



Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

**Philippines
2018**

National preparedness for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation

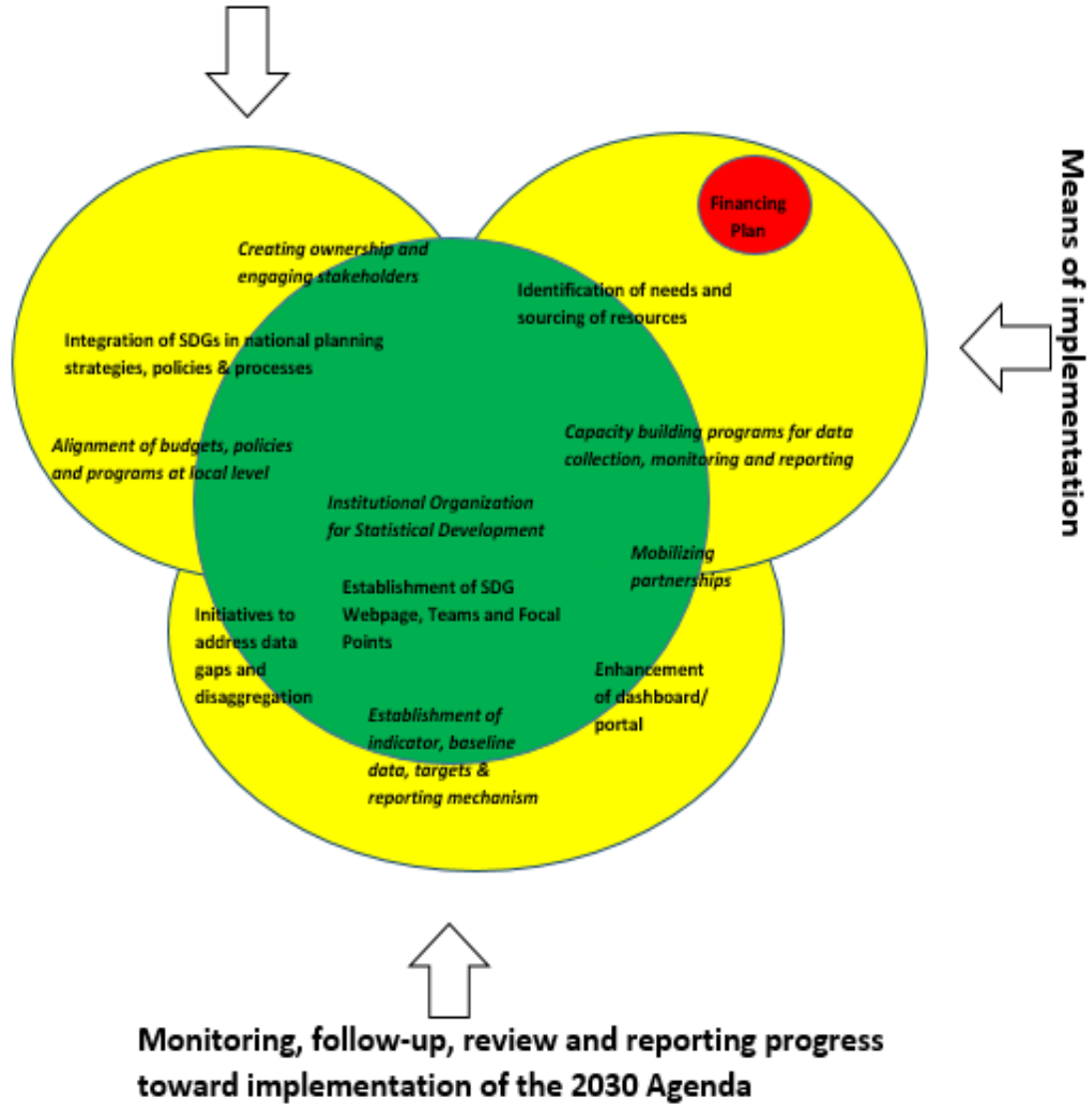
The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which spearheads the national implementation of the SDGs, has substantially incorporated the 2030 Agenda in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and its Results Matrix for 2017-2022 while there are on-going preparatory activities and initiatives such as development of communication strategies, conduct of campaign on raising awareness, localization of SDGs, operationalizing inclusiveness and leaving no one behind principles, and strengthening of coordination among multi-stakeholder bodies on sustainable development dealing on cross-cutting issues that overlap.

A financing plan for SDGs has yet to be developed in spite of foundations from the existing financing policies and identified partnerships for the mobilization and sourcing of resources while capacity building programs for personnel and methodologies and mobilizing partnerships are in progress in line with the Philippine Statistical Development Program for 2018-2023.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has already established an SDG Webpage in its website, SDG Teams within PSA as well as SDG Focal Points from data source agencies and through its coordination efforts, work are in progress in establishing mechanism for monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting progress towards implementation of SDGs: a) build-up of data and information for SDG Dashboard; b) establishment of baseline data and year-wise targets; c) enhancement of portal for localized SDG indicators; and d) initiatives to address challenges and emerging issues on data gaps.

Audit at a glance

Integration of 2030 Agenda into the national context



Legend:

- - Complete
- ● - Work-in-progress or incomplete
- - Not yet developed

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ASOSAI	<i>Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions</i>
BPF	<i>Budget Priorities Framework</i>
BLGD	<i>Bureau of Local Government and Development</i>
CBMS	<i>Community-Based Monitoring System</i>
COA	<i>Commission on Audit</i>
CSO	<i>Civil Society Organization</i>
DBM	<i>Department of Budget and Management</i>
DILG	<i>Department of Interior and Local Government</i>
DOF	<i>Department of Finance</i>
EO	<i>Executive Order</i>
GAA	<i>General Appropriations Act</i>
HLPF	<i>High Level Political Forum</i>
IAEG-SDG	<i>International Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators</i>
IDI	<i>INTOSAI Development Initiative</i>
INTOSAI	<i>International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions</i>
ISSAI	<i>International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions</i>
KSC	<i>Knowledge Sharing Committee</i>
LDIP	<i>Local Development Investment Programs</i>
LGU	<i>Local Government Unit</i>
MDG	<i>Millennium Development Goal</i>
MTEF	<i>Medium-Term Expenditure Framework</i>
NEDA	<i>National Economic Development Authority</i>
ODA	<i>Official Development Assistance</i>
OP	<i>Office of the President</i>
PCSD	<i>Philippine Council for Sustainable Development</i>
PIP	<i>Public Investment Plan</i>
PDP	<i>Philippine Development Plan</i>
PREXC	<i>Program Expenditure Classification</i>
PSA	<i>Philippine Statistics Authority</i>
PSDP	<i>Philippine Statistical Development Plan</i>
PSRTI	<i>Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute</i>
PSS	<i>Philippine Statistical System</i>
RDP	<i>Regional Development Plan</i>
RA	<i>Republic Act</i>
RM	<i>Results Matrix</i>
SAI	<i>Supreme Audit Institution</i>
SDG	<i>Sustainable Development Goal</i>
SER	<i>Socio-Economic Report</i>
UN	<i>United Nations</i>
UNDP	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
VNR	<i>Voluntary National Review</i>
WoG	<i>Whole of Government</i>

Executive summary

The Philippines, as a member of the United Nations (UN) together with other 192 Member States, jointly committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. Consequently, the Philippine Government has the responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the SDGs and targets for 15 years or until 2030. There are 17 goals, 169 targets and 244 indicators in the global indicator framework of the SDGs¹.

In line with the mandate of the Philippine Commission on Audit (COA) as the country's Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) and in support of the cross-cutting priority on SDGs of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI²), COA participated in the Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of SDGs under the programme of the INTOSAI Knowledge Sharing Committee (KSC) - INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) and the UN. The conduct of performance audit would provide independent oversight aimed at contributing inputs to the challenges in the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs by the government. Aside from generating value and making the work of the SAI more relevant, the audit would also contribute to the transparency and accountability in SDGs implementation.

The audit assessed how the Philippine Government has provided enabling environment for the following areas: a) government's adaptation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into its national context; b) means of implementation; and c) mechanism for monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on the progress towards implementation of SDGs.

The Philippine Government is committed in achieving the SDGs envisioned in the 2030 Agenda and facing the bigger challenges ahead. The NEDA has been setting the tone for all stakeholders and putting in place various implementation mechanisms. A year after the SDGs adoption and based on the results of the series of consultative/assessment workshops conducted by NEDA and PSA with various stakeholders, 102 indicators (41.8%) were classified under Tier 1, 55 indicators (24.6%) under Tier 2, 74 indicators (29.1%) under Tier 3, while 13 indicators (4.51%) were not applicable in the country³. Currently, 155 indicators with 92 targets under the 17 SDGs are in the approved initial list of SDG indicators for monitoring in the Philippines.

Progress has been made in the integration of the 2030 Agenda into the national context while there are on-going preparatory activities and initiatives such as development of communication strategies, conduct of campaign on raising awareness and strengthening of coordination among multi-stakeholder bodies on sustainable development dealing on cross-cutting issues that overlap. Issues noted include partial integration of the SDG indicators (68 out of 155 indicators in 15 out of 17 SDGs) in the PDP Results Matrix (RM) for 2017-2022 and gap in operationalizing inclusiveness and leaving no one behind principles of the 2030 Agenda. The mechanisms of the medium-term PDP and sectoral plans were considered the de facto implementation roadmap of the SDGs to avoid contradiction in the current efforts of integration. While some sectoral plans have already reflected the SDGs, there are identified sectors (e.g. labor and social protection) where works are still in

¹ The total number of indicators listed in the global indicator framework of SDG indicators is 244 but the actual number of indicators is 232 since nine indicators repeat under two or three different targets.

² INTOSAI operates as an umbrella organization for the external government audit community.

³ Tier classification of indicators at the national level: Tier 1 – with established methodology and data regularly collected; Tier 2 – with established methodology but data not regularly collected; Tier 3 – no established methodology or methodologies are being developed/tested.

progress. The Socio-Economic Report for 2017, which is an annual report of the progress towards the achievement of the PDP, did not contain information and updates on the extent of the integration of the SDGs in the PDP. At the local level, alignment of the SDGs to its budget and policies is in progress. The noted issues might also lead to unfunded programs relating to affected SDGs, progress not being tracked and assessed and non-involvement of relevant stakeholders contrary to the principles of inclusiveness and leaving no one behind.

The existing planning, programming and budgetary frameworks have facilitated the responsible entities in the identification and sourcing of resources and capacities needed to implement the SDGs. Resource gaps and innovative scheme were identified on long-term financing for disaster risk reduction, disaster risk financing for reconstruction efforts, and climate change adaptation measures to cope and build resilience against hazards and calamities. However, a financing plan has yet to be developed in line with the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Likewise, review of a country paper on financing SDGs in the Philippines revealed the need to strengthen the process in the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing for the country's sustainable development programs. Further, the formulation of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for PSA and agencies under the Philippine Statistical System⁴ (PSS) need support and guidance for realistic budget proposals for the programs, activities and projects relating to the Philippine Statistical Development Plan (PSDP) for 2018-2023.

The capacity building enhancement programs and activities of the PSA and the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) on collection of data, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs are on-going at the national, sub-national and local levels.

PSA, which serves as the official repository of SDG indicators, has been building-up data and information for the PSA SDG Dashboard. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) through its Bureau of Local Government and Development (BLGD) is enhancing the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Portal to facilitate generation of report on 39 SDG indicators using CBMS data. It was noted that institutional organization exists for SDG statistical development and there are strategies and process in place to ensure quality and availability of data but there is a need to improve the quality of admin-based data and availability of desired level of disaggregation on SDG data. Gathering of national baseline data and year-wise targets as well as development of metadata for regional SDGs is in progress. Challenges and emerging issues including data gaps attributable to Tiers 2 and 3 are being addressed by relevant stakeholders.

It is notable that the Philippine Government has signified its intention to participate in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) for 2019 after its 2016 VNR. It aims to conduct the VNRs every three years. The thematic approach and structured process of the VNR shall enable the government to track its progress on the attainment of SDGs.

The SDGs and corresponding indicators which are already approved for monitoring need to be incorporated in the subsequent updating of the PDP and its RM, as appropriate. The NEDA, in

⁴ The PSS is the government's existing institutional structure for statistical development. It consists of statistical organizations at all administrative levels, including a policy-making body, a coordinating body with primary data collection capability, a statistical research and training institute, and all executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national and local governments and all government-owned and controlled corporations and their subsidiaries that are engaged in statistical activities either as their primary functions or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions.

collaboration with the sectors concerned, need to ensure the complete integration of the SDGs in the respective sectoral plans. It is also recommended, as envisioned by the NEDA, that the Socio-Economic Report contains an Annex on the SDGs to provide extent of the integration of the SDGs in the PDP and other relevant updates.

NEDA should pursue the creation of a Subcommittee on SDGs under the Development Budget Committee (DBCC) to ensure that programs contributing to SDGs are tagged and adequately funded consistent with the more integrative approach to the SDGs. To strengthen the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing, it is recommended that the NEDA, the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) prioritize the adoption of the relevant recommendations embodied in the Country Paper on Financing the SDGs in the Philippines: using an integrated national financing framework to link resources with results and to develop financing plan for SDGs. They should also develop and pursue a long term financing and risk financing scheme for disaster risk reduction and recovery as well as climate change adaptation measures. In addition, the PSA Board, in coordination with the DBM, should provide guidance to the agencies under the PSS in the formulation of a realistic MTEF in support of the implementation of the PSDP 2018-2023.

It is also recommended that the PSA, in collaboration with PSRTI and DILG, need to continue building and enhancing the capacities of relevant offices in all levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure that capacities needed are in place for the monitoring, follow-up and reporting in the implementation of SDGs. Likewise, NEDA, PSA and other relevant stakeholders should continue to identify opportunities for cooperation and partnership as they implement Agenda 2030 in addition to existing arrangements.

It is further recommended that the PSA has to complete the build-up of data for its SDG Dashboard and Database, and DILG to provide support to local government units in enhancing the availability of data at the local level and be able to provide information to stakeholders on a timely manner. To conform with the data requirements of the SDG framework and in line with the priority statistical development programs and activities under the PSDP, needed measures and initiatives must be implemented by NEDA, PSA, PSRTI, DILG and relevant stakeholders. These concerns and issues relating to the desired level of data disaggregation, reliability of administrative-based data, development of methodologies and standards for SDG indicators under Tiers 2 and 3 and localization of SDGs need to be addressed. PSA may seek technical guidance and support from the International Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG), development partners, academe, private sector and CSOs on the development of methodology for indicators without methodology yet including assistance on emerging issues and challenges. Likewise, the DILG in collaboration with the NEDA has to finalize its policy on localization of SDGs to be able to provide guidance and facilitate the implementation of SDGs by the local government units (LGUs), which are frontline institutions responsible for providing access to basic services to the public.

Overall, significant progress has been achieved in the government's preparation to implement the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. While the identified gaps and work which are still in progress pose challenges to the readiness of the government, it is expected that once these gaps have been addressed and work in progress have been substantially completed, the government's readiness for the implementation of the SDGs will be further enhanced.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Audit topic

The 193 UN Member States adopted in 2015 a new global plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. They affirmed their commitments towards ending all forms of poverty, fighting inequalities, increasing country's productive capacity and social inclusion, curbing climate change and protecting environment while ensuring that no one is left behind in the next 15 years.

The 17 SDGs (Figure 1) are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable. They take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development respecting national policies and priorities. Implementation of the SDGs requires the involvement of a wide variety of government and non-government actors, including citizens and the private sector.

Figure 1: Sustainable Development Goals



The performance audit on the preparedness of the government for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is envisaged as one of the first responses of SAIs in contributing to the SDG implementation, follow-up and review by providing independent oversight on the government's efforts in the early implementation of the SDGs. It could provide opportunities for strengthening capacity and fostering collaboration on knowledge sharing on the audit and review of the implementation of the SDGs among INTOSAI members.

Audit Objectives and Questions

This performance audit of preparedness of the Government for the implementation of SDGs was undertaken with three audit objectives, namely: a) to what extent has the government adapted the SDGs into its national context; b) has the government identified and secured resources and capacities needed to implement the 2030 Agenda; and c) has the government established a mechanism to monitor, follow-up, review and report on progress towards the implementation of SDGs.

Audit scope

The audit covers the review of initiatives for the preparation of the Philippine Government to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs from October 2015 to March 2018. A system-oriented approach or the examination of the proper functioning of management systems is adopted in combination with the result-oriented approach or assessment whether outcome or output objectives have been achieved as intended or programs and services are operating as intended.

As SDGs are integrated and indivisible, their implementation requires a whole of government (WoG) approach. The WoG approach is characterized by outcomes-focused, boundary spanning, enabling and strengthening prevention. It seeks to enable government's departments and agencies to achieve outcomes that cannot be achieved by working in isolation and to optimize these outcomes by using all the resources at the disposal of the government. Policy implementation goes beyond the remit of a single department or agency, thus, interventions cross agency lines to secure outcome from programs. Its approach to policy is seen as enabling government to address complex policy challenges, use knowledge and expertise within and outside government more effectively, and integrate levels of government in support of more efficient and effective service delivery.

Audit criteria and their sources

The audit criteria used in this audit were derived from the Auditing Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – A Guidance for Supreme Audit Institutions; Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1); and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Audit methodology, sources of data, data gathering and analysis applied

Data and information needed for the audit were gathered mainly through the websites and briefing materials on SDGs from the NEDA, PSA, PSRTI, DILG, DBM and other relevant stakeholders. Questionnaires and requests for clarifications were sent to NEDA, PSA and DILG on matters relating to the integration of SDGs to the PDP and local plans, means of implementation and follow-up, monitoring and reporting on the progress towards achievement of SDGs. Focus group discussions were undertaken with the representatives from the NEDA, PSA, DILG and PSRTI. Desk review and audit analysis were conducted using data and information from documents gathered and responses on questionnaires received by the audit team from relevant stakeholders.

Standards used in Audit

The audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) 300 – Fundamental Principles of Performance Auditing, and ISSAI 3000 - Standard for Performance Auditing.

Chapter 2 – Overview

The country's work on building awareness and ownership for the SDGs began during the consultation processes for the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The government engaged different development stakeholders in discussions and dialogues to gather insights and inputs for the crafting of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Based on priority areas identified and presented before the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the Philippine Government welcomed the inclusion of its four priorities in the 2030 Agenda such as: a) the recognition of the rights of migrants; b) the urgent need to address climate change; c) the need for collective action for conservation; and d) equality of opportunities.

NEDA pointed out three key lessons from the review of the implementation of the MDGs in the country which can be considered in the implementation of SDGs. **Good governance** was a key lesson where the attainment of the MDGs required a sustained and consistent commitment from all stakeholders. There should be **clear implementation plan** to cover institutional arrangements, communication and advocacy strategies, and financing plan. It was added that an **appropriate data monitoring system** to support accountability mechanism should be in place and responsive to the demand for disaggregation of data and timeliness of data collection.

The Philippine Government had embraced the need for the country to mainstream the SDGs into its PDP 2017–2022 and the 25-year long-term vision “Ambisyon Natin (Our Ambition) 2040”. Executive Order (EO) No. 5, Series of 2016, stated that the four PDPs to be crafted and implemented until 2040 shall be anchored on the country's long-term vision. All offices and government instrumentalities were ordered to formulate their respective medium-term development and action programs in line with the PDP, Public Investment Plan (PIP), Ambisyon Natin 2040, President's 0+10-Point Socio-Economic Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

The Philippine Government's commitment for the implementation of SDGs was further manifested when it took part in the 2016 VNR of the HLPF on Sustainable Development. Likewise, the Philippines, as Co-chair of the International Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators, hosted the 2017 International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals Statistics to discuss, among others, addressing data gaps, improving data sources, and identifying needed resources, support, capacity building and possible collaboration with international development partners to facilitate SDGs data availability and access.

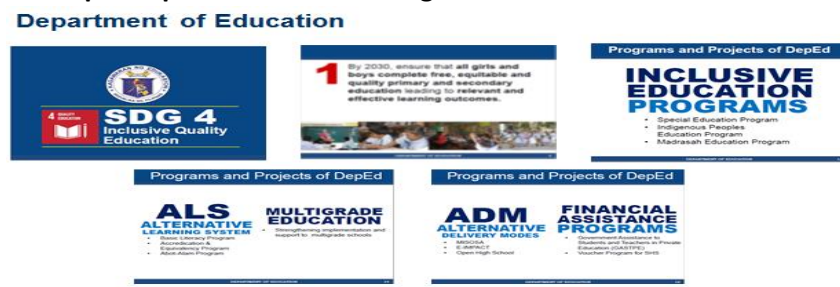
The Philippine Government has existing institutional structure to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:

- a) Office of the President (OP) - provides leadership in relation to the overall development process as well as advancement of national development goals stipulated in the PDP.
- b) NEDA - is the country's premier social and economic development planning and policy coordinating body primarily responsible for formulating continuing, coordinated and fully integrated social and economic policies, plans and programs. The NEDA Board, which is

chaired by the President, spearheads the national implementation of the SDGs in the Philippines and to promote rapid, inclusive, and sustained economic growth.⁵

- c) DILG - issues guidelines together with NEDA on the localization of the PDP Results Matrices carrying the SDGs. The BLGD is in-charge of localizing the SDGs and aligning the PDP/SDGs with the local development plans.
- d) DOF –formulates the country’s overall fiscal and tax policies and manages public debt.
- e) DBM – formulates government spending policies, setting the medium-term expenditure framework, which in turn provides the basis on which the annual budget priorities framework is developed.
- f) PSA – serves as the central statistical authority of the government on primary data collection among other functions mandated under RA 10625⁶ and designated as the official repository of the SDG indicators in the Philippines. It has the mandate to develop mechanisms by which all concerned data producing agencies and local government units will be able to generate and regularly provide timely and accurate statistics and indicators for the SDGs other than those already generated. The PSA Board is the highest policy making body on statistical matters with the assistance of the Interagency and Technical Statistical Committees.
- g) PSRTI - is tasked to undertake capacity building activities to help PSA and other agencies generate the indicators to monitor the country’s/region’s performance vis-à-vis the SDGs; and conduct methodological researches to address issues in generating the SDG indicators.
- h) Government departments and offices – provide inputs for the crafting of the PDP and PIP as well as provide necessary data support for the monitoring of the SDGs and implement government programs and projects that support the attainment of the SDGs (Figure 2);

Figure 2: Sample Department contributing to an SDG



- i) Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) - is a multi-stakeholder body composed of representatives from various government and non-government departments, groups and organizations geared toward promoting sustainable development.

⁵ Philippines Voluntary National Review at the 2016 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

⁶ RA 10625, An Act Reorganizing the Philippine Statistical System, otherwise known as the “Philippine Statistical Act of 2013”.

- j) Congress – plays critical role in the SDG implementation and review which may include budget approval, and revision/enactment of relevant laws for SDGs. It created a Special Committee on the SDGs which serves as an avenue for the legislative department to discuss SDGs.
- k) COA – provides oversight in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the conduct of audit.
- l) UN agencies and development partners - provides services, technical and financial assistance in the government’s preparation and implementation of the SDGs.
- m) Private Sector and Civil Society Organization – provide inputs in the crafting of development plans. Collaborates with government entities on initiatives addressing issues on the implementation of SDGs.

The implementation of the PDP 2017-2022, which essentially allows for the operationalization of the SDGs in the country, is done through the NEDA Board and its committees, as well as the Cabinet Clusters as reorganized by EO No. 24. The NEDA Secretariat works with various implementing agencies to prioritize and sequence identified strategies, programs, and policies, including proposed legislations⁷.

The PDP 2017-2022 is to be funded by the amount identified by the DBM as mandated by EO No. 27, series of 2017. NEDA prepares a six-year PIP, which contains a list of priority projects to be financed by national government funds in partnership with the private sector or through Official Development Assistance (ODA). Programs and projects included in the PIP are accorded priority in the review of annual budget proposal of line agencies and are expected to be funded under the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Under the Budget Priorities Framework (BPF)⁸, departments and agencies are requested to provide information on how their existing programs and proposals link to a particular SDG and should provide the specific output/s and outcome indicators and targets that these programs are seeking to deliver in line with the RM. A National Expenditure Program, which contains the details of the proposed programs, is submitted by the DBM to assist the Congress in the review and deliberation of the proposed national budget for the legislation of annual appropriation measures (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Linking Ambisyon Natin 2040, PDP 2017-2022 to Annual Budget

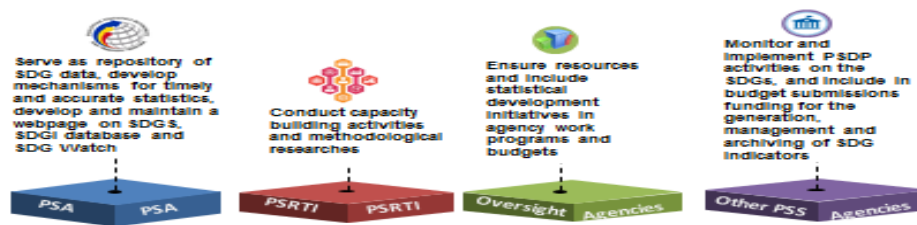


The institutional structure for the SDG statistical development was provided under PSA Board Resolution No. 04, Series of 2016 (Figure 4). For purposes of policy coordination, the PSA and PSRTI are attached agencies of NEDA. The Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Director-General of NEDA sits as Chairperson of PSA and PSRTI Board.

⁷ Chapter 21, Plan Implementation and Monitoring, PDP 2017-2022

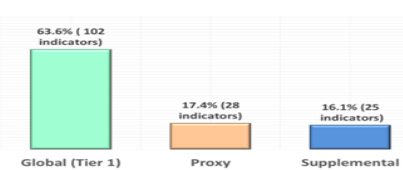
⁸ BPF is an annual policy instrument that provides a guide to the priority programs and projects preferred for funding under the fiscal space.

Figure 4: Institutional Organization for SDG Statistical Development



It was noted that under its Resolution No. 09, Series of 2017, the PSA Board approved on May 17, 2017 the initial list of 155 SDG indicators for monitoring in the Philippines. Of these indicators, 102 are the same as global indicators, 28 are proxy⁹ and 25 are supplemental¹⁰ (Figure 5). More than half of SDG Tier 1 indicators were found to be consistent with the PDP indicators.

Figure 5: Distribution of Philippine Initial List of SDG Indicators



Source: PSA

Desk review also revealed that the Agenda 2030, which emphasizes the role of quality data in monitoring progress of nation vis-à-vis the SDGs and the need to mobilize resources to support such, contributed to the updating of the PSDP for 2011-2017. On May 5, 2108, the PSA Board approved the PSDP 2018-2023¹¹. It was endorsed to the Office of the President for the issuance of an Executive Order enjoining its adoption and implementation by concerned government departments/agencies. The PSDP 2018-2023 is a mechanism for setting directions, thrusts, and strategies of the Philippine Statistical System and contains priority statistical development programs which are designed to provide crucial information support to the PDP 2017-2022, AmBisyon Natin 2040, 0-10 point Socioeconomic Agenda of the administration, and SDGs, among others.¹²

The monitoring of outcomes and implementation progress of the PDP is reported to the appropriate NEDA Board Committee, existing Cabinet Clusters, and Inter-Agency Committees¹³. For purposes of monitoring the progress on the implementation of the SDGs, PSA develops and maintains a webpage on SDGs, SDG Watch, and SDG Indicators' database.

Reporting on the implementation of the PDP is done through the Socio-Economic Report (SER) which is published annually by NEDA. The SER presents the accomplishments and outputs; identifies key challenges; and provides policy directions moving forward.

⁹ Proxy indicators are indirect indicators that approximate in the absence of a direct measure and its definition may be slightly different from the definition prescribed by UN to reflect country's context.

¹⁰ Supplemental indicators are those which are not on the list of global indicators but are currently being monitored or reported by the agencies, relevant to the country and approved to be included in the monitoring process.

¹¹ PSA Board resolution No. 05, Series of 2018 - Approving and Endorsing to the Office of the President the Philippine Statistical Development Program for 2018-2023.

¹² <https://psa.gov.ph/content/psa-board-approves-philippine-statistical-development-program-2018-2023>

¹³ Chapter 21, Plan Implementation and Monitoring, PDP 2017-2022

Chapter 3 – Integration of the 2030 Agenda into the national context

A year after the SDGs adoption, there were issues and concerns noted in the integration of the 2030 Agenda into the Philippines national context which need to be resolved, pursued and enforced as: a) the SDGs are partially incorporated into the country's national plans' results matrix as well as sectoral plans; b) alignment is on-going at the local levels of the SDGs to its budget, programs and policies; c) there is a need to strengthen coordination among multi-stakeholder bodies dealing largely with crosscutting issues that overlap; d) development of communication strategies and conduct of campaign on raising awareness for 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are in progress; and e) gap in the PDP- RM operationalizing inclusiveness and leaving no one behind principles of the 2030 Agenda.

Incomplete integration of the SDGs in the national and local planning frameworks may lead to unfunded programs relating to affected SDGs, progress not being tracked and assessed in the annual Socio-economic Report. The work in progress pose challenges to the readiness for implementation of the SDGs.

Integration of the SDGs into national planning strategies, policies and processes

Incorporation of the SDGs are still in progress both at the national and local levels as only 68 indicators out of the 155 nationally adopted SDG indicators for initial monitoring were incorporated in the PDP 2017-2022 and its accompanying RM. No indicators were incorporated from SDGs 10 and 12.

In the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Government of the Philippines need to review and incorporate/ align SDGs into its relevant national plans, processes, policies and strategies taking into consideration its national context and condition. The PDP is the blueprint of government where the priorities of the political leadership are translated into a policy and strategy framework and, then, into programs and projects. The integration of the SDGs in the PDP is essential as this document guides national budget appropriations.

It was noted that the NEDA Board approved the PDP 2017-2022 on February 20, 2017 following a series of Cabinet level and technical inter-agency discussion and stakeholders' consultations. The PDP contains the following basic documents:

- a. RM, which contains a list of indicators that can be monitored to determine the progress of the Plan; and
- b. PIP that identifies budgetary requirements and the sources of fund.

The programs outlined in the RM and the PIP are then cascaded to the Regional Development Offices to formulate individual Regional Development Plans and Investments for specific areas.

To ensure the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, the Philippine Government has integrated the SDGs in the PDP 2017-2022 as well as in the various sectoral development plans in the country (Figure 6). Similarly, the PIP, an accompanying document of the PDP, shows the relationship of development programs to the SDGs as the two are linked through PDP-RM.

Figure 6: Integration of SDGs in the PDP 2017-2022 and Ambisyon Natin 2040



Source: NEDA

The Guidelines in the Preparation of RM of the PDP stipulated the adoption of Tier 1 SDG indicators in the PDP-RM. In determining the societal goal, intermediate outcome, chapter outcome and sub-chapter outcomes, it was noted that the guidelines mentioned about SDGs as the reference materials and documents which may be used in the situational analysis. The indicator matrix even included a column intended to identify which indicators per PDP Chapter are also SDG indicators to ensure inclusion in the relevant Chapter of the RM.

Review of information from the website and inquiry revealed that the reporting on plan implementation is done through the annual SER. The report is hinged on the PDP-RM, which contains relevant SDG indicators, thus making the connection between national development objectives and SDGs explicit and measurable. It should be noted, however, that the RM for 2017-2022 currently reflects 68 SDG indicators or 44 percent of the 155 indicators initially adopted for monitoring (Figure 7). No indicators were incorporated from SDGs 10 and 12.

Figure 7: SDG Indicators Incorporated in the PDP Results Matrix for 2017-2022



Source: PSA

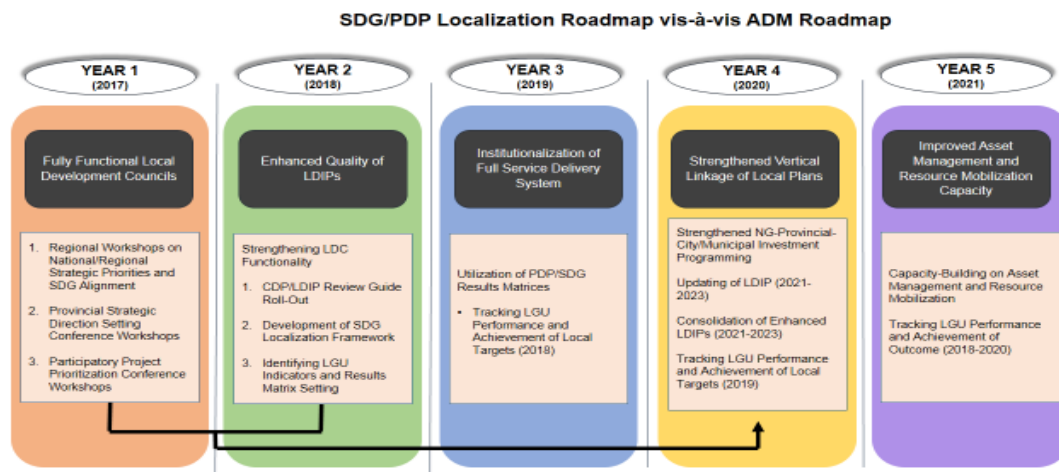
It was noted that the adoption of the SDG indicators in the respective PDP-RM Chapters was contingent upon the vetting/approval of the NEDA’s Planning/Sub-Committees (PC/SC). The approved list of SDG Tier 1 indicators was released in May 2017 after majority of the PDP-RM Chapters were vetted by PCs/SCs. NEDA explained that the inclusion of the remaining Tier 1 indicators and those with established methodology and regularly collected, may be accommodated

in the subsequent plan and RM updating, which may be undertaken at mid-term or three years after issuance of the PDP. Given tradeoffs between comprehensiveness and conciseness, NEDA added that the PDP-RM does not aim to include all of the SDG indicators. In this light, the SDGs should be reflected in the sectoral plans. While a number of sectors had crafted their plans to reflect SDGs (e.g. National Plan of Action for Children, Philippine Health Agenda, National Urban Development and Housing Framework), it was pointed out that there were sectors (e.g. labor, social protection) which are still in the process of doing so.

At the local level, DILG pointed out that activities are being rolled out even without the official release of the policy for the implementation of the localization agenda that is being implemented together with NEDA and its entities. The Joint Memorandum Circular to be issued by DILG and NEDA containing Guidelines on the Localization of the PDP 2017-2022 Result Matrices and the SDGs is already in its final revision. The DILG is also in the process of institutionalizing the CBMS in local government units pending its enactment into a law.

Further, it was noted that a five-year Roadmap to accelerate SDG localization has already been in place as shown in Figure 8. DILG explained that the strategy for SDG/PDP localization has evolved and that there is no separate SDG localization framework consistent with the NEDA position. The SDG localization has been anchored in the localization of PDP 2017-2022 Results Matrices.

Figure 8: SDG/PDP Localization Roadmap



Source: DILG

It is therefore necessary that the NEDA ensure that SDGs and the corresponding indicators and targets are incorporated in the subsequent PDP, PIP and RM updating, as appropriate, or in the sectoral plans. Further, the DILG and NEDA should finalize the localization policy for PDP and SDGs to be able to integrate the PDP/SDG indicators in the RM of the Provinces soon.

The full integration of relevant SDGs in the PDP and its RM and sectoral plans ensures that plans, programs and strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be funded and the progress in the attainment of SDGs are tracked and assessed in the SER. Accordingly, the integration of PDP/SDG indicators in the RMs of the Provinces will help identify provincial and municipal-level indicators that would operationalize and contribute to the attainment of the goals and outcome areas in the PDP including the SDGs.

Implementation roadmap of SDGs at the national level

No SDG Implementation Roadmap was developed as an overall framework for the government and other stakeholders as NEDA considered the PDP and Sectoral Plans as de facto implementation roadmap at the national level.

It has been a good practice to integrate Agenda 2030 priorities into national policies and frameworks and develop a roadmap to accelerate implementation, which the 2017 VNR encouraged to adopt by all UN Member States.

Good Practice

Kenya developed a SDGs Roadmap to guide the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs in consultation with national and local government, civil society and development partners. The roadmap addresses key considerations for SDG implementation: stakeholder mapping and establishing partnerships, advocacy and sensitisation, localisation, mainstreaming and accelerating implementation, resource mobilisation, tracking and reporting, and capacity building¹⁴.

In the 2016 VNR, the Philippine Government indicated that it would formulate an SDG Implementation Roadmap to serve as an overall framework to guide government and other key stakeholders on the actions, resources, responsibilities and partnerships needed for the implementation of the SDGs. The roadmap shall also include a financial plan, data collection and methodology work plan, and a communication and advocacy plan.

In response to the audit team's query on the planned roadmap, NEDA disclosed that it was assessed during the Workshop to craft the SDG Roadmap that a separate implementation roadmap for the SDGs might duplicate efforts of the implementation of the PDP and contradict current efforts of integration.

It should be noted, however, that the implementation plan and monitoring of the current PDP covers only until 2022 and there are activities and milestones for SDGs which may not coincide with that of the PDP. To illustrate, the following activities, strategies and milestones are not specifically included in the implementation plan of PDP: a) development of communication strategies and campaign on raising awareness on SDGs; b) full integration of SDGs and corresponding indicators in the PDP and its accompanying documents; c) development of financing plan for SDGs; d) assessment and identification of indicators for monitoring; e) identification of baselines and targets on indicators for monitoring; f) development of methodologies for Tiers 2 and 3 indicators; g) localization of SDGs; h) capacity building programs and projects for PSS agencies and other stakeholders; and i) conduct of VNR.

NEDA emphasized that the PDP and the sectoral plans are considered the de facto implementation roadmap of the SDGs. The PDP is a strategic plan which provides a roadmap towards the achievement of country's development priorities. The integration of the SDGs in the PDP and sectoral plans has allowed for the utilization of existing processes, human and financial resources as well as better ownership in the line agencies. Government units, especially local governments, might have

¹⁴ Kenya 2017 Voluntary National Review

difficulty implementing two separate roadmaps. At present, DILG’s initiatives at localizing the PDP Results Matrices would also include the localization of the SDGs. NEDA further pointed out that integration of SDGs in the medium-term development plans has been the predominant approach in many countries in the world.

The concern that the implementation plan and monitoring of the current PDP term covers only until 2022 and there are activities and milestones for SDGs which may not coincide with that of the PDP has been noted by NEDA. It commented that that current initiatives are to set the 2030 numerical targets which will cover three politico-administrative terms. The goals, baseline information, and numerical targets will be determined within 2018 which should serve as the guidelines and benchmark for the current and subsequent terms up to 2030. NEDA aims to conduct the VNRs every three years while the SER will contain an Annex on the SDGs to provide updates on the extent of the integration of the SDGs in the PDP and other relevant updates. It was added that necessary components to assess the Philippines’ performance in the attainment of the SDGs are the following:

Component/Activity	Timeline
Voluntary National Review 2016: Process check and learnings from the MDG experience	June 2016
Goal and Indicators	May 2017
Baseline Information	April 2018
Numerical targets	November 2018
Voluntary National Review 2019: Assessment of the Implementation of the SDGs	July 2019

As it is, the overall framework was not clearly defined for the government and other key stakeholders on the actions, resources, responsibilities and partnerships needed to supplement the government’s activities, which will be implemented through broad-based co-operation for SDGs until 2030. The goals and indicators component stated above with May 2017 timeline pertained only to the initial list of identified indicators belonging to Tier 1 which was approved for monitoring in the country. Consequently, the establishment of baseline information in April 2018 and targets in November 2018 would be limited to Tier 1 SDG indicators and could not cover indicators under Tiers 2 and 3. Likewise, no information was provided for the integration of SDGs and accompanying indicators and targets in the PDP and its RM and sectoral plans.

Nonetheless, the NEDA, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, may still consider developing SDG Implementation Roadmap as an overall framework of the government that will guide the implementation of the SDGs until 2030.

Alignment of budgets, policies and programmes to the SDGs

The alignment of budgets, policies and programs to the SDGs at the local levels is still in progress. Only 39 SDGs indicators at local level could be generated so far by the CBMS.

Countries need to take a stock of and review existing strategies and plans at the national, sub-national, local and sectoral levels, and compare them against the global SDGs and targets to ascertain

how well these are aligned in content and ambition with comprehensive scope of the SDGs, to identify gaps, and to establish criteria and recommend changes for enhancing national plans.¹⁵

Notwithstanding the level of ambition of a national development plan, its successful implementation hinges, amongst other things, on the resources (institutional and financial) that are aligned behind it. While on the one hand, through planning, countries allocate (scarce) resources (especially financial) to identified priority areas; on the other hand, the budget is the bridge that links the development plan to the implementing agencies.¹⁶

The NEDA pointed out that the crafting and identification of the national goals from the PDP has been a consultative process and the SDGs are negotiated goals. The alignment of the national goals to the SDGs has been a two-way process where the national goals have contributed to the SDGs in the same way that SDGs also contributed to national goals.

The sub-national goals from the PDP are localized through the Regional Development Plans (RDP) and the Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs). With indicators, these are done through the localization of the PDP RM.

To strengthen the vertical linkage between national and regional/local government development plans and budgets, the Agency Central Office prepares their respective agency budgets taking into consideration the Agency Regional Office evaluations of the Regional Development Council proposals, ensuring consistency with the priority programs and projects of the national government.

DILG had initiated activities on localization of the SDGs in partnership with NEDA, PSA and other offices. DILG clarified that these initiatives which started in 2017 merely supported the efforts of the entire bureaucracy and that localization strategies are not the sole responsibility of the DILG since localization process entails a whole-of-government approach. Part of the localization processes is the validation and identification of applicable core and relevant indicators from the PDP RM that the provinces, highly urbanized cities, component cities and municipalities can address or are addressing. It facilitates alignment of LGU's plans and programs with that of the PDP and consequently SDG-aligned results matrices as embodied in the PDP. The following are the mechanisms in place in the SDG localization:

- a. Establishment and maintenance of data base for progress monitoring, planning and policy making;
- b. Inclusion of SDGs in the long-term vision, medium-term development plan, and sectoral plans;
- c. Prioritization of the SDG responsive Program/Projects/Activities in the yearly Budget Priorities Framework of the LGUs; and
- d. Performance assessment, recognition and awards.

The LGUs are mandated to update their CDPs along with their Local Development Investment Programs (LDIPs) to align with PDP. Moreover, in the 2018 GAA Special Provision, it provides: "Ensure the LDC in LGUs are full functional and LDIPs are aligned with the RM of the PDP."

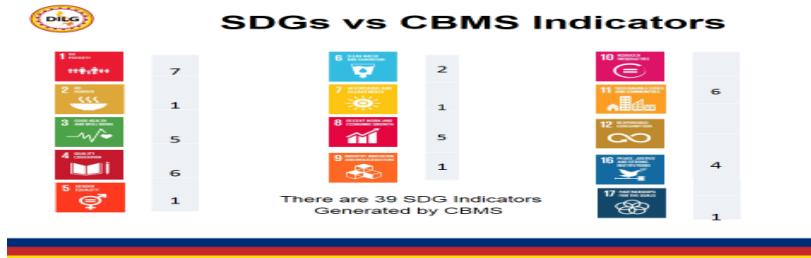
¹⁵ Page 20-Auditng Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

¹⁶ Page 10- Aligning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the National Development Plan

(NDP):<https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/faculties-and-schools/commerce-law-and-management/wits>

Under the DILG MC No. 2012-142 dated August 14, 2012, all LGUs chief executives are enjoined to utilize the CBMS in poverty diagnosis, planning, budgeting, project development and beneficiary targeting. This is an organized way of collecting information at the local level for use of LGUs for planning, program implementation and reporting. As it is, it was noted that 39 SDGs indicators could be generated so far by the CBMS (Figure 9).

Figure 9: SDG Indicators at Community-Based Monitoring System



Source: DILG

The localization of the SDGs is only in its initial stage, but priority plans and budget for 2018 and beyond are in progress to align SDGs at the local level.

It is recommended that the DILG pursue the initiatives for SDG localization which include, among others:

- Localization of the PDP/SDG indicators and RM in Regional Orientation Workshop; Regional and Provincial Validation Workshops;
- Conduct orientation on the Generation of SDG indicators and operations of the DILG-CBMS Portal; and
- Operationalization of Section 2.5 of National Budget Memorandum No. 129 dated January 3, 2018 on strengthening the vertical linkages between national and regional/local government development plans and budgets.

The alignment to ensure the operationalization of the SDG indicators at the provincial and municipal-levels will contribute to availability of disaggregated data and the attainment of the goals and outcome areas in the PDP and SDGs. It will also serve as inputs to the Monitoring and Evaluation framework to be institutionalized beginning 2018.

Policy integration and coordination

There is a need to strengthen coordination among multi-stakeholder bodies dealing largely with cross-cutting issues that overlap for efficient and effective implementation of the SDGs.

The government has to assign responsibilities among various levels of government for the coherent implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. The NEDA Board has mechanism in place for promoting coherence across levels of government in the implementation of SDGs. For one, the NEDA is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the PDP. It shall be responsible for monitoring of outcomes and implementation progress, which are reported to the appropriate NEDA Board Committee, Cabinet Clusters and Inter-Agency Committees for consistency of programs among implementing agencies.

Clarification from the NEDA on governance arrangement in place to ensure that SDG related initiatives are coordinated and coherent revealed that no new institution has been established as there is existing mechanism in place. There are several government bodies and committees (e.g., Social Development Committee (SDC), Infrastructure Committee, SDC Sub-Committee on Social Protection) dedicated towards horizontal coordination among involved agencies towards the achievement of sectoral targets. It was emphasized that the implementation strategies towards the attainment of the SDGs should not be viewed as a separate effort from the performance of government functions.

Relative to how the risks attached to fully recognizing the interdependence of the SDGs are dealt with in the sectoral plans and strategies, the NEDA pointed out that though efforts are made to ensure that horizontal coordination, there are still risks and shocks that will be unforeseen. The different government bodies and committees allow for discussions among government and non-government actors to respond to emerging issues. It was pointed out, however, that the capacity within government to anticipate and forecast the positive and negative influences of each goal to the others has not yet been fully developed.

Further review of related materials likewise revealed the existence of PCSD created in 1992 as a multi-stakeholder body composed of representatives from various government and non-government departments, groups and organizations geared toward promoting sustainable development. The Council focuses on issues that deal with interplay of social, economic and environmental concerns rather than solely sectoral matters that are already performed by the existing departments and agencies of the government. It was noted that a recent study on the effectiveness of the PCSD led to the drafting of an executive fiat that will again expand representation from the government in order to strengthen its ability to respond to socioeconomic and political developments at the national and global levels, including the monitoring of nationally determined SDGs¹⁷. The EO which aims to reconstitute the composition of the PCSD is still pending for approval to this date.

It was also noted in the Country Paper entitled “Starting Strong on the SDGs in Asia: Readiness in the Philippines” that PCSD, Committee on International Human Development Commitments (CIHDC) and Climate Change Commission (CCC) largely deal with cross-cutting issues that tend to overlap. The coordination between PCSD and CIHDC has not been a major problem as they have the same Chairperson and Secretariat at NEDA. The PCSD and CCC are both looking at closely related issues that they need to coordinate with each other through planning and programming processes, representation and participation in global discourse. Meanwhile, CIHDC and CCC work together through the NEDA planning processes and engage on areas of mutual concern such as disaster risk reduction and response. It was cited that the government is currently reviewing these mechanisms to make them more responsive to the demands of the 2030 Agenda.

It is recommended that the NEDA, in coordination with relevant stakeholder bodies, further strengthen coordination among stakeholders to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda. The signing of the EO reconstituting the composition of the PCSD may strengthen its mandate and coherence in implementation of SDGs. Likewise, NEDA is encouraged to develop the capacity within the government to anticipate and forecast the positive and negative influences of each SDG to other SDGs notwithstanding efforts to ensure horizontal coordination among government bodies and committees.

¹⁷ Starting Strong on the SDGs in Asia: Readiness in the Philippines

Creating ownership and engaging stakeholders in the integration of the SDGs into the national context

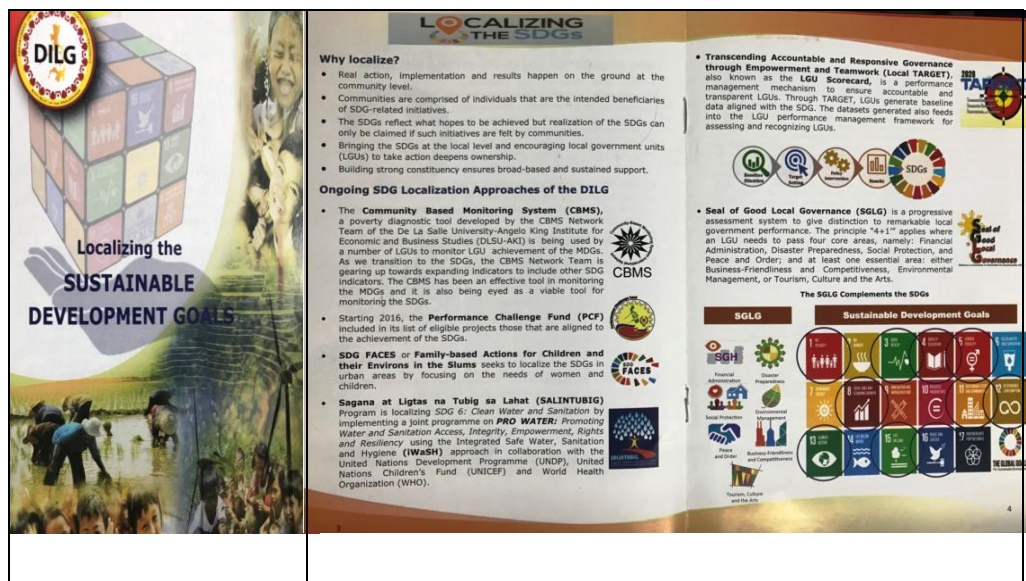
Development of communication strategies and conduct of campaign on raising awareness for 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is still in progress.

The NEDA reported that the government had conducted briefings for various government agencies, academia and civil society focusing on the progress on MDG targets, lessons from MDGs implementation, salient features of the 2030 Agenda, and the planned strategies to achieve the SDGs. The government had used radio guesting and attendance to special events to reach the public.

Further, the NEDA pointed out that, in partnership with the UNDP, it is planning to conduct a SDG Regional Rollout, which aims to inform its regional counterparts on how to orient and advocate different stakeholders on the SDGs. The SDG Regional Rollout serves as an input to a future dissemination of information to local stakeholders on information on the SDGs. Moreover, given the NEDA's role in coordinating the SDGs, it conducted orientation on the SDGs with the House of Representatives in November 2017.

At the local level, the DILG is providing materials such as brochure for distribution to the LGUs containing basic information on the SDGs (Figure 10). The DILG takes the lead in localizing the SDGs and has already conducted a series of regional and provincial workshops to strengthen the functionality of the local government in increasing the awareness and support for both the Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the SDGs, and ensuring that they integrate such in their respective plans and programs.

Figure 10: DILG Brochure on Localization of SDGs



To further localize and familiarize the regional counterparts of NEDA on how to orient and advocate different stakeholders, NEDA, in partnership with UNDP, had conducted a pilot workshop last December 2017 in Region V. As of March 2018, the planned workshops (excluding those located in

ARMM) had been conducted in all the regions, 76 provinces, and 1,373 municipalities. Currently, the outputs and feedback from the workshops are still being assessed in order to enhance the modules.

The PSA is also in the process of updating its SDG Dashboard to provide updates on the current initiatives and activities towards the achievement of the SDGs.

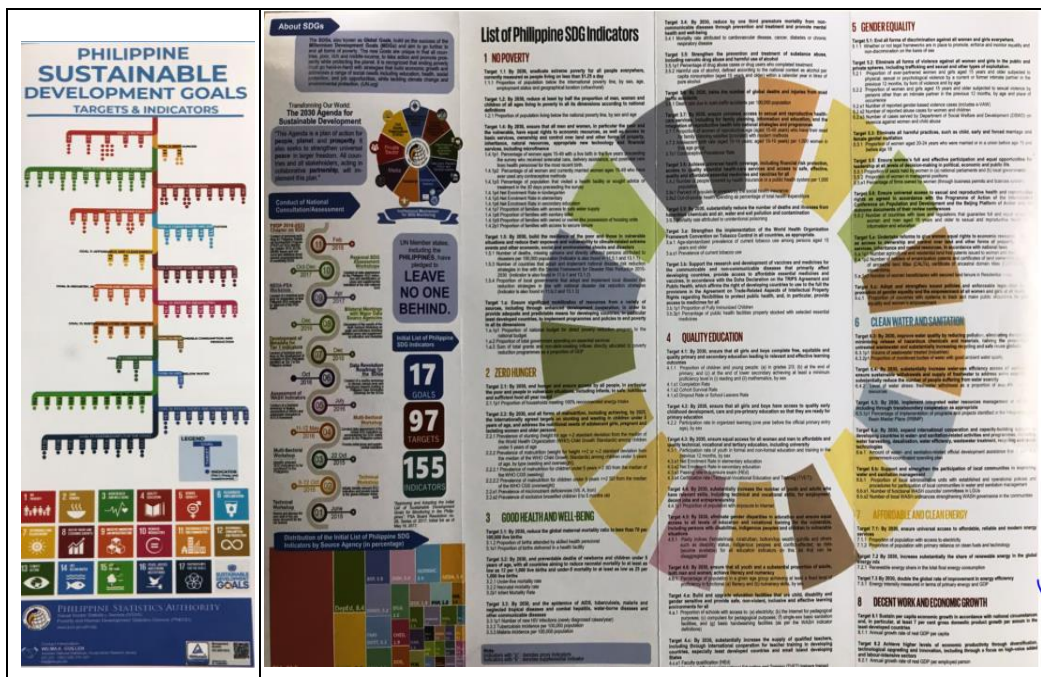
As the indicators for the SDGs had just recently been identified and information dissemination is still in the initial stages, the communication strategy and raising awareness on the SDGs are still in progress. Accordingly, the existing condition is not ensuring that its existing national development vision and plan is a nationally-owned process and the highest possible chance of success of reaching as many stakeholders as possible.

The UN dedicated a website to sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Further, the UN and partner organizations such as UNDP and UNF heavily favoured short videos to communicate and raise awareness on SDGs.

It is recommended that the NEDA, in partnership with the UNDP, pursue its plan in developing communication strategies to raise awareness on the SDGs and the dissemination of publicity materials. Further, the PSA and DILG, in partnership with the UNDP and relevant stakeholders, should continue developing communication strategies, conduct of campaigns and SDG regional rollouts; dissemination of publicity materials as communication strategies; and enhancement of modules on workshops to raise awareness on the SDGs.

It is notable that PSA has already created the SDG Webpage and SDG Watch (SDG Dashboard) to inform the stakeholders about SDGs, initiatives, current events and progress on SDG implementation. Brochure on SDG targets and indicators was developed by PSA for distribution to the stakeholders (Figure 11).

Figure 11: PSA Brochure on SDG Indicators and Targets



The raising of awareness of the general public aimed to increase understanding on the SDGs and their relevance to national strategies and plans are critical to the initial and ongoing step in successful implementation.

Inclusiveness and leaving no one behind

SDG indicators for initial monitoring at the national level which are incorporated in the PDP-RM provide a gap in operationalizing inclusiveness and leaving no one behind principles of the 2030 Agenda.

Leaving no one behind is a central principle of the Agenda. This new Agenda calls for reaching the farthest first. It emphasizes the need of addressing all forms of inequality and discrimination between different groups. Equality, non-discrimination and equal opportunity are at the center of the Agenda’s vision (Para. 8 A/RES/70/1), which aims to ensure the inclusion of marginalized, excluded and disempowered groups and to reduce inequalities within and between States (UNITAR 2016).

Review of the indicators in the PDP RM revealed that operationalization of the 2030 Agenda on exclusiveness or leaving no one behind was not considered adopted in three SDGs (Table 1.) The gap was confirmed in the Philippine 2017 Socio Economic Report on the PDP. It was reported under the context of “Moving Forward” of Chapter 18- Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety, as follows:

“However, it is still critical for law enforcement agencies to address issues on human rights protection for the campaign against criminality and illegal drugs to be successful. The integration of human rights in police and military training shall be institutionalized, while human rights offices, desks, or units shall be established in all police and military headquarters. Further, the security sector shall establish and strengthen mechanisms to monitor human rights abuses in law enforcement operations in support of the Commission on Human Right.”

It is to be noted that the principle of leaving no one behind is inclusive of the human rights operationalization of the SDGs into the national framework of the country, which has to be relevant to national priorities.

Table 1: SDG indicators not included in the PDP-RM for 2017-2022

SDG No.	SDG Title	Target	Indicator	Remarks
4	Quality Education	4.7- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of	4.7.1- Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and	Indicator is not in the PDP (including the PDP RM) and PSS does not have the statistical capacity or concrete plans yet to address data gap.

SDG No.	SDG Title	Target	Indicator	Remarks
		peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.	(d) student assessment.	
10	Reduced Inequalities	10.3- Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	10.3.1- Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.	
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	16.10- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.1- Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	Indicator is not in the PDP (including the PDP RM) but PSS has the statistical capacity or already has concrete plans to address data gap.
16		16.b- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1- Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	Indicator is not in the PDP (including the PDP results matrix) and PSS does not have the statistical capacity or concrete plans yet to address data gap.

The aforementioned indicators as reported by the PSA are classified as Tiers 2 and 3 but are listed as prioritized. Particularly for indicator 16.10.1, the PSS has the statistical capacity already or has concrete plans to address data gap.

Moving forward, PSA and NEDA should ensure that gaps on indicators dealing on the principles of inclusiveness and leaving no one behind be addressed with priority to operationalize the attainment SDGs. The inclusion of relevant indicators in the subsequent updating of the PDP and its accompanying documents will address the gap. However, this will be dependent on the timely development of methodology for the regular data collection.

Chapter 4 – Resources and capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda

The responsible entities have identified and secured the needed resources to implement the 2030 Agenda based on existing financing policies and development plans, however, there is a need to further strengthen the process in the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing for the country's development plans and programs while a financing plan for SDGs has yet to be developed. The MTEF of PSA for 2018-2023 need to be realistic for efficient and transparent budget proposals and allocations on statistical programs and activities and no assessment on MTEF was undertaken on the entire agencies under the PSS. Moreover, capacity building programs and activities for the collection of data monitoring, and reporting of SDGs are in progress for PSA regional and provincial offices, national government agencies with regional presence and local government units.

The gaps impact on the government's efforts to mobilize and maximize utilization of all resources in a coherent and results-focused manner. Meanwhile, the work in progress pose challenges to the readiness of the government to implement the SDGs.

Financing for SDGs

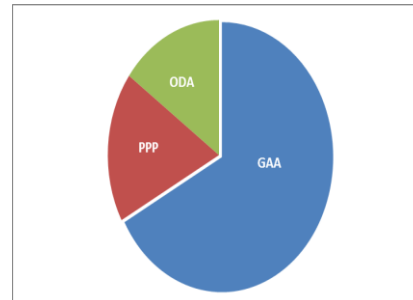
Resource gaps and innovative schemes to secure resources for SDG implementation had been identified by relevant entities while financing plan for the SDG has yet to be developed.

The government has to identify the resources and capacities needed to implement the SDGs. Their sources must be identified and the resources need to be secured through appropriate financing policies and strategies by the responsible entities. The government may have to use innovative methods to secure resources and enhance capacities. As United Nations (UN) Member States declared in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, "cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing framework, will be at the hearts of our efforts."

The different sources of financing needed to achieve objectives in a given sector are provided in the PDP. The Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF) of the DBM further provides for the annual funding sources for the budget year such as: a) revenue from tax and non-tax; b) domestic borrowing from Treasury Bills; and c) Foreign Borrowings.

The PDP 2017-2022 provides that the Private-Public Partnership (PPP) will be the main source for housing; optimal mix of government financing, ODA and private capital for infrastructure; and more private sector investments for science, technology and innovation. The PDP 2017-2022 also indicates that this period will be characterized as the golden age of infrastructure in the Philippines. For illustration of sources of funding for the ₱168 billion total infrastructure investment requirement under the PIP for 2017-2022, about two-third of the projects will be implemented through the GAA and the remaining projects to be carried out through PPP and ODA (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Funding Source Share for the Total Infrastructure Investment Under PDP 2017-2022



It was noted that a country paper entitled “Starting Strong on the SDGs in Asia: Readiness in the Philippines” was prepared for discussion at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP2016). Review of the paper pointed out that ODA should remain over the SDG timeframe inasmuch as the Philippines still needs to steadily and sustainably grow its economy over ten years to strengthen its resilience to political, economic and financial shocks in order to bring most of its poor population out of poverty. As ODA to the Philippines has been significant and has helped the country attain some MDGs, it is expected that ODA will strongly support programmes and projects leading to SDGs.

On the other hand, funding from private investments has been noted creating decent and remunerative jobs, improving economic productivity, and building infrastructure, among others. The PPP plays essential role in supporting the success of the government’s Build-Build program.

A number of financing policies exist for identifying and securing resources needed to implement the PDP 2017-2022 and the SDGs by the responsible entities. The funding for the implementation of the SDGs has been secured as the appropriations necessary for the continued implementation of the PDP are prepared in accordance with existing government budget procedures and the budgets of the concerned national government agencies are included in the GAA. As pointed out by NEDA, the government affirmation of support for the SDGs will be backed by fiscal measures and identified national strategies that will be linked to the budgetary processes and investment programming. Efforts exerted towards the achievement of the SDGs are done concurrently with the achievement of the PDP.

To ensure proper utilization and funding at the local level development programs and projects, it was noted that updated guidelines on the utilization of the 20% Development Fund were prescribed under the DBM-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2017-01 dated February 22, 2017. Support funds are likewise appropriated through the GAA for the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF):

- a. GAA FY 2017 (RA 10924) - LGSF assistance to municipalities for anti-poverty projects such as, but not limited to, projects related to the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals, and Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resilience Training
- b) GAA FY 2018 (10964) and LBC DBM 2018-116 - LGSF Assistance to cities for more livable and sustainable through the development of public open spaces.

The need for a financing plan is recognized as one of the elements necessary to implement the SDGs at the national level. The plan will help determine the priorities and roles for mobilizing resources across all types of financing. In line with the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs on the need for a financing plan and the China-UNDP-ASEAN Symposium on Financing the Implementation of the SDGs in the ASEAN in August 2017, a Country Paper on “Financing the SDGs in the Philippines: using and integrated national financing framework to link resources with results” was prepared by the NEDA in collaboration with UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific. This paper provides an updated view of the Philippines’ sustainable development context and its financing landscape by examining how government policies and institutional structures are set up to respond to key challenges and opportunities through the lens of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

The Country Paper disclosed that although a financing plan for a comprehensive long-term resource mobilization strategy that looks beyond public finance is yet to be developed, foundations exist for one in available guidelines, plans and publications. The gaps noted in the existing policies impact on the government's efforts to manage and mobilize all resources- domestic, international, public and private in a coherent and results-focused manner.

Review of the paper also pointed out that the INFF can support government in taking a holistic approach in managing and mobilizing all types of financing – domestic, international, public and private – for sustainable development results. It can help the government mobilize additional financing for development, including from the private sector, and to more effectively channel both scarce resources such as ODA and remittances, which though substantial in volume, are not being maximized in terms of developmental impact. The inclusion of financing-related indicators in the PDM-RM would provide the basis for which more specific monitoring, evaluation and learning systems could be developed for each type of financing and thus, encouraging a more results-oriented approach to their mobilization and use. Furthermore, strong and systematic dialogue between the government and stakeholders to include development partners, CSOs and private sector helps in stimulating investments and actions that contribute to sustainable development objectives.

Except for the inclusion of financing-related indicators in the PDP-RM where NEDA commented that inputs such as financing may not be consistent with the other outcome level indicators, clarification revealed that the Country Paper recommendations can be adopted by the government to strengthen the process in the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing for the country's sustainable development plans and programs. These recommendations addressed to NEDA, DOF, DBM, PSA and other relevant government agencies and inter-agency committees are further articulated in a roadmap for next steps (Appendix 1). Other ASEAN countries have set financing policies aimed at facilitating private sector development.

Good Practices

- Myanmar's new Investment Law (2016) brings together previously separate legislation on domestic and foreign investments, thus, providing a more coordinated framework which also includes links to the SDGs and identifies a number of priority sectors.
- Cambodia's Industrial Development Strategy 2015 aims to stimulate high levels of sustainable and inclusive growth, particularly in manufacturing and rural development, by bringing together a number of reforms that affect private sector development under a single policy.
- Thailand's economic model puts economic goals alongside leaving no one behind and inequality-related targets, including tax incentives for investors in the 20 poorest regions of the country.¹⁸

In support of the recommendations embodied in the Country Paper on Financing the SDGs in the Philippines: using an INFF to link resources with results, it is recommended that NEDA, DOF, DBM and other relevant agencies prioritize the adoption of relevant recommendations to strengthen the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing for the PDP and SDG. Likewise, the need for a financing plan for the SDGs is reiterated.

¹⁸ Financing SDGs in the Philippines: using an INFF link resources with results

NEDA commented that it took note of the importance of an SDG financing plan. Moving forward in 2019 and in coordination with DBM, NEDA aims to tag the budgetary items and identify which of the 17 goals they contribute. It was added that a similar tagging can also be provided in the PIP and there is a proposal to create Subcommittee on SDGs under the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to ensure that programs contributing to the SDGs are adequately funded consistent with the more integrative approach to the SDGs.

It is therefore recommended that NEDA should pursue the creation of a Subcommittee on SDGs under the DBCC to ensure that programs contributing to the SDGs are tagged and adequately funded.

Access to adequate long-term financing for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures is vital for vulnerable countries like the Philippines. As indicated in the study on “Starting Strong on the SDGs in Asia: Readiness in the Philippines”, one of the key development challenges that has been placing a drag on development and undoing meaningful outcomes of appropriate policies and programs of government is the natural disaster risks. The country ranked third in exposure to natural disaster but ranked 69 in adaptive capacity and 56 in coping capacity among the 188 countries.

The government has a Calamity Fund¹⁹, but more often it is not adequate to cover actual costs of disaster. Consequently, the appropriations for Calamity Funds had increased from ₱5 billion in 2011 to ₱13 billion in 2015.

It was noted that the Philippine Government has been proposing a disaster-risk financing wherein disaster insurance will cover the expenses of reconstruction efforts after disasters. This innovative method was already included in the country’s VNR in 2016 and the Philippine Government has been encouraging countries to join in pushing to make it financially viable for countries to access. It was added that this may also be accompanied by disaster-risk financing for LGUs that will allow them to respond to calamities.

As innovative method to secure resources and capacities to implement Agenda 2030 may provide needed additional resources to ensure attainment of SDGs, it is recommended that NEDA, in coordination with other relevant stakeholders and development partners, consider conducting a study on the viability of having disaster risk financing and continuously urge other countries to join its cause in pushing for the disaster-risk financing viable for vulnerable countries to access. There is also the need for the government to continue pursuing long-term financing for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures to ensure availability of resources in coping and building resilience against hazards and shocks.

NEDA expressed its support in the pursuance of a long term financing scheme for disaster risk reduction and recovery as well as climate change adaptation measures. Based on the 2017 Socio-Economic Report, it recommended the adoption of parametric insurance and weather-index based crop insurance to be implemented by the DOF and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies shall conduct studies on the state of crop insurance coverage.

¹⁹ Calamity Fund is a lump sum fund appropriated under the GAA to cover aid, relief and rehabilitation services to communities/areas affected by man-made and natural calamities, repair and reconstruction of permanent structures, including capital expenditures for pre-disaster operations, rehabilitation and other related activities.

Capacities for implementing SDGs

The capacity of the government to implement the SDGs has been enhanced by the approval of PSDP 2018-2023, a mechanism which outlines priority statistical programs and activities in support of the PDP 2017-2022 and the data structure needed for monitoring SDGs. Meanwhile, there is a need to improve formulation of budget for MTEF among PSS to support the implementation of the PSDP.

Generating quality statistics also necessitate adequate and accessible financing. To increase investment and institutionalize a sustainable resource mobilization strategy for statistics, the PSA, in collaboration with the DBM and through the PSA Board, works for the implementation of PSA Board Resolution No. 10, Series of 2015, "Enjoining Agencies to Provide Separate Line Items for Statistical Activities". Specifically, an Object Code for "statistical activities" in the Unified Accounts Code Structure shall be created to explicitly indicate budget appropriations for statistical activities.

The MTEF is a multi-year public expenditure planning exercise which is used to: a) determine the future resource requirements of an agency's major outputs given its existing policies and programs; and b) assess the resource implications of future policy changes and in new programs identified in the agency's strategic plan.

Preparatory work for the MTEF of the PSA was undertaken in 2016 so that statistics will be integrated into the government's expenditure planning and management. A study on MTEF for the PSA for the period 2018-2023 was conducted by Dr. Rosario G. Manasan, Senior Research Fellow at the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, to assist PSA formulates a realistic MTEF in support of the implementation of the PSDP. The study revealed unrealistic proposed budgets and allocations of PSA to its regional and provincial offices, surveys, and across programs and activities.

The cited deficiencies impact on the implementation of statistical programs, activities and projects of the PSA since the budgets and allocations were not aligned with the real requirements resulting in lack of transparency and inefficiency. Since the study did not cover the MTEF for the entire PSS, the release of the PSDP 2018-2023 this 2018 may be the opportune time to formulate a realistic MTEF for the entire PSS. As PSA pointed out, assessment of the needed financial resources and capacity development would be identified in the development of the PSDP for 2018-2023.

PSA commented that adjustments in the budgets were made on further consultation between Dr. Manasan and the concerned specialists. Since the MTEF serves as the basis for the DBM in approving annual budget proposals from the PSA, the PSA had submitted the report to the DBCC of the NEDA Board. The PSA had taken this as opportune venue to advocate for need to invest in and provide adequate resources to statistics to enable the PSA produce better quality statistics where and when needed. It was added that the need for strong budgetary support on MTEF formulation will be advocated among member agencies of PSS as programmed in the PSDP 2018-2023.

The PSDP 2018-2023 contains 900 priority statistical development programs and activities amounting to ₱30 billion to be undertaken in support of the current PDP. The PSDP furnishes the PDP with vital statistical information necessary in measuring the country's progress and formulating policies, taking into account the priority strategies, targets and activities for development. It also provides information on the data infrastructure needed towards monitoring the SDGs and the funding requirements.

It is recommended that the PSA Board, in coordination with the DBM, need to provide guidance and assistance to the agencies under the PSS in the formulation of a realistic MTEF in support of the implementation of the PSDP 2018-2023 to ensure that proposed budgets and allocations of agencies are aligned with their requirements on statistical development programs and activities.

The PSA, on its briefing on the challenges of the SDGs on PSS, presented emerging issues on the need to capacitate and equip personnel in the bureaucracy, LGUs and other private institutions in generating data to conform to statistical standards and methodology. For 2018, the PSA plans to build the capacity of its regional offices for monitoring SDGs at the local level including the development and compilation of data from agencies in the region.

Similarly, the PSRTI, in its five-year research and training program for the PSS to measure SDGs, has programmed in 2018 the conduct of training on SDG concepts, data requirements for monitoring and basic statistical analysis. Target participants are the Planning Officers of LGUs, national government agencies with regional presence, K-12 teachers/principals from the Department of Education, provincial statisticians (PSA) and NEDA.

The capacity building plans and activities of PSA and PSRTI will enhance the needed capacities in the monitoring, follow-up and reporting for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It is in this light that PSA and PSRTI, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and development partners, should continue identifying areas for enhancement and building capacities of relevant offices in all levels of government and other private stakeholders involved in the implementation of SDGs.

Mobilizing partnerships

NEDA and PSA had identified cooperation and partnership opportunities for obtaining required resources for the preparatory activities and initiatives for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. These entities have been working with the government entities, academe, media partners, private sector and development partners on initiatives and assistance relating to the mainstreaming, raising awareness, policy, technical and financial support relating to the SDGs.

The government needs to identify and secure cooperation and partnership opportunities for getting required resources and capabilities to achieve its priorities in 2030 Agenda. Development partners, academe, media, CSOs, private sector, and UN agencies have the capacities and resources to provide support for the implementation of the SDGs.

In terms of partnership opportunities, the expertise of the University of the Philippines through the Centre International de Formation des Autorites et Leaders was tapped by NEDA to provide localized instructions in information dissemination about the SDGs and would be one of the key vehicles in providing capacity building, orientation, and advocacy at the local level.

International development partners have been active contributors in providing services towards mainstreaming, accelerating and policy support (MAPS)²⁰ for the SDGs. UNDP continuously provides

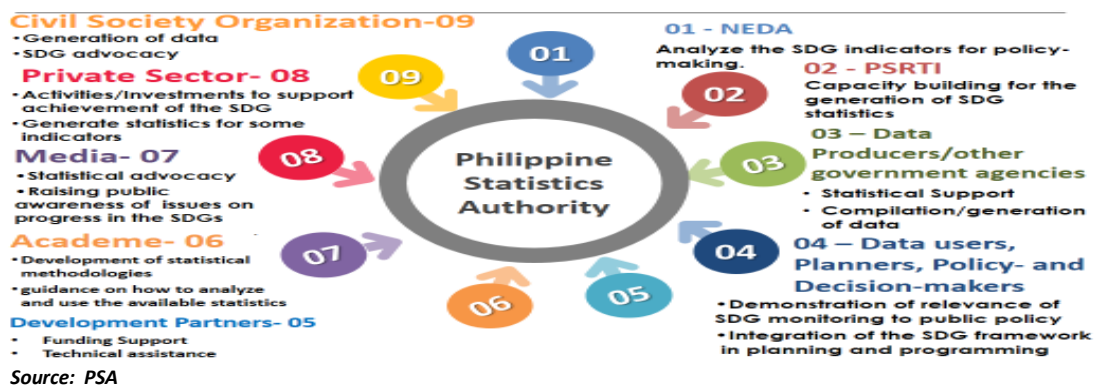
²⁰ MAPS is a continuous collaboration between the government and the UN system in various activities such as the conduct of orientation and advocacy workshops and study visits, among others.

technical assistance and policy support to various activities of NEDA. Through the collaboration of the Public Investment Staff of NEDA and UNDP, a Country Paper on Financing the SDGs in the Philippines was finalized in 2017. The Country Paper could be adopted by the government to strengthen its policy development and implementation across all types of financing.

A consultancy project was also conducted by NEDA in partnership with UNDP to assess and identify key local government programs and projects from the Galing Pook awardees that support the PDP and SDGs. It is intended to set the baseline for an institutionalized award's scheme in the future.

On the part of the PSA, it has partnered with international organizations to generate indicators that are not yet available in the Philippine, e.g. World Health Organization for wash and wastewater-related indicators, International Telecommunication Union for Information and Communication Technology-related indicators, ESRI to develop story maps of selected SDG indicators, etc. Partnership and collaboration of PSA with stakeholders on SDG indicators is depicted in Figure 13.

Figure 13: PSA's partnership and collaboration with stakeholders on SDG indicators



It is recommended that NEDA, PSA and other relevant entities continue to identify opportunities for cooperation and partnership as it implements Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in addition to existing arrangements which are mostly for the preparatory stage.

On the cooperation and partnership opportunities obtained, NEDA explained that at this stage, capacity building, orientation, and advocacy are the priorities in terms of activities related to the SDGs.

Cooperation and partnership arrangements with other stakeholders particularly on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs must be continuously undertaken to ensure attainment of SDGs. These partnership and cooperation arrangements are also source of technical assistance and funding support needed in the implementation of the SDGs.

Chapter 5 – Monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The PSA, which serves as the official repository of SDG indicators, is in the process of building up the data and information in the SDG Dashboard at its website. Risks to sufficiency and reliability of data to support monitoring, review and reporting functions are still being assessed concurrently with the development and identification of indicators. There is a need for technical and financial support to be able to monitor numerous indicators in SDGs and address data gaps especially the required level of data disaggregation and the development of methodologies and standards for indicators classified under Tiers 2 and 3. Assessment of progress in the implementation of the SDGs and the year-wise targets on SDG indicators are limited to SDGs integrated/adapted in the PDP 2017-2022 RM.

Institutional Organizations for SDG Monitoring

The mechanism for the monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on the SDGs has been enhanced by the PSA Board by institutionalizing the organizations for statistical development and enjoining government agencies to provide data support to SDGs. In addition, the establishment of SDG Focal Point from data source agencies will promote timely monitoring and updating of data on SDG indicators.

The government has to identify an oversight body/office to facilitate provision of the necessary resources and appropriate assistance in ensuring the generation of data on the SDGs. The body shall ensure that statistical development programs/projects on the SDG indicators are included in respective implementing agency's work program and budget.

The PSA is the official repository of SDG indicators with the PSA Board serving as government's highest policy making body on statistical matters. The PSA Board had issued a Resolution in 2016 enjoining all concerned government instrumentalities to provide the necessary data support to monitor the country's performance vis-à-vis the SDGs based on the indicator framework that shall be determined by the NEDA, PSA and other government agencies.²¹ The Board is tasked to review budgetary proposal involving statistical operations and submit an integrated budget for the PSS to the DBM. One of the budget proposals endorsed by the Board relates to the establishment of the System of Designated Statistics in the Philippine Statistical System under EO No. 352 dated July 2, 1996. It is a mechanism that identifies and generates the most critical and essential statistics required for social and economic planning/analysis based on approved criteria. As discussed earlier, the Board had approved the PSDP 2018-2023 with priority statistical programs designed to support PDP 2017-2022 and the SDGs.

Thus, the PSA Board and the PSA with central role for the monitoring, follow-up and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs ensure that resources for statistical programs and activities are appropriately budgeted and that mechanisms exist for data collection, monitoring, follow-up and reporting.

²¹ PSA Resolution No. 4, Series of 2016

Recognizing that majority of the data sources for the monitoring of the SDGs come from other government agencies and to facilitate the updating of the indicators, as well as, in the development and resolution of issues on sector specific SDG indicators, the PSA requested in January 2018 each identified data source agency to provide a designated SDG Focal Point. It was noted that the first meeting of the SDG Focal Point was conducted in May 2018.

Information System/Platform/Portal

The establishment of PSA SDG Webpage has facilitated access to the baseline and updated data as well as information on metadata and data sources of SDG indicators to be monitored in the Philippines. The portal to access available local SDG indicators needs enhancement.

One of the key lessons from the MDGs implementation is the need for an appropriate data monitoring system in place to support the accountability mechanism. It must be responsive to the demand for disaggregation of data and must ensure the timeliness of data collection so that policies and programs designs benefit from up-to-date information.

The government sets system and/or mechanism in monitoring, follow-up, review and report on the progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Innovative mechanisms such as web-based interfaces should be used to facilitate participation.²²

Among the responsibilities of the PSA under the PSA Board Resolution No. 4, Series of 2016, are the development and maintenance of a webpage on SDGs on its website; compilation and maintenance of an SDG Indicators Database; and regular updating of the SDG Watch.

Review of the PSA website disclosed that a webpage on SDGs was already established. This webpage enables stakeholders to view information and updates on SDGs which include, among others, assessment of indicators, list of SDG indicators for initial monitoring in the Philippines, metadata, baseline data, and resolutions and events relating to SDGs (Figure 14).

Figure 14: PSA-SDG Webpage



²² A/RES/70/299, para. 12

Further verification showed that SDG Watch at the PSA-SDG website (<http://psa.gov.ph/sdg/Philippines/baselinedata>) contained preliminary baseline data as of December 29, 2017. Likewise, review of metadata of SDG indicators revealed however, the limited disaggregation of data to geographical location and sex. Data on the national level have no disaggregation at the regional and provincial levels.

Consequently, it was noted in the presentation of PSA during the Regional Statistics Committee Summit in October 2017 that one of the challenges is the need for technical and financial support to be able to monitor numerous indicators in SDG and address data gaps, especially disaggregation.

On the other hand, DILG activities for 2018 include the DILG-CBMS Portal enhancements to enable the general public to view CBMS processed data in the national repository.

DILG claimed that 77 out of 81 provinces are voluntarily implementing the CBMS of which 33 provinces are implementing it province-wide. As actual data collection schedules were not synchronized among municipalities in a given province, disaggregation of data at provincial level was not undertaken.

Good Practice

National data platforms as central repositories for SDG data. Agencies can retrieve the data directly from the platform, which reduces the reporting burden on countries and they can make statistics and indicators available to the public.²³

NEDA, DILG and PSRTI elaborated that a law institutionalizing the CBMS in all barangays once passed will allow LGUs to collect national data which can contribute in formulating policies, projects, and programs that impact the lives of Filipinos. The System can also be used to address the data gap in the monitoring of the SDG implementation at the local level.

Currently, PSRTI has been mapping out availability and sources of SDG indicators at the local level in line with the DILG's initiatives for the localization of PDP RMs. Also, the PSA and PSRTI are working to build the database.

The maintenance of information system and portal is important for monitoring, follow-up, and reporting of progress in the implementation of the SDGs. It is recommended that PSA continue building-up the required data and information for posting in the SDG webpage and SDG Watch as well as the development of SDG indicators database. Similarly, DILG should pursue the enhancement of its CBMS portal.

Data gaps, availability and disaggregation of data

Initiatives to address data gaps have been identified and work are in progress. Risks to sufficiency and reliability of data to support monitoring, review and reporting functions are still being assessed concurrently with the development and identification of indicators.

²³ Auditing Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – A Guidance for Supreme Audit Institutions, p.35.

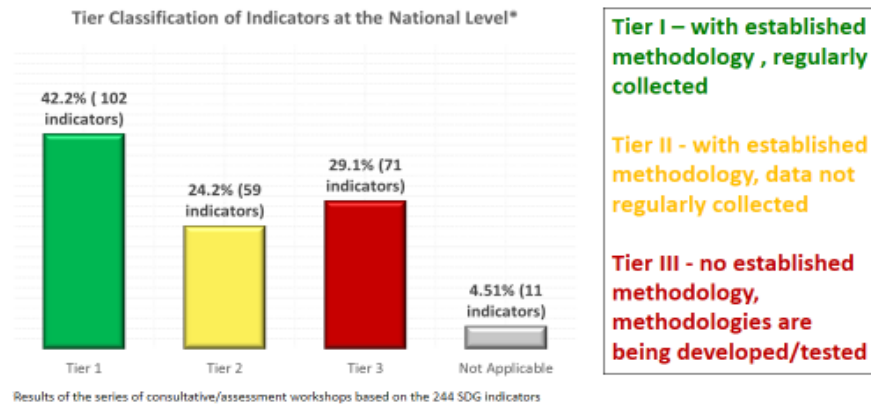
The government has to put in place national results framework with targets and indicators aligned with SDGs. Quality, accessible, timely, complete and reliable disaggregated data are needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind.

The commitment to leaving no one behind and tackling inequality and discrimination requires disaggregation of data by sex, age and other socio-economic characteristics (income/wealth, location, ethnicity, age, disability status, etc.) to target efforts towards reaching the most excluded population and leave no one behind.

The assessment of the SDG indicators was conducted by PSA through series of technical workshops and bilateral meetings with the SDG Assessment Matrix as its primary output (Figure 15). The matrix includes the following information:

- a) Tier classification based on the national perspective
- b) Available levels of disaggregation
- c) Latest available data
- d) Frequency of data collection
- e) Source(s) of data
- f) Accountable organization for the achievement of the indicator
- g) Relevance of the indicator, whether it is included in the PDP or not
- h) Priority of generating the indicators for Tiers 2 and 3
- i) References.

Figure 15: Summary of SDG Indicators Assessment



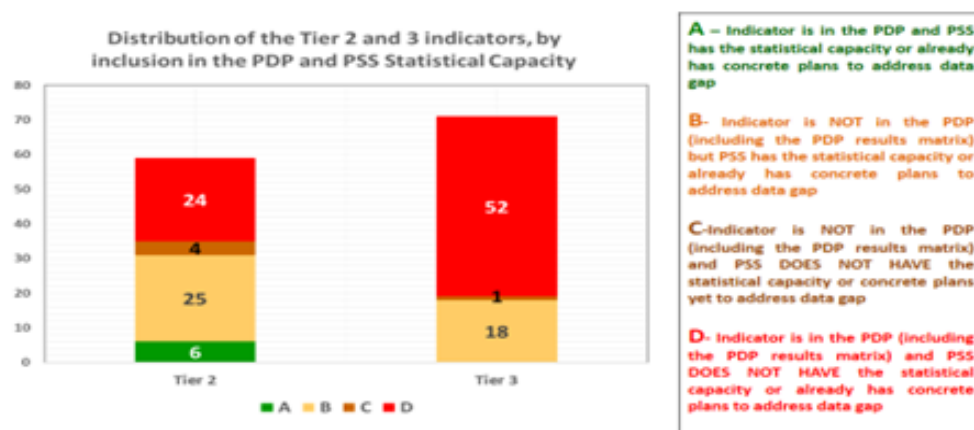
The PSA Board approved the adoption of the initial list of 155 SDG indicators under Tier 1 for monitoring in the Philippines. PSA informed that the data sources for the SDG indicators identified in the metadata were discussed in the relevant interagency committees being coordinated by the PSA. Among Tier 1 indicators, 32 % are sourced from the surveys, censuses and administrative data from PSA, 67% from the surveys and administrative data of other government agencies and 1% from the data of international agencies. Most of the identified data sources of the SDG indicators came from the System of Designated Statistics. The collection of data on these identified indicators is based on existing data collection by the PSA SDG Team through the focal persons identified by various data source agencies. Terms of reference for the monitoring of SDGs by the Focal Points is for finalization while the SDG data flow is under review.

PSA identified emerging issues and challenges on SDGs facing the Philippine Statistical System, which include the following:

- a. Need for optimal use of information technology for wider utilization and improved dissemination of the SDG indicators;
- b. Lack of mechanism/capability to collect data at the local level;
- c. Need for technical and financial support to be able to monitor the numerous indicators in SDGs and address data gaps, especially disaggregation;
- d. Need to capacitate and equip personnel in the bureaucracy, local government units and other private institutions in generating data to conform to statistical standards and methodology; and
- e. Exploring the possibility of using Registry/Big Data Technology/citizen-generated data/private sector data as source of some SDG indicators that are not available from existing data collection systems.

It was noted that PSA has further assessed Tiers 2 and 3 indicators by inclusion in the PDP and PSS statistical capacity (Figure 16). Most of the indicators are not yet incorporated in the current PDP and PSS does not have statistical capacity or no concrete plans yet to address data gaps.

Figure 16: Distribution of the Tiers 2 and 3 indicators by inclusion in the PDP



Source: PSA

Among the initiatives undertaken by the PSA with respect to ensuring timely, quality and availability of data include the following:

- a) Issuance of Memorandum Order No. 07, Series of 2016, establishing the PSA Task Force on Big Data for Official Statistics (TFBDOS) to lead on the formulation of rules, standards, and protocols, facilitate engagements with stakeholders involved, set-up statistical quality standards and validation mechanism for Big Data for use in official statistics, and take advantage of the opportunity to push for enhanced Big Data literacy and capacity.

- b) Creation of the PSA SDG Team which includes PSA sector specialist for each goal to coordinate with concerned agencies on the submission of data and other concerns. This is to carry out expeditiously the responsibilities of the PSA as the official repository of the country's SDG indicators and to promote efficient and effective implementation of activities for the SDGs.
- c) Establishment of the Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS), which reviews data collection funded by the government, to ensure non-duplication and consistency with known statistical standards.
- d) Conduct of regional SDG assessment workshops to assess indicators that are available for monitoring at the regional and provincial levels. Two-day cluster workshops were conducted for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao groups in the last Quarter of 2017 with participants from PSA Regional Offices, Regional Statistical Committee members, and representatives from the local government units, private sector and the academe.

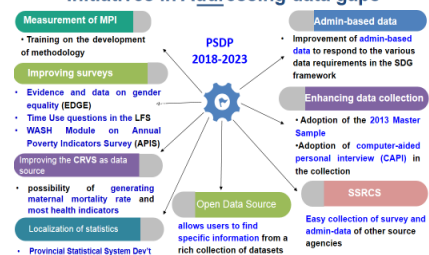
On the clarification whether key stakeholders and their responsibilities have been identified in the collection process, NEDA disclosed that there are statistics being collected for vulnerable sectors. Data from these vulnerable groups fall under Tier 3, and even though the data could be useful, data from non-official sources are not subject to the same statistical review and rigor from official sources. Methodology and standards for Tier 3 indicators are being developed and tested by the PSRTI.

NEDA claimed that as the indicators have just been finalized and the baseline data and targets are still being determined the risks to the sufficiency and reliability are still being assessed concurrently with the development and identification of indicators. PSA added that initial assessment was made during various consultation workshops and a more specific assessment has been undertaken in the development of the PSDP 2018-2023.

The establishment of reporting mechanism on the SDG indicators is considered in the 2018 Work Program of the PSA. Likewise, initiatives to address data gaps based on the PSDP 2018-2023 (Figure 17), include, among others, the following:

- a) Admin-based data – improvement of admin-based data to respond to the various data requirements in the SDG framework
- b) Enhancing data collection – adoption of the 2013 Master Sample and computer-aided personal interview in the collection
- c) Open data sources –allows users to find specific information from a rich collection of datasets from OpenStat (openstat.psa.gov.ph)
- d) Localization of statistics – Provincial Statistical System Development
- e) SSRCS – easy collection of survey and admin-data of other source agencies
- f) Measurement of MPI – training on the development of methodology

Figure 17:
Initiatives in Addressing data gaps



Source: PSA

On the other hand, NEDA will advocate for integration in the Organizational Outcomes/Programs in the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) of government agencies producing administrative data the generation of quality and timely data.

PSA should continue addressing data gaps such as lack of disaggregation and data for SDG indicators not regularly collected and without methodologies to ensure that progress towards attainment of SDGs is tracked and assessed and the principle of leaving no one behind is achieved. It is also recommended that NEDA, in collaboration with DBM, should continue advocating the generation of quality and timely administrative data in the organizational outcomes of the agencies under the Program Expenditure Classification.

The NEDA, PSA, in coordination with PSRTI, should also continue working on the initiatives relating to the generation of data for SDG indicators with methodologies under Tier 2 and develop methodologies and standards for Tier 3 particularly for indicators relating to vulnerable sectors. Further, it is recommended that PSA continue to seek guidance from the IAEG-SDG and other relevant stakeholders on the development of methodology for Tier 3 indicators including assistance on emerging issues and challenges.

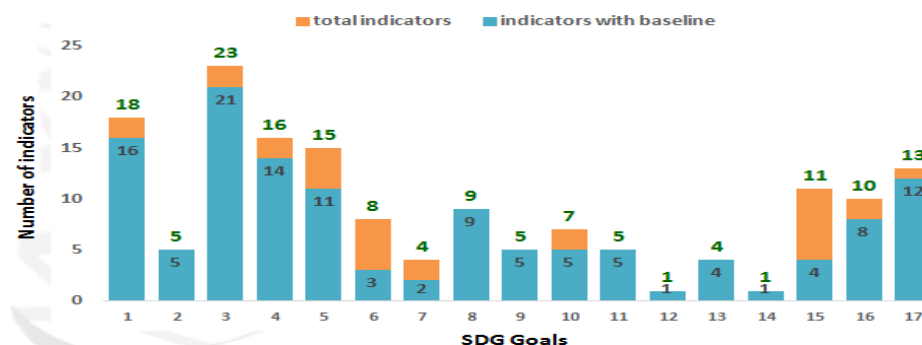
Performance indicators, baseline data, and year-wise targets

Establishment of baseline data and year-wise targets of SDG indicators under Tier 1 and the development of metadata for the regional SDGs are still in progress.

The government has to establish its performance indicators and baseline data and attain year-wise targets and has to compare accomplishments vis-à-vis performance indicators and year-wise targets and/or SDGs indicator framework. Indicators have to be developed to assist the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

Verification from the SDG Watch and presentation made by PSA revealed that baseline data for Tier 1 indicators are not yet complete. It was noted that 126 or 81.3% of the 155 indicators have baseline data, leaving 29 indicators without baseline data as of April 12, 2018 (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Distribution of SDG Indicators with Baseline Data per Goal



As far as year-wise targets of each indicator is concerned, only those SDG indicators included in the PDP-RMs have targets. NEDA and PSA are working on the targets for the remaining SDG indicators based on PDP.

NEDA commented that the Philippines is still in the initial stages towards planning for the achievement of the SDGs. Efforts are still being made towards gathering baseline information and identifying monitoring structures.

It is recommended that PSA continue the establishment of baseline data for SDG indicators for monitoring and for NEDA and PSA to establish the year-wise targets for these SDG indicators beyond the current PDP until 2030.

Review of information obtained from NEDA website and responses to questions from NEDA revealed that the government conducts monitoring of the PDP through the annual Socio-Economic Report which presents the accomplishment of the PDP outputs and outcomes and recommended policy directions and moving forward. The report serves as a tool for monitoring the RM and the Public Investment Program. The RM contained yearly targets for the projected/expected outputs/outcome. NEDA pointed out that given the adoption of SDGs indicators in the PDP-RM, the SER will also provide information on government's progress in achieving the SDGs. As such, the tracking and assessment of attainment in the year-wise targets on SDG indicators could be limited to SDGs integrated/adapted in the PDP RM.

Good Practice

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country driven. The national reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the High Level Political Forum meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC²⁴.

While the government is encouraged to undertake VNR, no such exercise was undertaken in 2017 and 2018 after the Philippines participated in the VNR in 2016. It is appreciated that the government has been preparing for its participation in the VNR for 2019 and it plans to undertake the VNR exercise every three years.

PSA also informed that bilateral meetings were held to further validate earlier identified indicators at the national level. PSA had conducted regional assessment workshops to assess for the availability of the initial list of Philippine SDG indicators at the regional (sub-national) level.

The inclusion of SDG indicators in the PDP-RM allows the assessment and follow-up of these indicators in the SER. Timely assessment and tracking of the progress in the attainment of SDGs will provide information to concerned stakeholders of the status of implementation of SDGs as well as challenges and issues that need to be addressed to be on track as far as attainment of the SDGs.

Communication to Stakeholders

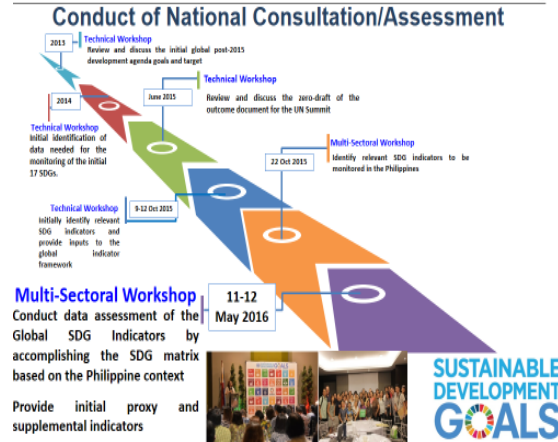
Multi-sectoral consultations and technical workshops were conducted by NEDA, PSA and relevant stakeholders to come up with SDG indicators based on national context.

²⁴ Auditing Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals – A Guidance for Supreme Audit Institutions, p. 31.

The government has engaged different development stakeholders in discussions and dialogues to gather insights and inputs for the crafting of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, and to generate awareness, interest, and ownership.²⁵

Within sectoral committees of government, the Multi-Sectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments (MC-IHDC) has regularly discussed the new agenda in its meetings.

Figure 19:



Source: PSA

At the national level, multi-sectoral technical workshops on SDGs have been conducted to assess, identify and prioritize SDG indicators based on country situation (Figure 19).

²⁵ VNR at 2016 HLPF on SDG p. 6-7

Chapter 6 – Analysis of audited entities comments

Except for the formulation of a separate SDG Implementation Roadmap where NEDA expressed reservation, the findings and recommendations were generally accepted by the NEDA. In fact, it commented that the report is constructive and provide concrete suggestions moving forward. NEDA pointed out that the audit allows them to view the implementation of the SDGs from a different perspective and may be used as inputs in the Philippines VNR on the implementation of SDGs. Moreover, strong support and importance was expressed by the NEDA on the recommendations relating to SDG financing plan, long term financing scheme for disaster risk reduction as well as climate change adaptation measures and the government’s capacity to forecast and manage the positive and negative influences of each SDG to other SDGs.

On the other hand, PSA and DILG provided comments for clarity and support of findings and recommendations. To promote balanced reporting, all comments received were evaluated and incorporated in the report, where appropriate.

Chapter 7 – Conclusions

The Philippine Government is committed in achieving the SDGs envisioned in the 2030 Agenda and facing the bigger challenges ahead. It has been setting the tone for all stakeholders and putting in place or adapting existing frameworks and mechanisms needed in this endeavour.

The key lessons learned from the concluded implementation of the MDGs, which would contribute to improved implementation and attainment of SDGs need to be considered and adopted at this stage of implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. NEDA has opted to use the plan implementation and monitoring of the PDP and sectoral plans as de facto implementation roadmap for SDGs. Notwithstanding the efforts to enhance coordination and commitments among stakeholders, good governance shall be promoted by developing the capacity within the government to forecast and manage the positive and negative influences of each SDG to other SDGs and if possible, at the indicator level. Financing plan for the SDGs implementation has not yet been developed. SDG data monitoring mechanism which is responsive to the demand for disaggregation of data, quality and timeliness of data collection is still work in progress.

It is notable that efforts are ongoing to integrate the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs in the national, sub-national and local planning frameworks. Communication strategies and plans to raise awareness and involve key stakeholders are being developed and implemented. Enhancing policies for the financing of development programs and capacity building on statistical data collection, monitoring and reporting of SDGs in all levels of the government are priorities of entities concerned. About half of the indicators for monitoring in the country representing 15 out of 17 SDGs have been integrated in the PDP-RM for 2017 to 2022, and baseline data identified has reached 80 percent with the year-wise targets already estimated for indicators in the PDP-RM. Partnership and collaboration to address challenges and emerging issues relating to statistical capacity and data gaps have been identified and technical and financial assistance and support have been availed of from development partners, academe, private sector, and CSOs.

Given this enabling environment, significant progress has been achieved in the government's preparation to implement the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. It is expected that once these challenges and emerging issues have been addressed and work in progress have been substantially completed, the government's readiness for the implementation of the SDGs will be further enhanced.

Chapter 8 – Recommendations

1. *Government’s adaption of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into its national context*

To pursue plans and put in place various implementation mechanisms:

a. The NEDA:

- ensure that SDGs and the corresponding indicators and targets are incorporated in the subsequent updating of PDP and its RM. This will also address the gaps noted on indicators dealing on the principle of inclusiveness and leaving no one behind which are not yet integrated in the PDP;
- in collaboration with the sectors concerned, need to ensure the complete integration of the SDGs in the respective sectoral plans. As envisioned by the NEDA, the SER should contain an Annex on the SDGs to provide extent of the integration of the SDGs in the PDP and other relevant updates;
- consider developing SDG Implementation Roadmap as an overall framework of the government that will guide the implementation of the SDGs until 2030;
- coordinate with relevant stakeholder bodies to further strengthen coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The signing of the EO reconstituting the composition of the PCSD may strengthen its mandate and coherence in implementation of sustainable development plans;
- develop within the government the capacity to anticipate and address the positive and negative influences of each SDG to other SDGs to ensure efficient and effective attainment of SDGs; and
- implement, in partnership with the UNDP, the plan in developing communication strategies to raise awareness on the SDGs. Further, in coordination with the PSA and DILG and in partnership with the relevant stakeholders, it should continue developing strategies and workshop modules, and conducting campaigns and SDG regional rollouts to further raise awareness on the SDGs.

b. The DILG, in coordination with NEDA, should finalize the localization policy for the SDGs and pursue planned initiatives for the localization of SDGs.

2. *Resources and capacities for implementing the 2030 Agenda*

To strengthen the identification and sourcing of needed resources and capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda:

- NEDA, DOF, DBM and other relevant agencies need to prioritize the adoption of the relevant recommendations embodied in the Country Paper on Financing the SDGs in the Philippines: using an integrated national financing framework to link resources with

results as a means to further strengthen the development and implementation of policies across all types of financing including the development of a financing plan for SDGs;

- NEDA pursue the creation of a Subcommittee on SDGs under the DBCC to ensure that programs contributing to the SDGs are tagged and adequately funded consistent with the more integrative approach to the SDGs;
- PSA, in coordination with the DBM, need to advocate strong support and guidance on MTEF formulation among member agencies of PSS in support of the PSDP 2018-2023;
- PSA, in collaboration with PSRTI and DILG, need to continue building and enhancing the capacities of relevant offices in all levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure that capacities needed in the monitoring, follow-up and reporting are in place;
- NEDA, PSA and other relevant stakeholders continue to identify opportunities for cooperation and partnership for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in addition to existing arrangements which are mostly for the preparatory stage; and
- NEDA, DOF and other relevant stakeholders develop and pursue a long-term financing for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures to cope and build resilience against hazards and shocks; and consider conducting a study on the viability of having disaster risk financing and continuously urging other countries to join its cause in pushing for the disaster-risk financing viable for vulnerable and disaster-prone countries to access.

3. *Monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda*

To ensure necessary mechanisms for the monitoring, follow-up, review and reporting on the progress toward the implementation of SDGs are in place and adequate:

- PSA (i) need to complete the build-up of data for its SDG Dashboard and Database and DILG to enhance its portal on Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) to be able to provide information to stakeholders in a timely manner; and (ii) continue monitoring progress based on the baseline data that are compiled from data source agencies vis-à-vis the year-wise targets determined by the NEDA, National and Local Government Units and other relevant stakeholders;
- NEDA, PSA, PSRTI and relevant stakeholders implement needed measures and initiatives relating to the desired level of data disaggregation, reliability of admin-based data, development of methodologies and standards for SDG indicators under Tiers 2 and 3 to conform with the data requirements of the SDG framework and the priority statistical development programs and activities under the PSDP 2018-2023; and
- NEDA, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, undertake VNRs every three years as planned to track its progress towards attainment of the SDGs using the thematic approach and structured process prescribed for the VNR.

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Roadmap for next steps

(Recommendations contained in the Country paper on Financing the SDGs in the Philippines: Using an integrated national financing framework to link resources with results)

Recommendations	Next steps	Integrated financing solutions areas
<p><u>1. Establish a long-term holistic financing strategy to direct resource mobilization efforts and to maximize impact of all resources—public and private</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation between NEDA, DOF, DBM and other relevant government agencies and inter-agency committees on the value of developing such a strategy. • Commission phase 2 of a development finance assessment under the guidance of NEDA, DOF and other key government agencies in order to assess and present options on how to structure a holistic resources mobilization strategy to meet the objectives of the PDP and the SDGs—including at the subnational level; and provide initial analysis to inform such a strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate resources • Realign resources
<p><u>2. Develop financing policies for leveraging the untapped potential of private finance and for better coordinating development cooperation</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following consideration of the recommendation above, consult with relevant agencies and actors involved in planning for or mobilizing remittances, development cooperation and private capital on how to more effectively leverage their potential in future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For remittances, this should include an additional step—i.e. reviewing existing work on specific instruments used to channel remittances to long-term investment and considering if/ how these could be applied in the Philippines. ○ For private finance, consultations should cover the role of the private sector in public investment projects, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realign resources • Deliver better

Recommendations	Next steps	Integrated financing solutions areas
	<p>main challenges and options for overcoming them (with the view of freeing resources, such as concessional ODA, for purposes that the private sector is less likely to be able to contribute toward)</p> <p>Led by NEDA, DOF, DBCC and other relevant government agencies and inter-agency committees.</p>	
<p><u>3. Include financing targets and indicators in the PDP-RM and ensure necessary data systems are in place to allow timely and consistent monitoring</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on estimates of costs and types of investments identified in the financing strategy and policies, undertake further work to identify annual and medium-term funding targets for specific financing flows (e.g. commercial investments, development cooperation and remittances) for inclusion in the PDP-RM. • In consultation with relevant stakeholders, develop input, output, outcome and impact indicators to monitor mobilization and use of such funding against selected targets. • Review existing data systems and identify overlaps and gaps <i>vis-à-vis</i> the data requirements of selected indicators and consider if/how these could be integrated to maximize effective use of monitoring. <p>Led by NEDA and PSA in consultation with local government, private sector and development partners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver better
<p><u>4. Enhance mechanisms for multi-stakeholder dialogue in order to strengthen the role of non-state actors in sustainable development</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations between government, private sector umbrella organizations (e.g. Makati Business Club), development partners and civil society representatives on how the PDF could be strengthened as a national-level multi-stakeholder dialogue platform and Regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen transparency & accountability • Realign resources

Recommendations	Next steps	Integrated financing solutions areas
	<p>Development Councils as subnational platforms, and whether and how more focused platforms would benefit each party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review lessons learned from the experiences of other countries that have successfully set up multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms, including public–private fora, coordinated development partners’ consultation mechanisms, and civil society fora. <p>Led by NEDA in consultation with development partners, representatives of the private sector and civil society.</p>	

*Note: Integrated financing solutions can be grouped into five main areas:

1. **Generate resources** - Generate or leverage ODA, South–South cooperation, international climate finance, vertical funds, impact investment and bonds.
2. **Realign resources** - Prioritize and sequence investments, minimize negative expenditures, integrate and prioritize social and environmental expenditures such as through gender-responsive budgeting, climate-related budget reforms and SDG-related budget reforms.
3. **Avoid future expenditures** - Amend or eliminate counterproductive policies or expenditures; financing solutions include taxes on fuel, tobacco, and renewable natural capital.
4. **Deliver better** - Favour a more equitable distribution of resources, prevent inefficiencies such as by strengthening public-procurement risk mitigation, utilizing solutions such as enterprise challenge funds, climate credit mechanisms and biodiversity offsets.
5. **Strengthen transparency & accountability** - Integrate Sustainable Development into Financial Management Information Systems, strengthen parliamentary oversight of the budget and other financial flows and engage with civil society.

COA Contact Persons and Acknowledgement

COA Contact Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael L. Racelis (Director III), Performance Audit Office, Special Services Sector, (02) 952-5700 local 2033 or mlracelis@coa.gov.ph • Sofia C. Gemora (Director IV), Cluster 1, Executive Offices, National Government Sector, (02) 952-4973 or scgemora@coa.gov.ph • Ruby L. Caballes, (Auditor IV), Performance Audit Office, Special Services Sector, (02) 952-5700 local 2022 or rlcaballes@yahoo.com
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