



2025 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW PHILIPPINES

Driving Transformation for the 2030 Agenda
through SDG Localization, Collaborative
Partnerships, and Innovative Statistical
Developments



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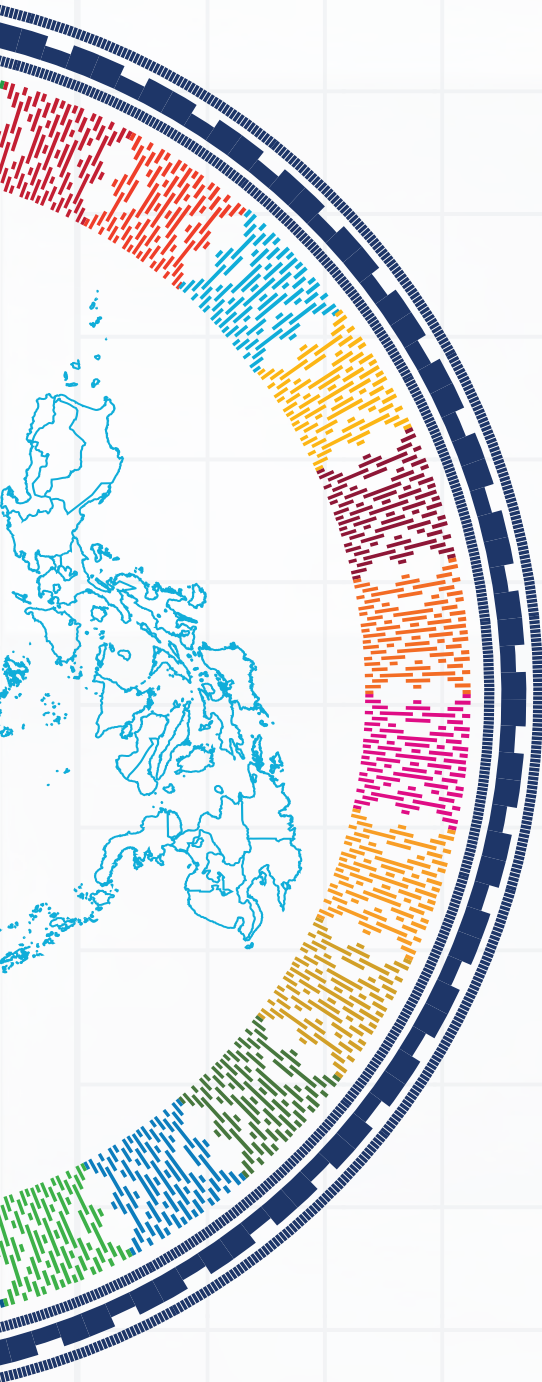
In 2015, as UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippines made a further commitment to undertake a voluntary national review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation every three years. Following through on this commitment, we have produced VNRs in 2016, 2019, and 2022.

The last VNR reported on how the country addressed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and harnessed innovation to accelerate SDG progress. Since then, the Philippines has shown marked recovery and is now on a path of social and economic transformation towards inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.

With the development of the “SDG Pace of Progress,” we are now in a better position to report on the country’s performance in achieving the Goals. This statistical tool shows the progress we have made since 2015, and how likely the targets will be achieved by 2030.

Guided by a shared vision for 2040, and with the Philippine Development Plan as our action agenda, the country has made notable progress in ten SDGs. Based on the 2024 Pace of Progress, these Goals include 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land). Of these Goals, SDGs 2, 7, 8, and 9 were regressing in the 2022 Pace of Progress.

Aligned with the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), this fourth VNR focuses on SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8, 14, and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The “5Ps” of the 2030 Agenda serves as the reference framework for summarizing the country’s progress in these focus goals.





PEOPLE

The Philippines remains committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of all Filipinos across all ages. To reverse the country's decelerating progress in health, the country has been strengthening the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act. In line with its commitment to leave no one behind, the country also prioritized initiatives that empower women and girls, address gender-based violence, and promote equal opportunities in all aspects of life.



PROSPERITY

The Philippines continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in the region and the world. To ensure that these gains are inclusive, the Philippine government endeavors to create more, quality, and green jobs. To this end, economic liberalization was pursued and a landmark law – the *Trabaho Para sa Bayan* (National Employment Master Plan) Act – was enacted in 2023 to ensure workers' welfare, competitiveness, and security.



PLANET

As one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of environmental shocks, the Philippines has implemented initiatives that focus on marine conservation, sustainable fisheries, and coastal resilience. These aim to protect the country's rich biodiversity while promoting sustainable use of marine resources and environmental resilience.



PEACE

Promoting a peaceful, just, inclusive and high-trust society remains at the forefront of the nation's priorities. The Philippine government integrated digitalization into governance and service delivery to ensure that all Filipinos, especially the most vulnerable sectors, have access to public services and justice, and live in a peaceful, safe and secure community.



PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening the means of implementation through partnership, data, and innovation is the highlight of this review. The country's initiatives and accomplishments were underpinned by statistical innovations that enabled the implementation of data-driven interventions. SDG localization and the establishment of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs ensured that all hands are on deck and resources are in place for the country to achieve the 2030 Agenda and our shared long-term vision of a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life for all Filipinos.



I

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Philippines continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in the region and the world, backed by the implementation of policies and programs that are geared towards economic and social transformation. In 2024, the country's economy grew by 5.6 percent, outpacing the projected growth (4.7%) of the Southeast Asian region.¹ This growth was mainly driven by services and industry, expanding by 6.7 percent and 5.6 percent, respectively.

However, the country's economic growth in 2024, fell below the 6.0 to 6.5 percent target.² This is attributed to the impact of the six successive typhoons that led to a 1.6 percent contraction in the agriculture sector, disrupting crop production, livestock, and fisheries. In addition to extreme weather events, other challenges such as geopolitical tensions and subdued global demand, among others, also hindered the attainment of the country's growth targets. Despite these setbacks, the government remains steadfast in pursuing policy reforms to mitigate the effects of these risks and keep the country on track toward attaining upper-middle-income status in the medium term.

Diving deeper into the country's socioeconomic landscape, the Philippines continues to struggle with long-standing institutional issues affecting its political

and governance systems. These structural issues perpetuate conditions of poverty and inequality in the country. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) recorded a national poverty incidence among families of 10.9 percent in 2023. This translates to 2.99 million Filipino families without enough income to meet their basic food and non-food needs. Additionally, the Philippines also faces issues in the health sector, such as rising cases of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including HIV and cardiovascular diseases.

In terms of the labor market, the full-year unemployment rate for 2024 (3.8%) was the lowest recorded since 2005, while underemployment rate in the country remains high (11.9% in 2024). Meanwhile, the female labor force participation rate improved to 52.9 percent in January 2025 from 49.3 percent in January 2024. Despite this, female labor force participation remains affected by prevalent gender stereotypes, where women are expected to perform domestic roles, while men are expected to take on economic and productive roles.

Beyond these domestic challenges, the Philippines also faces serious external threats. In terms of trade, the country being a net importer of goods, is vulnerable to the effects of international geopolitical

1 Economic Forecasts: Asian Development Outlook December 2024. Asian Development Bank. <https://www.adb.org/outlook/editions/december-2024#subregions>

2 The growth target for 2024 is consistent with the medium-term growth targets and approved by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) during its 189th meeting on December 2, 2024.

conflicts. In terms of geographic location and characteristic, the Philippines is among the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, the country also faces environmental degradation and damage to coral reefs and marine life in the West Philippine Sea.

The 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs seek to address these multi-faceted development issues to create a better and more sustainable future. The Philippines has fully embraced these goals, integrating them into the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the Regional Development Plans (RDPs), and even in sectoral plans. Beyond the 2030 Agenda, the country's development goals are ultimately anchored on the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, the Filipinos' long-term vision of a *matatag* (strongly rooted), *maginhawa* (comfortable), *at panatag na buhay* (secure life).

The 2030 Agenda is a universal call to action, where every segment of society is a crucial actor in this transformative journey. This includes national and local governments, the private sector, civil society, and individual citizens.

Our collective endeavor is to eradicate poverty, safeguard the planet, and ensure universal peace and prosperity, by fostering partnerships that transcend borders and sectors.

This underscores the country's Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach, which aims to not only expand partnerships and improve inclusivity, but also to harness innovation in achieving development goals.

Recent studies show that, at the current pace of progress, it will take more than 30 years from present for the Asia Pacific Region to achieve the SDGs. This is an alarming statistic. With only five years remaining until 2030, it is more critical than ever to ensure that the country's current and future actions are guided by these lessons and that actions are most impactful in accelerating progress towards the goals that are lagging behind.

This VNR is the Philippines' fourth report since 2016. The first VNR served as a stock-taking of lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals;



the second (2019) reported on progress in addressing these lessons; and the third (2022) discussed the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the rekindling of its commitment to the 2030 Agenda through innovations that accelerated progress on the goals.

This fourth VNR will provide a comprehensive assessment of the country's progress towards achieving the SDGs, based on 2024 data. It will highlight actions taken in response to the commitments made in the third VNR, with emphasis on the innovative statistical developments that have been pursued to enable data-driven interventions. Additionally, the review will detail how the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach was utilized both in SDG implementation and undertaking this review.

Aligned with the SDGs under review of the 2025 Economic and Social Council and HLPF, the review will focus on the following SDGs: Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 14 (Life Below Water), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

These goals are central to addressing some of the most pressing local and global challenges and will serve as a framework for assessing progress and identifying future directions.

Finally, this VNR will also consider the action areas of the Pact for the Future adopted during the Summit of the Future held in September 2024 at the UN Headquarters in New York. By integrating these action areas, the review aims to align national efforts with global commitments, ensuring a cohesive and impactful approach to achieving the SDGs.



II

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE REVIEW

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE REVIEW

Building on the 2022 VNR, the Philippines leveraged the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach to implement and report the country's progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

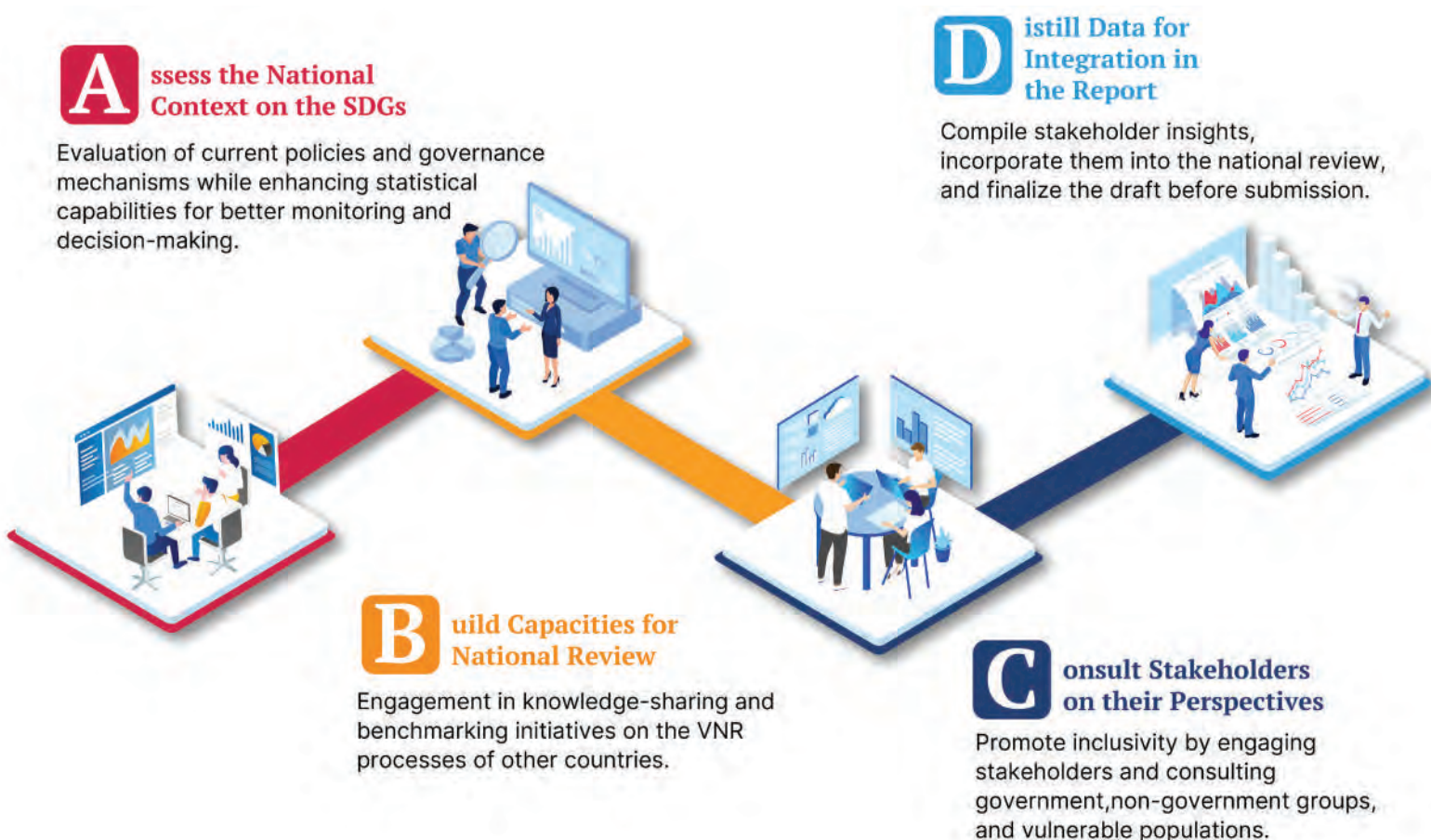
**Figure 1. Whole-of-Nation PLUS Approach to
SDG Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting**



First formalized in the 2022 VNR of the Philippines, this approach highlights the integration of national and local government (“whole-of-government”) and non-government stakeholders (“whole-of-society”), resources, and initiatives for a unified effort in pursuit of sustainable development. To build back better following the pandemic, this integration is bolstered (“PLUS”) through innovation and futures thinking, and international cooperation for the SDGs.

The Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev),³ serving as the Chair and Secretariat to the Subcommittee on the SDGs (SC-SDG), spearheaded the country’s review process for 2025. (See Annex A for the full write-up on the methodology and process for preparing the review)

Figure 2. ABCD Roadmap for the Development of the 2025 VNR of the Philippines



³ Formerly known as the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).



III

PROGRESS ON THE SDGs

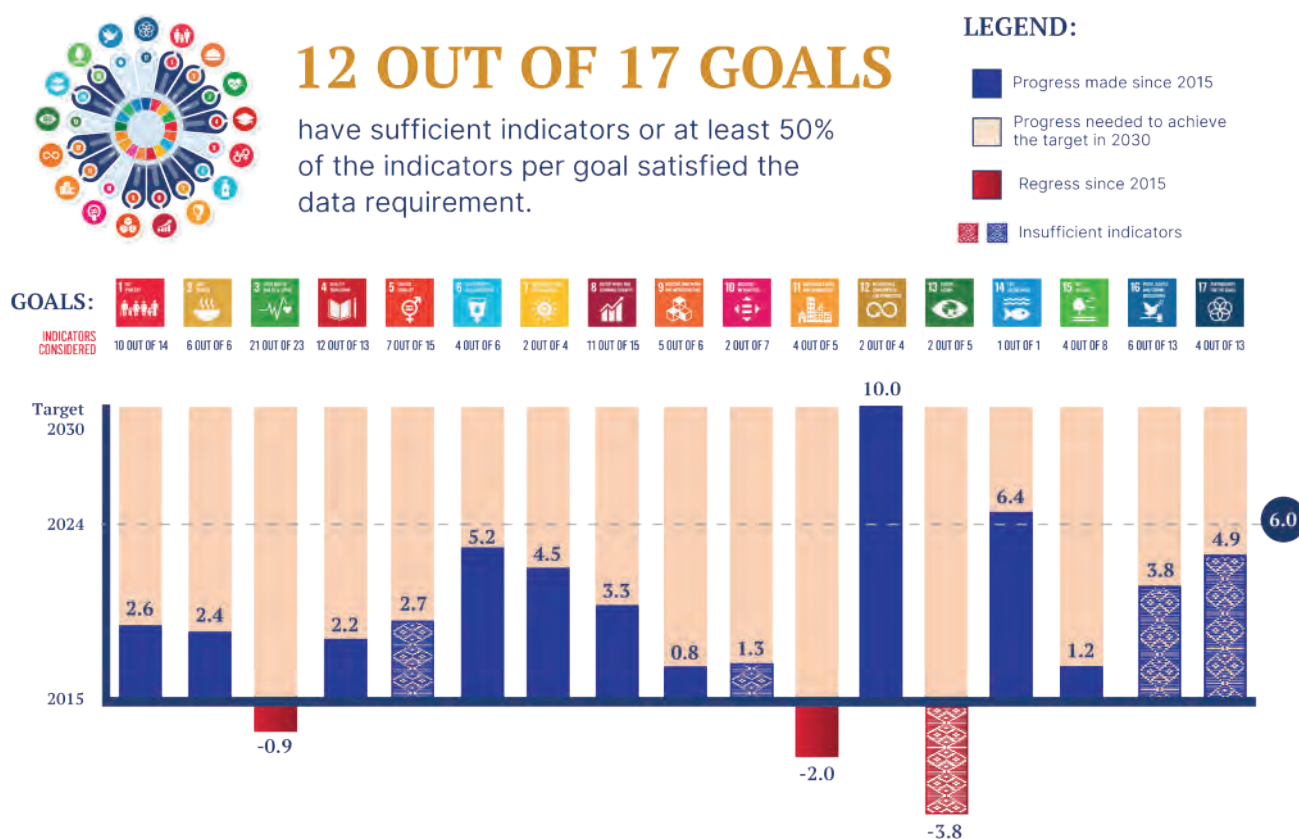
PROGRESS ON THE SDGs

A. Overall Philippine SDG Performance

The Philippines' Pace of Progress on the SDGs, produced by the PSA, provides a snapshot of the country's performance on each SDG since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. (See Section IV.C.1)

Based on the 2024 Pace of Progress, the country has made progress in SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 4 (Quality Education), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land). It is worth noting that SDGs 2, 7, 8, and 9 were previously regressing in the 2022 Pace of Progress. Nevertheless, there has been an increase in the number of indicators measured by the country in 2024 compared to 2022 due to enhanced efforts in statistical monitoring of the SDGs. The baseline year and 2030 targets have also been updated. These factors may have affected the determination of the pace of progress for each Goal.

Figure 3. 2024 SDG Pace of Progress of the Philippines



While progress is also observed in SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the PSA has determined that these Goals' indicators are still insufficient to accurately determine their progress.

A more in-depth look at the 2024 Pace of Progress shows that 23 indicators have been reported on track, compared to 11 indicators from the 2022 Pace of Progress.

Table 1. Indicators On-track, based on the 2024 SDG Pace of Progress

Goal		On-track Indicator	
1	No Poverty	1.1.1	Incidence based on international poverty
2	Zero Hunger	2.1.2.p1	Food insecurity among households
3	Good Health and Well-being	3.5.1.p1	Drug users completed treatment
		3.a.1	Age-standardized current tobacco use
4	Quality Education	4.4.1.p1	Exposure to internet
5	Gender Equality	5.2.s2	Reported abuse cases for women and children
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1.1.p1	Access to basic drinking water services
		6.3.2.p1	Monitored bodies of water
7	Clean and Affordable Energy	7.3.1	Energy intensity
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.6.1	Youth not in education or employment or training
		8.9.s1	Employed in tourism out of total employed
		8.10.s1	Financial access points with cash in/cash out services
		8.10.s2	Cities and municipalities with bank branches and cash agents
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	9.5.2	Researchers (in full-time equivalent)
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	12.4.2.p1	Industrial hazardous waste generated/treated
		12.b.1	Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects
14	Life Below Water	14.5.1.p1	Marine protected areas
15	Life on Land	15.1.2.p1	Important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity
		15.5.1	Red list index
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	16.1.1	Intentional homicides
		16.1.4.p1	Families that feel safe walking alone around the area they live at night
		16.1.s1	Index crime rate
17	Partnerships for the Goals	17.8.1.p1	Exposure to internet

Despite the country's improved performance, there are still a number of regressing SDGs, both in goal and indicator levels. Among the regressing goals are SDGs 3, 11, and 13. (See Annex B for Goals and their Indicators that are Regressing and Needing Acceleration, and Annex C for Regressing and Needing Acceleration Indicators under Non-regressing SDGs)

Table 2. Regressing Indicators by Goal, based on the 2024 SDG Pace of Progress

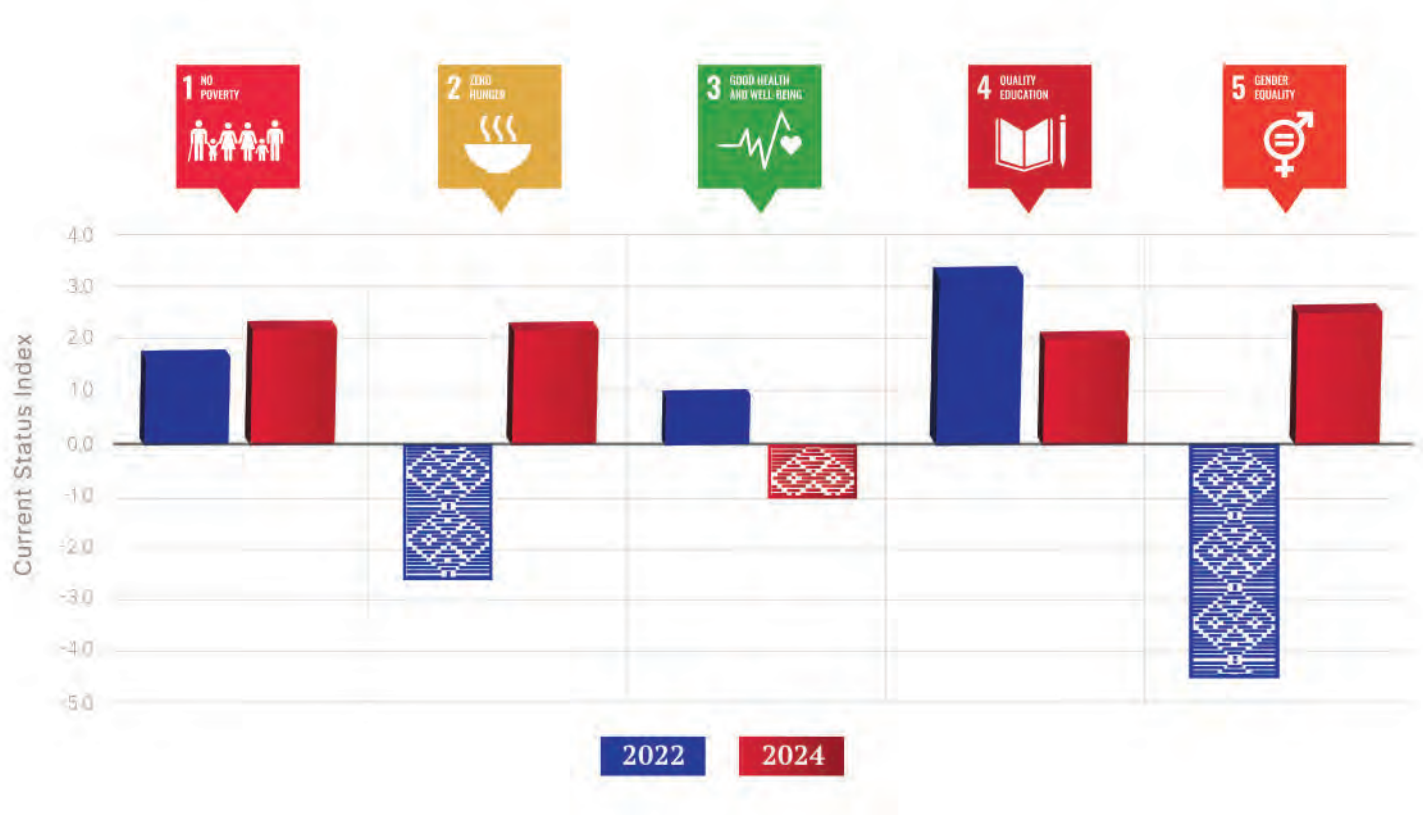
Goal		Regressing Indicator	
1	No Poverty	1.5.1	Deaths/missing/affected persons from disasters
2	Zero Hunger	2.1.1.p1	Meeting 100% recommended energy intake
		2.2.2	Malnutrition
3	Good Health and Well-being	3.2.2	Neonatal mortality
		3.3.1.p1	New HIV infections
		3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence
		3.3.3	Malaria incidence
		3.4.1	Non-communicable diseases
		3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption
		3.6.1	Road traffic deaths
		3.9.3	Unintentional poisoning
		3.b.3.p1	Essential drugs in public health facilities
4	Quality Education	4.2.2	Organised learning before primary entry age
		4.c.s2	TVET trainers trained
5	Gender Equality	5.5.2	Women in managerial positions
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.1.1	Real GDP per capita growth
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	9.2.1	MVA per GDP or per capita
		9.2.2	Manufacturing employment to total employment
10	Reduced Inequalities	10.2.1	Population living below 50% of median income
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.5.1	Deaths/missing from disasters
		11.6.2.p1	Ambient air quality
13	Climate Action	13.1.1	Deaths/missing from disasters
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	16.9.1	Children registered with a civil authority

B. Progress in the Social Sector

1. Status and trends

The country has made significant progress in advancing most SDGs within the social sector. In 2022, SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and 4 (Quality Education) required further acceleration. Meanwhile, SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 5 (Gender Equality) needed a reversal of trends. In 2024, almost all social sector-related SDGs either maintained or graduated to the “needs acceleration” status. However, the performance of SDG 3 declined to “regressing” status.

Figure 4. Comparison of the 2022 and 2024 Pace of Progress for Social Sector-related Goals



**Note that the estimate is affected by the following: (a) the number of indicators which have updated data and available disaggregation in a particular year (PSA, 2024); (b) the 2030 numerical targets used for the two assessments; and (c) the baseline years used for the goal level estimates of the two assessments.*

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being



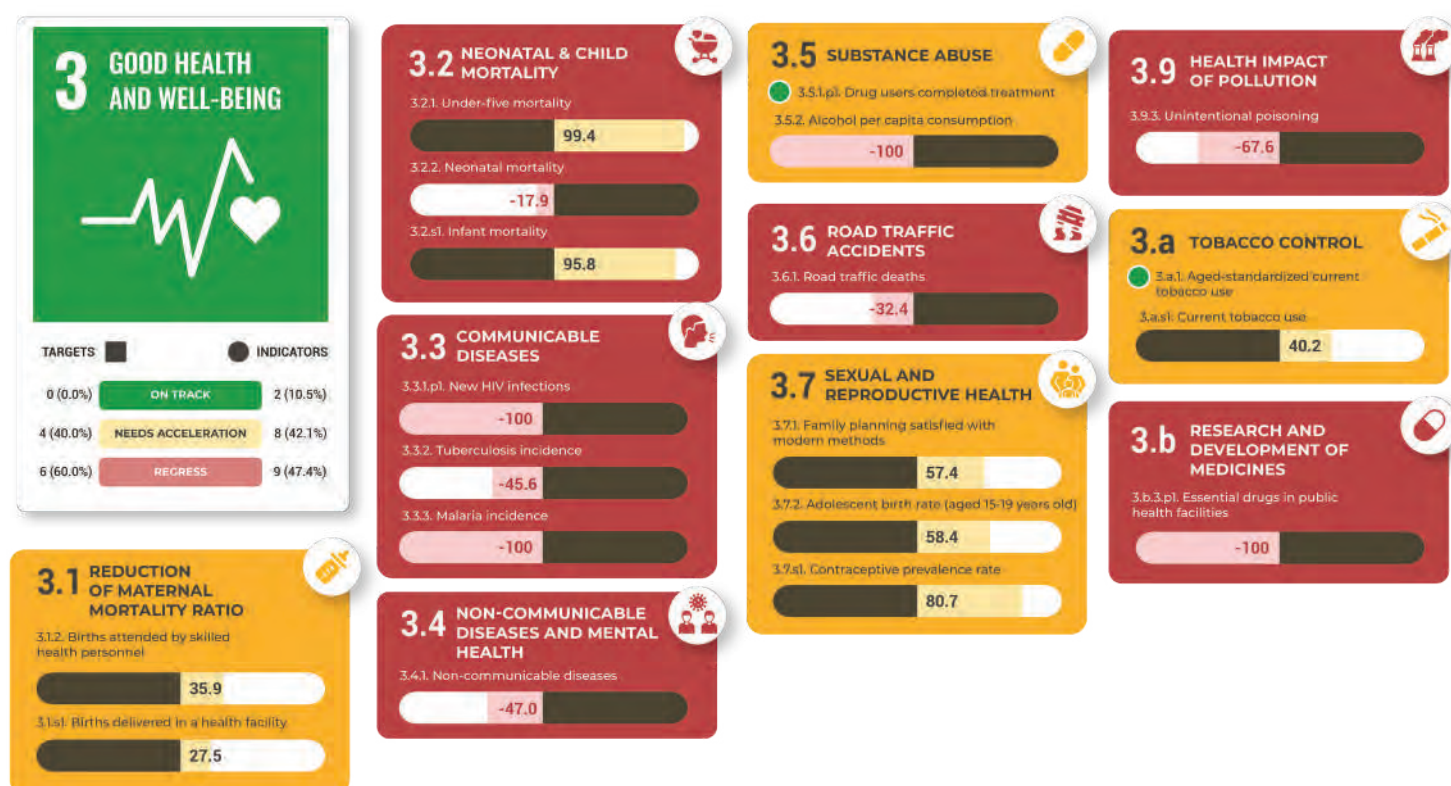
Progress at the Goal level. In 2024, SDG 3 declined from “needs acceleration” to “regressing” status, dropping 1.9 points in the current status index (CSI) of the SDG Pace of Progress. However, it is worth noting that the country is better positioned to assess the progress for SDG 3, with an increased number of indicators monitored in 2024 (21 out of 23 indicators) compared to 2022 (16 out of 23 indicators).

Progress at the target level. Based on the 2024 Pace of Progress, the following indicators under SDG 3 (10.5 percent) achieved “on-track” status:

- SDG 3.5.1.p1 (Drug users completing treatment); and
- SDG 3.a.1 (Age-standardized current tobacco use).

Most indicators remained in either “needs acceleration” status (8 indicators or 42.1%) or “regressing” status (9 indicators or 47.4%).

Figure 5. Anticipated Progress Index (API) of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Targets and Indicators Level



From the 2022 baseline, none of the SDG 3 indicators improved to a better API status in 2024. Alarming, the following indicators had decelerated progress:

- SDG 3.2.1 (Under-five mortality): decelerated from “on-track” to “needs acceleration”; and
- SDG 3.3.3 (Malaria): decelerated from “needs acceleration” to “regressing.”

Comprehensive and targeted interventions for trend reversal are necessary for the following regressing indicators, which have shown no improvement in API status from the 2022 Pace of Progress:

- SDG 3.2.2 (Neonatal mortality);
- SDG 3.3.1.p1 (HIV infections);
- SDG 3.4.1 (Non-communicable diseases);
- SDG 3.6.1 (Road traffic deaths); and
- SDG 3.9.3 (Unintentional poisoning).

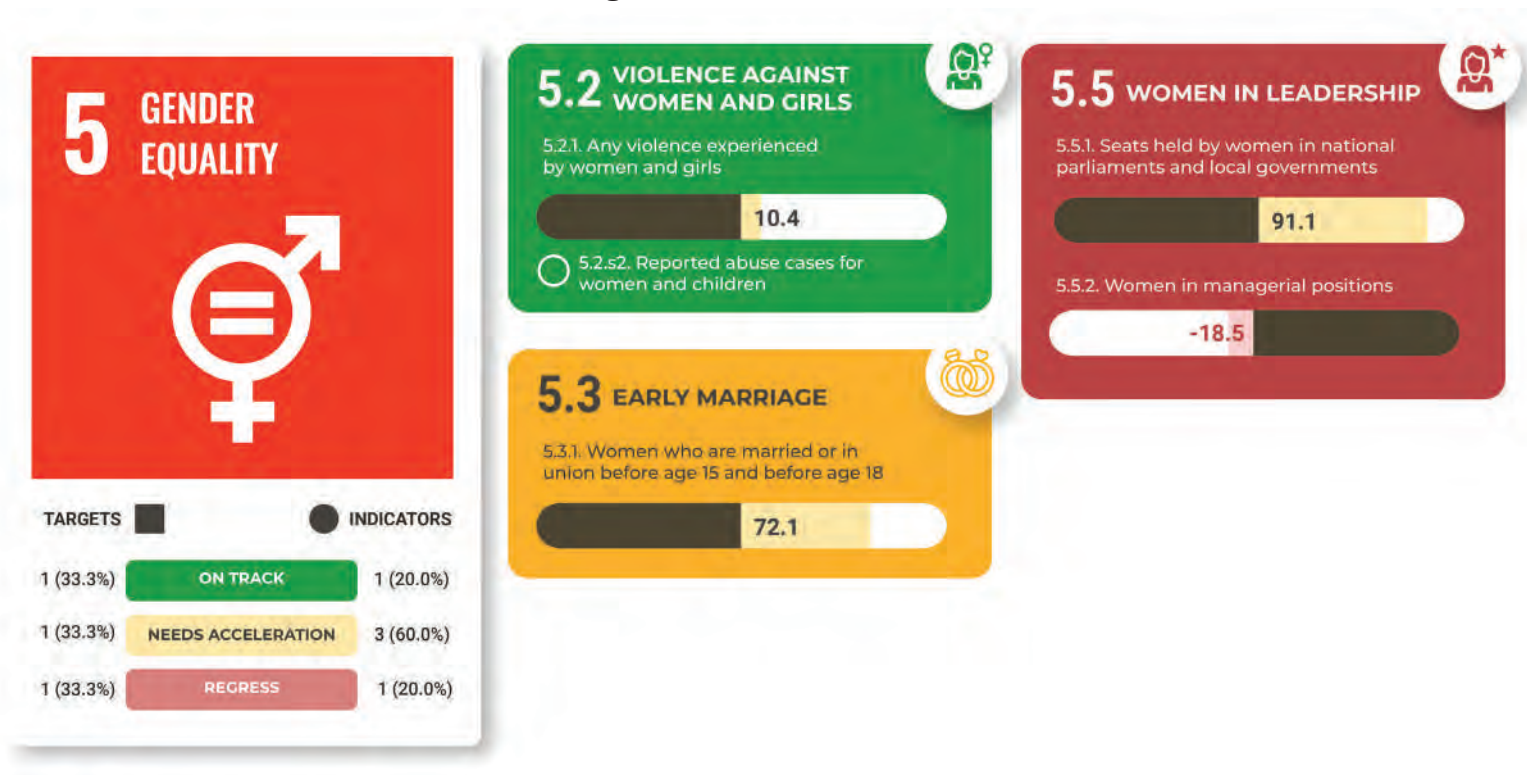
SDG 5: Gender Equality

Progress at the Goal level. In 2022, the CSI for Goal 5 was -4.2, indicating a regressing trend, but with insufficient data. While there was a slight improvement in 2024 to 2.7, data gaps for the indicators persist, hindering an accurate assessment of gender equality advancements in the country.

Progress at the target level. While the Philippines has demonstrated progress in certain areas of SDG 5, significant challenges persist. A notable improvement is the shift in the status of Target 5.2 (Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls), from regressing in 2022 to being on track in 2024. However, Target 5.3 (Eliminate all harmful practices such as early and forced marriage) requires acceleration, from regressing in 2022, indicating insufficient progress. Additionally, Target 5.5 (Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership) has regressed significantly, indicating a decline in women’s managerial positions.



Figure 6. Anticipated Progress Index of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), Targets and Indicators Level



2. Key achievements and good practices

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Despite the decelerating progress in attaining the 2030 targets for SDG 3, the Philippines, through the Department of Health (DOH) and other agencies from the health sector, remains committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of all Filipinos across all ages.

Implementing the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act (RA 11223). In reversing the trend for SDG 3, the country leverages the full implementation of the UHC Act, which aims to progressively achieve universal health care through a systemic approach with clearly defined stakeholder roles. It ensures equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare while providing financial risk protection.

1. **On Service Delivery.** A notable achievement of the UHC Act is the provision of *Konsulta* Package (Comprehensive Outpatient Benefits Package) to Filipinos. The *Konsulta* Package has provided primary care benefits to over 27.80 million Filipinos via 3,149 accredited *Konsulta* providers and has expanded coverage to 53 essential medications.





Turnover and acceptance ceremony for ambulance units under the DOH-HFEP Program to LGUs.

Relatedly, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) Guaranteed Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT)⁴ program was launched to provide an outpatient drug benefit package.

At the regional level, the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) Program is being implemented to ensure healthcare access for vulnerable populations. In the case of Caraga, the program was allocated with PHP3.4 billion funding for private hospitals, providing financial assistance to 210,238 patients.

2. **On Health Infrastructure.** Under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), 226 health facility projects have been completed, including 42 *Barangay*⁵ Health Stations (BHS),



The first operational Super Health Center in Bulacan, located in the municipality of Pandi was inaugurated on March 21, 2024.

71 Rural Health Units (RHUs), three local government unit (LGU) facilities, 96 DOH hospitals and polyclinics, and 11 other healthcare establishments. Furthermore, 41 additional functional specialty centers were established in 2024.

Additionally, 40 Bagong⁶ Urgent Care and Ambulatory Services (BUCAS) Centers have been established and are already operational in 2024. The *PuroKalusugan* (Direct Primary HealthCare) program was also introduced to address community-specific health needs in hard-to-reach areas (i.e., *puroks*,⁷ and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas or GIDAs), contributing to health promotion, preventive care, and curative services directly in the beneficiaries' homes. DOH also continued to develop wellness clinics and mobile clinics through the *Bagong Pilipinas* (Immediate and High-Quality) Mobile Clinics.



Bagong Pilipinas Mobile Clinics launched on October 30, 2024 in Zamboanga Del Sur.

3. **On Health Workforce.** Under the National Health Workforce Support System, 21,198 healthcare professionals were deployed as of June 2024. The *Doctors to the Barrios*⁸ Program has also strengthened rural health services, with 1,691 Rural Health Physicians assigned to 256 out of 258 (99%) identified doctorless municipalities.

⁴ *Gamot* is also the Filipino word for medicine.

⁵ A *barangay* is the smallest political unit within a municipality or city, essentially a village, which serves as the primary level for implementing government programs at the community level.

⁶ The root word "Bago" is the Filipino word for new.

⁷ A *purok* is an informal division within a *barangay* or a village.

⁸ A *barrio* is an informal term for a small district or town in a rural area in the Philippines.



Turnover and acceptance ceremony for various medical equipment and facilities under the DOH-HFEP Program to LGUs.



Deployment of newly appointed doctors to rural health units in Bicol region under the Doctors to the Barrios Program.



DOST-FNRI Laboratory in Taguig City.

The Human Resource for Health and Institutional Capacity Management program has trained 3,528 nurses in specialized fields under the DOH Nurse Certification Program (NCP) as of October 2024.

Additionally, 49 LGU midwives have enrolled in the Leadership Development Course for Midwives in partnership with the University of the Philippines (UP) – College of Nursing.



DOH Academy eLearning Platform (<http://learn.doh.gov.ph>)

The DOH Scholarship Program currently supports 456 scholars, while 1,415 scholars are enrolled in the Pre-Service Scholarship Program. Meanwhile, the DOH Academy eLearning Platform offers 155 online courses, with 221,044 registered learners, and 26,118 primary healthcare workers have been certified.

4. **On Health Research.** Increasing funding for health research, development, and innovation (RDI) are crucial in improving healthcare accessibility, resilience, and sustainability. Hence, UHC-related research has been supported, with PHP194.62 million allocated for funding. Between 2021 and 2024, 12 policy briefs were developed based on completed research. Moreover, Administrative Order No. 2024-002 was issued, establishing a revised framework for Advancing Health through Evidence-Assisted Decisions with Health Policy and Systems Research.

5. **On Local Implementation.** UHC implementation is also being localized, as the provision of health services is part of the functions devolved to local governments under the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling.⁹ For instance, the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the City of Santa Rosa reports that the city has successfully aligned with the UHC Act through a program-based approach, including a regional structure with a program coordinator per city. This approach is still at the pilot stage for nine barangays in preparation for the City Health Center. To enhance healthcare accessibility and reduce hospital congestion, the DOH has recommended setting up one command center and one diagnostic center to serve all 18 barangays in the city, emphasizing prevention and broader coverage.

Strengthening Local Health Governance through the Local Health System

Development Assistance. This centers on three major health dimensions, including the Leadership and Governance for Health, the Special Health Fund, and the Local Investment Plan for Health.



Discussions on LeadGov4Health Policy Framework and Implementation conducted in Davao Oriental.



Landbank of the Philippines is one of the authorized government depository banks where LGUs are required to open their SHF accounts.

1. **Leadership and Governance for Health (LeadGov4Health).** The LeadGov4Health Framework was introduced to enhance the processes and capacity of Local Health Boards. Additionally, Local Health Systems Toolkits were developed to provide technical assistance in addressing common health governance challenges encountered by LGUs.
2. **Special Health Fund (SHF).** Key policies were issued to define the fund's use, management, accounting, and reporting processes. Notably, 88 percent of LGUs (64 out of 73 UHC Integration Sites) have opened SHF depository bank accounts as of June 2024.
3. **Local Investment Plan for Health (LIPH).** The LIPH Information System has been adopted in 78 out of 120 provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities. All 17 Centers for Health Development and the Ministry of Health of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have also integrated this system.



⁹ The Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling stemmed from petitions by Governor Hermilando Mandanas and former Governor Enrique Garcia, contesting the National Government's method of computing Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) shares for LGUs. In 2018, the Supreme Court affirmed that LGUs are entitled to a "just share" of all national taxes, not just those collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Finalized in April 2019, the decision mandates the inclusion of all national tax collections in the IRA computation, increasing fiscal resources for LGUs and fully devolving certain functions from the executive branch to local governments.

Establishing Local Drug Abuse and Rehabilitation Centers. Contributing to the progress in SDG 3.5.1.p1 (Drug users completed treatment), 40 LGUs have replicated the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) *Yakap Bayan*¹⁰ Program. This program is a rehabilitation and reintegration framework for those who are recovering from drug abuse, implemented by the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and Philippine National Police (PNP), among other agencies.

Presiding the World Health Assembly.

On May 2025, the Philippines, through the DOH, will serve as President of the 78th World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization's highest decision-making body in Geneva, Switzerland. In this capacity, the country will emphasize its commitment to global health initiatives, advocate for resilient health systems, and foster international cooperation in addressing global health challenges.

These ongoing efforts underscore the Philippines' steadfast commitment to reverse the trend and accelerate progress in SDG 3, ensuring universal health coverage, and fostering a healthier nation for all.

¹⁰ *Yakap* is the Filipino word for embrace, while *bayan* is the word for nation or people of a nation.



Box 1. Private Sector Participation in Advancing SDG 3

Zuellig Family Foundation's Provincial Leadership and Governance Program

For over a decade, the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF) has been implementing health leadership and governance development programs in collaboration with selected provinces, national government agencies (i.e., DOH), and international development partners. A major component of these programs is the Provincial Leadership and Governance Program (PLGP), a public-private collaboration model for strengthening local health systems towards universal health coverage in the Philippines.

The PLGP highlights the importance of enhancing local government capabilities. As local governments in the Philippines are mandated to manage and implement health programs, the knowledge, skills, and commitment of governors, mayors, and their health teams are critical to achieving the SDGs. The PLGP builds the capacity of provincial governments on local health governance to ensure that policies, structures, and environments are in place to ensure that frontline health services are effectively delivered to communities.

From 2019 to 2022, the PLGP was implemented in the provinces of Aklan, Agusan del Sur, and Bataan. The program focused on improving Filipinos' access to primary healthcare, specifically on maternal (SDG 3.1) and child health (SDG 3.2), and infectious (SDG 3.3) and non-communicable disease control (SDG 3.4). To this end, leadership training, coaching, and specialized technical sessions were provided to provincial governors, mayors, other elected local officials, and health officers at the provincial and municipal levels, including priority barangays. Technical assistance and funding support from the DOH were also mobilized to ensure

improvements in the local health systems, attain the target level of systems integration and UHC maturity model, and achieve health outcome improvements.

Based on the assessment of the PLGP-3 implementation, trends of maternal deaths at the provincial level showed a decline, with notable improvements in skilled birth attendance and facility-based deliveries. Given the success of the PLGP, the ZFF and DOH have forged partnerships at the regional level (i.e., DOH Centers for Health and Development [CHDs]) with academic institutions. This collaboration ensures the program's sustainability by strengthening local health systems. To date, the DOH CHDs of the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, CALABARZON, and Eastern Visayas, have partnerships with the ZFF and several academic institutions including University of the Philippines (UP) Manila College of Public Health, UP Manila School of Health Science at Palo Leyte, UP Visayas, Davao Medical School Foundation, and the Cordillera Career Development College. These partnerships aim to implement the *Bayang Malusog* Program, which was adopted from the PLGP model to accelerate UHC.



Source: ZFF



Box 2. Local Government Participation in Advancing SDG 3

Delivery of Health Services in Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental

To ensure efficient and effective governance, local governments are directed to preserve and enrich culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities. They are also mandated to improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, and promote full employment among their residents. In support of the national government, cities and municipalities may expand and innovate in the ways to ensure the welfare of their citizens.



Gingoog City is a first-class city located on the northern coast of the Province of Misamis Oriental with a total population of 136,698.¹¹ This city is among the localities committed in ensuring equitable and quality access to social services for all, especially for underserved populations and indigenous peoples. Among its notable health initiatives is the establishment of the Gingoog City United Diagnostics and Laboratories (GCUDL).

Established on April 8, 2022, the GCUDL provides quality and affordable clinical diagnostic testing services for citizens in Gingoog City and nearby municipalities.

The facility is equipped with modern laboratory instruments and technology that adhere to international standards. The establishment of the GCUDL was driven by the goal to address the rising demand of constituents and neighboring municipalities for nearby, accessible, accurate, and budget-friendly laboratory and diagnostic procedures.



The GCUDL offers accessible payment options by providing affordable and reasonable rates to paying clients and free or subsidized services through the country's social welfare program providing medical assistance. These payment options ensure that the laboratory is self-sustaining¹² by covering maintenance costs (i.e., utilities), professional fees of medical consultants, and laboratory improvements (e.g., information systems, equipment and supplies, quality assurance outsourcing, among others). To date, the GCUDL has served a total of 47,590 patients, of which 11,040 (23%) were beneficiaries of social protection mechanisms, and 36,550 were paying clients.

Overall, the initiative supports the implementation of the country's pursuit of Universal Health Care, safeguarding and promoting the right to health and fostering health consciousness among Filipinos.

Source: Secretariat of the Economy and Development Council¹³ – Social Development Committee

¹¹ Data retrieved from the 2020 Census of Population and Housing.

¹² In 2024, GCUDL earned an average income of over PHP650,000 per month.

¹³ Pursuant to Republic Act No. 12145: The Economy, Planning, and Development Act.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a crucial foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. Despite significant strides made in certain areas, persistent challenges remain. Achieving full gender equality requires continued commitment, collaboration, and accelerated action.

One of the key achievements under SDG 5 is the Implementation of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9262). In 2024, the Philippines witnessed a significant stride in its efforts to combat violence against women and children (VAWC) through the widespread establishment of the following initiatives:

1. **Anti-Sexual Harassment (ASH) Desks.** As of 2023, a total of 2,288 cities have established ASH Desks, 2,126 ASH enforcers have been designated, 1,756 ASH hotlines have been established, and 2,803 CCTV cameras have been installed in public spaces to boost surveillance and support enforcement activities.
2. **Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) desks.** As of November 28, 2024, a total of 38,981 VAW desks were established in 41,610 assessed barangays. This achievement translates to a 93.68 percent coverage rate, demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing violence against women at the grassroots level.



The LGU Baler command center, with 85 CCTV cameras and a 12-screen video wall, uses advanced technology on par with major LGUs like those in Metro Manila.



Capacity-building training conducted for VAWC desk officers from 60 city barangays to improve handling of VAW cases..

A good practice that contributes to the responsiveness of barangay VAW desks is the engagement of community volunteers serving as VAW Desk Officers. These volunteers undergo basic gender sensitivity training and orientation on anti-VAW laws, enabling them to effectively assist victims and respond to cases in the absence of women *barangay kagawad*¹⁴ or women *barangay tanod*.¹⁵

¹⁴ *Kagawad* is the Filipino term for *barangay* level councilors.

¹⁵ *Tanod* is the Filipino term for community watch officers.

Gender Equality and Empowerment Initiatives. As of December 2024, the DSWD has assisted a total of 4,864 women and children through its various programs. These programs include community-based programs, Center and Residential Care Facilities, and Recovery and Reintegration Programs for Trafficking in Person.

Project Aleng Pulis¹⁶ Everywhere. As of 2024, the Project *Aleng Pulis* Everywhere program of the Philippine National Police led to the establishment of 2,026 women and children protection desks nationwide. These desks are staffed by 6,311 personnel, including policewomen. In addition, the project supports the operation of 160 protection centers, providing crucial support and resources to women and children experiencing violence or abuse.



Trainer's training Manual on Gender Equality focusing on Women with Disabilities. Launched in March 2023, this training manual specifically addresses the needs of women with disabilities to foster gender equality and disability inclusion across the Philippines. This resource has been incorporated into the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) online learning system, providing accessible training



NCDA's online platform offering courses on disability awareness, support systems, among others. (<https://ncdacourses.online/>)

materials for Persons with Disabilities Affairs Offices in LGUs and disability-focused organizations nationwide.

Cash-for-Unpaid Care Work Program, and We Care Ordinance. The Philippines was recognized as a “Care Champion” in the 2024 Asia-Pacific Care Champions at the Beijing +30 Review Ministerial Conference special event in Bangkok, Thailand on November 21, 2024. This demonstrates the country's commitment to addressing unpaid care work and promoting women's economic empowerment. Key programs contributing to this achievement are Cash-for-Unpaid Care Work Program of the DSWD, and We Care Ordinance of the LGU of Quinapondan in Eastern Samar.



The Philippines took center stage in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the BPfA+30 Review in Bangkok.

16 “Aleng Pulis” is the Filipino term for policewoman.



Training sessions led by The Moropreneur Inc. on project management and financial literacy to empower women of Barangay Tunggol, Maguindanao del Sur.



The PBSP-WRAAP, funded by Global Affairs Canada, held its Basic Bookkeeping Training for Luzon-based women's rights.

Private Sector Participation in advancing SDG 5. The Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs is also committed to achieving the country's targets under Goal 5. Several of the Chambers' initiatives are focused on empowering women through capacity-building on livelihood programs and workshops and raising consciousness on women's rights and reproductive health. Among the notable initiatives include Women's Rights Action and Advocacy Project (WRAAP) of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and Advancing Women's Economic Empowerment for Inclusive Growth in the Bangsamoro of The Moropreneur's Inc. (See Annex D for details on these initiatives)

3. Challenges and gaps in the sector

Despite significant advancements in the social sector, persistent challenges continue to impede progress towards the country's targets. These challenges include food insecurity, poor education and learning outcomes, and gaps in the accessibility, coverage, and targeting of social protection programs. Addressing these issues requires accelerated implementation of interventions, bridging of resource deficits, and strengthened stakeholder engagement.

Progress towards achieving SDG 3 remains constrained by several systemic challenges. The implementation of major health programs, including UHC reforms, nutrition programs, and vaccination drives, remain slow due to poor coordination among agencies and stakeholders. Many Filipinos exhibit poor health-seeking behavior,

largely driven by a lack of awareness of primary healthcare services. Additionally, securing stakeholder buy-in for UHC reforms continues to be a challenge, further delaying progress.

The inadequate integration of digital health services further exacerbates access and efficiency issues in service delivery. Moreover, there is a need to build capacities against public health threats, including emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

4. Ways forward for the sector

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

To bridge the gaps in health implementation, the DOH will fully implement the UHC Act, prioritizing flagship programs such as *Bakuna Eskwela* (School-based Immunization Program) in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the DILG; BUCAS Program; *PuroKalusugan* (Direct Primary Healthcare); and *Bagong Pilipinas* (Immediate and High-Quality) Mobile Clinics.

To ensure accountability, the DOH will implement monitoring mechanisms through the UHC Coordinating Council, supported by formal directives.

Enhancing service delivery will be a key focus, with digitalization playing a central role.

Public-private partnerships will be explored to advance digital health, particularly through the development of interoperable health information systems that integrate medical records across facilities, improving efficiency and coordination. Integration of mobile health (mHealth) solutions, telemedicine, and AI-powered triage systems may also complement traditional health infrastructure, particularly in GIDAs.

Demand generation for primary care will be strengthened through effective and targeted information, education, and communication campaigns. Moreover, health RDI will be increased. Multi-sectoral collaboration will be fostered to create an integrated healthcare system that translates research into effective and sustainable interventions.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Addressing early marriage requires a multi-pronged approach, including improved coverage, targeting, and gender integration within social protection programs and other human capital development programs. Emphasis on protection and prevention, and the inclusion of comprehensive sexuality education in youth and family development sessions in the basic education curriculum, are necessary to promote social behavior change and address adolescent vulnerabilities.

To ensure program effectiveness and efficient service delivery, it is essential to increase resources, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and foster program convergence, while improving data collection mechanisms. This includes improving social registries, fully implementing the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), and developing gender-mainstreamed land use plans. These efforts, combined with robust monitoring frameworks, will generate disaggregated data to enable targeted interventions.

Women and girls will be empowered by improving access to education and economic opportunities. This can be achieved by strengthening legal frameworks, fostering community engagement, and engaging religious and tribal leaders to shift harmful norms and address poverty. Prioritizing psychosocial support

for teenage mothers, finalizing the Comprehensive Teenage Pregnancy Plan, including teen centers, and the enactment of the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2023, will likewise help vulnerable girls and young women to move forward with their lives, with support from their communities.

The inadequacy of current social protection programs directly contributes to the persistence of early marriage. Limited coverage leaves vulnerable girls unprotected, increasing their risk of child marriage as families face economic hardship. A lack of gender-sensitive design for policies leads to the inability to adequately address the specific vulnerabilities that girls face, such as lack of access to education or economic opportunities, which are key drivers of early marriage.

Insufficient data likewise hinders understanding of the specific needs of girls at risk, preventing targeted interventions. Data gaps, poor coordination, and limited resources further impede the development of effective policies and programs that aim to address this complex issue, perpetuating the cycle of vulnerability and early marriage. Strengthening social protection with a focus on gender and expanded coverage is vital to protect girls.



Box 3. Local Government Participation in Advancing SDG 5

From Makati to the World: Advancing Gender Equality through Local Action

In 2024, Makati City achieved an 80 percent score in SDG 5 in the CityNet-UNESCAP SDG Self-Assessment Platform (See Box Article 6), reaffirming its commitment to advancing gender equality. Building on this achievement, the city has chosen SDG 5 as one of the key focus goals in its first 2025 VLR.

Rooted in the principle of leaving no one and no place behind, Makati City actively champions gender equality both at the local level and on the global stage. As a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group (2023-2024), the city played a key role in shaping SDG 5 discussions, contributing to the 2024 Pact for the Future. Makati City also served as part of the Reference Group for SDG 5 in UNESCAP's SDG Goal Profiles, contributing to the inter-agency SDG policy brief that informed the discussions of the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.



Locally, gender equality is institutionalized through the Gender and Development (GAD) Code, prioritizing human rights, inclusive governance, and gender-responsive policies. In 2024, Makati City allocated 17.48 percent of its budget to gender-responsive programs, far exceeding the 5 percent national mandate under The Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710). The city also strengthened efforts against gender-based violence through programs like Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal



Abilities Training (ERPAT) by engaging men as allies for gender equality across barangays.

Makati City also elevates the economic value of (un)paid care work through initiatives like the Organization and Development of Cooperatives and Savers Centers, equipping caregivers with pathways to financial independence and inclusive growth.

Additionally, Makati City champions gender-responsive healthcare, prioritizing maternal health, family development, and resilience. Through the Community-Based DRRM Planning Project, women are equipped with skills in disaster preparedness, emergency response, and climate adaptation by positioning them as key resilience actors. Insights from this initiative shaped Makati City's 2023 Local Stocktake, culminating in the "Consolidated Statement of the (Vulner)Able Actors of Resilience," which outlines key recommendations for inclusive and responsive development strategies.

Through bold policies, global engagement, and grassroots action, Makati City continues to drive transformative change, ensuring that gender equality remains at the heart of its development agenda.

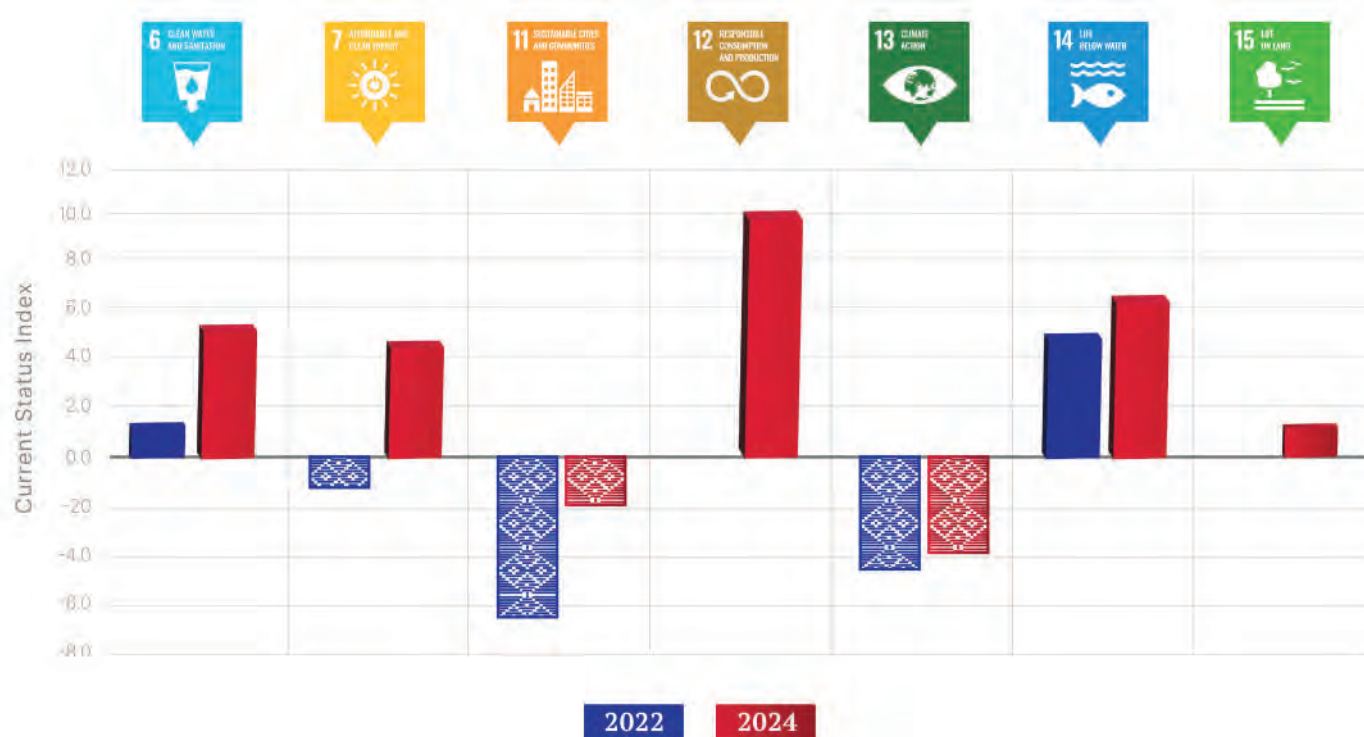
C. Progress in the Environment Sector

1. Status and trends

Comparing the country's 2022 and 2024 SDG Pace of Progress for the Environment sector, the Philippines made moderate progress in SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), and 15 (Life on Land). This resulted from enhanced monitoring mechanisms, which facilitated the reporting of additional indicators under these goals.¹⁷

Due to the intensifying impacts of climate change, progress on SDGs 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action) continued to regress.¹⁸ This was affected by the intensification of tropical cyclones into super typhoons that hit the country in 2023.¹⁹

Figure 7. Comparison of the 2022 and 2024 Pace of Progress of Environment-related Goals



Note: The estimate is affected by the following: (a) the number of indicators which have updated data and available disaggregation in a particular year (PSA, 2023); (b) the 2030 numerical targets used for the two assessments; and (c) the baseline years used for the goal level estimates of the two assessments.

17 SDG 6 improved from having insufficient data to covering 2 additional targets and indicators, SDG 7 from regressing to needs acceleration and covering 1 additional target and indicator, SDG 12 from no data to on track, and SDG 15 covering 1 additional target and 2 additional indicators.

18 Severe Tropical Storm Trami (Kristine), Super Typhoon Kong-Rey (Leon), Tropical Cyclone (TC) Yinxing (Marce), TC Toraji (Nika), TC Usagi (Ofel), TC Man-yi (Pepito). Retrieved from <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/philippines/philippines-six-tropical-cyclones-humanitarian-snapshot-20-october-present>.

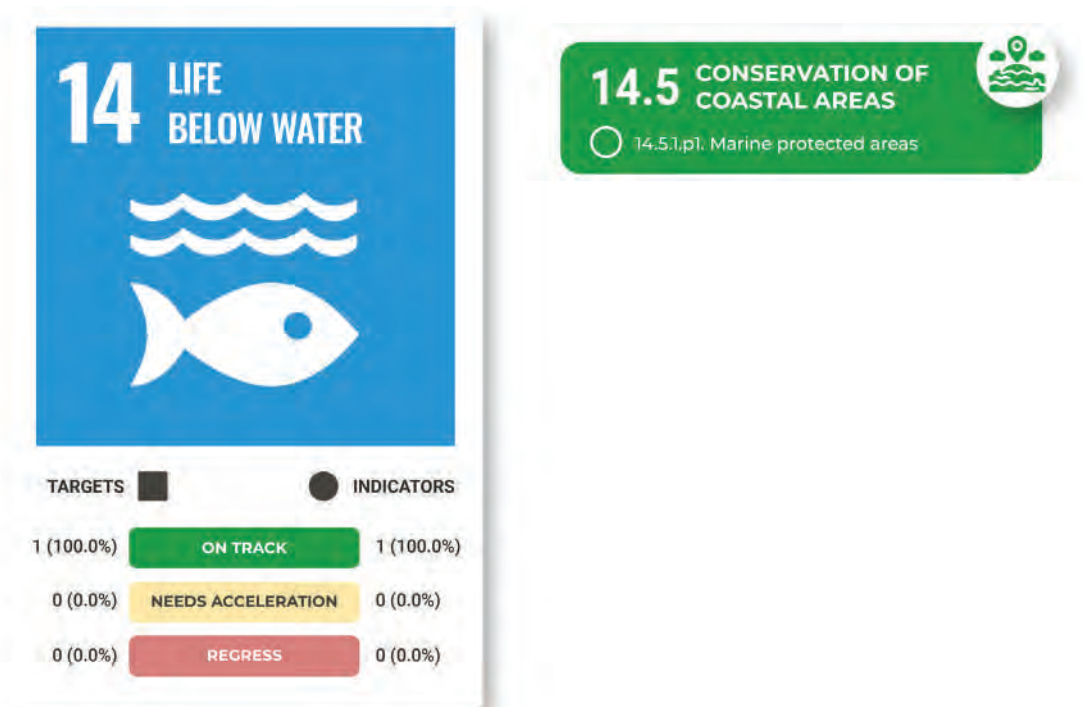
19 Super Typhoon Egay in July 2023 and Super Typhoon Gorin in August 2023.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

The Philippines remained on track in achieving its targets for SDG 14 (Life Below Water), but only one indicator is being monitored under this Goal. The country is currently exploring methodologies for reporting an additional indicator for SDG 14.



Figure 8. Anticipated Progress Index of SDG 14 (Life Below Water), Target and Indicator Level



2. Key achievements and good practices

Environment and Climate Action

Adoption and operationalization of the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

In 2024, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) formally adopted the NDCIP 2020-2030 through CCC Resolution No. 2024-004. The NDCIP is designed to help the Philippines achieve its target of 75 percent reduction and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, of which 2.71 percent is unconditional, and 72.29 percent is conditional on external support. The government has institutionalized the NDC Interagency TWG to facilitate the implementation of the Policies and Measures (PAMs) outlined in the NDCIP.

In 2023, the CCC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) developed a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for the Philippines to guide the prioritization of actions at the national and subnational levels. The NAP focuses on the country's adaptation strategies in eight sectors²⁰ and identifies five thematic strategies to address the intersecting challenges brought about by climate change, including: (a) strengthening infrastructure resilience; (b) safeguarding livelihoods; (c) empowering local governments and communities; (d) mainstreaming integrated adaptation governance; and (e) scaling up nature-based solutions.



Enhanced National Greening Program led by the DENR-FMB through EO 19, s. 2015.

Consistent gains from flagship programs for conserving and protecting the environment and natural resources.

The Enhanced Greening Program of the DENR facilitated the maintenance and protection of approximately 64,000 hectares (ha) of established plantations on denuded lands. Meanwhile, the Forest Protection Program significantly reduced illegal logging hotspot municipalities by 30 percent.²¹

Implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWMP).

On February 27, 2024, the Economy and Development Council (EDC)²² approved the IWMP as the overarching plan that aligns all existing sectoral plans into a unified strategy for managing water resources and achieving the country's water security agenda.

In line with the IWMP, all 40 water quality management areas under the Water Quality Management Program of DENR met the guideline values for pH and nitrates.



20 The NAP's eight sectors include: (a) Agriculture & Fisheries & Food Security; (b) Water Resources; (c) Health; (d) Ecosystems and Biodiversity; (e) Cultural Heritage, Population Displacement and Migration; (f) Land Use and Human Settlements; (g) Livelihoods and Industries; and (h) Energy, Transport and Communications.

21 From 10 illegal municipality hotspots to 7.

22 The EDC is the highest policy-making body of the country and is chaired by the President of the Philippines.



Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project

Coordinated investments in energy generation, transmission, and distribution.

As of November 27, 2024, the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop System has registered 2,793 projects and 1,783 proponents, with 7,523 applications currently being processed. Among these, 709 renewable energy contract applications have been approved. The Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project (MVIP) was energized on January 26, 2024, establishing a unified power grid, enabling the sharing of energy resources across the country. Alongside the full operation of MVIP, three additional transmission line projects have been completed and energized.²³ The modernization of the country's transmission infrastructure ensures the seamless integration of renewable energy (RE) capacities. As of December 2024, the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a total of 1,447 RE service projects, with 6.8 gigawatts (GW) installed and a further potential capacity of about 158 GW.²⁴

Demand-side management in the government sector through the Government Energy Management Program (GEMP).

As of October 31, 2024, the GEMP achieved an estimated energy savings of PHP407.6 million, with a reduction in electricity consumption of about 32.08 GWh and 576,695.41 liters of fuel.

Innovative approaches to air quality monitoring.

In 2024, DENR, together with Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), partnered with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through the Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Asian Air Quality (ASIA-AQ) in the conduct of advanced airborne and satellite-based data collection. This initiative aimed to enhance air quality monitoring and forecasting, leading to a more robust and comprehensive understanding of air pollution patterns. As of 2024, 65 percent of highly urbanized cities and other major urban centers monitored for air quality passed the ambient air quality guideline value for particulate matter 10 and 2.5.

Collaborative solutions that facilitate zero-waste to nature initiatives.

In compliance with the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Act, registered enterprises helped divert plastic waste leakage into the environment by recovering 23.7 percent of rigid packaging and 45.9 percent of flexible plastic packaging across 978 EPR programs in 2024.



DENR-EMB and Manila Observatory met with NASA to study atmosphere in Metro Manila through the ASIA-AQ mission.

²³ These include: (a) Cebu-Negros-Panay Backbone 230kV Transmission Line (TL) (April 2024); (b) Mariveles-Hermosa-San Jose, 500kV TL (June 2024); and (c) Cebu-Bohol interconnection, 230kV TL (November 2024).

²⁴ Department of Energy (n.d.). Summary of Renewable Energy (RE) Projects under the RE Act of 2008 as of 31 December 2024. Retrieved March 6, 2025, from <https://legacy.doe.gov.ph/renewable-energy/summary-of-re-projects?page=2>

SDG 5: Gender Equality

(Indicator 5.a.1.p1 on Number of agricultural and residential land free patents issued)

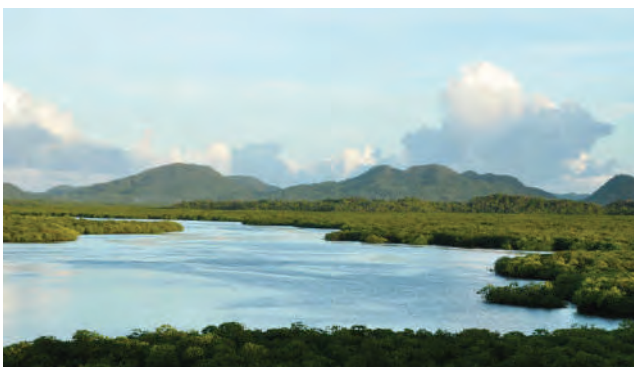
As of 2024, DENR has issued a total of 41,938 agricultural and residential free patents, with 21,069 awarded to females and 20,869 to males.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program continues to enhance the management of the country's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), encompassing 3.14 million ha. Additionally, the DENR maintained and improved management effectiveness of 33 existing MPAs and established 60 MPA networks (MPANs) through the program, to promote ecological connectivity and advance integrated seascape management.



Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve



Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve

Additionally, the DENR successfully translated its seascape conservation efforts into significant international recognitions, including the designation of two additional Ramsar Sites or Wetlands of International



Apo Reef Natural Park

Importance: (a) the Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve in Zamboanga Sibugay; and (b) the Del Carmen Mangrove Reserve within the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Surigao del Norte.

Three ASEAN Heritage Parks were also recognized: Apo Reef Natural Park, Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary, and Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park. These achievements underscore the Philippines' continued commitment to marine conservation, enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining ecosystem health. By garnering such prestigious recognitions, the country demonstrates its leadership in environmental stewardship and dedication to preserving natural resources for future generations.

The enactment of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Law²⁵ marks a pivotal step in creating the enabling framework for the nationwide implementation of the National Capital Accounts (NCA) in support of decision-making on policy and resource management.

The DENR, through the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes Project, formally launched the *Sukat ng Kalikasan* (High Conservation

²⁵ Republic Act No. 11995



Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary

Value Areas – Natural Capital Accounting Framework) toolkit in 2024, which will serve as a localized methodology for establishing site-specific ecosystem accounts in protected areas. This initiative completed two ecosystem accounts for two MPAs including the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Siargao and Masinloc, and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape in Zambales.

Investments in fishery infrastructure and support services have boosted the potential of the blue economy. The DA-BFAR has completed and operationalized 26 out of the 57 legislated hatcheries, while 19 are under construction, and 12 are in the pre-construction phase. In addition, the Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project has facilitated the adoption of the Fisheries Management Area (FMA) Framework Plan in FMAs 6 and 9.



Oyon Bay, Zambales



Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park

Emphasizing the importance of the Ridge-to-Reef approach in coastal management, the DENR established a National Natural Geospatial Database to undertake the mapping of rivers, water bodies, and mangroves in the country. In 2024, a total of 2,224 rivers and other water bodies and 235,043.87 ha of mangroves were mapped through the said initiative. Mangroves are productive salt-tolerant ecosystems that play a critical role in coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation.

The DENR and PhilSA also launched the satellite-derived National Mangrove Map of the Philippines in August 2024, which will serve as basis for making informed decisions and developing policies aimed at restoring and protecting Philippine mangroves.

In line with the whole-of-nation approach, the initiative likewise engaged both the private and public sectors, including individuals and organizations, in verifying existence of mangroves in a coastal area through an easy-to-use ODK collect app or by submitting drone images of local mangroves to the PhilSA.



Sustainable fishery practice under the FishCoRe program led by BFAR CALABARZON.



Box 4. Private Sector Participation in Advancing SDG 14

First Gen Corporation's Support for the Batangas Marine Protected Area and Bantay Dagat (Sea Patrol) Network

As part of a commitment to marine conservation, the First Gen Corporation (First Gen)²⁶ conducted initiatives in support of the Batangas Marine Protected Area (MPA) and *Bantay Dagat* Network (BDN). Through its 'Center of Center' Program, First Gen has contributed to strengthening marine law enforcement in the Province of Batangas. These initiatives support SDG indicator 14.5.1.p1 (Coverage of Marine Protected Areas in relation to Total Marine Areas) under SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

Efforts by the Batangas MPA and BDN to sustain the regular patrols of its *Bantay Dagat* Teams resulted in the reduction of illegal fishing incidents. This also led to an increase in fish catch and enhanced marine biodiversity in the area. From 2022 to 2025, official identification cards were issued to 1,236 *Bantay Dagat* members, empowering community volunteers to enforce marine laws and protect designated marine conservation areas.

In partnership with the UP Los Baños School of Environmental Science and Management, First Gen conducted a carrying capacity assessment of the mangrove forest in Barangay Lagadlarin for the Provincial Government of Lobo, Batangas. The learnings from this assessment were cascaded to the Batangas MPA and BDN. Additionally, First Gen partnered with Make A Difference Travel to develop a sustainable community-based eco-tourism package for Lobo, Batangas, along with an online adventure tourism program.

These initiatives have been recognized for its positive effect on marine protected areas. In 2022, a coral reef assessment carried out by the ABS-CBN Foundation in Lobo, Batangas revealed that study sites in the area yielded a hard coral cover of over 50 percent, higher than the national average of 22.8 percent. First Gen remains committed to its role as a technical partner of the Batangas MPA and BDN in marine conservation, particularly through its capacity-building initiatives.

Source: First Gen Corporation

26 A subsidiary of First Philippine Holdings.

3. Challenges and gaps in the sector

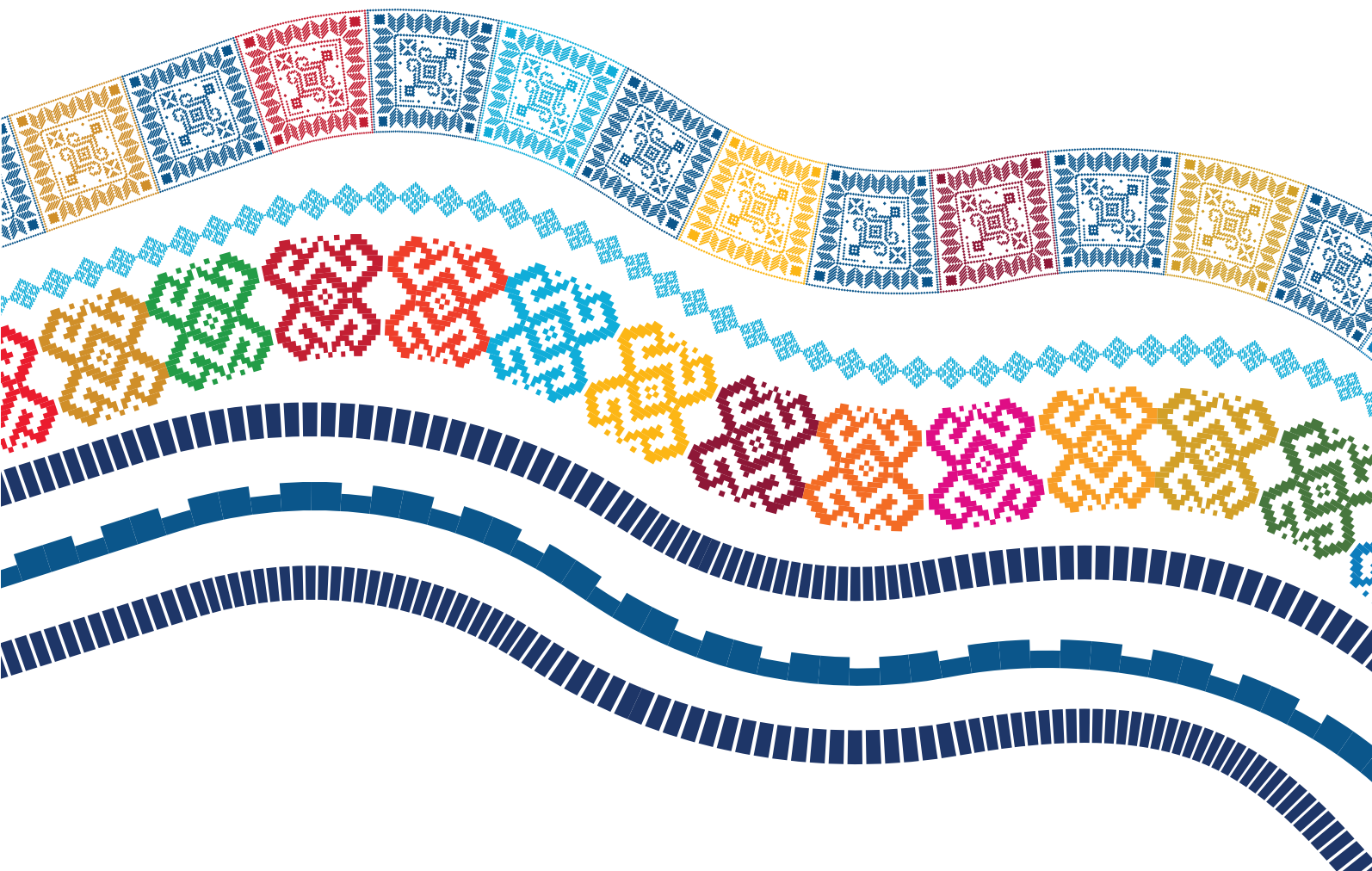
Intensifying impacts of climate change on natural resources greatly affect progress on Environment-related goals. A key lesson learned is that increasing resource mobilization contributes to conservation and management activities. Further studies are needed to establish the effectiveness of nature-based solutions vis-a-vis grey infrastructure in delivering climate action and disaster resilience.

Additionally, the lack of comprehensive and robust data hampers the effective and complete assessment and monitoring necessary for shaping sound policy and decision-making. This points to a need to integrate environmental and biodiversity sustainability into the country's economic framework through a data-driven approach. Long-term data series, ideally spanning 40 years, are often unavailable resulting

in dependence on estimates rather than accurate observations in conducting ecosystem service valuations.

Overexploitation and unsustainable use of natural resources increasingly compromise the natural barriers that serve as critical defenses against climate-induced disasters. The establishment of MPANs promotes ecological connectivity and advances integrated seascape management.

Developing blue carbon policies and frameworks will enhance blue carbon ecosystems and increase opportunities for food security and drive transformation into a blue economy.





4. Ways forward for the sector

SDG 14: Life Below Water

Towards efficient and sustainable management of our biodiversity from ridge-to-reef, the DENR will ensure that the implementation of the Philippine Biodiversity Action Plan is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, along with the inclusion of other effective area-based conservation measures.

Through the PENCAS Act, the Philippines will strengthen instrumentation and data collection mechanisms by: (a) introducing innovative tools for systematic data collection to enhance data-driven and science-based natural resources management; (b) mapping existing data sources to assess their frequency, scope, and quality for better integration into national accounting; and (c) identifying short-term priorities for data collection, while establishing long-term institutional mechanisms for sustainable data management.

To promote the uptake of the NCA in decision-making processes, the country will focus on the following initiatives: (a) conduct of studies/assessments on the integration of NCA in development, sectoral and spatial planning, policy and budgeting; (b) development of sectoral policy papers on NCA; and (c) integration in the Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment Statement System.

The country will also pursue the digitalization of ecological profiling, utilizing AI in climate disaster risk assessment, and the conduct of inventories using remote sensing.

To further build resilience of our seascapes, the government will establish eight marine scientific research stations in major marine biogeographic regions,²⁷ based on climate exposure clusters and coastal marine habitat distribution. The country will also endeavor to develop blue carbon conservation policies and frameworks to achieve food security and transformation into a blue economy.

27 The eight marine scientific research stations to be established include: a) Punta, Aparri, Cagayan; b) Brgy. Dibacong, Casiguran, Aurora; c) Brgy. Ngolos, Calicoan, Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar; d) Brgy. Lumbal, V. Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur; e) Brgy. Kawas, Alabel, Sarangani Province; f) El Nido, Palawan (co-managed); g) Pag-asa Island, Palawan (co-managed); and h) Nasugbu, Batangas (co-managed).

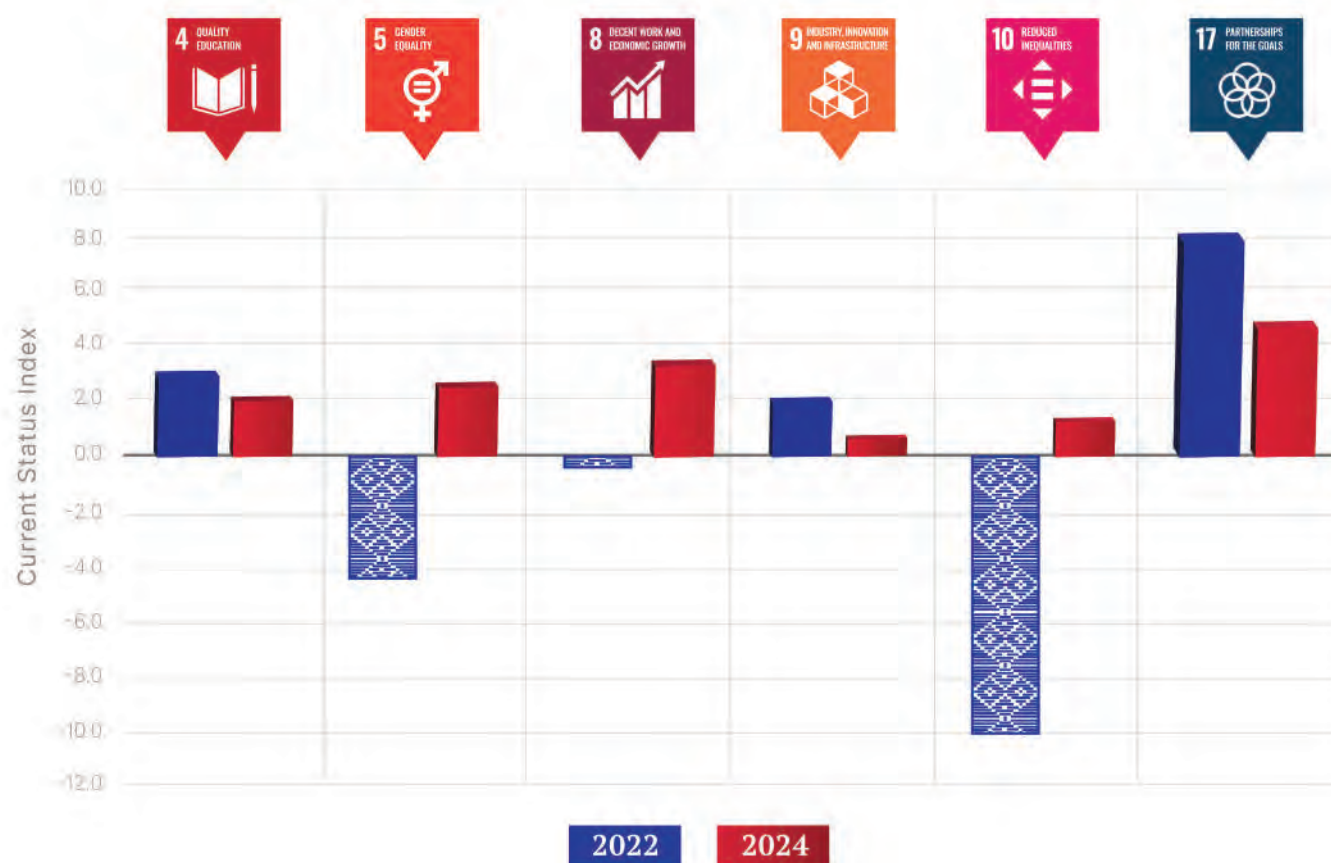
D. Progress in the Economic Sector

1. Status and trends

Analyzing the 2022 and 2024 Philippine SDG Pace of Progress for the Economic sector, progress was made in Goals 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). This achievement is attributed to the country's economic recovery post-COVID-19 crisis, evidenced by a 5.6 percent annual GDP growth in 2023. Although on track to meet its 2030 target, SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) slightly regressed. Notably, there was a significant increase in monitored indicators for this SDG – from one indicator in 2022 to 13 indicators in 2024 – though some indicators still have insufficient data to determine actual progress.

In general, all Goals under the economic sector recorded progress. Additional indicators were also monitored in all goals under the sector, following the enhanced statistical monitoring of SDG indicators by the PSA.

Figure 9. Comparison of the 2022 and 2024 Pace of Progress of Economic-related Goals



Note that the estimate is affected by the following: (a) the number of indicators which have updated data and available disaggregation in a particular year (PSA, 2023); (b) the 2030 numerical targets used for the two assessments; and (c) the baseline years used for the goal level estimates of the two assessments.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Progress at the Goal level

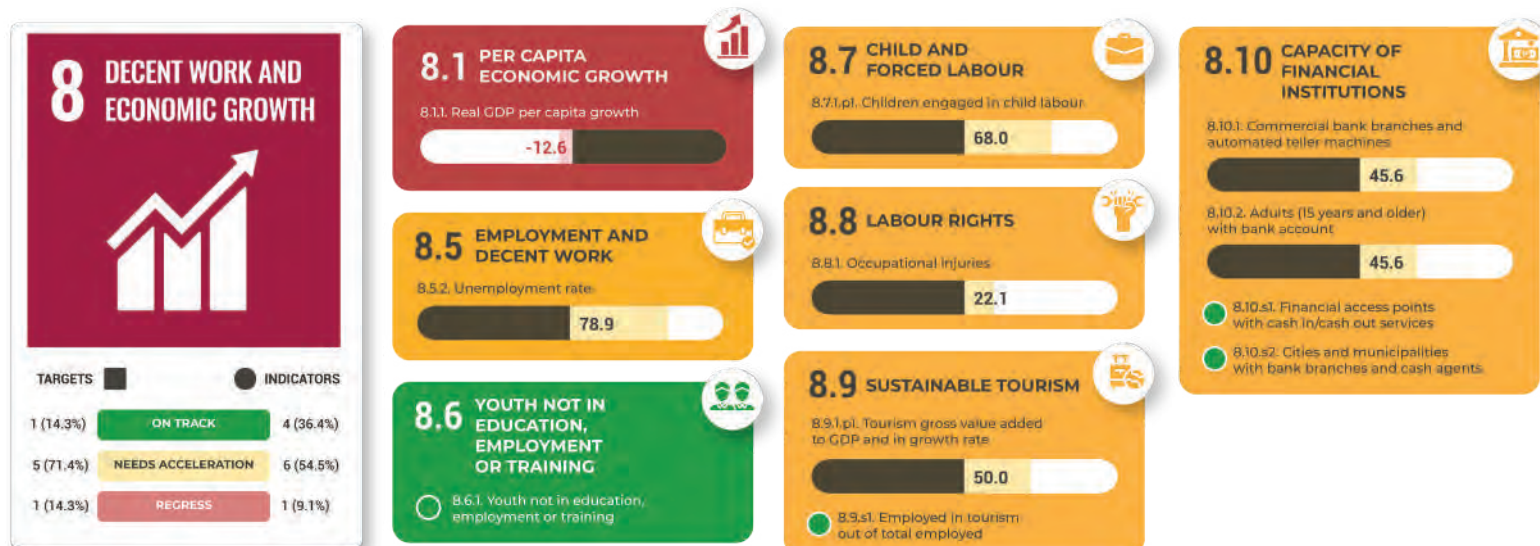
The country reported progress on SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), from 'regressing' status in 2022 to 'needs acceleration' in 2024. From five indicators initially monitored, there are currently 15 indicators with sufficient data reported to assess the progress of the goal.

Progress at the indicator level

Although there is general progress on all SDG 8 indicators even with the addition of ten new indicators, indicator 8.1.1 (Real GDP per capita growth) remains regressing, signifying that further effort is needed to boost economic performance. Remarkable improvement is recorded in indicator 8.5.2 (Youth not in education, employment, or training) from regressing status in 2022 to on track to meet its 2030 target. New indicators 8.9.s1 (Employed in tourism out of total employed), 8.10.s1 (financial access points with cash in/cash out services), and 8.10.s2 (cities and municipalities with bank branches and cash agents) are on track to meet the 2030 target, demonstrating the country's strength in implementing programs in the tourism and finance sector.



Figure 10. Anticipated Progress Index of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Target and Indicators Level



2. Key achievements and good practices

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

On Employment, beyond just generating employment, the Philippine government endeavors to create high quality and green jobs, with special emphasis on ensuring workers' welfare, competitiveness, and security in all sectors of the labor sector. With an aim to create at least three million new jobs by 2028,²⁸ the current administration has implemented significant reforms, formulated strategic plans, and expanded its operations.

The President signed into law RA 11962 or the *Trabaho Para sa Bayan*²⁹ (TPB) or the National Employment Master Plan Act on September 27, 2023. The law aims to address unemployment, underemployment, and other challenges in the labor market. The government conducted a public consultation in February 2024 and developed the TPB Implementing Rules and Regulations. From June to October 2024, DEPDev conducted regional consultations for the TPB Plan, the country's comprehensive labor market development plan. This plan outlines the cohesive and strategic framework to improve job opportunities and skills of the workforce. Programs on unemployment³⁰ were bolstered across implementing agencies. From 2022 to 2024, the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Public Employment Service



Office assisted 7.47 million jobseekers. In the same period, DOLE's Government Internship Program assisted 187,618 youth beneficiaries, which include those in the Alternative Learning System and in Technical-Vocational education.

The *Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD)* or the Emergency Employment Program is a community-based initiative that provides work opportunities and protects the rights of displaced, underemployed, and seasonal workers. It has two online platforms: (a) TUPAD Information Management System (TIMS), which tracks the status of implementation and deter the duplication of beneficiaries, and (b) TUPAD Funds Management System (TFMS) that monitors the utilization of funds. From 2022-2024, the program has assisted 11,548,864 beneficiaries.³¹



TUPAD Program to support agricultural community in Zambales.

Under the DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program, a total of 270,902 households were assisted through Micro-enterprise and Employment Facilitation Track. Meanwhile, the *Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP)*³² served 5,073,000 beneficiaries in 2024.

28 Speech by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. at the 2024 National Employment Summit. (2024).

29 "Trabaho para sa Bayan" in Filipino translates to "Jobs for the People" in English

30 SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate

31 Breakdown of beneficiaries: Female: 5,942,609; Male: 5,606,255

32 In English, this translates to "Assistance for Individuals with Insufficient Income."



AKAP beneficiaries to receive their financial assistance from the DSWD in Davao City.

TESDA's Online Program (TOP) is a web-based platform that offers free Massive Open Online Courses to support the technical education and skills development of the Filipino workers. The program recorded 1,511,768 enrollees and 1,078,009 completers in 2024. Graduates of Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Programs posed an 83.34 percent employment rate, based on a 2024 Study on Employment of TVET Graduates. The number of TVET Trainers trained significantly increased from 5,905 in 2023 to 12,827 in 2024. This is attributed to the intensified funding initiatives that expanded access to the number of sponsored programs accessible to participants.



On tourism, the Department of Tourism's (DOT) strengthened implementation of its programs contributed to the progress in the tourism sector.³³



Central Luzon - Philippine Experience Program

The Filipino Brand of Service Excellence Training Program trained 266,899 personnel in tourism and other industries. In partnership with Klook,³⁴ the Philippine Experience Program: Culture, Heritage, and Arts Caravans was conducted in 11 regions. Through the DOT's international participation in travel expos and travel marts, the government secured commitments amounting to PHP2.3 billion in sales leads. Fifteen LGUs (5 for Luzon, 5 for Visayas, and 5 for Mindanao) were granted a cumulative total of PHP255 million in grants under the Tourism Champions Challenge.



33 SDG 8.9.S1 Proportion of employed ion tourism out of total employed and SDG 8.9.1.p1 Share of tourism GVA to DGP.
 34 Klook is an online travel company that tourists use to book activities, transportation, accommodation. Klook is available through its website or mobile application.



Young women entrepreneurs at the Paleng-QR Ph Plus launch in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental.

On access to finance, the Paleng-QR Ph Plus Program³⁵ of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* improved the access to financial services³⁶ of Filipinos. Under this program, 169 LGUs conducted launch activities and/or issued policies in support of the program, resulting in a cumulative total of 174,201 merchant and personal accounts opened. The program is a joint initiative between the BSP and the DILG, which aims to promote financial inclusion through the use of digital payments in local markets.



SETUP Program beneficiary in Pangasinan.

On boosting MSME resilience. The Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) aims to boost MSME productivity and competitiveness through technological innovations. It provides a wide range of science and technology (S&T) solutions such as technology transfer and commercialization, consultancy services, packaging assistance, technology training, laboratory and testing services and innovation fund.

As of October 2024, the program extended S&T assistance to 162,401 firms/entities, generated 320,464 jobs, delivered 164,060 technology interventions, and provided funds amounting to PHP9.371 billion.



Tarlac State University and DOST assisted Indigenous Peoples' products through CEST project in Tarlac.

The Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) provides a package of science, technology, and innovation (STI)-based solutions and interventions to partner communities nationwide. It covers the following niches: health and nutrition, water and sanitation, basic education and literacy, livelihood/economic enterprise development, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The program has assisted 744 municipalities and communities through fora and workshops on economic livelihood, provision of technologies, trainings on technology, packaging, and labeling, and capacity-building activities on DRRM, among others.

A total of 106 DRRM-related technologies were given to regions such as automated rain gauges, water level monitoring systems, rescue boats, solar lamps, and dual radios were given to regions. To boost STEM education and access to learning materials, 297 units of STARBOOKS were provided, particularly for geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). Furthermore, the program also helped provide direct employment to 618 people in CEST-assisted communities.

³⁵ Cashless payments in public markets and local transportation program.

³⁶ SDG 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (aged 15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile money service provider.



Box 5. Non-government Organizations' Participation in Advancing SDGs 5, 8, and 17

Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture's (PPSA) ASEAN Green Recovery through Equity and Empowerment (AGREE): GrowHer Training of Trainers (ToT)

The AGREE project³⁷ supports low-carbon transition through gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies within agricultural value chains, focusing on vegetables, rice, and yellow corn commodities in Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, respectively. The project mapped existing initiatives from profit and non-profit sectors relevant to inclusive, climate-smart approaches in the selected value chains using various research methodologies. To translate research into action, the learnings were socialized through pro-active engagement activities that resulted in piloting innovative approaches utilizing the blended resources from the public and private sectors to test solutions in Cambodia and the Philippines.

In the Philippines, the PPSA implemented the GrowHer ToT program, which built the capacities of women farmer leaders on climate-smart farming techniques, entrepreneurship, digital marketing, and community leadership. The training program covers three modules, namely: (a) Climate Change in Agriculture; (b) Climate-Smart Farming Practices; and (c) Agripreneurship. Upon completion of the program, participants are expected to cascade lessons learned to their respective communities. The project is aligned with SDG indicator 8.5.2 (Unemployment Rate) under SDG 8, while supporting the attainment of SDGs 5 and 17.

In 2024, 32 women farmer leaders from Region II (Cagayan Valley) and Region X (Northern Mindanao) completed the GrowHer ToT program. These women went on to train nearly 440 farmers from their respective communities. Through this approach, the program aims to scale and multiply impact, by reaching new groups, in other locations where corn is cultivated. It demonstrates the business case and effectiveness of investing in women leaders in fostering climate-smart agricultural development.

Building on the success of the GrowHer ToT program, the PPSA secured new funding to develop an off-shoot project in Cagayan Valley, called 'Scaling Up Sustainability (SUS): Training 100 Filipino Farmers on Climate-Smart Practices and Entrepreneurship. This initiative aims to further enhance capacities of the GrowHer ToT program graduates by providing advanced mentorship, equipping them to serve as champions of climate-smart agriculture and agripreneurship. It also aims to foster a thriving community of practice that promotes gender-responsive agriculture and entrepreneurship, driving sustainable impact within their communities.

Source: PPSA

37 AGREE is a project funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and implemented by Grow Asia and its country partnerships, Cambodia Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (CPSA), Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture in Vietnam (PSAV) and PPSA.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

To address the decreasing number of women in managerial positions,³⁸ the DOLE strengthened its Career Development Support Program (CDSP).³⁹ From 2022-2024, a total of 771,846 women were assisted through the program's Career Guidance Advocacies. Meanwhile, 1.45 million women were supported under its Employment Coaching track during the same period.

Under the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Empowering Local MSMEs and Women Entrepreneurs Train for Success, Access a Wider Market, Amplify Philippine-Made Products, and Sustain Growth (E-TAAS), a total of 393 women entrepreneurs were trained and onboarded to digital platforms, resulting to about PHP9.3 million sales generated.



E-TAAS ang Pinay MSMEs Training conducted by the DTI Philippine Trade Training Center for women entrepreneurs from the MIMAROPA Region.

The program aims to equip women-led businesses with digital tools to enhance market reach and boost online sales.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

In its effort to boost government revenue, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has intensified efforts to combat the proliferation of ghost receipts by leveraging data analytics and mathematics.⁴⁰ The Run After Fake Transactions (RAFT) initiative recorded PHP3.4 billion total tax liabilities collected from October 2023 to October 2024. Furthermore, the BIR has partnered with the Ateneo de Manila University – Department of Mathematics to develop an algorithm that will detect companies using fake receipts.

On capital market development, the 2025 Fiscal Risks Statement⁴¹ reports that market reception to the government's issuances of retail instruments (e.g., retail treasury bonds, retail dollar bonds, and *premyo* or prize bonds) has been robust over the years. Retail issuances in 2023 and early 2024 raised PHP323.9 billion and PHP584.9 billion, respectively. Effective financial literacy drives, and the surge of online ordering platforms have supported financial inclusion and made investments in retail securities more attractive to small savers and overseas workers.

38 SDG 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

39 The CDSP is a public employment service which aims to address gaps in employability dimensions (i.e., personal and environmental factors, job objectives, skills and requirements to perform the job, job search skills, and ability to maintain job) through career, vocational, and employment counseling.

40 SDG 17.3.1 Total government revenue as a proportion to GDP

41 Development Budget Coordination Committee. 2025 Fiscal Risks Statement. Manila: Department of Finance, December 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.treasury.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FY-2025-Fiscal-Risk-Statement.pdf>



3. Challenges and gaps in the sector

Issues on gender wage gap and delays in career advancement of women due to marriage and childbirth are still persistent even with the institutionalization of anti-discrimination laws and gender-equality policies. The Philippine Commission on Women has identified the increase of unpaid domestic care work as an emerging gender issue based on global, regional, and national trends. According to a survey by UN Women, longer hours devoted to unpaid care and domestic work lessen rural women's time to participate in economically productive activities.⁴²

The disparity in economic opportunities between men and women is observed in both the public and private sectors. In the public sector, there is a lack of enforcement mechanisms and an absence of dedicated focal/s (plantilla positions) for GAD within the human resource offices of national government agencies, LGUs, and other government instrumentalities. In the labor market, a 2019 study by DEPDev highlights that stereotyped gender roles and patriarchal mindsets that assign women to domestic and reproductive roles, and

men to economic and productive roles have weakened the participation of women in economic activities and market work.

The impact of human-induced disasters and natural calamities on workers has also been more prevalent in recent years. The emergence and re-emergence of diseases, global conflicts, and climate change significantly affect workers by causing job loss, income disruption, physical injuries, mental health issues, and disruption in work environment. This often leads to decreased productivity and overall economic hardship.

There is a need to intensify programs and policies that support the upskilling and re-skilling efforts in the Philippines. This will ensure seamless career transition, enhance the agility of the workforce, and enable them to adapt to evolving technologies.

The operationalization of a productive, equitable, and simple tax system and other sources of revenues is necessary to fund sustainable development policies and programs. Finance institutions, such as BIR, DOF, and the BSP should harmonize their programs and strategies to achieve this.

42 UN Women. Rapid Assessment Surveys on the Consequences of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific. 2020.

4. Ways forward for the sector

The Philippine government will endeavor to increase investments in industries that provide high-quality employment through the implementation of ease of doing business initiatives. The government will likewise design sector-specific programs, that address the needs of industries in identified key employment generators and emerging sectors.

The government will enhance policies and programs on upskilling and retooling in areas such as the use of technology, data analytics, and critical thinking, and strengthen partnerships among educational institutions, industries, and LGUs. This will capacitate the workforce to adapt and navigate the changing job markets, enabling smoother career transitions and providing greater stability for individuals within their roles, even as industry demands evolve. A Lifelong Learning Development Framework that is accessible to persons from all walks of life will be developed and implemented in cities, municipalities, and educational institutions.

Female participation in the labor force will be increased through policies that support flexible work arrangements, address gendered social norms, and enhance childcare support.

Implementing agencies will regularly conduct evaluations of flagship labor programs to assess the programs' relevance, performance, efficiency, and impact in relation to the SDGs. Digitalization will be leveraged to streamline labor market information systems. The Philippine Qualifications Register will be enhanced to make it user-friendly, expand its accessibility, and implement quality assurance mechanisms to attract industry collaboration.

To boost domestic savings and financial inclusion, the government will ensure full implementation and monitoring of the Ease of Paying Taxes Act and enhance the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) Retail Treasury Bonds program. This will be done by leveraging financial technology and promoting financial literacy among non-traditional investors.

The government will implement measures that will diversify sources of financing, through innovative and whole-of-society approaches and maintain prudent debt management. Private-Public Partnership (PPP) will be promoted as an alternative mode of procurement to finance, build, and operate projects that foster collaboration with the private sector. Partnerships with local and international development partners for funding projects will also be maximized.



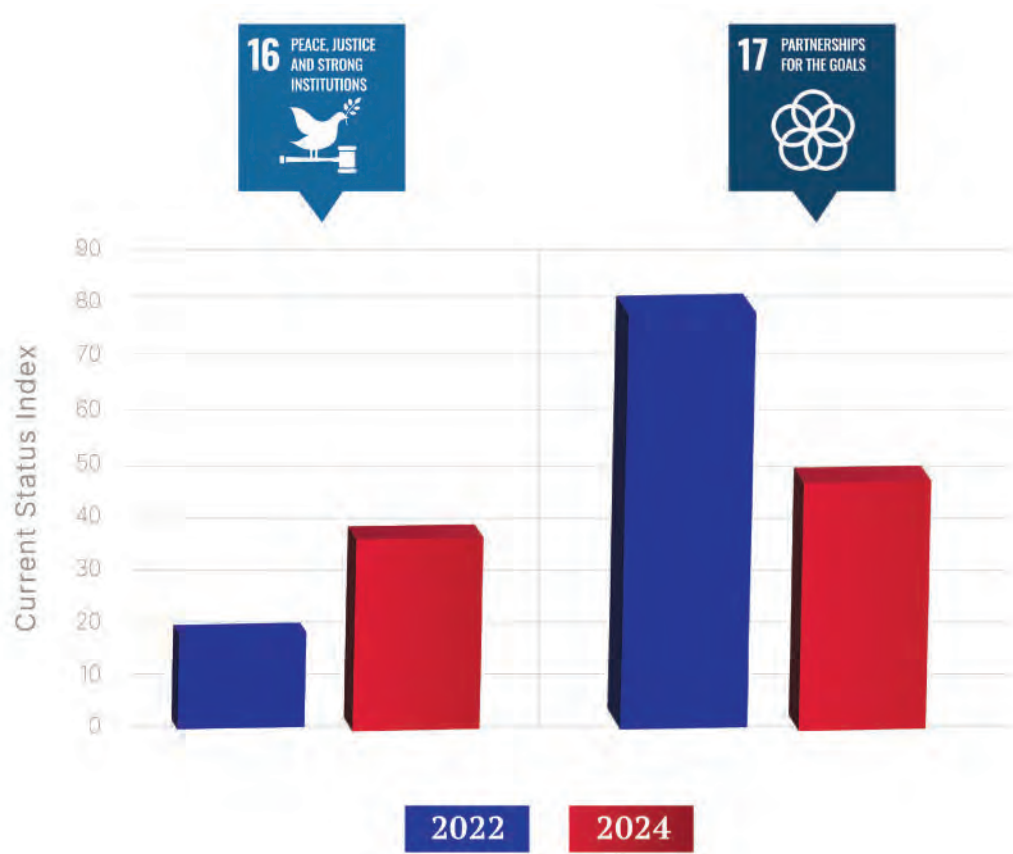
E. Progress in the Peace, Security, and Governance Sector (PSG)

1. Status and trends

A comparison of the 2022 and 2024 Philippine SDG Pace of Progress for the PSG sector shows advancements in Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), due to the establishment of new justice zones and enhanced threat detection measures. These efforts have contributed to a greater sense of public safety.

Despite being on track to meet the 2030 target, Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) experienced a slight decline in progress. This regression may be attributed to an increase in the number of monitored indicators, from one in 2022 to four in 2024, with most indicators still lacking sufficient data to determine actual progress.

Figure 11. Comparison of the 2022 and 2024 Pace of Progress for PSG-related Goals



Note: The estimate is affected by the following: (a) the number of indicators which have updated data and available disaggregation in a particular year (PSA, 2023); (b) the 2030 numerical targets used for the two assessments; and (c) the baseline years used for the goal level estimates of the two assessments.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

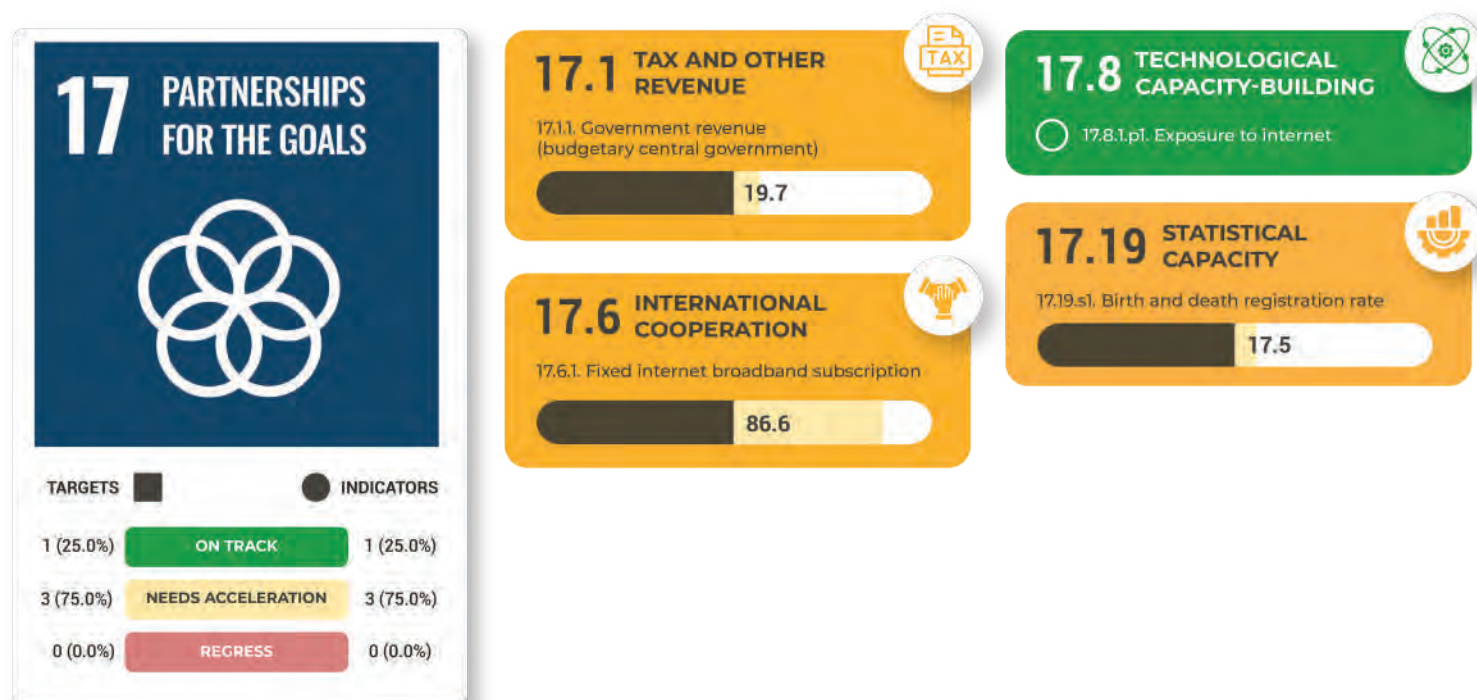
Progress at the Goal level. In 2024, Goal 17 declined by 3.2 points in its CSI, moving further from the expected progress. The number of monitored indicators increased from one in 2022 to four in 2024, but the limited data coverage hinders accurate progress assessment.

Progress at the indicator level. Among the four indicators assessed, only one indicator 17.8.1.p1 (Exposure to internet) is on track . Meanwhile, three indicators need acceleration:

- 17.1.1 (Government revenue);
- 17.6.1 (Fixed internet broadband subscription); and
- 17.19.s1 (Birth and death registration).



Figure 12. Anticipated Progress Index of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), Targets and Indicators Level



2. Key achievements and good practices

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

The Philippines has made notable progress in strengthening its justice system and enhancing public safety. Several initiatives have been implemented to ensure responsive and real-time justice services, crime prevention, and increased public confidence in security measures. These efforts aim to ensure that no one is left behind in accessing justice.

Creation of new Justice Zones. Justice Zones serve as local coordination hubs that facilitate a more efficient and accountable justice system. Since the inception of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council, 16 Justice Zones have been established nationwide, reinforcing the government's commitment to accessible and effective legal processes.

The latest Justice Zones launched in September 2024 include Cagayan de Oro, Ozamis, and Iligan City. These areas have been designated as Special Justice Zones for Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) due to a high volume of related cases. Other specialized Justice Zones include:

- Zamboanga City as Anti-Trafficking in Persons Justice Zone;
- Tagaytay City as Economic Tourism Justice Zone; and
- Puerto Princesa City as Green Justice Zone.

These Justice Zones address localized legal challenges through collaborative governance, enhancing judicial efficiency and responsiveness.



Tri-City Justice Zone launched in Northern Mindanao.

Strengthened crime prevention and threat detection. The Barangay Information Network (BIN) and Intensified Detection and Exposure to Thwart Emerging Community Threats (I-DETECT) Program has significantly expanded intelligence coverage across the country:

- 256,528 zones, puroks, and sitios now have BIN/I-DETECT units;
- 206,305 units were established between 2021 and 2024; and
- 94,363 new units were added in 2024 alone.

This proactive strategy has improved crime monitoring and enhanced threat detection, preventing organized crime, insurgency, terrorism, and other threats to national security from escalating.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The Philippines continues to strengthen partnerships to enhance national identity registration, civil documentation, and inclusive public service delivery. These efforts are crucial in reducing inequalities, ensuring digital access to government

services, and providing legal identity to all, in particular, marginalized groups such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and underserved communities.



A mother shows the ePhilID of her newborn at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

PhilSys Birth Registration Assistance Project (PBRAP). Implemented in 2022, the PBRAP ensures that all Filipino births are registered with the Local Civil Registry Offices and enrolled in the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys). As of January 31, 2025:

- 1,510,361 out of the 1,511,147 birth records submitted by regions have been verified;
- 1,253,987 birth records were found to be negative in the civil registry system database; and
- 227,326 Certificates of Live Birth were issued free of charge to beneficiaries.

Through digitalized birth registration processes, this initiative significantly benefits IPs, Muslim Filipinos, and low-income families by providing them with legal identity and access to social benefits. The integration of mobile registration units, such as the PhilSys on Wheels, has further accelerated the inclusion of remote and underserved communities.⁴³

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Strategic Plan 2023-2028. The CRVS Strategic Plan enhances birth, death, and marriage registration. Key progress includes:

- Approval and implementation of the CRVS Strategic Plan 2023-2028;



PSA conducted a back-to-back birth and National ID registration at Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, Santa Cruz, Manila on December 26, 2024.

- Integration of CRVS indicators into the Seal of Good Local Governance, pending approval from the Council of Good Local Governance;
- Collaboration with Department of Education (DepEd) to include CRVS education in secondary school curricula; and
- Strengthening partnerships with Department of Health (DOH) to improve birth and death registration records.

Birth registration abroad and ending statelessness. Recognizing the plight of undocumented Filipinos abroad, the government launched a birth registration drive in Sabah. As a result:

- 17,976 delayed birth registrations were facilitated, including 4,510 Reports of Birth and 2,005 Certificates of Live Birth (COLBs), by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA);
- 11,461 COLBs were issued by the PSA; and
- 7,074 national ID (PhilID) registrations were processed, and 2,998 PhilIDs were released to the Embassy of the Philippines in Kuala Lumpur and/or document owners.

These efforts ensure that undocumented individuals gain legal identity and access to essential public services, reducing the risk of statelessness towards leaving no one behind.

43 Philippine Information Agency. <https://mirror.pia.gov.ph/news/2023/09/20/psa-launches-philsys-on-wheels>.

Laws on Civil Registration and Identity Rights. Several laws have been enacted to strengthen civil registration and ensure the recognition of identity rights:

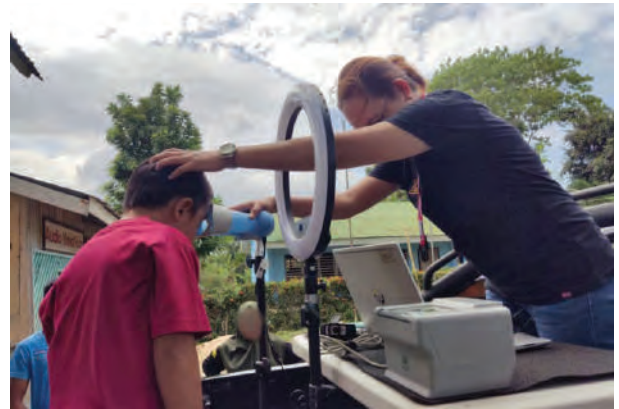
- a. **Foundling Recognition and Protection Act.**⁴⁴ The law ensures that no abandoned or deserted child is born stateless. It is an ongoing birth registration initiative for unregistered children, particularly those in conflict-affected areas like Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

In 2022, the Supreme Court en banc approved the Rule on Facilitated Naturalization of Refugees and Stateless Persons, marking the first judiciary-led initiative on statelessness at the global level.

- b. **Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage Act.**⁴⁵ Lapsed into law on July 28, 2022, this legislation declares the permanent validity of birth, death, and marriage certificates. It eliminates the need for repeated reissuance and ensures free issuance of civil registry documents for indigents. However, implementation data is not yet available as guidelines are still pending.



A Filipino residing in Malaysia registered to PhilSys.



A child from Barangay Landugan in Lantawan, Basilan registers to PhilSys through PhilSys on Wheels.

The Philippines continues to advance Goals 16 and 17 through strategic initiatives, legislative reforms, and strengthened partnerships. By integrating digitalization into governance and public service initiatives, the country ensures that no one is left behind in accessing legal identity, justice, and security. The establishment of Justice Zones, crime prevention programs, and the expansion of birth registration initiatives underscore the Philippines' commitment to inclusive, digital, and sustainable development.

44 Republic Act No. 11767

45 Republic Act No. 11909



Box 6. Private Sector Participation in Advancing SDG 17

PLDT and Smart Communications' IDEATe Program

Formerly called Infoteach, IDEATe is a multi-awarded program of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Smart Communications (Smart). The program provides access to the skills, digital tools, and opportunities for all sectors to fully participate in the digital economy by promoting economic, social, and educational equity. Through IDEATe, PLDT and Smart design and execute programs for people with disabilities, Indigenous People groups, and senior citizens. In collaboration with government and non-government organizations, and advocacy groups, PLDT and Smart provided training on Android Accessibility and Digital Business Basics for people in the vulnerable sectors.

Among its partners are the Filipina Homebased Moms (FHMoms), Life Haven, ATRIEV, Persons with Disability Affairs Office of Dasmarinas City, DepEd School Division Office of Valenzuela, NORFIL Foundation/Liliane Fonds, and Voice Philippines.

From 2022 to 2024, the following are IDEATe's notable accomplishments: (a) 310 persons with disabilities were trained on Digital Business



Basics (June-December); (b) 85 persons with visual impairment were trained on Android Accessibility (June to December); (c) 51 women with disabilities or carers of persons with disabilities granted with scholarship to attend and complete courses on remote technology jobs (October to December); (d) 301 senior citizens trained on basic digital literacy (2024); (e) more than 1,800 employees attended disability sensitivity sessions online and face-to-face (December 2022 to December 2024); and (f) 985 employees and contractors attended the Cultural Sensitivity Orientation (October to December).

Source: PLDT and Smart

3. Challenges and gaps in the sector

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Civil Registration and Legal Identity Challenges

For Goal 17, challenges in civil registration persist, including errors in birth certificates and low birth registration rates in GIDAs. These issues prevent many Filipinos from accessing legal identity and essential social services, reinforcing cycles of exclusion and vulnerability.

Addressing these gaps through increased funding, stronger institutional coordination, and expanded digitalization efforts will be critical to accelerating SDG progress and ensuring no one is left behind.

4. Ways forward for the sector

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen civil registration services

The government will continue to implement the PSA's birth registration project and the mobile registration programs of LGUs. The government will also target to register undocumented Filipinos in Sabah.



IV

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Policy and Institutional Frameworks

1. Policy Framework

Recognizing the need for localized efforts to attain the global agenda, the Philippines embedded the SDGs within its national and subnational planning frameworks and sectoral plans. These frameworks set the direction for attaining inclusive growth, reducing inequalities, and promoting environmental sustainability.

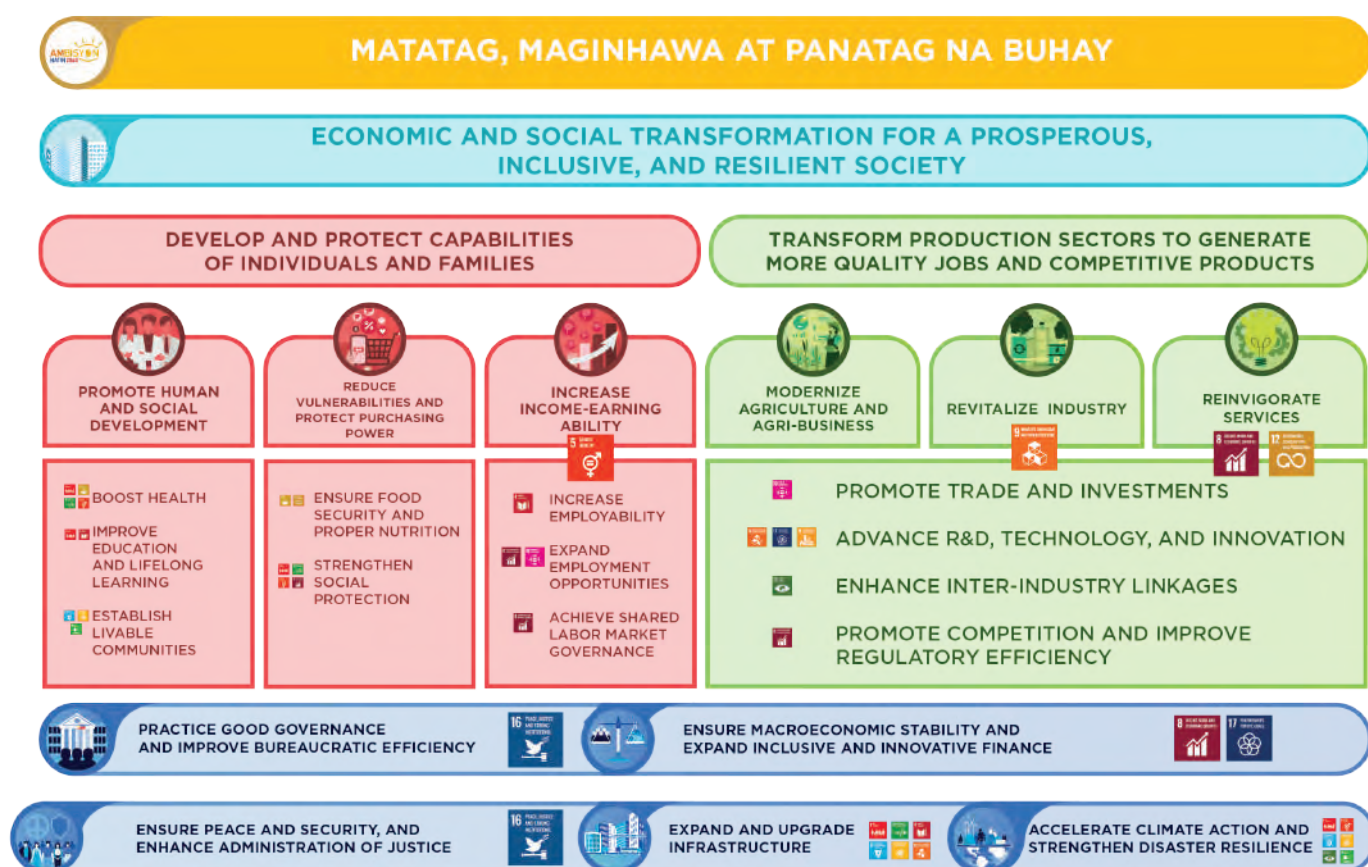
The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and its accompanying documents. Executive Order No. 27, s. 2017, highlighted the importance of the SDGs in the formulation and implementation of the PDP 2017-2022 and its accompanying Public Investment Program (PIP). Bolstered by strengthened Institutional Frameworks on the SDGs (*See Section III. A. 2.*), the succeeding PDP 2023-2028 adopted 79 out of 157 indicators in the Plan's accompanying results matrix.

Subnational Development Plans and Sectoral Plans. The SDGs were also integrated into the Regional Development Plans (RDPs). This sets forth the region's priority local development agenda across the country, while also ensuring strategic alignment with the PDP.

The cross-sectoral nature of the SDGs likewise requires its mainstreaming in the government's various sectoral plans. Through the Subcommittee on the SDGs (SC-SDG) Secretariat's efforts, various Philippine government agencies have anchored their plans on the 2030 Agenda.



Figure 13. The PDP 2023-2028 Framework with the SDGs



2. Institutional Framework

The Subcommittee on the SDGs and its Technical Working Groups

In 2019, the Philippines established a dedicated SC-SDG and strategically placed it under the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC). The DBCC is the inter-agency body responsible for setting the overall fiscal policy and budget framework of the government. Placing the SC-SDG under the DBCC ensures that resources are allocated to support programs and projects that accelerate the SDGs.

The SC-SDG, which has four TWGs,⁴⁶ carries out the SC-SDG carries out the following tasks: (a) coordination of SDG implementation in the Philippines through semestral meetings; (b) coordination, monitoring, and recommendation of

policies, programs, activities, and projects; (c) provision of support, guidance, and oversight on the integration of the SDGs in national development plans; (d) coordination of inter-sectoral concerns between the economic, environment, social, and PSG sectors; (e) disseminates information on and advocating for the SDGs; and (f) review of SDG-relevant national reports such as the Voluntary National Review.

⁴⁶ The Four TWGs are: (a) Social, (b) Environment, (c) Economic, and (d) Peace, Security and Governance (PSG).

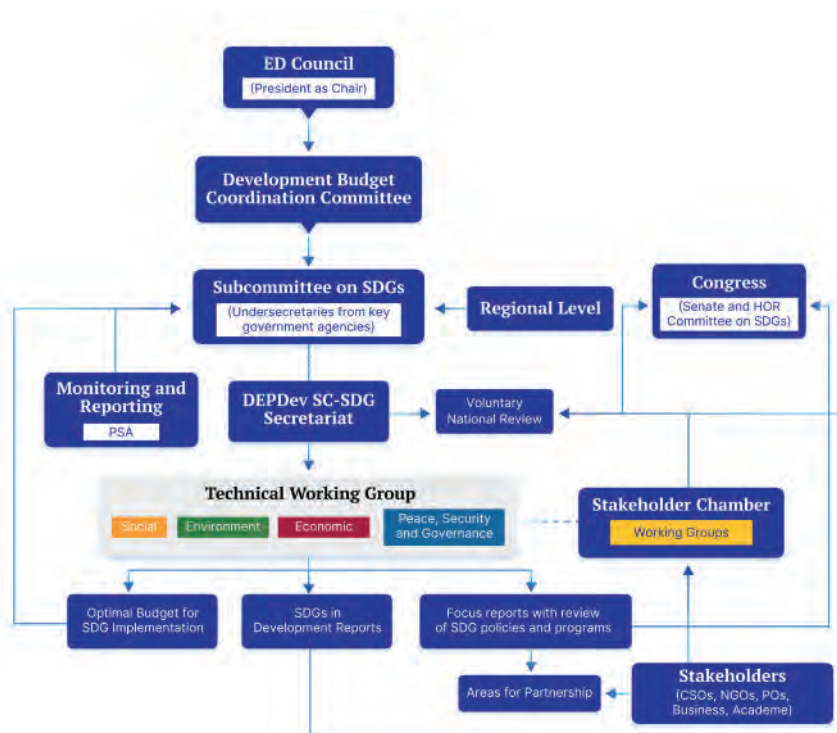
The establishment of the Chamber marks a significant milestone in the country's sustainable development. This Chamber is the first multi-stakeholder formation on sustainable development, where knowledge sharing, consultation, and collaboration can take place among government and

non-government actors. Moreover, the Philippines recognized the countless untapped investments and even greater potential of stakeholders, which will go a long way in accelerating progress and regaining the lost momentum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At present, the Chamber is an institutionalized mechanism for non-government actors to collaborate with the government, aligning efforts and matching resources to achieve the SDGs.

The National Chamber was initially composed of 42 members from the private sector, civil society, the academe, media, trade unions, youth organizations, and vulnerable sectors. In 2023, the Chamber expanded its membership to 65, prioritizing representation from basic and vulnerable sectors. Members were selected based on merit criteria co-developed with the SC-SDG Secretariat. This expansion enhances inclusive and diverse representation, providing its members with a platform to drive sustainable development outcomes in the country.

Figure 14. SC-SDG Coordination Structure



In August 2023, the Chamber established its Working Groups (WGs), mirroring the SC-SDG TWGs for Social, Environment, Economic, and PSG. This arrangement ensures structural and policy coherence across these sectors. Additionally, two functional WGs for Measurement and Monitoring, and Communications and Advocacy were created to support SDG promotion and advocacy programs, monitor the Chamber Roadmap implementation (See Section IV.A.3), and track SDG progress in the country.

Regional Chambers

To support SDG implementation at the subnational level, the DEPDev SC-SDG Secretariat facilitated the localization of the Stakeholders' Chamber through consultations with DEPDev Regional Offices. Leveraging existing mechanisms and Private Sector Representatives of the Regional Development Councils (RDCs),⁴⁷ the Regional Stakeholders' Chambers were established under the RDCs. These regional chambers will serve as partners of the local government and regional line agencies in implementing SDG initiatives. These mechanisms aim to foster partnerships and promote local ownership of the SDGs, complementing implementation of the RDPs and Regional SDG Catch-up Plans (See Section IV.A.3).

Fifteen regions have established their Regional Stakeholders' Chambers. These Chambers are expected to actively engage in implementing Regional SDG Catch-up Plans to address the lagging SDGs as the 2030 deadline approaches.



NEDA Central Luzon convened an organizational meeting for its Regional SDG Stakeholders' Chamber on September 25, 2024.

Regional Special Committees on the SDGs

In March 2020, DEPDev issued a memorandum directing all of its regional offices to facilitate the formation of Regional Special Committees on the SDGs (RSC-SDG) under the RDCs.

Lodged under the RDCs, these RSC-SDGs focus on identifying and addressing gaps in current policies and programs that are essential for driving progress on the SDGs. This is done through engaging local governments and stakeholders. This decentralized approach encourages ownership and accountability at all levels, fostering an inclusive and participatory process for sustainable development.

To date, 12 out of 15 regions have established their Regional Committees on the SDGs. The RDCs of Region I (Ilocos Region), Region VII (Central Visayas Region), and Region XI (Davao Region) have opted to leverage the existing Sectoral Committees under their respective RDCs to discuss and effectively address matters related to the SDGs.

47 RDCs are the highest policy-making and coordinating body for regional development in the Philippines.

3. Ownership and Localization

Localization of SDG indicators

The Regional Committees on the SDGs identified and localized SDG indicators from the Philippines' national SDG Indicator Framework (See Section IV.C.5) to tailor fit the regional landscape. These localized indicators were integrated in the respective RDPs.

Localizing SDG initiatives through Regional SDG Catch-up Plans

The 2022 VNR identified localization as a vital prerequisite to achieving the sustainable development agenda. In pursuit of localizing the SDGs and addressing the disparities in SDG progress among regions, DEPDev initiated a coordinated and strategic effort, commencing with three pilot regions representing each major island group of the country (Regions III, VIII, and SOCCSKSARGEN), in the formulation of Regional SDG Catch-up Plans. These plans are designed to be forward-looking, emphasizing on the following key areas:

- Assessment of overall regional performance across all SDGs;
- Identification of issues, challenges, and cross-cutting barriers affecting progress;

- Comprehensive review and gap analysis of existing programs, activities, and projects that contribute to the attainment of the SDGs;
- Discussion of initiatives and opportunities that can be leveraged to accelerate progress towards the SDGs; and
- Indicative strategies, policies, programs, activities, and projects that will help the region catch up and achieve desired targets and outcomes by 2030.

Currently, all 15 regions have formulated their Catch-up Plans, for implementation from 2025 to 2030. The Secretariat of the SC-SDG (at the national level) and the Secretariats of the RDCs (at the regional level) will work together and leverage existing mechanisms such as the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System. This will allow regular assessment on the implementation of the Catch-up Plans and ensure that regressing goals in the regions are addressed and accelerated.





Box 7. The SOCCSKSARGEN SDG Catch-up Plan

The SOCCSKSARGEN's “Goals for a Better World”

The SOCCSKSARGEN Region, located in southernmost Philippines, is comprised of four provinces and one city: South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City. It was one of the pilot regions for the formulation of the Regional SDG Catch-up Plans. On March 20, 2024, the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Council approved and adopted their SDG Regional Catch-up Plan, entitled “Goals for a Better World,” through RDC Resolution No. 48-2024. This marked the culmination of the region’s work, which started in August 2023, in assessing and analyzing their collective efforts toward the attainment of the SDGs using the UN ESCAP’s EPiC tool and the National SC-SDG Secretariat’s SDG Planning Tool.

As contained in their Catch-up Plan, there are nine indicators which have been lagging in the region, while 18 need acceleration. This plan serves as the region’s roadmap to address constraints that hinder progress on these indicators. The plan also outlines specific strategies and initiatives that will guide the region in areas such as poverty reduction, quality education, gender equality, climate action, and sustainable economic growth.

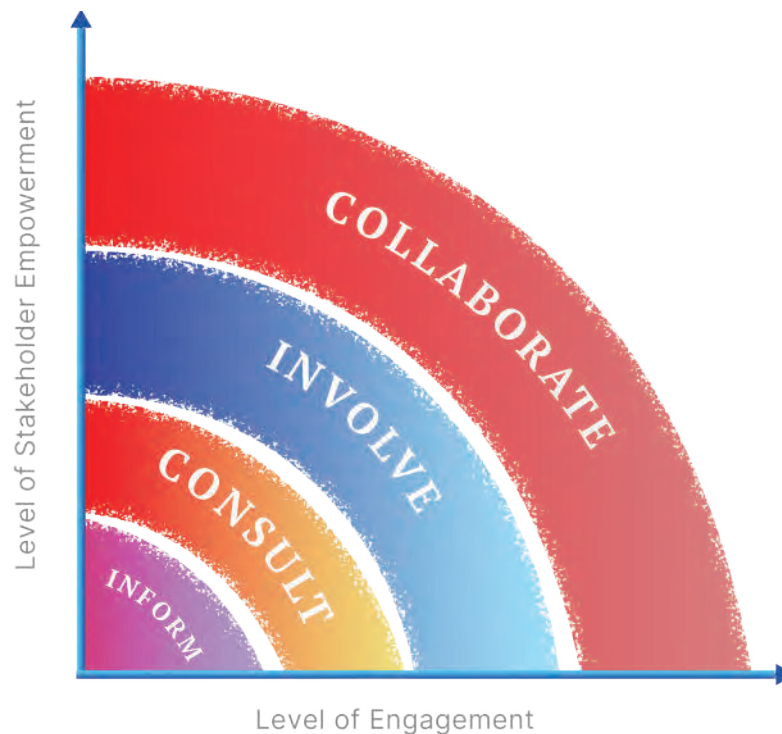
Through the EPiC tool, the plan identifies the stakeholders concerned in implementing the strategies and initiatives necessary to accelerate the regions’ progress. This is in recognition that all stakeholders in the entire region are crucial actors in successfully navigating the challenges and achieving the objectives contained in the plan.

With the Catch-up Plan fully in place, the SOCCSKSARGEN Region is focused on its implementation in the remaining years until 2030. Through collaborative efforts and sharing of resources, the region is determined to drive growth, ensure stability, and create a prosperous and sustainable future for their people where no one is left behind. (See Annex H for a copy of the SOCCSKSARGEN SDG Catch-up Plan)



Source: SC-SDG Secretariat and the SOCCSKSARGEN Catch-up Plan

Figure 15. Levels of Stakeholder Engagement



Enhancing whole-of-nation ownership through the Stakeholders' Chamber

The establishment of the Stakeholders' Chamber accelerated the level of stakeholder engagement in the country from 'Inform,' to 'Consult,' and, finally, to 'Involve' (See Figure 15 Levels of Stakeholder Engagement). Ongoing initiatives are centered on encouraging stakeholders to collaborate with fellow non-government actors and complement the efforts of the government.

Three-Year Roadmap of the Stakeholders' Chamber

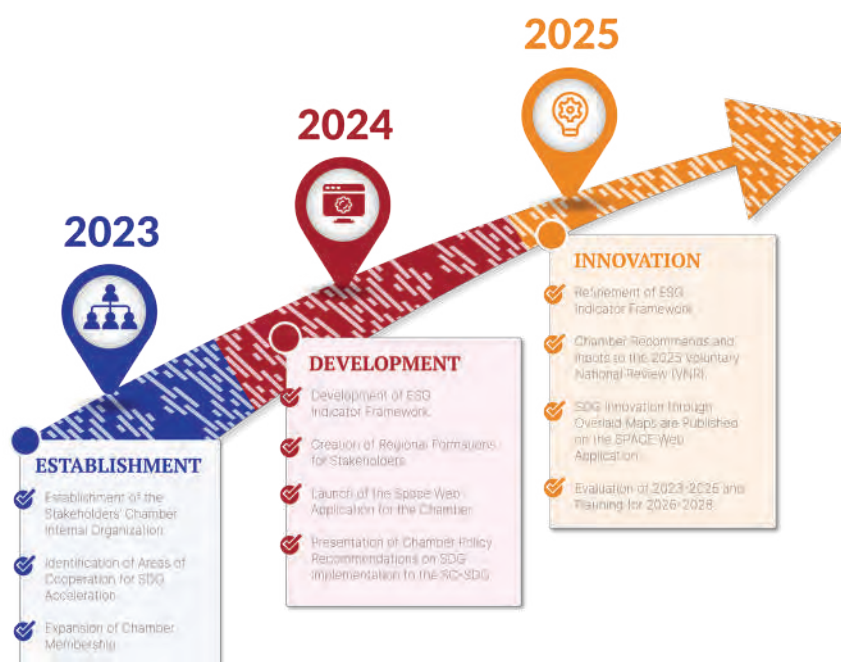
The formulation of a Three-Year Roadmap is a testament to the commitment of the Stakeholders' Chamber as active partners of the government in advancing sustainable development through a Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach. Approved in August 2023, the roadmap outlines the strategic milestones and objectives that will guide policy recommendations, monitoring and

evaluation, convergent action, and strategic communications of the multi-stakeholder body covering the period 2023 to 2025.

In line with the strategic milestones and objectives in the roadmap, the Chamber fully established its internal organization in 2023. In 2024, the Chamber developed its Indicator and Strategy Framework for the SDGs, provided policy recommendations on SDG implementation, and localized the Chamber down to the regional level. For 2025, the Chamber aims to utilize innovation to better align convergence (i.e., Stakeholder Partnership Accelerator for Convergence and Engagement [SPACE] Web App) in SDG implementation, and to evaluate its accomplishments as basis for formulating the succeeding three-year roadmap (2026-2028), leading up to 2030.

To deepen stakeholder engagement and enhance participatory governance, the Philippine government also enrolled the roadmap as part of the country's commitments in the 6th National Action Plan (NAP) of the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP).

Figure 16. The Three-Year Roadmap of the Stakeholders' Chamber for 2023-2025



The SPACE Web Application

On February 28, 2025, DEPDDev, through the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Canada, launched the SPACE Web Application.⁴⁸ Developed as an “institutionalized space,” the application will facilitate better communication, coordination, and convergence of the members’ advocacies and investments on the SDGs. It is a tool for Chamber members to share data and information on SDG-related programs, projects, and opportunities for partnership and financing for the SDGs. It will also serve as a one-stop shop for relevant information for SDG implementation, particularly involving the Chamber and its members.

Aside from Chamber members, government actors will also be able to view and access the application where private and civil society interventions are, in terms of SDGs and geographical area. This information enables the pursuit of strategic partnerships between government and non-government actors to address gaps, especially in lagging regions and SDGs.

Figure 17. SPACE Web Application Homepage



The development of the SPACE Web Application marks yet another milestone in the implementation of the Chamber’s Roadmap. The country’s 2022 VNR likewise identified innovation and digital transformation as necessary tools to achieve the SDGs, and the establishment of the application is one innovation towards the realization of the country’s National Innovation Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

⁴⁸ The SPACE Web App was funded through the UNDP’s Accelerating Green and Climate Finance in the Philippines: Nature-based Solutions Program being supported by the Government of Canada.

B. Financing the SDGs

1. Government spending

The General Appropriations Act as an SDG-sensitive Budget

The national budget of the Philippine government is embodied in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), enacted by Congress annually. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 GAA, themed, “Agenda for Prosperity: Securing a Future-Proof and Sustainable Economy,” provides the funding blueprint for the implementation of government action towards achieving the country’s development goals, including the SDGs.

The entire national budget and its expenditure priorities are aligned with and supportive of the PDP where the SDGs have been mainstreamed. The PIP contains the rolling list of programs and projects (PAPs) to be implemented by the national government, which responds to the outcomes in the PDP. To further ensure alignment of PAPs with the SDGs, various mechanisms have been put in place at the national and subnational levels. At the national level, the PIP requires each PAP to have SDG tagging. Meanwhile, the SDGs have been integrated at the regional level,

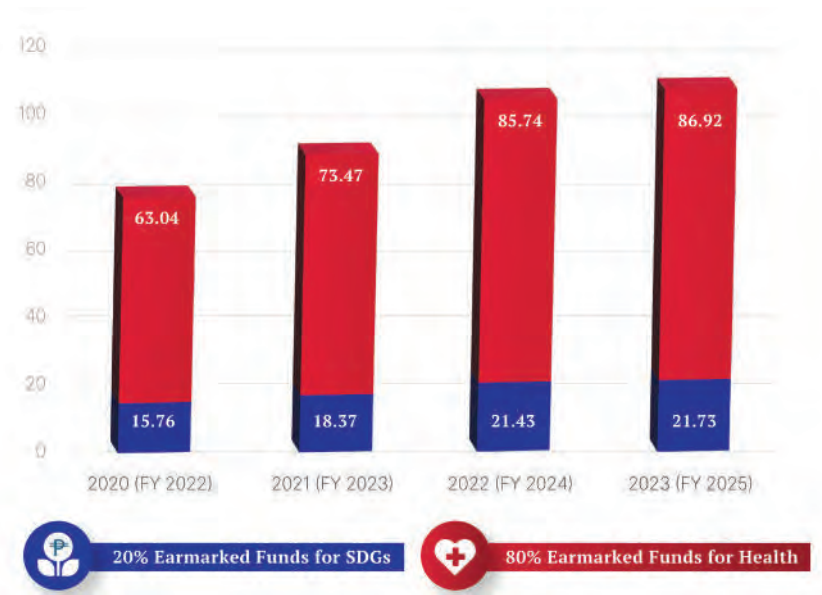
into the RDC Budget Review process and the updating of the Regional Development Investment Programs.

Program Convergence Budgeting for the SDGs

To reinforce the GAA in the provision of funding for SDG-related initiatives, Congress enacted RA 11467, amending the National Internal Revenue Code of the Philippines. Section 9 of the law mandates that 20 percent of the total revenues collected from excise taxes on alcohol products, heated tobacco products, and vapor products be allocated towards the achievement of the SDGs.

One of the ways forward identified in the 2022 VNR was to develop a financing plan to enhance resource mobilization for the SDGs. To efficiently and strategically identify programs and projects that will be supported by the earmarked funds from RA 11467, DEPDDev led the adoption of the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) approach for the SDGs.

Figure 18. Earmarked Funds for the SDGs and Health pursuant to RA 11467 (2020-2023), in PHP billion







The PCB-SDG Framework, approved by the DBCC during its 186th meeting on December 15, 2023, ensures that the use of financial resources is both targeted and purposive, particularly in addressing SDGs where the country is lagging behind. The Framework provides guidance on the evaluation, prioritization criteria, and administrative processes involved in determining key PAPs to support the achievement of the SDGs that may be funded by the 20 percent earmarked allocation.

To aid in the selection of programs and projects that will be considered for funding through the PCB-SDG approach, the DBCC also approved flagship programs formulated based on the SDGs that require accelerated progress. These flagship programs under the sectoral TWGs of the SC-SDG are identified in *Table 3*.

For the pilot implementation of the PCB-SDG, DEPDev issued the call for submission of proposals for the first quarter of 2024. During the pilot phase, one proposal was approved for funding under the FY 2025 National Expenditure Program by the Department of Budget and Management. The approved project, 'Statistical and Economics Training for the Public Sector and Faculty of State Universities and Colleges,' was proposed by the Philippine Center for Economic Development under the flagship program 'Strengthen Statistical Capacity of Government Offices.' This project amounted to PHP5.8 million, which was only 0.0268 percent of the FY 2025 earmarked fund of PHP21.73 billion.

To increase utilization of the fund moving forward, the government will intensify information dissemination efforts, pursue expansion of coverage of the PCB-SDG through formulation of additional flagship programs, and explore the extension of the call for proposals to LGUs.

Table 3. Flagship Programs under each TWG

			
Social	Environment	Economic	PSG
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Program (DSWD) 2. Strengthening of the Local Committee Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (DILG) 3. Nationwide Anti-Child Marriage Program (DSWD) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (DENR) 2. Reducing vulnerability in disaster-prone areas (DND-OCD) 3. Creation of Green, Open, and Public Spaces (DHSUD) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure Regional Development specifically on digitalization for remote areas (DICT) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish the Defense Industry in the Philippines (DND) 2. Modernize Government Processes, Systems, and Infrastructure (DICT) 3. Strengthen Statistical Capacity of Government Offices (PSA) 4. Establish Local Participatory Governance and Social Reform Mechanisms (NAPC)

Other PCBs that contribute to the SDGs

Apart from the PCB-SDG, the Philippine government implements 12 other PCBs. While the PCB-SDG considers mainly the targets and indicators that are regressing or need acceleration, other PCBs also contribute to various SDG targets and indicators given the cross-cutting nature of the 2030 Agenda.

People's Survival Fund (PSF)

The PSF, which was established in 2012 pursuant to Republic Act No. 10174, provides long stream finance for adaptation projects of LGUs and local/community organizations aimed at increasing resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate

change. As of 2024, the total funds allocated for climate change adaptation projects in the Philippines amounts to PHP1.322 billion. This includes two additional projects located in Ilocos Norte and Surigao Del Sur amounting to PHP431.98 million.

Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the DBM institutionalized CCET through DBM-CCC Joint Memorandum Circular 2015-01. The CCET enables national institutions to assess the alignment and scale the mobilization of public funds based on the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). The plan serves as the country's strategic direction for adaptation and mitigation for 2011 to 2028.

Table 4. Other PCBs and their Corresponding SDGs

Other PCB Programs	Lead Agency	Corresponding SDGs
National Program on Population and Family Planning	Commission on Population and Development	1, 3
Zero Hunger Program	Department of Social Welfare and Development	2
Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy	Dangerous Drugs Board	3
Justice Sector Convergence Program	Supreme Court of the Philippines	16
Tourism Development Program	Department of Tourism	8
Agricultural Development Program	Department of Agriculture	2, 5
Pasig River Urban Development Program	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development	6
Export Development Program	Department of Trade and Industry	17
Risk Resiliency Program	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	13
Livelihood and Employment	Department of Labor and Employment	8
Water Resources Program	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	6
Public Financial Management Systems	Department of Budget and Management	16, 17

The CCET classifies public expenditures between climate change adaptation and mitigation through typologies mirroring the NCCAP. As of 2024, 7.93 percent of the national budget, amounting to PHP457.41 billion was allocated for climate change expenditures. This corresponds to a slight decrease from 8.82 percent or PHP464.50 billion in 2023. Government agencies continue to increase the share of climate-related projects in their budget proposals.

For FY 2025, the proposed climate budget of PHP1.02 billion is more than double compared with the approved FY 2024 budget. This demonstrates the country's commitment to steer investments in support of the government's climate mainstreaming goals.

Biodiversity Finance Initiatives (BIOFIN) Project

The BIOFIN Project provides innovative financing solutions to target beneficiaries, including LGUs, DENR Regional Offices, and NGOs, in advancing progress towards SDGs 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land).

As of 2024, BIOFIN has implemented a range of finance solutions that have mobilized PHP1.96 billion from public and private funding sources.

2. Private sector contribution

Stakeholders' Chamber SDG-related PAPs across the regions

Given the limitations in fiscal space amidst competing development priorities, there is a need for greater collaboration between the government and non-government sector to foster more efficient use of available resources and more impactful initiatives towards meeting the SDGs.

DEPDev developed and updated its Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project of Chamber members' SDG-related PAPs, a project initiated in 2022.



DENR and UNDP partnered with the Province of Negros Oriental to mobilize funding for nature through the BIOFIN project.

These solutions have been instrumental in helping the country achieve its targets under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. For instance, the project achieved a significant milestone by identifying approximately USD8.5 million worth of potentially harmful subsidies for biodiversity-related initiatives or agricultural programs with potential environmental footprints. The identified amount may then be repurposed for biodiversity conservation, preservation, and protection.

Additionally, the project has identified key entry points for nature finance disclosure and provided actionable policy recommendations for the Philippines. This contributed to a more transparent and environmentally conscious financing framework.

This helped to recognize the extent and understand the nature of non-government actors' contributions in advancing the SDGs.

The GIS is not only useful in identifying the areas where additional support and investments are needed, but also in revealing opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing among member stakeholders. As such, this mapping tool has been integrated and rendered in full in the SPACE Web Application of the Chamber, facilitating more informed policy-making and strategic planning towards the SDGs.

Figure 19. Choropleth Mapping of the Stakeholders Chamber’s SDG-related PAPs

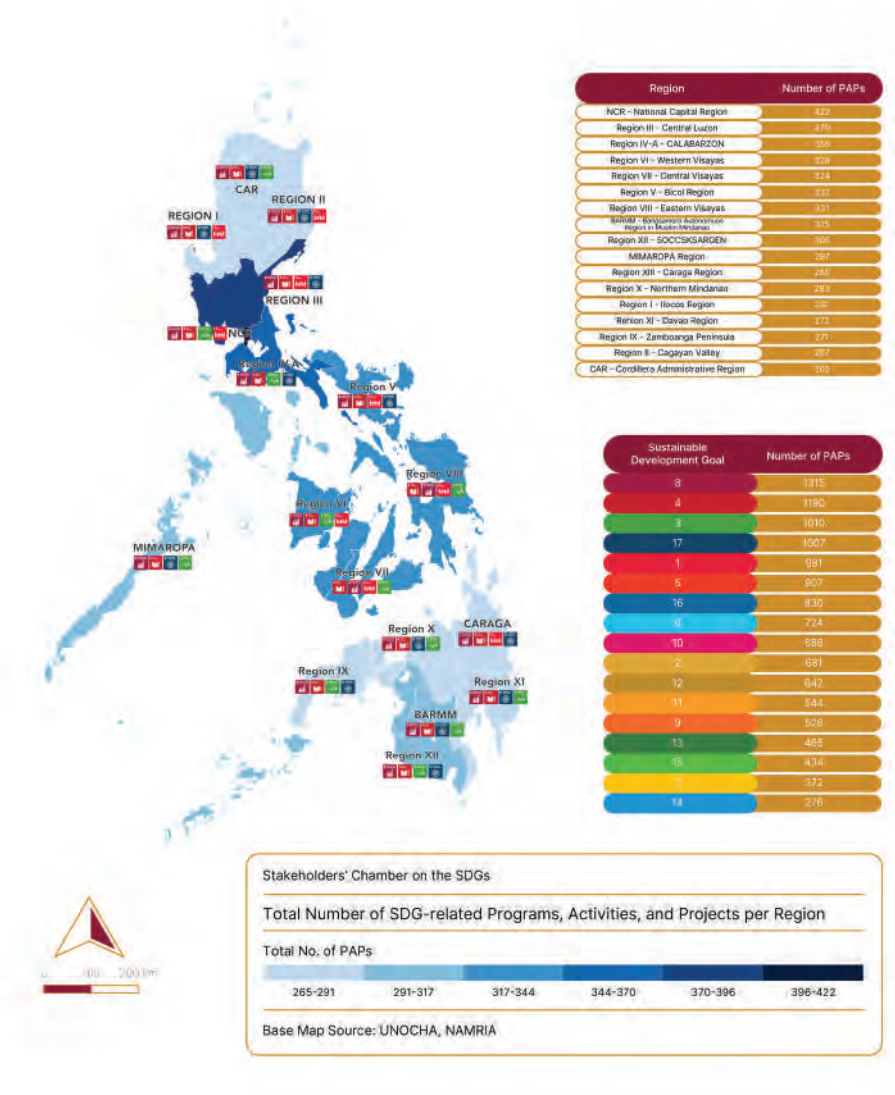


Figure 19 shows the latest map of the flagship PAPs for the 65 current members of the Stakeholders’ Chamber and the regions where these investments are concentrated.

Stakeholders’ Chamber Indicator and Strategy Framework and Work Plans

To further ensure that efforts on the SDGs between and among all segments of society are well-aligned, designed, targeted, and coordinated, the Chamber formulated its Indicator and Strategy Framework for the SDGs. The framework guides the measurement, monitoring, and reporting by the Chamber on their meaningful contributions to the SDGs. It was developed to prioritize areas of cooperation outlined

in the PDP 2023-2028, where private sector involvement and civic engagement/participation was emphasized as a key driver for development.

The framework contains the various strategies and performance indicators that member stakeholders, working groups, and the entire body will undertake and adopt, respectively. It guides members in setting their targets to better measure the outcome of their initiatives and their contribution to accelerating progress, especially on Goals where we are lagging behind. Moving forward, the framework will also serve as the basis for the preparation of the Chamber’s annual work plans that will contain specific non-government initiatives on the SDGs.

3. International financing mechanisms

Official Development Assistance

As emphasized under SDG 17, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) plays a critical role in advancing the SDGs by fostering global partnerships and mobilizing resources for sustainable development.

In 2023, the active ODA portfolio amounted to USD37.29 billion, comprised of 113 loans totaling USD35.07 billion and 325 grants worth USD2.22 billion. These were supported by 46 development partners and implemented by 132 Philippine government agencies. Japan had the largest share of ODA in the country in 2023 with 32 percent, followed by the Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

The active ODA portfolio grew by 15 percent compared to 2022, underscoring its crucial role in supporting government interventions towards sustainable development and inclusive growth. In 2022, ODA primarily supported fiscal stability and social protection programs as part of the country's recovery from the pandemic's economic shocks. By 2023, the government leveraged the increased assistance to advance structural reforms, implement large-scale infrastructure projects under the "Build Better More" initiative, and strengthen climate adaptation measures

This shift demonstrates how ODA remains responsive to both immediate needs and long-term national development priorities.

The active ODA loans and grants in 2023 predominantly supported progress towards three SDGs: SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), which funded 119, 76, and 73 programs and projects, respectively (*See Figure 20*).

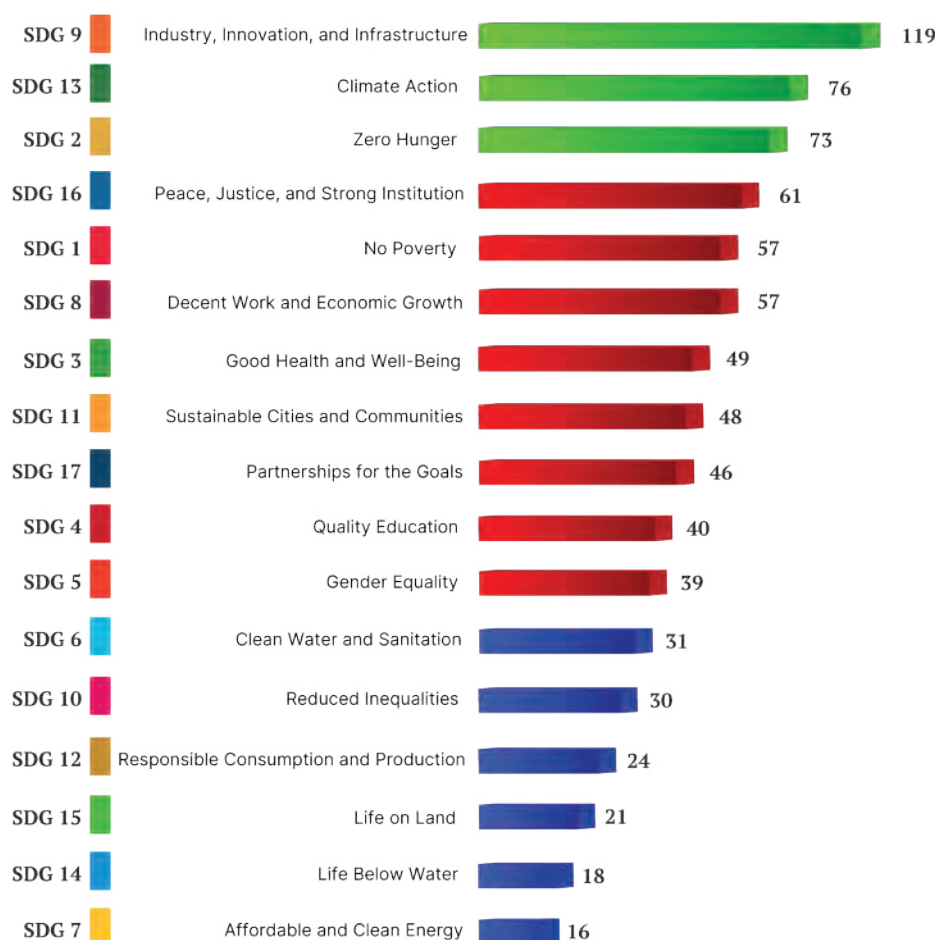


Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The GCF is an international fund that aims to deliver equal amounts of funding for mitigation and adaptation efforts, through a multi-layered approach by mobilizing climate finance in the form of investments (i.e., grants, concessional loans, equity, and guarantees). The fund was created by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), that support paradigm-shifting of low emission and climate resilience programs and projects in developing countries.

The Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System (MHIBFEWS) is the first project of the Philippines funded under the GCF, with a grant of USD10 million. As of 2024, the project has generated science-based multi-hazard and climate risk information, and improved capacities in implementing people-centered MHIBFEWS and forecast-based early actions and financing.

Figure 20. ODA Loans and Grants Supporting the SDGs



Source: CY 2023 ODA Portfolio Review Report

Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FrLD)

The FrLD is a financial mechanism under the UNFCCC to support developing countries facing economic and non-economic losses due to climate change, which arise from extreme weather and slow-onset events. Following the establishment of the FrLD and the Philippines' nomination to the Board in 2023, the country was selected to host the FrLD Board in July 2024. To enable the effective operation of the fund, the country enacted the Loss and Damage Fund Board Act in August 2024.⁴⁹ This granted juridical personality and legal capacity to the FrLD Board, enabling it to independently negotiate, manage financial resources, and carry out its mandates.

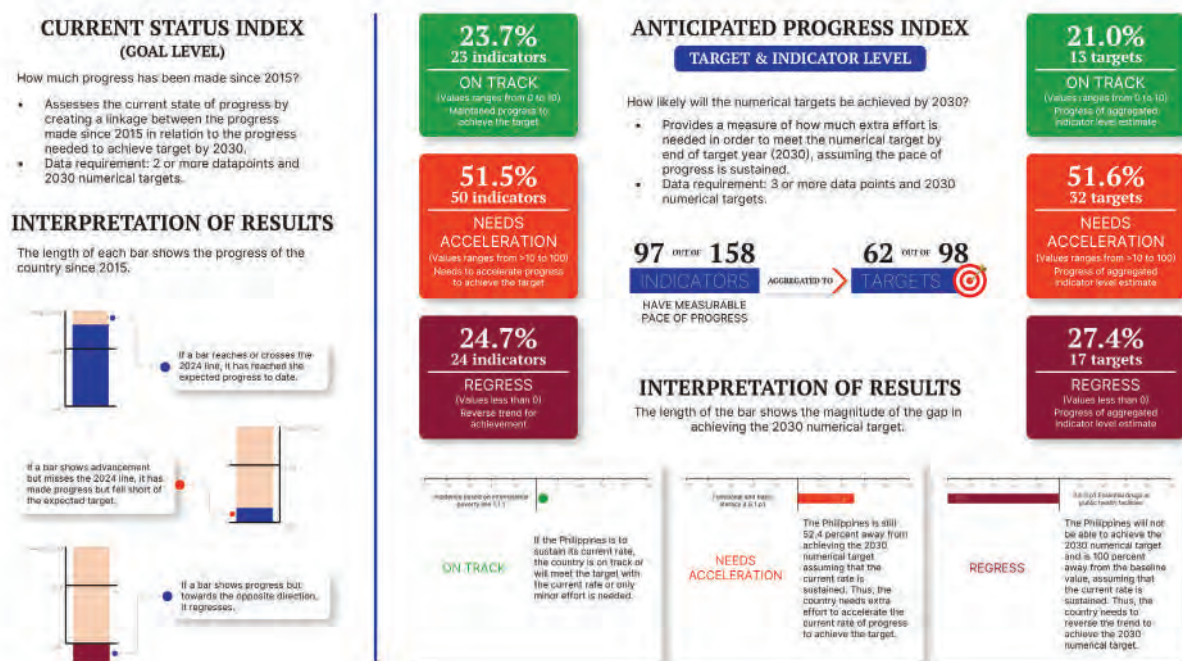
The co-chairs of the Board have also signed the Host Country Agreement on November 12, 2024, formalizing its partnership with the Philippines. The agreement outlines the privileges and immunities granted to the Board, ensuring its effective operation within the country.

The FrLD is expected to start financing projects in 2025. In this context, the country will leverage its role in the FrLD Board to advocate for the needs of vulnerable developing countries. The country will focus on advocating for the effective, fair, transparent, and timely utilization of funds to address the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly for communities experiencing significant losses and damages.

49 Republic Act No. 12019

C. Statistical Developments for Monitoring the SDGs

Figure 21. SDG Pace of Progress - Overview of Current Status Index and Anticipated Progress Index



Notes:

- The "UN ESCAP's Anticipated Progress Approach" is used to measure how likely the country will be able to achieve the individual targets under each of the goals by 2030, judging by the pace of progress so far;
- The "UN ESCAP's Current Status Index" is used to measure where the country stands for each of the goals; and
- "Time Distance Measure of Prof. Pavle Sicherl of the University of Ljubljana, Sweden is used to measure the number of years ahead/behind the path to target.



The SDG Pace of Progress (National and Regional)

Stronger monitoring of SDG progress is one of the ways forward identified in the country's 2022 VNR. In line with this commitment, the Philippine government established the SDG Pace of Progress – a report that measures how the country fares in the achievement of the SDGs (distance from the baseline) and the progress expected going forward based on the current pace. This initiative adopts the approved methodology stated in PSA Board Resolution no. 5, s. 2020.⁵⁰

It shows the current status index and anticipated status index up to the indicator level. (See Section III for the Philippines' Progress on the SDGs, based on the 2024 Pace of Progress)



Identification of Core Regional SDG Indicators

Adopted through PSA Board Resolution No. 12, s. 2019, the Core Regional SDG Indicators (Core-SDGI) is a minimum set of 74 SDG indicators for the monitoring of 14 SDGs and 40 targets at the regional level. The list of indicators was formulated to facilitate sub-national comparisons in SDG achievement.

50 Adoption of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) SDG Measures and the Time Distance Measure in Tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Progress.

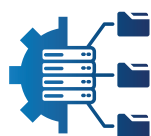
The Core-SDGs were used in determining the regional SDG Pace of Progress which, in turn, was the basis for the formulation of the Regional SDG Catch-Up Plans (See Section IV.A.3).



Community-based Monitoring of SDGs

To extend SDG monitoring to the local level, the PSA incorporated questions in the CBMS for the generation of 21 SDG indicators that can be used for tracking of 10 SDGs.

The CBMS is an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing, and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for local planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring, while empowering communities to participate in the process. The system involves generation of data at the local level, targeting households for government programs geared towards poverty alleviation and economic development. The statistical activity entails a census of households undertaken by LGUs through the technical guidance of the PSA. In 2024, a synchronous nationwide data collection was done for CBMS, simultaneous with the mid-decade Census of Population of the country.



Improvements in existing data collection mechanisms

Aside from the conduct of the 2024 CBMS, the government also pursued other developments in Philippine Statistical System. This includes:

- a. Conduct of the National Demographic and Health Survey from every five years to every three years;
- b. Expansion of the sample size of the Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) to obtain sufficient sample and reliable estimates at the provincial level;

- c. Inclusion of questions related to ethnicity in the January 2024 Labor Force Survey to be able to have some estimates with disaggregation by Indigenous Peoples; and
- d. Approval of the PENCAS Law. (See Section III.C.4)⁵¹

These developments will help improve the monitoring of SDG indicators.



SDG Data Platform for automated updating of the SDG Watch

The SDG Watch, which serves as the Philippines' SDG Indicator Framework, is a monitoring tool that tracks the country's baseline data (2015 or closest year), the latest available data, and the country's 2030 target for each of the SDG indicators. The 2030 numerical target data was determined during consultations spearheaded by DEPDev together with the organization/s responsible to achieve the target. Data in the SDG Watch is updated annually through the submission of data-source agencies from the national government. (See Annex F for the latest SDG Watch of the Philippines)

Following the 2022 VNR commitment to pursue digital transformation, on September 15, 2024, the PSA officially launched the SDG Data Platform. This platform was developed as a solution to automate SDG data compilation to facilitate the regular updating of the SDG Watch. It will also reduce the reporting burden on responsible agencies as input of data is real-time and online. Key features of the platform include: (a) mass reminder to agency focals; (b) exclusive web-based agency data entry portal; (c) quick consistency checks and clearance mechanism; and (d) multi-format data download.

⁵¹ Republic Act No. 11995



Scoping and Methodological Studies of the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)

The PSRTI's five-year SDG Program (2017-2022) was reprogrammed for implementation until 2025 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Through the program, PSRTI undertakes the following:

- a. **Scoping Reports.** A review of Tier II and III indicators in preparation for the methodological research. The review covers concepts and definitions, data source and availability, methodology, relevance and applicability in the Philippine setting, and possible challenges in localizing indicators.
- b. **Methodological Studies.** Studies on Tier II or III indicators will be conducted to propose a localized methodology and generate its estimates, and to raise the tier classifications of localized SDG indicators. Using the results of the scoping report, a priority indicator is further studied in order to propose its localization. The final output of the study would be a proposed methodology and generated estimates that may be forwarded to the PSA and its stakeholders.

As of 2025, the PSRTI has conducted 22 methodological studies for the following SDGs: 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 14 (Life below Water), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). (See Annex G for the List of SDGs that underwent Methodological Study)

D. Capacity Development

The Philippines prioritizes enhancing institutional and human resource capacities to effectively implement the SDGs. To support this, a series of training programs have been conducted for the national and subnational rollout of the UN ESCAP's Every Policy is Connected (EPiC) Tool. Moreover, the PSRTI and the PSA have conducted a series of statistical capacity-building at the subnational level. These initiatives strengthen institutional capacities and enhance data-driven decision-making for effective SDG implementation.

EPiC Trainings

DEPDev and PSA participated in the Regional Workshop on Integrating Policy and Data to Leave No One Behind, co-organized by the UN ESCAP and the Republic of Korea National Statistics Office. Building on this workshop, DEPDev led the national and subnational implementation of the EPiC tool, a web-based application that integrates policy and data to identify priorities and address data needs. The tool played a central role in the development of Regional SDG Catch-Up Plans.

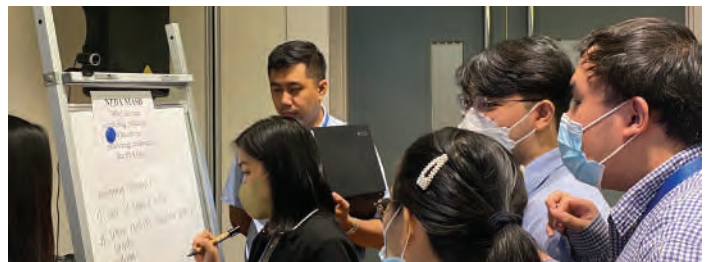
(See Section IV.A.3)

To ensure effective implementation of the EPiC tool, two major national-level trainings were conducted to integrate the EPiC tool into the catch-up plan formulation process.

- a. Training of Trainers on Integrating Policy and Data to Leave No One Behind – Conducted by the SC-SDG Secretariat on June 19, 2023, in Pampanga, Philippines, with DEPDev and PSA technical staff from pilot regions.
- b. Training for Regional and Sectoral SDG Focals – Held on October 2-6, 2023, in Laguna, Philippines, attended by DEPDev and PSA technical staff from other regions.

Following these national-level consultations, DEPDev Regional Offices and the Metro Manila Development Authority conducted 16 regional workshops for EPiC Implementation and Formulation of SDG Catch-Up Plans from 2023 to the first quarter of 2025. DEPDev, as Secretariat to the SC-SDG, provided technical assistance during the regional workshops. These workshops gathered inputs from government and non-government stakeholders which were then consolidated into the Catch-Up Plans.





Statistical Capacity-building at the Subnational Level

The PSRTI launched statistical capacity-building programs to support LGUs in integrating the SDGs into governance and planning processes. This initiative is aligned with the Community-Based Monitoring System Act and the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling.⁵² A key component of this effort is the SDG Seminar Series, designed to improve statistical quality, address data gaps in SDG monitoring, and help LGUs utilize local administrative data for tracking SDG implementation and performance.

Figure 22. SDG Watch Dashboard of PSA RSSO V



Similarly, PSA conducted training programs to enhance its regional offices' capacity in monitoring SDG indicators and applying statistical methodologies to assess national progress. As of February 2025, 15 out of 17 PSA Regional Offices already maintain SDG Watch dashboards on their websites, improving transparency and data accessibility.

The collaboration between PSRTI, PSA, national agencies, and stakeholders has resulted in a coordinated approach to SDG localization. Partnerships with institutions, such as the DILG and DEPDev, have further strengthened LGU capacities in SDG implementation and reporting. This integrated effort ensures a data-driven approach to sustainable development, enabling informed policy formulation and decision-making at the local level.

The PSRTI also conducts the SDG Seminar Series, which promotes the SDGs and capacitates the personnel of LGUs and other agencies on the concepts and methodologies of basic statistical measures used in computing the SDG indicators. The seminars also serve as an avenue to collect local administrative data as a means of generating disaggregated data for computing various SDG indicators at the subnational level.

In 2023, on-site training seminars on Data Visualization Using Infographics for Sub-National Agencies were conducted in 17 regions with 1,565 participants. In 2024, on-site training seminars on 'Mastering Data Management: A Guide to Google Sheets and MS Excel' were conducted in 17 regions with 1,927 participants.



The PSRTI conducted SDG Seminar 5 on Mastering Data Management: A Guide to Google Sheets and MS Excel.

52 Republic Act No. 11315



Box 8. Government Initiatives in Advancing SDGs

Increasing Statistical Capacity for SDG Self-Assessment at the Local Level

In achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, local governments play a vital role in implementing policies and programs at the grassroots level to directly address the needs of their communities. In 2021, the City Government of Makati and the CityNet National Chapter Philippines piloted the “SDG Localization for Philippine Cities: An SDG Self-Assessment Monitoring using the CityNet SDG Navigator Platform.”

The pilot project in the Philippines engaged four cities (Makati, Muntinlupa, Quezon City, and San Juan) in the National Capital Region, to use the SDG Navigator Platform. This platform, developed by the CityNet in cooperation with the UN ESCAP and the Seoul Metropolitan Government, contains a self-assessment tool, which allows local governments to evaluate their SDG implementation and progress, identify gaps

and priority areas, and gather recommendations toward the attainment of the SDG targets. Recognizing the importance of local governments in sustainable urban development, Phase II of the project was conducted in 2024, covering seven cities (Baguio, Balanga, Mandaluyong, Makati, Mandaue, Muntinlupa, and Pasig).

The platform also contains writeups on best practices of various local government units in accelerating progress on certain Goals.



Source: City Government of Makati. 2024

E. Partnerships for a Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach

1. Local partnerships

Engagement with LGUs

The national government supports and encourages LGUs in implementing localized initiatives for sustainable development and conducting their own VLRs on SDG implementation. Following a successful partnership between the national SC-SDG Secretariat and the LGU of Naga City, the latter produced its VLR in 2022.

Building on this momentum, the City Government of Santa Rosa in the Province of Laguna announced in June 2024, its intention to produce a VLR in 2025.

In support of this endeavor, the SC-SDG Secretariat (DEPDev) and the PSA served as resource persons in the City of Santa Rosa's First VLR Consultation-Workshop Program, providing an overview of the Philippine SDG indicator monitoring and insights on SDG implementation at the national level. As follow-through in 2025, DEPDev provided comments for the enhancement of the City's draft VLR and issued a Message of Support for the City's innovative strategies and collaborative initiatives toward achieving the 2030 Agenda. Information from the City of Santa Rosa's VLR are likewise incorporated in this VNR Report.





Box 9. Accelerating SDG Progress

Baguio City: A Voluntary Local Review through Collective Stakeholder Intelligence

As part of its strong commitment to the SDGs, Baguio City in collaboration with UNDP Philippines, used the social innovation platform to conduct its VLR, pursuant to the City's Executive Order No. 35, series of 2025. The approach emphasized the significance of collective intelligence from the city's stakeholders, and to complement the lived experience of the local communities vis-à-vis available data. The process also revealed the narratives of the city's SDG progress through substantial consultations with stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, health sector workers, women, indigenous communities, and other marginalized sectors.



Baguio SDG VLR Core Group Members for the Data Collection Strategies Workshop and Coordination for the Deep Listening Session.



Baguio SDG VLR Inception Workshop and Stakeholder Commitment Signing.

Anchored on the city's vision, Baguio 2043: A Livable, Inclusive, and Creative City, the city's VLR focused on nine SDGs (2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13). The most significant progress was observed in SDGs 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 13 (Climate Action), attributed to the city's effective disaster management and the integration of the Livability Index in the development plans at the barangay level. The Livability Index is Baguio City's response to a study on the city's urban decline by 2043. This index provides the framework to measure the livability of its 128 barangays by accessibility, economic opportunities, safety and security, community spaces and engagement, and good governance, among others.

Source: UNDP Philippines



Box 10. From Localizing to Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda

City of Santa Rosa: A Voluntary Local Review

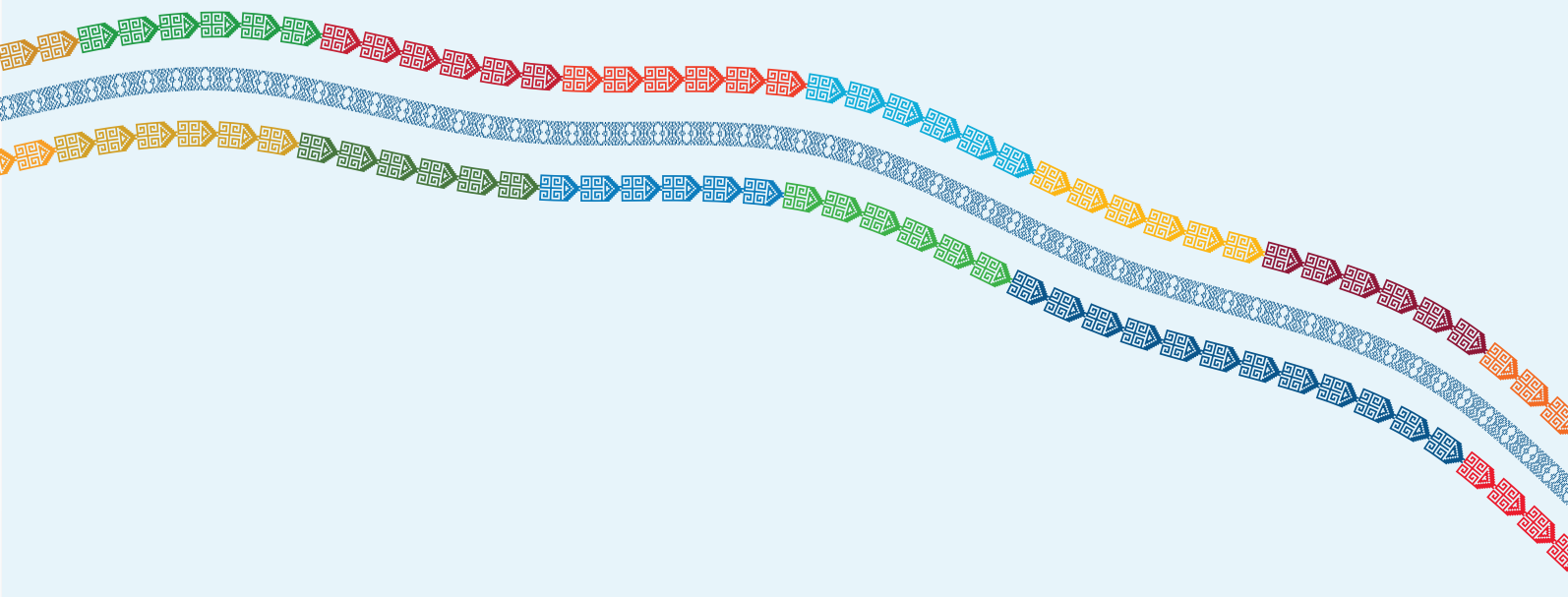
VLRs report on the subnational government unit's progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By promoting localization of the SDGs, VLRs highlight the local government's capacity, achievement, and commitment to achieve the global goals.

In partnership with the UN ESCAP, the City Government of Santa Rosa, is undertaking a VLR for 2025. The review showcases efforts in mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda in the city's local plans, policies, programs, and strategies.

It highlights the City's strong commitment to SDGs 1 to 5, mainly focused on human capital development. In addition, the review also highlights data gaps that prevent a more robust assessment of SDG progress at the local level.

The City Government of Santa Rosa will finalize their VLR report within February to April 2025. This will be presented at the 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Bangkok in February 2025 and the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2025, respectively.

Source: City Government of Santa Rosa (January 2025)





The Agenda 2030/SDG Localization Project convened various stakeholders LGUs and barangays, faith-based groups, the Sama-Bajau community, Community and Family Services International, and regional offices of DHSUD, DILG, and DEPDEV Caraga, in Surigao City.

Several other LGUs are doing a local review in 2025. For instance, Surigao City in Mindanao is undertaking a review under the Agenda 2030/SDG Localization Project of UN Habitat. The DEPDev Regional Office in Caraga also assisted by co-facilitating a workshop to identify needs and priorities of vulnerable communities, and to guide SDG-related strategies and efforts in the locality.

2. National partnerships

Polycymaking with the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs

One of the main roles of the Stakeholder's Chamber is to recommend policies related to the governance of SDG implementation in the country. As a partner of government, Chamber members have been active in providing inputs and recommendations to plans, programs, and policy documents on sustainable development for the period 2023-2024. This includes, but are not limited to the following: (a) Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP); (b) UN's Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future; and (c) Key Flagship Programs and Outcomes of the Program Convergence Budgeting on the SDGs. This programs serves as the sectoral priority areas of the government for the attainment of the SDGs (*See Section IV.B.1*).

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) is also conducting their 2nd Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR) in 2025, with assistance from the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Network. The 2nd VSR will focus on local government efforts and the challenges they face in conducting VLRs.

The review will be a significant step towards understanding and addressing local data collection and reporting challenges, as well as developing necessary strategies to scale up local initiatives and create transformative impact.

To strengthen linkage between the VNR, VSR, and VLRs in the coming years, the national government will pursue the establishment of a mechanism. This will monitor local governments conducting reviews and systematically linking them with each other and with the national government to ensure alignment and synergy in SDG implementation, monitoring, and reporting.



DEPDev Secretary Arsenio Balisacan and DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman signed a JMC on Strengthening the PCB Approach on SDGs.

Since its establishment in April 2022, the Stakeholders' Chamber has remained an active partner of the government in the preparation of the country's VNRs, specifically the VNRs in 2022 and 2025. The members participated in consultations, shared inputs on the potential challenges and opportunities, recommended strategies, solutions, and best practices, and contributed to discussions on how the country can accelerate progress on the goals.

3. International partnerships

Fostering the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach, the Philippine government has sustained efforts in deepening stakeholder engagement in the country by engaging with peers and development partners in various regional fora and workshops. These engagements aim to enhance capacity development for SDG implementation, monitoring, and review.

Regional peer exchanges

Participation in the Regional Workshop on Evidence-based follow-up and review for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN ESCAP organized this regional workshop to bring together statisticians, national planning experts, SDG coordinators, and relevant stakeholders to discuss their experience in assessing national progress against the SDGs. Through the workshop, the Philippines shared the country's achievements and mechanisms on the following: (a) SDG monitoring and progress assessment; (b) priority areas on SDG implementation; and (c) policy use of the SDG progress assessment results.

Participation in peer-to-peer virtual exchanges on VNR practices and lessons. In 2025, the Philippines participated in two virtual peer exchanges on lessons learned and best practices in SDG implementation and VNR preparation. The first exchange was held on January 14, 2025 with Seychelles and Uganda, while the second took place on March 21, 2025 with Indonesia.

The webinar with Uganda and Seychelles was organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Offices of the two countries, while the webinar with Indonesia was facilitated by the UN ESCAP. In these exchanges, the Philippines shared the country's Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach, and highlighted its statistical innovations (SDG Watch, Pace of Progress,

SDG Data Platform) and stakeholder engagement efforts (Stakeholders' Chamber, Indicator and Strategy Framework, and VNR consultations). The Philippines discussed the "ABCD approach" in preparing the 2025 VNR, which includes Assess national context using precise data; Build capacity for national reviews (through global events and using UN tools); Consult stakeholders on their perspectives; and Distill data for integration into the report.



The Philippines joined the 10th APFSD in Bangkok, Thailand led by Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon (DEPDev), Assistant Secretary Francisco Cruz (DILG), and DCM Edna May G. Lazaro with a 19-member delegation.

Participation in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

The APFSD is an annual intergovernmental forum to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level. It aims to inform, empower, and support Asia-Pacific countries towards the attainment of the SDG targets by identifying regional trends and sharing best practices and lessons learned.⁵³ During the 10th APFSD held on March 27 to 30, 2023, the Philippine government shared its efforts to incorporate the SDGs in the PDP 2023-2028.

At the 11th APFSD held on February 20 to 23, 2024, where the Philippines served as Vice-Chair, the Philippine government highlighted the overall progress and constraints in achieving the SDGs.



DEPDEV Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon chaired the High-Level Panel: On the Road to the 2024 Summit of the Future.



DEPDev Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon and DOST Executive Director Dr. Jaime Montoya, PH Embassy to Thailand Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy Permanent Representative to UNESCAP Edna May Lazaro, and DEPDev Senior EDS Genshen Espedido during the 11th APFSD.

It also underscored efforts to strengthen regional stakeholders' capacity in formulating the SDG Catch-up Plans.

During the 12th APFSD held on February 24-26, 2025, the Philippine government highlighted its efforts to localize the SDGs and strengthen the linkage between VNRs and VLRs.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The Philippine government, has highlighted the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in the implementation of the SDGs, and in providing an effective and complimentary modality of cooperation among developing countries.

The SSTC provides opportunities for developing countries to leverage their own experience, knowledge, and resources in support of the 2030 Agenda. Critical areas to benefit from SSTC include universal health coverage; equity in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response; and health infrastructure and human resources.⁵⁴

The SSTC served as a platform for coordination on sustainable financing for issues concerning climate change mitigation. The Philippines is among the countries that contribute to the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries.⁵⁵ This provides financial and technical support to address gaps in early warning systems in the Asia-Pacific region.



PH Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the ESCAP Millicent Cruz Paredes delivers the Philippine country statement during the 12th APFSD.

54 UN Philippines (2023). South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Philippines. Retrieved from: https://philippines.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/%5BFINAL%5D%20UN%20POLICY%20NOTES_SSTC_web.pdf

55 UNESCAP (2018). South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific – A brief overview. Retrieved from: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/SSC_Paper_v04_20180621_FINAL_formatted.pdf.



Signing ceremony of the UNSDCF held at the Malacañang Palace was graced by the President himself, and saw the attendance of DEPDev Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, DFA Secretary Enrique Manalo, and UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines, Mr. Gustavo Gonzales. The two Cabinet Secretaries, alongside the UN Resident Coordinator, shall serve as the co-chairs of the Cooperation Framework's Joint Steering Committee.

UNSDCF Framework 2024-2028

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-2028 is a product of the successful negotiation between the Philippine government (through DEPDev and DFA) and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in the Philippines. Signed in the presence of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in October 2023, the President emphasized that the partnership between the UN and the Philippines serves as a catalyst for the accomplishment of our shared goals in the 2030 Agenda.

The UNSDCF is a strategic partnership agreement aimed at supporting the Philippines in achieving its national development priorities. These development priorities are articulated in the President's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda, *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, and the PDP 2023-2028, mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. The framework focuses on three strategic priority areas: (a) human capital development, inclusion, and resilience building; (b) sustainable economic development, decent work, and innovation; and (c) climate action, environmental sustainability and disaster-resilience.



The new framework ensures that the collaboration between the Philippines and the UN will effectively contribute to the country's development goals, driving progress and fostering a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future. It promotes a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to development by engaging with all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, and other partners.



V

**SYSTEMIC
CHALLENGES
HINDERING SDG
ACHIEVEMENT**

SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES HINDERING SDG ACHIEVEMENT

A. Financing to Accelerate Progress on the SDGs

The UN DESA's Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024 emphasizes that achieving the SDGs requires trillions of dollars annually. While multiple financing mechanisms have been introduced, challenges persist in ensuring that fund allocation and utilization transcend mere attribution to specific SDGs. Resource utilization must be deliberately contributory, purposive, and strategic. Another critical issue is addressing bureaucratic inefficiencies in accessing these funds. Beyond mobilizing domestic public financial resources, there is a critical need for enhanced alignment and collaboration with non-governmental actors to prevent duplication of efforts and maximize the reach of sustainability initiatives.



B. Weak Implementation and Data Gaps

The country faces significant challenges in implementing development programs and projects, and in tracking SDG progress particularly for indicators related to SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Investments in capacity building for effective implementation and monitoring of SDG-related programs should be increased. Enhancing the capacity of both national and local government actors in data collection, SDG monitoring, and data utilization for evidence-based policymaking is also important to address these gaps.



C. Impacts of Climate Shocks and Limited Adaptive Capacity to Natural Disasters

Despite the country's minimal contributions to global GHG emissions at 0.5 percent,⁵⁶ the Philippines continues to rank first among 193 countries with the highest disaster risk based on the 2024 World Risk Index (WRI) Report.⁵⁷ Per the WRI, factors that contribute to the Philippines' high score in the risk index are its exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities, and lack of local adaptive capacities to climate shocks and natural disasters.⁵⁸



⁵⁶ Based on data from Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research of the European Commission, the Philippines contributed 0.48 percent to total GHG emissions between 2018 to 2022.

⁵⁷ Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft / IFHV (2024): WordRiskReport 2024. Berlin: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/worldriskreport-2024-focus-multiple-crises>.

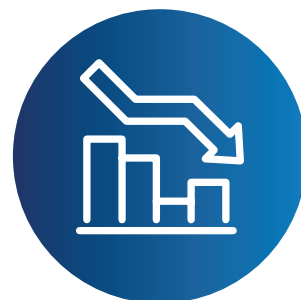
⁵⁸ Located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific, the Philippines is visited by an average of 20 tropical cyclones every year, five of which are destructive. Being situated in the "Pacific Ring of Fire" makes it vulnerable to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Its geographical location and physical environment also contribute to its high susceptibility to tsunamis, sea level rise, storm surges, landslides, flood/flashflood/flooding, and drought. (Asian Disaster Reduction Center, 2024)

Strengthening the country's climate resilience and the communities' adaptive capacities to natural disasters is crucial to minimize the negative impact of climate shocks on the country's growth and on Filipinos' ability to have secure and comfortable lives. The recent adoption of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan is a positive step, with forest and watershed protection included as a major area of action in the Plan. Maintaining sustainable forest ecosystem goods and services reinforces the resilience of ecosystems and communities to climate change, but further targeted interventions and infrastructure support are needed.

D. Risks that Hamper Economic Stability and Growth

Several risks could undermine the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs. On the domestic front, risks include the following:

1. Climate change impacts (e.g., increasing intensity of weather conditions and extreme natural disasters);
2. Inflation-related risks (e.g., adjustments in fare, wage, and service utilities fees that are above expectations);
3. Challenges in the health sector (e.g., malnutrition, low childhood immunization coverage, and mixed implementation of reforms and plans);
4. Possible spread of infectious animal diseases;
5. Challenges in the education sector (e.g., unequal access to education, technology, and reliable internet, limited learning resources, and high attrition rates);
6. Challenges in establishing livable communities (e.g., capacity constraints that impede solid and hazardous waste management, low quality of monitored water bodies, and unmet housing needs);
7. Passage of tax/revenue-eroding measures; and
8. Weak absorptive capacity of implementing agencies and local government units.



Growing geopolitical and trade tensions, election results in major economies, and trade-restrictive measures of food exporting countries can also weigh down economic growth in the near-term.

E. Political Challenges

With the upcoming 2025 Midterm Elections in the country, a new set of officials will take office at both local government and in the legislature levels. Changes in political leadership or shifts in policy priorities can disrupt ongoing SDG initiatives and lead to a lack of sustained focus and commitment, especially at the subnational level.





VI

**NEXT STEPS AND
WAYS FORWARD**

A. Accelerating SDG Achievement



Domestic resource mobilization

To effectively leverage existing government financial mechanisms in achieving the SDGs, it is imperative that government agencies and public entities utilize the PCB-SDGs alongside other PCBs, such as those focusing on Water, Zero Hunger, and Justice Sector Convergence. While the PCB-SDG is inherently aligned with the SDGs, it is essential that other PCBs also integrate sustainability considerations and relevant SDG contributions into their evaluation processes. To enhance the efficacy of fund utilization, mechanisms must be developed and implemented to ensure the efficient and prompt deployment of financial resources, minimizing bureaucratic delays. The government will also review the roles and mandates of these PCBs to streamline processes, improve coordination, and prevent overlaps.

The expansion of the Stakeholders' Chamber presents an opportunity to encourage non-government actors to finance SDG-related programs, either independently or in partnership with the government through PCBs or alternative mechanisms. This collaborative approach aims to foster synergistic partnerships and optimize resource allocation toward the attainment of the SDGs.



International resource mobilization and strengthening of regional cooperation

Leveraging the Pact for the Future, the Philippine government will continue to actively engage with multinational and bilateral development partners towards cooperation and resource sharing for SDG implementation.

The government will advocate for greater accessibility by developing economies of international financing facilities and ODA for strategic financing of SDG initiatives.

The shifting dynamics in the global development cooperation landscape, particularly the current pause on the United States (US) aid to partner countries in 2025, presents a risk for reduced or suspended funding for various development interventions in the Philippines. The materialization of this risk will adversely affect poverty reduction initiatives, infrastructure development efforts, and other critical programs supported by US assistance. As such, the Philippine government will also pursue strengthened economic partnerships with regional allies, including members of the ASEAN, to mitigate the impacts of reduced external support and to ensure that sustainable development initiatives will continue to be funded.



Expanded inclusivity and participation

Building on the gains of employing the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach, the country will continue and expand the engagement of various stakeholders by leveraging the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs. Future calls for membership to the Chamber will prioritize the inclusion of representatives from the most vulnerable and marginalized sectors.

The government will likewise strengthen the engagement of volunteers in the implementation of and advocacy for development programs and projects, utilizing the government's existing mechanisms for the promotion and coordination of volunteer programs and services.

As committed in the Pact for the Future, the government will likewise pursue meaningful involvement of the youth in crafting and implementing policies and programs to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

B. Enhancing Monitoring and Reporting



National-level monitoring and reporting

Launched in 2024, the SDG Data Platform is still in its early stages. To enhance monitoring and reporting on the SDG indicators at the national level, the Philippine government will pursue the full implementation and utilization of this Platform in the remaining years approaching 2030. This initiative aligns not only with the country's commitments in the 2022 VNR and the PDP, but also with the Pact for the Future adopted at the UN Summit of the Future in 2024, which emphasizes the use of digital technologies in development planning.

The streamlining and automation of data submission for the SDG Watch will also enable the PSA's timely processing and release of updates on SDG indicators, not only at the national level, but down to the regional disaggregation as well.

Given the data gaps reported in this review, the Philippine government will likewise continue its scoping and methodological studies to improve and increase statistical data and be able to paint a more comprehensive picture of SDG progress in the country.



Local-level monitoring and reporting

Local reviews are crucial in accelerating progress on the SDGs, as actions at the local level contribute to a more direct and immediate impact on communities, especially those that are most lagging behind.



VNR-VSR-VLR Linkages

The national government will pursue greater linkages between the national, subnational, and local reviews on the SDGs through closer coordination with the DILG, the leagues of provinces, cities and municipalities, and the UN agencies. Through strengthened coordination, the government will establish mechanisms to: (a) monitor which local governments are undertaking their own reviews; (b) facilitate dialogue between the national government, through DEPDDev as the SC-SDG Secretariat, the LGUs, and the leagues of provinces, cities and municipalities, on how to create synergies and ensure vertical linkages in SDG monitoring and reporting; and (c) encourage more local governments to undertake VLRs.



Full implementation of the CBMS

Undertaking local reviews requires the availability of local-level data, which serves as basis for assessing progress on the SDG indicators and targets and even for socioeconomic development indicators in general. One of the major findings of the 2025 VLR of the City of Santa Rosa is that, for economic statistics such as unemployment and poverty incidence, for instance, data is not always available down to the city level.

To address these gaps, the Philippine government will pursue the full implementation of the CBMS for more robust data collection at the municipal and city level. A number of local governments

have started to implement the CBMS in the past years (nine LGUs in 2021, 635 LGUs in 2022, and 46 LGUs in 2023). More local governments will be capacitated to enable nationwide implementation of the CBMS.

C. Building Resilience



Fortifying environmental resilience

The government will further intensify ecosystem protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and management. The country will continue to pursue the implementation of innovative strategies, to fortify resilience of the environment and natural resources to future multi-dimensional shocks.

The government will strengthen national and local convergence in averting, reducing, and addressing the impacts of climate change.

The country will promote strengthened multi-stakeholder participation, to enhance their contribution towards improved natural resources management and leverage private sector investments. This will drive the transition toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.



VII

CONCLUSION

Since its last VNR in 2022, the Philippines has made notable progress in the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, both in terms of accomplishments against the targets and in terms of increasing data collection for the indicators. This performance was bolstered by localization efforts, innovative statistical developments, digital transformation initiatives, data-driven policymaking, enhanced stakeholder participation, and robust monitoring systems.

The significant strides made in **SDGs 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15** reflects the Philippines' ability to respond to complex development challenges and reflect its steadfast resolve to leave no one behind.

However, challenges remain requiring a more in-depth look at regressing goals, in particular for SDG 3. The deceleration in our performance indicates a strong and urgent need to address issues in health service delivery. Meanwhile, progress in some targets, particularly for SDG 5, needs to be accelerated. This is due to insufficient gains in areas concerning the elimination

of child marriages, and increasing women's participation in leadership roles. Moreover, the persistent dangers posed by climate change, and vulnerabilities arising out of economic inequalities cannot be overlooked.

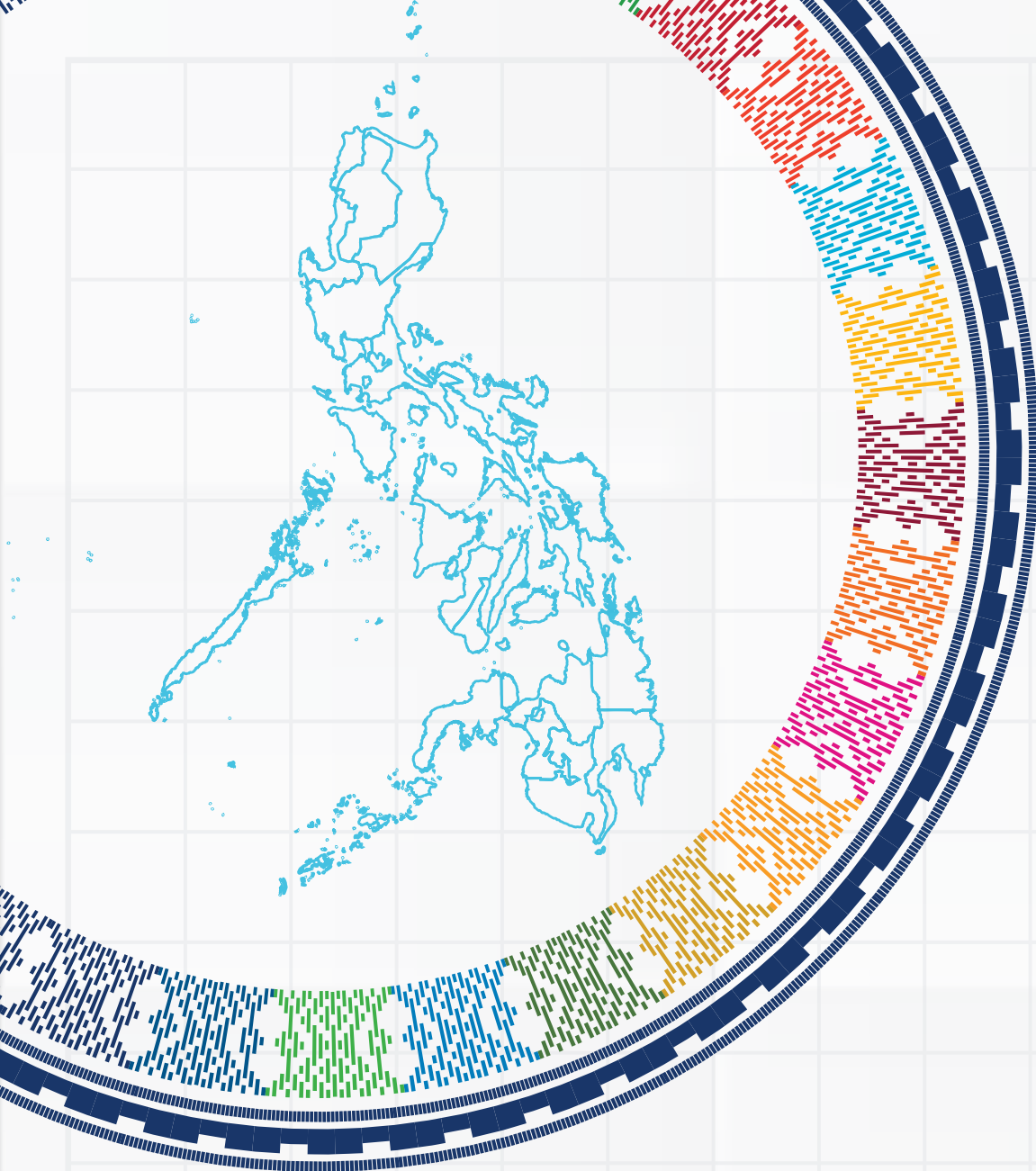
With only five years remaining until 2030, accelerating progress is more crucial than ever. This review highlights how the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach is key to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.

Aligned with the long-term vision (***AmBisyon Natin 2040***) of a *matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay* (strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life) for all Filipinos, and guided by the Philippine Development Plan; the government and all sectors will take bold, targeted, strategic, and innovative actions that will transform the Philippines into a resilient, prosperous, and sustainable country where no one is left behind.

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

AMBISYON NATIN
2040





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