

Being Declaration and Platform for Action

BPfA +25

PHILIPPINE PROGRESS REPORT 2014-2019

Philippine
Commission
on Women

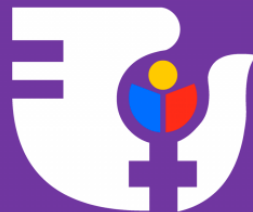


Table of Contents

	Page No.
List of Acronyms	ii
List of Tables and Figures	vii
List of Annexes	viii
Introduction	1
Section 1: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks	3
Section 2: Progress Across the Critical Areas of Concerns	19
1. Inclusive Development, Shared Prosperity and Decent Work	19
2. Poverty Eradication, Social Protection and Social Services	23
3. Freedom from Violence, Stigma and Stereotypes	30
4. Participation, Accountability and Gender-responsive Institutions	37
5. Peaceful and inclusive societies	44
6. Environmental Conservation, Protection and Rehabilitation	46
Section 3: National Institutions and Processes	51
Section 4: Data and Statistics	56

List of Acronyms

4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
ACTIP	ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons
ADOs	Anti-Discrimination Ordinances
ADVOCOM	Advocacy and Communications Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development
APIS	Annual Poverty Indicator Survey
ARBOs	Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organization
ARMM	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
ARs	Accomplishment Reports
ARTA	Anti-Red Tape Act
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASKI	Alalay sa Kaunlaran
AWEN	ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network
BAR	Bureau of Agricultural Research
BBL	Bangsamoro Basic Law
BCPC	Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BMCRRP	Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program
	Accountable and Transparent Barangays
BPBH	Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay Program
BPFA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
BTA	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
BWSC	Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns
CAAT	Collaborative Action Against Trafficking
CARL	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
CBDRRMPs	Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans
CBLDMS	Competency-Based Learning and Development Management System
CCAT-VAWC	City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children
CCC	Climate Change Commission
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CDP	Comprehensive Development Plans
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFLGA	Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHRP	Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
CIAGV	Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence
CLOA	Certificates of Land Ownership
COA	Commission on Audit
COMELEC	Commission on Elections
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CrFS	Climate Resiliency Field Schools
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSE	Comprehensive Sexual Education
CSI	Civil Service Institute
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSRPDV	Counseling Services for Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

DA	Department of Agriculture
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DILEEP	DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Programs
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DILP	DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program
DND	Department of National Defense
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOT	Department of Tourism
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DRRM-CCA	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management-Climatic Change Adaptation
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EAPP	Establishment of Emergency Accessible Polling Places
ECBRPP	Enhanced Competency-based Recruitment, Promotion and Placement
eNGP	Enhanced National Greening Program
EO	Executive Order
EOP	Equal Opportunity Principle
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FLEMMS	Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FNSP	Families in Need of Special Protection
FP	Family Planning
FPCBT	Family Planning Competency-Based Training
FY	Fiscal Year
GAA	Girls Advocacy Alliance
GAD	Gender and Development
GADtimpala	GAD Transformation and Institutionalization through Mainstreaming of Programs, Agenda, Linkages and Advocacies
GBViE	Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GeRL	Gender-Responsive Local Government Unit
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
GFMG	Gender-Fair Media Guidebook
GGRVCA	Greening the Gender Responsive Value Chain Analysis
GIDA	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas
GOCCs	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations
GOs	Government Offices
GPB	Gender and Development Plans and Budget
GREAT	Gender Responsive Economic Activities for the Transformation of Women
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HEMB	Health Emergency Management Bureau
HGDG	Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approaches
HRO	Human Rights Observatory
IAC-GCS	Inter-Agency Committee on Gender and Children Statistics

IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
IACVAWC	Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children
ICSC	Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDI	Inclusive Development Index
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IDRT	IACAT Disaster Rapid Response Task Force
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ILO	International Labor Organization
ILS	Institute for Labor Studies
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
IT-BPM	Information Technology-Business Process Management
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular
KEGs	Key Employment Generators
KRA	Key Result Areas
LCAT-VAWC	Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children
LDRRMPs	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LGA	Local Government Academy
LGUs	Local Government Units
LIS	Learner Information System
LUCs	Local Universities and Colleges
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCAT-VAWC	Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children
MCCT	Modified Conditional Cash Transfer
MCW	Magna Carta of Women
MCWIE	Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy
MGEC	Media and Gender Equality Committee
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOVE	Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere
MSMED	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NAP	National Action Plan
NAP YPS	National Action Plan for Youth, Peace and Security
NAPWPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
NBB	No Balance Billing
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NDHS	National Demographic Health Survey
NDRRM	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
NDRRMP	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGAs	National Government Agencies
NHIP	National Health Insurance Program
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NPFP	National Program on Family Planning
NRCO	National Reintegration Center for OFWs
NSCWPS	National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security
NVR	National Voluntary Review

NWPC	National Wages and Productivity Commission
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OFWs	Overseas Filipino Workers
OP	Office of the President
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process
ORAOHRA	Omnibus Rules on Appointments and other Human Resource Actions
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
PA	Philippine Army
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PAPs	Programs, Activities, and Projects
PCAT-VAWC	Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children
PCW	Philippine Commission on Women
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PESFA	Private Education Student Financial Assistance
PHILMECH	Post-Harvest Development and Mechanization
PKKK	Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMA	Philippine Military Academy
PNP	Philippine National Police
PNP-WPC	Philippine National Police Women and Child Protection Center
POPCOM	Commission on Population
POS	Point of Service
PRIME-HRM	Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management
PRRM	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PSG	Policy Studies Group
R1	Rice Watch Action Network
RCBW	Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women
RDP	Regional Development Plans
RICs	Rural Improvement Clubs
RPC	Revised Penal Code
RFPF4LFE	Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning for Labor Force Empowerment
RPRH	Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health
SDGIFP	Sustainable Development Goals Indicator Focal Point (SDGIFP)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SGLG	Seal of Good Local Good Governance
SIKAT	Sentro ng Ikakaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRO-CARP	Self-Reliant Organization–Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
SSS	Social Security System
STAR	Sari-sari Training and Access to Resources
STEP	Special Training for Employment Program
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
TeamBRE	Team Balikatan and Rescue in Emergencies
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TFBM	Task Force Bangon Marawi
TIP	Technological Institute of the Philippines
TIP	Trafficking in Persons

TRAIN	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion
TUPAD	Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers
TVET	Technical-Vocational Education and Training
TVIs	Technical-Vocational Institutions
TVPA	Trafficking Victims Act
TWGs	Technical Working Groups
TWSP	Training for Work Scholarship Program
UAQTEA	Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNCSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UniFAST	Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
UNSCRs	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
WATGB	Women About to Give Birth
WCPDs	Women and Children Desks
WCPU	Women and Children Protection Units
WE-Care	Women's Economic Empowerment and Care
WE-ICT	Women Empowerment-ICT
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFS	Women Friendly Space
WIFI	Women ICT Frontier Initiative
WMEs	Women Micro-Entrepreneurs
WPLA	Women's Priority Legislative Agenda
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Ranking of the Philippines in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) 2014-2018

Table 2: Number of Registered Voters by Sex in May, 2019 National and Local Elections ¹

Table 3: No. of Candidates per Elective Position by Sex (As of March 30, 2019) in May 2019 National and Local Elections²

Figure 1. No. of men and women participants in the NGP per region, as of December 31, 2018.

Figure 2. Number of land patents issued by sex in the Philippines from 2015-2016

¹ <https://www.comelec.gov.ph/>

² Ibid.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: Statistics on Education – National Summary of Official Enrollment in All Grade Levels

Annex 2: NDHS data on VAW

Annex 3: List of policies on Gender-based Violence

Annex 4: List of Philippine SDG Indicators.

Annex 5: List of the Supplemental Philippine Gender-Specific Indicator

Introduction

The Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 resulted in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BPfA, which, along with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is considered the major blueprint for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Every five years, UN member states report on their progress in implementing this blueprint. 2020 will thus be a pivotal year as the BPfA turns twenty-five (25) and the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 (the 2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will turn five.

This BPfA+25 Progress Report is a product of a national review that takes stock of achievements, challenges and set-backs in its implementation and recommends strategic directions to advance gender equality and the empowerment of Filipino women. Following the guidance note for national reviews provided to member states, the report took account of the five-year progress along the 12 critical areas of concern clustered into six overarching dimensions for alignment with the 2030 Agenda. The report has 4 parts: Section 1 – Priorities, Major Achievements, Challenges, and Setbacks; Section 2 – Progress Across the 12 Areas of Concerns; Section 3 – National Institutions and Processes; and Section 4 – Data and Statistics.

The report also considers the medium-term national and sectoral development plans like the Philippine Development Plan 2019-2022, the Women's Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality (Women's EDGE) 2013-2016, and the current Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan, 2019-2025. The progress, achievements as well as the challenges mentioned in this report, will aid the different stakeholders on their need to design, implement, monitor and evaluate policies, plans, programs and projects supporting GEWE outcomes and other results in the next five years.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) heads the national steering committee (NSC) which spearheaded the national review process involving a whole-of-government and whole-of-nation approach. The NSC is composed of the heads of the six technical working groups (TWGs) each representing the six overarching dimensions, namely; (1) Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work, (2) Poverty eradication, social protection and social services, (3) Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes, (4) Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions, (5) Peaceful and inclusive societies, and; (6) Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation. Each TWG is headed by a national government agency as its lead convenor and a civil society organization as co-convenor with multi-stakeholder representatives as members. This served as a mechanism which facilitated and ensured that relevant accomplishments, gaps and challenges under each of the 12 critical areas of concern during the last five years are gathered and consolidated in this report.

The preparation of the BPfA+25 Philippine Progress Report involved various multi-sectoral stakeholders. The kick-off activity was conducted last January 30, 2019 with 120 participants from government agencies, civil society organizations, women's rights organizations with a strong presence at the grassroots level, academe, private sector, and international development partners. It was followed by a series of sub-national consultation workshops for the island clusters; Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The 3-part consultation gathered 173 participants from non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), regional government

agencies, state universities and colleges, and people's organizations. The BPfA+25 Consultation culminated in a national consultation and validation workshop held on March 28-29 with 134 multi-stakeholder representatives. The PCW ensures that voices of the marginalized groups were heard in the consultations. Present were rural women, women migrant workers, union members, workers in the informal economy, urban poor, indigenous women, Bangsamoro women, Muslim women, persons with hearing disability, and youth. PCW acknowledges the support of UN Women for making the regional and national consultations possible.

The national review process was promoted through traditional and new media. The PCW put up a BPfA+25 microsite in the PCW's website to post information, documents and updates relevant to the conduct of BPfA related activities for access of stakeholders. #BPFA25PH was also used as the official handle for the promotion through social media.

Section One

Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks

I. Major Achievements and Challenges from 2014 to 2019

1. In terms of overall progress, the Philippines maintains its good standing in bridging the global gender inequalities. The World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Report 2018 lists the Philippines as 8th most gender equal country in the world and only Asian country in the top 10 most gender equal countries. The WEF reports that this ranking is attributed to improved economic participation and opportunity due to increase in wage equality for similar work, and closing in the gender gap in educational attainment.

Table 1: Ranking of the Philippines in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) 2014-2018

Key Areas	Rank									
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Global Gender Gap Index	9	0.781	7	0.790	7	0.786	10	0.790	8	0.799
• Economic participation and opportunity	24	0.778	16	0.799	21	0.780	25	0.764	14	0.801
• Educational attainment	1	1.000	34	1.000	1	1.000	1	1.000	1	1.000
• Health and survival	1	0.980	1	0.980	1	0.980	36	0.979	42	0.979
• Political empowerment	17	0.368	17	0.382	17	0.386	13	0.416	13	0.416

Source: World Economic Forum (WEF)

2. The Philippines continues to make considerable progress in closing the gender gap in education with more women enrolling and completing secondary, tertiary, and technical and vocational compared to men. As in the previous reporting period, more women are functionally literate than men, with 92.7% literacy rate noted among women compared to 88.7 among men (FLEMMS 2013). The Department of Education (DepEd) data as of December 10, 2018 shows a good performance in basic education (kindergarten to senior high school) based on its Learner Information System (LIS). The number of enrolled among girls and boys are more or less same however, boys' enrollment rate (50.82% or 13,731,995) is greater than girls (49.18% or 13,286,514) (Annex 1: National Summary of Official enrollment in All Grade Levels). In 2017, more than one million women finished technical and vocational education and courses, outnumbering men by 130,070. Net enrollment ratio was also generally higher among females in all levels at 54.2% compared to only 51.8% among males which indicate that more girls tend to stay longer in school compared to boys (FLEMMS 2013). In tertiary level for instance, many more women than men pursue higher education most of whom are pursuing Business Administration and related courses (CHED, 2017-2018).

3. The technical-vocational education and training (TVET) programs of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) also yields a high accomplishment with 11,268,688 enrollees with 10,384,574 graduates from 2014-2018. Majority of enrollees or 5,946,396 (53%) are female while 5,322,292 (47%) are male. Similarly, 53% of graduates or 5,505,059 are female compared to 47% or 4,879,519 male. Likewise, in public and private higher education, more women are enrolled or 4,259,274(55.36%) from 2015-2017 as against to 3,435,051(44.64%) enrolled men. Completion rate from 2014-2016, totaled to 1,278,049 wherein, 58.21% or 743,966 are female while 41.79% or 534,083 are male³. However, majority of female enrollees and graduates from TVET are found in 'soft' sectors such as garments, tourism, community development, healthcare and other services while in higher education many more women pursue Business Administration and related courses.
4. On women economic empowerment achievement, the Philippines is among the 121 World Trade Organization (WTO) Members who supported the Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment during the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in 2017, which aimed to remove trade barriers for women's economic empowerment and increase women's participation in trade through the creation of more gender-responsive policies.
5. The Family Planning program is a national mandated priority public health program to attain the country's national health development. It is a health intervention program for the improvement of the health and welfare of mothers, children and other members of the family. However, the devolved set-up of the government leads to fragmentation in operation and service delivery of the program which limits the access of Filipinos, especially women, to full range of FP methods as prescribed by the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law of 2012. The lifting of the temporary restraining order and the Issuance of Executive Order No. 12 (Attaining and Sustaining Zero Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning) in 2017 enabled the Department of Health (DOH) to intensify their mission.
6. The enactment of RA 11210 or the *105-Day Extended Maternity Leave Law* - after a decade of legislative lobbying and advocacy - marks a significant milestone for realizing the rights, welfare and full potential of Filipino women. The law extended the previous 60-day paid maternity leave benefits to 105 days. In addition, mothers are given the option to extend for an additional 30 days leave without pay. It also grants additional 15 days paid maternity leave to female solo parents. Cognizant of the shared roles that men and women hold in childcare, the law also grants the father of child the option to share 7 out of the 105 days, increasing paternity leave from 7 days to 14 days.
7. The constitutionality of RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 was upheld by the Supreme Court of the Philippines in a unanimous decision from a case of *Garcia v. Drilon, G.R. No. 179267* which was promulgated on June 25, 2013. The Court said that RA 9262 is based on a valid classification brought about by the unequal power relationship between men and women and that women are the usual and most likely victims of violence. It likewise declared that the enactment of RA 9262 aims to address the discrimination brought about by the biases and prejudices against women, and that the

³ Higher Education enrollment and completion rate <https://ched.gov.ph/higher-education-institutions-data/>

distinct classification being made between women and men is germane to the purpose of the law.

8. The SC also upholds marital rape in *People v. Jumawan, G.R. No. 187495* decision promulgated on April 21, 2014. The Court ruled that sexual intercourse, albeit within the realm of marriage, if not consensual, is considered rape.
9. Strong coordination between key implementing agencies and civil society organizations have led to sustained actions in eliminating violence against women and children (VAWC). On 10 March 2015, the Philippine National Police issued the General Orders Number DPL-15-02 entitled “Strengthening and Restructuring of the Women and Children Protection Center” to handle the investigation not just of VAWC cases, but of trafficking in persons as well.
10. As a result of improved response mechanisms against trafficking, the US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report upgraded the Philippines to Tier 1 (after being in Tier 2 for five consecutive years prior) on June 30, 2016. The Philippines is the first Southeast Asian Country to be in Tier 1 and has held this distinction for three years in a row since 2016. While Tier 1 is the highest ranking, it does not mean that a country has no human trafficking problem. A Tier 1 ranking indicates that a government has acknowledged the existence of human trafficking, made efforts to address the problem, and complies with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000.
11. In 2014, the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) signed between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front contains entries guaranteeing the right of women to meaningful political participation and protection from all forms of violence. Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, the head of the Government panel, is the first female chief negotiator in the world to sign a final peace accord with a rebel group.
 - Part of the fulfilment of this peace agreement is the passage of a law that will grant the right to self-determination of the Bangsamoro people. In 26 July 2018, Republic Act 11054 was signed into law and ratified in 25 January 2019. Said law creates the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and it contains provisions guaranteeing seats for women in the Bangsamoro parliament and the Cabinet, upholding women’s rights in cognizance of the UNCEDAW, participation of women in decision-making most especially in the aspect of rehabilitation and development and, at least 5% for gender and development programs and projects. The Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), the body that will govern BARMM until June 30, 2022, has 16 women or 16.33%, with 12 women appointed as Members of Parliament (MPs) and four ARMM Assemblywomen who will serve until June 30, 2019.
12. Also in 2014, the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) was revised to strengthen the implementation of UNSCR 1325, becoming the 2nd generation NAPWPS. Said plan also became the basis for the issuance of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2014-01 on the “Integration of Women, Peace and Security Programs, Activities and Projects (PAPs) in Annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plans and Budgets (GPBs) and Gender and Development (GAD) Accomplishment Reports” issued by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the NSC WPS respectively. The circular serves as the instrument for national government agencies

implementing programs, projects and activities in conflict-affected areas to integrate gender considerations in their development planning processes. By the end of 2016, 21 national agencies and 38 local governments integrated WPS programs/ projects/ activities in their respective GPBs. The third generation NAPWPS, 2017-2022, was released upon the entry of the new administration.

Challenges and Setbacks

13. Despite the gains and achievements, there remain urgent issues that hinder the development and equality such as those related to poverty and decent work. There are also new or emerging issues that require priority attention as they threaten or erode progress achieved in improving women's lives. Although Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has many advantages for faster interactions, business, and organizing networks and movements, the internet has also been used for commercial sexual exploitation and cyber-pornography victimizing women and children. The impact of climate change, extreme weather events, leading to natural disasters and calamities takes its toll on women's vulnerability. Moreover, civil society organizations, women's rights organizations and the human rights institution have noted the unintentional consequences of the government's drug war and counterinsurgency efforts affecting the welfare and protection the rights of women, girls and children.
14. Despite some gains in the implementation of the 2010-2016 NAPWPS, recommendations to address the following gaps were identified as part of the monitoring and evaluation findings:
 - *“Increase awareness on the context of armed conflict and recognize its impact to and links with issues such as governance and development, in general, and women's concerns such as trafficking and VAW/SGBV (vulnerabilities and participation (agency), in particular;*
 - *Individual NAP implementing partner agencies should strive for further institutionalization of the NAP within their respective institutions through policy formulation and creation of NAP specific programs and services that address the gender dimensions of armed conflict and peace;*
 - *Agency practice on data collection should be guided by differential contexts of conflict and non-armed/post-conflict situations and basic sex-disaggregation of data (e.g. internally displaced people (IDPs), programs/service beneficiaries. Monitoring and evaluation of the NAP-WPS should likewise be further systematized and;*
 - *In light of the need to sustain NAP-WPS implementation, continuous and progressive capacity development of NAP implementing partner agencies must be undertaken.”*
15. While the Philippines hit high economic growth in 2018, considered as one the fastest growing economies in the world at 6.9% (World Bank, 2018), it continues to face high income inequality as the bulk of wealth created remain concentrated among top business corporations in the country. As government pursues reforms that subsume social services under market dictates and demands through private-public partnerships and loan agreements, it should continue to strengthen regulatory mechanisms and measures to ensure that economic growth translate into improved incomes and greater enjoyment of economic, democratic, civil and reproductive health rights. It should continue to pursue poverty eradication strategies in order to address factors that predispose women and girl children to experience abuse, exploitation and violence.

16. Women workers in the informal economy still account for 2/3 of non-agricultural employment in the Philippines (2013) that women are at risk to unfavorable precarious working conditions and with limited rights for collective bargaining, organization and representation, and social protection. As of 2019, women's participation in the labor force remain low at 46.6 per cent (PSA 2019).
17. The impact of programs and policies to ease the burden of unpaid care work and other social protection measures will therefore remain limited given that a large proportion of Filipino women are either still unemployed or employed in the informal sector where their access to social protection measures is limited.
18. The equal rights of women to own land are inscribed in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) also known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1998 serves as the primary redistributive measure that guarantees women's equal right to own land with men. Despite strong policy mandate however, land ownership between men and women remain disproportionate with only two women in five men holding certificates of land ownership (CLOA). In the last 45 years, the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has distributed 87.92% of the program's national target area covering 5.425 million hectares (AIS 2018, PSA). As of December 2018, women comprise less than half of the 1.92 million agrarian reform beneficiaries holding CLOAs with only 599,215 women compared to 1.4 million men. Meanwhile, the DAR report that women make up only 19% of the more than 500,000 emancipation patent beneficiaries. This gender disparity in land ownership reflects women's disadvantaged position. It is evident that despite the laws (CARL and MCW) that guarantee women's right to productive resources, the strict provisions of the CARL that prioritize actual tillers of the land, put women at a disadvantaged position from owning land since their participation in agricultural production are in planting, harvesting and post-harvest activities rather than on the actual tilling of the land. Advocacy efforts from both government and civil society are in place to recognize and value the nuanced role of women in agricultural production.
19. In the Philippines, one in four women aged 15-49 have experienced either physical and sexual violence, with the highest frequency of physical violence experienced in the last 12 months preceding the survey, reported among young women aged 15-19 years old (NDHS 2017). Despite this, as of 2017, the NDHS reports that only 34% of those who have experienced physical and sexual violence sought assistance from designated agencies or authorities, 64.7% of whom choose to seek help within their family network. In a series of stakeholder consultations conducted by the PCW with duty bearers and victim survivors last November-December 2016, low help-seeking behavior were primarily ascribed to the following: (1) 'preference' or internalization of women's capacity to suffer in silence; (2) fear for personal safety, ruining family reputation, political bias and reprisal from concerned officials; (3) lack of confidence in receiving assistance from duty bearers or designated service providers, and; (4) lack of awareness for available services and protective mechanisms they may avail.

20. Another major setback experienced by the country is the significant decrease of women's political participation and representation. During the 2016 election⁴, women's participation as candidates and as elected officials in the national and local elections was significantly low. Male elected officials comprised an average of 82% of the country's elected leaders, which means in all levels of governance only 18% were female elected officials. In local elective posts, women and men are likewise disproportionately represented as candidates and as elected officials with women representing only 20% of elected officials at the provincial level and 21% at the municipal or city level. Correspondingly, in the House of Representatives, only 86 out of 292 seats or 29.4% were occupied by women. At the Senate, women reached 25%. In the May 2019 senatorial elections, women comprise only 18% of the candidates, with four women assured of a seat as they made it to the top 12. The need for electoral system reforms that will promote gender equality and women's political participation such as gender quotas for political parties and the use of a zipper system, which requires candidates on the list to alternate between women and men in order to secure equal representation, is apparent now more than ever.
21. Furthermore, a notable decrease in the visibility of women in public spaces has been observed in the last five years. For instance, the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) report shows that as of 2017, decision-making bodies in GOCCs remain largely dominated by men at 80%. Meanwhile, as of 2019 there are only two women in the twenty-two cabinet secretaries of the Duterte administration, heading the Department of Education and Department of Tourism, respectively. On the other hand, the number of female judges in the lower courts have been steadily on the rise, reaching 49% at the lower courts".⁵
22. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), civil society organization as well as the independent international human rights bodies have expressed concern over the rising and pervasive sexism and violence against women committed by high ranking officials. Trivialization of gender-based violence often normalized over media not only leads to re-victimization of women GBV survivors, reinforces GBV with high-level impunity, and ultimately creates immense setbacks on gains on women's human rights toiled for decades by women's movements and advocates. Moreover, rampant killings in relation to the war on drugs give another form to gender-based violence. CHRP has documented how the killings affected women and children. It burdens women economically and psychologically, and stigmatized them in communities and from government services. Justice remains elusive for them due to fear or inability (economically or otherwise) to pursue the cases

II. Top Five Priorities for Accelerating Progress from 2014-2019

23. Results of stakeholder consultations and review of five-year accomplishments indicate progress in education, economic participation, access to affordable health care including sexual and reproductive health and rights, addressing violence against women, peace and security, gender-responsive social protection, and women's representation and political

⁴ (http://passthrough.fw-notify.net/download/406568/http://www.comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls/attachments/SpecialProjects/GenderandDevelopmentProgram/NewsCorner/Magazine/COMELEC-GAD_GenderAndElections_Magazine.pdf)

⁵ <http://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/gender-data/oca-oas/>, last accessed 6 May 2019.

participation. Consistent implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy and gender budgeting across the bureaucracy has helped in infusing a gender perspective among government officials and their gender focal persons.

a. Increased access to quality healthcare and sexual reproductive health

24. Improving access to quality health care including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights remains high on the government's agenda for advancing the progress for women and girls. Stronger support mechanisms, strategies and programs for maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition have been put in place through Republic Act No. 11481 otherwise known as the First 1,000 Days Law *signed* on December 10, 2018. This law intends to scale up the national and local health and nutrition programs through a strengthened integrated strategy for maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition in the first one thousand (1,000) days of life. It provides a more comprehensive and sustainable strategy for the first 1,000 days of life to address the health, nutrition, and developmental problems affecting infants, young children, adolescent females, and pregnant and lactating women. Local Government Units (LGUs) on the other hand were mandated to institutionalize this policy. The implementation will be at the village level through rural health units and village health centers.
25. On December 13, 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order 71 renaming the Commission on Population (POPCOM) to Commission on Population and Development (CPD) and transferring it from the Department of Health (DOH) to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to strengthen its role in coordinating population and development initiatives, including family planning, in the country. Consequently, on February 15, 2019, a Joint Memorandum Circular was issued by NEDA, DOH and CPD to revitalize the National Program on Family Planning (NFPF). POPCOM and the DOH are tasked to co-manage the implementation of the NFPF, which intends to reach 11.34 million women who are expected to have access and will use modern and effective family planning methods by 2022.
26. The government has undertaken major efforts to address the high rates of adolescent pregnancy in the Philippines. As of 2017, the National Demographic Health Survey reports that, one in five girls is a mother by the age of 15 to 19. Measures to improve the policy and legal environment that expand the access of adolescents to appropriate sexual and reproductive information and health services were carried out in the last five years. Policy issuances, establishment of adolescent-friendly facilities, building capacities of adolescent service providers, and updating of the Department of Education (DepEd) K-12 curriculum to meet the Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) standards for the Philippines proved key in guaranteeing preventive interventions for adolescents. Such efforts have led to steady progress as seen in the decrease in the number of Filipino adolescents who have begun childbearing in 2017, from 10 % to in 2013 to 8.6 % (NDHS 2017).
27. The recent passage of the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223) on February 20, 2019, which automatically enrolls all Filipino citizens in the National Health Insurance Programs and prescribes complementary reforms in the health system, is expected to give Filipinos, especially women, access to the full continuum of health services they need. The law ensures that health care that is "accessible, efficient, equitably distributed, adequately funded, fairly financed, and appropriately used by an informed and empowered public"

extends to all Filipino citizens. As the law expects to provide protection to those enduring financial hardships, it will prove to be especially critical in guaranteeing the right to health of marginalized sectors to which many Filipino women and girls belong.

b. Improving social protection mechanisms and working conditions

28. The enactment of Republic Act No. 11210, otherwise known as the “105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law” is an important policy development for it not only recognizes the vital role and contribution of women to the labor force but also provides them the opportunity to exercise their unique reproductive role. Under this law, all female workers in the government and private sector, including those in the informal economy, regardless of the civil status or the legitimacy of her child, shall be granted 105 days of paid maternity leave, with an option to extend for an additional 30 days without pay. Additional 15 days of paid leave shall be granted for female solo parents. The law also includes an option to transfer up to seven (7) days of her maternity leave benefits to the father of her child, increasing paid paternity leave from 7 to up to 14 days. Prior to this law, maternity leave was only up to 60 days.
29. The Philippines is an established leader in migration governance. Key international and regional agreements on upholding the rights of migrants and refugees, particularly women and girls, and in addressing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants that the Philippines sponsored and supported are the following:
- Championed the crafting and adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), a guide for States on all matters related to migration
 - Sponsored two biennial UN resolutions: A/RES/73/146 (17 December 2018) on Trafficking in women and girls and A/RES/72/149 (19 December 2017) on Violence against women migrant workers
 - Steered the adoption of the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers in 2017 and a follow-up document to the 2007 ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.
30. The issues on migrants, migration governance, refugees and trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls, are central to the third pillar of Philippine foreign policy - protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas. The challenge, however, for the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), is how to translate the non-binding agreements on migrants and migration such as the GCM and the UN General Assembly resolutions into tangible returns such as through bilateral labor agreements.

c. Sustaining progress in women’s representation and political participation

31. Women continue to have steady presence in government organizations, according to the latest Inventory of Government Human Resources (December 2017). Conducted periodically by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), women account for almost 60 percent of the total government personnel in the country. However, it must be noted that women are still under-represented in third level positions comprising only 43% of undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, bureau directors and regional directors.

32. Filipino women are also making steady inroads into leadership roles in the private business sector. In 2018, the Philippines topped Grant Thornton's Women in Business survey as the country with most senior management roles occupied by women in the world. It reports that 47% of senior roles in private companies in the Philippines are held by women. The country's top ranking is attributed to gender fair policies and practices such as equal pay for men and women performing the same roles instituted in the workplace. While the country slipped into 5th in 2019 as it saw a 10% drop in the percentage of Filipino women in senior management to 37.46%, it remains number one in Asia. The top three roles of Filipino women in business are as human resources director (75%), chief finance officer (66%) and chief operating officer (53%). The survey also reports that Filipino businesses are also taking steps to improve or preserve gender balance in senior positions by making sure there is equal access to development work opportunities, providing mentoring and coaching and allowing flexible working hours.

d. Eliminating violence against women and children

33. Various support service mechanisms for VAWC victims are continuously being strengthened:

- Increased in number from 69% (1,193) in 2013 to 76% (1,311) in 2018, of LGUs with established Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC);
- Local gender and development (GAD) codes are developed and passed in 696 LGUs to address gender issues and concerns of their respective localities;
- VAW desks are established in nearly 90 percent of the total 42,044 barangays nationwide;
- 94 functional Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) established in DOH-retained hospitals, and health providers are being trained on recognizing, recording, reporting and referring (4Rs) VAWC in 597 LGUs;
- 1,918 Women and Children Desks (WCPDs) established in all municipal/city police stations, provincial and regional offices, and in five national operating units nationwide.

34. The PCW also sustained public awareness campaigns on anti-VAW through partnerships with the private sector such as with advertising agency like the DDB Group Philippines. The PCW and DDB Group Philippines' *#KnockOutDomesticViolence* Campaign bagged the 2016 Asia Pacific Tambuli Bronze Award for Integrated Media Category.

35. The passage of protective laws and policies in the prevention of VAWC has been one of the outstanding achievements in the past five years.

- RA 10655 or the Repeal of Article 351 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC) on premature marriages on March 13, 2015. The repeal of Article 351 is part of the Women's Priority Legislative Agenda set by the PCW for the 16th Congress. Repealing Article 351 in the RPC removed the discriminatory provision which arbitrarily curtails a woman's right to marry, and the barrier to women's equal rights on matters relating to marriage and family relations;
- Passage of RA 10906 or the Anti-Mail-Order Spouse Act on July 21, 2016. This new law repealed RA 6955 or the Anti-mail Order Bride law of 1995 and strengthened its provisions, which covers not only the Filipino women but also the Filipino men. The

new law protects Filipinos against abuse, prostitution, and exploitation from schemes which offer Filipinos marriage to unscrupulous foreign nationals;

- Strengthening and Restructuring of the Philippine National Police Women and Child Protection Center (PNP-WPC);
- Formulation of National Cyber Security Plan 2022;
- Formulation of Guidelines on the Establishment of VAWC Desks in Public and Private Hospitals;
- Monitoring the Creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and VAWC (LCAT-VAWC) at the Provincial, City and Municipal Levels; Monitoring the Establishment and Functionality of Barangay VAW Desks and the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC);
- Policy Enjoining LGUs to Conduct Activities in the Observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, and;
- Development of Bohol Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020 which highlights harmonized regional activities to combat TIP in the four thematic areas of the ASEAN Plan of Action Against TIP, Especially Women and Children.

36. Corresponding programs have also been implemented to specifically address all forms of violence and discrimination among women and girls, which include:

- Capacity-building for LGUs to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Children at Risk and Children in Conflict with the Law, and;
- Integration of RA 9262 or the VAWC laws in the Barangay Newly-Elected Officials for Grassroots Renewal and Empowerment for Accountable and Transparent Barangays (BNEO-GREAT) Program of the Local Government Academy (LGA) which is a developmental seminar for newly-elected, re-electionists and third term barangay officials to improve their skills, prepare for their mandated tasks and responsibilities;
- Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) to assess the performance of LGUs in the delivery of social services on child and youth welfare and to identify intervention results, and;
- Development and distribution of anti-VAW IEC materials.

e. Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability

37. The past five years saw the execution of actions to mainstream gender in the country's policies and programs toward environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation by instituting gender-responsive laws and strategic plans such as the following:

- Climate Change Commission's Resolution 2019-02 on mainstreaming and strengthening gender-responsive approaches in the formulation and implementation of climate change policies, plans, programs and activities;
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Forest Management Bureau's GAD Strategic Plan 2018-2022 targeting the marginalized sectors especially women and indigenous communities in the forestry sector, and;
- Green Jobs Act of 2016 that will enable the country's just transition to a low carbon green economy.

38. The implementation of gender-responsive actions as identified in its National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 was also monitored thru nationwide results-based M&E system with gender considerations in the indicators.
39. The government ensured women's participation and leadership in climate action, from local level to international climate change negotiations, climate science discourse, and climate finance processes. It fostered gender balance and inclusivity in the selection of beneficiaries of environmental programs, relief and rehabilitation efforts and knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities targeting the women in indigenous cultural communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate hazards. It also initiated gender-responsive awareness-raising activities at the national, local, and down to the barangay level on matters relating to the vulnerabilities of women and men to climate impacts as well as on the rights and roles of women in environmental sustainability and climate action.

III. Achievements on Preventing Multiple and Intersecting Forms of Discrimination

40. In the absence of a national legislation protecting persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity from discrimination, LGUs have taken a pro-active approach by enacting local Anti-Discrimination Ordinances (ADOs). To date, a total of 24 areas have passed ADOs. However, only four (4) LGUs -- Quezon City; Cebu City; San Julian, Eastern Samar and General Santos City have corresponding implementing rules and regulations (IRR). The issuance IRRs is consequential as the failure of LGUs do so will prevent constituents from accessing/ benefiting from the safeguards of the local ordinance.
41. On achieving the expansion of women's roles in the various spaces for peace, the 2017-2022 NAP-WPS highlights the women's agency, both as leaders and participants, in the peace process of the country. It supports various initiatives where women empower other women, recognize the intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, and religion, and build a stronger constituency for peace and conflict transformation where women are involved in the front, back, and center of the process. Additionally, it also pays attention to women's empowerment in light of their economic rights.
42. Two programs targeted for women living in remote and rural areas address the needs of survivors of violence against women, including human trafficking. The Women Peace Centers in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, and Cotabato City included livelihood training for women which resulted in the strengthening of the capacities of beneficiaries to engage in sustainable livelihood. Another program, Women Peace Tables, facilitates conversation with women to increase their awareness on NAPWPS, and identifying women's issues as a result of conflict. These activities were carried out in select villages in three provinces. Similar activities under a different program, were conducted with Mangyan women, an indigenous tribe in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro.
43. Consultations with the ARMM indigenous women on the Bangsamoro Basic Law resulted in the recommendation that one of the two proposed seats for women in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) is assigned to indigenous women.

44. A comprehensive research study on Trafficking of Women in Conflict Affected-Areas of ARMM and Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi is currently being undertaken by OPAPP to address issues concerning younger women.
45. Distribution of solar home systems, powering of evacuation centers with renewable energy applications, and training of women on integrating renewable energy in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) of communities in the forefront of disasters were implemented to facilitate better access to cleaner and affordable energy, strengthen role and opened opportunities for women (incubated livelihood opportunities at community levels), increase protection for women and children. Such measures contributed in addressing gender discrimination faced by women living in remote and rural areas in terms of access to better, cheaper and safer energy. Furthermore, it was learnt that the integration of renewable energy in community DRRM is not just a DRRM action, but contributes to broader climate action by displacing kerosene (dirty fossil fuel) as well as in recognizing women as leaders in climate change actions and effective energy managers.

IV. Response to Humanitarian Crisis

46. Natural disasters and human-induced humanitarian crises have increased the vulnerabilities of Filipino women in adapting to the adverse effects of global warming and in coping with the destructive consequences of armed conflict. The 2018 World Risk Index and the 2019 Global Climate Risk Index placed the Philippines among the most vulnerable countries which is at-risk of experiencing disasters and most affected by extreme weather events due to its geographical location. Multiple effects of climate change present additional stress to the already challenging social, economic and political conditions in the country. Poverty in the rural areas, unregulated development in the lowlands and unfettered urban migration caused by inadequate economic opportunities in the rural areas also puts more lives at risk as the lack of living spaces have pushed many people to live in hazard prone areas. The 2019 Global Climate Risk Index also reports that the country has suffered absolute losses of about U\$ 505.78M due to extreme weather events.
47. The massive loss and damage experienced by the Philippines in recent years show that extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change presents grave threat to the country's pursuit of national security and sustainable development. Impacts of disasters not only threaten sustainable and inclusive development but aggravate already existing social and economic inequities and more so, of gender inequalities in relation to discrimination, threats to health, loss of livelihood, displacement, forced migration, poverty, human trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV) and harassment, food insecurity, access to infrastructure and essential services.
48. In view of this, the government strengthened its resolve to ensure gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction and climate-resiliency actions through capacity-building initiatives, knowledge-exchange platforms, policy, and planning processes, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. In the 2019 Philippine Country Status Report for its disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and Sendai Framework Implementation to the UNSIDR, it also noted that some vulnerabilities have strong gendered characteristics, as men's and women's vulnerability to disasters is influenced by cultural norms and perceptions influencing gendered behavior. For example, evidence from Central Philippines suggests that cultural

norms and perceptions of modesty significantly lower the swimming capabilities of women and girls, which also has transgenerational effect.

49. The Marawi Siege of May 2017 is considered as one of the major humanitarian crises faced by the Philippines in the last five years. In response, President Rodrigo Duterte, through Administration Order No. 3 created the '*Task Force Bangon Marawi*' (TFBM), a government interagency task force group organized to undertake the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction efforts in Marawi after the battle between ISIS-linked militants and government forces in the city left the locality in ruins. In 2017, PCW issued Memorandum Circular No. 2017-02, which provides guidance on the use of GAD budget to address gender-related concerns and needs in recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of Marawi. As of March 2018, TFBM reports that 77% of affected families remain displaced including women and girls who are at a higher risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, and even early and/or forced marriage.
50. A study conducted by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) in 2018 found that 79% of all instances of vulnerability cited above involved women. To respond to these situations, the TFBM have initiated varied activities and actions to ensure that the welfare and rights of internally displaced women are protected and promoted. Among these include: a five-day mission, monitoring of human rights, and assessment of women's situation in evacuation centers conducted by the CHR Conducted; creation of Joint Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Working Group to oversee monitoring and referral of GBV cases and protective livelihood intervention programs for women; regular conduct of gender sensitivity and VAWC orientations; and creation of women-friendly spaces in evacuation centers.

V. Top Five Priorities for Accelerating Progress in 2020-2025

a. Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

51. Improving the quality and access to tertiary education is one of the country's priorities to address the growing concern on job placement and mismatch. The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) is an attached agency of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) established on October 2015 by virtue of the Republic Act 10687. Its function is to harmonize, collate and rationalize all scholarship programs in the Philippines to provide all Filipinos with equal opportunity to quality tertiary education. the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10931, known as the 'Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017' was enacted to subsidize free tuition and other school fees in state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs) and state-run technical-vocational institutions (TVIs). For the Academic Year 2018-2019, the subsidy benefitted 655,083 women as against 477,897 men. Of the above women, 28.37% or 185,874 are graduating while 8.87% or 58,125 are in their 3rd year. In addition, 8,057 of the women categorized are persons with disability, in which they get another 50% of the annual benefit in addition to the regular allocation. Yet, beneficiaries are expected to increase for Academic Year 2019-2020 as the Tertiary Education Subsidy will be increased by 11 billion pesos or a total of 27 billion pesos.

52. Despite the higher completion rate of women in education, gender tracking still exists. While there is an increasing number of women entering medicine and law schools, men dominate in aeronautics, engineering and technology. It is believed that socio-cultural traditions, family preferences and gender-stereotypes, influence the choice of females and males. If this is addressed, progress for women and girls will be accelerated and they will hopefully be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

53. Hence, the government, international development organizations and the private sector are taking active measures to encourage young girls and women to venture into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) courses. Actually, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has even included Agriculture (so it becomes STEAM) to encourage rural folk to remain in their areas and develop their communities. The International Labor Organization (ILO) implements the *#womencandoIT* Scholarship Program as part of its Women in STEM Readiness and Development Program. This is done in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) with support from JP Morgan Chase Foundation. It seeks to provide women with critical soft and technical STEM-related skills, employability and leadership training coupled with targeted mentorship to help women gain quality employment and advancement opportunities in STEM-related jobs. They have recently opened 175 scholarships for women aged 18 to 45 in animation, game creation and web development.

54. Two new initiatives worth highlighting are from the private sector. One is For the Women or FTW Foundation offers free training for women on data science and Artificial Intelligence. Its main mission is “to empower financially-challenged Filipinas to up-skill themselves in to better careers and better lives”⁶. The other is initiated by a young passionate and empowered senior high school student, Audrey Pe, who recently turned 18 and is executive director of Women in Tech (WiTech) which she actually began when she was 15. When she learned coding in middle school, she fell in love with it, learned more about coding online and discovered the huge gender gap in the field of tech. She found that lack of female role models in the field was a top reason why there is a lack of women in tech. WiTech is a community organization that aims to celebrate women in the field of technology and encourages young girls to take up tech. WiTech convenes WiTCon or conferences for students, run by students, hosts WiTalks, and conducts community outreach such as collecting laptops and textbooks to donate and teach students from the Mindanao State University – University Training Center in Marawi City (which is rising from the effects of terrorist attack)⁷. This young woman is so inspiring, there is hope for the future in bridging the gender gap in technology.

b. Access to affordable quality healthcare

55. The Department of Health is advancing their efforts to ensure funding for the capital outlay investments for the upgrading, equipping and establishment of basic health service facilities such as the, Barangay Health Stations and Rural Health Units or City Health Centers and Birthing Stations. This is to guarantee the continuous strengthening of health service provider network to optimize utilization of basic health services for women and girls, and for all. Coordination and partnership with local health managers and local government units will

⁶ <https://www.ftwfoundation.org/>

⁷ <https://wi-tech.org>

be heightened to guarantee the functionality of the basic health infrastructures that will warrant the efficiency of Health Facilities Enhancement Program's successful management and implementation.

56. RA 10354 or RPRH Law provides a robust policy mandate for implementing the Philippine's Family Planning (FP) Program as key strategy to improve the health and welfare of mothers, their children and families, and help women realize their reproductive health rights and aspiration. The country's FP program sits in the administration's priority programs with the issuance of Executive Order 12 in 2017 and inclusion in the Philippine Development Plan. These actions are considered pivotal in achieving the country's potential demographic dividend. EO 12 aims to intensify and accelerate implementation of critical actions necessary to attain and sustain zero unmet need for modern family planning among all poor households and all Filipinos thereafter (DOH 2017).

c. Right to Work and Rights at Work

57. The 2017 Labor Force Survey figures put the number of informal sector workers at 15.6 million or 38% of the total working population of the country. This high number remains a major barrier in realizing decent work for all and therefore hinders in achieving of the desired sustainable and inclusive development objectives set in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The absence of a harmonized definition of the informal economy impacts the development of appropriate policies, programs and services that will address the issues and concerns of the sector including, the passage of the Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy (MCWIE) and, the adoption of ILO Recommendation 204 that lobbies the transition of the informal to the formal sector in order to protect workers and businesses and sustain economic gains.

d. Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

58. The need to develop a National Advocacy and Communication Plan was identified as one of the priority projects in the new Strategic Action Plan of IAC-VAWC for 2017-2022 in view of implementing the council's mandate as outlined in RA 9262. This is in response to the issues surfaced during stakeholder consultations, namely: (1) limited delivery of advocacy programs to reach women in the marginalized and vulnerable sectors such as IP women, Muslim women, elderly women, women with disabilities, women in remote areas, and young girls; (2) lack of user-friendly information materials customized to a particular sector and age group; (3) seasonality and sporadic frequency of VAW advocacy campaigns, and; (4) limited skills and capacity of frontline service providers (i.e. barangay officials) in handling violence against women and children related cases. Partnership is underway with the Commission on Filipino Language to help in the translation of the VAW Desk handbooks and other information materials into various languages for dissemination across the country.
59. Strengthening and expanding the network of men opposed to violence against women, men involved in reproductive health and shared parenting responsibilities will boost the achievement of gender equality. More partnerships with the private sector like advertising agencies who can provide pro bono services will help in the prevention of VAWG through popular information materials using mixed media.

60. Continuous capacity building on gender-responsive handling of VAW cases for frontline direct service providers – village and local officials, police, social workers, health workers, prosecutors and the judiciary – will be done. Emphasis of the training will also be on working together in an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.

61. With the CHRP establishing a GBV Observatory, the data will inform service providers on how to improve the delivery of their services. It will also alert duty-bearers on the status of the cases so that immediate interventions can be done. The observatory can also provide information on whether the anti-GBV laws will need amendments.

e. Gender-responsive approaches in emergency situation

62. There is a need to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the NSCWPS and CSOs on Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE) in the lives of vulnerable persons in armed conflict situations, identifying GBViE considerations and gender-responsive approaches in the context of Marawi and Conflict Prevention; and to use this knowledge and understanding of enhancing the Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program (BMCRPP) implementation through the identification of GBViE considerations based on the results of the gender and conflict analysis; and, in adopting gender-sensitive strategies responsive to GBViE in relation to the Marawi siege.

63. Priority should also be given in ensuring the accountability in implementing WPS interventions through the development of a comprehensive system to document, monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of the NAPWPS using evidence-informed tools and enabling mechanisms by creating a harmonized NAPWPS monitoring and evaluation system that identifies all programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) from the activity level to impact level.

f. Strengthening women's participation in ensuring environmental sustainability

64. The Philippine government ensured women's active participation in the design and implementation of policies, plans, and programs, and in the international climate negotiations.

65. The Philippines will strengthen its dialogue among stakeholders, including women groups, relative to their roles, views and experiences in environmental protection and productivity. It will continue to harness and strengthen women's capacities to be drivers of environmental sustainability, climate action, and transformation through the Nationally Determined Contributions Gender Action Plan, access to People's Survival Fund, and continued engagement in the GCF Board and international climate negotiations.

Section Two

Progress Across the 12 Critical Areas of Concern

66. This section outlines the national initiatives and progress undertaken by the Philippine government across the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPfA during the period of 2014-2019. Over the past five years, the Philippine government in collaboration with civil society, international organizations, private sector and development partners, has continued to pursue policy measures and intervention programs to realize its commitment to secure equality, development and peace for Filipino women and girls. These programs align with the government's international commitments to the BPfA, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
67. The Magna Carta of Women (MCW) enacted in 2008, guarantees the government's commitment to "promote empowerment of women and pursue equal opportunities for women and men, and ensure equal access to resources and development results and outcome."⁸ The passage of the MCW provides policy mandate for all government sectors to address the women's inequitable access to economic opportunities through paid work, informal and formal employment, and livelihood programs. To this end, the state led by Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Environment and Resources, and Department of National Defense and all its attached agencies have implemented programs and measures to address conditions that discriminate against women's economic, social and political participation and access.

Overarching Dimension 1: Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

68. The Philippine economy continues to register steady growth reaching an average of 6.2% in 2018 as inflation tapered towards the end of the year. The fastest growth was observed in the construction industry sector at 6.9%, which is attributed to government's higher spending on infrastructure development under its "Build, Build, Build Program". While economic growth was lower than the 7.7% registered in 2013, the World Bank reports in 2019 that the Philippines remains one of the fastest growing economies in the East Asia and Pacific region. Nevertheless, the country's growth has yet to translate into inclusive growth and development as the country continues to address income inequities including access to market opportunities and productive resources. In the 2018, the World Economic Forum's Inclusive Development Index (IDI) ranked the Philippines 38th among 74 emerging economies that foster inclusive growth and development with an IDI score of 3.83.ⁱ The Philippines has maintained an average IDA score of 2.40% for the past five years and has been described by the report as "slowly advancing" in terms of ushering in inclusive growth and development.ⁱⁱ

⁸ <https://pcw.gov.ph/law/republic-act-9710>

Gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment

69. Land ownership is known to have positive consequences for both men and women; but more so for women, given their disadvantaged positions in society. Equitable distribution of land not only facilitates gender empowerment but more importantly, contribute to improved aggregate agricultural productivity and inclusive sustainable development. Ownership of land means access to productive resources that may either be used for livelihood or as collateral to avail of loans and credit. Owning land also allows women to hold more bargaining power in the household and immediate community. The inequitable distribution of land in the Philippines is attributed to the interplay of several factors notwithstanding the administrative challenges faced by the program itself including the long history of contesting claims to land. The slow implementation of land reform threatens decades of gains in other areas of gender empowerment and equality, and ultimately, pose setbacks in attaining inclusive and sustainable development.
70. Given the inequitable access of women to productive resources, the government continues to pursue actions to improve the agricultural productivity and income of women small-holder farmers and food producers through the provision of technical assistance and production inputs, and capacity-building programs. These were carried out through:
- Department of Agriculture's (DA) provision of production inputs such as seeds, planting materials, farm equipment and machineries, livestock as well as provision of other services through the DA's various programs namely Rice Program, Corn Program, High Value Commercial Crops Program, National Livestock Program, National Fishery Program and National Organic Agriculture.
 - Philippine Center for Post-Harvest Development and Mechanization (PHILMECH) design of "gender-friendly" farm machineries/equipment and post-harvest facilities for commercial use of women farmers, processors, and small and micro entrepreneurs
 - Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) capacity-building program called "Self-Reliant Organization–Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (SRO-CARP) Project" to strengthen the capacities of the women agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB) women and the women groups within the agrarian reform beneficiary organization (ARBOs) to develop their three-fold roles as owners, managers and entrepreneurs.
71. In order to promote the right to work and the rights at work, the following were some of the measures undertaken by the government:
- DOLE issued Department Order No. 178, s. 2017 that addresses the occupational health and safety issues and concerns related to the wearing of high-heeled female shoes and/or standing at work for long periods, such as strain on the lower limbs, aching muscles, hazardous pressure on hip, knee and ankle joints and sore feet. Through this policy, all employers/establishments are directed to implement the use of footwear which are practical and comfortable. This covers all workers who by the nature of their work, have to stand at work, such as retail and/or service employees, assembly line workers, teachers, and security personnel.

- Inclusion of the following as indicators to be assessed under the Inspection System to ensure the compliance of establishments with General Labor Standards: Maternity Leave (RA 8282); Solo Parent Leave (RA 8972); Leave for Victims of Violence against Women and their Children (RA 9262); Special Leave for Women (RA 9710); Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009 (RA 10028) including Lactation Station/Lactation Break; and Anti-Sexual Harassment Law (RA 7877).
- Likewise, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), launched the Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning for Labor Force Empowerment (RPF4LFE) in late 2018 to improve access among women workers to quality family planning information and services.

72. Republic Act No. 10644, otherwise known as the “Go Negosyo Act,” is a law that seeks to strengthen micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to create more job opportunities in the country. It was signed into law July 15, 2014 and took effect on January 15, 2015. Through this Act, additional functions were given to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Council, which include, among others, the following: (1) conduct research to support women entrepreneurship including, but not limited to entrepreneurial behavior, barriers, participation and cessation rates, discriminatory practices and contribution to the national economy and growth and; (2) provide policy direction towards recognizing women’s propensity in doing business as well as establish linkages that will enable more opportunities for women to engage in entrepreneurship, among others. Furthermore, one seat is allocated for a representative from the women sector, designated by the Philippine Commission on Women, in the MSMED Council.

Recognizing, reducing and/or redistributing unpaid care and domestic work

73. In 2017, Oxfam Philippines, in partnership with the National Rural Women’s Federation (*Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan*) or PKKK, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), SIKAT Phils, Community Organizers Multiversity, SIAD Initiatives in Mindanao Convergence for Asset Reform and Regional Development, and Rural Development Institute of Sultan Kudarat, started the implementation of Women’s Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care) Dreams project to advance the recognition, reduction, redistribution and representation of ‘unpaid care work’ in achieving gender equality and overcoming poverty. Based on Oxfam’s 2017 Household Care Survey, which was conducted in a few towns in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao, women spend an average of 4.5 to 6.5 hours of household chores, which is three to six times longer than men. Moreover, in rural communities covered by the study, women need to make an average of five trips, which usually takes 43 minutes, to collect water for a single load of laundry. In response, Tacloban City and the Municipality of Salcedo in Eastern Samar enacted ordinances on unpaid care work, which translates to the inclusion of the matter in their planning and budgeting and the improvement of women’s access to safe water and childcare centers. Recently, Oxfam Philippines launched the advocacy campaign called *#iLabaYu*, which encourages husbands and wives to share household chores and responsibilities, countering the false notion that care work is solely a woman’s job. (“*Laba*” means wash in Filipino and the video show a man washing clothes.)

74. The measures undertaken by the government to protect the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), especially those in vulnerable working conditions like women domestic workers,

from abuse and exploitation and safeguard their overall interest include, among others, the following:

- Enactment of Joint Manual of Operations in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Overseas that seeks to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services to Overseas Filipinos, particularly those in distress, who require prompt and proper assistance at all times
- Forging of the agreement on the employment of domestic workers with Kuwait which provides additional protection for OFWs in the Gulf country. Among the salient features of the said agreement include: 1) Employers must provide the domestic workers with food, housing, and clothing, and register them in the health insurance system; 2) Employers are not allowed to keep any of the domestic workers' personal identity document such as passport; and 3) Domestic workers are allowed to have and use cellular phones and other means to communicate with their families and their government.
- Enactment of Republic Act No. 11227, otherwise known as the "Handbook for OFWs Act of 2018," in February 2019 that aims to provide migrant workers a ready reference when they need to assert their rights and responsibilities.

75. On the promotion of the rights and protection of domestic workers, as provided under Republic Act No. 10361, otherwise known as the "Domestic Workers Act" or the "*Batas Kasambahay*," the following policies were issued:

- Department Advisory No. 1, s. 2014 presents fundamental safety and health principles; preventive measures to reduce exposure to hazards that may cause accident, injury or illness; and safety and health concerns associated with the typical tasks and working conditions of a *kasambahay*.
- The National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) Advisory on Competency-Based Wage for Domestic Workers provides a guide to both household employers and domestic workers who will voluntarily and mutually agree to adopt a competency-based pay scheme in setting and adjusting the pay of domestic workers over and above the applicable minimum wage.
- Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-002 of the DSWD, DOLE, DILG, Philippine National Police, and the National Bureau of Investigation, provides guidelines and delineates the roles of government agencies involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of abused or exploited *kasambahay*, especially when handling cases involving minors. Moreover, it directs the concerned agencies, especially the DSWD, to ensure the observance of the Protocol for Case Management of Child Survivors of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.
- Labor Advisory No. 10, s. 2018 entitles *kasambahays* to Solo Parent Leave (RA 8972), Special Leave Benefit for Women under the Magna Carta for Women (RA 9710), and Violence against Women and their Children (VAWC) Leave (RA 9262). The additional leave entitlements are aside from the five (5) days Service Incentive Leave granted under Article 95 of the Labor Code.

- Labor Advisory No. 17, s. 2018 seeks to provide speedy, impartial and expensive settlement of labor issues involving *kasambahays*.

76. Government has been implementing public sector downsizing, but assessment on its impact on women have not been conducted.

Overarching Dimension 2: Poverty eradication, social protection and social services

77. Considerable decline in poverty incidence continue to be observed as it fell at 21% in 2018 from 27.6% in 2015. The proportion of Filipino families living below the poverty line also fell to 16.1 per cent in the first semester of 2018, from 22.2 per cent during the same period in 2015 (PSA, 2019). These figures put government on track of its target of lifting at least one million Filipinos out of poverty by 2020. In terms of the proportion of women living below the poverty line, the PSA reports that there are slightly less women who live below U\$1.90 a day, with 22.5% compared to 23.2% among men in 2015.

Support to women's entrepreneurship and business development activities

78. Key government agencies such as TESDA and DOLE and select civil society groups have partnered with Coca-cola Philippines to implement three dynamic programs for women economic empowerment, namely; (1) 'Sari-Sari Store Training and Access to Resources' (STAR) Program for retailers; (2) WOMEN Reach for women OFWs, and; (3) Women Artisan Program for up-cyclers. These programs are anchored on Coca-cola Company's '5by20' worldwide program which envisions to economically empower 5 million women in retail value chain across the globe by 2020. The Philippines targets to achieve 200,000 women-micro-retailers through the STAR Program by providing women 'sari-sari' store-owners (micro-retailers) and operators access to business skills and life skills training, including gender sensitivity, access to business resources and assets, and access to peer mentoring support.

- STAR Program is implemented through the TESDA Women Center together with others from the civil society and private sector who play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the program namely: *Alalay sa Kaunlaran* (ASKI) in Central and Northern Luzon; ASA Philippines in Southern Luzon; Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. in Visayas and Palawan; First Community Cooperative, Inc. in Mindanao; Tagum City Council of Women Foundation, Inc. in Davao del Norte. The program provides women *sari-sari* store-owners and operators training, access to financial support, access to merchandising and store assets, and social development Interventions. Graduates have the option to access financing through the rural banks and micro-finance partners of Coca-Cola Philippines. The Coca-cola STAR Program Report 2018 indicated positive and sustained impact to the 139,222 women sari-sari store owners and operators, such as:
 - 97% of women felt that STAR Training was useful for their business management.
 - Business revenues increased by 17%, store income by 12% and the store inventory grew by 20%.
 - 21% more women now apply percentage mark-up, while 16% more women now keep business records.
 - 32% more women feel confident about their future financial stability.

- The Women REACH Program, on the other hand, is implemented through the DOLE and its attached agencies, which envisions to empower returned women OFWs by providing an integrated intervention in starting up alternative livelihood within the country. The pilot batch of Women REACH training involved around 100 women OFWs in the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Kuwait in November 2017. For 2018, two batches of 8 trainers from the National Reintegration Center for OFWs, and Overseas Workers Welfare Association and DOLE regional offices were trained with support from Coca-cola. In 2019, both DOLE and Coca-cola committed to scale-up the program, including implementing M&E system to measure results and outcomes.
- Women Artisan Program is a livelihood program specifically for the artisan group which targets to sustain their livelihood through recycling and up-cycling of discarded metal pull tabs from soda cans. Coca-cola has partnered with ASA Philippines Foundation, a leading microfinance institution that assists women, for the provision of additional trainings on design, basic business processes and links. To sources of raw materials to support their trade. As of 2018, 25 women from Tondo, Manila, who were formerly scavengers, have already produced up-cycled fashion accessories and home decors and were linked to market outlets.

79. According to the 2017 report of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), there were more business name registered to females (257,294) compared to males (206,205). Furthermore, there were more females who availed of the MSME and Export Development Services of the DTI, such as the International Trade Expo, Product Design, Enterprise Development, and Export Promotion, compared to males. In terms of loan, an amount of USD 26,252,888.62 was released to females, comprising 49% of the total loan releases of the department.

80. Implemented through the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) of the DOLE, the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Programs (DILEEP) seeks to contribute to poverty reduction and reduce the vulnerability to risks of the working poor, vulnerable and marginalized workers either through emergency employment, and promotion of entrepreneurship and community enterprises. It has two (2) components: (1) DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) or *Kabuhayan*, and; (2) Emergency Employment Program or '*Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers*' (*TUPAD*). From 2016 to June 2018, DILP or *Kabuhayan* has a total of 267,178 beneficiaries provided with livelihood assistance. *TUPAD*, on the other hand, has a total of 734,094 beneficiaries provided with emergency employment.

81. In 2018, the Institute for Labor Studies (ILS) conducted a research project entitled, "Bringing Sustainable Livelihood Framework to Life: A Study on the Possible Determinants of Sustainability of the DILP" to determine the factors and context that contributed to the viability, success, and sustainability of livelihood projects. The study report that DILP had positive effects on beneficiaries' self-esteem and on their incomes albeit, minimal and motivated beneficiaries to have additional work/hours of work. Meanwhile, it noted that various rigidities in government process continue to constrain the viability and goals of some livelihood projects. Likewise, the study underlined the complementary role of macro-economic interventions in ensuring asset transfer to the beneficiaries.

82. The DOLE's reintegration program has facilitated the smooth transition of returning women migrant workers back to into the economy by providing them either with gender-sensitive and –responsive livelihood grants or local employment opportunities. Filipino teachers who worked as overseas domestic workers are assisted to return to their teaching jobs through the *Sa 'Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'm at Sir* Program. Livelihood assistance and training activities, on the other hand were also extended returning women migrant workers, through *Balik Pinay! Balik Hanap-buhay* Program or BPBH (employment for returning women migrant workers) . BPBH is a reintegration program of DOLE-National Reintegration Center for OFWs (NRCO) that provides training cum-production/employment intervention intended to bring improved socio-economic well-being to distressed women OFWs. From 2016 to June 2018, BPBH has provided 4,274 returning OFWs with livelihood assistance.
83. At the grassroots level, the DA initiated the organization of Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs), a grassroots community-based organization of rural women that serves as volunteer core group to harness the potential of rural women through its various development-oriented community projects and promote sustainable rural development. To date, a total of 7,764 RICs organized with a total membership of 553,958 women.
84. The PCW managed the Gender Responsive Economic Activities for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women Project Phase 1, 2009-2013) with support from the Canadian Government, Working with government agencies, local government units, and the private sector aimed to enhance the enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, ensuring a convergence of credit, capacity-building and skills upgrading, design and product development, technology and machines, and markets. To date, the women micro-entrepreneurs continue to innovate their products and expand their markets. Building on the success of this project, the PCW is currently working on the Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment Project (WEE Project) or the GREAT Women Project 2 (2015-2020) in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) and some non-government organizations and the private sector. The project targeted to assist about 700 women micro-entrepreneurs (WMEs) in growing their businesses using gender-sensitive value chain and enterprise competitiveness analyses. Using the industry cluster approach identified by the trade and industry department, women micro- and small entrepreneurs are being provided business development services to facilitate improving their sustainability and competitiveness. In particular, the approach aims to complement current services of partner agencies and organizations with empowering responses, processes and activities that can facilitate women's transformation towards a positive growth direction as entrepreneurs.
- As of 2018, enrollment was slightly above the target with 831 out of the target 700 WMEs. These WMEs are mostly engaged in food processing, homestyle and wearables, and in cacao and coffee industries. A total of 544 of these women have received interventions along product development, upgrading/ enhancement of production technologies, mentoring and facilitation of WME registration and certification requirements, and market development expansion.
 - The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) developed the Greening the Gender Responsive Value Chain Analysis (GGRVCA), which is an enterprise development tool for planning, assessing, and identifying and implementing/providing specific/customized interventions that mainstreams gender and integrates "greening" as a vital component in

the development of women-owned and family-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Using this tool, DTI is able to assess the roles, contributions and benefits, among others, of women in each segment of the chain enabling the provision of customized interventions to address specific needs.

Improving access to social protection for women and girls

85. Over the last 10 years, the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps) or the Philippine's conditional cash transfer (CCT) program continues to invest in the health and education of poor and vulnerable households to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in the country. As of September 2018, DSWD reported the implementation of the in all the 17 regions covering 144 cities and 1,483 municipalities in 80 provinces, with a total of 4,875,760 registered household beneficiaries. Further, 4,050,124 are covered by the regular Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program while 228,905 are under the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT). Household beneficiaries receive cash grants on conditions that their children up to 18 years old stay in school, get regular health check-ups and complete their growth monitoring and vaccination schedules, pregnant women attend prenatal care and deliver in health facilities, and if parents or guardians participate in monthly community-based Family Development Sessions (FDS) to learn about family values, positive child discipline, disaster preparedness, proper healthcare and nutrition women's rights, among others.
86. The FDS is one of the important psycho-social development interventions of the 4Ps as it promotes self-development, community participation, leadership and empowerment among female beneficiaries. The DSWD's 2018 Implementation Status Report highlighted that majority of the beneficiaries claim that attendance to FDS has a very positive effect on them. Specifically, these beneficiaries are 53-64 year-old females, elementary undergraduates, married and working full-time. In general, beneficiaries perceived the effects of attending FDS on their various family aspects including one's self⁹.
87. The Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) was developed to respond to the unique needs of definitely poorest and more vulnerable and disadvantaged families that are not covered of the regular CCT program. Package of benefits, interventions and modes of implementation are modified until partner families can be covered by the regular program. Beneficiaries or partner families of this program are the Homeless Street Families (HSF), Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) and Families in Need of Special Protection (FNSP). As of February 28, 2019 there are 228,322 beneficiaries covered by MCCT, of which 4,440 are HSF, 174,582 are IPs in GIDA areas, 444 Itinerant Indigenous People (IPs) and 48,856 FNSP.
88. The Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program is the biggest tax reform mitigation program under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law implemented by DSWD. Cash grants are provided to poor households and individuals who may not benefit from the lower income tax rates but may adversely affected by rising prices. The UCT cash grant will be provided one-time per year to the identified beneficiaries. The beneficiaries of

^{9 9} DSWD Program Implementation Status Report as of September 2018 <https://pantawid.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Pantawid-Pamilya-3rd-Quarter-Report-2018.pdf>

the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program received additional cash grant of Php2,400 or equivalent to Php200 per month in 2018. For 2019 and 2020 additional Php3,600 or Php300 per month will be given to augment their subsidy. Of the 10 million UCT beneficiaries, 4.4 million are 4Ps clients, 3 million are indigent senior citizens from the Social Pension Program and the remaining 2.6 million is allotted to select '*Listahanan*' households of DSWD.

89. The last five years also saw improved social protection programs for the elderly. In 5 November 2014, the Philippine government passed RA 10645 or "An Act Providing for the Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage for all Senior citizens, Amending Republic Act no. 7432, as Amended by Republic Act no. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010". The law ensures the health coverage of elderly Filipinos, aged 60 and above, who are not yet covered by any existing PhilHealth membership category that shall be sourced from the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Furthermore, since 2017 senior citizens started to receive an increased monthly pension after President Rodrigo Duterte signed and granted the 'Php1,000 (US\$ 20) pension hike' in the Social Security System pension benefit in January 2017.

Improving health outcomes for women and girls

90. From 2015 to 2019, women's access to health services expanded through enhancement of health financing schemes and benefit packages by the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), in collaboration with the DOH and other relevant stakeholders. These benefit packages are deemed critical in supporting flagship health programs on maternal and child, sexual, reproductive, and mental health to ensure positive health outcomes for women, especially those that face multiple forms of vulnerabilities. Among them are:
- Social Insurance Coverage and Benefits for Women About to Give Birth (PhilHealth Circular 025-2015) - entitles all mothers and their newborns to have financial access to essential health services that ensure their survival and well-being. Women about to give birth (WATGB) are given financial risk protection during their pregnancy, delivery and post-partum period. On the other hand, pregnant women who are not yet members of PhilHealth or who lack the required premium contribution are allowed to pay one year premium to avail of the maternity and newborn package.
 - No Balance Billing (NBB) Policy (PhilHealth Circular No. 2017-0006) - provides that no other fees or expenses shall be charged or be paid for by the indigent patients above and beyond the packaged rates during their confinement period. Indigents, though not capable of paying premiums, are enrolled as hospital-sponsored members when confined in government health facilities for them to be covered in the Program and avail hospitalization.
 - Anti-Hospital Deposit Law (RA No. 10932 of 2017) - prohibits hospital or medical clinic to request, solicit, demand or accept any deposit or any other form of advance payment as prerequisite for administering basic emergency care, for confinement or medical treatment, or to refuse to administer medical treatment and support to patient in emergency or serious cases.
 - Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act of 2018 (Republic Act No. 11166) - responds to the

increasing number of HIV cases diagnosed among 15 to 24 years of age reported since 2017. The law allows individuals 15 to 18 years of age to voluntarily subject themselves to HIV testing without the need of consent from a parent or guardian, it ensures access to free HIV/AIDS information, testing and treatment by offering free services and commodities for all affected population and reinforces penalties against discrimination and bullying of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) including women and their infant/children.

Point of Service (POS) Program - grants automatic PhilHealth coverage to Filipinos who are financially incapable to pay PhilHealth or burdened by the high cost of healthcare. In 2017, PhilHealth allocated a sum of Php3.0 billion pesos provide financial risk protection to its intended beneficiaries which reached to a total of 33,780 individuals.

91. The Department of Health (DOH) through the Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB) serves as the lead agency in implementing measures to ensure sustained delivery of responsive quality healthcare during disaster events caused by extreme weather events or conflict. In the past years, the DOH through the HEMB and other concerned offices recognized the need to implement and deliver comprehensive health services for victims/survivors in times of emergencies and disasters even during the events of armed-conflict. “Administrative Order 2016-0005 National Policy on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Health Emergencies and Disasters”, issued by the DOH in 2016, stipulates that the MISP for SRH shall be implemented in all humanitarian crises guided by the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. Furthermore, it shall include services on safe motherhood, family planning, STI, HIV and AIDS and gender-based violence in crisis situation. In 2017, “Joint Memorandum Circular 2017-0001 or the Guidelines on the Implementation of MISP for SRH in Emergencies and Disasters and its Integration into the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMPs)” was signed and approved. The Circular sets the guidelines that will ensure the implementation of the MISP for SRH during emergencies and disaster at national, regional and local levels and its integration in the national and LDRRMPs; and Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans where available. This policy on provision of MISP for SRH during disasters is in line with the provision in the MCW.
92. The unmet need for family planning went down from 30% in 1993 to 17% in 2017 (NDHS 2017) and contraceptive use among currently married women increased from 24.9% in 1993 to 40.4% in 2017. The report also found that acceptors mostly sourced their modern contraceptives from the public sector. More women are now using modern FP methods over traditional methods.
93. The DOH also carried out major interventions in ensuring the delivery of quality, appropriate, timely, sexual and reproductive health information and services. These were implemented in close collaboration with local government units (LGUs) and development partners. As of December 2017, 992 LGUs have trained public health providers on Family Planning Competency-Based Training (FPCBT) Level I, while 205 LGUs have trained private FP providers. Priority was also given in increasing the number of facilities, particularly hospitals, and of providers trained on FPCBT Level II. 379 LGUs have trained public providers on FPCBT Level II totaling to 2,379 personnel, while 147 LGUs have 412 FPCBT Level II-

graduates who are private practitioners.¹⁰

Improving education outcomes for women and girls

94. Despite the increasing access of girls to education, a number of girls and women are still out-of-school with about 5 million females aged 6 to 24 not attending school with the highest proportion of non-attendance reported among females aged 17 to 19 and 20 to 24 (APIS 2017)¹¹. The Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) cites “marriage or family matters” as most the common reason for discontinuing school, with higher percentage reported among females belonging to lower income group at 45% compared to 33% from higher income group. Not only does this indicate the persistence of stereotypical roles and norms imposed on girls, but also reveal that such norms tend to hold stronger among women and girls with lower wealth status.
95. National government efforts to increase women’s access to, retention in and completion of education in technical and vocational education and training have been undertaken through TESDA scholarship program specifically the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP); Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA); and Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) which caters and respond to challenges faced by women and girls from various poor communities. Based on TESDA’s report these programs have produced a total of 1,733,646 graduates from 2014-2018.
96. From 2014-2018, TESDA provided Community-based Training Programs (STEP) to 5,360,799 (57% female and 43% male) graduates. The STEP is a community-based training program that address the specific skills needs of the barangay. The training programs conducted are basic capability building courses that aim to enhance the citizen’s productivity thru productive livelihood endeavors and self-employment. STEP is TESDA’s response to address poverty in the informal sector by providing the disadvantaged sector training and employment through WET for Social Equity, addressing the TVET requirements of the informal sector.
97. TESDA Circular No. 60, Series of 2018 outlined the implementation of Free TVET for Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education (UAQTEA) in State-run Technical-Vocational Institutions (STVIs). In 2019, TESDA released its Omnibus Guidelines for 2019 Scholarship Programs: TWSP, STEP, PESFA and UAQTEA. It reiterated its special target beneficiaries: farmers and fishers, workers in the informal sector, migrant workers, indigenous peoples and cultural communities, women, persons with disability, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, out-of-school youth, urban poor, solo parents and their children, OFWs and their children, drug surrenderees and their dependents, victims of human trafficking, wounded-in-action and killed-in-action dependents, members of cooperatives, internally displaced populations and other related or similarly situated clients.
98. In 2015, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) released CHED Memorandum Order No. 01, series 2015, “Establishing the Policies and Guidelines on Gender and Development in CHED and Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)”, to institutionalize gender equality, gender-responsiveness and sensitivity in all higher educational institutions in the Philippines.

¹⁰ 2017 data of DOH and key partners.

¹¹ ¹¹ APIS 2017: Table 13 Population aged 6 to 24 years who were not attending school
<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/2017%20APIS%20FINAL%20REPORT.pdf>

It ensures that gender stereotypes and images in educational materials and curricula are adequately and appropriately revised; gender-sensitive language used at all times; capacity-building on gender and development, peace and human rights, education for teachers and all those involved in the education sector; and promoting partnership between and among players of the education sector, including the private sector, churches and faith groups. The policy also reinforces the CHED's commitment to guarantee that all institutions of higher learning fulfill their obligations to promote and develop gender-responsive curricular programs that prevent all forms of gender-based discrimination in instruction, research, and extension as well as in marketing methods and the use of promotional materials. It also likewise ensures the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment through the "provision, availability, and accessibility of opportunities, services, and observance of human rights which enable women to actively participate and contribute to the political, economic, social and cultural development of the nation."

99. In 2019, the CHED has partnered with the Institute for Women's Studies of the St. Scholastica's College in conducting a 'Gender Sensitive Counselling for Students' who may or are becoming vulnerable and most susceptible to becoming victims of abuse. This equips the schools in the higher education sector with knowledge and proper procedure in addressing cases of VAW.

Overarching Dimension 3: Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes

100. In the past five years, intimate partner violence, trafficking in women and girls, sexual harassment and violence in public places, violence against women and girls facilitated by technology have been prioritized.

Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape;
Trafficking in women and girls

101. In the Philippines, one in four women aged 15-49 have experienced either physical and sexual violence, with the highest frequency of physical violence experienced the last 12 months preceding the survey, reported among young women aged 15-19 years old (NDHS 2017). Meanwhile, both NDHS 2008 and 2013 revealed that one in five women aged 15-49 has experienced physical violence since age 15, while 6.3 percent (or 1 out of 16) of women age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence as revealed in NDHS 2013 which is lower than the 8.7 percent (or 1 out of 11) in NDHS 2008. (Annex 2: NDHS data across three years) Among ever-married women, there is a slight decrease in the proportion of those who have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by their husband or partner, from 29% in 2008, 26% in 2013, to 24% in 2017.

102. Despite high incidence of violence in this age group, the 2017 NDHS reports that only 34% of those who have experienced physical and sexual violence sought assistance from designated agencies or authorities, 64.7% of whom choose to seek help within their family network. In a series of stakeholder consultations conducted by PCW with duty bearers and victim survivors last November-December 2016, low help-seeking behavior were primarily ascribed to: 'preference' or internalization of women's capacity to suffer in silence; fear for personal safety, ruining family reputation, political bias and reprisal from concerned officials; lack of confidence in receiving assistance from duty bearers or designated service

providers, and; lack of awareness for available services and protective mechanisms they may avail.

103. RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) Act of 2004 is the anti-intimate partner violence law of the Philippines. The Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC), created by this law, oversees the implementation and monitoring the law. The IACVAWC as a collegial body has formulated its Strategic Action Plan for 2017-2022 in consultation with CSOs and other stakeholders. Its overall goal is “Improving the strategy towards a violence-free community through more systematic primary prevention, accessible and effective response system, and strengthened functional mechanisms for coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting”. The Strategic Plan has three key result areas: (1) primary prevention, (2) response system, and (3) cross-cutting structures and actions. It outlines the identified issues, objectives, and targets, including key strategies, programs, projects, and activities by KRA that shall be undertaken in cooperation with other stakeholders from GOs, NGOs/CSOs, and faith-based organizations.
104. The LGUs have important roles and responsibilities in the effective implementation of the anti-trafficking and the anti-VAWC laws. Per monitoring report of DILG Field Offices regarding LGU compliance on the creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC) as of December 2018, there is an increased in number of LGUs with established LCAT-VAWC. At the provincial level, 56% (45) of the 81 provinces in the country has an organized Provincial Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (PCAT-VAWC). At the city and municipality level, 79% (115) of the 145 cities nationwide has established the City Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (CCAT-VAWC), while 77% or 1,151 out of 1,491 municipalities in the country have established their respective Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Their Children (MCAT-VAWC).
105. With the recent entry into force of the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), Especially Women and Children in 2015, and faced with new national goals and targets under the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2021) towards the realization of Philippines’ long term vision, *Ambisyon Natin* 2040, the Philippine Government continues to reaffirm its commitment towards the eradication of human trafficking in the country. In response to the challenge, the third National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2017-2021) was adopted and approved by the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IIACAT), chaired by the Department of Justice. The new strategic plan, while retaining the 4Ps approach (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnership), now focuses on key thematic issues such as online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), forced labor, organ trafficking, and prostitution, pornography, cybersex trafficking, and sex tourism.
106. The Collaborative Action Against Trafficking (CAAT) is a three-year project of Plan International being implemented in the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte in Visayas, and provinces of Misamis Oriental and Surigao del Norte in Mindanao. The project aims to reduce the number of child trafficking cases, especially girls and young women, by increasing awareness for prevention and addressing its root causes, and assisting in the recovery and rehabilitation of trafficking victim-survivors. Currently, the project is supporting 4 girls from Eastern Visayas who were coerced into online sexual exploitation, and has

assisted in the rescue of 3 boys and 28 men who were allegedly trafficked for labor exploitation in the fishing industry in Pangasinan.

Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment

107. The passage of local ordinance such as the anti-catcalling ordinance in the country's major cities is a big boost to the campaign to protect women from daily street harassment, and a clear policy shift on the part of the local government. In May 2016, the Quezon City passed the ordinance penalizing sexual harassment of women in public spaces. This made the Quezon City as the first local government in the country to penalize street-level harassment of women. On June 28, 2018, the City Council of Manila also passed an ordinance penalizing catcalling in the city. Ordinance No. 7857 or "An Ordinance Penalizing Catcalling and Other Forms of Public Sexual Harassment", penalizes all forms of sexual harassment in public spaces such as catcalling, wolf-whistling, leering, groping, and many others. These ordinances are part of the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Initiative of UN Women. At the national level, the Safe Spaces Act on anti-sexual harassment in public spaces and amending the 1995 anti-sexual harassment law to include peer sexual harassment at work, education and training institutions, which was passed by the Philippine Congress this 2019, is awaiting release from the Office of the President.

Preventing violence against women and girls

108. There are bills pending in the Philippine Congress which address violence against women and girls (**Annex 3: List of laws on Gender-based Violence**). Work on these bills are facilitated not only by the congressional committees concerned, but through advocacy mechanisms, ad hoc groups, efforts of CSOs, and the Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA) of the PCW.

- The WPLA is a set of proposed topics of bills that seeks to amend or repeal the discriminatory provisions of existing laws and moves for the formulation and adoption of new legislations that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. For the 17th Congress, the WPLA is composed of 12 legislative agenda, 3 of which are related to VAW such as:
 - Strengthening the provisions of RA 8353: Amending the Anti-Rape Law
 - Strengthening law enforcement and protection against sexual offenses: Expanding the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law
 - Enacting the Anti-Prostitution Law: Amending Articles 202 and 341 of the Revised Penal Code

109. The Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) is a global initiative led by Plan International, Terre des Hommes and Defense for Children International. It is a five-year initiative which aims to promote equal rights and opportunities for girls and young women in 10 countries across Africa and Asia. In the Philippines, Plan International and Terre des Hommes work with government, private sector, local civil society organizations and communities to address gender-based violence and the economic exclusion of girls and young women. Present in four regions (NCR, and Regions III, VII, and VIII), GAA activities are centered on child protection, policy advocacy, capacity building, public education, youth empowerment, and media awareness. GAA also aims to eradicate commercial sexual exploitation of children, particularly girls and young women, a national priority through its *#NotForSale* campaign

which was launched in 2017.

Strategies preventing violence against women and girls

110. To make the government services more accessible to the public, the IACAT through its Advocacy and Communications Committee (ADVOCOM) launched the '1343 Actionline' against Human Trafficking on 15 March 2011. It is a 24/7 hotline facility that responds to general inquiries on human trafficking related issues, emergency or crisis calls from victims of human trafficking and their families. It expanded its services to other modes of reporting through website, email address, mobile application and text line. From 2014 to January 2019, the *Actionline* has received 20,187 case reports, 348 of which are verified cases involving 340 victim-survivors of human trafficking and other related cases.
111. The 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) is observed annually from November 25 to December 12 to raise awareness among all stakeholders that VAW is a public issue of national concern. It supports the Philippine Government's goal to protect the human rights of women and its commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence. The IACVAWC adopted the theme "VAW-free community starts with Me" for the annual campaign from 2016-2021. The theme elevates the campaign to positive advocacy as it enjoins everyone to pursue the common vision of a community free from violence against women and girls, and highlights what can be done to achieve such. The campaign aims to: 1) give the public a glimpse of a VAW victim-survivor's ordeal to later develop in them the virtue of compassion or "*malasakit*;" 2) promote awareness on the forms of violence women and girls experience, provide information on the laws protecting women and girls, and feature VAW-related services that people can access and avail; and 3) gather public support for the campaign.
112. The PCW also produced and published VAW: The Unspoken Words project aimed to make the public understand the difficult experiences of VAW victim-survivors. The project is a collection of short films featuring free-verse poetry and images expounding various forms of VAW presented in five videos which include VAW in the Home, VAW in the Workplace, VAW in the School, VAW in Public Spaces and Online Harassment. The videos can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfZ0pf6gP873xGN-smUFAIndaU7b-HFRI>. In 2018, three new set of videos on Date Rape, Revenge Porn, and Trafficking were produced. These videos are hoped to develop compassion and concern towards the victim-survivors and can be viewed at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zZX2-jd2H17fhCARHrhEyL0fGLNLYB->
113. The PCW first launched the VAW Experiential Museum in November 2017 as part of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW. It is an interactive and site-specific walk-through event which immerses the audience to different forms of VAW manifested in familiar situations and social institutions such as the home, school, workplace, community, and even in digital media. It is hoped that as the audience walk through the museum, they will develop compassion and concern towards the victim-survivors and later commit to become an instrument in ending VAW. Building on the success of the first VAW Experiential Museum, the PCW staged another run of the activity in 2018. The museum repositions its goal of primary prevention to focus on a younger audience, specifically engaging high school and college students and youth organizations. Aside from understanding the various forms of VAW committed in different institutions and spheres, the audience will get a chance to learn and ask questions

about the various direct VAW-related legal, psychosocial, and medical services which they can avail.

114. From 2015-2018, the PCW introduced the ORANGE YOUR ICON for 18 Days Advocacy Initiative as one of the major activities during the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW, in solidarity with the United Nations' UNiTE to End VAW Campaign. Said activity aimed to strengthen the anti-VAW advocacy by enjoining new audiences to join the cause to end VAW. The idea is to attract the public's curiosity why major landmarks or icons nationwide are colored orange, thereby providing opportunities for advocates to explain the



Anti-VAW advocacy. In 2016, the PCW, in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT), worked on promoting VAW-free communities in the tourism sector through “oranging” 18 famous and prominent tourism sites or attractions in the country This creative advocacy effort also hopes to convey a message that the DOT together with its stakeholders in the industry encourages gender-responsiveness in Philippine tourism, which among others endeavors to promote safe and non-exploitative tourism activities.

115. In partnership with DDB Group Philippines (who provided free service), the PCW in 2018 released a radio campaign on catcalling, a kind of VAW that often experienced by women in public places but usually dismissed as just a “compliment”. Catcalling is commonly defined as a sexually suggestive call or comment directed at someone in public spaces like streets and public transportation facilities. The radio campaign which is dubbed as “The Macho Choir”, used three Filipino childhood songs where the lyrics are replaced with messages against catcalling to emphasize that catcalling is a kind of sexual harassment and it is no laughing matter. All these three radio plugs are being aired in both AM and FM radio stations throughout the country.

116. In 2015, as the world awaits the “fight of the century” between Pacquiao and Mayweather, the DDB Group Philippines has collaborated also with PCW in producing and printing series of posters on domestic violence, the kind of violence being committed by males versus women. This is being done to create awareness on the often neglected plight of women under their abusive husbands or intimate partners, and to prevent domestic violence from happening.

117. The Men Opposed to Violence Against Women (VAW) Everywhere or MOVE, a network of men who committed to be actively involved in the elimination of VAW, has been actively organizing local chapters since its formal launching in 2006. Currently, they have established 33 chapters nationwide from both the National Government Agencies, Provincial and Local Government Units, including barangays. They are also continuously moving to form partnership for the elimination of gender related violence throughout the country. The IACVAWC, as the council primarily tasked to formulate programs and projects to eliminate VAW and to monitor all VAW initiatives, recognized the need to adopt MOVE as a strategy and encourage other development partners nationwide to organize MOVE in their respective organizations.

118. The DSWD's Counseling Services for Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (CSRPDV) is a social work intervention which utilizes a simplified counseling model designed specifically for the male perpetrators of domestic violence. It consists of a series of counseling sessions institutionalizing counseling approaches which aims to change the perpetrator's abusive behavior geared towards healing to stop the cycle of violence and facilitate the rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence. The LGU social worker shall implement the counseling services using the instructional guide to counseling containing the six (6) sessions as follows:

- The Master's Thoughts
- Psycho-spiritual Approach
- The Advent of Our Desires
- Coping Well in Times of Crisis
- S (Satir) Model of Intervention
- Resiliency Model

Actions preventing violence against women and girls

119. In the Philippines, one child in every two children suffers from various forms of online sexual violence and abuse (NBS-VAC, 2016). These children have been subjected to forced exposure to sex videos and photos, receipt of sexual messages or coercion to engage in sexual activities online.

120. To address the growing problem of online sexual abuse and exploitation of girls and young women in the country, the Cyber Safe Spaces Project is being implemented by Plan International in Manila and Quezon City where sexual abuse and exploitation of children are rampant. The project works to combat online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSEC) by empowering children and young people, educating parents, social service providers and duty-bearers, and enabling the local industry to proactively prevent OSEC. It also provided victim-survivors with access to age and gender-specialized psychological and healing services, and empower children and young people to protect themselves online through engaging them on digital safety educational activities. The project also facilitates the provision of appropriate social services, legal assistance, rehabilitation and/or reintegration of OSEC victims, especially girls and young women. As of December 31, 2018, the project has reached 9,191 children and young adults -18 up to 30 years old (4,069 males; 5,019 females; 103 unspecified data) through community and school advocacy sessions, gender-awareness sessions, BCPC learning activities and capacity building of service providers. A core group of 74 youth leaders from the target 10 barangays have been trained as Cyber Safe youth facilitators and have spearheaded advocacy sessions to 9,117 young people and children.

Actions address portrayal of women and girls in the media

121. In 2014, the Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC) has launched a nationwide search for recipients of the GAD Transformation and Institutionalization through Mainstreaming of Programs, Agenda, Linkages and Advocacies (GADtimpala) Awards. The GADtimpala is an incentive awards system that recognizes the best gender-fair and gender-balanced media practices. The GADtimpala award has four categories: Gender-Fair Radio Program, Gender-Fair TV Program, Gender-Fair Print Media, and Gender-Fair Film, was

subsequently conferred in 2015. Individual agency members also integrated gender concerns in their regular programs, projects, and activities. GADtimpala Awards will help in mainstreaming the gender equality criteria of gender balance in content and programming, gender-fair language, positive portrayal of women in media and film, and other works by professionals and students.

122. Following the results of the Parallel Session on Women and Media during the 2017 National Women's Summit convened by PCW, wherein media practitioners raised concern on government seemingly imposing to them the set of guidelines, MGEC revisited the guidelines for promoting gender-equality in media. On 15 December 2017, the MGEC launched the new "Gender-Fair Media Guidebook (GFMG)" Revised Edition that seeks to eliminate gender stereotyping and promotes gender balance in the participation and representation of women and men across various forms of media and communication. The guidebook is a practical reference for the media in recalibrating their practice to promote gender sensitivity in all their core processes including the conceptualization, creation, presentation and distribution of media products. It presents current media landscape on reporting women's situations, provides relative laws on women's rights and gives practical tools to evaluate the gender sensitivity of the contents.

123. While government and private sector efforts to advocate for a more positive image of women in media and film is slowly gaining ground, the discriminatory and derogatory portrayal of women, including in the advertising sector remain a challenge. The advent of social media provides an opportunity for enlightened citizens to callout and voice their concerns against such practices. Erring companies and media outfits are often quick on issuing public apologies and pulling down media placements once the negative feedbacks go viral online, perhaps fearing that a negative image results in loss of sales and profits. The MGEC and other advocates can tap into that power of the public to demand change in the media landscape.

Actions that address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination

124. The typhoon Haiyan which occurred in November 2013 has prompted the IACAT to create the IACAT Disaster Rapid Response Task Force (IDRT), which is also known as Taskforce Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2014. The task force is composed of representatives from each member agencies of the IACAT and was formed for the purpose of creating a coordinating body within the IACAT that will ensure that existing anti-trafficking in persons programs are strengthened especially in the identified priority areas, and to assess, plan and implement programs to combat, prevent, and suppress trafficking and illegal recruitment among survivors of recent natural and human-induced calamities. Several members of the taskforce composed of representatives of member-agencies including the DOJ, IACAT Secretariat, DSWD, and PNP, went to Ormoc City in Leyte, Aklan province and Tagbilaran City in Bohol. The team conducted seminars to familiarize local officials of provinces recently hit by natural disaster about the law on trafficking in persons and the proper handling of trafficking victims. A discussion was also held with the officials on the establishment of help desks on TIP in local ports in their respective localities.

125. The DSWD continuously promotes the establishment of Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) in the local government units and intermediaries in 16 regions of the country to prevent internal displacement of women and girls in evacuation centers during typhoons and emergencies.
126. GBV may also become more extreme during emergencies and crises. In armed conflict, sexual violence can become so widespread that it is considered a method of war. During natural disasters, marginalized sectors, including women, are trapped to vulnerability due to the emotional stress and seeming weakness of men associated with the lack of resources and economic insecurity. In 2015, the DSWD issued Administrative Order No. 12 or the Enhanced Guidelines in the Implementation of the Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence (CIAGV). The guidelines are structured around three components, namely: Community-based GBV prevention (Prevention); Delivery of GBV response and services (Intervention); and Mainstreaming of GBV in local development (Reintegration). The CIAGV envisions that community women, men, girls, boys and members of LGBT will have reduced vulnerabilities to GBV through increased access to quality response and reintegration services and participation in preventive actions. It aims to address issues concerning GBV through an adoption of a comprehensive approach and framework in executing a holistic program which will consider all the key activities.

Overarching Dimension 4: Participation, accountability and gender-responsive institutions

Promoting women's participation in public life and decision-making

127. Latest data from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) show that women outnumber men in terms of registered voters for the 2019 National and local elections, comprising 51 percent of voting population. However, there is still a significant gap when it comes to female representation in terms of candidates. This year women account for only 20 percent¹² of the total number of candidates running for elective positions. At the national level, only 18 percent or 11 female candidates have joined the senatorial race, while only there are only 23 percent are vying for a seat at the house of representative.

Table 2: Number of Registered Voters by Sex in May, 2019 National and Local Elections¹³

	Number of Registered Voters				
	Total	Male		Female	
		No.	%	No.	%
PHILIPPINES/ Nationwide	61,843,771	30,026,959	49%	31,816,812	51%

Table 3: No. of Candidates per Elective Position by Sex (As of March 30, 2019) in May 2019 National and Local Elections¹⁴

¹²(<http://www.comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls-attachments/2019NLE/Statistics/NumofCandidatesbySexPh.pdf>)

¹³ <https://www.comelec.gov.ph/>

Elective Position	Number of Seats	Number of Candidates				
		Total	Male		Female	
			No.	%	No.	%
Total Number of Candidates	18,072	43,554	34,772	80	8,782	20
National Elections						
Senator	12	62	51	82	11	18
Party-List	61	134*				
Local Elections						
Member, House of Representative	245	633	488	77	145	23
Provincial Governor	81	273	242	89	31	11
Provincial Vice-Governor	81	185	159	86	26	14
Member, Provincial Board	780	1,733	1,404	81	329	19
City Mayor	145	415	330	80	85	20
City Vice-Mayor	145	336	283	84	53	16
City Councilor	1,628	3,765	3,016	80	749	20
Municipal Mayor	1,489	3,571	2,783	78	788	22
Municipal Vice-Mayor	1,489	3,282	2,685	82	597	18
Municipal Councilor	11,916	29,299	23,331	80	5,968	20

* Total for both sexes excludes the number of Party-List

128. Just as women continue to have steady representation in both public organizations and private business sectors, the government has persistently promoted measures and policies that address gender-specific barriers that affect women's participation in civil society and democratic processes. In particular, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has issued policies that promote gender equality and provide a gender-responsive electoral process that is inclusive, participatory and non-discriminatory, namely:

- COMELEC Resolution No. 10514, March 25, 2019 - provide incentives to political parties that promote the integration of women in their leadership hierarchy, internal policy-making structures, appointive and electoral nominating process;
- COMELEC Resolution No. 10488, January 30, 2019 - ensure a more socially-inclusive Philippine elections, candidates and parties are required to incorporate sign language interpreters and closed captioning in broadcast election propaganda intended for exhibition on television and/or the internet, and are encouraged to ensure the availability of their respective printed campaign materials in braille. Through the same issuance, candidates and parties are urged to guarantee accessibility of their campaign activities and events to persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and pregnant women, by providing accessibility features, such as access ramps, reserved seating areas. Furthermore, the COMELEC has also prohibited the printing, publishing, posting, and distributing any election campaign or propaganda materials that violates gender sensitivity, is obscene or offensive, or constitutes violation of Magna Carta of Women
- COMELEC Resolution No. 10486 - establishment of emergency accessible polling places (EAPP) for the purposes of the May 13, 2019 National and Local Elections and all succeeding elections. The EAPPs must be accessible and shall provide assistive

¹⁴ Ibid.

services and devices for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and heavily pregnant women voters.

- COMELEC Resolution No. 10110, May 3, 2016 - required all LGUs including the barangay, city/ municipality and provincial levels to open their daycare centers on election day to encourage more female voters to take part in the elections. Mothers and other caregivers could conveniently leave their young children in daycare while they vote. Special satellite registration prioritizing women have also been conducted in major cities across the country.
- MC No. 2019-65, May 3, 2019 - To further concretize the commitment to inclusivity, concerned government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector stakeholders agreed through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed April 8, 2019, to work together in ensuring the electoral participation and reasonable accommodation of persons with disability, senior citizens and heavily pregnant voters on the day of the election.

129. The COMELEC also launched a GAD Policy Studies Group (PSG) in 2016, a core group of stakeholders that will study and propose legal and policy reforms to increase women's political participation. The GAD PSG's work primarily aims to explore mechanisms to increase the number of women candidates and elected officials. The PSG's objectives also include educating stakeholders on the need to have more women candidates and politicians as well as create and mobilize a network of gender-in-election champions. These external stakeholders include the country's Executive and Legislative departments, the Commission on Human Rights, political party list groups, lawyer's organizations and NGOs. In the lead up to the 2016 Presidential Elections, the commission also spearheaded series of lecture seminars to encourage more women candidates to run in the 2016 elections as well as hosted a Fora on Gender and Election-Related Violence.

130. In time for the upcoming 2019 National Elections, the PCW re-launched #AgendaNiJuana (Juana's Agenda) an integrated campaign which began in 2016, to call for gender-responsive governance, the gender-balance leadership, and promotion of women's political participation and representation in all spheres of society.

131. The CSC remains committed in realizing provisions of the Magna Carta for Women to "accelerate equitable representation of women" in government through policies and programs that support the appointment of qualified women to leadership positions. It has instituted reforms in its recruitment system and developing human resources that is outlined in the Enhanced Competency-based Recruitment, Promotion and Placement (ECBRPP), the Competency-based Learning and Development Management System (CBLDMS), and the integrated non-discriminatory provision on appointments expressed in the CSC's Omnibus Rules on Appointments and other Human Resource Actions (ORAOHRA) which was revised in 2018.

132. In 2017, civil service examination-related policies such as CSC Resolution No. 1701169, were set up to address issues faced by women in marginalized groups through creation of enabling mechanism that increase the participation of persons with disabilities, pregnant, and senior citizens. The inclusion of the rights of Muslim women were considered in the guidelines on administering the Civil Service Examinations under CSC Resolution No.

1700630. It also maintains Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM), with reference to the CSC's HR Systems Maturity Level assessment which focuses on the articulation of Equal Opportunity Principle (EOP) in the Commission's policies across all core human resource systems and the development and implementation of actual plans to integrate people with diverse background.

133. It also conducted Gender Mainstreaming in HR Policies, Processes and Systems since 2014. As a result of this, a Gender Mainstreaming Manual with instructional video and HR Toolkit was developed by CSC, in partnership with PCW and the ASEAN Plus 3. While it continues to devote resources for developing and gender-responsive capacity development programs through Civil Service Institute (CSI) - Gender responsive provisions under Republic Act No. 11032 (An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9485 otherwise known as the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007) (e.g., provision of special lane for pregnant women). Gender mainstreaming has also been consistently promoted via institutionalization in the collection of sex-disaggregated data by concerned offices (e.g., Inventory of Government Human Resource System; Profile of HRMOs; Career Service Examinees; Honor Awards Program; Public Sector Union Officers; Sexual Harassment Cases; and Participants' Profile in Trainings), as well as the application of GAD Analysis Tools like the Harmonized GAD Guidelines (HGDG) on major programs (i.e., ARTA, Honor Awards Program, and CBLDMS), which assist the CSC to formulate strategies that would enhance its GAD efforts. Alongside these initiatives are the conduct of GAD-related development interventions and creation of Pool of Subject Matter Experts, which ensure that every CSC employee is capacitated on GAD (e.g., Gender Sensitivity Seminar; Anti-Sexual Harassment; Use of Gender-Fair Language; Gender, Diversity and Inclusiveness; etc.).

Actions to increase women's access to expression through ICT

134. The Philippines launched the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI) of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT/ESCAP) in 2017 in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN), and PCW. This Project aims to develop an enhanced Philippine WIFI Entrepreneur Track Training of Trainers Module and Participants Manual that can be a model Training Course to be implemented nationwide and across ASEAN countries. WIFI recently conducted an Integration workshop, which is composed of two tracks and Entrepreneurship and Policy Track and Policy.
135. DICT together with Connected Women and Facebook, announced in 2018 the various programs of the WE-ICT (Women Empowerment-ICT), an initiative that aims to empower Filipinas with strong economic and digital literacy skills. One such program is *#SheMeansBusiness*, a Facebook-led initiative that has customized blueprint modules for training small to medium businesses. Also, the DICT and Connected Women have collaborated on a job matching program in order to match women trained in digital marketing to female entrepreneurs who can employ them. Co-led by Connected Women in the Philippines, *#SheMeansBusiness* has trained more than 400 women through six workshops

in major cities across the Philippines. Through entrepreneurship modules, women in these cities have learned digital skills to bring their business ideas to life.¹⁵

136. DICT also conducted Women and Mobile: Bridging the Gender Gap trainings during the National Information and Communications Technology Month in 2018 with the theme: Thrive Through Disruption: Inclusivity, Empowerment and Sustainability. The initiative aimed at promoting digital inclusion, equal access to opportunity and narrowing the digital divide.¹⁶

137. To further their commitment to infuse gender awareness through ICT, the DICT organizes an annual GAD Summit. In 2016, more than a hundred attended the two-day event to address gender issues on ICT. The summit highlighted the gender dimension of DICT, including its potential in empowering women; its strategies in addressing the gender digital divide; and its initiatives in promoting gender-responsive governance.

National investments invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women

138. The total GAD budget utilization of agencies with accepted GAD Accomplishment Reports (ARs) slightly increased to PhP468.3 billion (US\$ 88.81 million) in FY 2016 from PhP451.7 billion (US\$ 85.66 million) in FY 2015. While based on accepted ARs for FY 2017 the GAD budget utilization of agencies is at P540 billion (US\$ 102.40 million) already, as of May 28, 2018. This is still expected to increase upon completion of the review process. This notable increase is attributed to the incessant capacity building conducted by NGAs as influenced by PCW to increase their GAD allocation and utilization. Moreover, the rigorous review process undertaken by PCW helped ensure that GAD budgets are utilized for acceptable GAD programs and activities.

139. The COA has been the strategic partner of PCW in increasing the number of compliance of government agencies in the submission of annual GAD Plans and Budgets, and GAD Accomplishment Reports through the issuance of COA circulars and policies that provide agency heads guidance on the mandatory annual audit of funds for gender and development such as:

- COA Circular 2014-01: Revised Guidelines in the Audit of GAD Funds and Activities in government agencies – it updated the previous audit guidelines and aligned it to new audit approach called the integrated risk and results-based audit approach (IRRBA) and the Magna Carta of Women;
- Memorandum No. 2018-009: Checklist of Common Audit Observations in the Audit of GAD Funds and Determination of Gender Issues and Mandates of All Government Agencies - checklist is used by auditors as a reference in the audit of GAD funds and guide in the presentation of audit observations and recommendations in the annual audit reports.

¹⁵ <https://dict.gov.ph/dict-connected-women-facebook-collaborate-to-empower-women-through-technology/>

¹⁶ <https://dict.gov.ph/women-and-children-ict-use-essential-for-achieving-a-digital-economy/>

140. Auditors are required to include in their Annual Audit Reports a paragraph on the results of audit of GAD funds. GAD has been part of the regular audit focus of audit teams in the audit of Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Continuous training and capacity building of COA Auditors and agency personnel on GAD Planning and Budgeting as well as Audit of GAD Funds have been undertaken through the regular course offering of the Professional Development Office of COA and upon invitation of government agencies. Through the audit of the utilization of funds for gender and development, the Auditors looked at the actual utilization of GAD funds versus the allocation of at least 5% of the total appropriation based on the endorsed and approved GAD Plans and Budgets, and GAD Accomplishment Reports of all government agencies. These audit observations are communicated to management and reflected in the Annual Audit Reports.

National action plan for gender equality

141. In 2019, the PCW launched its “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025” which serves as key reference in formulating Gender and Development (GAD) agenda, plans, and budgets of agencies. The GEWE plan contain a Compendium of Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of GEWE in the Philippines which presents a menu of GEWE indicators for various sectoral and thematic areas of concern to direct GAD work in the Philippines. The Plan and the Compendium of Indicators are based on CEDAW Recommendations, the BPfA and the SDGs.

142. Alongside the GEWE Plan 2019-2025 the government also launched an updated toolkit to measure the extent of gender-responsiveness of local government units (LGUs). The Gender-Responsive Local Government Unit (GeRL) Assessment Tool can be used to gather data and information on the level of LGUs’ GAD mainstreaming efforts and practices; serve as a monitoring and evaluation tool to measure the extent of gender responsiveness of the LGU as an organization and in the delivery of basic services and facilities; and identify the gaps and corresponding strategies to achieve gender-responsive local governance

Action plan and timeline for the implementation for CEDAW recommendations

143. The Philippines regularly reports on the implementation of the CEDAW. The combined 7th and 8th CEDAW report went through a participatory formulation process. Information and updates were gathered and consolidated from concerned government agencies on their implementation of the CEDAW and supplemented with information from relevant studies, and statistics on the situation of women and men in the country.

144. Immediately after the Philippines received the concluding observations on the 7th and 8th report in 2016, copies were disseminated to various groups, and workshops with government agencies, CSOs were conducted to address the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee.

National human rights institution

145. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP), a constitutional body, is the country’s independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), It prepares its own report

on the Philippines' compliance to CEDAW and is regularly a member of the Philippine delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women Annual Meetings to participate in the sessions and side events and assert the vital role of NHRIs in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment

146. The Magna Carta of Women designates the CHRP as the Gender and Development Ombud. As such, it is mandated to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, strengthen its Human Rights Education program, investigate violations including those committed by private institutions or by private individuals, monitor compliance, and recommend appropriate measures. To pursue its mandate, the CHRP in 2016 developed the "CHR Gender Ombud Guidelines, Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment under the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710) and Related Laws" together with the Protocols for the investigation of cases involving women, children and persons with diverse SOGIE. The CHRP has also a Women and Children's Rights Center with full-time staff focused not just on promotion of women's rights, but also on investigating women's rights violations. They have ruled on the dismissal of a pregnant student, and are currently investigating the misuse of the GAD budget by a local government unit.
147. The CHRP has consistently promoted gender equality. In 2016, the CHRP conducted a national inquiry into the barriers that some women face when accessing reproductive health services and a full range of family planning methods. The national inquiry also examined the existence of local government ordinances that contradict the general principles of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law and international human rights conventions. For example, in February 2015, Sorsogon City's mayor signed a pro-life Executive Order, which resulted in the withdrawal of contraceptives from local health centers. Women's access to contraceptives was also challenged by some groups before the courts. In addition, the inquiry considered the requirement of spousal and parental consents in some provisions of the RPRH Law and how this can limit the access of women and young people to reproductive health services.
148. The Commission recognizes that respect for sexual rights, sexual orientation and gender identity is integral to the realization of equality between men and women. Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) are integral to every person's dignity and humanity and must not be the basis for discrimination or abuse. As an NHRI and as Gender Ombud, the Commission promotes the Yogyakarta Principles when it provides that "human beings of all sexual orientations and gender identities are entitled to the full enjoyment of all human rights." Like the PCW, it strongly supported the Anti-discrimination based on SOGIE bills pending in Congress.
149. As Gender Ombud, the CHRP endeavors to understand Violence Against Women in its various contexts and forms with a goal of effectively addressing violations and working towards elimination and prevention. One of its recent initiatives is the establishment of the Gender-based Violence or GBV Observatory, as part of the broader Human Rights Observatory funded by the GO JUST project of the European Union. The GBV Observatory aims to create a repository of data and information to deepen the understanding of GBV and to draw recommendations to improve structures, mechanisms, and programs and services. Prior to the establishment of the observatory this year, the CHRP conducted a GBV research and mapping of legal referral mechanism in 2018 to inform the drafting of the GBV Observatory framework and collect baseline data on GBV for 5 pilot areas. Interviews

with national government agencies, regional offices and academic institutions were also conducted. As a member of the Inter-Agency Council on Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children, the CHRP works with the other council members in putting together this Observatory.

Overarching Dimension 5: Peaceful and inclusive societies

Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies

150. The 2014-2016 National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP WPS) enabled national government agencies and local government units to identify women, peace and security interventions to be integrated in their respective GAD plans. The NAP WPS aligns with United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820 through two primary outcomes: (1) protection of women's human rights and prevention of violation of these rights in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and (2) empowerment of women that ensures their active and meaningful participation in areas of peacekeeping, peacemaking, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction. The plan supports the implementation of national mandates on women and gender equality as well as peace and development.
151. The 2017-2022 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) adopts a broader framework for addressing the situation of women in armed conflict and recognizing their contributions to conflict transformation. The plan integrates the basic precepts of women's human security as stipulated in CEDAW General Recommendation 30 (CEDAW GR 30), the context of non-international armed conflict. The 2017-2022 NAP WPS compliments the 2017-2022 Philippine Development Plan (PDP) as mentioned in Chapter 6: Foundation for Sustainable Development on Attaining Just and Lasting Peace.

Increasing leadership, representation and participation and participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making in situations of armed and other conflicts

152. The 2017-2022's NAP WPS anchors its vision to achieving the expansion of women's role in the various spaces for peace. The five year plan highlights women's agency – both as leaders and participants – in the peace process and seeks to continue the women's participation in both formal processes as well as in other informal spaces (i.e. civil society and grassroots participation). It also aims to support various initiatives where women empower other women, recognize the intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, and religion, and build a stronger constituency for peace and conflict transformation where women are involved in the front, back, and center of the process.
153. Through the Magna Carta of Women and the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998 or RA 8551 on women's participation in the military and police, more women are reaching milestones in male dominated fields. On March 26, 2019, Gen. Joselyn R. Bandarlipi became the first female Army officer to assume the command of a brigade of the 53rd Engineering Brigade. A year prior, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) valedictorian, and 7 more topnotchers of the top 10 graduates are women. On March 27, 2014, Chief Negotiator Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, the first female chief negotiator in Philippine history, signed a major peace agreement together with other women leaders in the Philippines bringing peace to Mindanao that has endured 45 years of bloody conflict. In

addition to this, the so-called “Hijab Troopers”, were awarded the Military Merit Medal for their services in the Marawi siege in 2017 when Daesh-inspired local terrorists seized the city. The Hijab-clad female soldiers provided vital support to the local government and other agencies in helping those displaced by the five months of fighting between government forces and the Maute terrorist group. They specifically focused on peace education and assisting in psychosocial debriefing, especially among children and young people traumatized by the war.

Enhancing judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law

154. Efforts to enhance judicial and non-judicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response were carried out through measures such as the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN which was adopted by all the member states on November 13, 2017. In the aftermath of the 2017 Marawi Siege, NSC WPS issued a resolution on “Ensuring Gender-Responsive Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution and Humanitarian Action in the Crisis in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur and the Whole of Mindanao” to ensure that greater accountability and protection were extended to protect the human rights of women and girls. The resolution also intended to promote the inclusion of gender dimension in the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Agenda.

Elimination of discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child

155. On September 13, 2018, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) initiated the crafting of the National Action Plan for Youth, Peace and Security (NAP YPS) in response to the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 which recognizes the youth’s efforts in peacebuilding.
156. On November 24, 2017, the Philippine Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) launched the country’s National Action Plan (NAP) to End Statelessness. The NAP to End Statelessness is a framework of seven (7) action points, which the Philippine Government has committed to implement until the year 2024. The NAP Action Points are as follows: (1.) Resolve existing cases of statelessness; (2.) Ensure that no child is born stateless; (3.) Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws; (4.) Grant protection status and facilitate the naturalization of refugees and stateless persons; (5.) Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness; (6.) Accede to the UN Statelessness Conventions; and (7.) Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.
157. President Duterte signed into law the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act or RA No. 11188 on January 10, 2019. Under the law, children are declared as “Zones of Peace” which must extend beyond territorial or geographical boundaries. The law requires the state to “provide special protection to children in situations of armed conflict from all forms of abuse, violence, neglect, cruelty, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development, taking into consideration their gender, cultural, ethnic, and religious background.” It requires the state to take all feasible measures to “prevent the recruitment, re-recruitment, use, displacement of, or grave child rights violations against children involved in armed conflict.” The law designates the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations

of Armed Conflict to undertake the protection of the welfare of children in situations of armed conflict.

158. A Joint Action Plan between the UNICEF and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) beginning 2009, resulted in the disengagement of 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF.

Overarching Dimension 6: Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation

159. The Philippines is among the top countries at risk of adverse impacts of climate change worldwide. In the 2015 Global Climate Risk Index, it ranked first among the most affected countries by climate change and third among all of the countries with the highest disaster-risk globally (2018 World Risk Report). Climate change contributes greatly to occurrence of extreme weather events – stronger typhoons, sea-level rise, and intensified storm surges in coastal regions in the country, of which, the impacts on the most vulnerable groups, especially on women and girls, are more devastating.

160. With the country's increasing recognition of the gendered impacts of climate change and natural hazards, the Philippine government carried out actions from 2014-2019 to integrate gender perspective and concerns into its policies and programs for environmental protection and disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation by creating enabling mechanisms and promulgating policies that strengthen women's representation, participation and leadership in climate actions, environmental protection and resource management, gender and climate change knowledge-exchange platforms and M&E systems, gender-responsive capacity-building initiatives, and raising awareness on women's vulnerabilities to climate hazards and their rights and role in environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

Integrating gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies

161. The government's commitment to integrate and mainstream gender perspectives and concerns into national environmental policies is articulated in the most updated strategic plans of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its attached agencies and the Climate Change Commission. For instance, the DENR-Forest Management Bureau developed a GAD Strategic Plan 2018-2022 to enhance gender equality and empowerment of marginalized sectors especially women and indigenous communities in the forestry sector. Women's participation in biodiversity conservation was also strengthened thru the passing of RA 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018. It's Section 11 provides that "at least 40 percent of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) members shall be women, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9710 or 'The Magna Carta of Women'".

162. The government started monitoring the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions as identified in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011-2028, which, articulates a strong orientation towards mainstreaming gender perspective as outlined in its goal to "build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities, increase the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities towards gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development." Gender considerations have been incorporated in the indicators to measure and track its progress. Most importantly, the Commission ensures the operationalization of

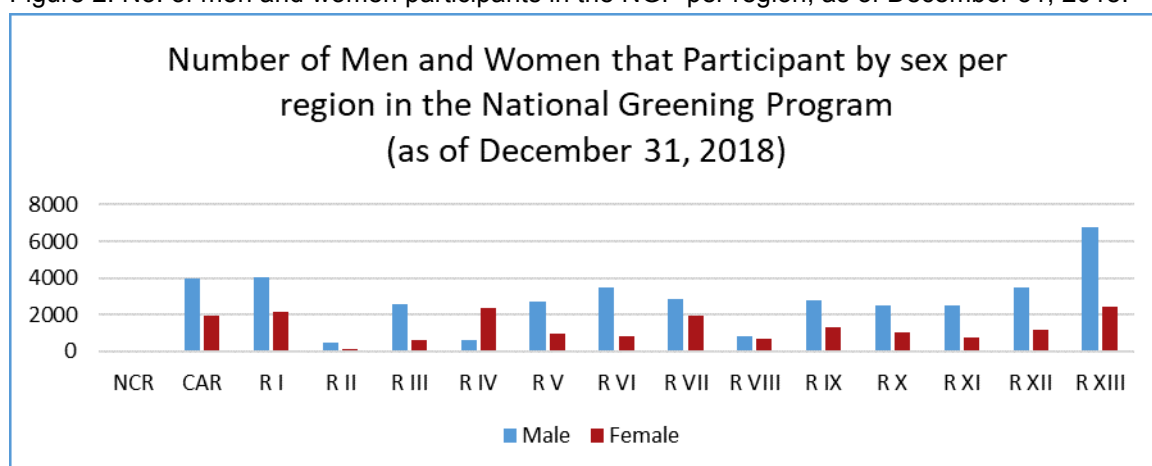
gender-responsive approaches in the formulation and implementation of climate change policies, plans, programs and activities including the generation of sex-disaggregated data and conduct of gender analysis as enshrined in Commission Resolution 2019-02.

Integrating gender perspectives into policies and programs for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation

163. Programs to strengthen the role of women in shaping environmental protection and climate-resilient policies and practices were also sought through activities such as:

- the National Climate Science Youth Congress in 2018 which provided an opportunity for young climate scientists, half of which are girls, from the Philippine Science High School, to present their research projects that seek to promote innovative and sustainable agricultural practices.
- Institutionalization of the Climate Resiliency Field Schools (CrFS) in 2017 piloted by the Rice Watch Action Network (R1). A joint effort of the government and a civil society organization, R1, the CrFS program, caters to both men and women in the farming and fisheries sector and builds the capacity of farmers and fisherfolk to adapt to climate change through informed farming decisions, contingency planning, and income diversification. This program was recognized internationally for engaging women and youth, promoting diversification of income sources, and capacitating women on activities traditionally dominated by men.
- Enhanced National Greening Program (eNGP) wherein women actively participated in the nursery operations, plantation establishment, and maintenance. In 2018, 30% of those engaged in the Enhanced National Greening Program are women. As of December 2018, there was a total of 19,346 women and 42,929 men engaged in activities such as survey, mapping and planning, seedling production, site development, and maintenance and protection.

Figure 2. No. of men and women participants in the NGP per region, as of December 31, 2018.



Reference: Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Office, February 2019

- Green Jobs Act of 2016 that enable the just transition to a low carbon green economy. The law defined “green jobs” as “employment that contributes to preserving or restoring the quality of the environment, be it in the agriculture, industry or services sector,” and

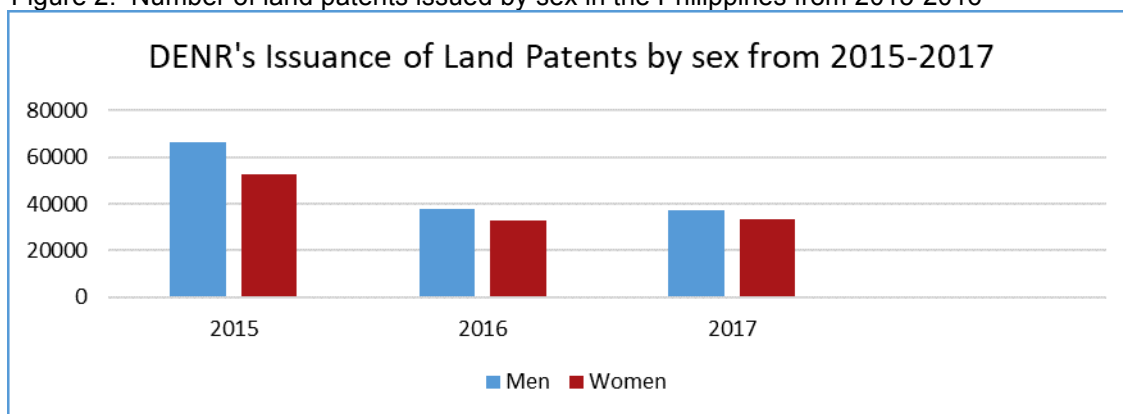
“decent jobs that are productive, respect the rights of workers, deliver a fair income, provide security in the workplace and social protection for families, and promote social dialogue. In the process of developing and administering appropriate standards (for the assessment and certification of green goods and services, and green technologies and practices for the purpose of regulating the availment of incentives under the law), the Philippine Commission on Women was engaged as one of the key stakeholders to ensure that gender consideration is included in the certification process.

- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is implementing Women-Managed Marine and Coastal Areas to establish database information, document success stories of women fisherfolk, provide technical assistance for women’s participation in the conservation and management of natural marine habitats and forge partnerships with various stakeholders.

164. The government initiated awareness-raising activities at the national, local, and down to the barangay level, on matters relating to the vulnerabilities of women and men to climate impacts, and the rights and roles of women in environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation towards building resilient communities.

165. These activities include, learning events to identify strategies promoting complementation of men and women in forest and land restoration towards sustainable management of forest resources conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Forest Management Bureau as part of its GAD Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau has conducted regular information and education campaign to all local government units down to the barangay levels on geological hazards within their respective areas. Women and children were taught how to read geological hazards maps to capacitate them on how to better understand the level of geological risks in the area. The DENR has also been regularly conducting village-level information campaigns to raise women’s awareness on their right to register land titles under their name. From 2015 to 2017, 46 percent or 119,197 land patents were issued by the DENR to women and 141,158 were issued to men. For 2014-2016, agencies reported gender balance in the conduct of trainings on land use planning, forest resources assessment, forest protection, and community-based environmental law enforcement.

Figure 2. Number of land patents issued by sex in the Philippines from 2015-2016



Reference: Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Central Office, 2019

166. The Philippines secured a seat as alternate member in the Green Climate Fund Board from 2019 to 2022, providing an opportunity to shape the policies of the Board and its funding decisions. The Philippine representative, and most of her advisers, are women. Meanwhile, it has also designated gender focal points to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist with all gender-related decisions and mandates under the UNFCCC processes and to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Task Group on Gender.
167. The distribution of solar lamps to women by humanitarian groups allowed cleaner access to energy consistent to SDG 7 (ensured access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy) and facilitated better protection for women and girls especially in evacuation camps. It was not just access to energy, but the practice can also be deemed as having climate change co-benefit mitigation measure (e.g. reduction of fossil fuel use). A micro-study conducted by Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) reaffirmed that addressing access with more affordable, safer and better energy should target women and strengthen their role as household energy managers.
168. The government organized awareness-raising, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building platforms through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD)'s conduct of continuous education of disaster risk reduction and management down the lowest level of the community to ensure zero casualty when disasters strike. The OCD has also instituted the annual "Gawad KALASAG" to recognize outstanding performances of local government units, civil society organizations, people's organization, education and health institutions, private organizations, individuals and other stakeholders that continue to contribute significantly in promoting and implementing gender-sensitive DRRM-CCA programs and innovations that build community resiliency in the long term.
169. The DSWD introduced and promoted the Team Balikatan ("*balikatan*" means shoulder-to-shoulder in English) and Rescue in Emergencies (TeamBRE) Project (2012-2015) which aimed to provide maximum care, assistance and services to disaster-affected individuals and families and to implement emergency rehabilitation projects. Through this project, 150 fisher folk, including women fishers, in pilot areas in Region V, VIII, and CARAGA were organized and mobilized to strengthen community resiliency and prevent them from risking their lives during typhoon season by providing alternative sources of livelihood during those lean months. Further, food and cash assistance on disaster volunteer work, disaster response skills training and educational assistance for the children benefited the whole family. Lastly, they were oriented on the different social protection laws and services such as HIV-AIDS, Men Opposed to Violence Against Women, and Child Trafficking.
170. Active participation of women through coastal rehabilitation programs continues to be sought such as the Rehabilitation Program for coastal areas of the municipalities of Guiuan and Salcedo in Eastern Visayas of the *Sentro ng Ikakaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya* or SIKAT (Center for the Development of Indigenous Science and Technology). The program, managed and implemented by women, initiated the construction of artificial coral reefs and mangroves and the rehabilitation of sea grass communities devastated by typhoon Haiyan in order to provide fishing grounds for women. The program demonstrated the women's leadership capacities and their critical role in coastal resource management. More importantly it promoted self-reliance through self-help savings as the women were encouraged to rely on their savings instead of borrowing loans during disasters. Other

impacts of the rehabilitation program saw the increase of fish catch from 7 to 15 kilograms, organization of 74 self-help groups with a total of 976 women members (from Guiuan and Salcedo) and total individual savings of PhP1.7 million (US\$ 32.14 million).

Section Three

National Institutions and Processes

National machinery for gender equality

171. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) is the national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women and the primary policy-making, coordinating and oversight body on women and gender equality concerns. The PCW has been operating under the Office of the President (OP) from its creation in 1975 until the issuance of Executive Order No. 67 (EO 67) on October 31, 2018 that mandates the transfer of supervision of some OP-attached agencies to executive departments. The PCW is now attached to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the government agency that promulgates policies, rules and regulations on the general supervision over local governments and the interior or security sector. One advantage of this attachment to the DILG is to strengthen the localization of the Magna Carta of Women and other international mandates on women's rights and mobilizing the regional offices and local government offices to pursue the Gender and Development (GAD) agenda.

Membership in the institutional process for SDG implementation

172. Yes, the PCW is a member of the inter-agency national mechanism led by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the premier national socio-economic planning body, which steers the whole-of-government, multisectoral implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. PCW is designated to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The PCW acts as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming, authority on women's concerns, and lead advocate of women's empowerment, gender equity, and gender equality in the country. In March 2019, it conducted a series of nationwide stakeholders' consultations for the formulation of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2017-2022 anchored among others on the BPFAs, Goal No. 5 of the SDGs and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

173. The PCW submitted baseline data for the compilation of the Philippine SDG Watch in 2018 and designated permanent and alternate SDG Focal Persons. Since then, PCW has designated permanent and alternate SDG Focal Persons to the Philippine SDG Indicator Focal Point (SDGIFP) to lead the development of the SDG indicators and updating of SDG Watch and Database.

174. The PCW also serves as the Philippine focal point to the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and led the drafting and negotiations of the ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDGs¹⁷, which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2017. To implement this declaration the Philippines is leading the conduct of gender mainstreaming conferences across the three ASEAN community pillars bringing together all sectoral bodies per pillar to discuss proposed gender mainstreaming action plans. Over a hundred delegates each from the ASEAN Socio-

¹⁷ www.pcw.gov.ph "31st ASEAN Summit Outcomes: What's In It for Women?" (2017)

Cultural Community (ASCC) and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) pillars were convened in June and December 2018. Representatives from the ASEAN Political Security Community pillar will meet in Manila in September 2019.

Formal mechanism in monitoring BPfA and SDG implementation

175. National government agencies like the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); and its attached research arm, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), are formal mechanisms leading the implementation and monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The DILG has issued JMC 2018-01 on the *Guidelines on the Localization of the PDP 2017-2022 Results Matrices and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. The Circular ensures national-local levels complementation and harmonization of priorities contained both in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and SDGs.
176. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the first medium-term plan anchored on a national long-term vision till year 2040, ensures the alignment of its goals with those of the SDGs. The Philippine Statistical Development Program 2018-2023 (Chapter 26) contains data requirements, plans, programs and strategies to generate and monitor the implementation of the PDP and the SDGs. PSA Resolution No 4, series of 2016, mandates the national planning body and other government agencies to provide the necessary data support to monitor the country's performance vis-à-vis the fulfilment of SDGs. These strategies are mainstreamed in the sectoral plans and localized through the Regional Development Plans (RDP) and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) at the regional and local levels, respectively.

Mechanism ensuring participation of marginalized group of women and girls

177. Republic Act 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against Filipino women, especially those in the marginalized sectors. Chapter 5 (*Rights and Empowerment of Marginalized Sectors*) of MCW states that political, civil, economic, and economic rights are accorded to women coming from marginalized sectors.
178. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), the coordinating agency of the government for poverty reduction programs, ensures participation of the marginalized sectors in decision-making processes. The NAPC strengthens government partnerships with 14 basic sectors: artisanal fisherfolk, farmers and landless rural workers, urban poor, indigenous peoples, formal labor and migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, women, youth and students, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of disasters and calamities, non-government organizations, and cooperatives. In selecting the members of the Basic Sectoral Councils, 40 % of must be women. These basic sectors have important roles in legislative advocacy, particularly in pushing for the enactment of pro-poor policies and implementation down to the local level. The NAPC actively pursues opportunities for engagement with local government units, national and local agencies, and the rest of civil society.

179. The PCW ensures that national government agencies, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) incorporate in their annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plans and Budget (GPB) the concerns of women and girl- clients in accordance with their mandates. While there is no specific formal mechanism solely for the BPfA, the government is consciously doing its effort to provide appropriate interventions that would improve the status of women and girls and the subsequent monitoring of its development and progress.
180. The PCW initiated the crafting of the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025, the medium-term plan of government, launched last March 8, 2019. A product also of extensive government –civil society consultations, it contains the objectives and outcomes, strategies and targets aligned with the CEDAW, BPfA and SDG5 that government is expected to implement. It is accompanied by the Monitoring and Evaluation Compendium of Indicators to ensure that gender-responsive efforts can be measured.
181. The DILG takes the lead in localizing the SDGs and has conducted a series of regional and provincial workshops to strengthen the functionality of LGUs in ensuring the integration of the SDGs in their respective plans and programs. The partnership between NEDA and the DILG was strengthened through JMC 2018-01 or *Guidelines on the localization of the PDP 2017-2022 Results Matrices and the SDGs* signed in November 2018. Since then, the NEDA and DILG have jointly undertaken workshops in 76 provinces and 1,373 municipalities. In March 2019, NEDA has undertaken the 2nd National Voluntary Review (VNR) on the SDGs with three (3) Regional consultation workshops, and another workshop with major sectors as the youth, labor tri-partite bodies, and CSOs¹⁸.
182. The PCW ensures that national government agencies, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) incorporate in their annual Gender and Development (GAD) Plans and Budget (GPB) the concerns of women and girl- clients in accordance with their mandates. While there is no specific formal mechanism solely for the BPfA, the government is consciously doing its effort to provide appropriate interventions that would improve the status of women and girls and the subsequent monitoring of its development and progress.
183. The DILG takes the lead in localizing the SDGs and has conducted a series of regional and provincial workshops to strengthen the functionality of (LGUs in ensuring the integration of the SDGs in their respective plans and programs. The partnership between NEDA and the DILG was strengthened through JMC 2018-01 or *Guidelines on the localization of the PDP 2017-2022 Results Matrices and the SDGs* signed in November 2018. Since then, the NEDA and DILG have jointly undertaken workshops in 76 provinces and 1,373 municipalities. In March 2019, NEDA has undertaken the 2nd National Voluntary Review (VNR) on the SDGs with three (3) Regional consultation workshops, and another workshop with major sectors as the youth, labor tri-partite bodies, and CSOs¹⁹.

¹⁸ Falcon R. P. (2018); “*National Strategy to Meet the SDGs*”, National Economic Development Authority.

¹⁹ Falcon R. P. (2018); “*National Strategy to Meet the SDGs*”, National Economic Development Authority.

Stakeholders contribution in BPfA+25 Philippine Progress Report preparation

184. The preparation of the BPfA +25 Philippine Progress Report involved various multi-sectoral stakeholders. The kick-off activity was conducted last January 30, 2019 with 120 participants from government agencies, civil society organizations, women's rights organizations with a strong presence at the grassroots level, academe, private sector, and international development partners. It was followed by a series of sub-national consultation workshops for the island clusters, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The 3-part consultation gathered 173 participants from the non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), regional government agencies, state universities and colleges, and people's organizations. The BPfA+25 Consultation culminated in a national consultation and validation workshop held on March 28-29 with 134 multi-stakeholder representatives. The PCW ensures that voices of the marginalized groups were heard in the consultations. Present were rural women, women migrant workers, union members, workers in the informal economy, urban poor, indigenous women, Bangsamoro women, Muslim women, persons with hearing disability, and youth. PCW acknowledges the support of UN Women for making the regional and national consultations possible.
185. Stakeholders, both government and CSOs have contributed to the present preparation of the report by sending reports, and participating in the consultations. For example, the Philippine Federation of Rural Women has as partnership with OXFAM's WE CARE project and the PCW to advocate for the recognition, reduction, redistribution and representation of Unpaid Care Work of women. Persons with hearing disabilities were very grateful that they were invited to the consultations and their concerns are being heard. The women migrant workers were also very active in sharing their good practices in addressing abuse and gender-based violence experienced in other countries. Government responders as well as survivors of calamities and disasters also shared their good practices in ensuring that women-friendly spaces were set up in evacuation sites and that hygiene kits were prepositioned and distributed during disasters.

Gender equality as a key priority in the national plan for SDG implementation

186. The Philippine Government's commitment, to uphold gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, is integrated in 12 of the 20 Chapters of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. These are Chapters 5 (*Ensuring People-centered clean and efficient governance*); 6 (*Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice*); 7 (*Promoting Philippine Culture and Values*); 8 (*Expanding Economic Opportunities, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*); 9 (*Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Service through Trabaho and Negosyo*); 10 (*Accelerating Human Capital Development*); 11 (*Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families*); 12 (*Building Safe and Secure Communities*); 13 (*Reaching for the Demographic Dividend*); 17 (*Attaining Just and Lasting Peace*); 18 (*Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety*); and 19 (*Accelerating Infrastructure Development*).
187. The Philippine Government's commitment, to uphold gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls, is integrated in 12 of the 20 Chapters of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 which incorporates the SDGs. These are Chapters 5 (*Ensuring People-centered clean and efficient governance*); 6 (*Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice*); 7 (*Promoting Philippine Culture and Values*); 8 (*Expanding Economic*

Opportunities, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries); 9 (Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Service through Trabaho and Negosyo); 10 (Accelerating Human Capital Development); 11 (Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families); 12 (Building Safe and Secure Communities); 13 (Reaching for the Demographic Dividend); 17 (Attaining Just and Lasting Peace);18 (Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety); and 19 (Accelerating Infrastructure Development).

188. Gender perspective is reflected in the strategic framework of each PDP Chapter as well as the strategies to implement the SDGs.

Section Four

Data and Statistics

Progress on gender statistics from 2014 to 2019

189. The government has promulgated laws and policies, and has established an inter-agency mechanism, which set out the development of gender statistics:

- As mentioned in the BPFA+20 Philippine Progress report²⁰, Republic Act 10625 was passed in 2013 to reorganize the Philippine Statistical System and create the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Said law mandates, among others, the integration of gender concerns in the generation, collection and compilation of statistics.²¹
- Pursuant to RA 10625, a Memorandum Circular was issued by the PCW in 2014 mandating the Adoption and Generation of Data Support to the Magna Carta of Women Indicators.
- In 2017, an Inter-Agency Committee on Gender and Children Statistics (IAC-GCS) was established and operationalized. The IAC-GCS serves as the coordination mechanism on gender statistics that ensures an efficient workable scheme towards the production, dissemination and archiving of statistics on gender and children.²²

190. Established an inter-agency coordination mechanism on gender statistics (e.g., technical The government, through various concerned agencies, continuously conducts new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics such as time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, and disability. Among the recent surveys done are the following:

- National Demographic and Health Survey 2017 which include (Women's Safety Module)
- Inclusion of pilot time-use questions in Module 3 of the Pilot ILO-Labor Force Survey in 2017
- National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children 2015²³
- Pilot Survey on Measuring Asset Ownership and Entrepreneurship from a Gender Perspective
- Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) 2015
- Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) 2015.

191. The government has on-going efforts to improve administrative-based or alternative data sources to address gender data gaps. To harmonize statistics on violence against women (VAW), client intake forms and national report template of all concerned frontline agencies.

²⁰ Submitted in 2105

²¹ PCW Memorandum Circular No. 2014-05

²² PSA Memorandum Order No. 13 Series of 2017

²³ Developed by the Council for the Welfare of Children in partnership with UNICEF

are being standardized, thru the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Children (IACVAWC).

192. PSA produced knowledge products on gender statistics, such as the following:

- The 2016 Statistical Handbook on Women and Men in the Philippines presents relevant sex-disaggregated information, which can serve as a guide in advocacy work geared towards women's welfare and advancement in the various sectors of society. It provides information on women related to such areas as violence, migration, and peace and human rights, which have not been given focus in traditional statistical publications, but are critical to improving the status of women. It also contains statistical facts on the situation of Filipino women relative to that of their male counterparts in the areas of population and families, work, economic participation, agriculture, education, health and nutrition, social welfare, public life, migration, peace and human rights, violence against women and children, and environment.
- The 2017 Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment is a valuable source of information in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans, policies and programs that promote equality in the economic and social situation of men and women in the country.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Watch is compiled by PSA as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines, per PSA Board Resolution 09-2017.

Priorities on strengthening national gender statistics in 2020-2025

193. Over the next five years, the country shall prioritize the following areas to strengthen national gender statistics

- Design of laws, regulations or statistical program/ strategy promoting the development of gender statistics. The Philippine Government agencies would be encouraged to maximize the use of evidence-based sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics for the formulation of and implementation of gender responsive policies, programs and projects. Moreover, with the emergence of micro, small and medium enterprises, the country sees it imperative to generate statistics on women in business to measure entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.²⁴ It shall also endeavor to review and improve methodology for estimating gender wage gap.
- Development of a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics. The PSA releases Men and Women Factsheets annually which present statistical information from past to the latest available data, to show trends on various spheres such as labor, overseas employment, agriculture, population, families and households, politics and governance, VAW, health, and education. To complement the efforts of PSA, PCW is currently finalizing its compendium of gender equality and women's empowerment indicators, which shall be the bases of its GAD Database that contains, among others, statistics on the Core GAD Indicators developed by the Inter-

²⁴ PSDP 2018-2023, Chapter 24.

Agency Committee on Gender Statistics (IACGS), and the gender-related SDG indicators. The statistical information that the PCW has collected from various statistical and non-statistical agencies are processed, organized and packaged into a knowledge product called Factsheets on Filipino WoMen.²⁵ Given that there exist various gender statistics products, the government deems it imperative, for the next five years, to harmonize and centralize the existing databases and publications on gender statistics.

- Statistical capacity building of users to increase appreciation on and use of gender statistics. One of the major statistical programs of PSA for the period 2018-2023 is the conduct of more capacity building activities or training of (1) data producers -- on the compilation, analysis, presentation, and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data; and (2) data users -- towards better understanding and analysis of sex-disaggregated data. PSA also intends to participate in the Global Forum on Gender Statistics and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS).²⁶

Defining a national set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs

194. In 2016, the PSA Board issued a Resolution enjoining government agencies to provide data support to the SDGs²⁷. The resolution enjoins all concerned government agencies to provide the necessary data support to monitor the country's performance vis-à-vis the SDGs based on the indicator framework that shall be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), PSA, and other concerned government agencies. Further, the Resolution designated the PSA as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines. Likewise, in 2017 the PSA Board also issued Resolution No. 1, Series of 2017 Enjoining Different Agencies to Promote Gender Concerns in the Generation of Statistics. The resolution directs all government agencies to promote gender concerns in the production and dissemination of statistics for planning and policy/decision-making purposes.

195. On May 18, 2017, the PSA Board approved the initial set of SDG indicators to be monitored in the Philippines. The indicators have undergone various consultations with inter-agency committees, data source agencies and other stakeholders. The initial set of SDG indicators consist of 155 indicators; 102 global SDG indicators, 27 proxy indicators and 25 supplemental indicators. PSA maintains and regularly updates a centralized web-based database and/or dashboard on gender statistics. It also organizes capacity building activities to strengthen the use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars).

196. In 2017, the PSA Board through Resolution No. 9, Series of 2017 approved and adopted the initial list of SDG indicators for monitoring in the Philippines. The indicators have undergone various consultations with inter-agency committees, data source agencies and other stakeholders. The initial set of SDG indicators consisted of 17 goals, 97 targets, and 155 indicators, of which 102 are global SDG indicators, 27 are proxy indicators and 25 are

²⁵ "2017 PCW Factsheet on Filipino WoMen", culled from the official website of PCW.

²⁶ PSDP 2018-2023, Chapter 24

²⁷ PSA Resolution No. 04 Series of 2016

supplemental indicators. Of the 155 indicators, 84% are disaggregated by sex. Annex 4 provides the list of Philippine SDG Indicators.

197. The Philippine SDG indicators includes supplemental indicators that are not necessarily included in the global SDG indicators but could provide additional or related information on the intent of the original global indicators. Seventeen (17) of the 25 supplemental indicators can be considered gender-specific as they refer specifically on women or they provide sex-disaggregated information. Annex 5 provides the list of the Supplemental Philippine Gender-Specific Indicators.

Other country efforts related to the SDGs²⁹

198. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the country's socioeconomic development blueprint under the Duterte Administration, serves as the implementation mechanism for the SDGs in the Philippines. The 17 goals are integrated into the different chapters of the PDP.

199. NEDA and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) continue to work towards the localization of the SDGs. Both agencies intend to include an assessment checklist containing SDGs-related criteria in discussing the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) with local government units. Currently, DILG is in the process of identifying provincial and municipal-level indicators that will operationalize and contribute to the attainment of the goals and outcome areas in the PDP and SDGs.

200. NEDA also introduced the SDG Annex in the formulation of the 2018 Philippine Socioeconomic Report (SER). The SDG Annex aims to:

- Identify the Philippine policies, programs, activities, and projects (PPAPs) that are implemented that contribute to the attainment of the SDGs;
- Support the alignment of the chapters of the PDP with the SDGs and identify the relevant initiatives per sector;
- Identify the SDG targets where there is no specific intervention designed towards its attainment and propose a corresponding PPAP; and
- Ascertain that the 2030 targets are continually provided with interventions until 2030 through the inclusion of the SDG Annex in the future editions of the Philippine Development Plan and the SER.
- To strengthen the government's existing efforts in monitoring the country-level progress on the SDGs as well as allow more participation from stakeholders, NEDA recently launched a website on the SDGs (<http://sdg.neda.gov.ph/>). The site contains information on accomplishments relating to the promotion and attainment of each of the seventeen (17) goals as set out in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

²⁹ Information under this subheading are culled from the official website of NEDA.

Data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs

201. The PSA collects and compiles SDG5 indicators through the SDG Watch (See par. 31, item no. 3) which is published in their website. This is currently carried out through the agency's efforts of reviewing and updating of the Philippine Core GAD indicators, updating of the gender statistics database and updating of the Statistical Handbook on Women and Men.

Disaggregation routinely provided by major surveys in the Philippines

202. The major national surveys such as the National Census conducted every ten years, and the National Demographic Health Survey conducted every 5 years, regularly collect disaggregated data on geographic location, income, sex, age, education, marital status, race/ethnicity, migratory status, and disability.
