



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**AUSTRALIA – PHILIPPINES
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
PLAN 2024–2029**

Section 1: Introduction

Australia's partnership with the Philippines

Australia and the Philippines have a strong and enduring partnership built on more than 75 years of bilateral cooperation, including 50 years of development cooperation. In September 2023, this partnership was formally elevated to a Strategic Partnership.¹ Our Strategic Partnership is founded on shared democratic principles and a common vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region. It highlights the scope to build on our strong diplomatic and security cooperation, economic relations, and people-to-people links. It lays the foundation for our two countries to increase and refine our development cooperation, continuing our longstanding support for the Philippines' development priorities.

Purpose of the Development Partnership Plan

Australia's [International Development Policy](#) presents a long-term vision for how the development program will meet the critical needs of our partners, support sustainable development and help lift people out of poverty. Australia seeks relationships based on respect and partnerships that create economic and social value for us all. To achieve this, Australia supports our partners to:

- build effective, accountable states that drive their own development
- enhance state and community resilience to external pressures and shocks
- connect with Australia and regional architecture
- generate collective action on global challenges that impact us and our region.

The Australia – Philippines Development Partnership Plan 2024–2029 (DPP) translates into action the development priorities Australia shares with the Philippines. The DPP sets out agreed objectives, how we will work together to deliver shared outcomes, and how progress will be monitored. It also identifies where Australia can add value to the Philippines' national development priorities and how Australia will work with other development actors, ensuring the Australian Government contribution to the Philippines' development ambitions is well coordinated.

The DPP reflects the full spectrum of Australia's development support – Australian Government bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well as significant regional and global ODA and non-ODA development activities. A commitment to ongoing dialogue and engagement with government and non-government actors in support of a genuine and respectful partnership underpins this DPP. A mid-cycle review of the DPP will be undertaken.

The DPP explains how the Australia – Philippines development partnership will adapt to support our shared ambitions, including by:

- establishing a new economic growth and private sector development program
- reorientating our longstanding education partnership towards developing skills and improving the job readiness of young Filipinos
- shifting the emphasis of our stability-focused programming towards civil maritime cooperation
- continuing to support peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) until conditions allow this work to be integrated into our other programs
- significantly growing our investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation
- establishing a new program to step up our contribution to social protection and gender equality
- intensifying efforts to promote gender equality, disability equity, the rights of Indigenous peoples and social inclusion in all facets of our development cooperation

- renewing and elevating our commitment to locally led development.

Preparing the Development Partnership Plan

Australia has prepared this DPP through consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders. As the key Philippine Government partner and counterpart to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has played a central role in analysing proposed DPP objectives and coordinating Philippine Government inputs. In November 2023, we held a Philippine Government consultation workshop with representation from 27 national government agencies.

In December 2023, we held consultations with more than 50 stakeholders across civil society organisations, development partners including the World Bank and United Nations agencies, private sector partners, academia and development implementing organisations. We consulted with the Mindanao Development Authority and the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority.

The analysis underpinning the DPP was also informed by a stakeholder survey,² conducted by the Development Intelligence Lab, and consultation by DFAT's Office of Southeast Asia with Australian Government agencies, civil society organisations and development partners.

Section 2: Philippines development context and Australian partnership

The Philippines has made significant progress on poverty reduction, economic growth and human development in recent decades, but the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and underlying structural challenges risk undermining development efforts. The *Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028* lays the foundations for ‘economic and social transformation for a prosperous, inclusive and resilient society’ and sets out the country’s development priorities to ‘develop and protect capabilities of individuals and families’ and ‘transform production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products’.³ This section of the DPP provides a discussion of the Philippines’ development context, grouped by topics of particular relevance to the partnership with Australia and guided by our International Development Policy.

Economic growth

The Philippine economy is on a recovery path post-COVID-19, with significant reforms driving strong growth prospects. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth reached a high of 7.6 per cent in 2022 and moderated to 5.6 per cent in 2023. Investment and consumption have driven economic growth, but food prices have kept inflation high, which risks eroding the gains of GDP growth and disproportionately impacting the poor. The Philippine Government’s efforts to liberalise investment and develop the country’s infrastructure, including by establishing the Maharlika Investment Fund, signal a lift in financing strategies and economic management.

Reforms in key sectors will be necessary to unlock economic development and growth. The Philippine Government’s efforts to tackle the accessibility, quality and safety of infrastructure are positive. However, bottlenecks remain in infrastructure planning, procurement and construction. Digital and telecommunications infrastructure is poorly regulated, with high barriers to entry for investors, and internet access and affordability are problematic. While agriculture contributes only 9 per cent to GDP, it represents one-fifth of employment, demonstrating productivity shortfalls. Eleven million people currently have no electricity access, and the Philippines’ energy sector needs to triple over the next two decades to support access to power. The renewable energy and mineral resource sectors are growing, but public investment and improved ease of doing business is needed to foster investor confidence.

Poverty and inequality

Progress in reducing poverty reflects the Philippines’ commitment to improving Filipinos’ wellbeing and living standards. Poverty rates declined from 23.3 per cent in 2015 to 16.7 per cent in 2018, but rose to 22.4 per cent in early 2023, reflecting an increase during the COVID-19 pandemic. The poverty rate at the end of 2023 was 15.5 per cent, back below pre-pandemic figures. There is also variation across different geographic areas, for example with the poverty rate in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at 34.8 per cent. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr’s administration established the goal of reducing the poverty rate to 9 per cent by 2028. Income inequality has remained high, with the wealthiest 1 per cent of the population capturing 17 per cent of national income while half of all earners receive only 14 per cent of national income. Inequality of opportunity also persists, with poor households and marginalised groups having no access to basic services. This limits the potential for upward mobility, reduces human capital and productivity, and keeps lower-income households from progressing. The Philippines’ social protection system is contributing to poverty reduction and human capital development, with programs covering children, elderly people and people in crisis, as well as livelihood initiatives and community-driven development programs. However, low expenditure and challenges in identifying eligible people result in gaps in the current programs, meaning the most disadvantaged are not always reached.

Governance, law and justice

In the evolving landscape of governance, the Philippines is strengthening democracy and addressing corruption. In 2024, the nation ranked 67th out of 104 countries and sixth among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States in the Chandler Good Government Index.⁴ Despite a decline in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index from 97th out of 140 countries in 2022 to 100th out of 139 countries in 2023,⁵ the commitment to policy improvement is evident. Challenges persist in policy implementation, institutional capacity and political dynamics, yet the Supreme Court and other justice agencies are making a concerted effort to enhance the justice system, improve case efficiency, and expand access to justice, especially for the underprivileged.

Peace, stability and security

The Philippines has seen a significant shift in its security landscape, with violent extremism and terrorism threats decreasing thanks to improved security measures and coordination across the Philippine Government. In Muslim Mindanao, the peace process between the national government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front remains intact and continues to be implemented. The anticipated 2025 BARMM election represents a crucial test for the peace process in delivering lasting peace.

Turning its attention to external security challenges, the Philippine Government is strengthening its stance on sovereignty and territorial rights in the South China Sea, advocating for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 Arbitral Award to be respected. The current security challenges also curtail the ability of the Philippines to maximise its natural resources in its exclusive economic zone, with implications for livelihoods and economic development.

The Philippine Government's efforts to combat transnational crime, human trafficking and illegal fishing underscore a commitment to safeguarding national security and economic interests, with an emphasis on strengthening maritime capabilities and governance.

Human capital: education and health

Increased investment in human capital will be crucial, particularly in education and health, for the Philippines' future productivity and social development. The Philippines ranked 77th out of 81 countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA),⁶ reflecting the impacts of the Philippines' extended school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic on educational attainment. Addressing issues around literacy (most Filipino children are not meeting minimum proficiency standards) while improving educational outcomes will be important for the Philippines to take advantage of its demographic dividend (youth bulge).

The Philippines is focused on addressing challenges in the health sector such as universal health care, immunisation and stunting. The Philippines has the world's fifth highest number of unvaccinated children, one-third of Filipino children under 5 years are stunted and frontline health service delivery remains fragmented. Despite challenges in the education and health sectors, the Philippines is making strides towards enhancing human capital through initiatives such as the Universal Health Care Act and the rollout of a new basic education curriculum.

Climate change

The 2023 World Risk Report⁷ ranks the Philippines first out of 193 countries at risk from disasters, and this risk is projected to intensify as the climate changes. Annually, an average of 20 tropical cyclones pass through the country, and the nation remains vulnerable to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. This geographical and climatic reality places a considerable strain on disaster risk management and response systems and jeopardises development progress by disproportionately impacting the poor.

The Philippines has demonstrated leadership in disaster risk reduction and management, with a well-established framework enhancing resilience at both national and community levels. The country's proactive stance on climate adaptation focuses on sustainable practices, early warning systems and robust community engagement to mitigate the impacts of climate-related events.

Implementation and coordination will be important. An active contributor to international climate dialogue, the Philippine Government's efforts to strengthen climate and disaster resilience include promoting climate-smart agriculture, investing in resilient infrastructure and investing in renewable energy to reduce emissions. These initiatives are part of a broader strategy to manage current risks and reduce future vulnerabilities. Australia is well-positioned to support the Philippines in climate adaptation, building on our current work on disaster preparedness, recovery, resilience-building, policy reform and maritime security, and Australia's global and regional programs on climate financing and infrastructure. We will enhance our cooperation on climate change with the Philippines, both on adaptation and mitigation.

Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)

The Philippines has historically been recognised for its achievements in gender equality, with strong institutional frameworks supporting women's rights and participation. Remaining challenges include disparities in labour force participation, social norms impacting women's economic empowerment and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. According to the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Social Norms Index,⁸ 99.5 per cent of Filipinos hold a bias against women, particularly on political leadership, women's right to a job, caring responsibilities and the household division of labour. Teenage pregnancy is decreasing, but the Philippines ranks second among Southeast Asian countries, at 5.4 per cent. Women's labour force participation is among the lowest in East Asia, at 44 per cent in 2021, compared to men's participation at 68 per cent. The Philippine Government's efforts to overcome these challenges are ongoing, with policies and programs designed to empower women and girls in all sectors of society.

Disability inclusion and the rights of Indigenous peoples are also critical aspects of the GEDSI agenda in the Philippines. The country has enacted legislation to protect and promote the rights of people with disability and Indigenous peoples, aiming to ensure their full participation in social, economic and political life. However, implementation gaps, limited access to services and social stigma continue to hinder progress. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from government, civil society and international partners.

For the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, or another diverse gender or sexual identity (LGBTQIA+) community, legal and social recognition remains a work in progress. Advocacy for the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity or Expression (SOGIE) Bill and other measures seeks to ensure LGBTQIA+ individuals have equal rights and protections under the law. Promoting social inclusion for LGBTQIA+ individuals involves not only legislative action but also cultural and societal shifts towards acceptance, equality and equitable provision of services.

Australia will continue our twin-track approach to supporting GEDSI in the Philippines: engaging targeted programming to respond to critical issues and deliberately mainstreaming to ensure we are maximising opportunities across the breadth of our partnership. We will particularly build on our partnerships with the Philippine Government to address gender inequality by strengthening the Philippines' own gender budgeting systems, promoting women's economic empowerment and addressing gender-based violence.

Section 3: Joint objectives of the Australia – Philippines development partnership

The overarching goal for the Australia – Philippines development partnership is a stable, prosperous and resilient Philippines. Our three development partnership objectives, and how we will work together to progress each objective, are set out below and summarised in Table 1. These objectives reflect the principles and priorities agreed to by Australia and the Philippines in the Philippines–Australia Strategic Partnership and support the priorities presented in the *Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028*. These objectives are mutually reinforcing and complementary, collectively advancing towards our overarching shared goal. A mid-cycle review of this DPP will be undertaken to review progress and make adjustments as required.

Through our longstanding partnership, Australia is well-positioned to support the Philippines’ development priorities. Australia’s development program has evolved over time, from undertaking direct program delivery and building infrastructure to providing technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening. This evolution was in response to the Philippine Government’s increasing leadership role in delivering development interventions. As Strategic Partners, Australia sees its success as linked to the success of the Philippines.

Our development program focuses on investments across a range of sectors which are strategic to the Philippines and Australia. This focus enables strong partnerships to respond to the evolving context and facilitates deep engagement between our countries. Through this DPP, we will reorientate and refine our longstanding programs and lift our efforts in addressing emerging priorities. We will continue to work at national, subnational and local levels.

Australia’s comparative advantage is our pragmatic and responsive approach. We embed flexibility throughout our investments so that we can be adaptive. We are prioritising locally led development by supporting the Philippine Government’s own planning and engaging with local civil society and development partners. We will continue our innovative approach to technical assistance, which includes working with a mix of partners. We will step up our efforts to bring in Australian expertise from across the Australian Public Service, private sector, universities and civil society to build stronger institutional and whole-of-society linkages.

Table 1: Australia – Philippines development partnership

Goal: A stable, prosperous and resilient Philippines

Objective	Objective 1 Enhancing the conditions for stability	Objective 2 Bolstering inclusive and sustainable economic growth	Objective 3 Increasing institutional and community resilience to social, economic and climate-related shocks
Outcomes	<p>Outcome 1.1 Targeted institutions are strengthened to support internal and external stability, peace and security</p> <p>Outcome 1.2 Communities and disadvantaged groups benefit from bolstered peace, stability, security and equitable access to justice</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1 Targeted economic institutions are more accountable and effective as a result of economic reforms</p> <p>Outcome 2.2 Ease of doing business is improved and barriers to trade and investment are reduced</p> <p>Outcome 2.3 Women’s economic empowerment is supported through a more gender-sensitive business-enabling and policy environment</p> <p>Outcome 2.4 Human capital accumulation and skills development are improved</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1 Relevant institutions are strengthened to support poverty reduction and resilience to climate change, disasters, and social and economic shocks</p> <p>Outcome 3.2 Communities and disadvantaged groups, including women, people with disability and Indigenous peoples, better prepare for and respond to climate change, disasters, humanitarian crises, and social and economic shocks</p>
Focus areas	<p>Objective 1 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peacebuilding • Civil maritime cooperation • Security sector capacity building • Justice, human rights, cyber security and preventing transnational crime 	<p>Objective 2 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic economic reform • Key economic sectors including critical infrastructure and energy transition • Agrifood systems research • Women’s economic participation, including through the private sector • Skills/education • Scholarships 	<p>Objective 3 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster/climate resilience • Humanitarian assistance • Social protection • GEDSI

Ways of working

We will work together to progress the objectives set out in Table 1 through:

- ongoing consultation
- deeper partnerships
- transparency and accountability

- strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning
- policy dialogue and advocacy
- promoting locally led development
- integrating and elevating climate change
- targeted efforts and mainstreaming GEDSI
- coalition-building and donor coordination
- national and subnational development
- partnerships with civil society and non-government organisations.

Objective 1: Enhancing the conditions for stability

Australia will continue to support stability in the Philippines as a foundation for development. Australia has invested substantially in stabilisation and peacebuilding in Muslim Mindanao, and this will continue for now. In line with the Philippine Government's shifting priorities, Australia will also increase our support for external security.

Insurgency and violent extremism were previously the overriding security concerns in the Philippines, presenting a threat to Australian interests. However, over the past 5 years, terrorism incidence has significantly declined. This is a result of an enhanced security presence and implementation of the formal peace process between the national government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has also led to increased economic activity and growth.

Despite this improvement, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) remains the country's poorest region. It is also prone to disasters, which often displace already at-risk communities and can exacerbate conflicts. Challenges in delivering essential services, poor governance and a lack of institutional capacity risk undermining both economic growth and the resilience of the peace process. While Islamist terrorism has been on the decline, political and criminal violence persists, sometimes with the involvement of terror groups. The 2025 BARMM elections will be a key indicator as to whether the region will experience a resurgence of violence and instability.

With the BARMM remaining fragile, Australia will continue to focus on peacebuilding and the formal peace process. We are partnering with the Philippines to address underlying drivers of instability and support effective, accountable institutions that will underpin the BARMM's economic and social development. This includes working towards reduced clan conflict (*'rido'*) through mediation and dispute resolution, stronger early warning systems, and boosted community resilience, including against climate- and disaster-induced displacement and migration. Collaborative programming will continue to combat radicalisation and recruitment by improving livelihood opportunities. We will also assist the Philippines in responding to terrorism, terrorist financing and violent extremism, including in the administration of justice for terrorist offenders. Pending the smooth conduct of the 2025 BARMM elections, we anticipate that our peacebuilding program will scale down, and we will shift to integrating our work in the BARMM into our other development programs.

In line with Australia's prioritisation of gender equality, we will continue our cooperation with the Philippines to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, in accordance with the Philippine National Action Plan and particularly in the BARMM.

While internal security has been improving, the Philippine Government has been grappling with heightened external security challenges, particularly in the South China Sea. For both Australia and the Philippines, preserving the international rules-based order is a priority. The Philippines is asserting its sovereignty and territorial rights, making explicit calls for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 2016 Arbitral Award to be respected. Current maritime disputes have the potential to impact the Philippines' national security,

the blue economy and the marine environment, partially because of the Philippine Government's diversion of resources to external defence.

We will step up our civil maritime cooperation with the Philippines through increased investment, including non-ODA sources. We will focus on strengthening Philippine civil maritime agencies through training, scholarships and practical cooperation and support strengthened governance and coordination between key Philippine Government agencies. Australia and the Philippines will continue to work together closely to support a region where international law and sovereignty are respected and to protect the marine environment.

The Philippines also has key interests in enhancing cybersecurity and preventing transnational crime, including human trafficking, smuggling and illegal fishing. We will cooperate with the Philippines to enhance its investment in these sectors, including through capacity building and institutional strengthening.

To underpin these efforts to support stability, Australia and the Philippines will increase our work on the delivery of and access to justice for socially disadvantaged groups, an effort that will ultimately contribute to strengthening effective and accountable justice institutions and the rule of law in the country. This will involve work both with formal justice institutions and through informal multistakeholder mechanisms that promote and protect human rights.

Longstanding joint security initiatives include cooperation between the Australian Federal Police and the Philippine National Police, and defence education and training undertaken by the Australian Government Department of Defence and the Australian Defence Force alongside the Philippine Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. These initiatives will remain a key component of our efforts to improve conditions for stability.

Objective 2: Bolstering inclusive and sustainable economic growth

Australia is well-placed to partner with the Philippines to boost prosperity through inclusive, sustainable economic growth. The *Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028* outlines the Philippine Government's plan to invest in human capital to increase productivity; reduce red tape; improve good governance and efficiency; create more jobs by promoting trade, investment and competition; and accelerate climate action and resilience.

The Philippines has made substantial efforts to liberalise its economy. Legislative reforms to attract foreign investment in renewable energy, telecommunications and logistics have been passed, including the opening of renewable energy projects to 100 per cent foreign ownership. The Anti-Red Tape Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry are engaged in initiatives to improve the ease of doing business. However, the Philippines still ranked 95th of 190 economies in the World Bank's *Doing Business* report,⁹ well behind its regional peers. The effective implementation of reforms is critical to unlocking increased infrastructure investment and higher economic growth.

With the Philippines poised to achieve upper middle-income status in the coming years, more needs to be done now to support the Philippines' own agenda for embedding an efficient, inclusive economic system. This is why Australia will increase our support to Philippine Government agencies to implement the reforms needed to achieve these objectives. Inclusive and sustained economic growth in the Philippines will strengthen bilateral trade and investment opportunities and enhance the prosperity of our region. Australia's *Invested: Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*¹⁰ and work undertaken by Austrade will complement our development programming through non-ODA efforts; with stronger economic reforms, Australian businesses and investors will be encouraged to enter the Philippine market.

For the Philippines to achieve its ambitions for sustainable economic growth, well-implemented economic reforms, stronger institutions and robust public financial management will be crucial. We will increase our support for upstream economic reforms that strengthen economic management and the accountability of institutions. Building

on our existing work, we will partner with the Philippine Government in key sectors including infrastructure, renewable energy, resources, telecommunications and digitalisation. Through our support for the implementation of reforms in these sectors, we expect to see more Filipinos benefiting from economic development. We will also continue our science-based research partnership to strengthen agrifood systems. Such economic reforms and evidence generation respond to challenges such as the digital divide between urban and rural communities, the unmet electricity demand, lost productivity from agricultural inefficiencies, and the imperative to fast-track the renewable energy transition driven by climate change. Stronger economic management will encourage greater private sector activity, improving livelihoods and boosting growth.

Australia will increase our support for the Philippine Government to unlock the private sector's potential contribution to economic growth, including by increasing competition, reducing barriers to trade and investment, and reducing the cost of doing business. The Philippines has enacted important reforms in competition law and public administration, but constraints remain. Limited competition in key sectors, complex business and taxation regulations, and lack of access to finance can make it difficult for small and medium enterprises to expand beyond the informal sector. Despite the Philippines' increasingly open posture to international trade, international firms face red tape that disincentivises market entry. To enhance the Philippines' attractiveness as a business and investment destination, 'behind the border' issues – such as standards, qualifications, intellectual property rights, business regulation and competition policies – need to be addressed.

For the Philippines to meet its development potential, women's economic empowerment will be critical. With lower women's economic participation rates despite their higher education levels, concerted efforts are required. Social norms related to unpaid care work and women's household roles, unequal access to finance and fewer formal labour market opportunities hold women back from equal economic participation. Australia will continue to take a twin-track approach by mainstreaming women's economic empowerment while also investing in standalone activities. We will promote women's economic empowerment through workplace gender equality and policy reform, more equitable gender norms, and accelerating women's entrepreneurship and access to finance.

Australia will continue to support human capital and skills development in the Philippines. The Philippine Government has signalled a strong commitment to increasing income-earning ability and developing the capabilities of individuals and families. Robust investment in the education system, particularly skills development, will be important to take advantage of the Philippines' demographic dividend, reduce the risk of productivity stagnation caused by 2 years of learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic, and support the job readiness of young Filipinos. Building on our longstanding education partnerships, Australia's education and skills development assistance will increasingly focus on building skills pathways in secondary education. We will also increase institutional and technical exchanges to facilitate stronger linkages between Australian and Philippine education systems through scholarships, policy dialogue and partnerships.

Objective 3: Increasing institutional and community resilience to social, economic and climate-related shocks

Australia remains committed to strengthening Philippine institutions and communities to withstand social, economic and climate-related shocks. Australia will do this by partnering with the Philippines through practical locally led solutions on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction (including against geological hazards), social protection and GEDSI. For Australia, resilient institutions and communities will underpin our strategic and economic relationships, helping to ensure the Philippines can remain a strong partner in the face of potential future shocks.

Given the high risk of climate-induced and geological disasters in the Philippines, increased efforts supporting adaptation, robust institutions and disaster risk reduction will be important for strengthening resilience. Australia will work with the Philippine Government to bolster disaster risk governance and respond to climate risks using

data, science, and local and Indigenous knowledge, in line with the National Adaptation Plan. We will foster collaboration and support 'build back better' principles in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. Consistent with the Australian Government's commitment to addressing the shared challenge of climate change, we will increase our cooperation with the Philippines on climate change, including through adaptation, nature-based solutions, blended and climate financing, and mitigation to help the Philippines address its top emissions sources as specified in its Nationally Determined Contributions.

The Philippines has invested in a mature humanitarian response and recovery system, but fragmentation and inefficiencies persist. Australia has been a longstanding humanitarian partner, working with the Philippine Government to improve its humanitarian response systems ahead of a crisis. We will continue to do this, drawing on innovative solutions and working with trusted development partners. An example of this approach is the multiyear pre-positioning arrangements with local partners that enable timely response by Australia when disaster occurs. These are used during medium- to large-scale disasters, including protracted crises. During crises, we commit to supporting the humanitarian needs of affected populations in an inclusive, transparent and accountable manner to ensure we reach the most vulnerable. This includes the mitigation of additional risks during crises, such as gender-based violence.

With poverty rates at 15.5 per cent in 2023, the Philippines has committed to reducing poverty incidence to 9 per cent by 2028. Social protection programs are one of the country's main vehicles for building resilience and addressing poverty, inequality and vulnerability. Social protection reduces citizens' vulnerability so they can participate in the economy, adapt to changing circumstances and be better prepared for shocks. The Philippines has a long-established social protection system, reaching an anticipated 24 million Filipinos with regular cash transfers in 2024. However, the effectiveness of social protection in reducing poverty and building resilience is undermined by gaps in reaching the most disadvantaged, fragmented systems, and limited ability to respond to shocks.

Australia will collaborate with the Philippine Government to increase institutional capacity. By building on our deep partnerships, Australia will step up our engagement to strengthen the Philippines' social protection system, improve the implementation of cash-based income protection, and reduce the gaps in reaching vulnerable households with adequate transfers, including support for people with disability and Indigenous people. We will focus on supporting gender equality and lessening the impact of climate change through the social protection system. This will be complemented by our targeted partnerships strengthening elements of the health system, such as capacity building on disease surveillance and enhancing immunisation registries through our global and Indo-Pacific regional programs.

Australia will work with the Philippines to empower communities to manage social and economic shocks and climate change, disaster and humanitarian risks through locally led solutions. We will invest in policy reform, capacity building, financing, grants and technology to provide communities with the tools and knowledge to cope with and adapt to risks. Through our partnerships with communities, civil society and non-government organisations, we expect to see stronger human capital outcomes and community resilience.

Australia advances GEDSI in all facets of our development assistance. Our efforts will support the Philippine Government's own agenda to advance gender equality by strengthening its processes for evidence-based policymaking, planning and financing of gender equality initiatives. We will support initiatives that empower women, advocate for equal access to services and opportunities, and challenge gender norms. We will invest in strengthening systems to ensure equity and inclusion for people with disability and Indigenous peoples. We will also ensure initiatives work for people experiencing intersectional forms of disadvantage.

Section 4: Delivering our partnership

Locally led development

Australia is committed to continue empowering local actors to deliver development assistance in the Philippines. This is a core feature of how we work, as the success and sustainability of our development initiatives cannot be achieved without the leadership of national and subnational governments, local civil society organisations, local business and local academic communities.

Our program in the Philippines will continue to support local leaders and organisations to pursue policy reforms that contribute to the development objectives of the Philippines and are responsive to the needs, priorities and aspirations of the Filipino people. We will provide technical assistance, capacity building and grants to local partners to invest in organisations, not just projects. Our close partnerships with the Philippine Government will be deepened as we collaborate on strengthening institutions and systems to enhance the Government's delivery of its own economic and social development priorities.

Australia will work closely with the Philippine Government as we strive to be more flexible and innovative in our approaches to program planning and implementation, including design, contracting and delivery arrangements. Whenever possible, we will provide multiyear funding and capacity development to local organisations. We will also undertake design, monitoring and evaluation approaches that increase participation from local actors. Our efforts to deepen cooperation and localisation will include capacity-development strategies for partner institutions, implementing entities and the Australian Government's locally engaged staff.

Consultation

Australia commits to regular consultation with the Philippine Government to discuss issues, share learning and provide updates on DPP implementation. As agreed in the Philippines–Australia Plan of Action under our bilateral Strategic Partnership, High-Level Consultations on development cooperation will be held annually between Australia and the Philippine NEDA and Department of Finance to discuss progress and ensure continuous alignment of priorities. A development stakeholder forum will be held annually in conjunction with the High-Level Consultations to ensure DPP implementation is informed by a broad range of views. These consultations will inform the mid-cycle review of the DPP scheduled for 2027.

Evaluation and learning

We commit to continuous learning and to ensuring our development programming is evidence-based. Table 2 shows the reviews and evaluations that will be completed in the first three years of the DPP. These include evaluations of investments in peacebuilding, justice and human rights, maritime security, education and skills, economic growth, policy reform, social protection and gender, and small grants. Outcomes from these reviews will provide additional inputs to the mid-cycle review of the DPP scheduled for 2027.

Table 2: Consultation, evaluation and learning plan

Objective	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Objective 1 Enhancing the conditions for stability	Mid-term review of the Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Mindanao (PCAM) Phase 2 program	Mid-term review of the Fostering Advancement of Inclusive and Rights-Based (FAIR) Justice program	Mid-term review of the Philippine Civil Maritime Security successor program
Objective 2 Bolstering inclusive and sustainable economic growth	Mid-term review of the Investing in Women program Completion review of the Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program – Philippines (AAAEP-P)	Mid-term review of the Coalitions for Change Phase 3 (CfC3) program	No formal reviews planned
Objective 3 Increasing institutional and community resilience to social, economic and climate-related shocks	Mid-term review of the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (SHIELD) program Completion review of the Response and Recovery Assistance to the Philippines program Completion review of the Enhancing Child Protection System to Keep Filipino Children Safe Online (SaferKidsPH) program Completion review of Red Cross Multiyear Prepositioning Agreement	Completion review of the Prepositioning Sexual and Reproductive Health Supplies and Services in Emergencies program	Mid-term review of the Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender Equality (SPRING) program
Cross-program	Development stakeholder forum on the sidelines of High-Level Consultations on development cooperation (Philippines–Australia Plan of Action)	DPP progress check-in with the Philippine Government through the Philippine National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and Department of Finance	Mid-cycle review of the DPP

Performance and results

The Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) at Table 3 provides a selection of indicators and expected results for the first 3 years of the DPP. The PAF will be updated periodically including at the mid-cycle review point, at which time indicators and results for the second half of the DPP will be identified.

Table 3: Performance Assessment Framework

Objective 1: Enhancing the conditions for stability

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.1 Targeted institutions are strengthened to support internal and external stability, peace and security	1.1.1 Improved policies and institutional responses to community conflict and violent extremist offenders	1 reform relating to improving management of countering violent extremism and counterterrorism cases with the Supreme Court, particularly on adjudication	1 reform relating to improving management of countering violent extremism and counterterrorism cases with other justice agencies, particularly on prosecution	Investments contributing to this indicator will be concluded in 2026	SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
Outcome 1.1	1.1.2 Policies, processes and programs of supported institutions and organisations in the Philippine Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) are more inclusive	1 BARMM regional law passed focused on 1 of the following areas: Indigenous peoples, gender and development, and people with disability 10 local government unit policies passed on peace and development or youth empowerment	1 BARMM regional law passed focused on 1 of the remaining areas from the previous year 10 local government unit policies passed on peace and development or social cohesion and resilience	No target available, as this will be contingent on future programming	SDG5: Gender equality, SDG16
Outcome 1.1	1.1.3 Strengthened maritime security and resource management (Tier 2)	1 maritime reform and/or policy improvement on maritime governance 100 stakeholders trained in maritime security	1 maritime reform and/or policy improvement on maritime governance 100 stakeholders trained in maritime security	1 maritime reform and/or policy improvement on maritime governance 100 stakeholders trained in maritime security	SDG5, SDG14: Life below water

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.1	1.1.4 Filipinos view Australia as a key partner in civil maritime security and protection issues	Australia remains in the top three countries the Philippine Government should work with in the results of a nationwide poll on public opinion of Filipinos on maritime issues	Australia remains in the top three countries the Philippine Government should work with in the results of a nationwide poll on public opinion of Filipinos on maritime issues	Australia remains in the top three countries the Philippine Government should work with in the results of a nationwide poll on public opinion of Filipinos on maritime issues	SDG14
Outcome 1.2 Communities and disadvantaged groups benefit from bolstered peace, stability, security and equitable access to justice	1.2.1 Institutional reforms, partnerships and policy improvements bolstering equitable access to justice	Improved policy settings to enable vulnerable groups to access justice	Enhanced transparency and accountability of legal and judicial systems and services	Improved policy settings in judicial education	SDG5, SDG10: Reduced inequalities, SDG16
Outcome 1.2	1.2.2 Conflict resolution structures/processes established or strengthened	Capacity of peace mediators are enhanced on the prevention/resolution of local conflicts	Intervention in conflicts leads to effective resolution or a path to resolution between conflicting parties	Investments contributing to this will continue but specific agreements and results yet to be finalised	SDG5, SDG16
Outcome 1.2	1.2.3 Additional number of boys and girls in conflict-affected and post-conflict BARMM communities who are in school	1,000 additional boys and girls	1,000 additional boys and girls	Investments contributing to this indicator will be concluded in 2026	SDG4: Quality education, SDG5

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.2	1.2.4 Enhanced gender and disability responsive policies, plans and programs introduced in BARMM offices and local government units (LGUs)	Improved policy settings on gender and development and disability inclusion in BARMM and LGUs, including progressing the Gender and Development Code and/or Magna Carta for Disabled Persons	Improved policy settings on gender and development and disability inclusion in BARMM and LGUs, including progressing the Gender and Development Code and/or Magna Carta for Disabled Persons	Investments contributing to this will continue but specific agreements and results yet to be finalised	SDG5, SDG16
Outcome 1.2	1.2.5 New or enhanced policy reforms in improving human rights and equitable justice for persons deprived of liberty	1 policy reform enhanced and/or created in the management of persons deprived of liberty, including violent extremist offenders	1 policy reform enhanced and/or created in the management of persons deprived of liberty, including violent extremist offenders	Investments contributing to this indicator will be concluded in 2026	SDG5, SDG16

Objective 2: Bolstering inclusive and sustainable economic growth

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.1 Targeted economic institutions are more accountable and effective as a result of economic reforms	2.1.1 Inclusive and resilient economic reform in key economic sectors including public finance and infrastructure, renewable energy, telecommunications, digitalisation and others in line with the <i>Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028</i> and DPP	Impact evaluation conducted of Philippine Government programs (as requested) to inform the review of the <i>Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028</i> and/or national government development planning	Technical assistance and knowledge products provided in the design and implementation of Philippine Government reforms, including on fiscal consolidation, transport and energy (based on Philippine Government priorities)	Select Philippine Government agencies implement and adopt economic reforms in key sectors – as identified in the <i>Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028</i> and DPP	SDG1: No poverty SDG5: Gender equality SDG7: Affordable and clean energy SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.1	2.1.2 Research and capacity-development partnerships that enable improvements in agrifood systems in support of economic advancement	Soil and land management and mango production are improved through research, evidence generation and capacity development	Aquatic, plant pest and biosecurity are improved through research and evidence generation and capacity development	Inclusive value chains and maritime sector are improved through research and evidence generation and capacity development	SDG2: Zero hunger SDG14: Life below water
Outcome 2.2 Ease of doing business is improved and barriers to trade and investment are reduced	2.2.1 Enabled environment for business and reduced barriers to trade and investment through enhancing the capacities of key government institutions	Assessment of the regulatory and policy environment for business and investment	Technical assistance and advice are provided to select government agencies to enhance policy and regulatory environment	Economic policy reform design and implementation efforts, including on digital transformation, are informed by the analytical and technical assistance	SDG1, SDG5, SDG7, SDG9
Outcome 2.3 Women’s economic empowerment is supported through a more gender-sensitive business-enabling and policy environment	2.3.1 Number of women entrepreneurs and women’s organisations supported with financial and/or business development services to promote women’s economic empowerment (Tier 2)	203 women entrepreneurs; 2 organisations/ associations	253 women entrepreneurs; 5 organisations/ associations	65 women entrepreneurs; 7 organisations/ associations	SDG5, SDG8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
Outcome 2.3	2.3.2 Workplace gender equality is improved in key partner companies	Support provided on workplace gender equality to partner companies to improve workplace gender equality practices	Support provided on implementation or changes to key workplace gender equality policies within partner companies and/or government	Partner companies adopting and beginning to implement policy changes, strategies and practices that increase workplace gender equality	SDG5, SDG8, SDG16

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.3	2.3.3 The care economy and/or women’s economic empowerment policies and regulations show progress towards gender equality	Evidence produced on the business case for the care economy and/or women’s economic empowerment policies	Stakeholders supported in the discussion and advocacy of care economy and/or women’s economic empowerment policies	Evidence of private sector and/or Philippine Government stakeholders’ advocacy impacting the approach to the care economy and/or women’s economic empowerment policies	SDG5, SDG8, SDG16
Outcome 2.4 Human capital accumulation and skills development are improved	2.4.1 Improved teaching quality, school management, industry–institution collaboration and learning transition pathways	Frameworks developed and policies enhanced in the areas of curriculum and assessment	Multistakeholder partnerships among industry, training providers, schools and government established in selected locations	Philippine reform efforts for an industry responsive senior secondary program are informed by expert technical advice and evidence	SDG4: Quality education, SDG5
Outcome 2.4	2.4.2 Emerging Philippine leaders with improved expertise through Australian education	200 emerging leaders with improved expertise by completing short courses, non-formal learning opportunities and postgraduate studies 15 alumni successfully implement Re-Entry Action Plans (REAPs)	150 emerging leaders with improved expertise by completing short courses, non-formal learning opportunities and postgraduate studies 15 alumni successfully implement REAPs	150 emerging leaders with improved expertise by completing short courses, non-formal learning opportunities and postgraduate studies 15 alumni successfully implement REAPs	SDG4, SDG5

Objective 3: Increasing institutional and community resilience to social, economic and climate-related shocks

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
<p>Outcome 3.1</p> <p>Relevant institutions are strengthened to support poverty reduction and resilience to climate change, disasters, and social and economic shocks</p>	<p>3.1.1 Government institutions with strengthened capacity on poverty reduction, inclusion and resilience-building</p>	<p>14 institutions supported with evidence of systems improvement in the areas of disaster risk reduction, social protection, climate change resilience and gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>17 institutions supported with evidence of systems improvement in the areas of disaster risk reduction, social protection, climate change resilience and gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>16 institutions supported with evidence of systems improvement in the areas of disaster risk reduction, social protection, climate change resilience and gender mainstreaming</p>	<p>SDG1: No poverty</p> <p>SDG5: Gender equality</p> <p>SDG8: Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities</p> <p>SDG13: Climate action</p> <p>SDG15: Life on land</p> <p>SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</p> <p>SDG17: Partnerships for the goals</p>
<p>Outcome 3.1</p>	<p>3.1.2 Number of people and/or subnational government partners trained on climate change adaptation, resilience to disasters</p>	<p>650 people trained</p>	<p>500 people and 2 subnational government partners trained</p>	<p>3 subnational government partners trained</p>	<p>SDG1, SDG5, SDG8, SDG11, SDG13, SDG15, SDG16, SDG17</p>

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 3.2 Communities and disadvantaged groups, including women, people with disability and Indigenous peoples, better prepare for and respond to climate change, disasters, humanitarian crises, and social and economic shocks	3.2.1 Number of marginalised women, men, girls and boys provided with emergency assistance in conflict and humanitarian crisis situations (Tier 2)	No target or baseline provided, as only actual results will be reported for this indicator	No target or baseline provided, as only actual results will be reported for this indicator	No target or baseline provided, as only actual results will be reported for this indicator	SDG1, SDG2: Zero hunger, SDG5, SDG13, SDG17
Outcome 3.2	3.2.2 Number of smallholder farmers supported to improve food security or climate resilient practices	6,000 households	Investments contributing to this indicator will be concluded in 2025	Investments contributing to this indicator will be concluded in 2025	SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG8, SDG16, SDG17
Outcome 3.2	3.2.3 Numbers reached with new or improved social protection programs (male/female) (Tier 2) ^a	30,000 individuals benefited	30,000 individuals benefited	30,000 individuals benefited	SDG1, SDG3: Good health and wellbeing, SDG5
Outcome 3.2	3.2.4 Number of services provided to victim/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (Tier 2)	500 instances of service provision to victim/survivors	1,500 instances of service provision to victim/survivors	1,500 instances of service provision to victim/survivors	SDG5

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 3.2	3.2.5 Improved Philippine Government planning, policy formulation and budgeting for gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)	<p>1 Philippine Government policy is created or enhanced on gender mainstreaming, gender and development (GAD) budgets, gender-based violence or adolescent pregnancy</p> <p>The Philippine Government’s definition of disability is more aligned with the international Washington Group questions</p>	<p>5 Philippine Government policies are created or enhanced on gender equality, gender mainstreaming, GAD budgets, gender-based violence or adolescent pregnancy</p> <p>Gender equality activities funded by GAD budget allocations increasingly support services for gender equality (measured by percentage increase from 2024–25 baseline, with select Philippine Government national and local governments)</p> <p>The Philippine Government’s disability identification system and registry more accurately identify people with disability, as measured by reduced discrepancies between National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Department of Health (DOH) and local government unit (LGU) data</p>	<p>5 Philippine Government policies are created or enhanced on gender equality, gender mainstreaming, GAD budgets, gender-based violence or adolescent pregnancy</p> <p>Gender equality activities funded by GAD budget allocations increasingly support services for gender equality (measured by percentage increase from 2024–25 baseline, with select Philippine Government national and local governments)</p> <p>The Philippine Government’s disability identification system and registry more accurately identify people with disability, as measured by reduced discrepancies between NCDA, DOH and LGU data</p>	SDG10: Reduced inequalities

a Calculated by taking an average of the past three years of results reported against this Tier 2 indicator.

Cross-program

Theme	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Gender equality	Percentage of all Philippines program investments that address gender equality effectively (Tier 3)	80%	80%	80%	SDG5: Gender equality SDG10: Reduced inequalities
Disability equity	Percentage of investments effective in promoting disability inclusion (Tier 3)	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG5, SDG10
Localisation	Number of local personnel, sub-contractors and staff engaged – Managing Contractors ^b (Tier 3)	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG1: No poverty, SDG5, SDG10, SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
Localisation	Number and dollar value of local contractors and grants (local supply chains) – Managing Contractors ^b (Tier 3)	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG1, SDG5, SDG10, SDG16
Localisation	Percentage of bilateral investment designs, evaluations and delivery that include local participation (Tier 3)	80%	80%	80%	SDG1, SDG5, SDG10, SDG16
Localisation	Number of local government and non-government organisations supported and capacitated to address development challenges	10 local government and non-government organisations supported and capacitated	10 local government and non-government organisations supported and capacitated	10 local government and non-government organisations supported and capacitated	SDG1, SDG5, SDG10, SDG16

^b Targets are not required for this indicator.

Annex 1: Supporting investments/activities in the Philippines

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 1 – Enhancing the conditions for stability (bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well as significant regional and global ODA, and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Philippine Civil Maritime Security Program (bilateral)	2020–2024 Successor program 2025–2029	Philippine Coast Guard; Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group; Palawan Council for Sustainable Development; University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute; development partners
Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Mindanao Phase 2 (bilateral)	2023–2028	Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity; Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ministries; civil society organisations (CSOs); development partners
Strengthening Philippine Justice Responses to Violent Extremism (bilateral)	2020–2026	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); Department of Justice; Supreme Court; Anti-Money Laundering Council; development partners
Fostering Advancement of Inclusive and Rights-Based (FAIR) Justice (bilateral)	2024–2029	Supreme Court; other justice agencies; CSOs
Protracted Crisis Recovery Assistance (bilateral)	2022–2026	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); development partners
Education Pathways to Peace in Mindanao (bilateral)	2015–2026	Department of Education; BARMM Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education; development partners
Defence cooperation (bilateral)	Ongoing	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Australian Federal Police (bilateral)	Ongoing	PNP; National Bureau of Investigation
ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking Program (regional/global)	2018–2028	ASEAN Member States; CSOs
Women, Peace and Security (regional/global)	2022–2027	UN Women; CSOs

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Marine Resources Initiative (regional/global)	2020–2024 (non-ODA) Successor program 2024–2028 (non-ODA)	Southeast Asian partners
Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia (regional/global)	2019–2026 (mix of ODA and non-ODA)	Southeast Asian government partners
Maritime consultancy (regional/global)	2022–2026 (non-ODA)	Philippine Coast Guard; maritime policy sector
Blue Security initiative (regional/global)	2022–2025 (mix of ODA and non-ODA)	Southeast Asian government partners; other ASEAN Member States (non-ODA)
Law of the Sea training (regional/global)	2024–2030	Indonesia; Vietnam; Malaysia; the Philippines; Brunei
Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program (regional/global)	2016–2025	ASEAN; universities; private sector

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 2 – Bolstering inclusive and sustainable economic growth (bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well as significant regional and global ODA, and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Advancing Multilateral Partnerships for Economic Development (bilateral)	2019–2029	National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); Department of Finance; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Transportation (DOTr); Department of Public Works and Highways; World Bank; Asian Development Bank; United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Economic and private sector development program (bilateral)	2024–2029	To be confirmed (TBC)
Education Quality for Inclusive Prosperity (EQUIP) (bilateral)	2025–2029	Department of Education; Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; industry and private sector
Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program – Philippines (bilateral)	2017–2025	Various Philippine Government agencies; development partners

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Australia Awards Scholarships (bilateral)	2025–2030	Australian universities
Investing in Women (bilateral)	2023–2027	DSWD; NEDA; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
Coalitions for Change (CfC) (bilateral)	2024–2030	Various Philippine Government agencies; CSOs
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) (bilateral)	2024–2029	Department of Science and Technology (DOST); local government units; academic institutions; non-government organisations (NGOs)
Research for Inclusive Development Initiative (bilateral)	2019–2026	NEDA; United Nations partners
Australian National University (ANU) Philippines Institute (bilateral)	2023–2028	ANU
Austrade (bilateral)	Ongoing investment cooperation and facilitation	Private sector
ASEAN–Australia Smart Cities (regional/global funding)	2018–2024	ASEAN Member States
Global Partnership for Education (regional/global funding)	2021–2025	Southeast Asian government partners; CSOs; United Nations agencies; multilateral development banks; private sector
Impact Private Sector Partnerships (regional/global funding)	2018–2027	Private sector partners
ASEAN–Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative (regional/global funding)	2018–2024	ASEAN Member States; private sector
Australia for ASEAN Digital Transformation and Futures Skills Initiative (regional/global funding)	2022–2025	ASEAN Member States
Australia for ASEAN (Aus4ASEAN) Futures (regional/global funding)	2020–2032	ASEAN Member States

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) (regional/global funding)	2024–2028 (phase 2)	Southeast Asian government partners (in the Philippines: Government Procurement Policy Board; Public-Private Partnership Center; DOTr; Department of Energy; Department of Information and Communications Technology)
Southeast Asia investment deals team (regional/global funding)	2024–2028 (non-ODA)	Southeast Asian government partners; private sector
Southeast Asia Business Exchange Program (regional/global funding)	2024–2028	Southeast Asian government partners; private sector
Southeast Asia and Australia Government-to-Government Partnerships (regional/global funding)	2024–2028	Southeast Asian government partners
Women’s World Banking (regional/global funding)	2016–2024	Southeast Asian government partners

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 3 – Increasing institutional and community resilience to social, economic and climate-related shocks (bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) as well as significant regional and global ODA, and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Humanitarian Response and Early Recovery Support (HEART) (bilateral)	2022–2028	DSWD; Office of Civil Defense (OCD); Department of Health (DOH); development partners
Social Protection, Inclusion and Gender Equality (SPRING) (bilateral)	2024–2029	DSWD; Philippine Commission on Women (PCW); DILG; National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA); National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); NEDA
Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (SHIELD) (bilateral)	2018–2028	DILG; DOST; OCD
Response and Recovery Assistance to the Philippines (bilateral)	2017–2024	DSWD; development partners
Enhancing Child Protection System to Keep Filipino Children Safe Online (SaferKidsPH) (bilateral)	2018–2026	Australian Federal Police; UNICEF

Direct Aid Program (DAP) (bilateral)	Current phase 2019–2024 Next phase 2025–2031	Various NGOs; CSOs
COVID-19 Assistance and Response for Enhanced Systems (CARES) (bilateral)	2020–2025	DOH; DSWD
New climate change program (bilateral)	TBC	Various national and subnational government agencies; NGOs
Australia NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) (global)	Ongoing	Various NGOs; CSOs
Australian Volunteers (global)	2017–2027	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency
Climate Resilient Communities (global)	2024–2029	Indo-Pacific government partners (TBC in the Philippines)
Indo-Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights COVID-19 Surge Response (SRHR C-Surge) (global)	2021–2024 Successor program 2024–2028	Southeast Asian and Pacific government partners In the Philippines: DOH; development partners
Partnerships for a Healthy Region (global)	2023–2028	Southeast Asian and Pacific government partners; NGOs; universities; research institutions In the Philippines: DOH; Food and Drug Administration (FDA); DOST
Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (VAHSI) and Quad Vaccine Partnership (global)	2021–2025	Southeast Asian and Pacific government partners In the Philippines: DOH; FDA
Southeast Asia Gender-based Violence Prevention Platform (regional)	2024–2029	Southeast Asian government partners
Empowering Girls and Women through Social Protection in Southeast Asia (regional)	2023–2026	Southeast Asian government partners; UNICEF
Australian Humanitarian Partnership Phase II (global)	2022–2027 (responsive mechanism accessed on an ad hoc basis)	Southeast Asian government partners; CARE; Caritas; Oxfam; Plan International; Save the Children; World Vision

Endnotes

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⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)*, 2023. <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-gender-social-norms-index-gsni#/indicies/GSNI>

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Cover photo credits

Top row (from left to right):

- Krishna Bagas, participant in the Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment and Just Energy Transition for Community and Climate Resilience project
Credit: Geraldine Grace Hoggang/Oxfam Pilipinas
- Norma Saltico of Normalou Farm in Benguet, an investee of the Macquarie–Investing in Women Responsive Interventions Supporting Entrepreneurs (RISE) Fund
Credit: Flordeliz Ranola, care of Investing in Women

Bottom row (from left to right):

- Members of the Asosasyon ng mga Maliliit na Mangingisda (Association of Small Fisherfolks) at their monitoring site for a sea cucumber farm in the northern Philippines (from left to right: Enrico Caasi, Roger Corbillon and Gemma Candelario)
Credit: Shannon Lester Cristal Paraico, DFAT
- Dr Dexter dela Cruz, Australian Alumnus of the Year 2023, working on coral reef restoration
Credit: Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program – Philippines