



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA

**NV-EPG-252-2022**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – The Special Procedures Branch and, further to the former's Note Verbale No. NV-EPG-104-2022 dated 08 March 2022, has the honor to convey additional inputs to the SR on RTD's thematic report on the compliance of COVID recovery plans and policies with the right to development perspective in the context of the 2030 Agenda and core international human rights treaties (pursuant to HRC Resolutions 33/14 and 42/23).

The attached additional inputs were provided by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the country's socio and economic development planning and policy coordinating body mandated to provide policy analysis on development issues and formulate social and economic policies, plans and programs.

The Government of the Philippines consents to having these inputs published on the OHCHR's website.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – The Special Procedures Branch the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 25 May 2022



**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Attention: The Special Procedures Branch*

Palais Wilson

52 Rue des Pâquis, CH-1201 Geneva

E-mail addresses: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org), [ohchr-registry@un.org](mailto:ohchr-registry@un.org),  
[srdevelopment@un.org](mailto:srdevelopment@un.org), [ohchr-srdevelopment@un.org](mailto:ohchr-srdevelopment@un.org)

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
TO THE THEMATIC REPORT BY THE  
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT  
ON THE COMPLIANCE OF COVID RECOVERY PLANS AND POLICIES  
WITH THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
(Pursuant to HRC Resolutions 33/14 and 42/23)**

Further to the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN in Geneva's Note Verbale No. NV-EPG-104-2022 dated 08 March 2022, the Government of the Philippines conveys additional contribution to the thematic report by the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development on the compliance of COVID recovery plans and policies with the right to development perspective in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development and core international human rights treaties, as follows:

**A. NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

1. *How are rights holders – individuals and communities – placed at the center of processes of COVID recovery plans elaboration, from the planning to the evaluation stages?*

- The government ensures that the formulation and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans are aligned with the *Ambisyon Natin 2040* and the *Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022*, which place people and their rights at the center of development agenda.

The *AmBisyon Natin 2040* is the collective long-term vision and aspiration of Filipinos towards having a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life (*Matatag, Maginhwa, at Panatag na Buhay*) by 2040.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the PDP 2017-2022<sup>2</sup> is the first medium-term plan translating the current administration's priorities into policies, strategies, and programs/projects that are geared towards the *Ambisyon Natin 2040*. The PDP 2017-2022 also serves as the implementing mechanism for the country's commitments under the 2030 Sustainable Agenda for Sustainable Development by integrating all 17 Sustainable Development Goals in its different chapters.<sup>3</sup> In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PDP has been updated to incorporate strategies for recovery and adaptation to the new normal towards the overall goal of "a healthy and resilient Philippines".

2. *What measures ensure that COVID recovery plans are based on rights holders' development priorities?*

- With the Inter-Agency Task Force - Technical Working Group (TWG) for **Compliance of COVID-19 Recovery Plans and Policies with the Right to Development Perspective and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Anticipatory and Forward Planning (AFP), NEDA launched nationwide surveys in 2020 to assess the economic outcomes of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) by determining the pain points of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://2040.neda.gov.ph/about-ambisyon-natin-2040/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/>

consumers, businesses and agriculture sector workers resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ECQ. The government considered these inputs in crafting the *We Recover as One (WRAO)* Report, which identifies the programs, projects and activities aimed at mitigating the effects of the pandemic to Filipinos, especially the vulnerable groups.<sup>4</sup>

The *WRAO* Report served as one of the basis in updating the PDP 2017-2022. As such, the Updated PDP emphasized the need to build a high-trust society towards a healthier and more resilient Philippines. One of the strategies to achieve this is to ensure a responsive, people-centered, technology-abled, and clean governance, following a culture-sensitive perspective, gender-sensitive paradigm, and rights-based approach to public service.<sup>5</sup> It involves proactively seeking citizens' perspectives to understand their needs and expectations. With this, the government can design responsive policies, programs and other interventions.

- The *Ambisyon Natin 2040* and the Updated PDP 2017-2022 guided the National Action Plan (NAP) against COVID-19 or the country's COVID-19 response and recovery plan. The NAP is currently in Phase IV (NAP4), which focuses on the management of COVID-19, especially by strengthening the healthcare system while safely reopening the economy. The *Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, Reintegrate, and Vaccinate (PDITRV)* strategy remains the pillar of NAP4, which puts people's needs at the center of government response. Meanwhile, the government is already preparing the NAP Phase V (NAP5), which will focus on (1) accelerating and sustaining social and economic recovery while managing the risk due to COVID-19, (2) improving the resilience of the country against any future occurrence of pandemic and (3) formulating a pandemic response playbook, among others. The government also solicited the public's opinions and feedback on the new normal to craft responsive and people-centered measures under the NAP 5.
- The Updated PDP and the NAP4 also guided the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for COVID-19 Vaccines. The allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 immunization adheres to principles of *human well-being* (i.e., health, social and economic security, human rights and

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<sup>4</sup> <https://neda.gov.ph/we-recover-as-one/>

<sup>5</sup> Chapter 5 on Ensuring People-Centered, Technology-enabled, and Clean Governance

civil liberties of all citizens and individuals are protected and promoted) and *equal respect* (i.e., all human beings are treated equally, and their interest are considered with moral consideration).<sup>6</sup>

When supplies were limited during the early stages of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, the government ensured *national equity* (i.e., equity in vaccine access is assured nationally and those with greater burden of COVID-19 pandemic) by considering risk levels in determining priority areas. Due to higher transmission rates, priority was given to the National Capital Region plus 8<sup>7</sup> in terms of vaccine doses than the rest of the country.

Furthermore, the NDVP integrates vaccine safety monitoring and management strategies to provide guidance in monitoring and responding to any adverse event following immunization (AEFI). Republic Act (RA) No. 11525<sup>8</sup> or the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021* also established a COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund for compensation of any person who had AEFI resulting in death or permanent disability.

3. *What measures provide rights holders access to reliable, timely and easy to comprehend information on all aspects of COVID recovery plans?*

- Chapter 5 of the Updated PDP 2017-2022 on *Ensuring People-Centered, Technology-enabled, and Clean Governance* stresses the importance of ensuring public access to transparent and strategic risk-communication. Well-informed citizens are empowered to participate meaningfully in process development, for instance, in providing insights and suggesting possible solutions that the government can use in crafting policies, plans and interventions most especially in times of crisis such as the current pandemic. The government maximized the use of digital platforms in informing, consulting, involving, collaborating, and empowering citizens.

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<sup>6</sup> Retrieved from the NDVP (<https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/The%20Philippine%20National%20COVID-19%20Vaccination%20Deployment%20Plan.pdf>, accessed 15 February 2022)

<sup>7</sup> This comprises the NCR, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, and Rizal.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2021/02/26/republic-act-no-11525/>

- To keep the citizens well informed and to combat the spread of misinformation, the Inter-Agency Task Force Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID)<sup>9</sup> has been regularly disseminating official information on various aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the number of cases, health system capacity, policies, plans, programs and activities. The websites include the Philippines' COVID-19 Dashboard (<https://www.covid19.gov.ph/>) and the IATF-MEID's official website (<https://iatf.doh.gov.ph/>), in addition to member agencies' respective websites. To be more inclusive and connected, the Department of Health also launched a Viber community as an alternative platform to disseminate COVID-19 and other health-related information to the public, while several local government units (LGUs) followed suit to engage with their constituents.
- The National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF)<sup>10</sup> also formed its Strategic Communications Group to harmonize the government's messaging and ensure timely release of verified information across all levels of government. It has designated official spokespersons and partnered with communicators from different sectors of society (e.g., private sector, youth, professional groups, civil society organizations, religious groups and academe) to deliver key messages that will increase citizens' awareness and understanding of the government's policies and plans.

#### 4. *What measures ensure that civil society participates throughout the processes of COVID recovery plans elaboration?*

- As espoused in Chapter 5 of the PDP 2017-2022, the government has been encouraging volunteerism, and promoting shared public service values in the delivery of social services and response to disaster and undertaking humanitarian efforts. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic,

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<sup>9</sup> Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014, created the IATF-MEID, headed by the Department of Health, to steer inter-sectoral collaboration in ensuring preparedness and adequate response in assessing, monitoring, containing, controlling, and preventing the spread of infectious disease epidemics in the country. Considering the effects of COVID-19 across sectors, the IATF issued Resolution No. 12, series of 2020, expanding its membership to 34 government agencies, to strengthen the government's response and recovery effort. (Sources: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2014/05/26/executive-order-no-168-s-2014/>; [https://iatf.doh.gov.ph/?page\\_id=680](https://iatf.doh.gov.ph/?page_id=680); accessed 18 February 2022)

<sup>10</sup> The NTF is an inter-agency body spearheading the implementation of the Philippines' National Action Plan Against COVID-19 through the policy guidance of the IATF-MEID

government has acknowledged that a whole-of-society approach is crucial in rebuilding the confidence of individuals, communities and society, and in adjusting to the “new normal”. Hence, the theme of the *WRAO Report* emphasizes solidarity in recovering from the ill effects of COVID-19. Said report identified imperatives for: (i) reducing people’s feelings of uncertainty through making information available responding to pressing questions of various stakeholders; (ii) programs and strategies to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis on consumers and business; and (iii) policies and programs to enable the country and the people to adapt to the “new normal” state of economic activities.<sup>11</sup>

- Through the Task Group on Governance under the Recovery Cluster of the NTF Against COVID-19, the government expanded the opportunities for the involvement of CSOs and citizens in the implementation of PDITRV strategies. To achieve this, the government formulated a framework for partnership and collaboration with CSOs and volunteer groups, and established a network of volunteer groups. CSOs and other partner groups helped the government in conducting community-based capacity building on food sufficiency and livelihood opportunities, and in promoting campaigns on minimum health standards and government assistance in their respective communities and sectors.<sup>12</sup>

5. *Are States committing to COVID recovery policies and plans in line with the 2030 Agenda, including through:*

a. *A specific strategy about the sectors in which the State would invest to ensure the most affected sectors of the society receive priority investment, in line with their developmental priorities;*

- The current administration launched a 4-Pillar Socioeconomic Strategy Against COVID-19,<sup>13</sup> which supported people greatly affected by the pandemic, and managed its economic impacts. The four pillars include:
  - i. *Pillar I: Emergency support for vulnerable groups.* The government allocated an estimated PhP505.6 billion for

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<sup>11</sup> <https://neda.gov.ph/we-recover-as-one/>

<sup>12</sup> *Led by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency and the Department of the Interior and Local Government*

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/We-Will-Rise-As-One-brochure-as-of-Oct-30.pdf>

emergency support of vulnerable groups through emergency subsidy to low-income families, loans for small and medium enterprises, livelihood programs, unemployment benefits, cash assistance, social protection services/programs, basic education learning continuity plan, among others.

- ii. *Pillar II: Marshalling resources to fight COVID-19.* The government provided an estimated PhP53.2 billion for expanded medical resources to fight COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of frontliners. These include health insurance coverage for all COVID-19 patients, special risk allowance, hazard pay, and personal protective equipment for frontline health workers, increased testing capacity, among others.
  - iii. *Pillar III: Monetary actions to keep the economy afloat and other financing support for emergency response and recovery initiatives.* The government allocated PhP1.3 trillion liquidity infusion into the economy, and another PhP1.3 trillion financing support to emergency response and recovery programs.
  - iv. *Pillar IV: An economic recovery program to create jobs and sustain growth.* The government provided an estimated PhP699.8 billion under the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan II)* and Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) to create jobs and sustain growth. In line with this, the government conducted nationwide surveys to assess and measure the impact of the pandemic on businesses, such as micro, small, and medium enterprises. The government continued investing in social and infrastructure programs to revive and sustain economic growth.
- On the other hand, the Updated PDP identified strategies to ensure recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare for the possible threat of another pandemic. Chapter 10 on *Human Capital Development towards Greater Agility* enumerated the following strategies to ensure a responsive and resilient health system:
    - i. guaranteeing access to essential quality and affordable health and nutrition products and services;
    - ii. continuously upgrading and equipping health facilities;



- iii. improving the status and supply of human resources for health (HRH); and
  - iv. improving epidemiological and surveillance capacities.
- Chapter 10 also highlighted the provision of a multisector response in combatting malnutrition, which includes harmonizing interventions that are nutrition-specific (e.g., maternal-and-child health care, supplementary feeding, child growth monitoring) and nutrition-sensitive (e.g., food diversification, water and sanitation).
- Chapter 11 of the Updated PDP on *Ensuring Food Resiliency and Reducing Vulnerabilities of Filipinos* also identified strategies to ensure access to nutritious food even during emergencies, and to enable people to manage individual, economic, natural and human-induced disasters, and governance and political risks. To mitigate risks faced by vulnerable groups, the government will pursue the following strategies:
  - i. ensure financial risk protection through improved PhilHealth coverage and benefit packages;
  - ii. implement a holistic approach in addressing child labor;
  - iii. implement community-based programs to address Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) including the development of a standardized VAWC manual;
  - iv. increase social pension and expand its coverage;
  - v. improve accessibility of social protection services for persons with disabilities; and
  - vi. reach out to Filipinos in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas.
- NEDA has also recently proposed a 10-point policy agenda on economic recovery. The agenda includes redefining the metrics to aid decision-making of citizens and build their confidence, accelerating vaccination, and augmenting healthcare capacity. It also includes initiatives on economy and mobility, schooling, domestic travel, international travel, digital transformation, pandemic flexibility bill, and medium-term preparation for pandemic resilience. Ultimately,

this policy agenda hopes to empower Filipinos in learning to live with the virus and assist the country in recovering to pre-pandemic level.<sup>14</sup>

b. *A conscious policy commitment to social and economic inclusiveness, through social protection programmes and/or investment in public services like housing, education, social protection and health care; and*

- Various government agencies put forward programs and policies to enhance social protection and public service delivery through financial aid/relief for the vulnerable and affected sectors such as the:
  - i. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Credit Policy Council Survival and Recovery Aid Program, which provided loans of up to PhP25,000 for smallholder farmers and fisherfolks affected by calamity and disasters;
  - ii. Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation, providing cash amounting to PhP3,000 to target beneficiaries to cover basic needs of their families. It also provides PhP5,000 to families with two or more members belonging to the vulnerable or disadvantaged sectors.
  - iii. DSWD's Expanded and Enhanced *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*, which provides cash or non-cash assistance to target beneficiaries. In relation to this, the government harmonized its efforts by using the *Listahanan*, approving and adopting the Social Protection Plan 2020-2022, and expanding PhilHealth and social pension coverage.
  - iv. Department of Trade and Industry's Enterprise Rehabilitation Financing Facility under the *Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso* (or COVID19 P3-ERF), a microfinancing program which offered loans from PhP5,000 – PhP200,000 with a minimal interest rate of not more than 2.5% per month and no collateral requirement.
  - v. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) Memorandum No. M-2020-008: *Regulatory Relief for BSFIs Affected by the Corona Virus*

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<sup>14</sup> <https://neda.gov.ph/neda-outlines-10-point-policy-agenda-to-boost-ph-economic-recovery/>

*Disease 2019* provided temporary and rediscounting relief measures which included the provision of financial assistance, grace period/moratorium on loans, non-imposition of penalties, among others, for BSP Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs).

- Other programs also provided monetary and non-monetary support specific to the sectors, which include:
  - i. Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Emergency Employment Program (EEP) or *Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers*, a community-based (municipality/barangay) package of assistance that provides emergency employment for displaced workers, underemployed, and seasonal workers, for a minimum period of 10 days, but not exceeding 30 days, depending on the nature of work to be performed.
  - ii. DOLE's Integrated Livelihood Program or *KABUHAYAN* Program, which contributes to poverty reduction and reduces vulnerability to risks of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized workers through transitional emergency employment and livelihood and entrepreneurship.
  - iii. Department of Science and Technology's Rapidpassph, a virtual identification system developed by Developers Connect, which utilizes QR-Code based technology to ease mobility of frontliners and priority vehicles.
  - iv. Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Emergency Operations Center and Public Assistance and Complaint Center for monitoring the implementation of directives and measures against COVID-19 in LGUs, such as barangays.
  - v. On support for state hospitals and research institutes, the government increased the operational budgets of the Philippine General Hospital and other public hospitals, with auxiliary focus and support on control of other infectious diseases, emergency preparedness and response. The government also incentivized and subsidized local research institutes for COVID-19 related

studies, such as development of test kits, medical equipment, and vaccines, among others.

- vi. On housing, the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)<sup>15</sup> reorients housing policies and programs towards building communities, in addition to building houses. These policies and programs must now consider resiliency and sustainability conditions.
  - vii. On education, the Philippines institutionalized reforms to expand access to education at all levels (i.e., K to 12 Program, Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education). Some LGUs also provided laptops, tablets and data allowance to help students transition to digitalization and alternative learning system.
- Further, landmark legislation and reforms that enhance social protection were passed as seen in Table 1:

**Table 1. Matrix of laws enhancing social protection**

<b>Law</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
RA No. 11037 ( <i>Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act</i> )	Establishes the National Feeding Program to address undernutrition among Filipino children
RA No. 11055 ( <i>Philippine Identification System Act</i> )	Establishes a single national identification system that aims to provide a valid proof of identity for Filipino citizens and resident aliens of the Philippines
RA No. 11199 ( <i>Social Security Act of 2018</i> )	Rationalizes and expands the powers and duties of the Social Security Commission to ensure the long-term viability of the Social Security System (SSS) by increasing the SSS contribution rate
RA No. 11210 ( <i>105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law</i> )	Increases the maternity leave period to 105 days for female workers with pay and an option to extend for an additional 30 days without pay. This also grants

<sup>15</sup> Created in 2019 through RA 11201 or the “Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act”

Law	Brief Description
	extension of 15 days for solo mothers, and for other purposes.
RA No. 11223 ( <i>Universal Health Care Act of 2019</i> )	Provides for the protection and promotion of the right to health of all Filipinos; and ensures that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk
RA No. 11228 ( <i>Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage for All Persons with Disability</i> )	Mandates PhilHealth coverage of all persons with disability wherein premium contributions will be paid by the national government
RA No. 11291 ( <i>Magna Carta of the Poor</i> )	Guarantees the rights of the poor to adequate food, decent work, relevant and quality education, housing, and the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health
RA No. 11310 ( <i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps Act</i> )	Institutionalizes the 4Ps program as the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program
RA No. 11313 ( <i>Safe Spaces Act</i> )	Defines gender-based sexual harassment in streets, public spaces, online, workplaces, and educational or training institutions; provides protective measures and prescribes penalties therefore
RA No. 11315 ( <i>Community-Based Monitoring System Act</i> )	Enables the Philippines' adoption of a community-based monitoring system which generates updated disaggregated data necessary in targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions and monitoring impact over time.
RA No. 11350 ( <i>National Commission of Senior Citizen Act</i> )	Creates the NCSC and provides for its functions; and abolishes the National Coordinating Council and Monitoring Board. <sup>4</sup> The law mandates the NSCC to ensure full implementation of the

Law	Brief Description
	programs, projects, and policies of the government on senior citizens, including studies on the elderly.
RA No. 11469 ( <i>Bayanihan to Heal as One Act</i> )	Declares the existence of a national emergency arising from the COVID-19 situation and a national policy in connection therewith, and authorizes the President of the Philippines for a limited period and subject to restrictions, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy and for other purposes
RA No. 11494 ( <i>Bayanihan to Recover as One Act</i> )	Provides for COVID-19 response and recovery interventions, and provides mechanisms to accelerate the recovery and bolster the resiliency of the Philippine economy, providing funds therefore, and for other purposes

- As the implementation of basic social services are devolved to LGUs, there is a need to ensure that all LGUs provide such services. This will be done through coordination and collaboration of implementing agencies and LGUs, guided by their respective devolution transition plans.<sup>16</sup>

c. *An open policy space where policies and programmes can be evaluated and revised as needed?*

- The country's development plan is updated on its third year of implementation which include updating of strategies and recalibration of targets. Meanwhile, a Socioeconomic Report is published yearly to assess the implementation of the PDP and supplement it with additional strategies, as necessary.
- Most COVID-19 response policies and programs are constantly evaluated and revised depending on risks and priorities. This can be

<sup>16</sup> These plans will be used to fully implement the Mandanas case ruling, which increases the Internal Revenue Allotment of LGUs to include LGU's just share of national taxes.

observed in the changes in vaccine prioritization and deployment, guidelines for isolation and quarantine for confirmed/suspected COVID-19 cases and close contacts, and quarantine restrictions from community quarantine categories to alert levels, among others. The IATF-MEID functions as the authority in determining and recommending to the President policies, strategies, and guidelines to be followed during health emergencies.

- The government continues to engage policy think tanks (i.e., Philippine Institute for Development Studies), development partners (e.g., Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and United Nations Development Programme), the academe, the private sector, and other stakeholders to review and evaluate policies and programs.
- The NEDA-Monitoring and Evaluation Staff is also mandated to monitor the progress of ongoing strategic development programs and projects (PAPs) that contribute to achieving the PDP goals, while evaluating PAPs' continued relevance/viability during implementation in coordination with NEDA-Central Office Staffs, NEDA Regional Offices, implementing agencies, oversight agencies and development partners.

6. *In evaluating COVID recovery measures, are States conducting human rights impact assessments?*

- The PDP's Results Matrix (RM) is the key document assessing the human rights impact of COVID-19 recovery plans and interventions, among others, considering that it measures the achievement of outcomes and impacts of policies, programs, and projects relative to the implementation of the PDP.<sup>17</sup> The PDP
  - i. adheres to a rights-based approach;
  - ii. integrates the Philippines' commitment to achieving the 17 SDGs; and

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<sup>17</sup> [https://neda.gov.ph/enhanced-pdp-2017-2022-results-matrices/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=enhanced-pdp-2017-2022-results-matrices](https://neda.gov.ph/enhanced-pdp-2017-2022-results-matrices/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=enhanced-pdp-2017-2022-results-matrices)

- iii. incorporates strategies for recovery and adapting to the new normal towards the overall goal of “a healthy and resilient Philippines”.
- In addition, the Presidential Human Rights Committee, which supervises the formulation and implementation of the Philippines’ national human rights action plans, ensures the periodic assessment of accomplishments and impacts of government interventions under the Philippine Human Rights Plan.<sup>19</sup> Specifically, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Philippine Human Rights Action Plan and the overall development goals articulated in the PDP 2017-2022 are mutually reinforcing.
7. *What measures guarantee that rights holders are meaningfully involved in sharing the benefits of COVID recovery plans? How are stakeholders, including the private sector, ensuring that the benefits of COVID recovery plans and projects are equitably distributed to all segments of the population to reduce inequalities and reach the most vulnerable?*
- As mentioned in the previous responses, the formulation and implementation of COVID-19 response and recovery plans are aligned with the priorities and strategies enunciated in the Updated PDP 2017-2022. In particular, Chapter 5 promotes proactively seeking the perspective of citizens to ensure that interventions are responsive to the needs of different sectors. The government provides platforms and programs that allow citizens and CSOs to participate in governance processes, such as development planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.
  - The organizational structure and objectives of the Recovery Cluster under the NTF Against COVID-19 ensure that the needs and interests of different sectors are taken into account. The Cluster is composed of the following task groups (TGs) under the NAP4:
    - i. TG on Food Security – responsible for ensuring efficient transport and logistics systems; intensifying promotion of various options for sourcing/selling agricultural inputs and produce; establishing resilient food systems through urban farming; and providing credit

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<sup>19</sup> As mandated by Administrative Order No. 163, series of 2006 (<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2006/12/08/administrative-order-no-163-s-2006/>)



programs for farmers, fisherfolks, MSMEs, young entrepreneurs, and cooperatives.

- ii. TG on Transport Support and Local Travel – responsible for promoting the utilization of technology in public transport operations; and providing support to reduce economic losses to stakeholders in the transport sector.
- iii. TG on Social Recovery – responsible for ensuring learning continuity and quality of education through safe, accessible, and flexible modalities; and providing social assistance and social safety nets, especially for poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- iv. TG on Economic Recovery – responsible for engaging the business sector and workforce in the fight against COVID-19; encouraging businesses to retrofit their processes/establishments for COVID-proofing; and expanding economic opportunities amid the pandemic.

Among the interventions is the implementation of the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) Plan, which aims to precipitate the recovery of the labor market through the (1) creation of a policy environment that encourages generation of and improved access to employment, livelihood, and training opportunities; (2) improvement of employability, wellness, and productivity of workers; and (3) provision of support to existing and emerging businesses, ensuring the preservation of employment.<sup>20</sup>

- v. TG on Governance – responsible for increasing involvement of CSOs and citizens in the implementation of recovery programs and services; ensuring continuity and efficiency of public services; and upscaling transparency and accountability through technology-enabled services.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.dti.gov.ph/news/duterte-signs-order-formalizing-adoption-ners-employment-recovery-agenda/>

8. *Are States guaranteeing social protection floors, even in times of crisis?*

- The National Economic and Development Authority – Social Development Committee Technical Board approved the establishment of the Philippine’s Social Protection (SP) Floor in March 2018. The institutionalization of the SP Floor is a significant strategy identified in the Updated PDP to ensure achievement of universal social protection. During the 28 October 2021 Expanded Social Development Committee Technical Board (SDC-TB) meeting, the SP Floor Core Group composed of DOLE and NEDA presented the SP Floor recommendations. As agreed during the meeting, the SDC-TB members submitted further inputs to enhance the SP Floor recommendations. The Core Group is currently revising the document based on the comments/suggestions of the SDC.

**B. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

1. *In the context of Official Development Assistance, in what way are States/development agencies promoting coherence across the internationally agreed 2015 policy frameworks, such as by supporting States in developing/financing integrated COVID recovery plans? In what ways are states/development agencies fostering a culture of transparency and accountability?*

- Pursuant to RA No. 11494 or the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*, the government reallocated a portion of the fiscal space for the infrastructure sector to COVID-19 response. It also allotted ODA support for COVID-19 response primarily for emergency cash assistance program and health system delivery through the provision of medical supplies and equipment, construction of isolation and quarantine facilities, and strengthening the capacity of existing health facilities, among others.
- During the pandemic, there were improvements in the quantity of ODA commitments (i.e., increased level of ODA flows or resources provided) by both multilateral and bilateral development partners. Development partners constantly coordinate with the national government in terms of providing assistance related to COVID-19 response and recovery. This coordination mechanism facilitates complementation of assistance, and prevents overlap/duplication of efforts, and helps ensure that resources are utilized in an integrated manner.

- National government oversight and implementing agencies are also adjusting their strategies, processes, and policies to address new implementation issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic such as delays in materials/service delivery, deployment in manpower, and additional cost related to health and safety measures, and to ensure that ODA remains effective and adaptive to the new normal.

2. *In what ways are states increasing their international cooperation to facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of COVID recovery plans?*

- The national government actively finances and seeks support from the international development community for its programs and projects that respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once identified and tagged as priorities, the government facilitates the processing of such projects, and subsequently, the signing of the corresponding grant and loan agreements with development partners.
- Led by NEDA, the national government collaborates with the United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Population Fund, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office for the *Joint Programme on Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 by applying an Integrated National Financing Framework in the Philippines (JP INFF)*, an initiative that aims to strengthen SDGs financing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Joint Programme is designed to apply the building blocks of the INFF by providing catalytic support to government to strengthen the current mechanisms of the national planning and budgeting processes, and to ensure that resource allocation is more effectively targeted. It also seeks to establish a more diversified financing framework that can leverage additional resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in an integrated manner. This is particularly under the COVID-19 context where the country now risks significantly regressing from its pre-pandemic trajectory of being on track to achieve its SDG targets by 2030.

3. *How are states/development agencies cooperating to mobilize additional resources at international level – including knowledge sharing, technical cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfers – in order to provide the means and facilities to foster comprehensive COVID recovery?*

- Multilateral and bilateral partners continuously provide technical assistance to the country, such as knowledge sharing, technical cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfers, among others. One example is through the Asian Development Bank’s Knowledge and Support Technical Assistance (KSTA) related to COVID-19, which include:
  - i. *KSTA 6588: Creating Investable Cities in a Post-COVID-19 Asia and the Pacific – Enhancing Competitiveness and Resilience through Quality Infrastructure.* This TA will leverage ADB resources, knowledge, and partnerships to help LGUs increase their technical, financial, and managerial capacity to develop municipal infrastructure, improve their resource mobilization, and enhance their competitiveness and resilience post-COVID-19.
  - ii. *KSTA 6670: Educational Technology Solutions for Last Mile Schools in COVID-19.* The TA will support the DepEd in operationalizing the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan which will enable students to continue learning through blended learning modalities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - iii. *KSTA 9908: Building the Capacity of Journalists from Developing Member Countries (DMCs) in Asia and the Pacific.* This TA will support journalists, help deepen their technical skills, and broaden their understanding of increasingly complex economic and social development issues to improve the quality of their reporting, expand public awareness, and enhance public dialogue on development issues, including situating and reporting COVID-19 as a developmental issue/challenge to DMCs.