



# United Nations Philippines

2021 Results, 2022 Prospects





# United Nations Philippines

## 2021 Results, 2022 Prospects

### About this publication

The United Nations Philippines 2021 Results, 2022 Prospects reports on the progress achieved jointly by the UN system and all its partners to get the country back on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Guided by the three strategic pillars of People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace, the UN responded to the country's persistent and new sustainable development challenges with determination, agility, and creativity, with the goal of leaving no one behind. With one eye always looking ahead towards the horizon, the UN will build on the foundation of its actions and impacts in 2021 to keep the Philippines' journey of transformative change moving forward in 2022.

### About the cover


Children playing in Benguet Province, Philippines. *Photo from WHO*

### About the title page

On 7 March 2022 children returned to in-person schooling, two years after the COVID-19 pandemic and Super Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette) destroyed many of their school supplies and classrooms. *Photo from UNICEF Philippines/2022/Sitti*





 Bonifacio Global City skyline. Bonifacio Global City, or BGC, is a financial and lifestyle district in Metro Manila, Philippines.

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# Abbreviations used in this report

<b>BARMM</b>	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	<b>DoH</b>	Department of Health	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>NEDA</b>	National Economic and Development Authority
<b>BARMM READi</b>	BARMM Rapid Emergency and Disaster Response	<b>DHSUD</b>	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development	<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>NFP</b>	National Food Policy
<b>BPDA</b>	Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority	<b>DOLE</b>	Department of Labor and Employment	<b>JP</b>	joint programme	<b>OFW</b>	Overseas Filipino worker
<b>BIWAB</b>	Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade	<b>DRRM</b>	Disaster risk reduction and management	<b>JPSRSP</b>	UN Joint Programme on Shock-Responsive Social Protection	<b>PDP</b>	Philippine Development Plan
<b>BRIDGE</b>	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines programme	<b>DSWD</b>	Department of Social Welfare and Development	<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan	<b>PPE</b>	personal protective equipment
<b>BTA</b>	Bangsamoro Transition Authority	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>LGU</b>	Local government unit	<b>PFSO</b>	Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development
<b>BWC</b>	Bangsamoro Women Commission	<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence	<b>MAF</b>	Mutual Accountability Framework	<b>PVE</b>	Prevention of violent extremism
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment	<b>GCM</b>	Global Compact for Migration	<b>MILF</b>	Moro Islamic Liberation Front	<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>CCC</b>	Climate Change Commission	<b>GCNP</b>	Global Compact Network Philippines	<b>MILG</b>	Ministry of Interior and Local Government (BARMM)	<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response Fund	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>MSSD</b>	Ministry of Social Services and Development (BARMM)	<b>SAP</b>	Social Amelioration Program
<b>CHR</b>	Commission on Human Rights	<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>MSMEs</b>	micro-, small-, and medium-scale enterprises	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease 2019	<b>IATF-ZH</b>	Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger	<b>NAFMIP</b>	National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan	<b>SEPF</b>	Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery
<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person	<b>NAP-Ag</b>	Integrating Agriculture Adaptation Plans Programme	<b>SERP</b>	Socio-economic response plan
<b>DA</b>	Department of Agriculture	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>NCR</b>	National Capital Region	<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
<b>DepEd</b>	Department of Education	<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institution	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contribution (Paris Agreement)	<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition Network
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Energy	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization			<b>TVET</b>	Technical Vocational Education and Training
<b>DoF</b>	Department of Finance	<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework			<b>UN</b>	United Nations



FAO mobilizes a community for mangrove planting. Photo from FAO Philippines

<b>UNAIDS</b>	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations Refugee Agency

<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNYAB</b>	United Nations Youth Advisory Board
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# Foreword from the UN Resident Coordinator



Despite having to overcome many personal and professional obstacles in 2021, the more than 1,100 men and women serving the Philippines through the United Nations demonstrated tenacity, commitment and sacrifice to produce the results in this report.

As UN Resident Coordinator, with 23 resident and non-resident UN agencies, funds and programmes contributing to the national development priorities and strategies of the Government of the Philippines, I am pleased to present to you the 2021 UN Country Annual Results Report for the Philippines.

Despite having to overcome many personal and professional obstacles in 2021, the more than 1,100<sup>1</sup> men and women serving the Philippines through the United Nations demonstrated tenacity, commitment and sacrifice to produce the results in this report. These dedicated civil servants provided superlative policy support and technical assistance – but most importantly, they brought the ability to convene, coordinate, and mobilize stakeholders from across the spectrum to support the country’s development agenda.

The Philippines’ journey to recovery in 2021 was closely tied to its ability to manage the

<sup>1</sup> There are an additional 792 people serving the UN at global and regional management support offices based in Manila.



Repairing a roof with solar panels in the aftermath of Typhoon Odette (Rai) Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines Dec 17, 2021.



The UN remains strongly committed in its support to the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region** in Muslim Mindanao

COVID-19 pandemic as it sought to balance the health of its people and the recovery of economic and social well-being. The availability of vaccines and the pace of administering them were key to overcoming the social and economic consequences of the pandemic. The Government, with UN support, was able to provide 108 million doses, with 50 million individuals fully vaccinated by end of the year.

Much of the UN's coordinated support for pandemic recovery in 2021 was a result of the continued implementation of the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2020-2023 (SEPF). Through the SEPF, the UN Country Team worked closely with core Government structures handling the COVID-19 response: the Interagency Task Force, the Departments of Health, Education, Social Welfare and Development, and Labor and Employment with more than 50 national and international NGOs. Working together, we delivered 69 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines within the framework of COVAX<sup>2</sup>; provided non-COVID health services to 1.3 million people; ensured 365,103 people in remote areas had access to clean water and sanitation; and supported 3.3 million children with distance learning.

While maintaining a strong focus on supporting the Government's COVID-19 response, the diverse UN country team continued supporting the country in other critical areas of its development plan throughout the year. For example, the first-ever UN Joint Programme on human rights which was formulated in response to Human Rights Council resolution 45/33, which outlines specific areas for capacity-building and

technical cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines.

In 2021, the number of joint programmes tripled both in number and funding from a 2019 baseline – a new record. The continuing advocacy to shift from funding individual, ad hoc, short-term projects to financing integrated, transformative and sustainable development results contributed to significant improvements in this area. There are now 11 joint UN programmes being implemented in the Philippines with total combined resources of nearly US\$25.6 million – and more are in the pipeline.

The UN remains strongly committed in its support to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and in 2021 further expanded its strategic interventions to build and sustain peace in the region. A UN Area Coordination Office was established in Cotabato to strengthen coherence among the many UN agencies working in the region, and a new UN joint programme on conflict transformation in BARMM was developed in collaboration with regional authorities to better coordinate UN support to BARMM.

There is a Filipino proverb that says '*Ang mabigat ay gumagaan, kung pinagtutulungan*' – what is heavy becomes lighter if we work together. This is how the UN Country Team and its agencies, funds and programmes in the Philippines was able to achieve so much in 2021 – by working closely together on a common agenda with the Government, development partners, civil society, academe, youth, labour unions, the private sector and others. We will continue to work even more closely together in 2022, creating synergies through cooperation and collaboration for and with the people of the Philippines as they achieve their long-term vision for the country: *Isang matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat* (a stable, comfortable, and secure life for all).

**Gustavo Gonzalez**

United Nations Resident  
and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines

<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, abbreviated as COVAX, is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines directed by the GAVI vaccine alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and the World Health Organization, alongside key delivery partner UNICEF.

# United Nations Country Team in the Philippines

In 2021, the United Nations Country Team in the Philippines consisted of:

# 11

resident funds, programmes and specialized agencies



# 9

project offices/ non-resident agencies



# 3

Secretariat Offices

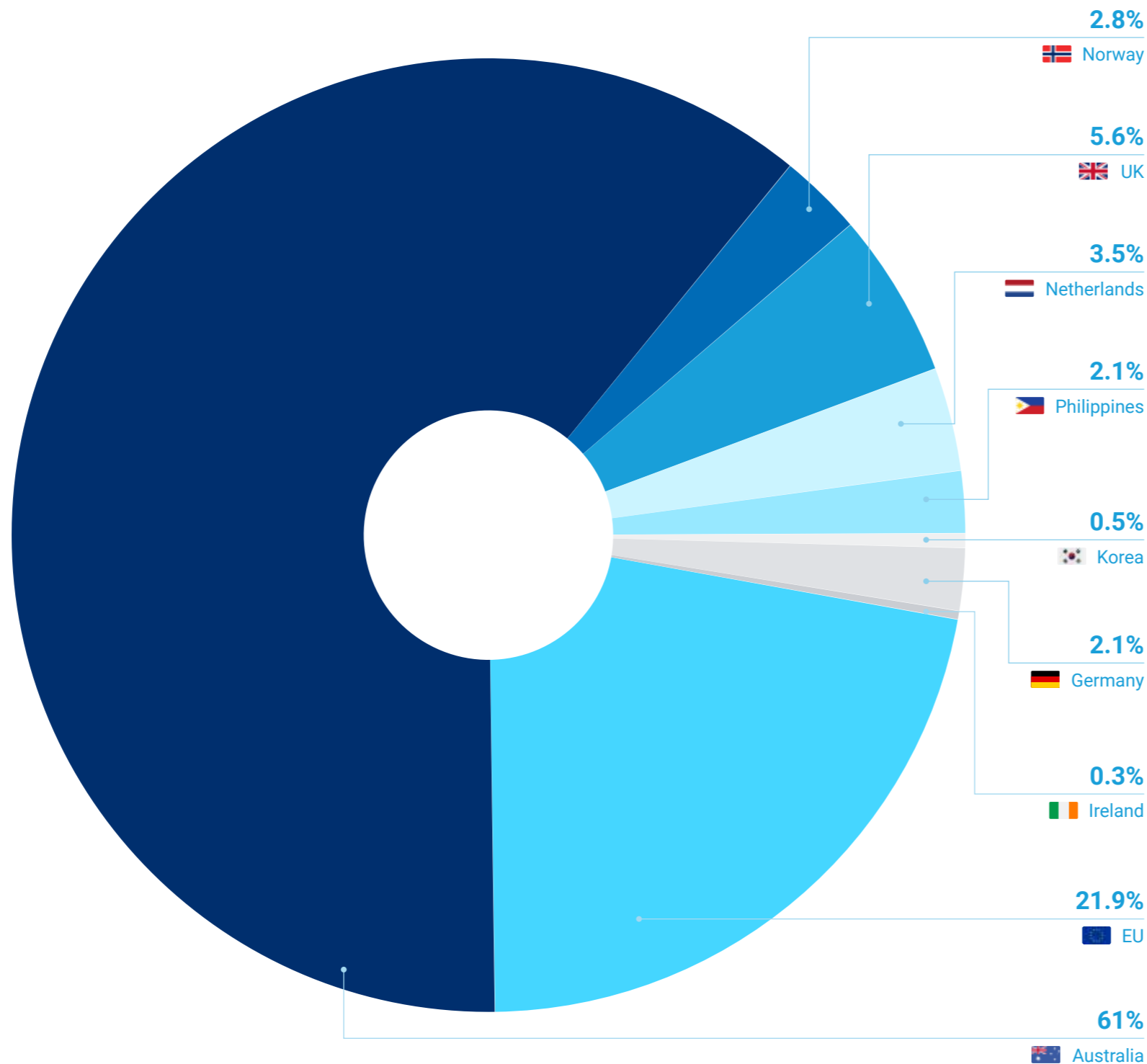


World Heritage Ifugao rice terraces in Batad, Northern Luzon, Philippines.

# Development partners fostering UN jointness

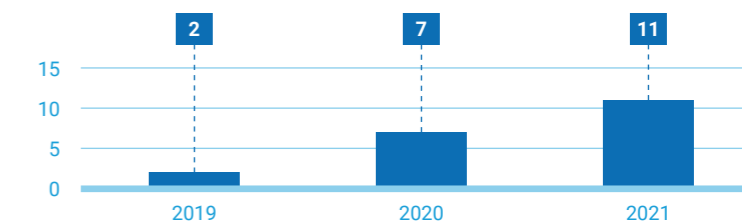
## Country-based funding of UN joint programmes

The Funding Compact is increasingly taking centre-stage with Australia, the EU, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Germany, Ireland and Korea contributing to joint programmes rather than funding individual, ad hoc, short-term projects. The percentages are based on actual amount of contribution (co-financing, commitments and pledges) to joint programmes.



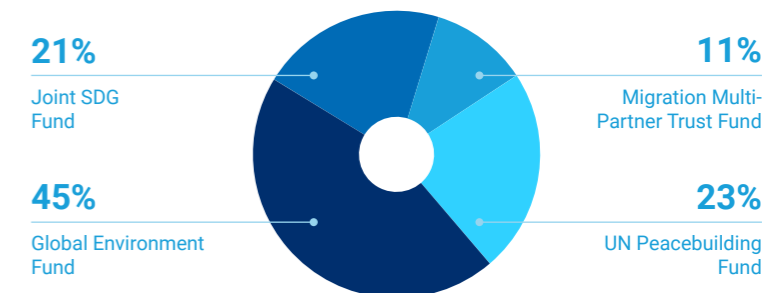
## Increase in the number of UN joint programmes (2019 to 2021)

There is a growing evidence of coherence and jointness (from two UN joint programmes to 11 JPs in 2021).



## Global pooled and vertical funds

The UN Philippines actively leveraged the Global Environment Fund, the Joint SDG Fund, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund to scale up existing catalytic investments and better address the government's financial gaps in critical development areas, SDG acceleration and COVID-recovery.



## UN agencies implementing joint programmes supported by global and multi-purpose trust funds

Access to following global pooled and thematic funds during the reporting period contributed to increased coherence and jointness, with two or more agencies engaged in joint programmes. Also see Table 2 for more details.





## Box 1

## Official policies, legislation and action plans that became more people-centred in 2021 with UN support

The United Nations worked with the Government of the Philippines and its representatives to draft major pieces of legislation, new policies and action plans in 2021. These included:



- **Republic Act 11593** deferring the first regular elections in BARMM thereby extending the transition period for the regional government to continue the state-building process until May 2025.



- **Republic Act 11534** (known as the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act or CREATE Act) which lowered corporate income tax rates and rationalized fiscal incentives for foreign and domestic companies as part of the government's comprehensive tax reform programme that began in 2016.



### Employment related policies and legislation

- National Employment Recovery Strategy
- **Republic Act 11641** creating the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to better protect the rights and welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)
- Final draft of the Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code



Children playing in Benguet Province, Philippines. Photo from WHO



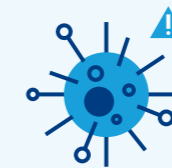
### Children and Youth

- Prohibition of Child Marriage Law
- Law increasing the age for determining the commission of statutory rape from below 12 to below 16
- Interim legal framework issued by the President, declaring it a national priority to prevent adolescent pregnancies and address its root causes (Executive Order 141)
- Child Protection Policy of the Philippine National Police



### Health and Nutrition

- Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategic Plan 2030
- Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) Strategic Plan and Information Management tools
- Philippines national roadmap on the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting launched in November 2021.



### Protection of vulnerable populations

- Memorandum Order clarifying that persons of concern (POC) shall be included in the priority groups for COVID-19 inoculation.
- Persons of concern (POC) included in several governmental circulars relating to social protection programmes, recovery programmes, and access to legal assistance and representation. ■

# UN Partners in the Philippines

## NGOs and CSOs



Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim) (ACF)



Agency For Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)



Almujadillah Development Foundation



ARISE Philippines



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



Baang Womens' Organization and Rural Improvement Club (RIC)



Balay Mindanao Foundation Incorporated



Balay Rehabilitation Centre



Bangsamoro Development Agency

Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB)

Bansag Babai Inc.



Bicol Consortium for Development Initiative



Center for Disaster Preparedness



Christians for Peace Movement Inc.



Coalition of Moro Youth Movement



Community and Family Services International (CFSI)



Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS)



Health Organisation of Mindanao (HOM)



ID Insight



Indigenous Women Resource Centre



Initiative for International Dialogue



Institute for Bangsamoro Studies



Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People (IRDT)



Kadtabanga Foundation for Peace and Development Advocates Inc. Kapamagogopa, Inc.



Isabela Foundation, Inc.



Lakas Kabataan

Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association (LASIWFA)



Magungaya Mindanao Inc. (MMI)



Maranao People Development Center, Inc. (MARADECA)



Matawaksi Foundation Incorporated



Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress (MOSEP)



Mindanao Peoples Caucus



Moro Women Development and Cultural Center, Inc.

Muslim and Christian Agency for Advocacy, Relief and Development, Inc (MuCAARD Mindanao)



Mindanao Action for Peace and Development Initiatives (MAPAD)



National Resilience Council

Nisa ul Haqq Fi Bangsamoro



Non-Violent Peace Force



Philippine Business for Social Progress



Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc.



Philippine Development Foundation (PhilDev)



Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation



Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement



Sulong Peace



Teduray Lambangian Women's Organization Inc (TLWOI)



The Moropreneur Incorporated (TMI)



Tiyakap Kalilintad Inc. (TKI)



Transforming Fragilities, Inc. (TFI)



United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UnYPhil-Women)



VOLUNTARY SERVICES OVERSEAS (VSO)



Women of Rajah Mamlu Descendants

### Development Partners



European Union (EU)



Governments of Australia



Belgium



Denmark



France



Germany



Italy



Japan



Korea



Luxembourg



Norway



Sweden



Switzerland



the Netherlands



the United States of America

### Private Sector and Foundations



Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)



Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines



Philippine Electricity Market Corporation



Clean Air Asia



Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Inc.



Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)



IKEA



Sequoia Foundation



Philippine Business for Social Progress



National Resilience Council



*We are proud to be working side-by-side with all of our government and non-governmental partners in the Philippines, supporting their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for all Filipinos, leaving no one behind*

**Gustavo Gonzalez**, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines

A polio vaccination team crosses a bamboo bridge in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, Mindanao. Photo from WHO Philippines

## Box 2

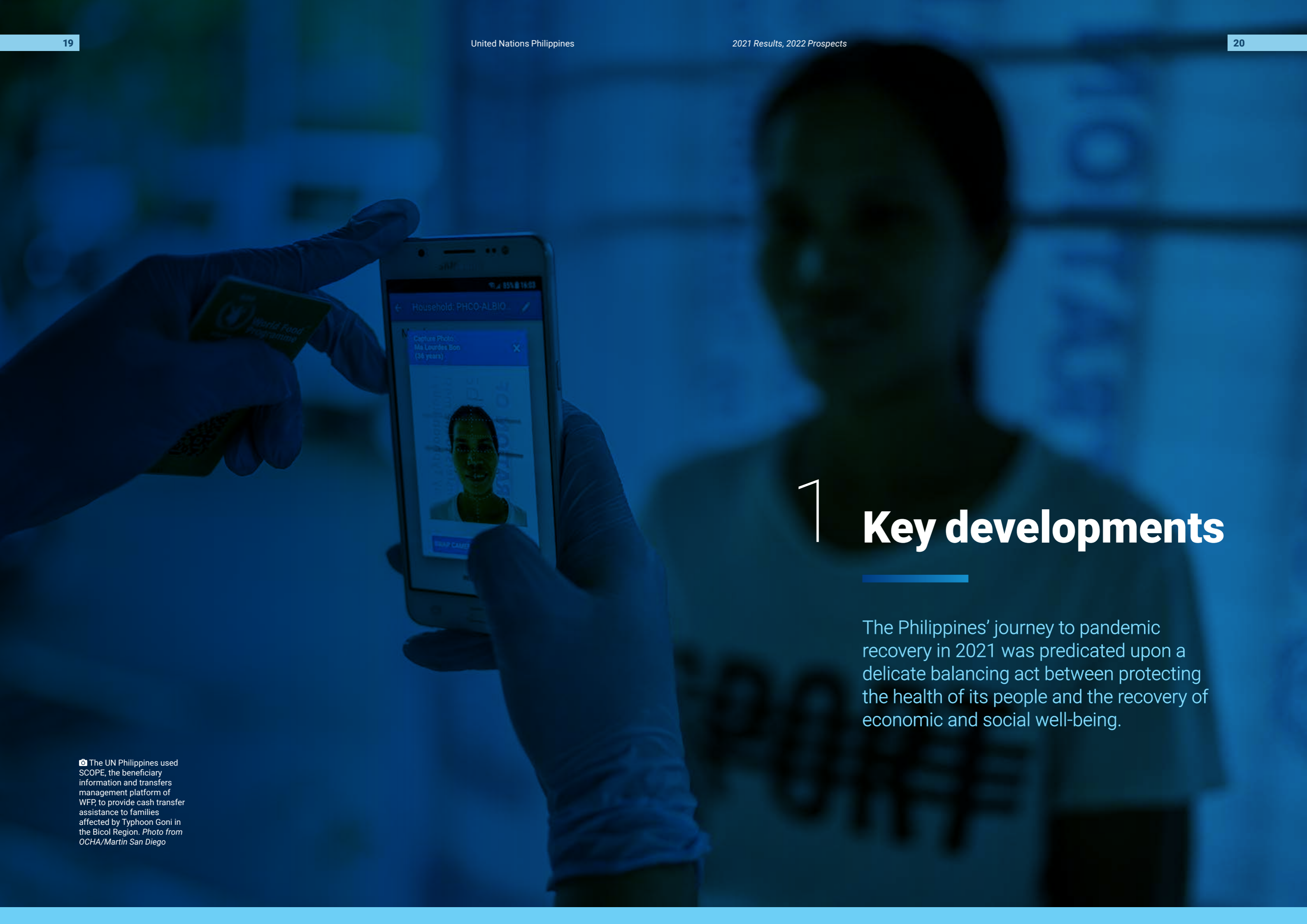
## Philippines' reporting on its SDG achievements through the Voluntary National Review



In June 2021, the Philippine Government officially requested to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2022. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) – the lead government agency for the VNR – participated in the first global workshop in October 2021 organized by the UN covering the VNR preparation process and sharing of experiences with countries that have conducted VNRs previously.


UN Philippines extended support to the country's preparations, with initial assistance to introduce a "Futures Thinking" approach for the government's sub-committee on SDGs (which will be an innovative feature of the

country's third VNR). UN agencies shared written guidance based on international good practices for promoting an inclusive stakeholder engagement in the VNR to inform the government's preparations for stakeholder consultations planned for April 2022. Several UN agencies have also been working on the review and tracking of progress on specific SDG indicators to contribute to the Philippine Statistics Authority's updating of data on SDG targets to be used for the VNR report. In recognition of the country's experience in preparing VNRs in 2016 and 2019, the UN established a twinning arrangement between the Philippines and Tuvalu to promote peer learning and assist the Tuvalu government prepare their first VNR. ■



# 1 Key developments

The Philippines' journey to pandemic recovery in 2021 was predicated upon a delicate balancing act between protecting the health of its people and the recovery of economic and social well-being.

 The UN Philippines used SCOPE, the beneficiary information and transfers management platform of WFP, to provide cash transfer assistance to families affected by Typhoon Goni in the Bicol Region. *Photo from OCHA/Martin San Diego*



*Much of the previously hard-won progress on the **SDGs** was **pushed back by the pandemic***

When COVID-19 cases declined, and movement restrictions were relaxed, economic activity picked up through increased consumption and government expenditures. When the spread of the Delta variant led to a surge in new cases in the third quarter and lockdowns were reimposed, movement of goods and services were again restricted, and unemployment surged.

Much of the previously hard-won progress on the SDGs was pushed back by the pandemic, in the Philippines and throughout the region. Poverty incidence among Filipinos had risen to 23.7 per cent by the first half of 2021 compared to 21.1 per cent in mid-2018. In 2018, BARMM had the highest poverty incidence in the country in 2018, at 59.9 per cent. By mid-2021 its poverty incidence rate had dropped 17.4 per cent.

Despite the persistently high poverty incidence, there were glimmers of hope starting to appear in 2021 when the Philippine Statistics Authority reported a return to economic expansion as the country's Gross Domestic Product grew by 5.6 per cent – following a deep contraction of 9.6 per cent in 2020. The growth was most likely due to the availability of vaccines and the pace of vaccinations, as the Government administered 108 million doses, with 50 million individuals fully vaccinated by the end of 2021 (about 45 per cent of the population).

School closures unfortunately contributed to a worsening of learning poverty that was already high prior to COVID-19. According to a joint report by UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank (*Where are We on Education Recovery?*), less than 10 per cent of Filipino children at age 10 can currently read or write at a basic level.



Image representing Filipinos' solidarity amid COVID-19

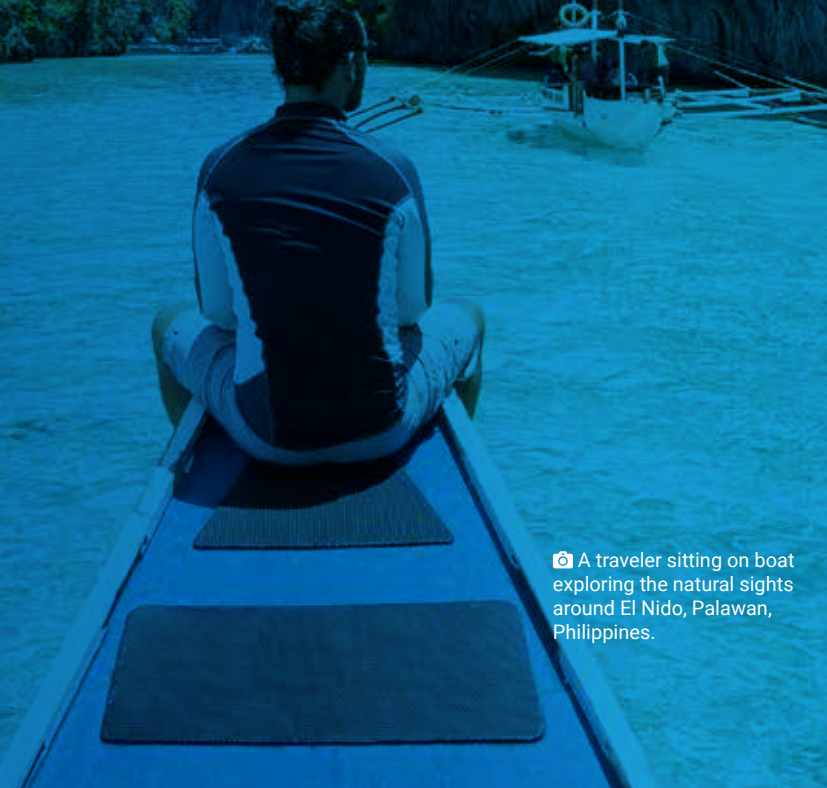
According to the ILO, Filipino workers who remained employed during the pandemic saw a 13.6 per cent drop in their working hours, the largest in the ASEAN region. As such data became evident, combined with an increased understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 through research and implementation, UN agencies' programmes were adjusted to better support recovery efforts.

The increased use of digital solutions in 2021 underscored modern technologies' importance and potential. For example, according to a report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, there has been an increase in the use of mobile wallets for economic transactions. However, the pandemic also deepened pre-existing digital divides. As many essential and public services became digitalized during the pandemic, those without computers

and internet access were in danger of being left even further behind. Schools have been a prime example of this phenomenon as many poor provincial communities still lacked the necessary infrastructure and technological skills to fully access and participate in the digital world.

# 2 UN development system support to national priorities through the Cooperation Framework

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is the most important instrument for planning and implementing the UN development activities of all UN agencies, funds and programmes at country level. It guides the entire programme cycle, driving planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

 A traveler sitting on boat exploring the natural sights around El Nido, Palawan, Philippines.

## 2.1 Overview of cooperation framework results

The UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery (SEPF) provides a roadmap for prioritizing, aligning, and positioning the UN system in the Philippines through the year 2023. The SEPF, which also serves as the UN Philippines' COVID-19 response plan, addresses in an integrated manner the areas most in need of attention and support across three mutually reinforcing pillars: 1) People, 2) Prosperity and Planet, and 3) Peace. It is fully aligned with and supports the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, integrating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and serving as the roadmap for achieving the global 2030 Agenda and the country's long-term vision as articulated in *Ambisyon Natin 2040*. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an updated PDP was released in early 2021, prioritizing the health and resilience of Filipinos while at the same time promoting economic recovery.

The Philippine Government exerted significant efforts to address the needs of disadvantaged and at-risk groups in 2021 – those that the UN SEPF identified and committed as “the people that we must reach.” Examples include strengthened and expanded social protection systems, through initiatives such as the rollout of the Philippine Identification System to enable better beneficiary targeting and expanded financial inclusion.

To address ongoing human development challenges and those caused by the pandemic, the Government passed a number of key policies and legislation and implemented programmes, many with UN support and assistance (see [Box 1](#)).

For example, the first ever UN Joint Programme on human rights was formulated and launched in response to Human Rights Council resolution 45/33. The UN system in the Philippines is supporting this initiative through capacity-building and technical cooperation in six areas: namely, strengthening domestic investigation and accountability mechanisms; data gathering on alleged police violations; civic space and engagement with civil society and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR); national mechanism for reporting and follow-up; counter-terrorism legislation; and human rights-based approaches to drug control.

The UN also provided technical expertise to facilitate a multi-stakeholder and inclusive process that led to the adoption of the law creating the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), which includes, among other things, specific provisions to address violence against women. In December 2021, the Government launched its

National Action Plan on Sustainable and Gender-Responsive Return and Reintegration to strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and to empower women migrant workers to rebuild their lives and livelihoods when they return to their families and communities. The plan, which was broadly supported by the UN, also fosters reintegration pathways to address the climate crisis and other environmental challenges.

Joint UN advocacy in 2021 also concentrated on increasing the age for determining statutory rape, an act that is expected to be passed early in 2022. This law will bring a more robust child protection legal framework by increasing the age to determine statutory rape from 12 to 16 years and under. The law addresses the severe physical, psychological and social harm that sexual violence causes and seeks to eliminate the increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, pain, illness, unwanted pregnancies, social isolation and psychological trauma.



A woman migrant worker holds a placard as part of the Migrants/Women Workers Oath or "Panata" to protect, promote and defend their rights as women, as workers, and as migrants. Photo from ILO/Avic Ilagan

## Box 3

## UN Joint Programme on Human Rights



1st row, from left to right: United Nations Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez, Secretary of Justice Menardo I. Guevarra, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. sign the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights at the Department of Foreign Affairs on 22 July 2021. Photo by UN Philippines/Gaylord Hintay

In July 2021, the Government and the UN signed a three-year "UN Joint Programme (UNJP) on technical cooperation and capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines." The first of its kind, the UNJP is unique in its emphasis on bringing together key actors from within the Government, the UN, the Commission on Human Rights and civil society to discuss and identify ways to address complex human rights issues. OHCHR, UNESCO, UNOCT and UNODC contribute international expertise and best practices, while policy makers, national experts, and civil society actors provide expertise on the local context, legal frameworks and other aspects. This facilitated mutual learning, new approaches and increased action in areas including accountability for human rights violations and abuses, civic space, counter-terrorism legislation and human rights-based approaches to controlling illegal drugs.

In 2021, UNJP partners organized a series of workshops on strengthening the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up; developed recommendations for strengthening accountability measures; organized awareness-raising sessions on Human Rights Defenders legislation; and supported a National Consultation on the Guidelines on Human Rights and Drugs.

Aligned with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the UNJP emphasizes that human rights are at the core of sustainable development, peace and security. The human rights-based approach is integrated into all three pillars of the SEPF, and a dedicated joint programme on human rights will have a catalytic impact on achieving results across the pillars. ■



## Box 4

## Policy Notes to inform SEPF implementation



📖 Covers of UN Philippines Policy Briefs on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security in Metro Manila, Medium-, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Jobs and the Economy, published in August 2021.

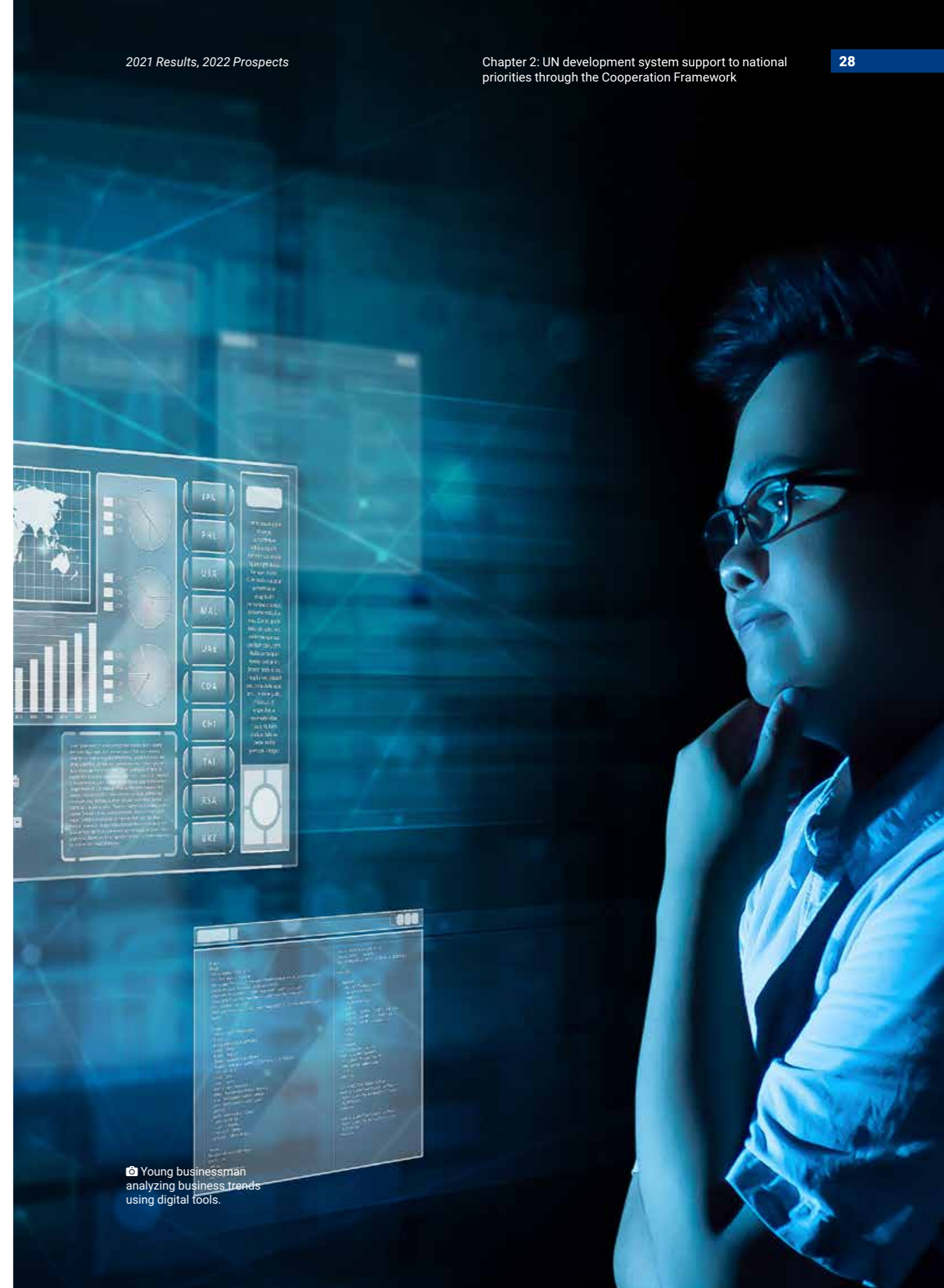
At the end of 2020 the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) launched a call for joint research proposals, resulting in three unique pieces of research. In 2021, the research reports were completed. In August 2021 the UN Philippines three policy briefs summarizing the findings on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security in Metro Manila, Medium-, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Jobs and the Economy.

In implementing the SEPF, the UNCT will be guided by a set of Policy Notes focusing on key policy areas of special relevance and opportunity for the UN in the Philippines. With support from expert consultants, Policy Notes on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and on Prevention have

been formulated with clear action points and recommendations on how the UN can take forward important global agendas in the Philippines. The Policy Note on SSTC provides the UN with guidance on how to support the Government's ambition to strengthen Philippines' regional position in the SSTC area, together with other partners, and recommends catalytic actions to consider when facilitating the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into each step of the implementation of SEPF. The Policy Note on Prevention offers a strong collective focus on prevention by operationalizing and adapting the Secretary-General's Prevention Agenda to the current realities on the ground in the Philippines. ■



*Policy notes have been formulated with clear action points and recommendations on how the UN can take forward important global agendas in the Philippines*



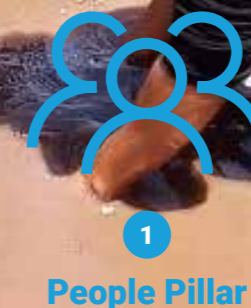
📖 Young businessman analyzing business trends using digital tools.



# COVID-19

## 2.2 Cooperation framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

The UN's work in the Philippines is organized across three interconnected and synergistic spheres – or “pillars” of focus, with each connected to a corresponding outcome:



**Outcome 1:** The most marginalized, vulnerable, and at-risk people and groups benefit from more inclusive and quality services and live in more supportive environments where their nutrition, food security, health and life-long learning are ensured and protected.

The UN's actions under this first pillar align with the Philippine Development Plan priorities that focus on enhancing the social fabric (*malasakit*) and inequality reducing transformation (*pagbabago*). The UN supports the people and Government of the Philippines in their effort to achieve a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living for all Filipinos.

In 2021, the UN continued to provide strategic policy advice and support to the Government in several key areas of human development, leading to the adoption of new laws promoting, for example, the well-

being of marginalized populations such as young people, migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, populations at risk of statelessness, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Government, with UN support, also delivered targeted programmes on reintegration and family support to assist returned migrant workers (which reached over 800,000 in 2021 from the pandemic start) and initiated a new system to provide support for teenage mothers and their children.

The Government also made, with UN support, several important

(Left) COVID-19 Coronavirus economic impact on the Philippines.

As part of its social cohesion project funded by the The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila and in cooperation with the Municipal Technical Working Group of Pandami, Sulu, IOM organized a community-based mangrove reforestation activity at Ligayan Bakkawan, Barangay Suba-Suba. Photo from IOM Philippines



and strategic commitments in various SDG-related food and nutrition platforms (i.e., Nutrition for Growth, Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, Food Systems Summit). The Government launched its Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0 strategy and submitted its Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments. As a result, the Philippines, with UN support, established non-financial and financial N4G commitments worth US\$411 million to transform food systems and to address malnutrition in all its forms. The effort will help ensure that nutrition is an integral part of Universal Health Care/Primary Health Care (UHC/PHC).

As a result of UN technical support and advocacy, the Congress of the Philippines ratified the Prohibition of Child Marriage Law in 2021,

considered a major milestone for strengthening the rights of the child in the Philippines. With this law, it is expected that a lifetime of suffering will be avoided for many young girls. When unmarried, girls in the Philippines are more likely to be educated and lead healthier lives. Furthermore, studies show that girls married before 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence and abuse.

The UN also supported the development of the Adolescent Pregnancy Bill in 2021. Although it remains pending, the President issued Executive Order 141 as an interim legal framework, declaring the prevention of adolescent pregnancies a national priority.



📷 (Clockwise, from left to right) School-feeding programme in Marawi City. Photo from WFP/Marilou Cezar ; Women officers of a cooperative of rice farmers and agrarian reform beneficiaries in Barangay Campo IV, located in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur. Photo from Project ConVERGE/Katrin Arcala ; Close to 200,000 Pfizer vaccines from the COVAX Facility arrived on 11 May 2021 at the Manila International Airport. United Nations (UN) Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez observed the receipt of the vaccines by Secretary Vince Dizon, National Task Force for COVID-19 deputy chief implementor, along with World Health Organization country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) deputy representative Behzad Noubary, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, among others. Photo by UNIC Manila/Jeremy Arevalo ; Members of the United Nations (UN) Country Team in the Philippines, led by UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez, came to Cotabato City yesterday to support the three-day National COVID-19 Vaccination Days campaign in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)



UN agencies worked to **advance health equity by improving vaccination access** for vulnerable groups

As part of its support to the Government's COVID-19 pandemic response, the UN provided 69,147,290 doses of COVID-19 vaccines that were used to vaccinate 30.9 per cent of the population. The support also included test kits and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies, and technical assistance to national and local governments. The latter included setting up 239 testing laboratories and bio-surveillance systems for monitoring the SARS-CoV2 variance. The continued improvement in safety surveillance through UN support ensured that thousands of reported adverse events were appropriately responded to and public confidence in the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines maintained.

UN agencies worked to advance health equity by improving vaccination access for vulnerable groups through advocacy with partners, community engagement, and addressing barriers and other social determinants. For example, the UN system joined the Philippine Department of Health (DOH), Quezon City Health Department and several civil society organizations such as Australian Aid, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia Pacific, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, and Kalinga Foundation to identify and overcome some of the barriers to vaccination. These barriers included being homeless or survivors of gender-based violence, or living with a disability. The joint operation contributed to a vaccination drive that vaccinated thousands of vulnerable individuals while also documenting how local governments can support at-risk populations by tailoring community interventions (See Box 5 for an example).

In 2021, the UN supported the Department of Education (DepEd) to develop an online learning platform called *Commons*, which was used to enroll more than three million children in distance learning modalities. The UN also provided technical assistance to the departments



📷 This woman's house was destroyed during Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda, so they moved to her grandmother's house who lives in Barangay (village) Tagitkik. Her husband has a job, but it is not enough to support them. To help her husband, she took this job at the Tacloban City airport so their child will have a better future. Photo by Ranzell

of education and health (DOH) to develop a pilot programme that allowed 15,000 children to access in-person classes in November 2021. Students in disadvantaged contexts, including out-of-school adolescents, were supported with devices and no-tech solutions for areas without connectivity.

To strengthen the country's capacity with social protection, the UN supported evidence-based programming through a landscape analysis report on social protection and social health protection (SP-SPH). This provided a better understanding of the local environment and recommendations for SP-SPH schemes to become more inclusive, targeting vulnerable populations with specific health conditions. In addition, a mapping exercise of SP-SPH facilities was carried out and the results incorporated into innovative initiatives, such as the DOH's digital care app, which allows individuals to screen themselves for eligibility for social protection and healthcare. The application also directs them to the nearest facility where they can access the services. Another app targets people suffering from tuberculosis, letting them know where and when they can get critical support for their condition.

More broadly, the UN Joint Programme on Risk-Informed Shock-Responsive Social Protection provided analysis and suggestions for policy reform to strengthen social safety nets and promote equitable access to services. The Joint

SDG Fund supported a joint programme for risk-informed shock-responsive social protection in the same area.

Also in 2021, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) scaled up its support to vulnerable communities, whether ex-ante or ex-post disaster, by building on existing large scale social assistance programmes, allowing for faster and more efficient delivery of services. The UN-supported system encourages investing in improving delivery systems and contingency planning to immediately scale up coverage using existing social registries and targeting high-risk households.

The United Nations in the Philippines is supporting the country's response to illicit drug use through a health driven and human rights-based approach, and has assisted in drafting a drug demand reduction strategy. The country has a 2.05 per cent prevalence rate of current illicit drug users – roughly 1.67 million people. Because about 71 per cent of the population in jail facilities are incarcerated for reasons linked to illicit drugs, the UN has increased its engagement with this population, resulting in an extension of services, policy changes towards more human rights-based approaches, and an expansion of support from development partners. All these gains will be consolidated in 2022 and further expanded as part of the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights in the Philippines.

## Box 5

## Making COVID-19 vaccines available to the homeless and vulnerable



On a humid Manila day, a shoeless man in black shorts, black t-shirt, and blue football club cap eased himself down, out of an iconic Philippine jeepney and into a wheelchair. This was a good day. Today, he received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Robert is one of nearly three million homeless people in the National Capital Region (NCR), to which the City of Manila belongs. With money earned from begging, he pays for food, and anything left over goes into medicines. Diabetes has cost him some of his toes and fingers.

Despite his health needs, he is not comfortable dealing with officials or health workers.

"I haven't asked for help from the barangay (village) clinic because I get embarrassed when I go there. When people see me, they are disgusted by my appearance. It is hurtful when I see people being disgusted by how I look, or just because I roam the streets, am homeless and don't have an address," Robert said.

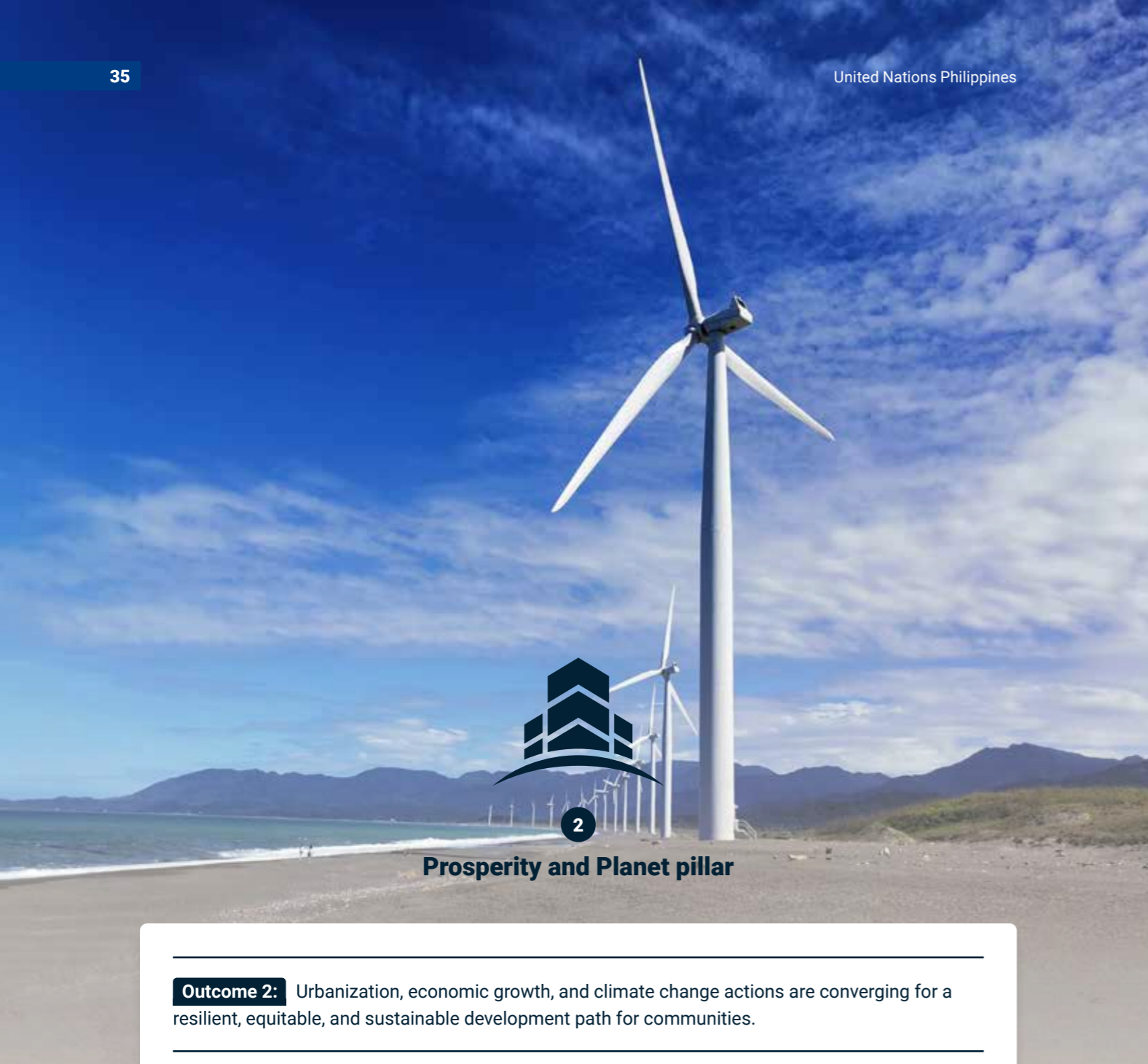
On this day, he is at the gymnasium of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman,

Quezon City which has been turned into a vaccination centre to reach those who might miss out on life-saving vaccines because of stigma, a lack of money or residential address, access to vaccination registration, or other barriers.

The two-day vaccination drive, which fully vaccinated over 650 people, is part of a wider effort to support local government units around the Philippines to partner with civil society organizations (CSOs) to reach people from a variety of situations, such as being homeless or survivors of gender-based violence, or living with a disability, that make them more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

The drive was organized by the Philippine Department of Health (DOH), and the UN Philippines and partners. This pilot community vaccination serves as an inspiration and proof of concept of how the DOH and its development and civil society partners can reach vulnerable populations in NCR and other regions.

Watch the whole video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd2uUzipEg8&t=1swatch?v=cd2uUzipEg8&t=1s> ■



## Prosperity and Planet pillar

**Outcome 2:** Urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable development path for communities.

Through its focus on Prosperity and Planet, the UN system in the Philippines contributes primarily to the strengthening of foundations for sustainable development and aligns with the priorities in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 on inequality-reducing transformations (*pagbabago*) and on increasing growth potential (*patuloy na pag-unlad*). Through an inclusive and evidence-based approach, the UN system in the Philippines concentrated in 2021 on supporting the country's ability to anticipate and leverage the challenging convergence of climate change, natural hazards, economic growth and rapid urbanization and to put in place the necessary systems to recover from

shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis. This approach is expected to help the country to reduce income poverty in the medium term, and to achieve shared and sustained prosperity for all in the long term.

In an effort to assess the specific and far-reaching impacts of the pandemic on key economic sectors, the UN worked in 2021 with key development partners, the Government, the private sector (including employers' organizations), women entrepreneurs, exporters, social enterprises, workers and other stakeholders to produce four technical reports that propose specific recovery actions for supporting inclusive economic growth, strengthening agriculture



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*The UN in the Philippines also worked throughout the year to **support broader economic recovery***

📷 (Left) Bangui Wind Farm in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

📷 (Above) Workers wear personal protective equipment in manufacturing probiotic health drinks. Manufacturing is a sector with the highest proportion of occupational accidents involving young people. Photo from ILO/M. Fossat

and food systems, promoting decent work, building resilience and improving natural resource management. The policy briefs also explore strategies to strengthen MSMEs, expand productive employment, and address agrifood supply chain constraints.

In support of the Philippines' commitment under the Paris Agreement, the UN supported the Philippines in preparing background notes to inform the preparation of its first submission on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These included analysis of emissions from short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), refinement of sectoral analyses, integration of results from economic impact analyses, and finalization of its sectoral mitigation targets and measures. In support of the Philippines NDCs, the UN also supported the development of a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) plan through a whole-of-government and whole-

of-society approach that supports contributions in the sectors of agriculture, waste, industry, transport, energy, and forestry.

Considering the high levels of climate vulnerabilities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), including floods, typhoons, and droughts, the UN worked closely with local authorities and community organizations to build the resilience of the most vulnerable populations. The UN partners also worked with the local government to develop a regional social protection operational framework that is both risk-informed and shock-responsive.

The UN helped update the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan to include pandemics and an accompanying monitoring and evaluation system to track progress with projects and initiatives. It is in the process of scoping the Resilience Index with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to measure the effectiveness of ecosystem interventions in strengthening the resilience of communities.

The UN supported the government in the preparation of the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter (NPOA-ML), to ensure a multistakeholder approach in solving this issue. The aim is to ensure zero waste in Philippine waters by 2040. The Plan now serves as the framework for engaging with partners, including local governments, to tackle the issue.

In environmental protection, the UN worked with the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining sector to move away from the use of toxic mercury in their gold extraction activities. It also assisted the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on gold trading policies, development of the CRAFT code (Code of Risk mitigation for Artisanal and small-scale miners engaging in Formal Trade), and

“

**The UN Philippines set up a new Resilience Index with the National Economic Development Authority to measure the effectiveness of ecosystem interventions in strengthening the resilience of communities**



📷 Norsida Kanayo, 28, was happy to see her child Namraida Drapal, 16 months old, recover from severe acute malnutrition. She assists her in consuming ready-to-use therapeutic food allocated by UNICEF. Photo from UNICEF/Louie Pacardo

registration and certification under such. The initiative for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining sector lessened the environmental impact from the use of mercury and provided a safe and healthy working environment for the sector.

The UN in the Philippines also worked throughout the year to support broader economic recovery. Within the context of the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) 2021-2022, the UN provided technical and advisory support to the National Job Summit, which aimed to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis through accelerated job creation. The UN also worked to facilitate trade, enhance export quality and food safety, and support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) through expanded and improved e-commerce. The UN worked with relevant government ministries to improve trade, industry and investment policy and provided training to the newly-established Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC), tasked with implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The UN also conducted a thorough mapping of the Philippine entrepreneurship ecosystem to analyze network connections and interactions. A tailored package support for Philippine youth entrepreneurs, the ARISE Plus YE! Boost Accelerator, was launched to support selected Philippine youth-led businesses that are ready to scale internationally, with business development services and coaching, and with a specific focus on accessing and understanding the EU market.

## Box 6

## Rebuilding Marawi through community-driven solutions



📷 Anisah (second from the right) at the construction site with officers of the Saduc Riverside Homeowners Association. Photo from UN-Habitat

In May 2017, conflict broke out in Marawi between armed groups and the government of the Philippines, displacing nearly 360,000 people at the height of the conflict. The Rebuilding Marawi project, funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the UN Philippines, is supporting conflict-affected and internally-displaced persons (IDPs) of Marawi City by providing permanent shelters and livelihood support. It is implemented through a community-driven approach that has been used and proven effective in empowering communities in post-disaster and post-conflict situations.

In 2021, a total of 538 permanent houses were handed over to families, out of 1,000 targeted to be completed by 31 May 2022. The project provided start-up capital to 33 cooperatives operating a total of 82 kinds of livelihoods, directly and indirectly benefitting a total of 8,380 individuals. Other project initiatives included peace-building and capacity-building activities and organizing of homeowners associations and cooperatives. The project has developed the Rebuilding Marawi Geodatabase which stores the profiles of 1,000 IDPs linked digitally to maps of their original location inside the Most Affected Area (MAA) in Marawi City and their assigned resettlement sites. ■



### 3 Peace Pillar

**Outcome 3:** Through inclusive and accountable governance, decent employment generation and essential services of health, education, security, justice, protection and recovery systems reach the most vulnerable in Mindanao, resulting in socially cohesive and resilient communities.

The third component of the UN's tripartite approach to supporting sustainable development in the Philippines promotes peace by strengthening the foundations for inclusive and participatory development, income generation, and resilience in communities affected by violence. It aligns with those elements of the Philippine Development Plan that call for attaining just and lasting peace and enhancing the social fabric (*malasakit*) as well as inequality-reducing transformation (*pagbabago*). Conflict prevention depends for the most part on inclusive and sustainable development anchored in principles of human rights, gender equality, and leaving no one behind.

The deployment of an Area Coordinator to Cotabato in November formally established the UN's Joint UN Coordination Office in BARMM. The post of the Area Coordinator is jointly funded by the UN Country Team members, and the co-location of the Area Coordinator with the OCHA representative in Cotabato strengthens UN coordination and coherence overall as well as the integration of activities across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding areas of UN work. In 2021, the Bangsamoro government strived to mitigate the pandemic's economic and social impacts by increasing its health capacity using pro-active protocols and assistance programmes



*The Peace Pillar aligns with those elements of the Philippine Development Plan that **call for attaining just and lasting peace and enhancing the social fabric (malasakit)***

📷 (Left) Adnan Amerol and his family, home-partners at Marawi Resettlement Site Phase 1 in Hadiya Village, Brgy. Dulay West. Photo from UN-Habitat

📷 (Below) Quezon Memorial Circle, Philippines - July 16, 2021: This bell was given by the World Peace Bell Association to the Philippines in recognition of its adherence to democracy. Photo from Shutterstock/Francis Ryan Sabayle

for communities. In this way, the BARMM administration was able to significantly reduce the pre-pandemic poverty incidence from 55.9 per cent in 2018 to 39.4 per cent in 2021. This considerable reduction of poverty incidence when other regions were recording an increase was an achievement noted in UNDP's Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BARMM.

The UN supported the Government of the Philippines to sustain peace dividends through joint programmes

that strengthen governance, foster social cohesion and expand equitable access to livelihood and basic services. The UN Peacebuilding Fund supported a joint programme to promote conflict prevention, social cohesion and community resilience in the BARMM region, and also helped set up 15 Peace and Order Councils in conflict-affected barangays in the SPMS Box South Upi, Pikit, and Midsayap, and provided livelihood assistance to approximately 2,000 women former combatants (Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade [BIWAB]).



The UN system also provided direct support and technical assistance to relevant government agencies through 17 projects in all five provinces and the special geographic area (SGA) of BARMM, concentrating in areas with conflict or with high-reported cases of COVID-19. These locations included Marawi City, Cotabato City, the SPMS box, Butig, Malabang, Lamitan City, Jolo, Bongao, Upi, South Upi, Talayan, among others. Support included drinking water and handwashing stations, sanitation facilities, support for agricultural and agribusiness enterprises, cooperative support, and Cash for Work initiatives. The UN also provided support for vaccine distribution through cold chain vehicles, solar vaccine refrigerators, technical capacity building, and logistical and human resources support.

UN support further improved capacity, policies and programmes across local and regional government institutions to prepare for

recovery alongside the activities of the transition process. Key regional-level policies, plans and codes developed with support of the UN include the Bangsamoro Development Plan, the Camp Transformation Plan, the Bangsamoro Response and Recovery Plan for COVID-19, the Investment Management Plan for Overseas Bangsamoro Workers, the localization of the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP-WPS), the BARMM Labour and Employment Code and the Bangsamoro Community Resiliency Framework. All of these helped promote evidence-based budget allocations for ministries in 2022, increased investment and integration of Madrasahs, promoted higher learning and peace promotion in the BARMM education system, and supported the reintegration of returning overseas workers to the BARMM. The UN also helped develop a system to prioritize public investments from all parties to upgrade the six recognized Moro Islamic

Liberation Front (MILF) camps, and to support Women Peace and Security operations in 17 LGUs.

Through the provision of in-kind and technical support on Health, WASH, Protection and Livelihoods, the UN strengthened infection prevention and control in the region, and promoted short- and long-term recovery. The UN supported the Ministry of Health with critical medical infrastructure, logistics, training programs and surge support for health workers and frontliners in vaccination campaigns. Through this support, local governments in conflict zones were better able to provide the most vulnerable with social protection safety nets. Local governments from all five BARMM provinces and Bangsamoro's Special Geographic Area (SGA) were supported.

The UN also supported the regional governments in BARMM to develop key regional policies and plans that included the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority's

Bangsamoro Development Plan, the Camp Transformation and Investment Plan and the 2020-2022 Bangsamoro COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan. Furthermore, the UN supported the development and adoption of the BARMM's Community Resilience multi-stakeholder framework (CoRE) addressing early warning, response, prevention, and management of natural and man-made disasters.

The UN helped the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) to implement its decent work agenda through capacity development and policy advice, including the development of the Investment Management Plan for Overseas Bangsamoro Workers. The UN also provided strategic support to localizing the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAP-WPS) in 17 conflict-affected LGUs by including women and girls in community peacebuilding and protection processes.

Under the normalization process, the UN supported the socio-economic reintegration of approximately 1,200 ex-combatants in BARMM (75 per cent of whom are women) through multi-sectoral livelihood interventions and the deployment of eight joint Peace and Security Teams



📷 (Left) UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (center) meets with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and community leaders in the Market Evacuation Center in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Salibu, Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Photo from UN Philippines/Jeremy Arevalo

📷 (Above) One of the recipient-families in Lanao del Sur of cash transfer "ayuda" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic under the UN Joint Programme on Shock-Responsive Social Protection in Mindanao. Photo from FAO-Philippines



with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine National Police (PNP). The support included construction of host stations and training on gender-sensitive operations. Furthermore, the UN helped 3,700 families, comprising former combatants (MILF/MNLF), Abu Sanyaf Group (ASG) surrenderees, and members of indigenous communities to access income-generating activities in agriculture and agro-forestry through a strengthened convergence of service delivery from government and development partners.

### The UN strengthened the following...

approximately

**100** 

producer groups in conflict-affected areas in 2021

supported

**11** 

BARMM government ministries and attached agencies

approximately

**360** 

provincial, municipal and city LGUs in the implementation of:

- inclusive, community-based and context-sensitive peacebuilding programming
- construction of WASH facilities
- construction and maintenance of infrastructure

The UN's peacebuilding joint programme initiative also established women-led community conflict-resolution and protection mechanisms in conflict hotspots to further reinforce the peace process. Community security was further enhanced through social cohesion initiatives implemented by the UN across 136 communities in hotspots including Marawi, the SPMS Box (Salibo, Pagatin, Mamasapano, and Shariff Aguak), South Upi, SGA and BaSulTa.

### The UN's efforts to promote inclusion and women's empowerment in peacebuilding included the strengthening of...

**87** 

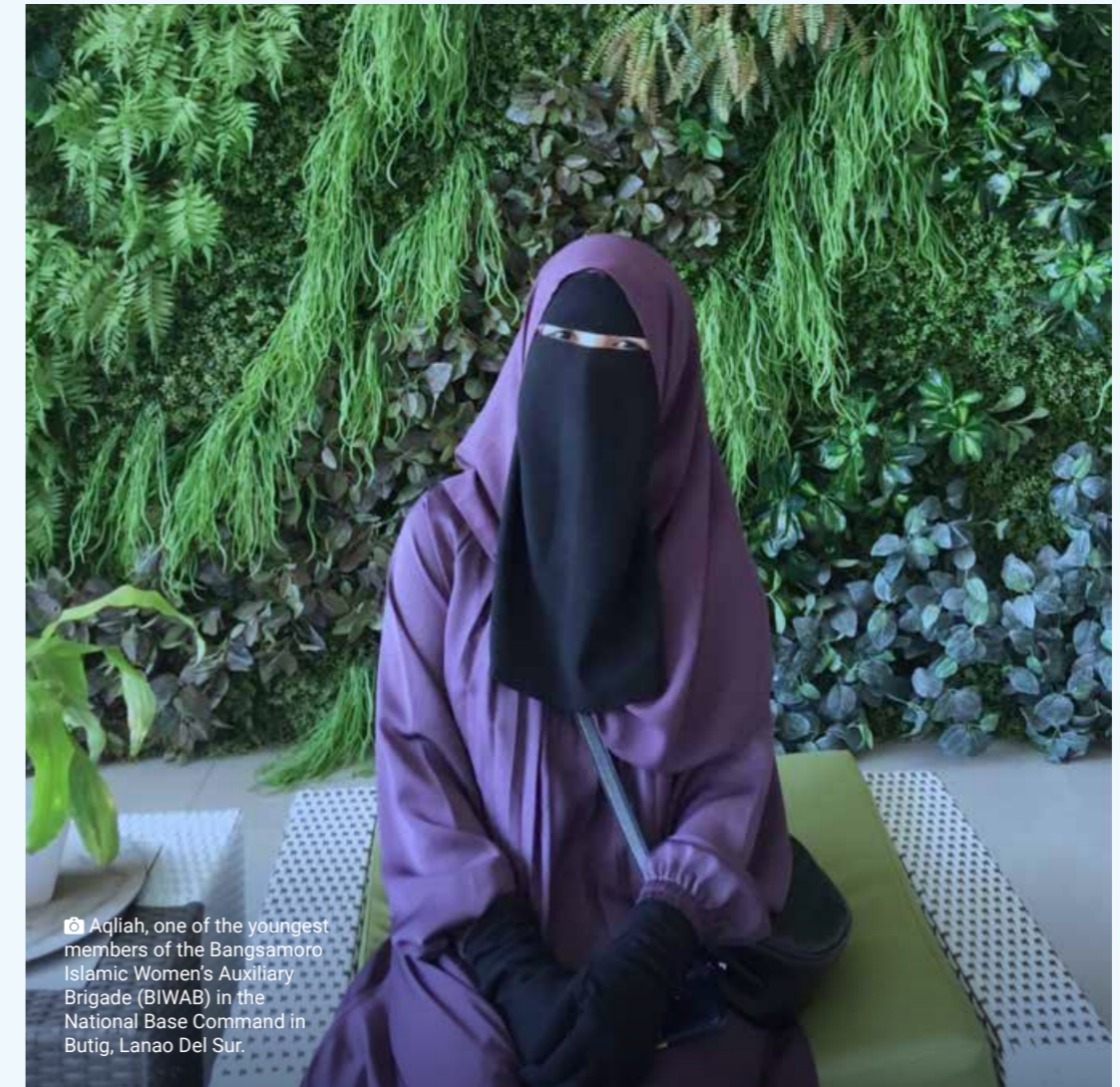
inclusive and gender-responsive **Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams**, and


**11** 

women-led **Community Quick Response Teams**

#### Box 7

## Battle-hardened Moro women become peacemakers



 Aqliah, one of the youngest members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) in the National Base Command in Butig, Lanao Del Sur.

Aqliah recalls a time in her childhood when her mother, a former member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), struggled to find work outside of their camp. Things changed for the family when her mother joined the Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB), which offered members livelihood opportunities. Aqliah, now 22, followed her mother's example and became one of the youngest BIWAB members

in the National Base Command in Butig, Lanao Del Sur.

The BIWAB Sajaratuddor Association, of which Aqliah is a member, is supported by the United Nations Peacebuilding- funded project, Supporting Conflict Transformation Toward Effective Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Region (STEP BARMM).



*In this period of transition, our Regional Action Plan on women peace and security helped **enhance the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution***

**Helen Rojas**, chief of staff to the chair of the Bangsamoro Women Commission

STEP BARMM aims to strengthen the relationship between former women combatants and members of the community as the women transition into civilian life. Aside from developing livelihood alternatives for the women, STEP BARMM also enhances their role as peace advocates.

STEP BARMM also supports Bangsamoro ministries and commissions to understand conflict dynamics and identify programmes and policies that enhance inclusivity in line with the women, peace and security agenda.

Helen Rojas, chief of staff to the chair of the Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC), says that the BWC works with STEP BARMM to open up spaces for women to engage in peacebuilding. The Peacebuilding Fund supported the BWC in implementing the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (BM-RAPWPS) 2020-2022.

Helen says, "In this period of transition, our Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security helped in enhancing the role of women in conflict transformation, in implementing the peace agreement and in identifying the appropriate interventions needed to enhance the role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding."

Moreover, where security forces are unavailable and conflict occurs frequently, STEP BARMM supports local peacekeeping teams such as the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) to strengthen the connection between communities and the police in BARMM.

Abubakar Alamada has been a member of the BPAT for many years. Whenever there is a problem, the community immediately calls on his team. "We go to the community to understand what the problem is about and we help them to the best of our ability," Alamada says.

Aqliah and other members of BIWAB associations and cooperatives are grateful not just for the income they earn but also for being able to organize with a common goal of peace.

Aqliah is also following her parents' advice to invest in education rather than in hatred and violence. She is taking up Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education while actively participating in the BIWAB Sajaratuddor Association. ■

## Box 8

## Humanitarian Community mobilized to support the Government's response to Typhoon Goni



Child Friendly Space provided and managed by UNICEF and Phil. Red Cross in San Andres, Catanduanes 29 April 2021. Photo from OCHA/Martin San Diego

On 1 November 2020, Typhoon Goni, the world's most powerful tropical cyclone of the year, brought torrential rains, violent winds, mudslides and storm surges to the Philippines' largest island of Luzon. The typhoon, locally known as Super Typhoon Rolly, caused extensive destruction and damage, killing at least 24 people, injuring 399 and displacing 85,400. The typhoon affected an estimated 25 million people, of whom 2.5 million are considered poor, in 8 of the country's 17 regions. While authorities pre-emptively evacuated over 500,000, effectively saving many lives, structural damage was widespread, with an estimated 183,300 houses, 67 health facilities and at least 1,000 schools damaged or destroyed.

The COVID-19 pandemic further compounded the humanitarian situation by increasing the economic and disease-related vulnerability

of a population already impacted by multiple severe weather situations in 2020.

In an effort to respond to the ongoing crisis, the Foreign Affairs Secretary invited the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RCHC) to contribute to the government-led response in the most affected areas. Under the leadership of the RCHC, the Humanitarian Country Team released a response plan- informed by the Joint NDRRMC-HCT- Albay LGU rapid needs assessment, calling for \$52.6 million to address multi-sectoral needs of 260,000 people in Albay and Catanduanes, in support of the government's response efforts.

The Plan was 25.7 percent funded with the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as one of the contributors. The USD3,113,385 CERF allocation by the Emergency Relief



Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez with Ambassador of Canada, Peter MacArthur, and Ambassador of Germany, Anke Reiffenstuel, briefing with UNDSS at Legazpi Airport, Legazpi City, Albay 27 April 2021. Photo from OCHA/Martin San Diego

Coordinator enabled UN agencies and partners to provide life-saving assistance to 211,694 people, more than the 55,000 targeted beneficiaries – including 15,765 women, 16,143 men, 11,310 girls, 11,782 boys, and 1,000 people with disabilities. The CERF allocation to UNICEF, IOM and WFP allowed the three agencies to prioritize water supplies, sanitation services, emergency shelter and food to address time critical needs. On 27 to 31 January 2021, the RCHC led a high-level CERF mission in Albay and Catanduanes. He was joined by the Ambassadors of Canada and Germany, representatives of UNICEF, IOM, WFP and implementing partners.

Good practices and lessons learned during the Typhoon Goni response among others are:

- Implementing response agencies maximized established partnership and local coordination mechanism with the provincial government and authorities, other actors/ organizations, and networks at the field level;

- CERF served as an entry platform to lifesaving assistance which eventually link up to the provision of support to early recovery especially on local economy, livelihood assistance, relocation support to local government for permanently displaced population from other humanitarian and development agencies;

- Using cash assistance to support the most vulnerable families affected by the typhoon has proven to be an effective and dignified way to provide aid while helping boost the local economy;

- Strong community engagement and consistent accountability to affected population activities have provided aid implementors feedback from affected communities on the aid received; and

- Humanitarian life-saving activities initiated earlier in the response served as the trigger to advocate for strong and interdependent humanitarian-development nexus. ■

## 2.3 Expanding cooperation and partnerships for the 2030 Agenda in the Philippines

The COVID-19 pandemic and a series of typhoons hit the country hard in 2021 but were met with an equal and opposing force formed by expanded partnerships and innovative alliances. The challenges provided opportunities to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially among development partners, in an effort to mitigate the economic, environmental and social shocks for the most vulnerable.

The UN system in the Philippines offers catalytic support to its partners to ensure effectively-targeted resource allocations to areas most in need of investments. To help ensure the highest impact with limited resources the UN strengthened the country's national planning and budgeting mechanisms to promote efficiency, transparency and accountability. For example, the UN is working with the Department of Health to upgrade, enhance and expand the national health system to limit the spread of COVID-19, a project financed with a USD 59.4 million loan from the Asian Development Bank. This aims to strengthen DOH's capacity for COVID-19 testing, surveillance, infection prevention and control.



To help ensure the highest impact with limited resources the UN **strengthened** the country's **national planning** and **budgeting mechanisms**

The coordinated actions that were formed to address the pandemic challenges also worked with and through local governments, thereby supporting the localization agenda, which aims to enhance the service delivery of local government units through enhanced decentralization of basic services of the government. As part of this effort,

the UN held several consultations with labour organizations, youth, private sector, CSOs, human rights organizations, INGOs, and Bangsamoro-based NGOs to target multiple stakeholders as represented by the groups and to create a space for dialogue through which key cooperation partners could voice their feedback and recommendations to the Government and the UN.

The search for effective responses to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic has accelerated the development of new and innovative cooperation modalities beyond the traditional ODA. In this context, the RC Office supported the preparation of a Policy Note on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), identifying opportunities for joint action on SSTC through the SEPF.

The Philippines remains highly vulnerable to recurring extreme weather events, as demonstrated by the severe damage in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette, which hit the country in December 2021. Coordinated preparedness and response to such natural disasters requires strong partnerships across humanitarian and development fields, and among the UN, NGOs, private sector, and Government entities. Collaboration starts from mitigation to early warning systems and updating of contingency plans to ensure that responses are



These children are playing dampa inside their house in Anibong, Tacloban City. Dampa is a local game played with rubber bands. Photo from UNICEF Philippines/Zyron (12)

timely, coordinated and efficient. Growing evidence from global and local experiences show that acting prior to the onset of a predictable shock is significantly faster, dignified, and more cost-effective than traditional humanitarian response. The Philippines was chosen as one of the pilot countries in 2021 to implement Anticipatory Action for a severe typhoon under the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) managed by the UN OCHA. The initial implementation of the pilot, which were mainly preparedness activities, provided the opportunity to engage government authorities at all levels, CSOs, NGOs and the private sector.

The UN Resident Coordinator Office also adapted and applied the Secretary-General's Prevention Agenda to the current realities on the ground in the Philippines through strengthening the collection and use of data, expanding the use of its convening role, and increasing the design and implementation of joint interventions.

Strong partnerships led to the successful start of implementation of the SDG Fund Joint Programme on Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by applying an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). The joint programme intends to apply the four building blocks of the INFF in order to leverage additional financing to accelerate the achievement of SDGs, especially the ones critical to meeting the country's full economic potential, such as investing in health, education, and productivity towards a demographic dividend.

As part of this, the joint programme is helping develop an innovative methodology to track government allocations and expenditures related to SDG goals and targets at the national level, as well as at local level focusing on children.

The 'People's Summit' on food systems localized a global discussion and exemplified a systems approach to solving challenges by bringing together a healthy diversity of viewpoints from various stakeholders in the Philippines, particularly farmers, indigenous peoples, civil society, development partners, women, business and youth. The Philippines was the only country that brought together the results of 18 independent global dialogues in a two-day national discussion focusing on solutions in July 2021. The meetings generated significant momentum for holistic system approaches to food systems. The Philippines expressed interest, subject to further confirmation, to join coalitions for continued multi-stakeholder engagement: Zero Hunger, School Meals, Healthy Diets, Family Farming, and Agroecology; Sustainable Productivity Growth; and Indigenous People Food Systems.

The continuing advocacy to shift from funding individual, ad hoc, short-term projects to financing integrated, transformative and sustainable development results contributed to significant improvements in joint programmes in 2021. This was supported by joint programming, which tripled both in number and funding from a 2019 baseline. As of the end of 2021 there were 11 joint programmes under implementation, bringing aggregate funding to around US\$25.6 million. Together with an additional four JPs that were in pipeline at the dawn of 2022 support the following areas the UNCT agreed to further explore, refine, and develop into joint proposals: 1) Social Protection; 2) Strengthening Digital Capacities; 3) Unlocking Climate Finance and Investments; 4) Peacebuilding/Camp Transformation; and 5) Land rights for peace and development.

“Beyond the Plate,” three-day High-Level Discussions on Food Systems Transformation organized by the UN Philippines within the framework of the Food Systems Summit



UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (left) meets with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and community leaders in the Market Evacuation Center in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Salibu, Mamasapano, Maguindanao. Photo from UN Philippines/Jeremy Arevalo

The UN and the World Bank continued in 2021 to co-convene the Bangsamoro Roadmap Group to address the urgent need to better coordinate development partners' support to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The group, consisting of key development partners, identified priorities for the Bangsamoro Roadmap on coordinated support to the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro's normalization and governance tracks for consultation with the BARMM and national governments. The three-year extension of the peace process offers new opportunities for the international community to partner with BARMM and provide assistance at

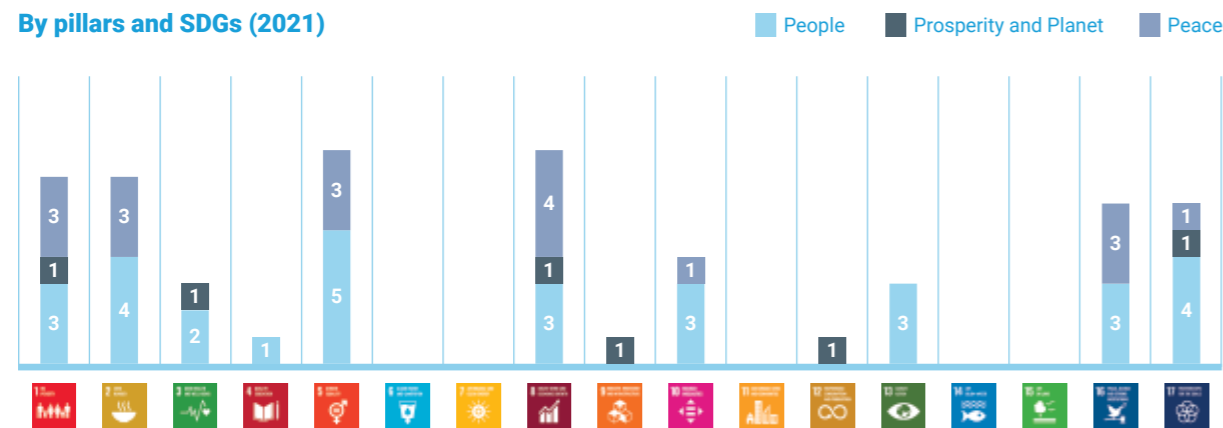
a time when government resources are limited. The implementation of the peace agreement faces new challenges in a regional context marked by continued localized tensions and an upcoming election year. ■

“The three-year extension of the peace process offers new opportunities

## Box 9 Bangsamoro Roadmap

### Joint programmes, by SDGs and SEPF pillar

By pillars and SDGs (2021)



UN agency participation in joint programmes

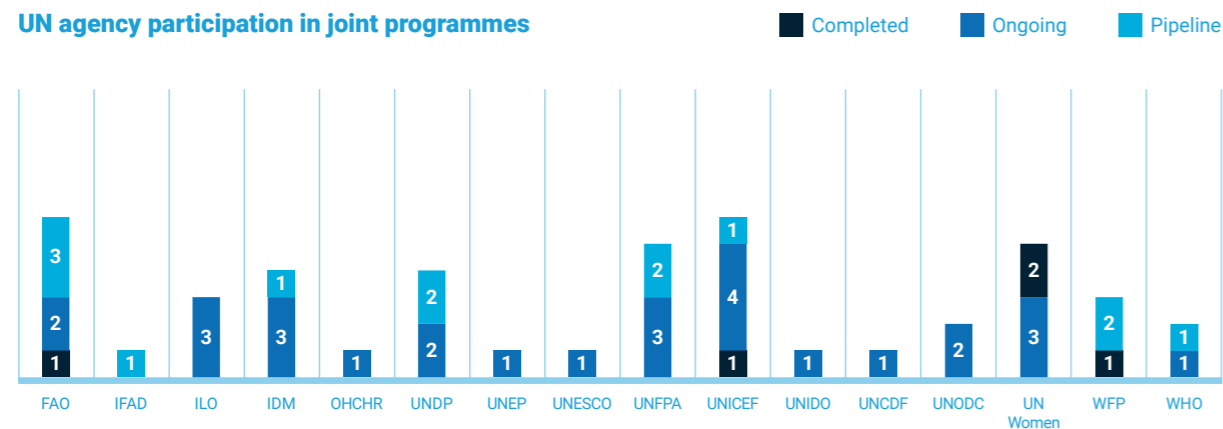


Table 2: Overview of UN interagency joint programmes in the Philippines

	Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget in USD/source of funding
<b>Completed</b>	Scaling up Forecast-based Financing/Early Warning Early Action and Shock Responsive	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	May 2019 – Dec 2021	FAO, UNICEF, WFP	341,727 ECHO
	Social Protection with innovative use of climate risk information for disaster resilience in ASEAN (Regional)				

	Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget in USD/source of funding
<b>Ongoing</b>	Ensuring inclusive and risk-informed shock-responsive social protection resulting in more resilient communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	Jun 2021 – Dec 2022	FAO, UNICEF	1.96 million 1.74 million (Joint SDG Fund) 120,000 (FAO/ECHO) 100,000 (UNICEF)
	Scaling up the Joint Programme on risk-informed shock-responsive social protection (RISRSP) in the BARMM	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	Jun 2021 – Dec 2022	FAO, UNICEF	1.37 million DFAT
	Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by Applying an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in the Philippines	3, 4, 5, 8, 17 People, Crosscutting	Feb 2021 – Dec 2022	UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF	1.5 million 1 million (Joint SDG Fund) 200,000 (UNDP) 150,000 (UNICEF) 150,000 (UNFPA)
	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)	8, 10, 17 People	Feb 2020 – Mar 2022	IOM, ILO, UN Women	1.5 million Migration MPTF
	Promoting Conflict Prevention, Social Cohesion, and Community Resilience in BARMM in the time of COVID-19	5, 10, 16, 17 Peace	Jan 2021 - Jun 2022	IOM, UNFPA, UN Women	3 million UN Peacebuilding Fund

Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget in USD/source of funding
Ongoing Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines	3, 5, 16, 17 People	Aug 2021 - Jul 2024	OHCHR, UNODC, UNCTO, UNESCO	<b>10.2 million</b> Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Contributions</b></li> <li>2.2 million (UN co-financing)</li> <li>631,316 (Australia)</li> <li>526,252 (UK)</li> <li>161,694 (Netherlands)</li> <li>261,519 (Norway)</li> <li>21,119 (Ireland)</li> <li>50,000 (Korea)</li> <li>■ <b>Pledges</b></li> <li>358,680 (Australia)</li> <li>200,000 (Philippines)</li> <li>300,000 (EU)</li> <li>169,045 (Netherlands)</li> </ul>

Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget in USD/source of funding
Ongoing Project BRAVE (Building COVID-safe Responses and Voices for Equity)	2, 5 People	Jun 2021 - Jun 2023	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	<b>2.36 million</b> DFAT
				Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Vulnerable Women, Children and Adolescents During the COVID-19 Pandemic
				Contribution Toward the Elimination of Mercury in The Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: From Miners to Refiners
Ongoing Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region (Regional)	1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 17 Prosperity and Planet	2019 - 2024	UNEP, UNIDO	<b>USD 6 million</b>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.29 million (ILO PHL component)</li> <li>EU Delegation</li> </ul>
Ongoing Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia (S2SR SEA): Promoting regular and safe labour migration among Southeast Asian countries in the fishing and seafood processing sectors (Regional)	5, 8, 10, 16, 17 People	Jan 2018 - Dec 2022	ILO, UN Women in collaboration with UNODC	1.29 million (ILO PHL component)
				EU Delegation
Ongoing Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia (S2SR SEA): Promoting regular and safe labour migration among Southeast Asian countries in the fishing and seafood processing sectors (Regional)	8, 10 People	Aug 2020 - Jul 2024	ILO, IOM, UNDP	11.29 million (regional project)
				EU Delegation

Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget in USD/source of funding
Conflict Transformation in areas affected by armed conflict in BARMM through area-based community driven development	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	24 months	FAO, IOM, UNDP, WFP	<b>14.8 million</b> Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding
				■ <b>Contributions</b> 1 million (Australia)
				385,000 (UN co-financing)
				■ <b>Pledges</b> 10,142 (Ireland)
Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, Phase II	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	2022-2026	<b>WFP,</b> FAO, IFAD, UN Women	RWEE Trust Fund
Enhancing resilient and gender-responsive agriculture-based livelihoods of returned Women and Youth IDPs in post-conflict communities in Maguindanao – BARMM	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	<b>FAO,</b> UNFPA	<b>2 million</b> DFAT
Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines in the aftermath of COVID-19 and Typhoon Odette	3, 5 (Direct); 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17 (Indirect) People	Sep 2022 - Dec 2025	<b>UNFPA,</b> UNICEF, WHO	<b>8.5 million</b> 6.5 million (KOICA) 1 million (GPH co-financing) 1 million (UN co-financing)

Pipeline

## Box 10

## “It’s better to prepare than repair”

Manuelito Yabao, a resident of Barangay Jubusan in Northern Samar, was surprised to receive cash assistance from the UN in anticipation of a typhoon. “*Ngayon ko lang naranasan na mabigyan ng ayuda bago pa man kami masalanta ng bagyo. Sanay kasi kami na makatanggap ng tulong pagkatapos na ng bagyo.*” (It is my first time to receive assistance even before a typhoon hits. We are used to receiving assistance only after being affected by a typhoon.)

Manuelito is one of close to 280,000 target beneficiaries of the Anticipatory Action (AA) pilot in the Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. The most vulnerable families will be provided with life-saving Cash-Based Intervention, with 13,110 vulnerable families set to receive support in terms of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and shelter. Through an inclusive approach, this is expected to reduce the number of persons being displaced to evacuation centers. The process also will be adopted for the COVID-19 pandemic response.

The AA pilot project is funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF). Coordinated by OCHA, it is being implemented by IOM, FAO, WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA, together with local partners. This project is the first of its kind for tropical storms, putting the Philippines at the global forefront of humanitarian innovation.

The objective of the pilot is to mitigate, and to a certain extent prevent, the impact of typhoons on people’s homes and livelihoods, while building on government’s mandatory pre-emptive evacuation procedures that save lives. With this intervention, the most



Manuelito Yabao, one of close to 280,000 target beneficiaries of the Anticipatory Action pilot in the Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. Photo from IOM Philippines

at-risk communities will have better financial resources to prepare before typhoons make their landfall.

In coordination with local government units (LGU), IOM teams have profiled and registered beneficiaries, conducted social preparation for the use of Shelter Strengthening Kits, and engaged with LGUs and communities to build knowledge of how AA can mitigate risk by increasing local response capacities.

“*Tama nga ang sabi ng MDRRMO namin. Mas mabuti nang maging handa kaysa mag-ayos ng mga gamit na nasira.*” (“Our MDRRMO [Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office] was right. It’s better to prepare than repair.”) ■



UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (right) working with partner organizations during the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) mission in San Pablo, Catanduanes following the impact of Typhoon Goni (local name: Rolly). Photo from OCHA/Martin San Diego

## 2.4 SEPF implementation: lessons learned from the Pillars

The implementation of SEPF required high levels of adaptability to context, readiness and a strong sense of alliance building to support a whole-of-society response to the COVID19 challenge. A number of lessons were learned from these challenges. For example, mobility restrictions continued in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and impacted the capacity of the UN to effectively plan and implement joint initiatives with national and local partners. This was especially true in remote areas already affected by conflict. To address this challenge, the UN relied on virtual means of communication as much as possible.

In Mindanao, sporadic incidents of armed encounters involving armed groups prevailed in target communities of development and peacebuilding interventions, which consequently resulted in low-profile operations in the areas prone to armed conflicts and clan feuds (rido). In the BARMM region, officials were also focused on extensive campaigning and lobbying for the BTA extension during 2021 which led to delays in the implementation of some activities.

Ensuring effective mainstreaming of rights-based services and processes under and beyond the People Pillar was challenging, given the government's stance in fully implementing existing laws and policies and the adoption of new measures that take into account human rights, due process rights, the rule of law, and accountability. An area to be strengthened, for example, is the participation of workers' organizations in systemic issues affecting workers' rights, including their right to organize; to implement HIV-related human rights programmes, and to enforce protective laws.

Funding opportunities to support and pursue joint initiatives in the thematic areas covered by the Prosperity and Planet Pillar were not as plentiful in 2021. The lack of sufficient resources has constrained the expansion of collective UN action in this area. Some of the relevant funding facilities and streams were contingent upon developments in and priorities set by the international conventions on climate change, environment and biodiversity, among others.



## 2.5 Expanding communication and outreach

The UN Resident Coordinator Office in the Philippines prioritized joint communications and advocacy through news tools it applied to positioning the UN Cooperation Framework. The office transformed the SEPF into an advocacy tool in partnership with relevant stakeholder groups. Rather than simply disseminating the SEPF document, the UN Philippines positioned it on multiple levels: 1) as an instrument to facilitate multi-stakeholder analysis through collaborative consultations with the UNCT; 2) as an attractive publication with high readability through enhanced graphic design that all stakeholders could appreciate; 3) as evidence of the UN Philippines' roles as knowledge creator; and 4) as an opportunity to engage with the mainstream media in non-technical discussions.

In a deliberate effort to communicate jointly rather than as individual agencies, the UNRCO identified opportunities for joint advocacy and high-impact events to highlight the importance of the UN's work around key themes. The RCO also supports UN agencies with media outreach, particularly by securing on their behalf placement of their op-eds and press releases. In 2021, the op-eds by the UN Resident Coordinator were published more than 70 times in major news outlets in the Philippines, together with 131 placements of agency op-eds and press releases. The office also secured television interviews with representatives from different UN agencies, funds and

## Communications and advocacy 2021



UN Philippines  
Country Results  
Report 2020

Diversification, Jobs and the COVID-19 Recovery  
Exploring Opportunities for Economic Diversification and Productive Employment in the Philippines

Unlocking Opportunities to Build a Better Normal: Towards Gender-Responsive and Resilient Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Food Manufacturing and Processing Sector in the Philippines

BRIDGE VIRTUAL PROGRAMME LAUNCH

16 December 2020 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Watch the livestream at  
facebook.com/unphilippines

Setting the Table for Future Generations: Transforming Food Systems

Let your voice be heard!

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY!

THRIVEPH  
High-Level Discussions on Policies and Strategies to Leave No One Behind in COVID-19 Recovery

Save the Date!  
Meeting of Partners  
Joint Programme on Social Protection in BARM  
30 June 2021  
9:30 - 11:30 AM  
Mr. Abod B Ebeanon  
Chief Minister  
BARM Government  
Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez  
UN Resident Coordinator and  
Humanitarian Coordinator  
in the Philippines  
unicef

Joint Programme on  
INFF-Philippines

JOINT SDG FUND INFF

Migration Governance

UNITED NATIONS  
PHILIPPINES

WOMEN  
WOMEN

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“  
UN Philippines also registered **impressive gains** across all channels of its social media **outreach** and **engagement**

The UN Resident Coordinator Office also promoted the social media outreach activity of all agencies, funds and programmes under the single banner of UN Philippines across different platforms (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube). From 400 visitors after its launch in 2020, the UN Philippines website ended 2021 with 131,368 visits – a 327-fold increase. Page views also rose by 300 per cent, from 69,475 in 2020 to 291,702 at the end of 2021.

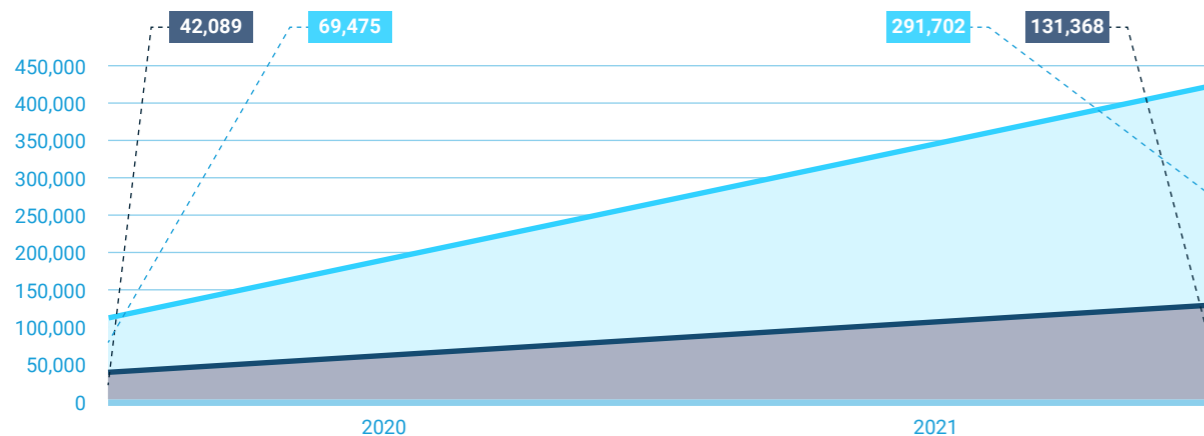
The UN Philippines also registered impressive gains across all channels of its social media outreach and engagement. For example, tweets from @UNPhilippines were seen 205,790 times in 2021, an increase of 40 per cent over 2020. Likewise Facebook following and engagement increased by 30 per cent on both metrics during the same year. YouTube gained 10 per cent more followers in 2021 with increased engagement of 30 per cent.

programmes whereby their representatives served as spokespersons of the UN System, highlighting results of the One UN. The RCO furthermore monitors news daily and submits a report of relevant news, including agency mentions, in its daily news roundup.

**UN Philippines Website**



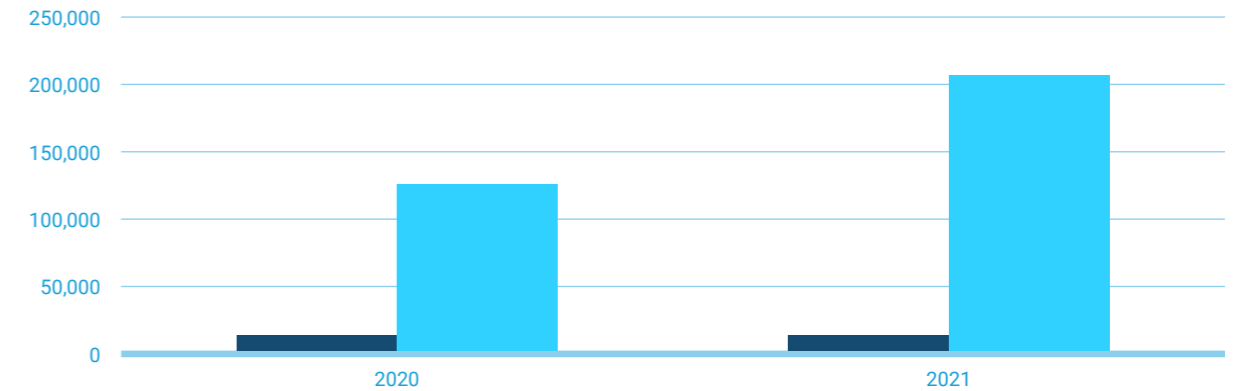
Users: 200% increase ↑  
Page Views: 300%



**UN Philippines Social Media Accounts: Twitter Audience and Engagements**



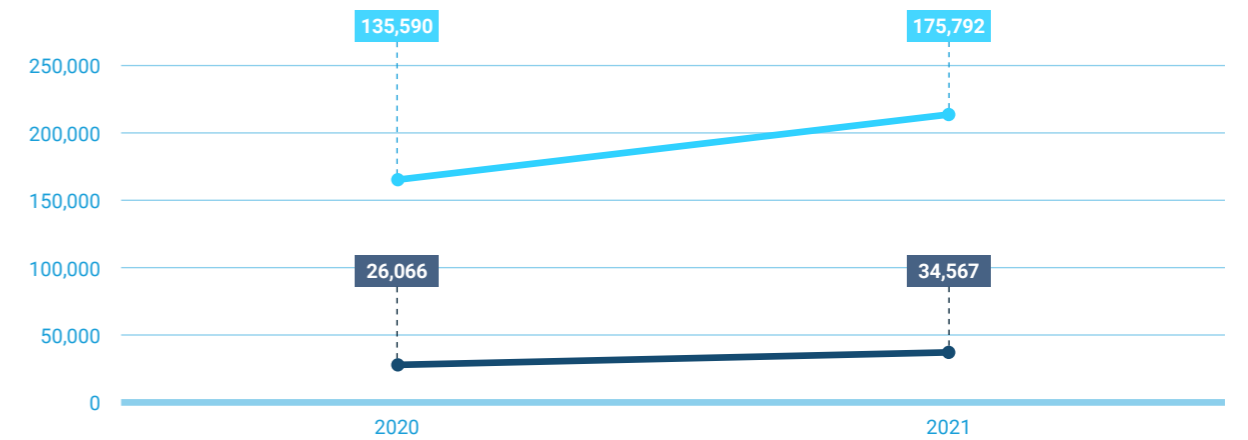
Followers/Likes: 10% increase ↑  
Impressions: 60%



**UN Philippines Social Media Accounts: Facebook Audience and Engagements**



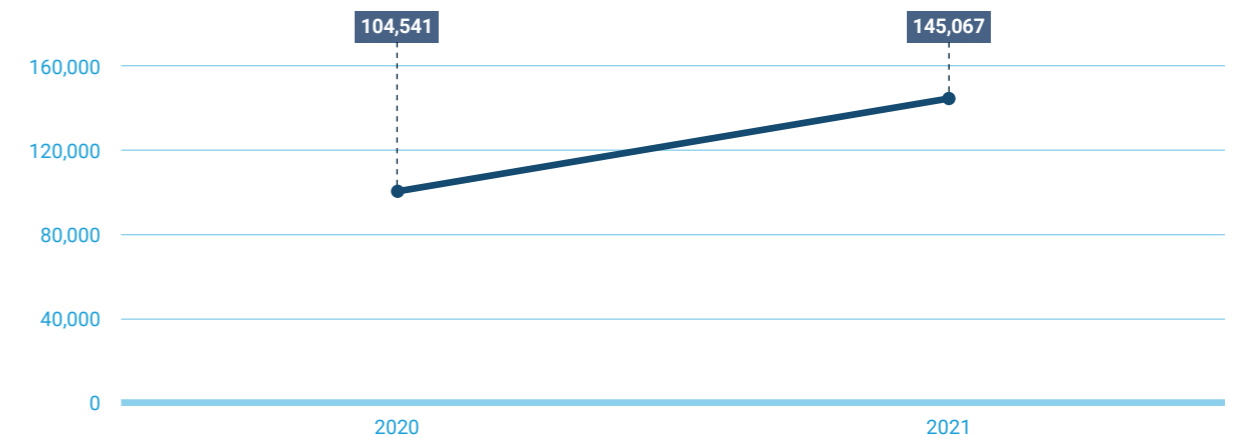
Followers/Likes: 30% increase ↑  
Engagements: 30%



**UN Philippines Social Media Accounts: Youtube Views**



Followers: 10% increase ↑  
Engagement: 60%



## 2.6 Financial overview, resource mobilization and improved efficiencies\*

The UN Philippines actively leveraged the Joint SDG Fund, the Peace-Building Fund, the Migration MPTF, the COVAX Facility and other global vertical funds to scale up existing catalytic investments and better address the government's financing gaps in critical areas of its work in 2021, including in risk-informed shock responsive social protection, support to Bangsamoro transition and peacebuilding efforts, and in developing a diversified financing framework to leverage resources for COVID recovery and the SDGs.

Also in 2021, two country-level multi-donor, pooled funding mechanisms were established as a cost-effective, transparent and streamlined way to receive donor contributions for joint programmes on human rights and conflict transformation in BARMM. This approach is resonating with donors interested in financing programmes in a way that strengthens UN coherence.

Cumulatively, the top country-level provider of grants to UN joint programmes are Australia

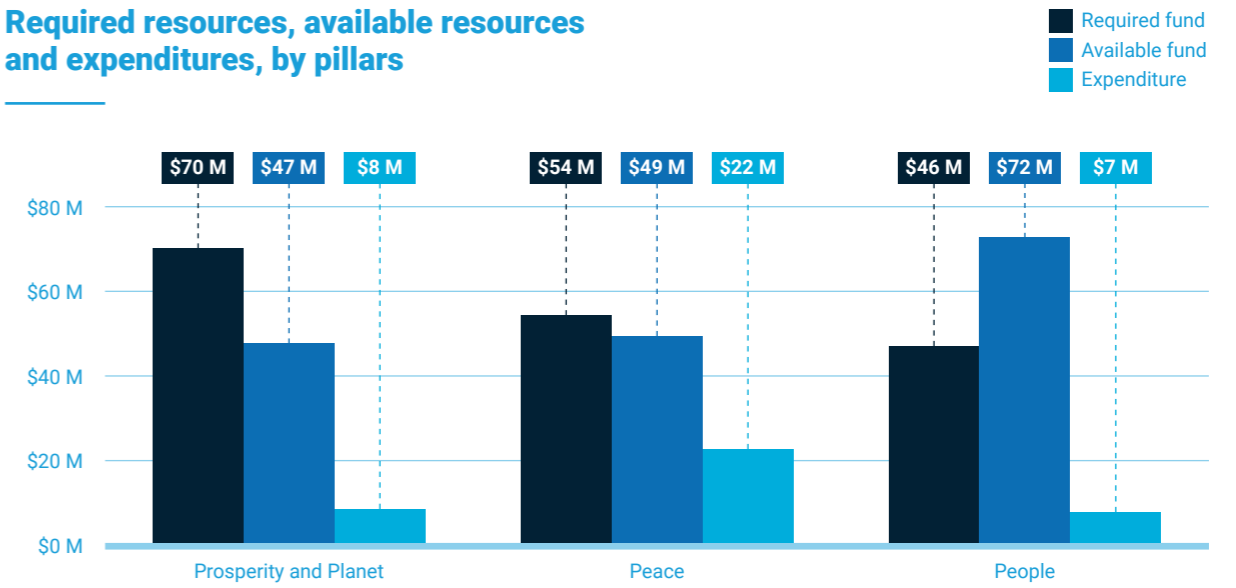
(61 per cent), EU (21 per cent), Norway (6.3 per cent) followed by UK, Netherlands, Philippines and Korea. Considering contributors to global pooled and thematic funds, the top supporter of UN joint programmes are EU, Australia, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, Korea, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Philippines, UK, Ireland, Luxembourg and private sector.

Bilateral donors are the predominant source of SEPF funding for all three Pillars (39 per cent), followed by private sector (18 per cent), and UN agencies with 17 per cent. However, the mix of funding partners vary by Pillars: People: Private sector-Government-UN agency; Planet and Prosperity: Government-Foundation-UN Agency; and Peace: Government-UN Agency-Multilateral.

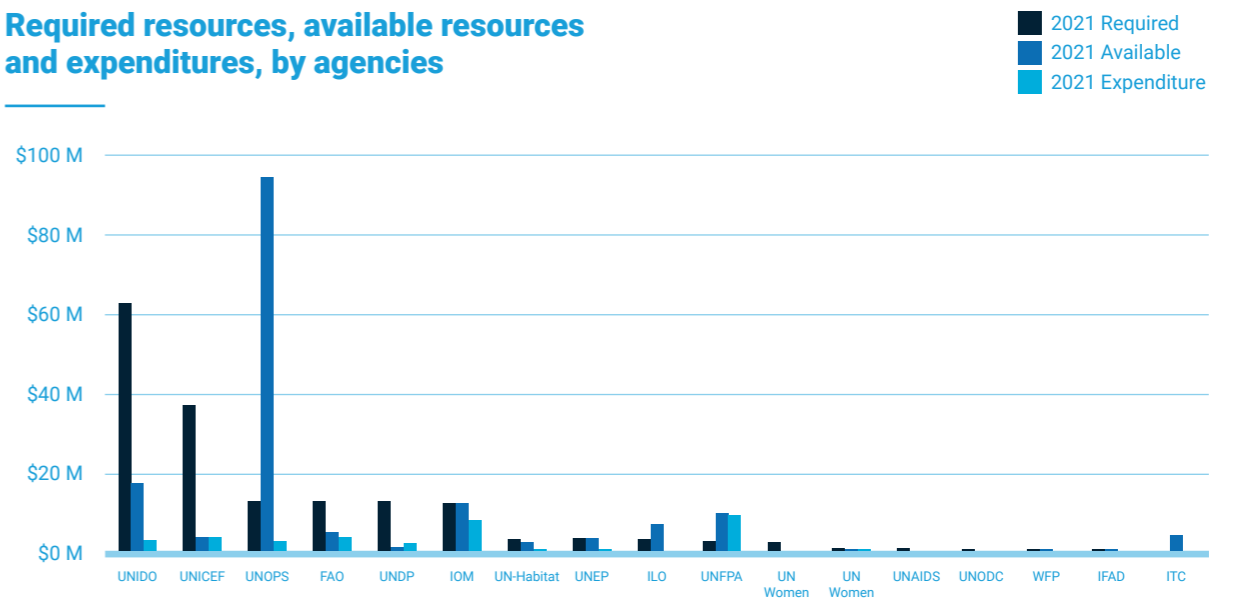
Funding opportunities to support and pursue joint initiatives in the thematic areas covered by the Prosperity and Planet Pillar were not as plentiful in 2021. The lack of sufficient resources has constrained the expansion of collective UN action in this area. Some of the relevant funding facilities and streams were contingent upon developments in and priorities set by the international conventions on climate change, environment and biodiversity, among others.

\* Financial and program data used in this report were based on information provided by the participating UN Agencies on the joint programmes and RCO database as of end of 2021.

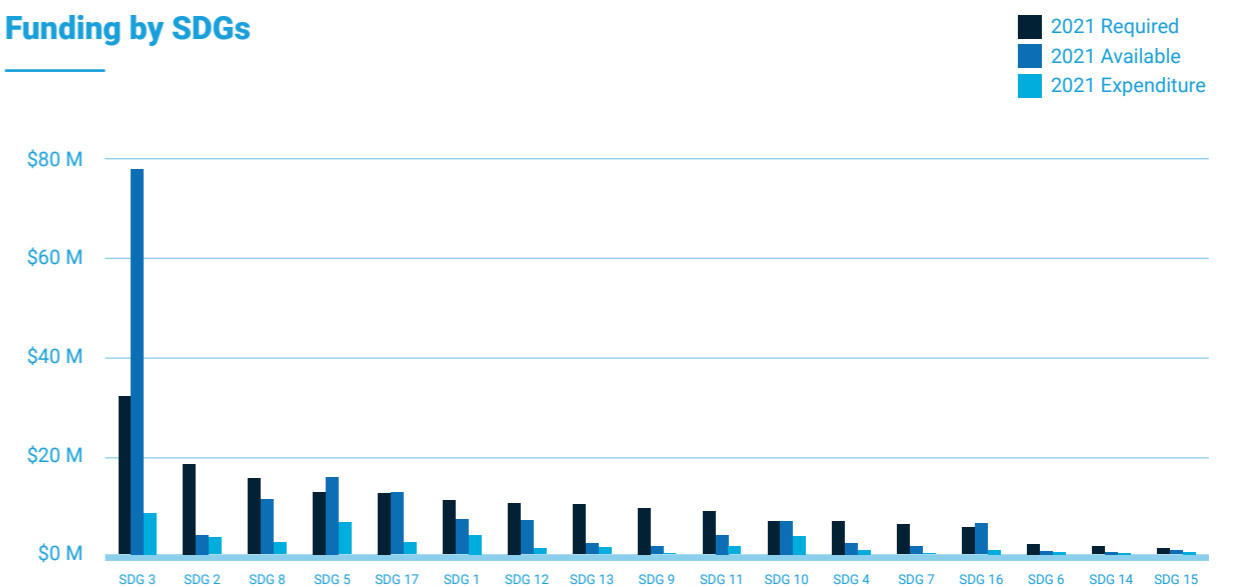
### Required resources, available resources and expenditures, by pillars



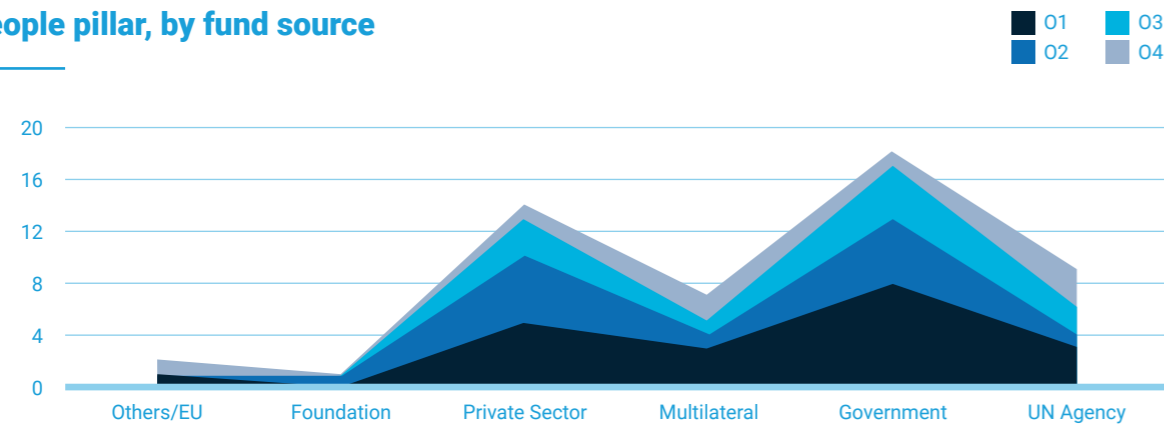
### Required resources, available resources and expenditures, by agencies



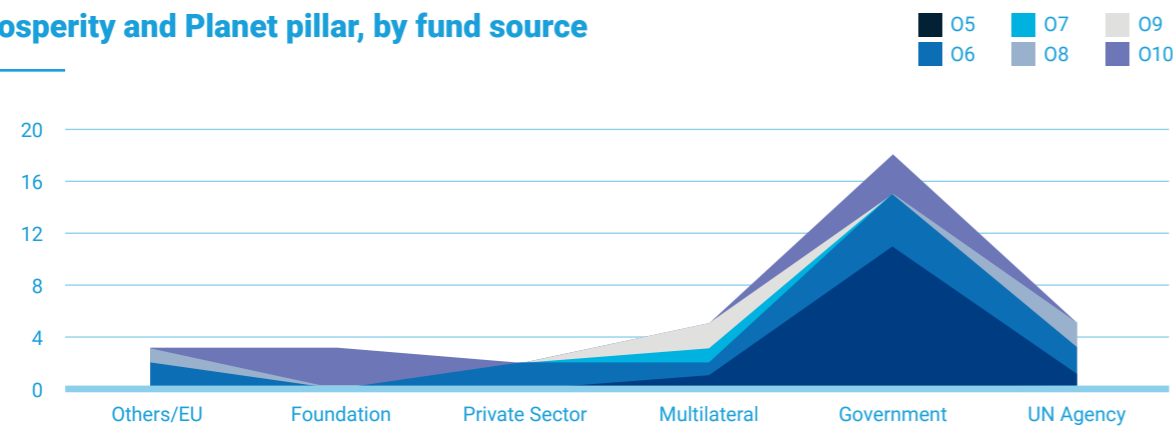
### Funding by SDGs



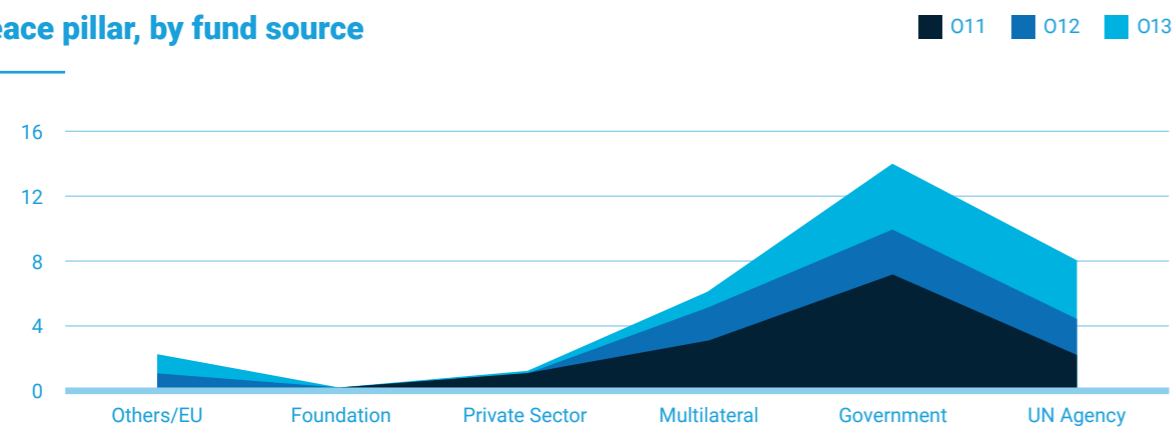
**People pillar, by fund source**



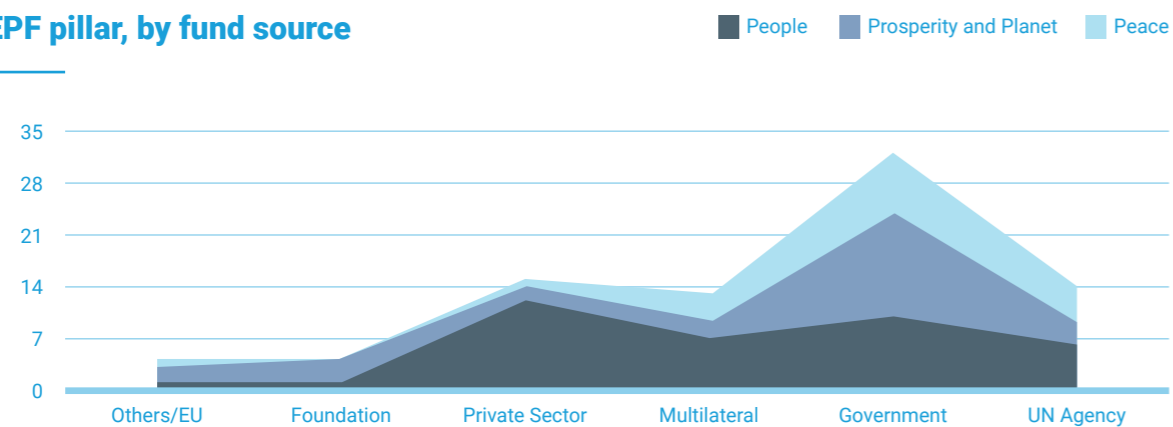
**Prosperity and Planet pillar, by fund source**



**Peace pillar, by fund source**

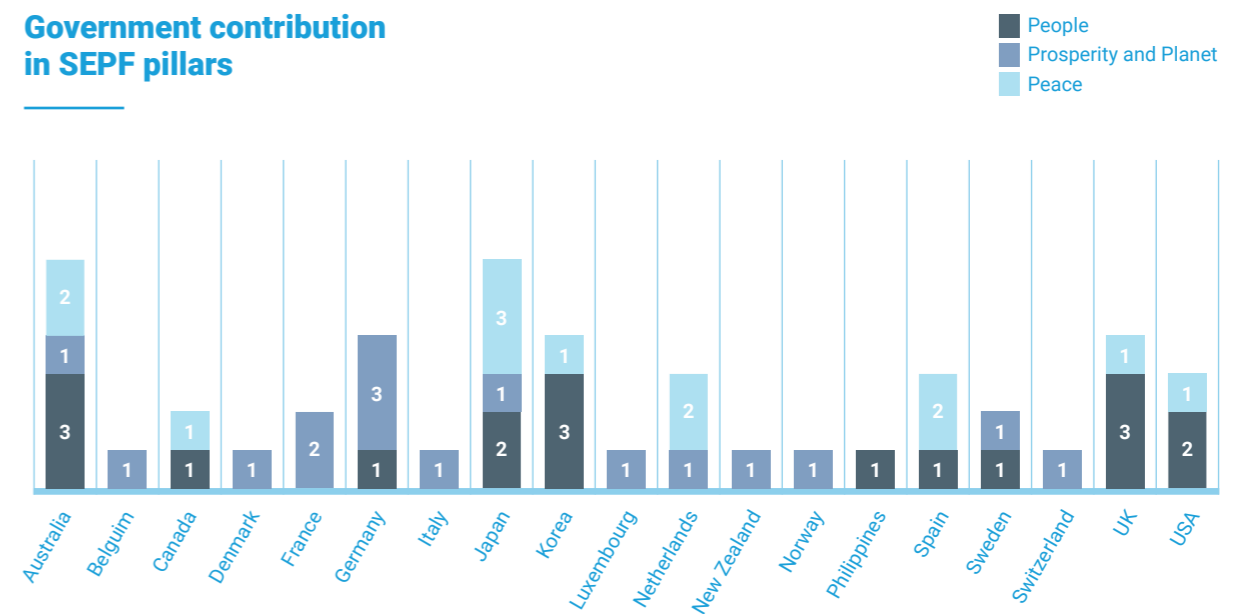


**SEPF pillar, by fund source**



Manila skyline.

**Government contribution in SEPF pillars**



**Improving operations efficiencies**

The United Nations increased operations efficiencies in 2021 to make the increase in resources go even further. Its Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 was successfully implemented in 2021 through improved collaboration amongst all members of the Operations Management Team. Under the guidance of the UNCT, the effort is meant to ensure more effective programme delivery across all UN agencies, leading to an increase in UN common services (human resources, ICT, procurement, administration, common premises) and significant financial savings.

# 3 UN System priorities for 2022

The UN system in the Philippines will continue to promote inclusive development that leaves no one behind, is human rights-based, enhances the space for participation of all actors, and which works to achieve the SDG targets by 2030.

Community volunteers helped their fellow children and youth overcome stress following the magnitude 6 earthquakes in Mindanao in October 2019. Photo from UNICEF Philippines/2020/Marge Francia

Looking ahead, the UN system in the Philippines will be guided by four key priorities in 2022: (1) intensifying support for recovery from COVID-19; (2) working with a new administration beginning 1 July 2022 which will bring a new Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023-2028; (3) initiating preparations for a new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework; and (4) applying lessons learned from the severe impact of climate change on the Philippines.

Moving out of two challenging years, the UN Country Team will accelerate implementation of recovery efforts articulated in the Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery (SEPF), together with the Government of the Philippines and all other partners. This roadmap reinforces building forward better through strengthened resilience and preparation. It will continue to promote inclusive development that leaves no one behind, is human rights-based, enhances the space for participation of all actors, and which works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets by 2030. The UN will also continue to support and prioritize the Government's localization agenda and the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling, which will fundamentally affect how development and environmental projects and programmes are rolled out.

The UN will work closely with the people and Government of the Philippines in 2022 as they prepare for and conduct elections – the first where all candidates will have been born after the end of WWII. As the UN system works worldwide to organize credible elections, strengthen parliaments, and to build the capacities of democratic institutions to leave no one behind, we will continue to support a political and social environment in the Philippines where all people can have their voices heard - especially women, youth, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and civil society more broadly. Following the elections, the UN will immediately engage with the newly elected administration to ensure the

smooth transition and continuity of on-going UN programmes. The new priorities of the incoming government to be identified in the next PDP to be released later in the year will closely inform the preparation of the UN's new cooperation framework which will also start next year.

As climate change increasingly leads to more extreme weather events and natural disasters, the country will become more vulnerable due to its rising population and exposure. As such the UN system will continue to support adaptation efforts and resilience strengthening, with a focus on improving and expanding social protection efforts. The challenges of climate change put into focus the inter-relation between economic growth, job creation, social security, and environmental protection demanding a whole of society approach that engages and strengthens capacities of all stakeholders.

#### **Strengthening partnerships**

Also in 2022, the UN will continue to expand its partnerships with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, unions, youth groups, the media, the private sector, and other stakeholder groups in the Philippines. Through our work, we will continue to support the peaceful resolution of conflicts, promote the rule of law and access to justice, citizen security and human rights. We will assist the Government to strengthen its public institutions, reduce corruption and support inclusive participation to ensure that no one is left behind. In 2022, the UNRCO will further pursue strategic use of domestic resources for SDG acceleration especially in light of the Mandanas ruling, while further exploring opportunities with the IFIs, global and regional development banks (blending grants with concessional financing), the private sector, philanthropists, foundations and other innovative sources.

#### **The 2022 Human Rights Council Session**

"The UN will support the Philippines engagement with international human rights mechanisms. At the 51st Session of the Human Rights Council (in October), the Resident Coordinator will participate in an interactive dialogue and report on the implementation of the UN Joint Programme on



Children in the Municipality of Malilipot in Albay Province play and receive psychosocial support and other social welfare services in Child-Friendly Spaces set up by the UN following the impact of Typhoon Goni. Photo from OCHA/ Martin San Diego

Human Rights (in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 45/33 (2020)). The UN will also support engagement with treaty bodies and preparation for the Philippines fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, as well as engaging with the Government on the implementation of relevant recommendations resulting from these processes."

#### **Community-based conflict transformation**

The UN system in the Philippines remains focused on its support to national and regional governments to solidify peace and sustainable development in the BARMM. There is still more work to do. Although the BARMM has made headway with the political track of the planned transition, key provisions in

the Bangsamoro Organic Law remain incomplete. COVID-19 has further delayed the implementation of the government's programmes under the normalization track, causing some concern and disappointment among affected constituencies. Recognizing a gap to be filled, UN Philippines is developing a new joint programme to be implemented in 2022 that is designed to re-energize hope in the peace process by providing socio-economic and peacebuilding investments to support sustainable livelihoods, food security and community security. The UN Joint Programme will contribute to peaceful and inclusive communities, in line with the sustainable development efforts set out by the Philippine Development Plan, the

Bangsamoro Regional Development Plan, and the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2020-2023.

#### **Transforming education**

In 2022, the Philippines will join the world in addressing the severe learning loss that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated. As part of this effort the UN Country Team will develop a roadmap and agree on steps with the Government on ensuring children's return to school. In addition, the UN and the Government will organize national consultations in the lead up to the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022.



### United Nations Philippines

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