



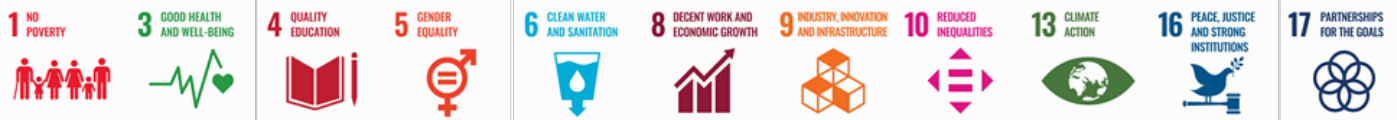
## 2020-21 PHILIPPINES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

The *2020-21 Philippines Development Program Progress Report* summarises progress for the reporting period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 of implementation of the Australia – Philippines COVID-19 Response Plan and program highlights.

*Our development program to the Philippines contributes towards achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals.*

Program Budget	2020-21 Budget Estimate \$m*
Bilateral	63.4
Regional	9.4
Global	5.2
Other Government Departments	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.0</b>
Temporary, Targeted and Supplementary Measures (TTS)	4.1
<b>Total ODA</b>	<b>84.1</b>

\*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in December 2021/ January 2022.



### CONTEXT

Australia’s COVID-19 response is focused on supporting the Philippines to manage and recover from COVID-19. Using longstanding partnerships, we were able to rapidly address immediate health needs, mitigate some of the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups, and boost economic recovery efforts of the private sector. As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations between Australia and the Philippines in 2021, our assistance has served to reinforce our role as a good friend and reliable partner to the Philippines during a time of need.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the Philippines. **The Philippines experienced the second highest numbers of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia, with over 2 million cases by September 2021.** Disadvantage and poverty have increased. Estimated national poverty rates increased from 16.7 per cent in 2018 to 21.0 per cent in 2020, even with special government welfare payments. Women and children have been disproportionately disadvantaged by the impacts of COVID-19, including through increased caregiving workloads due to school closures, and negative impacts on women’s participation in the workforce.

**The pandemic has severely strained Philippines’ health and education systems.** With schools, universities and training institutions closed for face-to-face classes since March 2020, learning shifted to remote modalities. However, a majority do not have access to online learning options and home-schooling has placed great burdens on households, with some women leaving the workforce to supervise their children’s learning. Combined with an increase in unemployment, and job losses in the informal sector, the pandemic has highlighted the need to improve workforce skills and equip semi- and low-skilled workers for a more digitalised and automated future.

From 2015-19, the Philippines made significant gains in reducing poverty and creating employment. **But the pandemic has reversed this trend, reflected in significant negative economic growth in 2020 (-9.6 per cent GDP).** The Asian Development Bank forecasts economic growth of 4.5 per cent in 2021. Record surges in COVID-19 cases in September 2021, and reduced household consumption indicate a slower and less inclusive economic recovery ahead. The Philippines exposure to a wide range of natural hazards and disasters each year adversely affect economic growth, push greater numbers into poverty, and place vulnerable communities in a constant state of recovery. It is estimated that disasters cost the Philippine economy almost US20 billion (PHP1 trillion) during the last decade (2010–2019).

**The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao’s (BARMM) conflict-affected population continued to be especially vulnerable** and the pandemic has worsened the situation. Before COVID-19, over 61 per cent of people in the BARMM lived in poverty (2018). Frequent disasters and flare-ups of violence regularly cause disruption, including mass displacement, and limit the ability to reach isolated communities, including indigenous populations.

## **AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Australia's development program continues to align with government priorities and deliver across the pillars of the *Partnerships for Recovery* framework. Despite a difficult operating environment in the reporting period, most investments were able to adapt their activities to suit the COVID-19 context, while still making progress towards expected outcomes. In some cases, there is a need for improved performance on gender equality.

### ***Health Security***

We are bolstering health security by improving capacity to respond to the health needs that have both arisen from and been exacerbated by COVID-19. For example, in the reporting period, Australia boosted the Philippine Government's pandemic response by **funding the establishment of the largest COVID-19 testing laboratory in the Philippines** (processed more than 700,000 samples), and a specialised ambulance used for transporting and referring around 400 COVID-19 patients in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross. During surges in COVID-19 cases, we deployed three emergency maternity tent facilities to enable hospitals at full capacity to continue to provide medical and maternal services to 18,000 people, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund.

**In the reporting period, we provided \$7.52 million in vaccine delivery support through the regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative** with our partners, World Health Organisation and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, bolstering the Philippines' vaccine delivery capacity particularly in vulnerable regions.

This support included the provision of refrigeration facilities, enhanced digital database systems, and public health communications to improve the uptake of vaccines. Australia also invested \$130 million in the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Advance Market Commitment to support equitable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines which includes the provision of sufficient vaccines for 30 per cent of the Philippine population. **By the end of June 2021, 5,028,210 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been delivered to the Philippines through COVAX.**

We also **boosted the capacity of schools and communities** across the Philippines **to manage infectious disease** outbreaks by promoting proper health and hygiene practices through training, and dissemination of information education and communication materials.

### ***Stability***

Australia is assisting with fostering inclusive, cohesive communities and helping mitigate threats to regional security by supporting women and children, including through education programs and through our peacebuilding efforts in Mindanao. For example, in the reporting period, we promoted stability, fostered inclusive, cohesive communities and mitigated threats to regional security through human rights, humanitarian, peacebuilding and counter-terrorism assistance in the BARMM.

Australia **supported inclusive education in the BARMM** by ensuring participatory and consultative policymaking processes; piloting inclusive learning materials in villages previously without schools and schools in indigenous communities; and, developing alternative learning materials for indigenous learners, since replicated in other BARMM indigenous schools leveraging government funding. We also worked to support governments' system strengthening. For example, we **strengthened data management** in the BARMM Ministry of Social Services and Development by providing technical and material support for information management for the Bangsamoro People Registration Project; and enhanced BARMM Regional Humanitarian and Protection Assistance by updating referral pathways and establishing community help desks addressing violence against women and children. In the reporting period, we also **supported the delivery of new and improved government social welfare payments to over 2,442,613 people from poor and remote communities.**

Finally, Australia **provided emergency assistance to 289,980 people in the reporting period, following typhoons Vamco, Goni and those affected by the Marawi conflict.**

### *Economic recovery*

In the reporting period, we worked with the Philippines to strengthen policies and institutions to advance **inclusive economic growth, including through social protection programs for the poorest and most vulnerable**. For example, Australia provided economic recovery support to institutions to advance inclusive economic growth policy. We provided labour market recovery advice to the Philippines National Employment Recovery Strategy through the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Our support to improve government processes by digitalising business registration and installing common telecommunications towers contributed to economic recovery.

Australia also provided support to the Philippine Department of Education to undertake **curriculum development for the delivery of remote learning modules** during suspension of face-to-face learning (since March 2020). We also provided 18 online short courses on critical economic reform and security topics, including law of the sea, business management and intelligence, designing e-learning and public policy to 860 Philippine recipients.

Australia directly supported women through the pandemic and in the reporting period by working with local governments and women-led small and medium-sized enterprises to increase preparedness for and resilience to economic shocks, including impacts from climate change. We assisted vulnerable women and children, who faced heightened risks of gender-based violence and online abuse and exploitation, through policy advocacy, reporting support, remote counselling, and law enforcement collaboration.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research reinforced and expanded Australia-Philippines engagement on agricultural research through: the appointment of a Philippines expert to the Policy Advisory Council which discusses key agriculture issues and Australia's response; the design and implementation of new research projects and innovative capability building activities as well as promoting R&D results to advance agricultural competitiveness in response to COVID-19. In addition, 30 Filipinos completed a year-long Agribusiness Master Class that improved their capacities to, in the COVID-19 era, support and create more inclusive market and supply chains, conduct consumer and value chain research.

ANNEX 1: PROGRESS AGAINST COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN RESULTS INDICATORS<sup>1</sup>*Health Security*

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of strengthened health systems for (a) importing, procuring medical equipment and supplies; (b) healthcare waste management in government hospitals	Supported the streamlining of the issuing of permits for businesses to import COVID-19 commodities (i.e. personal protective equipment – PPE- and emergency medical devices). Contributed to the development of the Philippine Department of Health's (DOH) Health Care Waste Management Manual for public health facilities
Evidence that (and number of): teachers (and schools) improve access to training and materials to promote inclusive, context-specific, COVID-safe hygiene to students and parents; hospitals, community health centres, and testing laboratories improve access to health and testing equipment, gender sensitive triage and isolation facilities, and supplies	Supported a wide range of COVID-19 initiatives including: establishment of the largest COVID-19 testing laboratory in the Philippines (processed around 700,000 samples); providing a specialised ambulance for around 400 COVID patients; providing 9,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) items and 870,000 face masks for hospitals, frontline workers, and families displaced by Typhoons <i>Goni</i> and <i>Vamco</i> ; and deploying three emergency maternity tent facilities that served as triage facilities for about 18,000 pregnant women and other patients.
Number of vulnerable women, men, girls, and boys provided with accessible emergency assistance in conflict and crisis situations in Mindanao and other affected areas	Provided emergency assistance in conflict and crisis situations to 289,980 people: (women: 207,654; men: 24,808; sex unknown: 57,518; people with disabilities: 2,205).
Evidence that the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) and other key national Philippine Government agencies allocate resources for implementation of 'minimum initial service package for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in emergencies, including appropriate gender-based violence (GBV) protections	Supported DOH to implement the ' <i>Minimum Initial Service Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies</i> '. Expert advice was also provided to DOH through to the draft of a multi-year plan to allocates funds for priority activities.

*Stability*

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Number of Filipino men and women reached with new or improved social protection programs, particularly vulnerable people	Supported new or improved social protection programs, including remote communities for 2,442,613* people. <small>*sex disaggregated data not available.</small>
Evidence of strengthened social protection systems, including improved targeting of the most vulnerable, and greater use of digital payment mechanisms	Supported the Philippine Government to streamline its social protection operations manual and the dissemination of the manual to local governments. Supported improvements to digital payments for social protection, including through strengthening private sector partnerships. Supported deductions in errors related to digital enrolments for the Emergency Subsidy Program, giving a five million additional families access to second payments under the Program.
Evidence of Australia enabling leaders to identify and act on reform opportunities, resulting in Philippine Government adoption of inclusive and significant reforms that aid	Provided expert advice to the government on financial decisions for COVID-19 response including: 1) improvements to the Metro Manila transport network (including securing a \$35m budget allocation for safe bike and pedestrian lane); 2) \$475m allocation for community awareness campaigns to promote public and

<sup>1</sup> Results reported by RRAP, Pathways, SERG and AFW are all on a calendar year reporting basis



Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
COVID-19 response and recovery (e.g., transport systems for enhanced worker mobility)	active transportation options; and 3) funding provisions for remote learning, learning aids for students with disabilities and providing advice on housing subsidy policy in the 2021 national budget leveraging \$19.
Number of senior Philippine Government staff implementing projects and actions that apply learning gained in Australia-supported short courses relating to COVID-19 response and recovery	Enhanced the capacity of 860 (55 per cent women and 45 per cent men) government officials, through 18 short courses, for strategic planning for national economic recovery, budget management and digitalisation of service delivery.
Evidence that key BARMM planning and service delivery systems are more inclusive, conflict-sensitive, and COVID-safe [e.g., education; water sanitation and hygiene ; roads; GBV counselling and referral; conflict monitoring]	Supported the drafting of the Bangsamoro Education Code involving consultations with 63 villages, and 641 people (49 per cent woman, 51 per cent men) from various religious and indigenous groups and institutions. Supported the development of the Camps Transformation Plan to guide the transformation of six Moro Islamic Liberation Front camps into peaceful and productive communities as part of the 'normalisation' process. Expansion of the Critical Events Monitoring System and Early Response Networks to monitor COVID-related social unrest.
Number of additional girls and boys enrolled in school within the BARMM region	A total of 2,784 additional children were enrolled in school within the BARMM region (girls: 1,429, boys: 1,355, children with disabilities: 11).
Number of strengthened gender-inclusive community-level conflict resolution mechanisms	Supported 27 cases of violent clan conflict mediation (with nine formally settled). 13 cases of local conflicts resolved were between 2017 to 2020, with an additional five cases settled in the first six months of 2021.
Number of men, women, boys, and girls in conflict situations provided with basic services and economic opportunities	Through the Abu Sayyaf Group Reintegration Program in Basilan Province we supported the reintegration of 296 returnees. A further 180 women, with 48 being wives of returnees, and 406 children were supported. Sex disaggregated data not available for children supported. Through the Preventing Violent Extremism in Asia/Global Community Engagement Resilience Fund 2,520 people (1,375 men, 1,145 women) were supported.
Philippines Internet Crimes Against Children (PICACC) agency is strengthened as a law enforcement hub combating online sexual exploitation of children	Supported the PICACC to receive 225 referrals and undertaken 117 operations, resulting in 82 offenders arrested and charged, A total of 355 victims have been rescued since the PICACC's inception in 2019.
Evidence of stronger, gender sensitive, and socially inclusive child protection policies and systems for prevention, response and reporting of online sexual exploitation of children	Supported the drafting and approval by the Philippine Senate of the anti-online sexual abuse and exploitation of children bill. Supported the Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology to draft and adopt the Child Online Safeguarding Policy.
Number of women and girl survivors of violence receiving services such as counselling (e.g., access to safe spaces)	Supported trained 120 facilitators on how to establish women-friendly spaces, including alternative communication platforms, to provide lifesaving GBV protection messaging and referral services. This reached 172,751 internally displaced women and girls. Supported 26 women and girl (one person with disabilities) survivors of violence to receive services such as counselling.
Number of leaders and service providers promoting, responding to, and managing GBV issues in their community	In BARMM, supported 120 facilitators and 71 regional and local staff to provide safe referrals and other types of assistance to survivors of gender-based violence.

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of research, technical advice provided by Australia improving food security and food systems' resilience to impacts of COVID-19 and other shocks	Supported 30 research and agribusiness to complete an Agribusiness Master Class. Supported the establishment of safe food-model farms in Leyte province in the Philippines to demonstrate safer and healthier vegetable production practices. Development and upscaling of the Livelihood Improvement through Facilitated Extension model to conflict vulnerable communities in Central Mindanao. Supported the Assessment of the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Philippines' Food Security. Provision of support to 250 vulnerable households and access to nutritious and sustainable food source and alternative livelihood during the COVID-19 pandemic through NGOs.

*Economic Recovery*

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of Australia-funded advisory support contributing to inclusive, evidence-informed Philippine Government stimulus and economic recovery measures (e.g., credit guarantee facility; small business wage subsidy; digitisation of Philippine Government business processes; creation of one-stop shops; use of impact evaluations to inform COVID-19 response and recovery measures)	Supported the distribution of emergency subsidies for small enterprise workers affected by COVID-19 lockdowns. Supported the measurement of COVID-19 impacts on firms, households and communities through surveys to help inform the Philippine Government COVID-19 policies and support programs. Supported labour market studies that informed the drafting of the Philippines' National Employment Recovery Strategy, which adopted some of the studies' key recommendations, through the ILO.
Evidence of Australia supporting the Philippine Government to better understand COVID-19 socio-economic impacts, including on vulnerable groups (e.g., real-time monitoring of COVID-19 socio-economic impacts; industry-driven identification of workforce skill needs for economic recovery)	Supported policy dialogue, using labour market studies and other research, to help inform the National Employment Recovery Strategy. Supported Sector Skills Councils and skills mapping activities in subsectors vulnerable to the workforce impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and COVID-19. Supported expert advice to revise the guidelines for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Fund.
Evidence of Australia supporting local government units to strengthen their preparedness for and resilience to economic shocks	Results unavailable due to pandemic-induced implementation delays. Will be reported in 2021-22.
Number of women entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services	Supported 43 women entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services.
Number of women and men with increased incomes	Results unavailable due to pandemic-induced implementation delays. Will be reported in 2021-22.

## ANNEX 2: INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender
Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Mindanao Investment Duration: 2014-23; Budget: \$91.2m	2021	4	5	5
	2020	4	5	5
Philippines-Australia Citizens Empowerment Program Investment Duration: 2018-23; Budget: \$8.6m	2021	4	4	5
	2020	4	4	5
Philippines-Australia Scholarships & Alumni Program Investment Duration: 2017-21; Budget: \$15.5m	2021	5	5	5
	2020	5	5	5
SaferKidsPH Investment Duration: 2018-26; Budget: \$8m	2021	4	4	3
	2020	4	4	4
Coalitions for Change Phase 2 Investment Duration: 2017-24; Budget: \$27.8m	2021	4	5	4
	2020	4	4	4
Education Pathways to Peace in Mindanao (Pathways) Investment Duration: 2015-26; Budget: \$90.4m	2021	4	4	4
	2020	4	4	4
Sustaining Education Reform Gains (SERG) Investment Duration: 2019-23; Budget: \$5.1m	2021	5	5	4
	2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
Research for Inclusive Development Initiative (RIDI) Investment Duration: 2019-23; Budget: \$5.5m	2021	5	4	5
	2020	n/a	n/a	n/a
Advancing Multilateral Partnerships for Econ Development Investment Duration: 2018-24; Budget: \$25m	2021	4	4	3
	2020	4	4	3
Response and Recovery Assistance to the Philippines Investment Duration: 2017-24; Budget: \$457.7m	2021	5	5	5
	2020	5	5	5

## FINAL INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender
Strengthening Public Private Partnership Program Investment Duration: 2011-21; Budget: \$26m	2021 FIMR	4	4	2
	2020 IMR	4	4	4

## Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas.

5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas.

1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major areas.