



VOLUNTARY SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW

THE PHILIPPINE REPORT 2022





THE PHILIPPINE VOLUNTARY SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT 2022

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Message from the LPP President



LEAGUE OF PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

From a context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, local governments, together with the communities they are mandated to serve, play a crucial, if not pivotal role in it.

Provinces play a vital role as the foundation of the structures of local governance in the Philippines. They are major drivers in the over-all nexus of development, most especially in the countryside, that is usually the farthest away from the center of government and usually the underserved.

The League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), as the mandated organization of all provincial governments, remains steadfast to its mandate to influence and shape national policies and programs to ensure that the gains of development are actually felt down to the communities and eventually at the level of the individual.



The participation of the LPP in the first-ever Voluntary Sub-national Review is very timely and opportune as the national government, along with all local governments – provinces included, are in the cusp of charting its directions and priorities for development in the next six years.

The VSR is particularly helpful in order to situate the provinces on how far they have gone toward achieving key goals toward achieving sustainable development. This engagement is a major barometer to determine how far each and every province has localized the goals in order to achieve their over-all development goals. Individual local programs and actions are distinct and separate from each other, as each one addresses the unique needs of its populace. However, when all these actions are taken together from a holistic context of development, all of it will address the global objective of “leaving no one behind.”

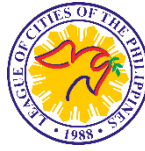
On behalf of my colleagues in the LPP, we are confident that by maintaining a close collaboration between and among other local government units, as well as with the national government and its agencies, in partnership with both domestic and international development partners, we will be able to forge a stronger and more meaningful alignment of the SDGs that is responsive to the needs of our constituents, while ensuring that we leave a better world for the next generation.

GOVERNOR PRESBITERO J. VELASCO JR.

National President

League of Provinces of the Philippines

Message from the LCP President



LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Cities as strong drivers of local growth and development support the Philippines' commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the achievement of goal 11, or making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. As hubs for various government services, technological innovation, businesses, and other economic development activities, cities attract more workers and migrants in the hope of a better quality of life. These, however, have advantages and disadvantages. The increasing population corresponds an increase in development requirements. Further, the unwanted effects of rapid urbanization and pandemic have affected the city governance and the residents' living conditions. These then entail the local governments to explore solutions to efficiently deliver the necessary services and mitigate the impacts, especially to the vulnerable sectors, to attain sustainable development.



The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), the official association of cities in the Philippines, plays a critical role in elevating the issues of cities to concerned agencies and bridging them with potential development partners. With LCP's strong commitment to better serve its member cities, the League has linked the cities with relevant agencies that could provide funding support and technical capacity development opportunities. Forging strategic partnerships with various local and international development organizations and participating in different discussions on good practices have been beneficial to cities, especially in localizing and mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We consider the spearheading of the Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR) report on SDG localization an important milestone, as this is very timely in gauging the general situation of the cities in monitoring the implementation. It will present their progress in achieving the goals, as well as the gaps and challenges encountered. It will also provide insights on how they innovate in realizing the SDGs given their varying capacity. Highlighting their efforts in localizing SDGs and ensuring that no one gets left behind in the development process, despite the limitations in resources and technical capacity.

I am optimistic that through this initiative, collaborations among national government agencies, local government associations, and international partners will be strengthened, as this report features local perspectives in implementing SDGs hence promoting alignment of efforts to accelerate the attainment of the goals and respond to the needs of our stakeholders.

HONORABLE EVELIO R. LEONARDIA

National President
League of Cities of The Philippines

Message from the LMP President



LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

My warmest greetings of peace and solidarity!

The 2030 Agenda or the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a way to better protect the natural foundations of life, and to further provide opportunities for people to live in dignity and prosperity across regions and generations. The importance of having a universal goal is that it encourages greater mobilization among communities, and it strengthens collaboration of a lot of sectors.

While there are existing national level policies to supervise our Local Government Units (LGUs), it is also important to be guided by one more framework in addressing the problems that fall under the three areas of sustainable development - ecological, economic, and social. It is also a platform to stimulate innovation and sharing of best practices among LGUs as Voluntary Sub-National Reviews aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences (successes, challenges and lessons) learned among the localities.



Having a long-term goal institutes sustainability of work and fortified commitment among LGUs. Through this report, in collaboration with the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific, and United Cities and Local Governments World Secretariat, it will be beneficial for us to see in a more intensive scope what is really happening at the grassroots level, as we are the governing body nearest to the people. If these findings are to be aligned and coordinated, it can be a powerful tool to improve policy coherence, especially in building a more sustainable and resilient community for the LGUs' recovery in this pandemic. The edge of these goals is that each one of our stakeholders can contribute big or small and can create significant impact to the world.

Thank you very much and congratulations to everyone involved.

HONORABLE LUIS 'CHAVIT' SINGSON

National President

League of Municipalities of the Philippines

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The Philippine Voluntary Subnational Review Report

ABOUT THE REPORT

This Voluntary Sub-National Review (VSR) Report is the product of the collaboration of the three subnational local government associations in the Philippines – the Leagues of Cities, Municipalities, and Provinces of the Philippines – with technical and financial support from the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UCLG Asia Pacific. It explores the efforts and highlights local governments' critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This report provides an overview of the different approaches to SDG implementation in cities, municipalities, and provinces. Examples of localizing the goals are illustrated by the case studies on good practices and survey results. It shows that Philippine local governments are in different localization phases with just eight years left to achieve the Sustainable Development agenda.

Chapter 1 introduces the findings and key takeaways of the report, particularly the goals prioritized by the Philippine local governments and the challenges hindering them from realizing the goals. It also establishes the commitment of the three Leagues to deliver the SDGs. **Chapter 2** provides a glimpse of the report development timeline, the methodology employed by the Leagues in data gathering and analysis, as well as the limitations of the study. The national strategies to implement and localize the SDGs and how these are coordinated with the local governments are the focus of **Chapter 3**, beginning from the AmBisyon Natin 2040, which encapsulates the Filipino people's collective long-term vision and aspirations for the country in the coming 25 years down to the Local Government Code of 1991 and Executive Order No. 138 that enables local governments to exercise full devolution and realize the SDGs. **Chapter 4** illustrates the critical role of local governments and the three Leagues in localizing the goals, as evidenced by the collected case studies of good practices focusing on specific SDGs and how the COVID-19 pandemic impacts the implementation of the goals. **Chapter 5** summarizes the findings on the local governments' need for support to monitor the goals and undertake voluntary local reviews. It highlights the potential of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), a poverty monitoring tool, as a data collection system that allows for SDG monitoring, as seen in the experiences of select cities. Moreover, with the issuance of Executive Order No. 138 on the full devolution, local governments are now faced with increased fiscal responsibilities to pursue programs previously funded by the national government, impacting the delivery of basic services and the SDGs.

Overall, **Chapter 6** encapsulates the varying extent of localization in cities, municipalities, and provinces with local development plans - such as the Comprehensive Development Plan - as the common entry points to localize the goals. With monitoring and evaluation as the main hindrance to SDG implementation, the need to implement a local SDG monitoring system remains an urgent task for the national government.

I. HIGHLIGHTS

The AmBisyon Natin 2040 is the long-term vision encapsulating the Filipino people's aspirations and vision in the coming 25 years, divided and reflected in mid-term national development plans, such as the Philippine Development Plan, where SDGs are integrated. The Philippine national government promotes a top-down SDG localization strategy. The three primary national government agencies - the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - are in charge of the facilitation of the alignment and coordination of development plans and the SDGs between national and local levels. They ensure that local governments comply with the formulation of national/regional development plans and investment programs (PDP/RDP and PIP 2017-2022) and the Results Matrices (RM). The DILG and NEDA organize regional workshops and direct provincial dialogues with cities and municipalities to commit and align their plans, investment programs, and budgets with provincial targets. The DILG, through the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), incentivizes and awards good-performing local governments and supports them with a grant, the Performance Challenge Fund, that can fund SDG-related initiatives.

The three subnational government associations - the Leagues of Cities, Municipalities, and Provinces of the Philippines - have expressed their commitment to the SDGs. Since 2018, LCP, through its City Database Project, has collected information to illustrate cities' best practices on SDG implementation, followed by a series of SDG-specific surveys. For example, for SDG 5, 91% of surveyed cities were able to localize gender and development programs and policies. Meanwhile, different cities have developed good practices for SDG 4 (e.g., the cities of Valenzuela, Tagum, Mabalacat, Iloilo, and Navotas). Cities are also seen to prioritize resilience to climate change and disasters and life on land and below water (SDGs 11, 13, 14, and 15). For example, Balanga City aims to reduce waste dumped in landfills and improve water quality by reducing plastic pollution through interlocal cooperation with local governments in the Manila Bay region. In addition, cities and municipalities in Negros Occidental collaborate to manage the contiguous wetlands to preserve the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA). SDG 3 is integrated into the Bataan provincial government's health service delivery through the One Bataan Seal of Healthy Barangays to improve the life expectancy in the province by coordinating the health programs of its city, municipalities, and barangays.

Cities and municipalities prioritize the first four goals (goals 1, 2, 3, and 4) and have integrated the SDGs into local development and thematic plans, particularly in their Comprehensive Development Plans (e.g., the cities of Baguio, Tabaco, Iriga, and Naga). Cities, municipalities, and provinces have developed initiatives on different SDGs (see above Box VSR Philippines). For example, the City of Cauayan was the first to publish an initial assessment of the actions undertaken by the city to localize the SDGs. Their report came out in 2017.

Local governments are constantly at the forefront of the country's pandemic recovery. Despite the anticipated increase in the share of the national tax allotment (NTA) brought by the Mandanas-Garcia ruling, local governments - particularly provinces and municipalities - rely heavily on the NTA. Devolved services, pandemic response, recovery, and SDG implementation, will be sourced from the fund allotment. With regard to the main focus for pandemic recovery, local governments, specifically cities, prioritize:

- (1) healthcare and prevention;
- (2) local economic development and employment; and
- (3) food and agriculture (mainly related to SDGs 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Local monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs continue to be a challenge. The survey findings suggest that monitoring is particularly challenging due to the unavailability of SDG-related data and information and the lack of capacity for cities to process already available local data. Municipalities relate to the limited financial capacity to implement SDG-related initiatives and the difficulty securing data. Further, most surveyed municipalities do not have a monitoring system for the SDGs. Of the surveyed cities, only 21% (11 cities) report that they are undergoing or have undergone a voluntary local review (VLR). The provincial RMs show the kind of data that can be collected at the city and municipal levels (e.g., Calapan City). The recently institutionalized Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), which monitors different dimensions of poverty, is crucial in generating local indicators and disaggregated data that can supply the local data gaps on the SDGs (e.g., the cities of Panabo and Vigan).

The first Philippine VSR documents local governments' critical role in advancing the SDGs' localization. In the case of Philippine cities, the collected case studies on SDGs, implemented either as part of the city's programs or through project-driven technical assistance from development partners, nevertheless manifest the strong aspiration of cities to work to achieve the SDGs. Provinces, on the other hand, can deliver the SDGs on their own. Meanwhile, with their lack of adequate resources and capacity, municipalities depend heavily on the programs and projects of provincial governments and national government agencies. The findings present an opportunity for the national and local governments to collaborate to achieve the national SDG targets, as documented in the case studies, VLRs, and other similar local SDG monitoring mechanisms.

The report concludes with two key challenges that hinder provinces, cities, and municipalities from realizing the 17 goals: financial limitations and accessibility of SDG-related data and/or information. Funding limitations remain a key and pervasive challenge for local governments; rational and practical prioritization of certain goals will likely put others on the back burner. This will eventually lead to the country achieving at least some goals by 2030 but lagging behind others. Even for provinces, the accessibility of SDG-related data remains a challenge. Using a top-down approach to gather data, disaggregation of data from the Philippine Statistics Authority is often only until the Regional Level. From a bottom-up perspective as well, as municipalities experience difficulties in securing the necessary data, provinces will likewise struggle to consolidate SDG-related data and information. The challenges listed above corroborate with the reported support local governments need to ensure the sustainability of their initiatives

for localizing the SDGs. The top-ranked support includes further capacity building and financial support from NGAs. While it is difficult to claim the capacities needed to be further developed, from the data gathered through the survey and additional KIIs, it can be assumed that local governments need further training in data collection and analysis.

II. METHODOLOGY

In developing the report, the Leagues referred to the Guidelines for Voluntary Subnational Reviews and UNESCAP's Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews.

The Guidelines for Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) developed by UCLG highlighted how LRGs and LRGs could provide robust first-hand information to a country's VNR.¹ Apart from this contribution, the exercise allows them to improve and strengthen governance and service delivery. It will enable them to take stock of their ongoing and planned local efforts and challenges and assess their impacts on improving the lives of community members.

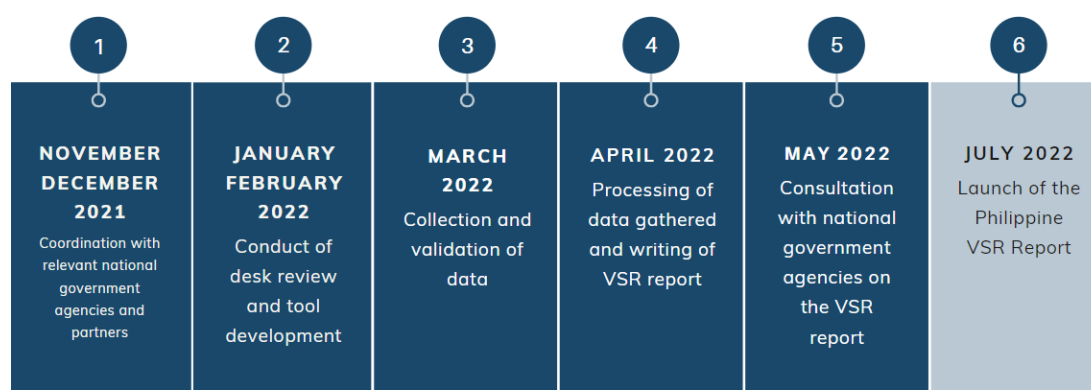


Figure 1. VSR report development timeline

This report on Philippine LRGs localization efforts employed various methods to gather and analyze local data. As the official associations of LRGs, the Leagues of provinces, cities, and municipalities sourced a wealth of data and information from their programs and projects and secondary sources such as national government agencies' databases and development partners' publications. As this is the first time that Philippine LRGs will participate in the review, the report aims to showcase the efforts and progress in achieving the SDGs and the challenges and gaps. Moreover, it seeks to explore the areas for complementation between the national government, LRGs, and local and regional governments to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

¹ Guidelines for Voluntary Subnational Reviews, 2021. UCLG.

Mainly using a qualitative method as the most appropriate approach, the report gathers members' experiences sourced from various survey instruments, reviews of secondary data from related literature and publications, key informant interviews (KIIs), data analysis, and data visualization. These approaches are valuable in gathering data and information from various aspects, also considering the time constraints and coinciding events such as the national and local elections and Seal of Good Local Governance award validation activities.

| # | Local Governments | Total Number | Survey Respondents | Response Rate |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Provinces | 81 | 47 | 58% |
| 2 | Cities | 146 | 51 | 34% |
| 3 | Municipalities | 1,488 | 73 | 5% |

Table 1. Survey Response Rate

The roll-out of the survey was vital to determine the progress and challenges encountered by the LRGs in the implementation. The design of the questionnaire explores their experiences in the SDG localization process. The questions were arranged and grouped according to the following aspects: (a) awareness of the 17 goals; (b) institutionalization of the SDGs at the local level; (c) localization efforts to achieve the goals; (d) stakeholder participation; (e) challenges and opportunities identified in achieving the goals; and (f) the impact of COVID-19 on the progress of cities towards the SDGs. The LRGAs have also supplemented it with their available data.

The provinces play a strategic role in the development and the achievement of the SDG targets as they have a wider lens and scope from a planning perspective. They utilized primary data from their existing database and secondary data from the organization and other government agencies. Related projects were also used to complement the report. Although to a limited extent, some quantitative data were gathered to analyze a semblance of the meso-level context of the contribution of provinces toward the achievement of national-level SDG targets.

In the case of LCP, insights from policy mapping and analysis of national strategies and institutional mechanisms were incorporated into the overall analysis of the report. LCP also culled its responses to surveys conducted by regional and international local government associations (UCLG, CityNet). The data collection focused on collating case studies of cities' good practices in implementing SDG-related programs and projects. First-hand data collection relied heavily on the LCP's implementation of its flagship project, the LCP City Database Project, and the 2019-2022 LCP Cities Rapid Needs Assessment Survey. Other supporting primary sources are the projects implemented with support from various development partners: the Canadian government-funded project on gender and development mainstreaming in Philippine cities, the USAID-funded project on supporting early grade learning in the Philippines, resilience and climate change mitigation projects in cities such as the UN-Habitat Philippines' Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Design, DEALS Programme with support from VNG International, and the United Nations Programme's Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities and the Neighborhood Design Guidelines.

III. POLICIES AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGS

A. National strategies for the implementation and localization of the SDGs

There are four (4) important national strategies that facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. These are the Ambisyon Natin 2040, the Philippine Development Plan, the Seal of Good Local Governance, and the Community-Based Monitoring System.

Through an extensive nationally representative survey and public consultations, the national government came up with AmBisyon Natin 2040. It outlined the country's long-term vision and collective aspiration of eradicating poverty and ensuring a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life for all Filipinos. It is also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and provides the anchor and framework for its development plans. In 2016, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Executive Order No. 25, approving and adopting the 25-year long-term vision to guide the medium-term development planning across four political administrations.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 is the first medium-term national plan geared towards the AmBisyon Natin 2040 long-term vision. It considers the Duterte Administration's 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda² and the country's commitment to implement the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda. The PDP aims to lay the foundation for inclusive growth, high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy.³ It also follows a strategic framework integrating the 17 goals across all its priorities (Table 2). The PDP is further adopted and transformed into regional, provincial, and city/municipal development plans.

| Major Pillars of the PDP | Strategies | Matching SDGs |
|--|--|------------------|
| 1. <i>Malasakit</i> or Enhancing the social fabric | 1. Ensure people-centered, clean, and efficient governance 2. Pursue swift and fair administration of justice 3. Promote Philippine culture and values | SDG 16 SDG 11 |

² 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of the Duterte Administration. <https://doh.gov.ph/node/6750>

³ 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 2. <i>Pagbabago</i> or Inequality-reducing transformation | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand economic opportunities 2. Increase access to economic opportunities 3. Accelerate human capital development 4. Reduce the vulnerability of individuals 5. Implement strategic trade and fiscal policy, maintain macroeconomic stability and promote competition | SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 10 SDG 17 |
| 3. <i>Patuloy na Pag-unlad</i> or Increasing growth potential | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote technology adoption 2. Stimulate innovation 3. Maximize demographic dividend | SDG 8 SDG 9 |
| 4. Cross-cutting strategies | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure peace and security 2. Accelerate strategic infrastructure development 3. Ensure safety and build resilience 4. Ensure ecological integrity, a clean and healthy environment | SDG 6 SDG 7 SDG 11 SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15 |

Table 2. Integration of the SDGs into the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) framework

To enable greater accountability from the government, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) led the development of the PDP Results Matrices (RM).⁴ It expounds on the desired results to be achieved in the medium term. The societal goals, intermediate goals, chapter outcomes, and aggregate outputs with their corresponding indicators and the means of verification per indicator, the baseline information, annual, and end-of-Plan targets are also indicated in the RM. Through the RM, the implementing and oversight agencies are well-guided in planning, budgeting, programming interventions, and the regular monitoring and evaluation of the PDP. Furthermore, NEDA also included the SDG indicators in the RM to enhance monitoring of the country's efforts to achieve the SDGs.

An accompanying document to monitor the RM is the Socioeconomic Report (SER).⁵ It monitors, reports, and provides an overall assessment of the outputs, accomplishments, and recommendations of the PDP annually. In 2018, NEDA designed the SER to assess the contributions and alignment of the PDP to the global goals. In addition, its SDG Annex ensures that the policies and PAPs indicated in the PDP contribute to attaining the SDGs.

⁴ 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan Results Matrices

⁵ Socioeconomic Report. <https://sdg.neda.gov.ph/socioeconomic-report/>

The NEDA also facilitated the formulation of the accompanying Public Investment Program 2017-2022 (PIP)⁶ of the PDP. The PIP is the primary medium-term investment instrument of the government containing the rolling list of priority PAPs to be implemented by the government at all levels. These priority PAPs are consistent with the long-term vision, SDG commitments, and targets provided in the PDP and its RM. Financial mechanisms for the priority programs and projects are also indicated in the PIP. This may be through national government financing or partnership/s with the private sector as provided by the public-private partnership (PPP) scheme. It may also be through official development assistance or ODA, which could be in the form of grants or loans from development partners.

The PDP, with its accompanying documents, the RM, and the PIP, are all translated into local and regional strategies and priorities, further harmonizing the national development objectives with the local context and strengthening vertical institutional linkages. Moreover, the localization of the SDGs addresses regional disparities, especially in disadvantaged regions in the country, through the Regional Development Plans (RDPs). The RDPs align with and complement the PDP and the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and serve as the implementation mechanism of the SDGs at the regional and local levels. The regional offices of the NEDA are in charge of crafting and coordinating the RDPs. The implementation strategies required to achieve the SDGs found in the PDP and the subsequent sectoral plans are mainstreamed and localized through the RDPs and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) at the regional and local levels.

The Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), conferred to good-performing local governments by the DILG, is a strategic entry point to SDG localization. The NEDA has looked into including assessment criteria or checklists related to SDG implementation into the SGLG. In the 2022 SGLG guidelines, the DILG recognizes the importance of incentivizing the good performance of local governments to influence them to support national and international development goals.⁷

To support the alignment of local development efforts to the national goals under the PDP, the DILG introduced the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) in 2010 to measure financial transparency and institute public reporting of the budget and expenditures of local governments. The program is a game-changer in boosting good local governance performance, which after four years was reclassified to Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping (SGFH).⁸ In relation to the SGH, a financial grant called Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) is also granted to the recipients of the award. The PCF is an incentive program under the Local Governance Performance Management Program of

⁶ 2017-2022 Public Investment Program. <https://neda.gov.ph/public-investment-programs/>

⁷ DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2022-026. 2022 Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal. <https://www.dilg.gov.ph/issuances/mc/2022-Seal-of-Good-Local-Governance-Pagkilala-sa-Katapatan-at-Kahusayan-ng-Pamahalaang-Lokal/3519>

⁸ Assessment of the Performance Challenge Fund and the Seal of Good Local Governance: Perceptions from Municipalities. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2005.pdf>

the DILG to support local development projects further to attain the country's commitment to global goals.

Moreover, in 2014, DILG continued to reclassify the program with the launching of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) to include the additional six assessment areas aside from financial transparency, namely disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, business friendliness, and competitiveness and environmental management. At the same time, PCF is also given to local governments that received the SGLG award. Local governments utilize the PCF for the local development projects to support the attainment of MDGs/SDGs, stimulate the local economy, and enhance climate change adaptation, among others.⁹ Apart from the indicators set in the criteria, the PCF enables local governments to fund their SDG-related initiatives in their localities.

To institutionalize the SGLG, RA 11292 or the SGLG Act of 2019 was enacted, which provides the set of criteria to qualify for the award and the corresponding incentive, such as the SGLG Incentive Fund.

Another entry point to localize the SDGs is the institutionalization of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) at the local level.¹⁰ The CBMS is an organized poverty profiling system to collect, process, and validate local disaggregated data for development planning and program implementation and monitoring at the community level, further filling in the data gaps at the national level. Data collected complements the data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. Local governments implement it as input to their prioritization of PPAs, particularly poverty alleviation programs. As a monitoring tool, the CBMS can generate 39 SDG indicators.¹¹ In addition, the CBMS further reinforces the local databases of local governments, thus providing the necessary local indicators.

The local indicators will inform the planning process of Local governments to address urgent development concerns. CBMS is an important tool that captures household-level data on poverty status. Such granular data on poverty will guide the formulation of local priority programs, ensure budget allocation, and further localize the SDGs, ensuring that no one is left behind.¹²

⁹ DILG Memorandum Circular 2017 - 160. Operational Guidelines on the implementation of the 2017 Performance Challenge Fund (PCF)

¹⁰ Republic Act No. 1135. Community-Based Monitoring System Act.
<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/04apr/20190417-RA-11315-RRD.pdf>

¹¹ Reyes, Celia M. Using CBMS for Local Planning and Prioritization to Achieve the SDGs. https://www.pep-net.org/sites/pep-net.org/files/typo3doc/pdf/news_files/CBMS/Roundtable_3.1_CBMS_Dr._Celia_M._Reyes.pdf

¹² Reyes, Celia M., et.al. Evidence-Based Local Planning and Budgeting using CBMS.
<https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2050.pdf>

B. National Coordination Mechanisms

As the national plan, the PDP needs to be harmonized, contextualized, and concretized through the local plans, priorities, and investment programs to be successfully implemented. Having their devolved functions as mandated by the Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, the local governments play a critical role in realizing the national plan at the local level.¹³ To have everyone onboard, Executive Order No. 27, series 2017 was issued, directing all government agencies, including the local governments, to adopt and undertake efforts to implement the PDP and the PIP.¹⁴ In addition, the NEDA, the Regional Development Councils, Planning Committees, and Sub-committees regularly convened to craft the plans and ascertain that the PAPs are aligned with the PDP and are feasible within the medium term.

Following the directives of Executive Order No. 27, s.2017, the NEDA and the DILG released a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC), which provides the guidelines on the localization of the PDP RM and the SDGs.¹⁵ As an instrument to measure the country's performance towards realizing desired outcomes and impacts, the PDP RM is further localized and contextualized at the regional and provincial levels. As an initial step, NEDA, through its regional offices and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for the National Capital Region, coordinated the formulation of Regional Results Matrices which are further translated to provincial Results Matrices indicating applicable provincial and city/municipal-level indicators, baselines, and targets. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has also identified the SDG performance indicators considered in the regional results matrices.

C. Enabling Institutional Environment for Local Governments

To attain the 17 goals of Sustainable Development, provinces, cities, and municipalities are guided by the Local Government Code of 1991, Executive Order 138, and the strategies laid down by the national government.

All local government units in the Philippines depend on the resources of each LGU – both financial and human resources to implement the SDGs. The latter would also largely be determined by the funds available to each LGU, which differ depending on their level, i.e., provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays. Within each level, the amount of resources they receive and generate would also vary for the internal and external sources of local revenues. The IRA formula's horizontal allocation is 23% for the 81 provinces,

¹³ Section 17. Basic Services and Facilities. Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991.
<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1991/10/10/republic-act-no-7160/>

¹⁴ Executive Order No. 27 s.2017. Directing all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units, to implement the Philippine Development Plan and Public Investment Program for the period 2017-2022 <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2017/06/01/executive-order-no-27-s-2017/>

¹⁵ DILG-NEDA Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 s.2018. Guidelines on the Localization of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 Results Matrices and the Sustainable Development Goals.
<https://www.dilg.gov.ph/issuances/jc/Guidelines-on-the-Localization-of-the-Philippine-Development-Plan-PDP-2017-2022-Results-Matrices-and-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs/108>

23% for the 146 cities, 34% for 1,488 municipalities, and 20% for the 41,933 barangays. At the same time, it is sub-allocated vertically or amongst each LGU level as follows: 50% based on population, 25% on land area, and 25% equal sharing. Based on the Manasan 2007 PIDS Study, based on the functions and responsibilities devolved, the provinces' expenditure share is at 37%, cities at 5.7%, municipalities at 38.5%, and barangays at 18.8%.

The main source of external revenues would be the Constitutionally guaranteed “just share” of local governments in national taxes, formerly called the Internal Revenue Allotment or IRA, which is now termed as “National Tax Allotment” or NTA, under the landmark decision of the Supreme Court ruling in the consolidated petitions of Mandanas v. Ochoa and Garcia v. Ochoa which was promulgated only last July 3, 2018, and which became final and executory on June 10, 2019, and is being implemented by the national government beginning FY 2022.

Most local governments, particularly the provinces and municipalities, rely heavily on this unconditional grant from the national government to fund the devolved basic services, including the SDGs and other expenses for national programs and activities needing local implementation.

On the other hand, in Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, local governments are given greater local autonomy to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them effective partners in achieving national goals. Local governments perform devolved functions to directly provide basic services and facilities for their constituents as political subdivisions of the national government. To implement the 2017-2022 PDP at the local and regional levels, the national government issued several policy instruments leading to concerted efforts and active participation of various national government agencies and local and regional governments (LRGs) in the consultation meetings and planning workshops, among others.

Recently, the national government issued Executive Order 138 implementing the landmark Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling. This landmark ruling rectifies the rather delimited basis of LGU shares from national revenues. Ultimately, it should result in more resources for the Local governments and, more importantly, more leeway to undertake measures to realize SDGs. Considering that this is a very recent development, there is a need to ensure that the implementation will result in better local mechanisms as it should also result in synergy with the national government.

To have an abridged understanding of this new government policy, Executive Order (EO) 138 is consistent with existing laws on decentralization and devolution and, in turn, takes into consideration practical considerations in reexamining and modifying existing mechanisms defining the working relationship between the national government (NG) and local government units.

IV. LOCAL ACTIONS TO LOCALIZE SDGs

A. Actions to create ownership and not leave anyone behind

The League of Cities of the Philippines, as the official organization of all cities in the Philippines, has expressed its concrete commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In its 2019-2022 7-point executive agenda, the LCP's mission is to unite Philippine cities and capacitate leaders towards good local governance and sustainable development.¹⁶ In the agenda, one of the goals paid particular focus on localizing and mainstreaming the SDGs in cities. To support this, PAPs in the pipeline include awareness raising activities for local chief executives, development of a mechanism to support cities' SDG mainstreaming initiatives, and establishment of a pilot program to capacitate cities in the conduct of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). To ensure that the goals are prioritized by the Executive Board, a focal mayor for the SDGs is appointed as a member.

Prior to this, LCP has already been actively supporting the achievement of the goals since its adoption in 2015. In October 2016, the League participated in the Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, held in Quito, Ecuador. In preparation, the LCP actively participated in the Habitat III Philippine National Report preparation as a member of the national steering committee, led by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). Also, the LCP is part of the Philippine delegation to the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 3) for the Quito Conference held in Surabaya, Indonesia in July 2016 wherein the LCP enjoined the Philippine delegation in its call for "better, greener, smarter cities." The following year, LCP participated in the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in New York to call for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The LCP engages its member cities to emphasize the importance of the SDGs in making cities liveable and sustainable communities. In 2017, LCP led the third edition of the ASEAN Mayors Forum held in Taguig City in partnership with UCLG ASPAC and the City Government of Taguig. The event became a strategic platform for Philippine cities and other stakeholders from the region to come together and exchange experiences and best practices and further collaborate and participate in discussions on the SDGs and the NUA.

In October 2019, the LCP represented Philippine cities in the Third South East Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals held in Bangkok, Thailand. Organized by the UNESCAP, LCP was able to contribute to the discussion and echo the need for significant participation of local governments in the SDG implementation in the country and in the conduct of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The outcomes of the

¹⁶ 2019-2022 LCP Executive Agenda

said sub-regional event is meant to inform the 7th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD).

Moreover, the LCP remains an active partner of development agencies in promoting the implementation of the goals in cities. An example is an active participation of LCP in the 8th and 9th editions of the World Urban Forum in 2018 and 2020.

B. Mapping Local Government Efforts to Implement the Different SDGs

Among the priority goals, SDG 1 - No Poverty, 2 - Zero Hunger, and 3 - Good Health and Well-being rank among the top three goals of Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities. The prioritization of these three goals implies that Philippine local governments emphasize the importance of the livelihood of all people and overall human development.

Cities and municipalities also place SDG 4 - Quality Education as a priority area. Meanwhile, provinces rank it near the lower priority spectrum. LPP mentions that this may be due to being “the one [social service] function whose mandate has been retained by the central government,” which contradicts the high prioritization of the goal by cities and municipalities. This may instead be a function of cities and municipalities as they usually augment the immediate resources needed by the schools that are not otherwise provisioned. It is interesting to note that for municipalities, SDG-related initiatives are often done in conjunction with either NGAs or the private sector (through CSOs or academic institutions). This may imply that municipalities heavily rely on their partners in localizing the SDGs and that there is a limited conscious effort to initiate PPAs that directly address the goals.

While only a limited number of cities and provinces have specific action plans for SDG localization, this does not necessarily translate to local governments failing to include the SDGs in the development of their plans and budgets. Instead, it is more common for provinces, cities, and municipalities alike to incorporate the SDGs into their Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP). The PPAs developed through the CDPs can often find alignment with one or more of the goals; as such, even without a stand-alone SDG localization plan, local government actions still greatly contribute to the achievement of national targets.

C. Progress Made in the Implementation of the Goals

The progress made by provinces, cities, and municipalities on the implementation of the SDGs can be classified into two. (1) LG-led or initiatives from the local governments; (2) League-led or interventions initiated by the Leagues or local associations. In this report, only LCP has a League-led initiative while for provinces and municipalities, most of the progress made on the SDGs are local government led.

CITIES AND THEIR PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS

Some Philippine cities have already embarked on localizing and monitoring the SDGs. One example of a city initiative is the City of Cauayan in Northern Luzon. The city's 2019-2022 executive agenda, "Labingpitong Hamon sa Bawat Cauayeño," is patterned after the 17 goals. It was as early as 2016 that the city localized the goals to make the impact felt at the local level.¹⁷ One of the city's well-known initiatives is the establishment of the city food bank in support of SDG 2.



Source: Cauayan City website

Similarly, Tabaco City ensures that all local government offices align their PAPs with the 17 goals. This practice was carried over from the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which Tabaco City utilized as a framework for its local development. The city localized the MDGs through its own local tagline: "*MDG: Mga Dapat Gibuhon*¹⁸," wherein all city PAPs were designed to help achieve the set goals. Tabaco City has since further refined this practice through capacity development training of the city's department heads on the importance of the SDGs. This is done to ensure that their PAPs are aligned with the new global development agenda. The projects and activities approved during the start-of-term executive and legislative agenda are then earmarked in the city's Annual Investment Plan, in which the city identifies and tags the budget items with each related SDG.

¹⁷ State of the City Address 2017: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/Cauayan-City-Localizing-Sustainable-Development-Goals.pdf>

¹⁸ Translated as "what we need to do."

Iriga City meanwhile, has mainstreamed the SDGs into the city's local development planning process. Apart from mainstreaming the goals into the city's land use and development plans, it created a structured approach to the localization of the SDGs. The 17 goals were clustered as building blocks of the Iriga SDG Program and were assigned to the responsible local government offices for the implementation of PAPs.¹⁹ In addition, Iriga City has committed through its roadmap, to become a "sports, culture and arts as well as an agro-ecotourism center". In sum, the SDGs was ingrained as part of the city's good governance pillar.

On the other hand, the League has been implementing projects related to the Sustainable Development goals such as the UN-Habitat's Building Climate Resilience Through Urban Plans and Design, UN Environment's Programme on Integrated Sustainable Guidelines for Sustainable and Global Initiative on Resource Efficient Cities, World Bank's Green Resilient Development, and VNG's Governance of Inclusive Green Growth in Cities.

Box 1: LCP's Programs and Projects Related to the SDGs

UN Habitat Philippines' Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs (BCRUPD) Project for select secondary cities

The Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Design (BCRUPD) is a capacity building project implemented by UN-Habitat Philippines in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Climate Change Commission (CCC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and LCP. It is a three-year project funded by the German government that supports the Philippine government in improving policies and institutional capacities to adapt to climate change by promoting climate-responsive sustainable urban development plans and designs. Further, it supports the existing national climate change frameworks and strategies.²⁰

The project demonstration was conducted in the five pilot cities of Angeles, Cagayan de Oro,



UN Environment Programme's piloting of the Integrated Guidelines for Sustainable Neighborhood Design in Bacolod City's proposed public housing project

Housing is a continuing challenge for cities. Bacolod City is among those cities that had to respond to it. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in partnership with LCP, piloted the Integrated Guidelines for Sustainable Neighborhood Design in this city with the aim to integrate sustainability strategies to the housing and neighborhood design of the proposed third cluster

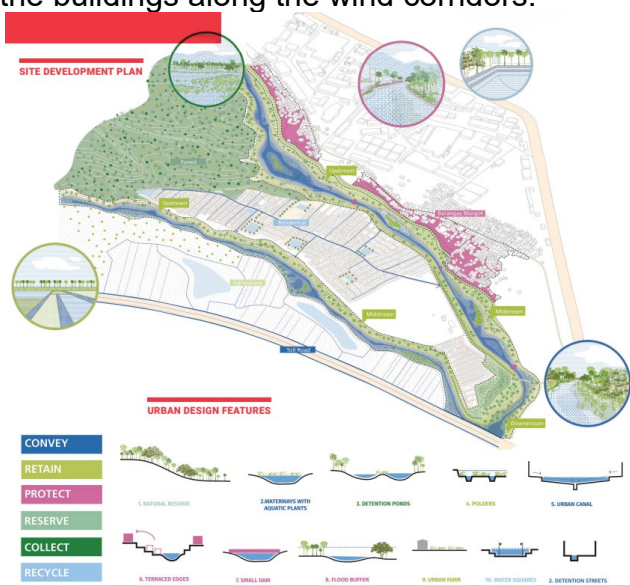
¹⁹ Planning for SDG Localization: The SDG Story of Iriga City.

<https://ilpdcp.gov.ph/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/13-day-1-presentations.html?download=41:planning-for-sdg-localization-the-sdg-story-of-iriga-city>

²⁰BCRUPD Project Brief: #DesigningResilience http://unhabitat.org/ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/BCRUPD-Project-Brief-v.3-A4_Digital.pdf

Legazpi, Ormoc, and Tagum. A series of workshops on project prioritization were also implemented, where the technical working group of each pilot city received technical guidance on assessing priority projects and ensuring resilience principles and practices are incorporated. The project outputs contain comprehensive and contextualized adaptation strategies, which comprised an ecosystem-based approach and nature-based solutions in the urban designs to help address the negative effects of climate change such as urban heat stress, flood, and water security, among others.

Angeles City's adaptation strategy, the Makayamang Angeles, considers the city's resilience goals, putting emphasis in achieving a cooler climate and securing water supply. The strategy focused on securing the city's water supply through sustainable technology and infrastructure (SDGs 6 and 9) and mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (SDG 13) through natural cooling systems. Composed of a network of blue- and greenways, the Makayamang Angeles will improve the balance of built-up areas and open spaces, inclusive mobility, public recreation, livelihood opportunities, and the forms of the buildings along the wind corridors.



of the Progreso Village Relocation Site. The housing development aims to better connect people and the environment, creating the concept of a community where relationships and citizen participation are strengthened and a sense of ownership is developed. The sustainability strategies employed aim to make the housing project become a low-carbon, resource-efficient, resilient and inclusive neighborhood.

The Progreso Village Relocation Site Third Cluster (PVRS III) Project is a sustainable and resilient neighborhood project intended for minimum wage earners and informal sector workers in Bacolod City. In order to realize its vision of becoming a liveable city, several sustainable strategies from the UNEP Neighborhood Guidelines have been integrated into the housing and neighborhood design, which also contribute to several global goals and their specific targets.

In all stages of the project planning and implementation process, PVRS III has ensured the incorporation of sustainability and resilience (SDG 11.3, 11.b). The design of the housing units served as the main entry point to introduce these interventions. Despite the limited data, the project team was able to recommend strategies to guide the city in its development of the neighborhood project. To achieve a low-carbon neighborhood, PVRS III will establish an efficient public transportation route system (SDG 11.2) and a localized and integrated waste management system (SDG 12.5). The provision of connectivity and digital infrastructure (SDG 9.1) and the use of renewable energy to power street lights will minimize the contributions to GHG emissions (SDG 7.2).

With regard to resource efficiency in the neighborhood, PVRS III will look for alternative sources of energy and water (SDG 12.2). The housing units will then adopt the green housing design and approaches. Installation of solar panels in the housing units will lessen reliance to the power supplied by the electric cooperatives in the city. The

Source: BCRUPD Designing Resilience Angeles City Briefer²¹

A pilot demonstration project was developed in this regard, the Angeles Aquipark, located in a segment of the Abacan Pangulu. This is a waterway development initiative that will function as an open space for recreation and surface water collection.²²



Source: BCRUPD website

Similar to this is the Cagayan de Oro City's Lunhaw Strategy, underscoring the importance of employing a ridge-to-reef approach in managing natural resources and addressing the impacts of climate change. Its four major strategies - resist, delay, store, and discharge - will employ nature-based solutions and develop sustainable infrastructure for water storage and recycling and drainage systems (SDGs 6, 9, and 13).

Apart from water security and resilience to flooding, the city also aims to improve the city's green spaces and promote walkability through watershed management, reforestation, and increased green cover in the city's urban areas, further reducing GHG emissions (SDG 11).²³

PVRS III will practice rainwater harvesting at the household level. The provision of rainwater collector facilities for the households will minimize the dependence on groundwater. The harvested water will be used in various household activities, hence efficiency in the use of water (SDG 12.4, 12.5).

To further promote resilience and inclusivity in the neighborhood, the city will prioritize selecting woman-led households as one of its target beneficiaries (SDG 5.1, 5.a) while considering the proportion of male and female homeowners. PVRS III will establish a homeowners' association of the beneficiaries to foster a sense of community and strengthen the relationship of the members. Their active participation is vital in stimulating resilience, especially during the implementation of disaster management plans and programs (SDG 13.3). The inclusion of the livelihood component is likewise crucial in achieving a sustainable and liveable community (SDG 8.5). The development of green and open spaces will enhance the ventilation and air quality in the neighborhood, benefiting the residents' health and well-being (SDG 11.7)

THE PROGRESO VILLAGE RELOCATION SITE THIRD CLUSTER (PVRS III) PROJECT



²¹ https://designingresilience.ph/wp-content/uploads/IF-Briefer_Angeles.pdf

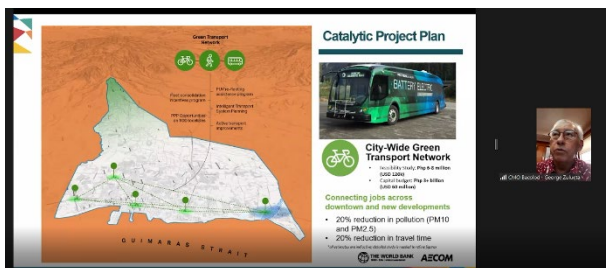
²² Angeles City: Case Study on the Path to Climate Resiliency

²³ Cagayan de Oro City: Case Study on the Path to Climate Resiliency

World Bank's Green and Resilient Development in Select Secondary Cities in the Philippines

As cities continue to develop, spillovers are expected. Both positive and negative impacts of development tend to cascade to nearby and adjacent areas or secondary cities. There are then programs developed toward this end. The Green and Resilient Development in Select Secondary Technical Assistance Program of the World Bank is one of these programs. Said program aims to provide the pilot cities of Bacolod, Baguio, Iligan, Iloilo, and Naga with best practice options and recommendations for strategic urban planning that will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The technical assistance, consisting mainly of strategic planning workshops, closely examined the identified focus areas of the cities following the green and resilience planning principles related to land use, flooding and climate risks, smart city management, and urban regeneration. The catalytic project plans developed as the cities' main outputs hit multiple SDGs.



Bacolod City's Sum-Ag River Development and Eco-tourism project which aims to revitalize select areas in the southern part of the city will largely contribute to SDGs 11 and 13. The city's City-Wide Green Transport Network that will connect people with employment across the downtown area and new developments on the other hand, will target SDGs 7, 8, 9, and 11.

UN Environment Programme's GI-REC toolkit piloting in Sorsogon City

Resources are limited and the use of energy comes with it concomitant consequences, from costs to wastes. Resource efficiency is imperative and The Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI-REC) of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is an initiative towards this end. This approach aims to enhance the quality of life in urban areas, particularly in rapidly growing cities, while minimizing resource extraction, energy consumption, and waste generation while safeguarding ecosystem services in the process. It assists cities in identifying and monitoring their resource footprint and linking them with partners and cities interested in resource efficiency.²⁴

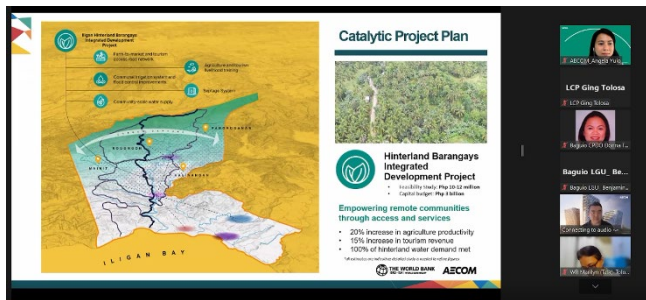
**WATER, FOOD, AND ENERGY
IN SORSOGON CITY, PHILIPPINES:**
Understanding Urban-Rural Metabolic Flows



Source: UNEP Publication

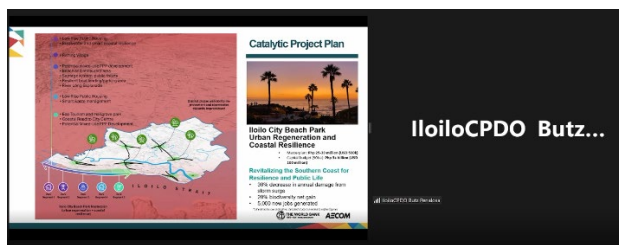
Through the analysis conducted in the study in Sorsogon City, the actions recommended would improve the urban metabolism of the city, the way it takes in, uses, and disposes of its resources, and

²⁴ About the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities (GI-REC). <https://resourceefficientcities.org/about/>

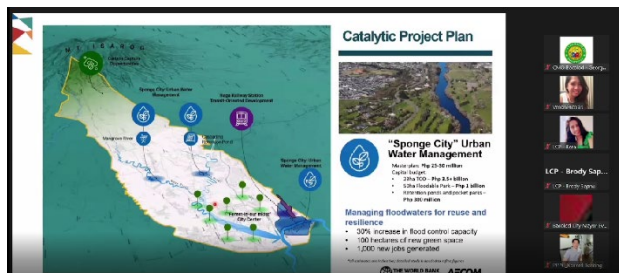


transform it from a linear metabolism to a circular one.

Iligan City also proposed multiple projects for the city's green and resilient development. The Hinterland Barangays' Integrated Development Plan will empower remote communities through access and services (SDGs 10 and 11). The National Steel Industrial Park Redevelopment Master Plan aims to reactivate the industrial sector and transition to net zero (SDG 13). Also, Iligan will enter into a public-private partnership (PPP) to improve the Level 3 Water Supply System of the city (SDGs 3, 6, and 11).



Meanwhile, Iloilo City aims to revitalize its southern coastal area through the Beach Park Urban Regeneration and Coastal Resilience Project (SDGs 3, 11, and 13).



To manage water resources for reuse and resilience, Naga City proposed the "Sponge City" Urban City Management (SDGs 6, 11, and 13).

Governance of Inclusive Green Growth in Cities or the DEALS Programme in the Philippines.

The LCP's partnership with VNG International for the implementation of the Governance of Inclusive Green Growth in Cities or the DEALS Programme in the Philippines aims to improve the quality of life of the people by improving the performance of local governments and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, SDG 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally, SDG 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other solid waste management and SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels.



The DEALS Programme supported the institutional development of intergovernmental cooperation to implement the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP). Specifically, the project worked with relevant national government agencies and local government stakeholders along the Manila Bay region to preserve the natural conditions of the Bay and eventually improve the socio-economic situation of the communities. For the past four years, VNG International and LCP have continued their efforts to elevate the role of local governments, particularly cities, in the rehabilitation of Manila Bay through dialogues and consultations with government stakeholders and research.

With its strategic location to industrial zones, Balanga City faced a growing concern on large volumes of plastic waste from industries and biodegradable wastes from households, comprising almost 50% of the total waste collected. As the locus of the intervention, Balanga has already undertaken urgent steps in managing its solid waste. It firmly pushed and supported local efforts to improve waste management through barangay-level composting and recycling (SDG 11.6). Eventually, the city's initiatives to divert waste from being disposed of in landfills and in water bodies also address the issue of marine pollution (14.1) and degradation of land resources (SDG 15.5). Further, the composting initiative of the city will largely contribute to cutting down methane gas emitted by landfills (SDG 13.2).



The Balanga City Government's efficient management of its waste and environment protection has invited collaboration with neighboring municipalities. The city, supported by the Bataan Provincial Government, is leading the establishment of an interlocal cooperation mechanism among Bataan local governments to optimize the proposed clustered composting facility in the province. Balanga City's compliance with pertinent environmental laws and strong support for the preservation and rehabilitation of the Bay has earned it the 2020 Manila Bayani Awards (SDG 16.6).

VALENZUELA CITY EDUCATION 360

Having been known as a strong champion for quality education. One of the city's revolutionary flagship programs is the Education 360 Program, dedicated to addressing the perennial education problems that the city faces. The program deepens the involvement of various stakeholders, including the local community, the private sector, and non-government organizations.



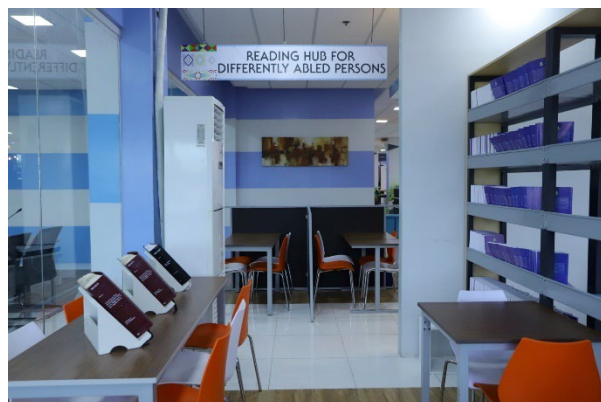
Source: Valenzuela City website

The program makes use of a holistic approach to uplift the quality of local basic education and focuses on different aspects of students' learning aligned with the targets under SDG 4. Each component is geared towards the development and advancement of every student in the city, namely; (1) massive construction and refurbishing of 21st-century classrooms and school buildings; (2) capacity development of parents as at-home learning facilitators; (3) comprehensive training and professional development of teachers; (4) community-based school programs for out-of-school youth; and (5) city-wide feeding programs to further encourage student attendance and promote health and nutrition. Below are other examples of cities responding to SDG 4 by maximizing the powers, functions, and resources afforded by existing laws and programs.



Source: Valenzuela City website

Target 4.a. Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.



Source: Tagum City website

Lauded as the “Most Innovative Public Library of the Philippines,” during the 2021 ASEAN Virtual Conference of Public Librarians, **Tagum City** puts a premium on building and continuously upgrading their education facilities to promote inclusive, quality, lifelong learning. The **Tagum Library and Learning Commons** boasts of deviating from the traditional library design by making it more spacious, vibrant, and conducive for learning for all Tagumenyos. The library is also home to various community-driven programs that

Target 4.2. By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education



Source: Mabalacat City website

Since the institutionalization of the city’s **Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Office** in 2019, **Mabalacat City** has boasted a strong, sustainable, and holistic ECCD program to help support parents and ensure that young children will be able to learn in a safe and conducive environment. The city regularly conducts community mapping and profiling activities – both online and offline – to determine parents’ interest and encourage them to enroll their children in the ECCD program. Mabalacat City has also localized the

have continued amidst the pandemic, including the organization of the city's book lover's club, regular monthly storytelling sessions on Indigenous People's stories, observance of the National Book Month celebration, digital services improvement, operationalization of the Center for Tagumenyo studies, and bookmobile libraries in the barangays.



Source: Tagum City website

principles enshrined in the National Early Learning Curriculum to provide quality, culture-sensitive, and gender-sensitive services and facilities for age-appropriate development of young children. The city has since continued to develop new strategies so that their services and efforts may not be interrupted even during the pandemic. Mabalacat City has converted its National Child Development Center into a production studio where the city produces its own learning materials to further capacitate parents and support early learning.



Source: Mabalacat City website

Target 4.c. Substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states



Source: Iloilo City website

Target 4.4. By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship

Iloilo City continues its partnership with a local university, the West Visayas State University, as part of its endeavor to support lifelong learning and quality-driven service for its constituents. Under the city's roadmap for inclusive development and good governance, the city launched the **USWAG Scholarship Program**. The city offers the necessary training and professional development, such as postgraduate scholarship programs, for public school teachers and child development workers to increase the supply of qualified teachers. Since 2021, Iloilo City has invested an estimated total of Php 17 million to support deserving and qualified public officials in upgrading their knowledge and skills.

Navotas City established its own technical-vocational institute, the **Navotas Vocational Training and Assessment (NAVOTAAS) Institute**, to provide more livelihood opportunities for youth and adults alike. Residents of the city are offered free enrollment, while non-residents only need to pay a fee dependent on their course of interest to enroll and take the necessary assessment exams. Navotas City has four training centers that offer different courses such as housekeeping, bread and pastry production, wellness massages, call center servicing, and animation and visual graphics, among others. Since 2019, 1,975 students were able to graduate in various tech-voc courses.



Source: Navotas City website

Target 4.6. Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Launched in 2021, **Reinventing Best Practices for Resiliency, Universality, and Functionality (REBOLUSYON)** sa Barangay is a monitoring and evaluation system for **Santiago City's** (in Isabela) literacy programs, projects, and activities. The program was initially developed to improve the capacities of the city's barangays in assessing their literacy programs against the rubric of the National Literacy Coordinating Council. The city has also conducted a series of activities, such as one-on-one coaching sessions and technical workshops, which were designed to support barangays in their formulation and implementation of exemplary and sustainable community-based education and literacy PPAs. This has since contributed to Santiago City's efforts to increase functional literacy for all members of the community.



Source: Santiago City website

Box 2. City-led efforts that contribute to the achievement of SDG 4



Source: Baybay City website

Baybay City Barangay Management Information System (BMIS)

Identifies gender-related issues of its constituents and develops gender-responsive local plans and policies. The BMIS - which is the city's primary data management system - is an electronic system that collects from households and barangays that are helpful in identifying the issues and needs of the communities, particularly on nutrition. The use of the BMIS at the community level has enabled the city government to collect data points to aid and improve service delivery and decision-making. Using gender-disaggregated data, policymakers and local leaders are able to better respond, design, and monitor programs and strategies with a strong gender perspective.

Apart from Baybay City, there are five more cities implementing projects related to SDG 5. These are the cities of Tayabas, Tangub, Tagum, Lamitan, and San Fernando (in La Union).

Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation



Source: Tayabas City website

Established in 2014, **Tayabas City's GAD Crisis Center** serves as a halfway house for victims of violence against women and children (VAWC) and gender-based violence (GBV) to protect them against further violence. Constructed by the city government using its allotted GAD fund, there are also assigned personnel who manage and oversee the facility 24/7. The operation of the Center is supervised by the City Social Welfare and Development Office. Cases reported to the barangay VAWC desks are handed over to the Center especially individuals needing temporary shelter, counseling, medical and financial assistance.

Target 5.6. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life



Source: Tangub City website

The **City of Tangub** puts a premium on ensuring the active involvement of women in community-based activities and the local government's plans and programs. The city's annual GAD fund supports numerous initiatives that benefit women community members from all 55 of its barangays. One of the most notable initiatives is the city's provision of financial incentives to all the barangay women's associations during the annual National Women's Month Celebration held every March. Women are encouraged and rewarded for their active participation in monthly peer group meetings and vital support in activities organized by the city government.

Target 5.b. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Tagum City's GAD office is subsumed under the City Mayor's Office, where all of the staff are regular and in plantilla positions to ensure continuity of the good service that they are rendering. Having regular and permanent positions for staff has allowed the office to carry on smooth and seamless implementation of GAD PPAs across different departments, most of which encompass multiple years. One of these programs includes the utilization of the GAD fund to provide health services in the city under the Hugpong Serbisyo program. This program conducts awareness-raising campaigns for communities about gender sensitivity and reproductive health; women may also avail of free pap smear tests in their barangays.



Source: Tagum City website

Lamitan City, as a recipient of the Department of Information and Communications Technology's Tech4ED Project, has been training local indigenous women weavers on the use of information, communication, and technology (ICT). The Yakans, one of the indigenous groups of the province of Basilan, are creative entrepreneurs who have passed down the art of traditional weaving from generation to generation. However, the trade is being challenged by an ever-widening digital divide between tradition and modernization. To bridge this gap, Yakan weavers were taught basic computer skills and online marketing strategies. As a result, the women put up their own digital shop - the Lamitan City Yakan Weavers Online Shop - where they promote and sell their products to both national and international clientele.



Source: Lamitan City website

Target 5.c. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



Source: Website of San Fernando City, La Union

For the **City of San Fernando La Union (CSFLU)**, the adoption and localization of gender-related policies and frameworks have paved the way to focus and implement a

people-centered and gender-responsive approach to local governance. CSFLU has enacted several policies on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Comprehensive Gender Fairness (CGF). Following these, the city ensures that all reading materials of the city library are gender-sensitive by reviewing them before they are disseminated to schools and daycare centers. Likewise, the city daycare workers who author their own age-appropriate reading materials also undergo thorough reviews for gender fairness.

Box 3. City-led efforts that contribute to the achievement of SDG 5

PROVINCES AND THEIR PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS

ONE BATAAN SEAL OF HEALTHY BARANGAYS

The **One Bataan Seal of Healthy Barangays** is an incentive-based program implemented by the provincial government of Bataan that aims to address the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and prevent and reduce the spread of communicable diseases in all municipalities, cities, and barangays in the province. The program directly contributes to achieving the targets of the SDGs on Health and to improving the life expectancy in the province, which is a key dimension of the Human Development Index (HDI).



The program recognizes and provides incentives to barangays that are able to meet the criteria which are zero percent cases of dengue, animal bite, measles, maternal death, and illegal drugs. It also requires barangays to reduce mortality count, form diabetes and hypertension club, conducts voluntary blood donations, and participate in the tree planting project of the province. A closer look at these criteria will show how most of them actually correspond to specific targets under Goal 3 of the SDGs.

The province of Bataan started implementing the Seal of Healthy Barangays in May 2019 with the participation of all the municipalities and cities of the province. A committee was organized, headed by the Provincial Health Office, to monitor and evaluate all the 237 barangays. Every month, they are evaluated based on a monitoring and evaluation tool. Once they meet the criteria and the required total score, they are awarded with the Seal of Healthy Barangay and are given Php 50,000 which they can use for their health programs and as cash incentives for the barangay council members, barangay health care workers (BHW), barangay nutrition scholars (BNS) and midwives of their health centers.

In order to be awarded the Seal of Healthy Barangay, the barangay must have a total score of at least 90 points. The following are the criteria and the corresponding points: 20 points for the Dengue program, 10 points for Animal Bite, 10 points for Maternal Death, 20 points for Diabetes and Hypertension, 10 points for Measles Immunization, 10 points for Voluntary Blood Donation, 10 points for Drug-Free Barangay and 10 points for Mortality count, for a total of 100 points. Barangays that participate in the tree planting project of the province called the 1 Million Trees for 1 Bataan (1M41B) are also given 10 bonus points.

Each of the criteria has a checklist of requirements and activities that the barangay must have or must implement in order to get the corresponding points. For instance, to get the 20 points for the dengue criteria, the barangays must have zero dengue cases or death. They should also have an ordinance or resolution on dengue prevention, and active dengue task force with activities such as search and destroy, fogging and spraying, and IEC materials posted in strategic places in the barangay.

For the maternal death criteria, the barangays must have zero maternal and post-partum death and no deliveries at home or *hilot*. There should be the presence of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services, pregnancy tracking and post-partum home visits, seminars on maternal health care, breastfeeding stations, barangay birth plan, pregnancy kits and IEC materials. It is also good to note that under the category, barangays are also required to implement programs and activities on family planning such as facilitated group discussions and provision of FP commodities.

For hypertension and diabetes criteria, the barangays must have a list of hypertensive and diabetic patients, an active and functioning Hypertension and Diabetes Club, and a supply of medicines for hypertensive and diabetic patients. The barangays are also required to promote a healthy lifestyle through implementation and/or participation in activities such as physical exercises, seminars on diet and nutrition, fun runs, and other fitness activities. To further promote a healthy lifestyle, the province also requires the creation of an anti-smoking task force in every barangay.

For the measles immunization criteria, the barangays must have no measles case and death. All *puroks* in the barangay must be at low risk. They should continue to promote immunization of children and should have at least 8% accomplishment in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI).

Lastly, for the illegal drugs criteria, the barangays must be certified as drug-free by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and should have programs and facilities (*Bahay Pagbabago*) for the reformation of persons who use drugs (PWUD).

The Seal of Healthy Barangay program was received well by the local government units in the province of Bataan. When the program started, 176 barangays participated and only four (4) were able to get the award. But after a few months, in December 2019, all the 237 barangays are already participating and the number of awardees grew to twenty-six (26). More than the incentive that the recipients will get, the award became a badge

of honor. A testament that the barangay is able to perform its function effectively and it is able to deliver the health services needed by its constituents. In a span of a few months, the program drew the attention of many national government agencies. During the awarding ceremonies, the province will even invite high-ranking national government officials to witness the top-performing barangays of the province. Because of this, the barangays became more determined and more participative in the health programs of the province and the municipalities.

For the provincial government of Bataan, the Seal of Healthy Barangays not only served as an assistance and support program for its LGUs, but it also became an avenue to promote the programs and strategies of the province on health, anchored on the SDGs. The province was able to integrate many of its programs and projects into the Seal of Healthy Barangays and made their implementation more effective with the active participation of the cities, municipalities, and barangays. It provided a whole-of-province approach in reaching the targets of Goal 3 of the SDGs such as lowering the maternal and infant mortality rate, ending neglected tropical diseases such as dengue, reducing the mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, and ensuring access to reproductive and sexual health care including family planning.

There is no doubt that the Seal of Healthy Barangays was able to make a positive change in the performance of the barangays, at least on health service delivery. This can be seen by the increase of awardees every month and also the relative improvement in the scores of all the 237 barangays in general. When the program was conceptualized, the province was facing a continuous increase in dengue cases. In 2019, Bataan recorded 3,164 cases of dengue, 32% higher than the previous year. But in 2020, after the implementation of the program, the cases quickly went down to 1,029 or a 67% decrease.

Although it cannot be fully attributed to the program, there was also some progress in the SDG targets of the province from 2019 to 2020. The proportion of children vaccinated with 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine (MCV) increased from 87.64% to 91.39%. The mortality count for all non-communicable diseases also decreased from 1,225 to 885. For diabetes alone, the actual count decreased from 143 in 2019 to 94 in 2020. Myocardial infarction was also reduced from 271 to 136 cases.

The program would have had more effect if it wasn't discontinued in September 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the provinces, the provincial government of Bataan had to find the best way to respond to it. It saw the potential of the Seal of Healthy Barangays and how it managed to get the municipalities and barangays to improve their services and coordinate with the province, so they converted it into the Seal of COVID-Free Barangay. In order to immediately prevent and control the spread of the coronavirus in the province, they used the methodology and mechanisms of the Seal of Healthy Barangays.

The Seal of Healthy Barangays is a perfect example of how the SDGs can be approached differently at the level of the LGU. As the higher level of local government, the provinces are focused more on providing assistance and coordinating the efforts of its component cities, municipalities and barangays. To be able to attain the targets set in the SDGs, the province must be able to enjoin its LGUs to cooperate and collaborate and successfully implement the programs and strategies formulated for the purpose. The Province of Bataan was able to do all of these through the Seal of Healthy Barangays, a comprehensive approach in achieving the goal.

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA

Out of the total 913.86 kilometers, 109 kilometers of Negros Occidental's coastline have been committed toward marine resource conservation. As a coastal province, it is imperative to have a program that responds to its unique conditions if it is to attain a level of sustainability. The Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA) is one of these initiatives. It began on 20 October 2016 to enjoin the people to be responsible resource users as it demonstrates a community-based approach for coastal resource management in the southern portion of the province.



Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Under the leadership of the provincial government, three coastal cities and seven municipalities have created an alliance whose main objective is to protect the province's natural and coastal resources amidst the twin threat of continued environmental degradation and the effects of climate change. This is consistent with the program as the NOCWCA began as a partnership between the provincial government and its ten component LGUs with the GIZ-Protected Areas Management Enhancement Project (PAME-Project), whose objective was to establish local conservation areas.

In 2016, the NOCWCA has been recognized as the 7th Ramsar site (wetland of international significance) in the Philippines. The area joined the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park both in Palawan, Naujan Lake in Oriental Mindoro, Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area Sanctuary, Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, and Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu in the list, LGUs identified with wetlands.

NOCWCA on the other hand is distinct from other previously declared Ramsar sites. It is locally managed by a network of alliances and conservation areas. It is a perfect example of promoting responsible ownership and use of natural resources, enjoining all stakeholders to take part. The NOCWCA is a multi-sectoral alliance of the provincial government, the 10 participating local governments, 52 coastal villages, people's

organizations, local councils for fisheries and aquatic management resources, and community-based environment law-enforcement units.

This mechanism is significant as the need to preserve the area cannot be overly emphasized. NOCWCA is highly strategic for its extensive mangroves and as a habitat for globally threatened and endangered marine species like the Great knot, Far Eastern curlew, and the Nordmann's greenshank; the Irrawaddy dolphin and three species of marine turtles, namely the Hawksbill, the Green, and Olive ridley. Thousands of migratory birds also use the NOCWCA as their feeding grounds. Clearly, it is a critical area of biodiversity.

On the other hand, the initiative has spurred local economic development through sustainable livelihood resulting from improved fish production. The economic benefits of the local coastal communities in the form of livelihood and being a major food source in the province are some of the measures to ensure the alliance's sustainability.

Over the years of its declaration as a Ramsar site, the NOWCWA has seen a significant decrease in mangrove deforestation. In 2021, the Province of Negros Occidental received the Galing Pook Award for the Network of Alliances for Coastal Wetlands Conservation. The Galing Pook Award is a recognition of innovative practices by local government units in the Philippines.

MUNICIPALITIES AND THEIR PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS

The table below shows the list of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) being implemented by the municipalities in partnership with NGAs. The PPAs with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) focused on environment management and climate change adaptation (CCA). These include capacity building and other mitigation and adaptation initiatives under the Project ReBUILD portfolio. For the Department of Agriculture (DA), the PPAs focused on food security. These include community cash for work, farm-to-market roads, food production, special project on agricultural development for upland municipalities, support programs to increase farmers/fisherfolk income, financial assistance for farmers, provision of seeds for corn and rice, provision of fishing boats, provision of fertilizers, provision of livestock, farm machineries, warehouse, multipurpose solar drier, African Swine Fever (AFS), and Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP). The PPAs being implemented with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) also focused on food security. These include the construction of bridges and Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) roads, and conduct of trainings for farmers.

The PPAs with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) covered various themes including health (e.g. purchase of ambulance) disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM, e.g. purchase of rescue vehicles), local economic development

(LED, e.g. concreting of local access roads), and institutional development (e.g. capacity development). Similarly, the infrastructure projects with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) support multiple development themes such as CCA-DRRM (e.g. climate-resistant infrastructure and flood control), and LED (e.g. farm-to-market roads, local access roads, and bridges).

The PPAs with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were mostly on solid waste management, and include the establishment of materials recovery facilities (MRFs), shredder machine, and solar-powered biodegradable waste shredder. The PPAs with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) focused on shelter, while the ones with the Department of Health (DOH) include health and wellness; Health services; Maternal and child care; Provision of medicine for children and adults; Vaccines for COVID Response; COVID Response hygiene kit.

On eradication of poverty and support for decent work and quality of life, the respondents identified PPAs in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which include aid during crisis situations, feeding program, support to indigenous and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, support to livelihood programs; provision of food packs; scholarship; financial assistance for COVID response, Social Amelioration Program; and *Balik Probinsya* Program.

The respondents also identified some PPAs with the DILG, which include the provision of funds for local evacuation centers, concreting of local access roads, and establishment of various infrastructures such as public markets and Level 3 water system, and issuance of a Safety Seal. The details of the joint PPAs with NGAs are provided in the table below.

Table 3. List of PPAs implemented by municipal governments with National Government Agencies

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Climate Change Commission (CCC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ReBUILD • Capacity Building • Mitigation and Adaptation PPAs |
| Department of Agriculture (DA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer's associations and NGOs and the community cash for work, • farm-to-market road • Food production • Special project on agricultural development for upland municipalities • Support programs to increase farmers/fisherfolk income • Financial Assistance for Farmers, • Provision of seeds for corn and rice |

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Fishing Boats • Provision of Fertilizers • Provision of Livestock • Farm Machinery • Warehouse • Multipurpose solar drier • African Swine Fever (AFS) • Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) |
| Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of bridge • Conduct farmers trainings • Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) Roads |
| Department of Budget and Management (DBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of Ambulance • purchase of Rescue Vehicles • Capacity Building • Concreting of Local Access Roads |
| Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of MRF • Shredder Machine • Solar-Powered Biodegradable Waste Shredder |
| Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing |

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|--|--|
| | |
| Department of Information and Communications (DICT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Wifi • eBPLS |
| Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of the different plans • Integration of sustainable programs and infrastructure • Capacity building on the preparation of the different mandatory plans and thematic plans • Funding for a local evacuation center • Concreting of local access roads • Establishment of a public market, Level 3 water system, quarantine facility • Provision of Safety Seal |
| Department of Health (DOH) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellness programs • Health services • Maternal and child care • Provision of medicine for children and adult • Vaccines for COVID Response • COVID Response hygiene kit |
| Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Program of the Employment of Students (SPES) • Livelihood • <i>Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers</i> (TUPAD) • Skills Training |
| Department of Science and Technology (DOST) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program • Early Warning Systems • Air Quality Monitoring |

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|--|--|
| Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-resistant infrastructures among others • farm-to-market road • Local Access Road • Bridges • Flood control |
| Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situation • Feeding Program • Poverty reduction • Support for Indigenous and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas • Support for livelihood programs • Food packs • Core shelter • Scholarship • Financial assistance for COVID Response, • Senior Citizen, PWD, JJW, and GAD related PPAs • Social Amelioration Program • Balik Probinsya Program |
| Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Protection • Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index (CMCI) • Livelihood and skills training |
| National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Prevention • Rehabilitation and Recovery • Preparedness and Response PPAs |
| National Housing Authority (NHA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of funds for housing and Land Development |

Municipalities also identified several PPAs that were implemented in partnership with local civil society organizations (CSOs), peoples' organizations (POs), and the academe. The details are provided in the table below.

Table 4. List of PPAs implemented by municipal governments with CSOs/Pos/Academe

| Civil Society Organizations/People's Organization/Academe | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|--|--|
| Association of Senior Citizens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Pension Program |
| Carmen District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Services Program |
| Farmers & Fisherfolks Associations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program |
| Northern Luzon Adventist College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship to poor but deserving students |
| Oyang Upland Farmers Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regreening program and riparian development |
| Pambansang Tagapag-ugnay ng Manggagawa sa Bahay (PATAMABA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers in the informal sector enterprise |
| San Jose Market Vendors Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Support • Membership in Municipal Market Committee • MICRO Enterprise Development |
| University of Northern Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach programs for victims of calamity/disasters, • coastal clean-up • mangrove development/tree planting |

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ACHIEVING THE SDGs

Local governments generally reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has, undoubtedly, impacted their efforts towards the achievement of the goals. In particular, cities reported that they experienced difficulties in securing the necessary data to monitor the achievement of the goals given the limitations brought about by the heightened restrictions. Given the impact of the pandemic on the health and economic sectors, it is

safe to conclude that in the post-pandemic movement, provinces and cities are prioritizing their constituents' healthcare and well-being.

On the other hand, based on the survey LPP conducted, all the respondents said that it had an impact in their implementation of SDGs in their respective Provinces. 57% responded that "There is an impact", while 43% said it had a "severe negative impact". Congress had to pass a law authorizing LGUs to utilize their fund allocations intended for other programs and services to mitigate the cost of the Covid-19 expenses they had to allocate for their respective constituents.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it tremendous challenge, forcing governments to respond forthwith, revising earlier plans and shifting available resources to crucial interventions. These brought an unprecedented impact on overall global human development. The triple hit on health, education, and income especially has been severely felt at the local level. As expected, local governments have constantly been at the forefront of the Philippine pandemic recovery where there has been an increase in public demand for decisive and immediate responses to help mitigate the aftermath of the COVID-19.

While LGUs report that the pandemic has had a negative impact on the progress towards achieving the SDGs, it has not stopped them from delivering services meant to ensure - whether directly or indirectly - well-being for all, which is the principal goal of sustainable development.

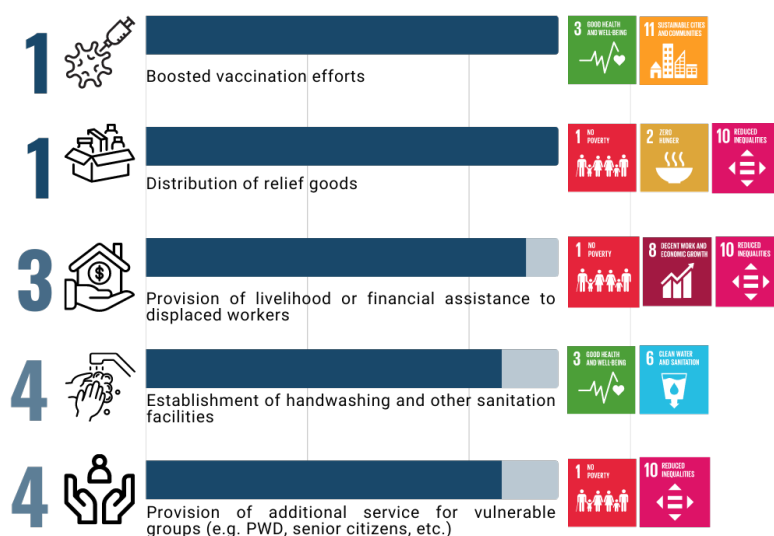


Figure 2. Top activities cities have undertaken to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19

Figure 2 above shows the different actions cities have undertaken related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While these have not necessarily been clearly identified as actions that directly support the goals, these actions have undoubtedly aligned with the global agenda on reaching the poorest and most vulnerable, especially that they are the most severely hit by the pandemic. Among these, it is worth noting that all cities have reported that they

boosted their vaccination efforts and distributed relief goods, especially to the most marginalized sectors.

Local governments have been strategic and innovative in ensuring that their constituents have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Among these efforts include: aggressive information, education, and communication campaigns to reduce vaccine hesitancy, use of online registrations to secure a vaccination schedule, and identifying strategic locations where many frequent for walk-in registrations and actual vaccination sites, such as malls. San Juan City, made full use of their online registration at the start of 2021. This contributed to its being among the first local governments to manage to reach the national target of 100% vaccination of their target population in just a little over four months since the start of the vaccine rollout.²⁵ The city's local chief executive noted that the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in their city that prompted them to respond quickly. This has aligned with some of the targets of SDG 3, namely in the reduction of communicable diseases and the achievement of universal health coverage that includes accessible vaccines for all.

During the months-long nationwide lockdowns of the earlier days of the pandemic, local governments also shoulder the responsibility of distributing relief goods to all households. These relief goods often included nonperishable goods, food packs, vitamins, milk for households with infants, and at times, medicine for those identified by local databases to need them. Such an action has aligned with targets from across the 17 goals, but especially for SDG 2's target to end hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Interestingly as well, when asked which areas local governments have decided to focus on in the recovery from the crisis, the top three areas ranked as follows: (1) health care and prevention; (2) local economic development and employment; and (3) food and agriculture. This focus has also coincided with the cities' priority SDGs for 2022, where SDG 3: Good health and well-being ranked as the highest priority agenda, followed next by SDG 1: No poverty and then SDG 2: Zero Hunger. These findings, namely the ranking that cities designated to each SDG, may have been influenced by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and the urgent need to address issues of health, employment, and food security.

For municipalities, the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is taking a devastating impact on the health and economic sectors, not only in the Philippines but also globally. While others experienced positively about COVID-19's effect on SDG localization, many of the respondents are affected negatively on various levels. Figure___ shows that the majority of the municipalities (32.86%) said that it affected them "moderately negative", followed by highly negative having 22.86% of the total response.

²⁵ Palace lauds San Juan City for attaining 100 percent vaccination of target population.

https://pcoo.gov.ph/news_releases/palace-lauds-san-juan-city-for-attaining-100-percent-vaccination-of-target-population/

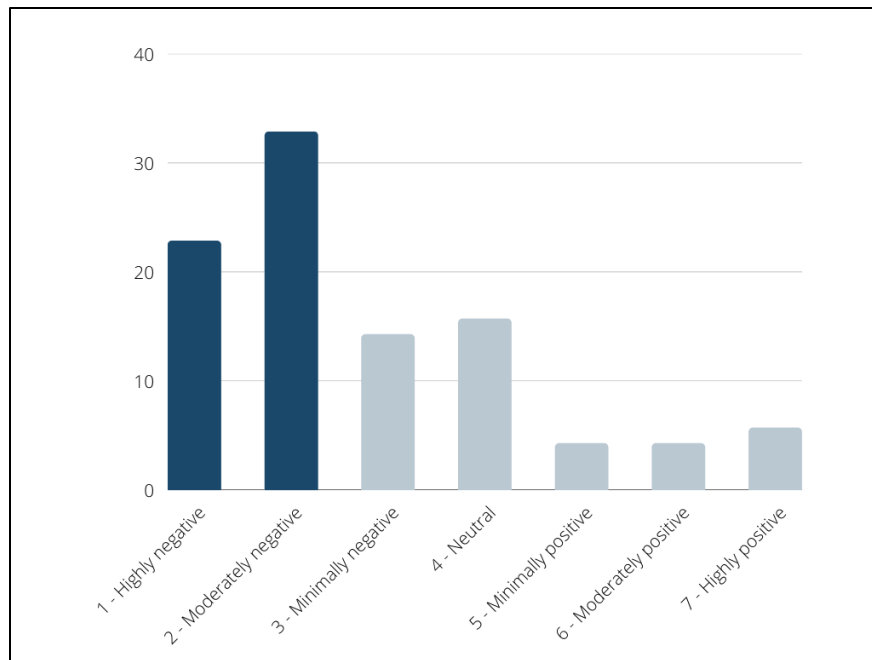


Figure 3. Extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on municipal governments, in percentages

Realignment of funds for COVID-related PPAs is allowed through the passage of the Republic Act No. 11494 otherwise known as the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*. It also provided that local governments peruse its plan, and ensure that PPAs related to disaster risk reduction remain. Moreover, aside from the deferment of deadlines of reportorial requirements on local taxes, fees, and charges, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLFG), through the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 017-2020 provided implementing guidelines for certain provisions of the Republic Act No. 11494, allowing LGUs to increase its personnel services cap by up to 10% for first- to third-income class local governments and up to 5% for fourth- to fifth-income classes on debt service ceiling and loan ceiling cap. Similarly, the allowable debt service ceiling of the LGUs is increased to 30% of their annual regular income [...].

The results concur with this as it reveals that municipal government respondents who signified that they are affected “negatively” are left with no choice but to make adjustments, mostly by revising the local development plans to re-prioritize programs and projects (84.29%). Other adjustments are done through the following: application for grants (40%); increase in local taxes (22.86%); d) application for loans (22.86%); among others (15.71%). The others are specified as they requested financial assistance from NGAs and the private sector, updated their Local Revenue Code (LRC); implemented austerity measures; established recovery and resiliency plans; conducted tax campaigns; encourage investors to invest in the municipality; and strengthened partnerships with other local stakeholders.

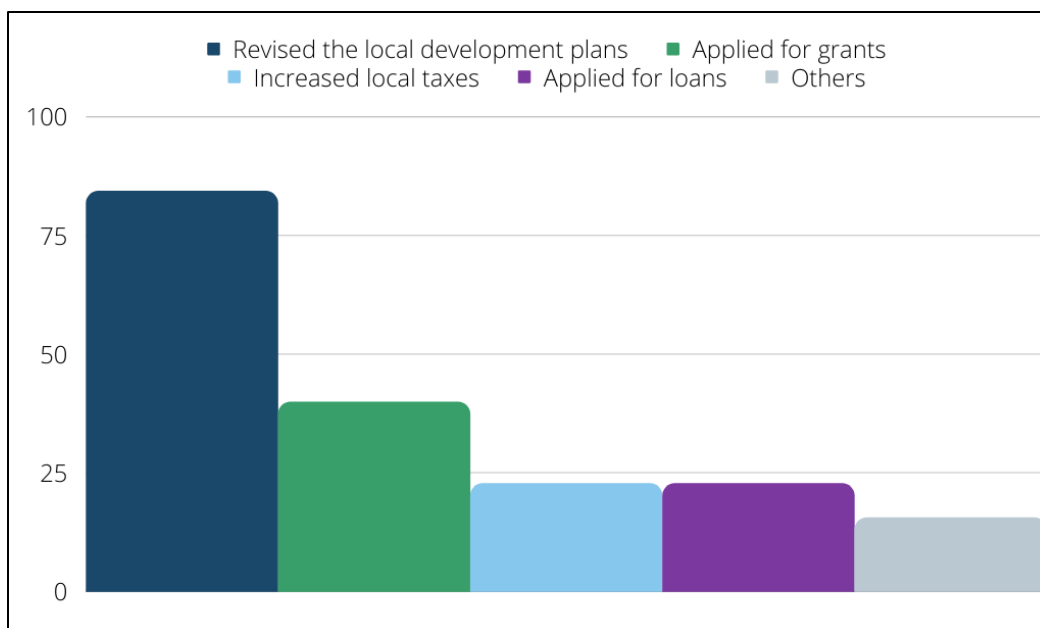


Figure 4. Adjustments made to ensure the localization of SDGs in municipalities, in percentages

V. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring continues to be a challenge for cities and municipalities. Only a little over half of the responding cities report to have localized indicators while the majority of municipalities disclosed that they do not have a tracking system in place to monitor the attainment of the SDG targets. The League of Municipalities (LMP) was unable to secure data of any municipality undergoing a voluntary local review (VLR). The lack of data on municipal-led VLRs may be unsurprising given that the majority of municipal governments unfortunately do not have a monitoring system in place. A number of cities, however, reported that they have either undergone a VLR, are currently conducting one, or intend to conduct one in the near future. This may be due to a difference in availability of resources or even perhaps the presence of development partners that are willing to aid local governments in monitoring the SDGs, whether through funding opportunities or technical assistance.

Some Philippine cities have already embarked on localizing and monitoring the SDGs. Though only 21.57% of the cities that participated in the survey report that they have or are currently undergoing a voluntary local review (VLR), it is possible that this may be inaccurate as it is underreported, even as cities are encouraged to monitor and evaluate their progress and performance towards the 17 goals. To date, VLRs have yet to have an exact or fixed operational definition. Findings from the study show two options cities may opt to take in order to formally report their progress towards delivering the 2030 Agenda: (1) the provincial resource matrices; and/or (2) the Community-Based Monitoring System.

Provinces regularly prepare their respective Results Matrices (RM). It may be difficult to categorize these as “voluntary reviews” for Provinces, given the stipulations in the joint memorandum circular between the DILG and NEDA on the localization of the SDGs. Nonetheless, the RMs offer an opportunity for local governments to regularly monitor PPA implementation of SDG-related initiatives and annually assess their contributions in the attainment of targeted priorities. It is interesting to note that provinces are in a unique and pivotal position to encourage more cities and municipalities and ensure timely and consistent monitoring of the goals vis-a-vis the Philippine Development Plan (PDP)-targeted priorities.

As stipulated in the joint memorandum circular between the DILG and NEDA on the localization of the SDGs, local governments shall continuously monitor PPA implementation and annually assess their contributions in the attainment of targeted priorities. Toward this end, Calapan City makes use of the annual reporting through the provincial results matrices (RM) to regularly monitor their performance in the accomplishment of PDP-targeted priorities and SDGs. The city makes use of extensive administrative data collected from both various local offices as well as local government agencies to accomplish the data requirements of the matrices. The provincial government meanwhile plays a pivotal role in ensuring the timely and consistent monitoring of the goals.

For cities that do not have set localized indicators yet, the provincial RMs provide an estimate of what kind of data can be collected at the city and municipal levels. In the case of Naga City, Camarines Sur, the city used the indicators shown in the matrices as a guide to jumpstart their own VLs and measure their progress of attaining the SDGs vis-a-vis its contribution to the global conversation on sustainable, progressive, and inclusive development.

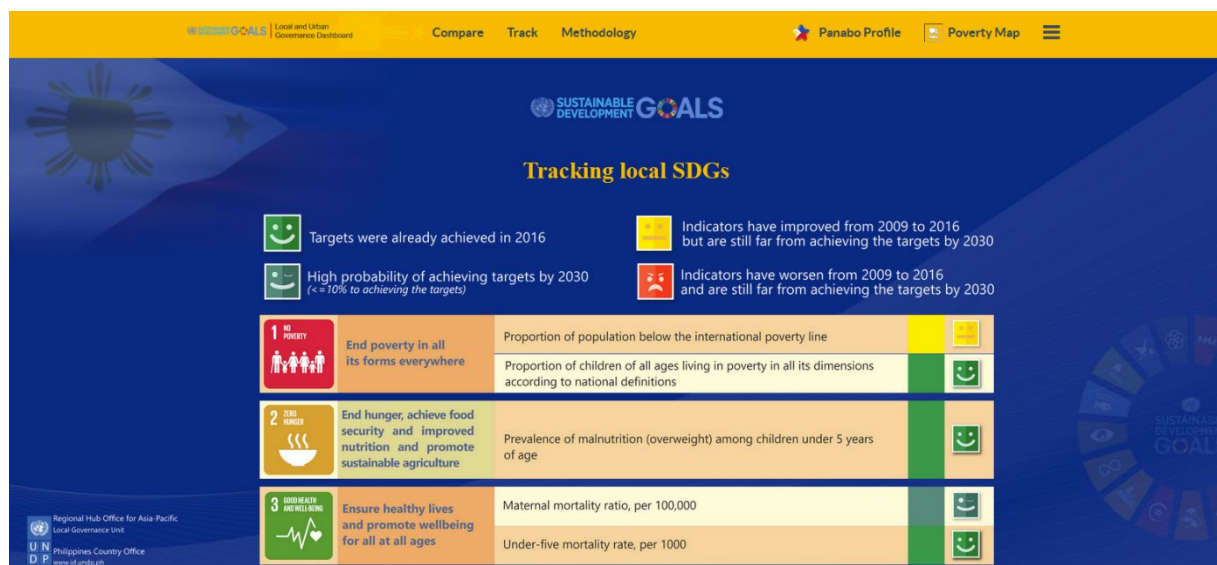
Bottom-up: Community-Based Monitoring System

Though only recently institutionalized, many cities have already made use of customized poverty monitoring tools to conduct comprehensive analyses and needs prioritization. The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) offers an exhaustive disaggregation ability encompassing different dimensions of poverty (e.g., health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, income, etc.) similarly monitored by the 17 goals. Additionally, Republic Act No. 11315 or the CBMS Act stipulates that data collection shall be done every three (3) years, with local governments encouraged to conduct these censuses at shorter intervals should they need it. This ensures regular and comprehensive data that allows local governments to generate most of the local indicators needed to uphold the principal promise of the 2030 Agenda.

Of the two cities that have already conducted a VLR, both have maximized the potential of community-based monitoring as an exhaustive data collection system. The comprehensive data gathered has helped inform these cities of their locality's progress in achieving the 17 goals. This also provides a guide to determine and design appropriate policies and interventions to allocate appropriate resources for those who need them the most.

Panabo City partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the CBMS Network Team²⁶ to develop the Local and Urban Governance Dashboard (LoGOD). The dashboard makes use of data obtained from two separate CBMS censuses (2009 and 2016) to monitor the city's overall progress over time on the achievement of the SDGs. With the help of the CBMS Network Team, the city was able to further localize indicators of all 17 goals. This has aided the city in determining the following: (1) which targets have already been achieved; (2) which targets have a high probability of being achieved until 2030; (3) which indicators has the city improved on over time; and (4) which targets the city is lagging behind. Panabo City also reports that they will continue to improve their CBMS roll-out to include additional indicators or update existing ones to help supplement their monitoring process.

²⁶ The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Team is a group of researchers who provide technical support to local governments in the adoption of the CBMS methodology and use of data in preparation for local development plans.



Vigan City, meanwhile, has integrated its local review of the SDGs through the Development through Local Indicators and Vulnerability Exposure Database (DevLIVE+) Project in partnership with UNDP. DevLIVE+ is a system used to organize, visualize and manage baseline socio-demographic data and information all the way up to the household level, similar to the CBMS. The project aims to integrate this comprehensive database to assess vulnerabilities within their locality, particularly on climate change, and monitor other goals to ensure a more sustainable and progressive community. The collected data has since become the basis for the city's poverty alleviation programs, including their nutrition program which cuts across different goals both directly (e.g., SDG 2: Zero Hunger) and indirectly (e.g., SDG 4: Quality Education).

While there are admittedly only a few cities that have conducted their own VLRs, it is interesting to note that there is a high interest to start. Of the 40 cities that have yet to undergo a VLR, 80% have indicated that they intend to accomplish one in the near future. This indicates a relatively high interest and strong will to monitor the implementation of the SDGs at the city-level, especially if properly trained and capacitated as more than half of the respondent cities already have available local indicators in place.

For example, Tabaco City ascertains that they are able to monitor and assess their SDG-related PAPs on an annual basis by generating sufficient and appropriate administrative data. In 2008, the city government partnered with Social Watch Philippines (SWP), an international network of citizens' organizations that aims to promote people-centered sustainable development. Through this partnership, SWP trained both the local government and community leaders on monitoring the impact of local services and integrating the results into their local plans and budgets. Tabaco City has institutionalized this monitoring practice and integrated it in the annual reporting of all local government offices. The PAPs of each office, which has been aligned with the 17 goals, as per the city's executive and legislative agenda, has its own localized key performance indicators identified by the city that would help in the attainment of the SDGs.

Financing the SDGs

Most LGUs, particularly the provinces and municipalities rely heavily on this unconditional grant from the national government to fund the devolved basic services including the SDGs, as well as other expenses for national programs and activities needing local implementation

For FY 2020, the average IRA dependency of the 81 provinces is 78.46% and for the 1,488 municipalities, it is 73.72%, compared to the 146 cities' average dependency of 42.7% since the latter have more local taxing powers than the provinces.

There is also an imbalanced or lopsided capacity to raise local revenues due to the situs of taxation in the Philippines. Most large taxpayers' head offices are located in NCR, which collect about 62.25% of the locally-generated revenues of all provinces, cities and municipalities nationwide. In 2020, Quezon City generated the highest local revenues of P22 Billion compared to Cavite which collected the highest local revenues among the provinces at only P4.1B. On the average, the local revenues generated by provinces is at P22M, for cities is P635 M, and for municipalities, at P10M.

This year, 2022, with the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling, LGUs' share has increased by 24%. Prior to the ruling, IRA was only 16% of the total GAA or annual budget and it has increased to 19% but the Leagues are still questioning some unwarranted deductions of about P35 Billion where the NTA should have been 20.5% of the 2022 GAA. LGUs in the Philippines will be relatively in a more competitive position with its Southeast Asian counterparts where the average share of its sub-national governments is at 23% and in Asia, it is at 34%.

In other words, instead of improving on the capacities of LGUs, the implementation of the landmark SC ruling diminishes already improving capabilities at the local level. The issuance of E.O. 138[1] which supposedly adopted the policy of full devolution, more is expected of LGUs carrying on the fiscal task of pursuing national programs, projects and activities that were previously funded by the national government. This makes a big dent on the capacities of LGUs to implement the basic services as well as the SDGs in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Table 5 below shows the income level of provinces, cities and municipalities based on their Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for FY 2020, while Figure 5 shows their operating expenditures for the same year. (Source: Department of Finance)

Table 5. Provinces, cities, and municipalities' fund sources for FY 2020, in million pesos

| PARTICULARS | PROVINCE | CITY | MUNICIPALITY | TOTAL |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL SOURCES | 29,018.52 | 176,407.51 | 46,223.49 | 251,649.52 |
| TAX REVENUE | 13,002.74 | 149,027.97 | 27,828.43 | 189,859.14 |
| Real Property Tax | 10,179.76 | 49,333.40 | 11,032.41 | 70,545.57 |

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tax on Business | 1,818.01 | 92,769.80 | 15,780.95 | 110,368.76 |
| Other Taxes | 1,004.97 | 6,924.76 | 1,015.08 | 8,944.81 |
| NON-TAX REVENUE | 16,015.78 | 27,379.54 | 18,395.06 | 61,790.38 |
| Regulatory Fees (Permit and Licenses) | 451.37 | 8,989.36 | 4,813.69 | 14,254.41 |
| Service/User Charges (Service Income) | 8,175.57 | 6,779.95 | 4,123.09 | 19,078.61 |
| Receipts from Economic Enterprises (Business Income) | 5,941.88 | 7,554.21 | 7,502.27 | 20,998.35 |
| Other Receipts (Other General Income) | 1,446.96 | 4,056.03 | 1,956.02 | 7,459.00 |
| EXTERNAL SOURCES | 156,841.52 | 167,754.87 | 248,952.27 | 573,548.66 |
| Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA, now NTA) | 145,834.38 | 146,218.86 | 217,592.59 | 509,645.82 |
| Other Shares from National Tax Collections | 2,942.18 | 6,008.92 | 8,582.53 | 17,533.62 |
| Inter-Local Transfer | 1,386.00 | 1,529.17 | 1,751.09 | 4,666.27 |
| Extraordinary Receipts/Grants/Donations/Aids | 6,678.97 | 13,997.92 | 21,026.06 | 41,702.94 |
| TOTAL CURRENT OPERATING INCOME | 185,860.04 | 344,162.38 | 295,175.76 | 825,198.18 |

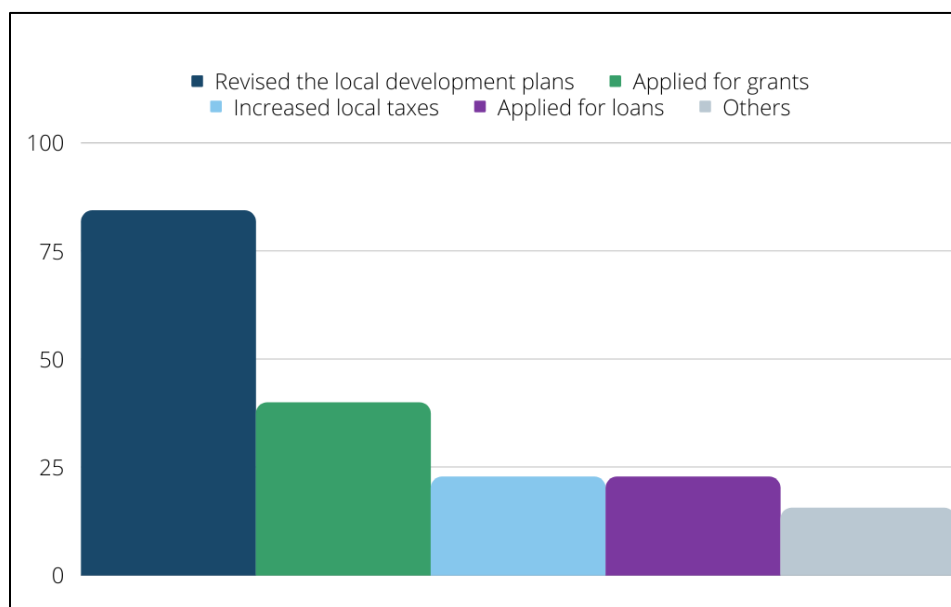


Figure 4. Adjustments made to ensure the localization of SDGs in municipalities, in percentages

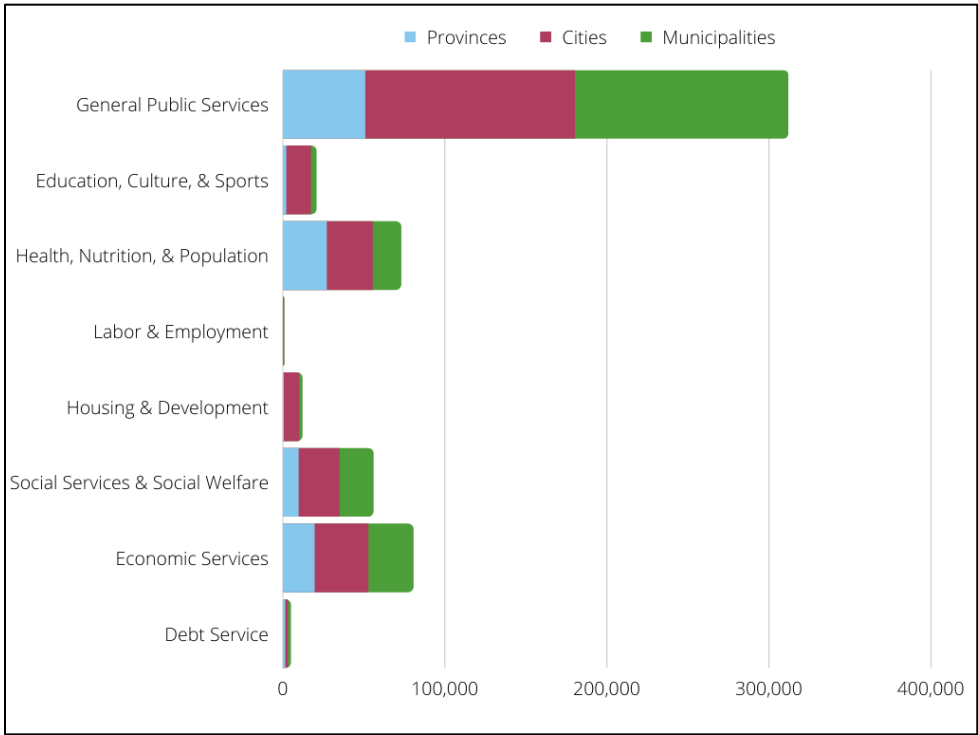


Figure 5. Current operating expenditures of provinces, cities, and municipalities for FY 2020

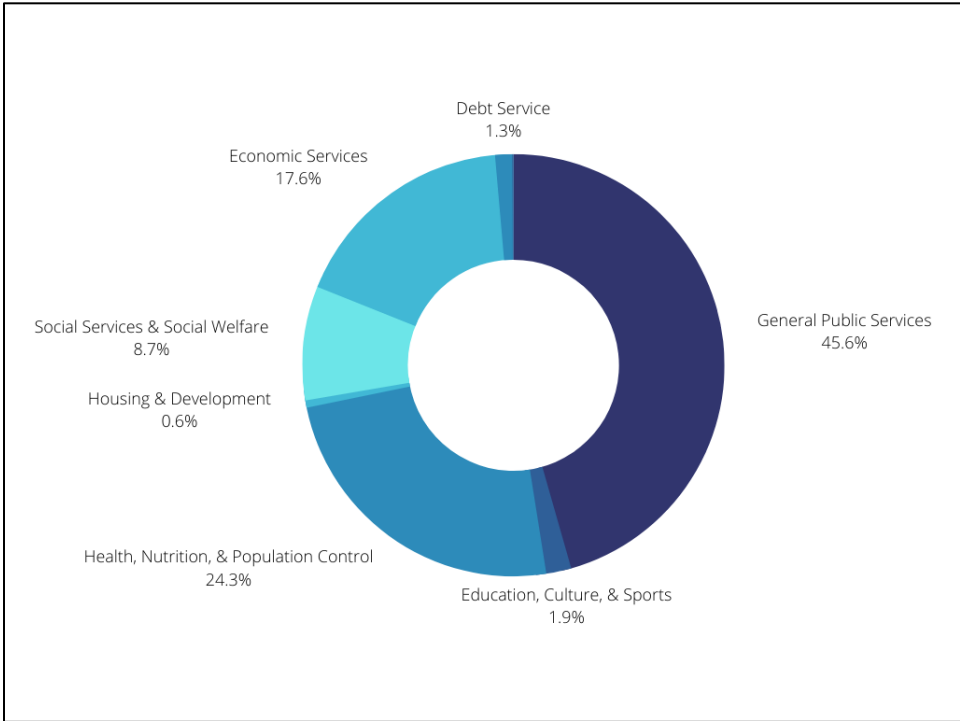


Figure 6. Breakdown of expenditures – Provinces, FY 2020

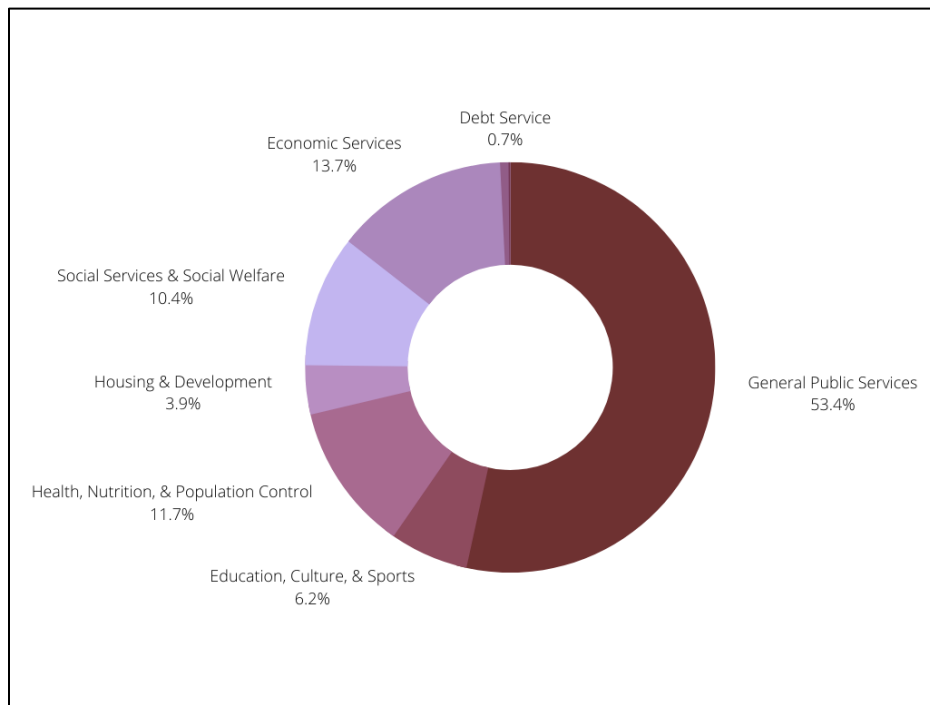


Figure 7. Breakdown of expenditures – Cities, FY 2020

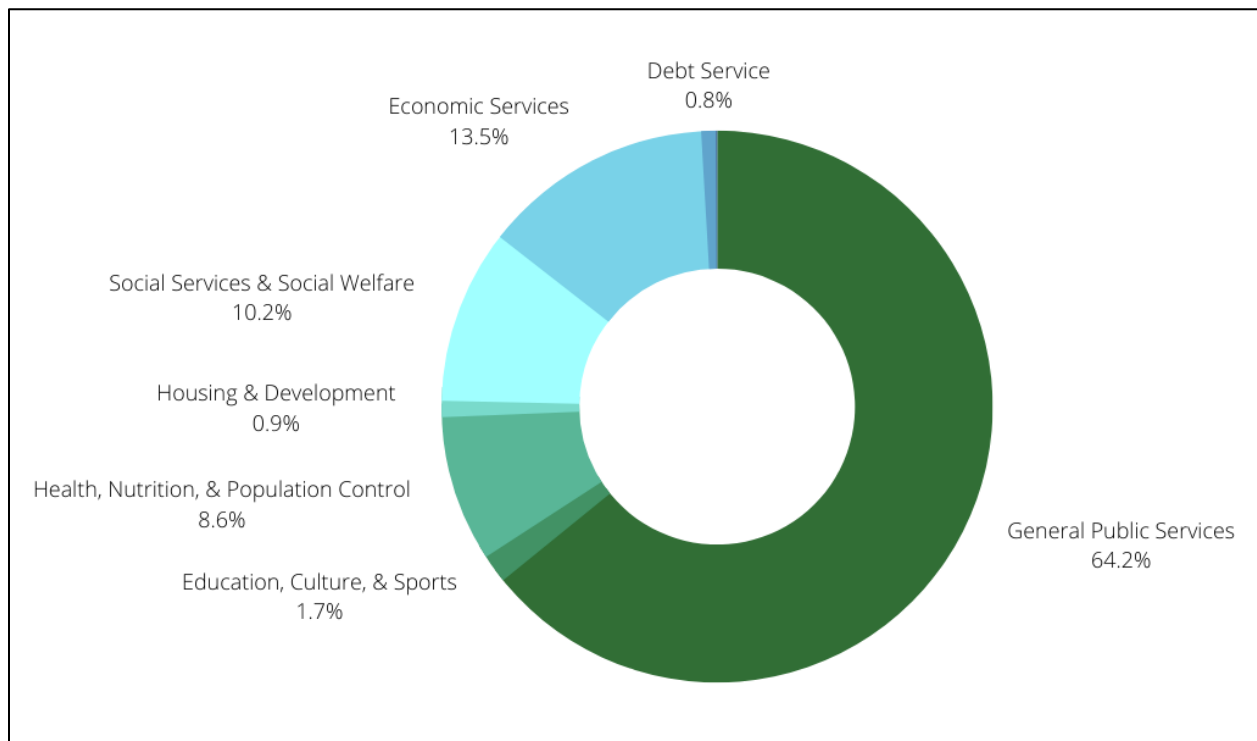


Figure 8. Breakdown of expenditures – Municipalities, FY 2020

While 46% of the provinces' funds were spent to provide for general public services, its second biggest expenditure was for health, nutrition and population control which took up 24.27% of its budget compared to the cities' allocation of 11.67% and for the municipalities, at 8.56%. Since Education is not part of the devolved functions, its fund allocation for education, culture and sports/ manpower development was only at 1.9% and for the cities, it is at 6.21%, while for the municipalities, it is at 1.67%.

Moreover, both Houses of Congress sought to pass a law to establish the Sustainable Development Goals and Ambisyon Natin 2040 Fund.²⁷ It will allow the creation of SDG councils at the local level and further define and support local governments to realize the long-term vision and transition into sustainable cities and communities. Such legislative measures aim to ensure that funding and technical assistance are available for local governments to support their anti-poverty programs, activities, and projects (PAPs). Furthermore, under the said bill, the national government will thoroughly assess project proposals submitted by local governments to match the national agenda and approve funding support.

VI. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

As we approach the midpoint of the SDG implementation, there is still much to be done toward localizing the goals to the provinces, cities, and municipalities. Although almost, if not all, the goals have a correspondent devolved function to the province, there is still a need to heighten, not only awareness but a conscious buy-in into localizing the goals into concrete programs, especially projects and activities that will directly address and impact on sustainable development. Likewise, the availability and timeliness of data sets are important for investment planning and programming, giving due consideration to the limited resources vis-à-vis the expectations on service delivery. In order to address gaps in data availability, now is the best time as ever for the national government to ensure the full implementation of the newly-passed law institutionalizing the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), a technology-based system of collection, processing, and validating disaggregated data down to the community-level. Being disaggregated in itself, the localized CBMS data will be useful in realizing more rationalized and targeted planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring. While the Local Government Code is emphatic on the imperative of multi-sectoral partnerships and participation, this remains to be a work in progress, even thirty years hence.

For municipalities, the attainment of the SDGs depends on the extent of localization. Based on the responses gathered by the study team of LMP, the most common initiative to localize the SDGs was to incorporate these into the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). The CDP as defined by the DILG pertains to the multi-sectoral plan formulated at

²⁷ Senate Bill No. 769, "Establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Ambisyon Natin 2040 Fund." <https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/lisdata/31123280221.pdf>

the city/municipal level, which embodies the vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies within the term of LGU officials and the medium-term. It contains corresponding PPAs, which serve as primary inputs to investment programming and subsequent budgeting and implementation of projects for the growth and development of local government territories. The second most common localization initiative was to incorporate the SDGs in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). As defined by the DILG, the CLUP is a planning document prepared by LGUs to rationalize the allocation and proper use of land resources. It projects public and private land uses in accordance with the future spatial organization of economic and social activities. Under the Local Government Code of 1991 and other pertinent laws, all LGUs are mandated to continue to prepare/revise/update their comprehensive land-use plan which shall be enacted through a zoning ordinance. The other localization initiatives were informing barangays about the SDGs and enjoining them to incorporate these in their development plans; partnering with NGAs for SDG-responsive PPAs, and incorporating the SDGs into the performance target of local departments and offices.

Cities echo the sentiments of provinces and municipalities. Local monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs continue to be a challenge. Findings from this review suggest that this may be a function of either: (1) the unavailability of SDG-related data and information; or (2) the lack of capacity for cities to process already available local data. All things considered, there is a need to have a consolidated mechanism for data gathering at the local level and systematically aggregated and processed at the national level. This remains a challenge both at the national and local levels. Cities cite additional capacity building or training as the most important support needed in their SDG localization process. It is interesting to note that accessible SDG-related data and information and the availability of methodologies and tools to localize and monitor the SDGs are ranked third and fourth respectively, with minute differences separating the two.

ANNEX A – League of Cities Survey Report

Respondents Profile

A total of 51 city representatives (47.06% male, 52.94% female) participated in the conduct of the survey. Of these respondents, a majority were the cities' Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC; N = 31). According to s. 476 of the *Local Government Code of 1991*, CPDCs are primarily in charge of the "formulation of integrated economic, social, physical, and other development plans and policies for consideration of the local government development council."

Table 1 Respondents by Position

| POSITION | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|----------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| | CPDC | 31 | 60.78% |
| | Others | 20 | 39.22% |

While the response rate amounts to only 34.39% of the total member-cities of the League, all regions in the three (3) island clusters were represented in the survey with 52.94% (N = 27) from Luzon, 27.45 % (N = 14) from Visayas, and 19.61% (N = 10) from Mindanao. Majority of the participating cities are categorized as component cities (N = 34, 66.67%). Additionally, most responding cities also have an above-average annual income [of at least 320 million PHP] (N = 25, 49.02%), as classified by the Department of Finance - Bureau of Local Government Finance in 2008.

Table 2 Respondents per Island Group

| ISLAND GROUP | Category | Total cities | Number of respondents | Relative percentage according to No. of cities | Relative percentage of respondents |
|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Luzon | 74 | 27 | 36.49% | 52.94% |
| | Visayas | 39 | 14 | 35.90% | 27.45% |
| | Mindanao | 33 | 10 | 30.30% | 19.61% |

Table 3 City classification of respondents

| CITY CLASS | Category | Total cities | Number of respondents | Relative percentage according to no. of cities | Relative percentage of respondents |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | HUC | 33 | 15 | 45.45% | 29.41% |
| | ICC | 5 | 2 | 40.00% | 3.92% |
| | Component | 108 | 34 | 31.48% | 66.67% |

Lastly, cities who have either completed a voluntary local review (VLR) of the SDGs, or are currently in the midst of accomplishing a VLR, were invited to participate in the supplementary key informant interview. A total of 5 interviews were conducted for the data collection.

Table 4 Development status of cities with VLR

| VLR | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Completed | 2 | 3.92% |
| | Ongoing | 9 | 17.65% |
| | No | 40 | 78.43% |

All research participants were briefed on the purpose of the survey and informed that their data would be treated anonymously, in accordance with the Philippine Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Awareness-raising

On average, cities report to have high familiarity with the Sustainable Development Goals (\bar{x} = 3.47, N = 51). While limited local interest and/or awareness of the SDGs remain as one of the top 3 challenges that cities experience in the achievement of the goals (N = 28, 57.14%), the participating cities similarly make the effort to conduct various strategies to raise awareness on the SDGs. In particular, majority of the respondents actively take part in national advocacy campaigns to promote the SDGs (N = 35, 68.63%). Aside from this, cities also make use of social media to inform the public of the SDGs and the local actions the city employs to achieve them (N = 21, 41.18%).

Table 4 Cities' familiarity on SDGs

| AWARENESS | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | 4 - All | 26 | 50.98% |
| | 3 - Most | 23 | 45.10% |
| | 2 - Few | 2 | 3.92% |
| | 1 - None | 0 | 0.00% |
| | Average | 3.47 | |

Commitments undertaken to support the SDGs.

Cities report that they have adopted a formal commitment to localize the SDGs, whether in the form of a formal declaration or political statement (N = 13, 25.49%), an executive order signed by the local chief executive (N = 12, 23.53%), and/or a city resolution or ordinance adopted by the city council (N = 8, 15.69%), see Figure 5. This, however, does not necessarily mean that cities who do not have these formal pledges also do not take actions to implement the SDGs. For the 49.02% who report that they have yet to adopt or develop such a commitment, 92.00% have already aligned local plans with the different SDGs (N = 23).

Table 5 Cities' formal commitment to localize SDGs

| COMMITMENT | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Y, Statement | 13 | 25.49% |
| | Y, EO | 12 | 23.53% |
| | Y, Ordinance | 8 | 15.69% |
| | No | 25 | 49.02% |

Additionally, only a small percentage of cities have a separate office dedicated to the implementation and localization of the SDGs (N = 3, 5.88%). See Figure 6.

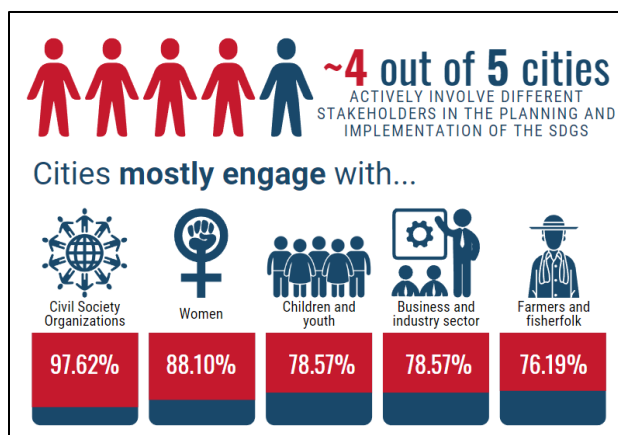
Table 6 Cities' dedicated offices for the SDG localization

| OFFICE RESPONSIBLE | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Yes | 3 | 5.88% |
| | No, CPDO | 20 | 39.22% |
| | No, multiple | 19 | 37.25% |
| | No, others | 9 | 17.65% |

Stakeholders' engagement

Overall, findings show that the majority of cities also report that they actively involve multiple stakeholders from different sectors in the planning and localization of the SDGs specifically (N = 42, 82.35%). Of the respondents who engage and work together with various stakeholders, cities mostly engage with representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Non-Government Organizations (N = 41, 97.62%), women (N = 37, 88.10%), children and youth, and the business and industry sector (N = 33, 78.57%).

Figure 1 City stakeholders' engagement



Majority of cities also report that they employ the assistance of other local partners (N = 26, 50.98%) in the implementation of the SDGs in their locality. Stakeholder engagement remains vital for cities in the achievement of the SDGs, especially as they uphold the central promise of the 2030 Agenda of “*leaving no one behind.*”

Alignment of the SDGs

While 56.86% of cities do not have a specific action plan in place for the localization of the SDGs (N = 29), this does not stop cities from designing and implementing programs, projects, and activities (PPAs). Findings show that nearly all of the respondents have already aligned their local plans to the achievement of the different SDGs (N = 47, 92.16%). In fact, 80.85% of those who have aligned their local plans (N = 38) report that they have integrated most if not all of the SDGs into their PPAs.

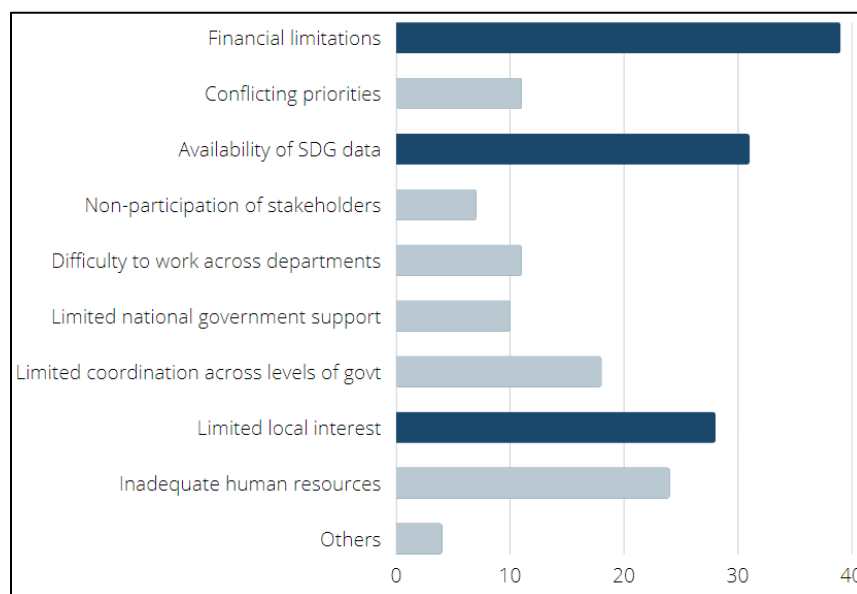
Table 8 Cities’ actions to implement SDGs

| ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT | Category | Number of respondents | Rank | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Promotion of ownership and co-responsibility | 20 | 6 | 39.22% |
| | Participation in peer-to-peer learning | 20 | 6 | 39.22% |
| | Capacity building | 21 | 5 | 41.18% |
| | Cooperative governance | 22 | 4 | 43.14% |
| | Needs assessment | 31 | 3 | 60.78% |
| | Mobilization of resources | 33 | 2 | 64.71% |
| | Alignment of plans | 47 | 1 | 92.16% |

Challenges in the implementation

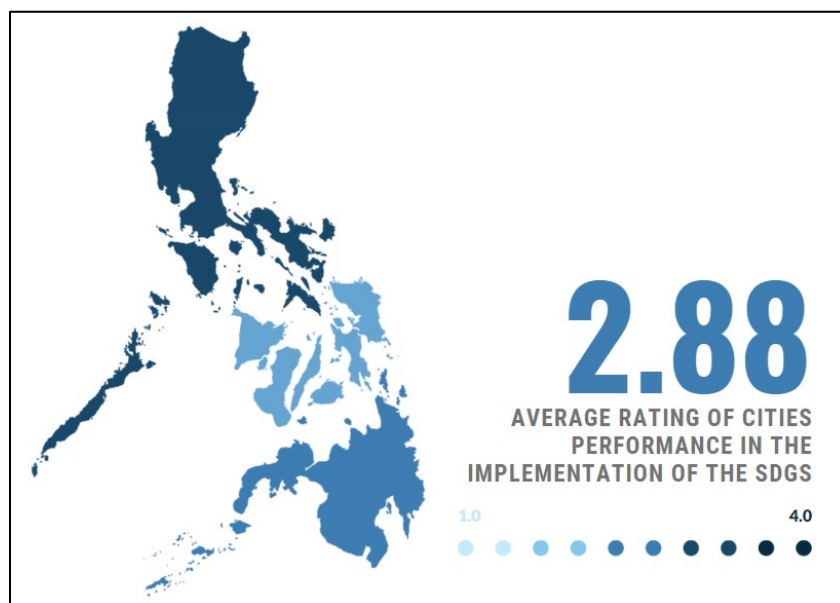
Financial resource limitations is the most often reported challenge that cities face in the implementation of SDGs. Highly urbanized cities (HUCs), who often have access to more resources (both financial and otherwise) rate a higher average of their city’s performance (\bar{x} = 3.00, N = 15) compared to that of the overall average based on the cities who participated in the survey (\bar{x} = 2.88, N = 51). Aside from this, cities also cite the non-availability of SDG-related data and information (N = 31, 63.27%) and limited local interest and awareness of the SDGs (N = 28, 57.14%) as common challenges that they have experienced in the achievement of the SDGs.

Figure 2 Cities' challenges in the SDG implementation



Geographical differences. Cities located in Luzon reported a higher average rating on their performance so far in the implementation of the SDGs ($\bar{x} = 3.07$, $N = 27$). This may be due to the proximity to the central offices of national government agencies that provide support in the achievement of the SDGs. This would, however, need further analysis, probing, and validating to determine the different factors that may affect the implementation of the SDGs.

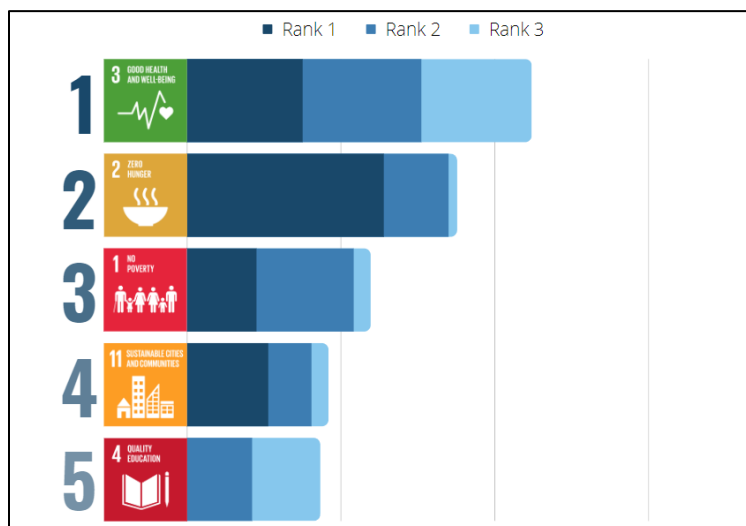
Figure 3 Performance of cities in the implementation of the SDGs by geographic area



Goal prioritization

Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, cities ranked the following goals as their top three priority agenda for 2022, in order: SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being, SDG 1 - No poverty, and SDG 2 - Zero Hunger. Such a prioritization may have been influenced by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially as it further put vulnerable groups at risk to a sudden loss of economic resources or access to basic social services.

Figure 4 Cities' Top 5 priority goals for 2022



Local data and monitoring

While most cities do already have local indicators in place (N = 27, 52.94%), majority have also yet to complete or even start a voluntary local review to monitor the implementation of the SDGs at the city-level (N = 40, 78.43%). This may just be a case of needing more accessible information on methodologies and tools regarding SDG localization, as it was cited as the third most needed support of cities in the continued implementation of SDGs ($\bar{x} = 6.50$). Additionally, of the 40 cities who have yet to undergo a VLR, 80% have indicated that they do intend to accomplish one in the near future (N = 32).

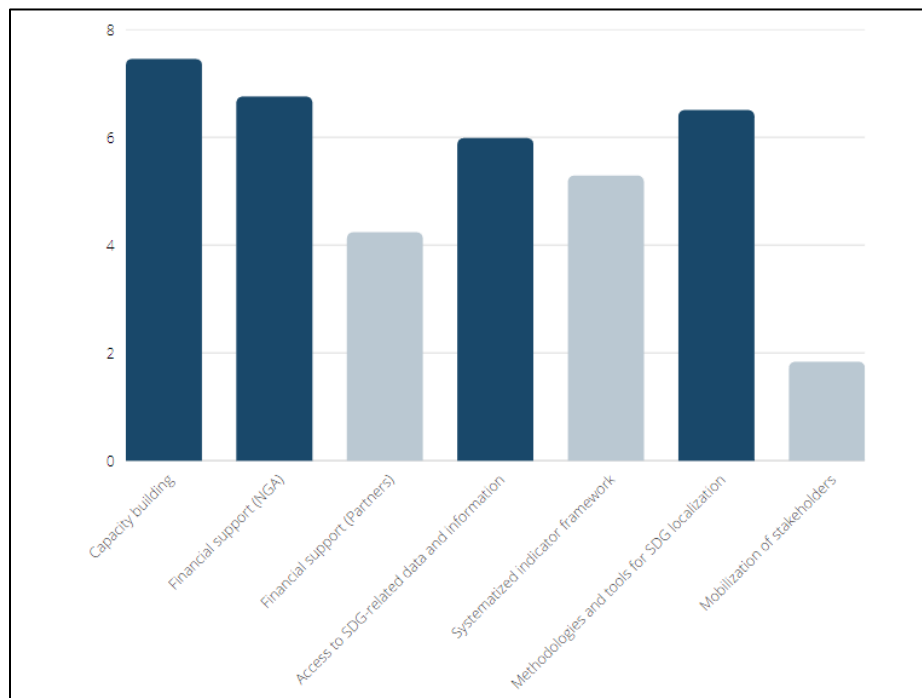
Table 9 Cities with local indicators

| INDICATORS | Category | Number of respondents | Percentage |
|------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Yes | 27 | 52.94% |
| | No | 24 | 47.06% |

Support needed to achieve the goals

Cities report the following as the top three support needed to ensure the continued implementation of the SDGs in their locality, in order: further capacity building and training ($\bar{x} = 7.45$), financial support from the National Government ($\bar{x} = 6.75$), and access to information on methodologies and tools regarding SDG localization ($\bar{x} = 6.50$).

Figure 5 Ranking of support needed to ensure cities continued implementation of the SDGs



ANNEX B – League of Municipalities Survey Report

Respondents' Profile

Almost 60% of the respondents were from the Municipal Planning and Development Office. Almost 40% came from the Municipal Mayor's Office, while 4% came from the Municipal Administrator's Office. There was one respondent from the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, which is equivalent to 1% of the total respondents.

Table 1. Respondents by Municipal Office

| OFFICE/DEPARTMENT | f | % |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Municipal Planning and Development Office | 42 | 58% |
| Municipal Mayor's Office | 27 | 37% |
| Municipal Administrator's Office | 3 | 4% |
| Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 73 | 100% |

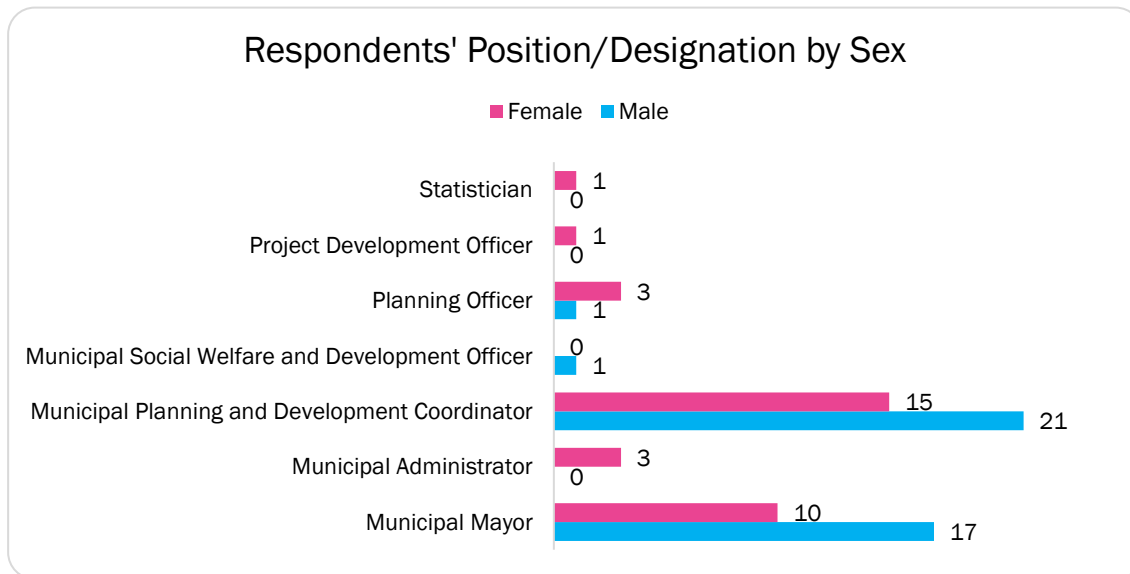
In terms of respondents' positions, almost 50% were Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators (MPDCs). Almost 40% were Municipal Mayors, 5% were Planning Officers, and 4% were Municipal Administrators. Other respondents were Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (1%), Project Development Officer (1%), and Statistician (1%).

In terms of sex, 55% of the respondents were male, while 45% were female. Sixty-three percent of the Mayors and 58% of the Planning and Development Coordinators were male. On the other hand, one hundred percent of respondent administrators and 75% of the planning officers were female.

Table 2. Respondents by Position/Designation and by Sex

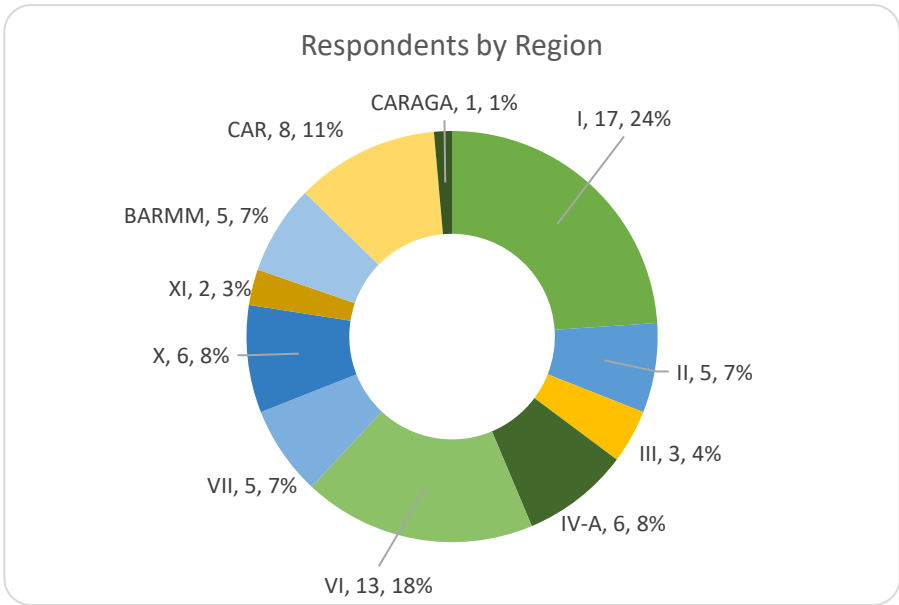
| POSITION | Male | Male % | Female | Female % | Total | Total % |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Mayor | 17 | 23% | 10 | 14% | 27 | 37% |
| Administrator | 0 | 0% | 3 | 4% | 3 | 4% |
| Planning and Development Coordinator | 21 | 29% | 15 | 21% | 36 | 49% |
| Social Welfare and Development Officer | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Planning Officer | 1 | 1% | 3 | 4% | 4 | 5% |
| Project Development Officer | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Statistician | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 40 | 55% | 33 | 45% | 73 | 100% |

Figure 1. Respondents by Position/Designation and by Sex



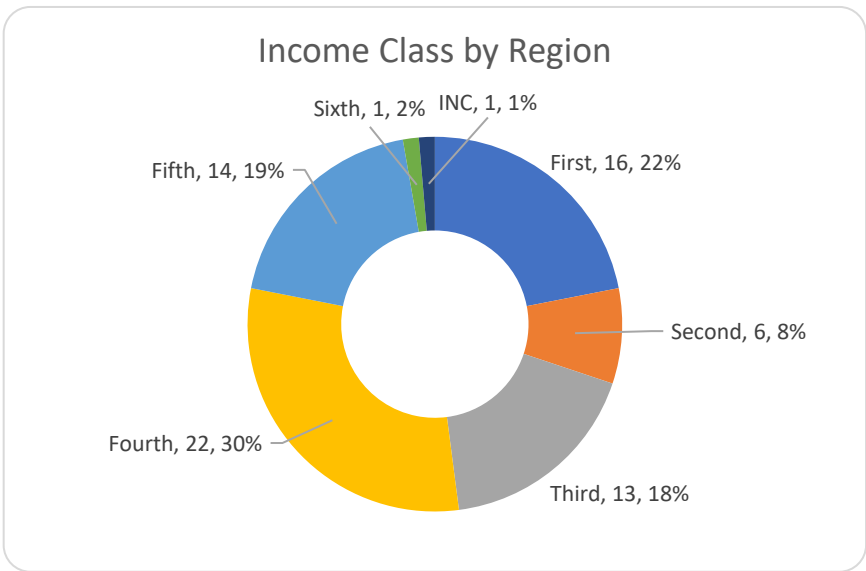
In terms of regional location, majority of the responses came from municipal governments in Region I (Ilocos) with 17 responses (24%). Region VI (Western Visayas) had 13 responses (18%); Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) had 8 (11%); Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Region X (Northern Mindanao) both had 6 (8%); Region II (Cagayan Valley), Region VII (Central Visayas), and BARMM Region had 5 (7%) Region III (Central Luzon) had 3 (4%); Region XI (Davao) had with 2 (3%); and MIMAROPA and Region XIII (CARAGA) had 1 (1%) each. There were no respondents from Regions V (Bicol), VIII (Eastern Visayas), IX (Zamboanga Peninsula), XII (Soccsksargen), and NCR.

Figure 2. Respondents by Region



In terms of income class, 30% of the respondents were from 4th class municipalities. Twenty-two percent were from 1st class, 19% were from 5th class, 18% were from 3rd class, 8% from 2nd class, and 1% from 6th class municipalities.

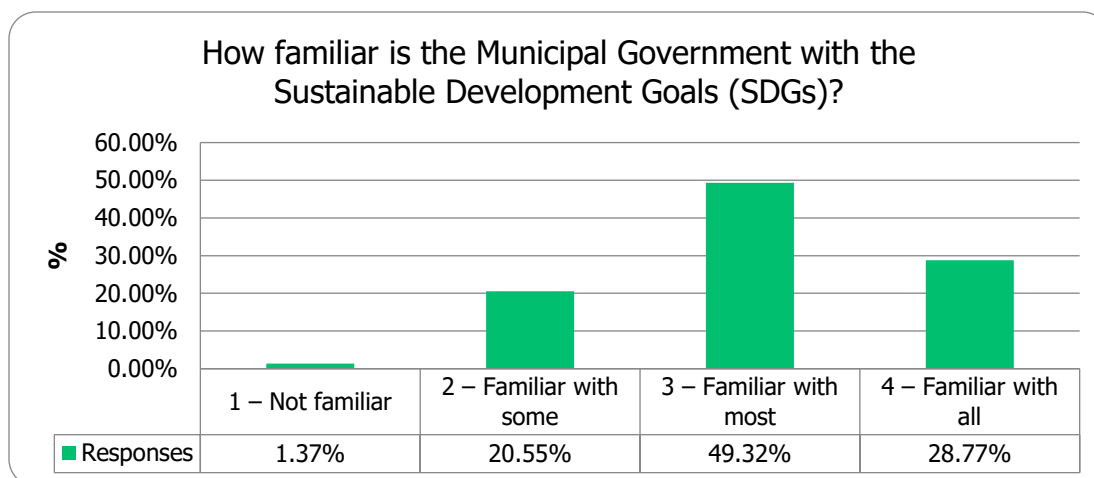
Figure 3. Income Class by Region



Familiarity/Awareness of SDGs

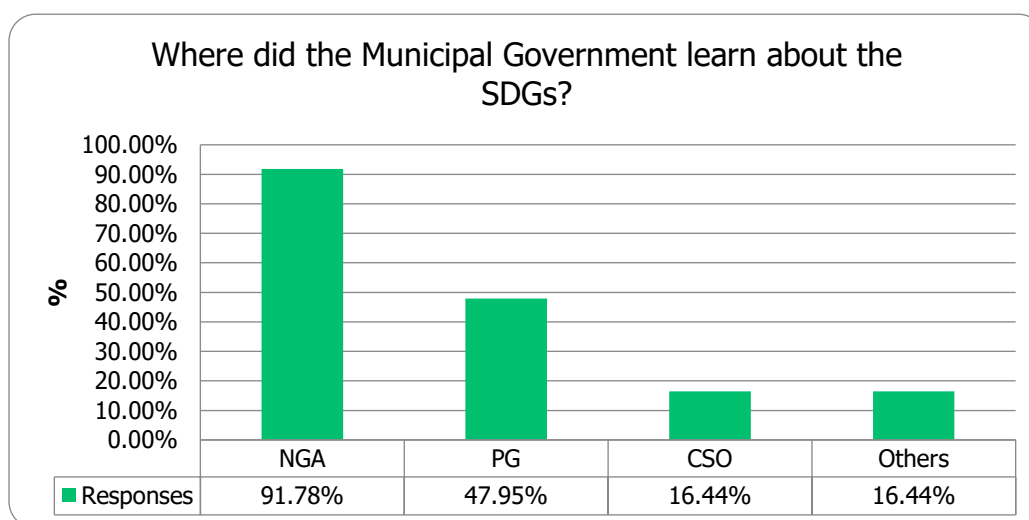
In terms of familiarity with the 17 SDGs, 49% claimed that they familiar with most goals, almost 29% were familiar with all goals, 20% were familiar with some. There were more than 1% who are not familiar with the SDGs.

Figure 4. Level of Familiarity of Respondents with SDGs



In terms of sources of information, almost 92% of the respondents have heard about the SDGs from national government agencies (NGAs). Almost 48% identified the provincial government, and more than 16% pointed to civil society organizations (CSOs) as their sources of information. It should be noted that the question allowed multiple responses.

Figure 5. Source of Information on SDGs



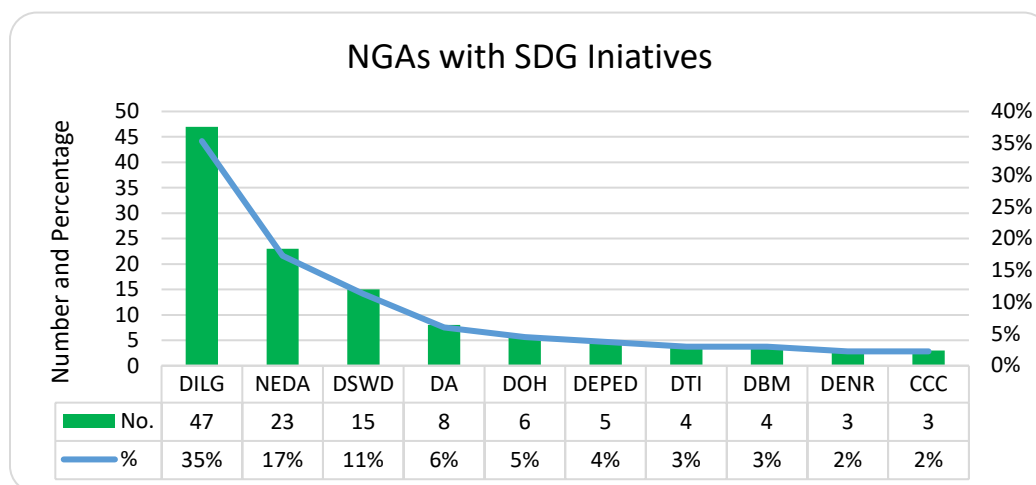
NGA – National Government Agency; PG – Provincial Government; CSO – Civil Society Organization

When asked to identify the NGA source of information for the SDGs, 47 respondents (35% of the total) pointed to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The other NGAs

that were identified by 10 or more respondents were the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) with 23 responses (17%), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with 15 responses (11%).

The figure below shows the Top 10 NGAs identified by the respondents with SDG initiatives.

Figure 6. Top 10 National Government Agencies Initiatives About SDGs



The table below shows the full list of offices identified by the respondents with SDG initiatives.

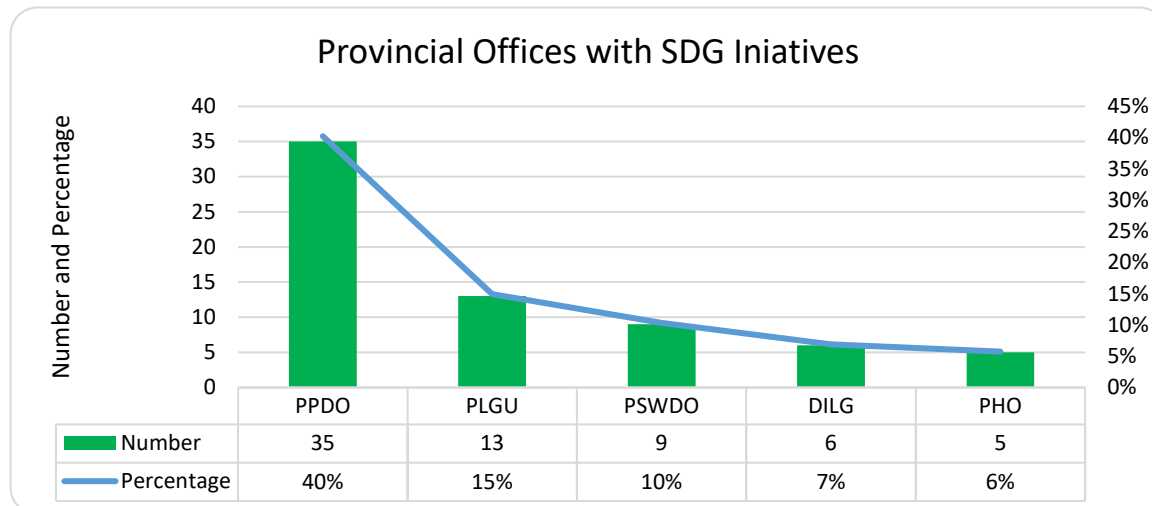
Table 3. List of Offices with SDG Initiatives

| NATIONAL OFFICES | <i>f</i> | % |
|------------------|----------|-----|
| DILG | 47 | 35% |
| NEDA | 23 | 17% |
| DSWD | 15 | 11% |
| DA | 8 | 6% |
| DOH | 6 | 5% |
| DEPED | 5 | 4% |
| DTI | 4 | 3% |
| DBM | 4 | 3% |
| DENR | 3 | 2% |
| CCC | 3 | 2% |
| PLGU | 2 | 2% |
| PSA | 2 | 2% |

| NATIONAL OFFICES | <i>f</i> | % |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Ministry of Social Services and Development | 1 | 1% |
| DOST | 1 | 1% |
| BFAR | 1 | 1% |
| DHSUD | 1 | 1% |
| DOLE | 1 | 1% |
| DPWH | 1 | 1% |
| DSHUD | 1 | 1% |
| HLURB | 1 | 1% |
| NAPC | 1 | 1% |
| DAR | 1 | 1% |
| PNP | 1 | 1% |
| UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 133 | 100% |

Aside from the NGAs, the respondents were also asked if they know of any SDG initiatives by the Provincial Governments. The Top 5 provincial government offices identified as having SDG initiatives were the following: 1) Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) with 35 responses (40%); 2) Provincial Local Government Unit with 13 responses (PLGU) with 13 responses (15%); 3) Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) with 9 responses (10%); 4) Provincial DILG with 6 responses (7%); and Provincial Health Office (PHO) with 5 responses (6%).

Figure 7. Top 5 Provincial Offices with SDG Initiatives



Municipal Governments' Ranking of SDGs

Adopted by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015, the seventeen (17) SDGs are global ambitions set to achieve in the year 2030. Achieving all of these poses as a significant challenge due to limited resources. Hence, local governments prioritize the implementation of their SDG-responsive programs, projects, and activities (PPAs).

Figure 3. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



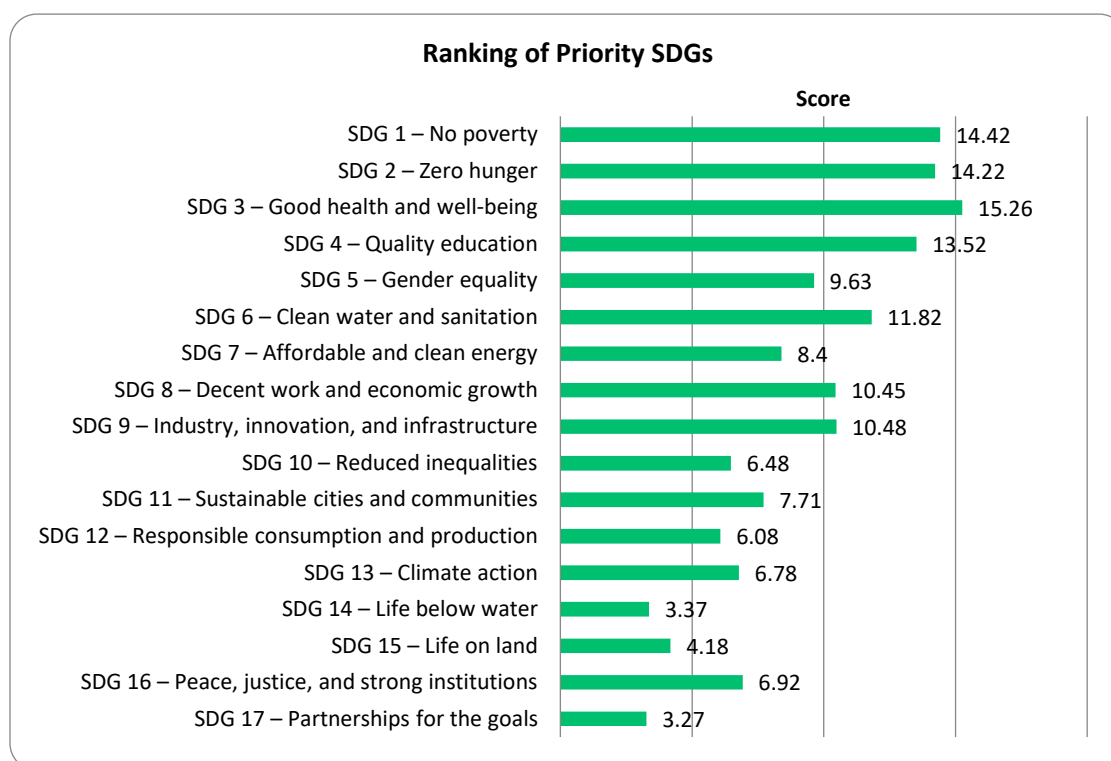
Photo credits: <https://sdg-tracker.org>

On prioritizing SDGs, SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) ranked first followed by SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). The details are presented in the table and figure below. The results of the survey reveal that the least priority among the SDGs is the SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals)

Table 4. Top 10 SDGs Prioritized by Municipal Governments

| Top | Sustainable Development Goals | Score |
|-----|--|-------|
| 1 | SDG 3 – Good health and well-being | 15.26 |
| 2 | SDG 1 – No poverty | 14.42 |
| 3 | SDG 2 – Zero hunger | 14.22 |
| 4 | SDG 4 – Quality education | 13.52 |
| 5 | SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation | 11.82 |
| 6 | SDG 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure | 10.48 |
| 7 | SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth | 10.45 |
| 8 | SDG 5 – Gender equality | 9.63 |
| 9 | SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy | 8.4 |
| 10 | SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities | 7.71 |

Figure 4. Ranking of Priority SDGs



Municipal Governments on Realizing SDGs

The table below shows the list of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) being implemented by the respondent municipalities in partnership with NGAs. The PPAs with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) focused on environment management and climate change adaptation (CCA). These include capacity building and other mitigation and adaptation initiatives under the Project ReBUILD portfolio.

For the Department of Agriculture (DA), the PPAs focused on food security. These include community cash for work, farm-to-market roads, food production, special project on agricultural development for upland municipalities, support programs to increase farmers/fisherfolk income, financial assistance for farmers, provision of seeds for corn and rice, provision of fishing boats, provision of fertilizers, provision of livestock, farm machineries, warehouse, multipurpose solar drier, African Swine Fever (AFS), and Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP).

The PPAs being implemented with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) also focused on food security. These include the construction of bridges and Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) roads, and conduct of trainings for farmers.

The PPAs with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) covered various themes including health (e.g. purchase of ambulance) disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM, e.g. purchase of rescue vehicles), local economic development (LED, e.g. concreting of local access roads), and institutional development (e.g. capacity development). Similarly, the infrastructure projects with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) support multiple development themes such as CCA-DRRM (e.g. climate-resistant infrastructure and flood control), and LED (e.g. farm-to-market roads, local access roads, and bridges).

The PPAs with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were mostly on solid waste management, and include the establishment of materials recovery facilities (MRFs), shredder machine, and solar-powered biodegradable waste shredder. The PPAs with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) focused on shelter, while the ones with the Department of Health (DOH) include health and wellness; Health services; Maternal and child care; Provision of medicine for children and adults; Vaccines for COVID Response; COVID Response hygiene kit.

On eradication of poverty and support for decent work and quality of life, the respondents identified PPAs in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), which include aid during crisis situations, feeding program, support to indigenous and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, support to livelihood programs; provision of food packs; scholarship; financial assistance for COVID response, Social Amelioration Program; and *Balik Probinsya* Program.

The respondents also identified some PPAs with the DILG, which include the provision of funds for local evacuation center, concreting of local access roads, and establishment of various infrastructure such as public markets and Level 3 water system, and issuance of Safety Seal. The details of the joint PPAs with NGAs are provided in the table below.

Table 5. List of PPAs Implemented by Municipal Governments with National Government Agencies

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---|--|
| Climate Change Commission (CCC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ReBUILD • Capacity Building • Mitigation and Adaptation PPAs |
| Department of Agriculture (DA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer's associations and NGOs and the community cash for work, • farm-to-market road • Food production • Special project on agricultural development for upland municipalities • Support programs to increase farmers/fisherfolk income • Financial Assistance for Farmers, • Provision of seeds for corn and rice • Provision of Fishing Boats • Provision of Fertilizers • Provision of Livestock • Farm Machinery • Warehouse • Multipurpose solar drier • African Swine Fever (AFS) • Small Water Impounding Project (SWIP) |
| Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of bridge • Conduct farmers trainings • Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) Roads |
| Department of Budget and Management (DBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of Ambulance • purchase of Rescue Vehicles • Capacity Building • Concreting of Local Access Roads |
| Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of MRF • Shredder Machine • Solar-Powered Biodegradable Waste Shredder |
| Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing |

| National Agency | Government | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---|------------|--|
| | | |
| Department of Information and Communications (DICT) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Wifi • eBPLS |
| Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of the different plans • Integration of sustainable programs and infrastructure • Capacity building on the preparation of the different mandatory plans and thematic plans • Funding for a local evacuation center • Concreting of local access roads • Establishment of a public market, Level 3 water system, quarantine facility • Provision of Safety Seal |
| Department of Health (DOH) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and wellness programs • Health services • Maternal and child care • Provision of medicine for children and adult • Vaccines for COVID Response • COVID Response hygiene kit |
| Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Program of the Employment of Students (SPES) • Livelihood • <i>Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers</i> (TUPAD) • Skills Training |
| Department of Science and Technology (DOST) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program • Early Warning Systems • Air Quality Monitoring |
| Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-resistant infrastructures among others • farm-to-market road • Local Access Road • Bridges • Flood control |
| Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situation • Feeding Program • Poverty reduction • Support for Indigenous and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas • Support for livelihood programs • Food packs • Core shelter • Scholarship |

| National Government Agency | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial assistance for COVID Response, Senior Citizen, PWD, JJW, and GAD related PPAs Social Amelioration Program Balik Probinsya Program |
| Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Protection Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index (CMCI) Livelihood and skills training |
| National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Prevention Rehabilitation and Recovery Preparedness and Response PPAs |
| National Housing Authority (NHA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of funds for housing and Land Development |

The respondent municipalities also identified several PPAs that were implemented in partnership with local civil society organizations (CSOs), peoples' organizations (POs), and the academe. The details are provided in the table below.

Table 6. List of PPAs Implemented by Municipal Governments with the CSOs/POs/Academe

| Civil Society Organizations/People's Organization/Academe | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---|---|
| Association of Senior Citizens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Pension Program |
| Carmen District | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Services Program |
| Farmers & Fisherfolks Associations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program |
| Northern Luzon Adventist College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship to poor but deserving students |
| Oyang Upland Farmers Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regreening program and riparian development |

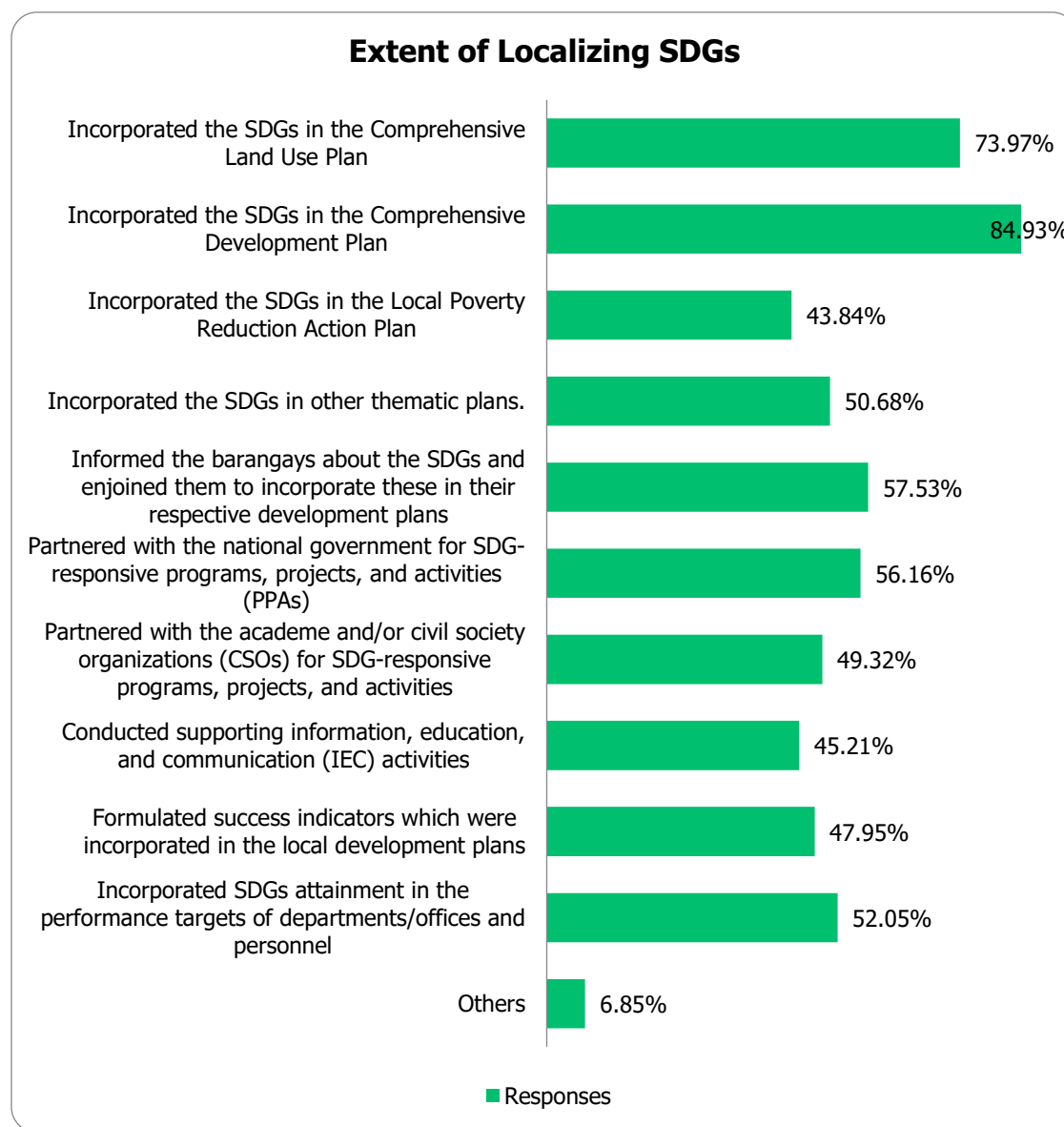
| Civil Society Organizations/People's Organization/Academe | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|--|--|
| Pambansang Tagapag-ugnay ng Manggagawa sa Bahay (PATAMABA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers in the informal sector enterprise |
| San Jose Market Vendors Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Support Membership in Municipal Market Committee MICRO Enterprise Development |
| University of Northern Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach programs for victims of calamity/disasters, coastal clean-up mangrove development/tree planting |

The attainment of the SDGs depends on the extent of localization. Based on the responses gathered by the study team of LMP, the most common initiative to localize the SDGs was to incorporate these into the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). The CDP as defined by the DILG, pertains to the multi-sectoral plan formulated at the city/municipal level, which embodies the vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies and policies within the term of LGU officials and the medium-term. It contains corresponding PPAs, which serve as primary inputs to investment programming and subsequent budgeting and implementation of projects for the growth and development of local government territories.

The second most common localization initiative was to incorporate the SDGs in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). As defined by the DILG, the CLUP is a planning document prepared by LGUs to rationalize the allocation and proper use of land resources. It projects public and private land uses in accordance with the future spatial organization of economic and social activities. Under the Local Government Code of 1991 and other pertinent laws, all LGUs are mandated to continue to prepare/revise/update their comprehensive land use plan which shall be enacted through a zoning ordinance.

The other localization initiatives were informing barangays about the SDGs and enjoining them to incorporate these in their development plans; partnered with NGAs for SDG-responsive PPAs; and incorporation of the SDGs in the performance target of local departments and offices. The figure below shows the details of SDG localization initiatives of municipalities.

Figure 5. The Extent of Localizing SDGs



Fifty percent (50%) of the respondent municipalities incorporated the SDGs in their thematic plans. The table below lists the thematic plans where the SDGs were incorporated.

Table 7. Thematic Plans

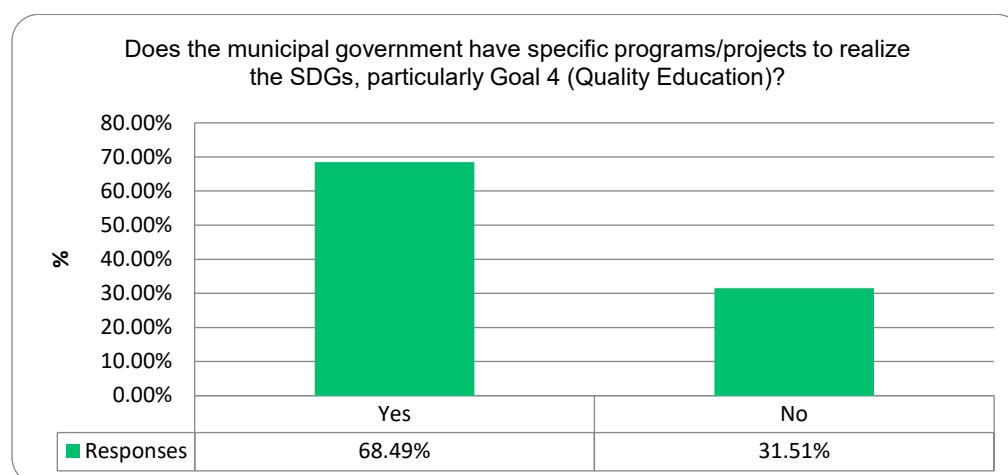
| THEMATIC PLAN | <i>f</i> | % |
|---|----------|-----|
| Gender and Development Plan | 7 | 15% |
| Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan | 14 | 29% |
| Local Climate Change Action Plan | 7 | 15% |

| THEMATIC PLAN | <i>f</i> | % |
|--|-----------|-------------|
| Devolution Transition Plan | 2 | 4% |
| Solid Waste Management Plan | 4 | 8% |
| Contingency Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Municipal Nutrition Council Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan | 3 | 6% |
| Juvenile Justice Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Local Health Board Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Local Investment Plan for Health | 1 | 2% |
| Local Shelter Plan | 2 | 4% |
| Person with Disability Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Senior Citizen's Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Special Education Fund Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Water and Sanitation Plan | 1 | 2% |
| Total | 48 | 100% |

Specific Programs, Projects, and Activities Targeting SDG 4 (Quality Education)

Majority of the respondents (68.49%) claimed to have specific PPAs to realize SDG 4. (Quality Education). However, 31.51% also claimed that they do not have any PPA for the said goal.

Figure 6. Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 4 (Quality Education)



The succeeding table shows the list of PPAs provided by the respondents who have answered “yes” to the question above. These PPAs were then classified as “education”, “financial support and capacity building”, and “infrastructure support”.

Listed under Education are PPAs on COVID response, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), funding of alternative learning systems, installation of Wi-Fi on public schools, procurement of printers and photocopier machines to public schools, provision of IT equipment and software, Special Education (SPED), supplies and equipment, and titling of school sites.

The PPAs classified as financial support and capacity building include education financial subsidies for elementary and high school students, financial and educational assistance to students, Scholarship programs, and *Skolar ng Bayan*, Travel Allowances, Conducting training for teachers for updating the 21st-century skills in teaching, and Registration fees to training.

Infrastructure support PPAs include construction, repair, improvement of school buildings, and other related facilities, establishments of parks, and installation of the water systems, among others.

Table 8. List of Identified PPAs Targeting SDG 4 (Quality Education)

| Classification | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|---|--|
| Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) COVID Response b) ECCD Program c) Establishment of laboratory studio for public elementary and secondary schools d) Funding of alternative learning system e) Installation of Wi-Fi in public schools f) Procurement of printers and photocopier machines to public schools g) Provision of IT equipment and software h) Special Education (SPED) i) Supplies and Equipment j) Titling of school sites |
| Financial Support and Capacity Building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Education Financial subsidy for elementary and high school students b) Financial and educational assistance to students c) Scholarship Program d) <i>Skolar ng Bayan</i> e) Capacity buildings and travel allowances f) Conducting training for teachers for updating the 21st-century skills in teaching g) Registration fees for training |

| Classification | Programs, Projects, and Activities |
|------------------------|--|
| Infrastructure Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Construction and Repair of School Buildings and other facilities, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. QNHS Bldg 1 b. QNHS Bldg 2 c. Collegio de Loboc d. Libacao College Science and Technology e. Perimeter Fence f. Center for Community Learning and Technology g. University of Mataasnahoy h. Establishment of laboratory studio for public elementary and secondary schools b) Establishment of Children's Park c) Construction of school water system d) Payment of electric consumption e) Purchase of lots for school buildings f) Sports development |

The table below shows the time frames for implementing the PPAs relative to SDG4. Most PPAs have a time frame of only a year. Some have annual budgetary allocations.

Table 9. Time Frame of Specific Identified PPAs Targeting SDG 4

| Time Frame | <i>f</i> | % |
|--------------|----------|------|
| 0.5 year | 1 | 3% |
| 1 year | 17 | 43% |
| 2 years | 4 | 10% |
| 3 years | 5 | 13% |
| 6 years | 2 | 5% |
| 8 years | 1 | 3% |
| Annual | 9 | 25% |
| Total | 39 | 100% |

Shown in the succeeding table is the summary of PPAs by classification and source of funds. The results of the survey reveal that the majority of the PPAs for education are charged against the Special Education Fund (SEF). The second most tapped funding source is the General Fund (GF). The provision of funding support and conduct of capacity development activities are charged against this funding source. The least utilized sources are Economic Development Fund, Municipal Assistance In Crisis Situation, National Government, and RA 8240 having each one (1).

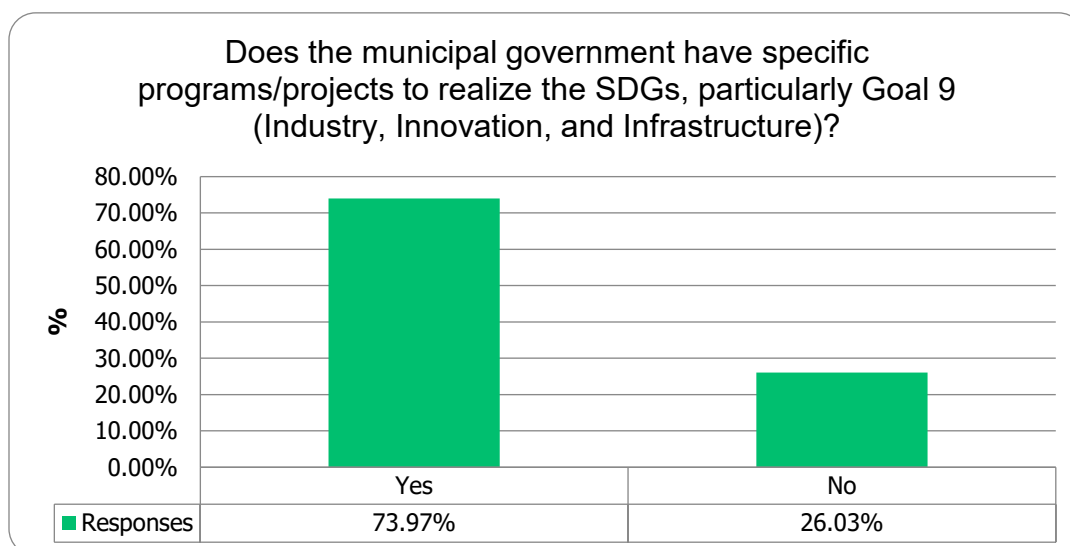
Table 10. Identified Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 4 by Classification and Source of Fund

| Source of Fund | PPAs in realizing the SDG 4 (Quality Education) | | | Total |
|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|
| | Education | Financial Support Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support | | |
| Economic Development Fund | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Gender and Development Fund | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| General Fund | 3 | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| Local Fund | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Mayor's Office MOOE | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Municipal Assistance In Crisis Situation | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| National Government (External) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| RA 7171 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| RA 8240 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Special Education Fund | 8 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Mixed (SEF, GF, etc.) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 15 | 13 | 11 | 39 |

Specific Programs, Projects, and Activities Targeting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructures)

More than 73% of the respondents claimed to have specific PPAs to realize SDG 9 or Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. However, 26% do not have any.

Figure 7. Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)



The succeeding table shows the list of PPAs provided by the respondents who have answered “yes” to the question above. These PPAs were then classified as “capacity building”, “economic-related”, “environment-related”, “health-related”, “roads, bridges, and other fixtures”, and “social-related”.

Table 11. Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)

| Programs | Projects and Activities |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Capacity Building | a) Marble industry processing training program b) Skills Development Program |
| Economic-related | a) Integrated Public Market b) Construction of Loam Weaving Center at Patiacan & Lamag c) Establishment of Suyo Economic Zone |
| Environment-related | a) Establishment of Artificial Reefs b) Slope Protection Programs c) Construction of Disaster Resilient Infrastructures |
| Health-related | a) Procurement of PPEs b) Procurement of Kits for COVID-19 |
| Roads, Bridges, and Other Fixtures | a) Various Farm-to-Market projects b) Construction of Sta. Lucia-Salcedo Bridge c) Infrastructure Assets Road Network d) Core Local Access Road Project e) Solar-powered street lights f) Construction of Pob Magugba Bridge Phase 1 |
| Social-related | a) Concreting of school grounds b) Construction of ALS building c) Construction of Balay Silangan |

| Programs | Projects and Activities |
|----------|---|
| | d) Construction of ECCD Building e) Construction of Multi-purpose Building, Pattiqui-Gabur Sur Elementary School f) Construction of Multi-Purpose Evacuation Center g) Construction of a public plaza with physical fitness facilities at Tabalong h) Construction of School Open Gymnasium i) Enhancement of Therapy Center j) Establishment of Carmen College k) Expansion of water system l) Mataasnakahoy Hospital m) Repairs of school buildings n) Student gadgets and scholarships |

The table below details the time frame for SDG 9-responsive PPAs. Similar to SDG 4, majority of the PPAs listed have a timeframe of only a year with 25 responses (53%). Five (5) PPAs have annual budgetary allocations.

Table 12. Time Frame of Specific Identified PPAs Targeting SDG 9

| Time Frame | <i>f</i> | % |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Less than a year | 2 | 4% |
| 1 year | 25 | 53% |
| 2 years | 4 | 9% |
| 3 years | 7 | 15% |
| 5 years | 1 | 2% |
| 6 years | 1 | 2% |
| 9 years | 2 | 4% |
| Annual | 5 | 11% |
| Total | 47 | 100% |

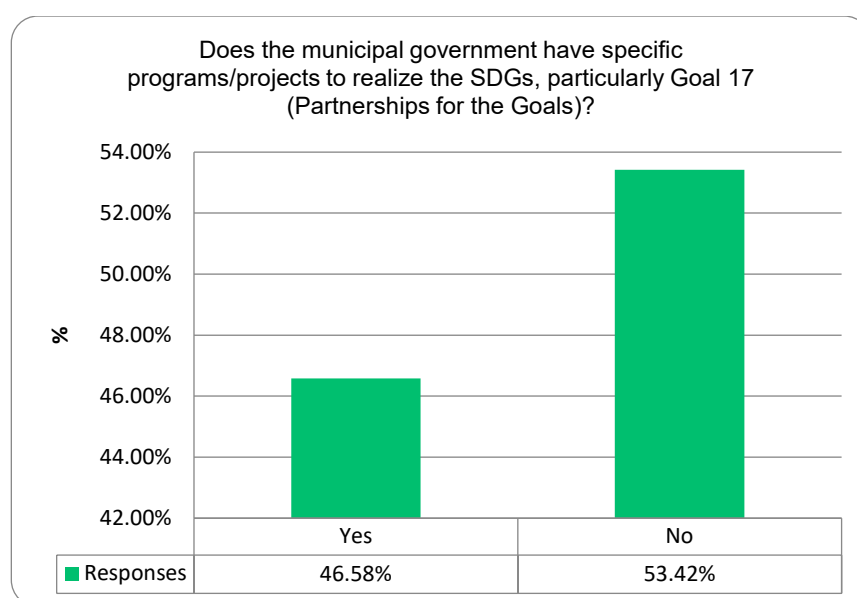
Shown in the succeeding table is the summary of PPAs listed in SDG 9 by classification and source of fund. The results of the survey reveal that the majority of the PPAs are charged against the Development Fund (DF). Roads, bridges, and other fixtures; health-related; and social-related PPAs are mostly charged against this source. The second most utilized source is Mixed Funds, which are a combination of DF and General Fund, among others.

Table 13. Identified Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 9 by Classification and Source of Fund

| Fund | PPAs in realizing the SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) | | | | | | Total | % |
|--------------|--|------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Capacity Building | Economic-related | Environment-related | Health-related | Roads, Bridges, and Fixtures | Social-related | | |
| DF | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 27% |
| EDF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2% |
| External | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 16% |
| GF | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5% |
| LF | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 11% |
| NA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5% |
| RA 7171 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5% |
| RA 8240 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5% |
| SEF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2% |
| Mixed | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 23% |
| Total | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 16 | 44 | 100% |

Specific Programs, Projects, and Activities Targeting SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals)

The majority of the respondents (53.42) answered that they have no specific PPAs in realizing SDG 17 or the partnership for goals.

Figure 8. Specific PPAs Targeting SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals)

The succeeding table shows the details of the PPAs targeting SDG 17 as shared by the respondents. Most projects are sourced from the General Fund.

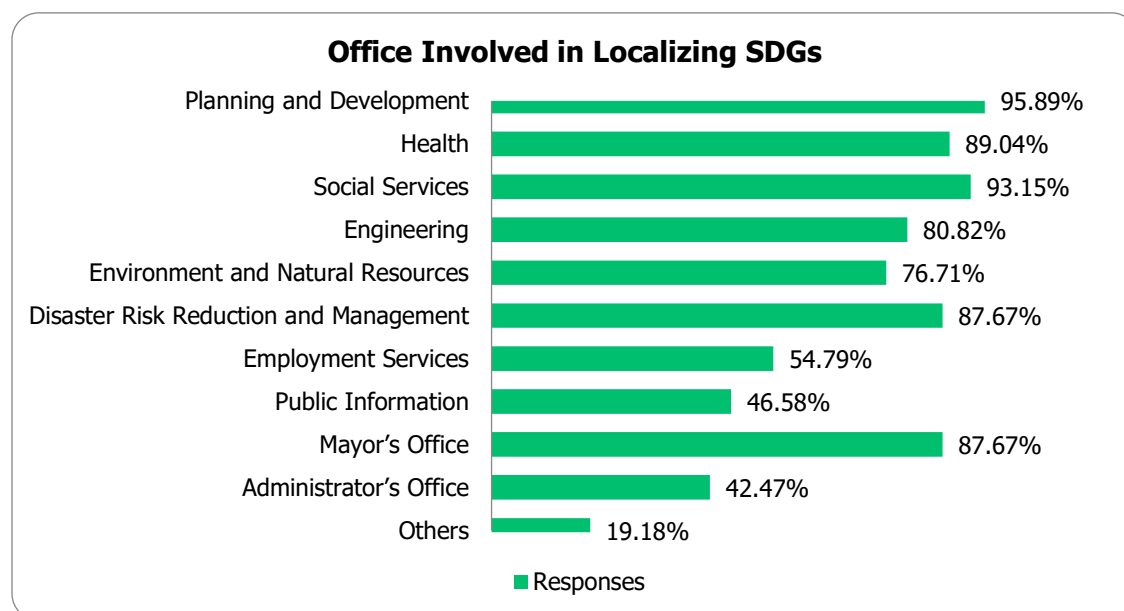
Table 14. Details of the PPAs Targeting SDG 17

| Program/Project | Time Frame | Budget | Source of Fund |
|--|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ONE APARRI PROJECT: Organized Network of enterprise applications for people of Aparri thru relevant and responsive data-driven information systems | 2 years | Above or equal to 1 million | Special Education Fund |
| Meeting of Special Bodies, Councils, and Organizations | 1 year | Below than 1 million | General Fund |
| Community Development Program | 1 year | Above or equal to 1 million | General Fund |
| Community Awareness and Campaigns against Illegal Drugs | 2 years | Above or equal to 1 million | General Fund |
| Synergeia Partner to promote Quality Education | No data | No data | External |
| Manpower Development Program | Annual | No data | General Fund |
| Internship Program | 2 years | Above or equal to 1 million | Local Fund |
| Strengthening of CSO participation in governance | Annual | Below than 1 million | General Fund |
| Accreditation of CSOs, NGOs, and POs | 1 year | Below than 1 million | Local Fund |

Office and Sector Involved in formulating PPAs

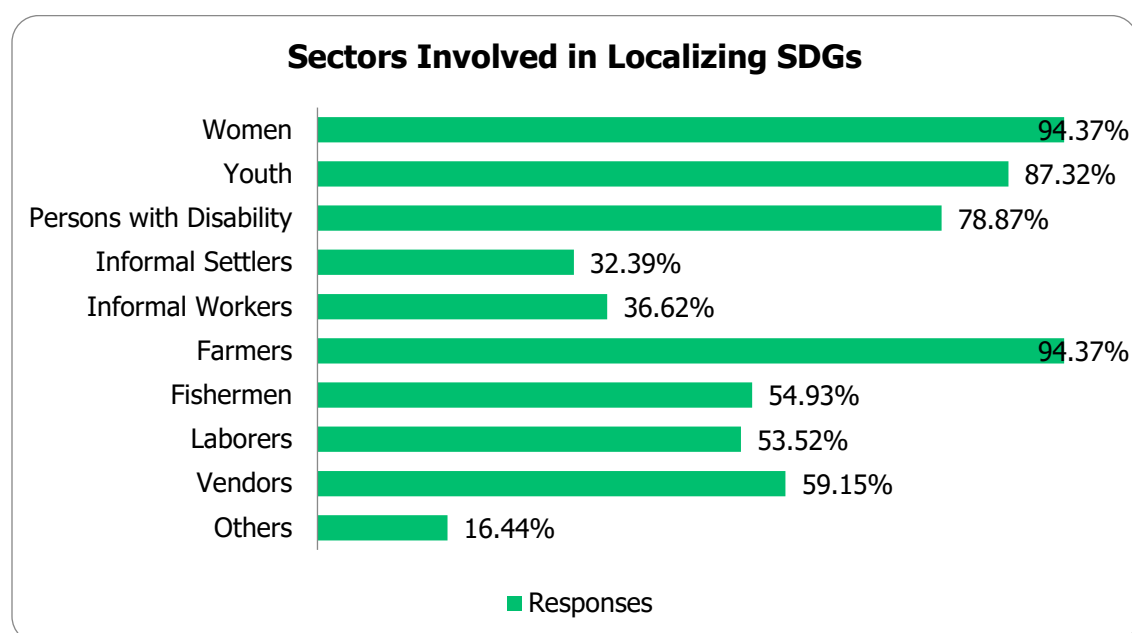
Majority of the respondents pointed to the Planning and Development Office as the most involved office in formulating or localizing SDGs. This is expected because the said office is in charge of providing technical support to the Municipal Development Council in the preparation of local development plans. As discussed in the previous section, the most common initiative to localize the SDGs is to incorporate these in local development plans.

Figure 9. Offices Involved in Localizing SDGs



On involving marginalized sectors in localizing SDGs, the respondents claimed that women, youth, persons with disability (PWD), informal settlers, farmers, fishermen, laborers, and vendors as among the sectors that they consult and engage for planning and implementation of PPAs. Among these groups, the most involved are women and farmers.

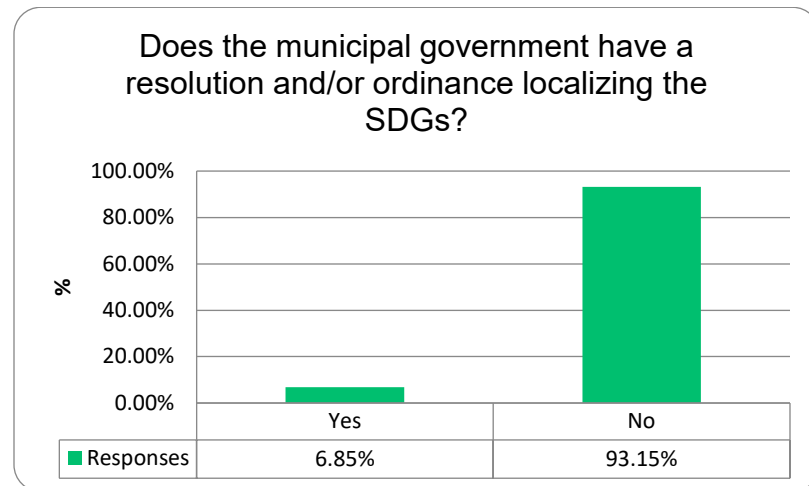
Figure 10. Sectors Involved in Localizing SDGs



Institutionalizing SDGs

More than 90% of the respondent municipal governments do not have an ordinance or resolution about localizing SDGs. Only 6.85% said that they do have.

Figure 11. Presence of Ordinance or Resolution



The table below lists the ordinances and resolutions localizing the SDGs.

Table 15. List of Ordinance/Resolution

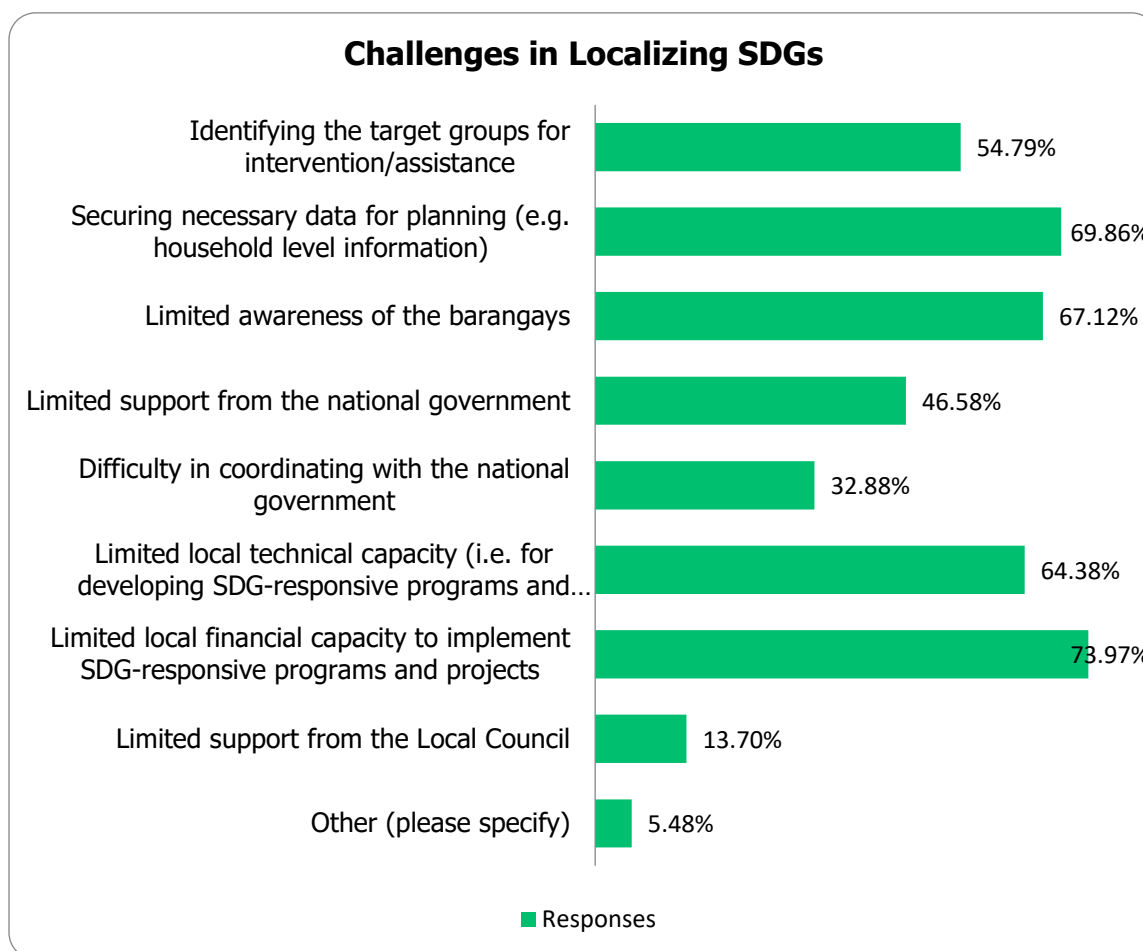
| | Resolution/Ordinance Title: | Resolution/Ordinance No. | Date of Singing/Enactment |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | Resolution adopting the eight-millennium development goals and its target and implementation/institutionalization of a community-based monitoring system | Resolution No. 37, Series of 2006 | September 28, 2006 |
| 2 | A resolution adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SENDAI Framework, Philippine Development Plan (PDP), Ilocos Region Development Plan (RDP), Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (RDRRMP), National Security Policy (NSP), and Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) - Aligned Local Development | Resolution No. 70, Series of 2018 | December 3, 2018 |

| | Resolution/Ordinance Title: | Resolution/Ordinance No. | Date of Singing/Enactment |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Investment Program (LDIP) of the Municipality of Sta. Lucia, Province of Ilocos Sur | | |
| 3 | An Ordinance adopting the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Chapter 2 (Water Supply) of the Code of Sanitation of the Philippines (PD 856) and for Other Purposes | Ordinance No. 743, Series 2016 | November 21, 2016 |
| 4 | A Resolution Adopting the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) 2018-2023 and Local Development Investment Program (LDIP) 2018-2020 & 2021-2023 of the Municipality Of Daus | Resolution No. 30-2018 | February 19, 2018 |
| 5 | A resolution approving the Executive-Legislative Agenda and the Capacity Development of the Municipality of Loboc, Province of Bohol, for the Fiscal Year 2020-2022 | Resolution No. 161-2019 | September 16, 2019 |

Challenges and Support Needed by Municipal Governments

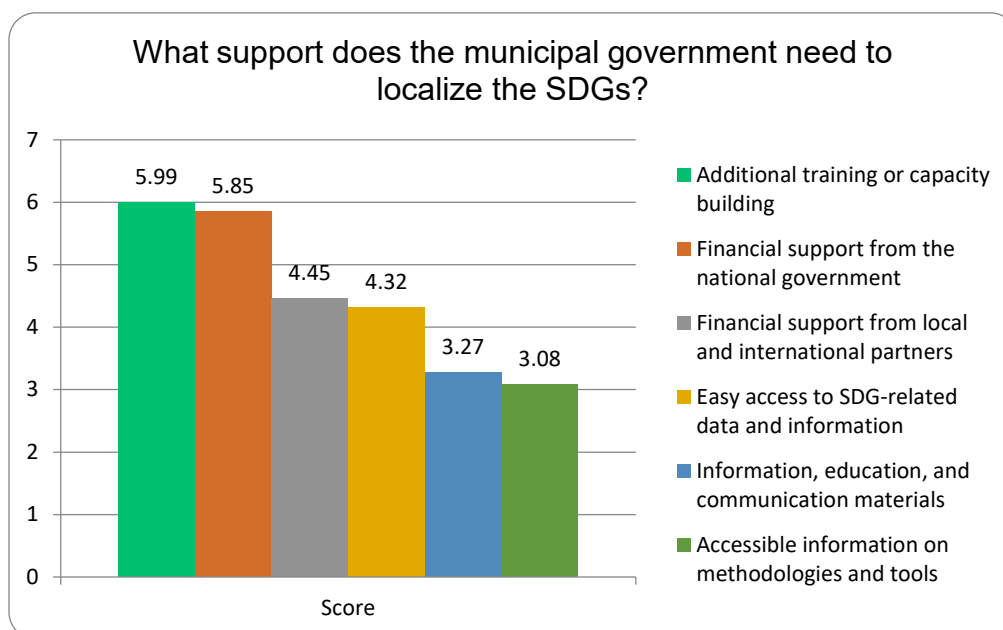
The figure below detail the challenges being experienced by the respondent municipalities relative to SDGs. The challenge they relate the most to is the “limited local financial capacity to implement SDG-responsive programs and projects” with 73.97% of the total responses. Following this is the challenge of securing data necessary for planning.

Figure 12. Challenges in Localizing SDGs



Among the support needed by municipal governments, the “Accessible Information on Methodologies and Tools” is selected as the most important, while the least important is the “Additional Training or Capacity Building” (succeeding figure).

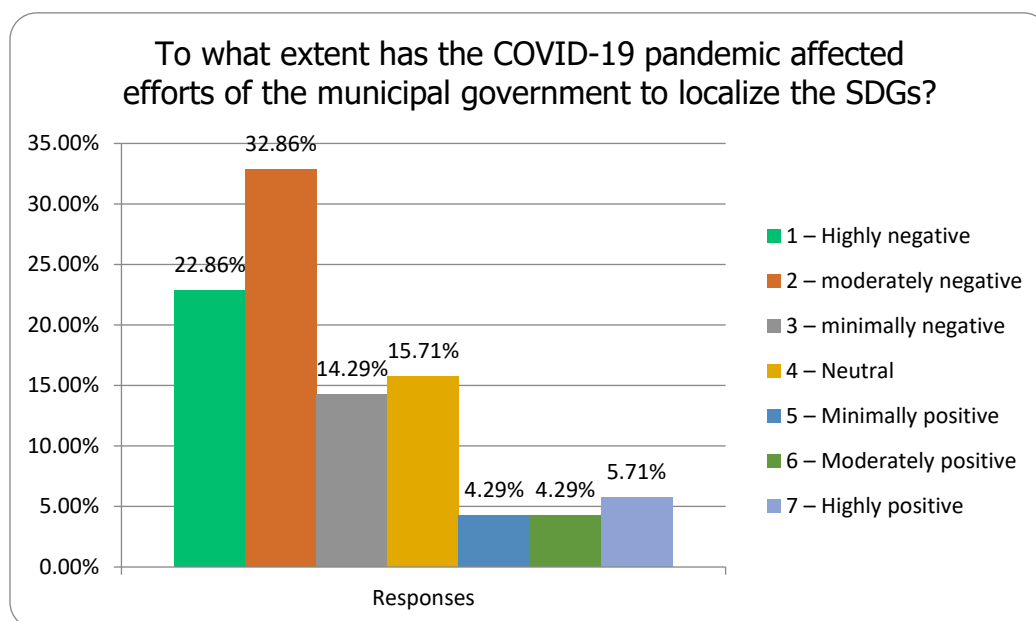
Figure 13. Support Needed in Localizing SDGs



Note: Each item was ranked in order of importance, with 1 as the 'most important and 7 as the 'least important.'

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is taking a devastating impact on the health and economic sectors, not only in the Philippines but also globally. While others experienced positively about COVID-19's effect on SDG localization, many of the respondents are affected negatively on various levels. The figure below shows that the majority of the respondents (32.86%) said that it affected them "moderately negative", followed by highly negative having 22.86% of the total response.

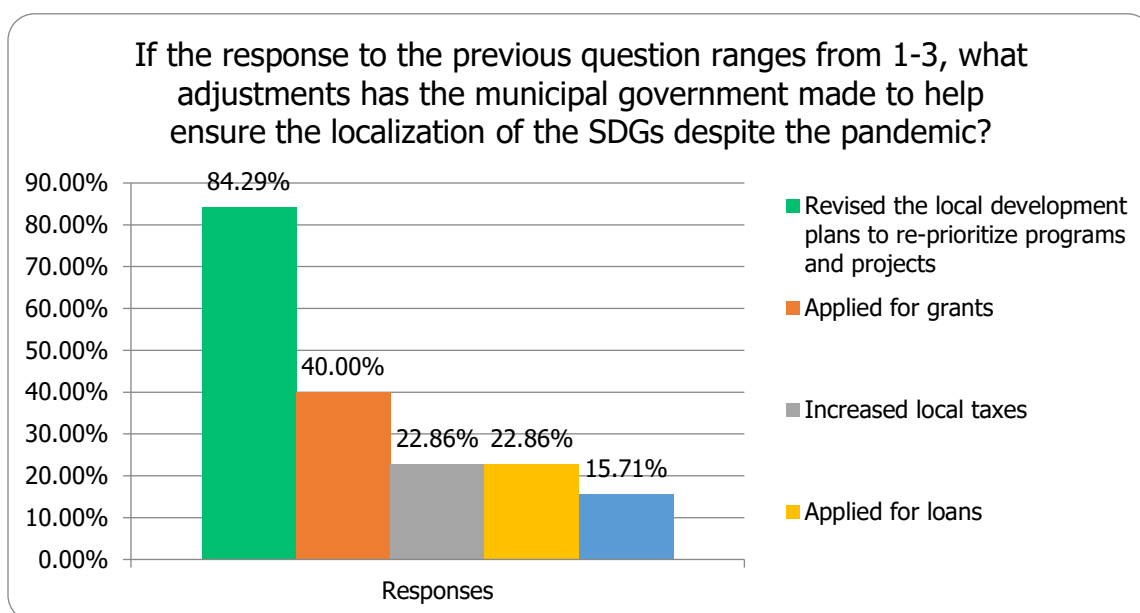
Figure 14. The extent of the COVID-19 Pandemic



Realignment of funds for COVID-related PPAs is allowed through the passage of the Republic Act No. 11494 otherwise known as the *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*. It also provided that local governments peruse its plan, and ensure that PPAs related to disaster risk reduction remain. Moreover, aside from the deferment of deadlines of reportorial requirements on local taxes, fees, and charges, the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLFG), through the issuance of Memorandum Circular No. 017-2020 provided implementing guidelines for certain provisions of the Republic Act No. 11494, allowing LGUs to increase its personnel services cap by up to 10% for first- to third-income class local governments and up to 5% for fourth- to fifth-income classes on debt service ceiling and loan ceiling cap. Similarly, the allowable debt service ceiling of the LGUs is increased to 30% of their annual regular income [...].

The results concur with this as it reveals that municipal government respondents who signified that they are affected “negatively” are left with no choice but to make adjustments, mostly by revising the local development plans to re-prioritize programs and projects (84.29%). Other adjustments are done through the following: application for grants (40%); increase in local taxes (22.86%); d) application for loans (22.86%); among others (15.71%). The others are specified as they requested financial assistance from NGAs and the private sector, updated their Local Revenue Code (LRC); implemented austerity measures; established recovery and resiliency plans; conducted tax campaigns; encourage investors to invest in the municipality; and strengthened partnerships with other local stakeholders.

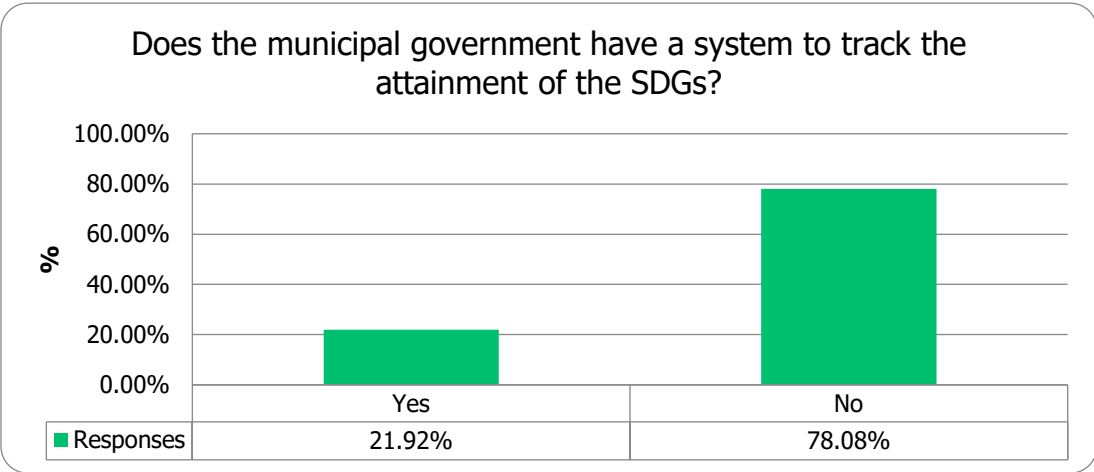
Figure 15. Adjustments Made to Ensure Localization of SDGs



Monitoring

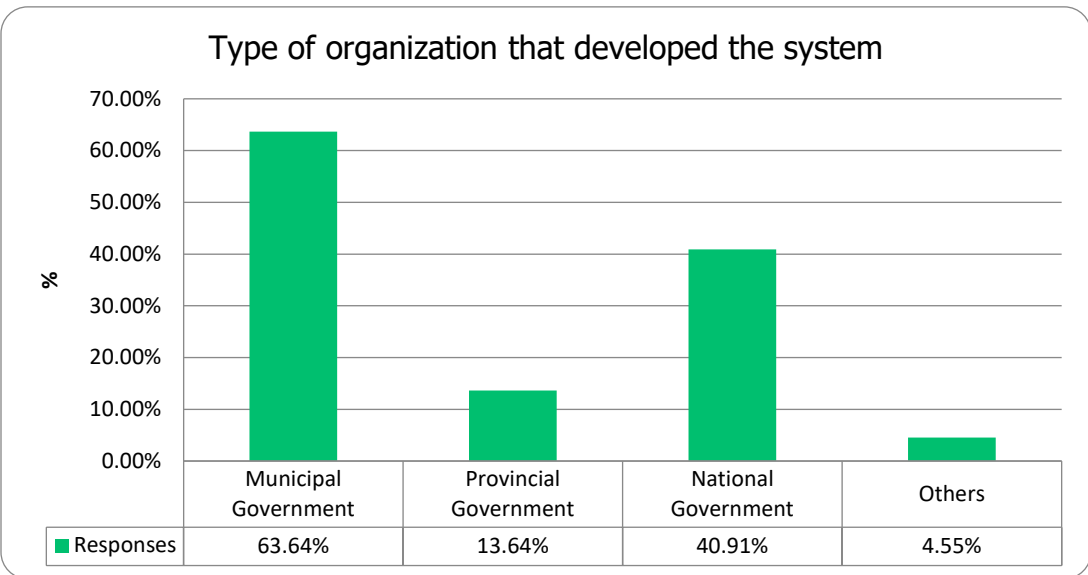
Most of the respondents (79.08%) do not have a monitoring system to keep track of the status and progress of their PPAs relative to SDGs.

Figure 16. Presence of Monitoring System Tracking SDGs



The developer of the majority with an SDG tracking system is “municipal government”, themselves, having a 63.64% of the total response. Others were assisted by national and provincial governments.

Figure 17. Developer of the SDG Tracking System



Findings and Recommendations

General Survey Administration. The 5% participation or response rate of municipal governments does not accurately reflect the results of the survey. Although a total enumeration was used in this study, there is a need to increase the participation of municipal governments. It is also noteworthy to mention that there are no municipal governments from Regions V (Bicol), VIII (Eastern Visayas), IX (Zamboanga Peninsula), XII (Soccsksargen), and NCR participated in the survey. In terms of income class, only one (1) 6th income class municipality participated in the survey. Other modes of conducting the survey, such as face-to-face, must be considered to ensure participation.

Familiarity/Awareness of SDGs. After 6 years of adoption of the SDGs, there are still many municipal governments that remain not fully familiar with the SDGs. Results revealed that 28.77% are fully familiar, while more than 70% remain to have limited and/or lack of knowledge of SDGs. With this, there is a need to heighten the campaign on SDG awareness and localization. On leveraging the SDG campaign, it can be done through the information dissemination from the top 10 known NGAs with SDG initiatives. These are DILG (35%); NEDA (27%); DA (6%); DOH (5%); DepEd (4%); DTI (3%); DBM (3%); DENR (2%); and CCC (2%). At the local level, the top 5 provincial offices known for having SDG initiatives are PPDO (40%); PLGU (15%); PSWDO (10%); PDILG (7%); and PHO (6%).

Priority SDGs. The top 10 priority SDGs by municipal governments are: 1) SDG 3 – Good health and well-being; 2) SDG 1 – No poverty; 3) SDG 2 – Zero hunger; 4) SDG 4 – Quality education; 5) SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation; 6) SDG 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure; 7) SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth; 8) SDG 5 – Gender equality; 9) SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy; 10) SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities. Generally, these goals are basic in sustaining and attaining quality of life. Among the SDGs, the SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals) is the most underrated.

Localizing SDGs. Related to planning documents, 73.97% of the municipal governments incorporated the SDGs in their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), 84.93% in their Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), and 43.84% in Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan, and 50.58% in their thematic plans. Some opted to partner with the national governments (56.16%), the academe, or the private sector (49.32%); informed the barangays to incorporate their respective sub-local plans (57.53%); conducted IEC activities (45.21%); formulated success indicators (47.95%); and incorporated the SDG targets in their performance targets (52.05%). One respondent in the others section shared that “their municipality was selected as one of the pilot municipalities in the PEP-CBMS SDG report in Asia through CBMS Networkality on SDG”.

Among the identified thematic plans, it is the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan (29%) which has incorporated SDG-related PPAs. This is followed by the Gender and Development (GAD) plan (15%).

Programs, Projects, and Activities Related to Attaining SDGs.

- **SDG 4 (Quality Education).** PPAs classified under the “Education²⁸” are sourced from the Special Education Fund (SEF), while the “Financial Support and Capacity Building” are mainly charged against the General Fund. In terms of time frame, while there are PPAs implemented annually, the majority have a time frame of only a year.
- **SDG 9 (Infrastructure, Innovation, and Industry).** The specific PPAs were under “capacity building”, “economic-related”, “environment-related”, “health-related”, “roads, bridges, and other fixtures”, and “social-related”. The majority of the PPAs listed are charged against the Development Fund (DF). Following this are PPAs sourced from the “Mixed Funds”, which are a combination of DF and General Fund, among others. Moreover, similar to SDG 5, the time frame of PPAs is mostly programmed in years.
- **SDG 17 (Partnership for Goals).** 46.58% of the total said that they have specific PPAs for SDG 17. However, only nine (9) shared the details of their PPAs. It should be noted that the majority of PPAs have a budget of above or equal to 1 million, 1-year time frame, and charged to General Fund.

Institutionalizing SDGs. The majority does not have an ordinance or resolution institutionalizing SDGs. Out of the total, only 5 (five) have shared their policies on localizing SDGs. Aside from incorporating it into local planning documents, It is recommended that policies be passed through an ordinance and/or resolution to ensure continuing support and provide a legal basis for implementing and monitoring PPAs related to SDG localization.

Challenges and Support. The challenge municipal governments relate the most to is the “limited local financial capacity to implement SDG-responsive programs and projects” with 73.97% of the total responses. Another challenge is the securing of data necessary for planning (69.86%), limited awareness of barangays (67.14%), and limited technical capacity on implementing SDG-responsive PPAs (64.38%). Among the least challenging on the list is the limited support from the council comprising 13.70%.

Another challenge is the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. On the level of impact on the municipal governments, the majority said that they experience “moderately negative” effects. Having no other way to live but adjust to the new normal, more than 80% of the municipal governments revised their local development plans by re-prioritizing programs and projects. Others have applied for grants and loans and increased the collection of their taxes to fund and sustain PPAs.

When asked about the type of support municipal governments need most, they responded that they desired to obtain access to methodologies and tools, while the least support they need is the additional training or capacity building.

²⁸ Listed under the Education are PPAs on COVID Response, Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program, Funding of alternative learning systems, Installation of Wi-Fi to public schools, Procurement of printers and photocopy machines to public schools, Provision of IT equipment and software, Special Education (SPED), Supplies and Equipment, and Titling of school sites.

Monitoring. Most of the municipal governments (78.08) do not have a tracking system to monitor the attainment of the SDG targets. Monitoring and evaluation are important activities that are suggested to be done to determine whether the PPAs being implemented are targeting the issues and concerns that municipal governments want to address.

ANNEX C – League of Provinces Survey Report

In an effort to gauge the level of engagement of provinces in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the LPP conducted a survey on the same.

Due to the mobility restrictions brought about by the surge of COVID-19 cases from the omicron variant, the survey was conducted online. Copies of the survey form was sent to all 81 provinces, through email to both the Provincial Governor and the Provincial Planning and Development Office for the representative of the latter to accomplish. Although the survey forms were sent to all 81 provinces, the LPP research team targeted to accomplish an 80% response rate. Initially it was set for 15 days, which then was extended by another 15 days to reach the set target.

While hoping to reach at least 65 respondents, only 47 actually sent in the filled-up survey form. A number of key informant interviews were also conducted to validate the results of the survey. Likewise, the research team also tried to cross-match the survey results with available fiscal data on the provinces.

The instrument consisted of seven parts, namely: (1) Awareness of the SDGs; (2) Institutionalization of the SDGs at the provincial government level; (3) Localization efforts on the SDGs; (4) Stakeholder participation in the Localization of SDGs; (5) Challenges and opportunities to move the SDG achievement forward; (6) Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the achievement of the SDGs; (7) Additional participation in the VSR; and, (8) Interest in additional information on the SDGs.

Awareness of the SDGs

Over-all, awareness of most, if not all, 17 goals were high among the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators, or their deputies, who were the main respondents of the survey.

Between the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the third goal on Good Health and Well-Being ranks first, followed by Goal 1 on No Poverty and Goal 2 on No Hunger at third.

These are followed by SDG 9 on Industry, innovation, and infrastructure; SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth); and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) in 4th, 5th and 6th rank, respectively.

Table 1 Ranking of Provinces' priority SDGs

| SDG | RANK |
|--|------|
| SDG 3 – Good health and well-being | 1 |
| SDG 1 – No poverty | 2 |
| SDG 2 – Zero hunger | 3 |
| SDG 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure | 4 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth | 5 |
| SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation | 6 |
| SDG 5 – Gender equality | 7 |
| SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production | 8 |
| SDG 13 – Climate action | 9 |
| SDG 4 – Quality education | 10 |
| SDG 7 – Affordable and clean energy | 11 |
| SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities | 12 |
| SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities | 13 |
| SDG 16 – Peace, justice, and strong institutions | 14 |
| SDG 15 – Life on land | 15 |
| SDG 14 – Life below water | 16 |
| SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals | 17 |

It might be worth mentioning that SDG 4 on Quality Education ranks only 10th in provinces' priorities relative to the Goals mainly because among the basic social services, this is one function that remains significantly with the national government. Education is only "tangentially devolved" together with environment. Notwithstanding, all provinces, cities and municipalities have annual allocations for the Special Education Fund derived from the one percent (1%) additional tax levied on real property tax payments.

As far as institutionalizing the SDG goes, only three out of the 47 respondent provinces have an office specific to localizing the goals. For the remaining 44 provinces, the task of localizing and monitoring the accomplishment of the goals and its corresponding targets are vested in the Provincial Planning and Development Office. In some cases, other key offices in the provincial government – such as Health, Social Development and Welfare, Environment and Management, Agriculture, Tourism and Engineering, among others, also perform SDG-related work. Nevertheless, the planning and coordination for SDGs are vested mainly with the PPDO.

Of the 47 respondent provinces, only 18 of them have adopted or made a formal commitment to localize the SDGs. Seven governors made categorical statements in this regard, with six issuing executive orders to its effect. Nine provinces on the other hand

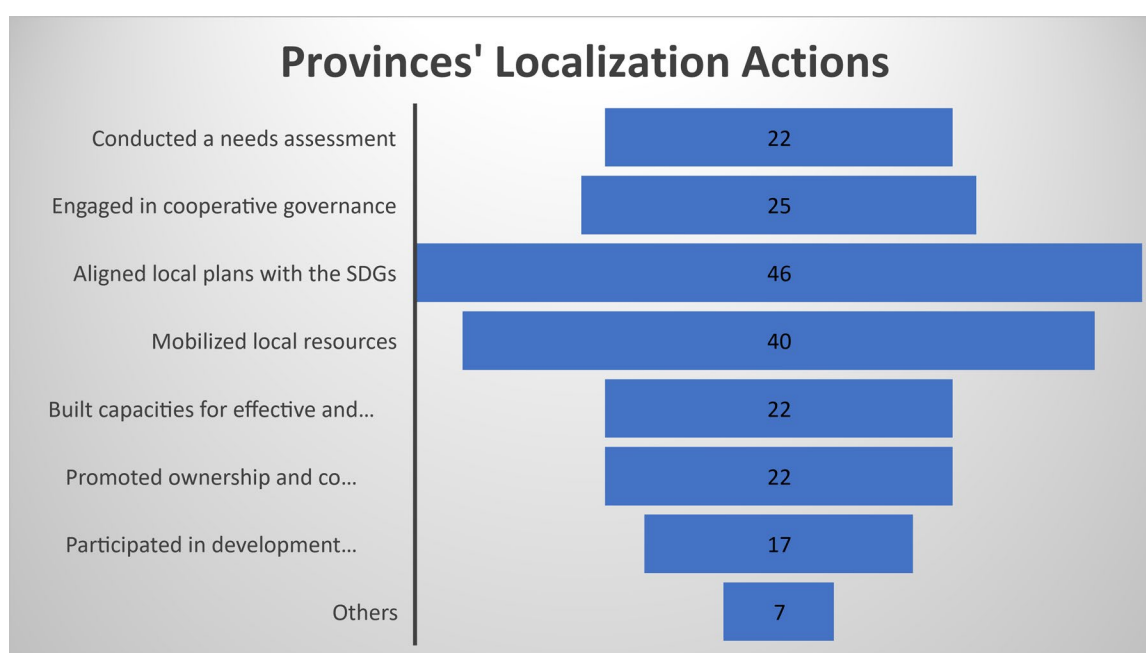
have their local legislatures, the Sanguniang Panlalawigan issuing a resolution or passing an ordinance for the purpose of SDG implementation.

Localization Efforts for the SDGs

Except for two, all respondent-provinces have aligned their local plans with the SDGs, with 40 of them supporting these plans with the corresponding resources to implement said plans.

Cooperative governance and engagements with other agencies and entities, both government and non-government, domestic and international partners have key complements to localization actions taken by provinces; along with the conduct of needs assessments, capacity building and promoting ownership and co-responsibilities for related programs and projects.

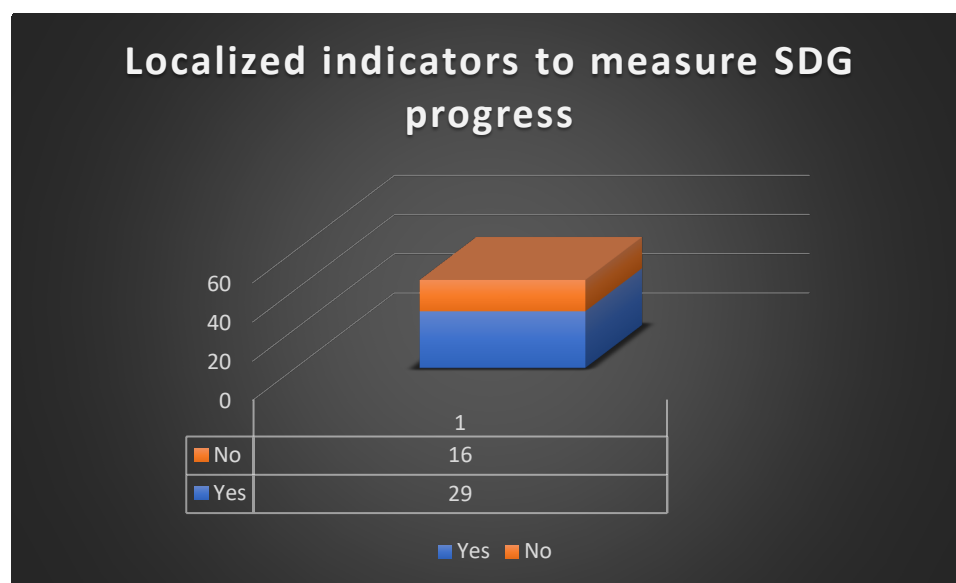
Figure 1 Provinces' localization actions



In terms of raising the awareness of the public on the SDGs, the participation of the provinces have mostly been passive and done in partnership or in conjunction with the national advocacy campaign. Although there were some provinces who have developed and distributed IEC materials and translated the SDGs to the local language and dialects, these efforts are few and far between. However, the social media has been harnessed as a way to get the message of the Goals across.

Apart from the national targets and indicators, majority of the respondent-provinces have developed localized indicators to monitor their progress in achieving the goals.

Figure 2 Provinces with local SDG indicators



Nevertheless, only 14 of the 47 respondent provinces have specific action plans for SDG localization. Notwithstanding, a large number of the SDG-related programs, projects and activities (PPAs) of the provinces are aligned with their mandates and functions enumerated in Section 17 of the Local Government Code. Most, if not all these PPAs, can find alignment with one or more Goal. Thus, even without a stand-alone and specific SDG localization plan, provincial actions still contribute to the achievement of national targets.

Provinces have also prepared their respective Results Matrices in support for the Philippines Development Plan 2017-2022.

In summary, 37 respondent provinces have managed to integrate most SDGs in their local plans, while 5 have been able to integrate and localize all Goals.

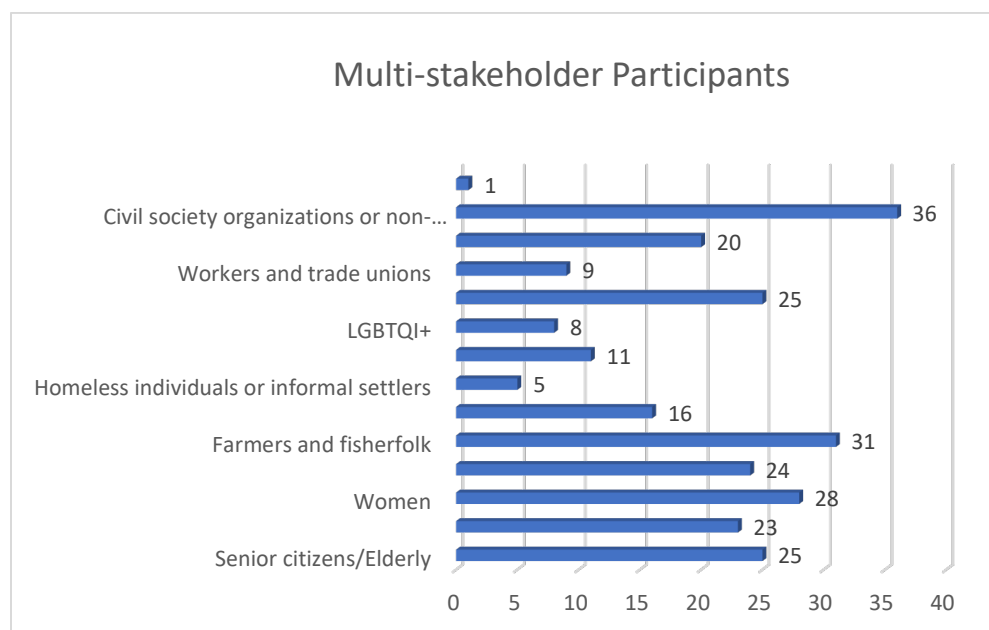
Stakeholder Participation in the Localization of SDGs

Sectoral participation, in terms of planning for SDG localization, is high on the priority list of provinces.

Among the 11 basic sectors, civil society and non-government organizations are on top of the list of the multi-stakeholder participants. Farmers and fisherfolk also take an active role in planning and localization of the Goals. Women, the business and industry sector, senior citizens and the elderly, the youth and persons with disability, including the academic and scientific community have likewise taken notable roles.

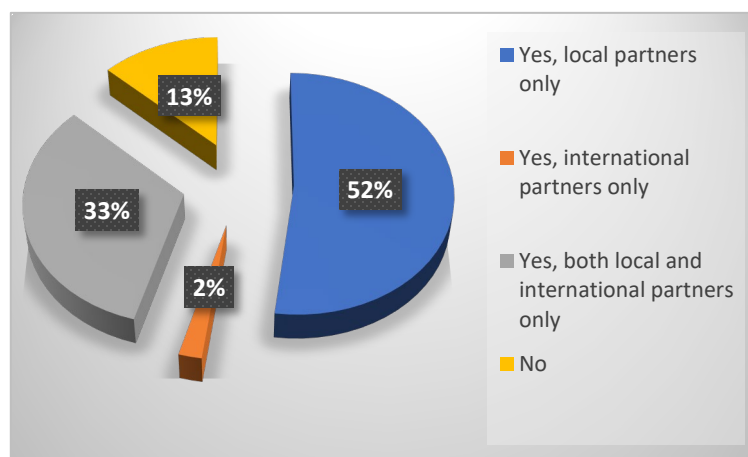
Interestingly, the profile of the more active stakeholders are those sectors who have and will directly affect the development outcomes when the SDG targets are achieved. Not only do these sectors influence policies and programs, they are also those whose actions on the ground can provide the needed impetus to propel the Goals.

Figure 3 Provinces stakeholders' participation



The robustness of the multi-stakeholder participation in localization would validate the results that the partnerships for localization of the goals are hinged much on local partnerships, as majority of the partnerships are purely local, although a third of them have responded having had both local and international partners working with them. It would be interesting to note, however, that six of the respondent provinces are implementing the localization on their own, without any partners, whether local or international.

Figure 4 Provinces engaging in partnership for the implementation



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs

Among the provinces, there are two key challenges that keep them from moving forward in achieving the Goals. These are the limitations in financial resources and the limited availability of SDG-related data and information.

While limitations in financial resource will always remain a key and pervasive challenge among all the countries and entities implementing the SDGs, there could be a work-around through this through rational and practical prioritization. However, when this challenge is compounded with limited data support, it would be quite tough for local government, provinces in this case, to move forward.

The ranking of the challenges faced by the provinces are mutually reinforcing such that the limited availability of data is also linked to a limited interest or awareness of the Goals; on the other hand, the conflicting priorities in local development would also be impacted upon by limited resources, both financial and human.

Taken side-by-side, there is a direct correlation between the challenges faced by provinces in terms of SDG implementation with the areas of support they need to ensure the sustainability of initiatives for localization.

Together with the financial support, provinces also need more capacity building relative to the implementation of the Goals. Moreover, access to data and information is key so is multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder financial support to augment local efforts at achieving the Goals.

Table 2 Ranking of challenges in SDG localization of the Provinces

| CHALLENGES | RANK |
|---|------|
| Financial resource limitations | 1 |
| Availability of SDG-related data and information | 1 |
| Inadequate human resources | 3 |
| Limited local interest and/or awareness of the SDGs | 4 |
| Conflicting priorities for local development | 5 |
| Limited coordination across levels of government | 5 |
| Limited support from national government | 7 |
| Difficulty to work across departments | 8 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Non-participation of non-state actors | 9 |
| Others | 10 |

Table 3 Ranking of areas of support needed by the provinces

| AREAS FOR SUPPORT | RANK |
|--|------|
| Financial support from the national government | 1 |
| Additional training or capacity building | 2 |
| Easy access to SDG-related data and information | 3 |
| Financial support from local and international partners | 4 |
| Accessible information on methodologies and tools with regard to SDG localization | 5 |
| Systematized indicator frameworks | 6 |
| Mobilizing and engaging other local stakeholders, including marginalized and vulnerable groups | 7 |

IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs

Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected efforts of the provinces to achieve the Goals. The overall impact however has not been all negative. The crucial responses needed to address the issues caused by pandemic has led to opportunities improving governance in the process.

The availability of local disaster risk reduction and management funds for example, has allowed LGUs to respond appropriately as the funds were used to support initial mobilization efforts in limiting the spread of COVID-19 at the community level. Local funds were also later augmented by national government releases to LGUs.

The key actions of provinces at the height of the pandemic was really to ensure the well-being, health and safety of their constituents amidst the lockdowns and community quarantines implemented by the national government. The objective is to enable the people to remain productive even as they are expected to adapt to the new conditions set by the pandemic.

The three key actions undertaken by the provinces were ensuring livelihood or financial assistance to workers displaced because of the lockdowns, while strengthening local initiatives at preventing violence against women and children and providing additional services for vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, the elderly and people with disabilities, who became more marginalized because of the pandemic.

To ensure that education was not disrupted because of the community quarantines, provinces distributed learning materials to learners to help them as education shifted to distance learning. For the protection and safety of health care workers and those at the frontline of pandemic response, provinces likewise ensured the strict enforcement of non-discriminatory policies. And to ensure the continuity of government services, efforts toward the digitalization of basic service delivery were intensified to allow constituents to transact seamlessly with government, in the safety of their respective homes. Partnerships were also key in their COVID-19 response and engagement.

As they move forward toward post-pandemic recovery, the priorities of provincial governments remain to be human development. On top of the list is still health care and disease prevention, which also includes mental health.

This would be followed by local economic development and employment; food and agriculture; education; and, social inclusion.

Table 2 Provinces stakeholders' participation

| Service | Rank |
|--|-------------|
| Health care and prevention (including mental health) | 1 |
| Local economic development and employment | 2 |
| Food and agriculture | 3 |
| Education | 4 |
| Social Inclusion | 5 |
| Transportation and mobility | 6 |
| Digitalization (of education, public services etc.) | 7 |
| Water and Sanitation | 8 |
| Climate action, resilience and ecological transition | 9 |
| Housing | 10 |
| Urban planning (public spaces, neighborhood improvement, etc.) | 10 |
| Gender equality | 10 |



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