



# Data for Children Landscape Diagnostic

UNICEF Philippines

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# Glossary

Agency Budget Notes	ABN
Annual Investment Program	AIP
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao	ARMM
Barangay Comprehensive Development Plans	BCDP
Basic Education Information System	BEIS
Children Information and Location Database	CHILD
Commission on Audit	COA
Common Country Assessment	CCA
Community Based Child Information Management System	CBCIMS
Community-Based Monitoring System	CBMS
Comprehensive Development Plan	CPS
Council for the Welfare of Children	CWC
Country Office	CO
Country Programme	CP
De La Salle University - Angelo King Institute	DLSU-AKI
Department of Budget and Management	DBM
Department of Education	DepEd
Department of Finance	DOF
Department of Health	DOH
Department of Information and Communications Technology	DICT
Department of the Interior and Local Government	DILG
Department of Justice	DOJ
Department of Social Welfare and Development	DSWD
Development Budget Coordination Committee	DBCC
Disaster risk reduction and management	DRRM
Early Childhood Care and Development	ECCD
Family Income and Expenditure Survey	FIES
Field Health Services Information System	FHSIS
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO
Food and Nutrition Research Institute	FNRI
Government of the Philippines	GoPH
Governor's Initiative on Systems Assessment	GISA
Local Development Investment Program	LDIP
Local Government Unit	LGU
Maternal and newborn health	MNH
Mindanao Field Office	MFO
Monitoring and evaluation	M&E
Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism	MRM
Monitoring Results for Equity System	MoRES
National Demographic and Health Survey	NDHS

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council	NDRRMC
National Evaluation Policy	NEP
National Economic and Development Authority	NEDA
National Government Agency	NGA
National Nutrition Survey	NNS
National Plan of Action for Children	NPAC
Non-governmental organization	NGO
Office of the Cabinet Secretary	OCS
Office of the Regional Governor	ORG
Official Development Assistance	ODA
Operation Timbang	OPT
Performance and Projects Management Office	PPMO
Performance and Projects Roadmap	PPR
Philippine Development Plan	PDP
Philippine Identification System	PhilSys
Philippine National Police	PNP
Philippine Statistical Development Program	PSDP
Philippine Statistics Authority	PSA
Public Investment Plan	PIP
Regional Development Plan	RDP
Regional Economic Development Planning Board	REDPB
Regional Planning and Development Office	RPDO
Results Matrix	RM
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
Technology for Development	T4D
United Nations Country Team	UNCT
United Nations Development Assistance Framework	UNDAF
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA
United Nations Statistical Division	UNSD
Violence Against Children	VAC
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	WASH
World Food Programme	WFP
World Health Organization	WHO

# Executive Summary

## I. INTRODUCTION

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This Data Landscape Diagnostic is part of UNICEF's Strategic Planning of Data for Children in East Asia and the Pacific. Development Gateway (DG) worked with UNICEF Philippines to develop a data diagnostic and strategic action plan to support the smart demand, supply, and use of data.

This report was developed through a combination of desk research and key informant interviews with UNICEF and UNICEF partners in February 2018, and aims to inform UNICEF Philippines' 8<sup>th</sup> Country Programme implementation.

## II. PHILIPPINES CONTEXT

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The Republic of the Philippines is a diverse, archipelagic country in Southeast Asia. Constraints to achieving development objectives in the Philippines are multifaceted, underpinned by the need to **shift from prioritizing overall growth, to understanding and achieving inclusive growth**.

To achieve national development goals articulated in AmBisyon Natin 2040, the Government of the Philippines has adopted a medium-term planning framework – the Philippine Development Plan, and accompanying Philippines Statistical Development Program. These national planning cycles were similar in the Bangsamoro Region, with the ARMM Bangsamoro 2040 and ARMM Regional Development Plan.<sup>1</sup> These national and regional plans are complimented by a series of sectoral and thematic agendas, action plans, and initiatives. Based on the literature and key informant interviews, crosscutting constraints to data use broadly fall into categories of **coordination, capacity, and accountability**.

**Coordination** challenges occur across national-level actors (horizontal), and between national and sub-national levels (vertical). Both **horizontal and vertical coordination challenges revolve around the fragmentation of roles, responsibilities, and mandates**. Horizontally, there is a pronounced fragmentation of programming, accountability, and sharing mechanisms within and across agencies, councils, and commissions. Vertically, the Philippines' devolution of governance to LGUs – and the unique and evolving case of the Bangsamoro Region – has led to fragmentation of mandates for service delivery and accountability. This often leads to disconnected systems, programs, and resources; challenges in accessing relevant data and information; and other inefficiencies.

Both national and sub-national actors have reported challenges in understanding existing **system and staff capacities**. Some GoPH systems rely on paper-based data collection and consolidation, while others rely on internet-based data reporting from areas without appropriate infrastructure. From a staffing perspective, interviewees expressed challenges in identifying candidates for open positions that have the appropriate analytical and technical expertise; high turnover rates at the subnational level also

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<sup>1</sup> The Data Landscape Diagnostic was written in February/March 2018, and the Bangsamoro Basic Law was passed and ratified in July/August 2018. As a result of anticipated and ongoing changes, priorities, roles, and mandates within Bangsamoro (formerly ARMM) are referenced in the past tense.

present challenges, particularly for service delivery roles. Public financial management capacity, specifically related to agency under-utilization of budget and instances of corruption, is also a concern.

Finally, **pathways for building accountability for results beyond financial and output expectations** must be further strengthened in order to achieve greater development outcomes. Mechanisms – coordination, incentives, mandates, and capacities – that are needed to move beyond using data for planning and compliance, to utilizing it for performance evaluation and results-based programming, remain to be defined. Against this contextual backdrop, the following sections explore the demand, supply, and use of data for children in the Philippines, and new opportunities for strengthening the national data ecosystem.

### III. DATA DEMAND

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Planning and monitoring processes shape the data demands of GoPH and UNICEF. Within GoPH, NEDA and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shape national-level, medium-term and annual planning processes through the PDP and annual budget guidelines, respectively. NEDA and DBM also shape agency monitoring and reporting requirements, as does the OCS Performance and Projects Roadmap – which monitors programs important to the presidential agenda and aligned with the PDP – and agency-specific M&E practices.

As NEDA’s regional counterpart, the ARMM Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO) similarly coordinated and monitored ARMM medium- and annual-term plans, supplemented by the development priorities of the ARMM Office of the Regional Governor (ORG). At the LGU level, plans and investment programs are developed in line with election cycles and the Local Government Code of 1991, which provides a level of autonomy between LGU and national government.

Decision making within UNICEF takes place within a system of review and planning that connects with the Government of the Philippines, other UN Agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders. Every five years, UNICEF engages in collaborative processes that result in the UNCT-wide UNDAF and UNICEF Country Programme. On a yearly basis, sections prepare Annual Workplans, and regularly monitor project implementations.

*Based on research and key informant interviews, **developing a culture of data use for achieving results is the most important need for strengthening data demand in the Philippines**. Current incentives and expectations around data use center around medium- and long-term planning. At the agency level, monitoring focuses on budgetary compliance and material outputs. At sub-national levels and amongst government staff, GoPH uses financial incentives to improve performance against results targets, but there are no consequences for under-performance.*

*Developing **incentives and accountabilities for using M&E data** can contribute to a greater ability to use resources effectively, focus on equity, and achieve better outcomes for children. Realizing this change will likely require tailored approaches at national, regional, and LGU levels based on respective mandates, capacities, and resources.*

## IV. DATA SUPPLY

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The Philippines data ecosystem benefits from foundational statistical and administrative systems. In particular, confidence in the quality of national statistics and surveys is high. However, **devolved governance and inequities in outcomes demand more targeted interventions, which demand more timely and disaggregated data** than the national statistical system can provide.

While administrative data systems may be able to meet some of these needs, there are **serious concerns regarding the quality of administrative and LGU-specific data systems**. Custodial agencies seem to have limited awareness of or capacity to address poor data quality, and there is currently no external agency with the capacity or mandate to conduct quality assurance. There is a **risk that poor quality administrative data systems will lead to continued outcome inequities**.

Another bottleneck was the **challenge in accessing data across, and sometimes within, data actors**. The lack of policies for proactive data sharing within and across agencies – and limited guidelines on sharing disaggregated data with the public – limits the ability of potential data users to access needed information. At subnational levels, basic infrastructure – internet, infrastructure, and technology – can also be a constraining factor in data supply. Unlocking greater data access – and strengthening administrative data quality – should be top short-term priorities for the Philippines data ecosystem.

## V. DATA USE AND ECOSYSTEM OPPORTUNITIES

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Achieving optimal data use will require a tailored, whole-of-government approach to addressing bottlenecks in data demand and supply. As outlined above, national-level GoPH data use typically centers on mandated reporting against budget utilization, timeline, and outputs. In the Bangsamoro Region, concerns about baseline data accuracy and the evolving devolution of governance pose a challenge. At LGU level, strong legal autonomy and uneven access to disaggregated data are particularly challenging. Across administrative levels, interviewees shared **challenges in identifying the right staff profiles for data and technology-enabled work**.

The **Federated SDG Hub, OCS Performance and Projects Roadmap, DBM Results-Based Budgeting, ARMM Data Initiatives, Community-Based Monitoring System, and Philippines Identification System** may address bottlenecks within GoPH. Interviewees also expressed interest in tailored capacity strengthening, dashboards or maps, and tools that could reduce the cost and time burden of data collection. Within the UNICEF CO, CP8 will include evidence generation as a core strategy – further underscoring the importance that staff are capacitated to understand study and survey methodologies, methods for data quality assurance, and management frameworks.

# Introduction

## I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

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This Data Landscape Diagnostic is part of UNICEF’s Strategic Planning of Data for Children in East Asia and the Pacific. Development Gateway (DG) worked with UNICEF Philippines and four other Country Offices (Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam, Thailand, and Myanmar) to develop data landscape diagnostics and strategic action plans to best support and promote the smart demand, supply, and use of data. This work is part of UNICEF’s Data for Children Strategic Framework, and aims to inform UNICEF Philippines’ 8<sup>th</sup> Country Programme implementation.

The smart demand, supply, and use of data drives better results for children. When the right data are in the right hands at the right time, decisions can be more informed, more equitable, and more likely to protect children’s rights. Effective use of data can help monitor results for children, and shape interventions aimed at improving those results. Data can provide better insight about what works, and what does not; which children are thriving, and which are being left behind.

Strategic Planning of Data for Children in the Philippines took this work a step further by examining both national and sub-national data ecosystems, with a specific lens on the Philippines’ Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

*A **data ecosystem** includes the demand, supply, and use of data. In a functioning ecosystem, the right data are in the right hands at the right time to impact decisions. When any element falls short, the potential of data to improve results also falls short. The same traits that make data powerful make data political: therefore, political realities must also be actively engaged to achieve the best results.*

***Data demand** can be defined as the needs and purposes of intended data users – often policy or decision-makers. If end users do not have an understanding of the potential applications or value of data, they are unlikely to demand it.*

***Data supply** is facilitated by technological and individual capacities to collect, process, and analyze data. Supply can be categorized by dimensions of data quality, frequency, and disaggregation. Data sources may include government, development partner, civil society, citizens, and private sector.*

***Data use** links facts revealed by data with relevant policy and programming implications. Achieving data use requires understanding user capacities, potential use cases, and constraints; having data of the appropriate quality, frequency, and disaggregation; and communicating data effectively. Data that are relevant, timely, accessible, and actionable are the most likely to be put to use.<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://data.unicef.org/resources/data-children-strategic-framework/>.

## II. PURPOSE AND INTENDED USE

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The following report explores the current situation of data for children demand, supply, and use in the Philippines. This diagnostic explores UNICEF and UNICEF partner strategic objectives and decision-making processes; examines current (and potential) areas of data demand; reviews data fitness-for-purpose of high-priority data sources; and investigates barriers to effective data use.

This diagnostic maps the Philippines' existing data for children landscape, and future priorities for data related to children; identifies data gaps, constraints, and challenges; and seeks to provide an evidence base with actionable recommendations to address these gaps and inform strategic planning.

These findings are based on desk research and forty-three key informant interviews with seventy-nine individuals carried out over a two-week period in February 2018. As a result, there is a risk of potential misdiagnosis, over-reliance on perceptual data, or out-of-date information. For this purpose, the project workplan includes a series of iterations on draft diagnostic with the UNICEF CO, and a validation of findings presentation with UNICEF, UN Country Team, Government, and other stakeholders.

*The DG team would like to thank the UNICEF Philippines Country Office for coordinating and facilitating the country mission and providing inputs to the findings of this report. We would also like to thank UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and Headquarters for the opportunity and guidance in this work. We also express our gratitude to governmental institutions, UN Agencies, and civil society organizations that took the time to meet with us and provided invaluable information that informed the diagnostic and action plan.*

# Philippines Context

Population	100,981,473 (2015 census)
Land Area	343,448 km <sup>2</sup>
Administrative Divisions	81 provinces; 144 cities; 1,490 municipalities; 42,029 bangarays
Human Development Index	0.682 (2016)
Gini Coefficient	40.1 (2015)
UNICEF Country Office Staff	130 (approximate)
UNICEF Country Office Budget	US \$17,380,000 (proposed)
Country Programme Document	8 <sup>th</sup> (2019-2023)

Table 1: Contextual Snapshot

## I. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

### A. GUIDING INITIATIVES

**AmBisyon Natin 2040:** Developed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in 2015, AmBisyon Natin 2040 “represents the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people.” Its underpinning aim is that, “by 2040, Filipinos enjoy a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life.”<sup>3</sup>

**Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 (PDP)**<sup>4</sup>: As established in Memorandum Circular No. 12, s.2016, the PDP is the first in a series of four medium-term plans that will translate AmBisyon Natin 2040, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the President’s 0+10-Point Socio-Economic Agenda into “specific coherent strategies, policies and programs, at the national and local levels.” NEDA is tasked with coordinating development of the PDP, and accompanying **Public Investment Plans (PIPs)**, **Results Frameworks**, **Regional Development Plans (RDPs)**, and **Regional Investment Programs**. The process of developing these frameworks shall be consultative across public and private sectors, as well as across administrative government levels.<sup>5</sup>

**Philippines Statistical Development Program (PSDP):** The PSDP, developed by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), sets medium-term priorities for the Philippines Statistical System regarding the generation and dissemination of official statistical data. It also identifies priority statistical development activities to address data requirements of the PDP. The 2018-2023 PSDP is currently being finalized.<sup>6</sup> It will be accompanied by a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, which will specify budgets needed to realize priority programs.

<sup>3</sup> See AmBisyon Natin 2040 at <http://2040.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/A-Long-Term-Vision-for-the-Philippines.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-07-20-2017.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> See Memorandum Circular No. 12, s. 2016 at <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2016/10oct/20161024-MC-12-RRD.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> See PSDP 2011-2017 at [https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PSDP%20Update%20Nutshell consolidated 1-20\\_revPot%20jbp.pdf](https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/PSDP%20Update%20Nutshell consolidated 1-20_revPot%20jbp.pdf).

Other child-relevant national initiatives include: **Philippines Youth Development Plan (2017-2022)**, developed by the National Youth Council; the **National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children 2000-2025** or the Child 21, developed by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC); the **Third National Plan of Action for Children 2017-2022**, developed by CWC; the **Philippines Plan for Gender-Responsive Development 1995-2025**, and others.

**ARMM Bangsamoro 2040:** Developed by the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Regional Government and consistent with AmBisyon Natin 2040, this long-term vision aims for an ARMM that is “self-governing with [a] predominantly middle-class society living in safe communities, having a dynamic economy including a Halal ecosystem, enjoying inclusive peace and diverse cultures, who shall enhance sustainable development ensuring that responsibilities and benefits are shared by all.”<sup>7</sup>

**ARMM Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 (ARMM RDP):** This medium-term development plan aligns with AmBisyon 2040 and ARMM Bangsamoro 2040. As with other RDPs, the ARMM RDP is designed after the PDP.<sup>8</sup> The current plan focuses on achieving peace and good governance, to set the foundation for development. From 2022-2028, its focus will be on making local government units (LGUs) economically competitive and increasing citizen participation in government; and by 2034, ARMM aims to achieve genuine fiscal autonomy, competitive economic ecosystems, and equal access to justice and security.<sup>9</sup>

The **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019-2023** is currently under development by the United Nations System, in coordination with NEDA. The UNDAF will align with the PDP 2017-2022 and the SDGs; and serves as a common framework for coordination across UN Agencies.

The **8<sup>th</sup> UNICEF Country Programme (CP8) of Cooperation 2019-2023** between UNICEF and the Government of the Philippines is currently being finalized. It is designed to support PDP 2017-2022 nationwide program strategies that are of direct importance to children’s rights; is coherent with the UNDAF 2019-2023; and is aligned with both the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Headline Results. It focuses on “reducing vulnerabilities that children face and strengthen[ing] resilience of communities where children live,” through a combination of national and sub-national interventions.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See <http://rpdo.armm.gov.ph/rpdo/index.php/rdp-2017-2022>.

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.neda.gov.ph/2017/07/14/soccsksargen-launches-regional-development-plan/>.

<sup>9</sup> See <http://rpdo.armm.gov.ph/rpdo/index.php/rdp-2017-2022>.

<sup>10</sup> Draft Country Programme Document, March 2018.

## B. SECTORAL INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES

All government departments, offices, and instrumentalities are tasked with formulating “medium-term development plans and action programs... [which] shall have a results-oriented focus on national development goals [PDP] and shall be in line with Ambisyon Natin 2040, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the President’s 0+10-Point Socio-Economic Agenda.”<sup>11</sup>

In what follows, we outline relevant, publicly accessible plans based on UNICEF priority sectors, and inclusion of relevant data for children goals and strategies.

### 1. Health & Nutrition, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

The **Philippines Health Agenda (2016-2022)**<sup>12</sup>, led by the Department of Health (DOH), aims to achieve a health system that is equitable and inclusive; transparent and accountable; efficient; and high quality. The Agenda centers around a seven-pronged strategy, which includes “**investing in eHealth and data for decision-making**” and “**enforcing standards, accountability, and transparency**,” with the following data-related components:

- Mandating electronic record submissions and investing in business intelligence tools
- “Commission[ing of] nationwide surveys, streamlin[ing] information systems, and support[ing] efforts to improve local civil registration and vital statistics”
- Facilitating data access for researchers, and establishing a dedicated performance monitoring unit

Developed by the National Nutrition Council, the **Philippines Plan of Action for Nutrition (2017-2022)** prioritizes outcome targets related to child stunting and wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and obesity in children and adolescents. It also recognizes the strategic importance of the First 1000 Days campaign; the need to complement with nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programming; and the importance of mobilizing LGU action. The plan also targets the nutrition of women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women, with a focus on adolescent pregnant girls, which indicates a need for sex- and age-disaggregated data and analysis. While it mentions monitoring frameworks, the plan does not directly reference investments in data or information demand, supply, or use.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with UNICEF and other donors, has released the “**National Guidelines for the WASH in Schools Program**”. Monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms are included in the guidelines, with specific responsibilities allocated from school- to central office-levels. However, specific tools and data formats, apart from a “national M&E [monitoring and evaluation] tool,” annual Performance Implementation Reviews, and “incentives and awards” for Best School Implementer are not stipulated.<sup>13</sup>

The **National Environmental Health Action Plan (2017-2022)** has identified a lack of data and monitoring systems as a challenge, particularly as accountability and information related to WASH is disbursed across multiple national government agencies.<sup>14</sup> The **Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan** – another multi-agency initiative, led by NEDA – is under development as of April 2018. It is

<sup>11</sup> Memorandum Circular No. 12, s. 2016.

<sup>12</sup> See <http://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/Philippine%20Health%20Agenda%20Dec1%201.pdf>.

<sup>13</sup> See <http://www.deped.gov.ph/sites/default/files/page/2017/TSA%20WinS%20DepEd%20Brochure%20+%20Memorandum%2010-2017.pdf>. Note that menstrual hygiene management has been incorporated into a Department of Education information management system.

<sup>14</sup> The plan is a multi-agency initiative, undergoing revisions as of April 2018.

meant to be “an action plan with a corresponding investment and financing program to execute the Philippines Water Supply Sector Roadmap and the Philippines Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap, and put the targets for water and sanitation into realization.” In the preliminary sector analysis, data and data management gaps were also identified as a specific challenge in preparing the baselines and targets for the master plan.

Under CP8, UNICEF aims to ensure **children adolescents, and women survive and thrive**. Specific focus areas include reducing (i) neonatal deaths; (ii) under-5 stunting; (iii) preventable deaths, disease and injuries amongst children and adolescents; and (iv) addressing developmental problems and (v) the inadequate WASH environment.<sup>15</sup> Anticipated UNICEF key intervention strategies are upstream in nature – providing policy, evidence, and research guidance, with some technical assistance to strengthen capacities and foster stakeholder collaboration.

## 2. Education

The Department of Education (DepEd) has a **10-Point Education Agenda (2017-2022)** aimed at achieving “quality, accessible, and liberating basic education for all.” Included in this agenda is both “institutional capacity-building to address poverty and inequality” and “school-based interventions to get and keep school-age children in school.” DepEd also has an internal strategic objective to “**automate core systems and processes**” and “**accelerate research and development**” to support management and governance modernization.<sup>16</sup>

Under CP8, UNICEF aims to support **quality and inclusive lifelong learning**. Specific focus areas include (i) accelerating access to early childhood education; (ii) enhancing the relevance of learning in elementary school and lower secondary, including for indigenous populations; and (iii) enhancing the knowledge and skills of parents and caregivers. Anticipated intervention strategies are upstream in nature, such as policy advocacy and technical assistance, including peace building.

## 3. Social Protection

In addition to wide-ranging social protection legislation, there are a series of national plans that relate to child protection and rights. Most recently, these include the **Second National Plan of Action for Children (2012-2017)** and **Third Comprehensive Program on the Protection of Children (2012-2016)**. Agencies involved in drafting these plans include the CWC, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Department of Justice (DOJ).<sup>17</sup> These documents identified the **lack of available sex- and age- disaggregated data on child protection issues** – particularly those related to indigenous children or children with disabilities, involved in adjudication and conflict scenarios, and incidents of violence against children (VAC) – as key bottlenecks to achieving progress for children.

Under CP8, UNICEF aims to ensure “**children and adolescents live in a protective environment.**” Primary focus areas include (i) reduction of high levels of VAC; and (ii) adequate protection, care, and

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<sup>15</sup> This includes appropriate facilities for girls and menstrual hygiene management.

<sup>16</sup> See [http://www.deped.gov.ph/sites/default/files/page/2017/P6\\_k%20to%2012%20Updates%20dec%205,%202017.pdf](http://www.deped.gov.ph/sites/default/files/page/2017/P6_k%20to%2012%20Updates%20dec%205,%202017.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> According to the 2017 UNICEF Situation Analysis, the Third National Plan of Action for Children and Fourth Comprehensive Program on the Protection of Children are under development.

access to quality social services for children affected by armed conflict. Anticipated intervention strategies are upstream in nature, such as policy advocacy and technical assistance.<sup>18</sup>

#### 4. Social Policy

Responsibilities and initiatives related to social welfare, resilience, and responses to conflict are dispersed across several key agencies. These include NEDA, as overall lead on economic growth; DSWD, as lead social services program administrator; committees, councils, inter-governmental agencies specific to disaster risk management, resilience, armed conflict, and poverty; and governance frameworks, at national, regional, provincial, and LGU levels.<sup>19</sup>

Under CP8, UNICEF aims to support “**child centered social policy**.” Specific focus areas include (i) income poverty; (ii) multidimensional child poverty; and (iii) building family resilience to shocks and stresses due to natural disasters, armed conflict, or climate change. Anticipated intervention strategies are upstream in nature, such as policy advocacy and technical assistance.

#### 5. Gender

Gender-related responsibilities are the purview of the Philippine Commission of Women, and cut across all government agencies. Gender-related objectives and implementation plans under the PDP link to UNICEF priorities across several sectors. Under the PDP,<sup>20</sup> GoPH priorities include maternal nutrition, secondary education for girls, generating data on unpaid domestic and care work, and reproductive health care. The PDP places emphasis on the vulnerability of adolescent mothers, and their access to quality health care and a complete education.

Under CP8, UNICEF approaches gender from a cross cutting lens. In particular, UNICEF will “conduct gender reviews to identify and inform areas for strengthening gender-based priorities and approaches” to support gender-responsive programming, in line with the **UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2018-2021**.<sup>21</sup>

#### 6. Resilience and Climate Change

The **Philippines Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of May 2010**<sup>22</sup> made resilience, mitigation, and recovery the formal responsibility of national, provincial, and local GoPH units. The Act created the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in charge of the general oversight of the DRRM system in the Philippines; Regional and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils; and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices; and Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committees. The Climate Change Commission<sup>23</sup> is responsible for mainstreaming climate change and DRRM into national, sectoral, and local development plans; and liaises with NDRRMC to reduce vulnerability to climate-related disasters.

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<sup>18</sup> For information about the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, see page 38.

<sup>19</sup> This complexity is further enumerated in the 2017 UNICEF Situation Analysis.

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/GAD-and-SDGs-in-the-PDP-2017-2022.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> See [https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/2018-2021-Gender\\_Action\\_Plan-Rev.1.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/gender/files/2018-2021-Gender_Action_Plan-Rev.1.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> Republic Act 10121.

<sup>23</sup> Established by Republic Act 9729, the Climate Change Act of 2009.

The **National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028**<sup>24</sup> includes the objective of reducing the risks of vulnerable groups – including children – through Climate Change Adaptation and DRRM programs; making health and social protection delivery systems responsive to climate change risks; and having climate change adaptive human settlements and services developed, promoted and adopted.

Under CP8, UNICEF approaches resilience and climate change from a crosscutting lens. One of the CP8 overall program goals is strengthening resilience of parents and communities in which children live; of particular focus for resiliency efforts will be ARMM.

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<sup>24</sup> See [http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF\\_File/reports\\_resources/DILG-Resources-2012116-d7b64f9faf.pdf](http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/reports_resources/DILG-Resources-2012116-d7b64f9faf.pdf).

## II. EXISTING DATA ACTORS

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Relevant data actors for the achievement of CP8 include the following.

GoPH agencies, departments, and bodies, including:

- ARMM Regional Government
- Commission on Human Rights
- Congress of the Philippines
- Council for the Welfare of Children
- Department of Budget and Management
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Information and Communication Technology
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Justice
- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Early Childhood Care and Development Council
- Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council
- Local Government Units
- National Anti-Poverty Commission
- National Economic Development Authority
- National Nutrition Council
- National Youth Council
- Office of the Cabinet Secretary
- Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process
- Philippines National Police
- Philippine Statistics Authority
- Supreme Court

United Nations Agencies and other development partners, including:

- United Nations Development Programme
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- UN Women
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Bank
- Asian Development Bank
- USAID
- JICA
- GIZ
- European Union
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

And finally: the national cluster system<sup>25</sup>; private, non-governmental, and civil society organizations; academic institutions; and the media.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> The national cluster system is led by GoPH, and divided along sectoral lines – i.e., the Child Protection cluster is overseen by DSWD, and includes relevant development partner and GoPH agencies.

<sup>26</sup> As identified in CP8 (March 2018 draft), and as included in the assessment's target key informant interview list.

### III. SYSTEMATIC CONSTRAINTS

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Based on the literature and key informant interviews, systematic constraints in the data for children ecosystem broadly fall into categories of coordination, capacity, and accountability. **These constraints are underpinned by the need to shift from prioritizing overall growth, to achieving inclusive growth.**

#### A. COORDINATION

Coordination challenges occur across national-level actors (horizontal), and between national and sub-national levels (vertical). Both **horizontal and vertical coordination challenges revolve around the fragmentation of roles, responsibilities, and mandates.** Horizontally, there is a pronounced fragmentation of programming, accountability, and sharing mechanisms within and across agencies, councils, and commissions. Vertically, the Philippines' devolution of governance to LGUs – and the unique and evolving case of ARMM – has led to fragmentation of mandates for service delivery and accountability. This often leads to disconnected systems, programs, and resources; challenges in accessing relevant data and information; and other inefficiencies.

#### B. CAPACITY

Both national and sub-national actors have reported challenges in understanding existing system and staff capacities. Some Government of the Philippines (GoPH) systems rely on paper-based data collection and consolidation, while others rely on internet-based data reporting from areas without appropriate infrastructure.<sup>27</sup> From a staffing perspective, interviewees expressed challenges in identifying candidates for open positions that have the appropriate analytical and technical capacities.

High turnover rates have also been identified as a challenge at hyper-local levels. This signals that **hyper-local capacity strengthening activities without accompanying interventions to reduce turnover will not be a sustainable strategy.** Furthermore, public financial management capacity has also been an issue, specifically related to agency under-utilization of budget<sup>28</sup> and corruption concerns.<sup>29</sup>

#### C. ACCOUNTABILITY

Finally, **pathways for building accountability for results – beyond financial and output expectations – must be further strengthened in order to achieve greater development outcomes.** Mechanisms – such as coordination, incentives, mandates, and capacities – that are needed to move beyond using data for planning and compliance, to utilizing it for performance evaluation and results-based programming, remain to be defined.

Within the frame of UNICEF, this translates to a need to focus on a combination of policy advocacy and capacity strengthening with national government agencies and ARMM; and data collection and capacity strengthening within select LGUs. When seeking to support LGUs, the purpose of the intervention should be considered, in order to identify which level of governance would be best to target.

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<sup>27</sup> The DOH FHSIS and DepEd BEIS, respectively.

<sup>28</sup> This is currently being addressed via reforming budget processes and the government procurement system.

<sup>29</sup> See <http://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/420462/>.

As outlined in the UNICEF CP7 Evaluation, the targeted governance level should be (a) provincial or regional level, if UNICEF support is related to policy advocacy, in order to increase the likelihood of sustainability, and identify LGUs for specific support based on provincial priorities; or (b) specific LGUs, based on defined rationale in line with UNICEF's mandate and priorities.

*One frequently cited example of fragmentation was the Philippines' education sector. DepEd has the mandate to supervise all elementary and secondary education institutions, under the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001. The Early Years Act of 2013 further recognizes ages 0-8 years as the "first crucial stage of educational development." Yet legally, oversight roles for ages 0-8 years are divided between the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council and DepEd – for ages 0-4 years and 5-8 years, respectively.<sup>30</sup>*

*The ECCD Council implements the National ECCD system. This includes services for children aged 0-4 years, such as day care and preschool centers. As ECCD Council member, DSWD is responsible for monitoring the implementation of devolved services. This includes supplemental feeding programs offered at many community day care institutions.*

*The ECCD Council and DepEd have different information systems to monitor students and programs. DepEd manages the Learner Information System and Basic Education Information System (BEIS), while DSWD manages the ECCD Information System. However, ECCD and DepEd systems do not share data, and taking steps to do so is beyond either's mandate. **Filipino children are also not issued with any type of national identification until enrollment in primary education**, and assigning a learner identification number upon enrollment in an ECCD program is beyond DepEd's mandate.*

*As a result, it is difficult to detect issues of delayed enrollment in ECCD services and primary education. Enrollment delays for both ECCD and DepEd services may be caused by parents' reluctance to enroll young children in educational programming at the ages specified under law. Enrollment delays for children who should be moving from ECCD to DepEd schooling may also be caused by parental preference for the supplemental feeding services offered at many ECCD centers.*

*A similar issue has come to light regarding conditional cash transfer programs overseen by DSWD, which require child enrollment in and attendance at school in order for poor families to receive financial benefits. Due in part to the lack of automated data sharing in between DepEd and DSWD databases, many families with "ghost children" improperly received state resources.<sup>31</sup>*

*In sum, limitations in data interoperability contribute to sub-optimal outcomes for children, and potentially lead to improper use of government welfare resources.*

<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, the law does not specify which agency has the mandate to ensure the smooth transition of children from home to preschool, and from preschool to kindergarten.

<sup>31</sup> The ARMM ORG identified nearly 100,000 "ghost" students and administrators improperly receiving financial benefits when cross-referencing between DepEd and DSWD systems. Corruption has also been identified as an issue in financial disbursements; see <https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/philippine-daily-inquirer/20180209/281767039679473>.

# Data Demand

## I. INTRODUCTION

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**Data demand can be defined as the needs and purposes of intended data users.** If end users do not have an understanding of the potential applications or value of data, they are unlikely to demand it. This section will seek to understand for what purposes data ecosystem actors demand data, and how existing culture, incentives, and processes shape these demands.

## II. GOVERNMENT PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

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### A. PLANNING AND MONITORING

Planning within the GoPH combines macro-economic and situational analysis; coordination with executive priorities; stakeholder consultations; and budgeting. Every six years, the government engages in a medium-term planning process that determines country priorities. This process is led by NEDA, in close consultation with the incumbent presidential administration. The current medium-term plan extends from 2017-2022.

This planning process results in a PDP, a results matrix (PDP-RM), and a PIP. The PDP includes sector and sub-sector goals and objectives, as well as key strategies and indicators. NEDA is tasked with monitoring high-level indicators related to real GDP growth; real per capita income growth; poverty and subsistence rates in urban and rural areas; and employment outcomes, using PSA data.

Once the PDP is finalized, NEDA is further tasked with working across GoPH line agencies to “prioritize and sequence identified strategies, programs, and policies” to meet the goals outlined in the PDP. Monitoring of outcomes and implementation progress is to be reported to the appropriate NEDA Board Committee, Cabinet Cluster, or Inter-Agency Committee on both a quarterly and annual basis. From this information, NEDA is responsible for releasing an annual Socioeconomic Report, sharing accomplishments against key outputs and outcomes, and providing policy recommendations.

Within Cabinet Clusters,<sup>32</sup> the Office of the Cabinet Secretary (OCS) is responsible for monitoring the performance of 26 national government agencies implementing programs important to the presidential agenda and aligned with the PDP. To achieve this, the OCS Performance and Project Management Office (PPMO) has facilitated the development of a Performance and Projects Roadmap (PPR) – described as the government’s “master plan” – by Cabinet Clusters. Data to populate the PPR are collected monthly, and presented quarterly and annually to the President of the Philippines.

Line agencies’ medium-term plans are frequently shaped by, and align with the timeframe of, the PDP. Relevant legislation, agency mandates, and internal agency targets also shape these plans. Annual Plans

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<sup>32</sup> Under Executive Order (EO) No. 24 s. 2017, these clusters are (i) infrastructure, (ii) human development and poverty reduction, (iii) economic development, (iv) climate change and disaster risk reduction, (v) participatory governance, (vi) security, justice and peace.

are influenced by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) guidelines, and budgets approved by Congress.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes within line agencies are guided by (i) the mandate to report on a regular (quarterly or annual) basis to NEDA, OCS, and DBM, and (ii) agency-specific M&E processes. Common measures required for reporting include progress against objectives – including budget utilization and project timelines – and utilization of services.

According to Memorandum Circular No. 12, s. 2016, “regional development concerns... shall be consistent with the regional development plans,” and the NEDA Secretariat is tasked with providing guidelines to be followed in the formulation of all plans and programs. As such, the PDP is further complemented by: fifteen Regional Development Plans (RDP), developed by respective NEDA Regional Offices and Regional Development Councils;<sup>33</sup> an ARMM RDP, developed by the ARMM Regional Government; and an RDP for the National Capital Region, developed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.<sup>34</sup>

Within ARMM, the Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO) serves as the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Economic Development Planning Board (REDPB) – which is the highest development policymaking body of the ARMM and the counterpart to the NEDA Regional Development Council. The RDPO is tasked with coordinating the formulation of long-term, medium-term, and annual socioeconomic plans and policies at regional and sub-regional levels, including the ARMM RDP; coordinating regional medium-term and annual public investment plans; and coordinating, monitoring, and providing technical assistance related to development projects.<sup>35</sup>

In addition to the ARMM RDP, the Office of the Regional Governor (ORG) further guides development priorities. The ORG oversees all priority programs it initiates, including the ARMM Bangsamoro Regional Inclusive Development for Growth and Empowerment (ARMM-BRIDGE), the Health, Education, Livelihood, Peace and Governance and Synergy (HELPS), the Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (HEART), and the Humanitarian and Development Action Plan (ARMM-HDAP), among others.<sup>36</sup> These are organized around clusters with component agencies, similar to the OCS and Cabinet cluster system, with ORG as the head, RPDO as the secretariat, and line agencies as component members.

LGUs at the city/municipality level have the mandate to develop Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), complemented by Local Development Investment Programs (LDIPs). Both are developed in line with local election cycles, and are reviewed and approved by local development councils. Once approved, LGUs create an Annual Investment Program (AIP), and share planning documents with provincial counterparts. Monitoring focuses on implementation timelines and budget expenditure, via periodic reports from implementing agencies.

At the hyper-local level, barangays produce Barangay Comprehensive Development Plans (BCDPs), in line with the terms of elected local executives. Notably, barangays have a level of autonomy when it

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<sup>33</sup> See <http://www.neda.gov.ph/regional-development-plans/>.

<sup>34</sup> See <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/912449/mmda-drawing-up-plan-to-develop-a-world-class-metro-manila>.

<sup>35</sup> See: <http://rpdo.armm.gov.ph/rpdo/index.php/about-rpdo/functions>.

<sup>36</sup> See <http://rpdo.armm.gov.ph/rpdo/index.php/armm-helps-convergence>.

comes to prioritization and planning. Even if a project and associated funding amount is included in the CDP, barangays are not legally obligated to include the program, nor are they obligated to include the program's budgeted amount. Further, if a program is not included in the BCDP, it cannot be implemented in the locality.<sup>37</sup>

## B. DATA PRIORITIES

Interviewed stakeholders identified the following data priorities of the government.<sup>38</sup>

### Office of the Cabinet Secretary

- Facilitate and oversee PPR process, present quarterly and annual reports to the president
- Review and provide inputs to executive memoranda and statements

### Philippine Statistics Authority

- Design methodologies, operationalize, and disseminate official statistical products
- Capacity strengthening on a case-by-case basis

### National Economic and Development Authority – Monitoring and Evaluation Staff

- Preparation and monitoring progress of AmBisyon 2040, PDP, PIP, and PDP-RM
  - Preparation of annual Socioeconomic report
  - Mid-term review and adjustment of PDP-RM (every three years)
- Preparation of Annual ODA Portfolio Reviews.<sup>39 40</sup>
  - Review of loan information quarterly
  - Review semi-annual submissions of accomplishment reports<sup>41</sup>
  - Review project completion reports on rolling basis<sup>42</sup>
- Oversee post-evaluation of projects<sup>43</sup>
- Conduct impact evaluations of select projects<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> See the Local Government Code of the Philippines at [http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF\\_File/reports\\_resources/dilg-reports-resources-2016120\\_5e0bb28e41.pdf](http://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/reports_resources/dilg-reports-resources-2016120_5e0bb28e41.pdf).

<sup>38</sup> Note that these priorities were those identified by stakeholders during key informant interviews. These perceptual data are likely not exhaustive lists of each agency's information systems or mandated priorities.

<sup>39</sup> See <http://www.neda.gov.ph/2017/01/19/oda-portfolio-review-2015/>. These include overall portfolio composition analysis; performance analysis in terms of financial, physical, and implementation measures; exploration of implementation issues; identification of relevant projects with output/outcome results that contribute to medium-term plans; next stems in terms of policy and implementation guidance.

<sup>40</sup> Agencies are not required to submit any reports for grant-funded projects to NEDA. Only agencies implementing projects financed by loans – and approved by the NEDA Board's Investment Coordination Committee – are required to submit progress reports. NEDA always aims to have the most complete information possible, and would appreciate receiving information on the performance of grant-funded projects.

<sup>41</sup> Previously, this included identifying whether the project needed a change in scope, cost, extension, loan validity, etc. Results are shared with agencies concerned and the NEDA Investment Coordination Committee; recently the arrangement has shifted to where Monitoring and Evaluation Staff review need for time extension only.

<sup>42</sup> Onus is on implementing agencies to identify results achieved, lessons learned, and other information not tied to complying with the loan agreement

<sup>43</sup> See <http://www.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/NEDA-DBM%20Joint%20Memorandum%20Circular%20No.%202015-01%20%20National%20Evaluation%20Policy%20Framework%20of%20the%20Philippines.pdf>.

<sup>44</sup> In practice, limited to "big ticket" (PHP 2.5 billion and over) projects identified as presidential administration priorities.

### **National Economic and Development Authority – Social Development Staff**

- Preparation and monitoring progress of AmBisyon 2040, PDP, PIP, and PDP-RM
  - Preparation of annual<sup>45</sup> Socioeconomic report to share progress against PDP-RM
  - Mid-term review and adjustment of PDP-RM (every three years)
- Provide inputs into UNDAF; chair various inter-agency councils and committees related to children and development more broadly; co-manage UNICEF Country Program for Children
- Use data to produce policies and strategies – emphasize data users, not producers
- Ad hoc policy and project review and technical support

### **Department of Health**

- Ensure programs and policies being implemented based on annual workplan
- Support evidence generation and policy evaluation based on medium-term research agenda, annual office workplan, and ad hoc legislation and policy review requests

### **Department of Education**

- Analysis of new proposed education policies
- Formulate long-, medium- and short-term plans for the department
- Quarterly program implementation review and annual evaluation report
- Produce transition report at end of each presidential administration
- Oversee data collection from facilities

### **Department of Social Welfare and Development**

- Monitor and report against indicators within DSWD Strategic Results Matrix 2017-2022
- Produce Utilization Rate Report for ECCD Information System
- Ongoing monitoring of ECCD accreditation
- Ongoing feedback and dialogue with local social workers regarding resource and capacity needs, bottlenecks
- Ongoing monitoring of program achievements and disbursements
- Ongoing monitoring of trends that could indicate emerging needs
- Ad hoc information requests from other agencies

### **Philippine National Police – Women and Children Protection Center**

- Develop annual and monthly accomplishment reports
- Lead quarterly presentations to regional representatives on crime trends and statistics

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<sup>45</sup> Annual in years between PDP formulation and mid-term review.

**Department of the Interior and Local Government**

- Issue memorandum circulars, along with corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations, to support implementation of national policies at LGU levels
- Requests data to monitor compliance with national policies and regulations from LGUs<sup>46</sup>
- Guide and influence policies and implementation via seats on various councils, committees, and task forces at national, regional, and local levels
- Conduct Local Council for the Protection of Children assessment and monitoring, support CWC-led child-friendly audit
- Oversee Local Governance Performance Management System and the Seal of Good Local Governance program
- Manage LGU Profiles system and #SubayBAYAN infrastructure project monitoring systems
- Conduct capacity strengthening of LGUs as requested

**Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department**

- Develop Annual Budget Briefer, Agency Budget Notes, and macro-economic trend analysis
- Develop policy and trend briefs on an ongoing basis
- Conduct ad hoc legislation-specific analyses and inputs

**Council for the Welfare of Children**

- Formulate, review, and monitor policies related child rights
- Monitor programs related to the implementation of child rights policies
- Produce annual State of the Filipino Children Report

**Food and Nutrition Research Institute**

- Develop medium-term research investment portfolio
- Monitor utilization of research investments
- Conduct National Nutrition Survey

**ARMM Office of the Regional Governor**

- Hold quarterly meetings with regional departments through the Governor's Initiative on Systems Assessment (GISA)<sup>47</sup>
- Oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of ORG special programs

**ARMM Regional Planning and Development Office**

- Coordinate data needed for ARMM RDP development and RDP development process
- Prepare the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan and Regional Economic Profile
- Monitor programs via implementation monitoring reports from line agencies; review and adjust RDP every three years

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<sup>46</sup> Due to the Local Government Code of 1991, Republic Act No. 7160, DILG cannot compel or mandate LGU compliance or monitoring information submission, but can only request or enjoin.

<sup>47</sup> During GISA, line agencies must present performance reports related to budget expenditure and service delivery, and answer questions posited by the ORG.

**LGU Municipal Planning Offices**

- Provide inputs to the CDP, LDIP, AIP, and Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Review, advise, and approve BCDPs
- Conduct annual sector plan reviews, and quarterly/ periodic program status updates, to monitor implementation timeline and spending

*Some stakeholders interviewed during the data collection process for this report were also engaged in the UNICEF 2017 Situational Analysis process. Of those, government stakeholders in particular expressed keen interest in reviewing the final product, and referenced it as a likely valuable resource for planning and prioritization.*

### III. UNICEF PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

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#### A. PLANNING AND MONITORING

Decision making within the UNICEF Country Office (CO) takes place within a system of review and planning that connects with the Government of the Philippines, other UN Agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders.

Every five years, UNICEF engages in two concurrent processes that determine the CO's overall direction. UNICEF engages with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the UNDAF process to design and coordinate development activities across UN Agencies. Data sources for this work include the Common Country Assessment (CCA); GoPH strategies, such as the PDP; and any other relevant research. The UNDAF provides a UNCT-wide results framework; greater activity coordination; and opportunities for joint programming when appropriate.

Concurrently, UNICEF prepares its internal CP documents. Data sources for this work include the UNDAF and CCA; a UNICEF-commissioned Situation Analysis, carried out in partnership with the GoPH<sup>48</sup>; a Gender Programmatic Review; an evaluation of the previous Country Programme, commissioned a year before the CP development process; GoPH strategies, including the PDP and any data available from priority LGUs; GoPH data sources; relevant UNICEF or other research; and consultations with GoPH and other key stakeholders. The CP provides overarching objectives, anticipated activities, and partnerships for the CO. It also includes an integrated M&E plan, with selected indicators, reporting timelines, anticipated activities, and resources.

On a yearly basis, UNICEF sections prepare an Annual Work Plan. Data sources for this work include the UNICEF CP; relevant research and trends; GoPH priorities; and internal human and financial resources. This results in specific programming activities; M&E and reporting inflection points; and resourcing needs. For the extended 7<sup>th</sup> UNICEF Country Programme (2012-2018), the CP developed rolling workplans for 2017-2018.

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<sup>48</sup> For CP8 planning, UNICEF carried out a National Situation Analysis in partnership with NEDA, and a sub-national ARMM Situation Analysis, in partnership with the ARMM ORG.

## B. DATA PRIORITIES

Across the CO, and guided by PME, Deputy Representative, and Country Representative, sections reported providing inputs to the development of the CP; planning and monitoring of progress against annual workplans; and, based on the findings from the CP mid-term review process, identifying mid-term course corrections. The Mindanao Field Office (MFO) similarly reported providing inputs to, and following, the CP process. Rather than setting annual plans, the MFO will follow a 2-3 year implementation plan process.

At the CO, sections typically have a specific indicator matrix, to monitor progress against workplan timeline, spend, and target indicators. At the project level, interviewees address data demands through trip reports (in-person monitoring) and regular activity implementation reports – the latter often on an annual, semi-annual, or quarterly<sup>49</sup> basis, focusing on achievements versus targets, and anticipated versus actual spend.

Select M&E related initiatives of UNICEF under CP7 include:

- Supporting UNDP’s management of the NEDA M&E fund, by identifying five strategic government evaluations – one of which is in the Health & Nutrition sector – and providing technical support during evaluation implementation.
- Supporting NEDA and DBM development of a National Evaluation Policy.
- Supporting the NEP and results based budgeting by designing and training fifty government staff from NEDA, DBM, and ten NEP pilot agencies on good practices in M&E. The training curriculum was developed with a national university; at the conclusion of the initial training (pre-election), there had been tacit agreement that DBM would adopt and sustain ongoing GoPH capacity strengthening.

In addition, there are ongoing discussions between UNICEF, UNDP, the Resident Coordinator’s Office, and the broader UNDAF M&E Group on how the UN can better collaborate and coordinate technical assistance on data and M&E capacity within the next UNDAF. Thus far, PSA has been receptive to support of sub-national technical assistance based on the SDGs, noting challenges around decentralization legislation and sub-national capacity.

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<sup>49</sup> Quarterly for implementing partners, in line with financial reporting requirements.

<b>UNICEF Outcomes</b>	<b>Key Progress Indicators</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Indicative CP Outputs</b>	<b>Major Partners</b>
<b>1. Survive and thrive</b>  <i>By 2023, more children, adolescents and women, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from improved and equitable neonatal, child, maternal and adolescent health and nutrition services, and adopt healthy life practices.</i>	<i>Proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted</i>	NNS	<i>Government and partners have enhanced capacity to plan, deliver and monitor coordinated multisectoral, gender-responsive approaches at scale to reduce stunting and other forms of malnutrition.</i>  <i>The health system is strengthened to accelerate equitable access to high-impact interventions for reducing preventable newborn deaths, early childhood illnesses and disability.</i>	<i>National Nutrition Council; DOH; DILG; National Youth Commission; Scaling Up Nutrition; UN Agencies; Regional Government of ARMM</i>
	<i>Neonatal mortality rate</i>	NDHS	<i>The Government demonstrates a strengthened capacity to ensure that adolescents have improved access to gender-responsive physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health services and information.</i>	
	<i>Proportion of people practising open defecation</i>	WHO/ UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme annual report	<i>The Government and partners have strengthened capacity to develop, implement and monitor coordinated, evidence-based policies, strategies and plans for equitable, gender-responsive and sustainable access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.</i>	
<b>2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning</b>  <i>By 2023, more children and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged, have improved education and learning outcomes.</i>	<i>Proportion of students moving “towards mastery” and “mastery” levels on the Elementary National Achievement Test</i>	National Achievement Test database	<i>Government authorities have improved capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive, equitable and quality early childhood education.</i>  <i>Government authorities have strengthened capacity to improve the system for quality, equitable and inclusive education, including the development of social and emotional skills.</i>	<i>DepEd; DILG; ECCD Council; DSWD; National Youth Commission; Regional Government ARMM</i>
	<i>Early Language Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Results at Grade 3</i>	Early Language Literacy and Numeracy Assessment database	<i>The Government has strengthened coordination mechanisms and approaches to enhance the capacity of parents and caregivers to practise behaviours and demonstrate attitudes that help children and adolescents to learn and thrive.</i>	
	<i>Percentage of children (3-4 years) attending preschool</i>	ECCD Information System		

	<i>Proportion of primary schools with sanitation facilities for girls that meet national standards</i>	<i>BEIS</i>		
<b>3. Protective environment</b>  <i>By 2023, more children and adolescents, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from a more-effective, quality, gender-sensitive, preventive and responsive child protection system and live in communities that better protect children from violence.</i>	<i>Number of boys and girls who have experienced violence reached by social, justice or law enforcement services</i>	<i>DSWD child protection data</i>	<i>The legislative and institutional framework is strengthened to better protect boys and girls who are vulnerable and exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful gender norms.</i>  <i>The child welfare system has strengthened capacity to deliver local, multisectoral, gender-sensitive services that prevent and respond to violence against children.</i>  <i>Children and adolescents affected by disasters and those affected by armed conflict in Mindanao are increasingly able to access critical social services.</i>  <i>The general public in the Philippines, adolescents in particular, are better informed and act to eliminate all forms of violence.</i>	<i>Court; Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council; CWC; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process; Commission on Human Rights; Regional Government ARMM</i>
	<i>Percentage of reported cases of grave child rights violations verified and responded to annually.</i>	<i>MRM Information Management System (Primero)</i>		
	<i>Percentage of UNICEF targeted local government units with at least the minimum ratio of child-centred social workers (boys/girls per population), based on national standards and with capacity to provide gender-responsive child and family social services</i>	<i>DSWD</i>		

<p><b>4. Social policy and governance</b></p> <p><i>By 2023, the most disadvantaged children, families and communities in remote rural areas and impoverished urban pockets have access to inclusive systems that protect them from poverty and enhance their ability to appropriately respond to emergencies and climate-change risks.</i></p>	<p><i>Number of children covered by government cash transfer programmes</i></p>	<p><i>DSWD Pantawid Pamilya Information System</i></p>	<p><i>The capacity of the Government and key stakeholders to plan, budget and provide access to inclusive, integrated, resilient and quality basic social services is strengthened.</i></p> <p><i>The equity, child focus and shock-responsiveness of government national social protection programmes are strengthened.</i></p>	<p><i>DILG; Regional Government of ARMM</i></p>
	<p><i>Share of public spending on health, education and social protection benefiting children living in the poorest regions</i></p>	<p><i>DBM Database</i></p>		

Table 2: UNICEF CP8 Results Framework<sup>50</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Taken from CP8 working draft, June 2018; included are outcomes that rely on GoPH systems for verification.

## IV. OTHER ECOSYSTEM ACTORS

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The Philippines UNCT engages in an UNDAF process, which facilitates complementary programming, and opportunities for joint programming. This process was praised across UN Agency interviewees as beneficial to their work.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** primarily engages in capacity strengthening and joint research initiatives with national and LGU actors. Key initiatives include:

- Supporting the PSA and NEDA in conducting multi-stakeholder workshops to develop the Philippines' list of SDG indicators for initial monitoring. The resulting list served as an input to the SDG dashboard, and the preparation of the PDP Results Matrices.
- Working with the Local Governance and Decentralization team of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines to pilot an SDG localization dashboard using administrative and CBMS data. The pilot project aimed to probe into the local government's capacity to prioritize, plan, allocate, and deliver services to address multiple deprivations that people face on ground, and achieve the SDGs. One of the outputs of the project is an SDG dashboard that captures local SDG baselines, targets, and investments that are aligned with the PSA's initial list of SDG indicators for monitoring.
- UNDP developed an online platform for the private sector to report on their contributions to the SDGs. The recently-published "Transformational Business" highlighted 139 initiatives from 75 reporting companies amounting to 40.7 billion Philippine pesos, that show businesses align their core processes and initiatives with the SDGs. This initiative would allow government to capture data and information from the private sector regarding their contribution to the SDGs and to national development goals.
- With NEDA and PSA, facilitating focus group discussions around AmBisyon 2040 and the SDGs, and staff capacity strengthening for the SDGs.
- With DILG, planning a project to create governance indices using citizen perception data.
- With PSA, exploring a statistical capacity building program concept, which would leverage UNDP's provincial and LGU connections.
- With DepEd, leading a citizen-monitoring pilot for the delivery of school information technology equipment.

The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** primarily engages in research initiatives and evidence generation related to demographics, in particular the "demographic dividend." UNFPA also engages in targeted capacity strengthening at the national and LGU level. Initiatives include:

- Cohort Study: This longitudinal study will follow boy and girl children from age 10 until age 24 to put a "face" to the demographic changes anticipated during the SDG era. This initiative is being led by a University of the Philippines' research cohort; co-financed by DFATD, UNFPA, UNICEF, and (hopefully) DOH.
- Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFSS) in 2013, 2018: Reflects reproductive health and development profile of 15-24 year olds. UNFPA funded it in 2013; partially funded it in 2018 with DFATD and PSA; and PSA will likely take it over in its entirety in 2019, following strong demand for this data from Congress.
- UNFPA built on the YAFSS to commission a study that found teen pregnancies cost the Philippines economy 33 billion in foregone income, which contributed to a PDP chapter on the demographic dividend.

- Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH): using the expanded MICS, this initiative developed a series of policy briefs with DOH on sexual and reproductive health.
- UNDP is advocating with DOH and PSA to adopt survey methodologies that would enable more rapid progress and better policy monitoring.
- Through a family foundation-funded leadership and governance program, providing capacity strengthening to select LGUs on strengthening MCH and family planning systems.
- Previously supported CBMS rider questionnaire in priority UNFPA LGUs.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** works closely with the Department of Health around the evaluation and creation of new health policies and standards at the national level; subsequent policy rollout and adoption at the regional, sub-national, and facility levels; and co-creation of data collection tools with the DOH. Particular thematic areas of focus are maternal and newborn health, including essential components of newborn care, and reproductive and adolescent health.

Additionally, WHO is working with UNICEF to support PSA in testing additional WASH questions to be included on the Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, and in testing a new Water Quality Monitoring survey module. Based on findings, PSA will determine whether these additional questions help fill SDG data gaps, and – if so – whether they are feasible to include systematically in the survey.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** focuses on issues surrounding food security. Interventions include program-based technical assistance at the national level, and targeted interventions or pilots in priority LGUs that can be scaled by national agencies, including PSA, FNRI, and the Department of Agriculture.

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** focuses on contributing to the achievement of Zero Hunger by 2025. Programmatically, this includes provision of specialized nutritious food in support of maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition (the First 1000 Days program); food security and livelihood programs; and disaster risk reduction. Direct interventions usually occur at the sub-national (provincial, municipal, and village) level; based on government priorities, many activities take place in ARMM.

**UN Women** has a programmatic presence in the Philippines focused on women, peace, and security in ARMM. Ongoing projects include building capacities for women’s leadership in peace processes; gender sensitive transitional justice; and preventing violent extremism. Partners primarily include other UN Agencies (UNDP and UNICEF); local CSOs, research organizations, and beneficiaries.

**Save the Children** thematic priorities overlap with those of UNICEF, particularly in relation to the education, social protection, social policy, and health sectors. Interventions tend to be at the regional and LGU level.

The **Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Team at the De La Salle University – Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies in Manila (DLSU-AKI)** is a research institution that, most relevantly for UNICEF, works with LGUs and DILG to provide tools and training for the CBMS; and engages with development partners to develop and pilot tailored curricula around utilization of CBMS data by LGUs.<sup>51</sup>

**Geodata Systems Technologies, Inc.** serves as ESRI’s national supplier of GIS technologies. Relevantly for UNICEF, ESRI – and Geodata in the Philippines – is engaged with UNSD and PSA around the SDG Hub initiative. Geodata also engage with other line agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on a project-by-project basis, as providers of GIS technology.

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<sup>51</sup> The CBMS was developed by Celia Reyes of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies in 1993. The CBMS Network Team at DLSU-AKI developed the CBMS tools (data collection, processing, database management, and use of CBMS data for local planning and budgeting) and training modules. The tool and modules have been shared free-of-cost with LGUs since 2000.

## V. PROMINENT NEEDS

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*Developing a culture of data use for achieving results is the most important need for strengthening data demand in the Philippines. Developing incentives and accountabilities for using M&E data can contribute to a greater ability to use resources effectively, focus on equity, and achieve better outcomes for children.*

### A. CULTURE

Current incentives and expectations around data use center around medium- and long-term planning. GoPH agencies are mandated by executive memoranda to participate in regular medium-term planning processes that align with presidential administrations. Monitoring focuses on measuring changes in development indicators that specific programs and strategies are meant to address. Due to the plans' alignment with presidential strategies, it could be inferred that an incentive for achieving results exists at the highest (politically appointed) levels of government.

At the **agency level, monitoring focuses on budgetary compliance and material outputs**, as mandated by budget circulars. Positively, GoPH agency websites are mandated to have a "Transparency Seal" section, which includes strategic plans, budget data, and annual reports.<sup>52</sup> However, nearly all these documents are in PDF format, and timeliness of publication varies across department and report type, with reports related to financial information (budget and procurement) typically most up-to-date. Based on interviews, agency M&E data are not regularly<sup>53</sup> used to monitor the efficacy of program implementation; beyond timeline and cost, there is not yet a clear, systematic way to connect resources and outputs to outcomes.<sup>54</sup>

At sub-national levels and amongst government staff, GoPH uses financial incentives as a mechanism to improve performance against results targets.<sup>55</sup> However, interviewees emphasized that these were incentives, not mandates or oversight; and **the highest "consequence" for under-performance is not receiving an incentive**.

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<sup>52</sup> Based on specifications outlined in Section 93 of the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2012, "to enhance transparency and enforce accountability..."

<sup>53</sup> NEDA is responsible for conducting impact evaluations, but only for "big ticket" (PHP 2.5 billion) projects identified as presidential administration priorities; these are typically infrastructure-related.

<sup>54</sup> OCS PPR aims to begin measuring short- and intermediate-term outcomes in 2018, but would be limited to priority programs; DBM is moving towards results-based budgeting; COA audits are program-specific.

<sup>55</sup> See <http://pcf.dilg.gov.ph/v3/>, <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/pbb/fags/>, and <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/sief-trust-fund/brief/impact-of-incentives-and-information-on-quality-and-utilization-in-primary-care>; oversight regarding financial accountability is enshrined in the Local Government Code of the Philippines, Republic Act No. 7160.

# Data Supply

## I. INTRODUCTION

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**Data supply** is facilitated by technological and individual capacities to collect, process, and analyze data. Supply can be categorized by dimensions of data quality, frequency, and disaggregation. Data sources may include government, development partner, civil society, citizens, and private sector. This section will seek to understand what data sources currently exist in the Philippines; and the challenges or unmet needs facing a healthy data supply.

## II. EXISTING DATA SOURCES

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As noted across many interviews, data exists in every sector and department in the Philippines. However, challenges related to the fragmentation of data for children sources across agencies; challenges of quality, timeliness, and disaggregation of data; and concerns about the completeness and accuracy of data, particularly in counting marginalized communities and appropriately measuring key deprivations.

### A. GOVERNMENT DATA SOURCES

The PSA is the official source of national statistical information in country. It also serves as a quality assurance clearinghouse for surveys conducted by other agencies (i.e., FNRI) and development partners. Line agencies oversee respective administrative data systems. NEDA and the OCS “demand” data from across agencies, in order to monitor development progress.

*For statistical and survey data, there is an annual and “as needs arise” review process to identify survey and process modifications for better streamlining and meeting of demands. For example, PSA recently decided to increase the frequency of the FIES from every three to every two years, so that presidential administrations will have more than one estimate per term; the survey will also be expanded from 45,000 to 180,000 households in order to enable disaggregation of results from the regional to provincial levels. Similarly, based on previous feedback about the timeliness of release of the NNS, FNRI has undertaken actions to release components of the survey as they are processed.*

The following governmental information sources were identified as relevant to UNICEF's work.<sup>56</sup>

### **Health & Nutrition**

- National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) – PSA
- National Nutrition Survey (NNS) – FNRI
- Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS) – DOH
- Operation Timbang (OPT) Plus – DOH
- Agency Budget Notes (ABN) – CPBRD
- DOH Annual Report

### **WASH**

- Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS) – DOH
- Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) – LGU specific
- Basic Education Information System (BEIS) – DepEd
- Online Monitoring System for WASH in Schools – DepEd<sup>57</sup>
- ECCD Information System - DSWD<sup>58</sup>
- Any data managed by Rural Health Units
- Relevant statistics and surveys
- Partner agency Programme Implementation Reviews<sup>59</sup>

### **Education**

- Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) – PSA
- Annual Poverty Indicator Survey – PSA
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) – PSA<sup>60</sup>
- Basic Education Information System (BEIS) – DepEd
- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Information System – DSWD
- National Achievement Test – DepEd

### **Child Protection**

- Next Generation Information Management System – PNP
- Case management system – DOJ, DSWD
- National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children – CWC
- National Juvenile Justice and Welfare Information Management System – Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council

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<sup>56</sup> Note that these systems were those identified by stakeholders during key informant interviews. These perceptual data are likely not exhaustive lists of information systems or mandated priorities.

<sup>57</sup> Currently a standalone system, the eventual goal is to merge with the BEIS.

<sup>58</sup> Per revised standards, this should also include WASH indicators.

<sup>59</sup> Particularly reviews from DOH.

<sup>60</sup> GoPH now considers that MICS data are covered in existing government surveys. There were no MICS during CP7, and are none planned for the future.

## **Social Policy**

- Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) – PSA
- Annual Poverty Indicator Survey – PSA
- Pantawid Pamilya Information System (PPIS) annual beneficiary report – DSWD
- National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction/ Listahanan 2 – DSWD
- Agency Budget Notes (ABN) – CPBRD

## **Mindanao Field Office**

- National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) – PSA
- National Nutrition Survey (NNS) – FNRI
- Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS) – DOH
- Basic Education Information System (BEIS) – DepEd
- National Census – PSA
- Relevant local data – LGU

## **B. OTHER UNICEF DATA SOURCES**

In addition to the government sources listed above, UNICEF has identified the following data sources as relevant for program planning and monitoring:

### **Country Programme Document**

- Situational Analysis and Country Programme Evaluation
- Common Country Assessment and UNDAF
- Gender Programmatic Reviews
- Sector Gender Plans
- Philippines Development Plan and results framework
- Relevant data from focus LGUs related to public financial management, development plans, barriers and bottlenecks
- Relevant research commissioned by UNICEF-PH and UNICEF-Global, UN Agencies, other development partners, academia
- Relevant laws of the Philippines, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Stakeholder consultations

### **General**

- Trip Reports
- Project monitoring data, including M&E indicators and financial spend
- UNICEF Headquarters, Regional Office, CO priorities; GoPH priorities; UNDAF
- Qualitative – the “why” behind the data

### **Health & Nutrition**

- UNICEF Conceptual Nutrition Framework
- “Economic Cost of Undernutrition in the Philippines” (2016) – UNICEF Philippines
- Internal staff resources, qualifications, and budget
- Ad hoc: regional trends, global research, Philippines political context and processes

**WASH**

- WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme Database
- Section indicator database (project monitoring data)

**Education**

- MICS rider questions
- UNICEF-commissioned research for ECCD Longitudinal Study and Multi-Grade Program Review
- “Developing Socioemotional Skills for the Philippines Labor Market” (2017) – World Bank
- Data Must Speak initiative’s teacher hardship index (2017)
- Observation of pedagogy style

**Child Protection**

- UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
- “Evaluation of the Intervention and Rehabilitation Program in Residential Facilities and Diversion Programs for Children in Conflict with the Law” (2015) – UNICEF
- UN Joint Assessments
- Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study – University of the Philippines Population Institute and the Demographic Research and Development Foundation
- Philippine Kids Online Survey – UNICEF
- National Study on Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – UNICEF
- Drivers of Violence Study – CWC and UNICEF

**Social Policy**

- UNICEF commissioned research
- Ad hoc: regional or international best practice and experiences

**Private Fundraising and Partnerships**

- Donor database management system
- Guidance on institutional vetting
- Fundraising and marketing good practice
- Qualitative stories from sections

**Mindanao Regional Office**

- ARMM Situational Analysis
- Open Data Kit for Marawi Learners Tracking
- Tableau for data visualizations

*In disaster situations, the ODK tool has also been successfully deployed by the MFO to quickly gather data needed to direct humanitarian response.<sup>61</sup> There was some frustration expressed<sup>62</sup> that the GoPH often relies on development partners activated via the cluster coordination system to provide information management support in the immediate- and medium-term.*

*Following the Marawi Siege, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) task force is supporting the development of a GoPH information management system. Regular data sharing between MRM and the government response mechanism exists through quarterly meetings; MRM internal data management is facilitated by the MRM's information management system, called "Primero". However, sharing between MRM and GoPH is not comprehensive in nature, due to concerns around individual identities.*

*While likely impractical in conflict scenarios, **using ODK as a common donor-government platform for data collection in natural disasters or other crises could be worth exploring.**<sup>63</sup>*

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<sup>61</sup> In particular, for post-Haiyan response ODK tools were used for: monitoring WASH in schools, and adopted by DepEd; and monitoring implementation of the zero open defecation program, still in use by Region VIII Health Office. Lessons from the latter ODK implementation were shared with DOH, to be incorporated into their forthcoming environmental sanitation information system.

<sup>62</sup> By development partners.

<sup>63</sup> Such advocacy received a positive response from ARMM-DepEd.

### III. PROMINENT NEEDS

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Generally, interviewed stakeholders indicated that the highest priorities for development data related to quality and access.

#### A. QUALITY

Across interviewees, there was **confidence in the rigor of statistics and surveys produced by PSA**, and several pointed to PSA as the core strength of the government data system. Yet due to devolution of governance responsibilities, and human development inequities that demand more targeted interventions, **data users demand more timely and disaggregated information than what the PSA currently provides** – particularly by sex, age (year), geographical location, disability status, ethnic group, etc.

Challenges within the statistical system have been, to an extent, connected with human resource constraints, and the need to adhere to sound statistical methodologies and attendant data review timelines. PSA and others have highlighted administrative data systems as a potential answer to this need.

However, many interviewees within government responsible for research and policymaking – in addition to most development partner staff – shared **concerns related to the quality of administrative data**. In most cases, service delivery workers are mandated to report administrative data at the facility level. Challenges related to internet connectivity, staff turnover, incentives to report accurate data, system cutoffs and limitations,<sup>64</sup> and understanding of measurement concepts limit the quality of this information. Presumably, resource constraints also limit the ability for data validation and quality assessment controls at higher levels of government, as does limited systems interoperability. The recent ratification of the Philippine Identification System bill,<sup>65</sup> and impending rollout of national identification numbers,<sup>66</sup> may provide an opportunity to strengthen systems interoperability.

In parallel, there are initiatives at the LGU – and sometimes barangay – level to collect more timely and disaggregated data. However, such systems are not legally mandated, and are therefore not present in every LGU or using consistent standards across LGUs. Furthermore – due to legally enshrined autonomy – LGUs are not mandated to “report up” or share all data they collect. LGU data systems<sup>67</sup> face many of the same challenges faced by administrative systems, often compounded by limited local resources and deference to the priorities of the Local Chief Executive.

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<sup>64</sup> Particularly referenced was the BEIS. The system has distinct reporting periods, beyond which data collectors (teachers) cannot access the system. This limited time window, combined with the limited speeds of Philippine internet service providers, means teachers often face access barriers when trying to enter data – and are often not able to enter data at all.

<sup>65</sup> See <http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2018/05/30/house-of-representatives-senate-bicameral-report-national-ID-system-president-rodrido-duterte.html>

<sup>66</sup> The lack of national identification numbers was referenced as a particular bottleneck in data quality for both the social policy and social protection sectors. In the health sector, one proposal to improve administrative data was to move from facility- or provider-based information, to the exclusive use of Electronic Health Records as a way to better account for the complexities of internal migration.

<sup>67</sup> The most commonly used LGU data system is the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS). See “New Opportunities” in Section II. C for more details about CBMS usage and challenges.

**Most urgently underpinning data quality challenges within administrative and LGU-specific data systems is the seemingly limited awareness of poor data quality by custodial agencies, and the lack of an external agency to conduct enforceable quality assurance.**

Within custodial agencies, many acknowledged issues related to timeliness of data collection from service delivery workers, and the impact this has on data quality. Beyond timeliness, most custodial agencies expressed satisfaction with the quality of their data. Yet upon further probing, some interviewees shared instances when their data were proven to be dramatically incorrect. This realization often came about when an external agency or partner presented an alternative data source – such as a commissioned study, an administrative data set, or a survey. Importantly, interviewees also shared that such discrepancies between custodial and (more accurate) external data sources were often met with initial disbelief from government counterparts.

This apparent disconnect underscores the **risk that poor quality administrative data systems will lead to continued outcome inequities**. Further, poor quality may come from a **limited understanding and capacity to probe the robustness of internal data sources; and a lack of accountability due to limited data use**.

Across agencies that are “non-custodians” of administrative or LGU data systems – such as NEDA, PSA, and DILG – none have a clear mandate to conduct checks or enforce custodial agency accountability for data quality.

PSA has a mandate to cross-post staff to statistical offices within other agencies to provide technical assistance;<sup>68</sup> has a Standards Service, to ensure definitions and classifications are consistent and compliant locally and internationally for data compatibility; and has a Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System for all government- and development partner-run surveys.

PSA can also provide bilateral technical assistance to agencies on a case-by-case basis; most recently, this has been achieved through partnership with the Commission on Audit.<sup>69</sup> However, **PSA technical assistance is specifically limited to seconding staff time or providing guidance on systems and standards**.<sup>70</sup> For training purposes, they would refer government staff to the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute.<sup>71</sup> The use of administrative data to complement (not replace) statistical systems occurs on a case-by-case basis.

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<sup>68</sup> This mandate has remained unfulfilled due to ongoing staffing shortfalls within PSA. Per an interviewee, last year PSA only received 200 applications for 500 vacancies.

<sup>69</sup> With COA, this bilateral agreement resulted in COA statements/reports now being shared in Excel format, instead of PDF.

<sup>70</sup> Based on key informant interviews, referencing implementation of the Philippine Statistical Act of 2013.

<sup>71</sup> The Institute has the mandate to provide training to the “general public” on basic statistics, IT, etc. PSA also mentioned they have a program with University of the Philippines’ School of Statistics to provide staff training on basic statistical concepts, like mean/ median/ mode.

*One proximate example is ongoing discussions between PSA and the Bureau of Customs. The aim is that PSA and the bureau could form a memorandum of understanding, in which PSA could join up the bureau's data with statistics, to form a basis for trade statistical reports regarding ports and economic zones. In this agreement, PSA would develop the system to collect data, which will lead to automation.*

*Currently, PSA receives the seventh carbon copy of the logs, which need to then be encoded. Through this joint undertaking, the Bureau of Customs would be responsible for entering/encoding the data, and PSA would be responsible for compiling and summarizing the data to be produced as an official report.*

*While this case is not directly related to data for children, it does indicate that more in-depth efforts between PSA and other GoPH agencies around data systems strengthening do exist, if and when incentives and mandates align.*

**NEDA has neither the capacity nor the mandate to conduct quality assurance on administrative data systems.** Beyond the Official Development Assistance (ODA) Report process – which primarily focuses on loan financial data, and only on externally financed projects – NEDA assumes that all data received from other agencies has undergone an adequate quality assurance process internally.

DILG has the mandate to provide capacity strengthening to LGUs in order to be compliant with national policies and standards. In particular, DILG has a cadre of trainers who are able to provide capacity strengthening related to the Community Based Monitoring System, through curriculum developed by the CBMS Network Team at the De La Salle University Angelo King Institute.<sup>72</sup> However, this technical assistance and advisory can only be provided at the request of the LGU. The **DILG cannot enforce adherence to policies, or data quality standards.** DILG has created some incentive-based initiatives to encourage compliance.

**The only agency interviewed that reported making inquiries related to data quality was OCS, through the PPR process. While still nascent, the OCS may serve as a potential focal point for coordinating an initiative to address administrative data quality issues.** Other potential quality assurance actors, such as Congress, DBM, and COA, could play a tangential role in demanding data quality, when it comes to approving budgetary spending.

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<sup>72</sup> See “New Opportunities – Section II.E” for more information about CBMS.

## B. ACCESS

Another issue related to data demand was the challenge in accessing data across, and sometimes within, data actors. The **lack of policies for proactive data sharing within and across agencies – and limited on sharing disaggregated data with the public – is a key constraint** in the Philippines data ecosystem.

Across data actors, the Freedom of Information law was frequently cited as a boon to data access and sharing. However, the recent Data Privacy Act seems has led some to indicate future data sharing efforts will need to be approached with greater circumspection; it is unclear whether this caution is due to actual legal repercussions, or a sense of caution in understanding how to put the law into practice.

All data custodians stated their information could be shared, provided an official request was made, and provided the time to properly anonymize personally identifiable data. Even with this sharing mechanism, some data actors reported difficulty in accessing requested data, indicating that the official request mechanism may be an imperfect solution for data sharing. There has been very limited traction in setting up automated data sharing across agency systems. Reasons cited in pushback on this cross-agency interoperability frequently relate back to agency mandates for data sharing and oversight.

Within some national-level custodial data agencies, there is a proliferation of program- or bureau-specific data systems. Generally, this internal proliferation is being addressed through internal plans of systems interoperability and centralization of system oversight within the department. However, internal pushback related to bureau-specific mandates have come up in some instances.

At the sub-national level, internet connectivity issues were also cited as a constraint, particularly in underserved or remote areas. In ARMM, there was concern that access to quality data is limited, due to challenges stemming from ongoing conflict and connectivity.

# Data Use

## I. INTRODUCTION

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**Data use** links facts revealed by data with relevant policy and programming implications. Achieving data use requires understanding user capacities, potential use cases, and constraints; having data of the appropriate quality, frequency, and disaggregation; and communicating data effectively. Data that are relevant, timely, accessible, and actionable are the most likely to be put to use.

The factors influencing data use – data demand and data supply – have been elaborated in previous sections. Therefore, this section will provide a broad overview of mechanisms within GoPH and UNICEF, and explore challenges or unmet needs facing the use of data to inform policymaking.

## II. EXISTING INITIATIVES

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### A. GOVERNMENT

The overall catalog of analytical efforts currently considered by the government is detailed in earlier sections of this report. In general, these efforts are focused on producing regular reports that track progress made against medium-term and annual plans. These reports focus on budget utilization, timeline, and outputs, with regular review of progress against national or sub-national outcomes.

Data use is greatest during planning cycles, to identify needs and plan targets. Following the planning phase, during implementation, initiatives for data use typically center on management of financial resources and progress against timelines. Within ARMM, data use is primarily focused on getting a baseline of accurate administrative data. Nicknamed the “ghost buster,” the ORG is using provisions within the martial law to clean up basic data from DepEd, DSWD, and other agencies, with the aim of fostering a reliable evidence base for future planning.

Incentivizing data use within LGUs is particularly complex. Due to strong legal autonomy, evidence-based planning is very much context (and leadership) driven. Further complicating matters at the LGU level is the challenge of accessing reliable, fit-for-purpose data. A lack of data – for example, the number of children disaggregated by age – can lead to imperfect workarounds – for example, dividing the total census number by number of years in age range.

## B. UNICEF

Notably, CP8 will include evidence generation as a core CO strategy. For example, Social Policy's program strategy notes will articulate proposed outputs related to evidence for social inclusion, as part of an outcome managed by social policy. The purpose of having evidence generation as a core strategy is to more systematically scope out government priorities, and existing internal and external research initiatives; in order to leverage existing resources, cut down on costs, and be more planned than proactive in responding to research requests. Having evidence generation as a core CO strategy further points to the value in ensuring key staff are adequately equipped to write terms of reference for, and manage, research projects. Capacities needed to achieve this include understanding of study and survey methodologies; methods for data quality assurance; and management frameworks.

Furthermore, CP8 will also include ongoing engagements with sub-national government bodies, including ARMM Regional Government and LGUs. These engagements will likely be a combination of proof-of-concept piloting and general capacity strengthening. Important in both instances will be staff capacities to understand potential (non-data related) resource constraints for program sustainability, as well as methods of communicating research and evidence findings. Such understanding is necessary to underscore data's importance, and data-driven pathways to action. **All interviewees indicated government openness to evidence-based advocacy – particularly if that advocacy provides an actionable roadmap of next steps.**

A particularly innovative, experimental tool used by UNICEF-MFO are Excel-based dashboards generated through the use of the **UNICEF Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) Level 3 framework**. Level 3 focuses on interim outcomes – specifically on “early indications of the removal of barriers and bottlenecks and progress toward enhanced equity.”<sup>73</sup> In ARMM, this is used to show change over time more frequently than surveys or statistics allow, supporting advocacy to LGU leaders.

For example, UNICEF-MFO did a bottleneck analysis that identified distance to elementary schools as a key barrier to the intended outcome of greater education access. So within the framework, UNICEF adopted distance as a key indicator to monitor, and attached color codes (red, yellow, and green) to signify progress against the goal level of coverage. As each new education center is opened, LGU leaders can update the number, and see immediate improvements over time. This enables local leaders to explain progress and change, without waiting for infrequent surveys to be completed.

Data collection for the MoRES Level 3 was integrated into existing UNICEF discussions with community leaders, barangay captains, and municipal teams across eight LGUs. UNICEF and local leaders collaboratively compiled data on the eleven priority indicators. Initial data collection was done via paper, but the MFO have since developed an appropriate ODK form for data collection that allows easy export to Excel. The dashboards are created via a macro-enabled Excel. UNICEF MFO are planning to visit sub-national leaders every month for targeted data updating. This could also be done on a rolling basis, integrated into existing processes. In its current form, the MFO approach can be considered “good enough” for the purposes of LGU advocacy. However, there may be reputational risk to UNICEF if the GoPH challenges the data, and/or perceives it as “UNICEF results” versus an experimental approach.

In the future, the MFO are exploring other innovative ways to expand MoRES use to monitor progress related to key vulnerabilities for children, in order to motivate “good enough” data use by LGU leadership. Some innovative uses under consideration include facilitating youth feedback via uReport or RapidPro, which will be linked to social media – allowing for indicator-specific comments.

Though the sample size for this report was limited, LGU representatives that were either directly interviewed or asked secondhand expressed positive interest in engaging with UNICEF and other development partner-supported activities. Existing fora, conferences, and learning studies also indicate an appetite for knowledge sharing between LGUs.

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<sup>73</sup> See [https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/2120-UNICEF-MoRES\\_pubs-Main.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/files/2120-UNICEF-MoRES_pubs-Main.pdf).

### III. PROMINENT NEEDS

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#### A. CAPACITY

Across interviewees, there was an expressed need to strengthen analytical capacity – to help understand what data they have, and how it could be analyzed and made more relevant to daily work. This interest is in line with, and could help support, the broader need to shift from a culture of reporting for compliance, to a culture of data and analysis for use.

Specific capacity needs varied, ranging from basic data and technology literacy, to data mining and analysis, to understanding use cases for data and methodological definitions. **However, all interviewees expressed an interest in capacity strengthening initiatives that were “applied” in nature** – i.e., directly relevant to staff mandates and data types, rather than generic trainings on tools and analytics.

Some also shared **challenges in identifying the right staff profiles for more data and technology-enabled work**; and a few agencies, including PSA and PNP, shared challenges in filling vacant positions. One interviewee did cite the recent national government personnel compensation adjustment as a positive measure in supporting employee retention,<sup>74</sup> which suggests that a similar initiative may also be effective in supporting local-level retention rates.

Finally, there is the issue of time and capacity needed for data collection, consolidation, and analysis functions, weighted against other staff priorities. A number of non-GoPH organizations are considering establishing divisions or personnel roles dedicated to monitoring, information management, and data science tasks. This specific division of labor aims to mitigate issues of over-burdening staff, or needing to capacitate a broad number of staff for data-related tasks. The potential benefits and drawbacks of such an approach were beyond the scope of this report; however, it may be advisable for GoPH to explore dedicated capacities for data and technology-enabled work.

#### B. TOOLS

Across national and sub-national levels, there was interest in tools and digitization as a way to make data collection, encoding, and reporting processes easier. Particularly at the LGU level, there was a **keen interest in tools that reduce the cost and time burden of data collection**. This interest came with the acknowledgement that systems that rely on connectivity, tablets, or other investments can face adoption and sustainability challenges due to resource constraints related to disbursement, procurement, and programming challenges; as well as local leadership budgetary priorities.

At both national and sub-national levels, there was also general **interest in dashboards and maps that could offer analytical insights into the data already existent in systems**; as well as efforts to geo-locate information, to generate heat maps, and to observe trends by locality over time. Demands for tools at the local level – CBMS, tablet-based data collection, data visualizations, etc. – vary widely based on LGU capacities and resources; some technology-centric innovations may be more or less appropriate, depending on the context.

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<sup>74</sup> See <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/02/19/executive-order-no-201-s-2016/>.

At the national level, there was interest in – and notable impact from – innovations that combine quantitative data with holistic explanations of trends; qualitative narratives; and comparisons between Philippines and the greater South East Asia region.<sup>75</sup> There was also strong traction in analyses of the cost/ benefit implications of particular programs or reforms, and potential to “buy into” existing government-led surveys and data gathering efforts.<sup>76</sup> There was also some interest in citizen surveys regarding policy feedback, perception, etc. However, many participants were cautious of overstating the representativeness of responses gathered via social media, or other self-selecting (and connectivity-dependent) platforms.

### C. TIME

Time constraints typically stemmed from limited analytical skills – which meant individuals needed more time to evaluate data quality and fitness-for-purpose – and the need to juggle multiple priorities. The latter case was particularly true for roles that split time between longer-term research, and more immediate policy review and analysis dictated by executive priorities, forthcoming legislation, and other emerging issues. For hyper-local data collectors, time was highlighted as a potential constraint to data quality and use – particularly for those responsible for service delivery and reporting, like teachers or healthcare workers.

For the identification of non-governmental data sources, interviewees shared processes that were ad hoc, often guided by internet searches and prior familiarity with specific organizations. Some mentioned email newsletters, or information sharing within formal or informal research groups, as other ways to identify data and analysis.

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<sup>75</sup> In particular, PNP were interested in being able to generate heatmaps or more automated analyses of crime statistics, to better direct resource investments; DSWD interviewees shared that they are often asked by oversight agencies/ bodies for an explanation of outputs (i.e., why is unemployment still high despite supplemental programs, or why is day care enrollment at Y%) that they would be better able to answer with qualitative information; DepEd and OCS cited case studies or performance benchmarks of other countries in East Asia (related to education and HIV/AIDS, respectively) as goals or processes to emulate.

<sup>76</sup> Interviewees noted that there is a process through which development partners and GoPH agencies can petition for “rider” questions to be included in PSA surveys. Such questions would be considered for inclusion based on resourcing, methodological rigor, and use case.

# New Opportunities

## I. AREAS FOR STRATEGIC SUPPORT

As noted earlier, the highest needs for data use in the Philippines are stronger coordination, capacity, and accountability mechanisms. Underpinning these constraints are limited incentives or accountabilities for data use.

**UNICEF is strategically placed to support challenges related to data demand, supply, and use through continued advocacy, targeted capacity strengthening, and targeted evidence generation.**

Underpinning these interventions should be communications with government counterparts of what data, systems, and capacities they need; why they are important; and how they should be applied for future planning and monitoring.

At the national and regional levels, UNICEF process advocacy could center on why systems and process interoperability; clear accountability mandates; and why disaggregated, high-quality, accessible data are essential for inclusive development. UNICEF could also advocate for greater clarity and communication regarding the implications of the Data Privacy Act to data custodial agencies; consider engaging with the Cabinet Cluster Secretaries through introductions made by OCS, as the PPR process matures and potentially becomes a public resource; and re-engage with the ARMM Regional Government, as accountability and oversight related to service delivery may expand further.

*While administrative data quality is a concern in the Philippines, this does not have a substantial negative impact on data use. Data-driven decision-making is still widely acknowledged as a positive governance norm. Rather, **poor data quality can lead to the formulation of policies or programs that may not efficiently address the actual needs of children, leading to persistent inequitable outcomes.***

Capacity strengthening at the national and sub-national levels could include curriculum on data literacy and quality assurance methods. Throughout, UNICEF evidence products will likely remain valuable resources for spurring policy action and underscoring quality and accessibility gaps.

### A. POTENTIAL COLLABORATION PARTNERS

There is no lack of potential partners for collaboration in the Philippines. UNICEF already has strong relationships with PSA, NEDA, and DBM related to data and M&E capacity development; UNICEF is also working with UNDP to support NEDA, and with WHO to support DOH. Additionally, within the UN system, the nascent capacity-strengthening partnerships between PSA and UNDP, and PSA and UNSD, could be another opportunity to leverage existing UN resources.

The OCS<sup>77</sup> at the national level, and ORG/RPDO within ARMM, could be potential collaboration partners for strengthening accountability for administrative data system quality. As discussed below, initiatives

<sup>77</sup> During the July 2018 Validation Workshop, OCS PPMO clarified that secretaries/chairpersons of Cabinet Clusters would be the ideal collaboration partners for such an initiative, with OCS facilitating introductions.

led by the OCS in Manila, and by ORG in ARMM, offer potential incentives for greater “management of results” by line agencies, and may indicate GoPH “champions” for data accountability. UNICEF should continue engaging with the ARMM Regional Government to support sustainability of ARMM-related initiatives. The DBM budgetary process reforms could also offer an accountability mechanism for incentivizing greater data use beyond monitoring physical progress and spend.

DILG remains the most consistent counterpart for local initiatives – aside from LGU leadership themselves – due to high levels of local autonomy, and the location-specificity of other actors. If legislation mandating CBMS use passes, UNICEF may be poised to explore a partnership with the CBMS Network Team and DILG in creating CBMS data-use curricula. UNICEF should also consider reviewing current bottlenecks in the implementation of CBMS – including its capacity and affordability in including comprehensive data for children – before determining how best to invest in the system.

## II. EMERGING INNOVATIONS

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### A. FEDERATED SDG HUB

PSA is participating in a global research pilot on Federated SDG Hubs, in partnership with the UN Statistical Division (UNSD), ESRI, and approximately fourteen other national statistical offices worldwide. The aim of this research pilot is to create a national system for monitoring progress against the SDGs, which would also be useful for national level planning. This aims to be a conscious break from the MDG era, when there was more emphasis placed on reporting progress to the UN system.

PSA is acting as the lead agency and “host” of the data hub. However, the aim is to expand the initiative to include all SDG-relevant data from other agencies. UNSD is currently working to facilitate this data and information exchange, exploring both the procedural/policy (access) and technical steps needed to achieve interoperability.

The ultimate aim<sup>78</sup> is to provide a one-stop-shop for viewing and interacting with SDG related data, with the ability to overlay datasets onto charts, maps, and other graphics. To what administrative level the data will be disaggregated depends on data availability; current data indicate region or province-level disaggregation is likely. **The Federated SDG Hub could serve as a potential mechanism to address challenges related to data access and coordination; it could also serve as a mechanism to incentivize greater data quality via increased use, resulting in higher scrutiny.** There may also be an opportunity to institutionalize appropriate gender- and equity-responsive data systems to address SDG needs.

Furthermore, GoPH is also considering how and whether private sector data (such as telecommunications and service provider data) could be used to support monitoring progress against the SDGs. This exploration is still nascent, and much would need to be determined regarding mechanisms of reporting, custodial agencies, implications with the Data Privacy Act, etc.

### B. OCS PERFORMANCE AND PROJECTS ROADMAP

Data to populate the PPR are collected monthly, and presented quarterly and annually to the President of the Philippines. In 2017, the PPR collected baseline data from agencies. Key agency-level indicators reported included allocation and disbursement trends, by quarter and year; lists of priority programs, activities, and projects; and some output-level indicators (i.e., teachers hired, kilometers of road constructed, etc.). In 2019, the PPR process aims to facilitate a convergent funding mechanism, allowing for the easier transfer of funds between agencies.<sup>79</sup>

In the near-term, PPMO is looking to **expand progress reporting within the PPR to include progress against short-term and intermediate outcomes.** Cabinet Clusters will also identify and begin reporting against cross-agency program and activity targets. PPMO acknowledged that the national budget may

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<sup>78</sup> In May 2017, the PSA Board approved an initial set of 155 SDG indicators to be monitored in the Philippines. See <http://psa.gov.ph/sdg/Philippines/indicators>.

<sup>79</sup> The PPR could also serve as another venue for advocating further gender responsive data in the Philippines.

need to be further disaggregated to accurately map budget allocation and utilization to programming results.<sup>80</sup>

Currently, the PPR is an internally facing process – reports are only shared with the president and related staff. However, PPMO are exploring the **potential for making the PPR data more open to the public**. OCS is also considering **incorporating a social accountability mechanism** for participation and validation in the PPR process, through the Fiscal Participatory Governance Unit.

*Uniquely, OCS reported requesting clarifications if reported data seemed anomalous. These checks were typically prompted by accomplishments appearing disproportionate to budget allocated/utilized, or seeming factually unlikely.*

*OCS also reported some agencies voluntarily submit updated information, usually when the information source was an administrative data system. While program-specific, this initiative represents a promising opportunity for national-level monitoring and evaluation with oversight and accountability linked to both budget and outcome information.*

## C. RESULTS-BASED BUDGETING

There is also movement, led by DBM, to achieve results-based budgeting.<sup>81</sup> Based on existing research, **combining results-based financing with verification using administrative data systems can incentivize improvements in the quality of administrative data systems**.<sup>82</sup>

## D. ARMM DATA INITIATIVES

Within ARMM, there is an ORG-led movement to leverage executive and emergency power and accountability mechanisms to improve data quality. There is strong recognition by the ORG that credible and accurate data must be the basis for governance; that data gaps stem from non-existent, or inaccurate, data systems; and that these data gaps have been used as an avenue for corruption.

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<sup>80</sup> While not mentioned in interviews, the Unified Account Code Structure framework could be a worthwhile initiative to review, in light of this interest in disaggregated and interoperable financial data. See <http://www.uacs.gov.ph/>.

<sup>81</sup> Based on interviews; see <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/Issuances/2018/National%20Budget%20Memorandum/NBM-No129.pdf>.

<sup>82</sup> See <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/504661485897909610/Verification-in-results-based-financing-for-health>.

*Particular initiatives undertaken by the ORG include “ghost busting” DepEd information systems’ inaccurate records about teachers and students, resulting in 100,000 non-existent entries removed to-date. The ORG, upon assumption of as OIC-Secretary of ARMM DSWD, is now doing the same with the social policy sector’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), under authority granted by martial law.<sup>83</sup>*

*For this reason, the ORG was particularly keen to read the ARMM-specific Situational Analysis commissioned by UNICEF. The ORG has also instituted quarterly meetings with the regional departments, dubbed GISA – or the Governor’s Initiative on Systems Assessment – in line with the Filipino saying, “igisa sa sariling mantika”, where agency heads must present in-person progress updates.*

**In addition to the ORG, RPDO recognize the need to capacitate line agencies regarding the importance of data quality** – most pressing, that incorrect data can lead to incorrect interventions. RPDO are also exploring online platforms to monitor development progress. There was also interest in systems that would allow for monitoring and visualizing progress against program indicators. A system that could help achieve this goal is the RPDO Regional Project Monitoring System, which currently tracks infrastructure project implementations. A database tool similar to DevInfo was also cited as a potential tool that may support monitoring within ARMM. The Federated SDG Hub may include data points relevant to ARMM needs. However, the scope of administrative data quality issues; the pressing nature of service delivery needs in the region; and the nascent stage of the Federated SDG Hub indicate that a more immediate solution than a national-level platform is needed – or potentially, a new standalone ARMM database.

## **E. COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM**

The CBMS is a monitoring system that allows data collection, processing, validation, and establishment of local databases at each geo-political level. CBMS was designed to complement official statistics and surveys, and to align with the decentralization policies that began in the 1990s.<sup>84</sup> CBMS is not a “new” data source,<sup>85</sup> and its implementation is not mandatory; current estimates place its prevalence at 50% of LGUs. If the system is desired, the LGU signs a memorandum of understanding between DILG and CBMS Network Team specifying roles and responsibilities; for the LGU, this includes budget allocation and data collection every three years. The tool and training of LGU staff are free of charge; the cost to LGU is staff time and expenses for training, paying enumerators for data collection, internet, and tablets. The estimated budget needed for CBMS implementation by LGUs is 130-140 pesos per household at maximum.

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<sup>83</sup> Martial Law Instruction No. 1 tasks the regional and provincial governors to monitor and guarantee the delivery of government programs and services to the constituents of the respective LGUs.

<sup>84</sup> For more information, see: <https://www.pep-net.org/about-cbms> and <https://www.pep-net.org/cbms-philippines>.

<sup>85</sup> Select LGUs in the Philippines began adoption of the CBMS in 2000. Starting in 2008, and continuing in present day, DILG partners with the CBMS Network Team to support a national pool of DILG-CBMS trainers to help with updating or establishing CBMS databases.

In partnership with DILG, the CBMS Network Team developed three core training modules<sup>86</sup> in support of system implementation. A national pool of 30-40 accredited DILG-CBMS trainers delivers these modules to LGUs. While initial training demands from LGUs center around data collection, more seasoned municipalities demand trainings in data analysis and application.

The CBMS Network Team has created additional applications and pilot studies in collaboration with development partners. These have included training on monitoring MDGs at the sub-national level, in partnership with UNDP and NEDA; monitoring household coping responses in complex crises, with UNICEF; profiling child labor, with ILO; monitoring impacts of climate change, with Australia and the Partnership for Economic Policy; and profiling women migrant workers, with UN Women.

The outcome of these research initiatives is either incorporation of some relevant questions to the core CBMS questionnaire, or deployment to LGUs based upon LGU request and relevance. A subnational “monitoring SDGs” module is currently in the pipeline, and there are exploratory talks with universities around supporting the development and roll-out of additional data analysis modules.

Regarding quality assurance, PSA reviews all CBMS questionnaires for methodological soundness; tablets and built-in system quality check mechanisms aim to mitigate human error<sup>87</sup>; methodological guidelines are shared with enumerators and field managers to encourage layers of accountability; LGUs can monitor data collection in real-time via a system portal; community validation of data is required; and sometimes technical working groups are convened by LGU planning and development offices. Beyond these mechanisms, there is no “official” or enforced oversight of CBMS data collection.

Not all provinces implementing CBMS have their aggregated CBMS data published at this time. Some are only available in their local databanks and in the CBMS national repository being maintained by the CBMS Network and the DILG, while others have publicly available data aggregated to the provincial level. There is also an annual CBMS conference, which serves as a national venue for sharing and discussion across CBMS implementers (local chief executives, department heads, and planning officers) and LGUs that have not yet implemented the system, as well as representatives from development partner agencies, academia, and GoPH agencies.

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<sup>86</sup> Core training modules include (1) Data Collection using tablets via the CBMS Accelerated Poverty Profiling functionality; (2) Data Processing and Management, using CBMS StatSIM and QGIS to generate core indicators and maps; and (3) CBMS Data Use for planning and budgeting.

<sup>87</sup> Guidelines to ensure data quality standards during adoption and use of CBMS are established by the CBMS Network Team. These standards are incorporated in the CBMS structured data collection and processing tools and training modules.

*As outlined above, CBMS implementation currently remains at the discretion of LGUs. However, there is legislation<sup>88</sup> under review that would make its implementation mandatory. **If this legislation passes, CBMS is poised to become another administrative data system, and potential resource for hyper-local data.** It is also safe to assume that DILG and The CBMS Network Team would remain instrumental in the system implementation.*

*If CBMS becomes mandatory, it would also be important for the GoPH to **examine whether any overlaps or duplication of efforts exist between the CBMS and other sector-based systems**, and identify opportunities for streamlining data processes to avoid over-burdening at the local level.*

UNICEF has ongoing programming at the LGU level that is complementary to the CBMS. UNICEF is supporting the implementation of the Children Information and Location Database (Project CHILD) in seven focus LGUs. The system collects comprehensive information on children and pregnant women, and aims to complement the CBMS. Using a tablet or cellphone, data collected at the household level, and transmitted to the LGU managerial level via the internet. Reports can be generated and shared with relevant officials as a basis for decision-making, planning, and programming; information collected can be customized based on LGU needs.

## **F. PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM**

In May 2018, the GoPH passed into law the Philippine Identification System Act of 2018.<sup>89</sup> This aims to harmonize various government-issued national identification numbers into one system (“PhilSys”), under the mandate of PSA.

This registration will be piloted in select districts in 2018. It is unclear whether PhilSys will become an “at birth” civil registration and identification system, and what mechanisms or accommodations for child registration will be provided. However, supporting the rollout of PhilSys to all Philippine children could help facilitate administrative data sharing, by providing a common unique identifier to individual children. This could also help address key data quality issues, particularly related to ECCD and DSWD data systems.

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<sup>88</sup> This legislation as known as the CBMS Bill / House Bill 4700. See [http://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/basic\\_17/HB04700.pdf](http://www.congress.gov.ph/legisdocs/basic_17/HB04700.pdf). Additional updates can be found at <http://congress.gov.ph/press/details.php?pressid=10265>.

<sup>89</sup> Known as HB 6221 and SB 1738 in the House of Representatives and Senate, respectively.

### III. QUALITY AND ACCESS INNOVATIONS

#### A. INNOVATIVE DATA SOURCES

<b>Source</b>	<b>Potential Use</b>	<b>Related UNICEF Outcome Area<sup>90</sup></b>
<i>Federated SDG Hub</i>	<i>While likely not “new” data, Hub could be a centralized resource for accessing SDG-related data for children.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning</i>
<i>PSA/ telecommunications partnership</i>	<i>PSA is exploring a partnership with telecommunications companies that could provide more “real-time” data to fill data gaps.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning; 3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>DOH/ WHO Maternal, Neonatal, and Infant Death Reporting System</i>	<i>This system allows for SMS-based real-time reporting of deaths, in line with the GoPH emergency reporting system. Six regions are currently implementing, and it has been linked to improved outcomes.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive</i>
<i>UNDP pilot related to citizen monitoring of school equipment delivery<sup>91</sup></i>	<i>In partnership with DepEd, this program seeks to support GoPH accountability, by ensuring information technology equipment arrives at the schools; it also facilitates access for resource-constrained schools.</i>	<i>2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>WFP child nutritional status monitoring tool</i>	<i>WFP has a tool for monitoring children’s nutritional status (stunting). Based on beneficiary registration data, the tool can map outputs and indicators to aggregate change over time.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive</i>
<i>WFP Access database</i>	<i>WFP is aiming to create an internal Access database, linking barangay and municipality data to drive internal targeting and prioritization. The methodology and calculations behind this database could be re-usable for UNICEF purposes.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>

<sup>90</sup> Likely alignment based upon CP8 June 2018 draft, data source, and use; source fitness-for-purpose should be evaluated in depth by UNICEF.

<sup>91</sup> See [http://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/operations/projects/democratic\\_governance/Strengthening\\_PublicServiceDeliveryinEducation.html](http://www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/Strengthening_PublicServiceDeliveryinEducation.html) and <https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/the-philippine-star/20180329/281736975004257>

<i>Community Based Child Information Management System (CBCIMS)</i>	<i>The ChildFund Philippines is currently piloting CBCIMS. Similar to CBMS, it has data specifically related to children. The rollout includes interviews with children, and will include VAC data. Data collection is online; relevant LMGU officials and ChildFund officers are given permissioned access, and officials can share overall results with the public.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Use of social media, satellite, and drones during emergencies</i>	<i>FAO is evaluating the use of social media to complement satellite and drone data, to map needs and damage analyses during emergencies.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment</i>
<i>Data-driven early warning system</i>	<i>FAO has a pilot focusing on developing tools that can integrate real time and climate weather data into an early warning system.</i>	<i>4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Mandatory adoption of CBMS</i>	<i>There is pending legislation that would make the adoption of CBMS mandatory across LGUs. It is unclear how likely this would be to pass, and if it were to, what form the funding and accountability mechanisms would take. If implemented, this could signify a consistent platform resource across LGUs.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>GIS tool to map barangay-level indicator data</i>	<i>The Local Government Development Foundation is developing a GIS tool that could visualize key indicator data from the barangay level.<sup>92</sup></i>	<i>4. Social policy and governance</i>

*Table 3: Potential data sources and relevant UNICEF CP8 outcome area.*

<sup>92</sup> It is unclear how far this may have progressed from the initial discussion phase, and is unclear whether visualized data would be existing or newly-collected.

## B. INNOVATIONS AROUND PROCESS AND ACCESS

<b>Process</b>	<b>Potential Use</b>	<b>Related UNICEF Outcome Area<sup>93</sup></b>
<i>PNP-WCP database migration</i>	<i>The PNP-WCP Desk are on the cusp of migrating from Excel to the NGIS; this could allow for more efficient data capture, and set the foundation for incorporating more analytical capabilities.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment</i>
<i>Strengthening systems interoperability</i>	<i>Several agencies, like DSWD, DepEd, and DOH, are exploring system enhancements which would facilitate greater intra-agency interoperability.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning; 3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Survey methodology innovations</i>	<i>UNFPA is working with PSA and DOH on methodological innovations, like lot quality assurance sampling (LQUAS). This methodology could lead to faster, lower-cost, and still-rigorous survey and evaluation data collection.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive</i>
<i>CBMS capacity strengthening and module development</i>	<i>DILG has a core capacitated set of trainers on CBMS implementation; they also have mechanisms for rolling out additional training modules to LGUs that could be explored with the CBMS Network Team and DILG.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment;<sup>94</sup> 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Mapping violent extremism in ARMM</i>	<i>UNW is mapping initiatives, factors, and trends related to violent extremism in ARMM.</i>	<i>3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Longitudinal Cohort Study</i>	<i>The study will track demographic and SDG-relevant changes over time; it can be used to demonstrate changes and policy impacts for GoPH and other development actors. UNICEF, UNFPA, AUSTRALIA, the Philippines Research Cohort, and potentially DOH will support the initiative.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning; 3. Protective environment; 4. Social policy and governance</i>
<i>Nutrition Initial Needs Assessment Tool</i>	<i>Developed by the Nutrition Cluster, this tool – developed for emergency situation rollout – could be used in the event of a natural or humanitarian crisis for rapid response.</i>	<i>1. Survive and thrive; 3. Protective environment;</i>

<sup>93</sup> Likely alignment based upon CP8 June 2018 draft, data source, and use; source fitness-for-purpose should be evaluated in depth by UNICEF.

<sup>94</sup> The DRR team has also used CBMS data to evaluate vulnerabilities and preparedness.

*Table 4: Potential process and access innovations relevant UNICEF CP8 outcome area.*

### C. GOVERNMENT DATA SYSTEMS

As mentioned in the literature<sup>95</sup> and across interviews, UNICEF should avoid providing direct financial support to national government data systems in the Philippines due to existing financial and human capacities within the GoPH to fund new and existing systems directly.

That said, **UNICEF could be well-placed to advocate for greater interoperability and data sharing across systems.** Such interoperability is often stymied by data custodian territoriality; interpretation of mandates; lack of unique identifiers<sup>96</sup>; and, moving forward, the Data Privacy Act. A potential “quick win” in interoperability advocacy would be outreach regarding good practices in data privacy and confidentiality – even demonstrating ethical processes for data sharing between agencies. This would both respond to an emerging, commonly cited barrier related to data sharing, and would be well within UNICEF’s mandates regarding data protection.

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<sup>95</sup> In particular, the Evaluation of the UNICEF 7<sup>th</sup> Country Programme recommended that UNICEF work in collaboration with other UN Agencies to support GoPH monitoring and evaluation capacity development.

<sup>96</sup> While the Philippine Identification System law has been enacted and will be piloted in 2018, it is unclear when comprehensive coverage – particularly of children – will be achieved.

# Annexes

## ANNEX I: LIST OF INTERVIEWEES

	<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ms.	Louise Maule	Chief of WASH	UNICEF-WASH	2/12
Ms.	Julia Rees	Deputy Representative	UNICEF	2/13
Ms.	Marieta Michelle (Michell) Borromeo	Fundraising Specialist	UNICEF-PFP	2/12
Ms.	Maria Margarita (Marga) Baula	Fundraising Officer	UNICEF-PFP	2/12
Ms.	Victoria Regina (Gina) Sales	Fundraising Officer	UNICEF-PFP	2/12
Ms.	Lyn Rhona Montebon	Senior Manager for Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning	Save the Children	2/12
Ms.	Atty. Maria Margarita (Marj) Ardivilla	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Ms.	Faye Balanon	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Ms.	Rodeliza (Rodel) Barrientos-Casado	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Ms.	Athea Peñaloza	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Mr.	Julien Hayois	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Mr.	Jesus (Jess) Far	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/13
Ms.	Kathleen Solis	Communications for Development	UNICEF-Social Policy	2/13
Ms.	Rosela Agcaoili	Social Policy Specialist	UNICEF-Social Policy	2/13
Mr.	Martin Porter	Chief of Monitoring & Evaluation	UNICEF-PME	2/13
Ms.	Vilma Aquino	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	UNICEF-PME	2/13
Ms.	Hideko Miyagawa	Chief of Education	UNICEF-Education	2/13
Ms.	Teresita "Tess" Felipe	Education Specialist	UNICEF-Education	2/13
Ms.	Psyche Olayvar	EECD Programme Manager	UNICEF-Education	2/13
Dr.	Romulo E.M. Miral, Jr	Director General	Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department	2/14
Ms.	Rhodora Alday	OIC-Director, Policy Development and Planning Bureau	Department of Social Welfare and Development	2/14
Ms.	Norilyn Quesada-Rivera	ECCD Focal Person	Department of Social Welfare and Development	2/14
Ms.	Maricel Aguilar	Officer In Charge	UN Women	2/14
Mr.	Jose Mar Pilar	Assistant City Planning and Development Officer	Quezón City	2/14
Ms.	Ana Maria Pineda	Planning Officer IV / Focal Person for UNICEF Projects	Quezón City	2/14

	<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>
Mr.	Romeo Recide	Deputy National Statistician, Sectoral Statistics Office	Philippines Statistical Authority	2/15
Ms.	Bernadette Balamban	Chief Statistical Specialist, Poverty and Human Development Statistics Division	Philippines Statistical Authority	2/15
Dr.	Beverly Lorraine Ho	Chief, Research Division, Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau	Department of Health	2/15
Dr.	Jacqueline Kitong	Technical Officer	World Health Organization	2/15
Dir.	Mary Mitzi Cajayon-Uy	Executive Director	Council for the Welfare of Children	2/15
Ms.	Normina Mojica	Head Executive Assistant/Planning Officer III	Council for the Welfare of Children	2/15
Ms.	Ma. Consolacion Salcedo	Head, Policy and Planning Division	Council for the Welfare of Children	2/15
Ms.	Ma. Alpha Larga	OIC-Head, Localization and Institutionalization Division	Council for the Welfare of Children	2/15
Ms.	Celine Cabrera	Information Officer, Public Affairs and Information Office	Council for the Welfare of Children	
Ms.	Myrna Santos	Assistant Division Chief, National Barangay Operations Office	Department of Interior and Local Government	2/15
Ms.	Lovesita Daumar	Local Government Operations Officer V	Department of Interior and Local Government	
Mr.	Lymuel Marasigan	Local Government Operations Officer IV	Department of Interior and Local Government	2/15
Dr.	Wigdan Madani	Chief of Health and Nutrition	UNICEF-Health and Nutrition	2/16
Mr.	Joris Van Hees	Nutrition Policy Specialist	UNICEF-Health and Nutrition	2/16
Atty.	Anjanette Saguisag	Child Protection Specialist	UNICEF-Child Protection	2/16
Mr.	Rafael Umbrero	M&E Specialist	Food and Agriculture Organization	2/16
Ms.	Cecile Pastores	Team Leader	Food and Agriculture Organization	2/16
Atty.	Laisa Alamia	Executive Secretary	Regional Governor's Office - ARMM	2/19
Dir.	Lininding Lao	Director II, Technical Support Division	Department of Interior and Local Government - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Luz Halud	Focal Person for Children Concerns	Department of Interior and Local Government - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Hja. Pombaen Karon-Kader	Assistant Regional Secretary	Department of Social Welfare and Development - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Kai Lintongan	Focal Person for Children Concerns	Department of Social Welfare and Development - ARMM	2/19
Dr.	Dr. Abdulhalik (Halik) Kasim	Assistant Regional Secretary	Department of Health - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Celia Sagara	Nutrition Coordinator	Department of Health - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Eryn Hamapag	Focal Person for Expanded Program on Immunization	Department of Education - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Rohanisad Rashid	Planning Officer III	Regional Planning and Development Office - ARMM	2/19
Ms.	Rohannie Baraguir-Datamanaong	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF-MRO	2/19
Dr.	Rosalia Bataclan	Health and Nutrition Officer	UNICEF-MRO	2/19
Mr.	Farouk Lim	M&E Officer	UNICEF-MRO	2/19

Staff Name		Title	Agency	Date
Mr.	Andrew Morris	Chief, Mindanao Regional Office	UNICEF-MRO	2/19-20
Mr.	Jessie Bacal	ICT Associate	UNICEF-MRO	2/20
Engr.	Paul Cagara	Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator	Municipality of Upi	2/20
Ms.	Lotta Sylwander	Country Representative	UNICEF	2/21
Ms.	Girle Grace Casimiro-Igtiben	Chief, Social Protection Division	Social Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority	2/21
Mr.	Yuri Leomo	Senior Economic and Development Specialist, Focal for Children Sector	Social Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority	2/21
Mr.	Michael Provideo	UN Coordinator for the SDGs	Social Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority	2/21
Ms.	Ma. Lourdes Eudela	Chief, Social Sector Division	Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, National Economic and Development Authority	2/21
Mr.	William Ku	Agency Officer for Education-related concerns	Monitoring and Evaluation Staff, National Economic and Development Authority	2/21
Mr.	Roger Masapol	Director, Office of Planning Service (PS)	Department of Education	2/21
Ms.	Cristina Cay	Project Development Officer, PS-PRD	Department of Education	2/21
Ms.	Mercy Trio	PS-EMISD	Department of Education	2/21
Ms.	Wilmina Lara	OIC-Sector Head, Commercial/Business	GeoData Systems Technologies, Inc.	2/21
PSupt.	Gemma Vinluan	OIC, Luzon Field Unit, WCPC-DIDM	Women and Children Protection Center, Philippines National Police	2/22
PSupt.	Angela Quejano	AC, Anti-VAWC Division	Women and Children Protection Center, Philippines National Police	2/22
SSupt.	Villamor Tuliao	AC, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division	Women and Children Protection Center, Philippines National Police	2/22
PSupt.	Maria Sheila Pontenfo	AC, Operations Management Division	Women and Children Protection Center, Philippines National Police	2/22
Dir.	Queenie Raagas	Director IV	Office of the Cabinet Secretary	2/22
Ms.	Marian Valera Co	Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst	UNDP	2/22
Dr.	Rena Doña	Deputy Country Director	UNFP	2/22
Mr.	Jose Roi Avena	M&E Advisor	UNFP	2/22
Dr.	Mario V. Capanzana	Director	Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology	2/23
Ms.	Alma Perey	National Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of the Programme Unit	World Food Programme	2/23
Dr.	Martin Parreno	Nutrition Officer	World Food Programme	2/23
Ms.	Anne Bernadette E. Mandap	Research and Administration Officer	Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Team / CBMS Office DLSU-Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies, Manila	2/23

## ANNEX II: PHILIPPINES ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS

As of September 30, 2014.

<b>REGION<sup>97</sup></b>	<b>PROVINCES<sup>98</sup></b>	<b>CITIES<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>MUNICIPALITIES<sup>100</sup></b>	<b>BARANGAYS<sup>101</sup></b>
<i>National Capital Region (NCR)</i>	-	16	1	1,706
<i>Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)</i>	6	2	75	1,176
<i>I – Ilocos Region</i>	4	9	116	3,265
<i>II – Cagayan Valley</i>	5	4	89	2,311
<i>III – Central Luzon</i>	7	14	116	3,102
<i>IV-A - CALABARZON</i>	5	18	124	4,011
<i>IV-B - MIMAROPA</i>	5	2	71	1,459
<i>V – Bicol Region</i>	6	7	107	3,471
<i>VI – Western Visayas</i>	6	16	117	4,051
<i>VII – Central Visayas</i>	4	16	116	3,003
<i>VIII – Eastern Visayas</i>	6	7	136	4,390
<i>IX – Zamboanga Peninsula</i>	3	5	67	1,904
<i>X – Northern Mindanao</i>	5	9	84	2,022
<i>XI – Davao Region</i>	5	6	43	1,162
<i>XII SOCCSKSARGEN</i>	4	5	45	1,195
<i>XIII – Caraga Region</i>	5	6	67	1,311
<i>Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)</i>	5	2	116	2,490
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>42,029</b>

<sup>97</sup> Region: A sub-national administrative unit comprising of several provinces having more or less homogenous characteristics, such as ethnic origin of inhabitants, dialect spoken, agricultural produce, etc.

<sup>98</sup> Province: The largest unit in the political structure of the Philippines. It consists, in varying numbers, of municipalities and, in some cases, of component cities. Its functions and duties in relation to its component cities and municipalities are generally coordinative and supervisory.

<sup>99</sup> City: There are three classes of cities in the Philippines: the highly urbanized, the independent component cities which are independent of the province, and the component cities which are part of the provinces where they are located and subject to their administrative supervision.

<sup>100</sup> Municipality: Is a political corporate body that is endowed with the facilities of a municipal corporation, exercised by and through the municipal government in conformity with law. It is a subsidiary of the province, which consists of a number of barangays within its territorial boundaries, one of which is the seat of government found at the town proper (poblacion).

<sup>101</sup> Barangay: The smallest political unit into which cities and municipalities in the Philippines are divided. It is the basic unit of the Philippine political system. It consists of less than 1,000 inhabitants residing within the territorial limit of a city or municipality and administered by a set of elective officials, headed by a barangay chairman (punong barangay).

## ANNEX III: UNICEF INTERVIEW GUIDE

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*(Note: This interview guide was slightly modified for interviews with non-UNICEF agencies.)*

Interviewee organization:

Interviewee name and business title:

Date:

Time:

INTERVIEWER: We know your time is valuable, so thank you for agreeing to meet with us. We're conducting these interviews in order to get a better understanding of the decision making and data use processes within UNICEF. Could you begin by describing your role within your organization? [NOTE: questions in blue are mandatory for each interview]

### A. DECISION MAKING PROCESSES (15 MINUTES)

1. List 2-3 examples of the most important decisions/advocacy goals you make/influence?
  - a. For example, regarding the planning and program design, resource allocation, program implementation, or advocacy/policy objectives of your team?
2. Decision 1:
  - a. How does this fit into country office priority/objective?
  - b. Frequency of decision?
  - c. Decision-making process?
  - d. What data are used in this process?
  - e. Where did you find these data? Internal or external systems?
  - f. Did you need to combine multiple sources of data? If yes, was this challenging?
3. What other non-UNICEF organizations are involved in this process?
4. What was the conclusion? Can you walk us through how you and your team come to these decisions?
5. At what stage of the [decision-making process] process do you find that this data is most used/influential? What stages is it least useful?
  - a. How important was data in the decision-making process?
6. Was there anything else that played a big role in this process?

[IF THERE IS A NEED TO GET A CLEARER PICTURE OF DATA IN DECISIONS, ASK SOME OF THE QUESTIONS FROM ABOVE, BUT USING A DIFFERENT EXAMPLE PROVIDED IN QUESTION I.1]

## **B. SMART DEMAND AND USE (20 MINUTES)**

1. Which UNICEF data collection activities do your team/office currently use or wish to use?
  - a. [PROMPT] For example, mobile surveys
  - b. How are these data used by UNICEF in its strategy, programming, or advocacy processes? OR how could they be used?
    - i. If you are not currently using the data, why not?
  - c. Are these data made available to government and other stakeholders?
    - i. If yes, to who? how are these data used by these stakeholders?
  - d. Approximately how much funding is used to collect these data?
2. Which official statistical data or household survey data do your team/office use or wish to use?
  - a. [PROMPT] E.g. Census, agricultural census, etc.
  - b. How are these data used by UNICEF in its strategy, programming, or advocacy processes? OR how could they be used?
    - i. If you are not currently using the data, why not?
  - c. How are these data used by government or other stakeholders?
  - d. Does UNICEF provide funding for the collection of these data?
  - e. Approximately how much UNICEF funding is used to support the collection of these data?
3. Which government administrative data systems do your team currently use or wish to use?
  - a. [PROMPT] HMIS, EMIS, etc.
  - b. How are these data used by UNICEF in its strategy, programming, or advocacy processes? OR how could they be used?
    - i. If you are not currently using the data, why not?
  - c. How are these data used by government or other stakeholders?
  - d. Does UNICEF provide funding for the collection of these data?
  - e. Approximately how much UNICEF funding is used to support the collection of these data?
4. What are the priority [unmet] needs for the various data stakeholders that you have encountered?
5. If you could have access to any set of data to drive your work, what would it be?

## **C. DATA SUPPLY: FIT-FOR-PURPOSE DATA (15 MINUTES)**

1. What kinds of data typically inform your work? What kinds of reports do you typically request of your staff, for your consumption, or the consumptions of others? [if confused, acknowledge that we understand there are many different “kinds” of data, but ask what comes to their mind generally]

	Data Type	Analysis type	Frequency of access
1.			
2.			

2. How do you determine which data source to use? Why do you use these particular sources?
  - a. Do you consult with anyone about what source(s) to use? If so, whom?
    - i. Are you part of any community or network that you can rely on in this process? If no, why not? And what type of network would you find most useful?
  - b. Let's consider the specific data types listed above, how do you evaluate the quality of the data sources?
    - i. Have you ever encountered (or are you currently encountering) any barriers that prevented you to assess the quality of the data? What were these barriers and how have you overcome them (if at all)?
3. Can you recall an instance where you asked for particular information and were told it was not possible to provide you with it? Can you describe that instance? What was the reason the information to be unavailable?
  - a. [PROMPT] Was this due to data availability?
  - b. [PROMPT] Was this due to staff skills?
  - c. [PROMPT] Was this due to availability of tools/technology for analysis?
4. Which government administrative systems currently exchange data?
  - a. What are key integrations or interoperability improvements you wish to see?
5. Where are areas of particular strength in existing government data systems?
  - a. Administrative data
  - b. Official statistics
6. Where are areas of particular weakness in existing government data systems?
  - a. Administrative data
  - b. Official statistics
7. On a scale of 0-10, zero being not at all and 10 being completely, how well are the data and evidence your team currently uses meeting your needs? Why or why not?
  - a. About internal UNICEF decisions and resource allocation choices
  - b. About the performance and/or results of programs/policies
  - c. GET EXAMPLES

#### D. SMART DEMAND AND USE: GAPS AND FRONTIERS (10 MINUTES)

1. Can you recall an instance where you felt that you could have been able to make a more informed decision had you had better data?
2. Which innovative data tools have you observed in recent years?
  - a. What have been their strengths and weaknesses?
  - b. Who has used these tools?
  - c. How have they been used?
3. What non-traditional data sources do you feel hold promise for filling data gaps in [your country]? Why?
  - a. Satellite/geospatial
  - b. Big data (examples)
  - c. Social media
  - d. Other (ask for examples)
4. Which data formats are you most comfortable using? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY] Why or why not?
  - a. Excel
  - b. Geospatial
  - c. Database (e.g., Access)
  - d. Data visualizations (e.g., dashboards)
  - e. Other (examples)
5. Which of the mechanisms listed below are most needed for your team [and non-UNICEF stakeholders that you work with] to more effectively use data? Please give examples for each [e.g. “training on geospatial data collection,” rather than simply “training on data”]
  - a. Trainings [PROMPT FOR SPECIFICS]?
  - b. Tools [PROMPT FOR SPECIFICS]?
  - c. Data access [PROMPT FOR SPECIFICS]?
  - d. Time availability for analysis?
    - i. If time is a limiting factor, what would you do with more time?
    - ii. Is there a particular piece of the data use process that is taking up a lot of time that could be more efficient?
  - e. None. We use sufficient amount of data

#### E. WRAP-UP

1. Do you have any additional comments or topics you feel that we have missed?
2. Are there other people you think we should interview?
3. [INTERVIEWER NOTE: Start tracking/making note of who asked for follow-up information/reporting]

## ANNEX IV: VALIDATION WORKSHOP

### A. SUMMARY OF VALIDATION WORKSHOP

A Data for Children Diagnostic Validation Workshop was held on Monday, 30 July 2018 at the Joy-Nostalg Hotel in Pasig City, Philippines. Over 80 representatives from GoPH agencies in Manila, ARMM, and LGU offices; CSOs and private organizations; UN Agencies; and UNICEF Manila, MFO, and Regional Offices were in attendance.

Time	Activity
0830-0900	Registration & Coffee
0900-0930	Session 1: Welcome and Opening Remarks
0930-1030	Session 2: Findings of the Data for Children Landscape Diagnostic
1030-1045	Break
1045-1230	Session 3a: Identification of Common Bottlenecks and Opportunities for Working Together
1230-1330	Lunch
1330-1345	Icebreaker and Group Photo
1345-1445	Session 3b: Share-back of findings
1445-1500	Workshop Conclusions and Next Steps

Table A: Workshop Agenda

*Ms. Julia Rees, UNICEF Deputy Representative, opened the event with a warm welcome to participants. She stressed that the Data for Children Strategic Framework represents a recommitment to addressing inequality by working across sectors. Ms. Rees also underscored the importance of using data to influence decision-making and policymaking. Additional key points included:*

- UNICEF as an organization is evidence-driven, meaning it undertakes analysis to identify data gaps before planning or supporting the development of new policies and programs, to ensure that investments are strategic.*
- Data for children is a very timely discussion, especially in view of the data required to achieve the SDGs and PDP targets. The UN is supporting NGAs in country level data collection through key investments or engagements to better understand existing data, incentives, mandates and process informing data demand and use.*

- *Based on the national Situational Analysis, particular data gaps include those for children left behind, children with disabilities, and indigenous children. Bottlenecks include the way data is collected, triangulated, analyzed and used to inform decision-making. Understanding these bottlenecks requires a holistic approach, which will lead to smarter and a more efficient and effective investment data positively impacting for children.*

*Ms. Melva Johnson, Regional Chief of Planning and Monitoring of UNICEF's East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, reiterated that the data for children is part of a global initiative towards coordination, planning and knowledge sharing. She complimented the Philippines as a frontrunner among the participating countries in the Asia Pacific Region.*

*Ms. Johnson shared the following principles that underpin data for children, specifically, (i) data supply and demand are equally important, (ii) investment must support the NGA system, (iii) an effective system must foster coordination within and across sectors, (iv) different data are appropriate for different audience and context, and (v) data requires working together with partners. Mentioned that a recent UNICEF report found that more than half of a billion children are “uncounted” in the SDGs.*

*This was followed by a discussion of the main findings of the Data for Children Landscape Diagnostic as presented by Ms. Paige Kirby, research study lead. Highlights from the findings are as follows:*

- The data ecosystem does not exist in a vacuum; one needs to understand the political context to identify key needs and results as well as the actors and the demand for data.*
- The three systematic bottlenecks are in the areas of: (i) coordination (both horizontal and vertical), (ii) capacity, and (iii) accountability (includes the incentives and expectations for users). Cited as an example the electronic Basic Education Information System (BEIS) of the Department of Education and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) system managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). There is no tracking of delay, graduation nor flagging during enrolment between children in day care centers in the ECCD system and children in kindergarten under the BEIS.*
- In terms of the demand, data is needed for planning, monitoring and reporting services but more in relation to budgetary compliance or financial management concern. The main data producer is the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) while primary data users are the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Office of the Cabinet Secretary (OCS), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), ARMM Office of the Regional Governor (ORG), LGU's City/Municipal Planning and Development Officer (C/MPDO), Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD) and others. Agencies that both demand and use data includes the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network. Accountability is in the form of budget hearings but there is no similar initiative for achieving development outcomes.*
- In terms of supply, there is no question on the reliability of data produced by PSA but the concern is on the access to timely, relevant, and [sex and age] disaggregated data. Administrative data can potentially fill in data gaps since it is collected more frequently but it has quality issue. For subnational levels, there are financial incentives that may compromise data accuracy/quality, i.e. bigger population means bigger budget share for the LGU. There is also no concrete policy for data access/sharing and one oft cited concern is the issuance of the data privacy law. Cited as an example the lack of automated sharing between DepEd and DSWD as regards the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which could have validated the ghost students in the ARMM region.*
- In terms of data use, there is a need to (i) understand and communicate data effectively, (ii) strengthen the capacity of users in terms of data analysis rather than generic tools training, and*

*(iii) establish respective divisions and offices for data management; this is in relation to the time constraint brought about by varying analytical capacities.*

- *As for potential innovations and opportunities, cited items are as follows: (i) federated SDG hub as part of a global research project, (ii) OCS Performance and Projects Roadmap which could include social outcomes, (iii) results-based budgeting, (iv) ongoing Bangsamoro initiative, (v) institutionalization of the CBMS, and the (vi) harmonization under the Philippine ID System. For data quality and access, there is potential in looking into systems interoperability.*

*Questions and comments raised on the aforementioned presentation are as follows:*

- *Ms. Johnson inquired after working/positive items can be built upon and in terms of planning, what the challenges and opportunities are in relation to the 2030 goals. It was shared that there is potential partnership between NEDA and OCS since there is deep respect for NEDA's role as a coordinator and second, a likely role for the OCS in pushing for improving the quality of administrative data, however, a constraint is that it is limited to presidential priorities.*
- *As to cost-effectiveness, it was explained that the cost implication is not insignificant but there are potential short to medium term solution/s. Moreover, it can be anchored/related to the international context (SDGs), which requires national statistics and administrative data systems that aim to track service delivery and program.*
- *Dr. Genesis Samonte of DOH stated that a reality is the lack of coordination within the agencies themselves – i.e. DOH – that has a number of bureaus managing different systems. This was seconded by Ms. Kirby since based on the key informant interviews (KIIs), coordination units that should be responsible within the respective agencies also have their challenges. It may be most effective to set legal frameworks/ parameters in data sharing to be led by PSA.*
- *Shared the oft cited DBM guideline regarding the within the year utilization as a means of creating incentives to address the challenges. This may be tied up with results through a national evaluation policy or monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework with the oversight agencies calling out other agencies on their reports.*
- *DepEd Dir. Roger Masapol explained that the BEIS handles more than 26 million learners and the challenge, internally, is the capacity to use generated data; e.g. some field supervisors still use survey forms when data is already available in systems. In a review they conducted, of the 64 school forms accomplished by teachers, only 36 are relevant. This has also led to complaints from teachers as they spend too much time on this aside from teaching and attending to other demands, i.e. being 4Ps coordinators. Ms. Kirby remarked that the same is happening across countries but there really is no quick and easy solution. She added that enabling data access may help actors know what data exists and lead to working with them to identify what else is needed and/or what can be used as proxy.*
- *Mr. Bong Tadle of DepEd-ARMM inquired after the operationalization of systems inter-operability given that each agency has its unique system. Clarified that the roll out of a unique ID system can be an opportunity to facilitate inter-operability to address double counting. This may be done via excel or an automated process.*

- *Ms. Wilmina Lara of the Geodata Systems Technologies Inc. opined that the NGAs have the capacity to collect data, depending on their respective mandates, for international and national use. Officially, PSA provides the data but if still insufficient, she stated that it may be time for PSA to review its data requirement especially with the upcoming 2020 census. According to her, it is time to move on to planning and analyzing data and leave data collection to the mandated agencies.*
- *Dir. Lininding Lao of ARMM-DILG is hopeful that with the Bangsamoro Organic Law, there will be opportunities to convince the incoming leadership to consider addressing data gaps to ensure appropriate interventions and enable local governments to reflect the real situation.*

## **B. IDENTIFIED OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DATA FOR CHILDREN ECOSYSTEM**

*Following the diagnostic presentation, participants were asked to divide into groups for the succeeding workshop on identifying/ validating common bottlenecks and opportunities related to data for children. Key considerations in identifying bottlenecks are as follows: alignment to government priority, urgency or time-sensitiveness, long-term strategic approach and in terms of addressing the bottlenecks, how it can be done and who the actors are. After the workshop, the groups identified two reporters who will present their outputs to other participants in a world café scheme. Participants were encouraged to note common trends and/or comment on the other groups' outputs.*



*Participants working to identify and share opportunities and challenges*

Identified opportunities included the following:

<b>National/ Cross-Level</b>			
<b>Bottlenecks</b>	<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Actors Involved</b>	<b>Moving Forward</b>
<p>Limited knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data sharing/ privacy policies and platforms</li> <li>• Existing data sources from other agencies (national and local)</li> <li>• Different data collection methodologies, types of data collected, frequency, indicator definition and use, level of data disaggregation</li> </ul>	<p>Maximize PSA's mandate to map, analyse, and regulate different data collection, quality, and types for better harmonization</p> <p>Come up with mapping of data sources, data requirements by agency, and indicator definitions</p>	<p>Interagency effort</p> <p>Led by PSA, NEDA, CWC, etc.</p>	<p>Stronger awareness of data sharing policy between agencies</p> <p>Come up with a compendium/ mapping of data sources, requirements indicators, etc. of different agencies</p> <p>Strengthen awareness of data strategy framework (especially for children)</p>
Inaccessible data across and within agencies	PhilSys	All	Evaluate opportunities as PhilSys is implemented
Data for complex emergencies often doesn't match	Information management technical group (NDRRMC technical group)	DSWD, CWC, NDRRMC	Standardizing definitions and protocols for data gathering
Accountability for delivering results and reporting	Results-based budgeting	DBM	Take steps as needed to incentivize
One agency oversight/ repository for data	Government interest	PSA/ NEDA (national outcome level)	Take steps as needed
Inter-agency Coordination and Interoperability	<p>Data sharing agreement between DepEd and DSWD on 4Ps</p> <p>Existing plan for an overall Govt Information Systems Framework</p> <p>ECCD Strategic Plan (Results Framework)</p> <p>Mapping of Data</p>	<p>DepEd, DSWD, DICT</p> <p>DICT, National Privacy Commission, Social Development Committee</p> <p>DOH, DSWD, DepEd</p>	<p>Unified information system for coordination, but accountabilities still with respective agencies</p> <p>Mapping of Data</p>

<b>Bottlenecks</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Actors Involved</b>	<b>Moving Forward</b>
<i>Limited capacity / no mechanism for analysis and planning</i>	<i>Mapping of data</i>  <i>Strengthening coordinated use of data</i>  <i>Annual conference on presenting use cases of CBMS in LGU planning</i>	<i>Regional Development Councils, DBCCs, NEDA national as lead</i>  <i>OCS, NEDA, DBM</i>	<i>Continued education</i>  <i>Include in National-Regional Dialogue</i>  <i>Include in NEDA's Social Development Committee agenda</i>  <i>Capacitate agencies to plan together (sectoral and cross-sectoral analysis)</i>  <i>Regular coordination meetings</i>  <i>Measures to ensure attendance is high in Social Development Committee meetings</i>  <i>Measures to ensure feedbacking of discussions</i>  <i>Citing of good practice in use of LGU data</i>
<i>Access to data / non-sharing of data among agencies / some data directly to regions</i>	<i>Ongoing development of manual on data sharing</i>  <i>Advocacy for operationalizing Data Privacy Law</i>	<i>National Privacy Commission under Office of the President</i>	<i>Extensive information drive in understandable language regarding Data Privacy Law</i>  <i>Analyze policies in relation to data sharing</i>
<b>Capacity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Internal coordination within agencies</i></li> <li><i>Technical capacity and management of data</i></li> <li><i>Turnover of focal persons (all agencies)</i></li> <li><i>Under-staffing of CWC</i></li> </ul>	<i>Mapping our of available data sources</i>  <i>Strengthening capacity of CWC and monitoring agencies to see if meeting targets</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Move forward with identified opportunities</i>

<p><i>Coordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agreements are always at the secretary level and have no technical coordination mechanism</i></li> <li>• <i>No common denominator amongst line agencies</i></li> <li>• <i>Not looking at a holistic approach but a thematic approach</i></li> <li>• <i>Delegation of M&amp;E office in each agency</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Accountability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Data privacy, responsibility, liabilities among concerned agencies</i></li> <li>• <i>Accessibility of data</i></li> <li>• <i>M&amp;E indicators are under CWC</i></li> <li>• <i>Functionality of local and national agencies, devolution of functions</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Invest in capacitating staff on M&amp;E and making a position for M&amp;E focal staff</i></p> <p><i>Documentation of results matrices</i></p> <p><i>Incentives and rewards for LGUs</i></p>		
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<b>Bangsamoro Level</b>			
<b>Bottlenecks</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Actors Involved</b>	<b>Moving Forward</b>
<p><i>Lack of mechanism to harmonize data (program-based database)</i></p> <p><i>Difficulty in accessing data (agency to agency)</i></p> <p><i>PSA data is not contextualized and incomplete indicators (i.e., health indicators)</i></p> <p><i>Lack of human resources, understanding of tools and technology resulting in incomplete database</i></p> <p><i>LGU/ agency resistance to reporting accurate data because it could impact internal revenue allotment, budget</i></p>	<p><i>Expand/ explore partnerships with development agencies</i></p> <p><i>Identify focal agency on ARMM database (similar to DICT)</i></p> <p><i>Transition to BARMM (fresh start)</i></p>	<p><i>All BARMM</i></p>	<p><i>Review documents to be turned over</i></p> <p><i>Identify gaps before and during transition</i></p>
<p><i>Connectivity to DepEd online database (far-flung areas, time windows for submitting data)</i></p>	<p><i>DepEd initiative for offline mode for data entry</i></p> <p><i>New DICT program of providing internet to every municipality</i></p>	<p><i>DepEd, DICT</i></p>	<p><i>Leverage opportunities brought about by upcoming BARMM</i></p>

<b><i>Bottlenecks</i></b>	<b><i>Opportunities</i></b>	<b><i>Actors Involved</i></b>	<b><i>Moving Forward</i></b>
<i>Data repository / database for LGUs to use for consolidation of data</i>  <i>Separate information systems at LGU levels by agencies based on mandates</i>	<i>CBMS</i>  <i>Harmonized information systems with RPDO and LGU Planning as repository and lead in BARMM</i>	<i>DILG, RPDO, Provincial and Municipal Planning Offices</i>	<i>Leverage opportunities brought about by upcoming BARMM</i>
<i>Disparity on official data sources used by agencies (PSA, CBMS, development partners)</i>	<i>Unified identification system for house hold and individual child</i>  <i>DILG ARMM strengthening local special bodies</i>  <i>Seal of Good Local Governance and Child Friendly Local Governance as priority of the region that can lead to data collection</i>	<i>RPDO, DILG</i>	<i>Leverage opportunities brought about by upcoming BARMM</i>
<i>Weak accountability systems for quality data collection and validation</i>	<i>National level priority on RBM</i>	<i>NEDA, DILG</i>	<i>Leverage opportunities brought about by upcoming BARMM</i>

<b>LGU Level</b>			
<b>Bottlenecks</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Actors Involved</b>	<b>Moving Forward</b>
Lack of systematic/ harmonized data collection on children at LGU level (supply)	<p>NPAC – National Plan of Action M&amp;E System to guide harmonized data collection</p> <p>PSA – review of system forms on administrative data, convening NGAs in November 2018</p> <p>Budget and priorities framework</p> <p>Child Friendly Local Government Audit expansion</p> <p>UNSD and PSA joint initiative, and the interoperability of forthcoming database/ system</p>	CWC, PSA, NGAs, DBM, DILG, and LGUs	<p>Capacity: Requires that LGUs have budget for data collection staff and infrastructure, and have data analysis capacity</p> <p>Coordination: LGUs actively contribute to and shape M&amp;E system, LGUs are consulting in reviewing forms and protocols related to administrative data</p>
Weak culture of demand for data – e.g. DSWD Listahanan data	<p>Make it more efficient for LGUs to access data</p> <p>Provide opportunities to reconcile/ perform quality assurance on data</p> <p>Build/ create awareness that LGUs can demand data</p>	DILG, DSWD, LGUs	<p>Accountability: CWC mandate to NGAs on data collection</p>
Lack of coordination in planning cycle	Harmonize planning between PDP, RDP, and LGU AIP processes	DBCC- NEDA, DoF, DBM, Office of the President	
Limited local level data for planning	<p>Roll out of CBMS to capture data at the local level (though only enjoined to adopt)</p> <p>Making CBMS as cost effective for LGUs</p>	<p>Interagency effort</p> <p>DILG leading</p>	<p>Address financial challenges for CBMS adoption</p> <p>Policy MOU between DBM and DILG to provide incentives to LGUs for local level data collection</p>

In the succeeding plenary session, participants were asked what similarities, differences, and recurring themes they have observed after looking at three (3) different group outputs. Responses include the following:

- Ms. Johnson surmised that there is legislation requiring LGUs to collect data but there are no incentives for it, which led her to wonder how data is prioritized in the budget. She noted there might be an opportunity to systematize LGU data collection in relation to local and national planning in spite of missing frameworks.
  - Mr. Leomo responded that the PSA Philippine Statistical Development Plan (PSDP), the accompanying document of PDP, have indicative budgetary requirements to resolve the data gaps. In line with the SDGs, data not being collected currently can be integrated in the Philippine statistical system.
  - Dr. Samonte commented that data is mostly taken from census and surveys and does not harness administrative data, which is more routinely collected, from different line agencies. Further, indicators are different across agencies; according to her, what is needed is to have one set of indicators each agency will aim for. Ms. Anna Jean Pescasio, PSA Senior Statistical Specialist explained that this has been noted which is why PSA, through inter-agency committees (IACs), is doing collaborative work and consultation with different agencies, i.e. IAC on health and nutrition statistics.
- It was noted that neither the UN nor the private sector was featured as an actor or potential partner, which leads one to think that there is sufficient capacity for NGAs to take on the challenge. Mr. Tadle shared that under the BEIS, data from both public and private schools, including madrasah schools, are collected. The same cannot be said for DOH, which has difficulty in making private hospitals comply to reporting. Dr. Samonte then shared that two laws being revised as to reporting of routinely collected data and the mandate for data sharing.
- Mr. Roi Avena, UNFPA M&E Advisor, remarked that there is severe fragmentation of the system, which is also reflective of what is happening in the UN system. The question really is how to facilitate greater synergy/coordination given the capacity of coordinating mechanisms and despite the number of opportunities/ initiatives, e.g. the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), which is plagued by basic operational issues such as lack of staff and insufficient resources. Mentioned that the new cycle called Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development consolidates comparative advantages vis-à-vis the country's goals. Towards this, UN has organized a working M&E group envisioned to support PSA. Some initial concerns include that of (i) data disaggregation, (ii) maximizing administrative data given its issues on reliability, quality, and timeliness, and (iii) a neutral and honest broker among sectors given the issue on fragmentation.
- Ms. Marian Valera, UNDP M&E Analyst, suggested looking into opportunities related to innovations outside operational bottlenecks, i.e. use of big data, especially since 35% of the 232 indicators are classified as tier 3, meaning, there is no way to generate data for it.

- Ms. Louise Maule, UNICEF WAS Chief, reiterated the disincentive of providing accurate data as it may affect budget allocation. Further, actors should be conscious of the political environment/realities within the ecosystem when drafting technical solutions for the bottlenecks not just at the LGU level but also among NGAs. In this regard, UN agencies can advocate or draw attention to these types of challenges. She cautioned that change should also address the behavioral aspect.
- Mr. Andrew Morris, Chief of UNICEF Mindanao Field Office, inquired after a regional/ ASEAN committee that can help the country improve data statistics. This was seconded by Atty. Anjanette Saguisag, UNICEF Social Policy Chief, in terms of access to knowledge hubs within the region. Ms. Pescasio shared that the Philippines is part of the ACSS or the ASEAN Community Statistical System, which has shared activities.

In closing, Ms. Rees thanked the participants for the array of interesting ideas and opportunities despite the complex issues that seem overwhelming. Since CPC looks at issues in crosscutting ways and is similar with that of NGAs, there is a need to work together and build synergies across each output and strategy for investments and data for children. Emphasized partnership as key in coming together and leveraging opportunities to facilitate inter-agency dialogue. As for ways forward, she shared that a final version of the landscape report will be drawn to better understand the data for children in the country and UNICEF itself, will have a brainstorming activity for priority setting.



*Workshop participants*

## B. MODIFICATIONS TO DIAGNOSTIC REPORT

*Following the workshop, the Landscape Diagnostic Report was modified in the following ways:*

- *Structure was re-organized to align with flow of presentation*
- *Detail feedback on points of accuracy from Geodata and OCS were incorporated*
- *This annex (Annex IV) was added*

*The workshop occurred the week following the president's signature of the Bangsamoro Basic Law, which will install a Bangsamoro political entity in place of the ARMM. The implications of this new law, as well as subsequent policy changes and events that have occurred since February 2018, have not been incorporated into the diagnostic report. However, these events were discussed by workshop participants when considering forward-looking plans for improving the data for children ecosystem in the Philippines.*

### C. VALIDATION WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST

Organization		Name	Position	Office/Division/Section
<b>A) National Government Agencies (13)</b>				
1	Department of Social Welfare and Development	Rhodora G. Alday	Director	Policy Development and Planning Bureau
2	Philippine Statistical Agency	Ms. Anna Jean Pescasio	Sr. Statistical Specialist	
3	Philippine Statistical Agency	Ms. Nicole Robles	Statistical Analyst	
4	Office of the Cabinet Secretary	Quennie Dyan Raagas	Director IV	PPMO
5	Office of the Cabinet Secretary	Genelyn Gabriel	PEO III	PPMO
6	Department of Health	Dr. Genesis Samonte	Chief, Public Health Surveillance Division	Epidemiology Bureau
7	Department of Health	Richelle Abellera		Epidemiology Bureau
8	Council for the Welfare of Children	Ma. Erlinda Aguila	Planning Officer III	Localization and Institutionalization Division
9	Council for the Welfare of Children	Raquel Shokouhi	Planning Officer II	Policy and Planning Division
10	Department of the Interior and Local Government	Ms. Myrna Santos	Assistant Division Chief	National Barangay Operations Office
11	National Economic and Development Authority-SDS	Girlye Grace Casimiro-Igtiben	Chief	Social Protection Division
12	National Economic and Development Authority-SDS	Yuri Leomo	Senior Economic and Development Specialist	Social Protection Division
13	National Economic and Development Authority-SDS	Carlo Lorenzo Reyes	Economic and Development Specialist I	Social Protection Division
14	National Economic and Development Authority-MES	Cheene Rose	Economic and Development Specialist	Social Sector Division
15	Department of Education	Director Roger Masapol	Director, Office of Planning Service	
16	Department of Education	Cristina Cay	Project Development Officer	PS-PRD
17	Department of Budget and Management	Rosario Nuñez	CBMS	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Bureau
18	Women and Children Protection Center	PSInsp. Maimona Macasasa	Acting Chief	OPN Planning
19	Food and Nutrition Research Institute	Apple Joy Ducay	Statistician	NAMD
20	Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council	Ma. Katrina Libron	Program Development Officer III	

Organization		Name	Position	Office/Division/Section
<b>A) National Government Agencies (13)</b>				
21	Early Childhood Care and Development (ECDD) Council	Nicole Andrea Reyes	Program Development Officer III	
22	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council	Ms. Lilibeth A. Gallego	SWO V	Monitoring and Evaluation Division
23	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council	Ms. Jeekerin P. Osonio	Statistician III	Monitoring and Evaluation Division
24	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council	Ms. Pearl Rose C. Tidula	PDO III	Monitoring and Evaluation Division
<b>B) UN Agencies (5)</b>				
25	UN Women	Diana Kathrina Fontamillas	National Programme Officer - WPS	
26	WHO	Rubie Jean Olleras	Technical Assistant	
27	UNFPA	Jose Roi Avena	M&E Advisor	
28	UNDP	Marian Valera	M&E Analyst	
29	UNRCO	Tricia Maligalig	M&E Officer	
<b>C) CSOs/Private Organizations (4)</b>				
30	GEODATA Systems Technologies Inc.	Wilmina Lara	OIC-Sector Head	Commercial/Business
31	CBMS Network Office, DLSU-AKI	Anne Bernadette E. Mandap	Research and Administration Officer	
32	Save the Children	Adrian Badiable		
33	Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc.	Teresa Clemente	Project Development Officer	
<b>D) ARMM Government Agencies (4)</b>				
34	DOH-ARMM	Dr. Abdulhalik M. Kasim	Assistant Regional Secretary	
35	DOH-ARMM	Celia Sagaral	Nutrition Coordinator	
36	DOH-ARMM	Erlyn Hampac	Focal Person for Expanded Program on Immunization	
37	DSWD-ARMM	Hja. Pombaen K. Kader	Assistant Regional Secretary	
38	DSWD-ARMM	Kay Lintongan	Focal Person for Children Concerns	
39	DSWD-ARMM	Asnaida De Guzman	RSCWC Technical Staff	
40	DSWD-ARMM	Bai Fatima Ampa		

Organization		Name	Position	Office/Division/Section
<b>D) ARMM Government Agencies (4)</b>				
41	DepED-ARMM	Alfhadar Pajiji	Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Programs	
42	DepED-ARMM	Bong Tadle	Designated Head	Education Management System
43	DILG ARMM	Nomaire Madid	Director	
44	DILG ARMM	Lininding Lao	Director II	Technical Support Services
45	DILG ARMM	Fredelino Gorospe	LGOO VI, Technical Staff	
<b>E) LGUs (1)</b>				
46	Upi, Maguindanao	Engr. Paulo Cagara	Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator	
<b>F) UNICEF Philippines</b>				
47	Mindanao Field Office	Andrew Morris	Chief	
48	Mindanao Field Office	Farid Dastgeer	Child Protection Specialist	
49	Mindanao Field Office	Farouk Lim	M&E Officer	
50	Mindanao Field Office	Jessie Bacal	IT Officer	
51	Mindanao Field Office	Jirah Luison	Child Protection Officer	
52	Mindanao Field Office	Joan Santos	Education Officer	
53	Mindanao Field Office	Rohannie Baraguir	Child Protection Officer	
54	Mindanao Field Office	Rosalia Bataclan	Health and Nutrition Officer	
55	Manila Office	Julia Rees	Deputy Representative	
56	Manila Office	Anjanette Saguisag	Chief	Social Policy Section
57	Manila Office	Bea Lumanas	KM Officer	
58	Manila Office	Caroline Pajaron	CP Officer	Child Protection Section
59	Manila Office	Cecil Arcadio	Education Officer	Education Section
60	Manila Office	Dennis Salvacion	Head	ICT
61	Manila Office	Emee Valdehuesa	Youth and HIV/AIDS Officer	
62	Manila Office	Geovani Lapina	Emergency Focal Point	
63	Manila Office	Hideko Miyagawa	Chief	Education Section
64	Manila Office	Jon Villaseñor	WASH Officer	WASH
65	Manila Office	Joris van Hees	Nutrition Policy Specialist	Health and Nutrition Section

Organization		Name	Position	Office/Division/Section
<b>F) UNICEF Philippines</b>				
66	Manila Office	Kamille Ruiz	DRR Officer	
67	Manila Office	Lea Marasigan	Social Policy Specialist	Social Policy Section
68	Manila Office	Lemuel Fyodor Villamar	M&E Officer	PME
69	Manila Office	Louise Maule	Chief	WASH
70	Manila Office	Martin Porter	Chief	PME
71	Manila Office	May Angeles	Programme Assistant	PME
72	Manila Office	Nixmar Balibago	HW Specialist	Health and Nutrition Section
73	Manila Office	Psyche Olayvar	ECCD Programme Manager	Education Section
74	Manila Office	Rene Gerard Galera	Health Specialist	Health and Nutrition Section
75	Manila Office	Rosela Agcaoili	Social Policy Specialist	Social Policy Section
76	Manila Office	Rquel Cabrieto	Education Officer	Education Section
77	Manila Office	Teresita Felipe	Education Specialist	Education Section
78	Manila Office	Wigdan Madani	Chief	Health and Nutrition Section
79	Manila Office	Zafrin Chowdhury		Communication
<b>G) Facilitator/Presenter/Documenter</b>				
80	EAPRO	Melva Johnson	Regional Chief	Programme Planning and Monitoring
81	Development Gateway	Paige Kirby	Senior Social Policy Analyst	
82	Development Gateway	April Obtinario	Project Coordinator	