



UNITED NATIONS  
PHILIPPINES



# 2022 RESULTS 2023 PROSPECTS



## **CREDITS**

This document was produced by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RCO) in the Philippines on behalf of the United Nations Country Team. RCO wishes to acknowledge the contributions of all stakeholders in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on UN Philippines website at [philippines.un.org](https://philippines.un.org).

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Cover photo: A family recovering from Typhoon Odette/Rai. © WFP Philippines

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# UNITED NATIONS PHILIPPINES



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Labour  
Organization



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



# Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator

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I am proud to present the United Nations (UN) Philippines 2022 Annual Report that highlights the UN's contributions to the country's progress towards sustainable development.

In 2022, the UN remained a reliable and committed support for the Philippines' sustainable development and human rights agenda, working closely with the Government and other key stakeholders to achieve our shared goals.

Despite various challenges of 2022 such as the lingering effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, global economic vows, and triple planetary crisis all deeply impacting the Philippines, coupled by the recovery from Typhoon Odette/Rai, the country continued progressing on its firm developmental path. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), for example, which is facing the most difficult developmental challenges, recorded the largest reduction in poverty incidence. This indicates that the Philippines is on the right trajectory. The general elections also brought about political changes in the country.

The UN's support in 2022 remained instrumental for advancing the country's ambitious national development priorities and demonstrated results. Through the implementation of the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines (SEPF), we ensured full alignment of our activities with national priorities as we shifted away from COVID-19 response and refocused efforts towards Agenda 2030 acceleration.

UN work spanned through three strategic pillars of SEPF – People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace – towards realizing the long-term aspirations outlined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and Ambisyon Natin 2040. The Report showcases just a fraction of our work and cannot give enough credit to close collaboration with multiple stakeholders that marks our work on a day-to-day basis.

In fact, strong partnerships remained at the heart of our 2022 successes. All parts of the UN system in the Philippines have actively engaged with key stakeholders, including government ministries, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector to develop people-centered policies, laws, and frameworks, to deliver support and to advocate on behalf of those that are the most vulnerable, with our approach firmly rooted in the leaving no one behind principle.

**“** *In 2022, the UN remained a reliable and committed support for the Philippines' sustainable development and human rights agenda, working closely with the Government and other key stakeholders to achieve our shared goals.*

Looking ahead, the UN in the Philippines remains committed to supporting the country's developmental path that is firmly rooted in national ownership and solutions tailored to the Philippine context. Our collective expertise, resources, and networks will be geared towards providing support for impactful results, embodied in the forthcoming Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF).

The CF's transformative nature lies in its establishment of a platform for the shift from development assistance to strategic, expanded partnerships for sustainable development. This entails a heightened focus on policy development, capacity building, sharing global knowledge, supporting coalitions at local, national, and global levels, and playing a robust role as convener and facilitator. We will drive effective action, together, and spearhead nationally owned solutions in the Philippines, to contribute to a sustainable future for all Filipinos, leaving no one behind.

**Gustavo González**  
**United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines**

# United Nations in the Philippines in 2022

The United Nations in the Philippines implements its activities in alignment with the country's development priorities, human rights and gender equality commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. Some UN entities also provide humanitarian support. The UN in the Philippines has been working to achieve the developmental priorities outlined in the 2020-2023 UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines (SEPF) and the updated 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP), through provision of technical assistance, capacity development, knowledge exchange, and innovative pilot programmes.

In 2022, 29 United Nations entities were engaged in operational or support activities for development in the Philippines, working together through the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the country. Twenty-four of these entities had some physical presence in the country, while five conducted their activities remotely.

The United Nations team in the Philippines, which also includes offices with regional and global mandates, in 2022 included almost 2,000 country-based personnel and support staff, as well as experts from around the world.



FAO †	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD †	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO †	International Labour Organization
ITC * †	International Trade Centre
ITU	<i>International Telecommunications Union</i>
IOM †	International Organization for Migration
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR * †	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAIDS * †	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP †	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR †	<i>United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction</i>
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP †	<i>United Nations Environment Programme</i>
UNESCAP	<i>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</i>
UNESCO * †	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA †	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR †	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN Habitat * †	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre (DGC)
UNICRI *	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNICEF †	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO †	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNOCT *	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC * †	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS * †	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN-RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UN Women* †	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP †	World Food Programme
WHO †	World Health Organization

## KEY

*no physical presence (italics)*

\* project offices or non-accredited offices with physical presence

† SEPF signatory





📷 The United Nations Country Team in the Philippines (Photo © UN Philippines)

**“** Existing expertise and partnerships of UN agencies serve as the foundation for productive engagement within the context of the SEPF/PFSD.

Evaluations of SEPF/PFSD

# Development investments

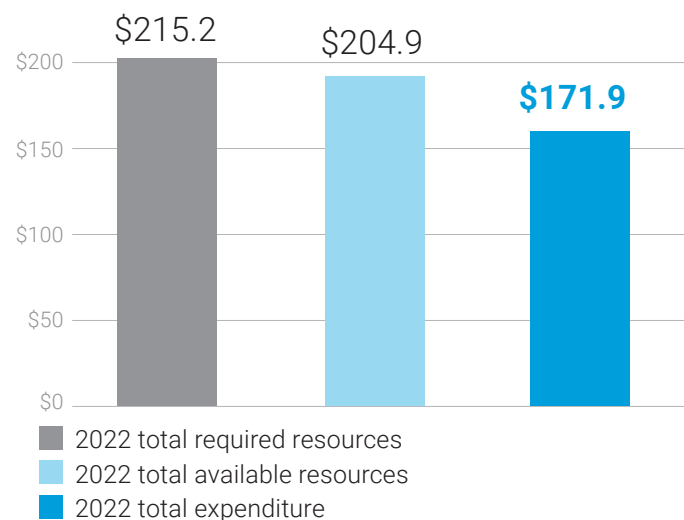
More than fifty development partners provided generous contributions to the United Nations in the Philippines in 2022 through core global funding to UN entities, bilateral contributions for their action in the Philippines, and through multiple local, regional and global pooled funding modalities.

To achieve results for people across the Philippines, the UN scaled up catalytic investments by leveraging global vertical funds in 2022. These include the Joint SDG Fund and its Development Emergency Modality (DEM), the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF), Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, the Global Environment Fund, the Global Climate Fund, Montreal Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. In addition, country-level pooled funds were set up to support multi-sectoral joint programmes.

The UN Funding Compact remained centre stage as Member States increasingly contributed to UN Joint Programmes, rather than funding individual, ad hoc, short-term projects. This enhanced the quality of resources – in terms of predictability and flexibility – enabling the UN to implement the transformative, collaborative action needed to support progress on the SDGs nationwide.

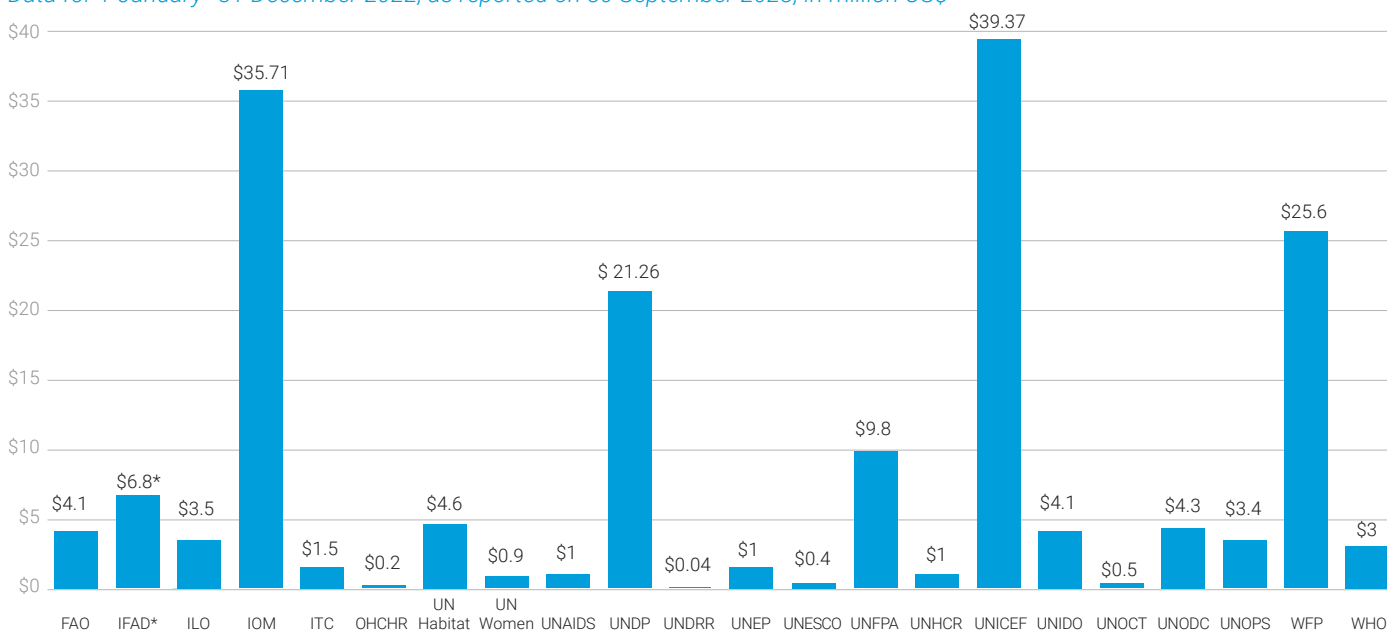
## UN Philippines total required and available resources and expenditure, 2022

Data for 1 January–31 December 2022, in million US\$



## SEPF delivery (expenditure) by UN entity, in 2022

Data for 1 January–31 December 2022, as reported on 30 September 2023, in million US\$



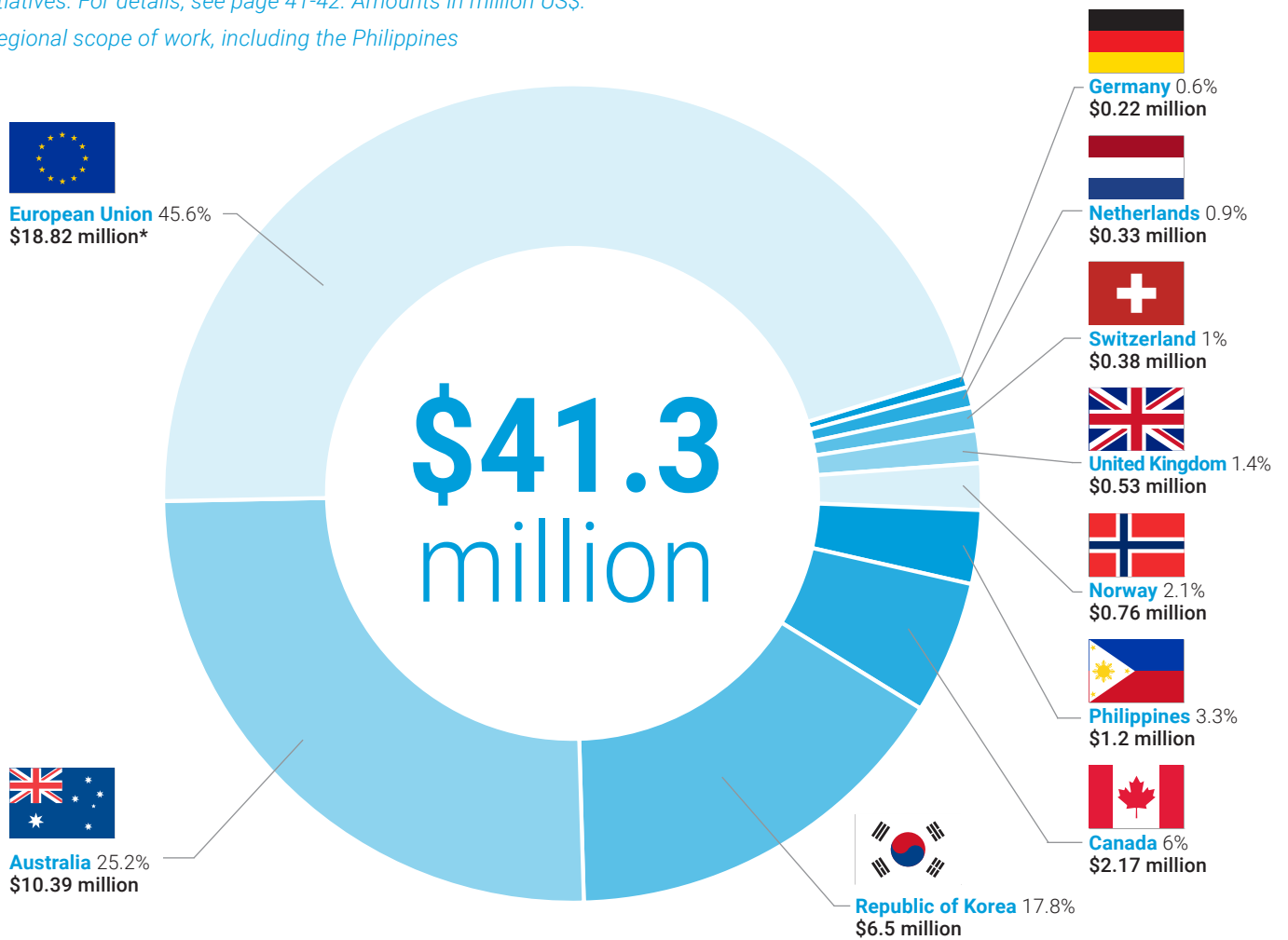
\* IFAD funding includes predominantly loans.



## Country-based funding of UN joint programmes implemented in 2022

Amounts contributed (including co-financing, commitments and pledges) to UN joint programmes/initiatives. For details, see page 41-42. Amounts in million US\$.

\* regional scope of work, including the Philippines



## Development partners providing support to UN action in the Philippines in 2022 \*



\* In alphabetical order. The list includes development partners and United Nations Member States providing bilateral contributions to United Nations entities and contributions through local, regional and global pooled funding modalities (Global Environment Facility, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; Joint SDG Fund; UN Peacebuilding Fund; Migration MPTF). Core contributions to United Nations entities or their thematic funds are not included.

# Key developments in the Philippines in 2022

2022 was a year of general election and political change, recovery from Typhoon Odette/Rai and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The country progressed on its developmental path and fulfilling aspirations to reach an upper-middle income status.

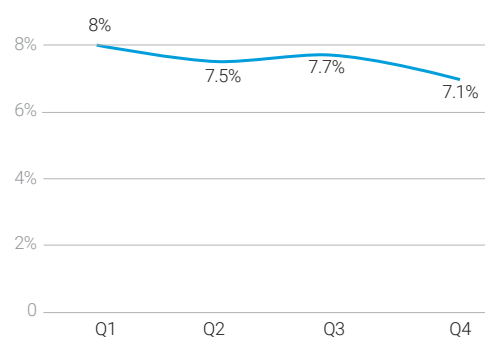
COVID-19 prompted economic contraction, unemployment, and exacerbated inequalities and in 2022 the Philippines slipped from being the fourth largest economy in the ASEAN region (2021) to the sixth.<sup>1</sup> But growth bounced back, with gross domestic product (GDP) growing by 7.6%.<sup>2</sup> As the economy reopened, the employment rate rose from 92.6%<sup>3</sup> to 95.2% by the end of the year. Overall, the Philippines' recovery was on a firm footing with sound economic fundamentals, despite geopolitical challenges and external factors that brought record high inflation rates.

While the incidence of poverty in the Philippines rose to 23.7% in the first half of 2021, it fell to 18.1% by the beginning of 2022.<sup>4</sup> Economic growth continued to contribute to reduction of poverty and improving living conditions, but regional disparities persisted. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) remained the country's poorest region although it also recorded the largest reduction in poverty incidence, indicating that BARMM is on the right poverty reduction trajectory.

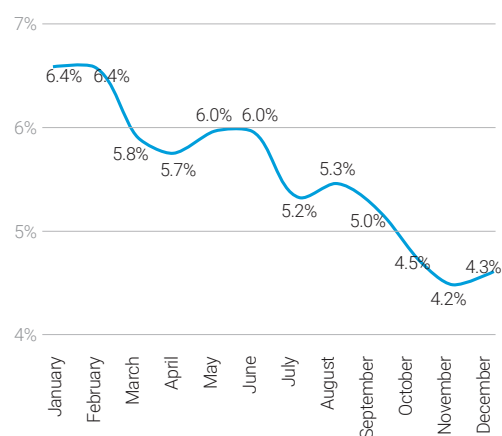
The convergence of climate change and the impact of global energy, food and financial crises tied to war in Ukraine threatened to reverse sustainable development gains worldwide, including in the Philippines. The impact of disasters loomed large in 2022, a sobering reminder of the increasingly frequent and severe natural hazards caused by climate change. Typhoon/Rai that swept through southern and central Philippines in December 2021 affected 12 million people, of which 2.4 million required assistance: some 2.1 million houses were damaged or destroyed and 10.2 million hectares of crops were wiped out. Responding to the devastation was among the key UN priorities in 2022, including through humanitarian and recovery efforts.

The May 2022 general election followed a generally peaceful campaign and election period, bringing about significant political changes. The new government was formed quickly and the rapidly articulated development priorities were translated in the new 2023-2028 Philippine Development Plan (PDP) aiming to fulfil the long-term development vision of AmBisyon Natin 2040 and make the Philippines a prosperous, inclusive and resilient society that would have eliminated poverty.

**Philippines quarterly GDP growth, 2022**



**Philippines monthly unemployment rate, 2022**



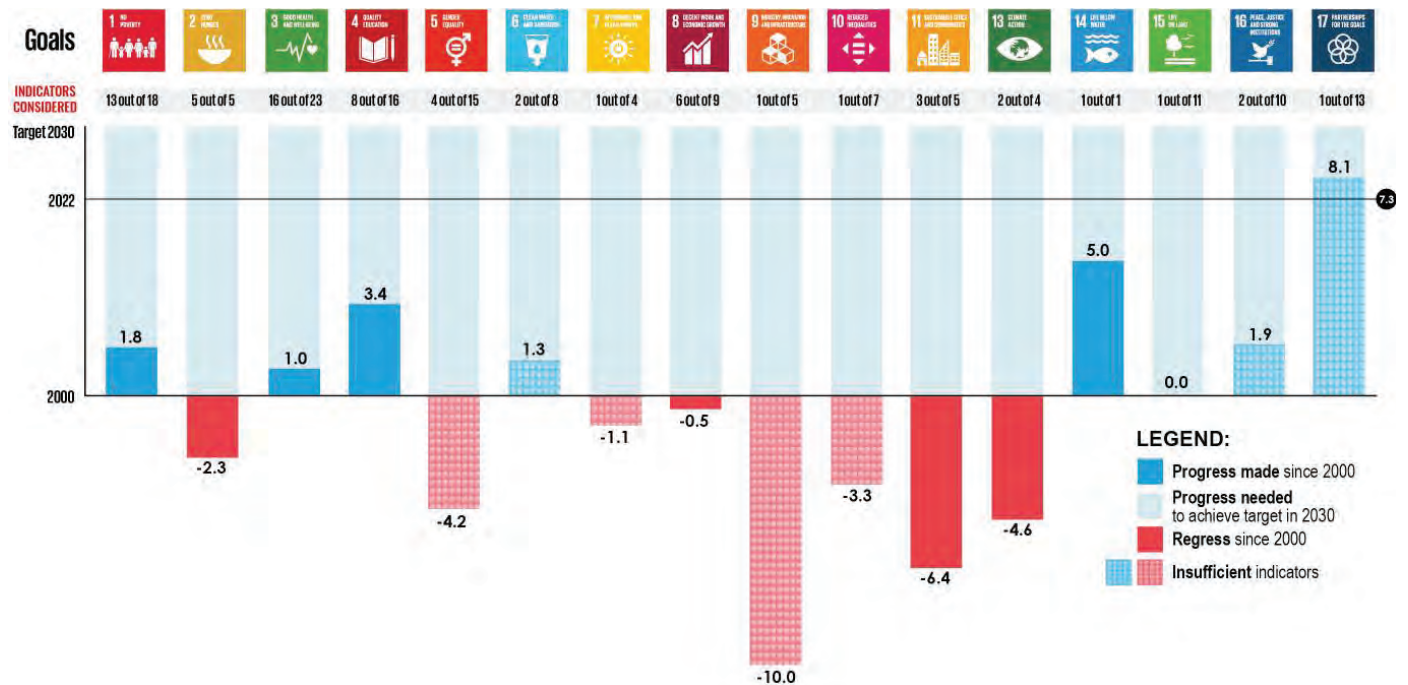
<sup>1</sup> World Economic Outlook Database, April 2022, International Monetary Fund

<sup>2</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/gdp-expands-72-percent-fourth-quarter-2022-and-76-percent-full-year-2022>

<sup>3</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-january-2023-estimated-48-percent>

<sup>4</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/poverty-press-releases/nid/167972>

## The Philippines' progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, *2022 SDGs Pace of Progress, 2<sup>nd</sup> round*

The peace process underway in BARMM has had the greatest potential to deliver lasting peace, which would facilitate the elimination of key drivers of poverty and instability in the region. The UN and the international community supported this process by actively engaging in the peace agreement's implementation. Despite setbacks to implementation due to COVID-19 and other challenges, the peace process was revitalized by the new government. One of the first actions of the new administration was the re-appointment of a more inclusive Bangsamoro Transition Authority led by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with more women office-bearers and the participation of all factions of the Moro National Liberation Front for the first time. President Marcos highlighted the BARMM peace process in his maiden speech to the United Nations General Assembly, reaffirming his commitment to its implementation.

Despite progress, the country's key developmental challenges persisted in 2022. These included COVID-19, climate- and conflict-induced displacement, conflict in some parts of the country, climate change impact, environmental degradation, and, at times, shrinking civic space. The Philippines' third Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress on achieving the SDGs, presented in 2022, showed that eight of the 37 SDG targets with sufficient data were on track; 17 needed acceleration and 13 had regressed.

Generating sufficient decent jobs for a growing workforce remained challenging, with some two million Filipinos searching opportunities abroad. Further challenges included persistent internal displacement – caused by conflict,

disasters, large-scale infrastructure projects, and lack of climate-resilient infrastructure – rates of food and nutrition insecurity in some areas, maternal mortality, and child stunting.

Governance and the rule of law were impacted by challenges such as corruption, high levels of inequality and the concentration of wealth. Certain groups remained at high risk of being left behind due to intersecting vulnerabilities, particularly indigenous peoples, displaced communities, persons with disabilities, persons who use drugs, people living with HIV, women, youth and children. Philippine civil society continued to face challenges, including threats and intimidation and, in some cases, human rights violations, abuse and violence.

The new administration has committed to a human rights agenda by protecting human rights defenders, humanitarian actors, environmental defenders, union organizers, journalists, lawyers and defenders of indigenous peoples, and to bring perpetrators of violence against them to justice.<sup>5</sup> The Philippines engaged strongly with international human rights mechanisms in 2022 and achieved progress towards meeting its reporting commitments. In November it underwent its fourth Universal Periodic Review, and immediately supported 200 recommendations. Maintaining the momentum, forging broad-based partnerships, and accelerating action in all areas and at all levels were emphasized as key for achieving further progress and sustainable development.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/41/L.10, 22 November 2022. Fourth Universal Periodic Review, para. 6.57, 6.61, 6.66, 6.71.

## BOX 1

### PEOPLE-CENTRED POLICIES, LAWS AND FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED WITH UN SUPPORT IN 2022

As a global community of knowledge, the UN supported the Government of the Philippines to develop people-centred, gender-responsive laws, policies and plans in 2022 to advance sustainable development and leave no one behind. Examples include:



#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028
- Philippine Export Development Plan 2023–2028
- Bangsamoro Development Plan 2023–2028
- Bangsamoro Rehabilitation, Rebuilding and Development Roadmap 2023–2029



#### EDUCATION

- Basic Education Development Plan 2030
- Bangsamoro Education Reform and Development Plan 2035
- Transforming Education Summit National Statement of Commitment



#### FOOD & NUTRITION

- Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023–2028
- Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap for BARMM
- BARMM Food Security and Nutrition Plan 2023–2028
- School Health and Nutrition Manual



#### HEALTH

- Philippine Medicines Policy 2022–2030
- Human Resources for Health Master Plan 2020–2040



#### PEACE & SECURITY

- Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
- Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security
- Six local government units (LGUs) in BARMM issued IDP ordinances
- Establishment of the Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office (PSRO) by the BARMM government



#### ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & RESILIENCE

- Iloilo Provincial Renewable Energy Plan and Ordinance 2022
- Updated National Renewable Energy Plan 2020–2040
- Updated National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020–2030
- Resilient and Green Human Settlements Framework
- Local Public Transport Route Plans of the City of Baguio and Iloilo City
- Zamboanga Sibugay Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- National Guidelines and Action Plan on Fisheries Refugia
- Bangsamoro Plan of Action on Community Resilience
- BARMM Rural Electrification Plan

#### LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND & CHILD PROTECTION

- Executive Order 163 establishing protection services for asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons
- Foundling Recognition and Protection Act
- PSA Memorandum Circular no. 2021–24, which serves as the Guidelines in the issuance of birth certificates for foundling
- Rule on Facilitated Naturalization for Refugees and Stateless Persons and the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Alternative Publication of the Official Website of the Supreme Court of Petitions for Naturalization Involving Refugees and Stateless Persons
- Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Identification System Act (PhilSys) and of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Law
- Implementing the National Action Plan of Fair and Ethical Recruitment of OFWs and the National Action Plan on Sustainable and Gender Responsive Reintegration of OFWs

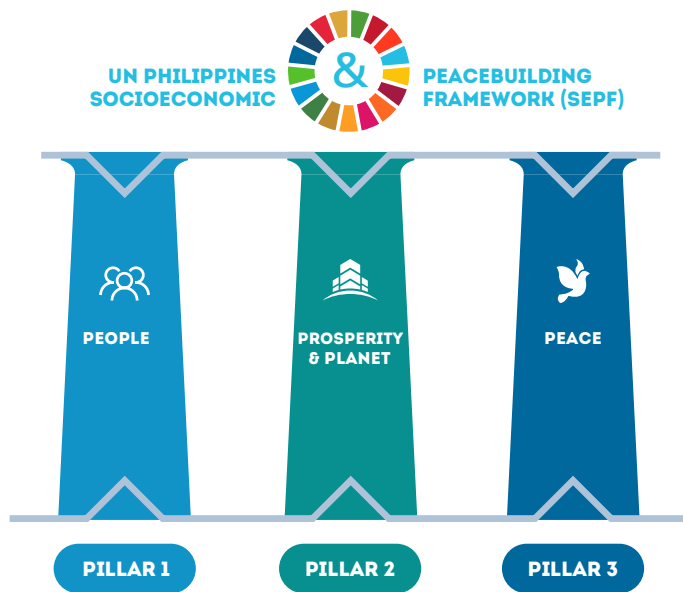




# UN support to national development priorities in 2022

The UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2019–2023 (SEPF) has provided a roadmap for prioritizing, aligning, positioning and implementation of UN system activities in the country until the end of 2023.

UN initiatives have been organized across three interconnected strategic pillars – People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace – which support the Government with the implementation of its national development priorities culminating in the new, 2023-2028 PDP, the long-term aspirations of Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



📷 Pictured below: A woman farmer in the Philippines (Photo © FAO)





## BOX 2



## ENHANCING HUMAN RIGHTS AS A COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT

Launched in 2021, the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights in the Philippines (HR-JP) supports government and non-government institutions in critical areas highlighted by Human Rights Council resolution 45/33 – domestic investigation and accountability mechanisms, data gathering on alleged police violations, civic space and engagement with civil society and the Commission on Human Rights, a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, counter-terrorism legislation, and human rights-based approaches to drug control.

Implementation of the groundbreaking HR-JP ramped up capacity building activities and strengthened technical cooperation in 2022, laying solid foundation for further joint work. It demonstrated the Government's commitment to having positive impact on and addressing long-standing human rights issues, including through engaging with international human rights mechanisms. Drawing on the UN's expertise and convening power, HR-JP facilitated collaboration and strengthened coordination. Through Technical Working Groups (TWGs) partners engaged in discussions on human rights topics such as police documentation of alleged violations, victim and witness support, civic space, and establishing a National Preventive Mechanism. Efforts with the Department of Justice aimed to enhance domestic accountability measures. HR-JP strengthened the capacity and functioning of Administrative Order No. 35 Mechanism to increase accountability, while exploring options for a National Referral Pathway Mechanism to better investigate and prosecute human rights violations. Discussions with experts focused on investigations of potentially unlawful killings, victim and witness support and protection. HR-JP provided advice on the protection of human rights defenders, conducted consultations, and advocated for legal and policy reform.

Some 700 government and civil society representatives were trained on human rights in detention, counterterrorism, freedom of expression, voluntary health-based approaches to drugs, engaging with global mechanisms and other topics. Training civil society actors resulted in broader engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review process and Special Procedure mandates. Media actors were trained on freedom of expression, including in the context of elections. The strengthening of the role of Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat's as the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), and the roll-out

**Duration (1/Aug/2021):**

**Budget (30/Jun/2024):**

Implemented by: OHCHR, UNESCO, UNOCT, UNODC

**Key national partners:** Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB); Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS); PNP Human Rights Affairs Office (PNP HRAO); Anti-Terrorism Council-Programme Management Center (ATC-PMC), civil society and academia.

**Financed by:** Australia, EU, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Switzerland, UK, US

of the National Recommendations Tracking Database, contributed to systematizing reporting and follow-up on the implementation of human rights obligations.

Dedicated training of jail and prison officials improved capacities to advance health-centred, human rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches to drug control. Providing technical advice on alternatives to detention, inter-agency coordination and case management pinpointed ways to alleviate overcrowding. The UN championed a health-driven, human rights-based approach to illicit drugs, including by helping draft the drug demand reduction strategy and roadmap for the transition to voluntary community-based treatment and rehabilitation. Due to the high rate of drug-related incarceration, the UN increased engagement with prisoners that resulted in an extension of services, policy changes towards human rights-based approaches, and greater support from development partners. Capacity building honed the skills of Local Government Unit (LGU) health workers and law enforcement officers on prisoners' continuity of care and treatment. This was paired with support for pilot recovery clinics, access to community-based services and addressing stigma. Assistance to the Department of Health enabled the review of proposed legislation, such as Anti-Drug Abuse Council Bills. Analysing frameworks and strengthening the capacities of security sector and judicial actors aimed to contribute to a human rights-based approach to counterterrorism. Training the BARMM Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Human Rights improved their abilities to investigate human rights violations in the context of the Anti-Terrorism Act. An assessment of domestic counter-terrorism legislation outlined strategies to align laws and policies with international standards, while incorporating gender and human rights perspectives.

### BOX 3



## SHOWCASING GENDER

Gender equality was a key priority for the UN in the Philippines during 2022 that also served as a year of reflection UN team initiated its internal assessment of country-level gender mainstreaming practices and performance, aimed at ensuring accountability and improving UNCT performance in the area of gender equality.

UNCT continued to engage broadly with gender equality and women empowerment civil society stakeholders, while the implementation of the ongoing joint programmes also remained focused on gender equality. Among efforts to mainstream gender and support women entrepreneurs in the Philippines, the ITC-DTI SheTrades Hub in the Philippines was officially institutionalized at the National Exporters' Week 2022. The activities under the SheTrades Philippine Hub aim to increase the capacity and competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in the Philippines. The Hub that is hosted by the Export Marketing Bureau supports Philippine women entrepreneurs/MSMEs for them to access international markets. They contribute to the global SheTrades initiative that aims connecting millions of women to markets.

Subsequently in November, the Philippines supported more than 20 recommendations specifically related to the rights of persons with disabilities.

The UN remained closely engaged with multiple stakeholders, including through the Philippine Disability Forum organized by a network of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in December 2022. "Make the Best Happen: hearing the voice of persons with disabilities on the ground" was attended by more than 100 persons from civil society organizations and LGUs, from all regions of the Philippines, with the UN supporting participation of some delegates from remote areas.

A publication on Cost of Raising Children with Disabilities in the Philippines was released by UNICEF. The survey found that children with a disability card and their families were in a situation of systematic disadvantage across all the above dimensions, and the group with the highest neglect was made up of children with functional limitations without a disability card. Findings also show a child with disability needs an expenditure that is 40–80% higher than other children without disabilities.

It also found that poverty rates are 50% higher in households with children with disabilities. Some policy implications identified in the survey include the need to increase awareness on disability registration; the need for inclusive education policies to cover the existing implementation gap, and the need for a disability allowance to address financial barriers to inclusion.

Through humanitarian efforts, the UN worked together with national counterparts to ensure that persons with disabilities were fully incorporated in crisis response when typhoon Odette/Rai hit the Philippines in December 2021. Based on national data, some 80,000 persons with disabilities were among those most affected, and identified strategies towards meeting their specific needs, including access to medicine, rehabilitation services, access to sanitation and water, and assistive and mobility devices. The risk of gender-based violence facing women and girls with disabilities was also considered.

### BOX 4

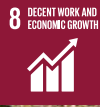


## TRANSPARENCY OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

Disability inclusion was supported across multiple areas. In connection with preparations for the Universal Periodic Review process the UN, together with the Commission on Human Rights and civil society, supported a sectoral consultation with persons with disabilities.

This facilitated the inclusion of suggested recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities in a compilation of civil society recommendations. UNCT submission to the Universal Periodic Review also contained information and recommendations on the rights of persons with disabilities.





## BOX 5

### TRANSPARENCY OF YOUTH RESULTS IN UNCTS

Youth-oriented action featured strongly in 2022. One such example was a four-year partnership agreement signed with the Republic of Korea through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and three UN entities to support the Philippine Government in accelerating the reduction of adolescent pregnancy and promoting adolescent health and well-being in the provinces of Southern Leyte and Samar. Under the auspices of UN Resident Coordinator and the Department of Health, this joint programme brought together the global knowledge of UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO to work with national and local authorities in addressing critical development challenges, aiming to improve access to quality information and services for adolescents, raise adolescents' self-awareness and rights to enable them to make informed choices about their own bodies, and enhance governance for adolescents' sexual and reproductive health.

Under the EU-funded ARISE Plus Philippines, the UN together with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) supported the mapping of the Philippine entrepreneurship ecosystem. The Ecosystem Mapping Report will help Philippine decision-makers in improving the institutional landscape in support to Philippine youth entrepreneurs and startups. Acting directly and in a targeted manner to build the capacities of Philippine youth entrepreneurs, ITC supported 24 youth-led businesses through training, coaching and linkages to financiers, corporate partners, start-ups and EU investors under the ARISE Plus YE! Boost Accelerator.

📷 Agricultural workers in the Philippines (Photo © WFP/Jacob Maentz)



# People

## PILLAR 1

**Outcome statement:** 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.

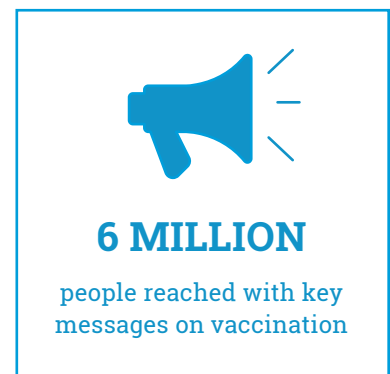
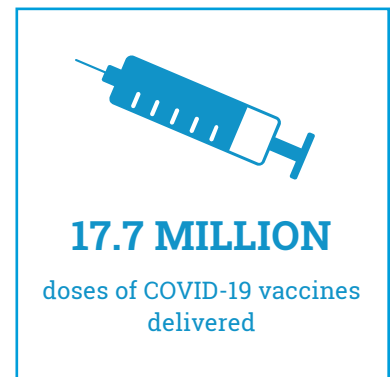
KEY RELATED SDGs	1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	UN AGENCIES	FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO
	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS							

UN work within the People Pillar aims to ensure that everyone in the Philippines lives long and healthy, has access to knowledge, and attains a decent standard of living. This is aligned with PDP’s aspirations to enhance the social fabric (malasakit) and achieve inequality-reducing transformation (pagbabago).

In 2022, UN action under the People Pillar supported an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and mitigated the impact of the overlapping food, fuel and financial crisis, as well as natural disasters, including typhoons. UN support for the Government’s COVID-19 response boosted vaccination levels by identifying priority groups, reaching hard-to-reach communities, and strategic support for implementation and access to vaccinations through the National Vaccination Operation Centre. The UN delivered 17.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and supported with cold chain equipment to bolster COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization services across the country’s 17 regions. Through UN support, 1,280 vaccination outreach initiatives resulted in key messages reaching 6 million people in 58 provinces, the Real-Time Vaccine Monitoring and Analysis Toolkit for immunization campaigns was developed, and the PhilHealth Circular on COVID-19 packages for asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons was issued.

The Last Mile COVID-19 Vaccination Approach led to vaccine coverage of over 70% in each target province and city, including coverage rates of over 80% among the elderly, and over 90% vaccine coverage for measles and polio among children under two years old. IT hardware support to 261 LGUs enabled them access and upload data to the Vaccine Information Management System and VaxCert and ended vaccination encoding backlogs. The COVID Kaya Application proved a ground-breaking digital innovation, fighting COVID-19 by enabling easy, effective data collection and reporting. The Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance Using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler For Early Detection of Diseases (FASSTER), the Philippine government’s official COVID-19 monitoring platform that was the basis for the national policies on lockdowns, was turned over by the UN to DOH. The COVID-19 response was also used to strengthen capacities contributing to universal health care (UHC), including epidemiological surveillance capacity, laboratory capacities, regulation and safety, research and risk communication.

To improve **health outcomes**, UN supported the Government to develop and implement health policies – including the Philippine Medicines Policy 2022–2030 and





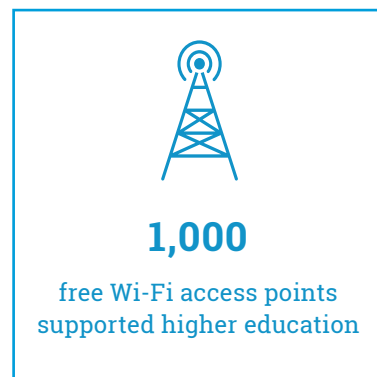
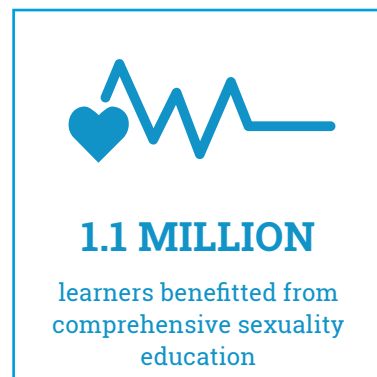
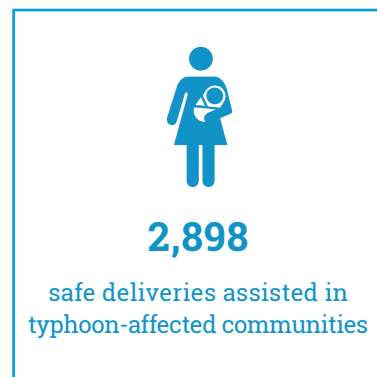
the National Master Plan for Human Resources – and to strengthen service delivery, including adolescent sexual reproductive health care (ASRH), mental health services, and reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health care (RMNCAH). For example, the UN helped community develop effective RMNCAH approaches, strengthened facilities and health services’ capacities, and promoted local government accountability through support for performance accountability system (PAS) and the improvement of health information system (HIS).

UN initiatives supported measures to tackle non-communicable diseases through hypertension control in target areas, communication campaigns and policies on reducing salt intake. UN advocacy was central to the adoption of national and local government budgets to improve women and girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In the wake of Typhoon Odette/Rai, affected communities in Southern Leyte and Caraga continued to access health services as the UN pilot-tested alternative service delivery models, including Women’s Health on Wheels (WhoW1), Women’s Health on Water (WhoW2) and Reproductive Health bikes. The DOH embraced the WhoW1 model, mobilizing funds and distributing vehicles as primary care vans to regions in need. These interventions assisted 2,898 safe deliveries and reached 5,317 women with family planning information and services as part of the typhoon response. In Maguindanao communities inundated by flooding in November, these models helped 878 women and girls access health services.

Children across the Philippines benefited from **education and training** as the UN contributed to strengthening flexible and inclusive learning, as well as Education in Emergencies, for both mainstream and vulnerable learner groups. UN advocacy and assistance facilitated safe reopening of schools, child development centres and community learning centres. Setting up 1,000 free public Wi-Fi access points in 220 higher education institutions enabled many young people to continue education. Models of school-community linkages facilitated integrated local education programming. The groundwork was laid for stronger education and training systems as UN supported the Government to devise long-term strategies, including the Basic Education Development Plan 2030, the Bangsamoro Education Reform and Development Plan 2035, and the Transforming Education Summit National Statement of Commitment to equitable, inclusive, relevant and quality education. A UN assessment identified ways of benefitting refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons by examining their access to, and inclusion in national education systems. Introducing innovative learning assessments detected risks of developmental delays, enabling competency-based micro-certification and guiding field-level learning recovery interventions. UN interventions that strengthened labour market analysis capacities of planners, data practitioners and local governments helped linking skills development programmes to local economic development priorities.

An estimated 1.1 million learners benefitted from comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in formal public schools following UN support for CSE implementation, in line with international standards and the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law for the 2022–2023 school year. The knowledge and health-seeking behaviours of poor urban adolescent girls and transgender persons improved thanks to the UN’s model Out-of-School CSE initiative, involving cash voucher assistance and participatory ASRH learning sessions. By the end of the initiative, all 60 participants knew where to get tested for HIV, where to get help if they experienced violence. All voluntarily accessed HIV testing.

With UN technical assistance, the Philippines continued to operationalize and monitor its commitments to transform **food systems** to promote safe, sustainable and healthy diets, integrate **nutrition** in universal health care, and address malnutrition in humanitarian contexts. Timely, effective nutrition interventions and services



📷 Pictured above right: Children at a UN-supported Child-Friendly Space in Malilipot (Photo © OCHA/Martin San Diego)  
Below right: Joy Bajenting with her baby son (Photo © UNFPA)





REAL LIVES

JOY'S STORY



## SAFEGUARDING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



Joy Bajenting was pregnant with her fourth child when Typhoon Odette/Rai hit her coastal town in the Dinagat Islands. The strongest typhoon to enter the Philippines, it left behind a trail of destruction. Joy was terrified, but she kept calm for her family's sake. ***"More than my fears, as I'm already halfway through my pregnancy, I had to step up for my other children since they were so scared and confused with everything happening,"*** recalls Joy.

With their house in ruins and possessions destroyed, Joy concentrated on getting her family through the ordeal. A few months later, baby Richard was born. Thoughts of her own well-being were far from her mind. ***"I had to prioritize my family's basic needs,"*** Joy explains.

***"Setting aside time and resources for my visits to the health centre was a luxury I couldn't afford."***

To make sure that women like Joy are not left behind, 1,500 women in the Caraga region received cash support to access health care as part of the [UN's integrated response for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence](#) in communities devastated by Typhoon Odette. Joy was one of them. The cash assistance – implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in partnership with World Vision, with funding from the United Nations Central Emergency Fund (CERF) – alleviates the financial barriers that prevent pregnant and post-partum women from seeking services to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs.

***"I am relieved to receive this cash assistance that prioritizes my needs and my babies' well-being,"*** Joy says. ***"I'm also thankful to our barangay health worker who encouraged me to visit the health centre for postnatal care regularly."***

Disasters hit women especially hard, adding to their burden of caring for others, often at the expense of their own health and well-being. This is why UN initiatives are encouraging women like Joy to seek care from health facilities, to change mindsets and form long-term habits of facility-based health-seeking behaviour.

benefitted 376,603 children and 10,492 women in Caraga and Southern Leyte as part of UN support for the Government's typhoon response.

The Expanded National Nutrition Survey 2021–20222 was a testament of ongoing progress, as levels of stunting fell from 28.8% (2019) to 26.7%, and wasting from 5.7% (2019) to 5.5%.

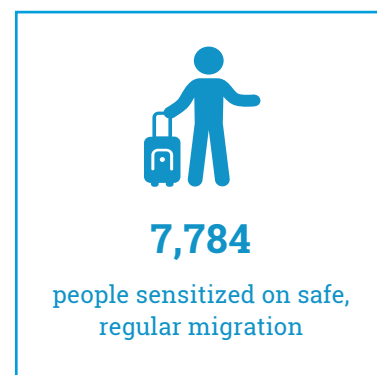
The UN contributed to food and nutrition security by supporting the development, approval and implementation of responsive frameworks, such as the National Food Policy and the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap for BARMM. These articulate the Government's commitment to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition and were informed by UN assessments and policy recommendations on an enabling environment for food systems. Reviews and guidance helped National Nutrition Council develop the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023–2028, ensuring its alignment with the 2023–2028 PDP, which also positioned food and nutrition security as a core priority.

With UN assistance, the Department of Health-led Healthy Diets Coalition developed a communication plan on eliminating trans-fat in the food system and reviewed the Philippine Nutrient Profile Model to inform a front-of-pack nutrition label. Guidelines on eliminating trans-fat, preventing overweight and obesity, and the School Health and Nutrition Manual are poised to advance better nutrition nationwide. Assisting multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) platform helped the Government monitor its Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments and operationalize the national roadmap for the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, as well as the Food Systems Transformational Pathway.

**Social protection systems** grew stronger as the UN ramped up collaboration with the Government on capacity building, advocacy, evidence generation and knowledge management. The use of existing national government systems shaped approaches to more inclusive, adaptive and shock-responsive social protection. For example, timely humanitarian cash transfers deployed through government safety nets reached families hard-hit by natural disasters. In the aftermath of the Tropical Storm Paeng/Nalgae, multi-purpose unconditional cash transfers were a lifeline for 5,137 flood-affected families with children and 3,311 vulnerable agriculture-dependent families. UN support for the digitalization of cash transfers (FAST) and advocacy for financial inclusion in BARMM strengthened the delivery of social assistance. UN efforts also helped lay the foundation for a shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) system in BARMM by designing a poverty registry and an investment case on anticipatory action and SRSP. Policy and operational support continued for the Government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Programme (4Ps) of cash grants for poor households.

The UN's Improving Migrant and Community Preparation and Awareness to Counter Trafficking (IMPACT) project contributed to reducing Trafficking in Persons (TiP) in BARMM. It did so by addressing the root causes of trafficking, building resilience of prospective labour migrants, and mainstreaming ethical recruitment principles and safer migration practices by building the capacities of government agencies, CSOs, the private sector and at-risk communities. The Tayo Alerto community awareness campaign sensitized 7,784 people on safe, regular migration. The development of a multi-stakeholder National Action Plan on Fair and Ethical Recruitment, paired with UN research and tools, has been a boon to Overseas Filipino Workers' rights.

UN advocacy and analytical work pushed for policies and legislation to ensure social protection for the most vulnerable people in the Philippines, such as [children with disabilities](#). The IMPACT project prompted the enactment of a Regional Executive Order, an ordinance and 10 executive issuances to institutionalize counter-



📷 Pictured above right: Children in BARMM enjoy their new water supply (Photo © ILO). Below right: Barangay Health Worker Alma Aclo (Photo © UNICEF/Samaritan's Purse)





REAL LIVES

ALMA'S STORY

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



## ON A MISSION TO END MALNUTRITION AND SAVE LIVES



**"We had no idea my child could have died from malnutrition,"** Annalou recalls. Her youngest child, Florencio, was identified as severely malnourished at a [mass screening](#) by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Samaritan's Purse to support families severely impacted by Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai). The screening team in Surigao City identified that Florencio was suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and immediately referred him to the regional hospital for treatment. The team regularly monitored his status after he was admitted and discharged two weeks later. Annalou was given a supply of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to continue Florencio's rehabilitation at home.

**"The RUTF is amazing,"** raves Annalou. **"I've noticed the improvement since Florencio began eating it."**

Alma Aclo, the barangay health worker in Annalou's community, is grateful for the training she received that helped her in Florencio's rehabilitation. Through the UN-supported programme, community health workers like Alma were trained on the outpatient treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, issuing referrals, home visits, and conducting malnutrition screenings in partnership with the National Nutrition Council.

**"I was only recently appointed as a barangay health worker, and everything was unfamiliar to me,"** explains Alma. **"I did not know how to properly identify a malnourished child. Our tools were also malfunctioning. I'm grateful to UNICEF and Samaritan's Purse for including our barangay in their programme. I learned a lot and it was all free. Their dedication to children has inspired me to do much more for my community."**

**"We received new anthropometric tools, medicine and vitamins,"** continues Alma. **"Their staff paid us visits on a regular basis. We are in one of Surigao City's most remote barangays, and we don't usually get outside assistance. UNICEF and Samaritan's Purse came after Typhoon Odette and offered life-saving programmes. Without them, children like Baby Florencio would suffer and might not survive."**





trafficking coordination and local referral mechanisms in target municipalities.


Following UN advocacy, the Government enacted the Foundling Recognition and Protection Act, issued Executive Order 163 mandating identified agencies to institutionalize and allocate resources towards the provision of protection services to asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons. These groups have also been included in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Identification System Act (PhilSys) and the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) programme.

Research with the Department of the Interior and Local Government on [Decentralization, Digitalization, and Development](#) identified how to build local government capacities to respond to and recover from future crises, in line with the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling.

The UN also supported the government efforts to promote and manage fair and ethical recruitment and sustainable reintegration and contributed to policy change and new legislation (Republic Act 10022) that established the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). The UN continued to provide technical assistance and help set up foundational mechanisms of the agency, including capacity building support in formulating national action plans and training for fair and ethical recruitment, as well as safe and dignified return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration. Work continued towards the enhancement of programs and

services to support local integration of refugees and asylum seekers and improving the pathways for refugees and asylum seekers to attain durable solutions, including through more accessible naturalization procedures, pursuit of the pilot Complementary Pathways program through education, and continued availability of the Emergency Transit Mechanism for mandate refugees at risk of refoulement elsewhere.

Technical support was extended to the government on data management for evidence-based programming and policy advocacy and with the implementation of pledges from 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The increased access of asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, and populations at risk of statelessness to basic rights and services paved the way towards pursuing durable solutions, including local integration and naturalization, as supported by the issuance of the Judiciary-led Rule on Facilitated Naturalization.

 Pictured above: Nasima brings her 7-month-old son, Ziyad, for a check-up and routine immunization (Photo ©UNICEF/ Martin San Diego)  
Above right: 9-year-old Ryzen Troy Sacare has never been properly diagnosed, but his family says he is “developing late” (Photo ©UNICEF/Hogsholt)  
Below right: 17-year-old Eron at his grandmother’s house (Photo © ILO)





REAL LIVES

ERON'S STORY



### ESCAPING THE MINES, BREAKING THE CYCLE OF CHILD LABOUR



***"I have no intention to go back to the mines. It's very difficult and dangerous, especially for a child,"*** explains 17-year-old Eron.

Eron is from Malaya, a village in the province of Camarines Norte in the Philippines' Bicol Region. As he grew up, the area was a hotbed for illegal and artisanal small-scale gold mining. The name Malaya means 'being free' in Filipino. But it was not a place where children were free to play, learn or thrive. Instead, many worked in gold mines, one of the most dangerous forms of child labour. Eron was one of these children. ***"I chose to work because of our meager family income,"*** he recalls. ***"I thought it would help to improve our life."***

After years of toiling in the gold mining sector, Eron became part of a more hopeful story: breaking the intergenerational cycle of child labour with the UN-supported [Caring Gold project](#).

The project has pulled Eron and scores of children like him out of child labour. Implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) with the support of the United States Department of Labor, the project promotes decent work through a community-based approach. The project helped set up the Malaya Integrated School – where Eron is now enrolled – with the united efforts of the community, partners and miners themselves.

Caring Gold also assisted the Government of the Philippines to develop and roll out the SHIELD programme. This withdraws children from the worst forms of child labour through holistic, community level interventions. As SHIELD beneficiaries, Eron's family receives 500 pesos (about \$9) each month from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to cover Eron's school supplies, food and transportation.

***"Since joining the Caring Gold mining project launched by the ILO, my life, as well as my family's, has become better. I have become even more motivated to help my family by studying hard,"*** Eron says. ***"My dream is to finish school and find a job that suits my knowledge and skills."***





**PILLAR 2**

# Prosperity and planet

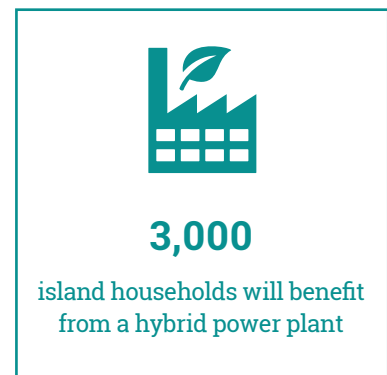
Outcome statement: Urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable development path for communities.



Within Prosperity and Planet Pillar, UN supports the Philippines’ sustainable development by advancing environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient socio-economic growth that reduces poverty and ensures shared, long-term prosperity for all. These actions are in line with the PDP’s goals of achieving inequality-reducing transformation (pagbabago) and increasing growth potential (patuloy na pag-unlad).

In 2022, UN supported the Philippines to build back better from economic challenges – exacerbated by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine crisis and disasters induced by natural hazards and move towards upper middle-income country status. Promoting innovative solutions and technology adoption in productive sectors boosted income generation and job creation for marginalized groups, while safeguarding the environment. **Job-rich recovery** gained pace as UN productivity trainings strengthened the capacities of LGUs and key production sectors (agriculture, fisheries, forestry, industry and services), expanded access to clean sustainable energy sources, established reliable water supplies, assisted the implementation of green technical and vocational education and training (TVET) strategies, and rolled out environmental best practices.

For instance, introducing the best available technology and environmental practices empowered local communities and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to take responsibility for their livelihoods and the environment. As a result, workers’ organizations crafted a 15-point labour agenda promoting decent, green jobs for a just transition. UN initiatives contributed to better e-waste management, moves to eliminate the use of mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and efforts to stop open burning. The second E-waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility was inaugurated in Barangay Dampalit, Malabon, through the Implementation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls Management Programmes for Electric Cooperatives and Safe E-waste Management project. The facility provides green jobs for informal e-wastes dismantlers and protects communities – especially waste-pickers and traders – from hazardous electronic waste. Funded by the Migration MPTF, the UN Joint Programme Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance (BRIDGE) supported the Government to achieve its priority objectives of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), to protect and meet the needs of Overseas Filipino Workers throughout the migration cycle.



📷 Pictured above right: A farmer in Davao City (Photo ©UNDP/Ferdinand Edralin)  
Below right: Evelyn Caballero at work in Cebu (Photo © ILO/M. Rimando)



REAL LIVES

EVELYN'S STORY



## UPSKILLING WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK



***"I am not a college graduate and I have no experience in banking. I also lost confidence due to my age, but this call centre training helped me regain it,"*** says Evelyn Caballero. Evelyn spent almost half her life working as a nanny in Hong Kong, Singapore and Abu Dhabi to provide for her family in the Philippines. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Evelyn was one of millions of migrant workers who lost their jobs. At 49 years old, she worried about finding work back home.

Browsing social media, Evelyn learned about [#WomenCanDoIT scholarships](#). The ILO's Women in STEM initiative, the European Union's Safe and Fair Programme and the UN Spotlight Initiative have joined forces with the

Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to offer scholarships for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). In Cebu City, the ILO, OWWA and TESDA partnered with the Call Centre Academy to upskill women OFWs.

As technology transforms the world of work, women urgently need digital and technical skills to make them more employable and secure their access to decent work. This is why the scholarships included training on call centre services and creative web design, among other important skills. Helping returning Overseas Filipino Workers acquire new skills improves their job prospects manifold.

At first, Evelyn struggled. She was not particularly computer-savvy. But the training proved life-changing. ***"After the assessment, I was awarded a silver badge," she remembers. "I was hired by Teleperformance under an international bank account before our training ended."***

Now, Evelyn no longer considers leaving the Philippines after securing her first job locally. ***"I would really prefer to work here because of the benefits, like social security that I did not have before. The work requires not just talking but also analysing."*** Luckily, she says, ***"the training really helped me learn and gain these skills. Now I can stay here in my country and be with my family."***

UN support bolstered climate-smart rural development, preventing scores of people from being left behind. Studies were conducted and innovative technologies introduced to use renewable energy for electrification and water supplies in remote areas, while institutionalizing social and protection services for vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons. For example, the Renewable Energy Technology for Seaweed Value Added in Tawi-Tawi (RETS) project set up a diesel-hybrid solar power plant for the electrification of island communities in the municipalities of Sitangkai and Sibutu, with some 3,000 households reap the benefits of electrification and income-generating activities, particularly seaweed farmers. A new Cold Chain Innovation Hub (CCI) in Taguig City – a ‘one-stop shop’ for technology transfer, research and education – helped the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to upskill the labour force for green industries and jobs in the refrigeration sector. Launched under the Global Partnership for Improving the Food Cold Chain in the Philippines (FCC), the hub has enabled the country to innovate industry solutions and capitalize on tools and technologies to safeguard jobs, public health and the environment. Efforts continued to promote and bring renewable energy to the most vulnerable and those in remote area with UN having contributed to the installation of additional 260 KW renewable energy capacity that benefited 1,300 households and public facilities in Aborlan, Palawan; Goa, Camarines Sur and Pamilacan, Bohol.

Action on **climate change** and a **green and circular economy** was accelerated as the Government, with UN support, developed frameworks to meet its environmental commitments, including under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. The finalization of laws, plans and guidelines paved the way for progress on renewable energy, such as the institutionalization of the Philippines roadmap to ensure that renewable energy accounts for 35% of the national energy mix by 2030. Following UN advocacy and support, the Iloilo Province issued an ordinance and mandated the automatic allocation of 0.5% of the province’s annual budget for renewable energy projects, benefiting 6,739 people and seven sites with off-grid rural electrification plans. Awareness raising sensitized the Government and private sector on new global agendas for sustainable growth and environmental regulations in key export markets. The facilitated Philippines’ early ratification of the Kigali Amendment will help phase out the use of ozone-depleting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Inclusive, gender-responsive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society dialogues rallied support for climate action, thanks to eight national multi-stakeholder consultations on the Stockholm+50 global meeting, including a national youth consultation, and an online crowdsourcing survey.

**Resilience-building** UN work continued to mitigate the adverse impacts of disasters and climate change on communities. The UN worked together with the government to strengthen capacities on emergency preparedness and response, resilient green recovery planning, sustainable human settlements, and climate-resilient urban planning and design (UPD). With technical support from the UN, the government formulated the Resilient and Green Human Settlements Framework, a policy milestone for building resilient cities and communities. The UN also supported the continued work of the national government’s Risk Resiliency Program by developing the Provincial Climate Risk Diagnostic Tool that aids in risk-informed planning, decision-making, and investment programming. Assistance for the development of gender-responsive, child-centred local Risk Reduction and Management Plans in three provinces and four cities laid the groundwork for greater resilience – so did support for a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2020-2030, a national resilience framework and index, a strategy for engaging youth in climate action and the Kabataang Resilient Programme for young people’s participation in building resilient communities.



176

export-oriented operators  
trained to improve food safety



24

typhoon-affected sites’  
communication services  
re-established



15-POINT

labour agenda crafted by  
workers’ organizations

Pictured above right: A farm worker in the Philippines (Photo © ILO/M. Fossat)  
Below right: Jose Balulao Jr. managing his rice farm (Photo © Project ConVERGE/IFAD)





REAL LIVES

JOSE'S STORY



## REVITALIZING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DESPITE COVID-19



***“Every rice farmer is suffering from the very high price of production inputs. The rates have doubled now. It doesn’t balance the reality of production versus income. This is why we are grateful to the rollover scheme, Project ConVERGE and our Cooperative,”*** says Jose Balulao Jr.

A rice farmer and member of the Mahayag Farmers’ Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MAFAMCO), Jose is one of 1,692 farmers who have benefitted from a production rollover scheme pioneered by the UN-supported [Project ConVERGE](#), in collaboration with farmers, agrarian reform beneficiary organizations and the Department of Agrarian Reform. Implemented by the Department with funding from the Government of the Philippines and the International Fund

for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ConVERGE works to optimize, scale up and sustain agrarian reform.

MAFAMCO is part of the Salug Valley ARC Cluster in Zamboanga del Sur, an enterprise supported by Project ConVERGE. ***“If you do not use inputs, your yield is only at 60 bags per hectare,”*** explains Jose. ***“But with the appropriate inputs and farming practices, you can yield more than 100 bags per hectare.”*** The cluster’s production rollover scheme addresses farmers’ concerns by providing inputs and fertilizers without obliging members to pay in cash. Instead, in the harvest period, farmers pay back loans with their palay produce.

Since the scheme started, palay yield has risen by 26% and the volume of palay consolidated by 35%. The cooperative’s ability to supply production loans, instead of farmers relying on third parties, has cushioned them from rising input prices and high interest rates. The scheme also had unexpected benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. ***“With the closing of borders, local institutional buyers had to purchase rice from the closest distributors,”*** explains Provincial Project Director, Judith Mantos. ***“MAFAMCO, being able to consolidate some 50.9 MT of milled rice [...] was able to score deals with 3 LGUs and government offices. Through their increased rice consolidation and marketing, a result brought about by their rollover scheme, the organization had a record-high increase in sales.”***





In support of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the UN supported the recovery efforts to Typhoon Rai/Odette through the construction of 95 “safe houses” across Dinagat, Surigao and Siargao. The most affected families were provided access to dignified and durable shelter solution through typhoon-resilient shelter. Combined with capacity building support on disaster preparedness and management, this resulted in more resilient communities with increased capacity to withstand disasters and bounce back from crises. Further 1,350 families and LGUs were supported through a major inter-agency humanitarian shelter operation by investing in capacity building activities and community-based approaches to strengthen disaster risk reduction management: 1,350 transitional shelters with in-built latrines in three key transitional sites in Surigao and Leyte were provided to promote sustainable solutions.

Training and technical assistance honed the capacities of 574 government and partner staff to prepare for and respond to disasters. This was paired with logistics and telecommunications support that benefitted communities in the wake of Typhoon Odette/Rai as six mobile operations vehicles for emergencies (MOVE) re-established communication services in 24 affected sites. The 2021-2022 Anticipatory Action (AA) project, supported by CERF, secured at-risk communities’ access to financial resources to prepare for typhoons. Over 45,000 vulnerable households were registered in the SCOPE beneficiary information and transfer management platform, so that they can receive cash-based transfers as soon as they need them. The developed draft policy on ‘Declaration of Imminent Disaster’ – a milestone achievement – allows LGUs to access disaster risk management funding for anticipatory action based on forecast triggers. The expansion of the project’s geographical coverage beyond the Bicol region to include the provinces of Southern Leyte and Surigao Del Norte will save more lives and livelihoods when disasters strike. The UN also supported the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Southern Leyte in completing the capacity development on Basic Course on Humanitarian Response, which aimed to strengthen emergency response capacity and collaboration amongst a diverse network of partners.

UN conducted various capacity building programs and activities on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter to help enhance the Philippine Government emergency preparedness and response. A National Shelter and Public Housing Training of Trainers was conducted in June and engaged 90 participants from DHSUD Central and Regional Offices and the BARMM. They were then supported to roll out the cascade sessions to local counterparts, covering 416 focal points across the country, increasing their awareness especially on post-disaster shelter response and recovery in line with global and national standards. Technical support was also provided to municipalities affected by Odette/ Rai through the series of workshops and trainings on the post disaster shelter recovery framework, climate and disaster risk assessment, geographic information systems trainings, comprehensive land use plan review, and the local shelter planning workshop that engaged 459 officials. Enhanced information management systems were supported to better coordinate national level responses to displaced populations in emergency settings and through the Biometric Registration and Verification System (BRaVe) 102,268 households in disaster-prone communities were registered in DSWD’s Comprehensive Assistance for disaster Response and Early recovery Services (CARES), which was further complemented by equipment and license support.

📷 Pictured above: A family in front of their home (Photo © UN Habitat/J. Alli).  
 Above right: Workers at a garment factory (Photo © ILO/E. Tuyay).  
 Below right: Waste picker at the new Central Materials Recovery Facility (Photo © UNIDO)





REAL LIVES

MARRIANE'S STORY



**BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WASTE SECTOR TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND**



***“Prior to the establishment of the Central Materials Recovery Facility, I did not have any regular income,”*** says Marriane Muya, a member of the B’laan Tribe in General Santos City. ***“Most of the time we did not know where we will get money for our basic needs to survive.”***

Marriane is one of the many indigenous peoples who relied on the open dumpsite in Tumbler barangay in General Santos City as their only source of livelihood. Day after day, Marriane picked waste and salvaged reusable or recyclable materials. Day after day, she braved the dumpsite’s reeking odor, thick acrid smoke and unsafe conditions just to survive. Thanks to the UN-supported project, [Demonstrations of Best Available Techniques \(BATs\)](#) and [Best Environmental Practices \(BEP\) in Open Burning](#)

Activities in Response to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the dumpsite has been closed and a Central Materials Recovery Facility (CMRF) opened in its place. Implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), with funding from the Global Environment Facility, the project implements sustainable measures to reduce contaminants emitted from open burning practices.

Waste-pickers like Marriane were among those hired to work in the Central Materials Recovery Facility. Many have service contract agreements, making them part of the formal waste sector. The facility provides a safe, decent working environment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and standard protocols. With a stable, regular source of income, Marianne and her colleagues can meet their basic needs and educate their children. Beyond the facility, attitudes are beginning to shift. People in General Santos City have started using environmentally-friendly containers and learning to separate their waste.

The facility is a beacon of hope. It shows how using environmental best practices can help diverse communities benefit from industrial progress, while tackling pollution and reducing poverty. It is a step towards ensuring that, just like Marriane, no one is left behind.

With UN support, the Government began implementing the five-year Green Climate Fund (GCF) project to enhance resilience by building a multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning system in the Philippines. The Australia-funded SHIELD programme started work to develop a strategy and roadmap to make climate risk models available to local governments. LGUs integrated **climate-resilient urban planning and design** in policies and measures to address cities' vulnerabilities, drawing on UN knowledge products featuring customized, data-driven solutions for each city. The implementation of the Cities #WithRefugees Campaign led to 13 cities in the Philippines signing a Statement of Solidarity, joining 250+ cities all over the world in creating inclusive societies. Six cities developed City Plans of Action on Marine Litter, building on the National Plan of Action. This made the Philippines a pioneering ASEAN country in terms of localizing a national plan on marine plastic pollution. Integrating a green lens in Local Public Transport Route Plans (LPTRPs) in the City of Baguio and Iloilo City led to the creation of a consortium of three universities to promote research and development on bike lanes and re-routing schemes. UN technical assistance strengthened capacities of the new Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development to deliver on its mandate.

Policy-targeted UN interventions championed the stability of **agri-food systems**, greater trade capacity and access to global markets. A joint initiative launched to monitor the food, energy and financial crisis aims to inform policy and response options. To support the Government's priority of agricultural development, the UN identified export opportunities, boosted the untapped capacities of the Halal industry and agro-farm tourism, and built capacities on sustainable land management practices to improve production and occupational safety and health. The stage was set for export growth following UN assistance for adherence to international standards and best practices on export food products, food cold chains and the Southeast Asian Energy Transition Partnership. A new food cold chain innovation hub showcased climate-smart, ozone-friendly cold chain technologies to facilitate market adoption and training. Capacity building cemented the foundations for sustainable export growth, such as training 176 export-oriented operators on food safety best practices, regulations and global standards, training 50 public and private stakeholders on quantitative market profiles, coaching 59 MSMEs on export management, and interventions to strengthen trade facilitation capacity.

Progress on **environmental protection and biodiversity conservation** is afoot as the UN assisted the development of strategies, the mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in mining, and the adoption of forest landscape restoration practices, such as the Assisted Natural Regeneration technique. For instance, provincial government of Zamboanga Sibugay adopted an innovative Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. National Guidelines and an Action Plan for the Establishment and Operation of Fisheries Refugia in the Philippines are primed to improve sustainable fisheries management. Three developed Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects in the pipeline would further protect river basin landscapes and coastal and marine ecosystems and reduce persistent organic pollutants in the manufacturing sector.

UN support for access to **innovative, green financing** bolstered resilience-building in 2022, including for the health sector. UN initiatives identified strategies to increase private sector participation in biodiversity and climate finance, and pinpointed public finance reforms necessary for improved climate finance. With UN support and assistance from the Government of Canada, the Accelerating Green and Climate Finance initiative was finalized.

 Pictured above right: A worker at the Tagum Agricultural Development Company, the Philippines' largest exporter of banana products (Photo © ILO/J. Dumbrique)  
Below right: Raymund Aaron, farmer and entrepreneur (Photo © ITC)



**1,350**  
transitional shelters with  
in-built latrines in 3 key  
transitional sites



**416**  
individuals trained on  
emergency shelter plans and  
response



**102,268**  
households registered by  
DSWD through the BRaVe  
system



**419**  
officials trained on Post Disaster  
Shelter Recovery Framework





REAL LIVES

RAYMUND'S STORY



## PROFESSIONALIZING EXPORTS OF FILIPINO FOOD PRODUCTS TO KEY MARKETS TO IMPACT LOCAL COMMUNITIES



***“As a social enterprise, I am grateful for the support received to professionalize our exports, and hope that the impact received will benefit all producing communities across the Philippines”***, says Raymund Aaron.

The 35-year-old ‘Banana Chief’ and fourth-generation farmer does not show the hard work he puts into successfully running his small family business situated south-east of Manila. After obtaining his Bachelor of Science in Management in 2009, he immediately joined the family enterprise. ***“I wanted to be an entrepreneur for as long as I can remember. We used to grow bananas on our land and so, after graduating, doing business using bananas seemed the perfect fit,”*** Raymund shared.

Raymund’s commitment extends beyond his family’s plantation, as he purchases 98% of his bananas from over 200 local “partner-farmers”.

Raymund thought that they were thrown into exporting prior to support from ITC. Villa Socorro initially planned to sell locally, but ended up exporting. Lacking strategic guidance, they fell into the trap of selling anywhere, without market analysis, thus dispersing resources and failing to maximize benefits for his company, employees and partner-farmers. He came to hear about ITC’s ARISE Plus Philippines project, and the support offered to select micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in export management. Enrolled in the project, he was assigned a dedicated coach, who shared knowledge, experience and best practices with him. Having a coach that is only a viber message away has been beneficial to Raymund. ***“It’s comforting to know there’s a coach on the other side of the line.”***

Thanks to the mentoring and coaching from ARISE Plus Philippines, Raymund now feels better equipped to navigate the export landscape. His ambitions have grown, and he plans to expand both the market volume and reach into new countries and product lines.

***“I look forward to expanding our business. We’re looking at making use of the abundant farm produce in our region and the rest of the Philippines to create fun and healthy snacks”.***



# Peace

## PILLAR 3

Outcome statement: 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.

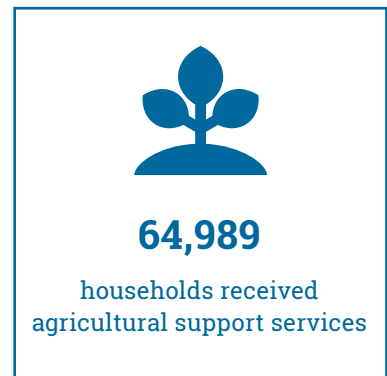


Preventing conflict depends on inclusive development based on human rights, gender equality, leaving no one behind and existing peace agreements. UN work within the Peace Pillar promotes peace by strengthening foundations for inclusive, sustainable and participatory development, income generation, resilience of communities affected by violence and supporting the implementation of the peacebuilding frameworks. It aligns with the PDP’s pillars on inequality-reducing transformation (pagbabago), attaining just, lasting peace and enhancing the social fabric (malasakit).

2022 efforts bolstered **COVID-19 response and inclusive development for peace**. UN work resulted in BARMM Government’s greater capacities to safeguard public health as a more efficient infection prevention and control (IPC) system was supported through technical assistance, equipment and capacity building. This included the provision of 24,225 COVID-19, sea ambulances, cold chain vehicles, solar drive refrigerators, oxygen cylinders and vaccine carriers, and training of 48 local health personnel on cold chain management, PCR and antigen testing, and operations and maintenance. A joint UN review of the COVID-19 Vaccination Introduction Readiness Assessment (VIRAT) identified gaps and prioritized actions for enhanced response. UN assistance to COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in BARMM – including ensuring that cold chains, logistics and supply management meet WHO standards – boosted the availability of quality vaccines and immunization services. A workshop on vaccine management honed the skills of 25 health personnel, while an International Conference on Vaccination Programme Management raised awareness of global and local best practices.

To enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities, the UN supported stronger social safety nets through the UN Joint Programme funded by the UN Joint SDG Fund and further scaled up by DFAT, to assist the BARMM Government in overall social protection system strengthening in BARMM. As a result, humanitarian cash transfers were rolled-out and anticipatory sub-national action plans developed to help local governments respond to vulnerable populations’ needs in disaster- and conflict-prone areas.

A key component of implementation of the Bangsamoro Comprehensive Agreement’s **normalization track** shifted to high gear as the UN partnered with the Independent Decommissioning Body to facilitate the decommissioning of 5,700 members of the





## BOX 6



### ADVANCING PEACE WITH THE UN STEP-BARMM JOINT PROGRAMME

**Jointly implemented by IOM, UNFPA and UN Women with the support of the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)**

The UN's Supporting Conflict Transformation Toward Effective Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Region (STEP-BARMM) Joint Programme concluded in 2022, having supported the Peace Agreement's implementation and the resilience of communities affected by decades of conflict. It championed the participation of women, indigenous communities and youth, strengthened the capacities of regional and local institutions, and built an evidence base to understand the evolving dynamics of conflict in the region. STEP-BARMM shows what the UN can achieve when agencies come together, in partnership with the Government, civil society and communities, leveraging our collective strengths in pursuit of peace.

The Joint Programme empowered 2,000 former combatants from the Bangsamoro Islamic Women's Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) to successfully transition to civilian life, supporting the Women Peace and Security Agenda as well as addressing a significant gender gap in the decommissioning process under normalization.

They are now **thriving as entrepreneurs** – following support for 15 BIWAB cooperatives to build sustainable livelihoods – and as para-social workers with the Ministry of Social Services and Development. Training BIWAB, non-Moro Indigenous women and internally displaced women as peace and gender champions enabled them to raise awareness of GBV and peace in their communities enhancing inclusive peacebuilding which is essential for peace consolidation.

Over 10,000 community members benefitted from training on gender inclusivity and peacebuilding, 630

indigenous people and community leaders engaged in inter-generational peace dialogues, and 180 young people participated in community peacebuilding initiatives.

STEP-BARMM fostered community resilience in conflict hotspots by working with local partners to improve community policing and set up, or revive, inclusive local institutions. It supported non-Moro Indigenous Peoples' community groups and women conflict mediators – praised as **'superwomen peacebuilders'**. Efforts addressed inter-linked conflict and climate security risks, drawing on the UN's expertise in humanitarian-development-peacebuilding approaches as well as support for non-Moro Indigenous communities to formulate a common position on the BARMM Indigenous People's Code which is one of the priority codes under the political track of the peace process to ensure that the peace process is inclusive.

The Joint Programme mainstreamed conflict understanding and prevention in local institutions. With the Bangsamoro Women's Commission, the UN helped operationalize and localize the Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in 22 LGUs where armed conflict persists. Support for the Bangsamoro Youth Commission (BYC) yielded a policy operations manual that has strengthened the BYC's capacity to engage young people in peacebuilding and support their initiatives. The creation of the Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office under the Office of the Chief Minister will institutionalize peace mechanisms under the peace agreement to ensure sustainable support to conflict mediation involving MILF combatants. Crucially, STEP-BARMM provided an effective platform to bring stakeholders together, foster synergies and build partnerships for lasting peace.

Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) – including 540 women – and supported strategic planning for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s (MNLF) transformation into a social movement.

UN assistance for institutionalizing the School of Peace and Democracy will sustain leadership training for decommissioned combatants, enabling them to transform their areas into peaceful, productive communities. Drawing BARMM stakeholders together renewed commitments to peace and dialogue, including through the National Summit on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the Women Insider Mediators-Rapid Action and Mobilization Platform (WIM-RAMP) Summit.

Plans and policy frameworks developed with UN assistance strengthened foundations for sustained peace and development. Key among these were the second, 2023-2028 Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP), the Bangsamoro Rehabilitation, Rebuilding and Development Roadmap 2023–2029, the Local Government Empowerment Programme, and the Bangsamoro Plan of Action on Community Resilience. New education and nutrition frameworks provided blueprints for quality, inclusive, equitable education and better nutrition for all – such as the Basic Education Development Plan 2030, the Bangsamoro Education Reform and Development Plan 2035, the BARMM Regional Nutrition Action Plan 2023–2028 and the BARMM Food Security and Nutrition Plan 2023–2028. UN support bolstered the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agendas by convening multi-stakeholder processes for updating the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on WPS, localizing WPS in BARMM municipality conflict hotspots via the UN Peacebuilding Fund Joint Program and formulating the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on YPS. The Maguindanao Provincial Guidance Note on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), developed with the Philippine National Police’s Women and Child Protection Unit, promises progress on GBV prevention, mitigation and response. Community-based participatory planning (CBPP) activities with the BARMM Government boosted community ownership by ensuring that local development plans were devised in a consultative, participatory manner. Gains were cemented by training local government officials in Maguindanao and using the CBPP tool to develop five Community Convergence Area Development Plans (CCADP) – an integral part of local comprehensive development plans (LCDPs). Advocacy continued for the institutionalization of home-grown school feeding in LCDPs.

The UN, together with the BARMM government, launched the Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office (PSRO) that institutionalizes ad hoc peacekeeping mechanisms and regularizes collaboration among peace actors, government leaders and communities during the transition period. It supported the evaluation of the Joint Peace and Security Teams (JSPTs), a key component of normalization, to measure impact and effectiveness, as well as identify gaps to inform recommendations to improve normalization implementation, community stabilization, and conflict transformation. The assessment supported by the UN Peacebuilding Fund Joint Program engaged stakeholders from LGUs, security sector and communities covering 22 JPSTs deployed across BARMM and contiguous areas in Mindanao. Technical assistance was provided to crafting regional legal framework for IDP protection in BARMM, in partnership with local organizations and key agencies, laying the groundwork for BARMM IDP Bill. In parallel, advocacy was ongoing for the formulation of local IDP protection ordinances. As of December 2022, six BARMM municipalities enacted their versions of an ordinance protecting IDPs within their locality and from neighbouring areas.

The analysis of skills and labour market demands provided an evidence base for the 2023–2028 BDP, paired with technical advisory and capacity building support for the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Assisting the BARMM labour administration assessment and the development of the Bangsamoro Labour Code championed



**22,675**

people benefitted from food assistance for assets




**13,489**

people benefitted from rehabilitation and construction services



**10,426**

participants engaged in dialogue on preventing violent extremism

 Pictured above right: Children in Rifao, BARMM, enjoying their new water supply (Photo © ILO/R. Pablo)  
Below right: Community member in Kabacan, North Cotabato (Photo © ILO)



REAL LIVES

JOSH'S STORY



## SAFE WATER AND SANITATION, A PATHWAY TO PEACE



***“Everyone deserves to meet their basic needs. It does not matter who they are nor where they come from,”*** says 25-year-old Josh Bedar from North Cotabato.

In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), access to safe water is lower than the national average in the Philippines. The barangay of Nangaan in Kabacan, a Bangsamoro Special Geographic Area in North Cotabato, used to be a waterless and conflict-affected community.

With the handover of water systems to the barangay on 9 March 2022, more than 1,000 households – including a nearby school – now have access to safe, clean water.

In this Moro National Liberation Front community, community members, former combatants and indigenous peoples worked together to build a level II water system with 22 tap stands in Kabacan under the UN-supported [Water and Sanitation Project](#), led by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its implementing partner, A Single Drop for Safe Water, with the support of the Government of Japan. The project contributes to building peace, promoting decent work, and reducing poverty through improved water supplies and sanitation services in BARMM.

Workers from the community received skills training and a guaranteed minimum wage and social protection benefits. The project provided personal protective equipment to ensure their occupational safety and health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Issues were resolved through social dialogue, as communities were involved in every step of the project cycle. About 34% of local workers engaged by the project were women, while 32% were former combatants. After a long, hard struggle for resources, the community now sees a door of opportunity opening for them which will change their lives for the better.

By the end of the project, over 6,700 households have gained access to safe, clean water as the Water and Sanitation Project launched water systems in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and a Bangsamoro Special Geographic Area in Cotabato, setting the stage for inclusive, sustainable development.



economic empowerment. Building the assessment capacities of 69 officials from the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy informed a responsive BARMM Rural Electrification Plan. Alongside training sessions, the UN provided geographic information system (GIS)-related equipment and engaged 37 ministry officials in field visits to renewable energy sites and power plants. Eight health care facilities' (HCFs) access to solar power improved – in Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi – as the UN installed photovoltaic systems, provided repair toolkits and trained 71 staff on operations and maintenance. Pioneering digital solutions through the Localizing e-Governance for Accelerated Provision of Services (LeAPS) Programme with the Ministry of Interior and Local Government simplified business processes, improved local public services and made them more accessible to people across 118 municipalities.

UN efforts strengthened **social cohesion, community resilience and empowerment** by enhancing the capacities and participation of local stakeholders in peacebuilding – including women, youth and faith-based leaders – promoting a culture of peace and conflict transformation. The STEP-BARMM Joint Programme focused on engaging women and youth in peacebuilding, protecting human rights and leaving no one behind (see box 3). Piloting People-Centred Risk Indicator Measurement and Engagement (PRIME) in three provinces in BARMM yielded evidence of benefits of conflict-sensitive programming and demonstrated that backing alternative livelihoods for former combatants and poor areas indirectly decreased the probability of armed conflict.

Permanent shelter for 1,000 families and livelihood support for 4,000 families displaced by the Marawi Siege was provided, along with support for peace structures building, community infrastructure and development, and securing tenure rights of communities.

LGUs pioneered durable solutions with UN support, implementing small-scale projects that link community members to duty bearers and promote an inclusive sense of community, peacebuilding and participation. Over 120,000 people in Mindanao benefitted from 42 low-cost quick impact projects with gender-responsive local government and community participation at their core. These advanced community empowerment and ownership, peaceful co-existence and trust between internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, livelihood opportunities, and access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities. They also improved protection of displaced women, men and children by addressing gaps, particularly in areas where local capacities and resources have been stretched.


Community-oriented policing in BARMM was initiated through the development of the localized Bangsamoro Community and Service Oriented Policing (CSOP) by a multi-stakeholder working group. Early warning and early response to violent conflict were also considered within the CSOP framework of CSOP, combining potentially viable mechanisms for conflict transformation and violent conflict prevention that continue to be part of UN work in BARMM.

The UN contributed to community stabilization in conflict affected areas by supporting the strengthening of inclusiveness of governance mechanisms and supporting socioeconomic improvements. In Marawi City, 72 community safe spaces and 51 social infrastructure instalments, which are used to deliver psychosocial support and socioeconomic services to the communities, were built.


UN support in BARMM also focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizing the intricate linkage between conflict, climate change and human mobility. Conflict-affected communities were supported with strengthening climate governance, including support to policies and plans.



**10,000**  
trained on gender inclusivity and peacebuilding



**1,000**  
families internally displaced by the Marawi Siege provided with permanent homes



**2,000**  
BIWAB women supported to transition to civilian life





📷 Pictured above: Families in some of the 1,000 permanent houses awarded to internally displaced persons as part of the UN Habitat Rebuilding Marawi Project (Photo ©UN Habitat)



Food assistance for assets (FFA) initiatives in conflict-affected areas supported livelihood activities for vulnerable groups and the development of regional food security and nutrition plans, with 22,675 people benefiting in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basilan. This advanced community re-integration, strengthened social cohesion and reduced food insecurity by facilitating sustainable, conflict-sensitive livelihood opportunities for conflict-affected populations, indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, decommissioned and soon-to-be decommissioned combatants. Livelihoods were also boosted by organizing, training and registering smallholder farmers as a 450-member cooperative, expanding their access to stable markets, participation in government programmes and contributing to economic peace dividends accessed by the most vulnerable communities. Further, the re-integration of 1,500 conflict-displaced women and youth in BARMM was supported through the provision of agri-based livelihood support and trainings, coupled with gender-based capacity building on reproductive health and nutrition.

Across the less accessible “last mile” islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa), 106 Technical Working Groups (TWGs) and Community Working Groups (CWGs) engaged 1,971 members of local governments, civil society and diverse sectors. Serving as coordination and consultation platforms, these groups facilitated information-sharing, communication about community needs. They led 80 social cohesion events, enabling dialogue between 10,426 participants on preventing violent extremism, fostering collaboration and raising awareness of local needs. Participatory action research improved understandings of the dynamics of radicalization and extremism, engaging 335 youths and vulnerable individuals from 23 communities in BaSulTa, while 47 youth-led peace initiatives engaged 3,141 children, youths, parents and guardians. A tailored package of educational materials, medical aid and livelihood assistance benefitted 125 fragile community members. Specialized trainings for 144 social workers and TWG members strengthened localized referral mechanisms for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to address the high levels of conflict-induced trauma in the region.

The UN continued supporting birth registration of marginalized indigenous communities including the displaced Sama-Bajaus in Tawi-Tawi through technical support and equipment for the digitization of the Local Civil Registrar’s Office in Bongao municipality resulting in registration of 1,237 Sama-Bajaus and 143 trained staff from Local Civil Registry of Bongao and Tandubas in Tawi-Tawi as well as other marginalized indigenous communities in Patikul in Sulu, Hadji Mohammad Ajul in Basilan and in Upi and South Upi in Maguindanao.

This was implemented in alignment with the Joint Strategy to End Childhood Statelessness that provides technical assistance and capacity building activities aid formulation of

a participatory strategy to address gaps in birth registration, particularly for vulnerable groups at risk of statelessness.

To meet the needs of vulnerable and minority populations, the UN supported the organizational strengthening of the Office for Settler Communities, provided farm tools and machinery to Non-Moro Indigenous People (NMIP) in the Upi Complex, and supplied equipment for the freshwater fish value chain in Liguasan Marsh. In Marawi City, UN projects supported recovery, rehabilitation and rural job creation. The cropping intensity, average yields and net incremental incomes of 1,241 family farmers are poised to improve as the UN’s Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP-BMCRRP) helped reduce water shortages. The project generated jobs for 1,733 people by rehabilitating 10 communal irrigation systems. Rehabilitating 2,095 hectares of firmed-up service area benefitted 1,307 farmers. Capacity building, rehabilitation and construction services improved the lives 13,489 people (majority women), including 12 Irrigators’ Associations.

The Convergence on Value Chain Enhancement for Rural Growth and Empowerment (ConVERGE) project increased on-farm incomes by creating 15 value chain enterprises, engaging 14,724 family farmers, 10,044 of whom secured institutional marketing contracts. ConVERGE also improved access to land for 7,327 agrarian reform beneficiaries who received individual land titles, created 5,979 jobs from production and enterprises, and reached 64,989 households with support services – including 39,511 households that directly received agri-inputs, equipment, loans and technical assistance. To improve agricultural performance, and reduce poverty and malnutrition, the Rural Agroenterprise Partnerships for Inclusive Development and Growth (RAPID) project set up 21 Negosyo Centres – servicing farmers, farmers’ associations, cooperatives and SMEs – supported product development, and forged 95 marketing linkages through trade promotion.

The UN continued providing support towards building local government capacities through reinforcing the mainstreaming of protection. Specialized training for the BARMM Ministry for Human Settlements and Development was organized to enhance staff knowledge and capacity in addressing durable solutions and housing, land, and property (HLP)-related concerns, allowing staff to better identify HLP protection issues, links to root causes of displacement and challenges encountered in reaching durable solutions.

 Pictured above right: Zainalen Baclid, a Social Welfare Aid from BARMM (Photo ©UNFPA/Denvie Balidoy)  
Below right: Rocma poses near her new permanent home (Photo © UN Habitat)



REAL LIVES

ROCMA'S STORY



### PERMANENT SHELTERS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED FAMILIES



Rocma Imam Dumamba still remembers the 5-hour walk she and her family endured as they fled Tuca Marinaut, their village in the City of Marawi, the morning after the start of the siege in October 2017.

There was heavy traffic, as vehicles loaded with people and belongings, and a stream of pedestrians scrambled to leave the city with whatever possession they could carry. **“What was most important at that time, as gunshots were exchanged, was to get out of Marawi alive,”** she recalls.

Rocma’s family did not own a vehicle, so like the rest of the evacuees, they resorted to travelling 38km by foot to the Municipality of Kapai, northeast of Marawi, where they sought refuge in the home of relatives. Since then, her family has moved to four different places as evacuees – from living with relatives in one village, to an evacuation centre, before moving to another village, and later to a transitory shelter.

It is families like Rocma’s that the project, Rebuilding Marawi through Community-driven Shelter Livelihood, has supported. She is among the home partners who received livelihood support, trainings on peace and development, and community development. Her new location in the resettlement site, just like the rest of the internally displaced persons from the Most Affected Area, was established Using the Social Tenure Domain Model.

**“Four years later, I am among the 1,000 families awarded permanent homes through the Rebuilding Marawi Project. Our fifth shelter since the siege – one where we hope to spend the rest of our lives. Even if our house and the belongings we left behind were burnt to the ground, I am very grateful that we now have a house we can call our own.”**





REAL LIVES

JOHANI'S STORY



## ON THE FRONTLINES OF THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



***"Who knew after years of experience in conflict, there is also something meaningful and fulfilling waiting for all of us,"*** observes 26-year-old Johani. She had been a battalion commander of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB). When the Bangsamoro Organic Law was signed in 2018, the BIWAB was withdrawn from armed service. With the law, the state committed to ***"observe, promote, and ensure gender-responsiveness in all aspects of security and peacebuilding, including the participation of women in decision-making."***

With UN support, former combatants like Johani have rebuilt their lives as civilians, dedicating themselves to peace and development. The [Reintegration and](#)

*Transformation of Former Female Ex-Combatants to Para-social Workers Project*, spearheaded by UNFPA and the Government of New Zealand, assists the Government of the Philippines to rehabilitate and develop areas previously beset by armed conflict.

***"I joined as a para-social worker because I needed to be where my brigade is,"*** explains Johani. ***"I did not realize how this can be life-changing."***

Through the project, BIWABs are on the frontlines of raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including gender-based violence (GBV), in communities across the region. Para-social workers like Johani visit remote areas to provide relief assistance and community services, interview locals, and profile hard-to-reach communities to enrol them in government programmes. ***"When they see me, they call me 'Ma'am GBV' or 'Ma'am VAWC,'"*** reports Johani proudly. ***"Before, the public and even our communities did not know about BIWAB, but now, we are recognized positively by the community."***

Johani's para-social worker allowance also helps cover her family's daily expenses and her child's school fees. Her family looks up to her, proud of her achievements as a community servant. The programme has also given her more confidence to lead her team. ***"I am now closer to my colleagues,"*** Johani says with a smile. ***"I consider them my friends."***

# Fostering innovative partnerships and financing the 2030 agenda

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The UN in the Philippines intensified efforts to leverage financing for the SDGs in 2022 by building and deepening its long-standing, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships with state and non-state actors, including locally. UN support for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon Odette/Rai is a case in point. With UN's support through the multi-stakeholder Humanitarian Country Team, \$77.8 million was mobilized in 2022, enabling some 200 organizations and partners to implement over 14,000 humanitarian activities that reached more than 1 million vulnerable people.<sup>6</sup>

Firm partnerships with the Government – underpinned by UN advocacy and technical assistance – led to the realignment of public expenditures in aid of the SDG targets. For example, to advance women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, the UN successfully advocated for the adoption of a PHP 837 million budget under the Department of Health dedicated to SRHR and family planning under the 2023 General Appropriations Act. Another PHP 61 million was allocated for comprehensive sexuality education under the Department of Education. With support from the Joint SDG Fund, the UN INFF Joint Programme played a key role in prompting these allocations, cumulatively worth over \$23.5 million (see box 7). The Government cofounded work with UN entities and SDG-responsive financing became part and parcel of the 2023–2028 PDP, paving the way for allocations to accelerate progress on the Goals. Working with government partners, United Nations supported the development of 2023–2028 PDP and 2023–2028 BDP that have sustainable, inclusive development at their core.

Strengthening partnerships with local governments helped localize the 2030 Agenda and improve service delivery. For instance, partnerships with local governments and City Health

Offices set the stage for the sustainability and expansion of the UN's model Out-of-School CSE initiative. Ten municipalities engaged in the UN's youth leadership governance programme integrated adolescent sexual and reproductive health in their youth development plans, with corresponding budget allocations.

Partnerships were forged with more diverse stakeholders than ever before, including the private sector and civil society. For example, the creation of the second E-waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility in Barangay Dampalit, Malabon was the fruit of partnerships between the UN, private sector partners, the Eco-waste Coalition and government counterparts. Continued partnerships with international financial institutions were a boon for financing progress on the SDGs. For instance, joint UN-World Bank planning led to a \$600 million loan in support of the national health sector response, including to strengthen COVID-19 laboratory capacity and vaccinations.<sup>7</sup>

Non-financial partnerships were equally crucial. The strategic work plan developed at a Strategic Planning Workshop (21–23 November 2022) with civil society organizations and the Human Rights Commission paved the way for the HR-JP to respond and adapt to evolving needs. A Multi-stakeholder Policy Forum on the UN Peacebuilding Fund-supported STEP-BARMM Joint Programme rallied government officials, civil society and other partners to intensify efforts for peace, inclusion and development. Their commitment will maintain the momentum set in motion by STEP-BARMM, building on its successes, lessons learned and recommendations. The buy-in of these stakeholders is vital for translating recommendations into gender-responsive, locally inclusive laws, policies and programmes with the meaningful participation of empowered women and young people.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/typhoon-rai-humanitarian-needs-and-response-final-progress-report-october-2022>  
<sup>7</sup> [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/UNDCO\\_Report\\_2022\\_05\\_16\\_2022.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/UNDCO_Report_2022_05_16_2022.pdf)

 Pictured above left: A farmer in BARMM (Photo © UNDP/Ferdinand Edralin)  
Below left: Johani and other former BIWAB women (Photo © UNFPA/Vonna Vista)

## BOX 7



## FINANCING FOR THE SDGS WITH THE UN INFF JOINT PROGRAMME

*Jointly implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF with support from the Joint SDG Fund*

A pioneering UN Joint Programme is supporting the Philippines to establish an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to achieve the SDGs and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the Reaping the Demographic Dividends and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by Applying an Integrated Financing Framework in the Philippines Joint Programme provided catalytic support in more ways than one. Tools and technical assistance strengthened government planning and budgeting mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels. Coordination and consensus-building on priorities advanced a whole-of-government approach in aid of the aims of Ambisyon 2040, the 2023-2028 PDP, the COVID-19 'We Recover As One' roadmap, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In these ways, the joint programme helped lay the foundation for resource allocations that are effectively targeted to accelerate progress on the SDGs, and for a diversified financing framework. Together, these approaches will allow the Philippines leverage additional resources for implementing COVID-19 recovery strategies and, ultimately, achieving the SDGs in an integrated manner.

An updated Development Finance Assessment presented a timely overview of the Philippines progress on the SDGs and the current financing landscape. By showing reversals in progress on 13 SDG targets and COVID-19's negative impact on government revenues and debt, the assessment pinpoints where efforts and finances are most needed.

Creating an SDG budget tagging process was among the joint programme's most important achievements, through which the Government can easily identify budget allocations for specific SDG targets. The programme's national budget tagging exercise generated data on the level of government investments for health, education, and sexual and reproductive health (SDGs 3, 4 and 5.6) – data that was previously unavailable. This sets the stage for making government investments visible across all national government agencies. Having this data at hand will let the Government rigorously assess which programmes are effective and where improvements are needed.

Pilot testing budget tagging for child-focused programmes with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) honed sub-national capacities on expenditure monitoring and budget analysis. It paved the way for a system to aggregate data on local governments' financial investments for child-related SDGs. This will expedite investments in critical social services, such as health care, nutrition, child protection, education and social protection – vital for ensuring that no one is left behind. A costing toolkit for adolescent-friendly health services will help local governments plan investments for upgrading health services and accessing additional funding from the Department of Health. A demonstration case shed light on how applying an INFF can harness the Philippines' demographic dividend and address teenage pregnancy. Using the INFF as an overarching framework, the joint programme supported the development of a National Action Plan to address teenage pregnancy and advocated for greater public sector investment. As a result of activities supported by the joint programme through its partners, the Government increased budgetary allocations for teacher training on comprehensive sexuality education and the national family planning programme by an impressive \$23.5 million.

To maximize the Philippines' demographic dividend, the joint programme also supported a Population and Development Situational Analysis and an assessment of the COVID-19's impact on youth. These offer much-needed evidence of the pandemic's effects on young people and demographic trends. These studies point to a financing gap which has been made worse by COVID-19. Dialogue with government and non-governmental partners identified potential alternative financing strategies to bridge these gaps. Work began on developing these instruments – public-private partnerships in health, labelled bonds, diaspora investments, SDG investor maps, and donation-based crowd funding platforms.

A key lesson learned in 2022 was that the Government of the Philippines has systems, structures and processes in place to build an effective country-led Integrated National Financing Framework. Strengthening these mechanisms offers a prime opportunity to harmonize planning, programming and financing for the SDGs. In this spirit, capacity building support for the SDG Sub-Committee and its Secretariat assisted the development of a draft INFF Roadmap to turn the promises of the SDGs into tangible results.





Health workers check a baby's temperature in the Philippines (Photo © WHO)

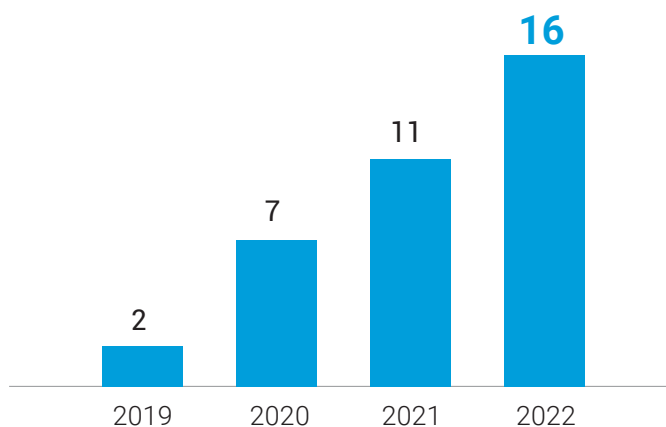
## UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2022, the UN in the Philippines furthered implementing the UN development system reform to achieve greater coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of its in-country work. The UN in the Philippines implemented bold changes envisioned by the reform and the 2030 Agenda with a better-integrated UN Country Team that collaborated closely to implement SEPF, led by an empowered UN Resident Coordinator.

### Joint programming

Moves to make reform a reality were exemplified by further shifting from individual, ad hoc, short-term projects to financing joint programming. Since 2019, **joint programming** in the Philippines has risen eightfold. By end-2022, 16 UN joint programmes/initiatives were being implemented in the country, with aggregate funding of more than \$41.3 million, including for regional programmes. These yielded better integrated, transformative and sustainable results by harnessing UN agencies' individual strengths through joint action. For example, the UN's STEP-BARMM Joint Programme has been a game-changer in advancing inclusive peacebuilding and the Women, Peace and Security agenda due to the synergies of UN agencies working jointly and the expanded partnerships with the Government, civil society and communities (see box 6). With the UN Joint Programme on Monitoring the Food, Energy, Finance, Crisis towards Informed Policy Options in the Philippines,

The growing number of UN joint programmes / initiatives in the Philippines, 2019–2022



supported by the UN Joint SDG Fund's Development Emergency Modality, agencies collaborated to monitor and raise awareness of the impacts of the global food, energy and financial crisis in the Philippines. This gave the Government strong evidence to inform its response to the cost-of-living crisis. UN agencies also proved flexible to adjusting or expanding programming and resources based on real needs on the ground.

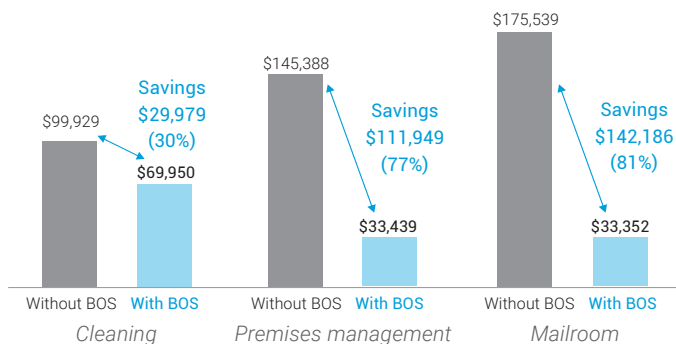
## Joint planning and response

Throughout the year, the UN leveraged its convening power to bring together a range of different stakeholders from across sectors – from the government, civil society, private sector, academia, the media and other development partners – to inform, develop and implement initiatives. This convening power was central to the UN’s support for the Philippines’ COVID-19 response, recovery from Typhoon Odette/Rai and peacebuilding in BARMM. **Convening and consulting** stakeholders is vital for informing the UN’s future work in the country. In 2022, planning began for the Philippines 2024-2028 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF), in close co-leadership with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), and closely involving other governmental departments, civil society and BARMM stakeholders, to shape the future joint priorities and work.

## Efficiency agenda

UN Philippines’ delivery of the UN’s global Efficiency Agenda is centred around the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 that contributes to eliminating transaction costs, saving staff time, and benefiting UN entities from economies of scale and using available resources more effectively through collaborative or joint business operations.

## Examples of UN cost savings through BOS in 2022



In 2022, financial savings on premises management and mailroom operations totalled 77% and 81%, respectively. Common services like the zero-emission e-shuttle bus for UN staff contributed to environmental sustainability. Launched in December 2022, this pilot green transport solution maximized efficiency with an innovative booking and payment service integrated with local Filipino e-cash providers, and managed externally by an e-shuttle company, which helped overcome internal accounting and finance challenges. Carpooling was another example of progress in 2022, optimizing the use of agencies’ car fleets. These incremental steps towards common services are enabling the UN in the Philippines to heed the call of the Secretary-General – to seek efficiencies as the 2030 Agenda is implemented forward.

📷 Pictured below: Beneficiaries receive a grain storage container with UN support (Photo © FAO)





**BOX 8**
**UN JOINT PROGRAMMES / INITIATIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 2022**

Title	SDGs and SEPF pillars covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget/source of Funding (US\$)
1 Scaling up the Joint Programme on <b>risk-informed shock-responsive social protection (RISRSP)</b> in the BARMM <i>DRR, Governance, Data, Economic Policy Support, LNOB</i>	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	Jun 2021 – Dec 2022	<b>FAO, UNICEF</b>	<b>\$1.37 million</b> Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia
2 Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by Applying an <b>Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)</b> in the Philippines <i>Integrated policy, development finance, private sector, data</i>	3, 4, 5, 8, 17 People, Cross-cutting	Feb 2021 – Dec 2022	<b>UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b> \$1 million (Joint SDG Fund) \$200,000 (UNDP) \$150,000 (UNICEF) \$150,000 (UNFPA)
3 Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the <b>Promotion and Protection of Human Rights</b> in the Philippines <i>Human rights, gender, LNOB, safety of journalists</i>	5, 8, 10, 16, 17 People	Aug 2021 – Jul 2024	<b>OHCHR, UNODC, UNCTO, UNESCO</b>	<b>\$10.2 million</b> Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding + bilateral contributions \$2.23 million (UN co-financing) \$7.98 million (for resource mobilization) <b>Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)</b> <b>Deposits:</b> Australia \$684,157; Norway \$763,487; UK \$526,252; Switzerland \$382,690; Netherlands \$163,328; Ireland \$21,426 <b>Commitments:</b> Philippines \$200,000; Netherlands \$167,411 <b>Bilateral:</b> Australia \$269,266; European Union \$414,640; Germany \$223,214
4 <b>Conflict Transformation</b> in areas affected by armed conflict in BARMM through area-based community driven development <i>Peacebuilding, Conflict, Livelihoods and Social Cohesion, Transitional Justice</i>	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	Jan 2022 – Dec 2023	<b>WFP, FAO, IOM, UNDP</b>	<b>\$14.7 million</b> Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding \$285,000 (UN co-financing) \$1 million (DFAT Australia) \$10,594 (Ireland)
5 Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in <b>Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)</b> <i>Gender, Governance, Integrated policy, LNOB</i>	8, 10, 17 People	Nov 2020 – Oct 2022 (Apr 2023 per NCE)	<b>IOM, ILO, UN Women</b>	<b>\$1.5 million</b> Migration MPTF
6 Supporting <b>Conflict Transformation</b> toward Effective Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Region (STEP-BARMM) <i>Gender, Governance, LNOB, Economic policy support</i>	5, 8, 10, 16, 17 Peace	Jan 2021 – Jun 2022 (15 Dec 2022 per NCE)	<b>IOM, UNFPA, UN Women</b>	<b>\$3 million</b> UN Peacebuilding Fund
7 Monitoring the <b>Food, Energy, Finance, Crisis</b> towards Informed Policy Options in the Philippines <i>Data, LNOB, Food Security and Social Protection, Analysis and Forecasting, Economic policy support</i>	1, 2 People	Jul 2022 – Mar 2023	<b>WFP, FAO, ILO</b>	<b>\$250,000</b> Joint SDG Fund – Development Emergency Modality (DEM)
8 Enhancing resilient and gender-responsive agriculture-based livelihoods of returned Women and Youth IDPs in post-conflict communities in Maguindanao – BARMM <i>Gender, LNOB, Youth, IDPs</i>	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	Jan 2022 – Dec 2023	<b>FAO, UNFPA,</b>	<b>\$2 million</b> DFAT Australia



Title	SDGs and SEPF pillars covered	Duration	Participating UN agencies	Total budget/source of Funding (US\$)
9 Project BRAVE (Building COVID-safe Responses and Voices for Equity) <i>Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Child protection, GBV, Gender, Youth</i>	2, 5 People	Jun 2021 – Jun 2023 (Dec 2023, NCE)	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	<b>\$2.36 million</b> DFAT Australia
10 Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace in the BARMM <i>Gender, Peace-humanitarian nexus, governance, integrated policy</i>	5, 6 Peace	Apr 2022 – Sep 2025	UN Women, UNDP	<b>\$2.17</b> Global Affairs Canada
11 Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy Southern Leyte and Samar in the Philippines <i>Gender, LNOB, human rights, adolescent pregnancy</i>	3, 5 (Direct); 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17 (Indirect)  People	21 Nov 2022- 31 Dec 2026	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	<b>\$8.5 million</b> \$6.5 million (Republic of Korea through Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)) \$1 million (GPH co-financing) \$1 million (UN co-financing)
12 Strengthening of the health system and COVID-19 vaccination <i>Integrated policy, LNOB</i>	3, 5, 9, 10, 17	May 2021 - Jun 2025	UNICEF, WHO	<b>\$5.07 million</b> DFAT Australia
<b>REGIONAL</b>				
13 GEF-GOLD Mongolia-Philippines Contribution Toward the Elimination of Mercury in The Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: From Miners to Refiners <i>Gender, Governance, LNOB, private sector</i>	1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 17  Prosperity and Planet	2019 – 2024	UNEP, UNIDO	<b>\$6 million</b> Global Environment Facility (GEF)
14 Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region [Spotlight Initiative] <i>Data, gender, human rights, LNOB, disability inclusion</i>	5, 8, 10, 16, 17  People	7 Jul 2017 – 31 Dec 2023	ILO, UN Women in collaboration with UNODC	<b>€25 million</b> EU Delegation (ASEAN, scope of work include the Philippines)  <i>of which \$1.29 million</i> (ILO Philippines component)
15 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 <i>Data, gender, human rights, LNOB</i>	8, 10  People	1 Aug 2020 – 31 Jul 2024	ILO, IOM, UNDP	<b>\$10.7 million</b> EU Delegation (ASEAN, scope of work includes the Philippines)
16 Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE)	16  Peace	7 Jan 2019 – 6 Jan 2024	UNOCT, UNODC, UNDP	<b>€8.9 million</b> of which <b>€6 million/\$6.42 million</b> from EU Delegation (Central, South and South East Asia, scope of work includes the Philippines)
<b>TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP (WB-GPH-UN)</b>				
17 UN Agency as Third-Party Procurement Agent (3PPA) for the Procurement of Consultancy Services, Goods, and Supplies for the World Bank-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) Funded "Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project" as Loan No. 9382-PH, P175493 <i>Multisectoral approach to Nutrition, Tripartite UN-GPH-WB partnership</i>	2, 6, 17  People	2022-2025	UNICEF, UNOPS in collaboration with relevant UN agencies	<b>\$950,495*</b>  World Bank-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) with Government of the Philippines co-financing

\* pipeline for 2023 and after; the amount is reflective of the initial call for proposal



📷 Jayson Taboy and his daughter in the city of Tacloban (Photo © UNICEF)

## Lessons learned

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For the UN in the Philippines, lessons learned in 2022 demonstrate how far we have come, the very real difference we make to people's lives and how much more must be done to make sustainable development a lived reality for everyone in the Philippines. The evaluation of the SEPF affirms that the UN's cooperation framework with the Philippines **is relevant and adaptable to the country's development needs**. Both the UN's coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic and active support for the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement testify to this.

Results from 2022 demonstrate that alliances and coalitions pay off, which is particularly evident through outcomes from the growing number of implemented **UN Joint Programmes** in the Philippines, and through United Nations entities working closely together across the SEPF's three pillars. UN efforts upheld the **principles of gender equality, human rights, leaving no one behind, and bridging the humanitarian-development-peace nexus**. Promoting the Government's institutionalization of initiatives' policies and actions contributed to the sustainability of results, in line with the UN's role in supporting national priorities by generating innovative solutions. UN support also contributed to changes in policies and the enactment of laws that provide frameworks for achieving the SDGs (see box 1). Facilitating factors for these successes included coordination and active resource mobilization efforts by the Resident Coordinator and his Office (UNRCO), as well as the expertise

of, and existing partnerships between, UN agencies. Although 2022 was a challenging year, the UN family rose to the challenge and is determined to do more to overcome hurdles in the future. The UN was also reported by NEDA as the second biggest source of grants in the country (\$281.21 million) – a notch higher than previous years. The COVID-19 pandemic's protracted impact complicated efforts to sustain peace. It increased competition for resources in localities with historic tensions, while shifting institutional focus away from policy-building at a formative stage of the peace process. Climate shocks like Typhoon Odette/Rai and Tropical Storm Paeng, negatively impacted the most vulnerable communities as well as development gains, while elections also temporarily diverted attention away from long-term development initiatives. Challenges were exacerbated by high staff turnover and vacant government posts. Other challenges included limited resource availability to meet wide-ranging needs, insecurity in some areas, and reports of human rights concerns.

There is a need for even greater coordination and aligned reporting, monitoring and evaluation systems across UN agencies. It is vital to better define and quantify the UN's contributions to national outcomes, capacity building, promoting peace and piloting innovations. Raising awareness of the added value of the SEPF among government and civil society partners is equally essential, including through the cooperation framework's governance and stakeholder engagement structures.

# UN focus in 2023

In 2023, the UN in the Philippines is set to escalate efforts toward inclusive, resilient, human rights-based sustainable development. This commitment underscores inclusivity, efficiency, and close collaboration with the entire Philippine society.

The concluding year of SEPF implementation will be distinguished by concerted global and local initiatives to accelerate SDG attainment. The UN will continue to provide robust backing to the Government's leadership in realizing national sustainable development goals outlined in the PDP.

The UN's unwavering commitment to leaving no one behind will remain central to all its work. The organization will continue to lead advocacy and provide support for sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons and actively promote peace and comprehensive development in BARMM. Of paramount significance is the promotion of a nationally defined social protection floor, ensuring accessible healthcare and income security for all. The work across the country will remain geared towards eradicating poverty, fostering prosperity, reducing inequality, ensuring food security, addressing educational gaps, bridging gender disparities, closing the digital divide, championing climate justice, conserving the environment, advancing peace, and safeguarding human rights.

2023 heralds the launch of a pilot initiative – Enhancing Resilient Communities (ERC) – to assist communities in the Philippines with better addressing current and future shocks. The UN and its partners will spearhead these efforts, fostering a shift from short-term humanitarian assistance to more sustainable strategies. The ERC pilot initiative focuses on prevention, community engagement, and strengthened interagency cooperation and multisectoral approaches. It ultimately aims to empower individuals, making them less reliant on external support while fostering resilience, self-sufficiency, dignity, and independence.

The UN will expand its support to elevating climate resilience efforts. The Philippines' strong advocacy at COP 27 has prompted a concentrated focus on mitigating climate change's impact on vulnerable nations. In a collaborative endeavour, the UN will guide the Philippines in constructing a compelling case to access resources from the Loss and Damage Finance Facility. Joint initiatives with the Government will focus on multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and strengthening early warning systems.



*My vision of the forthcoming cooperation framework is not that of a fragmented collection of activities conducted by 24 UN entities and compiled in a nice catalogue, but a powerful and dynamic partnership instrument that brings together the collective energy of a committed and united UN team that supports the country in defining and leading its own path to sustainable development.*

**Gustavo González, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines**

In 2023, the compact defining the UN's work in the Philippines has been agreed with the Government. The Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) is a pioneering new-generation strategic document, embodying UN development system reform aspirations, driven by the UN system's leadership in advancing the sustainable development agenda through enhanced coherence, relevance, and efficiency. The CF's transformative nature lies in its establishment of a platform for the shift from development assistance to strategic, expanded partnerships for sustainable development. This entails a heightened focus on policy development, capacity building, sharing global knowledge, supporting coalitions at local, national, and global levels, and playing a robust role as convener and facilitator. Greater emphasis will also be placed on internal collaboration, joint efforts, and shared expertise. The CF is built on the Common Country Analysis (CCA) findings, finalized in 2023. These guided a consultative process involving the Government, civil society, and other stakeholders to determine framework priorities aligned with the Philippines' needs.



In line with UN development system reform principles, the UN in the Philippines will prioritize outcomes over processes and people over bureaucracy. Enhanced coordination and collaboration within the UN Country Team will be pivotal in driving effective action. Leveraging the UN system's comprehensive strengths, encompassing knowledge generation, normative efforts, and global convening, the UN will steadfastly spearhead solutions in the Philippines.

An imperative for the UN involves cultivating expanded partnerships. Beyond governmental interactions, the UN will actively foster connections with diverse stakeholders, including civil society entities, youth collectives, women's groups, NGOs representing vulnerable populations, social dialogue partners, media, private sector entities, development partners, and most crucially, local communities. This multi-faceted engagement reflects the UN's commitment to a positive and collaborative approach.



*The Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) is a pioneering new-generation strategic document, embodying UN development system reform aspirations, driven by the UN system's leadership in advancing the sustainable development agenda through enhanced coherence, relevance, and efficiency.*

📷 Pictured below: Gustavo González, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines, on a mission to Cotabato (Photo © UNOCHA)



# Acronyms

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ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	STEP-BARMM	Supporting Conflict Transformation Toward Effective Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Region Joint Programme
ASRH	Adolescent sexual reproductive health care	UN	United Nations
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
BIWAB	Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade	UNCT	United Nations Development Programme
BOS 2.0	Business Operations Strategy 2.0	UNDP	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
CERF	United Nations Central Emergency Fund	UNDRR	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
ConVERGE	Convergence on Value Chain Enhancement for Rural Growth and Empowerment Project	UNDSS	United Nations Environment Programme
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	UNEP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
CSE	Comprehensive sexuality education	UNESCAP	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNESCO	United Nations Population Fund
GBV	Gender-based violence	UNFPA	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
IDP	Internally displaced person	UN Habitat	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNHCR	United Nations Information Centre (DGC)
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNIC	United Nations Children's Fund
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework	UNICEF	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNICRI	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
IPC	Infection prevention and control	UNIDO	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
ITC	International Trade Centre	UNOCT	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ITU	International Telecommunications Union	UNODC	United Nations Office for Project Services
JP	United Nations Joint Programme	UNOPS	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
LGU	Local Government Unit	UNRCO	Urban planning and design
MSMEs	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UPD	Water, sanitation and hygiene
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker	WASH	World Food Programme
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	WFP	World Health Organization
PBF	UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund	WHO	World Health Organization
PDP	Philippine Development Plan	WPS	Women, peace and security
PHP	Philippine peso	YPS	Youth, peace and security
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		
SEPF	United Nations Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2019–2023		
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises		
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights		







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