

Voluntary National Survey for Monitoring of Progress in Asia and the Pacific towards the Implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Background

This voluntary national survey will provide information on progress regarding the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Asia and the Pacific.² Results from the survey will be reported and discussed at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023.

The ICPD Programme of Action provides an invaluable framework to guide Member States in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development by underscoring the interrelationship between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. At the 20-year Asia-Pacific regional review of the Programme of Action, in 2013, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This Declaration serves as region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the 2018 intergovernmental meeting for the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, a monitoring framework was presented to ESCAP members and associated members to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of both documents in the region. This framework was based on existing SDG indicators and targets to reduce the reporting burden on member States. The ESCAP Committee on Social Development, during its sixth session in 2020, endorsed the monitoring framework, noting that it would serve as an essential tool for voluntary, regular assessment and reporting of progress of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.³

At the Committee session, several member States recognized existing data gaps and lack of capacity at the national level in collecting, generating and disseminating reliable sex- and age-disaggregated data. In preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023, ESCAP, with support from UNFPA, has developed a survey based on the monitoring framework to assist member States in collecting data and monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. The survey is highly qualitative in nature, aiming to understand countries' progress and achievements in all priority action areas, along with key challenges and lessons learned. Additionally, ESCAP has compiled quantitative information on the SDG indicators identified in the monitoring framework and is providing this information to member States along with the survey. The data are sourced from the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Suggestions for completing the Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.

The survey should be completed by countries, through their national focal points on population and development. The survey and attached monitoring framework⁴ are structured according to the priority actions identified in the Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.⁵ As the Programme of Action of ICPD is a multi-dimensional framework, it is recommended that completion of the survey involves a consultative process with ministries and departments responsible for implementing the priority action areas and reporting the associated SDG indicators, and with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders.

ESCAP is sending the survey to member States as a Word document and as a PDF document. Member States are invited to respond to it directly in the Word document. For the check boxes, please double click on them to insert a check mark.

The survey and associated documents can be downloaded from the ESCAP website at: www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference.

The survey should be completed (and submitted/returned), together with relevant attachments by **31 March 2023**, by email, to: escap-sdd@un.org Please do not hesitate to contact **escap-sdd@un.org** should you have any questions.

I. Contact information

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.

Country Philippines	
Ministry/Office/Agency Commission on Population and Development (CPD)	
Name contact persons (First and Last) [REDACTED]	Title/Position [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]	Telephone [REDACTED]
Mailing address Commission on Population and Development, Acacia Lane Extn., Welfareville Cmpd., Bgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, 1552	
Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the ESCAP public website of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.	
Yes:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No:	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁴ See ESCAP/CSD/2020/3 (see Annex IV).

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

II. National coordination mechanism for implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

1.1	Is there a national coordination mechanism to support implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development? If “yes”, please provide information for the question below. If “no”, please skip section III below.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Name of the coordination mechanism and website link if available: <i>Please elaborate:</i> Commission on Population and Development Board of Commissioners (CPD-BOC) [REDACTED]		
1.3	Year of establishment: <i>Please elaborate:</i> 1969		
1.4	What level does the coordination mechanism operate at:	<input type="checkbox"/> Prime minister or highest level of government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please elaborate:</i> coordination mechanisms are at all levels from national, regional, provincial down to city/municipal level.	
1.5	Are civil society organizations included as members of the coordination mechanism?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.6	Does the coordination mechanism have formalized Terms of Agreement or other formal operating agreements? If “yes”, please elaborate on the functions of the coordination mechanism: <i>The CPD Board of Commissioners has the function to adopt and prescribe policies for the population program of the government including coordination with international institutions concerned with population issues. CPD then participates in various interagency committees at different levels. At the national level, among these interagency committees is the Social Development Committee-Technical Board. Other committees are sectoral committees such as health. At the subnational level, the coordinating mechanism is at the level of the Regional Social Development Committees. Municipal level coordination are done by the CPD regional offices with the population offices at the municipal level.</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.7	How often does the coordination mechanism meet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Ad-hoc, as needed <input type="checkbox"/> The committee has not yet met	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate): At the national and regional levels meetings are done quarterly but coordination at the lower levels may be done more often when there are partnerships and joint projects
1.8	Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link for members of the coordination mechanism: <i>please elaborate:</i> Please see attached directory		

III. Challenges and successes in achieving progress concerning priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

The following sections cover the 11 priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. Please answer the questions in regard to the specific priority area mentioned in the text. This is to help measure which priority areas are characterized by **challenges** and by **progress**, as well as identify any **achievements**, **good practices** and **lessons learned** that can be shared with other countries regarding specific areas.

A. Poverty eradication and employment

Overall policy environment		
1.A.	Are any priority actions for poverty eradication and employment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (e) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p><i>Poverty eradication and improving employment conditions of Filipinos have always been a priority strategy of every Administration. Such strategy is included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country.</i></p> <p><i>The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017-2022 aimed to lay down the foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. It was anchored on AmBisyon Natin 2040 representing the collective aspirations of Filipinos to enjoy a “matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay” (i.e., strong family and community ties, a comfortable lifestyle, and a secure future). The PDP was pursued through the three major pillars of “Malasakit,”</i></p>		

	<p><i>“Pagbabago,” and “Patuloy na Pag-unlad.” The Malasakit pillar is about enhancing the social fabric. The Pagbabago pillar is about effecting inequality-reducing transformation consisting of strategies that expanded economic opportunities, accelerated human capital development, reduced vulnerability and poverty, and built safe and secure communities. The Patuloy na Pag-unlad pillar consisted of strategies to enhance the factors necessary to accelerate and sustain growth and development through 2040. It is about promoting science, technology, and innovation. It also covers strategies to reap the demographic dividend.</i></p> <p><i>The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023-2028, remains anchored on AmBisyon Natin 2040. It aims to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the Philippine economy back to its high-growth trajectory and effect economic and social transformation for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society. The PDP specifically aims to maintain an annual economic growth rate between 6.0 to 7.0 percent in 2023 and between 6.5 to 8.0 percent from 2024 to 2028 and to attain unemployment rate within 4.0 to 5.0 percent, and the percentage of wage and salary workers in private establishments to total employed within 53 to 55 percent.</i></p> <p><i>As the national blueprint for development, Executive Order No. 14 directed all national government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), other national government offices and instrumentalities, government corporate entities (GCEs), state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local government units (LGUs) to adopt and disseminate the PDP 2023-2028. They are also directed to align their budgetary and department/corporate programs with the strategies and activities identified in the PDP 2023-2028. As such, poverty eradication and employment as key strategies and agenda of the PDP are integrated in various sectoral development plans including the National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) and the Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (PLEP), among others.</i></p>	
2.A.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “poverty eradication and employment” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>Since 2013, the following legislative policies in relation poverty eradication and employment were instituted:</i></p> <p><i>For poverty eradication:</i></p> <p><i>1. Magna Carta of the Poor (RA 11291, 2018).</i> <i>This law calls on the government to establish a system to provide the requirements, conditions and opportunities for the full enjoyment of the following rights of the poor: (1) right to adequate food; (2) right to decent work; (c) right to relevant and quality education; (d) right to adequate housing; and (e) right to the highest attainable standard of health. It mandates the implementation of a social protection system and a system for targeting beneficiaries. A National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) will be crafted to set the thresholds to be achieved by the government for each of the recognized rights of the poor. It also encourages private sector participation in the government’s anti-poverty programs and projects, and provides for tax exemptions for contributions to initiatives implemented under the NPR.</i></p>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, 2018). <i>The promotion of universal health care aims to provide financial risk protection among the poor in ensuring their access to needed health care.</i> 3. Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act (RA 11310, 2018). <i>The law institutionalized the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven (7) years, to improve the health, nutrition and education aspect of their lives.</i> 4. Rice Tariffication Law (RA 11203, 2018). <i>With the goal of reducing poverty by strengthening economics, the law places a 35% tariff on imported rice with the goal of prioritizing local rice production for the population by stabilizing the supply. The tariff also aims to benefit local farmers by creating a more efficient and competitive agricultural system.</i> 5. Microfinance Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) Act (RA 10693, 2017). <i>Under this law, poor families considered as “unbankable” loan clients, who intends to establish small and micro-enterprises but do not have access to financial products and services can team up with accredited microfinance NGOs that will provide them with convenient, flexible and low-interest credit.</i> 6. Universal Access to Tertiary Education Act (RA 10931, 2017). <i>Recognizing that education is a critical factor in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, this act promotes universal access to quality tertiary education by providing free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, and technical-vocational institutions. It also provides tertiary education subsidy and student loan and financial assistance program especially for poor students.</i> 7. Sagip Saka Act (RA 11321, 2020). <i>The policy recognizes the need to achieve sustainable modern agriculture and food security by helping the agricultural and fishing communities to reach their full potential, increasing farmers’ and fishermen’s incomes, and bridging gaps through public-private partnerships, thereby improving their quality of life. In pursuance to this policy, the State shall strengthen the farmers and fisherfolk enterprise development program by establishing a comprehensive and holistic approach in the formulation, coordination and implementation of enterprise development initiatives, consolidating the roles of different government agencies involved in farmers and fisherfolk enterprise development, and intensifying the building of entrepreneurship culture among farmers and fisherfolk.</i> 	
<p>For employment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Go Negosyo Act (RA 10644, 2018). <i>This policy seeks to strengthen medium, small and micro enterprises to create more job opportunities in the country through the Negosyo Center Program which promotes ease of doing business and facilitating access to services.</i> 9. Philippine Green Jobs Act (RA 10771, 2015). <i>The policy establishes mechanisms to identify needed skills, develop training programs, train and</i> 	

certify workers for jobs in a range of industries that produce goods and render services for the benefit of the environment, conserve natural resources for the future generation and ensure the sustainable development of the country and its transition into a green economy. For this purpose, the act sets out several incentives to encourage business enterprises to generate green jobs as certified by the Climate Change Commission

- 10. JobStart Philippines Act (RA 10869, 2016).** *This law institutionalizes the nationwide implementation of JobStart Philippines Program to help unemployed youth in their job search by enhancing their knowledge and skills acquired in formal education or technical training. The Program requires participants from 18 to 24 years old, high school graduate, not employed, neither studying nor undergoing training at the time of registration and with less than one year or no work experience. The JobStart Program shall include full employment facilitation services such as registration, client assessment, life skills training with one-on-one career coaching, technical training, job matching, and referrals to employers either for further technical training, internship, or for decent employment.*

With a maximum of 20 percent of its total workforce, an employer shall be allowed to take in JobStart trainee for a maximum period of three months or 600 hours and a commitment to pay at least seventy-five percent of the daily minimum wage for the relevant city or municipality. Participating employers shall receive an amount per month per JobStart trainee to cover administration cost in managing the trainee, such amount to be determined by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

- 11. Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act (RA 10911, 2015).** *The Act mandates the elimination of age-based discrimination not only by employers, but also by labor contractors or subcontractors. It aims to promote equal work opportunities for everyone by prohibiting arbitrary age limitations in the hiring of applicants, as well as, the dismissal and retirement of employees.*

- 12. Special Program for Employment of Students Act (RA 10917, 2016).** *This policy promotes an employment-bridging program that aims to provide temporary employment to disadvantaged youth to augment their family's income and help ensure that beneficiaries are able to pursue their education. Target groups of this program include poor students, out-of-school youth, and dependents of displaced or would-be displaced workers.*

- 13. Tulong Trabaho Act (RA 11230, 2018).** *The policy aims to improve the skills of the labor force by providing free access to technical-vocational education which, in turn, will help improve employment rate. The creation of a Philippine Labor Force Competencies Competitive Program aims to address unemployment and jobs-mismatch by assessing the current requirements of industries.*

Achievements and good practices	
3.A.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013?

	<i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i>	
	<i>The incidence of poverty among families in the Philippines has gone down from 18% in 2015 to 13% in 2021 (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021). Likewise, poverty incidence among population declined from 24% in 2015 to 18% in 2021. Moreover, the employment rate in the country slightly increased from 94% in 2015 to 95% in 2022 (PSA, Labor Force Survey). The 2022 rate, however, is already an increase from the significant decline in employment during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 and 2020, with 90% employment rate. Underemployment, nonetheless, continue to be at significant level of 14% in 2022.</i>	
4.A.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing poverty eradication and employment programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>	
	<p><i>The improvement of data on poverty and employment situation in the country can be attributed to the following programs, in addition and in support of the policies indicated above:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutionalization of conditional cash transfer program. <i>The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is a human development measure of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18. The 4Ps has dual objectives as the flagship poverty alleviation program of the government:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. social assistance, giving monetary support to extremely poor families to respond to their immediate needs; and</i> <i>b. social development, breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle by investing in the health and education of poor children through programs such as:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. health check-ups for pregnant women and children aged 0 to 5;</i> <i>ii. deworming of schoolchildren aged 6 to 14;</i> <i>iii. enrollment of children in daycare, elementary, and secondary schools; and</i> <i>iv. family development sessions.</i> <p><i>The 4Ps remains as the main social protection strategy of the government with its objective of breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty by helping poor households invest in the health, and education of their children. Previous impact evaluation studies of the program show that the program has been successful in keeping children healthy and in school. Evaluations also indicated that the program still shows desirable impacts on most of the target education and health outcomes of children and pregnant women. It also showed positive impacts on household welfare such as income and food security; community participation, and awareness of basic means to mitigate vulnerabilities such as disaster preparedness among adults; and strong impact on “grit” or determination of children. The program has been institutionalized through a legislative policy as mentioned above. As of 2022, the program catered to 1.3 million families.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Kalahi CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services). <i>This is a community-driven development program for poverty eradication that uses the community-driven development (CDD) approach, a globally recognized strategy for achieving service delivery, poverty reduction and</i> 	

good governance outcomes. The program aims to empower communities to meet challenges and opportunities to reduce poverty in its multiple dimensions. Thus, it is envisioned that communities in target municipalities are empowered to achieve improved access to basic services and participate in more inclusive local planning, budgeting and implementation.

Under the program, the community subproject types include: Basic Services Subprojects e.g., community water systems, school buildings, health stations and electrification; Basic Access Infrastructure e.g., foot bridges, access roads and foot paths; Community Common Service Facilities e.g., pre- and post-harvest facilities and small-scale irrigation systems; Environmental Protection and Conservation e.g., flood control systems, sea walls, artificial reef sanctuaries and soil protection structures; Skills Training and Capability-Building e.g., eco-tourism projects; and, others not prohibited by the program. The program is generally found to have positive evidence for poverty welfare reduction, poverty targeting, and increased access to services.

3. TUPAD or Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers.

TUPAD is a community-based package of assistance that provides emergency employment for displaced workers, underemployed and seasonal workers, for a minimum period of 10 days, but not to exceed a maximum of 30 days, depending on the nature of work to be performed. It specifically supports the following projects through provision of financial assistance to beneficiaries:

- a. Social community projects, such as repair, maintenance, and/or improvement of common public facilities and infrastructure such as schools and health centers, debris clearing, de-clogging of canals, debris segregation and materials recovery, stockpiling and clearing;
- b. Economic community projects like repair, maintenance and/or rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, bridges, post-harvest facilities, public markets and common service facilities such as production and display centers, fishports;
- c. Agro-forestry community projects, such as tree planting, seedling preparation, and reforestation.

The beneficiaries are also provided with skills training to prepare towards self or wage employment after the project. The TUPAD program has been an integral strategy in protecting unemployed and displaced Filipinos from income loss during the pandemic. The payment of wages of the TUPAD beneficiaries are coursed through a money remittance service provider to ensure standard application across all regions in terms of mechanics and service fee costs. A total of 337,198 beneficiaries have completed their work with a total of Php1,263,984,262.00 wages paid as of June 12, 2020.

4. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP). This program provides assistance through grants to individuals and groups and can be used to start a livelihood project, expand or upgrade an existing project, restore or re-establish existing livelihood projects destroyed due to natural and human-made disasters, or transform existing livelihood assistance to community/group enterprises. From 2016 to 2022, a total of 573,314 beneficiaries benefited from the DILP, of which 238, 761 are female, with grant assistance amounting to ₱6,307,363,004, while a total of 10,864,644 workers were provided

with temporary wage public employment assistance, of which 4,309,250 are female, in the amount of ₱51,642,952,203.

5. **AlkanSSSy Program.** *AlkanSSSy is a play on the Filipino word “alkansya” (piggy bank) and the triple-S for Social Security System (SSS) as the implementing agency. The AlkanSSSy program was designed to fit the informal sector workers’ way of life and to make saving for monthly SSS premiums affordable. The AlkanSSSy is akin to a huge filing cabinet with around 160 individual boxes or coin slots that can be locked and in which the informal sector workers drop daily amounts in their designated slots. Once a month, the informal sector group (ISG) officers, with the guidance and monitoring of the assigned SSS account officers (AO), would open the individual boxes and count up the amounts saved. Once enough is collected for a month’s contribution, ISG officers fill up the SSS payment form, remit the payment to SSS through a third-party collecting agency or a bank. Since the start of the AlkanSSSy Program up to end – April 2018, SSS has partnered with 1,421 different groups and has successfully registered 105,874 members. In terms of contributions, at least P685.12 million have been collected with a monthly average collection of P13.74 million. SSS was awarded by the Asean Social Security Association for the AlkanSSSy Program under the “Innovation Excellence” category in September 2015.*
6. **Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).** *The SLP, which is implemented by DSWD, is a capability-building program that provides access to opportunities that increase the productivity of the livelihood assets of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities, in order to improve their socioeconomic well-being. The program aims to enhance human assets through technical-vocational and life skills training, enrich natural assets that protect and contribute to community livelihoods, extend social assets through membership in SLP associations and network linkages, expand financial assets through seed capital and access to credit, and establish or acquire physical assets for livelihood operations. Under SLP, beneficiaries are given the option to register in either the micro-enterprise development track or the employment facilitation track after participating in social preparation and capacity-building activities.*
7. **Local Poverty Eradication Programs and Initiatives.** *Under the Local Government Code, the local government units (LGUs) have the primary responsibility to ensure the wellbeing and development of their constituents. These includes initiatives to alleviate poverty among population and families within the localities. For this purpose, LGUs have developed and implemented their respective approaches and programs on poverty eradication. To guide them in the development of responsive programs, the LGUs were required to establish the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) as a poverty-tracking system.*

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
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5.A.	Lack of human resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The inadequacy of human resources dedicated to implement initiatives for poverty eradication and employment were most felt at the local level where the hiring of staff is limited. In most cases, this inadequacy is addressed through hiring of staff under contract of service and partnership with the civil society organizations and private sectors.</i>
6.A.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While all government institutions are mandated to support the thrust for poverty eradication and employment, financial resources remain inadequate in view of sustainability. This is being addressed by ensuring that poverty reduction programs are pursued within human development approach to have long-term impact and through efficient partnership among national, regional and local governments and with the private sector.</i>
7.A.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Continuing institutional capacity development is a key strategy for concerned institutions to be more effective in developing, implementing and monitoring poverty reduction and employment initiatives. This is pursued through collaboration between national and local government units.</i>
8.A.	Lack of data on poverty eradication and employment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Income poverty data are available at the national and regional levels through the Family Income and Expenditure Survey every three years. Annual poverty data on other indicators are available at the national level through the Annual Poverty Indicators Survey . Employment data are available at the national and regional level every month. However, data are not always available at the local government unit level. This has actually been addressed through the institutionalization of local community-based monitoring system (CBMS), a database of households at the community level on socioeconomic conditions. Other demographic and socioeconomic databases such as the registry of barangay inhabitants and migrants are also being promoted.</i>
9.A.	Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.A.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While poverty eradication and employment remained a national priority for all administration, weak coordination among national and local government has resulted to overlapping, redundancy and uneven coverage of various poverty eradication and employment initiatives. The Magna Carta of the Poor mandated the formulation of a national poverty reduction plan to ensure collaboration among various agencies.</i>

11.A.	Lack of international support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.A.	Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Some of development partners' initiatives on poverty eradication and employment have been implemented without efficient coordination and collaboration. The Magna Carta of the Poor mandated the formulation of a national poverty reduction plan to ensure collaboration among various agencies including development partners. Moreover, the National and Development Authority (NEDA) reviews the alignment of development partners' country programs with the PDP priorities.</i>
13.A.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The gap on awareness is mostly on the mechanisms to access poverty reduction programs and services. Concerned agencies have formulated and adopted communication strategies including optimal use of social media or online platforms to build public awareness of their various programs.</i>
14.A.	A bottom-up approach to poverty eradication and employment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.A.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>COVID 19 and natural disasters have limited the physical implementation of poverty reduction and employment programs. Through the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, the national government has instituted mechanisms through national and local government to mitigate economic loss during the pandemic. Some of the mechanisms under the law include the provision of financial assistance and allowances to displaced or unemployed workers and indigent families.</i>
16.A.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples.</i>				

	<p><i>While the Philippines has made important gains in poverty reduction, driven by high growth rates and the expansion of jobs outside agriculture, inequality remains high. Poverty remains high in rural areas especially those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The policy on full devolution aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of local government units to promote more inclusive poverty reduction and employment programs and strategies.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, the government continues to address and eliminate issues of graft and corruption in government processes and systems to ensure that government funds directly benefit the people. Policies such as the Anti-Rate Tape Act and Ease-of-Doing Business are some of the policies that aims address this concern.</i></p>
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Lessons learned	
17.A.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<p><i>An efficient database in identifying the poor households and their emerging needs and concerns especially at the local level is important in providing responsive and effective poverty reduction and employment interventions. These data can help in the formulation of a collaborative framework among concerned agencies to ensure cost-efficiency, inclusiveness and responsiveness of interventions and strategies.</i></p>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

B. Health

Overall policy environment		
1.B.	Are any priority actions for health included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>The health and nutritional wellbeing of Filipinos have always been a priority strategy of every Administration. Such strategy is included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country.</i></p> <p><i>Section 10 (Accelerating Human Capital Development) of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017-2022 aimed to improve nutrition and health for all Filipinos through provision health care services at all life stages, ensuring access to functional service delivery network, and sustain financing for health. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2023-2028, on the other hand, envisions, by 2028, all Filipinos throughout the country to enjoy longer and healthier lives, because they live, work, and learn in communities, workplaces, and schools that better support their well-being; they are guided to make healthy choices; and they are assured access, with financial protection, to quality health services when needed. Specifically, it seeks to achieve the following health outcomes: (a) social determinants of health improved; (b) healthy choices and behavior enabled; (c) access, quality, and efficiency of health care improved; and (d) health systems strengthened.</i></p> <p><i>Executive Order No. 14 directed all national government agencies/institutions and local government units (LGUs) to support the priorities laid out in the plan within their programs and jurisdictions. As such, priorities for health and nutrition are spelled out in relevant sectoral plans such as National Objectives for Health of the Department of Health (DOH, the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), the Philippine Health Facilities Development Plan (PHFDP 2020–2040), and the National Human Resources for Health Master Plan (NHRHMP 2020–2040). Local actions for health and nutrition are likewise spelled out in local development plans and programs.</i></p>	
2.B.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “health” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>Since 2013, the following legislative policies towards better health and nutritional outcomes were instituted:</i></p> <p>1. Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, 2018). <i>This landmark policy seeks to provide all Filipinos access to a comprehensive set of quality and cost-effective, promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, palliative health services without causing financial hardship. The law pursues health system reforms necessary to expand financial protection and access to health services to all Filipinos by adopting a whole-of-system, whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centered approach to improve overall health system performance. It mandates structural and functional changes in health financing, service delivery, and governance to address the issues of the country’s fragmented health system through the establishment of province- or city-wide health systems.</i></p>	

Moreover, under the UHC Law, all citizens are automatically entitled to PhilHealth benefits, including comprehensive outpatient services. This consolidated other relevant laws providing for the mandatory PhilHealth enrollment of persons-with-disabilities (RA 11228), senior citizens (RA 10645) and pregnant women.

PhilHealth will be responsible for purchasing all individual-based services, including supplies, medicines, and commodities, as well as maintenance and operating expense of health facilities. PhilHealth's provider payment systems will be reformed towards global budgets of contracted health care provider networks (HCPNs). The DOH will maintain responsibility for population-based services, as well as salaries for government healthcare workers.

- 2. *First 1000 Days Act (RA 11148, 2018).*** *The law provides for comprehensive, sustainable, multisectoral strategies and approaches to address health and nutrition problems of newborns, infants and young children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent females as well as multifactorial issues that negatively affect the development of newborns, infants, and young children. Specifically, it provides for the establishment of enabling environment for the sustained provision of critical early child care interventions for the first 1000 days of a child's life, for optimal growth and development. This ensures that a child's future is protected from the devastating effects of malnutrition.*
- 3. *Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities (RA 10754, 2015).*** *The law provides for senior citizens entitlement to At least twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) on purchase of medicines in all drugstore and on medical and dental services including diagnostic and laboratory fees such as, but not limited to, x-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests, and professional fees of attending doctors in all government facilities.*
- 4. *Masustansyang Pagkain Para sa Batang Pilipino Act (RA 11037, 2017).*** *This policy institutionalizes the DSWD's Supplementary Feeding Program for undernourished day care children ages three to five years old. It also mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to conduct the school-based feeding program which provides similar meal plan for undernourished school children from kindergarten to grade six in all public schools.*
- 5. *Food Safety Act (RA 10611, 2013).*** *This law aims to strengthen the food safety regulatory system in the country to protect consumer health and facilitate market access of local foods and food products. It specifically aims to: (a) protect the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods; (b) enhance industry and consumer confidence in the food regulatory system; and (c) achieve economic growth and development by promoting fair trade practices and sound regulatory foundation for domestic and international trade. Towards the attainment of these objectives, the following measures shall be implemented: (1) delineate and link the mandates and responsibilities of the government agencies involved; (2) provide a mechanism for coordination and accountability in the implementation of regulatory functions; (3) establish policies and programs for addressing food safety hazards and developing appropriate standards and control measures; (4) strengthen the scientific basis of*

the regulatory system; and (5) upgrade the capability of farmers, fisherfolk, industries, consumers and government personnel in ensuring food safety.

6. **Philippine National Health Research System Act (RA 10352, 2013).** *The law aims to enhance Filipino people's health literacy and overall health-related quality of life. It seeks to ensure that: a) health research is linked to the health system needs; b) investments in health research yield the most benefit; c) promoting good governance among health research organizations through efficient, effective, transparent and ethical health research management system; d) engaging in national and international partnerships and networks for health research development; and e) ensuring sustainability of resources for health research.*
7. **Early Years Act (RA 10410, 2013).** *The law promote the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with full recognition of the nature of childhood and as well as the need to provide developmentally appropriate experiences to address their needs; and to support parents in their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers. It institutionalized a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that involves multisectoral and interagency collaboration at the national and local levels among government; among service providers, families and communities, and among the public and private sectors, nongovernment organizations; professional associations and academic institutions. The System shall promote the inclusion of children with special needs, provide for reasonable accommodation and accessible environments for children with disabilities.*
8. **Graphic Health Warnings Law (RA 10643, 2014).** *The law prescribes ggraphic health warnings that effectively warn of the devastating effects of tobacco use and exposure to second hand smoke to remove misleading or deceptive numbers or descriptors like "low tar", "light", "ultra lights" or "mild" which convey or tend to convey that a product or variant is healthier, less harmful or safer towards promoting the right to health and information of the people.*
9. **Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act (RA 10767, 2015).** *The mandated the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development by supporting and expanding efforts to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health problem by increasing investments for its prevention, treatment and control, and adopting a multisectoral approach in responding to the disease.*
10. **Act Strengthening the Anti-Hospital Deposit Law (RA 10932, 2017).** *The law prohibits hospitals or medical clinics to request, solicit or demand any deposit or any other form of advance payment as prerequisite for administering basic emergency care, for confinement or medical treatment, or to refuse to administer medical treatment and support to any patient.*
11. **Mental Health Act (RA 11036).** *The policy provides a rights-based mental health legislation that mandates the provision of psychiatric, psychosocial and neurological services in all hospitals, and basic mental health services in community settings. Compulsory treatment is limited to hospital settings, and the Act does not provide for compulsory community treatment. It protects the rights of patients to freedom from discrimination, protection from torture, cruel, inhumane, and*

	<p>degrading treatment; right to aftercare and rehabilitation; right to be adequately informed about psychosocial and clinical assessments; right to participate in the treatment plan to be implemented; right to evidence-based or informed consent; right to confidentiality; and right to counsel, among others.</p> <p>12. Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act (RA 11166, 2018). The law helps in expanding access to evidence-based HIV prevention strategies including condoms and other commodities. The law also facilitates easier access to learning about one's HIV status, in particular for young people aged 15 years old and above who can undergo an HIV test without parental or guardian consent. The law also makes HIV testing as a routine procedure of prenatal care to prevent HIV infection from mother to child during pregnancy, labor and breastfeeding.</p> <p>13. Sin Tax Law (RA 11467, 2019). The law, which amends and adds to the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, increased the excise taxes on alcohol products, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), and heated tobacco products (HTPs). The additional revenue will fund the Universal Health Care (UHC), additional medical assistance and support to local governments, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.B.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p>“Estimates on average life expectancy at birth increased in 2015–2020 relative to 2010–2015. Mortality rates among neonates, infants, and children under five remained virtually unchanged between 2017 and 2022. The maternal mortality ratio increased to 144 per 100,000 live births (LB) in 2020 from 108 in 2018, in part likely due to pandemic-related obstacles to accessing prenatal care and facility-based deliveries.”</p> <p>“From 2015 to 2021, the prevalence of stunting among children under five years old decreased from 33.4 to 26.7 percent and wasting from 7.1 to 5.5 percent while overweight remained at 3.9 percent.”</p> <p>(Source: Chapter 2.1 Boost Health, Chapter 2, Philippine Development Plan for 2023 to 2028)</p> <p><i>Accomplishments in health particularly through the Department of Health include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) deployment of 31,157 health personnel nationwide since 2018 to complement the existing pool of health professional at the local government units; b) grant of full scholarships to 1,831 medical and midwifery students and 271 scholars for the in-service scholarships program to address the human resource gap; c) enrolment of a total 104 million beneficiaries of PhilHealth as of 2022. <p>The Philippines has also been certified as a global exemplar of anemia reduction for achieving the World Health Organization's global target for anemia reduction of more than 50% from 27.3% prevalence in 2008 to 12.5% in 2018. This shows success and effectiveness in the implementation of RA 8972, or the Food Fortification Act of 2000,</p>	

	<i>and the efforts and diligence in the implementation of the iron supplementation given during pre-natal check-ups.</i>	
4.B.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? please elaborate and provide specific examples:	
	<p>1. Public Health Programs. <i>The Department of Health (DOH) is currently implementing various public health programs that would provide interventions on addressing the triple burden of diseases in the country – morbidity caused by infectious diseases; mortality by non-communicable diseases (NCDs); and emerging incidence of injuries, mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse. These programs are: a) National Immunization Program, b) Women, Men, and Children’s Health Development Programs, c) HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention, Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease, Integrated Helminth Control, Food and Waterborne Diseases Prevention and Control, and National Dengue Prevention and Control Programs, d) Tuberculosis Control Program, e) Malaria Control, Schistosomiasis Control, Leprosy Control, and Filariasis Elimination Programs, f) Rabies Control Program, g) Lifestyle Related Diseases Prevention and Control, and Essential NCDs Programs.</i></p> <p>2. Integrated planning for nutrition. <i>The Philippine Plan of Action on Nutrition (PPAN) serves as the overall blueprint for various stakeholders in addressing hunger and malnutrition. At the sub-national level, the Regional Plans of Action for Nutrition (RPANs) 2023-2028 and the Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAP) have been implemented and formulated, with assistance from National Nutrition Council. While the sub-national plans are formulated to address specific nutrition problems identified in the areas of jurisdiction, the plan is anchored on the results framework of the PPAN. In view of the need to ensure that developments relating to the devolution of functions and services to the local government are considered and that the increased allocations and resources are properly utilized, the Guidelines on Local Nutrition Planning is also currently being updated. The formulation of Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs), is aimed not just to formulate and ensure the mainstreaming of nutrition in the local development planning budgeting process but more importantly, is to integrate nutrition in the Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) of Local Government Units (LGUs).</i></p> <p><i>Under the program, the community subproject types include: Basic Services Subprojects e.g., community water systems, school buildings, health stations and electrification; Basic Access Infrastructure e.g., foot bridges, access roads and foot paths; Community Common Service Facilities e.g., pre- and post-harvest facilities and small-scale irrigation systems; Environmental Protection and Conservation e.g., flood control systems, sea walls, artificial reef sanctuaries and soil protection structures; Skills Training and Capability-Building e.g., eco-tourism projects; and, others not prohibited by the program. The program is generally found to have positive evidence for poverty welfare reduction, poverty targeting, and increased access to services.</i></p>	

3.	Human resource for health (HRH) deployment program. <i>This intervention aims to improve the adequacy of healthcare professionals and workers across country. The program hires cadres of health professionals that will support and complement HRH at the local level particularly in rural, unserved and underserved communities. Majority of the health workers are deployed to local government units that are not able to hire or retain health workers and often these are low-resource municipalities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The HRH deployed includes doctors, nurses, midwives, medical technologists, dentists, public health associates, among others.</i>
4.	Health facilities enhancement program. <i>The Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the Department of Health (DOH) aims to improve public health facilities by constructing new and upgrading and rehabilitating existing public health facilities across the country such as barangay health stations, rural health units/urban health centers and local hospitals. The program assists in enabling government health facilities in providing affordable quality care and specialized treatments. By strengthening the health system through HFEP, it contributes in ensuring delivery of health services towards achieving health-related SDG targets.</i>
5.	Local innovative health program and strategies. <i>Under the Local Government Code, local government units have the primary responsibility to ensure the health wellbeing of their constituents. As such, many of the LGUs have implemented various good practices on health based on their local situations. This include, among others, the institution of helpline or e-health platforms, outreach programs in remote areas, expansion of hospital bed capacities and installation of public health facilities, and other innovative approaches for health.</i>

Challenges				
In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.B. Lack of human resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The inadequacy of human resources dedicated to health is a perennial concern of the health sector. The country in particular is being affected by the exodus of nurses and doctors to other countries due to higher salaries abroad. This concern is being addressed by the health human resources deployment programs, scholarship for physicians with return service and bilateral cooperation with other countries.</i>

6.B.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The fund for the health sector has been seriously affected by the pandemic. While primary health care services were ensured during the health emergency, the budget for health were prioritized for measures addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, with the limitations of local funds, the maintenance of local clinics, hospitals and facilities including hiring of human resources are serious concerns at the local level.</i></p> <p><i>To address this concern, Executive Order No. 138 increased the share or allotment of the local government units from the national tax. Public-private partnership and the participation of CSOs are likewise being encouraged for resource sharing for the promotion of health care.</i></p>
7.B.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Since the devolution, there is a need for continuous capacity development for local government units for delivery health and nutritional services. As such, national government agencies has retained in their function the provision of technical assistance to LGUs in enabling them to deliver health and nutritional services.</i></p>
8.B.	Lack of data on health, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The national health survey is usually conducted every five years which sometimes are not timed during national planning period. There are likewise existing administrative databases that gather health service utilization indicators but are usually unreliable in terms of completeness, timeliness and coverage.</i></p> <p><i>The continuing improvement of field health service indicator system is being undertaken. Other mechanisms to gather disaggregated health data include the conduct of population surveillance system, vital statistics and other administrative data.</i></p>
9.B.	Lack of overall political support related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.B.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>While health and nutrition remained a national priority for all administration, lack of coordination among national and local government has resulted to overlapping, redundancy and uneven coverage of various health initiatives. This is being resolved through the issuance of technical guidance by relevant government agencies and national plans that guide local targeting system for health and nutrition.</i></p>
11.B.	Lack of international support related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.B.	Lack of development partner coordination related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

13.B.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Public awareness on health concerns remain as a key gap that relevant interventions are constantly addressing. Health education is part of primary education as well as community-based social behavior change communication strategies.</i>
14.B.	A bottom-up approach to health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>National standards are usually set-up to ensure reliability and accuracy of health interventions. However, in the development of health and nutritional objectives and strategies, various stakeholders are consulted.</i>
15.B.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>During the height of COVID 19 and natural disasters, physical access to primary health care services were limited. However, national and local governments instituted innovative approaches to bring the health services to the communities through relief operations, outreach programs, mobile clinics and itinerant health teams, and other innovative mechanisms.</i>
16.B.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of health programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<i>While the Philippines is already on its way to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the universal health care law remains a challenge. Marginalized sectors such as those in rural and remote areas and informal economy have low level of access to tertiary health care services. Partly, this is because of the geographical nature of the country having so many islands and remote communities.</i>				

Lessons learned

17.B.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<i>Community health volunteers such as the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS), and Barangay Population Volunteers and Workers are crucial in ensuring access of every household to health care services from public health facilities. They are also very instrumental in improving public awareness and education on health. Most of them are providing the services in voluntary basis, receiving minimal allowances for their mobilization. They are considered as modern day heroes for health.</i>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Overall policy environment		
1.C.	Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (e) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>The sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of Filipinos has been highlighted as a key development agenda by recent administrations. Such strategy is included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country.</i></p> <p><i>The President Rodrigo Duterte Administration included in its 0+10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law (RA 10354). It recognized the importance promoting sexual and reproductive health in improving the capacity of the country to achieve the potential for demographic dividend, which was an integral chapter of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017-2022. Such PDP highlighted strategies that aim to reduce unmet need for family planning, maternal deaths and adolescent pregnancies by improving access to family planning and other reproductive health services. The PDP for 2023-2028 likewise included these indicators in the chapter under human capital development.</i></p> <p><i>Targets and key strategies for sexual and reproductive health were likewise included in the Philippine Population Management Directional Plan for 2017-2022 and in the Objectives for Health for the same planning period. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health is likewise the overall content of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines which the Commission on Population and Development prepared.</i></p>	
2.C.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Population and Development priority area “sexual and reproductive health” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>To continuously promote sexual and reproductive health, the following policies and plans were formulated, since 2013:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, 2018). <i>This policy, which seeks to promote universal access to health care, included access to reproductive health services particularly family planning and maternal health care as part of the services covered by the social health insurance or PhilHealth.</i> 2. Executive Order No. 12 series of 2017 (Attaining and Sustaining Zero Unmet Need for Family Planning). <i>This executive order mandated the intensified implementation of strategies that would attain zero unmet need for family planning. It mandated the DOH, CPD and DILG to work closely with the local government units in the mapping and locating of unmet need, conduct of demand generation activities, capacity development of service providers and community-based workers, and provision of FP supplies, commodities and services particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.</i> 3. Executive Order No. 141 series of 2021 (Addressing the Root Causes of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines). <i>This executive order mandated a whole-of-government response in addressing the root-causes of adolescent pregnancy in the country. It specifically mandated the formulation of comprehensive action plan to prevent adolescent pregnancy, promotion of comprehensive sexuality education in school and communities, provision of social protection support to adolescent mothers to continue their education, and intensified social and behavior change communication to adolescents on sexual and reproductive health. The Comprehensive action plan for EO 141 spelled out interagency actions in preventing and reducing adolescent pregnancies particularly among the pillars of: a) promoting comprehensive sexuality education; b) improving access to sexual and reproductive health services; c) strengthening mechanism to prevent and manage sexual abuse and gender-based violence against children and girls; d) addressing socioeconomic dimensions of adolescent pregnancies; and e) promoting youth development and participation in community development.</i> 4. Administrative issuance by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). <i>To enjoin the implementation of the RPRH law and other local interventions for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, the DILG issued memorandum to all local government units for the intensified implementation of the RPRH law and relevant national policies such as the EO 12, designation and mobilization of local population officers and reproductive health officers, mapping and provision of FP services to meet needs for modern FP and increase of investments for SRH-related services.</i> 5. DepEd Department Order No. 31 series of 2018 (Policy Guidelines in the Implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education). <i>This department order laid down the overall policy for the integration of comprehensive sexuality education in the school curriculum, in compliance to the mandates of the RPRH law.</i> 	

6. **Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act (RA 11166, 2018).** *The law helps in expanding access to evidence-based HIV prevention strategies including condoms and other commodities. The law also facilitates easier access to learning about one's HIV status, in particular for young people aged 15 years old and above who can undergo an HIV test without parental or guardian consent. The law also makes HIV testing as a routine procedure of prenatal care to prevent HIV infection from mother to child during pregnancy, labor and breastfeeding.*
7. **First 1000 Days Act (RA 11148, 2018).** *The law provides for comprehensive, sustainable, multisectoral strategies and approaches to address health and nutrition problems of newborns, infants and young children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent females as well as multifactorial issues that negatively affect the development of newborns, infants, and young children. Specifically, it provides for the establishment of enabling environment for the sustained provision of critical early child care interventions for the first 1000 days of a child's life, for optimal growth and development. This ensures that a child's future is protected from the devastating effects of malnutrition. It also includes the provision of family planning services to mothers as a critical intervention in ensuring their health wellbeing.*
8. **Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313, 2018).** *The law defined, prohibited and prescribed penalties for various forms of gender-based sexual harassment in streets, public spaces, online, education and training institutions. It expanded the previous sexual harassment law which was confined only in education, work and training institutions.*
9. **105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law (RA 11210, 2018).** *The law provides the updated policy on maternity leave that cover females who are workers in the private and public sectors, workers in the informal economy, voluntary contributors to the Social Security System (SSS), and national athletes. It likewise grants a woman the option to allocate up to seven days of paid maternity leave to her child's father or an alternate care giver.*
10. **Prohibition of Child Marriage (RA 11596, 2021).** *The law promotes the welfare of Filipino children by prohibiting and protecting them from entering into any kind of child marriage that will be detrimental to their overall development as a productive citizen. Under this act, any person who causes, fixes, facilitates, or arranges a child marriage including any individual who performs or officiates a child marriage, as well as the adult partner who cohabits with a child outside wedlock shall be penalized by law.*
11. **Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act (RA 11930, 2022).** *The law, which amended the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, ensures the protection of every child against all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, especially those committed to the use of information and communications technology (ICT).*
12. **Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action for 2023-2028.** *The PPD-POA substantially integrated strategies for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights particularly through the family development, responsible parenthood and family planning and adolescent health and development as critical components of the Philippine Population and Development Program (PPDP).*

	<p>13. 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Act for the development of social protection program for adolescent mothers and their children. The DSWD and the CPD was mandated to develop a social protection program for adolescent mothers and their children to protect them from risk and vulnerabilities attendant to their being young mothers. These include support for the prevention of repeat pregnancies, maternal deaths and socioeconomic implications.</p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.C.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p><i>The following outcomes indicators were result of initiatives in the country to promote sexual and reproductive health:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Decline in total fertility rate – from 3.0 children in 2013 to 1.9 children in 2022 (2022 NDHS);</i> <i>b) Decline in the proportion of adolescents who have begun childbearing – from 10% in 2013 to 5.4% in 2022 (2022 NDHS);</i> <i>c) Increase in modern contraceptive prevalence rate – from 36% in 2013 to 42% in 2022 (2022 NDHS);</i> <i>d) 86% of women who had a live birth in the 2 years preceding the survey received antenatal care from skilled providers (2022 NDHS).</i> <i>e) 83% of women had four or more ANC visits during their most recent pregnancy resulting in a live birth in the 2 years preceding the survey (2022 NDHS)</i> <i>f) Most (86%) women who had a live birth in the 2 years preceding the survey took some form of iron supplementation during their pregnancy (2022 NDHS)</i> <i>g) Overall, 90% of live births were assisted during delivery by a skilled provider (2022 NDHS)</i> <i>h) 88% of live births took place in a health facility (2022 NDHS)</i> <i>i) 18% of women have ever experienced any form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent husband/intimate partner (2022 NDHS)</i> 	
4.C.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	
	<p>1. Existing reproductive health law and magna carta of women. <i>The reproductive health law serves as an overall legal framework for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights. It specifically provides for the development and implementation of interventions for the elements of reproductive health at all levels. It serves as the basis for the implementation of the following innovative approaches:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Promotion of men’s involvement in responsible parenthood, reproductive health particularly family planning and gender equality (e.g., KATROPA, MOVE, etc.);</i> <i>b. Family planning program in the workplace;</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. <i>Outreach programs for reproductive health especially during the pandemic;</i> d. <i>Community-based demand generation activities for family planning and maternal health;</i> e. <i>Setting-up of integrated service delivery network for family planning and maternal health care;</i> f. <i>Setting-up and mobilization of coordinative structures for the implementation of RPRH law at the national and sub-national levels;</i> g. <i>Setting-up and operationalization of comprehensive and interagency initiatives for the prevention and management of violence against women and children and other forms of gender-based violence (e.g., VAWC Desks in village level; interagency task forces at the national, regional and provincial levels, etc.);</i> h. <i>Residential and non-residential services for victims of violence; and</i> i. <i>Institutionalization of pre-marriage orientation program which provides information to would-be-couples on responsible parenthood, reproductive health and family planning.</i> <p>2. Community-based demand generation, referral and promotion of sexual and reproductive health. <i>Most of the municipalities and cities in the country has recruited and deployed community-based volunteers (e.g., barangay health workers and barangay population volunteers) to map, profile, and promote sexual and reproductive health to each household within their area of assignment. These community-based volunteers are working in a voluntary basis.</i></p> <p>3. Long-term planning and monitoring for gender equality and women empowerment. <i>The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)2019-2025 is the mid-term plan of the government on the implementation of initiatives towards the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Plan's overall framework is informed by the Magna Carta of Women, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (1995-2025), and the SDGs. This plan was formulated and being monitored through an interagency approach.</i></p> <p>4. Local innovative sexual and reproductive health program and strategies. <i>Under the Local Government Code, local government units have the primary responsibility to ensure the health of their constituents including the provision of family planning and population development services. As such, many of the LGUs have implemented various good practices to promote sexual and reproductive health based on their local situations. These include, among others, the institution of helpline or e-health platforms, outreach programs in remote areas, provision of sexual and reproductive health services in public health facilities, and other innovative approaches.</i></p> <p>5. Health insurance benefit for family planning and maternal health care and other reproductive health-related services. <i>As part of the UHC law of the country, critical reproductive health services including family planning were included in the PhilHealth benefit package.</i></p>	
Challenges		
<p>In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>		

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.C.	Lack of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The inadequacy of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health is a perennial concern in the country. The inadequate capacity of workers on SRH is likewise a concern. This concern is being addressed through the partnership of national government agencies (e.g., DOH and CPD) in providing assistance in ensuring the training of health service providers and deployment of health workers and community-health volunteers. Partnership with the CSOs, private sector, development partners and other relevant government agencies is likewise being undertaken. Hiring of additional staff under job orders and contract of service are likewise being undertaken to temporarily fill-in gap in human resources.</i>
6.C.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>While there is substantial amount for the procurement of FP commodities at the national level this year, within the context of devolution, there is a need to mobilize local resources to ensure the availability of FP supplies and services. Funds for other aspects in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health such as training, demand generation and improvement of delivery systems and network remain wanting. To address these concerns, DOH and CPD always integrate in their annual budget some funds for SRH-related activities, albeit, not adequate. Continuous advocacy for greater investment at the local level and from the private sector is also being undertaken. Moreover, the provision of FP and maternal health care and other reproductive health services were integrated in the PhilHealth benefit package.</i>
7.A.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Since the devolution, there is a need for continuous capacity development for local government units for delivery sexual and reproductive health services. As such, national government agencies have retained in their function the provision of technical assistance to LGUs in enabling them to deliver sexual and reproductive health services.</i>

8.C.	Lack of data on sexual and reproductive health, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The national health survey is usually conducted every five years which sometimes are not timed during national planning period. There are likewise existing administrative databases that gather health service utilization indicators but are usually unreliable in terms of completeness, timeliness and coverage.</i></p> <p><i>The continuing improvement of field health service indicator system is being undertaken. Other mechanisms to gather disaggregated sexual and reproductive health data include the conduct of population surveillance system, vital statistics and other administrative data.</i></p>
9.C.	Lack of overall political support related to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Given the controversial nature of family planning, a number of politicians maintain opposition to sexual and reproductive health even if there is already a law. As such, continuing advocacy to reach a common ground with opposition is being pursued. Champions and advocates are likewise continuously being mobilized.</i></p>
10.C.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The existing interagency partnership for sexual and reproductive health needs to be strengthened to attain relevant program goals. For this purpose, interagency committees and coordinative structures are being mobilized to ensure collective actions. The DOH is also spearheading the development of Multi-sectoral strategic plan for Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) to harmonize needed actions.</i></p>
11.C.	Lack of international support related to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The emphasis on climate change and disaster reduction concerns have caused the dwindling of international funding for sexual and reproductive health. To address this, DOH and CPD continues to partner with relevant development partners to integrate sexual and reproductive health concerns in their country programs.</i></p>
12.C.	Lack of development partner coordination related to sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Sometimes, development partners have overlapping interventions on sexual and reproductive health (e.g., UNFPA, USAID, WHO, JICA, etc.) not only on thematic concern but also on geographic coverage. To promote coherence, development partners are developing convergence programs with relevant government agencies to ensure collaboration and optimal use of available resources. Relevant agencies are likewise consulted in the formulation of their country programs.</i></p>
13.C.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Public awareness on sexual and reproductive health concerns remain as a key gap that relevant interventions are constantly addressing. SRH education is part of community-based social behavior change communication strategies.</i></p>

14.C.	A bottom-up approach to sexual and reproductive health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>In transitioning to full devolution, local government units are being capacitated and assisted to come-up with their own local programs based on their actual situation. Within this initiative, LGUs are being capacitated to establish data and information (e.g., formative research) about their constituents as basis for the formulation of their sexual and reproductive health interventions.</i>
15.C.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>During the height of COVID 19 and natural disasters, physical access to sexual and reproductive health care services were limited. However, national and local governments instituted innovative approaches to bring these services to the communities through relief operations, outreach programs, mobile clinics and itinerant health teams, and other innovative mechanisms. The CPD and DOH likewise enjoined LGUs to continuously provide sexual and reproductive health care services through the community-health workers especially in the re-supply of FO commodities and in conducting outreach programs.</i>
16.C.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of sexual and reproductive health programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<p><i>While the country has some critical accomplishments in terms of sexual and reproductive health, there remain unequal access among the poor, uneducated and geographically isolated individuals and couples to relevant services. Hence, there is a need for more targeted approach in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health services. Moreover, religious opposition continue to be encountered in the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, the emerging challenge points to the increasing maternal mortality ratio. While there are improvements in other outcomes such as antenatal care, post-partum visit, facility-based delivery and skilled birth attendance, they fall short to the level that will have significant impact to the health outcome indicators. This is because of the many limitations on the level of health facility and health service providers particularly in ensuring the proper timing of antenatal care visits and providing options for deliveries from among those who are in geographically isolated and depressed areas as well as among the poor through established service delivery networks. There is also a need to improve the mechanisms so that PhilHealth reimbursements are used by the facility to improve their operations.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, there remains a challenge to implement the comprehensive sexual education particularly in terms of the training of teachers and development of learning materials nationwide. Finally, the devolution of sexual and reproductive health services especially family planning and maternal health services faces the challenges of inadequacy of capacities, political will and resources.</i></p>				

Lessons learned

17.C.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
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	<p>Community health volunteers such as the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS), and Barangay Population Volunteers and Workers are crucial in ensuring access of every household to sexual and reproductive health care services from public health facilities. They are also very instrumental in improving public awareness and education on SRH. Most of them are providing the services in voluntary basis, receiving minimal allowances for their mobilization.</p> <p>Initiatives on men's involvement on sexual and reproductive health as well as promotion of SRH in the workplace are emerging good practices that contributed to the attainment of SRH outcomes in the country. The strong participation and involvement of the CSOs and private sector are likewise instrumental in ensuring the implementation of the existing sexual and reproductive health policies and in improving governance mechanisms at all levels.</p>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for sexual and reproductive. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):

D. Education

Overall policy environment		
I.D.	<p>Are any priority actions for education included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>Access to education is a constitutionally guaranteed right of each Filipino. This constitutional right provides the legal framework for the education sector to receive the</i></p>	

	<p>highest allocation from the country's budget. As such, education and life-long learning are always included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country.</p> <p><i>The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017-2022 and for 2023-2028 promote education and life-long learning as critical strategy for socioeconomic development. In the current Administration's PDP, the chapter on education aims to achieve quality, inclusive, adaptive, resilient, and future-ready basic education for all; attain globally competitive and inclusive TVET and higher education, and improved research output for a broader knowledge economy; and improved governance for human capital development.</i></p> <p><i>The specific strategies for education and life-long learning is spelled out in the Basic Education Development Plan (BEDP) 2030 of the Department of Education (DepEd), National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Roadmap on Public Higher Education Reform and the CHED Strategic Plan of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).</i></p>	
2.D.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area "education" since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>Since 2013, the following legislative action for education and skills development reforms include the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education Act (RA 11650, 2022). <i>This law states that all public schools nationwide are required to identify learners with special needs and provide these learners with free basic and quality education. It also mandates that all cities and municipalities have at least one Inclusive Learning Resource Center (ILRC). An ILRC is a physical or virtual center that provides teaching and learning support through appropriate, accessible, and gender-sensitive materials.</i> 2. Enhanced Basic Education Act (RA 10533, 2013). <i>The basic education law expanded the years of schooling in basic education from 10 years to 12 years. In school year 2018-2019, an additional 2 years representing Grades 11 and 12 have been introduced in the basic education system through senior high school. It also provided financial assistance to qualified students through voucher system.</i> 3. Early Years Act (RA 11310, 2018). <i>The law promotes the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with full recognition of the nature of childhood and as well as the need to provide developmentally appropriate experiences to address their needs; and to support parents in their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers. It institutionalized a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that involves multisectoral and interagency collaboration at the national and local levels among government; among service providers, families and communities, and among the public and private sectors, nongovernment organizations; professional associations and academic institutions. The System shall promote the inclusion of children with special needs, provide for</i> 	

reasonable accommodation and accessible environments for children with disabilities.

It also mandated the formulation and implementation of ECCD Curriculum that provides developmentally-appropriate educational objectives and practices, programs of activities, organized learning experiences, recommended learning materials and appropriate assessment for children from age zero (0) to four (4) years that are implemented by service providers through center and home-based programs. It shall consist of national program goals and guidelines, instructional objectives, and content outlines that are age-appropriate, individually appropriate and culturally relevant. It also fosters Parent Education through various formal and alternative means of providing parents with information, skills, and support systems to assist them in their roles as their children's primary caregivers and educators. These include public and private parent education programs linked to center, home and media-based child care and education programs.

- 4. *Open Distance Learning Act (RA 11650, 2014).*** *The law aimed to expand and further democratize access to quality tertiary education and technical educational services in the country with the use of open learning services. Under the law, open distance learning in the Philippines for higher educational institutions (HEIs) and technical-vocational courses have the goal of providing accessible, quality education through the use of open educational resources (OER) and delivery of learning materials via print, audio-visual, electronic/computer and virtual classrooms, and face-to-face sessions.*
- 5. *Iskolar ng Bayan Act (RA 10648, 2014).*** *The law protects and promotes the right of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels and to establish and maintain a financial assistance system that shall be available to deserving students, especially the underprivileged. For this purpose, the government shall democratize access to higher education by institutionalizing a college scholarship program to be named the "Iskolar ng Bayan Program" for top graduates of public high schools in the country, subject to the academic standards, application and admission policies and such other reasonable rules and regulations of state universities and colleges (SUCs). It covers all public high school students belonging to the top ten (10) of the graduating class, based on the guidelines and criteria set by the Department of Education (DepED), who will enroll in SUCs as freshmen.*
- 6. *Universal Access to Tertiary Education Act (RA 10931, 2017).*** *This act promotes universal access to quality tertiary education by providing free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges, local universities and colleges, and technical-vocational institutions. It also provides tertiary education subsidy and student loan and financial assistance program especially for poor students.*
- 7. *Ladderized Education Act (RA 10648, 2014).*** *The law institutionalized the ladderized interface between technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and higher education to open the pathways of opportunities for career and educational progression of students and workers, create a seamless and borderless system of education, empower students and workers to exercise options or to choose when to enter and exit in the educational ladder, and provide job platforms at every exit as well as the opportunity to earn income.*

8. **Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Act (RA 10687, 2015).** UniFAST reconciles, improves, strengthens, expands, and puts under one body all government-funded modalities of Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) for tertiary education – and special purpose education assistance – in both public and private institutions. These modalities include scholarships, grants-in-aid, student loans and other specialized forms of StuFAPs formulated by the UniFAST Board.
9. **PH Qualifications Framework (RA 10968, 2015).** The Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) describes the levels of educational qualifications, the official recognition of a person's learning achievements. It also sets the standards for qualification outcomes which are the knowledge or skills gained by students after undergoing a certain learning or educational program. Adopting a well-developed qualifications framework presents several benefits to learners, academe, workers, professionals, employers, industry and government. The PQF provides a standard for the recognition of certificates and licenses that individuals may move and progress through. It shows pathways and equivalences to help them make informed choices in education and employment growth. As such the framework promotes mobility, encourages lifelong learning and builds the workforce confidence. As the PQF establishes a standard for education and training providers, it helps guarantee that these providers adhere to specific benchmarks and are accountable for achieving the same, ultimately ensuring the quality of education and training. In addition, since the PQF provides common understanding of policies and guidelines in curriculum/program formulation and implementation, it also allows for the seamless movement and progression of learners to and from different education and training institutions. It is a collaborative program by the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).
10. **Transnational Higher Education Act (RA 11448, 2018).** The law strengthens the government's efforts to modernize the Philippine higher education sector and make use of international quality standards and expertise for the purpose of promoting global competitiveness, attracting talents, and further developing the country's human resource. It provides CHED national policy directions on the internationalization of Philippine higher education by providing a platform for accelerating partnerships between Philippine and foreign universities to achieve the goals of access, quality, equity, and inclusivity in higher education.

Achievements and good practices	
3.D.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i>
	<i>The following are the recent achievements in the education and skills development sector:</i>

	<p>a) <i>Increasing enrolment in the primary education level since 2021 - 28.4 million learners in 44,931 public schools and 12,162 private schools nationwide; 99% of public schools are now implementing 5-day-in-person classes - DepEd;</i></p> <p>b) <i>83% elementary graduates pursued higher education while only a little over 10% were employed;</i></p> <p>c) <i>2.46 million students accessed free college education during the academic year 2021 to 2022</i></p>	
4.D.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing education programmes that other countries may find useful? please elaborate and provide specific examples:</p>	
	<p>1. Free tertiary education. <i>The Commission on Higher Education reported that more than two million Filipino students have benefitted from the free quality tertiary education since 2017. Coincidentally, the poverty incidence rates among families in regions where tertiary education subsidies beneficiaries live, went down in 2021, specifically in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula and Eastern Visayas, among others.</i></p> <p>2. Integration of education in poverty reduction strategies. <i>One of the conditions of the country's conditional cash transfer program is the attendance of children in school and completion of their primary level of education. As per impact evaluation of the program, success was noted in improving the educational status of poverty reduction program beneficiaries.</i></p> <p>3. Local Education Initiatives. <i>While educational services are not devolved, the LGUs supported the improvement of their education of their constituents through financial assistance in the building of schools, social programs in addressing socioeconomic barriers in attending schools and enhancing community support to educational program.</i></p>	

Challenges				
In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.D. Lack of human resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The inadequacy of teachers in basic education level remains a challenge basically due to lower salaries. The capacity of teachers is likewise a noted inadequacy among human resource for education. To address these concerns, the education institutions have launched various training and capacity building programs for teachers and instructors. Salaries and benefits are likewise constantly being reviewed and improved, albeit limited.</i></p>

6.D.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While the education sector receives the highest allocation, there remains gap in terms of providing the inputs for school such as classrooms, text books and computers. This gap is being addressed through annual budgeting process of the government, partnership with the private sector and local government units.</i>
7.D.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Continuing capacity development is a key strategy for teachers to provide quality education. The DepEd has already laid out the plan to provide professional development programs, including graduate degree scholarship programs to teachers focusing on their learning area specialization and graduate certificate programs for nonmajors. Support in terms of innovative, responsive, and inclusive teaching approaches following the Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers (PPST) will also be pursued.</i>
8.D.	Lack of data on education, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Data on education are available through the administrative data available through the Basic Education Information System (BEIS) of the Department of Education and the Functional Literacy Education and Mass Media Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority. However, more enhancement is needed to the BEIS and the FLEMMS is done only every 5 years.. The earlier challenge is being addressed through the continuous enhancement of educational databases such as the Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS).</i>
9.D.	Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.D.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>There remains a challenge in terms of effective coordination between agencies involved in education and skills development. Efforts, however, for more effective collaboration are being pursued to include the formulation of collective framework for education and life-long learning under the PDP, implementation of the PQF, and sustained coordinative meetings between and among concerned agencies.</i>
11.D.	Lack of international support related to education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.D.	Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>There remains a challenge in converging efforts of various development partners in supporting educational reforms in the country. This is being addressed through close coordination</i>
13.D.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

14.D.	A bottom-up approach to education not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.D.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>COVID 19 and natural disasters have always limited the delivery of educational services. The country adapted through the adoption of online and hybrid platforms but initial assessments have revealed negative impact on the quality of education. The educational institutions have factored-in emergencies in the formulation of strategies for more resilient educational program.</i>
16.D.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of education programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<p><i>The country continues to be beset by critical challenges both in the educational outcome and process levels. For one, “teacher education needs improvement, given the consistently low passing rate in the licensure examination for teachers (LET). These deep-seated challenges have severely affected the learning conditions of students over the past generations. The pandemic brought to the fore the issues that have been piling up through decades of incapacity and suboptimal investment in education (only 3.9% of GDP in 2020) – (from PDP 2023-2028)</i></p> <p><i>“The results are alarming as the World Bank estimates learning poverty rate in the Philippines at 90.9 percent. This means that nine out of ten 10-year-old Filipino children are unable to read and understand a simple text. There are also students who remain non-readers even in high school. The proportion of learners achieving at least “Proficient” level in the 2018 National Achievement Test at the third and sixth grade is at 6.39 percent and 12.63 percent, respectively.” (from PDP 203-2028).</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, as reported by the DepEd, the quality of school curriculum remains a challenge vis-à-vis the objectives of the educational reform policy. As such, DepEd is currently reviewing the K-12 curriculum to make it more responsive and adaptive of the needs of times.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of extensive network and partnerships, while there are existing partnerships and collaborations, both in public and private, the TESDA is still facing its own challenges on industry partnerships, especially in terms of labor force requirement and skills development.</i></p>				

Lessons learned

17.D.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of education not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<i>Education remains as one of the critical dimensions of human and socioeconomic development. While access to education services is a constitutionally guaranteed right, ensuring that this right is fulfilled remains a huge task for the government as the primary duty bearer. As such, improving educational outcome entails the whole of the society.</i>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please elaborate):

E. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Overall policy environment		
1.E.	Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (e) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>Gender equality and women empowerment is a cross-cutting principle in all development agenda and initiatives at all levels of government as enshrined in Magna Carta of Women. Such strategy is included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country. The PDP for 2023 to 2028 underscores the commitment of the government to ensure gender equality in the access, quality, and efficiency of health care, including its health workforce. It also highlights the adoption of gender equality, disability and social inclusion in terms of disaster resiliency, health, and education.</i></p> <p>The Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025.⁶ The GEWE Plan is the government’s guide and key reference in formulating Gender and Development (GAD) plans and budgets. It is the third time-slice framework plan that the</p>	

⁶ Women, P. C. (2022, April). Updated Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Plan 2019-2025. Retrieved from Philippine Commission on Women: <https://library.pcw.gov.ph/updated-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-plan-2019-2025/>

	<p>government has formulated in support of the long-term perspective plan, the <i>Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) 1995-2025</i>. The Updated GEWE Plan contains strategic actions that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Respond to the changing needs of women and girls because of the COVID-19 pandemic and align with the updated priorities of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022;</i> <i>Move the country closer to the achievement of the PPGD's long-term vision of gender equality and women's empowerment;</i> <i>Safeguard the gains that have been achieved towards inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment; and</i> <i>Provides for a whole-of-government approach to mainstreaming gender equality and the rights of women and girls in recovery and resilience efforts.</i> <p><i>Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) 1995-2025.</i>⁷ The PPGD 1995-2025 is a 30-year framework plan that recognizes and promotes the active role and full participation of women in the development process, and provides the strategies for fulfilling the country's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and other international standards and commitments on women and gender equality. The PPGD outlines policies, programs, and projects in human development, economic and industrial development, development administration, and special concerns sectors.</p>	
2.E.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “gender equality and women empowerment” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>The legislative policies enumerated and elaborated under Section C (2.C.) are also policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment particularly addressing sexual and reproductive health and rights concerns. In addition to those policies, the following support legislation:</i></p> <p>1. Anti-Mail Order Spouse Act (RA 10906, 2017). <i>The law prohibited the following illegal acts:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Engagement in any business or scheme for money, profit, material, economic or other consideration which has for its purpose the matching or offering of a Filipino to a foreign national for marriage or common law partnership on a mail-order basis or through personal introduction, email, or websites on the internet;</i> <i>exhibition, advertisement, publication, printing, or distribution, or causing the exhibition, advertisement, publication, printing, or distribution of brochures, flyers, or propaganda materials which are calculated to promote the prohibited acts in the preceding paragraph, or to post, advertise, or upload such materials through websites on the internet;</i> 	

⁷ Women, P. C. (1998). Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development 1995-2025. Retrieved from Philippine Commission on Women : <https://library.pcw.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PCW-Philippine-Plan-for-Gender-Responsive-Development-1995-2025-1998.pdf>

- c. solicitation, enlisting, or in any manner, attracting or inducing any Filipino to become a member in any club or association whose objective is to match Filipino nationals to foreign nationals for the purpose of marriage or common law partnership for a fee; and
- d. Using the postal service or any website on the internet to promote the prohibited acts under this section.

2. **Decriminalization of Premature Marriage (RA 10655, 2015).** *The law decriminalizes the discriminator provision of the penal code of the country on “premature marriage” or the act of a widow of marrying within three hundred and one (301) days from the day of death of the husband or before having delivered if she shall have been pregnant at the time of his death.*

3. **Expanded Solo Parent Welfare Act (RA 11861, 2022).** *The law reinforces the two decade-old Solo Parent’s Welfare Act of 2000 by expanding its scope of applicability and increasing the benefits granted to solo parents, most of whom are women, and their families. The Act covers solo parents who exercise sole parental care and support of the child or children, whereby the occasional assistance and/or gifts from the co-parent that do not meet the legal requirement for support under the Family Code, will not remove the solo parent from the Act’s scope. The Act covers five (5) categories of solo parents: (a) A parent who provides sole parental care and support of the child or children; (b) A spouse, any family member, or a guardian of the child or children of an Overseas Filipino Worker [OFW], provided that the OFW belongs to the low/semi-skilled worker and has been away for an uninterrupted period of twelve (12) months; (c) An unmarried parent who keeps and rears the child or children; (d) A legal guardian, adoptive, or foster parent who solely provides parental care and support; and (e) Any relative within the fourth (4th) civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of the parent or legal guardian who assumes parental care and support of the child or children as a result of death, abandonment, disappearance, or absence of the parents for at least six (6) months.*

Among the expansions that the Act made is the amendment of the dependent’s age threshold from eighteen (18) years old to twenty-two (22) years old. The definition of “spouse” has also been expanded to mean not only to a husband or wife by virtue of a valid marriage, but also to a partner in a common-law relationship as defined by Article 147 of the Family Code (i.e., those who have no legal impediment to marry and are living exclusively as husband and wife without benefit of a valid marriage). Solo parents are granted more benefits under the expanded Act. They are entitled to P1,000 cash subsidy per month per solo parent earning a minimum wage and below, provided no other cash assistance or subsidy from a government program is availed of. They can also avail of a 10% discount and VAT exemption on baby’s supplements and other medical supplements purchased for children until the age of six (6), provided that the solo parent is earning less than P250,000 annually. Solo parents are also automatically covered under the National Health Insurance Program administered by PhilHealth.

In the working space, the required period of rendered service to avail of Parental Leave has been shortened from one (1) year to only six (6) months. Employers are encouraged, although not required, to enter into agreements with their solo parent employees for a telecommuting program as provided under Republic Act 11165. In education, every child of a solo parent is entitled to a scholarship provided by

	<p><i>DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, and thereafter is given priority in education programs of the government.</i></p> <p>4. Increasing the age of sexual consent (RA 11648, 2022). <i>This law increased the age of statutory rape from 12 to 16. This recognizes children's right to and need for protection from sexual abuse and exploitation. The law also provided stricter measures to protect children against sexual violence.</i></p> <p>5. General Appropriations Act. <i>The general appropriations act mandates all government agencies and instrumentalities at all levels to allot 5% of their total allocation for gender-related interventions particularly those that support the implementation of the Magna Carta of Women.</i></p> <p>6. The Bangsamoro Organic Law <i>provides reserved seats for women, youth, traditional leaders, the Ulama, and non-Moro indigenous peoples and settler communities in the Bangsamoro Parliament.</i></p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.E.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p><i>In addition to the accomplishments and data cited in Section for Sexual and Reproductive Health (2.C), the following key achievements were likewise generated:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Philippines remains among the top-ranking countries in terms of the Gender Gap Index. Out of 146 countries, the Philippines placed 16th in 2020; 17th in 2021; and 19th in 2022.</i> <i>2. To ensure women's access to effective redress and free legal aid, Philippine National Police (PNP) continuously assists VAW victims through its Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD). The DSWD also assists victims, including those in conflict and disaster-stricken areas, through community-based and residential-care services. In 2021, 659 women were assisted by the DSWD. Finally, free legal aid is provided by the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) and National Prosecution Service (NPS).⁸</i> <i>3. The DOH also reported the establishment of 94 Women and Children Protection Units (WCPU) nationwide as of 2016. The WCPU was established in response to the growing number of women and children consulting about rape, incest, and other forms of violence. According to the DOH, the WCPU served about 8,000 cases through this mechanism in 2015.</i> 	

⁸ PCW, P. C. (2022). Replies to the list of issues and questions in relation to the 9th periodic report of the Philippines. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination.

	<p>4. <i>The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) compiled VAW hotlines⁹ across the country to make emergency response hotlines available to victims or witnesses to report gender-based violence. Additionally, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PCW established a one-stop shop page providing the contact information of the Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), PNP Women and Children Protection Center, Public Attorney's Office (PAO), and the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women (IACVAW) to make assistance more accessible to VAW victims.</i></p> <p>5. <i>The Philippine Commission on Women and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) have been working on the "Guidelines on the establishment and maintenance of online GAD statistical databases in the Philippines" to serve as a guide and standard for national government agencies in developing their respective GAD databases. The PSA has also developed the Agency Readiness Assessment Criteria to determine an office's preparedness in undertaking the establishment of its GAD databases.</i></p>	
4.E.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? please elaborate and provide specific examples:</p>	
	<p><i>In addition to the reported good practices for sexual and reproductive health, the following were also pursued in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment:</i></p> <p>1. Making the Barangay VAWC Desks functional. <i>To bring the service closer to the women and their children, the creation and strengthening of VAW Desks in barangays is a priority. A VAW Desk is defined as "physical facility that addresses VAW cases in a manner that is gender sensitive." VAW Desks should be present in each barangay since they are the first responders to a call for help by a victim. As of August 2018, DILG reports that 90 percent of the 42,036 barangays have already created their VAW Desks.</i></p> <p><i>With most of the structures created, the focus now is to strengthen the functionality of existing VAW desks. An important element of functionality is making sure that barangay officials in charge of the desk are capacitated to gender sensitively handle a case, refer a victim for assistance and issue a BPO as needed. In line with this, DILG issued MC No. 2017-114 dated August 30, 2017 re Guidelines in Monitoring the Functionality of Barangay VAW Desk. As of July 31, 2018, a total of 25, 435 or 60.51% of the 42,036 barangays have been assessed – of which, 4,293 (16.88%) were found to be ideal, 12, 878 (50.62%) were mature, 6,583 (25.92%) were progressive, and 1,673 were basic.</i></p> <p>2. Gender and Development (GAD) Planning and Budget. <i>The Philippines is the only country that has legislated appropriation for GAD-related activities and interventions by all government agencies at all levels. The fund is at least 5% of the</i></p>	

⁹ Women, P. C. (n.d.). VAWC Hotlines. Retrieved from Philippine Commission on Women: <https://pcw.gov.ph/violence-against-women-helplines/>

agency's total appropriation to be used in addressing gender issues within the organization and among their clients. For this purpose, a GAD Focal Point or structure in each office is created. For many LGUs, a Gender and Development Office was even created.

3. *The landmark legislation of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), or RA 9710, a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, protecting, fulfilling and promoting the rights of Filipino women, especially those in marginalized sector, paved the way for strengthening existing and establishing new legal frameworks and mechanisms for women's human rights. It further strengthened the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming strategy in the systems, structure, policies, programs, processes and procedures of State duty bearers. Its salient provision on Institutional Mechanisms strengthened the operationalization of gender equality and women's empowerment, through the following gender mainstreaming efforts and strategy for implementation:*

- a. *Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender and Development (GAD), which mandates the utilization of at least five (5) percent of the agency budget on GAD initiatives by all national and local agencies and instrumentalities of government, including Official Development Assistance (ODA)-funded projects;*
- b. *Creation and/or strengthening of gender and development focal point system (GFPS) in national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs) and foreign posts;*
- c. *Generation and maintenance of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated databases (SDD) to aid in planning, programming and policy formulation;*
- d. *Conduct of gender audit;*
- e. *Development of a GAD Code by LGUs; and,*
- f. *Installation and operationalization of the Gender Ombud at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).*

With the state's continuous gender mainstreaming efforts, it developed gender analysis tools, notably the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) for Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The latter provides a common instrument for integrating gender perspectives in development programs and projects among government agencies, donor organizations, and other stakeholders. Since 2013, a number of government agencies have provided resources and developed their own GAD checklist tailored to the needs of their sectors encompassing Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Nature Source Management, Infrastructure, Private Sector Development, Social Sectors: Education, Health, Housing and Settlement, Women in Areas under Armed Conflict, Justice, Information and Communication Technologies, Microfinance, and Project Implementation and Management, as well as Project Monitoring and Evaluation. In terms of addressing Violence against Women and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, Magna Carta of Women (MCW) provided for the creation of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in every barangay (the smallest administrative division/district in the Philippines) where women who experience

physical, psychological and sexual abuse can go to seek assistance. The VAW desk brings the service closer and makes it more accessible to women and their children.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for gender equality and women empowerment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.E.	Lack of human resources dedicated to gender equality and women empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Each government agency is mandated to assign GAD focal person and organize a GAD Focal Point responsible for implementing relevant activities. As such, an implementing structure for GAD-related activities are ensured, addressing partly the issue on inadequacy of human resources.</i>

6.E.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to gender equality and women empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The Philippines has a Gender and Development (GAD) Budget Policy institutionalized under the Magna Carta of Women, which provides that the cost of implementing GAD programs shall be at least five percent (5%) of the agency's or the local government unit's total budget appropriations. There are, nonetheless, limitations in terms of resources for the implementation of particular GAD programs given the differences in income of local government units, the emergence of gender issues brought about by unforeseen circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and other circumstances. The government is nonetheless coordinating and/or partnering with private organizations and institutions for the implementation of GAD initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>There is also an Official Development Assistance – Gender and Development (ODA-GAD) Network, a working group composed of the gender focal persons of bilateral and multilateral development agencies that was organized in 2001. The Philippine Government is represented by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The group aims to coordinate GAD initiatives and partnerships of the Philippine government and bilateral and multilateral development agencies in the country.</i></p> <p><i>PCW operates with a small budget relative to its mandate to assist all government agencies and instrumentalities to mainstream gender in their work. A significant number of its personnel are not permanent employees, only contract-of-service with no tenure and no employee-employer relationship. The operational budget of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC) Secretariat, housed in PCW, is not included in the General Appropriations Act and thus completely relies on congressional insertions to continually deliver its functions.</i></p>
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7.E.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on gender equality and women empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Given the increasing demands for technical assistance and capacity development on GAD, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Strategic implemented the National Gender and Development Resource Program (NGRP) in 2013. The NGRP has components addressing the following concerns:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. delivery of technical assistance to requesting NGAs and LGUs for capacity development interventions on GAD;</i> <i>2. setting up mechanisms for the regular updating and sharing of information and resources as well as a referral mechanism for suitable resource persons, trainers, and other technical assistance providers on GAD; and</i> <i>3. development and/or updating tools, learning materials, and other knowledge products on GAD and conduct of GAD researches.</i> <p><i>One of the components of the NGRP is the certification of individual GAD practitioners across the country under the National GAD Resource Pool. Certified GAD Resource Pool Members are referred to requesting institutions and government agencies when PCW cannot directly respond to client agencies' concerns relative to their gender mainstreaming efforts due to staff limitations. To date, the NGRP is composed of 120 active members.</i></p> <p><i>The Civil Service Institute (CSI), the government institution providing competency-based training and development as well as best practices consulting services to civil servants and government agencies, is also offering training courses on GAD-related topics.</i></p>
8.E.	Lack of data on gender equality and women empowerment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The Magna Carta of Women (MCW) requires the establishment of a GAD database to collect sex-disaggregated data (SDD). At present, national government agencies (NGAs) have developed their own GAD databases. The Inter-agency Committee on Gender, Children and Youth Statistics (IACGCYS) is developing guidelines for improving the exchange of sex-disaggregated data and GAD-related information among agencies, as well as setting standards/enhancing the GAD databases of agencies and the sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics agencies are collecting. Data for some sectors, such as women with disabilities, is also lacking.</i></p>
9.E.	Lack of overall political support related to gender equality and women empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>There are a lot of champion and advocates for gender equality and women empowerment at the national and sub-national levels.</i></p>

10.E.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to gender equality and women empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The existing interagency partnership for sexual and</i>
11.E.	Lack of international support related to gender equality and women empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.E.	Lack of development partner coordination related to gender equality and women empowerment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.E.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of gender equality and women empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Every year, the PCW leads the Women's Month Celebration, which serves as a venue to highlight women's achievements and discuss continuing and emerging women's empowerment and gender equality issues and concerns, challenges, and commitments. The celebration focuses on concrete activities that are aligned with national and international instruments and treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (1995-2025), the Framework Plan for Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals.</i></p> <p><i>The PCW also leads the observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, which supports the Philippine government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls by upholding its commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.</i></p> <p><i>Despite these efforts, there is a general misconception that gender equality and women's empowerment is a "women-only" issue and is pitting men against women.</i></p>
14.E.	A bottom-up approach to gender equality and women empowerment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While civil society organizations, including women's groups, are constantly consulted in development of policies, reports, and plans, the concerns of the most marginalized and grassroots organizations at the local levels are not always considered.</i>

15.E.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on gender equality and women empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The COVID-19 pandemic significantly stalled programs for gender equality and women's empowerment, hence the PCW needed to update the GEWE Plan to adjust strategies and timelines. Other disasters include numerous typhoons expected to hit the country every year and ongoing armed conflict in some areas of Mindanao.</i>
16.E.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of gender equality and women empowerment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<p><i>Women, especially among the poor, marginalized, girls or adolescents/children, have been affected in terms of access to basic health and social services during the pandemic. They are also the most vulnerable during disasters. Moreover, at the policy front, there are legislative concerns the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) is trying to address that have been taking time in the Senate and House of Representatives.</i></p> <p><i>Another continuing challenge is the capacity of LGUs to identify gender issues and appropriate the mandated GAD budget of 5%.</i></p>				

Lessons learned

17.E.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<p><i>One of the highlights of the Magna Carta of Women Assessment (MCW) Report showed the participation of women in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a group seeking for an autonomous region for the Filipino Muslims from the central government. Moreover, a woman headed the government negotiating team while some members of the peace panel and the technical support team were comprised of women.</i></p>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health. Please check as many as apply.</p>	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): </div> <p><i>The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) identifies the following requirements to implement the priority actions towards gender equality and women empowerment in the country: capacity-building; advocacy and awareness raising; resource mobilization; engagement with non-governmental stakeholders; public-private partnerships; and data for monitoring and planning.</i></p> <p><i>The identified requirements have been implemented but are in need of strengthening through further human resource provision.</i></p>
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<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for sexual and reproductive. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): </div> <p><i>In terms of progress reporting, the following requirements were identified: capacity-building in both data collection and data analysis; resource mobilization; engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, and others; advocacy/engagement with data collection entities; and public-private partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>Similar to the issue with implementation, all these requirements have been initiated but require financial support and legal obligations to be well-established and maintained.</i></p>
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F. Adolescents and young people

Overall policy environment		
1.F.	<p>Are any priority actions for adolescents and young people included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(e) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>The sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of Filipinos specially of the adolescent has been highlighted as a key development agenda by recent administrations. Such strategy is included in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which serves as the national blueprint for development in the country.</i></p> <p><i>The President Rodrigo Duterte Administration included in its 0+10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law (RA 10354). It recognized the importance promoting sexual and reproductive health in improving the capacity of the country to achieve the potential for demographic dividend, which was an integral chapter of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2017-2022. Such PDP highlighted strategies that aim to reduce unmet need for family planning, maternal deaths and adolescent pregnancies by improving access to family planning and other reproductive health services. The PDP for 2023-2028 likewise included these indicators in the chapter under human capital development.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Targets and key strategies for sexual and reproductive health were likewise included in the Philippine Population Management Directional Plan for 2017-2022 and in the Objectives for Health for the same planning period. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health is likewise the overall content of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines which the Commission on Population and Development prepared.</i></p> <p>Philippine Youth Development Plan. <i>The Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYD) serves as the national framework for youth development in the country, ensuring active, holistic, and meaningful participation of youth in nation-building. The PYDP identified nine centers for youth participation: (1) Health; (2) Education; (3) Economic empowerment; (4) Social inclusion and Equity; (5) Peace building and Security; (6) Governance; (7) Active citizenship; (8) Environment; and (9) Global mobility.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand, Commission on Population and Development (CPD), together with other concerned agencies has crafted the Comprehensive Action Plan¹⁰ in response to EO 141. In this document clearly defines the strategies and specific government agencies responsible in the implementation of such strategies.</i></p>	
2.F.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “adolescents and young people” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>To continuously promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health, the following policies and plans were formulated, since 2013:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, 2018). <i>This policy, which seeks to promote universal access to health care, included access to reproductive health services including adolescent sexual and reproductive health including maternal health care and family planning services.</i> 2. Executive Order No. 141 series of 2021 (Addressing the Root Causes of Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines). <i>This executive order mandated a whole-of-government response in addressing the root-causes of adolescent pregnancy in the country. It specifically mandated the formulation of comprehensive action plan to prevent adolescent pregnancy, promotion of comprehensive sexuality education in school and communities, provision of social protection support to adolescent mothers to continue their education, and intensified social and behavior change communication to adolescents on sexual and reproductive health. The Comprehensive action plan for EO 141 spelled out interagency actions in preventing and reducing adolescent pregnancies particularly among the pillars of: a) promoting comprehensive sexuality education; b) improving access to sexual and reproductive health services; c) strengthening mechanism to prevent and manage sexual abuse and gender-based violence against children and girls; d) addressing socioeconomic dimensions of adolescent pregnancies; and e) promoting youth development and participation in community development.</i> 	

¹⁰ Empowering Pinoy Adolescents: Comprehensive Action Plan to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancies in the Philippines (2022).

4. ***DepEd Department Order No. 31 series of 2018 (Policy Guidelines in the Implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education)***. This department order laid down the overall policy for the integration of comprehensive sexuality education in the school curriculum, in compliance to the mandates of the RPRH law.
5. ***Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act (RA 11166, 2018)***. The law helps in expanding access to evidence-based HIV prevention strategies including condoms and other commodities. The law also facilitates easier access to learning about one's HIV status, in particular for young people aged 15 years old and above who can undergo an HIV test without parental or guardian consent. The law also makes HIV testing as a routine procedure of prenatal care to prevent HIV infection from mother to child during pregnancy, labor and breastfeeding.
6. ***First 1000 Days Act (RA 11148, 2018)***. The law provides for comprehensive, sustainable, multisectoral strategies and approaches to address health and nutrition problems of newborns, infants and young children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescent females as well as multifactorial issues that negatively affect the development of newborns, infants, and young children. Specifically, it provides for the establishment of enabling environment for the sustained provision of critical early child care interventions for the first 1000 days of a child's life, for optimal growth and development. This ensures that a child's future is protected from the devastating effects of malnutrition. It also includes the provision of family planning services to mothers as a critical intervention in ensuring their health wellbeing.
7. ***Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313, 2018)***. The law defined, prohibited and prescribed penalties for various forms of gender-based sexual harassment in streets, public spaces, online, education and training institutions. It expanded the previous sexual harassment law which was confined only in education, work and training institutions.
8. ***Prohibition of Child Marriage (RA 11596, 2021)***. The law promotes the welfare of Filipino children by prohibiting and protecting them from entering into any kind of child marriage that will be detrimental to their overall development as a productive citizen. Under this act, any person who causes, fixes, facilitates, or arranges a child marriage including any individual who performs or officiates a child marriage, as well as the adult partner who cohabits with a child outside wedlock shall be penalized by law.
9. ***Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act (RA 11930, 2022)***. The law, which amended the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, ensures the protection of every child against all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, especially those committed to the use of information and communications technology (ICT).
10. ***Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action for 2023-2028***. The PPD-POA substantially integrated strategies for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights particularly through the family development, responsible parenthood and family planning and adolescent health and development as critical components of the Philippine Population and Development Program (PPDP).

	<p>11. 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Act for the development of social protection program for adolescent mothers and their children. The DSWD and the CPD was mandated to develop a social protection program for adolescent mothers and their children to protect them from risk and vulnerabilities attendant to their being young mothers. These include support for the prevention of repeat pregnancies, maternal deaths and socioeconomic implications.</p> <p>12. Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015 (RA 10742, 2016). The law instituted reforms which insured effective participation among young Filipinos, namely: the inclusion of an anti-political dynasty provision, the allotment of 10% of the general fund of the barangay for projects initiated and implemented by the SK, the establishment of Local Youth Development Councils (LYDCs) for the successful planning and execution of projects and programs of the SK, and the imposition of mandatory and continuing training programs for SK officials, among others.</p> <p>13. Department of Health (DOH) also issued the Administrative Order 34- A s 2000: Adolescent and Youth Health (AYH) Policy in 2014 which created the Adolescent Youth Health Sub-program under the Children's Health Cluster of the Family Health Office. This policy was revised in March 2013 through the issuance of Administrative Order 0013, -2013: National Health Policy and Strategic Framework on Adolescent Health and Development (AHDP) with support from UNFPA Philippines. This is in response to an increasing prevalence of risky behaviors among adolescents. In 2017, the Technical Working group on AHDP revised the strategic framework and developed a logical framework, and monitoring and evaluation framework of the program (DOH, 2017a). The Philippine Youth Development Plan Framework is the basis for the revision and development of the AHDP Strategic Framework in 2017¹¹.</p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.F.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p><i>The following outcomes indicators were result of initiatives in the country to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health:</i></p> <p>a. <i>Decline in the proportion of adolescents who have begun childbearing – from 10% in 2013 to 5.4% in 2022 (2022 NDHS);</i></p> <p>b. <i>18% of women have ever experienced any form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent husband/intimate partner (2022 NDHS)</i></p>	
4.F.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	

¹¹ Commission on Population and Development. (2018). Philippine Report on the Implementation of the ICPD and APMDPD (2013-2017)

1. **Use of social media to reach out to young people and other school-based and community-based communication strategies.** Particularly during the pandemic, the power of social media was highlighted in promoting sexual and reproductive health. Relevant institutions have developed and optimized their campaigns through the social media and other online platforms. School- and community based strategies such as the Youth-for-Youth (U4U) or TeenChat approaches were likewise implemented.
2. **Participation of CSOs and private sector on ASRH.** The active participation of CSO and the private sector has significantly contributed in the establishment and implementation of ASRH-related strategies and activities.
3. **Local innovative adolescent sexual and reproductive health program and strategies.** Under the Local Government Code, local government units have the primary responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of children and youth under their jurisdiction. Through the Sanggunian Kabataan, many of the LGUs have implemented various good practices to promote programs for the wellbeing of young people in the locality. These include, among others, sports and cultural activities, establishment and mobilization of adolescents or teen-centers and mobilization of information and service delivery network for adolescent health and development (ISDN for AHD).
4. **Sangguniang Kabataan** or local youth councils present in every barangay and federated at the city, municipality and provincial levels to coordinate and implement programs for and with the Filipino youth.
5. **Establishment of Adolescent-Friendly Health Facilities.** This approach provides a guide on how to provide responsive sexual reproductive health (SRH) services to adolescents and young people in the Philippines as governed by the following directives, the Republic Act 10354, the DOH Administrative Order 2013-0013 on the National Policy and Strategic Framework on Adolescent Health and Development and other relevant policies. Adolescent and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS) is offered in an environment where service providers are non-judgmental, unbiased, and considerate in their dealings with adolescents and youth, have competencies needed to deliver youth responsive SRH services, health facilities are equipped to provide adolescents and youth with services they need and commodities that they want in an appealing and friendly manner, adolescents are aware of where to obtain the services and community members are aware of the health service needs of different groups of adolescents and youth and support their provision. Given the unique developmental stage in which adolescents and youth are at, their meaning participation is key. Young people are involved in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health services and decisions regarding their own care. In addition, the characteristics of the health facilities that young people visit are just as important as the service providers they meet and the choices available to them to make informed decisions.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?
 [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.F.	Lack of human resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While there are national government and local government (e.g., SK) structures for programs for adolescents and young people, there remains a challenge in terms of human resources for adolescents and young people.</i>
6.F.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While there is 10% of barangay budget as SK Fund, the utilization and allotment of this fund remains a challenge. There is a need to expand the programs from sports and cultural activities to address other issues besetting young people in the community. For this, continuous capacity development of SKs and the local youth development council are being provided by relevant government agencies.</i>
7.D.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Since the devolution, there is a need for continuous capacity development for local government units for delivery of programs for adolescents and young people. As such, national government agencies have retained in their function the provision of technical assistance to LGUs in enabling them to formulate programs for this segment of population.</i>
8.D.	Lack of data on adolescents and young people, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>National surveys on young people (e.g., NDHS and Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey) are periodically conducted resulting to scarcity of relevant data and information about young people.</i></p> <p><i>The installation of CBMS in all LGUs can help in generating data about young people in the locality. Other administrative data such as the civil registry and vital statistics can also help provide necessary data.</i></p>
9.D.	Lack of overall political support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Given the controversial nature of family planning, a number of politicians maintain opposition to adolescent sexual and reproductive health. As such, continuing advocacy to reach a common ground with opposition is being pursued. Champions and advocates are likewise continuously being mobilized.</i>
10.D.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The existing interagency partnership for sexual and reproductive health needs to be strengthened to attain relevant program goals. For this purpose, interagency committees and coordinative structures are being mobilized to ensure collective actions. The DOH is also spearheading the development of multi-sectoral strategic plan for Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) to harmonize needed actions. The CSR-ARH convergence team can likewise ensure coordinated interventions among partner agencies.</i>

11.D.	Lack of international support related to adolescents and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.D.	Lack of development partner coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sometimes, development partners have overlapping interventions on sexual and reproductive health (e.g., UNFPA, USAID, WHO, JICA, etc.) not only on thematic concern but also on geographic coverage. To promote coherence, development partners are developing convergence programs with relevant government agencies to ensure collaboration and optimal use of available resources. Relevant agencies are likewise consulted in the formulation of their country programs.</i>
13.D.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Public awareness on adolescent sexual and reproductive health concerns remain as a key gap that relevant interventions are constantly addressing. ASRH education is part of community-based social behavior change communication strategies.</i>
14.D.	A bottom-up approach to adolescents and young people not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>In transiting to full devolution, local government units are being capacitated and assisted to come-up with their own local programs based on their actual situation. Within this initiative, LGUs are being capacitated to establish data and information (e.g., formative research) about their constituents as basis for the formulation of their programs for adolescents and young people.</i>
15.D.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>During the height of COVID 19 and natural disasters, physical access to adolescent sexual and reproductive health care services were limited. However, national and local governments instituted innovative approaches to bring these services to the communities through relief operations, outreach programs, mobile clinics and itinerant health teams, and other innovative mechanisms. The CPD and DOH likewise enjoined LGUs to continuously provide adolescent sexual and reproductive health care services through the community-health workers especially in the re-supply of FO commodities and in conducting outreach programs.</i>
16.D.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of adolescents and young people programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

	<p><i>Findings from 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFSS) reveal that about one-third of teenagers are already sexually active and 73% of males and 84% of females did not use any form of contraception during their first sexual intercourse (YAFSS, 2021). Adolescents especially the minors have low access of adolescents to full range of services to address their sexual and reproductive health needs as they are required to get parental consent to access modern contraception. This poses both a challenge and opportunity for health service providers and parents from whom the consent shall be obtained. The judgmental attitude of adults including service providers on adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues particularly pregnancy is likewise service as a barrier to access of reproductive health services.</i></p> <p><i>The governance for promoting adolescent sexual and reproductive health remains a challenge. There is a need for concerned agencies to be more active in implementing the comprehensive plan of action for preventing adolescent pregnancy in the country and to have a harmonized monitoring and evaluation framework.</i></p> <p><i>Within the context of devolution, LGUs needs continuous capacity to develop, implement and assess programs for adolescents and young people.</i></p>
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Lessons learned	
17.D.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of adolescents and young people not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<p><i>The determinants of adolescent pregnancy and other developmental concerns among young people are multidimensional which requires inter-agency approaches. However, leadership in orchestrating and mobilizing government agencies into convergence projects is equally crucial.</i></p> <p><i>The participation of CSOs and private sector on adolescents and young people's concern are critical in implementing a holistic or whole-of-society approach.</i></p>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

G. Ageing

Overall policy environment		
1.G.	<p>Are any priority actions for ageing included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>Priority action on ageing and older persons are included in various national plans of the Philippine government such as the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016. The plan adopted a framework of inclusive growth, which is high growth that is sustained, generated mass employment, and reduces poverty. With focus on improving access to quality social protection services and quality health and nutrition services, the plan sought to increase the number of poor senior citizens covered by social pension, the proportion of population with access to safe water, the percentage of Barangay Health Station, National Health Insurance Program coverage, among others. Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. The was formulated to attain economic and social transformation to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the economy back on a high-growth path. Through this plan, the social pension for senior citizens was expanded to cover not only the indigent older persons but also those who are not receiving pension from the Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System. Philippine Plan of Action for Senior Citizens (PPASC) 2019-2022. In 2018, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board, formulated a national strategy on promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of the Filipino senior citizens. After the conduct of consultation workshop with relevant agencies and stakeholders, and the review and assessment of the predecessor plan (i.e., PPACS 2012-2016), the following are the identified outcomes/goals of the Plan: (1) Development and Empowerment of Senior Citizens Ensured; (2) Health and Well-being of Senior Citizens Advanced; and (3) Supportive and Enabling Environment for Senior Citizens Ensured. Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. The current development plan further strengthened social protection systems in the Philippines by improving the identification of target beneficiaries, rationalizing interventions, and facilitating the timely delivery of social protection services. For senior citizens, the administration entails expanding the coverage of those who receive pension by 66.53%. This would ensure that senior citizens have a source of financing for food, medicines, and in case of emergencies. 	

	6. <i>Social Protection Floor</i> approved by the President of the Philippines in April 2023 provides for social protection initiatives to promote active ageing.	
2.G.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “ageing” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>Since 2013, the following legislation were passed in relation to the rights and welfare of senior citizens:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Expanded Senior Citizens Act (RA 10645).</i> The law prescribes that all senior citizens shall be covered by the national health insurance program of PhilHealth. Funds necessary to ensure the enrolment of all senior citizens not currently covered by any existing category shall be sourced from the Nation Health Insurance Fund of PhilHealth from proceeds of Republic Act No. 10351, in accordance with the pertinent laws and regulations. 2. <i>Centenarian Act (RA 10868).</i> Provides that all Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with: (a) a Letter of Facilitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and (b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (100,000). 3. <i>Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment (RA 10911).</i> Under the law, the state shall promote equal opportunities in employment for everyone. In this regard, it shall be the policy of the State to: (a) promote employment of individuals on the basis of their abilities, knowledge, skills and qualifications rather than their age; (b) prohibit arbitrary age limitations in employment; (c) promote the right of all employees and workers, regardless of age, to be treated equally in terms of compensation, benefits, promotion, training and other employment opportunities. The law also has a provision wherein all functions, programs, projects, and activities in relation to senior citizens shall be transferred from the DSWD to the NCSC. 4. <i>Creating the National Commission of Senior Citizens (RA 11350).</i> The law created the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) with mandate to ensure full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens; formulate policies for the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of senior citizens; conduct information, education, and communication campaigns to raise awareness on the rights of senior citizens; among others. 5. <i>Increasing the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens (RA 11916).</i> The law increased the pension of qualified senior citizens from Php 500 to Php 1,000. The primary beneficiaries of this Program are indigent senior citizens across the country to augment their daily subsistence and medical requirements and reduce the incidence of hunger. Thaw law also provides that social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects to economic shocks, disaster, and calamities shall also be available for senior citizens. 	

6.	Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, 2018). <i>The promotion of universal health care aims to provide financial risk protection among the poor including senior citizens in ensuring their access to needed health care.</i>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.G.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of ageing in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i>	
	<p><i>The National Commission on Senior Citizens (NCSC) is already being fully organized and have started to consult concerned agencies for the direction of the program for older persons.</i></p> <p><i>The NCSC initially engaged with Philippine Statistic Authority (PSA) regarding its community-based monitoring system wherein the data including older persons shall be updated and validated annually.</i></p> <p><i>Together with the World Health Organized (WHO), NCSC advocates for the establishment of age-friendly cities of communities. An age-friendly city or community is a place where people can grow older. It fosters health and well-being and promote active ageing that enable older people to age safely in a place that is right for them, be free from poverty, continue to develop personally and to contribute to their communities while retaining autonomy, health and dignity.</i></p>	
4.G.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing ageing programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The organization and federation of senior citizens through the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) provides a platform for the development and implementation of programs for their wellbeing and development.</i> <i>2. The enabling policy environment for older persons socioeconomic development are critical in ensuring that they have access to basic health and social services.</i> <i>3. The prevailing culture of Filipinos on extended families and respect to elders have provided a nurturing environment for older persons to age with their families.</i> 4. Local Programs from Older Persons. <i>Under the Local Government Code, the local government units (LGUs) have the primary responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of their constituents including the older persons. For this purpose, LGUs have developed and implemented their respective approaches and programs for senior citizens. To guide them in the development of responsive programs, the LGUs were required to establish the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) as a poverty-tracking systems which include information about their population in terms of age group and some profiles about their senior population.</i> 	

Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for ageing, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.G.	Lack of human resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) is firming up its human resource through hiring of competent technical and support staff for timely program implementation. Some LGUs are also designating officers and staff to manage and coordinate programs for senior citizens.</i>
6.G.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A budget was allocated to National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC). However, all government agencies were enjoined the fund and implementation programs for alder persons based on special provisions of annual general appropriations act.</i>
7.G.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Continuing institutional capacity development for LGUs are provided by concerned agencies to formulate and implement programs for older persons.</i>
8.G.	Lack of data on ageing, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Data for older persons are available from censuses and surveys of the Philippine Statistics Authority. However, these are basic demographic data and more detailed information for use in planning programs and interventions for senior citizens are needed. To address this, the CBMS to be implemented at the local level include data on older persons in the households.</i>
9.G.	Lack of overall political support related to ageing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.G.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to ageing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>While there is already a framework for interagency collaboration, there remains a need to mobilize relevant agencies to integrate in their program interventions for older persons. The updating of Plan of Action for Senior Citizens hope to foster interagency collaboration.</i>
11.G.	Lack of international support related to ageing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The Philippines is active in various international coordinative structures for the promotion of older person's wellbeing.</i>
12.G.	Lack of development partner coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>There are minimal interventions for older persons among development partners. As such, the plan of action for senior citizens shall laydown the framework for interagency collaboration including assistance from development partners.</i>

13.G.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Public awareness to support interventions for older persons need to be intensified. Relevant government agencies through the leadership of NCSC shall pursue more promotional and communication strategies to raise public awareness. Special events for senior citizens such as the Elderly Filipino Week on October are likewise being optimized to drumbeat issues among older persons in the country.</i>
14.G.	A bottom-up approach to ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>At the grassroot level, the office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of the LGUs were institutionalized to cater to the local affairs of the older persons. The national government supports and provides the needed technical assistance through the bottom-up-budgeting approach and as well as the inclusion of plans and programs in the work and financial plans. The Elderly Filipino Week Celebration is also one way of promoting community participation.</i>
15.G.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The height of the pandemic from 2020 to 2022 somehow impacted the lives of older persons and the stakeholders encountered challenges in the implementation of related programs. However, exemptions were sought with the commitment to strictly observe the health protocols and practices to keep the spread of the virus. Relief operations and other pandemic responses were provided to senior citizens.</i>
16.G.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of ageing programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<p><i>The phenomenon of population aging is associated with the rise of degenerative and non-communicable diseases which are mostly chronic and expensive and thus posed a burden on the older person as well as the households and the health sector as a whole. It is critical that policies to address their needs and to ensure their well-being are taken into consideration in the current initiatives to ensure that their service requirements are met.</i></p> <p><i>Older people also struggle with poverty. In 2015, the poverty incidence among senior citizens is 13.2% (PSA, 2015) and ranks eight from among sectors with highest poverty incidence. As they are also a vulnerable group, they are most susceptible to the effects of disasters. The major impact of such is the loss of their home, their household materials and personal possessions. If the older persons have pre-existing health conditions, the occurrence of a disaster further exacerbates this condition as they become exposed to flood, poor sanitation, prolong bad weather, exposure to potent health hazards such as uncollected garbage after typhoon. This will be even more difficult if the older person survived the rest of the family who perished during the disasters. The older person is then left to external support to survive. Apart from this, there are also cases of older people who are socially or physically isolated and the government needs to identify them and provide the necessary services so that they can access their entitlements and support¹².</i></p>				

Lessons learned

17.G.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
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¹² Commission on Population and Development. (2018). Philippine Report on the Implementation of the ICPD and APMDPD (2013-2017)

	<i>The organization and federation of senior citizens are crucial in ensuring the active participation and benefit of senior citizens in the formulation of programs that concerns them. It promotes a consultative process among members and a meaningful participation in undertaking initiatives that can promote their own wellbeing. The support of LGUs to this group is likewise crucial.</i>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

H. International migration

Overall policy environment		
1.H.	Are any priority actions for international migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p><i>The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028¹³, which serves as the country’s medium-term plan for national development, has strategies on international migration vis-à-vis development spread out in various chapters, namely:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Chapter 3: Reduce Vulnerabilities and Protect Purchasing Power;</i> <i>Chapter 4: Increase Income-earning Ability;</i> 	

¹³ Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. Link: <https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/philippine-development-plan-2023-2028/>

	<p>3. Chapter 13: Ensure Peace and Security, and Enhance Administration of Justice; and</p> <p>4. Chapter 14: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency.</p> <p><i>Ensuring safe and orderly overseas migration is also identified as a priority under Chapter 3. These chapters also provided target outcomes, services and programs for overseas Filipino workers, the Filipino diaspora, and their families remaining in the Philippines.</i></p> <p><i>Previously, the midterm update of the PDP 2017-2022 included Chapter 21: Protecting the Rights, Promoting the Welfare and Expanding Opportunities for Overseas Filipinos.¹⁴ Said chapter established a clear policy direction that protects the rights and improves the well-being of overseas Filipinos, as well as foreign nationals, in the country.</i></p> <p><i>On the other hand, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), as a department has only attained its full constitution for less than a year, it is still on process of incorporating its inputs for the PDP 2023-2028. Albeit the many administrative tasks initially faced by the Department, salient features of Republic Act (RA) 11641 or the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Act on international migration are well-considered.</i></p>	
2.H.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “international migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>1. In 2014, the Sub-Committee on International Migration and Development (SC-IMD) was created under the Social Development Committee of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)¹⁵. The SC-IMD is currently the inter-government agency body responsible for the policy coherence and institutional coordination in the Philippines’ migration governance. The SC-IMD, co-chaired by NEDA and DFA, is composed of all government agencies with migration-related programs and policies in its portfolio.</p> <p>2. The Philippines, led by the DFA, adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in 2018. As a migrant-sending country, the Philippines actively participated in the negotiation processes which resulted in the inclusion of provisions on labor mobility, fair and ethical recruitment, anti-slavery, and anti-trafficking as reflected in the GCM document, paragraphs 22 (g) and (h) under Objective 6: Facilitating fair and ethical recruitment and safeguarding conditions that ensure decent work. The GCM is now a key reference for migration policies in the Philippines, as it covers all dimensions of migration, from pre-departure, on-site, and return and reintegration phases.</p> <p>3. As a testament to the Philippines’ commitment to protect the rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) was created by</p>	

¹⁴ Updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. Link: <https://pdp.neda.gov.ph/updated-pdp-2017-2022/>

¹⁵ NEDA Social Development Committee Resolution No. 01 (Series of 2014)

	<p>virtue of Republic Act No. 11641¹⁶, which took effect on 03 February 2022. Existing key offices with migration-related functions are now consolidated into a single streamlined entity to serve Filipino migrant workers. The law includes the progressive realization of the 23 GCM objectives, the definition of ethical recruitment, and the strengthening of the domestic labor market for the effective reintegration of overseas Filipino workers.</p> <p>4. As part of the national implementation of the GCM, the Philippine government and the United Nations Country Team (IOM, ILO, UN Women) in the Philippines partnered in conducting the Joint Programme on Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance: Philippines (BRIDGE). The program aims to create positive effects of migration by increasing national capacity for regular migration and decent work in the Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi areas. It is likewise one of the first pilot projects of the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the funding mechanism for the implementation of the GCM. The BRIDGE Steering Committee is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the DFA Secretary, and is expected to conclude in April 2023.</p> <p>5. Per DMW, relative to the priority areas of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, a number of legislation and policies, both international and local, have been issued.</p> <p>6. At the local level, the creation of the DMW is paving the way for the ease of doing business on the processing of documents, welfare issues, and other immediate concerns of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Moreover, the constant partnership of the Department with stakeholders, various local government units and concerned government agencies in combatting human trafficking and illegal recruitment is continually being strengthened.</p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.H.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of international migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p>The Philippine government is consistent in its participation in various forums tackling international migration and development. The International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is the International Organization for Migration's principal forum on migration policy dialogue.</p> <p>DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Eduardo José A. de Vega participated in the 2023 IDM First Session in March 2023. In 2022, the Philippines served as one of the speakers in the First Session of the IDM about the GCM</p>	

¹⁶ Republic Act No. 11641 or the Department of Migrant Workers Act. Link: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2021/12/30/republic-act-no-11641/>

implementation¹⁷, while Undersecretary de Vega served as one of the speakers in the Second Session on the nexus of climate and migration.¹⁸ At the sidelines of the 2018 IDM, the Philippines co-organized with Bahrain the forum on “Partnering for Change: Enhancing Availability and Flexibility of Pathways for Regular Migration and Facilitating Fair and Ethical Recruitment in the Context of GCM Objectives 5, 6 and 23” held in Marrakesh, Morocco in December 2018.

*The **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) Summit** is a government-led platform for discussion on international migration and development. In the most recent 13th Summit hosted by the United Arab Emirates held in 2021¹⁹, the Philippines co-chaired discussions on Roundtable 2: Skilling Migrants for Employment, together with the United Kingdom, and on Roundtable 3: Leveraging New Technologies to Empower Migrants, together with Kenya.*

*The **GCM implementation review forums** are actively participated in by the Philippines. In 2021, the Philippines chaired the first Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Implementation of the GCM. To keep the momentum of regional cooperation, the GCM Champion Countries in Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, led a series of consultations with the theme “Accelerating Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” As part of the consultation series, the Philippines co-organized with Thailand the first installment of the series, entitled “Promoting Access to Health Services for Migrants, including in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The Philippine delegation, headed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, attended the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022, the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss the GCM progress. In its commitment to the GCM, the Philippines co-organized two (2) forums at the sidelines of the IMRF, entitled “Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Improving Labor Migration Governance for Migrant Workers in the Middle East,” together with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and “Securing Safe Migration Pathways: Facilitating Fair and Ethical Recruitment and Combating Trafficking of International Migrants,” together with Qatar.*

True to its commitment to the GCM, the Philippines further initiated the following forums to raise discussions on the GCM:

- 1. Virtual forum on “Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Examining Migrant Labor Governance in the Middle East in the Context of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,” co-organized with Saudi Arabia in April 2021;*
- 2. Another virtual event on “Advancing the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration – Key lessons learned from the GCM regional review processes –*

¹⁷ IDM 2022 First Session: Global Compact for Migration Implementation in Practice: Successes, Challenges and Innovative Approaches. Link: <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration-implementation-practice-successes-challenges-and-innovative-approaches>

¹⁸ IDM 2022 Second Session: The Impacts of Food Insecurity and Climate Change on Migration and Displacement. Link: <https://www.iom.int/international-dialogue-migration-2022-overlapping-global-crises-impacts-food-insecurity-and-climate-change-migration-and-displacement>

¹⁹ Thirteenth GFMD Summit, UAE 2020. Link: <https://www.gfmd.org/docs/uae-2020>

- inputs from the Asia-Pacific and Europe regions” at the sidelines of the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2021, co-organized with the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the United Nations Network on Migration; and
3. A UN forum on "Strengthening Migrant Protection: Addressing Wage Theft against Migrant Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic," co-organized with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the UN Headquarters in New York in November 2022.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Implementation of the GCM in the Philippines serves as a government-led stock-taking of the progress made in international migration, specifically in the achievement of the GCM objectives. It consists, among others, the country-level implementation plans and the status of implementation of all 23 objectives of the GCM.²⁰

*In its efforts to combat trafficking in persons which affect Filipino migrants, the Philippines has maintained for seven (7) consecutive years its **Tier 1 ranking in the US 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report**, which signifies success in the implementation of laws to address human trafficking.*

Key achievements on the following from the perspectives of the Philippine Permanent Mission in Geneva:

Leadership positions:

1. Member then Chair/President of the Bureau of the Council of the International Organization for Migration
2. Co-chair of roundtable discussions of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, membership in the Steering Committee of the Migration Multi-Partnership Trust Fund (Full list is attached as Annex A).

Other notable achievements:

1. Consisted donor providing voluntary contributions to the IOM Migration Emergency Fund Mechanism, Migration Multi-Partnership Trust Fund (MPTF), and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
2. Part of the core group that facilitated the Human Rights Council resolution on trafficking in persons, especially women and children since 2008.
3. Co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on the human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in 2020.

In addition, in 2018, the Philippines is one of the countries that ratified the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Marrakech, Morocco. GCM is a comprehensive framework that establishes improved taking of PHL in US TIP Report goals related to the abovementioned Declaration.

²⁰ Philippines’ Submission of the Voluntary National Review for the Implementation of the GCM. Link: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/system/files/docs/Philippines%20-%20Voluntary%20GCM%20Review%20%281%29.pdf>

4.H.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing international migration programmes that other countries may find useful? please elaborate and provide specific examples:	
	<p><i>The following migration practices of the Philippines have been published online at the UN Migration Network Hub's Repository of Practices²¹:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Creation of the Department of Migrant Workers through Republic Act No. 11641;</i> <i>2. Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates on Cooperation in Combatting Human Trafficking;</i> <i>3. Philippines-Bahrain Partnership on the Issuance of Flexible Visas;</i> <i>4. Addressing Trafficking Cases of Overseas Filipinos; and</i> <i>5. Philippine COVID-19 Response in 5Rs: Relief, Repatriation, Recovery, Return, and Reintegration.</i> <p><i>These practices were submitted by the Philippine government and were peer-reviewed by migration experts before their publication on the Hub. These publications are recognized by the UN as among the best practices that embody the principles, innovations, and objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, international fora on various labor issues conclude that Philippines is considered as one of the countries which has the best practice when it comes to managing labor migration and regulating overseas employment. One of the best practices is the establishment of the licensing, accreditation, registration and processing systems at Philippine Overseas Employment Administration which is now part of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).</i></p>	

Challenges				
In implementing priority actions for international migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The DFA is in the process of hiring additional personnel to staff various offices in the Home Office which are currently understaffed, including Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (DFA-OUMWA).</i></p> <p><i>Plantilla positions are yet to be filled by qualified employees. Consolidation of various agencies that comprise the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) will eventually solve the issue on lack of human resource.</i></p>

²¹ UN Migration Network Hub's Repository of Practices. Link: <https://migrationnetwork.un.org/hub/repository-of-practices/practices>

6.H.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The approved Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) budget for FY 2023 is smaller than what is optimal. The DFA is finding legal yet creative solutions to address the issue internally, prioritizing Assistance to Nationals (ATN).</i></p> <p><i>Budget has been approved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to utilize on its pending programs for international migration.</i></p>
7.H.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The lack of sufficient number of personnel, especially for DFA-OUMWA, is cited as a factor for some planned programs / activities / projects not being implemented, but the major ones, including stakeholder consultations and regular training for ATN Officers and supervising Consuls, are maintained.</i></p> <p><i>Since the DMW has been newly-created, capacity development and training of personnel on various areas are still on process.</i></p>
8.H.	Lack of data on international migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>DFA-OUMWA and FSPs disaggregate data of overseas Filipinos by country, and according to permanent and temporary migrants, documented, undocumented workers. They also try to disaggregate the data by profession and visa type, whenever possible. This depends on the availability of official data from the governments of the receiving countries.</i></p> <p><i>The Philippines' Interagency Committee on Migration Statistics (IACMS) is involved in the development of a shared government information system for migration.</i></p> <p><i>One of the reasons why the DMW was created is to solve the arduous task of consolidating the data on international migration. Because of the merger of OFW-related government agencies, data will be easily integrated.</i></p>
9.H.	Lack of overall political support related to international migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.H.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.H.	Lack of international support related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The constant coordination with the diplomatic mission of the countries of destination towards the possible forging of bilateral/multilateral agreements are still being observed.</i></p>

12.H.	Lack of development partner coordination related to international migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.H.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>The DFA assists distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are often victims of illegal recruitment, due to their lack of awareness of laws and regulations related to going abroad for employment.</i></p> <p><i>Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar or better known as PEOS, is one of the core programs that has long been implemented by the then POEA. It focuses on the preparation of the OFW for his/her work abroad. It also provides information on culture, language, and other matters to the countries of destination.</i></p>
14.H.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.H.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.H.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

	<p><i>In the last few months of 2022, the Philippine government has seen a rise in the number of overseas Filipino workers who are human trafficking victims through catfishing schemes online perpetrated by some alleged Chinese companies and/or employers in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar). The scheme lures several Filipinos – including those legally deployed overseas Filipinos – to work in the said countries, at times as a third country of destination, mostly for cryptocurrency scamming operations. Due to the cross-border nature of human trafficking, coordination among various governments in the Golden Triangle and their respective local authorities require real-time attention and coordination. In the Philippines, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), chaired by the Department of Justice (DOJ), leads the country’s collective efforts in preventing, combatting, and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.</i></p> <p><i>Although international labor migration has brought many benefits to the country in terms of employment opportunities, economic gains and inflow of remittances, it also introduced new challenges, such as in the area of migrant health, as some groups of migrants experience increased health risks. As of 2014, the Philippine HIV and AIDS registry recorded that Overseas Workers comprise 16% of all reported cases since 1984. Likewise, they experience mental health, sexual and reproductive health problems as well as occupational health and those on safety, especially in destination countries. There were also reports of noncommunicable diseases due to lifestyle and behavioral changes and diet modification²².</i></p>
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Lessons learned	
17.H.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>

²² Commission on Population and Development. (2018). Philippine Report on the Implementation of the ICPD and APMDPD (2013-2017)

*Managing the country's migration governance is at the core of the **third pillar of Philippine Foreign Policy** – protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of Filipino nationals abroad.*

The Philippine government established the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in the 1980s to administer the OWWA Trust Fund—now simply called OWWA Fund—to which OFWs legally deployed abroad pay into annually. It serves as an insurance to OFWs and their dependents for various needs, including educational assistance, medical assistance, repatriation in case their employer defaults on this responsibility or due to emergencies in their countries of work, to extend various types of assistance for OFWs who have returned permanently to the Philippines, etc. The government also established the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), also in the 1980s, to regulate the recruitment process of OFWs, which included establishing regulations for local recruitment agencies (LRAs), the verification of employment contracts from abroad to ensure that job offers to OFWs were bona fide and from real employers who were competent to fulfil their contractual obligations. Around the same period, the International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) was created to manage the Philippines' bilateral labor agreements (BLAs) and similar or related instruments with other countries concerning the employment of OFWs. All of these agencies were attached to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The ILAB also established and managed the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs), which were under selected Philippine Foreign Service Posts (FSPs), i.e., embassies and consulates. The POLOs coordinate with the POEA in relating with foreign recruitment agencies (FRAs) and verification of employment contracts, and help OFWs negotiate with their employers when items of their employment contracts are in dispute or being violated.

However, the above institutions proved insufficient to address issues faced by OFWs beyond employer-employee relations. Many OFWs continued to be deployed without undergoing the regulated recruitment processes and end up being illegal workers abroad, therefore more vulnerable to abuse. Some OFWs, whether or not legally recruited from the Philippines, also run into other issues, such as being accused of theft or other crimes—such as drug trafficking, which could merit the death penalty if convicted— or being subjected to other abuses such as rape or even murder.

In addition, the assistance offered by the above institutions were limited to OFWs legally recruited from the Philippines (a.k.a. “documented workers”).

To address this limitation, in the 1990s, the Philippine government enshrined in law the concept of “assistance to nationals” (ATN) abroad through Republic Act No. 8042, which also established the Office of the Legal Assistant for Migrant Workers Affairs (OLAMWA) within the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) amounting to Php 200M (around USD 3.6M), specifically to enable FSPs to hire lawyers or law firms to defend accused OFWs, especially for major crimes. OLAMWA was eventually renamed Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs (OUMWA), and the latter requested, in addition to the LAF, an ATN Fund amounting to Php 400M (around USD 7.3M). For 2017, the Philippine government allotted Php 1 billion (around USD 18.2M) to the ATN Fund, which is used for various types of assistance to distressed OFWs, such as medical assistance, welfare assistance, assistance in the shipment of human remains back to the Philippines, and repatriation.

However, this set-up continued to be plagued with limitations. The strict definition of the POEA of who could be considered a “documented worker” often meant that many distressed OFWs could only receive help through the ATN units at FSPs, especially when their employers or FRAs were not accredited to the POEA. However, any employer-employee disputes such as unpaid salaries or overtime pay and contract substitution were still under the purview of the POLOs. The OFWs who physically escaped their employers and had no other safe place to stay—most of them household service workers—were often housed at shelters run by the POLOs, as mandated by R.A. 8042; however, the majority of those who end up in these shelters are “undocumented” OFWs. Though the DFA (ATN units) and DOLE (POLOs)

personnel are expected to coordinate and cooperate in the cases faced by distressed OFWs, there were times when such coordination was limited due to the limited number of personnel vis-a-vis the number of cases for both units.

The DFA could also not be involved in the welfare of distressed OFWs once the latter are repatriated back to the Philippines, as reintegration were services assigned by laws to the OWWA and the DOLE, in accordance to R.A. 10022, which amended R.A. 8042. However, only “documented” workers could avail of reintegration services.

To address these gaps, especially in the access to assistance and benefits of “undocumented” OFWs, and as an expression of its commitment to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), in late 2021, the Philippine government passed R.A. 11641, which created the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). This agency, unlike most, did not start from scratch, but subsumed the POEA, ILAB, and other offices from the DOLE concerned with migrant workers. It also subsumed the Office of the Social Welfare Attaché of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). OWWA became its attached agency. Furthermore, the DMW absorbed the ATN function of DFA-OUMWA for OFWs, for which was established the AKSYON Fund.

Under R.A. 11641, the DFA, which will retain the ATN Fund and the LAF, will continue providing ATN services to non-OFW Filipinos abroad where there are POLOs, to be renamed Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs). At FSPs where there are no resident MWOs, the ATN units will continue their ATN services to OFWs until MWOs are established there, with a deadline of five (5) years under R.A. 11641.

This development continues to be in the process of transition. Until the present, the DFA and the ATN units at FSPs continue to provide all the ATN services to distressed OFWs, while the DMW is still setting up and strengthening its capabilities for ATN.

Should the DMW manage to take over the ATN functions for distressed OFWs by July 2023, the DFA will be able to devote more personnel and resources to its other bilateral engagements with foreign governments, especially in countries where a high number of OFWs is present. The FSPs will also be able to engage more with the Filipino diaspora, to strengthen their connection with the Philippines, through programs that encourage migrant Filipino workers to save and plan their retirement in the Philippines, and for second- and third-generation migrants to visit the Philippines, learn its culture and history, and possibly to invest or take up residence there again.

It is important for the Philippine government, and any other governments, to continuously **engage with their nationals’ diaspora**. Engaging with the Filipino diaspora has been a critical part of the government’s services especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Filipino diaspora helped save the lives of overseas Filipinos during some of the country’s most important repatriation and humanitarian missions such as in Wuhan, China; Beirut, Lebanon after the blast at the Beirut Port; and Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Through the years, they have played an indispensable role, not only in spreading Filipino culture and values all over the world, but also in keeping the Philippine economy resilient through remittances, and in reducing fellow migrants’ vulnerabilities abroad.

The Philippines actively engages in multilateral mechanism related to international migration, including in the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Human Rights Council (HRC), Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), International Labour Organization (ILO), Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process), among others.

	<i>Through these international mechanisms, the Philippines has advocated for the rights of migrants, including through taking leadership positions, organizing events and conferences, participating in constructive dialogues, and continuing engagements with the international community to positively shape and influence international migration policies.</i>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

I. Urbanization and internal migration

Overall policy environment		
1.I.	Are any priority actions for urbanization and internal migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>The following are the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NUDHF). This involves the development of the urban development database considering the internal migration in the local civil registry or conducting a census of internal migration. National Housing and Urban Development Sector Plan (NHUDSP) 2040. This plan spells out the policy on urban migration incorporating balanced and sustainable urban development in the management of population. 		

	<p>3. Resilient and Green Human Settlements Framework (RGHSF). This provides framework for addressing urban-rural nexus approach for integrated resilience building.</p> <p>4. National Resettlement Policy Framework. This institutionalized resettlement and relocation policies exhorting protection of human rights through human rights through humane relocation of ISFs.</p> <p>5. Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program. The “Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program”, a flagship program of the Marcos Administration which aims to address the 6.5 million housing need embarking on constructing 1 million housing units annually in the next 6 years (CY 2023-2028) by using an innovative framework to help address the burden brought about by major bottlenecks – affordability and access to housing finance.</p> <p><i>This program is a multi-stakeholder partnership platform of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and its attached corporations with the private sector, local government units (LGUs) and the communities aimed at expanding opportunities by accelerating production, enhancing housing affordability especially for the lowest income households, low to middle income wage earners, and ensuring liveability and sustainability of human settlements.</i></p> <p>6. National Spatial Strategy. The PDP 2017-2022 incorporated a national spatial strategy (NSS) that sets the direction of the physical development of the country. It promotes sustainable human settlements development, access to social services, integration of leading and lagging regions, and building resilience. The PDP for 2023-2028, on the other hand, included as a key strategy the promotion of livable communities which include holistic urban and rural development.</p>	
2.I.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “international migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>1. Balanced Housing Development Program Amendments (RA 10884, 2016). To further increase the low-cost housing stock available to underprivileged families and homebuyers, Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7279 (Balanced Housing Development) was amended to include the residential condominium projects in complying with the balanced housing requirement. Section 18 of RA 7279, as amended by Republic Act No. 10884, requires that owners and/or developers of proposed subdivision and condominium projects develop an area for socialized housing, at the option of the developer, equivalent to: a) at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total subdivision area or subdivision project cost and b) at least five percent (5%) of condominium area or project cost. The balanced housing requirement should be accomplished within the same city or municipality, whenever feasible, and in accordance with the standards set by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and other existing laws.</p> <p>2. The CBMS law (RA 11315, 2018). The law enables LGUs to adopt a community-based monitoring system which generates updated disaggregated data necessary for</p>	

	<p>targeting beneficiaries, conducting more comprehensive poverty analysis and needs prioritization, designing appropriate policies and interventions and monitoring impact over time. This covers internal migrant's households.</p> <p>3. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act (RA 11201, 2019). Under the law, the DHSUD is the primary national government entity responsible for the management of housing, human settlement and urban development. It is the sole and main planning and policy-making, regulatory, program coordination, and performance-monitoring entity of all housing, human settlement and urban development concerns, primarily focusing on the access to and the affordability of basic human needs.</p>	
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Achievements and good practices		
3.I.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of urbanization and internal migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p>1. Improved the Use of Secure Tenure Instrument to Fast-track the Disposition and/or Ownership of Land by Informal Settlers. By the virtue of Memorandum Order No. 102, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) (formerly the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, E.O. 90) is tasked to oversee and fast track through project schemes and contractual arrangements the implementation and development of housing projects in the government lands in the country proclaimed as socialized housing sites. The Asset Reform Program includes conversion idle or vacant lands into housing sites to benefit bonafide occupants and low-salaried government employees, including soldiers and police officers.</p> <p><i>The DHSUD continues to pursue the regularization of tenure of the bottom 40 percent of urban households composed mainly of informal settler families, through the issuance of Presidential Proclamations (or executive orders and memorandum orders) declaring parcels of public lands open for disposition to qualified beneficiaries.</i></p> <p>2. Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM). The Commission on Population and Development continues to promote the installation and use of the RBIM as a means to monitor population movement within and out of the village.</p> <p>3. National Migration Survey. It the first national survey conducted in 2018 that generated quantitative data on international and internal migration including patterns, trends and reasons for migration.</p>	
4.I.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing urbanization and internal migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	
	<p>1. Integration of Local Shelter Plan to Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP). Shelter needs and population migration are key considerations in physical</p>	

	<p><i>development of cities and municipalities. As such, local plans for shelter or housing development are integrated into the formulation of land use plans.</i></p> <p>2. Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM). <i>The Commission on Population and Development continues to promote the installation and use of the RBIM as a means to monitor population movement within and out of the village.</i></p> <p>3. National Migration Survey. <i>It is the first national survey conducted in 2018 that generated quantitative data on international and internal migration including patterns, trends and reasons for migration.</i></p>	
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Challenges				
In implementing priority actions for urbanization and internal migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.I. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Local government units continue to have inadequate urban planners and population officers. The local government code mandated to create planning office and local population office for data banking. As such, continuous advocacy for the appointment of these officials are being undertaken.</i>
6.I. Lack of financial resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Established partnerships and collaborations with development partners to develop policies on urbanization and internal migration.</i>
7.I. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Concerned national government agencies such as DHSUD, CPD and NEDA continue to provide technical assistance to local government units in planning for and managing urbanization and internal migration.</i>
8.I. Lack of data on urbanization and internal migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The LGUs are mandated to establish their own data for urban planning through the ecological profile and sectoral studies for the comprehensive land use planning. The CPD likewise provides technical assistance in setting-up the RBIM to help LGUs generate data.</i>
9.I. Lack of overall political support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Due to localization of development, there is a lack of interlocal development planning which include management of urbanization and internal migration. To address this, national policies on national land use and national spatial strategy are being proposed.</i>
10.I. Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>There is an absence of an overall framework that provide interagency collaboration in managing and addressing urbanization and internal migration concerns. For this, national inter-agency committees like National Human Settlements Board and Social Development Committee convenes to discuss topics related to urbanization and migration.</i>

11.I.	Lack of international support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The CPD continue to advocate at the international level the concern on urbanization and internal migration.</i>
12.I.	Lack of development partner coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The concern for urbanization and internal migration is not within the priority of development partners. As such, continuing advocacy is being pursued.</i>
13.I.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Concerned agencies such as CPD and DHSUD conduct public awareness and conferences on issues related to urbanization and internal migration.</i>
14.I.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Bottom-up approach is encouraged in the preparation of local land use, and shelter plans. However, this is seldom conducted. As such, the rationalized planning system of DILG enjoined the creation of planning team and sectoral consultations for the preparation of CDP and CLUP.</i>
15.I.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Adopted alternative modes of service delivery such as online consultations, etc.</i>
16.I.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of urbanization and internal migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<p><i>The lack of data on internal migration is a major concern. Data is a very important to guide the community or planners in responding to the needs of the changing composition of the population. Some LGUs have implemented mechanisms for tracking their migrants and some of them succeeded in utilizing such initiative to benefit the constituents. CPD adopted some of these strategies through a pilot-test and is currently scaling-up its technical assistance to local government units who are interested in establishing their respective local migration information system to generate information for tracking in-and out-migrants within a locality. The technical assistance is focused on primary data gathering, generation of results, analysis, updating and tracking using the data collection tool developed for this purpose²³. However, only 3% of LGUs have installed the mechanism.</i></p> <p><i>Moreover, since the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) is a newly established agency, it is still developing its capacity and resources to fully implement the policies and programs related to urbanization and internal migration.</i></p>				

Lessons learned

17.H.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
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²³ Commission on Population and Development. (2018). Philippine Report on the Implementation of the ICPD and APMDPD (2013-2017)

	<i>The establishment of database on internal migration is crucial as the country is undergoing rapid urbanization. Moreover, an interlocal (among regions and provinces) and interdependent urban and rural development is crucial in ensuring a balanced urbanization.</i>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

J. Population and sustainable development

Overall policy environment		
1.J.	Are any priority actions for population and sustainable development included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Sustainable development is a critical principle and agenda in all Philippine Development Plans. For the PDP 2017-2022, it highlighted the potential of the country to achieve demographic dividend given the appropriate interventions in facilitating demographic transition and setting-up the various socioeconomic preconditions such as human capital development (health, education and skills development) and employment or engagement in income earning activities. Hence, the PDP dedicated a Chapter on Attaining Demographic Dividend. The chapter primarily focused on reducing mortality rates, reducing adolescent pregnancy, and improving the quality of human capital, which were identified as key strategies in accelerating demographic transition across regions</i>	

	<p><i>The PDP 2023-2028, a Plan for deep economic and social transformation, highlights the need for maximizing government resources and capabilities while strengthening interlinkages. The Plan is aimed to reinvigorating job creation and accelerating poverty reduction by steering the economy back on a high growth path.</i></p> <p><i>As a contribution to the attainment of the PDP goals, the Commission on Population and Development formulated the Philippine Population and Development Plan of Action (PPD-POA) for 2023-2028 which lays down the strategies for ensuring the attainment of population outcomes that are facilitative of sustainable development.</i></p>	
2.J.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “population and sustainable development” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>The PPD-POA provides main approaches for POPDEV strategies to ensure that population factors are considered in sustainable development initiatives. One is the life-cycle approach to ensure the wellbeing and development of all age groups through their life course; promotion of intersectoral integration where population dimensions in various sectoral concerns such as environment are explicitly integrated; and targeted approaches which promotes specific POPDEV strategies in specific contexts.</i></p>	

<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.J.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of population and sustainable development in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
	<p><i>The country was able to attain a more manageable level of population growth at 1.6 percent primarily due to declining level of fertility. However, population growth rate across regions remains diverse.</i></p>	
4.J.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing population and sustainable development programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>POPDEV integration in sectoral and local development planning.</i> <i>The CPD was able to provide technical assistance to some regional agencies and local government units in the integration of population dimensions in development plans which include disaster risk mitigation plan and climate change adaptation plans.</i> <i>Development of integrated POPDEV approaches.</i> <i>The CPD continues to partners with different sectors in</i> <i>Localization of POPDEV strategies.</i> <i>With the full devolution, the CPD is currently building the capacities of LGUs to establish data and analyze their demographic situation as basis for the development of local interventions for population and development in their localities.</i> 	

	4. Tracking of SDGs. <i>The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) continues to track progress of the country in attaining the SDG targets. The data serves as inputs in the development of various integrated sustainable development strategies.</i>	
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Challenges					
In implementing priority actions for population and sustainable development, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? /1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always/					
Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.J.	Lack of human resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National and local government have inadequacy in human resource for the development and implementation of population and sustainable development initiatives. The CPD continues to request and advocate for additional staff.
6.J.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continuous advocacy is being conducted to build appreciation on the need to increase allocation for population and sustainable development.
7.J.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnership with the academe and other expert groups and institutions are being sought for capacity development of the CPD and other relevant institutions. The Board of Commissioners of the CPD includes the University of the Philippines' Population Institute and the Philippine Population association engages CPD and academic institutions in enhancing capacity for research on population and development.
8.J.	Lack of data on population and sustainable development, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The existing demographic and socioeconomic database and information system of the CPD is not updated. The CPD continues to develop useful database and information system in partnership with the academe and other expert groups.
9.J.	Lack of overall political support related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuous advocacy with legislators and executive continues to be undertaken to improve policy environment for integrated population and sustainable development initiatives
10.J.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.I.	Lack of international support related to population and sustainable development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.J.	Lack of development partner coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Development partners have coordinated with CPD on population and sustainable development initiatives. However, more technical assistance for integrated population and sustainable development initiatives needs to be explicit included in their country programs.

13.J.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>The CPD continues to design and implement advocacy materials and activities to raise public awareness on the integrated issues of population and sustainable development.</i>
14.J.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Technical assistance to LGUs in consultative process of planning is being provided by concerned agencies.</i>
15.J.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The CPD provided data and information to LGUs through the demographic vulnerability tool as basis for their pandemic responses.</i>
16.J.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of urbanization and internal migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	<i>The lack of integrative framework for population and sustainable development has hindered intersectoral collaboration.</i>				

Lessons learned

17.H.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>
	<i>The need for a functional framework for pursuing and realizing integrated approaches for population and sustainable development initiatives is important in mobilizing other stakeholders. Data and information are likewise very important in crafting concrete interventions.</i>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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K. Data and statistics

Overall policy environment		
1.K.	<p>Are any priority actions for data and statistics included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p><i>The Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) 2018-2023 encapsulates the directions, and thrusts of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) in improving its operations and in addressing the critical information needs of its stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>The priority actions for data and statistics in population and development in PSDP 2018-2023 are as follows:</i></p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Monitoring</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen existing institutional arrangements for the regular and timely provision of data for SDG monitoring; 2. Formulate SDG data flow at the national and subnational levels to clearly delineate roles on SDG monitoring including compilation and 3. Dissemination; 4. Enhance public-private partnership on data donation; 5. Strengthen partnership with the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) regarding the conduct of studies for Tier 2 and 3 indicators and capacity building for interpretation and analysis of SDG indicators; 6. Explore surveys as possible data sources for the monitoring of the SDGs such as the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFSS) and Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS). <p>Population Statistics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) using computer-assisted personal interview and GIS tools for mapping and data collection; 2. Conduct of the 2018 National Migration Survey (NMS), 2019 YAFSS, 2021 Survey on Older Persons, 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS); 	

	<p>3. Yearly conduct of the Survey of Overseas Filipinos (SOF);</p> <p>4. Updating of the 2010 Census-based population projections using the results of the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN)</p> <p>Statistics on Children and Gender and Development</p> <p>1. Formulation of statistical indicators framework on children;</p> <p>2. Generation of statistics on women in business and other related statistics;</p> <p>3. Review and improvement of methodology for estimating gender wage gap;</p> <p>4. Formulation of guidelines for the development and maintenance of gender and development (GAD) database;</p> <p>5. Conduct of study on the Situation of Children Living and Working on the Streets;</p> <p>6. Harmonization of gender-related statistics within PSA;</p> <p>7. Review of the National Baseline Survey on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC);</p> <p>8. Institutionalization of the Updating of the National Database on Child Poverty (NDCP).</p>	
2.K.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “data and statistics” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	On 17 April 2019, RA 11315 (The Community-Based Monitoring System Act) was signed into law establishing a community-based monitoring system. The law aims to adopt focused and specific measures ensuring poverty reduction wherein Filipino citizens have access to social protection and welfare programs that address minimum basic needs. (PSA Annual Report, 2019).	

Achievements and good practices		
3.K.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of data and statistics in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i>	
	<p><i>Among the key achievements are the following:</i></p> <p>1. Conduct and release of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH)</p> <p>2. Inclusion of questions on child discipline and early child care and development in the 2022 National Demographic and Health Survey for the first time;</p> <p>3. Ongoing development of SDG Reporting Platform for the online collection of SDG data from different source agencies and reporting of the SDG to be completed;</p> <p>4. Inclusion of questions on existing surveys for the reporting of SDG data, like disability questions in the LFS which allowed the reporting of poverty statistics among persons with disability; and upcoming is the inclusion of ethnicity questions in the LFS to have data on poverty statistics by ethnicity;</p> <p>5. Development of Tiers 2 and # SDGs is still ongoing;</p> <p>6. SDG Team within the PSA and SDG Focal Points within the Philippine Statistical System was created to facilitate the reporting of SDGI data and the development of Tiers 2 and 3 indicators;</p> <p>7. Assessment and reporting at subnational level of the SDG Indicators;</p> <p>8. Development of core Gender and Development indicators in the country;</p>	

	9. <i>Updating of the SDG Indicators for Monitoring in the Philippines taking into consideration the development of indicators into Tier 1 within the country and at the global level</i>	
4.K.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing data and statistics programmes that other countries may find useful? please elaborate and provide specific examples:	

Challenges				
In implementing priority actions for data and statistics, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges? [1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]				
Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.K. Lack of human resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The PSA hires job order personnel to complement its regular workforce.</i>
6.K. Lack of financial resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The PSA constantly collaborates with its development partners to address the challenge of having limited resources</i>
7.K. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The PSA takes advantage of capacity building programmes offered by its development partners.</i>
8.K. Lack of data on data and statistics, particularly disaggregated data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.K. Lack of overall political support related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.K. Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.K. Lack of international support related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.K. Lack of development partner coordination related to data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.K. Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Aside from releasing technical reports, the PSA also produces materials that are easy to understand by the general public. Likewise, whenever possible, press conferences are conducted in the national language to increase appreciation and public awareness.</i>

14.K.	A bottom-up approach to data and statistics not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.K.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.K.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of data and statistics programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

Lessons learned

17.K.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of data and statistics not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>

Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, CSOs, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

IV. Summary questions

Extraneous influences			
<i>Has the COVID-19 pandemic, or other national emergencies, disasters, or crises, resulted in:</i>			
2.1	Building in more resilience when developing population programmes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>The pandemic exposed the various barriers to access to reproductive health information and services. As such, the population programs adjusted and came up with more innovative approaches to continue pursuing the program goals.</i>
2.2	Increased prioritization (or mainstreaming) of population issues in policymaking?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>President Duterte identified population factors (e.g., congestion) as one of the barriers in responding to the pandemic particularly the observance of physical distancing especially in urban communities. As such, he mandated the CPD , NEDA and DOH to review and recommend interventions to strengthen the family planning program as a long-term intervention against the pandemic.</i> <i>It was also during the pandemic when the executive order mandating government agencies to priorities interventions addressing the root causes of adolescent pregnancies and the order for the establishment for balik-probinsya (return to provinces) program to decongest urban areas.</i>
2.3	Diversion of funds or resources from population programmes to support other programmes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	<i>Funds for the purchase of commodities and other related POPDEV strategies and programs were realigned to COVID-19 response.</i>
Priority areas for further action			
2.4	Please rank the priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development from highest to lowest priority in the country at the current point in time. Please use '1' as the highest priority and '11' the lowest priority.	1_Poverty eradication and employment 3_Health 7_Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights 2_Education 6_Gender equality and women's empowerment 8_Adolescents and young people 9_Ageing 4_International migration 10_Urbanization and internal migration 11_Population and sustainable development 5_Data and statistics	
Additional comments			
2.5	Are there any topics that are not covered in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have become critically significant in the country since 2013? For example: food security, climate change or digital transformation? <i>please elaborate:</i>		

2.6	Are there any other lessons learned , achievements, challenges or needs that can be shared in regard to priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have not already been addressed in this survey? <i>please elaborate:</i>
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V. Overall achievements/challenges in population and development

The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2023. The intergovernmental meeting will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, which was held from 10 to 20 December 1963 in New Delhi, India, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

<i>With the above in mind, please share the country's biggest achievement and challenge in the area of population and development:</i>	
3.1	Over the last 60 years (since the first Population Conference) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Achievement <i>please elaborate:</i> Attainment of replacement fertility level and more manageable population growth rate/declining poverty level b. Challenge <i>please elaborate:</i> Obsolete or outdated national POPDEV policy
3.2	Over the last 30 years (since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attainment of replacement fertility level and more manageable population growth rate/declining poverty level b. Challenge <i>please elaborate:</i> Obsolete or outdated national POPDEV policy
3.3	Over the last 7 years since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Achievement <i>please elaborate:</i> Declining level of poverty/ increasing family planning use/declining adolescent birth rate c. Challenge <i>please elaborate:</i> Obsolete or outdated national POPDEV policy

ANNEX A. LIST OF AGENCIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL SURVEY

Voluntary National Survey for Monitoring of Progress in Asia and the Pacific towards the Implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Action Area	Participating Agency
A. Poverty eradication and employment	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
	Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
B. Health	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)
	National Nutrition Council (NNC)
C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	Department of Health (DOH)
	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)
D. Education	Department of Education (DepEd)
	Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
E. Gender equality and women's empowerment	Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
F. Adolescents and young people	National Youth Commission (NYC)
	Commission on Population and Development (CPD)
G. Ageing	National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC)
H. International migration	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)
	Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)
I. Urbanization and internal migration	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)
J. Population and sustainable development	National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
K. Data and statistics	Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)