



UNITED NATIONS
PHILIPPINES



2023 RESULTS ▶ 2024 PROSPECTS



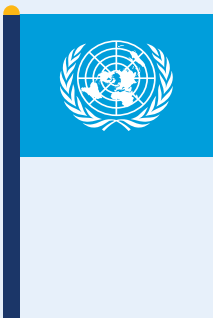


UNITED NATIONS
PHILIPPINES



25 United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and affiliated organizations

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	 IFAD	 International Labour Organization	 International Trade Centre	 ITU
 IOM UN MIGRATION	 UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER	 UNAIDS	 UN D P	 UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
 UN environment programme	 ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	 unesco	 UNFPA	 UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency
 UN-HABITAT	 unicri United Nations International Crime and Justice Research Institute	 unicef	 UNIDO	 UNOCT
 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	 UNOPS	 UN WOMEN	 WFP World Food Programme	 World Health Organization



4 United Nations Secretariat support offices

- ▶ Department of Safety and Security (DSS)
- ▶ Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- ▶ Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)
- ▶ United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)



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Message from the United Nations Resident Coordinator



Gustavo González

Resident Coordinator and
Humanitarian Coordinator

I am proud to present the United Nations Philippines annual report which highlights key achievements of the United Nations in cooperation with the Government of the Philippines and other partners in 2023. This was the final year of the 2020-2023 United Nations Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines (SEPF).

2023 was a challenging year. The Philippines weathered global storms better than most. Against the headwinds of global financial, food and energy crises, which disproportionately impact the poor, the United Nations continued to work closely with Filipino institutions to promote and contribute to sustainable development. This collaborative approach brought the best of global public goods, resources and capacities at disposal to the people of the Philippines so that no one is left behind.

Key principles of our work were a strong push for the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and localization of solutions that are best fit for the Filipino context.

We aimed to unlock the full development potential of everyone in the Philippines. To boost food and nutrition security, we combined our technical expertise coupled with resources from multilateral partners. This enabled the Government to launch ambitious and transformational food security initiatives which targeted the most vulnerable low-income households and directed resources to localities with the most pressing needs. To increase community resilience to climate change and disasters, the United Nations launched the Enhancing Resilient Communities (ERC) initiative which coincided with the tenth anniversary of Super Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) that had struck the country in 2013.

The convening function of the United Nations was put at the service of the Philippines in 2023. The United Nations raised public awareness about pressing global challenges and facilitated ways to address and mitigate dialogue with partners; a few examples included disaster risk reduction and the ethical use of artificial intelligence. In 2023, the United Nations development system in the Philippines contributed to the formulation and launch of at least 88 people-centred policies, laws and normative frameworks for the acceleration of SDGs.



We continued to translate a new generation of United Nations work into tangible, coherent and impactful results: we implemented a portfolio of 10 joint projects and multi-partner initiatives that demonstrated the added value of leveraging and complementing the wide and substantive expertise of the United Nations entities working closely together. This is just one example of the United Nations development system reform delivering tangible benefits and transformative change in the day-to-day lives of the people in the Philippines – from improving the health and livelihoods of women involved in artisanal small-scale gold mining and facilitating the social and economic reintegration of returning migrant workers to enabling women peace mediators prevent and resolve community conflicts in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

While marking the successful completion of the SEPF, the year 2023 also reaffirmed our strong commitment and partnership between the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations. The first new generation partnership framework, the Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF), was signed on United Nations Day on 24 October 2023 and witnessed by the President of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. The CF is fully aligned with the Philippines' long-term development vision articulated in AmBisyon Natin 2040 and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028. The CF will guide our future work and collaboration with the Government and partners to ensure that no one in the Philippines is left behind as the country moves to become an upper middle-income nation.

I invite you to thoroughly examine this report that demonstrates United Nations Philippines' accountability for our commitments to the people we serve. Our successes are inseparable from our strong partnerships with the Government of the Philippines, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), communities, youth groups, labour unions, development partners, the business community and the many individuals championing the rights of the most vulnerable.

Gustavo González,
Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator

United Nations in the Philippines in 2023

The Philippines is one of the original 51 founding members of the United Nations.

The activities of the United Nations in the Philippines align with the country's development priorities, human rights and gender equality commitments and with the 17 SDGs. The United Nations works to support national development priorities through technical assistance, capacity development, knowledge exchange and innovative pilot programmes. Some entities also provide humanitarian support.

29

United Nations entities

Twenty-nine United Nations entities engage in operational and/or support activities for development in the Philippines through the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC) who is the designated representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in the country.

On 24 October 2023, twenty-four United Nations entities signed the new generation 2024-2028 CF.

1,900

country-based personnel

The United Nations team in the Philippines, which also includes offices with regional and global mandates, included more than 1,900 country-based personnel at the end of 2023.

“As the CF is among the first of its kind under the reformed United Nations development system, our collaboration will showcase the best and finest the United Nations development system can offer the world with programs that provide solutions and have far-reaching impact, and provide good models of co-ownership, transparency, and accountability.”

- Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines



Photo: UN Philippines

Organization		Physical presence	SEPF 2020-2023 signatory	CF 2024-2028 signatory
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	✓	✓	✓
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	✓	✓	✓
ILO	International Labour Organization	✓	✓	✓
ITC*	International Trade Centre	✓	✓	✓
ITU	International Telecommunications Union	✗	✗	✓
IOM	International Organization for Migration	✓	✓	✓
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	✓	n/a	n/a
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	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	✗	✓	✓
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security	✓	n/a	n/a
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	✗	✓	✓
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	✗	✗	✗
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)	✓	n/a	n/a
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	✓	n/a	n/a
UN Women*	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	✓	✓	✓
WFP	World Food Programme	✓	✓	✓
WHO	World Health Organization	✓	✓	✓

* Project offices or non-accredited offices with physical presence

Development investments

Development partners providing support to United Nations in the Philippines in 2023*

 Albania	 Lithuania
 Argentina	 Luxembourg
 Australia	 Malta
 Austria	 Mexico
 Bangladesh	 Morocco
 Belgium	 Netherlands
 Brazil	 New Zealand
 Canada	 Nigeria
 China	 Norway
 Côte d'Ivoire	 Pakistan
 Croatia	 Peru
 Czechia	 Philippines
 Denmark	 Poland
 Egypt	 Portugal
 Estonia	 Qatar
 European Union	 Republic of Korea
 Finland	 Romania
 France	 Russian Federation
 Gambia	 Saudi Arabia
 Germany	 Slovak Republic
 Greece	 Slovenia
 India	 South Africa
 Indonesia	 Spain
 Ireland	 Sweden
 Italy	 Switzerland
 Japan	 Türkiye
 Kenya	 UK
 Latvia	 US
 Liechtenstein	

2023 financial requirements, available and expenditure (in millions of US\$)



Requirements

\$197.5M



Availability

\$174.4M



Expenditure

\$122.6M



% expenditure vs available

70%

In 2023, the United Nations in the Philippines diversified its funding portfolio to scale up initiatives, implement innovative projects, and reach communities in greatest need. Thirteen development partners contributed to inter-agency initiatives and enhanced United Nations coherence in critical development areas. In addition, the United Nations actively leveraged global vertical funds such as the Joint SDG Fund, the United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF), the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the Global Climate Fund (GCF), and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. To catalyse broader investments, the United Nations also embarked on new and innovative tripartite mechanisms for SDG acceleration with the Philippine Government and the World Bank. The establishment of two country-level multi-partner pooled funds provided a single platform for collective and coordinated work to overcome the existing fragmentation of mini projects in the region. This effectively leveraged the United Nations' existing capacities on the ground for cost-effective implementation. These efforts landed the United Nations as the second biggest source of official development assistance (ODA) grant assistance in 2023 (US\$281.2 million) at an amount higher than in previous years (2022 National Economic and Development Authority [NEDA] Official Development Assistance [ODA] Portfolio Review).

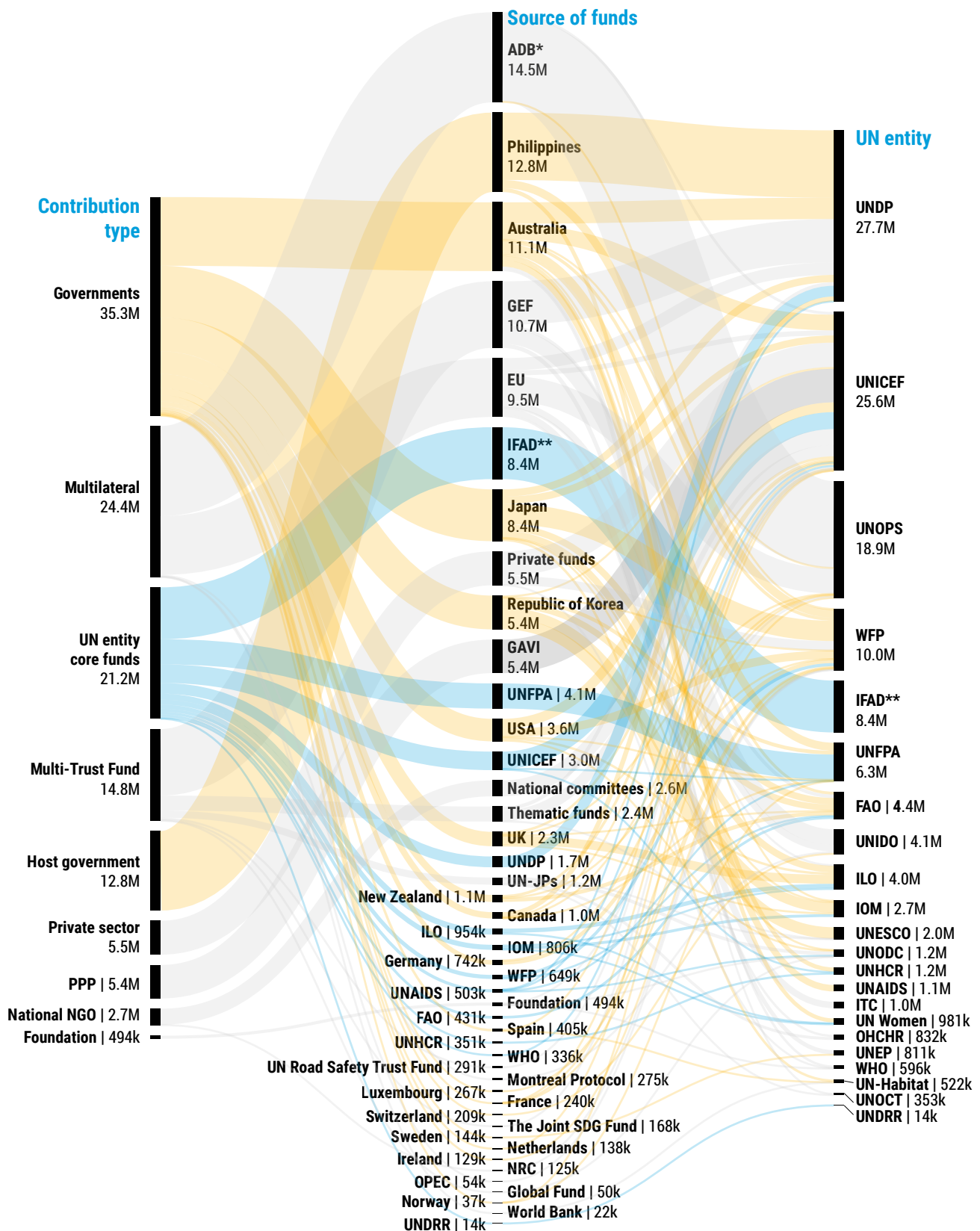
* Includes development partners and United Nations Member States providing bilateral contributions to United Nations entities and contributions through pooled funding modalities (GEF, Joint SDG Fund; PBF). The list excludes core contributions to United Nations entities or their/other thematic funds.

By organization (in millions of US\$)

Requirements (US\$)	Available (US\$)	Expenditure (US\$)	% expenditure vs available
UNICEF \$49.8M	UNICEF \$25.6M	UNICEF \$25.6M	100%
UNDP \$40.9M	UNDP \$42.4M	UNDP \$27.6M	65%
UNOPS \$31.1M	UNOPS \$31.1M	UNOPS \$18.9M	61%
WFP \$24.8M	WFP \$20.8M	WFP \$10.0M	48%
FAO \$8.8M	FAO \$9.4M	FAO \$4.4M	47%
IFAD* \$8.4M	IFAD* \$8.4M	IFAD* \$8.4M	100%
UNFPA \$7.0M	UNFPA \$7.0M	UNFPA \$6.3M	90%
UNIDO \$4.1M	UNIDO \$4.1M	UNIDO \$4.1M	100%
WHO \$3.3M	WHO \$3.3M	WHO \$0.6M	18%
UNESCO \$3.3M	UNESCO \$3.1M	UNESCO \$2.0M	65%
IOM \$2.7M	IOM \$2.8M	IOM \$2.7M	97%
UNODC \$2.3M	UNODC \$1.5M	UNODC \$1.2M	81%
UNEP \$2.2M	UNEP \$2.2M	UNEP \$0.8M	37%
OHCHR \$1.6M	OHCHR \$1.1M	OHCHR \$0.8M	79%
UN Women \$1.5M	UN Women \$1.6M	UN Women \$1.0M	63%
UNHCR \$1.3M	UNHCR \$1.2M	UNHCR \$1.2M	99%
ILO \$1.3M	ILO \$5.6M	ILO \$4.0M	72%
UNAIDS \$1.1M	UNAIDS \$1.1M	UNAIDS \$1.1M	100%
ITC \$1.0M	ITC \$1.0M	ITC \$1.0M	100%
UN-Habitat \$0.7M	UN-Habitat \$0.7M	UN-Habitat \$0.5M	71%
UNOCT \$0.4M	UNOCT \$0.5M	UNOCT \$0.4M	72%
UNDRR \$10.0k	UNDRR \$14.0k	UNDRR \$13.7k	98%

* The project expenditures financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are based on withdrawal applications disbursed to the implementing agency. This figure may deviate from the actual expenditures of the project and only reflects disbursements from IFAD to the agency.

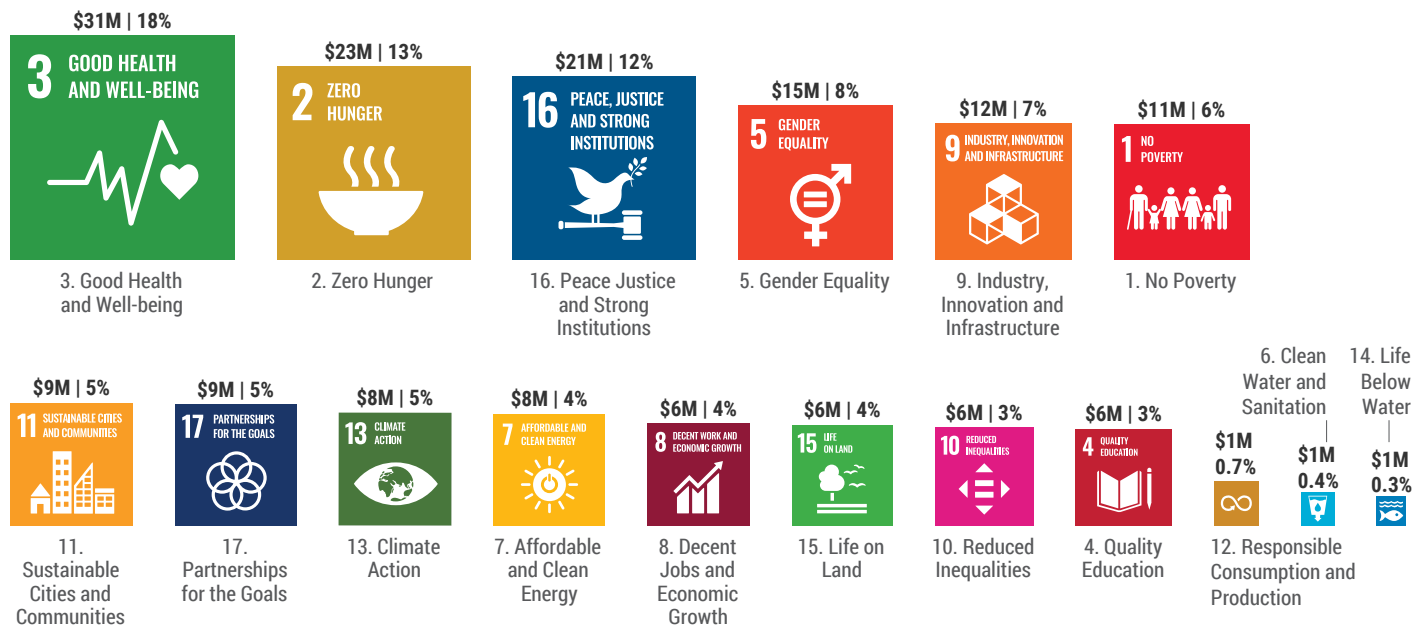
2023 expenditure by contributor and United Nations entity (in thousands of US\$)



* Support for the implementation of the "Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit (HEAL) COVID-19"

** The project expenditures financed by IFAD are based on withdrawal applications disbursed to the implementing agency. This figure may deviate from the actual expenditures of the project and only reflects disbursements from IFAD to the agency.

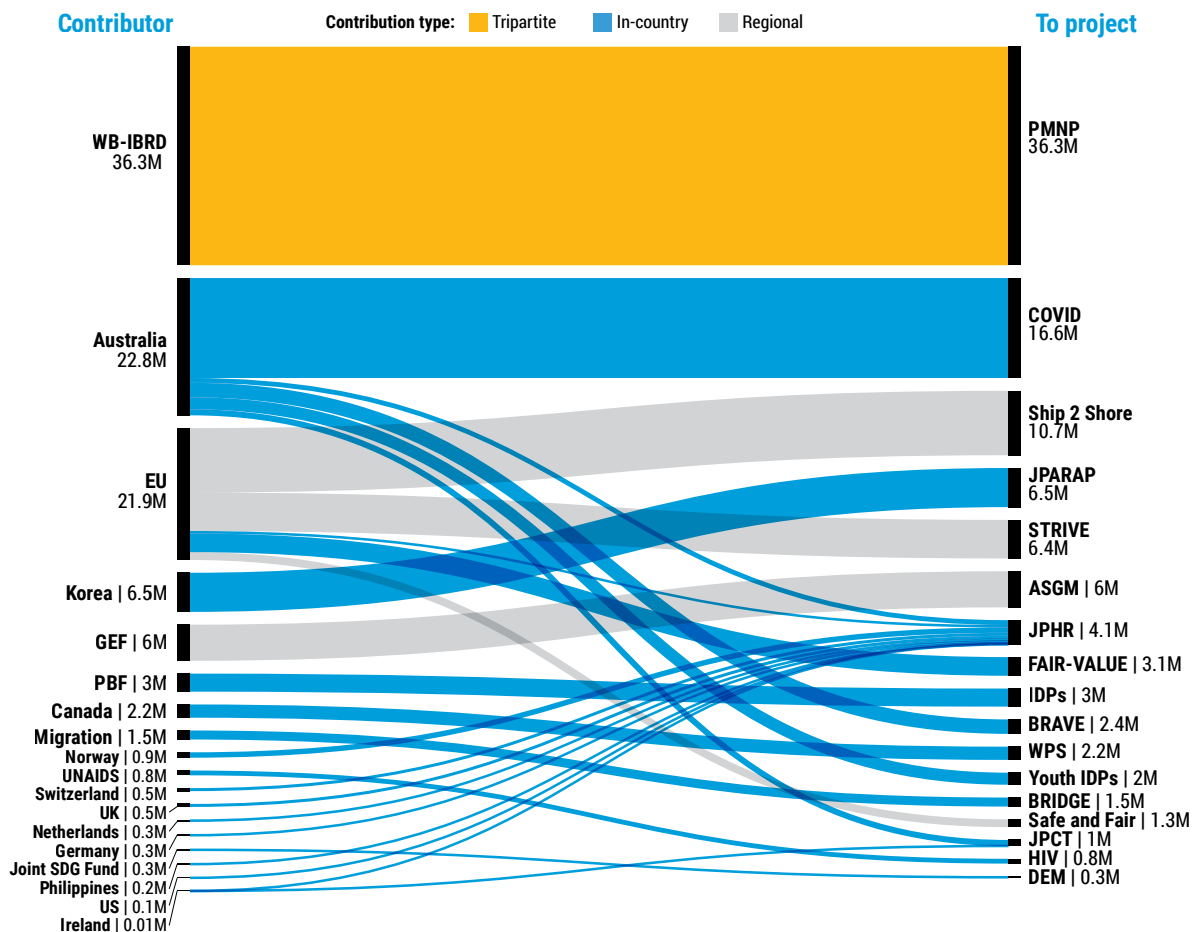
Funding available by SDGs (in millions of US\$)*



* Figures exclude an additional \$1.3m currently not yet attributed to a particular SDG in UN-INFO

Contribution to United Nations joint projects and joint initiatives

Total financial contributions for the entire duration of each joint project/initiative (in millions of US\$)





Chapter 1

Key 2023 developments in the Philippines



22.4%

of Filipinos living under the poverty line

10.7%

of Filipinos reported experiencing involuntary hunger

9 out of 10

ten-year-old Filipinos could not read and/or understand age-appropriate reading materials

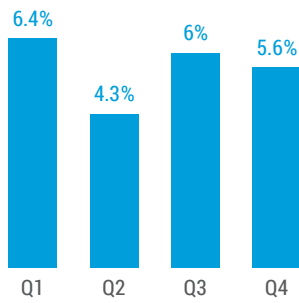
Midway on its Agenda 2030 path, the Philippines ranked ninety-eighth out of 166 countries on progress towards achieving the SDGs.¹ Using ESCAP's SDG Progress Assessment Methodology, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported progress on Goals 1, 3, 4 and 14 compared to the year 2000 baseline data but improvements fell short of expectations for 2022. Goals 2, 8, 11 and 13 have regressed since 2000, according to PSA.²

Preliminary results of official poverty statistics for the first semester of 2023 indicated continued progress on SDG 1 as the rate of poverty incidence improved to 22.4 percent (25.24 million Filipinos) from 23.7 percent (26.14 million Filipinos) in the same period in 2021.³ Food and nutrition (SDG 2) remained a pressing issue as 10.7 percent of Filipinos reported experiencing involuntary hunger in 2023,⁴ and food inflation averaged 8 percent for the year, driven by increased prices of rice, vegetables and fish.⁵ Education performance (SDG 4) has seen setbacks, with the 2023 global report indicating that nine out of 10 ten-year-old Filipinos could not read and/or understand age-appropriate reading materials⁶ and Filipino students were five to six years behind in learning competencies compared with students in other countries.⁷ Gains were made on SDG 5 as the country improved its ranking on the 2023 Global Gender Gap Index, rising by three places to sixteen of 146 economies. The Philippines score (0.791) was higher than the global average (0.684) covering the four dimensions of the gender gap on economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.⁸

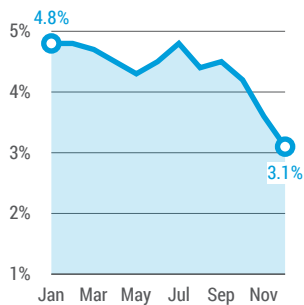
Like in other countries, the Philippines' climate was affected by the global El Niño phenomenon that began in July 2023. The country experienced only 11 tropical cyclones in 2023, significantly below the annual average of 20. Despite this and strong typhoons not making direct landfall, the enhanced southwest monsoon and shear lines brought heavy rains and caused floods and landslides. Life below water (SDG 14) suffered a significant catastrophe as an oil tanker, which carried around 800,000 litres of industrial fuel, sank off the coast of Oriental Mindoro province in February 2023. The oil spill threatened 21 marine protected areas – including the Verde Island Passage, considered a global centre of marine shore fish biodiversity – and caused environmental damages estimated at PHP 7 billion.⁹

The economy continued to grow, following the strong post-COVID-19 rebound starting in 2022. The full-year Gross Domestic Product growth rate (SDG 8) of 5.6 percent fell below

2023 GDP growth



2023 unemployment rates



the Government’s target range of 6-7 percent but was higher than that of the country’s Asia-Pacific neighbours like China (5.2 percent), Viet Nam (5.0 percent) and Malaysia (3.8 percent).¹⁰ The growth was driven by the services sector (7.2 percent), followed by industry (3.2 percent), while agriculture, forestry and fisheries grew modestly (1.4 percent).¹¹ Headline inflation, driven by high food inflation, reached a historic peak (8.7 percent) in January 2023, and decelerated to 3.9 percent by December, resulting in a full-year rate of 6.0 percent and above the 2.0-4.0 percent target range.

2023 saw the passage of major economic legislation such as the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act to develop a National Employment Master Plan to improve the employability of Filipino workers, the Public-Private Partnership Code of the Philippines to increase investments in physical and social infrastructure, the Maharlika Investment Fund Act to establish the country’s first sovereign wealth fund, and the New Agrarian Emancipation Act to allow loans amounting to PHP 57.56 billion to over 610,000 agrarian reform farmer-beneficiaries.

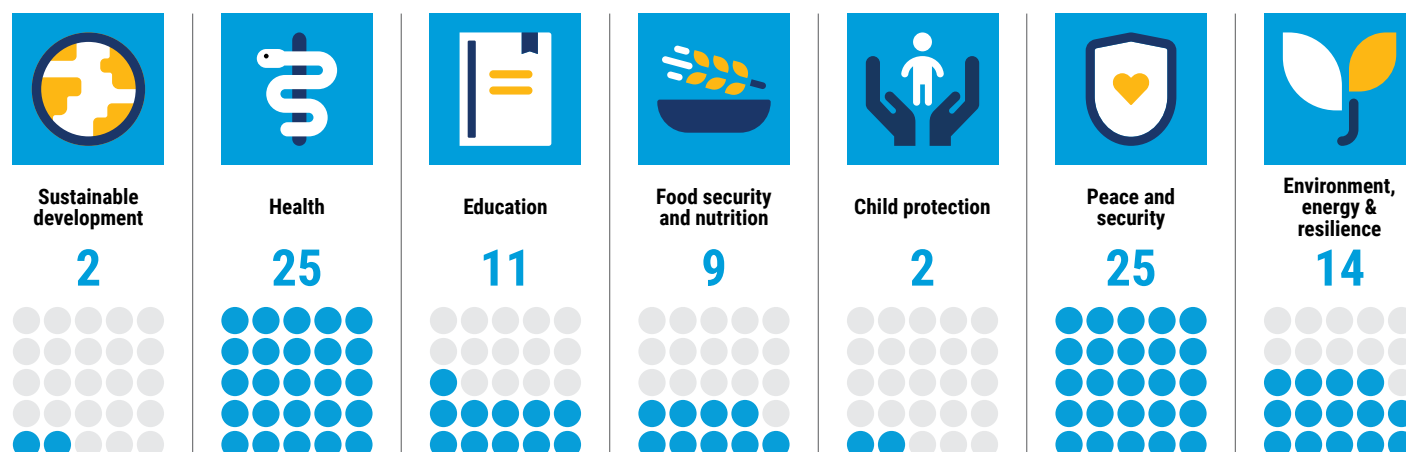
In March, the Government supported 215 out of 287 recommendations received through the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, making commitments to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in various areas. Three treaty bodies reviewed the Government’s implementation of obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. In January, an International Labour Organization (ILO) High Level Tripartite Mission visited the country. In November and December respectively, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change and the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture conducted official country visits. The Government made firm commitments to strengthen access to justice, but progress towards achieving accountability for human rights violations, including alleged extrajudicial killings, remained delayed. Human rights defenders and journalists continued to report being subject to human rights violations, threats and intimidation.

The comprehensive Philippine peace process made significant progress in 2023. The Government and the Communist Party of the Philippines signed the Oslo Joint Communique in November that committed both parties to formal peace negotiations to end more than 50 years of armed conflict. Significant milestones under the political track of the Bangsamoro peace agreement included the passage by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority of the Local Governance Code and the BARMM Electoral Code, which paved the way for BARMM parliamentary elections in 2025 and the end of the transition phase. While progress was made on decommissioning – 65 percent of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) combatants have been decommissioned – implementation of other critical Normalization components, including the disbanding of private armed groups, socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants, amnesty and transitional justice and reconciliation, continued to lag and will require Government’s accelerated action ahead of the BARMM elections in 2025.

65%

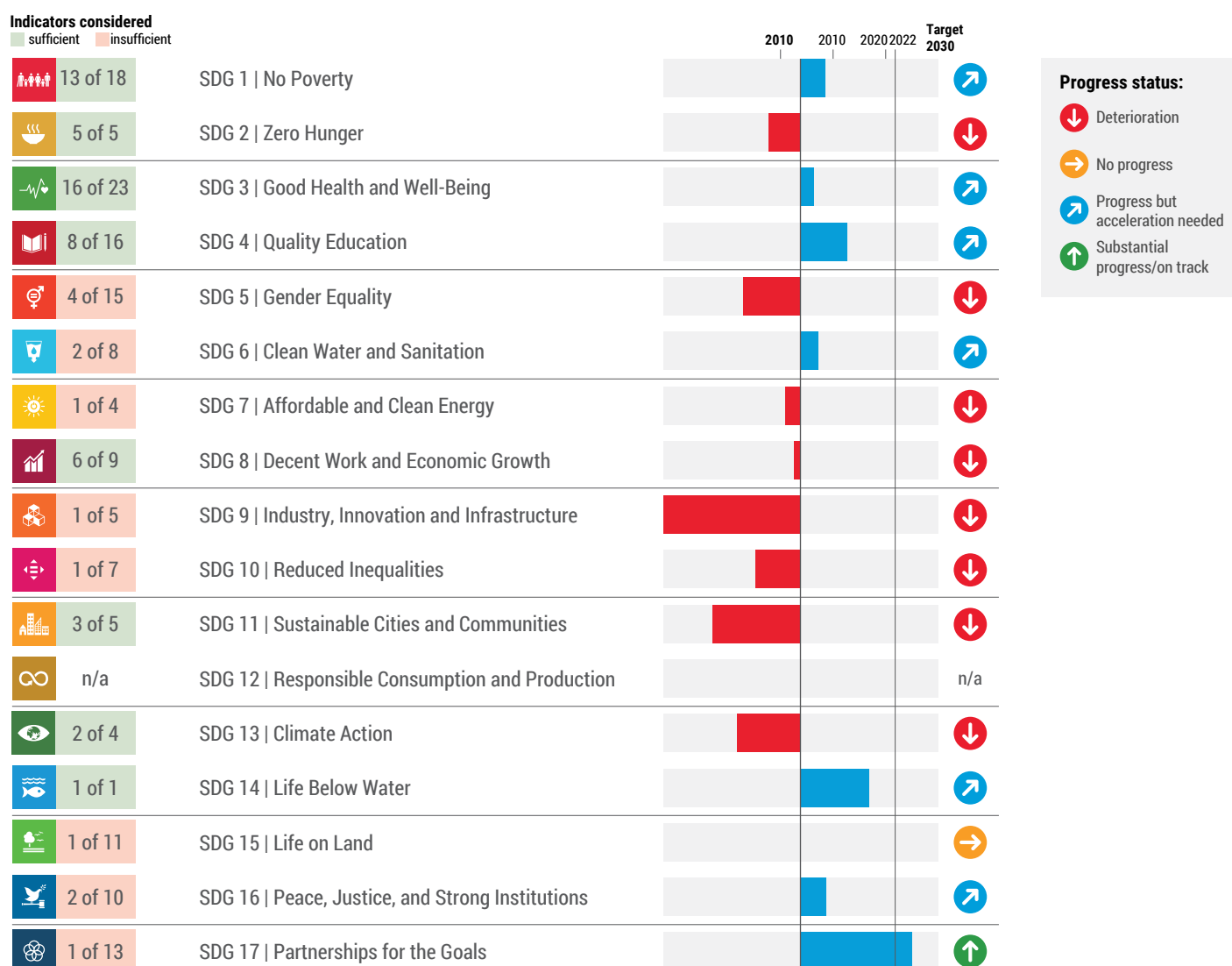
of MILF combatants have been decommissioned

Number of people-centred policies, laws and frameworks developed with UN support in 2023



See annex 2 for detailed list


2022 SDG pace of progress



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



United Nations support for national development priorities in 2023



The **United Nations Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2019–2023 (SEPF)** provided a roadmap for prioritizing, aligning, positioning and implementing the United Nations system activities in the country through the end of 2023. The work of the United Nations was organized across three interconnected strategic pillars – **People, Prosperity and Planet**, and **Peace** – in support of national development priorities as outlined in the 2023-2028 Philippine Development Plan, the long-term aspirations of *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, and the achievement of the SDGs.

Duration:

August 2021–July 2024

Budget:

\$10.2 million /
\$4,054,317
mobilized

Implemented by:

OHCHR, UNESCO,
UNOCT, UNODC

Key national partners:

Department of Justice, Department of Foreign Affairs, Commission on Human Rights, Dangerous Drugs Board, Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, PNP Human Rights Affairs Office, Anti-Terrorism Council-Programme Management Center, civil society and academia.

Financed by:

Australia, EU, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Switzerland, UK, US

The journey to enhance human rights through a multi-partner United Nations Joint Programme

Under the United Nations Joint Programme for Human Rights (JP-HR) launched in 2021, four United Nations entities (OHCHR, UNESCO, UNOCT and UNODC) worked closely with government institutions, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), academia and CSOs on six critical areas as outlined in the 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 CHR, a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, counter-terrorism legislation, and human rights-based approaches to drug control. Gender and disability were mainstreamed in all areas of work.

The United Nations worked closely with the Government as well as the CHR and civil society actors, and used its convening power and technical expertise to implement programmes and catalyse change. Partnering with the Philippine National Police (PNP) Human Rights Affairs Office, more than 200 police officers were trained across the country on analysis and documentation of human rights violations, which then led to strengthened capacity of the police to document cases in a more systematic way. The United Nations worked closely with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to strengthen investigations into human rights violations. This included specialized training for 50 prosecutors and investigators from relevant government agencies as well as civil society actors on human rights standards and best international practices related to the investigation of potential cases of unlawful killings. These trainings contributed to strengthened skills for investigation of such cases. CHR regional staff was also trained in monitoring cases related to counter-terrorism legislation.

The JP-HR contributed to the Government's efforts to improve conditions in detention, including through providing technical support to the Prison Decongestion Summit in December 2023. The Philippines joined the "Friends of the Mandela Rules" with a commitment to improve conditions in detention. Through extensive training, capacity building and policy development (including at the community level), the Programme supported the transition of the Philippines towards a health-based approach to drug policy, as announced by the Secretary of Justice in May 2023.

To protect the civic space, the JP-HR provided protection training for civil society actors, facilitated civil society engagement with international human rights mechanisms, engaged with city-level officials to strengthen local protection policies, and advocated for national legislation on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, with the support of the JP-HR, rolled out the National Tracking Database and launched a network of departmental focal points who were trained in human rights. This led to improved



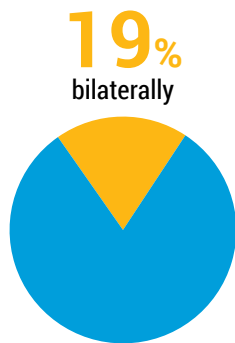
consistency in tracking progress when implementing recommendations from International Human Rights Mechanisms.

The JP-HR supported the Government-led “75-day Countdown to Human Rights 75”. Various government departments implemented activities which led to the announcement of three pledges: 1) to reinforce domestic accountability mechanisms, including through establishing a training institute for forensic science and investigation, 2) to establish a Human Rights Coordinating Council to sustain the current initiatives under the six work streams of the JP-HR, and 3) to release its fourth National Human Rights Action Plan.

Donor contributions to the United Nations Joint Programme for Human Rights

\$4.1M

% contribution by funding type



81%
UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund

By contributor

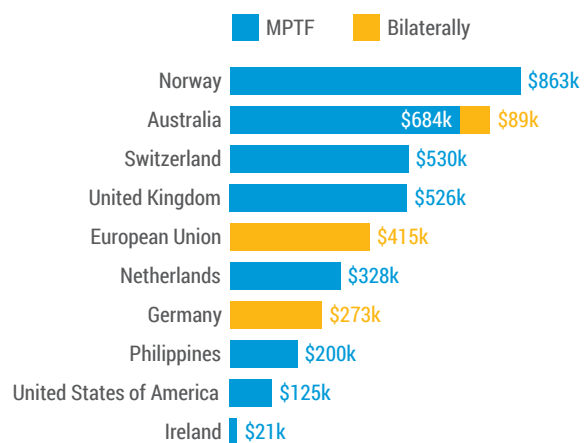


Photo: OHCHR

Fostering innovative partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2023, the United Nations forged innovative partnerships in critical areas with the Government, development partners and other stakeholders which led to increased investments for the SDGs from a diversity of international and domestic funding sources.

Innovative alliances with international financial institutions



In terms of innovative alliances engaging international financial institutions, the **Philippines Multisectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP)** is setting the ground for a new generation of partnerships to address a major development challenge in the country: stunting in children. The United Nations-supported evaluation of the First 1,000 Day (F1KD) Programme provided impetus to a \$178.1 million PMNP investment for the 275 most vulnerable municipalities to combat stunting. Under the PMNP Joint Coordination Group, United Nations Philippines led the convening of a tri-partite coalition: the **Government of the Philippines** (as project owner and recipient of capacity development support), the **World Bank** (as a major strategic player and loan provider), and the **United Nations** (as global community of knowledge, universal standards and a strategic provider of technical assistance and project implementation services). United Nations-led advocacy resulted in an estimated PHP 224 million allocation for multisectoral nutrition programming in three target provinces, representing an annual budget increase of 238 percent.

Amplifying social protection through partnerships

The United Nations is boosting transformative shifts by leveraging its expert knowledge on social protection which has a demonstrated multiplier effect on **SDG Acceleration**. For example, the costing study on children living with disabilities produced by the United Nations accelerated legislative commitment towards a bill on disability assistance for the Indigenous Peoples and provided justification to harmonize disability registry design and implementation. The United Nations assisted the Government through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in designing and implementing the national flagship programme **Walang Gutom 2027** (No Hunger). The programme contributed to national social protection priorities by addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in low-income families.

Strengthening local partnerships

Strengthening partnerships with local governments resulted in innovations and SDG-aligned policies and investments in several areas. Five cities – Caloocan, Cotabato, Manila, Quezon and Pasig – were supported to develop their capacities in transitioning to a circular economy, resulting in each local government unit (LGU) integrating green public procurement in their standard processes. The **Malay Food Systems Innovation** pilot initiative employed market matching experiments to link mainland Malay farmers with the food demand on Boracay Island, resulting in an initial annual increase in income of \$60-400 among farmers. Local governments enacted local policies adopting the Philippine Approach to Sustainable Sanitation that sharpened the climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) development frameworks. Samar and Leyte provinces established 25 adolescent-friendly health facilities, utilizing the Performance Accountability System to ensure good governance on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. Under the **SHIELD Program**, two provinces completed their hazards and risk profile, value chain analyses and business continuity plans, while five other provinces completed their three-year plan of action in establishing risk-based plans, investment programmes and budget, as well as data ecosystems to ensure resilient value chains and business continuity. Negros Island provinces expanded their 2023 and 2024 Annual Investment Programs, allocating an additional \$314,000 for biodiversity pipeline activities. The BARMM Government allocated substantial funding to initiate activities for migrant health programming and services delivery across the region, including island provinces and municipalities, as well as special geographic areas.



Partnerships for digital transformation

United Nations partnerships are harnessing digital transformation opportunities to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. Through the innovative online platform **DeliverE 2.0**, farmers now have an efficient means of locating cold storage facilities for their agricultural produce. This enabled the Philippine Cold Chain Industry to be compliant with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. Geographical, economic and governance-related bottlenecks impacting on modern contraceptive use have been identified, and strengthened commodity management is now possible through a barcode track and trace system. An online data platform and registry were established to help the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) enforce the obligations under the Expanded Producers Responsibility Act. The **BRaVe System** for internally displaced populations systematically collects information to help direct humanitarian and development services to families and households most in need.



Financing partnerships for SDGs

The United Nations strengthened its support to catalyse innovative financing and improve tracking of public expenditures for SDGs. Further to the development of a child budget tagging tool under the **Joint SDG Fund Joint Programme on Integrated Financing Framework for SDGs**, a United Nations-supported programme review of the 2022 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit revealed considerable progress. It found that an increasing number of LGUs nationwide passed the audit with allocation specific to child-responsive programmes from 2019-2022 (from 26 percent in 2021 to 45 percent in 2023), and improved capacity of national government agencies in budget efficiency and effectiveness, fiscal space analysis and costing. The promotion of the inclusion of biodiversity expenditures in climate change expenditure tagging exercise resulted in improved biodiversity expenditure reporting with PHP 157 million tagged as available for the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) priority programmes. The **Renewable Energy Trust Fund**, operationalized with the United Nations assistance, now allows receiving revenues from government-owned corporations to support renewable energy research, explore new technologies, skills development and demonstration projects, thus accelerating the uptake of renewable energy in the Philippines. Together with the Climate Policy Institute, the launch of a dedicated call for innovative gender-responsive finance for nature-based solutions established the Philippine stream of the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance to catalyse private sector investments to green initiatives.

Engaging communities for resilience, disaster management

Flagship Initiative



Through the **Enhancing Resilient Communities (ERC)** Flagship Initiative, where the Philippines is one of only four pilot countries globally, the United Nations in the Philippines and the Humanitarian Country Team have been championing a people-centred approach to climate resilience and disaster management. In close coordination with LGUs and NGOs, the ERC Flagship Initiative established a bottom-up community-centered methodology for shock-response programmes that could be replicated in other contexts. This is to subsequently drive programming and response through which communities emerge not just as survivors but as thriving and resilient partners capable of withstanding and recovering from shocks. In 2023, the global pilot initiative conducted a series of community assessments and consultations and gathered valuable good practices to start crafting a new prototype to transform humanitarian response in a country severely exposed to a wide range of shocks.

Bringing justice services to Indigenous Peoples

After decades of limited access to social services and economic and political opportunities, Indigenous Peoples in Butuan can now more easily establish their legal identities, positioning them to better access government services and exercise their rights as citizens.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), through the European Union's Governance in Justice (EU-PH GOJUST) programme, provided knowledge and legal services to the Manobo community of Indigenous Peoples in the mountainous village of Pianing. Such services – including government social welfare programmes – had been inaccessible to many Indigenous

Peoples that live in far-flung areas because of the costs and difficulty of travelling to city centres.

In partnership with a team of law professors and students from the Father Saturnino Urios University, the EU-PH GOJUST Programme notarized affidavits so families could secure birth certificates for children, which are needed for school enrolment and accessing other basic services.

“We are grateful because whenever they came to our community, they helped everyone. They never chose one group over another. Many of our children have birth certificates because of them,” said Bae Avelyn, a Manobo tribal leader.

The EU-PH GOJUST programme also provided legal advice to tribal leaders on disputes between their communities.

“The legal advice provided by the Father Saturnino Urios University allowed us to reconcile both mainstream law and our customary indigenous law in arbitrating disputes,” Bae Avelyn said.

Since its launch in 2022, the programme provided an estimated 2,300 women, children and men with vital information on their rights under the law and legal services to help them secure basic civil documentation needed for education, healthcare and employment.



Photo: UNOPS

Pillar 1

PEOPLE



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.

Participating UN entities

FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO

Key related SDGs



United Nations work under the People Pillar contributes towards everyone in the Philippines living long and healthy, with access to knowledge, and attaining a decent standard of living. This is aligned with the PDP's aspirations to enhance the social fabric (malasakit) and achieve inequality-reducing transformation (pagbabago).

Output 1.1

Holistically address the social determinants of people's health and strengthen health systems for enhanced health outcomes

8.1 million

children vaccinated against measles

2.34 million

children in high-risk areas vaccinated against polio

In 2023, United Nations entities continued to provide substantial support related to public health. Key policies were supported, including the development of the National Objectives for Health 2023-2028, the Pandemic Preparedness Response and Resilience Plan incorporating learnings from COVID-19 through an after-action review, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan for Health.

To ensure uninterrupted health service delivery during emergencies in the future, the COVID-19 response was integrated into surveillance and laboratory capacity, risk communication and community engagement, logistics and risk assessment, among others. To recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and boost low routine immunization rates, the United Nations support helped vaccinate more than 8.1 million children aged between 9 and 59 months against measles, and 2.34 million children aged 0 to 59 months in high-risk areas against polio. Further work was underway to strengthen the routine immunization programme. Responsive reproductive healthcare, antenatal care, intrapartum and delivery care, postpartum care and care of sick and small newborns, adolescent-friendly healthcare, digital health, and WASH services were also strengthened. Services for migrants in BARMM were expanded.

United Nations support enhanced equitable access to Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) services, including more rHIVda services to enable same-day HIV confirmatory diagnosis, publicly funded pre-exposure prophylaxis, point-of-care viral load testing, greater coverage of tuberculosis transport system (STRiders) for blood specimens and delivery of anti-retroviral medications. Services were improved through increased community-led monitoring.

Geographical, economic and governance-related bottlenecks impacting modern contraceptive use were identified, and strengthened commodity management is now possible through a barcode track and trace system.

Facilitating a greater common understanding and vision across government, NGOs and academia helped address fragmentation and strengthened child protection systems, along with support to develop the 4th National Plan of Action for Children, the implementing rules and regulations for the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Anti Child Sexual Abuse of Exploitation Materials Act and the Parenting Effectiveness Act. By focusing on individual empowerment, system strengthening and legislative frameworks, the United Nations helped to address gender-based violence through youth advocacy, improved prevention and response, and government capacity-building in gender-related data usage. Online survivor support groups and initiating youth-led innovation grants for technology-centred solutions helped address the surge of online sexual- and gender-based violence since the start of COVID-19 pandemic.

To reduce road-related injuries, the United Nations supported the development of the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028, a child road traffic injury programme, expansion of safe school zones and the passage of several local ordinances on road safety. The United Nations also helped develop a life-saving community-based drowning interventions playbook on drowning prevention.

Given the importance of the environment for health, a few United Nations initiatives improved climate-resilience for WASH in communities, schools and healthcare facilities, and strengthened medical waste management through improved efficiency and monitoring of waste processing and more effective destruction of waste. An initiative was launched to reduce persistent organic pollutants and contamination of mercury in the environment.

Bridging the gap: Women-friendly spaces empower far-flung villages

For many members of the Indigenous Peoples of Teduray tribe in the southern Philippines, going to the doctor means gearing up for a major journey.

From the hilly village of Ahan, it takes between four to seven hours to reach the nearest health clinic in Guindulungan. Walking takes the longest but travelling by motorcycle costs PHP 150 (around \$2.50), which is an expense many cannot spare.

Community members turned health facilitators stepped up to bridge the divide – with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Forty-year-old Merlyn serves as one such link between her Teduray neighbours in Ahan and the information, services and opportunities for growth and empowerment her community needs.

“We were taught how to encourage pregnant women (in our communities) to consult with doctors. We were also taught how to deal with cases of gender-based violence, help raise awareness about it. We are able to help a lot of people,” said Merlyn.

Merlyn is one of 75 people trained to run community-based activities at five women-friendly spaces that have been constructed in remote villages across the southern Philippines by UNFPA. Supported by the Australian Government, the women-friendly spaces offer women and young people, especially those who have been displaced, a place to gather and discuss the challenges they face and to learn about sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights. The spaces could also one day serve as communal kitchens or halfway houses for pregnant women travelling long distances to seek health services.

For Merlyn, the nearest women-friendly space is in Guindulungan, a short distance

from the rural health centre. She heads there every month for coaching and mentoring sessions.

Her experience, she said, has brought her confidence and a new community.

Commenting on the facilitators’ development, Bai Masla Beng Campiao, a coordinator for UNFPA’s implementing partner Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress said,

“We know that [the province] experiences all sorts of disasters, human-made calamities and conflict. Through this project, facilitators learn to be resilient and to not be fully dependent on their husbands.”



Photo: UNFPA

Working together to ensure healthy pregnancies in remote areas in Davao City

“There are so many things that I do not know as a first-time mom. That is why I appreciate our nurses and barangay health workers (BHWs) because they consistently educate and encourage us to attend our check-up appointments” said Kathleen Joyce, a mother who goes to the local health facility in Barangay Balingaeng, Davao City for her baby’s immunization.

Joyce and other residents in her community benefit from accessible medical information and assistance from the barangay health centre whose services were improved through the capacity building initiatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Department of Health (DOH).

WHO, with funding support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), organized workshops to equip BHWs with the knowledge and skills needed by their communities, especially pregnant women and mothers. Through the Subnational Initiative Phase 2, BHWs

were provided with information, education, and communication materials that explain practical tips on maternal and childcare – including combatting mis- and disinformation.

“The [materials] helped us provide more accurate information. Now that we have this, we can conveniently show them photos and other proof that what we were teaching them are from reliable health sources,” said Jessica Egan, who has been a BHW for almost two decades.

According to the DOH, BHWs play a critical role in sharing health information and assisting in the delivery of health services.

“[They are] one of the keys to the success of any community-level intervention,” said Anabelle Yumang, Regional Director of the DOH Davao Center for Health Development.



Photo: WHO

Helping Philippines' people-centered public health approach to drug control

The Philippines is implementing a human-rights based approach to drug control with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with a focus on providing support to victims as part of a comprehensive project that started in May 2023.

“Persons whose lives include drugs need us, we need to hear their voices, we need to plan with them and not just for them. Compassionate pragmatism is a great tool we can use to address issues and concerns of the people in our community. This is a challenge for us but as service providers, we will be where we are needed the most.”

For Frescian Canlas, an Antipolo City Social Welfare and Development Officer, the government's shift towards a public health approach to drug control presents an opportunity to improve the lives and welfare of people who use drugs.

The challenge for those closest to the community was to enhance the range of options for health and social support services and develop innovative community-driven approaches that will prioritize people- and client-centered services to help wean people off drugs. These are some of the key tenets of compassionate pragmatism.

“We all have been doing some forms of compassionate pragmatism; it's only a matter of expanding more and making it more inclusive so that the voices and experiences of the people are part of the planning and formulation of our programs and services,” said Cathy Alvarez from Street-LawPh, a CSO based in Cebu City.

Under the Antipolo Declaration issued on 8 May 2023, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to support the Government of the Philippines and civil society to increase the availability and voluntary access to a range of appropriate human rights-based services, including health, social and developmental support, for persons whose lives include drugs.

Through the United Nations JP-HR, UNODC partnered with select city governments and civil society on this initiative. Through building capacity and supporting reforms, community partners involved in the work against abuse are equipped with knowledge and skills on foundational evidence-based theories and practices of compassionate pragmatism, case studies on substance use management, and trauma-informed care.



Photo: Quezon City Anti Drug Abuse Advisory Council

Output 1.2

Strengthen the education and training system and bridge the educational divide

In 2023, United Nations continued its strong technical and financial support to the education sector in the Philippines across all levels by employing diverse strategies to enhance learning outcomes, skills and competencies.

A primary focus was to reinforce the capacity of the Philippine Government in devising comprehensive plans based on the commitments outlined in the Basic Education Development Plan 2030 and the Transforming Education Summit National Statement of Commitment, especially in collaboration with the Department of Education. These plans aimed at improving teacher quality, special needs education, and learner support services. The efforts directly benefited thousands of children and contributed to the overall enhancement of the education system. Furthermore, a substantial number of education personnel and local education leaders, a total of over 100,000 different individuals, took part in professional skills-building initiatives supported by various United Nations entities. These programmes elevated competencies in education planning and governance, thereby ensuring more effective management and governance of educational policies and resources.

A special emphasis was placed on early childhood education, care and development, and resulted in the initiation of scaling efforts by the Early Childhood Care and Development Council in 16 provinces. This initiative laid a strong foundation for children's educational opportunities from an early age and their smooth transition to basic education and obtaining foundational learning skills for their sound development.

The Philippines Alternative Learning System (ALS) programme provided flexible opportunities for continued learning and skills development especially for girls living in poverty, particularly through supporting out-of-school girls' registration in ALS. The ALS curriculum and ALS learning materials were further developed to benefit all participants. To secure the quality of the programme, over 800 teachers were trained in the use of these new materials.

In addition, a number of innovative initiatives, programmes and projects were supported by the United Nations. These include the adoption of the Skills Needs Anticipation method in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; comprehensive sexuality education and cash assistance to out-of-school youth with risky behaviours and transgender individuals; and advancing digital transformation and inclusivity as well as empowerment of women through initiatives like Girls in ICT Day Philippines.

100,000

education personnel took part in professional skills building

16

provinces set up Early Childhood Care and Development Councils

600

teachers trained in Alternative Learning System

Changing lives through alternative learning opportunities

When Umayya and Juher, a young couple from Maguindanao, dropped out of school in their early teens, they thought they would not have much to aspire for.

That was until 2023, when they enrolled in the ALS programme, along with 5,459 learners from remote areas where schools are non-existent, too far, or under the threat of armed conflict. Access to formal education was limited, expensive, or a dangerous journey for many, especially those living in marginalized communities and conflict-affected areas.

But through the ALS, Umayya and Juher are now assessed as 'fit' to return and progress to Junior High School.

“ALS helped us improve our standing in school, which, hopefully, will enable us to pursue better opportunities for us and our future children,” they said with a smile.

For many, the free ALS has become a lifeline for out-of-school children and youth, children with disabilities, and those disengaged from armed groups.

Encouraged by 1,320 learners graduating this year, UNICEF and the Bangsamoro Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) will increase ALS coverage, particularly for children from vulnerable communities. ALS will also continue its skills training programme to enable graduates to augment their family income and be self-sustaining – integrating fundamental, life, and technical skills to pursue a job or start a business.

“For years, communities felt isolated and neglected. But now, through ALS, we are bridging the gaps in society and providing communities the opportunity for education. Our learners have re-ignited their hope to break free from poverty, and they are doing it together as a community,” said Almahdin Antoling, an ALS division coordinator.

Along with that hope for a better future, Umayya and Juher’s learning journey as a young couple is also propelled by the possibility of graduating together.

After university, Umayya hopes to become a midwife.

“I would like to help other women and multiply the positive effect of my education in the community,” she said.

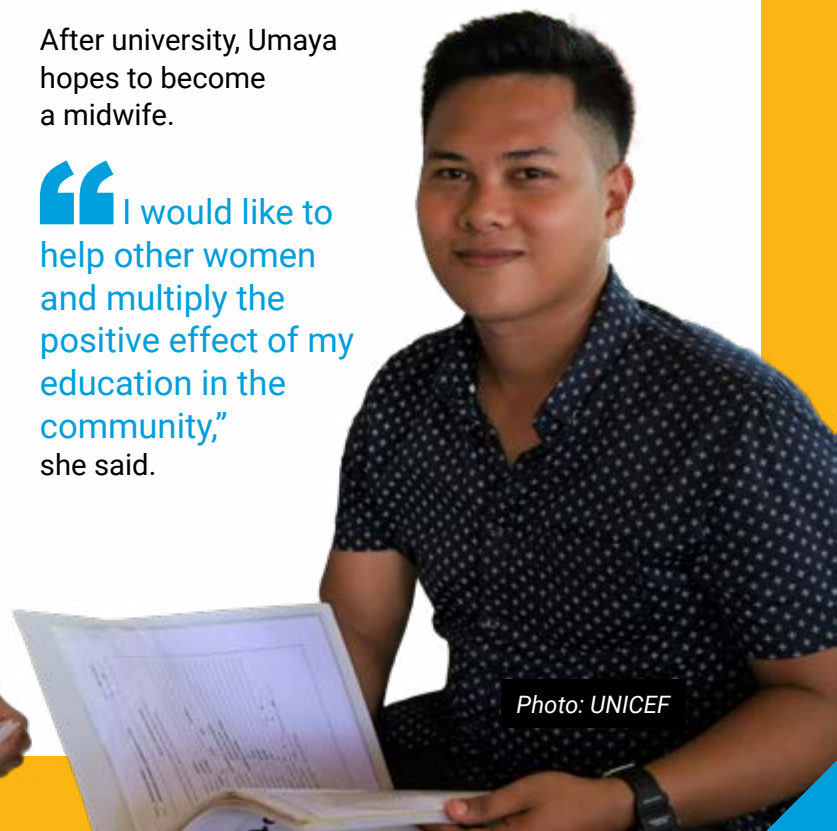


Photo: UNICEF

Output 1.3

Enhance food and nutrition security

The United Nations continued to partner with the Government to enhance the country's food and nutrition security through strengthening investment planning and program implementation, leveraging synergies with relevant sectors to ensure responsiveness to the evolving needs of the Filipino people, and more climate-adaptive solutions for sustainability.

The United Nations-supported evaluation of the F1KD Programme provided impetus to the PMNP for 275 most vulnerable municipalities, made possible through a World Bank loan of \$178.1 million. In addition, nutrition investment at the subnational level progressively increased because of the United Nations-led advocacy: an estimated PHP 224,291,428 – representing a budget increase of 238 percent from 2022 – was allocated for multisectoral nutrition programming in three target provinces. The United Nations provided data and a body of evidence to support the development of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023-2028, which sets out strategic priorities to address all forms of malnutrition in the country, and benefitted considerably from the body of evidence generated with the United Nations support.

At the implementation level and in areas where needs are greatest, 50,830 people had improved access to food in 81 barangays within 26 municipalities of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur in BARMM. Meanwhile, 223,167 children (113,015 boys, 110,152 girls) and 23,278 pregnant women were reached with nutrition services across the three provinces of Samar, Northern Samar, and Zamboanga Del Norte. These results were achieved mainly through support to the food value chain, including the cultivation of 102 hectares of community gardens, planting over 230,000 fruit-bearing seedlings, the construction of 16 fishponds and 90 kilometres (km) of irrigation canals, and rehabilitation of 153 km of farm-to-market roads. This was complemented by capacity building and supportive supervision of 8,982 frontline health and nutrition service providers and strengthening of supply chain and information management systems. Through an innovative online platform (DeliverE 2.0) that mapped the food cold-chain facilities with total capacity of 530,000 cubic metres (m³) nationwide, farmers attained an efficient means of locating cold storage facilities for their agricultural produce. The online platform also established a foundation for informed decision-making that enabled the Philippine Cold Chain Industry to comply with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (Republic Act 11285), and thus created a more sustainable and efficient cold chain system.

Finally, the United Nations supported the nutrition policy environment by developing the Unhealthy Food Marketing legislation and upholding the mandatory Salt Iodization Act following legislative proposals to repeal the law.

50,830

people in BARMM had improved access to food

230,000

fruit trees planted to increase food security

Food voucher program keeps 3,000 families from going hungry

Virgie Bornales, 36, said she will cook sinigang (a sour soup) for dinner after redeeming a food voucher for the first time in Garchitorena, Camarines Sur. The Bornales family is part of Walang Gutom (No Hunger) 2027, a new flagship social protection programme of the Philippine Government.

Under the Walang Gutom pilot, which was co-designed by the DSWD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), 3,000 food-insecure families receive PHP 3,000 (\$55) worth of food credits monthly through an Electronic Benefit Transfer card over six months. The cards can be used to purchase diverse, locally available and nutritious food from accredited retailers.

To enable healthy choices, the spendable amount in the vouchers was divided into three food groups: PHP 1,500 (50 percent) can be spent on carbohydrates, PHP 900 (30 percent) on proteins and fats, and PHP 600 (20 percent) on fruits and vegetables. All participating households were also required to attend monthly nutrition education sessions to improve dietary behaviours.

Virgie and her husband Jesus earn an estimated PHP 3,000 a month from copra farming and fishing. Jesus has to walk five hours a day, crossing five mountains, to reach the coconut plantation where he earns a daily wage. Due to their limited monthly income, the family sometimes had to skip meals to make ends meet, causing involuntary hunger.

“But now, it is easier for us because we know now that we will have something to eat. Thanks to Walang Gutom, we really will not go hungry anymore,” says Virgie.

With six kids to feed, Virgie and Jesus are optimistic that the food vouchers will help their family meet their nutritional needs. Now, the Bornales family can not only make their favourite sinigang more often, but also make it healthier too.



Photo: WFP

Output 1.4

Shore social protection systems

The United Nations' support in promoting shock-responsive social protection systems made important strides in several areas in collaboration with DSWD, aligned with the Government's Social Protection Framework and Plan (2023-2028), which the United Nations also helped develop.

The United Nations supported the enhancement of Government's capacity to operationalize its priority social protection agenda on the establishment of an Adaptive and Shock Responsive Social Protection system. In particular, pilot tests in Bacuag, Surigao Del Norte and Midsayap, Cotabato demonstrated the usefulness of anticipatory action (AA) interventions for climate-induced hazards, particularly typhoons and floods, through use of the national poverty registry as a primary source for targeting poor and vulnerable small-scale farmers and fisherfolk. The delivery of cash-based interventions and livelihood safeguarding actions has helped to address food insecurity during emergencies. In addition, the launch of the GCF project on Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System helped transform the country's early warning system, supported the institutionalization of the AA approach, and expanded reach to far-flung communities to improve emergency preparedness and response capacities.

The Government, with the United Nations' support, strengthened the implementation of the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2010-1 on the Creation of the Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children. Victims of human trafficking/labour exploitation received food, mental and psychosocial support, health care and shelter maintenance. More specifically, the DSWD and the DOJ ensured access and availability of services and support (legal, mental, livelihood and others) for women and girl victims of

trafficking and violence. Responding to the emerging trafficking trend of forced criminality for the purpose of online scamming, the United Nations mobilized timely assistance to support the large caseload of survivors. This included provision of food, mental health and psychosocial support, health services, logistics, and repatriation. The United Nations provided awareness-raising workshops as well as policy, technical and capacity building support on labour migration governance, with a focus on promoting fair and ethical recruitment practices and gender-responsive and sustainable reintegration initiatives to the newly established Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).

The United Nations continued to help enhance the Government's conditional cash transfer programme through the improvement of internal policies and operations. The United Nations' support in the crafting of studies and methodologies helped advance legislative commitment towards a bill on disability assistance for the Indigenous Peoples, and also provided justification to harmonize and synergize disability registry design and implementation.

Out of 3,000 households targeted under the Government's Walang Gutom 2027 (No Hunger) pilot programme in 2023, more than 700 households in Manila and Surigao del Norte received nutrition-sensitive food assistance through digital food vouchers of \$55 (PHP 3,000) complemented by social and behaviour change communication to improve long-term dietary habits.

The United Nations' support provided timely humanitarian and emergency response for evacuees from the prolonged unrest of Mayon Volcano. The United Nations distributed family kits, hygiene kits and face masks to 905 families in three evacuation centres.

From sea to shore: reintegration support for sea-based migrant workers

Charyl, a first-time migrant worker, went through a complicated recruitment process so he could work as a seafarer when his income as a fisherman dried up during the pandemic. He didn't expect that the process of going home would be even more difficult.

“I was so tired and homesick, and I thought of jumping off the boat. When I asked for help from the recruitment agency, they told me to just bear it. Distraught, I called my mother to help me come back home,” said Charyl, who had fallen sick during his deployment. Denied medical care, he was forced to work through illness, even enduring physical injuries.

Eventually, Charyl was able to return to his hometown in Concepcion, Iloilo, but continued to struggle financially as he was confined to a hospital bed and had trouble claiming his owed salary and allowances.

Recognizing that many migrant workers like Charyl face issues in reintegration, especially those who fall victim to exploitative practices and abuses, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with local migrant organizations to provide overseas Filipino workers with needs-based support and services to assist them upon their return home.

In partnership with NGO Atikha, IOM conducted reintegration and financial planning seminars to enhance returnees' financial literacy as they transitioned to new income sources. Charyl and several fellow returned seafarers are still seeking compensation for claims against their recruitment agency, but have returned to fishing as their main source of livelihood in the meantime.

IOM's direct assistance was made possible by the funding support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency through the Corporate Responsibility to Eliminate Slavery and Trafficking Programme, which aims to uphold the human and labour rights of migrant workers in key sectors and migration corridors in Asia and the Pacific.



Photo: IOM

#IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness brings birth certificates, access to rights to over 1,300 BARMM children

When staff from the municipal government came bearing news of a free birth registration activity scheduled nearby, 33-year-old mother of four Hamsiya did not hesitate.

“I am here because I must register my children, I have four and they are all unregistered.”

Hamsiya came with her one-year-old in tow, taking a boat early in the morning that brought them from their home in Barangay Suligan to the nearby island of Barangay Bukut Umus, where the municipal hall of Tabuan Lasa, Basilan is located, and where UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency, held a three-day birth registration activity.

“I am happy because they will now have birth certificates. It was very difficult to register their birth because we are unemployed and could not afford to process their delayed birth registration. But I had to find a way, because the school requires it and might no longer

accept my children if they do not have birth certificates,” said Hamsiya.

Her children were among the 1,377 Sama Bajaus and unregistered children and victims of forced displacement due to armed conflict who received their birth certificates during a series of birth registration activities held in Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi in 2023.

Together with UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Services and Development of the BARMM, UNHCR also turned over education materials and equipment for the digitization of the birth registration process and improve the capacity of local civil registrars to provide civil documentation, even to far-flung communities.

The activities were held as part of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness, in line with the UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Strategy for Addressing Childhood Statelessness which has helped around 5,000 people receive birth certificates since 2019. The effort also contributed to the Philippines’ implementation of its National Action Plan to End Statelessness.



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.

Participating UN entities

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, UNDP, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP

Within the Prosperity and Planet Pillar, the United Nations 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).

Key related SDGs



Output 2.1

Integrate green and climate lens in job-rich recovery efforts

The United Nations' collective efforts have been instrumental in advancing sustainable development objectives across various sectors to foster resilience, inclusion and prosperity for everyone in the Philippines. The efforts to catalyse sustainable development and resilience across the Philippines were based on extensive collaboration with national public and private sector stakeholders to deliver impact.

The United Nations supported the Government in its transition towards low-carbon power systems. Through ten technical assistance projects, the United Nations facilitated the alignment of energy policies and regulations with energy efficiency and renewable energy goals. Notable achievements include the development of a draft Demand Side Management Program, a smart grid roadmap, along with legal recommendations for the implementation of green energy auctions. These efforts entailed building the capacity of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Regulatory Commission and have also contributed to grid modernization.

In parallel, the United Nations spearheaded initiatives to strengthen economic resilience and promote renewable energy adoption. Through various initiatives, the United Nations facilitated value chain analyses, business continuity planning, and the operationalization of renewable energy portfolio standards. These efforts have not only enhanced the resilience of local economies but have also accelerated the uptake of renewable energy, contributing to the Philippines' transition towards a sustainable energy future.

The United Nations provided instrumental technical assistance and advisory services to support shaping of national policies and plans, with a focus on gender-responsive employment and the creation of green jobs. Through progress mapping exercises and policy briefs, the United Nations provided insights and recommendations to enhance the integration of green jobs into the PDP and the Labor and Employment Plan.

Directly supporting small businesses in 2023 the United Nations contributed to increased market exposure and access for Philippine micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the food sector, with a focus on coconut as well as game development. This secured \$122.6 million worth of business and investment contracts and prospects in European, North American, and regional markets. Additionally, a nationwide network of 64 trained experts in export management, quality, food safety, marketing, and branding was established, extending support to small businesses across sectors and through partner institutions. Furthermore, the United Nations expanded the availability of export-oriented training for MSMEs with new and free online curricula on import and export procedures.

\$122.6M

worth of new business and investment contracts and prospects for MSMEs

Farm to (foreign) market roads: paving the way for Filipino agripreneurs' access to European markets

The road for cocoa beans from the mountains of South Cotabato to Europe is long and winding: the administrative hurdles are not easy for local farmers to overcome. But Leonor and her fellow entrepreneurs were able to overcome these hurdles and export to Europe, thanks to the support of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and its partners.

She had always wanted to take cacao beans grown in her family farm in Tupi, South Cotabato all the way to Europe, where the fermented cacao would be transformed by artisanal chocolatiers into tasty confections.

Based on advisories from the Philippine Government, she knew chocolatiers in the EU liked the distinctive flavour of single origin Philippine cacao. "Our unique environment, variety and fermentation protocols give our cacao beans their distinct flavour and aroma," Leonor said.

But hurdling through the import requirements and process were no easy task.

To support Philippine exporters like Leonor, the ITC helped enable local businesses to take advantage of EU market access and the trade privileges granted under the Generalized System of Preference.

Through the EU-funded ARISE Plus Philippines project, implemented with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the ITC provided exporters with training that would allow them to send exports to Europe more easily and cost-efficiently. It supports the overall EU-Philippines trade relationship and trade-related policies.

Leonor signed up for Export Management and Market Linkages and Quality Champion Improvement Support coaching, which helped her comply with evolving EU requirements.

Photo: ITC

“We have applied many learnings from our first ARISE Plus coaching experience—from getting all product certifications and licenses completed, to being familiar with what the destination country requires, matching both to suit current regulations,” she said.

The coaching helped Leonor successfully tap into the European market and she is now looking at the possibility of expanding their product offering.

ARISE Plus Philippines is a project of the Government of the Philippines, with DTI as lead partner together with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Food and Drug Administration, Bureau of Customs, and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The ITC served as the technical agency for the project.



Output 2.2

Strengthen resilience in all sectors and all levels of government

In 2023, the United Nations continued its support to promote resilience across all sectors and at all governance levels in the Philippines.

Partnerships with national and local governments were forged to reinforce resilience governance. Together with the Office of Civil Defense, the United Nations was actively involved in crafting the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Manual of Operations and in revising existing memoranda concerning the allocation of local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) funds. The United Nations advised on the guidelines to establish local DRRM offices and ensured these policies remain adaptable to emerging challenges in DRRM implementation. In addition, formal partnerships with provincial governments and LGUs strengthened community resilience against disasters and climate change. This includes providing vital support to provinces like Northern Samar and Agusan del Sur, including in the completion of their hazard and risk profiles, value chain analyses and business continuity plans. Efforts extended to enhancing coordination among key government agencies, notably through the review and enhancement of provincial development and physical framework planning guidelines to strengthen spatial planning and governance with a keen focus on climate resilience.

Support was also provided to improve local governance and public finance for children which emphasized child-centred disaster risk reduction and climate action. This included finalizing child-centred Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans alongside Policy Guidelines for a more effective disaster risk reduction approach.

The United Nations provided capacity building to the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) on emergency response, including disseminating the local post disaster shelter recovery framework across eight regions and strengthening the warehousing and logistics capacity to deploy shelter grade tarpaulins. The United Nations provided 6,700 shelter grade tarpaulins in times of emergency, including during the Mayon Volcano eruption, where modular tents were distributed and latrines were repaired in evacuation centres.

The United Nations supported the digitization of beneficiary registration for emergency shelter programmes with DHSUD through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)-Biometrics Registration & Verification System (BRaVe). The United Nations enhanced shelter resilience in the regions of Albay and Cataduanes with typhoon-resistant shelters with safe rooms.

6,700

shelter grade tarpaulins
deployed in response to 6
emergency operations

The United Nations trained 11 LGUs on mainstreaming migration into climate adaptation and disaster risk management policies and planning to help ensure community resilience in the context of climate-related hazards and disasters.

In strengthening response preparedness, the United Nations provided vital support including logistics and emergency telecommunications augmentation to 12 government emergency response operations. This enabled the swift distribution of relief items to millions of affected people. Initiatives like the development of Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies, known as MOVE, further enhanced communication capabilities, particularly in remote areas impacted by disasters like Typhoon Doksuri.

Addressing critical themes in conflict, disasters, and peacebuilding, the United Nations' Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus study in BARMM informed strategies to bolster climate change and disaster management by examining the intersecting and correlating risks of climate change, conflict and human mobility in BARMM. Consultations with the Bangsamoro Parliament and Ministry members on the findings led to the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Climate Change under the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Energy in BARMM. Additionally, support for local governments in developing local climate change action plans and aiding internally displaced populations highlighted the United Nations' commitment to fostering resilience in the context of complex challenges.

Assistance was also provided to vulnerable populations, with initiatives to enhance their engagement in productive activities, their access to information, and the overall adoption of risk reduction measures. Furthermore, the United Nations' support in establishing the National Quality Infrastructure and the promotion of business continuity and resilience planning among enterprises underscored its commitment to economic sustainability.

Resilient homes for Bajaus in Surigao

The Bajaus, a group of seafaring Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao, live in shelters made of light materials standing above shallow waters by the shores of Surigao. They were among those seriously affected by Typhoon Rai when it struck in 2021, leaving Bajau families with damaged homes. Many of them remain internally displaced.

“If you can visit our houses in our community, you will see that they are made of nipa and bamboo. The walls of our houses are draped with used clothes that serve as protection from the sun at daytime and from the cold at night,” said Ronald, a Bajau tribal community leader, during the launch of UN-Habitat’s new project Huy-anan nan Bajau sa Surigao in August 2023. The project builds resilience and supports sustainable growth.

The project has sparked hope for Ronald and his tribe.

“We will be able to live better and we can finally sleep in a secure home,” said Ronald. He said he was grateful that after many decades, there is now an opportunity to build better homes and increase resilience for his tribe.

Formally tagged as Supporting Blue-Green Recovery, Strengthening Resilience, and Promoting Sustainable Growth in Philippine Cities and Communities through Nature-Based Solutions and Circular Economy, the project is implemented by UN-Habitat Philippines and funded by the Government of Spain. Government partners for the project include the DHSUD, the Provincial Government of Surigao del Norte, and the City Government of Surigao.

Aside from building 40 homes for the Bajau community, the Huy-anan nan Bajau sa Surigao project strengthened government capacities in providing support to vulnerable populations displaced by disasters. The project tapped into opportunities to apply resilient design solutions based on nature, provide open public spaces, integrate circular economy approaches, and incorporate culturally sensitive design in the rebuilding process.



Photo: UN-Habitat

Training programme promotes safety, boost productivity of SMEs

Cerila started as a labourer in a mariculture park segregating harvested milkfish, while also helping sell her husband's fish catch. Today, she not only leads the first all-women's fishing group in the coastal town of Panabo, Davao del Norte, but also serves as a trainer to help improve the organization's occupational safety and boost productivity.

The mother of three applies the ILO Work Improvements in Small Enterprises (WISE) training programme to her work at the Cagangohan Women's Association, which is composed of a group of women who debone and process milkfish.

Cerila was among the 259 trainers of the WISE methodology, which was used by 2,474 small enterprises. Using the WISE checklist, the Cagangohan Women's Association conducted risk assessments and implemented practical low-cost actions to improve working conditions and increase production.

“It is vital to keep ourselves healthy, organize our materials and tools, and make our work areas safe and free of any hazards. This increased our sales and productivity, as customers appreciated more the quality of our products,” Cerila said.

The WISE training programme forms part of the ILO's Bringing Back Jobs Safely initiative which was implemented with the Government of Japan to support MSMEs in the regions of Bicol, Zamboanga and Davao. The programme helped promote safety and health at work, improve working conditions and increase productivity of enterprises. Beyond skills training, WISE was highly participatory as it empowered enterprises to identify risks and challenges then adopt practical low-cost actions and local solutions.



Photo: ILO

Output 2.3

Strengthen the capacity of cities to develop resilient and socially inclusive urbanized communities

The United Nations continued its support to strengthen the capacities of local governments for climate resilience. Two provinces completed their hazards and risk profiles, value chain analyses and business continuity plans. Five provinces have completed their three-year plans of action in establishing risk-based plans, investment programmes and budgets, and data ecosystems to ensure resilient value chains and business continuity. To support the recovery and resilience of communities and families, 20 climate resilient housing units were constructed for communities of Indigenous Peoples in Puerto Princesa, Palawan and 40 resilient and culturally responsive permanent houses were built for disaster-affected Bajau communities in Surigao City.

The growth of the local electric vehicle industry was supported including assistance to the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry. The cities of Baguio, Iloilo, Pasig and Santa Rosa were capacitated to develop their green routes and incorporate sustainable transport in land use planning, while Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao were supported in network planning for the establishment of bike lanes. Three transport cooperatives in the cities of Baguio, Iloilo and General Santos were supported to shift their fleets into electric public utility vehicles, resulting in 21 electric vehicles deployed, with counterpart investments of transport cooperatives. Aside from the riding public benefiting from safer, healthier, and more comfortable transportation services, this will also lead to the avoidance of an estimated 3,580 tonnes of lifetime direct greenhouse gasses (GHG) and 897,662 tonnes of lifetime indirect GHG emissions.

The United Nations increased the level of the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' communities and persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience. Over 35 national and local government officials, along with persons with disabilities from Quezon City, utilized the Inclusion of Person with Disability Scorecard with technical

support from the United Nations and the government of Baguio City.

Around 70 local government officials from Quezon City and Malabon City were trained on protection mechanisms for refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness. As a result of a United Nations intervention, two LGUs hosted Rohingya refugee students under the Complementary Pathways Programme of the Government.

Five cities – Pasig, Caloocan, Cotabato, Manila and Quezon – were supported to develop their capacities to transition to circular economy, resulting in integrating Green Public Procurement (GPP) in their procurement processes or enhancing their GPP capacity. Feasibility and design proposals for Innovation for Circular Economy (CE) Hubs were developed to serve as a reimagination of a city's materials and recovery facilities.

DENR was assisted in its objective of plastic neutrality through policy advice and technical inputs in the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Implementation Roadmap and in the finalization of the EPR's implementation rules and regulations through an online data platform and registry. This enabled DENR to enforce EPR obligations. EPR readiness and localization was also demonstrated in six cities – Manila, Calapan, Legazpi, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro and Davao – through the Healthy Oceans and Clean Cities Initiative. The CE Data Platform was developed to consolidate all CE-related quantitative data from various datasets. The National Circular Economy Baseline Report was supported where, as a result of the data collection and compilation activities, quantifiable information was made available for 61 out of the 100 identified CE indicators. This was a significant step to understand the intricacies of CE within the Philippine context.

Powering paradise: Bringing renewable energy to the island and mountain barangays of Northern Iloilo

Municipalities in northern Iloilo have long grappled with rotating blackouts due to the unstable supply of electricity, especially to remote island and mountain towns. The frequent power outages hindered delivery of government services, such as healthcare and education.

To address this problem and improve quality of life, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported local governments in the area with renewable energy solutions through the Development for Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability (DREAMS) Project.

In Carles, for instance, UNDP provided a 20 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system and rehabilitated existing solar panels to address the rural health unit's (RHU's) need for stable electricity for their cold storage.

Dr. Gem Villanueva, who attends to patients at the Carles RHU, explained that medications and vaccines need to be stored at temperatures below 8°C, which is hard to maintain when blackouts are a regular occurrence.

With the additional power supplied by the new system, the RHU no longer needs to worry about vaccine waste and disruptions to their medical services.

An hour away from Carles is Concepcion, another coastal town. Under the DREAMS Project, an 80-kW solar power system was installed in to provide energy to eight government buildings, including the auditorium, legislative building, evacuation centre, RHU, Bureau of Fire Protection, the social welfare office, the Association of Barangay Councils building, and women's crisis centre.

“Previously, our circuit breakers used to trip frequently due to abrupt fluctuations in electrical load. However, since the installation of the DREAMS solar photovoltaic system, this issue has disappeared,” said Constancio Suiza, Jr., a member of the Concepcion technical working group on renewable energy.

The DREAMS Project, implemented in partnership with the DOE, with support from the Global Environment Facility, was able to bring power to paradise, giving the residents of these isolated barangays affordable, stable, and clean renewable energy.

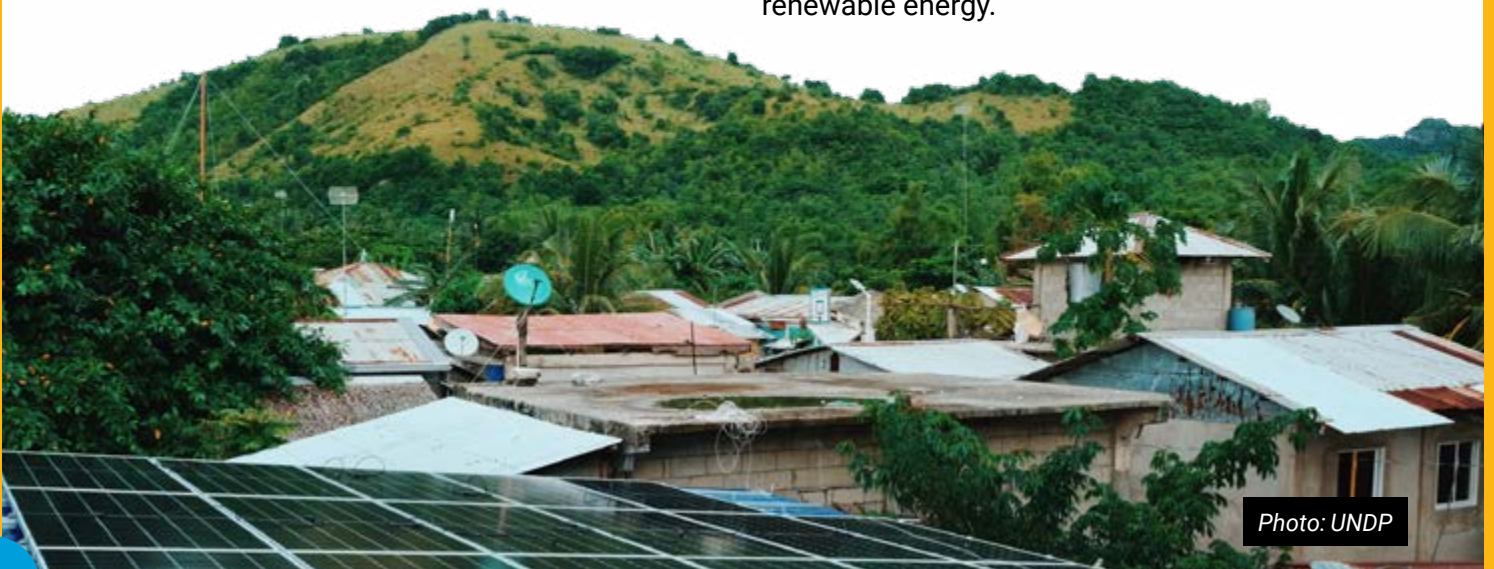


Photo: UNDP

Output 2.4

Leverage untapped potential for agriculture-based inclusive growth and sustainable agri-food systems

\$60-\$400

increase in monthly income among Malay farmers participating in biodiversity project

The United Nations provided policy support and technical assistance to the Government to foster inclusive growth and sustainable agricultural systems. The support on policies and guidelines for an integrated approach in managing biodiversity corridor sites resulted in the updating and finalization of the Philippine National Standards for Biodiversity-friendly Agricultural Practices. This is a key instrument for the incorporation of biodiversity conservation in the agriculture sector. The Malay Food Systems Innovation pilot initiative employed market matching experiments to link mainland Malay farmers with the food demand in Boracay Island. This resulted in an initial increase in monthly revenue from \$60 to \$400 for farmers.

Capacity building activities to improve management practices such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, water management, and an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and restoration of degraded lands were conducted for the Government, civil society, community-based organizations and other stakeholders, and addressed challenges in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

Additionally, awareness-raising activities were implemented to support the work on the transformation of food systems. Taking a systems-based approach to tackle complex challenges, the United Nations continues to help accelerate innovation, technology, data, governance and institutions to transform agri-food systems in the Philippines. A new initiative, "Promoting Eco-Friendly Crop Protection Solutions for Persistent Organic Pollutant and Highly Hazardous Pesticide Reduction in Asia," seeks to establish sustainable financing, investment and incentive mechanisms to support the formulation, production and application of eco-friendly crop protection solutions. By reducing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and highly hazardous pesticides, this project will enhance livelihoods, ensure food safety and safeguard human health and the environment.

Empowering resilient tourism for inclusive rural development

Farmers in Tuba, Benguet have long been using ancient food preservation and preparation practices for native produce like pako (fern), watercress, ube (purple yam), and kiniing (smoked meat).

But it was only in 2021 when they began to organize themselves as the La Diyang Haven Community Association and saw the potential of transforming their community into a lucrative farm tourism site, and in 2023, joined a project supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As one of four pilot areas of the FAO-supported project on enhancing farm tourism in the Philippines for inclusive rural development, members of the association were trained as agripreneurs.

The project focused on bolstering the agriculture sector by assessing pilot farm sites and providing capacity development, knowledge sharing on planning and implementation of resilient practices on the ground, and material support.



“After the training on conservation of cultural practices, our appreciation for them has increased. We used to be hesitant or ashamed to bring out our cultural practices but the empowerment mindset that we learned helped us realize that even in the present world, we should be proud of our traditional practices,” said farm manager Cristina.

They also learned how to set a fair price for tourists to experience farm activities: holistic healing, forest bathing, river bathing, tree-hugging.

“We learned about social enterprise. Though most of the farmers have no experience in bookkeeping, they now record their activities in their respective diaries because the training helped us recognize the value of record-keeping in decision making,” Cristina said.

The association’s regular members are a mix of Ibaloi, Kankanaey, Ifugao, Ilocano, and Tagalog farmers from La Diyang, but membership has since expanded to adjacent municipalities to increase the supply and demand for their products and services.

“We were made aware that we have already been practicing agroecology—it just took an outsider to help us appreciate that we already have everything we need right here: we grow our own healthy and nutritious food and we breathe fresh air.”

Output 2.5

Strengthen environmental protection and curb illegal wildlife trade

The United Nations achieved significant results in 2023 from initiatives undertaken to strengthen environmental protection and curb illegal wildlife trade in collaboration with the government, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Through capacity-building efforts, five Finance Plans for Protected Areas were formulated and integrated into the government's policy on protected areas' management plan preparation. With the help of the United Nations, three ecotourism products were developed in Sibalom Natural Parks.

To combat illegal wildlife trade, the Government was assisted to complete the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit Report and has integrated United Nations recommendations into the WildLEAP strategy, demonstrating leadership in combating wildlife crime. The Philippines was active in the Customs Enforcement Operation Mekong Dragon V, with seven seizures made under this operation.

In the artisanal and small-scale gold-mining (ASGM) sector, the Planet Gold project made advancements in eliminating hazardous mercury use through capacity building and the establishment of Mercury-Free Processing Systems in Paracale, Camarines Norte. More than 650 artisanal miners received training, while awareness-raising efforts that highlight the important role of women in ASGM were successfully carried out through campaigns and documentary films. Infrastructure development, such as mineral processing zones and storage ponds for tailings, contributed to cleaner and more efficient ASGM practices.

To address the issue of plastic pollution, through the Healthy Oceans and Clean Cities Initiative, the localization of the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter was spearheaded with the United Nations support in six coastal cities. This included the implementation of strategic demonstration projects. The initiative influenced curriculum enrichment in basic education modules and contributed to the localization approach for the Expanded Producer Responsibility Law.

Ten tons of electronic waste containing toxic substances was collected for proper disposal because of an educational campaign, including a concert attended by 15,000 participants. The country's sole facility to dispose of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in an environmentally-friendly way resumed operations with the United Nations support, to ensure the proper treatment and disposal of minimum of 200 tons of PCB oil and equipment per year.

Significant milestones were achieved in compliance with multilateral environmental agreements. The signing of the first Nagoya Protocol-compliant Access and Benefit-Sharing agreement in the country with Indigenous Peoples on Banaba leaves showcased commitment to biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) II Project facilitated adherence to the Montreal Protocol, with successful verification of HCFC importation data, indicating the Philippines' dedication to phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances.

650

trained on women's role in artisanal and small-scale gold mining

200 tons

of toxic Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) to be treated - capacity of facility that resumed operations

Chemical management subsidy facilitates proper disposal of hazardous waste from electricity processing

The DENR, with support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), took a major step towards meeting the Philippines' obligations under a key international convention and ridding the country of a toxic chemical which has been banned worldwide. A new subsidy will enable the treatment of PCB in an environmentally-friendly fashion, and help the country dispose of 600,000 tons of PCB and PCB-contaminated materials. PCB is a highly carcinogenic substance.

“There was no available facility for the disposal of PCBs by electric cooperatives. The project has reduced the cost of treatment of disposal of PCBs with the subsidy provided,” said Janeene Colingan, President of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association or PHILRECA. PCBs have been widely used in electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors before their use was banned.

To facilitate the management of this hazardous material, UNIDO and the DENR launched a project for the treatment and disposal of 600 tons of PCB oils and PCB-contaminated electric transformers. With funding from GEF, the project provided a PCB management subsidy amounting

to \$638,000 to 29 electric cooperatives in the country.

“We are aware that environmental protection, in this case, the management of PCBs is not the sole responsibility of the DENR but should be a concerted effort amongst all stakeholders and other government entities,” says Antonio Almada, Administrator, National Electrification Administration.

The contracts between the electric cooperatives and DENR's corporate arm, the Natural Resources Development Corporation, are testaments to the collective commitment of partners to protect the Filipino people from the negative impacts of hazardous PCBs on public health and the environment, he added.

These agreements also led to the continued utilization of the country's innovative non-burn PCB Treatment Facility—the first of its kind in Asia—constructed in Mariveles, Bataan through a previous UNIDO-implemented, GEF-funded project completed in 2016.

PCB is a toxic chemical classified as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) and is governed by a global environment treaty known as the Stockholm Convention on POPs. In 2024, the Philippines will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the country's ratification of the Convention.



Photo:: UNIDO

Output 2.6

Mobilize innovative finance for green, climate and disaster risk reduction and inclusive investments

The United Nations strengthened its support to the development of innovative finance tools for climate, to attract private sector investments in nature-based solutions, sustainable cold chain solutions, and improved tracking of public expenditures for biodiversity conservation and climate.

In partnership with the Climate Policy Initiative, the Philippines stream of the Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance was launched in 2023. This attracted a rich cohort of proposals for innovative finance mechanisms to accelerate investments in nature-based solutions. Capacity building activities on Task Force on Nature Related Financial Disclosures were organized with capital market participants in partnership with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and its potential integration in the updating of SEC's sustainability reporting guidelines.

Improved reporting of expenditures for biodiversity conservation and climate was supported through the integration of biodiversity expenditures in the climate change expenditure tagging (CCET) system, resulting in identification of PHP 157 million available to support implementation of PBSAP. In partnership with the Climate Change Commission, the United Nations improved the capability of CCET to perform analytics, data visualization and tracking of climate public expenditures across sectors, geographies, and trends, which will prove useful for policy makers.

In collaboration with the Private Financing Advisory Network, the United Nations introduced opportunities for broader adoption of green financing to some 87 stakeholders, particularly innovative food cold chain technologies which utilize refrigerants and energy efficient alternatives. Outreach which targeted the agriculture sector, consolidators, food producers and retailers laid the foundation for embracing green investment and helped pave the way for transformative and sustainable cold chain practices. To attract more proponents to adopt new green cold chain technologies, a DEMO project forum was organized. Grant financing shall be made available to food cold chain operators and end users, thereby granting subsidies for adoption of efficient and sustainable cold chain technologies.

PHP 157 M

available funds identified to support the implementation of the PBSAP through improvements to the CCET system

Pillar 3

PEACE



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.

Key related SDGs

1 NO POVERTY 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	

Participating UN entities

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UN Women, WFP

In 2023, four years after the creation of BARMM, the United Nations continued to provide support to the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority (BTA) and its agencies, based on expressed needs and priority areas of support. Various entities worked in coordination and in complementary ways, in cooperation with development partners, to support the people of BARMM as they take control of the socioeconomic development of the region and approach full democracy with elections in 2025.

Output 3.1

Respond to COVID-19 and accelerate inclusive development for peace in Mindanao

The United Nations provided technical assistance to the formulation of the Bangsamoro Rehabilitation, Rebuilding and Development Roadmap 2023-2029, which will serve as the basis for the identification of priority programmes, projects and activities to be proposed for funding.

The Regional Framework for Nutrition and Food Security, the Regional Plan of Action for Nutrition and the Food Security and Nutrition Plan were developed by the regional government with United Nations support.

In partnership with BARMM's Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy, the United Nations supported the development of the Bangsamoro Power Sector Development Roadmap which set the stage for a clean energy transition through the formulation of the Bangsamoro Sustainable Energy Master Plan and its implementation plan.

The United Nations supported the development of a comprehensive, integrated and transformative approach to strengthening community resilience to natural hazards and human-induced disasters, including violent extremism and armed conflicts, with a special emphasis on empowering members of marginalized communities.

The United Nations enhanced immunization coverage in response to a measles outbreak in the region of Lanao del Sur. Support included training and resource mobilization, as well as the provision of walk-in cold rooms and solar refrigerators to five BARMM provinces and the Ministry of Health. It also continued to provide technical assistance for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Improvements in WASH resulted in 28 (56 percent) municipalities and 520 (100 percent) barangays achieving Zero Open Defecation which led to improved sanitation. Engagement with Muslim leaders on birth spacing is expected to lead to improvements in sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Social and behaviour change initiatives and the development of guidelines on face-to-face learning and a safe return to school, along with improved birth registration, have led to better access to early learning, primary education and alternative learning opportunities in eight pilot areas of BARMM.

The United Nations helped to enhance child protection by supporting the development of the Regional Plan of Action for Children, the Children Ombudsman Guidelines and other child protection initiatives as part of the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Law.

The United Nations intensified the monitoring of and advocacy against grave child-rights violations by prioritizing youth engagement in initiatives such as the Ranao Youth Parliament and supporting the Bangsamoro Youth Commission in drafting the Youth Transition Priority Agenda, which emphasized sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as advocacy against gender-based

28

municipalities and 520 barangays achieved Zero Open Defecation

violence. It provided adolescents and young people with advocacy materials and training to promote birth registration and an understanding of child deprivations including child, early and forced marriages.

In support of BARMM's efforts to prevent, respond to and manage public health emergencies, the United Nations capacitated local front-line and health workers on effective infection prevention and control, especially at points-of-entries/exits. It helped institute stronger governance and coordination mechanisms, integrating a mobility lens by developing a 'Guidance Note on Mainstreaming Public Health Measures in Migration Management' and establishing a Technical Working Group to address health concerns of returning Filipinos to BARMM. Furthermore, the United Nations established a molecular laboratory in Tawi-Tawi – the first in the island provinces and the second in BARMM – to bolster the region's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious diseases.

Output 3.2

Support normalization and political tracks of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro

200

leaders from the MILF have graduated from the School of Peace and Democracy, contributing to the implementation of key conflict-prevention and community development initiatives in BARMM

The United Nations continued to fully support the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro through several initiatives, including the institutionalization of the School of Peace and Democracy. Close to 200 leaders from the MILF have graduated, including 44 women, after meaningful and substantive participation in the training, and have since implemented key conflict-prevention and community development initiatives.

The United Nations provided start-up support to establish the BARMM Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office (PSRO) in response to transitional normalization gaps. Launched in 2023, the PSRO is the primary agency to support existing peace mechanisms in monitoring the ceasefire agreement, liaise with law enforcement agencies to prevent mis-encounters in MILF communities, serve transitioning combatants and settle horizontal conflicts ("rido") involving MILF combatants.

The United Nations released an evaluation of the contributions and performance of the Joint Peace and Security Teams or JPSTs, a unique peace mechanism instituted in BARMM, to assess their impact at the community level. The study helped inform the strategies of peace and development actors to better support normalization, community stabilization and conflict transformation.

The United Nations worked with the Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission, local experts and practitioners, CSOs and community representatives from women, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Indigenous Peoples to develop operational guidelines on transitional justice and reconciliation. Furthermore, the United Nations conducted a series of public consultations by engaging non-Moro communities of Indigenous Peoples. These were to inform the development of the Indigenous Peoples' Code of BARMM, a critical component for advancing their rights and to support reconciliation efforts with the Indigenous Peoples, Moros, and settler communities.

The United Nations continued with operational and implementation assistance to the EU's flagship Support to Bangsamoro Transition programme known as SUBATRA, enhancing the law-making and oversight capacities of the BTA and key government institutions to formulate and implement transitional policies, contributing to the effective functioning of the regional Parliament and fostering better representation and governance.

The United Nations helped the BTA formulate critical plans and programmes in support of conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and enabling meaningful inclusion and participation of different stakeholders in governance. This was achieved through support to the draft Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code, the 2023-2030 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the 2023-2028 Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the Bangsamoro Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security 2023-2028.

600

ex-combatants are receiving training at Technical and Vocational Institutes

The United Nations contributed to the delivery of normalization peace dividends. In partnership with the Joint Task Force on Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities, 600 decommissioned combatants and their next kin are receiving training at the accredited Technical and Vocational Institutes. This is expected to provide them with better job prospects and, as a result, sustainable sources of income. The delivery of peace dividends was further supported through the provision of agricultural machinery and farm equipment to 11 cooperatives to increase and improve agricultural production. Through 2023, 966 farmers received support for agriculture and livelihood enterprise development. The United Nations supported the MBHTE in the institutionalization of its School-Based Feeding Programme.

The United Nations bolstered the capacity of justice institutions and promoted access to justice for marginalized groups through the establishment of the Office of the Tribal Justice System, facilitating partnerships with legal associations, enhancing dispute resolution mechanisms and promoting human rights awareness.

Amplifying women's voices in peacebuilding in Basilan

In conflict areas on the island province of Basilan, a group of Gender Peace Champions are working to protect women's rights and encourage women's participation in conflict prevention within their communities.

This has already yielded tangible benefits. Many ex-combatants have come to terms with the peace process thanks to the peacebuilding approach of their sisters, mothers, aunts and other women peacemakers.

“Since we joined the group, we've come to realize our rights as women. In the past, we were disregarded—men had always done the decision making. We didn't know that [as] women [we] also have our rights. We want to teach [what we have learned] with other women,” said Mardiya, a Gender Peace Champion under Women-IMPACT, a joint project of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Through financial support from the WPHF, Women-IMPACT brought together peace advocates—both men and women—to lead the paradigm shift in violence prevention in Basilan. The project strengthened the capacities of participants for protection monitoring, unarmed civilian protection, and early warning and early response. It also provided critical knowledge on gender equality, international humanitarian law, and human rights.

These efforts advanced the participation of women, specifically of ex-women combatants, in peacebuilding activities, particularly community-based conflict prevention and resolution. Ensuring the involvement of women in the peacebuilding process is crucial

because they are often among those who are most affected by conflicts while often excluded from decision-making.

In partnership with UN Women and the Nonviolent Peaceforce, the Gender Peace Champions were able to integrate gender and culturally sensitive principles with their own traditional practices in their municipalities of Al-Barka, Tipo-tipo, and Hadji Mohammad Ajul. Their communities slowly began to accept women who challenge traditional gender roles – and the Gender Peace Champions are determined to continue their outreach.

“There are still a lot of people that want to learn and know about their rights. That is why it is very important to teach them these things,” said Mardiya.



Photo: UN Women

Output 3.3

Reduce community-based conflicts, address community security and strengthen community economic empowerment

The United Nations promoted stability, social cohesion, and confidence-building through the transformation of conflict-affected communities into viable, peaceful, and productive communities with 26 People's Organizations formed. They are now working to complete infrastructure projects that will improve access of at least 1,500 households to basic services and facilities.

The United Nations supported five BARMM-based social enterprises on inclusive business models that range from promoting Maranao culture, preserving weaving traditions, and supporting women's economic empowerment. Economic empowerment support included basic and refresher trainings on social entrepreneurship and socio-entrepreneurship training to 34 women cooperatives to help them expand their market reach, as well as the organization of bazaars and regional conferences with women entrepreneurs showcasing their products.

Five local Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) plans were developed, and support packages provided to seven community-based organizations. The packages included repeaters for reliable communication in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, as well as hauling trucks, mini-transport facilities, tractors, mushroom production materials, post-harvest equipment, and water systems to foster community resilience and development. The United Nations supported the BARMM Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) to develop the regional level Conflict Reporting System Manual to improve EWER to conflict in the region.

More than 1,300 Sama Bajaus and unregistered children and their families received birth certificates thanks to the United Nations support in cooperation with the regional government. Furthermore, capacity building and advocacy activities for youth groups and duty bearers were undertaken on the importance of birth registration.

The United Nations supported the recovery and rehabilitation of individuals and communities affected by the 2017 Marawi Conflict, including IDPs, returnees, and members of host communities who were in critical need of livelihood assistance. The United Nations also supported the establishment of 72 Community Working Groups in Marawi City to foster inclusive governance and accountability and ensure a participatory, conflict-sensitive framework for community-driven decision-making. Furthermore, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Marawi Siege Victims Compensation Act of 2022 were completed, marking the start of compensation support.

The IDP Durable Solutions Action Plan, developed by the BARMM Government with technical support from the United Nations, was integrated into the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan of LGUs.

34

women cooperatives expanded their market reach

1,300+

Sama Bajaus and unregistered children got birth certificates

72

Community Working Groups formed in Marawi City to foster inclusive governance

A total of 12 municipalities developed their municipal-level ordinances on IDP protection to establish a more predictable and accountable environment to address internal displacement in a holistic manner. This provided a strong leverage to advocate for the passing of the IDP Bill in BARMM, which is considered a priority legislative agenda item. At the same time, five Regional Development Councils issued regional resolutions calling for the passage of an IDP Bill at the national level. The BARMM Government institutionalized a coordination platform that tackles displacement issues, including in post-conflict and emergency situations.

A total of six municipalities – all affected by or prone to a combined risk of conflict, natural hazards, and displacement – developed and/or enhanced their Local Climate Change Action Plan, Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan. These integrated adaptation and mitigation strategies were tailored to the local context and risks.

A sectoral analysis was conducted for skills development and employment in selected priority sectors and sub-sectors in BARMM to inform regional development. Community-based water supply development and sanitation projects, supported by the United Nations, provided jobs to 3,276 people.

More than 39,500 households—agrarian reform beneficiaries and smallholder farmers— received project services such as agri-inputs, equipment, loans, farm-to-market infrastructure and technical assistance. Of these households, 20 percent were women-headed and 9 percent were headed by the Indigenous Peoples. The project supported the establishment and/or strengthening of value chain enterprises (VCEs) which created at least 5,978 jobs. Farmers reported significant productivity increases, labour and cost savings, as well as easier access to markets. The project specifically targeted women (including young and indigenous women) as a beneficiary group and promoted women’s involvement and leadership in VCEs.

Business development was provided to at least 28,929 smallholder producers and 678 MSMEs and connected at least 266 MSMEs to markets through trade promotion. A total of 152 products were already either developed or improved to conform with market requirements.

In line with targets set by the National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the United Nations pioneered a uniform assessment tool for violent extremist offenders in detentions, and also contributed to prison reform in the country. This included the institutionalization the “Read Your Way Out” programme to facilitate early release through reading, establishing 13 new jail libraries.

3,276

jobs created thanks to water and sanitation project

68,000+

farmers & smallholders received direct support

266

MSMEs connected to new markets through trade promotion

13

jail libraries set up

Normative areas

Showcasing gender equality mainstreaming progress

In 2023, the United Nations in the Philippines significantly boosted gender equality mainstreaming practices and performance. Further increased senior leadership, strengthened gender coordination, and a sharper focus on mainstreaming gender equality objectives provide evidence of the country team's delivery against gender equality commitments.

Externally, commitment to women's empowerment was demonstrated, for instance, in working with CSOs to implement joint programmes that empower women to mediate conflicts and advocate with local governments.

Through the Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance Joint Programme, DMW and other migration-related agencies strengthened their implementation of the Global Compact for Migration with more gender-responsive and sustainable reintegration programmes for returning migrants, particularly women.

Gender progress status [2023 scorecard]

	Minimum requirements			
	Missing	Approaching	Meeting	Exceeding
1.1 Common Country Analysis		●		
1.2 Cooperation Framework Outcomes	●			
1.3 Cooperation Framework Indicators		●		
2.1 Joint Programs			●	
2.2 Communication and Advocacy		●		
2.3 Cooperation Framework M&E		●		
3.1 Government Engagement			●	
3.2 GEWE CSO Engagement			●	
4.1 Leadership			●	
4.2 Organizational Culture			●	
4.3 Gender Parity		●		
5.1 Gender Coordination Mechanism			●	
5.2 Gender Capacities		●		
6.1 Financial Resources		●		
7.1 GEWE Results		●		

Photo: UNHCR



Championing disability inclusion

Disability inclusion was significantly boosted in 2023 thanks to broad engagement and concrete operational measures by the UNCT.

The UNCT continued championing inclusion internally and as part of programmatic delivery, including through interventions, consultations, and participation in events such as the Philippine Disability Forum, Celebration of Dwarfism Awareness Month, the Second National Disability Accessibility Summit and the First Inclusive Philippine Business Summit, as well as through organizing a UNCT workshop on disability mainstreaming. Disability inclusion was a recurrent item on the agenda of regular United Nations management meetings and dedicated internal forums (such as the Leave No One Behind [LNOB] Group).

Key country United Nations analytical and planning instruments completed in 2023 – the Common Country Analysis and the 2024-2028 CF – thoroughly considered and mainstreamed disability inclusion and included data disaggregation. Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) participated in stakeholder consultations on the development of these instruments.

United Nations took concrete operational measures such as baseline assessment of accessibility of its common premises and services, conducted by an OPD, resulting in accommodation adjustments to be rolled out in 2024. In August, the UNCT adopted a non-discrimi-

nation employment statement, committing to the implementation of further measures to employ persons with disabilities. These include adjusting vacancy announcements and ensuring they reached persons with disabilities through shared databases.

Communications and advocacy strongly featured persons with disabilities – with the RC and other managers making public statements and speeches during the year, including in connection with international disability day, dwarfism awareness month and the inclusive business summit. The inter-agency communications plan for the 2024-2028 CF, developed in 2023, includes a strong element of advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities and disability inclusion.

Progress status [2023 scorecard]

	Minimum requirements			
	Missing	Approaching	Meeting	Exceeding
1. Leadership			●	
2. Strategic Planning			●	
3. Cooperation Framework			●	
4. Coordination			●	
5. Consultation with OPDs			●	
6. Accessibility (UN premises)		●		
7. Accessibility of external venues and in procurement		●		
8. Joint Programmes		●		
9. Data			●	
10. Monitoring and Evaluation			●	
11. Humanitarian			●	
12. Employment			●	
13. Capacity development for UN Staff			●	
14. Communications			●	



Photo: UNICEF

Youth empowerment results

In 2023, United Nations Philippines supported youth empowerment through aligning youth-related policies with the SDGs, improving public financing for youth initiatives, and enhancing the availability of youth-related data. Most importantly, a strong focus was placed on mainstreaming meaningful youth participation and empowering youth as changemakers. This included partnerships with and grants to youth-led organizations, capacity-building programmes for youth council representatives, investing in youth-led dialogues on the SDGs, and supporting the participation of youth leaders in global forums.

Furthermore, the UNCT made substantial progress in strengthening inter-agency

partnerships and joint advocacy, promoting a collaborative, multisectoral approach to address the youth agenda. A notable example is the Joint Programme on Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy in Southern Leyte and Samar. This programme unites national, regional and provincial stakeholders in health, education, social protection and governance to tackle challenges related to adolescent reproductive health and young people’s well-being.

As a result, the 2023 Youth Scorecard results demonstrated significant improvements compared to 2022 – from 31 to 61 percent – reflecting strengthened inter-agency partnerships and a sharp focus on mainstreaming the youth agenda.

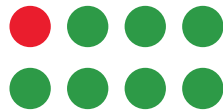
Number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and their progress status [2023 scorecard]

● Getting ready ● Moving forward ● At milestone

Governments support
(8 KPIs)



CF (8 KPIs)



Leadership, culture, capacities (6 KPIs)



Knowledge, comms/ advocacy (4 KPIs)



Photo: UNICEF

Commitment to strengthen United Nations-wide efforts to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse



United Nations entities in the Philippines were able to strengthen their prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) good practices in 2023. UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and UNDP established their respective internal PSEA groups to ensure the integration of PSEA across programs and operations. When the United Nations Harmonized PSEA Assessment Tool was introduced in the second quarter of the year, UNICEF and WFP conducted several workshops with their CSO implementing partners in supporting and building their capacities to meet the requirements for every PSEA core standard as part of their due diligence. OCHA, IFAD, ILO, UNHCR, and UNFPA integrated PSEA orientation in every training and workshop conducted. FAO included PSEA in its internal grievance mechanism. UNFPA ensures the consultation and dissemination of localized referral pathways in the communities

that include PSEA. IOM hired two PSEA officers to mainstream sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risk mitigation and prevention into programme design and implementation, including emergency response operations and surge teams (Mayon volcano), and incorporate PSEA into recruitment and onboarding of personnel. IOM led an Inter-Agency SEA Risk Assessment in BARMM in 2023, with findings leading to the development of key priorities for the 2024 PSEA Network Action Plan and contributing to the re-activation of the subnational Mindanao PSEA Network with the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT). UNHCR and UNICEF also incorporated PSEA provisions in the proposed legislative measure on the Internally Displaced Populations Bill pending with the Philippine Congress.

In 2024, the United Nations and partners will work towards enhancing the national capacity to accelerate the PSEA agenda, particularly its integration in development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding contexts. A multi-year PSEA Strategy Plan that will define strategic priorities focused on government engagement, PSEA mainstreaming in the 2024-2028 CF and Humanitarian Programme Cycle and Peacebuilding, Communications Strategy, and PSEA Community of Practice for the strengthening of local CSOs and NGOs. Another priority is the reactivation of the Mindanao PSEA Network for the strengthening of PSEA in the region where United Nations entities have long-term presence and engagements.

The year 2024 also marks the reactivation of the dedicated joint alternative SEA reporting channel – mobile and email hotlines +63 917-815-7375 / psea.philippines@humanitarianresponse.info.

United Nations coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

In 2023, UNCT Philippines continued implementation of the United Nations development system reform to achieve greater coherence, effectiveness and efficiency. As the UNCT prepared for the implementation of its next generation CF starting in 2024, decisive steps were taken towards further strengthening jointness, coordination and collaboration under the leadership of the United Nations RC.

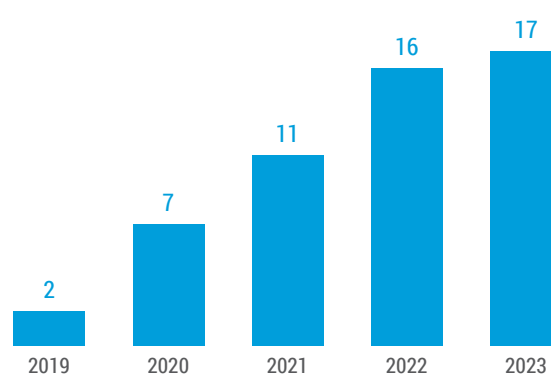
Joint programming

The United Nations' portfolio further shifted away from individual, ad hoc, short-term projects towards joint programming. Since 2019, and following targets set by the United Nations Funding Compact, joint programming and joint initiatives in the Philippines have increased eightfold. By end 2023, 17 United Nations joint programmes and initiatives were being implemented in the country. Eleven were country-level and four regional, with one additional tripartite partnership between the Government, the United Nations and the World Bank. The aggregate resources surpassed \$67.57 million (excluding regional programmes).

For the period 2019-2023, 22 joint programmes and initiatives yielded better integrated, transformative, and sustainable results by harnessing 18 United Nations entities' complementary strengths through joint action focused on 13 SDGs and in support of national priorities. More than \$102 million mobilized through joint modalities – excluding country components of regional programmes – corresponded to more than ten percent of the SEPF 2020-2023 envelope. Jointness in programming and delivery symbolizes the future of efficient multilateral action and is reflective of the United Nations development system reform. The UNCT in the Philippines significantly contributed to the United Nations Funding Compact target of implementing at least 15 percent

of its development-related expenditures through joint activities.

The growing number of United Nations Joint Programmes in the Philippines, 2019–2023



Joint planning and response supported by revamped coordination

While maintaining strong focus on delivery, improvements to internal coordination mechanisms were a key achievement in 2023. These ensure strategic and day-to-day alignment between United Nations entities as well as with other stakeholders.

The UNCT, consisting of country directors and other heads of United Nations entities, remained the backbone of in-country alignment. It was boosted through the establishment and work of the Results Coordination Team, which provided technical advice and support to the UNCT on programmatic opportunities and challenges, with an overall aim of ensuring programmatic coherence; and through the establishment of Outcome Groups, the main coordination mechanism to ensure coherent United Nations system-wide approach of analysis, planning,

UN Reform in the Philippines

[Watch](#) the video on the reformed United Nations work in the country - building a new culture of cooperation and alliances through solidarity



implementation and monitoring at the level of outcomes of the 2024-2028 CF.

The intensified work through these and other joint internal coordination fora – including the Communications Group; Management, Evaluation and Learning Group; and various internal thematic groups – contributed significantly to the enhanced coherence and alignment of work across pillars and mandates, as well as country-level implementation of the United Nations development system reform.

Partnerships

Convening and consulting stakeholders is vital for informing and steering the United Nations' work in the country, and the United Nations continued to leverage its convening power to bring together stakeholders from across sectors to collectively inform, develop and implement initiatives. It has been building on the strong tradition of strategic and operational interaction and coordination between various United Nations entities and their partner governmental departments and other Filipino institutions.

More than 20 multi-partner consultations, including the First Drugs Use and Control Summit, the Prison Decongestion Summit, the Top Leaders Forum, the First Inclusive Philippines Business Summit to name a few, were conducted across the country in 2023, contributing to formulation and launch of at least 88 people-centred policies, laws and normative frameworks for SDGs acceleration.

Through development diplomacy and the convening role of the United Nations RC, good offices support

was provided on complex issues related to human rights and peacebuilding as well as leveraging Filipino good practices and development achievements up to regional and global forums. For example: the United Nations JP-HR, co-chaired by the RC with the DOJ, facilitated strengthened engagement of the Government and more than 600 civil society actors on critical human rights issues; the WPHF (co-chaired by the RC with Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity) strengthened capacity of CSOs working at the forefront of peace, security and humanitarian action and formalized their status as legal entities in the country; the ERC Initiative continued building on strong partnerships at local level through the recognition of communities' strengths and capacities for rebuilding and enhancing resilience; and the Government-United Nations co-organized Mayors Forum on SDGs localization, with the participation of the President of the Philippines.

The engagement with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the ADB was strengthened as they joined the UNCT to better seek synergies and alignment on policy development, financial resources, knowledge platforms and capacity development. Private sector partners – the United Nations Global Compact Network Philippines Sustainability Summit, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation through the ERC Initiative, the ARISE Philippines on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/ Top Leaders Forum – were engaged in discussions and in the United Nations programming to contribute to the SDG-aligned investment pathways and embrace sustainability for robust and resilient future for business.

The long-standing partnership culminated in the co-creation of the CF, the first new generation United Nations cooperation framework in the Philippines, the key strategic document to guide the work of all United Nations development system entities in the Philippines between 2024 and 2028. The next generation cooperation instrument was the result of an extensive consultative process – co-led by the UN-RCO, NEDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) – and involving the Government, civil society, private sector, trade unions, academia and development partners.

This next generation CF represents a critical shift for the United Nations in the Philippines from traditional development assistance to transformative strategic partnerships for policy and capacity development, knowledge generation and financial resources-leveraging by playing a strong development-enabling role.

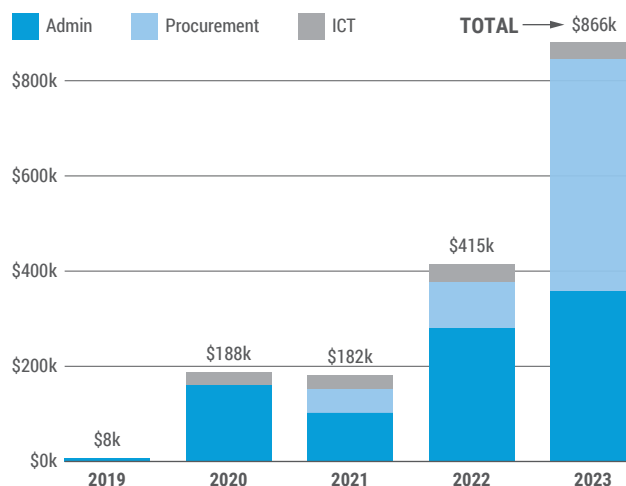
Efficiency agenda

At the time of scarce and stretched resources coupled by mounting pressure to accelerate delivery towards the SDGs, all possible efforts continue to be made to ensure increased operational efficiencies. These include eliminating and reducing transaction costs, saving staff time, as well as taking advantage of economies of scale across the United Nations system, along with the use of available resources more effectively through collaborative or joint business operations.

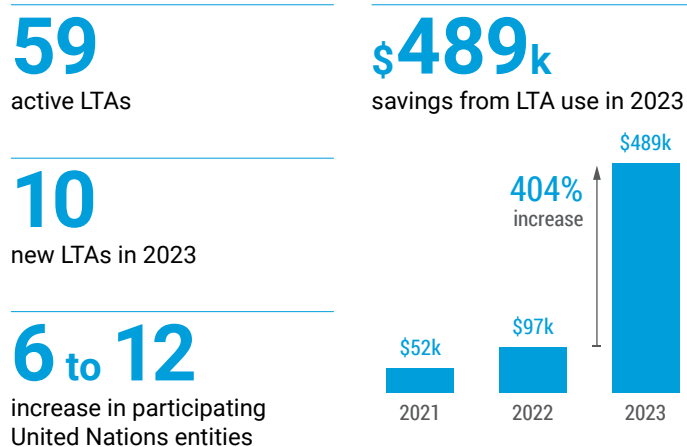
The implementation of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) 2.0 in 2023 resulted in financial savings of \$866,000, which was more than double compared to the previous year. Most gains were realized through the management of common premises and collaborative procurement which was more broadly utilized and better reported than in previous years. The Operations Management Team increased the number of active long-term agreements (LTAs) with vendors and grew United Nations entity participation in joint procurement,

from six to twelve entities. The year 2023 also saw a further increase in the United Nations optimising its vehicle fleet through car-pooling and the electronic management of bookings that allowed entities to recover costs or use internal resources at lower rates than commercially available. Greening initiatives were further enhanced through common services. These included an e-shuttle pilot, green procurement training and greening measure at common premises.

Examples of United Nations cost savings through the BOS estimated gains increases (in thousands of US\$)



United Nations cost savings through the usage of LTAs (in thousands of US\$)



Countering threats to and through aviation

In 2023, the Philippines became the second country in the world to implement the United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security (TAM Programme), an initiative that provides United Nations Member States with technical assistance and specialized tools to counter and prevent threats to civil aviation security.

With support from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Philippines' successful implementation of an inter-agency coordination framework under the leadership of the Anti-Terrorism Council – Programme Management Center is expected to serve as a benchmark for other Member States across Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

The TAM Programme bridges the gap between counterterrorism and aviation security by establishing new lines of communication between previously siloed organizations and building a system to ensure that intelligence information contributes to aviation security decisions and protects civil aviation against real world threats.

“We are pleased to be a pioneer in the TAM Programme. The essence of the [programme] in the Philippine setting is for close collaboration among relevant agencies in intelligence-sharing to better assess the threats and risks to civil aviation security at the national level,” said Ambassador Antonio M. Lagdameo, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York.

The Philippines' successful implementation of the TAM Programme, coupled with the country's participation in the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel (CT Travel) programme—which aims to build Member States' capacities to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offenses and other serious crimes, including their movement across international borders through the collection and analysis of passenger data—reflects the Government's increased commitment to countering threats to and through aviation.



Lessons learned

An independent evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, coherence, efficiency, and sustainability of the [United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development \(PFSD\) 2019-2023 and the 2020-2023 SEPF](#) was completed in 2023. The evaluation confirmed the frameworks' alignment with the PDP and its added value in United Nations entities working together in complementary ways, particularly on projects in the BARMM and related to the COVID-19 response. It concluded that the evaluated mechanisms contributed significantly to changes in various national policies and enactment of laws, such as the National Employment Recovery Strategy and the creation of the DMW; and that the UNCT formed meaningful partnerships with the Government, as demonstrated by the formulation of the JP-HR amidst challenging circumstances. There were opportunities for strengthened joint governance mechanisms with the Government, which were also largely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The evaluation presented sixteen recommendations to improve the formulation, governance, coherence, and coordination of the next strategy, and to improve support for transformational change and cross-cutting issues. These were mostly fully accepted and incorporated into the design of the 2024-2028 CF, including:

- ▶ Reposition the United Nations structures and funding arrangements as an integrated platform for multi-donor development cooperation.
 - ▶ Pursue ongoing efforts to ensure the United Nations collaboration and integration within the framework of the United Nations Funding Compact on inter-agency initiatives, including joint programming and other modalities of joint work to improve coherence among the United Nations entities.
- ▶ Based on emerging innovative partnership with multilateral development banks, continue exploring new areas of collaboration amongst the Government, international financial institutions

(IFIs) and the United Nations, where the latter will bring its global community of knowledge and public goods.

- ▶ Based on positive results achieved during the implementation of the SEPF and in line with the United Nations development system reform, reinforce the work of the UNCT in policy development and normative work, including compliance with global agendas, conventions, and treaties.
- ▶ Based on the coordination challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various continuing challenges faced by the country, the next cooperation framework should rethink its governance system to better adapt to unpredictability and change. The nexus approach will require better coordination between humanitarian and development players.
- ▶ Accelerate the implementation of the Efficiency Agenda as a way of integrating existing fragmented services and operations towards more cost-effective interventions.

UNCT Evaluation Management Response: Status of Implementation of Actions as of 31 December 2023

of recommendations

● Completed in 2023 ● On-going ● Delayed

Improve formulation and governance of new CF



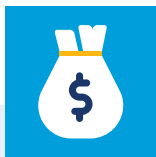
Improve coherence and coordination of new CF



Improve support for transformational change and cross-cutting issues



Key lessons learned from PFSD/SEPF Evaluation for the 2024-2028 CF



Lesson 1

While significant results were achieved under the SEPF/PFSD, the United Nations requires an even sharper focus to maximize its limited financial resources.



Lesson 2

As a result of the experience during the pandemic, there is a need to explore more nimble and adaptable governance and coordination structures to ensure full alignment of priorities and efforts.



Lesson 3

Despite limited financial resources, the United Nations continued to be a valuable, influential and trusted partner of the Philippine Government, demonstrated through multi-dimensional support with addressing the various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, its technical assistance on a broad range of policy issues, and in the development of flagship and impactful programmes such as JP-HR in, at times, challenging political and policy climate.



Lesson 4

The United Nations maintains a unique capacity to form meaningful partnerships with the Government as was clearly demonstrated in the formulation of the JP-HR, which was testament to the United Nations' convening power, and its strong partnership with the Philippine Government.



Lesson 5

The United Nations needs to continuously explore new and innovative partnerships and new areas of collaboration, in close alignment with the Government, with international financial institutions and other, less traditional partners and bring to the forefront its comparative advantages such as global community of knowledge and public goods.

Chapter 3

United Nations' focus in 2024 – a new generation partnership

“As the CF is among the first of its kind under the reformed United Nations development system, our collaboration will showcase the best and finest the United Nations development system can offer the world with programs that provide solutions and have far-reaching impact, and provide good models of co-ownership, transparency, and accountability.”

- President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr at the signing ceremony of the 2024-2028 CF, 24 October 2023



Photo: UN Philippines

2024 is the initial year of the implementation of the CF, the key joint planning instrument for 2024-2028 with the Government. The United Nations in the Philippines will focus its support on the following shared objectives:



**Outcome 1:
Human capital development,
inclusion, and resilience
building**

- ▶ Strengthened Universal Health Care
- ▶ Access to better nutrition
- ▶ Inclusive early childhood care and development
- ▶ Resilient and expanded social protection systems
- ▶ Digital connectivity in remote areas
- ▶ Anti-discrimination and human rights advocacy
- ▶ Continued implementation of the peace agreement in BARMM



**Outcome 2:
Sustainable economic
development, decent work, and
innovation**

- ▶ Modernized agricultural sector
- ▶ Innovative financing
- ▶ Decent work for all



**Outcome 3:
Climate action, environmental
sustainability and disaster-
resilience**

- ▶ Increased climate adaptation and resilience
- ▶ Circular economy transition at sub-national level
- ▶ Biodiversity and natural resource management for resource-dependent communities

To deliver on these, the United Nations will continue expanding system-wide partnerships, including new, innovative ways of working with IFIs, the private sector, CSOs, academe, LGUs to leverage financial resources to localize SDGs and harness the full potential of the whole ecosystem of actors through systems thinking lens for SDG acceleration.

The United Nations and the Government will jointly operationalize the agreed mechanisms for efficient and effective planning, monitoring, and reporting under the CF, steered by the Joint Steering Committee led by the United Nations, NEDA and DFA.

Supporting the country with accelerating progress towards SDGs will be the top priority, including through showcasing the Government's leading role in the Asia-Pacific region in SDG implementation. Some of this will be achieved through:

- ▶ Harnessing the potential of the Philippines to become a pathfinder country for the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transition.
- ▶ Leading the global dialogue on gender equality while the Philippines chairs the 68th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- ▶ Supporting the Government and its partners in the organization of the First Drugs Use and Control Summit in Manila, which will bring global knowledge and experience to update normative approaches and legislation in the referred area of work.
- ▶ Shaping the regional agenda on disaster risk reduction as the country hosts the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2024; and
- ▶ Actively engaging with the preparations and negotiations for the Summit of the Future in September 2024 to agree on a new consensus for international cooperation and forge an all-inclusive Pact for the Future, including the new Global Digitalization Compact.

Annexes

Annex 1. United Nations joint programmes and joint initiatives in the Philippines in 2023

Title	SDGs and SEPF pillars covered	Duration	Participating United Nations entities	Total Budget / Source of Funding (in US\$)
1 Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines	3, 5, 16, 17 People	Aug 2021 - Jul 2024	OHCHR, UNODC, UNCTO, UNESCO	\$10.2 million Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding + bilateral contributions \$2.23 million (United Nations co-financing) \$7.98 million (for resource mobilization) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Australia / \$684,157 Norway / \$863,028 UK / \$526,252 Switzerland / \$529,636 Netherlands / \$328,055 Ireland / \$21,426 Philippines/ \$200,000 USA / \$125,000 Bilateral Australia / \$88,910 European Union / \$414,640 Germany / \$273,214
2 Conflict Transformation in areas affected by armed conflict in BARMM through area-based community driven development	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	Jan 2022 - Dec 2023	WFP, FAO, IOM, UNDP	\$14.8 million Multi-donor, country-level pooled funding \$285,000 (United Nations co-financing) DFAT Australia / \$1 million Ireland / \$10,594
3 Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)	8, 10, 17 People	Nov 2020 - Oct 2022 (Apr 2023 per NCE)	IOM, ILO, UN Women	\$1.5 million Migration MPTF
4 Monitoring the Food, Energy, Finance, Crisis towards Informed Policy Options in the Philippines	1, 2 People	Jul 2022 – Mar 2023	WFP, FAO, ILO	\$250,000 Joint SDG Fund – Development Emergency Modality (DEM)
5 Enhancing resilient and gender-responsive agriculture-based livelihoods of returned Women and Youth IDPs in post-conflict communities in Maguindanao – BARMM	1, 2, 5, 8, 16 Peace	Jan 2022 – Dec 2023 (NCE Aug 2024)	FAO, UNFPA,	\$2 million DFAT Australia
6 Project BRAVE (Building COVID-safe Responses and Voices for Equity)	2, 5 People	Jun 2021 – Jun 2023 (Dec 2023, NCE)	WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF	\$2.36 million DFAT Australia

Annex 1. United Nations joint programmes and joint initiatives in the Philippines in 2023

	Title	SDGs and SEPF pillars covered	Duration	Participating United Nations entities	Total Budget / Source of Funding (in US\$)
7	Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace in the BARMM	5, 6 Peace	Apr 2022 – Sep 2025	UN Women, UNDP	\$2.17 (CAD 3 million) Global Affairs Canada
8	Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy Southern Leyte and Samar in the Philippines	3, 5 (Direct); 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17 (Indirect) People	21 Nov 2022- 31 Dec 2026	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	\$8.5 million \$6.5 million (Republic of Korea through Korea International Cooperation Agency - KOICA) \$1 million (GPH co-financing) \$1 million (United Nations co-financing)
9	Contributing to Sustainable Peace in the BARMM by Supporting IDP Inclusion and Displacement Resolution Measures	16 Peace	Dec 2023 – Nov 2025	UNDP, IOM, UNHCR	\$3 million United Nations Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund
10	Farmers – Fisherfolks' Advancement and Integration to Resilient Value Chains in BARMM (FAIR-VALUE)	1, 2, 9 Prosperity and Planet	Sept 2023 - Sept 2026	IOM, ITC, FAO	\$3.137 million EU Delegation in the Philippines
11	Strengthening Health Systems and COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction, Targeting the most at-risk Population	3 People	May 2021 - June 2025	UNICEF, WHO	\$16.57million DFAT Australia
12	Addressing Barriers to Access HIV Services	3, 5, 10, 17 People	2022-2023	UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO	\$800,000 UNAIDS
REGIONAL					
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	8 Prosperity and Planet	July 2019 - July 2024	UNEP, UNIDO	\$6 million Global Environment Facility (GEF)
14	Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region [Spotlight Initiative]	5, 8, 10, 16, 17 People	July 2017 - Dec 2023	ILO, UN Women in collaboration with UNODC	€25 million EU Delegation (ASEAN, scope of work include the Philippines) of which \$1.29 million (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	8, 10 People	1 Aug 2020 – 31 Jul 2024	ILO, IOM, UNDP	\$10.7 million EU Delegation (ASEAN, scope of work include the Philippines)
16	Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism in Asia (STRIVE)	16 Peace	7 Jan 2019 – 6 Jan 2024	UNOCT, UNODC, UNDP	€8.9 million of which €6 million / \$6.42 million from EU Delegation (Central, South and South East Asia scope of work includes the Philippines)
TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP (WB-GPH-UN)					
17	Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project	2, 6, 17 People	2022-2025	UNICEF, UNOPS in collaboration with relevant UN entities	\$36.3 million World Bank-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) with Government of the Philippines co-financing

Title	SDGs and SEPF pillars covered	Duration	Participating United Nations entities	Total Budget / Source of Funding (in US\$)	
2024 PIPELINE					
18	Localize to Realize: Accelerating SDG Implementation for local and vulnerable groups and communities of women, IPs and informal settler families	5, 11, 17	June 2024 - May 2024	UN Habitat, UN Women	\$250,000 Joint SDG Fund – Seed Funding on SDG Localization
19	Inclusive, Competitive and Responsible Digital Philippines (Digital-PINAS)	1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 17	36 months	UNDP, ILO, ITC	\$3 million Joint SDG Fund – Digital Transformation Window
20	Enabling Safe, Inclusive and Sustainable Communities in BARMM	11, 16	24 months	UNODC, UN Habitat, UNOPS	\$4.495 million
21	Reduction in the number of new HIV infections	3, 5, 10, 17	Mar 2024 – Dec 2028	UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNODC, WHO	\$3.72 million Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS Secretariat
22	Safe Migration and Decent Work for Climate Change Resilience in ASEAN	1, 8, 10, 13	24 months	UNDP, ILO	\$2.7 million Multi-country: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand
23	Supporting the Acceleration of Decent Job Creation and Enhancing Social Protection for Just Transition in the Philippines	1, 8, 10, 17	July 2024 - June 2025	ILO, UNDP, UNICEF	\$200,000 Joint SDG Fund - Global Accelerator Seeding
24	Supporting Human Security in Mindanao through the Humanitarian-Peace-Development (HDP) Nexus	1, 2, 5, 9, 16	48 months	UNIDO, FAO, OHCHR, UNHCR with support from UNDSS	€11.5 million / \$12.34 million European Union
25	Joint Activities in Social Protection and Jobs in Support of the World Bank Compass and Global Accelerator (M-GA TRACK)		24 months	ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, other UN entities, in collaboration with the World Bank	Up to \$500,000 UN Joint SDG Fund RSR-ADSP UTF M-GA WINDOW”

Annex 2. People-centred policies, laws and frameworks developed with United Nations support in 2023

Sustainable development

- ▶ 6th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan and 10 agency commitments, December 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Framework for SDG Budget Tagging Systems and Processes, July 2023 [UNDP]

Health

- ▶ Department of Health (DOH) Department Circular 2023-0563: National Objectives for Health 2023-2028, December 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ Philippines Pandemic Preparedness, Response and Resilience Plan, August 2023 [WHO] [For Inter-agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease]
- ▶ National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan for Health, December 2023 [WHO] [For DOH – Health Emergency Management Bureau]
- ▶ One Health 5-Year Priority Agenda, 3-Year Strategic Plan and its Coordinating Mechanism, August 2023 [WHO] [For Philippine Inter-agency Committee on Zoonoses]
- ▶ Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028, launched 31 May 2023 [WHO] [For Department of Transportation]
- ▶ Philippine Council for Mental Health Strategic Framework 2024-2028, launched 12 October 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ Philippine Multi-Disease Elimination Plan 2024-2030, published in 2023 by the DOH [WHO]
- ▶ All-hazard Multisectoral Framework for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), December 2023 [WHO] [To be issued as a Joint Administrative Order (JAO) by DOH, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of National Defence]
- ▶ Medium-Term Agenda and Strategic Plan for Adult and Elderly Health 2024 -2030 (being finalized by DOH), December 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ The Philippine Acceleration Action Plan for Tuberculosis 2023-2035, launched March 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ DOH-Department Memorandum No. 2023-0342: Interim Guidelines on the Prevention, Surveillance, Case Management, Risk Communication, and Outbreak Response Strategy for Henipavirus (Nipah virus and Hendra virus), 5 October 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ Interim Guidelines on the enhanced influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory surveillance of the Philippines National Influenza Center [WHO] [For the DOH Epidemiology Bureau and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine]
- ▶ Field Guide on Malaria Mass Drug Administration for Accelerated Malaria Elimination in Southern Palawan of the Philippines, draft submitted to DOH, December 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ DOH-Department circular 2023-0552: 2023 Key Updates to Current Treatment Guidelines or the Programmatic Treatment of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, 1 December 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ FDA Circular 2023-004: Guidelines on Regulatory Reliance on the Conduct of Clinical Trials, 17 February 2023 [WHO]
- ▶ Philippine Genomic Surveillance Consortium Roadmap, May 2023 [WHO] [For DOH Epidemiology Bureau]
- ▶ Philippine Field Epidemiology Training Program Roadmap, December 2023 [WHO] [For DOH Epidemiology Bureau]
- ▶ Playbook on Promoting Actions Towards Drowning-Free Communities, 2023 [WHO] [For DOH]
- ▶ Revised Immunization Act, catch up immunization guideline [UNICEF]
- ▶ Two years zero dose acceleration/recovery plan for immunization [UNICEF, WHO]
- ▶ DRRMH Manual of Operation [UNICEF]
- ▶ Learning Institutions Manual of Operations [UNICEF]
- ▶ DOH Community-Driven Responses to Substance Use [UNODC, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF], including family-skills-based programme (Strong Families) November 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ DOH, DILG, Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), JAO on National Policy on Promotion and Protection of Health in Jails, Prisons, Custodial Facilities and Other Places of Detention (final draft stage) [UNODC, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP]
- ▶ Dangerous Drugs Board Regulation on handling Children in Conflict with the Law with drug related cases 23 May 2023 [UNODC]

Education

- ▶ Updated Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Strategic Plan 2030. [UNICEF]
- ▶ Alternative Learning System (ALS) Social and Behavioural Change Strategy Toolkit and Roll-out Guide 2023. [UNICEF]
- ▶ Bangsamoro Education Reform Development Plan 2035 (BERDP 2035) [UNICEF]
- ▶ Simulation Model for Education Financing in BARMM, 2023 [UNICEF] [continuing]
- ▶ Creation of ECCD Council in BARMM Bill 2023 [UNICEF]
- ▶ Regional Plan of Action for Children, 2024-2028 [UNICEF] [supported education component, under child protection section]
- ▶ The Philippine National Midterm Report on SDG 4, February 2024. [UNICEF]
- ▶ MATATAG curriculum, August 2023. [UNICEF]
- ▶ EDCOM 2 Year 1 report, January 2024. [UNICEF]
- ▶ DepEd Order on Child Protection Policy. [UNICEF]
- ▶ 2023 Basic Education Report, January 2023. [UNICEF]

Food security and nutrition

- ▶ Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023 – 2028, August 2023. [UNICEF, WFP, WHO]
- ▶ Policy on Unhealthy Food Marketing to Children, December 2023. [UNICEF, WHO]
- ▶ Policy on Prevention of Overweight and Obesity, December 2023. [UNICEF, WHO]
- ▶ Severe Acute Malnutrition Benefit Package, December 2023. [UNICEF]
- ▶ Nutrition in Emergencies Strategic Plan (2023 – 2028), December 2023. [UNICEF]
- ▶ Municipality of Malay Executive Order No. 13 Series of 2023 – establishing the Multistakeholder Group for the Malay Food Systems Innovation Project, establishing its composition, committees and functions thereof, 22 March 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Municipality of Malay Municipal Ordinance No. 540, adopting the Malay Economic Investment and Incentives Code of 2023, 30 November 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Rice Fortification Roadmap, National Nutrition Council [WFP]
- ▶ Draft Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill [WFP]

Child protection

- ▶ Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) of the Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Law - signing on May 2023 [UNICEF]
- ▶ IRRs of the Parenting Effectiveness Service Law - signing on 15 June 2023 [UNICEF]

Peace and security

- ▶ 4th cycle 2023-2030 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) December 12, 2023 [UN Women]
- ▶ 3rd cycle 2023-2028 BARMM Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (RAPWPS) October 5, 2023 [UN Women and UNDP]
- ▶ Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security, December 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Bangsamoro Plan of Action for Community Resilience, December 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Socio-political transformation roadmap of the Moro National Liberation Front-Sema Group, September 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Bangsamoro Rehabilitation, Rebuilding and Development Roadmap 2023-2029 [UNDP]
- ▶ Bangsamoro Community and Service-Oriented Policing Framework [UNODC, UN Women]
- ▶ Establishment of BARMM Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office (PSRO) [UN PBF Step BARMM: IOM, UNFPA, UNWOMEN]
- ▶ DOJ Assessment of Pending Criminal Cases for Offenses Cognizable by the Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities and Metropolitan Trial Courts February 2023 [UNODC, OHCHR]
- ▶ DOJ Guidelines on the Recommendation of Bail Amounts in Criminal Informations (UNODC, OHCHR)
- ▶ DOJ Policy on Pro-Active Involvement of Prosecutors in Case-Buildup March 2023 [UNODC, OHCHR]
- ▶ DOJ Establishment of the DOJ Human Rights Office June 2023 (UNODC, OHCHR)
- ▶ Government Pledges given at the UN Human Rights 75 Celebrations (UNODC, OHCHR)
- ▶ Supreme Court Judicial Rules on the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 December 2023 (UNODC)
- ▶ Standardized Curriculum on Enhanced Evidence Collection During Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – Philippine National Police (PNP) – Philippine Coast Guard Joint Counter-Terrorism Operations October 2023 (UNODC)
- ▶ Early Warning and Early Response SOPs for Preventing Violent Conflict including Violent Extremism in the BARMM, with Ministry of the Interior and Local Govern-

ment and Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) September 2023 [UNODC]

- ▶ Board of Pardons and Parole Revision to the Regulations on Parole and Executive Clemency, easing parole requirements for elderly persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) 2 August 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ DOJ Memorandum on Data on PDLs Who are at Least 60 Years Old of 27 February 2023, instructing priority release of elderly PDLs [UNODC]
- ▶ BJMP MC-152 Guidelines in the Establishment and Operation of Jail Libraries, and Access to Jail Library Services of PDLs 07 September 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ BJMP Modified PDL Admission Procedures; Assessment and Classification; Housing Assignment and Dispatch; and Document Management 07 September 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ BJMP Enhanced Guidelines on the Implementation of Assessment and Classification Tools in the High-Risk Facilities 17 October 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ BuCor Correctional Hospital Protocol in Handling and Disposal or Release of the Cadaver of Deceased Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL) 28 November 2023 [UNODC]
- ▶ Framework for Developing a Comprehensive Whistleblower Reporting and Protection Policy for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [UNODC]
- ▶ Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability promulgated by the Supreme Court [UNODC]
- ▶ Data Sharing Agreements on Beneficial Ownership Information between the SEC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Bureau of Immigration, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Government Procurement and Policy Board, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Insurance Commission, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, Bureau of Customs (BoC), PNP, National Bureau of Investigation, DILG, DOJ, Philippine Center on Transnational Crime, DA, Intelligence Service of the AFP [UNODC]

Environment, energy and resilience

- ▶ Implementing Rules and Regulations for Extended Producer Responsibility Act, January 24, 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Master plan for bike lanes in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao, September 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ Resilient Recovery Plan in Tayum, Abra, July 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ First Nagoya protocol compliant access and benefit sharing agreement in the country, August 2023, [UNDP]
- ▶ Philippine National Standards (PNS) for BDFAPS, July 2023 [UNDP]
- ▶ DHSUD Post Disaster Shelter Recovery Framework [IOM]
- ▶ PNS IEC 60335-2-89:2022 – Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety [UNIDO]
- ▶ Part 2-89: Particular requirements for commercial refrigerating appliances and ice-makers with an incorporated or remote refrigerant unit or motor-compressor [UNIDO]
- ▶ Department of Energy (DOE) Department Circular and Implementing Guidelines for the minimum energy performance of cold storage warehouses [UNIDO]
- ▶ Updated the Philippine Energy Labelling Program to include commercial refrigerators [UNIDO]
- ▶ Updated the TESDA Code of Practice for Refrigeration and Airconditioning Technicians [UNIDO]
- ▶ Planning Local Actions on Marine Litter: Volume 1. Developing the City Plan of Action on Marine Litter and Volume 2. Implementing the City Plan of Action on Marine Litter (UN-Habitat)
- ▶ Six (6) City Plans of Action on Marine Litter (Manila, Legazpi, Calapan, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro, Davao) adopted by the respective cities through resolutions by City Council Local Development Council or Solid Waste Management Board. [UN-Habitat] (2022-2023 used as proof of concept for the 2-volume publication “Planning Local Actions on Marine Litter”)
- ▶ Integration of Marine Litter Learning Kit in the official curriculum of the Department of Education through the Bureau of Learning Resources as piloted in Region 8. [UN-Habitat]

Annex 3. SEPF Results Framework (Outcome Indicators)

Outcome 1

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target	Performance	Status	Data source
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5	33.4% (2015)	28.8% (2022)	26.7% (2021)	Achieved	National Nutrition Survey (PSA SDG 2.2.1)
Prevalence of wasting among children under five	7.1% (2015)	<5.0% (2022)	5.5% (2021)	Progressed	National Nutrition Survey (PSA SDG 2.2.2.1)
Maternal mortality ratio (number of deaths per 100,000 live births)	95 (2016)	108 (2022)	78 (2020)	Achieved	UN Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
Adolescent birth rate (aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	57.1% (2013)	37% (2022)	25% (2022)	Achieved	National Demographic and Health Survey (PSA SDG 3.7.2)
Contraceptive prevalence rate for modern family planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37.6% (currently married; 2013) • 23.5% (sexually active unmarried; 2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65% (currently married; 2022) • 30% (women of reproductive age, 15-49 years old; 2022) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41.8% (currently married; 2022) • 23.8% (sexually active unmarried; 2022) 	Progressed	National Demographic and Health Survey
Proportion of households meeting the 100 percent recommended energy intake	31.7% (2015)	32.2% (2022)	19.5% (2019)	Regressed	National Nutrition Survey (PSA SDG 2.1.1.p1)
Number of newly diagnosed HIV cases	9,264 (2016)	18,900 (2022)	14,970 (2022)*	Regressed	Department of Health – HIV / AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines
Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases ((number of deaths per 100,000 population aged 30-70 years old)	462.5 (2016)	367.1 (2022)	4.5% (2018)** 4.6% (2020)**	Regressed	Philippine Health Statistics / Department of Health (PSA SDG 3.4.1)
Percentage of Grade 12 learners attaining nearly proficient level or better in core Senior High School areas	10% (2018)	28% (2022-2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: 24% (2018) • Mathematics: 2.8% (2018) 	Progressed	Basic Education Exit Assessment (PDP 2023-2028)
Certification rate of technical and vocational education and training graduates	91.3% (2016)	92% (2022)	92% (2021)	Achieved	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (PSA SDG 4.3.s4)
Percent share of GDP on social protection expenditure	1.7% (2016)	3.7% (2022)	2.7% (2021)	Progressed	Department of Budget and Management (PDP 2023-2028)

* The country has diagnosed 79.2 percent of the target new HIV infections. The below-target accomplishment explains the increasing number of new infections in the country, which is experiencing the fastest-growing epidemic in Asia, with 50 percent of new infections coming from individuals aged 15-24.

** Proxy data

Outcome 2

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target	Performance	Status	Data source
Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement climate change – disaster risk reduction enhanced Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), and local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategy.	Baseline (2016): • CLUPs (34% of 1,634 municipalities and cities) • CDPs (2.26% of 1,634 municipalities and cities) • LCCAPs (68.18% of 1,634 municipalities and cities) • Local disaster risk reduction and management plans (93.15% of 1,634 municipalities and cities)	Increasing (2022)	(2019) • 956 LGUs with PDPFP/CLUPs • 1,134 LGUs with CDPs • 1,267 (74%) LGUs with LCCAPs • 1,487 (87%) LGUs (P/C/M) with Local DRRM Plans	Progressed	• Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)/ DHSUD • Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) • Climate Change Commission (CCC) • Office of Civil Defense (OCD) (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) 2020-2030)
Percentage of jobs and industries adopting green technologies and practices to total number of industries	To be confirmed	To be determined	Green Industrial Performance rank:* 60 (2014) 55 (2017)	Progressed	PSA (UNIDO (GIP Index))
GHG emissions per sector (million MT CO ₂ e) (Energy, Industry, Agriculture, LUCF, Waste, Transport)	Baseline (2010): Baseline (2010): • Energy: 55.7 • Industrial: 11 • Agriculture: 47.8 • LUCF: 83.2 • Waste: 15.3 • Transport: 25.3	Decreasing (2022)	• Total GHG emissions (2020): 119.40 (MtCO ₂ e)	Regressed	National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Philippine Energy Plan 2020 - 2040)
Percent of total budget of national government agencies and local government units that respond to climate change adaptation and mitigation	• 5% for national government agencies (2015) • Local government units: To be determined	Increasing (2022)	Government's budget for climate change adaptation and mitigation:* 6.99% (2017) 5.77% (2022)	Regressed	• CCC climate budget tagging reports • DENR Programme Convergence Budgeting (PDP 2023-2028)
Area of protected areas with high biodiversity values effectively managed	• Marine (Poor: 3.4 M ha; Fair: 0; Satisfactory: 112,822 ha; Good: 0; Excellent: 0) • Terrestrial (Poor: 2.2 M ha; Fair: 970,502 ha; Satisfactory: 1.3 M ha; Good: 1.1 M ha; Excellent: 112,822 ha)	Target (2022): • Marine (Poor: 1.9 M ha; Fair: 2.2 M ha; Satisfactory: 42.1 M ha; Good: 0; Excellent: 0) • Terrestrial (Poor: 1.4 M ha; Fair: 68,707 ha; Satisfactory: 844,239 ha; Good: 972,162 ha; Excellent: 42,136 ha)	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (in million hectares):* • Universe: 3.1 (2019), 3.1 (2021) • NIPAS and Locally managed MPAs: 1.4 (2019), 1.4 (2021)	Stagnant	• PDP • DENR (PSA SDG 14.5.1)

* Proxy data

Outcome 3

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Target	Performance	Status	Data source
Poverty incidence in BARMM	53.6% (2018)	49.6% (2022)	29.8% (2021)	Achieved	PSA
Percentage of conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable barangays rehabilitated	10% (2016)	40% (2022)	Percentage of Barangay Development Program beneficiary-barangays provided with socioeconomic interventions * • 88.71% of projects completed (2023) • 68.76% of projects completed (2023)	Progressed	Concerned agencies, Bangsamoro Development Plan (Philippine Development Report 2023)
Number of Seal of Good Local Governance Passers in BARMM (Local Government Units)	28 (2019)	50 (2022)	28 (2023)	Stagnant	Ministry of the Interior and Local Government Report

* Proxy data

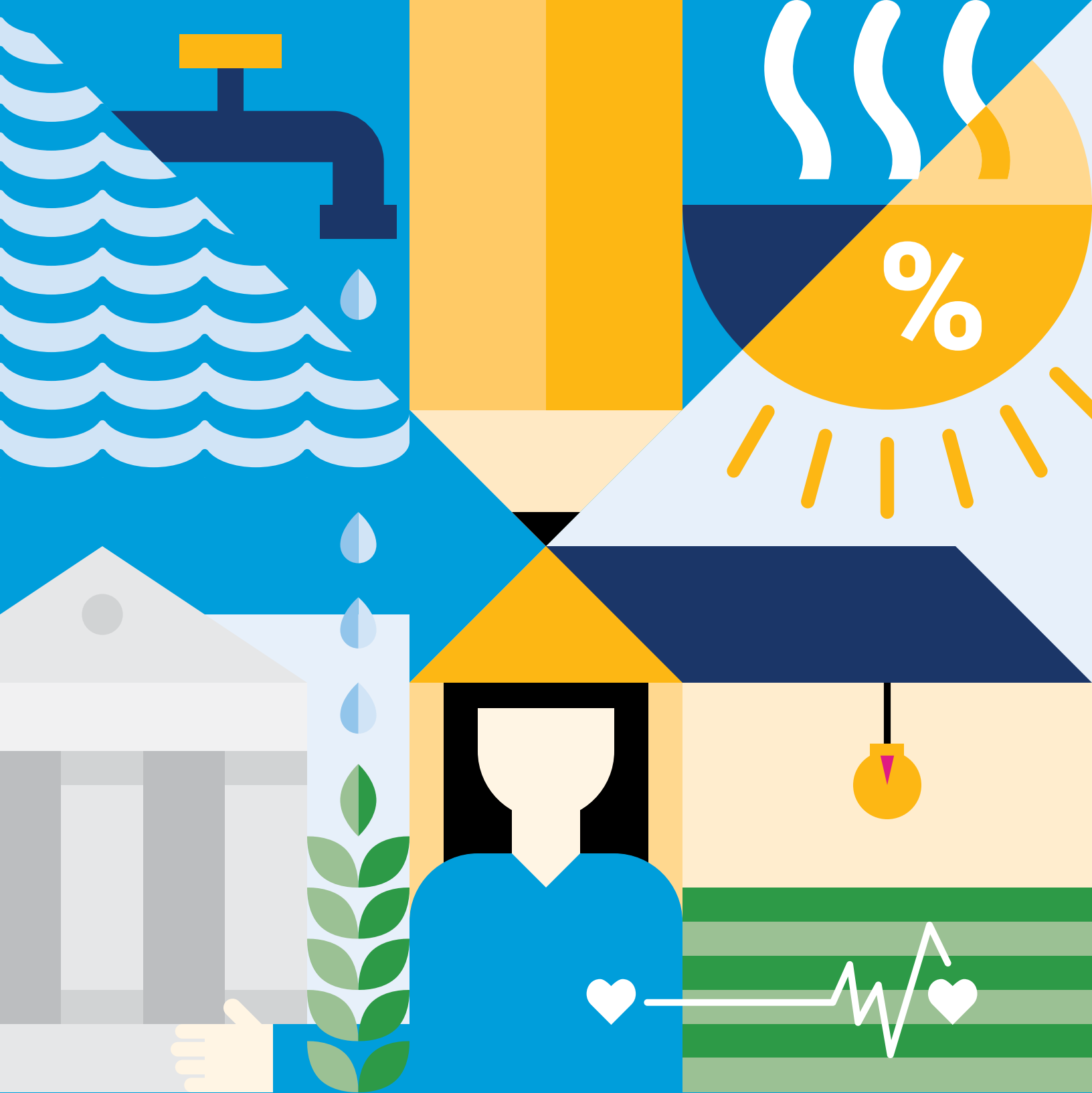
Acronyms

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	F1KD	First 1,000 Days
AA	Anticipatory action	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ADB	Asian Development Bank	GCF	Global Climate Fund
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	GEF	Global Environment Fund
ALS	Alternative Learning System	GHG	Greenhouse gasses
ASGM	Artisanal and small-scale gold mining	GPP	Green Public Procurement
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
BHW	Barangay Health Worker	HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	ICT	Information and communications technology
BOS 2.0	Business Operations Strategy 2.0	IDP	Internally displaced person
BRaVE	Biometrics Registration and Verification System	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
BTA	Bangsamoro Transitional Authority	ILO	International Labour Organization
BuCor	Bureau of Corrections	IOM	International Organization for Migration
CCET	Climate change expenditure tagging	ITC	International Trade Centre
CE	Circular economy	ITU	International Telecommunications Union
CF	Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulation
CHR	Commission on Human Rights	JP-HR	United Nations Joint Programme on Human Rights
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019	LGU	Local Government Unit
CSO	Civil society organization	LNOB	Leave no one behind
DA	Department of Agriculture	LTA	Long-term agreement
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	MBHTE	Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs	MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development	MPOS	Ministry of Public Order and Safety
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government	MPTF	Multi-partner trust fund
DMW	Department of Migrant Workers	MSMEs	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
DOE	Department of Energy	NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
DOH	Department of Health	NGO	Non-governmental organization
DOJ	Department of Justice	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DREAMS	Development for Renewable Energy Applications Mainstreaming and Market Sustainability project	OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
DRRM	Disaster risk reduction and management	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	PBF	The Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	PBSAP	Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
ECCD	Early childhood care and development	PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
EPR	Extended producer responsibility	PDL	Persons deprived of liberty
ERC	Enhancing Resilient Communities	PDP	Philippine Development Plan
EU	European Union	PFSD	Philippine Framework for Sustainable Development
EU-PH GOJUST	EU Governance in Justice programme	PHP	Philippine peso
EWER	Early warning and early response	PMNP	Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project
		PNP	Philippine National Police

POP	Persistent organic pollutants
PPAN	Plan of Action for Nutrition
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PSEA	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
PSRO	BARMM Peace, Security and Reconciliation Office
RC	Resident Coordinator
RHU	Rural health unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SEPF	United Nations Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2021–2023
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SP	Social protection
TAM	Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre – Department of Global Communications
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
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
VCE	Value chain enterprises
US\$	United States dollar
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WISE	Work Improvements in Small Enterprises
WPHF	Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund

Endnotes

- 1— Sustainable Development Report, 2023. <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org>
- 2— Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), SDG Watch Philippines. <https://psa.gov.ph/sdg/node/1684059922>
- 3— PSA - <https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/poverty>
- 4— Social Weather Stations - <https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artclisppage/?artcsy-scode=ART-20240122100715>
- 5— Department of Finance - [https://www.dof.gov.ph/ph-records-lowest-2023-inflation-rate-of-3-9-in-december-meets-dbcc-assumption-of-6-0-for-full-year-2023/#:~:text=Food%20inflation%20averaged%208.0%20percent,other%20seafood%20\(0.4%20ppt\).](https://www.dof.gov.ph/ph-records-lowest-2023-inflation-rate-of-3-9-in-december-meets-dbcc-assumption-of-6-0-for-full-year-2023/#:~:text=Food%20inflation%20averaged%208.0%20percent,other%20seafood%20(0.4%20ppt).)
- 6— World Bank - <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/eap/publication/fixing-the-foundation>
- 7— OECD - <https://www.oecd.org/publication/pisa-2022-results/country-notes/philippines-a0882a2d/>
- 8— <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/>
- 9— Rappler - <https://www.rappler.com/nation/denr-yulo-loyzaga-response-estimate-damage-oriental-mindoro-oil-spill/#:~:text=Environmental%20damage%20from%20oil%20spill%20may%20reach%20P7%20billion%20%E2%80%93%20DENR%20chief,-Apr%2027%2C%202023&text=Isagani%20de%20Castro%20Jr.,%2C%20on%20November%2016%2C%202022.>
- 10— DOF - <https://www.dof.gov.ph/phs-full-year-2023-gdp-growth-strongest-among-major-asian-economies/>
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