



PHILIPPINES



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2023 Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Report: Philippines

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2023 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

PHILIPPINES

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FOREWORD

I am honored to present the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Implementation Report, the first report ever to be published that charts our progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. This report, themed “Gears of Transformation,” showcases our collective effort to build a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous nation, drawing from the lessons our country has learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. The theme encapsulates the interdependent nature of the 17 SDGs, each represented as an essential gear in the overall machinery of sustainable development. Achieving progress requires all societal actors to work in harmony, ensuring each gear functions optimally to drive our nation’s sustainable future.

NEDA, as the Secretariat to the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) – Subcommittee on SDGs (SC-SDG), led the preparation of this report. The 2023 SDG Implementation Report highlights our foundational efforts that put in place governance mechanisms, plans, and policies to propel the 2030 agenda forward, leveraging intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

With the enactment of Republic Act (RA) No. 11467 in 2020, which allocates 20 percent of excise tax on alcohol, heated tobacco products, and vapor products towards the SDGs, we have strengthened our approach to SDG implementation. NEDA, as Secretariat to the SC-SDG, spearheaded the formulation of the Program Convergence Budgeting Framework for the SDGs (PCB-SDG) which was approved by the DBCC in December 2023. The PCB-SDG is a mechanism that aims to strategically focus government resources on programs, activities and projects (PAPs) that accelerate progress towards the 17 SDGs especially as we draw close to the 2030 deadline.

Achieving the SDGs requires the concerted efforts of the government, private sector, civil society, and every Filipino. Together, we are building a future where no one is left behind, economic growth is inclusive, and natural resources are protected.



NEDA remains committed to steering the country’s initiatives towards a sustainable future, fostering collaboration, innovation, and resilience. Our vision, embodied in *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, aims to provide a “*matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay*” (strongly-rooted, comfortable, and secure life) for every Filipino.

Thank you to all our partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support. Let us continue working together to achieve the SDGs and build a sustainable future for our nation.

Arsenio M. Balisacan, PhD

Secretary

National Economic and Development Authority

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Implementation Report, themed “Gears of Transformation,” highlights the country’s significant post-COVID-19 pandemic accomplishments toward the 2030 Agenda. The theme underscores the interconnectedness of each SDG, emphasizing the need for all societal actors to collaborate effectively toward sustainable development.

This report showcases the country’s dedication in reigniting our commitment to the 2030 agenda after the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, and our progress in aligning national targets with global goals. The report focuses on key achievements across various domains, as follows:

Institutional Strengthening. With the establishment of the SC-SDG under the NEDA Board’s DBCC, along with Technical Working Groups on the SDGs, a governance mechanism is now in place to accelerate the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs in tandem with the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*. Given that the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 adopted 79 out of 157 SDG indicators, the country is better poised to implement the SDGs with the formation of dedicated inter-agency bodies to steer and coordinate government efforts.

Resource Mobilization. The enactment of RA 11467 earmarked 20 percent of excise taxes from alcohol, heated tobacco, and vapor products for SDG attainment, significantly strengthened resource mobilization efforts. Implementing the law, the Program Convergence Budgeting Framework for the SDGs was developed by the SC-SDG to support critical programs aimed at accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

Policy and Legislative Developments. Significant policies and legislations were put in place to address critical areas like housing, healthcare access, employment, and child protection. These government interventions include, among others, the implementation of the *Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino*, establishment of Specialty Centers in Department of Health hospitals, and the enactment of the *Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act* and the *Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Act*.

Localization and Innovation. The Philippines stands out as a champion in localizing the SDGs through best practices such as the implementation of the Last Mile Schools Program and ProtecTEEN to promote education and social welfare, particularly in remote and underserved communities. To address disparities among regions, NEDA spearheaded the formulation of Regional SDG Catch-up Plans in three pilot regions, namely Central Luzon (Region III), Eastern Visayas (Region VIII), and SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII). Local governments have likewise started undertaking Voluntary Local Reviews to assess SDG progress in cities and municipalities.

Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity-Building. Recognizing that attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the *AmBisyon Natin 2040* requires not only a whole-of-government approach but a whole-of-nation approach, the Stakeholders’ Chamber on the SDGs was established. The Chamber is an institutionalized mechanism to promote understanding, develop ownership, and facilitate the emergence of well-aligned partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs. It also serves as a platform for better resource management and coordination for the achievement of the SDGs, ensuring complementarity and support between the efforts of the government and non-government actors through matching of existing resources and investments. NEDA likewise enrolled the three-year roadmap of the Stakeholders’ Chamber in the 6th National Action Plan (NAP) of the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) as a manifestation of our country’s strong commitment to the SDGs.

Voluntary National Review. The Philippines has successfully produced three Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) since committing to publish every three years. The 2022 VNR showed how the country has endured the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It likewise showcased the Whole-of-Nation PLUS approach, and various innovations and strategies on SDG implementation to bring the country back to its high-growth trajectory. The VNRs are part of the regular and inclusive country-led and country-driven review process undertaken by member states to assess their progress on the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs in consultation with various stakeholders, especially those furthest behind.

Local and Global Engagement. The signing of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024–2028 was witnessed by the President of the Philippines in October 2023. The UNSDCF is a strategic partnership agreement aimed at supporting the Philippines in achieving its national development priorities as articulated in *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and the PDP 2023–2028, aligning with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. Moreover, NEDA, as the Secretariat of the SC-SDG, hosted the Philippine SDG Summit and the Symposium on Accelerating SDGs through Sustainable Business Practices in 2023. These local fora brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, as a way of promoting the SDGs, mainstreaming sustainability reporting, and fostering synergistic efforts with the private sector, civil society organization, and non-government organizations, among others. The Philippines also actively participated in international fora, sharing its experiences and advocating for global cooperation in achieving the SDGs. Highlights include contributions at the UN High-Level Political Forum, the ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue, and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

Moreover, the report outlines future strategies, including the pilot implementation of the Program Convergence Budgeting for the SDGs, completion of the Regional SDG Catch-up Plans, preparation for the 2025 Voluntary National Review, and enactment of legislative priorities. These steps are crucial in sustaining and accelerating progress towards the SDGs, ensuring that the Philippines remains on track to achieve a resilient and inclusive future by 2030.

01

Introduction

Gearing up for sustainable development and *AmBisyon Natin 2040*

In 2015, the Philippines, along with all United Nations (UN) Member States, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” The 2030 Agenda builds on the lessons and gains of the Millennium Development Goals and serves as a comprehensive blueprint for global peace and prosperity, emphasizing that sustainable development must balance social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which calls for collective action from all nations to “leave no one behind.” The 17 SDGs recognize the interconnected nature of development challenges, necessitating strategies that simultaneously address poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality, spur economic growth, and tackle climate change while preserving our oceans and forests.

The Philippines reinforced its commitment to these global goals through the issuance of Executive Order (EO) No. 5, s. 2016, which mandated the adoption of the 25-year long-term vision, entitled *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, as a guide for development planning. *AmBisyon Natin 2040* embodies the Filipinos’ collective vision of a “*matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay*.” It aligns with the 2030 Agenda’s core principles of sustainable development and leaving no one behind.

Building on this foundation, EO 27, s. 2017 was issued on June 1, to implement the PDP and Public Investment Program (PIP) for 2017-2022. EO 27 emphasized the integration of the SDGs into national strategies, ensuring that the PDP and the PIP serve as effective vehicles for sustainable development.

Continuing this trajectory, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued EO 14 on January 27, 2023, which approved and adopted the PDP 2023-2028. The plan mainstreams strategies that directly contribute to achieving the SDGs, reinforcing the country’s unwavering commitment to sustainable development.

Oiling the gears toward sustainable development

A game-changing development in the country’s pursuit of the 2030 Agenda is the adoption of the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) approach for the SDGs. Anchored on RA 11467, the PCB framework for SDGs was developed to strategically finance programs and projects (PAPs) that accelerate progress towards the global goals. Enacted in 2020, the legislation directs 20 percent of excise taxes from alcohol, heated tobacco products, and vapor products towards the attainment of the SDGs.

By aligning domestic resources with the SDGs, the PCB-SDG framework ensures that each goal functions as an essential gear in the machinery of sustainable development. This holistic approach ensures efficient resource allocation, propelling the country on its path to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

02

Overview of the SDG Implementation in the Philippines: **Aligning Strategies and Performance**

Since 2015, the country has made tremendous progress in integrating the SDGs in its development plans and programs. This section presents an overview of the Philippines' post-COVID-19 pandemic journey towards achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, it provides a snapshot of the Philippines' SDG performance, emphasizing the need to accelerate progress and reverse negative trends to meet 2030 targets.

A. About the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a comprehensive plan, which aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and includes 17 SDGs as its core components. These goals are an urgent call for action by all countries—developed and developing—in a global partnership. It recognizes ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs build on decades of work by countries and the UN, including:



1 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 1992

Adoption of Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development.



2 Millennium Summit, 2000

Adoption of the Millennium Declaration, which led to the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.



3 World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002

Adoption of the Johannesburg Declaration, reaffirming commitments to sustainable development.



4 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), 2012

Launched a process to develop the SDGs which will build on the MDGs; and establish the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.



5 Adoption of the 2030 Agenda, 2015

Adoption of the 2030 agenda, which includes 17 SDGs, 169 targets, and 231 unique indicators, providing a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.

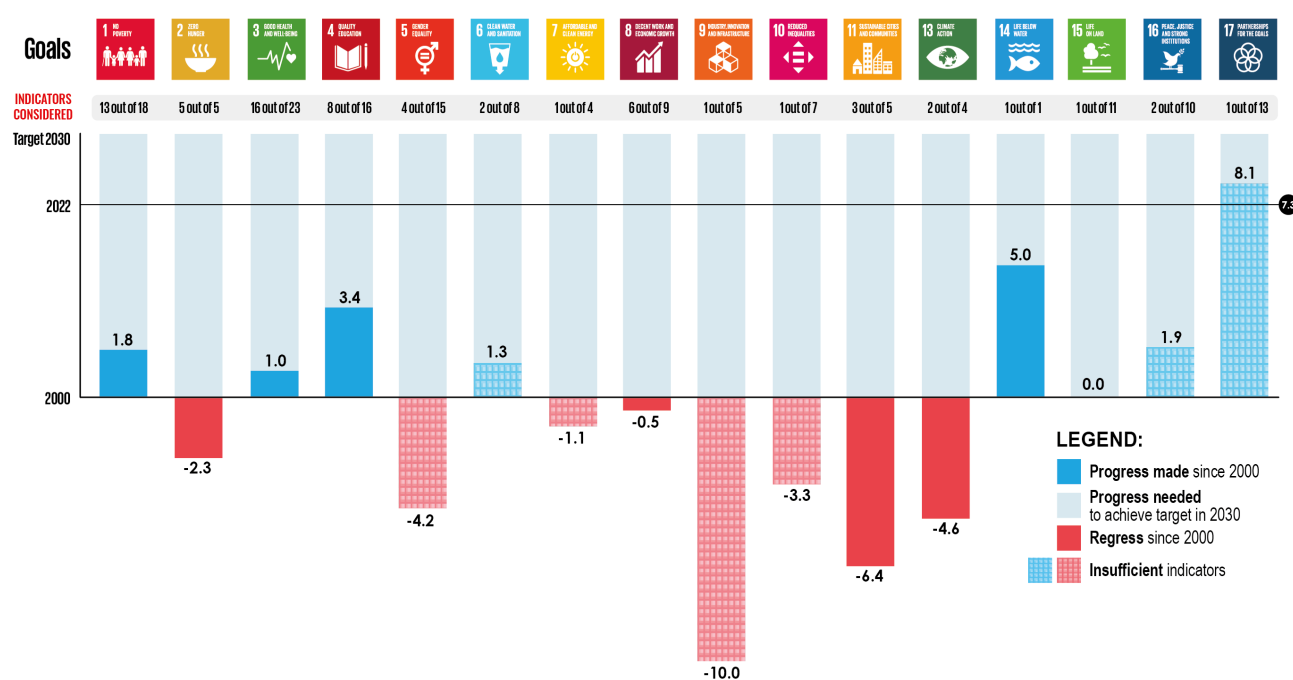
Figure 1. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



B. Philippine SDG Performance

The Philippines has exemplified a robust commitment to achieving the SDGs through a range of national initiatives and strategic actions.

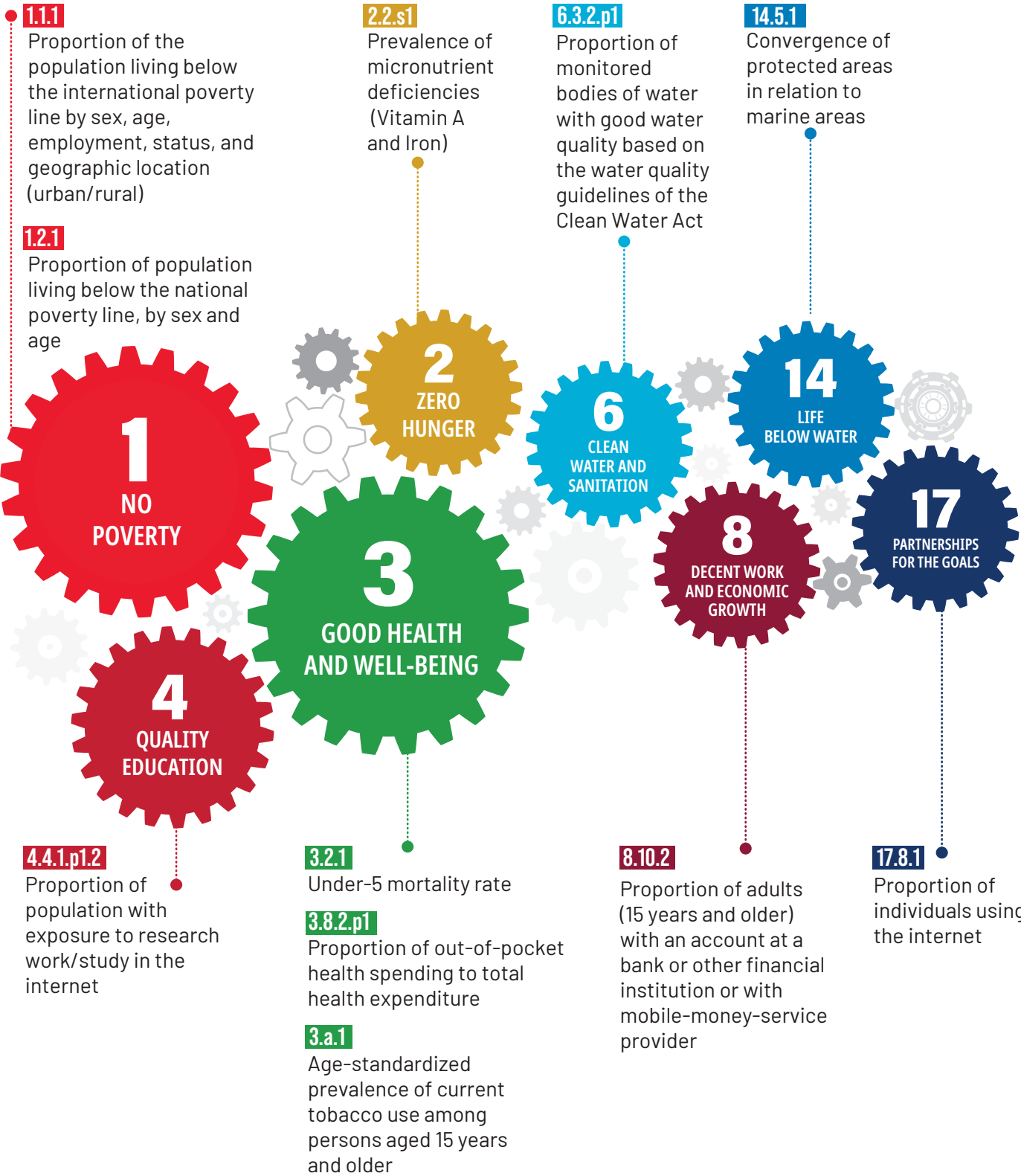
Figure 2. Snapshot of the 2022 SDG Pace of Progress



Based on the 2022 SDG Pace of Progress, the country has made progress in SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Zooming in, 11 indicators have been reported on track, contributing to achievement of the country's national target.

Figure 3. Indicators that are on track based on the 2022 SDG Pace of Progress



The Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023 further highlights the Philippines' significant progress in SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), surpassing the regional average in Asia Pacific since 2015.¹

Moreover, the Philippines was among the top 30 UN members and second in ASEAN (next to Malaysia) in terms of data availability across all SDGs, as reported in the Pulse of Progress: The State of Global SDG Data in 2023.²

Despite the country's notable accomplishments, there are still a number of regressing SDGs, both at the goal and indicator levels, which require special attention. Hence, the country's efforts have been refocused to address SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and 13 (Climate Action). *(See Annex A for Goals and Indicators that are Regressing and Needing Acceleration)*

Efforts have likewise been refocused to improve specific regressing indicators under non-regressing SDGs. These efforts ensure comprehensive progress across all dimensions of sustainable development. *(See Annex B for Regressing Indicators under Non-regressing SDGs)*

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- 1 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2023). Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report (2023 ed.). United Nations. 10.18356/9789210019477. Retrieved from <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/asia-and-pacific-sdg-progress-report-2023>
- 2 Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (2023). Pulse of progress: The state of global SDG data 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.data4sdgs.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/UN%20Pulse%20of%20Progress%202023.pdf>

03

Milestones and Initiatives in SDG Implementation: **Institutionalizing Progress**

The collective pursuit of achieving the SDGs is marked by significant milestones and innovations reflecting the country's unwavering commitment to sustainable development.

This section delves into the key achievements and strategic actions undertaken from 2021 to 2023, highlighting the collaborative efforts across various sectors and levels of government. By institutionalizing mechanisms, integrating SDGs into national and subnational planning frameworks, and engaging stakeholders, the Philippines has created a robust foundation for sustainable progress. Key legislations and executive issuances have also played a pivotal role in embedding the SDGs within the country's legal and policy frameworks. These milestones and initiatives underscore the country's dedication to translating global goals into local realities, fostering a resilient and inclusive future for all.

A. Institutional Mechanisms on the SDGs

National Level. The Philippines' institutional mechanisms for the SDGs are a testament to the country's commitment to sustainable development. The country leverages existing structures to foster collaboration, with NEDA serving as the central coordinating body.

In 2019, the Philippines established a dedicated Subcommittee on the SDGs (SC-SDG), and four Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Social, Environment, Economic, and Peace, Security and Governance. This initiative is based on Resolution No. 2, issued on February 28, 2019 by the Social Development Committee (SDC) under the NEDA Board.

In the Resolution, the SDC enjoined the DBCC, to create the inter-agency committee and its TWGs. By December 2019, the DBCC approved the establishment of the SC-SDG and its four TWGs. It likewise approved the establishment of a Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs for private sector and non-government representation.

Pursuant to the Resolution, the SC-SDG is tasked to undertake the following:

1. Assist in the coordination of the SDGs in the Philippines through the conduct of quarterly meetings with relevant government stakeholders;
2. Coordinate, monitor, and recommend to the DBCC and the NEDA Board, policies, programs, activities, and projects related to meeting the SDGs consistent with national development objectives and priorities;
3. Provide support, guidance, and oversight on the integration of the SDGs in the development plans;
4. Coordinate inter-sectoral concerns between the economic, environmental, social, and peace, security and governance sectors;
5. Serve as the platform for disseminating information on and advocating for the SDGs; and
6. Provide clearance and review SDG-relevant national reports such as the Voluntary National Review.

In 2023, the membership of the SC-SDG was expanded to include the judiciary through the Supreme Court as well as the Stakeholders' Chamber Co-chair, the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (for the period of 2023–2025). Meanwhile, the TWG memberships were also expanded to include the Congress through the Senate's and House of Representatives' Committees on SDG.

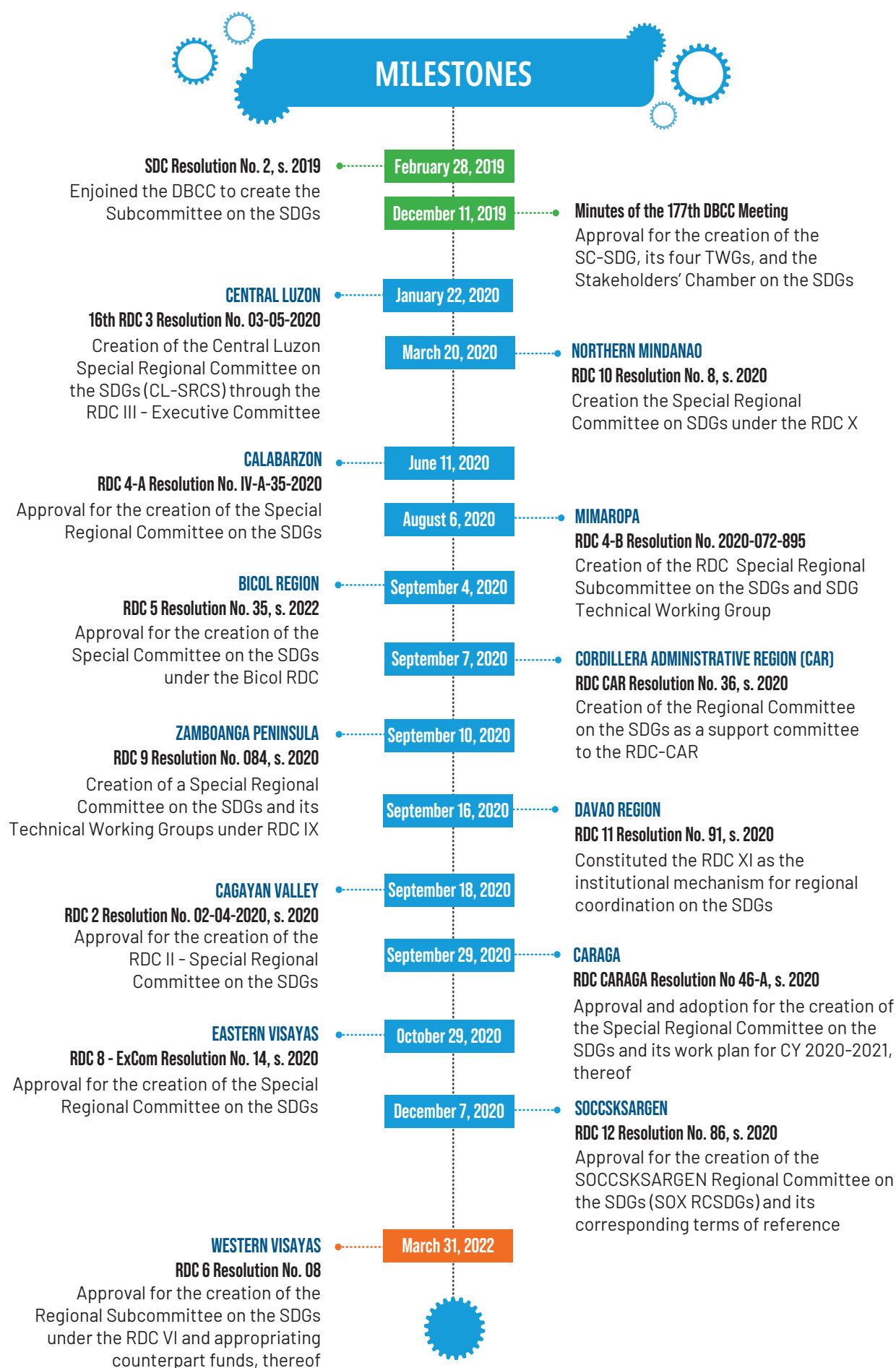
Subnational Level. The Philippines demonstrated its commitment to achieving the SDGs by empowering local leadership and fostering a collaborative environment to translate global goals into local improvements. Through SDC Resolution No. 2, s. 2019, the Special Regional Committees or Regional Committees on the SDGs were established.

These regional bodies focus on identifying and addressing gaps in current policies and programs that are essential for driving progress on the SDGs. Their functions include the following:

1. Evaluate and approve SDG-related policies, programs, partnerships, and budget recommendations to be endorsed to the Regional Development Councils (RDCs);
2. Identify gaps in existing initiatives,
3. Recommend improvements to ensure alignment with the SDG targets; and
4. Steer discussions to ensure the SDGs are effectively translated into local contexts and action plans.

By engaging local governments and stakeholders, the committees ensure that the SDGs are translated into concrete, ground-level actions. This decentralized approach encourages ownership and accountability at all levels, fostering an inclusive and participatory process for sustainable development.

Figure 4. Milestones in the Institutionalization of SDG Governance Mechanism



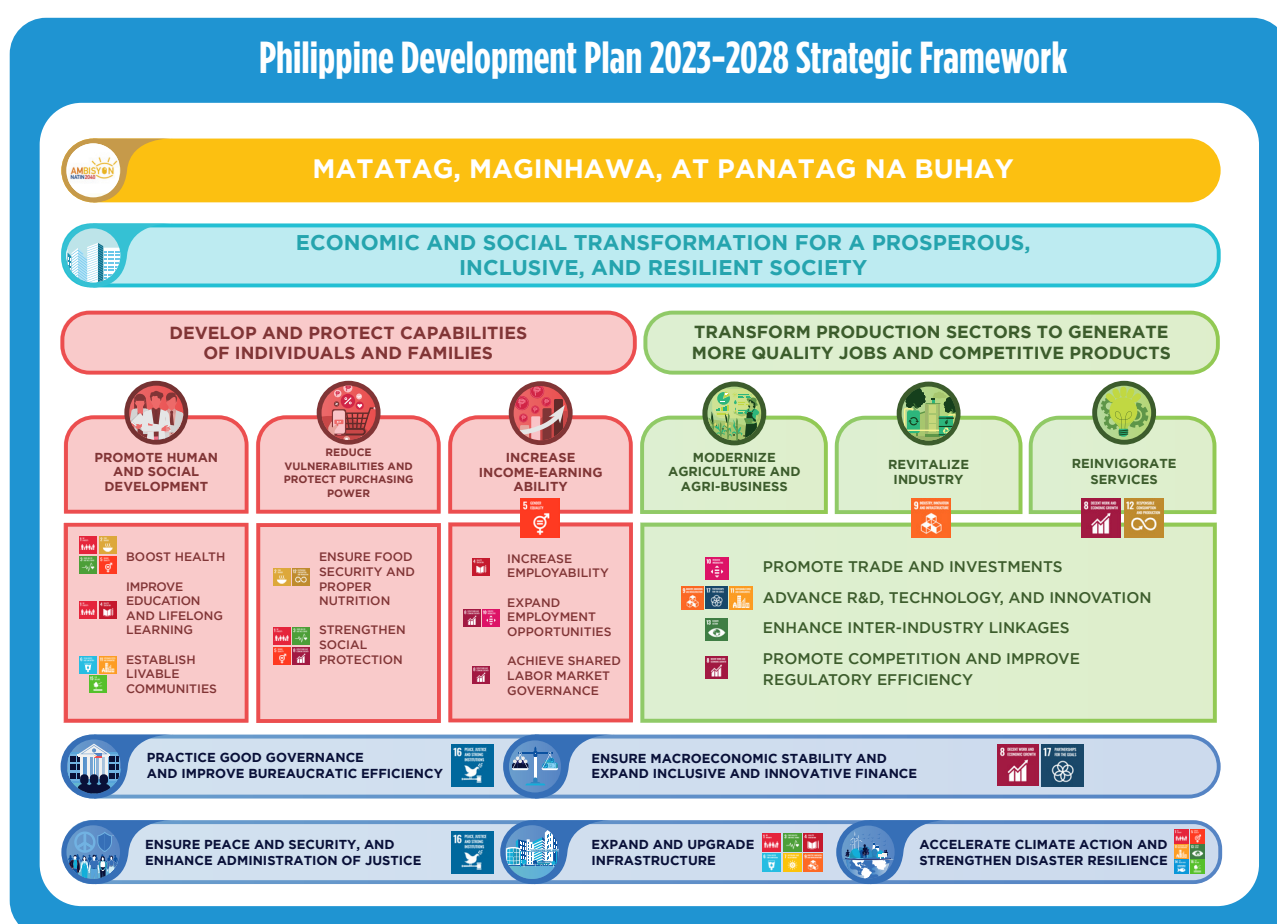
B. Integration of the SDGs in National and Subnational Planning Frameworks

The Philippines has committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to address critical global challenges through localized efforts. By embedding the SDGs within national and local planning frameworks, the country seeks to achieve inclusive growth, reduce inequalities, and promote environmental sustainability. This section presents the accomplishments in mainstreaming the SDGs within the national and subnational planning frameworks.

National Development Planning Framework. Following the issuance of EO 5 in 2016, EO 27, s. 2017 was subsequently issued the following year, highlighting the importance of the SDGs in the formulation and implementation of the PDP and the PIP for the period 2017-2022.

The institutionalization of the SC-SDG and its TWGs, along with the Stakeholders' Chamber, significantly bolstered the mainstreaming of the SDGs in the national development planning framework. As a result, the PDP 2023-2028 adopted 79 out of 157 indicators in its results matrix.

Figure 5. The PDP 2023-2028 Framework with the SDGs



Subnational Development Planning Framework. Reinforcing the government's effort to mainstream the SDGs in development planning, the SDGs were also integrated into the Regional Development Plans (RDPs).

The integration of SDGs into both national and subnational development planning frameworks in the Philippines represents a significant stride towards sustainable and inclusive development. Through strategic alignment with the PDP and robust implementation through the RDPs, the country has laid a solid foundation for achieving its developmental aspirations in harmony with global sustainability targets.

Local governments are more than just partners in achieving the SDGs, but are also drivers of progress. The inclusion of SDGs in local long-term visions, medium-term development plans, and sectoral plans, along with the prioritization of SDG responsive PAPs in budget formulation, are some of the SDG localization mechanisms being implemented. These efforts ensure that local actions are aligned with national and global development goals, fostering a comprehensive and cohesive approach to sustainable development across the country.

C. Key Policies, Legislations, and Issuances

The Philippines has enacted various policies, legislations, and issuances to advance its commitment to the SDGs. These measures aim to institutionalize progress, enhance legal protections, and ensure the effective implementation of sustainable development initiatives across sectors.

Figure 6. Policies, Legislations, and Other Issuances under the Social Sector

LEGISLATIONS

September 27, 2023

RA 11962

Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act

The law promotes employability, competitiveness, and productivity of workers. Specifically, it focuses on providing support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); upskilling and reskilling; addressing youth unemployment; and reintegrating support for overseas Filipino workers, among others. The act contributes directly to **SDG Target 8.5**.

Note: The act likewise contributes to SDGs Target 8.9 and 9.2 and the Economic Sector.

December 7, 2022

RA 11959

An Act Establishing Specialty Centers in Department of Health Hospitals in Every Region and in Government-Owned Or -Controlled Corporation Specialty Hospitals and Appropriating Funds

The law increases access to specialized healthcare for various medical conditions. This improved access allows for earlier diagnoses, more effective treatment options, and potentially better patient outcomes. This initiative contributes to various **SDG Targets under Goal 3**.



July 30, 2022

RA 11930

Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Act and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse of Exploitation Materials Act

The law seeks to punish the online sexual abuse or exploitation of children (OSAEC). Under the law, OSAEC is defined as the use of ICT as a means to abuse and/or exploit children sexually, which includes cases in which offline child abuse and/or exploitation is combined with an online component. The law supports **SDG Target 5.2**.

June 4, 2022

RA 11861

Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act

The law grants additional benefits and privileges to solo parents and their children. It contributes to **SDG Target 5.c**.

March 12, 2022

RA 11648

Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act

The law provides stronger protection against rape and sexual exploitation and abuse, increasing age for determining the commission of statutory rape. The law supports **SDG Target 5.2**.

June 23, 2022

RA 11862

Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022

The law provides legal protection to victims of human trafficking. Under the law, trafficked persons are recognized as victims of trafficking and shall not be penalized. The law contributes directly to **SDG Target 5.2**.

December 10, 2021

RA 11596

An Act Prohibiting the Practice of Child Marriage and Imposing Penalties for Violations Thereof

The law prohibits child marriage in the Philippines, imposes penalties for violations, and promote the empowerment of women and the protection of children from discrimination and exploitation. The law contributes to **SDG Target 5.3**.



POLICIES & ISSUANCES

July 17, 2023

EO 34

Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program

The issuance ensures access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgraded slums. It contributes to **SDG Targets 1.4. and 11.1.**



August 18, 2023

NNC Governing Board Resolution No. 1

Philippine Plan of Action (PPAN) 2023-2028

The PPAN strengthens the people's health and well-being through nutrition. It further boosts the economy, and contributes to meeting the SDGs and the global targets for maternal, infant, and young child nutrition. It contributes to **SDG Target 2.1.**

Figure 7. Policies, Legislations, and Other Issuances under the Environment Sector





POLICIES & ISSUANCES

Launched in February 2023

Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP)

The PAP4SCP serves as the country's guiding framework to influence and steer sustainable practices and behaviors across sectors and levels of government through policy reforms and programmatic interventions, including circular economy approaches over the short (2022-2023), medium (2024-2030), and long-term (2031-2040). It contributes to **SDG Targets 12.1.1, 12.2, 12.5, 12.6, and 12.8.**



Launched in February 2023

Roadmap to Institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in the Philippines

The NCA Roadmap provides strategic guidance in the integration and institutionalization of the NCA, including valuation of ecosystem services, into the government's planning, investment decisions, and policy-making process. It contributes to **SDG Targets 6.4, 6.6, 13.1, 13.2, 14.2, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, and 15.9.**

PSA Inter-Agency Committee on Environment and Natural Resource Statistics (IACENRS) Resolution No. 01, s. 2022

To strengthen the implementation of the NCA Roadmap, NEDA has consistently advocated for the enactment of a law on the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System in Congress. In particular, NEDA spearheaded the drafting of a substitute bill incorporating the inputs of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

June 30, 2021

DENR AO 2021-19

Updated Water Quality Guidelines and General Effluent Standards for Selected Parameters

The issuance updates the water quality guidelines for selected parameters based on the current classification of water bodies and on their beneficial use. It likewise updates effluent standards for selected parameters based on perceived impact to the activities in the area and to the environment.

This contributes to **SDG Target 6.3.**

February 2, 2022

DENR AO 2022-02

Guidelines for public participation under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS) for Proposed River Restoration Project through Dredging Activities

The issuance provides guidelines (i.e., requirements and procedures) for public participation in the restoration of heavily silted river channels through dredging projects. It also identifies key stakeholders for the public scoping and public consultation during the review and evaluation stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for dredging projects. It contributes to **SDG Target 6.5.**

May 24, 2021

DENR AO 2021-14

Amendment of the Guidelines on the use of alternative fuels and raw materials in cement kilns

The issuance establishes environmentally safe parameters for managing household hazardous waste (e.g., personal protective equipment) as alternative fuels and raw materials in cement kilns. The policy expands household healthcare waste treatment options due to the impact of COVID-19 on waste trends. It contributes to **SDG Target 11.6**.

January 24, 2023

DENR AO 2023-02

Establish the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (RA11898)

The issuance sets the operational details for Republic Act (RA) No. 11898, s. 2022, including appropriate waste collection and management activities eligible for plastic packaging under EPR (i.e., product redesign, recycling, alternative refilling models, etc.), administrative processes for EPR registration, and EPR compliance report audit. It contributes to **SDG Target 11.6**.

January 23, 2023

DHSUD MC No. 2023- 001

Adoption of the Urban Planning and Design for Climate Resilience: A reference tool for local governments and planning actors in the Philippines

The circular mandates the use of Urban Planning and Design (UPD) as a reference tool to further advance climate resilience at the subnational level. The UPD promotes climate resilient public open spaces program to increase greenery and improve micro-climate. These eventually lead to co-benefits in air quality improvement and better public health, among others. It contributes to **SDG Target 11.6**.

February 2, 2021

NSWMC Resolution No. 1428

Resolution declaring the plastic softdrink straw and plastic coffee stirrer as non-environmentally acceptable products

The resolution moves to include the plastic soft drink straw and coffee stirrer in the non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) list, as guided by the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Study on selected Single Use Plastic Products. It contributes to **SDG Targets 11.6 and 12.5**.

11
SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES

12
RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION

7
AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY

April 19, 2023

EO 21, s. 2023

Directing the Establishment of the Policy and Administrative Framework for Offshore Wind (OSW) Development

The issuance hastens the rollout of OSW projects and gives clear and streamlined process and timelines that eliminate red tape, facilitate efficient permitting process, and promote greater investment in OSW projects. It contributes to **SDG Target 7.2**.

September 26, 2023

DOE DC No. 2023-09-0027 and GEAP

The program supports and facilitates immediate and timely investments in new or additional renewable energy (RE) capacities to ensure provision of adequate supply and competitive rates in the country. It contributes to **SDG Target 7.2**.

May 24, 2022

DOE DC 2022-05-0017 and IRR of RA 11646

The issuance aims to pursue rural development and poverty reduction towards nation-building through energy access. It contributes to **SDG Target 7.1** and has a trickle-down effect to facilitate other economic advantages for an area.

May 23, 2023

DOE DC 2023-05-0015 and DC 2017-12-0015 - RPS

The issuance mandates electricity supplies to source an agreed portion of other energy supply from eligible RE sources, contributing to the growth of the RE industry in the country. It contributes to **SDG Target 7.2**.

February 17, 2022

DOE DC 2022-02-0002

Prescribing the Policies and Programs to Promote and Enhance the Development of Biomass Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Facilities

The issuance aims to promote biomass WTE facilities as baseload RE, which can contribute to additional supply and solid waste management that will benefit the local community. It contributes to **SDG Target 7.2**.

Figure 8. Policies, Legislations, and Other Issuances under the Economic Sector



LEGISLATIONS

November 23, 2023

RA 11965

Caregivers' Welfare Act

The law protects the rights of caregivers towards decent employment and income, and protection against abuse, harassment, violence, and economic exploitation. It contributes to **SDG Targets 8.3 and 8.5**.

May 6, 2022

RA 11765

Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act

The law aims to protect the interest of the consumers of financial products and services. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.10**.

February 16, 2021

RA 11523

Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer Act

The law provides a legal framework for the full transfer of bad loans and assets of banks by allowing these banks to clean their books and re-channel their resources to improve liquidity in the financial system. It contributes to **SDG Targets 10.5**.

June 17, 2022

RA 11840

Amendments to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation Act

The law strengthens and expands the financial safety net for depositors and creditors of Philippine banks. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.10**.

8

**DECENT WORK
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH**

10

**REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**

December 10, 2021

RA 11595

Amended Retail Trade Liberalization Act

This law opens the retail industry to foreign investors to help generate additional employment, widen the array of consumer products, and increase the inflow of new technologies at affordable and competitive prices for consumers. It contributes to **SDG Targets 17.3 and 17.13.**

March 26, 2021

RA 11534

Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act

This law reduces the corporate income tax rate for MSMEs and large corporations. It also rationalizes the tax incentive system to make it performance-based, time-bound, targeted, and transparent. It contributes to **SDG Targets 17.1 and 17.13.**



December 5, 2023

RA 11966

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code of the Philippines

This law addresses issues in existing Build-Operate-Transfer and PPP legal frameworks, streamlines implementation processes, updates approval thresholds for national PPP projects, and promotes autonomy in implementing local PPP projects while ensuring alignment with national development plans. It contributes to **SDG Target 17.13.**

March 21, 2022

RA 11659

Amended Public Service Act

This law facilitates the entry of foreign investment in the country through the easing of restrictions on foreign ownership. It contributes to **SDG Targets 17.3 and 17.13.**

March 2, 2022

RA 11647

Amended Foreign Investment Act

This law allows enhanced transparency in monitoring foreign investments, liberalizes the practice of professions not regulated by special laws and provides safeguards, such as the review of investments that are of particular interest to the country's national security. It contributes to **SDG Targets 17.3 and 17.13.**



POLICIES & ISSUANCES

Farm-to-Market Road Development Program Strategic Plan 2022-2031

The plan aims to improve connectivity and access to markets for agricultural and fishery products and increase the incomes of farmers and fishers by reducing post-harvest losses and transportation costs. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.1**.

National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (2023-2028)

The plan promotes accessible, inclusive, equitable, relevant, and high quality TVET. It contributes to **SDG Targets 8.3, 8.5, and 8.6**.

Guidelines on Recovery Plan of Banks

The issuance aims to update the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) and Recovery Plan of Banks. It contributes to **SDG Target 10.5**.

Environmental and Social Risk Management System

The issuance aims to guide banks in developing mechanisms to effectively manage the risks arising from climate change and environmental hazards, as well as promote financing to sustainable projects among others. It contributes to **SDG Target 10.5**.

MC 13, s. 2021 Comprehensive Implementing Guidelines on the Enhanced *Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita* Financial Grant Assistance Program

The issuance aims to provide financial assistance to small farmers and fishers to improve their production and marketing capabilities. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.3**.

Updated Tourism Response and Recovery Plan

The plan mitigated the impacts of COVID-19 to the tourism industry by continuing the delivery of assistance programs to workers and businesses and upscaling efforts towards safe recovery of tourism markets. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.9**.



Prudential Framework for Large Exposures Monitoring Threshold

The framework aims to identify, measure, monitor, and control large exposures to banks, such as interconnected, and interdependent entities. It contributes to **SDG Target 10.5**.

Philippine Tourism Human Capital Development Plan 2021-2025

The plan ensures the amalgamation of the individual plans related to tourism human capital to make it more cohesive and harmonized. It contributes to **SDG Targets 8.5, 8.6, and 8.9.**

BSP Circular No. 1122 Open Finance Framework

The issuance introduces Open Finance Framework to foster innovation, encourage competition, and advance financial inclusion. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.10.**

Reformulated National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2021-2022 and NTDP 2023-2028

The NTDP provides a framework to guide the development and implementation of various programs, projects, and activities to achieve resilient, inclusive, and sustainable tourism recovery. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.9.**

BSP Memorandum No. M-2022-024 Rural Bank Strengthening Program

BSP Circular No. 1151 Amendments to the Minimum Capitalization of Rural Banks

The issuance enhances the operations, capacity, and competitiveness of rural banks through risk management systems, upgrading of resources, and manage operational costs. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.10.**

DOT Information Systems Strategic Plan 2022-2027

The plan contains the DOT's overall strategy for the medium term (three- to five-year plan) planning for its information and communications technology (ICT) thrusts, strategies, and program for development. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.9.**

BSP Circular No. 1153 Regulatory Sandbox Framework

The issuance incorporates Sandbox Framework to foster an enabling environment for responsible innovation. It contributes to **SDG Target 8.10.**

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Medium-Term Fiscal Framework

The framework serves as the country's blueprint to reduce fiscal deficit, promote fiscal sustainability, and enable robust economic growth. It contributes to **SDG Targets 17.1 and 17.13.**

EO 29, s. 2023

Strengthening the Integration of Public Financial Management Information Systems, Streamlining Processes thereof, and amending Executive Order No. 55 (s. 2011) for the Purpose

The issuance mandates the full implementation of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) in all national government departments, agencies, and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and encourages local government units (LGUs) to implement IFMIS for processing government financial transactions. It contributes to **SDG Target 17.13.**

Figure 9. Policies, Legislations, and Other Issuances under the Peace, Security, and Governance Sector



LEGISLATIONS

May 6, 2022

RA 11767

Foundling Recognition and Protection Act

The law recognizes foundlings as natural-born citizens, ensuring they have a legal identity and access to social services and protection. It contributes to **SDG Target 16.9**.

July 28, 2022

RA 11909

Permanent Validity of the Certificates of Live Birth, Death, and Marriage Act

The law simplifies civil registration processes, making it easier for people to obtain and use their legal identity documents. It contributes to **SDG Target 16.9**.



POLICIES & ISSUANCES

December 6, 2021

PSA MC 2021-24

Guidelines in the Registration of the Certificate of Live Birth of Persons with No Known Parents

The issuance ensures that individuals without known parents receive legal identity, ensuring equal access to rights, opportunities, and services. It contributes to **SDG Target 16.9**.

July 22, 2022

PSA MC 2022-15

Dissemination of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the PhilSys Birth Registration Assistance Project (PBRAP)

The issuance ensures consistent implementation of the PBRAP, improving birth registration rates. It contributes to **SDG Target 16.9**.

D. SDG Localization

The Philippines has ensured ownership and localization of the SDGs through a collaborative and empowering approach, fostering a shared vision for a sustainable future. This commitment is reflected in a range of SDG best practices, key initiatives, and capacity-building programs.

Best Practices. The Philippines stands out as a champion of SDG localization, fostering innovation and impact through diverse best practices and initiatives.

1. **Development of a Manual for Urban Carrying Capacity Assessments (UCCA).** NEDA developed the UCCA Manual to serve as a reference tool in formulating or updating local and sectoral plans, policies, and programs. It ensures that plans, policies, and programs are responsive in addressing urban development challenges and challenges of having a harmonized framework and standardized methodology for carrying capacity assessments. *(SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities)*
2. **Water Security in Cagayan River Basin.** NEDA completed a study, which assesses the impact of present and future climate conditions on water resources, and demands for agriculture, domestic use, and industry using the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) Model. The WEAP Model generates information on water resources, analyzes current and future water demands, and establishes indicators for water security in the Cagayan River Basin and Magat Sub-basin. *(SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation)*
3. **“Sulub sa Barangay” Program.** Initiated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the program connects LGUs with businesses to co-finance local development projects, mobilizing additional resources for SDG implementation. *(SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals)*
4. **Establishment of Sustainable Development and Futures Thinking Unit under the University’s Planning Offices.** The Pangasinan State University (PSU) established the Sustainable Development and Futures Thinking Unit, which will lead the University’s initiatives in sustainability and innovative futures thinking. The establishment of this unit fosters collaboration among the University’s divisions, offices and units, facilitating the integration of the SDGs in the PSU Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024-2028. *(SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)*
5. **Adolescent Health and Development Program.** Implemented by the Department of Health – Region III, the program aims to increase the number of adolescent-friendly health facilities (AFHF) in Central Luzon that are compliant with standards of adolescent services. From 35 facilities in 2021, the region now has 154 accredited AFHF. *(SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being)*
6. **Project Classhome.** Launched by the Department of Education (DepEd) – Region II, the project is a convergence initiative that addresses the living conditions and educational challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples (IPs), particularly the Agta community, in Northern Luzon. It provides safe and supportive environment for IP learners through dormitory-style “Classhomes,” offering housing, educational support, and holistic development programs. Since its inception, it has achieved a 100 percent retention rate, with no student dropouts reported. *(SDG 4 – Quality Education)*
7. **Regional Halal Industry Development Program.** Implemented through the collaborative efforts of the Halal Task Force,³ Halal Certifying bodies, and stakeholders, the program aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of enterprises in the Halal food and service sector in Zamboanga Peninsula. In 2023, 18 food manufacturers and two hospitals were awarded with Halal certificates, while two Halal Certifying Bodies were NCMF-accredited. *(SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)*

³ The Halal Task Force includes the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and National Meat Inspection Service.

8. **Calamity Crop Insurance Project.** The project aims to provide immediate assistance to farmers, who have suffered losses due to natural calamities, and to ensure that these farmers can quickly recover and sustain their livelihoods. Under this project, the Capiz Provincial Government has provided monetary benefits to 308 farmers, covering an area of more than 200 hectares under the project. *(SDG 1 - No Poverty, SDG 13 - Climate Action)*
9. **Industry Development Program.** The program aims to create job opportunities and foster sustainable inclusive growth in SOCCSKSARGEN Region by enhancing industry competitiveness through the development of national roadmaps and trained policies. The Department of Trade and Industry - Region XII, in coordination with agencies and stakeholders, has formulated 26 industry roadmaps, policies, plans, research studies, and position papers. It has also conducted 45 localization activities, conferences, workshops, and capacity-building sessions to contribute to industry development. *(SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)*
10. **No LGU left behind: Streamlining SDGs in local infrastructure governance.** In 2023, the DILG oriented 161 LGUs on Green Buildings, promoting environmentally responsible building designs and resource-efficient operations. It likewise implemented the Strengthening Local Evacuation Systems project in 5th and 6th class municipalities to enhance community evacuation effectiveness through infrastructure investment, provision of equipment to support evacuation and camp management operations, and capacity building. *(SDG 13 - Climate Action)*

Statistical Capacity-building at the Subnational Level. The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) has initiated a statistical capacity-building program to assist LGUs in integrating SDGs in local governance and plans. Driven by the Community-Based Monitoring Act System (RA 11315) and the Mandanas Ruling (EO 138, s. 2021), the program includes the SDG Seminar Series, which aims to improve the quality of statistics, address data and framework gaps for SDG monitoring, and help LGUs identify local administrative data to measure SDG implementation and performance.

The PSA has likewise conducted a series of capacity-building programs for its regional offices to enhance their capabilities in monitoring SDG indicators and understanding the methodologies used in estimating the Philippine SDG Pace of Progress. As of December 2023, 13 out of the 17 PSA Regional Offices maintain the SDG Watch on their respective websites.

The PSRTI and PSA's collaboration with national agencies, LGUs, and various stakeholders has fostered a unified approach to SDG localization. Strong partnerships with institutions like DILG and NEDA have bolstered LGUs' capabilities in SDG efforts, ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive approach to sustainable development across the country.

Formulation of the Regional SDG Catch-up Plans. Despite significant strides in various domains, progress in the goals remains uneven across the regions, with some regions progressing more slowly than others.

To address the disparities among regions, NEDA initiated a coordinated and strategic effort with its 15 regional offices in the formulation of the Regional SDG Catch-up Plans. These catch-up plans are designed to be forward-looking, emphasizing on the following key areas:

1. Assessment of overall regional performance across all SDGs;
2. Identification of issues, challenges, and cross-cutting barriers affecting progress;
3. Review and gap analysis of existing PAPs that contribute to the attainment of the SDGs;
4. Discussion of initiatives and opportunities that can be leveraged to accelerate progress towards the SDGs; and
5. Indicative strategies, policies, and PAPs that will help the region catch up and achieve desired targets and outcomes by 2030.

In the second semester of 2023, three pilot regions, namely, Central Luzon (Region III), Eastern Visayas (Region VIII), and SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII) commenced formulation of their respective Regional SDG Catch-up Plans.



NEDA Assistant Secretary Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes with representatives from PSA, regional line agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders in Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) at the EPiC Regional Workshop on August 23-24, 2023.



NEDA Governance Staff Director Reverie Pure G. Sapaen with representatives from PSA, regional line agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders in Central Luzon (Region III) at the EPiC Regional Workshop on August 30-31, 2023.



NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon with representatives from PSA, regional line agencies, LGUs, and other stakeholders in the SOCCSKSARGEN (Region XII) at the EPiC Regional Workshop on September 4-5, 2023.

To capacitate the regions in the formulation of the catch-up plans, the SDG Progress Tracking and Planning Tool developed by the SDG Secretariat, and the UN ESCAP's Every Policy is Connected (EPiC) Tool were used. EPiC tool is a policy-data integration tool that integrates the four dimensions of development (Economic, Environmental, Institutional, and Social) in policies and creates a comprehensive indicator framework for policy monitoring. The NEDA SDG Secretariat conducted two training workshops:

1. Training of Trainers on Integrating Policy and Data to Leave No One Behind, participated by NEDA and PSA technical staff from the pilot regions, on June 19, 2023 in Pampanga, Philippines; and



2. Training for Regional and Sectoral SDG Focals, participated by NEDA and PSA technical staff from the rest of the regions, on October 2-6, 2023 at Seda Nuvali, Laguna, Philippines.



The formulation of the regional catch-up plan is ongoing. To ensure a comprehensive catch-up plan for every region, the NEDA Regional Offices will organize workshops in the first and second quarters of 2024 to solicit further inputs from government agencies, members of the private sector, and other stakeholders. All regions are expected to complete and submit their respective RDC-approved catch-up plans to the NEDA Central Office by third quarter of 2024.

E. Institutionalized Stakeholder Engagement

The government recognizes that the attainment of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development requires not just a whole-of-government approach, but also a whole-of-nation approach. To operationalize this approach, the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs was established in April 2022. As an important driver of the SDGs, the Chamber provides a nexus for multi-stakeholder engagement, which includes private sector, civil society organizations, businesses, academe, the media, and the vulnerable groups, to discuss, consult, and collaborate on matters related to sustainable development. It serves as a venue to promote understanding, develop ownership, and facilitate the emergence of well-aligned partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs.

The formulation of a three-year roadmap covering the period 2023-2025 is a significant step towards the 2030 Agenda. The roadmap reflects the stakeholders' commitment to becoming an active government partner by providing invaluable inputs on policymaking, investment programming, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

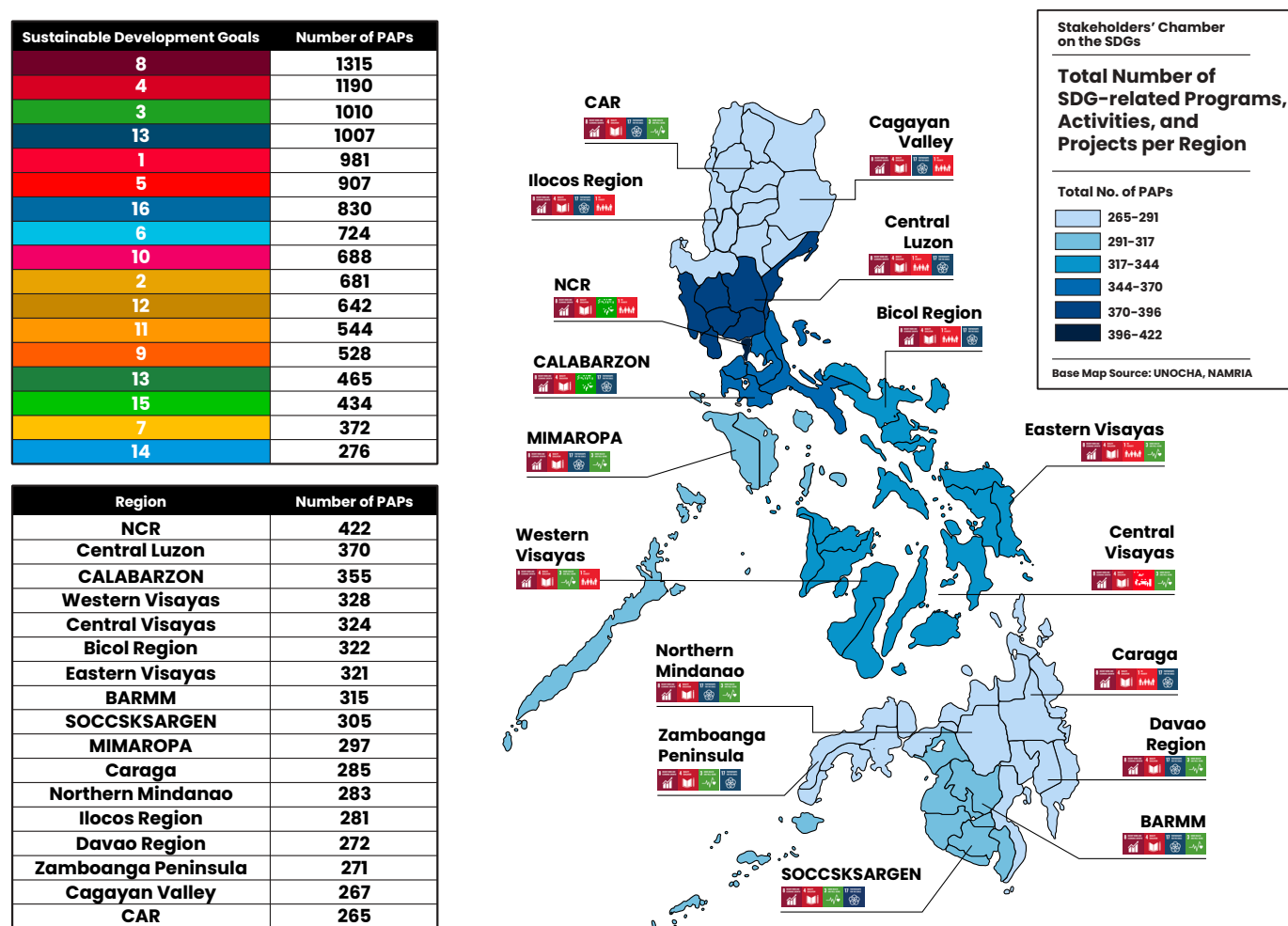
To enhance participatory governance, NEDA and the Stakeholders' Chamber enrolled this roadmap in 2023 as a commitment in the 6th National Action Plan (NAP) of the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP).

While still in the first year of implementation of the roadmap, the Stakeholders' Chamber has already posted notable accomplishments:

1. **Expansion of Stakeholders' Chamber membership.** The membership of the Stakeholders' Chamber was expanded from the original 42 to 65 members, enhancing its capacity for inclusive and diverse representation.
2. **Establishment of the Stakeholders' Chamber internal organization.** In its Special Meeting in August 2023, the Stakeholders' Chamber established Working Groups, mirroring the four thematic SC-SDG TWGs. Additionally, two functional Working Groups were created: the Measurement and Monitoring, and Communications and Advocacy Working Groups.
3. **Identification of areas of cooperation in the PDP 2023-2028 for SDG acceleration.** To implement SDG-related strategies under the PDP 2023-2028, NEDA identified key areas where Stakeholders' Chamber members could contribute as partners in sustainable development, ensuring alignment and coordination across initiatives.
4. **Conceptualization of the SPACE web application.** The SDG Secretariat began developing the Stakeholder Partnership Accelerator for Convergence and Engagement (SPACE) web application, with technical assistance from the UNDP-Pintig Lab. The application will serve as a one-stop shop to relevant information for SDG implementation in the Philippines, specifically catering to Chamber members. The conceptualization process included a series of workshops and meetings with the UNDP, Chamber members, and other relevant agencies.
5. **Utilization of GIS Application to visualize regional distribution of SDG programs.** In 2022, NEDA initiated a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project to visualize the regional distribution of SDG PAPs by Chamber members. The initiative helps identify gaps in SDG implementation, and targets specific geographical areas that are lagging behind.

Figure 6 shows the flagship PAPs of the Chamber as of December 2023, the regions where these PAPs are, and their concentration across regions.

Figure 10. Choropleth Mapping of Stakeholders' Chamber's SDG-related PAPs



F. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024–2028

On October 25, 2023, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. witnessed the signing of the new cooperation framework by NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Enrique A. Manalo, and UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales at the Malacañang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024–2028 is a product of the successful negotiation between the government through NEDA and DFA and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in the Philippines. It is a strategic partnership agreement aimed at supporting the Philippines in achieving its national development priorities. These priorities are articulated in the *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and PDP 2023–2028, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. witnessed the signing of the UNSDCF 2024-2028 by NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, DFA Secretary Enrique A. Manalo, and UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales on October 25, 2023 at the Malacañang Palace, Manila, Philippines.

The UNSDCF builds on the successes of the Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development, the first Philippines-UN Country Plan rolled out in 2019. The plan sought to harmonize the resources and efforts of the UN Country Team (UNCT) to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation in the country. The new cooperation framework seeks to promote 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.

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 sustainable development goals, driving progress and fostering a resilient and inclusive future.



(From left to right) NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., DFA Secretary Enrique A. Manalo, and UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales at the signing of the UNSDCF 2024-2028 on October 25, 2023 at Malacañang Palace, Manila, Philippines.

G. Local and International Fora

The Philippine government has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the SDGs through active participation in both local and international fora. These platforms provide valuable opportunities for sharing best practices, forging strategic partnerships, and reinforcing the country's dedication to the 2030 Agenda. From engaging stakeholders at national fora to representing the country in high-level international discussions, the Philippines continually emphasizes the importance of collaboration, innovation, and effective governance in achieving sustainable development.

This section highlights the significant contributions and insights shared at various key events, showcasing the country's proactive stance in promoting and implementing the SDGs both domestically and on the global stage.

Advancing SDG implementation through collaborative efforts locally

1. Philippine SDG Summit: A Milestone on the Path to 2030

As the world races toward the 2030 deadline for achieving the SDGs, the Philippines hosted its first SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022. The summit underscored the urgency of accelerating progress and fostering collaborative efforts to meet these goals. This event brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations, and representatives of vulnerable groups, reflecting the inclusive and integrative spirit of the SDGs.

The Road to 2030: Setting the Stage

The summit opened with a compelling call to action by NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, who emphasized that the Philippines is at a critical juncture with only eight years remaining. Secretary Balisacan highlighted the necessity of transformative steps to ensure a sustainable and resilient future.



NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan delivered his opening remarks at the Philippine SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022 at the Chardonay by Astoria, Pasig City, Philippines.

The national launch of the 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Philippines, presented by Assistant Secretary Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes of NEDA, provided a comprehensive overview of the country's progress and challenges in implementing the SDGs, serving as a crucial reflection point halfway to the 2030 agenda.



NEDA Assistant Secretary Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes set the stage for the national launch of the 2022 Voluntary National Review of the Philippines during the Philippine SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022 at the Chardonnay by Astoria, Pasig City, Philippines.

Interactive Dialogues and Collaborative Insights

The two-day event was structured to facilitate deep dives into key SDG topics through plenary sessions and interactive discussions. One of the major highlights was the session on “Pace of Progress on the SDG Implementation in the Philippines,” which explored the country's strides and challenges. Discussions led by experts from various sectors illuminated the need for enhanced data monitoring, increased investment in sustainable projects, and stronger alignment between national and international frameworks.



Panel discussions held at the Philippine SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022 at the Chardonnay by Astoria, Pasig City, Philippines.

The summit also featured a unique SDG Stakeholder Symposium, the first of its kind in the Philippines, where stakeholders from different sectors showcased their contributions to the SDGs. This platform allowed for the exchange of best practices, highlighting successful initiatives like the Jollibee Group Foundation's programs on food security and the International Care Ministries' efforts in supporting poor communities.

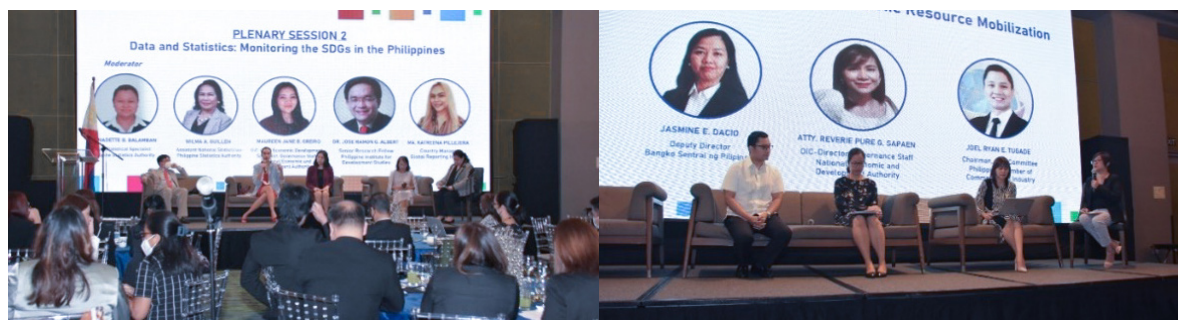


(In photos from top left to right, and from bottom left to right) Representatives from De La Salle University, PLDT & Smart Communications, ASKI Group of Companies, and the International Commission on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Philippines shared their SDG initiatives on November 22-23, 2022 at the Chardonnay by Astoria, Pasig City, Philippines.

The Role of Data and Financing in SDG Implementation

A significant portion of the summit was dedicated to the critical roles of data and financing in achieving the SDGs. The session on “Data and Statistics: Monitoring the SDGs in the Philippines” underscored the importance of robust data systems for effective SDG monitoring and implementation. Experts emphasized the need for more localized data collection and the development of a national strategy for SDG monitoring, which would enhance the country’s ability to track progress accurately.

The discussion on “Road to SDG Financing: Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization” addressed the financial strategies necessary to support sustainable development initiatives. Speakers highlighted the importance of integrating SDGs into the country’s financing frameworks and the need for innovative funding mechanisms, such as the proposed SDG Fund, to support projects directly contributing to the goals.



Plenary sessions focused on SDG data and statistics, and financing at the Philippine SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022 in Pasig City, Philippines.

A Call to Action: Strengthening Partnerships for the Future

The summit concluded with a strong message from NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon, who emphasized the need for continued collaboration among all sectors. She called for the formalization of partnerships and the establishment of mechanisms to support the shared goal of leaving no one behind. The summit not only celebrated the achievements made so far but also laid the groundwork for future actions, encouraging all stakeholders to redouble their efforts in the final stretch toward 2030.



NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon delivered her closing remarks at the Philippine SDG Summit on November 22-23, 2022 in Pasig City, Philippines.

Looking Ahead: The Philippines and the Global SDG Movement

The Philippine SDG Summit marked a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards sustainable development. By fostering open dialogue, encouraging innovation, and building robust partnerships, the summit set a precedent for future national events aimed at accelerating SDG implementation. As the world navigates complex challenges, from climate change to economic inequality, the Philippines' commitment to the SDGs serves as a testament to the power of collective action and shared responsibility.

As the countdown to 2030 continues, the lessons and commitments from the SDG Summit plays a crucial role in shaping the future of sustainable development in the Philippines and beyond. While the journey is far from over, the continued dedication and cooperation of all stakeholders allows for the vision of a sustainable, equitable, and resilient world to remain within reach.

2. The ESG Symposium: Empowering Sustainability

On December 1, 2023, NEDA, in partnership with the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs, held the "Symposium on Accelerating SDGs through Sustainable Business Practices," focusing on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. As the world approaches the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, the symposium highlighted the crucial role of ESG practices in achieving these global objectives. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including members of the Stakeholders' Chamber, representatives from NEDA, government agencies, civil society organizations, and academia.

The Importance of ESG in Sustainable Development

The symposium emphasized the growing recognition of ESG principles as a framework for sustainable business practices that align with the SDGs. In his opening remarks, President and Vice Chairperson of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) Edicio G. Dela Torre, stressed the transformative power of words and dialogue in shaping reality and advancing the SDGs. He highlighted the need for clarity in understanding ESG concepts and their integration into business practices to accelerate progress toward sustainable development.

NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon delivered the keynote address, underscoring the critical intersection of economic growth and sustainable development. She emphasized that ESG principles – environmental protection, social well-being, and corporate governance – are essential for a balanced and resilient development trajectory. Undersecretary Edillon also highlighted the role of the Stakeholders' Chamber in promoting multisectoral collaboration to achieve these goals.

Delving into ESG Fundamentals and Regulatory Frameworks

The symposium featured an in-depth session on “ESG Fundamentals and its Synergy with the Sustainable Development Goals,” led by Ateneo de Manila University Executive Director Maria Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, Ph.D. She provided a comprehensive overview of ESG principles, linking them to specific SDGs such as Clean Water and Sanitation, Climate Action, and Decent Work and Economic Growth. Dr. Cuyegkeng emphasized the importance of localizing the SDGs, encouraging private organizations to understand and address the unique needs of their communities.

The symposium also explored the ESG regulatory landscape in the Philippines, with presentations from key government agencies. DENR Senior Forest Management Specialist Cathy A. Pauig discussed environmental regulations and the National Greening Program, which aims to restore forest cover and protect watersheds. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Supervising Labor and Employment Officer Engineer Melanie P. Banayos highlighted the importance of labor standards and employee rights, while Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Bank Officer Ciefrel T. Desquitado discussed the role of the financial sector in promoting sustainable practices.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The panel discussions provided valuable insights into the integration of ESG into corporate strategies. Maynilad Water Services Inc. Head of Quality, Sustainability, and Resiliency Atty. Roel S. Espiritu shared how their commitment to providing safe and affordable water is grounded in ESG principles. First Philippine Holdings Corporation Chief Sustainability Officer Agnes C. de Jesus emphasized the need for a mission-driven approach to ESG. PLDT and SMART Communications Chief Sustainability Officer, First Vice President, and Head of Investor Relations Melissa V. Vergel de Dios highlighted the importance of collaboration with government and civil society in implementing sustainability initiatives.

The second panel discussion focused on the role of civil society in advancing the ESG agenda. E-Net Philippines President Ms. Carla S. Santos discussed policy advocacy and community-level projects that promote inclusive and equitable quality education. Mr. Dela Torre of PRRM highlighted partnerships that support social equity and environmental conservation. Positive Youth Development Network (PYDN) Operations Director Mr. John Carlo B. Borja emphasized the importance of engaging youth in ESG and SDG-related initiatives.

A Call to Action: Integrating ESG Principles in Businesses

In her closing remarks, NEDA Assistant Secretary Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes urged all participants to act as ambassadors for the SDGs and ESG, advocating for sustainable practices and ethical governance. She emphasized that achieving the 2030 Agenda for SDGs and *AmBisyon Natin 2040* requires collective effort and a unified approach.

The ESG Symposium served as a platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration, reinforcing the importance of integrating ESG principles in business and policy frameworks. As the Philippines and the global community continue to strive for sustainable development, the lessons and partnerships forged at the symposium are crucial in driving meaningful progress toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

Showcasing Philippine commitment to SDGs on the global stage

• UN Development Cooperation Forum

On March 15, 2023, the Philippines participated in the 2023 UN ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum High-Level Meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA. Assistant Secretary Daway-Ducanes underscored the country's commitment to bridging the digital divide and strengthening social protection. She highlighted key legislations such as the Philippine Identification System Act and the Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act of 2022.

• 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

The Philippines took a prominent role at the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on March 27-30, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. Undersecretary Edillon represented the Philippines and participated in key discussions, highlighting the country's progress and strategic initiatives to achieve the SDGs. She emphasized the importance of cooperation and partnership in overcoming setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and shared insights into the Philippines' approach to SDG integration within the PDP 2023-2028.

• 3rd ASEAN Forum on the SDGs

The 3rd ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Development Goals with National Development Planning Agencies took place on March 30, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. Undersecretary Edillon moderated a key session focused on strategies to accelerate SDG progress, sharing the experiences of the Philippines in the 3rd VNR at the 2022 HLPF. The forum highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and evidence-based strategies in achieving sustainable development.



NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon along with National Planning Agencies participated in the Third ASEAN Forum on Sustainable Development Goals held on March 30, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

• **2nd ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on the SDGs**

On March 31, 2023, the Philippines played a pivotal role as co-chair and co-organizer of the 2nd ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the SDGs held in Bangkok, Thailand. NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan in his opening remarks, emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in achieving the SDGs. He highlighted critical areas for strategic recalibration, including policy adaptation towards resilience and sustainability, data system enhancement, and sustainable financing. The dialogue reinforced the collective resolve of ASEAN member states to build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future for all.



NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan at the Second ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on Accelerating Actions to Achieve the SDGs on March 31, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

• **7th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue**

On March 31, 2023, the Philippines showcased its commitment to sustainable development during the 7th High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Undersecretary Edillon moderated a roundtable discussion. The discussion focused on delivering the SDGs through solutions at the energy, food, and finance nexus, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and coherent actions to achieve sustainable development.



NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon at the Seventh High-Level Brainstorming Dialogue on Enhancing Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on March 31, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- **National Workshop on Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in Mongolia**

On June 12, 2023, the Philippines, represented by Undersecretary Edillon, participated online in the National Workshop on Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in Mongolia. Undersecretary Edillon's presentation highlighted the Philippines' overall SDG performance, governance mechanisms, SDG localization efforts, and strategic actions to accelerate SDG achievement. The workshop underscored the Philippines' proactive stance in regional and global efforts to achieve the SDGs.

- **UN High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development**

From July 10-19, 2023, the Philippines participated in the 2023 UN HLPF for Sustainable Development in New York, USA. DFA Undersecretary Eduardo Jose A. de Vega, as Head of the Philippine Delegation, highlighted the need to bolster development cooperation to meet the specific needs of middle-income countries. He emphasized the importance of tailored support, innovation solutions to unlock SDG investments, and inclusive national digital transformation.

- **UN SDG Summit 2023**

The Philippines participated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2023 in New York, USA under the auspices of the UN General Assembly on September 16-26, 2023. DFA Secretary Enrique A. Manalo and Undersecretary Edillon delivered statements, highlighting the country's progress, challenges, and renewed commitments towards achieving the SDGs. Secretary Manalo emphasized the importance of building resilience to natural hazards and climate change, while Undersecretary Edillon provided a detailed account of the Philippines' journey with the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and emphasized the need for continued dedication to achieving the SDGs.

04

Monitoring and Evaluation: **Tracking Progress with Precision**

Monitoring and evaluation are essential for assessing whether the country's initiatives for the SDGs are making significant progress toward achieving the 2030 targets. NEDA, PSA, and PSRTI collaborates closely to ensure a robust framework for monitoring and evaluating mechanisms that track SDG progress.

This section outlines the comprehensive efforts and methodologies employed in monitoring and evaluating the country's efforts towards sustainable development, highlighting key initiatives such as Voluntary National Review, Voluntary Local Reviews, the development of statistical frameworks, and targeting workshops. These mechanisms embody the precision needed to assess progress and identify areas requiring accelerated action, ensuring that every gear in the machinery of sustainable development functions optimally to drive the nation towards a resilient and inclusive future.

A. 2022 Voluntary National Review

In July 2022, the Philippines presented its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the 2022 UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, USA.

With the theme, “Rekindling Commitment and Using Innovation to Accelerate Recovery and Ensure Progress to Achieve the SDGs in 2030 and our *Ambisyon Natin 2040*,” the Philippines’ 3rd VNR charted the course of the country’s journey from recovery to acceleration. It highlighted Filipino ingenuity and the many innovations that shielded the most vulnerable from the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. It showed how the country responded to the demands and challenges of the pandemic, while ensuring that SDG targets in the areas of health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and environmental sustainability (SDGs 14 and 15), will still be met by 2030. More importantly, it highlighted how the country’s whole-of-nation approach guides our way forward, bringing progress back on track while placing a premium on sustainability and putting the furthest behind first.

To ensure an inclusive, participatory, and thorough VNR review process, NEDA, with its government and development partners, called together relevant stakeholders, including children, in a series of consultation meetings and workshops. Employing various tools and methods, these consultation meetings and workshops provided the participants with an opportunity to share, as inputs to the VNR, their experiences, challenges, successes, and lessons learned while implementing the SDGs.

In particular, the government undertook progress assessment and planning at the national and subnational level. The PSA’s data gathering facilitated the publication of the SDG Watch. NEDA’s assessment of the progress of key government PAPs provided basis in the target setting and identification of additional PAPs that will help achieve targets.

NEDA conducted a series of consultations in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Together they held futures thinking workshops with TWG members where they utilized the Technological, Political, Economic, Sociodemographic, and Trust and Ethical (TPESTRE) method. The workshop identified driving forces and critical uncertainties that limit the achievement of the goals.

The Philippines likewise participated in the twinning program by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) with Tuvalu, which was preparing for its first VNR, from 2021 to 2022.

B. Voluntary Local Review

Deep diving at the local level, various local governments developed their own Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). These VLRs showcased the local governments’ PAPs and other initiatives that catalyze progress for them to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The VLR serves as a valuable tool for cities and municipalities to assess their progress on the SDGs, identify challenges, and share best practices with other local governments.

In 2021, Naga City formulated its VLR to provide a venue to share experiences in localizing and measuring the progress of SDGs in the city, contributing to the global conversation on sustainable development. The Philippines’ League of Cities (LCP), League of Municipalities, and League of Provinces likewise conducted a wide-range of Voluntary Subnational Reviews.

The LCP’s flagship initiative, the City Database Project, served as a strategic entry point in collating and illustrating case studies of local best practices on SDG implementation by cities and identifying policies that can further contribute to localization.

As an initial output, the LCP developed a report entitled, “Philippine Cities Achieving SDGs through the LCP City Database Project,” illustrating how cities are faring in the attainment of the SDGs. The report showed that the priority SDGs of cities were translated into various PAPs and legislations, demonstrating that these targets are integral to their responsibilities in delivering basic services and facilities to their constituents

C. Statistical Development

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals, the Philippines has systematically integrated SDG concepts, indicators, and strategies into its PDP and RDPs. This integration facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of the country’s progress in achieving the SDGs. In 2017, an initial list of 155 national SDG indicators was adopted, which include 102 global SDG indicators, 28 proxy indicators, and 25 supplemental indicators.

To ensure effective tracking of the SDGs, the government has implemented measures, including the issuance of statistical and institutional policies, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and establishing periodic review mechanisms. By integrating relevant indicators into the PDP and RDPs, the government enables the annual monitoring and review of PAPs that contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. The PSA maintains the SDG Watch and SDG Database, which compile data on the indicators and reflect the annual accomplishments reported by responsible agencies.

To further track the performance of the Philippines, the government adopted the Pace of Progress, a monitoring tool that provides the following assessments:

1. Current state of progress by creating a linkage between the progress made since the baseline year in relation to the progress needed to achieve the 2030 targets; and
2. Expected progress and the likelihood of achieving the targets by 2030, based on the pace of progress it has made in the past.

Below are other key initiatives toward SDG statistical development in the country:

SDG Research Program. The PSRTI provides data support to the generation of SDG Indicators through the SDG Research Program, which includes three key components: scoping studies, methodological studies, and SDG-related studies.

Since 2019, the PSRTI SDG Research Program has produced a total of 32 studies, which include eight scoping reports, 16 methodological studies, and eight SDG-related research.

Scoping studies assess the feasibility of Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators within the Philippine context. The PSRTI conducts research that comprehensively reviews definitions, concepts, and methodologies recommended by the United Nations. This exercise aims to translate and integrate these methodologies into the existing data ecosystem of the Philippine Statistical System.

Methodological studies aim to improve the national tier classification of Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators. This is achieved by proposing localized methodologies, addressing identified data gaps, and producing baseline estimates.

Although not directly tied to specific indicators, SDG-related studies explore the current status of SDGs in the Philippines. They also investigate potential frameworks for data disaggregation, and the use of alternative data sources for estimation.

Updated List of Philippine SDG Indicators. The initial list of Philippine SDG indicators, adopted in 2017, underwent a review led by the PSA in consultation with relevant interagency committees. The review aimed to align the indicators with global SDG indicator refinements, enhance their quality, and ensure their relevance for policy use. The refined list, adopted on June 29, 2023, consists of 157 indicators, including 97 global indicators, 34 proxy indicators, and 26 supplemental indicators.

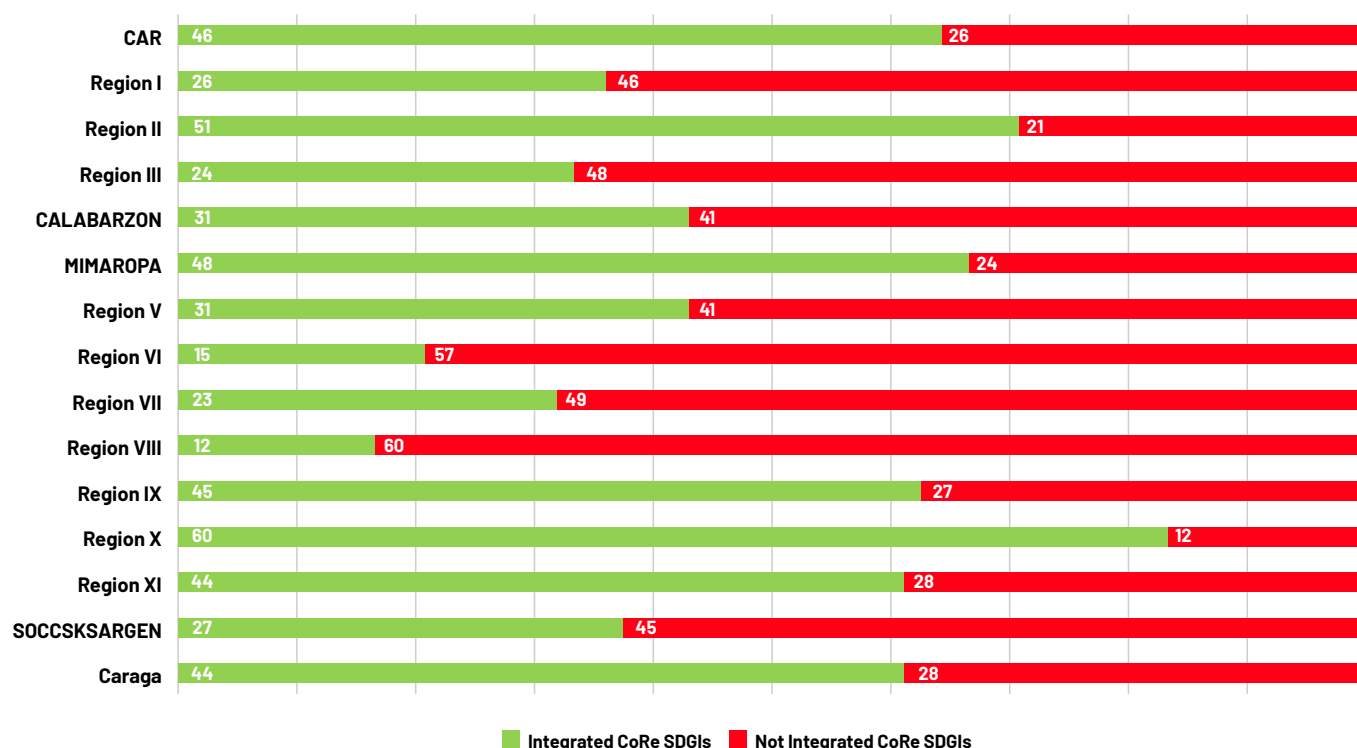
The PSA continues to monitor and assess the list annually to incorporate developments and updates based on emerging global and local issues. A number of the updated indicators have been integrated in the PDP 2023-2028, ensuring a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

Figure 11. Integrated SDG indicators in the PDP 2023-2028



At the subnational level, 72 national indicators were adopted, which include the Regional Core SDG Indicators (CoRe SDGs). Each region, considering its unique context and needs, incorporated a number of CoRe SDGs in their respective RDPs. These indicators are monitored by their respective RDCs, ensuring that regional development is aligned with national sustainability targets.

Figure 12. Integrated CoRe SDGs, by Regional Development Plans



This integration underscores the commitment of the country to achieving its SDG targets by embedding them within its national and regional planning frameworks. The continuous refinement and assessment of these indicators are essential for tracking progress and ensuring that development efforts are aligned with both national priorities and global sustainability goals.

D. 2023 SDG Targeting Workshop

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the Philippines' progress towards achieving the SDGs, causing setbacks in hard-earned advancements. This necessitated a comprehensive review of the country's 2030 targets, which were initially set in 2018. In December 2022, NEDA's SDG Secretariat conducted the first workshop to update the 2030 targets, focusing on SDG indicators integrated into the PDP 2023-2028.

Following the PSA Board's approval of the Refined List of Philippine SDG Indicators on February 15, 2023, the SDG Secretariat conducted another SDG Targeting Workshop on September 8, 2023. The workshop provided a venue for the SC-SDG TWGs to update the 2030 targets, along with the dataset and assigned agencies, of indicators retained in the refined list but not integrated in the PDP. It also facilitated the determination of 2030 targets for newly added or modified indicators identified within the PSA's refined list.



NEDA conducted the 2023 SDG Targeting Workshop with national government agencies on September 8, 2023 in Parañaque City, Philippines.

05

Resource Mobilization and Financing: **Fueling the Future**

The Philippines' progress in SDG attainment remains slow, with only 16.7 percent of the goals on track to meet their targets. To achieve the 2030 targets, a systematic and accelerated mobilization of domestic resources is essential. Effective resource mobilization ensures that sufficient fuel drives the country towards a prosperous future, fostering sustainable development. These resources should benefit people and the planet, delivering lasting peace, generating prosperity, and forging strong partnerships. This section covers the utilization of excise tax revenues earmarked for the SDGs and showcases successful SDG stories emerging from key programs, projects, and strategic initiatives.

A. Program Convergence Budgeting on the SDGs

With the enactment of RA 11467, the Program Convergence Budgeting Framework for the SDGs was developed to strategically finance PAPs to accelerate progress towards the global goals.

Figure 13. SDG Program Convergence Budgeting Framework

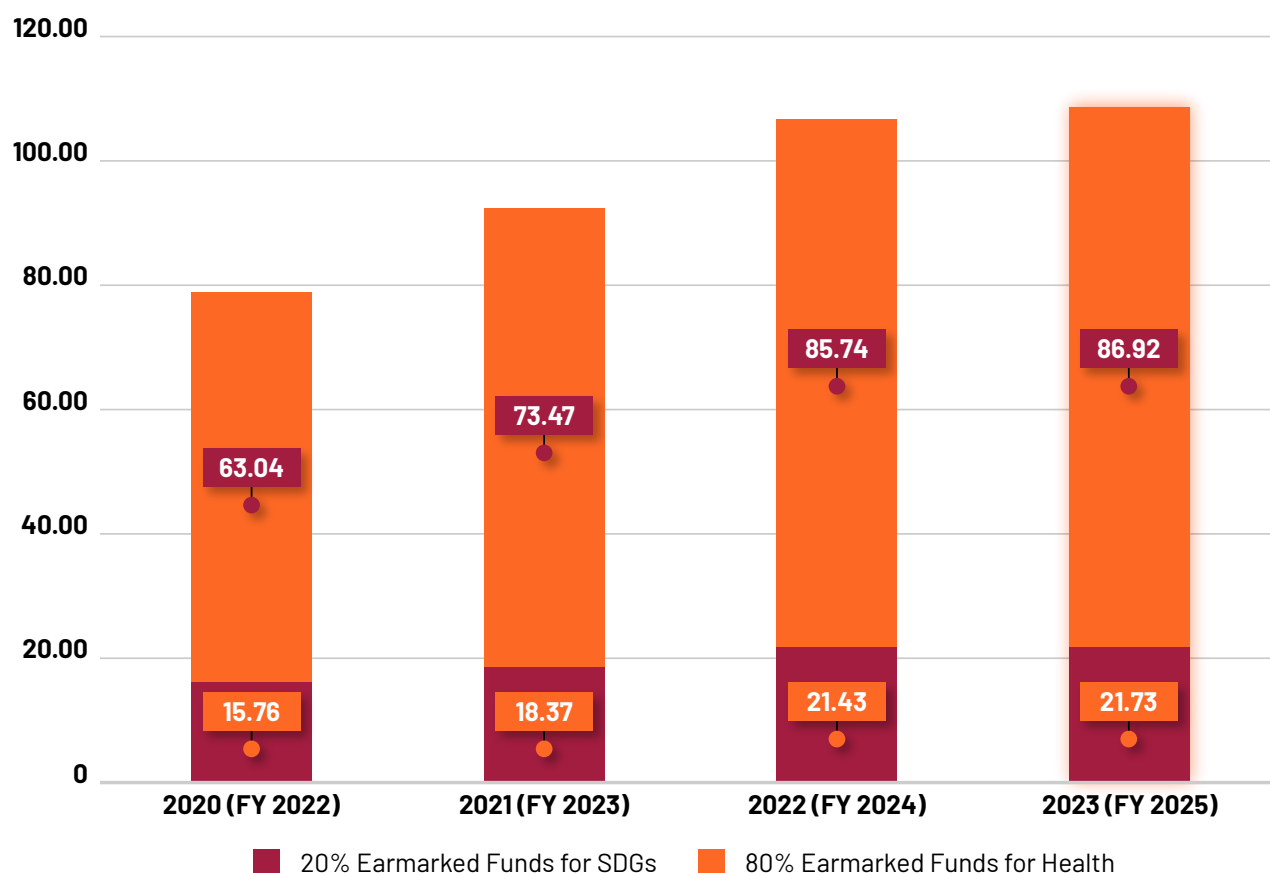


The law mandates the allocation of 20 percent of revenues from alcohol, heated tobacco, and vapor products towards achieving the SDGs. NEDA, as the lead agency for national SDG implementation, plays a crucial role in determining which SDG targets receive funding.

On December 15, 2023, the DBCC approved the Program Convergence Budgeting Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Implementation Guidelines on the Utilization of the Twenty Percent Allocation from Excise Tax Revenues on Alcohol Products, Heated Tobacco Products, and Vapor Products Pursuant to Section 9 of RA 11467 (PCB-SDG Guidelines). This approval marks a significant step in ensuring that the use of financial resources is both targeted and purposive, particularly in addressing SDGs where the country is lagging behind. The PCB-SDG Guidelines outline the financing mechanisms and procedures, focusing on evaluation and prioritization criteria and administrative processes to determine which PAPs will be funded in FY 2025.

For the FY 2025, the actual earmarked tax allocation amounts to PHP 21.73 billion, which is based on the certifications from the Department of Finance on collected taxes from alcohol products, heated tobacco products, and vapor products for CY 2023.

Figure 14. Earmarked Funds for the SDGs and Health in RA 11467 (2020-2023), in PHP billion



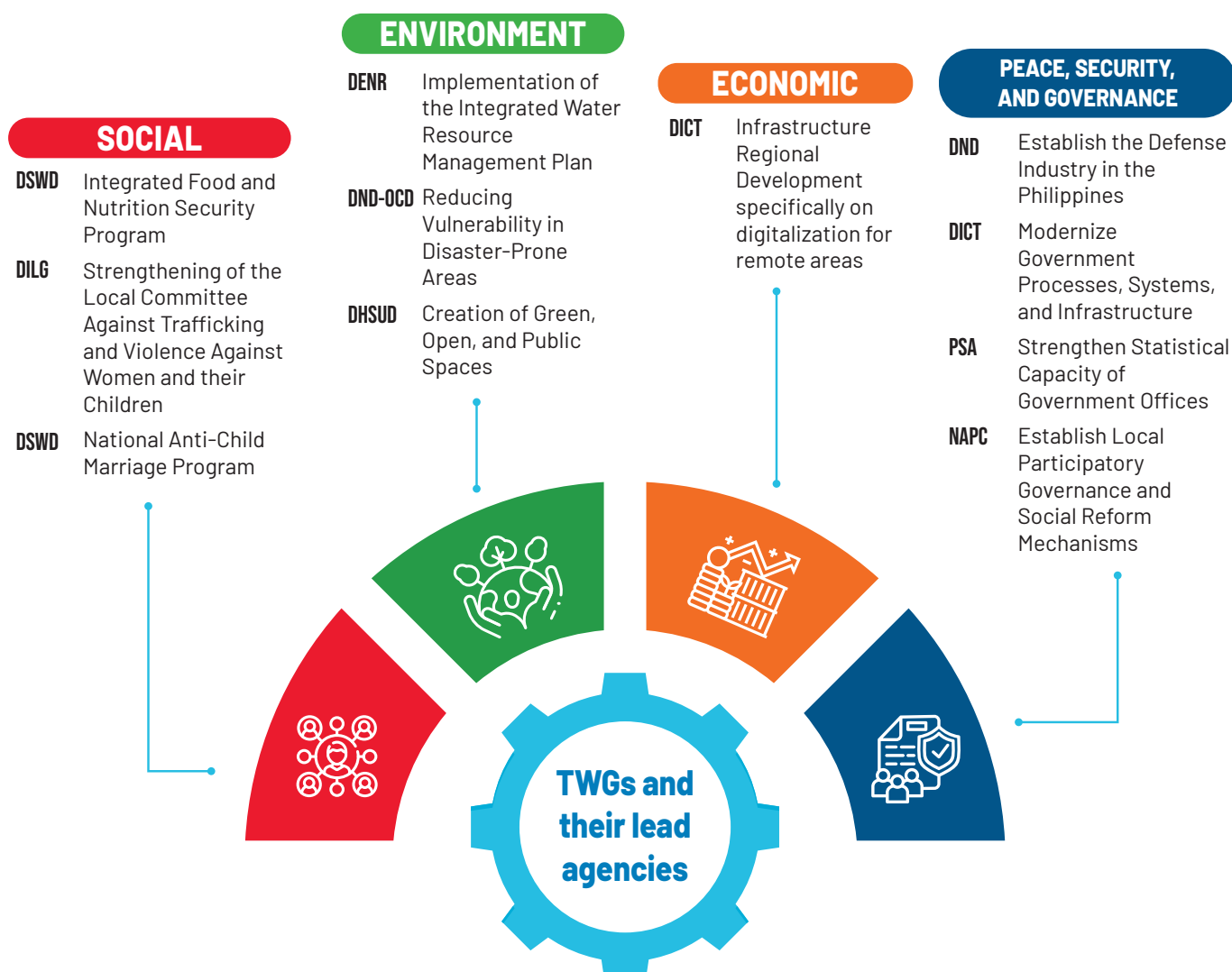
Note: Covers collection only from alcohol, heated tobacco products, and vapor products.

The DBCC also approved flagship programs, identified by the SC-SDG and its TWGs, which were selected based on SDGs that require accelerated progress. This strategic approach ensures that limited financial resources are allocated effectively, addressing the most pressing challenges and fostering meaningful progress towards achieving the SDGs.



NEDA Assistant Secretary Sarah Lynne S. Daway-Ducanes delivered her opening remarks in the Workshop on the Implementation of the PCB Framework and Guidelines for SDG Financing (PCB Workshop) on September 13, 2023 in Parañaque City, Philippines.

The following are the flagship programs identified under the following TWGs and their lead agencies:



NEDA and representatives from national government agencies participated in the Workshop on the Implementation of the PCB Framework and Guidelines for SDG Financing (PCB Workshop) on September 13, 2023 in Parañaque City, Philippines.

For the pilot implementation of the PCB-SDG, NEDA commenced the call for submission of proposals in the first quarter of 2024.

B. Local Government Support Fund

The DILG, as the lead agency in democratizing the SDGs at the local level, oversees projects funded through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF). The LGSF supports LGUs in enhancing their capacity to deliver public services and implement local development projects, including infrastructure, disaster risk reduction, and health services. Through hands-on monitoring and evaluation, capacity development activities, and continuous development of high-impact programs, the DILG ensures that the SDGs remain well-positioned in every initiative.

C. SDG Stories: Drivers of Sustainable Development

This section highlights strategic initiatives prioritized to drive sustainable development across economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions. It showcases the accomplishments of selected projects as of 2023, demonstrating the collective commitment to building a resilient and inclusive future for all Filipinos.

SDG 1: Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program

DHSUD estimates that the housing needs in the Philippines exceed 6.5 million units, with approximately 3.7 million informal settler families (ISFs) living in poor conditions in slums, railways, waterways, esteros, and other danger zones. To address housing insecurity, the 4PH Program was launched as the flagship housing initiative of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. DHSUD, in partnership with key shelter agencies and other national government agencies, collaborates closely with local government units, government financial institutions, private banks, and the private sector to tackle the sector's main bottlenecks: affordability and access to funds. The program aims to produce 3.29 million housing units by 2028.

As of September 2023, 101,254 housing units are under construction under the 4PH Program.

Table 1. 4PH Targets: 2023 to 2028

Region	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
NCR	-	-	-	33,983	54,373	67,967	156,323
Cebu City	-	-	-	17,184	27,494	34,368	79,046
Davao City	-	-	-	13,321	21,313	26,642	61,276
Areas outside NCR	-	61,000	485,000	849,512	810,819	785,024	2,991,355
Total	-	61,000	485,000	914,000	913,999	914,001	3,288,000

*Note: Targets refer to the total constructed/completed housing units for the year.
Source: DHSUD*

On October 19, 2023, the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2023-003 was issued by DHSUD and NEDA to adjust the price ceiling for socialized subdivisions and condominium projects, increasing private sector participation in housing production. The 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA) allocated PHP 750.814 million for the 4PH interest subsidy to improve the affordability of housing packages.

Case Study: San Mateo, Rizal

On April 8, 2024, NEDA visited the Municipality of San Mateo, Rizal, to monitor the ongoing construction of houses under the 4PH Program. The housing project consists of 18 five-story buildings expected to generate 4,100 housing units. If government land is used, the estimated price of each unit will range from PHP 1.2 million to PHP 1.5 million. The municipality has received around 160 applicants for the program.

Some of the amenities and facilities available for the beneficiaries include parking space, commercial and open spaces, and basketball court, pool, and club house.

Additionally, the nearest school and public market are conveniently located approximately 1 to 1.5 kilometers from the site, with a tricycle terminal nearby.

SDGs 1 and 4: Last Mile Schools Program

The Last Mile Schools (LMS) Program, spearheaded by DepEd, addresses a critical need – the lack of resources and facilities in schools situated in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). These small schools are characterized by the following: (a) consists of makeshift classrooms; (b) no electricity; (c) insufficient funds for repairs or new construction; and (d) limited access to basic services. These combined with multi-grade classes, fewer than five teachers, and a student population of fewer than 100 learners (more than 75 percent of whom are Indigenous Peoples), there are 7,144 of these schools that struggle to deliver quality education.

To achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), DepEd has intensified efforts to reach vulnerable children living in poverty and in GIDAs. The LMS Program aims to ensure no learner is left behind by transforming makeshift classrooms into standard, conducive learning spaces; providing technology through the DepEd Computerization Program (DCP); and supporting access to learning materials and teacher training.

Table 2. Target and Actual Number of Last Mile Schools Constructed

Name of PPA	Last Mile Schools			
	Funding Year	Physical Accomplishment		
		Target	Actual	Accomplished (in percent)
Number of Last Mile Schools constructed	TOTAL	277	76	27.44
	FY 2023	88	3	3.41
	FY 2022	79	41	51.90
	FY 2022	96	20	20.83
	FY 2020	14	12	85.71

Source: Programs and Projects Status of Implementation for FY 2023

From FYs 2020 to 2023, 76 out of the 277 targeted LMS projects were completed nationwide. Currently, 109 LMS projects are under construction, with the remainder in the procurement process or reverted. In 2022, the highest number of LMS projects were completed, with 41 out of 79 targets achieved.

Case Study: Panobolon Elementary School

In 2022, NEDA visited Panobolon Elementary School, a recipient of the LMS Program in Western Visayas (Region VI). Located on the island of Panobolon in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, this school previously operated as a multi-grade institution with makeshift classrooms. Serving approximately 100 students from Kindergarten to Grade 6, it was the only island school among the three in the municipality that was under the DepEd's LMS Program.

The LMS Program allocated PHP 20 million for constructing classrooms, including furniture and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) facilities. A solar-powered one-story building with three classrooms and a principal's office was constructed. Additionally, standard classroom furnishings such as blackboards, tables, and chairs were provided.

SDG 5: Empowering teenage parents through ProtecTEEN

ProtecTEEN, a transformative program implemented by the DSWD, has been a beacon of hope for teenage parents, significantly improving their lives. Pilot implementations in CALABARZON (Region IV-A) and Northern Mindanao (Region X) demonstrate the program's impact on strengthening family relationships, improved financial stability, and fostered personal growth and development among teenage parents.

A journey from uncertainty to empowerment in CALABARZON

One beneficiary ("A") from CALABARZON shared her poignant story. Before joining ProtecTEEN, A faced immense pressure. A's mother urged her to abort the baby and focus on her studies, but A's partner opposed this decision. A and her partner chose to stay together and live with the former's parents. While A continued her education, A's partner worked as a driver, their primary source of income. Financial struggles were a constant companion.

Joining ProtecTEEN marked a turning point in A's life. The program not only improved A's relationship with her mother and partner but also provided crucial livelihood assistance. A's mother helped them utilize the financial support effectively, ensuring their family's needs were met while she pursued her education.

A's mother observed significant changes in her daughter after becoming a ProtecTEEN beneficiary. Once reserved, A began to share her stories and experiences openly. She transformed into an independent, helpful, and diligent student, becoming a good parent, alongside her partner. A's mother expressed deep gratitude for the program, noting its genuine impact on their lives.

A echoed her mother's sentiments, appreciating the support system ProtecTEEN provided. She found a safe space to confide in, which played a crucial role in her journey.

Resilience and hope in Northern Mindanao

In Northern Mindanao, another young mother beneficiary ("B") shared her struggles and triumphs. Being a mother was not B's primary challenge; it was the lack of support, especially when B's child fell ill. With no help from her family, B was left to fend for herself.

The ProtecTEEN program's healing sessions changed everything. Initially worried that her child would not be accepted by her family, B found renewed hope as her family began to understand and embrace her situation. Participating in the program's activities, especially with her father, restored joy and acceptance in their home.

B's partner faced difficulties finding a well-paying job due to his unfinished education. Despite securing employment, the partner's earnings were insufficient. ProtecTEEN alleviated their financial burdens, enabling them to cover medical expenses and increase their monthly income.

The partners' experience with ProtecTEEN was equally transformative. She learned valuable life skills, including household chores and good parenting practices. She also expressed profound gratitude for the program, highlighting how it benefited her daughter and partner by teaching her to take better care of her family.

A message of hope

The ProtecTEEN Program beneficiary ("C") from Bukidnon shared an inspiring message for fellow teenage parents, encouraging them not to lose hope in achieving their dreams. C's story, along with others, underscores the profound impact of ProtecTEEN in empowering young parents and transforming their lives for the better.

SDG 6: Support to Barangay Development Program

Spearheaded by the DILG, Support to Barangay Development Program (SBDP) is one of the major initiatives of the national government under EO 70, s. 2018 to assist in the development and delivery of basic services in identified conflict-affected areas. The SBDP delivers a multifaceted approach, encompassing the construction of critical infrastructure, including health stations and water sanitation systems, as well as social services that empower communities such as training programs for agriculture and livelihood development. Launched in 2021, the program has delivered 5,807 projects, wherein 54 projects are specifically targeted for water system improvements to ensure access to clean water.

SDG 8: Expanding Employment Opportunities for All

The Labor Market Information (LMI) system, established and managed by DOLE, serves as a repository of data and information on the current and future state of the Philippine labor market. This includes details on in-demand jobs, skills shortages, and labor market trends. The LMI services aim to minimize the information asymmetry among labor market actors and improve labor market efficiency.

With more informed stakeholders, such as job seekers, employers, students, educators, and policymakers, unemployment and skills mismatches are mitigated. In particular, there can be shorter job search periods for job seekers and faster hiring processes for employers. A robust LMI system also remains valuable in adapting to the expected employment transformation brought about by global trends.

In this context, the LMI system contributes to achieving SDG 8, which emphasizes the need to promote the creation of fulfilling employment and productive opportunities for all. Using various data sources, DOLE continuously strengthens the LMI system to offer timely and relevant information, as well as easily accessible materials through DOLE's official website and field offices.

Facilitating employment through LMI-related Activities

To contribute to expanding access to employment opportunities, the DOLE's ongoing major activities related to the LMI include:

1. **LMI Publications.** DOLE, through the Bureau of Local Employment (BLE), develops various LMI publications and IEC materials, which are made accessible through the BLE website, PhilJobNet through CareerInfoPH (<https://cip.philjobnet.gov.ph/>), BLE Facebook page, and BLE Viber Community Usapang Trabaho. Data-sharing agreements with relevant agencies also facilitate updating, keeping the LMI system accurate and up-to-date.
2. **Integrated LMI Systems.** DOLE operates and maintains two LMI systems – PESO Employment Information System (PEIS)⁴ and PhilJobNet,⁵ which are being used for the delivery and monitoring of employment facilitation services. The integration of these two systems allowed for a single database with uniform data fields and streamlined data collection and analysis.
3. **Digital Technology and Skills Mapping.** The initiative entails conducting a survey and workshops to identify the available skills and competencies, skills gaps and training needs, demographics of the Philippine workforce in digital technology and sectors, and the availability and access to digital platforms and ICT infrastructure, among others.
4. **Philippine Employment Forecasting.** DOLE proposed collaborating with the International Labour Organization to develop effective and sustainable labor market anticipation mechanisms for accurate employment and skills forecasts. An LMI expert will assist in assessing the current forecasting mechanism and developing the employment and forecasting model for planning structural changes and anticipating labor requirements. The project will also formulate the Philippine Employment Forecasting Report and build the technical capacity of DOLE implementers.

LMI accomplishments and ways forward

In 2023, the total number of LMI beneficiaries increased to 4.9 million, which is over 300,000 more than in 2022. This exceeded the plan target of 4.4 million for the period. The majority of these LMI beneficiaries were male (2.8 million), aged 25 years and older (2.9 million), and located in Northern Mindanao (786,788), CALABARZON (617,525), and the National Capital Region (596,881). The women (2.1 million) and youth (2.0 million) also made up a significant portion of the total LMI beneficiaries in 2023.

DOLE also published various LMI materials such as the Jobs and Labor Market Forecast 2023–2024 Updates, 2022 Labor Market Update, 2022 Labor Market Profile, Labor Market Trends: Health Labor Market Analysis Report 2023, BLE News (quarterly), and BLE Weekly. Additionally, DOLE conducted a pilot implementation of the Digital Technology and Skills Mapping Workshops and Survey to gather more information on the digital skills required by industries.

Moving forward, DOLE aims to fully roll out the Digital Technology and Skills Mapping Workshop and Survey in 2025 to expand the LMI and develop the Digital Technology and Skills Mapping Roadmap. DOLE also plans to review and update the resulting database from the skills

⁴ Under the National Skills Registry Program, the PEIS serves as a database of active or real-time data on the demand and supply of the labor market containing the profile and qualifications of applicants, as well as the profile of employers registered and their job vacancies. This registry is maintained and updated by all participating PESOs nationwide, and is also utilized by regional counterparts (regional and provincial offices).

⁵ PhilJobNet, on the other hand, is the government's online job matching and referral system that provides jobseekers with a listing of job vacancies posted by accredited employers. It is envisioned to become the country's one-stop shop for all labor market information. Continuous enhancements are being implemented in PhilJobNet, benchmarking it against private job portals and digital intermediaries.

mapping activities in the first quarter of 2026 and every three years thereafter, taking into consideration the emerging digital technologies and skills, as well as the changing skills demands of industries, as stipulated in RA 11927 or the Philippine Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act.

SDG 16: Harnessing identity for sustainable development through the Philippine Identification System

The Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) was launched with the vision of providing every Filipino with a unique and verifiable identity, enhancing access to public services, strengthening social protection, and promoting financial inclusivity. By offering valid proof of identity, PhilSys simplifies public and private transactions and serves as a social and economic platform for seamless service delivery.

Promoting financial inclusion and ensuring access and service delivery

PhilSys addresses longstanding issues in accessing public services, especially for Filipinos in remote and marginalized areas, who lack reliable, government-recognized identification. This system mitigates barriers to accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, and social welfare programs. Before PhilSys, the absence of a standardized identification system led to inefficiencies, delays, redundancies, and sometimes exclusion from services.

According to its Implementation Plan, PhilSys aims to register 112 million Filipino citizens and 10 million overseas Filipinos, focusing on vulnerable groups such as the poor, people living in GIDAS, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities. To achieve this, registration centers have been established nationwide, complemented by mobile registration teams in far-flung and hard-to-reach areas. Registration policies have also allowed for special arrangements among people without any documentary requirements to support their identity, removing barriers in accessing registration services brought about by the lack of identification documents. These efforts have enabled 83.0 million individuals to register in PhilSys as of December 31, 2023.

As mentioned, the PhilSys will be integrated into various government and private sector services to streamline transactions and enhance service delivery across different sectors. Currently, unbanked Filipinos now have their first transaction accounts as their PhilIDs are recognized as valid proofs of identity. For efficiency in birth registration, the Civil Registry System (CRS) is also being piloted for real-time matching of PhilID with CRS documents (e.g., birth certificates). Finally, DSWD used the PhilSys registry to identify and verify beneficiaries for their social welfare programs.

Looking ahead: A digital identity ecosystem

PhilSys represents more than just a bureaucratic initiative; it embodies a vision of a more inclusive, efficient, and digitally empowered Philippines.

The PSA will continue registering children below five years old, resident aliens, overseas Filipinos, and newborns, ensuring everyone has a valid proof of identity. The PSA will also continue printing and distributing PhilIDs, updating demographic and biometric information, and issuing replacement PhilIDs.

By harnessing the full potential of PhilSys in advancing the SDGs, the Philippines can ensure that all citizens have access to essential services, thereby fostering an inclusive and sustainable future.

06

Challenges in the Implementation of the SDGs

A. Economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic reversed most of the gains made in achieving the SDGs, particularly in employment. At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the unemployment rate significantly increased to 10.3 percent (from 5.1 percent in 2019), while the labor force participation rate (LFPR) and employment rate dropped to 59.5 percent (from 61.3 percent in 2019) and 89.7 percent (from 94.9 percent in 2019), respectively. Owing to geo-political tensions, global commodity prices started increasing in 2022, reaching the peak in 2023. The country's headline inflation stood at 6.0 percent in 2023, above the government's target of 2 to 4 percent. This reduced the purchasing power of Filipinos, particularly of low-income households.

B. Data gaps

The country faces significant challenges in tracking SDG progress due to data gaps, particularly for indicators related to SDGs 5 (Gender Equality), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduced Inequality), 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Enhancing the capacity of local government units in data collection and SDG monitoring is crucial to address these gaps.

C. Impacts of climate shocks

According to the World Bank,⁶ climate shocks negatively affect growth by eroding natural and physical capital, reducing labor productivity, weakening financial stability, altering domestic and external competitiveness, and straining public finances. These shocks are expected to intensify, threatening the country's development goal of becoming a thriving middle-class society by 2040 and a high-income economy by 2045. Despite our minimal contributions to global GHG emissions at 0.40 percent,⁷ the Philippines continues to rank first among 193 countries with the highest disaster risk based on the 2023 World Risk Index Report. Relatedly, the World Bank estimates show that the country's annual losses from typhoons alone are at 1.2 percent of our gross domestic product.

D. Further support for community adaptive capacities to natural disasters

The recent adoption of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan is a positive step. However, there is a need to further strengthen community adaptive capacities to natural disasters through targeted interventions and infrastructure support.

E. Social protection

Operationalizing a comprehensive social protection system to prevent poverty and social exclusion is essential. The Philippines is focusing on strategies such as the operationalization of the social protection floor, finalizing and implementing the social protection communication plan, fully implementing the Community-Based Monitoring System, and establishing comprehensive social registries.

⁶ World Bank (2022). Philippines Country Climate and Development Report. Available from: Stronger Climate Action Will Support Sustainable Recovery and Accelerate Poverty Reduction in the Philippines (worldbank.org).

⁷ Based on data from the World Resources Institute, the Philippines only contributed 0.40% to total GHG emissions between 1990 and 2018.

F. Coordination and integration

Ensuring policy coherence and integration across sectors and levels of government, as well as strengthening partnerships with international organizations and development partners, is essential for effective SDG implementation. However, achieving this level of coordination and integration remains a challenge.

G. Capacity and expertise

Building capacity for effective implementation, monitoring, and reporting is crucial but can be resource-intensive and time-consuming. There is a pressing need to invest in capacity building for effective implementation and monitoring of SDG-related programs. Enhancing local capacities to manage and utilize data for evidence-based policymaking is also important.

H. Hampering 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.

Moreover, growing geopolitical and trade tensions, general elections in major economies, and trade-restrictive measures of food exporting countries can also weigh down economic growth in the near-term.

I. Political challenges

Changes in political leadership or shifts in policy priorities can disrupt ongoing SDG initiatives and lead to a lack of sustained focus and commitment. This is particularly more pronounced at the local level.

07

Way Forward:
Paving the Path Ahead

A. Undertake pilot implementation of the PCB-SDG

The outlook for SDG financing in the coming year is expected to be productive. NEDA will spearhead the call for submission of proposals for FY 2025 PCB-SDG in the first quarter of 2024. It will facilitate the evaluation of proposed PAPs, endorsement of PAPs by the TWGs to the SC-SDG for approval, and submission of approved PAPs to the DBM. Furthermore, the SC-SDG will consider expanding the PCB-SDGs at the subnational level to provide additional resources and enable national-local government collaboration for SDG implementation. It will likewise consider establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

B. Heighten SDG localization efforts

NEDA will assist its 15 Regional Offices to ensure completion of their respective Regional SDG Catch-up Plans by the third quarter of 2024.

Cognizant that much more needs to be done to enable genuine participatory governance, the government will expand SDG integration in governance mechanisms especially at the local level. As part of ongoing efforts to create an official mechanism for collaboration and engagement among stakeholders, NEDA will conduct feasibility assessments and regional consultations to ensure successful establishment of regional formations of the Stakeholders' Chamber.

C. Commence preparation of the 2025 VNR

To ensure an inclusive, participatory, and thorough VNR review process in 2025, NEDA will bring together the government and relevant stakeholders in a series of consultation meetings by the fourth quarter of 2024. Important actors in accelerating the country's efforts on SDG implementation, the government and these relevant stakeholders are expected to share experiences and bring insights on SDG implementation, which will be helpful in the formulation of the 2025 VNR. The theme for the 2025 VNR will be finalized during the 2024 HLPF.

Legislative Agenda

Table 3. Legislative Agenda to Accelerate SDG Progress

SOCIAL			
TITLE	OBJECTIVES	SDGs	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs
Creation of the Philippine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create the CDC under the DOH for policy and program coordination. Ensure that the health system is well prepared to forecast, prevent, monitor, and control diseases, injuries, and disabilities both of national and international concern. Recentralize local epidemiology and surveillance units. Strengthen epidemiology, public health surveillance, and research capacities. Ensure investments to better equip the country in response to public health emergencies. 	Target 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. This affirms the right of developing countries to fully utilize the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.	The proposed bill will help ensure the health system is well prepared to forecast, prevent, monitor, and control diseases, injuries, and disabilities both of national and international concern.
Basic Education and Early Childhood Education Alignment Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a seamless transition between early childhood education (ECEd) and basic education by aligning the Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Curriculum with the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum. Mandate greater responsibilities on LGUs on the implementation of ECCD programs, through the Local School Boards. 	Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	The bill will mandate LGUs to prioritize Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), enhance accessibility, and increase participation rates in early childhood education programs. Strengthening and integrating the ECCD curriculum also ensures a seamless transition of learners in basic education.
Amendment of RA No. 8976, or Food Fortification Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the coverage of mandatory fortification for rice, authorizing the NNC Governing Board to add and remove food for fortification and other provisions that need updating. Amend RA No. 8172, to enhance support for the local salt industry. 	Target 2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	The proposed amendment will help prevent and limit nutritional deficiency problems in the country, through the addition of nutrients to processed foods or food products as per the Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA).
Trans Fat Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban all forms of industrial trans fatty acids. Prohibit the sale, manufacture, importation, and distribution of partially hydrogenated oils and oil and fats with high trans-fat. 	Target 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCD) through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.	The draft bill targets trans fats, and unhealthy fats linked to NCDs. Eliminating trans fats promotes healthier diets and contributes to this critical public health objective.
Sustainable Cities and Communities Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the inclusive use of urban space for housing and livelihood. Improve access to basic services. Develop integrated public transportation systems and green infrastructures. Protect ecosystems. Manage risks related to climate change and disasters. 	Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	<p>The proposed amendment will aid in the enhancement of inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services; providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems; reducing the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, which include paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management; addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation; and enhancing disaster resilience.
Philippine Urban Parks System	Promote the development of parks and open spaces to contribute to human health and well-being, social cohesion, ecotourism, biodiversity conservation, environmental quality improvement, climate change adaptation and mitigation, among others.	Target 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	The draft bill will support the goal of providing universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible, and green public spaces.

ENVIRONMENT

TITLE	OBJECTIVES	SDGs	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs
Department of Water Resources Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve universal access to safe, adequate and sustainable water supply. Strengthen the overall coordination of the water resource planning, management, and utilization. 	Target 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.	The bill seeks to holistically implement the integrated water resources management framework necessary for the review, revision, and integration of all regulations and policies pertinent to the conservation and effective management of water resources and water supply, thereby contributing to the attainment of SDG 6.5.
Water Sustainability Bill	Address water crisis through creating a unified water sustainability framework, which will institutionalize SDG 6 and provide yearly targets and the corresponding annual budgetary requirements for its achievement.	Target 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.	The proposed bill includes updating and consolidating of all existing frameworks prepared by all government agencies to ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation for all Filipinos pursuant to SDG 6 of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.
Protection of Watersheds for Irrigation Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline initiatives to ensure that watersheds supporting the National Irrigation Systems, as well as several river basins, are protected, conserved, and rehabilitated. Halt the degradation of hydrological balance due to human activities. 	Indicator 6.5.1.p1 Proportion of implementation of programs and projects identified in the Integrated River Basin Master Plans (IRBMP).	The bill complements the implementation of integrated river basin master plans, which can further contribute to the achievement of SDG Indicator 6.5.1.p1, through the development of watershed management plans, councils and boards to ensure protection and rational utilization of the resources within the watershed area.
Blue Economy Bill	Establish a framework for blue economy that will guide the country in pursuing stewardship and sustainable development of coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.	<p>Target 6.5 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p> <p>Target 6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p>	The proposed bill will support and develop efforts in green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms, and proactive institutional arrangements to protect our oceans and coasts and enhance their potential economic contribution. These efforts particularly include (a) marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management, which could accelerate contributions to Targets 6.5; and (b) research priorities on pollution control and remediation critical to reach Target 6.3.
Waste-to-Energy (WtE) Bill	Provide the regulatory framework for facilities utilizing WtE, set appropriate safeguards for environmental and health concerns surrounding WtE, and delineate the roles and responsibilities of government agencies involved in regulating WtE technologies.	Target 11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	The bill contributes to the accomplishment of SDG Target 11.6 and Indicator 11.6.1 by expanding alternative municipal solid waste treatment options.
Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Bill	Institutionalize ICM as a national strategy to ensure holistic and sustainable management of various ecosystems through a ridge-to-reef approach.	Target 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	The bill includes provisions on ecological connectivity and interactions across stakeholders and activities, contributing to an enabling environment critical in achieving Target 6.5.
Unnecessary Plastic Products Regulation Bill	Mandate the ban on production, importation, sale, provision, and use of unnecessary single-use plastics.	Target 11.6. By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	The bill aims to reduce waste generation at source.
Amendment of RA 9136 known as Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA).	Aim to make changes to certain sections of the EPIRA to ensure that supply is reliable, affordable, and secure.	Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	The amendment highlights the extension of corporate life of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, strengthening and expansion of the Electric Regulatory Commission, and implementation of reforms in the transmission sector. This will benefit the power industry as a whole, which will give more confidence to stakeholders and investors given clarity on the regulations.

ENVIRONMENT

TITLE	OBJECTIVES	SDGs	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs
Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry Development Act.	Support the transition of the natural gas industry from emerging into a mature industry within a competitive natural gas market.	Target 7.1. By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	The bill ensures supply security and benefits the highly urbanized and industrialized areas, contributing to local and national economic development.
Protection of Watersheds for Irrigation Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline initiatives to ensure that watersheds supporting the National Irrigation Systems, as well as several river basins, are protected, conserved, and rehabilitated. Aim to halt the degradation of hydrological balance due to human activities. 	Target 6.5. Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	The bill complements the implementation of integrated river basin master plans, which can further contribute to the achievement of SDG Indicator 6.5.1.p1, through the development of watershed management plans, councils, and boards to ensure protection and rational utilization of the resources within the watershed area.

ECONOMIC

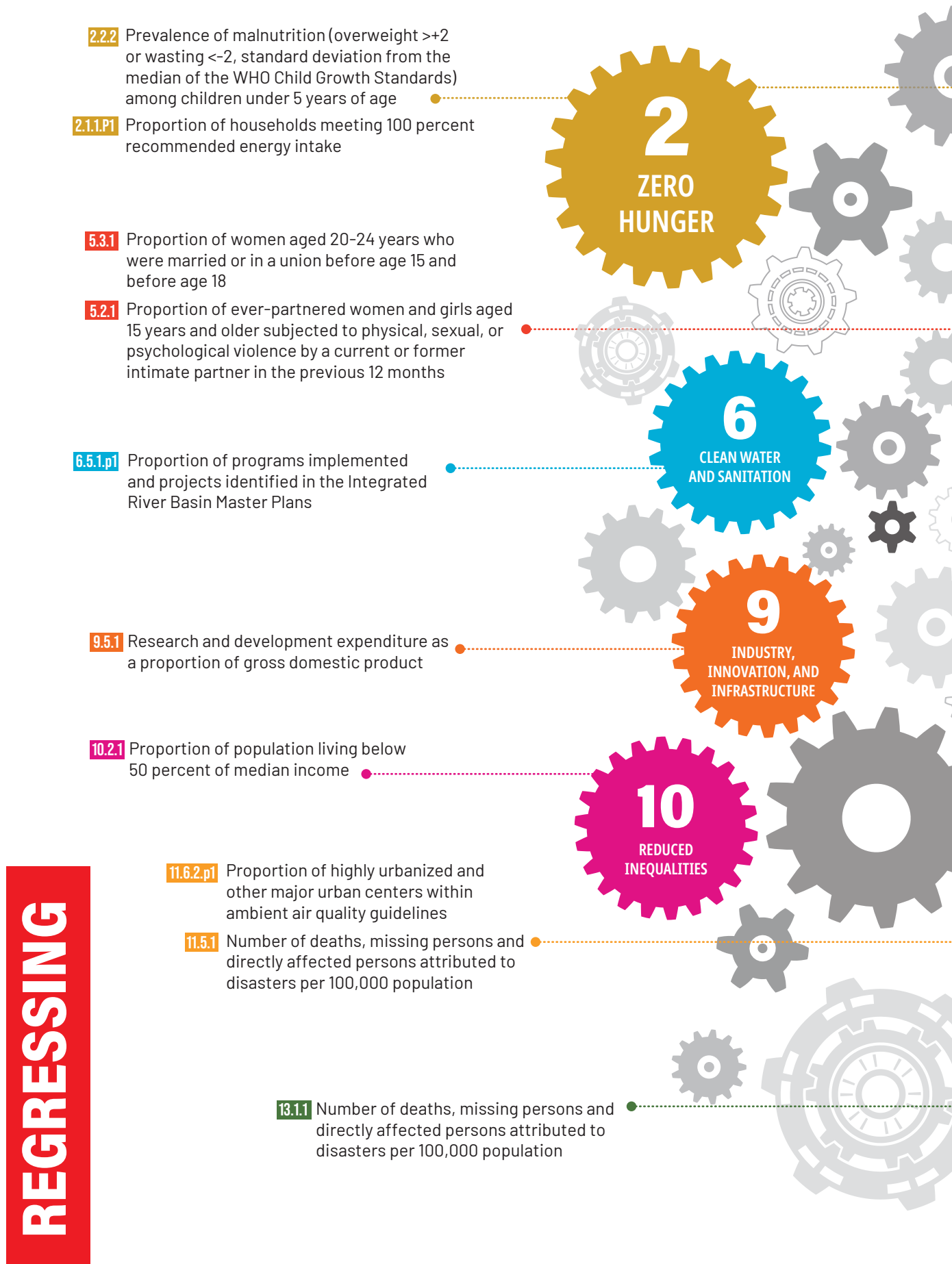
TITLE	OBJECTIVES	SDGs	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs
Capital Markets Development Act	Boost the capital markets and the investment competitiveness of the Philippines by reducing taxes for stock transactions.	Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.	The bill will reduce costs on accessing capital and provide a wider breadth of financial assets to invest in, and more credit-worthy firms to work with.
Amendments to the Warehouse Receipts Law	Promote economic activity by increasing access, particularly for entities engaged in agricultural activities such as farming, to the least cost of credit through the establishment of a simplified, unified and modern warehouse receipts framework for the storage of goods in warehouses and the succeeding trading of interests therein.	Target 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations.	The proposed law will enable vulnerable sectors to access credit by collateralizing their goods for secured loans. This will also enable banks to restructure old non-performing loans and utilize goods as collateral.
Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act	Recognize the necessity to attract more investments and to foster an investor-friendly business environment.	Target 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	The proposed bill will provide a reduced corporate income tax rate of 20 percent for registered domestic market enterprises and an enhanced VAT refund system. It likewise will provide tax exemption of income under double taxation agreements entered into by the President with economies and administrative regions, and among others.
Excise Tax on Single-Use Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curb the high volume of mismanaged plastics in the country. Serve as the Philippines' contribution to the global movement of reducing pollution and adopting more sustainable practices while raising revenues to spur economic growth. 	Target 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	The proposed bill aims to generate additional revenues for the government over the medium-term, while also helping address climate change.
Export and Industry Development Act	Provide targeted and strategic policy, program, and project support including non-fiscal incentives.	Target 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence.	The proposed bill will enable the development of local industries toward export competitiveness. As per the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, most of the provisions of the Export Development Act have already lapsed.

PEACE, SECURITY, AND GOVERNANCE

TITLE	OBJECTIVES	SDGs	POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs
Amendment to the Government Procurement Reform Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalize strategic procurement planning through the adoption of the Government Procurement Policy Board's tools and approaches, and the professionalization of procurement practitioners. Streamline processes through digitalization and innovative solutions. 	Target 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	The proposed amendment will improve and simplify government procurement process through digitalization, which can improve government efficiency and reduce corruption.
New Government Auditing Code	Align existing rules and regulations with the changing times and conditions through strengthening the Commission on Audit, revising current auditing practices, and among others, leveraging technology to improve audit techniques.	Target 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	The bill will strengthen auditing practices and techniques to detect and prevent corruption.
E-Governance	Promote the use of ICT in improving government service delivery and providing access to reliable data and information.	Target 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	The proposed policy will improve government service delivery through ICT, thereby ensuring efficient government processes and reducing red tape.
Child in Need of Special Protection Birth Registration Act	Provide an enhanced framework for the prompt birth registration of vulnerable Filipino children to assure them of state recognition and protection.	Target 16.9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	The proposed law will provide a framework for the registration of vulnerable Filipino children towards establishing their legal identity and entitlement to state benefits.

Annexes

Annex A. Goals and Indicators that are Regressing and Needing Acceleration in the Philippine Sustainable Development Goals Pace of Progress Results





- 2.2.s2** Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding
- 2.2.1** Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions



7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity



11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies



13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

Annex B. Regressing Indicators under Non-regressing SDGs in the Philippine Sustainable Development Goals Pace of Progress Results

1.4.1.p9 Proportion of families with owned or owner-like possession of housing units

1.4.1.p5 Net enrollment rate, elementary

1.4.1.p2 Proportion of all women and currently married women aged 15–49 years who have ever used any contraceptive methods

1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases

3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries per 100,000 population

3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning per 100,000 population

3.3.1.p1 Number of new human immunodeficiency virus infections (HIV) per 1,000 population

4.5.1 Gender parity index in net enrollment rate

8.6.1 Gender parity index in net enrollment rate

8.5.2 Unemployment rate

8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product per capita

16.9.1 Proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority

REGRESSING



- 1.4.2.p1 Proportion of families with access to secure tenure
- 1.4.1.p4 Net enrollment rate, kindergarten
- 1.4.1.p6 Net enrollment rate, secondary
- 1.4.1.p1 Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who received antenatal care from skilled health personnel for the most recent birth
- 1.4.1.p7 Access to improved water supply
- 1.4.1.p8 Proportion of families with access to basic sanitation services

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 3.8.2 Social health insurance, per 1,000 population
- 3.8.s1 Population covered by social health insurance
- 3.7.s1 Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
- 3.2.s1 Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)
- 3.7.1 Proportion of currently married women of reproductive age (15–49 years old) who have their need for family planning satisfied [provided] with modern methods
- 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 15–19 years), per 1,000 women
- 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 4.1.s2 Cohort survival rate
- 4.1.s1 Completion rate
- 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex
- 4.1.s3 Drop-out rate
- 4.6.1 Basic and functional literacy rate
- 4.A.1 Proportion of public schools offering basic services
- 8.10.1 Number of commercial bank branches and number of automated teller machines per 100,000 adults (aged 15 years and older)
- 8.8.1 Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers

- 15.1.1 Proportion of population living below 50 percent of median income

16 PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

- 16.5.1.p1 Proportion of families who paid a public official, or were asked for a bribe by these public officials



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