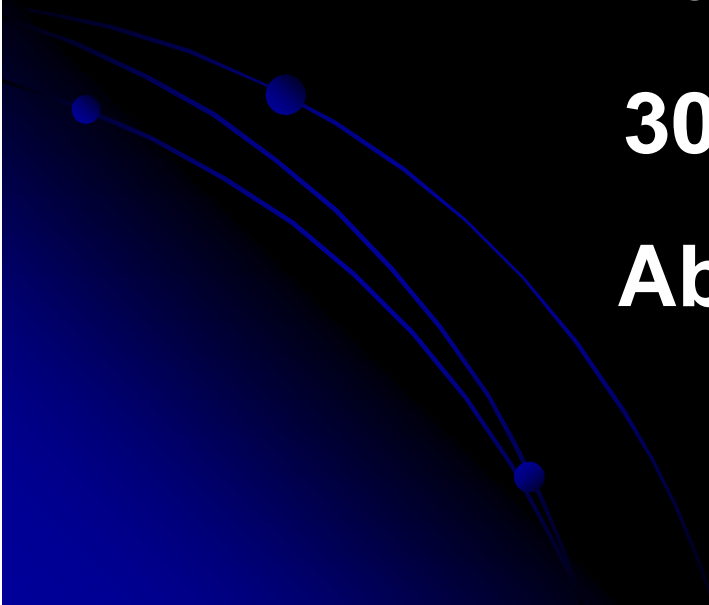
**Below 100 Euros**

**101 to 200 Euros**

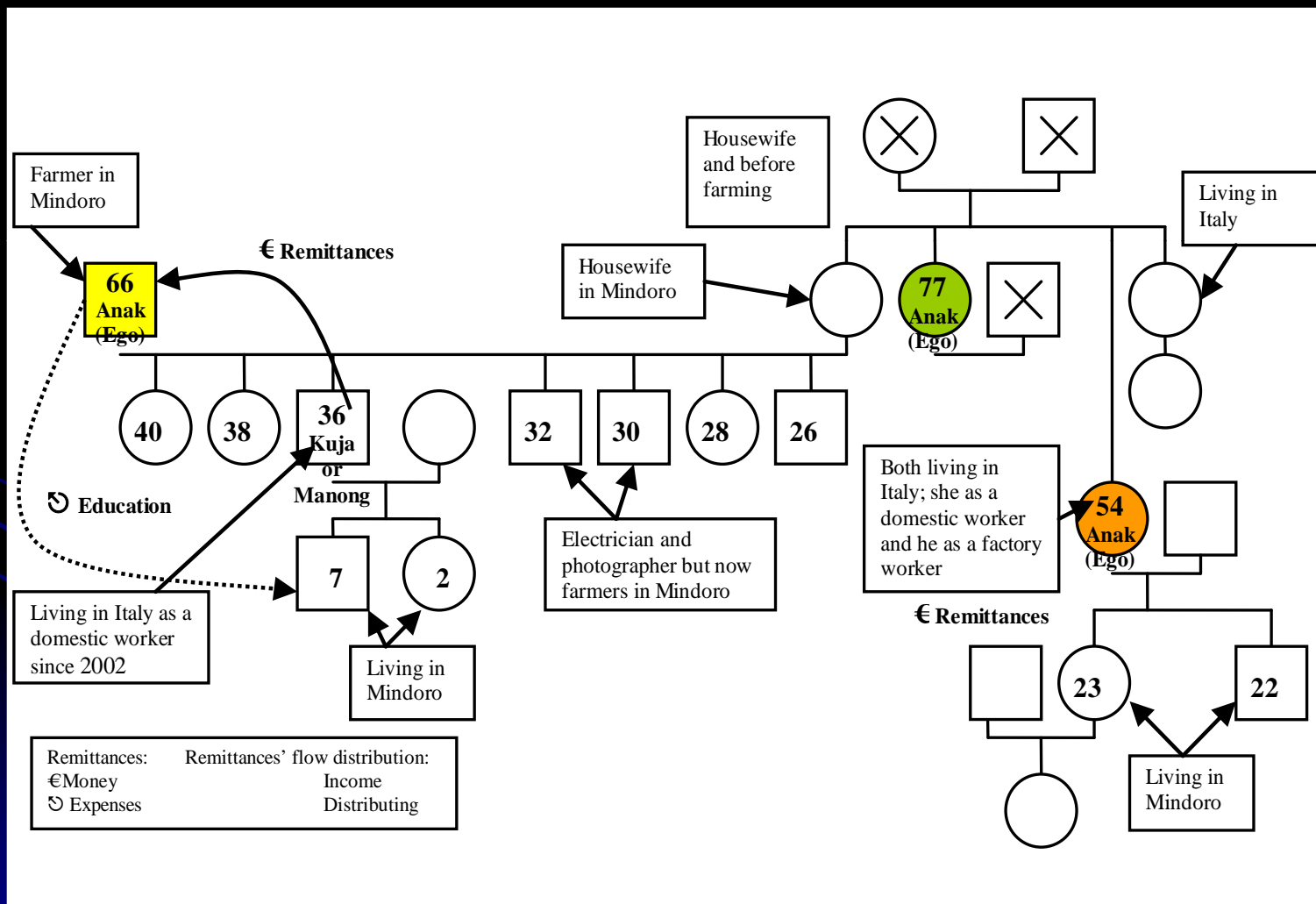
**201 to 300 Euros**

**301 to 400 Euros**

**Above 400 Euros**



# WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE MONEY?



# WHAT DO WE WANT?

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**Looking for community-driven  
development**

**Focus on institutional change**

**Focus on changing market access**

**Rural finance**

**Gaining access to land and fishery  
resources**

# WHAT DO WE WANT?

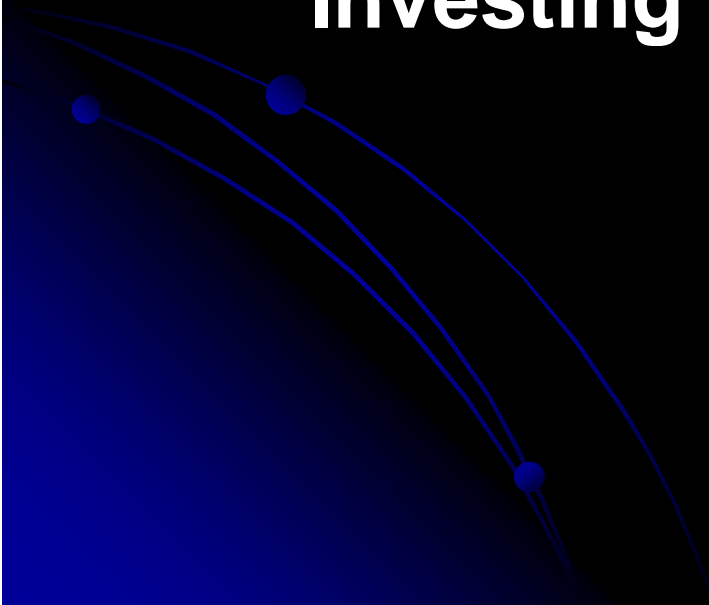
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**Rural enterprises**

**Investing in technology**

**Investing in training**

**Investing in know how**





**We need to reflect on our own self-esteem (or self-respect), and we need to reflect on old ways of thinking in the modern world. Plans will change and decisions will be altered. There is a sense of altruism for each individual; this is especially true for the Filipina domestic helper to whom this study was dedicated. She feels the need to continue to share and to rescue. The modern day hero syndrome, we imagine, will continue.**

**Charito Basa and Rosalud Jing dela Rosa**