



UNITED NATIONS  
PHILIPPINES



# UN Philippines Country Results Report 2020

---



UNITED NATIONS  
PHILIPPINES

# UN Philippines Country Results Report 2020

## About this publication

With the UNCT Philippines Results Report 2020, the UN in the Philippines is demonstrating how the leave-no-one-behind principle is being turned into action and impact. 2020 was a year like no other due to the COVID-19 pandemic but nevertheless the UN and its partners continued their drive for transformative change and inclusive, sustainable development, swiftly adjusting and re-focusing as needed in a changing context. Across the three pillars—People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace—the UN, in partnership with the government and other stakeholders, has responded to the socioeconomic and health impact of the pandemic with immediate assistance, strengthened capacities, and policies put in place to ensure the country's recovery and return to its path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in a way that leaves no one behind.

## About the cover

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

## About the title page

Alyah (center), an ex-combatant from Maguindanao, now heads the the Mapadtaya Livelihood Association, a community-based association in Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Maguindanao and a beneficiary of a UN joint intervention to empower women former combatants socio-economically and to strengthen their political participation. *Photo from IOM*

# Table of contents

<b>Abbreviations</b>	1
<b>Foreword</b>	5
<b>UN Country Team Philippines</b>	7
<b>Key development partners of the UN development system in the country</b>	9
Resource Partners and Investments	13
<b>Chapter 1: Key developments in the Philippines in 2020</b>	17
<b>Chapter 2: UN socio-economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic</b>	21
<b>Chapter 3: UN development system support to national development priorities through the UN Cooperation Framework</b>	27
3.1. Overview of UN Cooperation Framework Update and Results	29
3.2. UN Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs	32
3.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda	53
3.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency	60
<b>Chapter 4: Key focus of the UNCT for next year</b>	63
4.1 Resource mobilization	67

# Abbreviations

<b>ARISE-BIWAB</b>	Advancing Women's Rights and Influence through Socioeconomic Empowerment of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade	<b>CCC</b>	Climate Change Commission	<b>ECT</b>	Emergency Cash Transfer	<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>ASRH</b>	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health	<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response Fund	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>JP</b>	joint programme
<b>BARMM</b>	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	<b>CHR</b>	Commission on Human Rights	<b>GBV</b>	gender-based violence	<b>JPSRSP</b>	UN Joint Programme on Shock-Responsive Social Protection
<b>BARMM READi</b>	BARMM Rapid Emergency and Disaster Response	<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus disease	<b>GCNP</b>	Global Compact Network Philippines	<b>JWP</b>	Joint Work Plan
<b>BPDA</b>	Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority	<b>CSE</b>	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	<b>GDP</b>	gross domestic product	<b>LGU</b>	local government unit
<b>BIWAB</b>	Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade	<b>DA</b>	Department of Agriculture	<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>MAF</b>	Mutual Accountability Framework
<b>BRIDGE</b>	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines programme	<b>DepEd</b>	Department of Education	<b>IATF-ZH</b>	Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger	<b>MILF</b>	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
<b>BTA</b>	Bangsamoro Transition Authority	<b>DoE</b>	Department of Energy	<b>IDP</b>	internally displaced person	<b>MILG</b>	Ministry of Interior and Local Government (BARMM)
<b>BWC</b>	Bangsamoro Women Commission	<b>DoF</b>	Department of Finance	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>MSSD</b>	Ministry of Social Services and Development (BARMM)
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment	<b>DoH</b>	Department of Health	<b>IFI</b>	international financial institution	<b>MSMEs</b>	micro-, small-, and medium-scale enterprises
		<b>DHSUD</b>	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>NAFMIP</b>	National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan
		<b>DOLE</b>	Department of Labor and Employment	<b>INFF</b>	integrated national financing framework	<b>NAP-Ag</b>	Integrating Agriculture Adaptation Plans Programme
		<b>DRRM</b>	disaster risk reduction and management	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration		
		<b>DSWD</b>	Department of Social Welfare and Development				

<b>NCR</b>	National Capital Region	<b>SEPF</b>	Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme	<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>NDC</b>	nationally determined contribution	<b>SERP</b>	socio-economic response plan	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>NEDA</b>	National Economic and Development Authority	<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund	<b>UNYAB</b>	United Nations Youth Advisory Board
<b>NFP</b>	National Food Policy	<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition Network	<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlement Programme	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>OFW</b>	overseas Filipino worker	<b>TVET</b>	Technical Vocational Education and Training	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations Refugee Agency	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>PDP</b>	Philippine Development Plan	<b>UN</b>	United Nations	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund		
<b>PPE</b>	personal protective equipment	<b>UNAIDS</b>	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute		
<b>PFSD</b>	Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team	<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization		
<b>PVE</b>	prevention of violent extremism	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime		
<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme	<b>UNOCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
<b>RCO</b>	Office of the Resident Coordinator	<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department for Safety and Security				
<b>SAP</b>	Social Amelioration Program						
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals						

# Foreword

BY **GUSTAVO GONZALEZ**, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT AND HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR IN THE PHILIPPINES

The year 2020 saw an important increase in UN joint actions and programmes in the Philippines through a strengthening of the UN's convening role and a reinvigorated focus on joint interventions, particularly in the broad field of SDGs as well as human rights.



An unprecedented crisis, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, impacted the country in a way no one could have imagined a year before. 2020 saw a drop in GDP by 9.6 per cent which is the largest decline in the Philippines' post-war history. An annual unemployment rate of 10.3 per cent (amounting to 4.5 million unemployed Filipinos) in 2020 is the highest recorded since April 2005. A simulation in a UN-commissioned study in 2020 estimated that about 7.53 million people will become poorer as a result of the pandemic. Deployment of Filipino migrants dropped 75 per cent, representing 1.6 million workers less than in 2019. The impact of the pandemic exacerbated existing inequalities as well as created new ones.

The pandemic also impacted the work of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Philippines. UN agencies swiftly aligned their programmes and re-purposed existing funding to timely support government institutions and other partners in responding to the socioeconomic and health impact of the pandemic.

To better assess the impact of COVID-19 on the short- and long-term development trajectory, the UNCT conducted a comprehensive and evidence-based Common Country Assessment (CCA). This investment brought relevant data to the conduct of a forward-looking revision of the existing cooperation framework with the Philippines, resulting in an innovative **UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines (SEPF) 2020-2023**. The SEPF provides a solid roadmap for prioritizing, aligning and positioning the UN in the Philippines, developed within the framework of the United Nations Development System reform and fully aligned with national recovery priorities.

Through a strengthening of its convening role and a reinvigorated focus on joint interventions, 2020 saw an important increase in UN joint actions and programmes in the Philippines, particularly in the broad field of SDGs as well as human rights. Coordination also intensified between the UN and development partners through the establishment of the UN Technical Working Group on Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 in collaboration with International Financial Institutions, just as the pandemic broke out. Together with the World Bank, UN Philippines also took the initiative to set up a group of development partners to craft a roadmap for

coordinated support to the transition in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which remains a high priority area for the UN in the Philippines.

This report presents how the UN, the Government of the Philippines, and development partners supported millions of Filipinos with immediate assistance, strengthened capacities, and policies put in place to ensure the country's recovery and return to its path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in a way that leaves no one behind.

“

*The year 2020 saw an important increase in UN joint actions and programmes in the Philippines through a strengthening of the UN's convening role and a reinvigorated focus on joint interventions*

# UN Country Team Philippines

In 2020 the United Nations Country Team in the Philippines consisted of:

# 11

resident funds, programmes and specialized agencies



# 8

project offices/ non-resident agencies<sup>1</sup>



# 3

Secretariat Offices

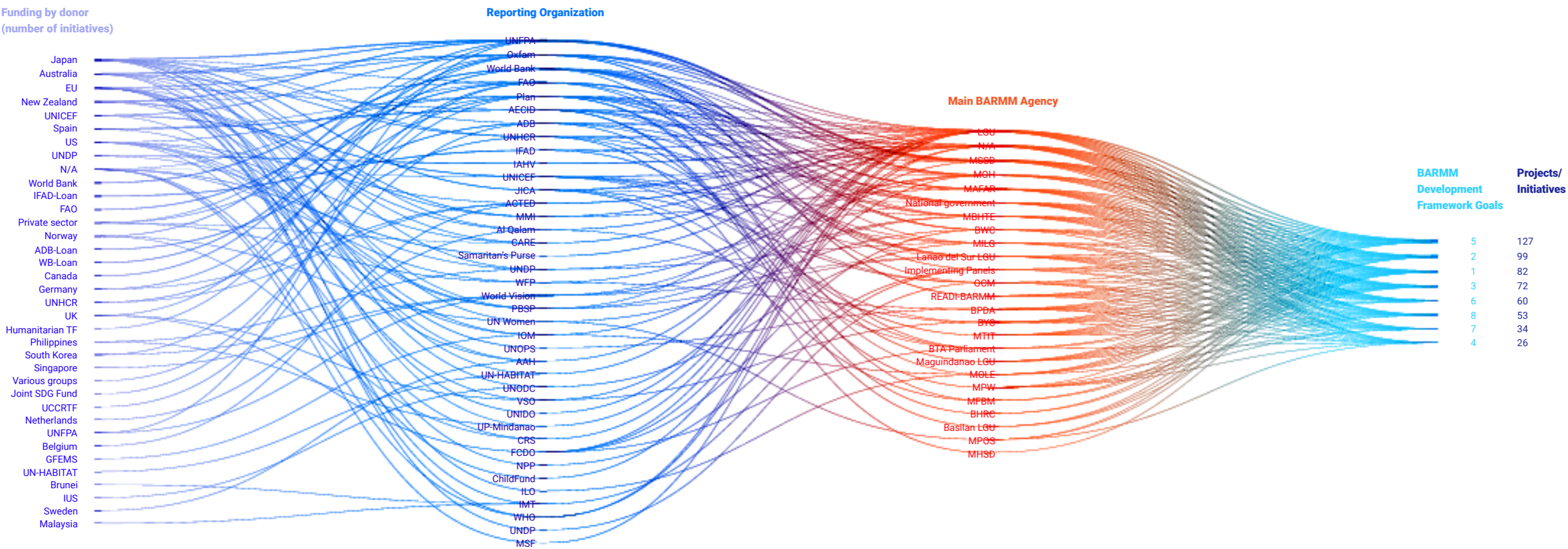


<sup>1</sup> In January 2021 the International Trade Centre (ITC) formally joined the UNCT.

FAO livestock distribution to farming families affected by Typhoon Haiyan in Tubabao island, off the coast of Guiuan in Eastern Samar. Photo from FAO/R. Cabrera

# Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

The UNCT in the Philippines collaborates with a multitude of development partners and this is no better illustrated than with the following overview of the linkages between resource partners, implementing organizations and entities, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) agencies in the Bangsamoro setting.



The boundaries, names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: Organizations, partners, PSA

A Bangsamoro Stakeholder Mapping conducted by the RCO in 2020 provided important insights into the development architecture of the international community's support to the BARMM administration throughout the transition period and beyond.

“With the implementation of the Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework in 2021, the UNCT will build on and expand its existing group of development partners



With the SEPF implementation in 2021, the UNCT will build on and expand its existing group of development partners and use the forthcoming Joint Work Plans to further strengthen the alignment between interventions as well as knowledge building and analysis of development partners' priorities and strategies in BARMM and at the national level.

The UN in the Philippines uses its convening power to bring together multiple development partners and stakeholders across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding agendas. In close collaboration with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and a wide range of government partners across the three outcome areas of the PFSD/ SEPF, the UNCT continued to provide and align its strong support to the realization of national plans and priorities.

**National Government Partners**

**People**



**Prosperity and Planet**



**Peace**




UN Philippines Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (extreme left) meets with local government workers, and non-government and private sector partners in Barangay San Andres, in Albay Province, during a Central Emergency Response Fund mission to assess the UN Philippines' support for communities affected by Typhoon Goni.










































# Resource Partners and Investments

## Financial overview

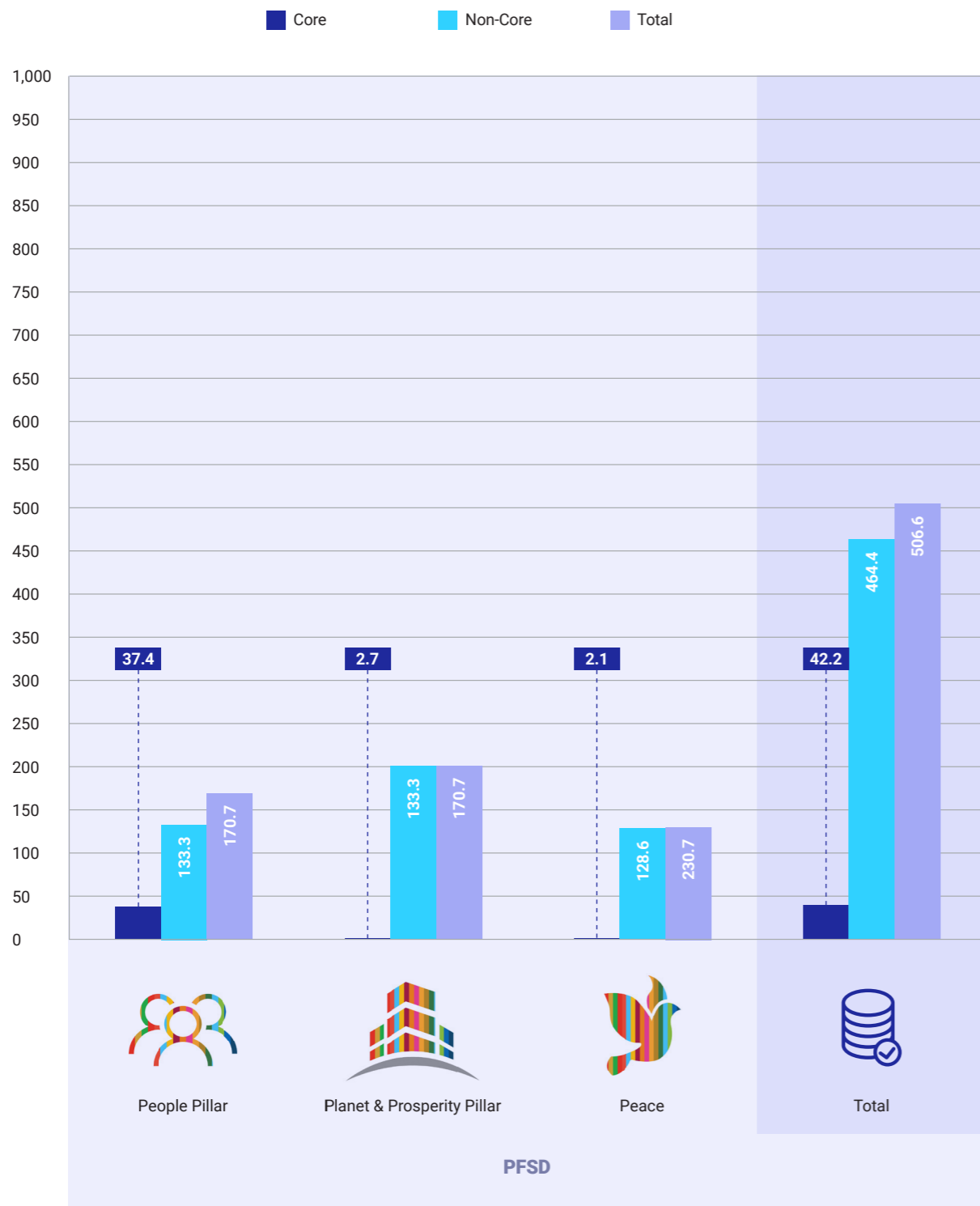
UN Agencies have in 2020 repurposed additional funding to meet emerging and rapidly changing needs brought on by the pandemic. This change in the financing landscape has been incorporated into the planning of the SEPF. The table below provides the expected value contribution of the UN system for the 2020-2023 plan period, including repurposed/leveraged funds as part of UN response to COVID-19 which spans the entire country and the full humanitarian-peacebuilding-development nexus.

Resource contributions to SEPF 2020-2023 Programming Priorities (in USD million)

 = 30 USD million

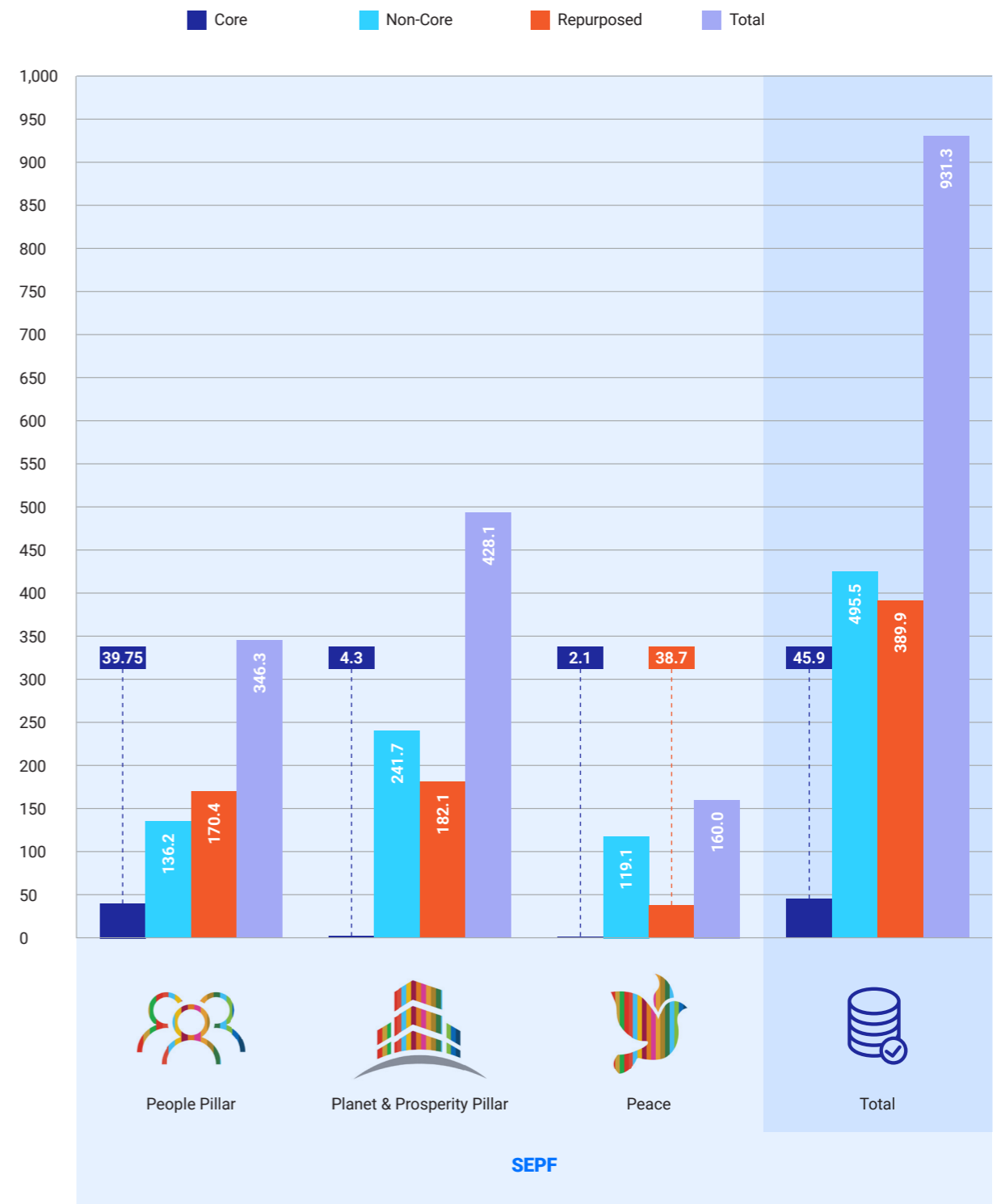
Pillars	Contributing Agencies	Core	Non-Core	Repurposed/Leveraged	Total
People	 International Labour Organization  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  IOM UN MIGRATION  UNAIDS  UNDP	39.8	136.1	170.4	346.3
	 UNFPA  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency  unicef for every child  UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION				
	 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  UNOPS  UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  WFP World Food Programme  World Health Organization Representative Office for the Philippines				
Planet & Prosperity	 IFAD Investing in rural people  International Labour Organization  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  IOM UN MIGRATION  UNDP	4.3	241.7	182.1	428.1
	 UN environment programme  United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE  UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency  UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION				
	 UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  UNOPS  UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  WFP World Food Programme  gef				
Peace	 International Labour Organization  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  IOM UN MIGRATION  UNDP  UNFPA	2.15	119.1	38.7	160.0
	 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency  unicef for every child  UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime				
	 UNOPS  UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women  WFP World Food Programme  World Health Organization Representative Office for the Philippines				
<b>Total:</b>		<b>45.9</b>	<b>495.5</b>	<b>389.9</b>	<b>931.3</b>

Resource contributions to PFSD vs SEPF Programming Priorities (in USD million)



UN agencies have revisited their funding estimates for the PFSD (USD 506 million) and updated according to new projections, which has resulted in an increase in expected investments in the SEPF to almost double (USD931.3 million).

This is not due to expected increase in core and non-core contributions but because agencies are seeing emerging opportunities for leveraging new funding now that the three outcome areas of the Cooperation Framework have been revised and



the UN Philippines has a roadmap which addresses the current context changed by COVID-19 as well as political developments in the Bangsamoro.

Chapter 1:

# Key developments in the Philippines in 2020

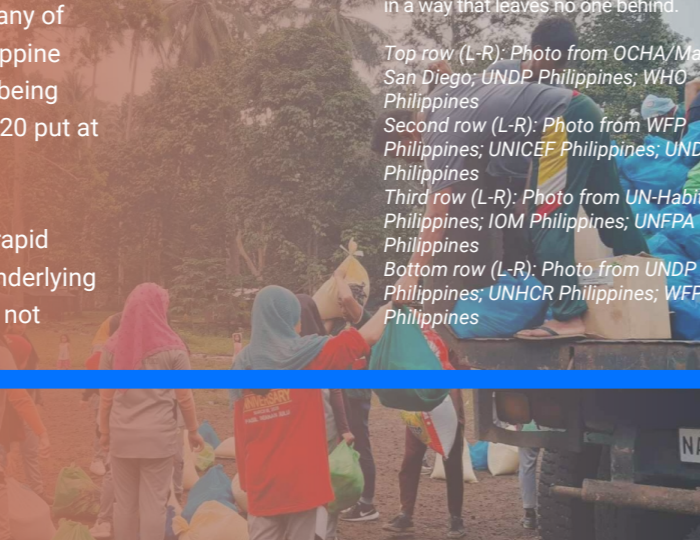
Like in almost all parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic became the determining factor for development progress in the Philippines in 2020.

The Philippines, as a lower middle income, medium Human Development Index (HDI) country, was geared towards becoming an upper middle-income country by 2022 and was until 2020 one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. Contributing to the Philippines' progress towards meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs), many of the measurable targets defined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 were being achieved. However, these gains were in 2020 put at serious risk due to COVID-19.

Whereas the Philippines has experienced rapid economic growth in the last decade, the underlying economic growth model pre-COVID-19 did not

The UN, the Government of the Philippines, and development partners supported millions of Filipinos with immediate assistance, strengthened capacities, and policies put in place to ensure the country's recovery and return to its path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in a way that leaves no one behind.

Top row (L-R): Photo from OCHA/United Nations Philippines; UNDP Philippines; WHO Philippines  
 Second row (L-R): Photo from WFP Philippines; UNICEF Philippines; UNDP Philippines  
 Third row (L-R): Photo from UN-Habitat Philippines; IOM Philippines; UNFPA Philippines  
 Bottom row (L-R): Photo from UNDP Philippines; UNHCR Philippines; WFP Philippines



address growth disparities between regions and between population groups. This inequality has been increasing and this trend is exacerbated by the pandemic. During the pandemic, lengthy quarantine measures stifled the movement of goods and services in the urban areas that contribute roughly 70 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The country officially entered a recession in the second quarter of 2020 with the GDP contracting by 16.5 per cent and although this improved in the latter part of the year, growth by industry varied, and the labour market did not recover to pre-COVID-19 employment levels.

The economic recession has led to decline of family incomes, including a significant drop in remittances from overseas Filipino workers, with adverse implications on families' spending on health, food and education. Although the Philippine education trajectory suggests some improvements before the pandemic, COVID-19 has brought extraordinary challenges for access to education especially for children of disadvantaged families. The national health system has been deeply challenged by the pandemic which has left it struggling to meet COVID-specific demands and re-allocating resources, putting at risk other health outcomes. These setbacks pose significantly higher challenges for BARMM which is the poorest region in the country. External investments from tourism and industry—which support many small and medium enterprises—have declined.

The impact of COVID-19 on the country's socio-economic and health trajectories has thus been very serious and is expected to affect human capacities and sustainable development in the medium and long term. Philippine policy makers have been confronted with limited public resources in the face of high demand for public spending, especially on health system capacity expansion and economic recovery programmes such as under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Social Amelioration Program (SAP), which were part of the Government's immediate response to the pandemic.



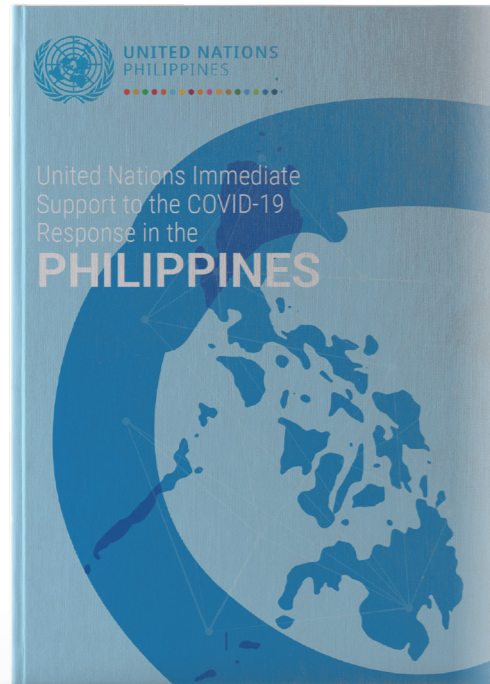
WFP supported the education of students affected by the Marawi crisis by providing them with a hot and nutritious meal each school day. Photo from WFP/Marilou Cezar

## Chapter 2: UN socio-economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The immediate UN response to COVID-19 in the Philippines spanned the country across the humanitarian-peacebuilding-development nexus.

This instant support in the months after the occurrence of the pandemic is documented in the report *Philippines: United Nations Immediate Support to the COVID-19 Response in the Philippines*,<sup>1</sup> which the UN Philippines published in September 2020. This stocktaking shows that 149 response interventions by 20 UN entities provided technical support in 55 instances of capacity building, logistics, crisis management, healthcare waste management and communications support. The response also carried out 27 data management activities and diagnostic assessments of COVID-19's impact on health, social protection and economic development.

<sup>1</sup> Philippines: United Nations Immediate Support to the COVID-19 Response in the Philippines (2020)



was undertaken to provide an up-to-date analysis of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 and to inform UN support to the government.

The CCA was also the analytical basis for the UNCT's articulation of a revised strategic framework: the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines (SEPF) 2020-2023 (see more in Chapter 3). The SEPF is a hybrid document and serves as both an updated Cooperation Framework and a socio-economic response plan (SERP) for the UN Philippines as called for by the UN Secretary General in April 2020.<sup>4</sup> The UN Philippines' interventions since March 2020 are delivering on the UN's global 5-pillar socioeconomic response to COVID-19:

In addition, the UN provided in-kind support such as COVID-19 testing and procurement of medical equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE); allocation of pre-positioned response equipment to set up temporary medical facilities; and improvement of transport logistics capacity. The UN also supported 17 policy development initiatives related to COVID-19 and led 13 field operations in areas severely affected by displacement and poverty with many of these activities being implemented in a coordinated manner under the strategic priorities of the COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).<sup>3</sup>

Roughly 60 per cent of all interventions were nationwide in scope, while 20 per cent focused on BARMM specifically, followed by the National Capital Region and other regions and localities. Lessons learned from these early responses fed into the UN Country Team (UNCT)'s reformulation of its analyses and strategic plans. While the above-mentioned stocktaking took place, an update of the Common Country Assessment (CCA)



<sup>3</sup> Humanitarian Country Team Philippines (2020). COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan Philippines (August)

<sup>4</sup> UN Framework for the Immediate Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19 (2020).



Over 200 workers received wages and social protection benefits as part of the Community Emergency Employment Programme (CEEP) of the ILO Japan Water and Sanitation Project. Providing decent work is highlighted in CEEP by recognizing the rights of workers, providing minimum wages, extending social protection, ensuring equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work. Photo from ILO/F. Paslangan



With support from the Norwegian Embassy, IOM trained Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) cooperatives in PPE production as part of a 25-day cash-for-work initiative. Aside from boosting the cooperative's income, PPE made will be distributed to vulnerable displaced persons in Mindanao to protect themselves against COVID-19. Photo from IOM Philippines 2020

Consolidated by the Resident Coordinator Office, the UNCT has reported on COVID-specific programmatic indicators under these 5 response areas in order to ensure that UN Philippines' interventions and progress are monitored and counted in the global reporting.

**Key results from SERP reporting**

 <p><b>4,900,493</b> at risk individuals (women, children, immunocompromised) able to access essential health services during the pandemic</p>	 <p><b>3,376,371</b> children supported with distance/home-based learning</p>	 <p><b>201,206</b> people reached with WASH supplies</p>
 <p><b>38,556</b> beneficiaries of social protection services</p>	 <p><b>661</b> CBOs capacitated to respond to and mitigate the pandemic's effects including protecting human rights</p>	 <p><b>32</b> enterprises supported</p>
 <p><b>363</b> workers supported</p>	 <p>Socio-economic assessments undertaken, leading to the formulation of public policies, directed at at-risk populations</p>	

In collaboration with government entities and aligned to public response programmes, these interventions by the UN Philippines have provided crucial and much needed immediate relief to vulnerable communities and families across the country. As the Philippines moves into a recovery phase, the UN will build on these activities to ensure a continuously relevant and effectful longer-term approach to 'building forward better' in a way that supports the Philippines last-mile push to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 without leaving anyone behind.

Source: UN Philippines 2020 SERP reporting



## Chapter 3:

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

In a challenging year the UN Philippines stayed and delivered, contributing to results in partnership with multiple stakeholders to keep the Philippines on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

### 3.1. Overview of UN Cooperation Framework Update and Results

The year 2020 brought significant changes to the context in which the UN Philippines works. The pandemic was a major disrupting factor that compelled the UN agencies to recalibrate their programmes swiftly and mobilize to support their government partners in responding to an unprecedented crisis. It was soon clear to the UNCT and to the new Resident Coordinator, who was appointed in May 2020, that the PFSD needed to be made 'fit for purpose' and aligned to a new, rapidly changing reality.

A comprehensive, internal process was thus launched mid-year in 2020 to prioritize the UN's programmatic responses to the crisis, align with



📷 Rose Domingo and her family took shelter in another town following the impact of Typhoon Goni in Catanduanes Province. She used the cash assistance from WFP and the Government of Australia for her newborn's essential needs. Photo from WFP/Maitta Rizza Pugay

national recovery plans, and reposition the UN within the overall humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding landscape. The UNCT revisited the PFSD and examined it through the lens of COVID-19. The UNCT also used the opportunity to analyze peace process related developments in BARMM since the formulation of the PFSD. The outcome of this process, which saw the active participation of UNCT members and technical experts in the three results groups, was the articulation of the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery (SEPF) 2020-2023; a new vision for the UN in the Philippines.

The SEPF updates the PFSD and serves as the UNCT's COVID-19 response and recovery plan (SERP) (see Chapter 2), addressing in an integrated manner the areas which are most in need of attention and support across the UN Philippines' three mutually reinforcing pillars: People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace. The SEPF represents the new generation of Cooperation Frameworks that has been introduced with the UN reform and incorporates UN reform elements, which will be further developed, such as a partnership strategy, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a funding framework, as well as the pledge to implement the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) in keeping with the UN reform principles of UN coherence, relevance, effectiveness, and agility.



📷 UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (middle, left) speaks to a family affected by Typhoon Goni in the Municipality of Malilipot, Albay Province. Photo from OCHA/Martin San Diego

The SEPF thus embodies the system-wide commitment of the UN Philippines to enhance the way it works in accordance with changing realities due to COVID-19 and in line with the redefined national priorities as articulated in the government's *We Recover as One* roadmap, with recommendations to rebuild national confidence and adjust to the "new normal" that will inevitably arise from COVID-19's impact on the country.<sup>5</sup>

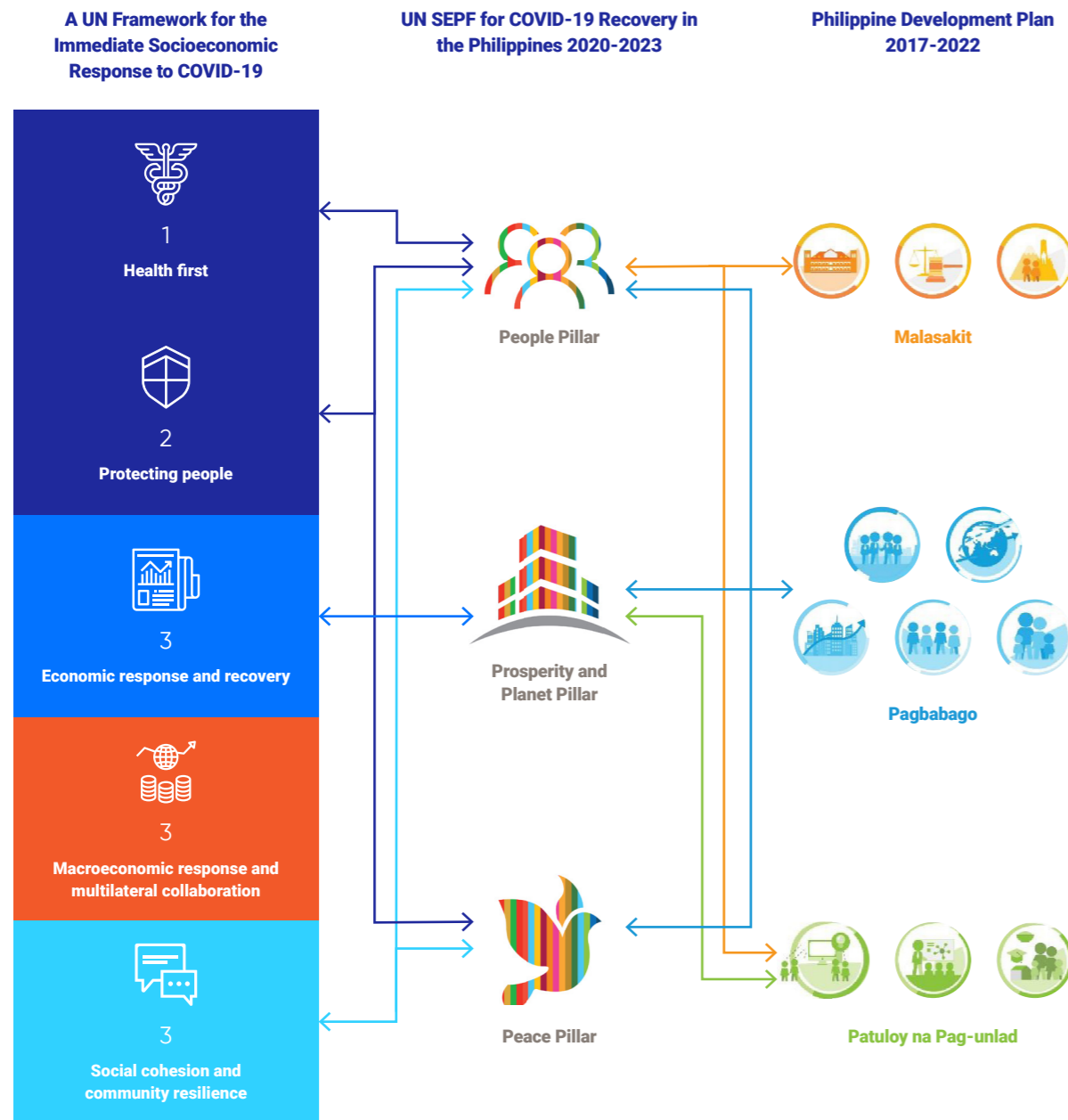
“

*The Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework embodies the system-wide commitment of the UN Philippines to enhance the way it works in accordance with changing realities due to COVID-19*

<sup>5</sup> National Economic Development Authority (2020). *We Recover as One*. <http://www.neda.gov.ph/we-recover-as-one/>.

As is the case with the PFSD, the SEPF supports the government in implementing the national Philippine Development Plan 2019-2022 and the longer-term aspirations of the *AmBisyon Natin 2040* which is the Philippines' vision for the country's development. The figure below shows how the SEPF incorporates and aligns with the five socioeconomic pillars of the SERP and, likewise, with the core principles of the PDP.

**SEPF-SERP-PDP**



### 3.2. UN Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

The three outcome areas introduced in the PFSD—People, Prosperity and Planet, and Peace—are retained in the SEPF. In the following, key results under these three pillars are presented with a focus on results that two or more UN agencies have delivered together or in a coordinated manner.



**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.**

The UN's actions under the People Pillar align with the Philippine Development Plan pillars that focus on enhancing the social fabric (*malasakit*) and inequality reducing transformation (*pagbabago*). The UN has worked to support the Philippines to get on track towards its trajectory of attaining a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living for all individuals. From the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the UN supported the Philippine government in four focus areas that have been reprioritized in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN's technical expertise and implementation assistance have enhanced public policies and programmes in this sphere, including in the BARMM.

**Enhancing food and nutrition security**

The UN Philippines continues to support actions aligned to the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2017-2022. Through consultations and workshops organized by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger (IATF-ZH)—a taskforce set up by the

Government in January 2020 and led by the Office of the Cabinet Secretary and composed of several key government agencies—the UN has particularly contributed knowledge and expertise in the areas of nutrition, food availability, accessibility, utilization, and food systems stability. Launched in October 2020, the National Food Policy (NFP) provides a roadmap to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve food security in the Philippines. Also with UN support, BARMM developed its regional Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap and launched it in October 2020.

In addition, the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Network, with its UN-supported secretariat, has backed government agencies to identify and prioritize actions to operationalize the Global Action Plan (GAP) on child wasting in the Philippines, which has been identified as a frontrunner country for the GAP. The GAP Country Roadmap for the Philippines guides improved geographic coverage and convergences, access to quality data, and essential supplies and services for the prevention and treatment of wasting. Private sector's commitment to strengthen food security has been enhanced through the launch of the SUN Business Network in February 2020.

The UN has facilitated linkages between these key policy frameworks, which will significantly contribute to the Philippines' achievement of its targets under Sustainable Development Goal 2 -Zero Hunger. Both the NFP and the GAP Country Roadmap align with the country's "We Recover As One" Framework which has identified key food security and nutrition programmes to support recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. Other complementary UN actions in this area include technical assistance to the Department of Health (DOH), studies on food insecurity, food cold chains and on COVID-19's impact on food systems, providing guidance to the development of government policies and programmes to ensure food safety and security for the country.

Moving forward, the UN will expand and identify new areas of collaboration to help the government carry out its key objectives related to food



📷 Juhaira (center), 26, promotes her cultural identity through Mamadiang, a Maranaw traditional elaborate embroidery. Juhaira is one of the 150 women supported by the livelihood and women empowerment project of UNFPA and the Australian Government. Photo from UNFPA Philippines

security, not least support leading up to strategic national dialogues in the Philippines as part of the important UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

#### Improved health and education outcomes, including in the COVID-19 context

In 2020, the UN in the Philippines undertook several joint interventions to help deepen the evidence base for informed policymaking and implementation of key initiatives in the areas of health and education. The UN has continued support for the Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Child together with the Philippine Government and other partners. Designed to put a human face to the SDGs, the study follows a group of 5,000 Filipinos over 15 years (from when they were 10 years old) as they transition from childhood towards adolescence and adulthood. The report on the third wave of data collection was completed in 2020 and the details were

presented to the National Steering Committee. The Government now co-funds the study. The UN-Government partnership involves shared policy direction-setting through the National Steering Committee for the Cohort Study.

The UN, in close collaboration with NEDA, the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), supported a joint assessment of how COVID-19 has impacted households in the National Capital Region (NCR). The study, presented in December 2020, finds that the effect of COVID-19 on poor households in NCR is likely to lead to significant learning inequality, poorer health outcomes and serious child protection and mental health issues. The study also highlights the need to improve Government's capacity to collect data and monitor the rapidly evolving situation at the household level. Moving forward,

the UN will use the findings to produce a joint policy analysis and recommendations in support of advocacy for a more equitable approach to the COVID-19 response.

The UN also enabled accelerated implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Philippines. DepEd completed the national training of teachers on CSE from 220 pilot schools and 256 non-pilot schools nationwide. Integration of CSE and service delivery was strengthened jointly by government agencies that also developed a comprehensive policy to advance Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) in both normal and humanitarian settings. In addition, the UN successfully advocated for the integration of ASRH in health plans in the BARMM.<sup>6</sup>

#### Strengthened social protection systems

UN Philippines agencies continued technical assistance to government counterparts in 2020 to enhance social protection policies, mechanisms, and delivery, taking into account gender considerations in protecting and reaching vulnerable and at-risk groups and contributing to new innovative ways of digital cash transfer. The UN also assessed COVID-19's inequitable impact on different population groups to inform more inclusive social protection policies. The UN's strong partnership continued with DSWD in advancing efforts to strengthen the social welfare systems, including with a new digital case management platform.

The UN also contributed to the expansion of child protection response services for women and children victims of violence, including through telemedicine, which were rolled out in seven cities and 55 barangays and a national helpline for case management. The UN continues to support the nationwide helpline of the Philippine Red Cross which as of January 2021 had provided almost

43,000 callers with lifesaving information for psychosocial support and case management.

The UN supported the Department of Health (DoH) to strengthen the quality and availability of data on COVID-19 cases and hospital and laboratory capacities from national to local level—data that informs quarantine measures, deployment and procurement of medical resources, and public messaging. The DoH was also supported to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the national HIV response. Results show that the pandemic has had a greater impact on infants, mothers, children and youth living with HIV as these vulnerable groups were subjected to stigma, mobility restrictions, and shortage of supplies. Recommendations of the study were used to influence the rapid, coordinated response of the stakeholders.

UN agencies in the Protection Cluster led 24 partners to conduct a rapid gender assessment to examine the gender impact of the pandemic. Results of the nearly 1,000 remote interviews produced recommendations shared with more than 200 stakeholders, development partners, and multiple national government agencies, and led to the UN-supported reactivation of the national Gender-based Violence Sub-Cluster. This is strengthening the coordination of action in the area.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the already precarious socio-economic conditions of vulnerable, at-risk, and marginalized populations in the Bangsamoro Region. To assist these groups, the UN Joint SDG Fund Programme on Ensuring Inclusive and Risk-Informed Shock-Responsive Social Protection Resulting in More Resilient Communities in BARMM extended support to the BARMM with the provision of emergency cash grants (Php 5,000 each) to low-income, vulnerable, and severely pandemic-affected households not included in the government's emergency

<sup>6</sup> National Economic Development Authority (2020). We Recover as One. <http://www.neda.gov.ph/we-recover-as-one/>.



📷 Amina Rafia Zeina Lim, one of the frontline staff in the UNICEF Mindanao Field office in Cotabato City. Photo from UNICEF Philippines/2020/Rosa May Maitem

programmes. The first batch of emergency cash transfer involving 1,000 vulnerable households was implemented in partnership with the BARMM Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) in May 2020 in four municipalities of Lanao del Sur, the province with the highest poverty incidence and high malnutrition rates.

UN agencies are working closely with BARMM's Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG)'s Rapid Emergency and Disaster Response (BARMM READi), national government agencies and humanitarian organizations in the conduct of scoping exercises to determine related work on vulnerability and risk assessments, early warning systems and anticipatory action. These partnerships are key towards ensuring that the Joint Programme (JP)'s work builds on and complements what has already been started by the government with support from other development partners.

Under the JP, the UN is also providing technical support to the assessment of poverty registries for inclusion of hazards and vulnerability indicators in BARMM. This will inform the development of an expanded poverty registry in BARMM that includes vulnerability indicators which will strengthen the forthcoming design of the BARMM-funded comprehensive management information system for its social protection programs.

Relatedly, and as part of enhancing BARMM's capacity to monitor and analyze data, the JP procured and supplied BARMM partners with ICT devices to aid in the monitoring of climate-risk data and the registration and monitoring of the Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) program. The JP intends to tap into tools, technologies and other science-based resources that can improve planning and implementation of anticipatory action and shock-responsive social protection.



© Naima Apinton with her four children. Photo from UNICEF

## Naima Alap Apinton

*UN Joint Programme beneficiary*

Twenty-nine-year-old Naima Apinton lives in the small village of Daguean in Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur with her husband Ansanodin and five young children. Ansanodin makes a living as a pedicab driver, typically earning just 250 to 300 pesos (5 to 6 US dollars) a day. Thus, for Naima, keeping her family fed and clothed had been a daily challenge.

This was nothing new to Naima. Before her marriage, life had always been hard. Marriage did not improve her situation. Naima was 16 years old when she married Ansanodin—a man she did not choose for herself but to whom she had been promised by her father. The children came in quick succession and Naima—still a child herself—accepted her new role and tried to live up to it as best as she could.

“There was no going back,” says Naima. “I wanted to be a responsible wife and mother, and so I did what I had to do. That’s my motto in life, do what needs to be done.”

In 2020, when COVID-19 began to disrupt the lives of the people in the BARMM, Naima worried about how the pandemic would affect her ability to provide for her family.

In June 2020, the UN Joint Programme on Shock-Responsive Social Protection (JPSRSP) gave out emergency cash grants to 1,000 families in Lanao del Sur who had 0 to 2 year-old children and who were excluded from the 4Ps and the Social Amelioration Program. The joint programme aimed to provide critical support during the crucial first 1,000 days of a child’s life. Naima’s family was among those that received the emergency cash assistance.

“

*Naima’s family was among those that received the emergency cash assistance. With the money she received, Naima started selling banana fritters and other street food. With her income, she was able to help Ansanodin to provide for their children’s daily needs.*

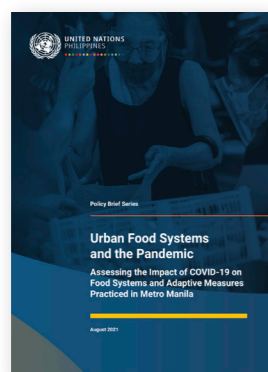
With the money she received, Naima started selling banana fritters and other street food. With her income, she was able to help Ansanodin to provide for their children’s daily needs.

Naima has been able to sustain her small vending business. With her earnings, putting food on the table is no longer a matter of “squeezing sweat and shedding tears,” says Naima. She is also able to bring her children regularly to the municipal clinic.

“I am thankful to the Ministry of Social Services and Development and to the UN for extending help to people like me,” Naima says. ■

## Joint UN Research in Support of SEPF Implementation

At the end of 2020 the RCO launched a call for joint research proposals, which resulted in three unique pieces of research. Findings will provide policy advise and inform the implementation of the SEPF including the formulation of joint programmes, especially under the People Pillar and the Prosperity and Planet Pillar. The research reports will be completed and launched in 2021.



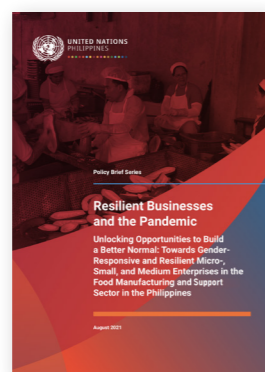
### Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Systems and Adaptive Measures Practiced in Metro Manila

SDG 1, 3, 4, 11, 12

November 2020 to June 2021



USD25,000 (UNRCO)



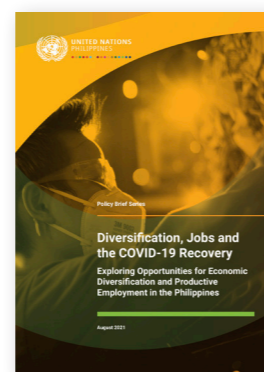
### Unlocking Opportunities to Build a Better Normal: Toward Gender Responsive and Resilient MSMEs in the Food Manufacturing & Support Sector in the Philippines

SDGs 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10

November 2020 to June 2021



USD25,000 (UNRCO)



### Economic diversification, productive employment and skills development through labour market and supply chain analysis

SDGs 1, 3, 4, 11, 12

November 2020 to June 2021



USD25,000 (UNRCO)



## Prosperity and Planet

Urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable development path for communities.<sup>7</sup>

The **Prosperity and Planet Pillar** contributes primarily to the strengthening of foundations for sustainable development, and also aligns with PDP pillars on inequality- reducing transformation (*pagbabago*) and on increasing growth potential (*patuloy na pag-unlad*). Speeding up the reduction of income poverty in the medium term, at the same time putting the country on a path to shared and sustained prosperity for all in the longer term, rests on how well the Philippines can anticipate and leverage the challenging convergence of climate change, natural hazards, economic growth and rapid urbanization and to what degree it has the necessary systems in place to recover from shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis. In 2020, efforts focused on ensuring the resilience of, among others, small and medium enterprises, a core economic sector heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The development of sustainable socio-economic policies was another priority, helping provide an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable development.

### Strengthening resilience in communities, all sectors, and all levels of government

In 2020 the UN in the Philippines facilitated the Philippine Government's adoption of the updated National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP), that recognizes the need to take an all-hazards approach and move from risk reduction towards enhancing resilience, through the harmonization of disaster

risk reduction and management (DRRM), human security, and advancing building back better approaches towards sustainable development. The UN also supported the strengthening of child-centred disaster-risk reduction at the local level in five municipalities in Northern Samar province where members of the Municipal DRRM Councils were trained on how to mainstream children's concerns in the sectoral analysis as well as in the development of interventions that will be included in local DRRM plans.

The Philippines is one of eleven countries implementing the Integrating Agriculture Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag) Programme with UN support. In 2020 a Lessons Learned and Ways Forward synthesis report was produced which provides a general stocktaking and assessment of the adaptation activities undertaken by the agriculture sector and highlights actions under the NAP-Ag Programme and serves as an unofficial roadmap for short to medium term adaptation interventions for agriculture and fisheries. The UN's technical assistance also led to updated baseline and mitigation scenarios, and cost-benefit analysis for selected agriculture options submitted by the Department of Agriculture (DA) as its pledge to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership. In partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UN supported the formulation of the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP), by crafting a strategic plan framework based on the New Thinking for Agriculture paradigm which aims for a food secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

The UN also supported the Government's inclusion of persons of concern (refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons) to protective services at the local level, including during the pandemic to support their local integration and self-reliance and enable them to be beneficiaries of a range of

<sup>7</sup> The Outcome Statement for the Prosperity and Planet Pillar is unchanged in the SEPF. However, new focus areas have been added under the Pillar in the SEPF and these will be reported on in the UNCT Results Report 2021.



UN-Habitat's COVID response initiative in Marawi secures access to food in remote areas through satellite and mobile markets. Photo from UN-Habitat

services and financial support provided to affected workers in the formal sector due to the pandemic. The UN worked with the BARMM MILG and pilot LGUs to prepare their local COVID-19 recovery plans, which are being used as basis for updated investment programmes.

#### Strengthening economic growth and supporting livelihoods, including mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19

In 2020 the UN in the Philippines provided support to the industrial sector, to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). A collaborative online platform, EMPOWER PH, was developed with the Department of Trade and Industry to connect stakeholders to accelerate the production and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the country according to agreed PPE production standards.

In addition, UN agencies in partnership with the private sector, Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation and Connecting Business Initiative, have implemented the SIKAP PH Project<sup>8</sup> for MSMEs which harnesses private sector resources and technical expertise to design and implement programmatic interventions suited for recovery and strategic foresight planning. This has led to the implementation of an online recovery hub for MSMEs to equip them with knowledge and skills for the new normal. Similarly, the UN in partnership with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center and other partners developed a COVID-19 Small Business Continuity and Recovery Toolkit to build the resilience of MSMEs to COVID-19 and other health emergencies.

In 2020 the UN also supported initiatives targeting women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses to connect them to regional and global value chains and markets and to

<sup>8</sup> Synergizing Recovery Initiatives, Knowledge, and Adaptation Practices for MSMEs.

financing, and to expand their capacity building and networking opportunities.

UN assessments and surveys in 2020 on the impacts of COVID-19 on SMEs, informed policy and programme development on strengthening competitiveness and building resilience in this sector. UN-facilitated business expert group discussions also resulted in a multi-sectoral collaboration with the Global Compact Network Philippines (GCNP), the private sector, and development partners. This led to the development of the "10-in-10" Business Agenda, where the Philippine business sector commits to work together in the next 10 years toward the achievement of the SDGs on food security, human resources, decent work, circular economy, supply chain and enterprise resilience, digital transformation, diversification and market access, and access to financing, with paramount considerations for SMEs.

The UN also carried out an assessment with the Department of Agriculture on the impact of COVID-19 on supply chains, looking at rural livelihood and agricultural market chains as a

critical component of the country's food security capacity and how to better facilitate production and movement and distribution of goods essential to food security without compromising public health and safety.

Another UN assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market offered policy measures that are critical in supporting the recovery of the labour market—stimulating the economy and employment; supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes; protecting workers; and promoting social dialogue.

The UN, under the EU-funded Spotlight Initiative, has in 2020 continued to support female Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), especially the ones subject to violence and abuse, with essential service provision and coordination. During the pandemic, this was expanded through engagements with different interagency mechanisms that coordinate health, justice and policing, and social services, to secure a support system to meet the specific needs of women migrant workers.



Relief distribution in Indanan, Sulu, in the midst of the COVID-19 lockdown. For the initiative, UNDP's Support to Peacebuilding and Normalization (SPAN) project procured a total of 3,573 relief for MNLF Communities in Basilan and Sulu, and MNLF Communities, five transitional shelters, and Daesh communities in the Lanao areas. The distribution of goods was led by the OPAPP Area Management Offices in partnership with other government agencies and local government units. Photo from UNDP Philippines



**Integrated green and climate change resilient efforts**

In 2020, the UN supported the crafting of national policies in addition to subnational interventions. The UN supported the Department of Energy (DOE) in creating policies to leverage renewable energy investments strengthened by relevant standards, guidelines, and applications. It also supported the central socioeconomic planning agency, NEDA, in estimating sectoral growth of the Philippine economy consistent with the country's vision for 2040 and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions. Results from the modelling study have been used by government agencies to inform their baseline scenario as they identify their sectoral targets. In support of strengthening of biodiversity in the Philippines, the UN also supported the drafting of policies and amended legislation to ensure conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems in the Philippines.

At the subnational level, the UN worked with LGUs to support their direct access to capital markets

through creditworthiness trainings to enable cities' access. An urban resilience investment forum was conducted with five cities in collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), preparatory to seeking financing from the Department of Finance (DOF) for climate resilient urban design projects of the five cities. Local green initiatives were also implemented in partnership with LGUs to enable appropriate waste management and environment-friendly transportation efforts.

“UN-facilitated business expert group discussions have resulted in a multi-sectoral collaboration with Global Compact Network Philippines, the private sector, and development partners



**10-in-10 Business Ambition for Sustainable and Resilient MSMEs**

The UN in the Philippines ushered in the Industry-driven 10-in-10 Business Ambition for Sustainable and Resilient Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), following the Sustainability Summit that it co-organized in November 2020 with the Global Compact Network Philippines (GCNP).

spur collaborative action (and joint commitment) between businesses and government on policy coherence and investment opportunities aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, with special emphasis on COVID-19 impacts.

The 10-in-10 Business Ambition consists of the following:

- 10-in-10 Business Ambition**
- Ambition #1:** We will foster supply chain sustainability and support msme compliance to standards.
- Ambition #2:** We will strengthen linkages and build resilience in our value chains against shocks.
- Ambition #3:** We will promote occupational safety and overall health.

The Summit gathered Philippine industry and business leaders to develop action-oriented initiatives in support of MSME resilience and recovery in the COVID-19 era (policy solutions, programme solutions, and partnership solutions) and to

“Industry leaders and players made commitments to driving forward the 10-in-10 Business Ambition in support of MSMEs



Over 200 workers receive wages and social protection benefits as part of the Community Emergency Employment Programme (CEEP) of the ILO Japan Water and Sanitation Project. Providing decent work is highlighted in CEEP by recognizing the rights of workers, providing minimum wages, extending social protection, ensuring equal opportunity and equal pay for equal work. Cotabato City, Philippines. Photo from ILO / F. Paslangan

**Ambition #4:** We will facilitate training and capacity development in our ranks.

**Ambition #5:** We will diversify and rejuvenate the industry sector by accessing both existing and emerging markets.

**Ambition #6:** We will innovate, transform, and benefit from the evolving digital environment.

**Ambition #7:** We will efficiently use our planet's limited resources and promote circularity in our operations.

**Ambition #8:** We will support clean energy and embark on a sustainable low-carbon pathway toward industrial development.

**Ambition #9:** We will encourage and stimulate investments that will enable industries to contribute to the sustainable development agenda.

**Ambition #10:** We will invest in partnerships and strengthen cooperation with government, development partners, and all stakeholders.

Industry leaders and players made commitments to driving forward the 10-in-10 Business Ambition in support of MSMEs, as follows:

### People

▣ **Human Resources:** Safety and health in the workplace; and safety in the value chain

### ▣ Healthcare Sector:

Strengthening healthcare, safety systems and capacities of enterprises to respond to COVID-19 through sustainable and productive activities

### ▣ Food Security, Safety, and Nutrition:

Support for small-scale producers and processors, cold chain, and cold storage

### Prosperity

▣ **MSME Financing and Government Stimulus:** Access to financing and government support

### ▣ Supply and Value Chains:

Addressing supply chain challenges on movement, raw material supply, production, inventory, low or changing market demands, etc.

### ▣ Business Continuity Management:

Supporting MSMEs in building capacities for business continuity management

### ▣ Diversification and Market Access:

Quality infrastructure and standards, participation in global value chains, and accessing new markets for industries and MSMEs through diversification amidst changing consumer preferences and a new business environment in the post - COVID "new normal"

### ▣ Digital Transformation:

Industry 4.0 technologies and business models in the context of a new business environment for industries and MSMEs

### Planet

▣ **Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (Circular Economy and Waste Management):** Supporting industries and MSMEs in adopting sustainable approaches in resilience-building in relation to circular economy, wastes reduction, including environmentally sound technologies

### ▣ Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Water Sustainability):

Supporting industries and MSMEs in adopting sustainable approaches to resilience-building in relation to renewable energy, energy efficiency, including climate-smart technologies



## Peace

**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.<sup>9</sup>**

The Peace Pillar promotes peace by strengthening the foundations for inclusive and participatory development, income generation, and resilience in communities affected by violence in the Philippines. It aligns with PDP pillars on attaining just and lasting peace and enhancing the social fabric (*malasakit*) as well as inequality-reducing transformation (*pagbabago*). Prevention of conflict rests on inclusive and sustainable development anchored on the protection and promotion of human rights, gender equality, and leaving no one behind.

In the context of COVID-19, the UN is facilitating dialogue as well as community-government engagement to mitigate conflict risks and social tensions that could otherwise re-emerge. In Mindanao, the UN is supporting the COVID-19-response and recovery and the implementation of the Bangsamoro transition agenda, including employment generation, and building community resilience and peacebuilding capacities.

### Accelerated inclusive development for peace in Mindanao, including COVID-19 response

The BARMM government, with support from the UN, was in 2020 able to scale up health and socioeconomic action to address the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable and fragile communities in the region. The UN's socio-economic response in Mindanao and particularly in BARMM

encompassed both policy assistance and direct service provision to ensure the region can mitigate the pandemic's effects on health and socio-economic well-being.

For instance, the UN has successfully assisted BARMM to finalize a regional recovery plan and to ensure planning for recovery by its constituent LGUs, including through a socio-economic assessment of the impact of COVID-19. Medical and other equipment were also provided to secure an isolation area in BARMM's regional health center, Cotabato Regional Medical Center. Cold chain management capacity and COVID-19 vaccination preparedness were enhanced through the provision of key medical equipment and supplies, a series of training for frontline health workers, and strengthened disaster risk reduction management planning at the municipal and *barangay* level. COVID-19 information and monitoring were improved through the enhanced Marawi City Incident Command Center with new equipment to process digitally organized and regularly updated data on COVID-19 cases, thereby aiding COVID-19 emergency response decisions and plans.

In addition, the UN provided almost 300,000 units of various PPE to BARMM ministries and strengthened testing capacity in Cotabato. PPE, medical and hygiene kits, and food items were also provided to approximately 600 inmates and almost 200 personnel in district and city jails. Almost 9,000 law enforcement personnel and members of the Joint Peace and Security Teams in BARMM were also provided with PPE and other equipment to enable them to carry out their duties safely. The UN also provided WASH facilities and hygiene kits to vulnerable populations and areas, and expansive awareness raising campaigns about COVID-19 were carried out. The UN in partnership with local government authorities spearheaded the rolling out of a community-based protection monitoring mechanism in transitory sites in Marawi City to

<sup>9</sup> Synergizing Recovery Initiatives, Knowledge, and Adaptation Practices for MSMEs.

strengthen the capacities of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) monitors to carry out protection monitoring, referral, and coordination amid the pandemic. At the height of mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, temporary shelter solutions and safe transportation were provided to locally stranded individuals.

Social protection interventions were carried out with support from the UN, targeting the most vulnerable communities in Mindanao, including conflict-affected and displaced populations in the BARMM region. The UN reached vulnerable members of the population, providing cash voucher assistance to almost 3,000 pregnant women in disaster- and conflict-affected areas in North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur, eliminating economic barriers to accessing health services, and initiated cash disbursement to 60 traditional birth attendants. Through the cash-for-work the UN supported almost 900 women and girls. As a protection strategy, cash-for-work was used to reduce risks and vulnerability to GBV and was a welcome relief from the stress caused by the lack of funds to bring food to the table—a factor recognized as aggravating risks and vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV) in households together with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. To enhance the response capacity of BARMM, the UN provided logistics support, particularly in the warehousing of rice and provision of mobile storage units. The UN also supported the registration and payout to more than 480,000 beneficiaries of the national government's Social Amelioration Program (SAP) for the whole BARMM region, the emergency employment of 1,750 informal workers and the provision of economic resiliency packages to 650 women from 22 cooperatives in mainland BARMM.

#### Normalization and political tracks of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro supported

In 2020 the UN assisted the BARMM government, its ministries and other institutions with technical support, policy advice, and operational assistance. Several agencies contributed to supporting institutions through technical cooperation and



Through UNDP Philippines #TawidCOVID Challenge grant, ICM was able to work with 36 partner communities in Iloilo and Aklan to revitalize their community savings groups. The grant provided them enough capital to restart their businesses such as meat processing, rice retailing, and a sari-sari store. Photo from UNDP Philippines

capacity building. For instance, with UN assistance, BARMM's disaster planning and recovery has moved towards an integrated framework based on community resilience - combining elements of responding to natural disasters, conflicts (including prevention of violent extremism), and pandemics, as indicated in the adoption of the Bangsamoro Community Resilience Framework. Furthermore, capacities of the BARMM Government and LGUs were strengthened on protection response and preparedness and information management to facilitate an informed policymaking and programming solution strategy in the region and the strengthening of community safety structures.

The UN supported the transition of former combatants through peace trainings as well as provided support to Joint Peace and Security Teams. Furthermore, the activation of virtual platforms such as the Mindanao Virtual Protection Coordination Platform with support from the UN and co-led by the MSSD continued its commitment to sustaining co-leadership with relevant authorities and local agencies to address the pressing protection issues confronting IDPs. Policy-related activities with relevant authorities in BARMM were carried out in support of the advocacy and development of an IDP protection law. Women IDP leaders and mediators were also trained to document good practices on women's

roles in conflict prevention and mediation in the communities. The UN strengthened the capacities of the BARMM government and the Bangsamoro Women Commission (BWC) in developing gender sensitive laws and policies, tools and guidance notes on women, peace and security. This resulted in the formulation and launching of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security 2020-2022.

With UN assistance, the BARMM government developed the BARMM Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap and launched it in 2020. This marks the start of a new era in monitoring progress towards achieving a self-reliant, food-secure and

“

*The UN supported two BARMM provincial governments—Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao—to develop local plans for the prevention of violent extremism based on the National Action Plan*

resilient Bangsamoro. The UN also facilitated the establishment of a convergence model to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate forests to achieve ecological balance and diversity and to uplift the lives of decommissioned and soon-to-be decommissioned combatants through agricultural productivity that will assimilate them back to society as economic contributors.

With technical support from the UN and in consultation with local stakeholders and national government agencies, MSSD-BARMM has started formulating operational guidelines on their programme on distressed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and survivors of trafficking in persons. BARMM ministries and provincial LGUs received capacity-building on Trafficking in Persons to build awareness of risks and drivers of human trafficking through community-driven initiatives and information campaigns, targeting at-risk communities across BARMM. The BARMM Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) also initiated the development of a labour migration framework to establish institutional mechanisms to ensure social protection and reintegration of returning Overseas Bangsamoro Workers with several ministries collaborating with support from the UN.



☒ Rifao with 100 per cent indigenous peoples population now have access to clean and safe water built by the Teduray tribe under the ILO Japan Water and Sanitation Project. The level II water system will benefit households, schools and indigenous communities. Photo from ILO/R. Pablo

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

The UN's engagement in this area spans assisting the BARMM in implementing inclusive and community based participatory planning mechanisms. With UN assistance, the Camp Transformation Plan was finalized by the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA). A community-based participatory planning approach to the formulation of the Convergence Area Development Plan was also introduced to strengthen inclusive, community-based development planning at the municipal level.

Reintegration efforts have been supported, for example through training women former combatants in livelihood skills and product development training, as well as overall entrepreneurial skills. Former female combatants were also trained and mentored to strengthen

their meaningful participation in the normalization process. Regular family needs assessments were also conducted, and children provided with psychosocial support, life-skills training and referred to local health, education and protection service providers.

The UN also supported two BARMM provincial governments—Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao—to develop local plans for the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) based on the National Action Plan. The UN further assisted Lanao del Sur to finalize and launch a conflict and environmentally sensitive updated provincial development plan. Moreover, over 100 community working groups were formally endorsed and formed in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Marawi, covering 38 per cent of municipalities in BARMM, to support the development of community-driven PVE initiatives and peaceful engagement of vulnerable communities with local government.



📷 Mother and daughter, Calima and Mima, are volunteers in the Women-Friendly Spaces project in several temporary shelter sites in Marawi. The project is a partnership between UNFPA and the Australian Government. Photo from UNFPA Philippines



📷 Alyah (center), an ex-combatant from Maguindanao, now heads the the Mapadtaya Livelihood Association, a community-based association in Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Maguindanao and a beneficiary of a UN joint intervention to empower women former combatants socio-economically and to strengthen their political participation. Photo from IOM Philippines

## Alyah

*From former combatant to community leader*

Alyah, a 44-year-old single mother of four, is the sole breadwinner of her family. Besides sending her two older children to school, she supports her elderly parents with her small income from part-time madrasa teaching at Camp Darapanan, one of the six major camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

She is the president of the Mapadtaya Livelihood Association—a community-

based association (CBA) in Datu Anggal Midtimbang, Maguindanao—which is one of the beneficiaries of the project “Advancing Women’s Rights and Influence through Socioeconomic Empowerment of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (ARISE-BIWAB), a UN joint intervention, to empower BIWAB—women former combatants—socio-economically and to strengthen their political participation.

Alyah, a resourceful woman who knows how to find her way around, sells malongs, prayer dresses, and cloth masks produced by the Mapadtaya Livelihood Association while juggling her day job as a madrasa teacher at Camp Darapanan.

She expressed her gratitude for the UN’s assistance which has helped not only her but also other members of the BIWAB association. She said, “We have

begun to reap the income from dressmaking skills training and the cash-for-work programme. We were able to transfer our acquired learnings and skills to other members of the association and have already trained two batches so far. With the earnings of over PHP 20,000 (about USD415) from the dresses and face masks we have made and sold, our association will purchase equipment for *inaul* weaving

and further improve the products.”  
Aside from the livelihood skills training, Alyah also received trainings on leadership and gender rights. Now honed as a community gender champion, she believes that the trainings have greatly helped their association and their community to be able to advocate gender rights at the grassroots level.

Another achievement of this project is the accreditation of the Mapadtaya Livelihood Association by the local government unit (LGU) of Datu Anggal Midtimbang. Recognizing the sustained efforts of the association, the LGU provided them with in-kind support for the refurbishment of their office space, including a kiosk to display their products. ■

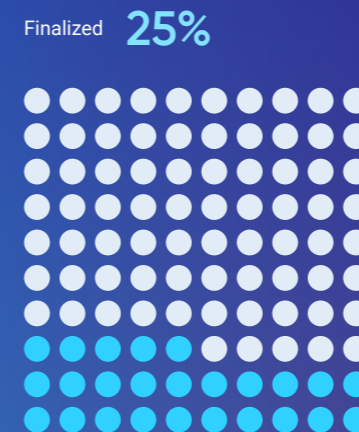
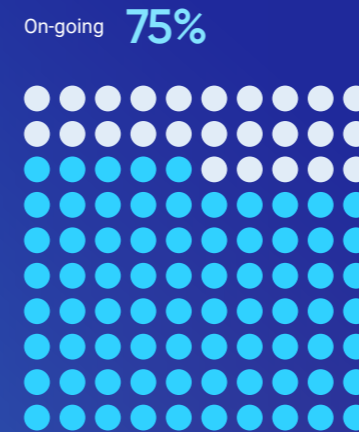
### 3.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

COVID-19 has brought a new impetus to the work of UN agencies, global foundations, development banks, bilateral development agencies and the private sector to join knowledge, capacities and resources in a more collective, coordinated and effective manner. The UNCT continued to pursue meaningful and strengthened partnerships to leverage strengths and drive transformative change especially in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

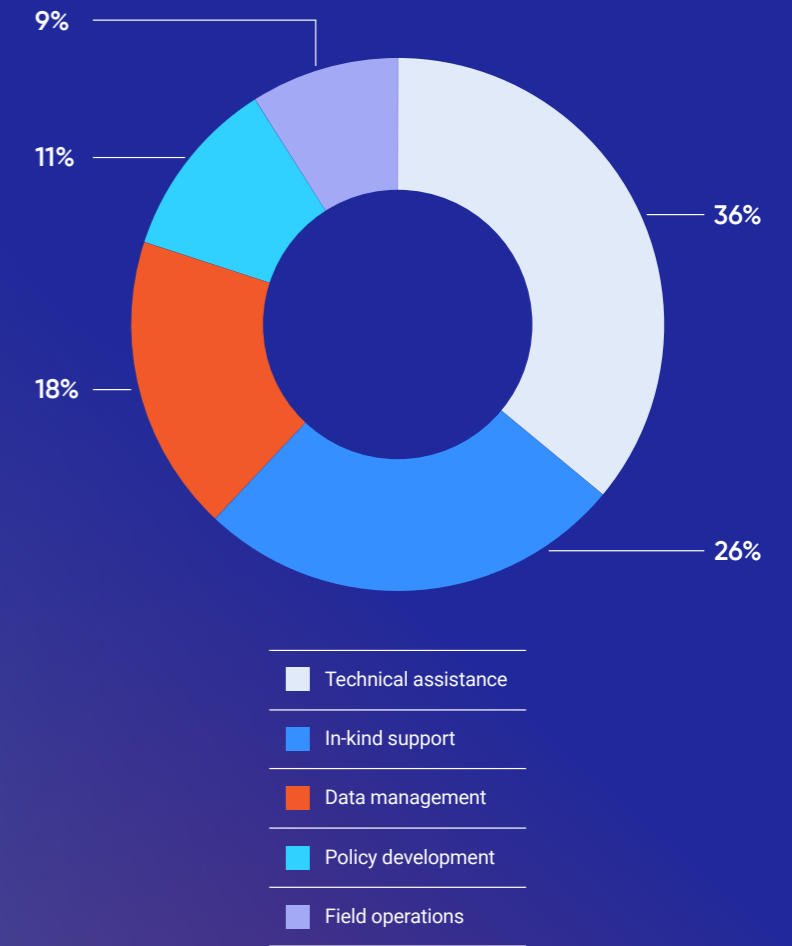
The UN Technical Working Group on Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 was established in March 2020 with the active participation and rotating chair role of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to provide a forum to align the analysis, identify information gaps, create a knowledge platform,

and cohere policy and program advocacy and interventions for effective COVID response and recovery. Sub-groups on Food Security, Data, Social Protection, and MSMEs were created with emphasis on the role of the UN in ensuring those interventions are calibrated to real needs and better understanding of those furthest behind and marginalized groups. At the end of August 2020, as described in Chapter 2, UN agencies reported a total of USD 29 million of secured funding for 149 interventions that address the impact of COVID-19. This rapid COVID-19 investment of new and reprogrammed funds was supported by more than 30 resource partners including 16 UN-managed funds, multiple funds from eight Development Assistance Committee members and four private philanthropic donors. Roughly 60 per cent of all interventions, many ongoing, are nationwide in scope, while 20 per cent focus on BARMM specifically, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) and other regions and localities. The stocktake report, published by UN Philippines in September 2020, includes many but not all response interventions implemented by the UN Philippines.

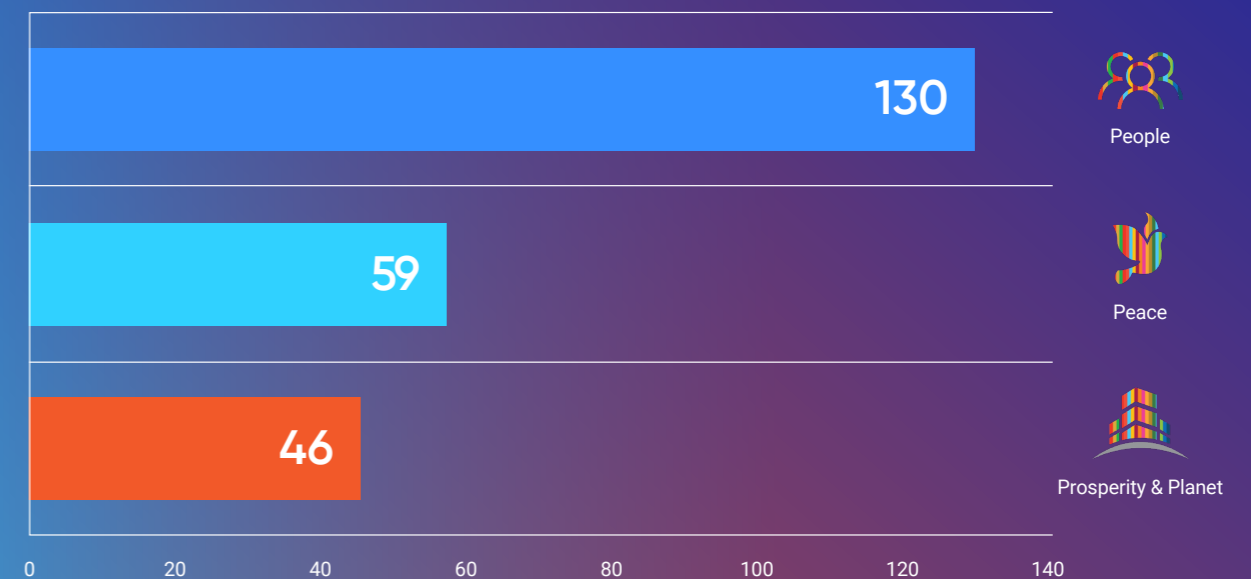
#### Status of Activities



#### Interventions by type



#### Joint Programmes, by SDGs





📷 A family in Tiwi, Albay Province, rebuilds their home following the impact of Typhoon Goni through shelter repair assistance provided through Central Emergency Response Fund projects implemented by the UN Philippines. Photo from OCHA/ Martin San Diego

With support from the Joint SDG Fund, the UN Joint Programme on Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by Applying an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) in the Philippines was designed to enhance integrated financing strategies and investments through technical assistance, strengthening of financing systems and processes, leveraging of financial resources in support of the COVID-19 recovery phase.

The UN leveraged its ability to convene, coordinate and mobilize stakeholders from across the political spectrum in support of the country's development agenda and initiated platforms for dialogue and to influence the public discourse on key strategic issues.

The Bangsamoro Stakeholder Mapping was prepared by the RCO to identify critical gaps where external actors—the UN, IFIs, INGOs, and others—can play a more active role in the Bangsamoro transition. To address the urgent need for coordination of development partners' support to BARMM, the UN and the World Bank (WB) jointly convened key development partners to identify priorities for the Bangsamoro Roadmap on coordinated support to the normalization and governance tracks for consultation with the BARMM and national governments. This process—engaging principals and technical experts from the different agencies and entities—will continue into 2021.

The UNCT held a dialogue with the UN Youth Advisory Board (UNYAB), representing voices of youth in different thematic areas and sectors

throughout the country, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the youth and to inform the re-prioritization of programmes and advocacy efforts. New members of the UNYAB were selected to provide strategic advice on how the UNCT can shape its strategic approach and programming priorities under the SEPF, and UN work related to young people. Special attention was put on achieving diversity of sex, age, ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds, to now include migrants, refugees or stateless persons living in the Philippines.

Following the adoption of a new UN Human Rights Council resolution<sup>10</sup> in October 2020, encouraging

<sup>10</sup> A/HRC/RES/45/33

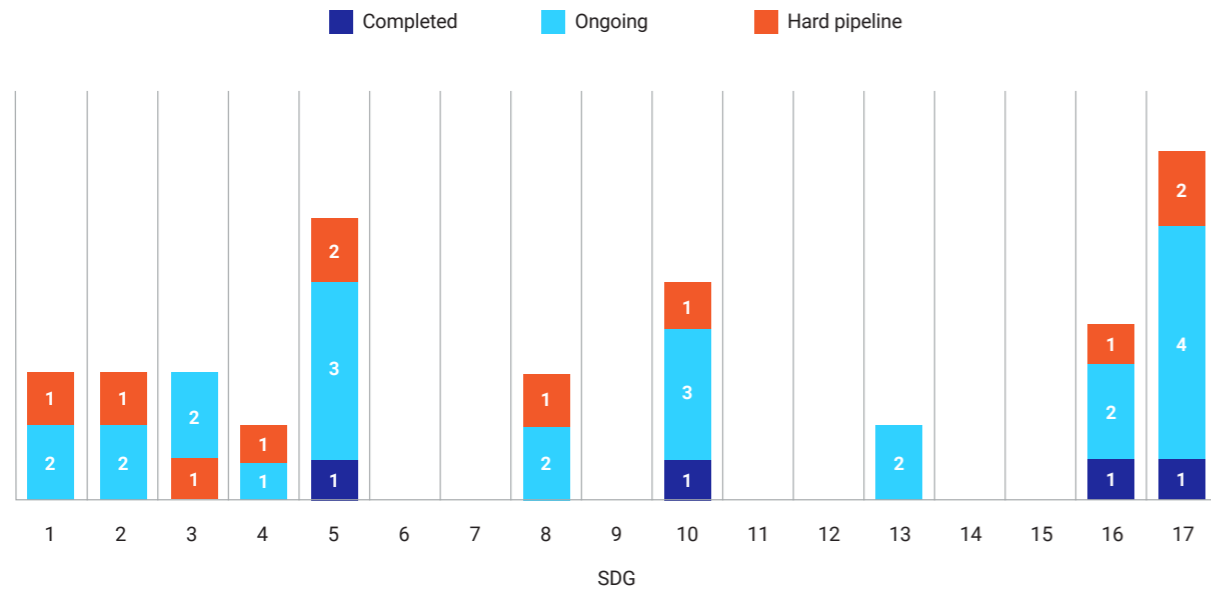
the establishment of a UN Joint Programme on Human Rights, the RC, jointly with key UN agencies, held a series of consultations with the Government of the Philippines, the National Human Rights Commission and civil society networks on collaboration in the six areas outlined in paragraph 3 of the resolution, to provide technical assistance and capacity-building in the areas of “domestic investigative and accountability measures, data gathering on alleged police violations, civic space and engagement with civil society and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, counter-terrorism legislation, and human rights-based approaches to drug control.” The support of the international community was likewise sought to ensure the success of this first-ever country-level UN Joint Programme on Human Rights. The development of the first-ever country-level UN Joint Programme on Human Rights in 2020 was part of an important move towards an increased level of “jointness” among the UN agencies where they merge their expertise, show their coherence, effectiveness and agility.

“

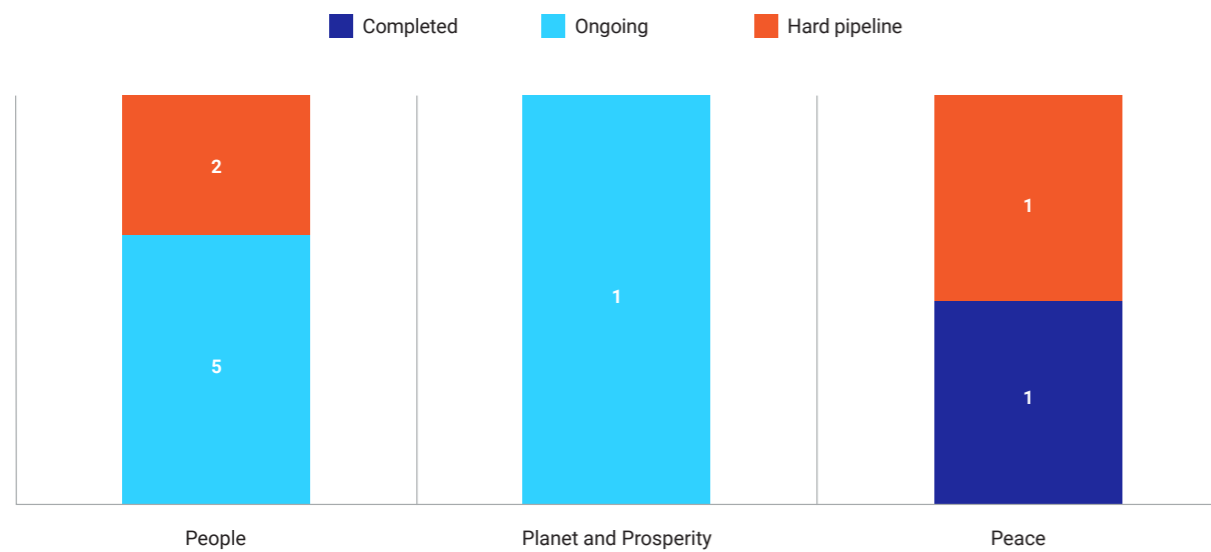
*The development of the Joint Programme on Human Rights in 2020 was part of an important move towards an increased level of “jointness” among the UN agencies where they merge their expertise, show their coherence, effectiveness and agility.*

The development of the Joint Programme on Human Rights in 2020 was part of an important move towards an increased level of “jointness” among the UN agencies where they by merging their expertise, show their coherence, effectiveness and agility.

**Joint Programmes, by SDGs**



**Joint Programmes, by SDGs**



**Table 1  
UN Philippines Joint Programmes**

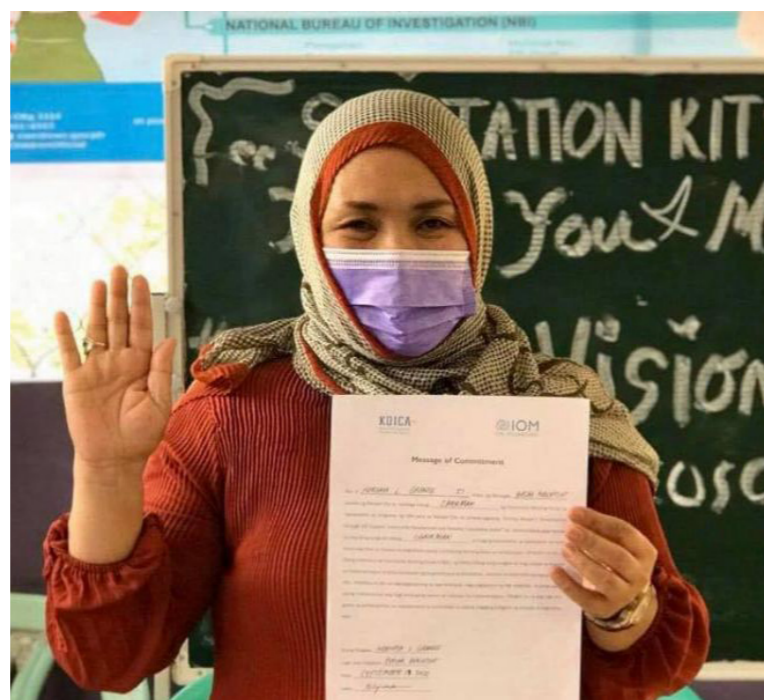
	<b>Title</b>	<b>SDGs and SEPF mainly covered</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Participating UN Agencies</b>	<b>Total Budget in USD / Source of Funding</b>
<b>Completed</b>	Advancing women’s Rights and Influence through Socio-economic Empowerment of BIWAB (ARISE BIWAB)	5, 10, 16, 17 Peace	Jun 2020 - Dec 2020	IOM, UNFPA	<b>350,000</b> Norway
	Ensuring inclusive and risk-informed shock-responsive social protection resulting in more resilient communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	Feb 2020 - Jan 2022	FAO, UNICEF	<b>1.96 million</b> 1.74 million (Joint SDG Fund) 120,000 (FAO/ ECHO) 100,000 (UNICEF)
<b>Ongoing</b>	Scaling up Forecast based Financing/Early Warning Early Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection with innovative use of climate risk information for disaster resilience in ASEAN (Regional)	1, 2, 13 People (nexus)	May 2019 - Sept 2021	FAO, UNICEF, WFP	<b>2.5 million</b> for Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines, Myanmar/ ECHO
	Contribution Toward the Elimination of Mercury in The Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector: From Miners to Refiners	1, 3, 8, 9, 12, 17 Prosperity and Planet	2019 - 2024	UNEP UNIDO	<b>USD 12 million</b> Philippines and Mongolia
	Promoting Conflict Prevention, Social Cohesion, and Community Resilience in BARMM in the time of COVID-19	8, 10, 17 Peace	Jan 2021 - June 2022* *Approved Dec 2020	IOM, UNFPA, UN Women	<b>3 million</b> UN PBF
	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE)	5, 10, 16, 17 People	Nov 2020 - Oct 2022	IOM, ILO, UN Women	<b>1.5 million</b> (Migration MPTF)
	Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by Applying Integrated National Financing Framework in the Philippines	3, 4, 5, 8, 17 People, Crosscutting	Feb 2021* - Dec 2022 *Approved in June 2020; Revised implementation date	UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF	<b>1.5 million</b> 1 million (Joint SDG F) 200,000 (UNDP) 150,000 (UNICEF) 150,000 (UNFPA)



	Title	SDGs and SEPF mainly covered	Duration	Participating UN Agencies	Total Budget in USD / Source of Funding
Hard pipeline	Accelerating the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines in the aftermath of COVID-19	3, 5 (Direct); 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 17 (Indirect) People	Jan 2022 - Dec 2024  *Concept note approved in 2020	UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	<b>6 million</b>  4 million (KOICA) 1 million (GPH) 500,000 (UNFPA) 250,000 (UNICEF) 250,000 (WHO)
	Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines	16, 3, 5, 17 People	2021 - 2024*  *Concept approved in 2020	OHCHR, UNODC, UNCTO, UNESCO	<b>Around 10 million</b>  Country pooled funding mechanism to be explored

Moving forward, the UN will take a system-wide approach to partnership to implement the SEPF under the leadership of the RC through the promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, strengthening partnerships with the private sector and civil society and proactive engagement with regional platforms and mechanisms. The RCO will develop a Partnership Strategy with the UNCT to facilitate partnership platforms. Opportunities will be identified to build on the linkages between the SEPF and the work of the Sub-Committee on SDGs of the Development Budget Coordination Committee to institutionalize learning mechanisms (e.g. the Voluntary National Review) within partnerships and the national policy framework at large.

“Moving forward, the UN will take a system-wide approach to partnership to implement the SEPF under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator



Chairwoman Norhaya Langco-Grande of Barangay Basak Malutlut in Marawi City organizes community orientations to facilitate community participation and inclusive decision-making with the support of IOM. Photo from IOM

### 3.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

The PFSD 2019-2023 was one of the last country frameworks developed under the now retired UNDAF guidance and template so the decision of the UNCT in mid-2020 to update the PFSD offered the opportunity to integrate key elements of the UN Development System’s reform into its new roadmap. This enabled a ‘fit for purpose’, effective system-wide response to the exceptional crisis brought by COVID-19 as well as the adoption of a ‘whole of society, whole of government’ approach to deliver-as-one by linking data and evidence to policy options, integrating financing models, blending partnerships, and exploring implementation solutions to achieve the country’s sustainable development targets.

These priorities align with the government’s emerging priorities and recognize the UN System’s strengths and added value as an organization under reform with an enhanced UN Resident Coordinator System, a system-wide approach to partnerships, and a new generation of Country Teams.

The updating of the PFSD and related discussions in the Results Groups in this regard were focused on how to increase collaboration and find “areas of jointness” to fully leverage a coherent and coordinated UN approach and with that, offer cost-effective, comprehensive, and targeted solutions and assistance to partners. In the SEPF formulation process, the first important collaborative steps were taken towards formalizing the idea of UNCT joint activities and shared

results, and this will be operationalized through the development of the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) under the SEPF: the first time that this will be attempted by the UN Philippines.

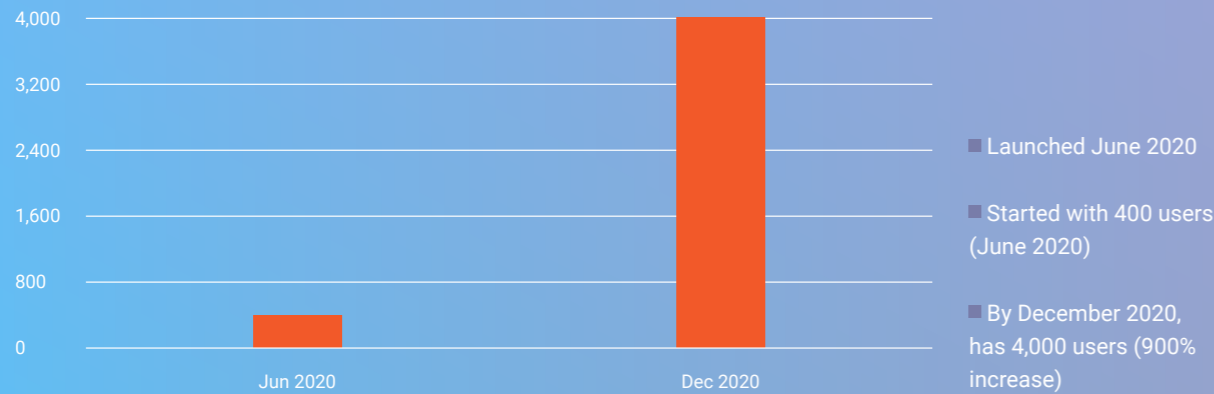
The JWPs will identify opportunities for closer inter-agency collaboration through joint programmes as well as be a tool for monitoring and reporting on progress towards joint outputs. However, while still preparing for the JWPs, the UNCT increased substantially the number of joint programmes in 2020 from one in 2019 to eight new ones in 2020. This is a demonstration of the UN reform in practice as it directly relates to agencies’ increased engagement in joining UN efforts and resources to deliver innovative and context-relevant solutions at scale. With a fully operationalized SEPF and JWPs in 2021, this number is expected to grow.

The merging of the updated UNDAF/ Cooperation Framework—the SEPF—with the SERP for the UN Philippines, as requested by the UN Secretary-General, is another example of a forward-looking solution that will make the UN’s implementation of its development assistance more effective and targeted: Instead of implementing a short-term socio-economic response plan in parallel with a longer-term five-year cooperation framework, the SERP and the SEPF are already integrated.

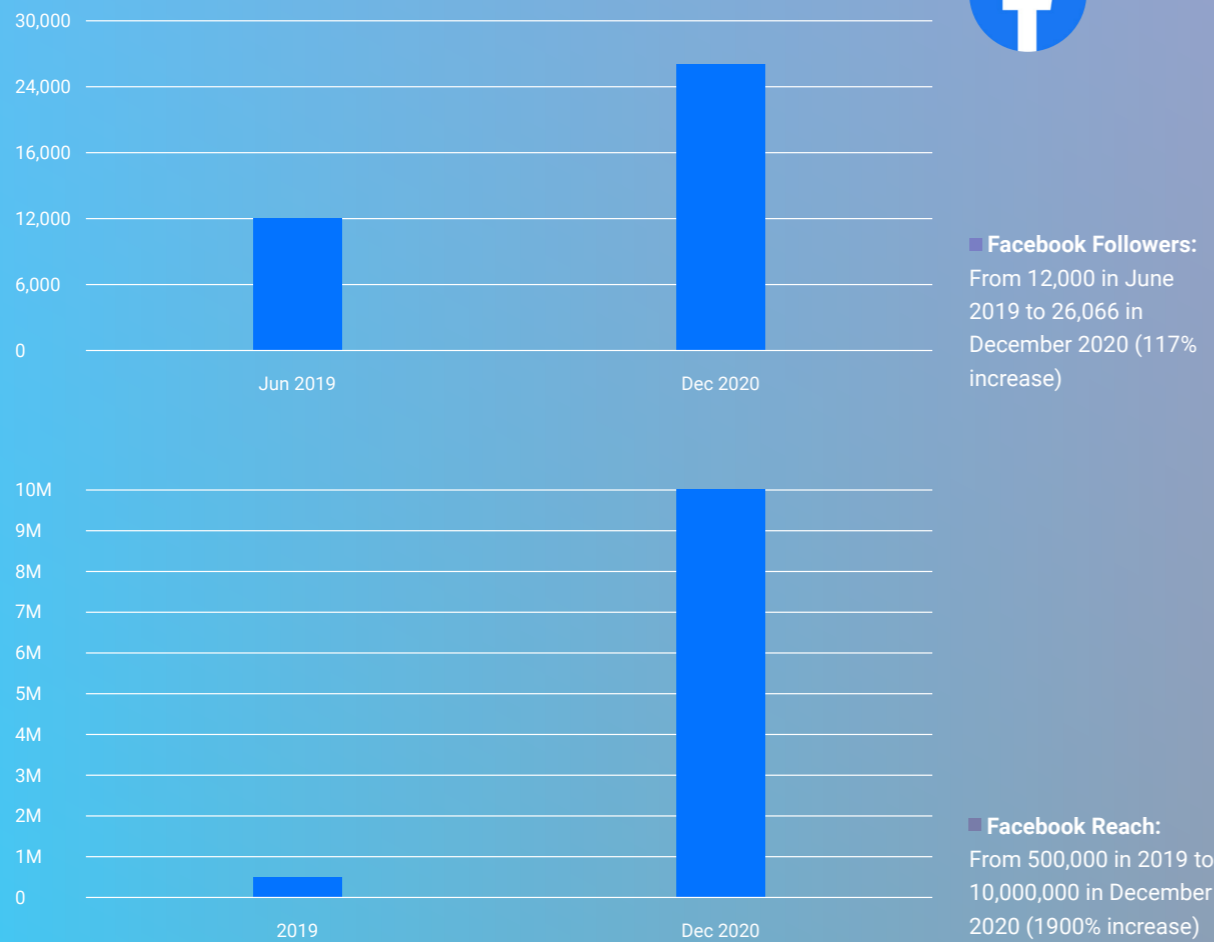
As can be seen from the presentation of 2020 results previously in this chapter, the UNCT is implementing interventions which may, on one hand, address immediate needs following the impact of the pandemic but which also, on the other hand, have an in-built longer-term prospect so that the UN’s assistance is truly covering the spectrum from response to recovery, to resilience-building, which will last beyond the pandemic. This is not only cost-effective in the planning and implementation stages but also enables longer-lasting, more sustainable, and likely more impactful results.

Joint communication and advocacy were another area that the UN Philippines strengthened in 2020 through the increase of communication and outreach under the single banner of UN Philippines across the different platforms (the website, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube) and through mainstream media.

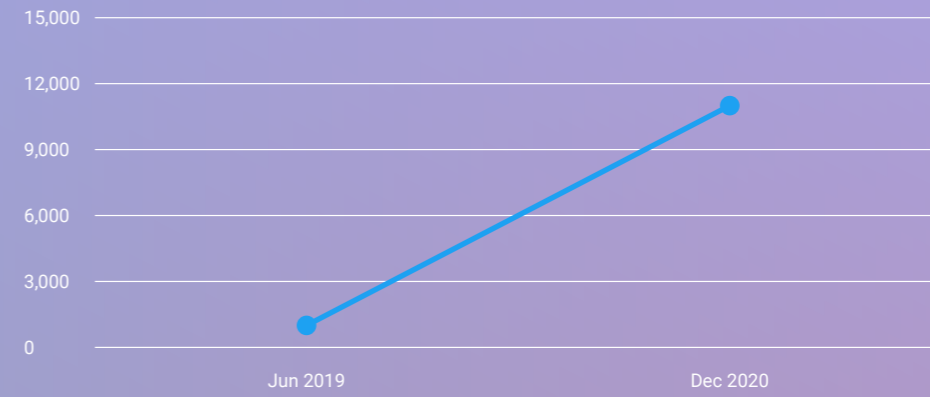
**UN Philippines Website - One of first 100 Development Coordination Office (DCO) websites launched in 2020**



**Facebook Reach and Engagement**

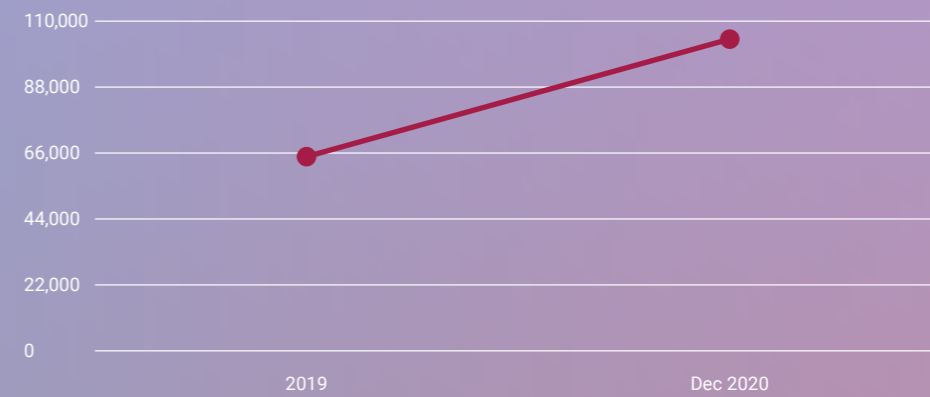


**Twitter following**



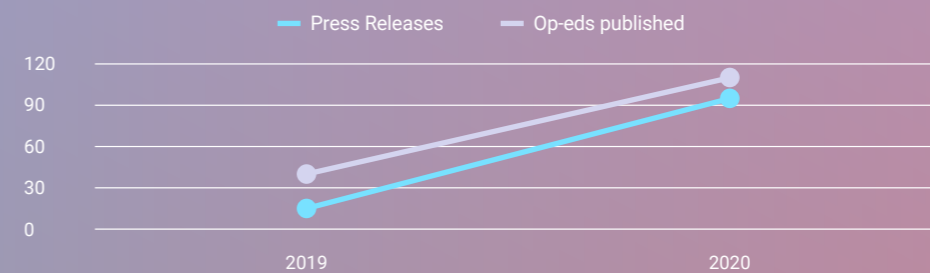
**Twitter Followers:** 1000 in June 2019 to 11,000 followers in December 2020 (1000% increase)

**Youtube Views**



**Youtube Views:** From 65,000 in 2019 to 104,000 in December 2020 (65% increase)

**Press Releases and Op-eds published**



**Press Releases:** From 14 in 2019 to 95 in 2020 (578% increase)

**Op-Eds:** From 39 in 2019 to 109 in 2020 (180% increase)


On the business operations side, the Operations Management Team (OMT) under the guidance of the UNCT, carried out a successfully endorsed upgrade of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) which is now activated on an online platform that supports a more effective programme delivery across the agencies. The BOS enables agencies to collaborate on a common service and allows

entities to use another entity's processes, policies, procedures and related operational mechanisms to implement activities efficiently (for example, in human resource recruitment), not least with financial benefits as a result. By early 2021 the savings made under the UN Philippines BOS was approximately USD 300,000.

## Chapter 4: Key focus of the UNCT for next year

Where 2020 was a year for reacting, aligning, and updating, 2021 will be the year for doing, implementing, and achieving results for the UN in the Philippines.

With a renewed, fit-for-purpose roadmap—the SEPF—the UNCT is well-equipped to ‘build forward better’ and partner with the Government and other partners ‘to deliver on its commitment to bring about inclusive development, that leaves no one behind, is human rights-based, enhances the space for participation of all actors, and that supports the government to achieve the SDG targets by 2030’ as the UNCT has stated in its Workplan for 2021.

 Hopeful mother Jehan looks forward to a brighter future for her daughters and fellow women in Maguindanao. Photo from UNFPA Philippines/Jeff Maitem



UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez (middle) with Members of the Bangsamoro Women Commission. Photo from RCO/Jeremy Arevalo

As part of putting the SEPF into practice, 2021 will furthermore be the year to further integrate UN Reform elements into the work of the UNCT. The provisions of the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) will be applied to strengthen UN coherence and coordination as well as ensure accountability for the shared results that the SEPF aims to bring.

In 2021 the UNCT will also revise and strengthen the coordination and partnerships infrastructure as indicated in the SEPF and reinvigorate the coordination structures between the Government and the UNCT to jointly implement projects and programmes to achieve the renewed targets articulated in the SEPF and in the updated Philippine Development Plan, while recognizing that adjustments may be needed to respond to preparations for the 2022 elections and the extension of the Bangsamoro transition.

The UN in the Philippines will also continue to expand its partnerships with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, unions, youth groups, the media, the private sector, and other stakeholder groups which all represent and speak for people that the UN must reach and include with its work.

It seems certain that the impact of COVID-19 will continue to dominate the Philippines' socio-economic development trajectories in 2021 and well beyond but the UN Philippines has emerged from 2020 well prepared to play its part and deliver on its commitment to the government and the people of the Philippines. With 'building forward better' as a mantra, the UN Philippines is a dependable and resourceful collaborator that will closely stand by its partners in the joint struggle to overcome the setbacks COVID-19 has inflicted, aiming to shape a recovery that will not only get the Philippines back on track to achieve the SDGs but also in the process, eliminate inequalities and address human rights challenges that have been holding back inclusive, sustainable development in the country to truly live up to the global principle of leaving no one behind.

## 4.1. Resource mobilization

In line with the UN Reform, emphasis was on joint programming and joint programmes that can deliver innovative and context-relevant solutions at scale. The number of joint programmes has significantly increased both in number (from 1 in 2019 to six in 2020) and amount (from USD 3 million to USD 8.3 million).

To finance the implementation of the SEPF, the UN will in 2021 take actions to:



- Fully implement the global Funding Compact which emphasizes the importance of quality of resources (such as predictability, non-earmarking, and flexibility), and promote accountability in resource management through partnership recognition.



- Apply the building blocks of the Integrated National Financing Frameworks through provision of catalytic support: tools, technical assistance in strengthening government's national planning and budgeting mechanisms for more effective resource allocation and have in place a more diversified financing framework that can together help to leverage additional resources for the implementation of COVID-19 recovery strategies and achievement of the SDGs.



- Set up country-based, issue-based pooled funding mechanisms to effectively address major development challenges in the Philippines by rallying UN expertise and capacities under cost-effective integrated interventions.



- Actively seize Joint SDG Funding, relevant global vertical funds market and similar UN joint funding opportunities to scale up existing catalytic investments and better address the government's financial gaps in critical development areas.



- Actively engage with International Financial Institutions, including global and regional development banks; strategically use domestic resources for SDG acceleration; and leverage private sector partnerships for innovation and policy transformation.



- Identify and analyze the potential for South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) in the Philippines, including the identification of strategic opportunities, key sectors, modalities of cooperation and mapping of relevant partners to facilitate business matchmaking and exchange of resources, knowledge, and technology.



**United Nations Philippines**

UN House Manila | 14/F and 15/F Rockwell Business Center Sheridan North Tower  
Corner of United and Sheridan Streets, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

T+ 632 7902 9901 | [unic.manila@unic.org](mailto:unic.manila@unic.org)

Website: [philippines.un.org](http://philippines.un.org)

[facebook.com/unphilippines](https://facebook.com/unphilippines)

[@unphilippines](https://twitter.com/unphilippines)