



MIMAROPA Regional Development Report 2020



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MIMAROPA Regional Development Report 2020

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Tel: (043) 288 6115

Email: mimaropa@neda.gov.ph www.mimaropa.neda.gov.ph

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Table of Contents

	Foreword	Xi
	Message	хіі
	RDC Resolution	xiii
Chapter 1	The Long View	1
•	Long Term Vision	1
	Challenge	2
	Outcome	4
	2020 Performance	4
Chapter 2	Global and Regional Trends and Prospects	5
	Political/Legal Trends	5
	Economic Trends	7
	Social Trends	8
	Infrastructure Trends	9
	Technological Trends	10
	Environmental Trends	10
Chapter 3	Overlay of Economic Growth, Demographic Trends, and Physical Characteristics	11
	Accomplishments	11
	Recommendation	14
Chapter 4	MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 Headline Targets	17
	On empowered citizens and communities	17
Chapter 5	Ensuring People-Centred, Clean and	21
-	Efficient Governance	
	Accomplishment	22
	Moving Forward	25
	Recommendation	26
Chapter 6	Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice	27
	Accomplishment	28
	Moving Forward	29
	Recommendation	30
Chapter 7	Promoting Philippine Culture and Values	31
•	Accomplishments and Challenges	32
	Moving Forward	34
	Recommendation	35
Chapter 8	Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	37

	Accomplishments	38
	Moving Forward	43
	Recommendations	44
Chapter 9	Expanding Economic Opportunities in	45
	Industry and Services through Trabaho and	
	Negosyo	
	Accomplishments	46
	Moving Forward	51
	Recommendations	52
Chapter 10	Accelerating Human Capital Development	55
	Health and Nutrition	55
	Basic Education	61
	Higher Education	66
	Technical Vocational Education and Training	69
Chapter 11	Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and	73
	Families	
	Accomplishments	74
	Moving Forward	80
	Recommendations	80
Chapter 12	Building Safe and Secure Communities	81
	Accomplishments	82
	Moving Forward	82
	Recommendations	83
Chapter 13	Reaching for the Demographic Dividend	85
	Accomplishments	86
	Moving Forward	87
	Recommendation	87
Chapter 14	Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology,	89
	and Innovation	
	Accomplishments	90
	Moving Forward	92
	Recommendations	93
Chapter 15	Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy	95
	Accomplishment	96
	Moving Forward	106
	Recommendations	107
Chapter 16	Leveling the Playing Field through a	111
	National Competition Policy	
	Accomplishment	112
	Moving Forward	114

	Recommendations	114
Chapter 17	Attaining Just and Lasting Peace	117
-	Accomplishment	118
	Moving Forward	119
	Recommendations	120
Chapter 18	Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety	121
	Accomplishment	122
	Moving Forward	124
	Recommendations	125
Chapter 19	Accelerating Infrastructure Development	127
	Accomplishments	128
	Moving Forward	140
	Recommendation	141
Chapter 20	Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean, and	143
	Healthy Environment	
	Accomplishments	144
	Moving Forward	152
	Recommendations	152
Chapter 21	Ensuring Safe, Orderly, and Regular	155
	Migration	
	Accomplishments	156
	Moving Forward	157
	Recommendation	158
Chapter 22	•	161
	Planning, Investment Programming and Budgeting Linkages	161
	Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation	161
	RDP Advocacy	162
	Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals	162
List of	f Tables and Figures	
	f Tables and Figures	<u> </u>
Table 3.1	Supplemental Strategies to Overlay Economic Growth, Demographic Trends, and Physical Characteristics	14
Table 4.1	Vision-Reality Gap	18
Table 5.1	Results Matrix for People-Centered, Clean, and	24
	Efficient Governance	- 1

Table 5.2	Supplemental strategies to ensure a People- Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance	26
Table 6.1	Results Matrix for Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice	29
Table 6.2	Strategies to Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice	30
Table 7.1	Results Matrix for Promoting Philippine Culture and Values	32
Table 7.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Promotion of Philippine Culture and Values	35
Table 8.1	Results Matrix for Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	41
Table 8.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	44
Table 9.1	Targets and Accomplishments on Industry, MIMAROPA, 2020, 2021 and 2022	46
Table 9.2	Business Names Registration, MIMAROPA, 2019 -2020	48
Table 9.3	Number of MSMEs Assisted, MIMAROPA, 2019 -2020	48
Table 9.4	Targets and Accomplishments on Services including Tourism. MIMAROPA, 2020	50
Table 9.5	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through Trabaho and Negosyo	53
Table 10.1	Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Health and Nutrition)	57
Table 10.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Health and Nutrition)	59
Table 10.3	Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Basic Education)	62
Table 10.4	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Basic Education)	64
Table 10.5.	Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Higher Education)	67
Table 10.6	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Higher Education)	68
Table 10.7	Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (TVET)	69

Table 10.8	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (TVET)	70
Table 11.1	Results Matrix for Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families	77
Table 11.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families	80
Table 12.1.	Results Matrix for Building Safe and Secure Communities	82
Table 12.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Building Safe and Secure Communities	83
Table 13.1	Results Matrix for Reaching for the Demographic Dividend	86
Table 13.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Reaching for the Demographic Dividend	88
Table 14.1	Targets and Accomplishments on Science, Technology, and Innovation, MIMAROPA, 2020, 2021, 2022	90
Table 14.2	Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation	93
Table 15.1	Economic Performance by Sector and Subsector, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020 (at constant 2018 prices, in percent except GVA)	96
Table 15.2	Consumer Price Index, Inflation Rate, and Purchasing Power of Peso, MIMAROPA, 2019- 2020	99
Table 15.3	Results Matrix for Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy	102
Table 15.4	Supplemental Strategies to Ensure Sound Macroeconomic Policy	108
Table 16.1	Results Matrix for Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy	113
Table 16.2	Supplemental Strategies to Level the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy	114
Table 17.1	Results Matrix for Attaining Just and Lasting Peace	119
Table 17.2	Supplemental Strategies to Attaining Just and Lasting Peace	120
Table 18.1	Results Matrix for Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety	123
Table 18.2	Supplemental Strategies to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety	125

Table 19.1	Results Matrix for Accelerating Infrastructure Development	135
Table 19.2	Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Infrastructure Development	141
Table 20.1	Summary of Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Results by Station, MIMAROPA, 2020	146
Table 20.2	Targets and Accomplishments on Environment, MIMAROPA, 2019, 2020, and 2021	147
Table 20.3	Supplemental Strategies to Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean, and Healthy Environment	152
Table 21.1	Overview of Migrants' Vulnerability to COVID-19	158
Table 21.2	Recommendations for implementation of concerned stakeholders.	158
Figure 1.1	Ambisyon Natin 2040 Logo	1
Figure 1.2	MIMAROPA Brand Logo	2
Figure 3.1	MIMAROPA Regional Government Center Architectural Schematics	12
Figure 4.1	MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Overall Strategic Framework	20
Figure 5.1	Ensuring People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance Strategic Framework	21
Figure 6.1	Framework for Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice	27
Figure 7.1	Framework for Promoting Philippine Culture and Values	31
Figure 8.1	Framework for Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	37
Figure 9.1	Strategic Framework for Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through Trabaho and Negosyo	45
Figure 11.1	Framework for Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families	73
Figure 12.1	Framework for Building Safe and Secure Communities	81
Figure 13.1	Framework for Reaching for the Demographic Dividend	85
Figure 14.1	Framework for Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation	89
Figure 15.1	Strategic Framework to Sustain a Sound, Stable, and Supportive Macroeconomic Environment	95
Figure 15.2	Inflation Rate by Quarter and Province, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020	98

Figure 15.3	Annual Labor Force Rates, MIMAROPA, 2019- 2020	100
Figure 16.1	Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy Strategic Framework	111
Figure 17.1	Strategic Framework for Attaining Just and Lasting Peace	117
Figure 18.1	Strategic Framework for Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety	121
Figure 19.1	Strategic Framework for Accelerating Infrastructure Development	128
Figure 20.1	Strategic Framework for Ensuring Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment	143
Figure 21.1	Framework for Ensuring Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration	156

Foreword



The MIMAROPA Regional Development Council passed Resolution No. 2021-075-992 approving the 2020 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report (RDR).

The report was made possible through the patience and untiring dedication of NEDA MIMAROPA, the RDC Secretariat who was able to coordinate and consolidate all the information to measure the performance of the economy and the implementation of the Regional Development Plan for 2020.

As Chairperson of the RDC, I would like to thank the members of the RDC and its sectoral committees for their active participation and

valuable inputs during the preparation of the report. Your valued time and effort in reviewing the draft report during the online sectoral committee meetings are recognized and greatly appreciated.

The 2020 RDR confirmed that the MIMAROPA's economic growth has slowed down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic which is also true for the whole country and the rest of the world. Despite all the present challenges, we are still optimistic that in unity we can still attain our development vision to be "The Destination of Choice".

Let us not be fazed by this pandemic and let us continue our concerted efforts toward the attainment of our country's vision, "Ambisyon Natin 2040". Together, we will continue to toil in laying down the solid foundation for inclusive growth, high trust society, and globally competitive MIMAROPA region through "Malasakit, Pagbabago, at Patuloy na Pag-unlad", and our strong faith in God.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

MIMAROPA RDC Chairperson

Foreword | xi

Message



The importance of periodically assessing development blueprints on regional development planning and management cannot be overemphasized. As a development yardstick, the 2020 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report (RDR) describes and measures the region's socioeconomic performance in relation to the development goals and objectives defined in the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan, 2017-2022.

While the regional economy's strong position may have been affected by COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic disruption, MIMAROPA has proven to be resilient for the year 2020 with strong growth in key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure development, social protection, and governance, among others.

These attest to the capacity of our partners from both public and private sectors to effectively deliver programs, projects, and services that are vital for the development of the region. We recognize that their full commitment and concrete actions will further strengthen the development foundation for a smoother transition towards full economic recovery amidst the pandemic.

We are re-focusing interventions and expressing renewed optimism on the region's development as we implement the health and economic recovery roadmap for MIMAROPA. One might say that these health and economic concerns are hiccups in growth momentum or even stumbling blocks to development. We consider them as opportunities for learning that will foster innovative interventions as the region moves forward towards recovery.

Our region calls for a sustained action from all sectors and levels of government. This will involve systematic and coordinated initiatives to effectively and efficiently deliver programs, projects and services that matter most to our stakeholders.

The holistic development and revitalization of the regional economy are within reach. Let us remain steadfast in demonstrating our fortitude and excellence in service to the MIMAROPA region as it traverses the path to inclusive growth and equitable change.

Patuloy ang pagsulong, MIMAROPA!

DIR. AGUSTIN C. MENDOZA RDC Vice – Chairperson and

Regional Director of NEDA MIMAROPA

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MIMAROPA Region, Calapan City

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 75th RDC FULL COUNCIL ONLINE MEETING HELD ON 04 JUNE 2021 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING

RDC Resolution No. 2021-075-992

APPROVING THE 2020 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

WHEREAS, the 2020 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report (RDR) provides an annual assessment of the implementation of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP);

WHEREAS, the 2020 MIMAROPA RDR contains an assessment of the socioeconomic performance of the region for 2020 based on the targets indicated in the MIMAROPA RDP and its accompanying Results Matrix (RM). It also provides strategic and policy direction to refocus priorities and/or catch-up with targets;

WHEREAS, the 2020 MIMAROPA RDR was prepared in accordance with the 2020 RDR preparation guidelines approved by the RDC during its 73rd full council online meeting held on December 04, 2020 through RDC Resolution No. 2020-073-92;

WHEREAS, the assessment was prepared based on statistical data, annual accomplishments reports, and other sectoral inputs of the regional line agencies (RLAs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs), and private sector representatives (PSRs);

WHEREAS, the region's performance is assessed relative to the implementation of rehabilitation and recovery plan for COVID-19, Bayahihan to Recover as One Act, Bayanihan 2, Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) program, and End Local Communist Armed Conflict, all of which under the whole-of-nation approach;

WHEREAS, the draft 2020 MIMAROPA RDR was reviewed, validated, and recommended RDC approval by the four sectoral committees, during its 2nd quarter committee meetings held on May 6-7 via zoom teleconference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2020 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report.

CERTIFIED CORRECT: ATTESTED:

BERNARDINO A ATIENZA JR

Acting RDC Secretary

The Long View

Memorandum Circular No. 01, s. 2019 directs the updating of the Philippine Development, Public Investment Program, Regional Development Plans, and Regional Development Investment Programs for 2017-2022.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 27, s. 2017, the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022, as the first medium term plan to operationalize Ambisyon Natin 2040, was implemented.

Halfway into the Plan period, the updated MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 was formulated to assess gaps, constraints, and bottlenecks in laying down the foundations for inclusive growth and a high trust society.

Long Term Vision

AmBisyon Natin 2040 is a long term vision for

Filipinos and the Philippines (refer to Figure 1.1). It is envisioned to be a guide for development planning across administrations in the next 24 years.

Figure 1.1 Ambisyon Natin 2040 Logo



The Filipinos aspire that by 2040:

"The Philippines shall be a country where all citizens are free from hunger and poverty, have equal opportunities, enabled by fair and just society that is governed with order and unity. A nation where families live together, thriving in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities."

The vision was elicited from the Filipino people through a series of public consultations conducted in 2015. A total of 42 focus group discussions (FGDs) were held nationwide and participated in by representatives from the youth, fisherfolk, formal workers, farmers, urban poor, disaster survivors, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, families of overseas workers,

local migrants, and government workers.

On the basis of the FGD findings, a national survey (sample size: 10,000) was commissioned to ensure that the results are nationally representative. Respondents in the FGDs and national survey were limited to Filipinos aged between 15 and 50 years old.

A number of technical studies were commissioned in key thematic areas of development to understand whether the vision is achievable and what it will take to get there.

Online media campaigns, forums, and briefings were conducted to further boost interest on the issue. Communication and stakeholder engagements were also intensified in preparation

for the next medium-term planning process.

This approach in development planning is in response to stakeholders' clamor for a forward-looking approach that goes beyond a single political administration.

Figure 1.2 MIMAROPA Brand Logo

MIMAROPA Vision

The MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 adopted the vision statement: "MIMAROPA: The destination of choice." The region's stakeholders envision MIMAROPA as the destination of investments, livelihood, residence, employment, adventure, rest, recreation, and retirement (refer to Figure 1.2).



Destination as a place denotes that by 2016, MIMAROPA will be the preferred place of residence, especially for the immediate family and other dependents of government employees whose official work stations have been moved to the designated regional government center in Calapan City. The other growth centers of the region will also attract returning emigrants and new immigrants who will have found an improved business and investment climate in the islands, particularly in agriculture and tourism. The uptrend in domestic and international tourist arrivals in the Region will be sustained as the global economy recovers. With the growing interest on the emerging diverse destinations in the region, including the retirement villages that are in various stages of development in the island provinces, its tourism industry continues to boom and has the potential to drive growth in agriculture and processing of agricultural products.

In the context of MIMAROPA as a destination for enriching experience of nature, biodiversity, adventure, health and wellness, rest and recreation, the region's natural land and seascapes offer world class attractions of ecological, cultural and historical significance. In the context of destination as a state of being, improved local governance and management for development results have been steadily progressing at all levels.

The intended results for the region will be

reduction of poverty and improved living conditions of the MIMAROPA populations. The regional development outcome is increased number of MIMAROPANs benefiting from productive agricultural activities supported with efficient infrastructure facilities, adequate social services and favorable economic opportunities and who are committed as stewards of the region's natural monuments and cultural heritage.

Challenge

Results of the first semester 2018 poverty statistics showed that the poverty incidence of all provinces declined placing MIMAROPA's poverty incidence among population at 20.6%

Also in 2018, MIMAROPA was the second fastest growing region with 8.6% growth rate.

These were achieved due to the region's strong commitment to be the destination of choice and to improve the lives of its people. Though economic development has not been very fast in MIMAROPA, it came close to the recorded high economic growth of 9.8% wayback 2007.

As numbers showed how well the region has performed, the challenge now is to sustain the economy's high growth rate. Even if MIMAROPA is primarily an agricultural region, there is a

need to further cultivate this sector to completely reverse its gloomy performance since 2010. Efforts to encourage more private sector investments and build proper infrastructure shall be continued for the efficient delivery of both products and services to our island communities. Partnerships toward sustainable tourism shall be strengthened to preserve MIMAROPA's natural resources and cultural heritage while developing the region's tourism products and destinations. Critical strategies and innovations in improving disaster resilience shall be developed to lessen the impact of disasters in the growth of the regional economy.

Goal

In line with the country's AmBisyon Natin 2040, the PDP and RDPs shall continue to focus on translating the vision, the President's 0-10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, into concrete strategies, policies, programs, and activities, for the remaining Plan period. It will lay down a solid foundation for more inclusive growth, a high trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy, through its emphasis on "Malasakit, Pagbabago, at Patuloy na Pag-unlad".

The attainment of the long-term vision requires the continued implementation of the following key strategies:

Enhancing the social fabric ("Malasakit")

- Build trust in government with emphasis on clean, efficient, and citizen-centered governance
- Swift and fair administration of justice
- Promote more awareness and value cultural diversity

Inequality-reducing transformation ("Pagbabago")

- Expand economic opportunities
- Improve access to economic opportunities

- through enhancement of economic connectivity and network, access to finance, skills training and labor market policies, and promotion of competition
- Address vulnerabilities with focus on climate change, adaptation and mitigation and social protection
- Reduce inequalities in human development outcomes underscoring health and nutrition and education

Increasing potential growth ("Patuloy na Pag-unlad")

- Promote technology adoption and industry driven strategy
- Encourage innovation
- Maximize demographic dividend

Enabling a supportive economic environment

- Macroeconomic stability
- Strategic trade and fiscal policy
- Competition policy

Strengthening the foundations for inclusive and sustainable development

- Ensure peace, security, and public order
- Provide infrastructure and build up capacity
- Maintain ecological integrity and a clean and healthy environment
- Build resilience

Setting the National Spatial Strategy

Forge physical interconnectivity

- Fast-track processing of CADTs
- Improve flood mitigation and solid waste management

Empowering overseas Filipinos

- Establish an accurate, timely, and comprehensive database on international and internal migration
- Continuous provision of social protection services to OFs and their families
- Strengthen employment and livelihood facilitation programs, especially for distressed OFWs

Culture and values

- Provide capacity building in collection/ gathering of cultural/historical data
- Develop a central local cultural database
- Intensify efforts in cultural mapping of local tangible and intangible heritage
- Strengthen cultural workforce education, training, and opportunities

Outcome

The year 2018 was a good year for MIMAROPA Region. Poverty incidence improved in all provinces based on the first semester 2018 official poverty statistics.

The region ranked second – together with Davao Region and next to Bicol Region – in terms of economic growth rate.

Thus, the desired outcome is to sustain the economy's high growth rate and completely reduce poverty, specifically in agriculture and fishery.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs), President's 0-10 point socioeconomic agenda and whole-of-nation approach, MIMAROPA strategic regional development agenda (SRDA),

and principles of good governance are considered to ensure coherent, sustainable, and focused strategies and outcomes.

A harmonized gender and development guidelines checklist on development planning was used to ensure that gender and development issues and concerns, gender equality, and women's empowerment are mainstreamed and integrated in the RDP.

2020 Performance

The 2020 Regional Development Report (RDR) is an assessment of the region's socioeconomic performance in 2020 with reference to the Results Matrices (RMs) of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022. Key sectors' annual accomplishments are measured relative to the 2020 targets indicated in the RMs at the regional level with breakdown of some indicators at the provincial level.

The RDP contains policies, strategies, programs, activities, and projects to attain the Plan's objectives and goals. As an outcome, the region's economic performance must be also to generate employment, generate revenues, improve social services, and reduce poverty incidence.

The 2020 RDR also assessed the region's performance amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic that has grappled the economy of the whole country.

Global and Regional Trends and Prospects

In 2020, the world faced the challenge of containing and managing the COVID-19 pandemic which is considered as one of the most devastating health diseases in many years. There were thousands of people succumbed to the virus that causes the government to implement quarantine measures to avoid wider spread of the virus. The imposition of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon on March 15, 2020 caught many sectors of the society unprepared. Imposition of the ECQ resulted in the temporary closure of many establishments, a significant number of workers were displaced, disrupted the supply chain, and the limited health capacity of the country was exposed, among others.

This chapter discusses some of the expected scenarios for the coming years within and outside the region, the country, and globally that may influence the Regional Development Council's (RDC) decisions and priority interventions.

Political/Legal Trends

On peace and security.

The region will remain to be one of the most peaceful and secured communities despite having few isolated insurgency incidences in the next coming years. In December 2018, the President issued Executive Order (EO) No. 70 institutionalizing the whole-of-nation approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace, creating a national task force to end local communist armed conflict, and directing the adoption of a national peace framework. The Regional Task Force End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) was created in the region. It is chaired by Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS). The CORDS, Office of the Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog (OPAST), and the MIMAROPA RDC will remain partners and sustain the implementation of convergence programs and projects for peace and security down to the community level.

New Normal Scenario.

The COVID-19 threat will likely persist until such time that the number of vaccinated population reached a herd immunity. With lessened economic

activities and permits only essential activities related to food and health, the new normal consist of resumption of activities related to existing threat of COVID-19. The new normal prescribes the following: health restrictions and protocols, physical distancing, the use of face mask and face shield, and washing of hands.

Organizations, private and public sector, and micro, small, and medium enterprises, will continue to implement flexible work arrangements (e.g., work from home) in accordance with strict physical distancing protocols and health restrictions. In many instances, part of the new normal means working and interacting virtually instead of face-to-face. Workspaces (e.g., factories and office spaces) will be re-configured to address the need for physical distancing.

Low Share of MIMAROPA region in the National Budget.

Through the years, the MIMAROPA region has struggled in getting its fair share from the national budget as well as in securing the inclusion of the RDC endorsed regional agency budget proposal in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The four sectoral committees of the RDC reported the status of FY 2021 RDC endorsed budget proposals. The RDC monitors the status of RDC-

endorsed budget to determine the batting average (RDC endorsed vs. GAA) in terms of number of programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) and the

amount as well as the share of the regional agency budgets to the national agency budgets. Below is the summary of the report:

Sector/Agencies	Percentage of FY 2021 RDC end	Range of the Share of FY 2021 proposed budget for MIMAROPA	
	In terms # of PAPs	In terms of Amount	to the national agency budget
Development Administration agencies	33.89%	19.67%	0.12% - 7%
Economic Sector agencies	54.63%	42.52	1.32% - 4.53%
Infrastructure sector agencies	29.23%	5.92%	0.34% - 3.13%
Social sector agencies	24.72%	39.18%	0.03% - 3.90%

The MIMAROPA regional line agencies' share to their FY 2021 national agency budget ranges from 0.03 percent to 7 percent. The batting average of the percentage of FY 2021 RDC-endorsed PAPs included in the GAA is also low.

For FY 2021, about 239 PAPs amounting to P1.78 billion were proposed by the development administration sector agencies such as AFP, DBM, DILG, DOLE, NAPOLCOM, NEDA, PDEA, PIA, PNP, and PSA. However, only 33.89 percent of these PAPs amounting to P350.52 million were funded under the GAA. On the other hand, a total of 216 PAPs amounting to P9.029 billion proposed by economic sector agencies such as BFAR, CDA, DA, DAR, DENR, DOST, DOT, DTI, EMB, MGB, PCA, and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development was endorsed by the RDC. Out of these PAPs only 118 or 54.63 percent were funded amounting to P3.84 billion pesos.

Out of the 127 PAPs amounting to P117.22 billion pesos proposed by infrastructure agencies such as DPWH, DOTr, LTO, NIA, and NTC, only 43 PAPs or 29.23 percent were included in the GAA amounting to P21.58 billion pesos. On the other hand, the social sector agencies namely DSWD, DOH, DEPED, CHED, POPCOM, TESDA, NNC, NCIP, NNC, and the six state universities and colleges in the region proposed 647 PAPs for FY 2021 funding amounting to P25.30 billion pesos. However only 24.72 percent of these PAPs were funded under GAA amounting P9.91 billion pesos.

Similarly, there were 225 PAPs amounting to P10,123,162,000 were proposed for FY 2021 funding under the MIMAROPA Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for COVID-19. However, only 43.56 percent, or 98 PAPs, amounting to P3,999,865.50 were funded.

The current budgeting processes of government PAPs is highly influence by the agency central offices. The RDC could not secure a significant share in allocation with the agency central offices. Until such time that the national government will issue a policy to address this concern this trend will remain as it is. There is a need to revisit the investment program that contain ready and implementable PAPs. Further, agency regional offices needs to explore other funding mechanisms such as public-private partnership (PPP) and joint venture scheme. With the additional allocation of fund to LGUs from national government, convergence projects or activities are possibilities to be expected.

Readiness of the MIMAROPA LGUs on the implementation Executive Order (EO) No. 138 issued by the President on June 01, 2021 approving the full devolution of certain functions of the executive branch to the local governments, creation a Committee on Devolution, and for other purposes.

EO No. 138 was issued due to the Supreme Court (SC) ruling relative to Mandanas-Garcia Case. In its decision on July 03, 2018, which was reaffirmed on April 10, 2019, ruled that: a) the aggregate Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) should be computed as 40 percent of all taxes; b) deductions

from the IRA being questioned by Mandanas are valid; c) application is prospective on the basis of the post-operative doctrine; and d) increase in the IRA arising from the ruling will start in 2022. EO 138 prescribed the devolution of the remaining functions of national government to local government under Section 17 of Local Government Code. The SC ruling also increase the LGUs share on the national tax allotment.

It is critical to establish the readiness of the LGUs to fully implement the additional functions and services relative to the additional national tax allotment. The regional line agencies need to be proactive to strengthen the capacity of LGUs so that the additional resources will be efficiently utilized and lessen the LGUs dependency on national tax allocation.

Dispute over Western Philippine Sea with Republic of China.

China has been claiming the Spratly islands of the region and has undertaken reclamation activities in some of our islets. This poses threat in terms of livelihood, environment, and sovereign rights in our Exclusive Economic Zone. This is despite the Permanent Court of Arbitration decided that the Philippines has exclusive sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea including the Spratly islands in 2016. RDC favorably supports any endeavor relative to development and sustainable management of the area. During the 2nd quarter RDC full council meeting held on June 4, 2021, RDC endorsed to National Task Force Western Philippine Sea, Department of National Defense, and other concerned agencies the Ten-Year Strategic Development Plan and Action Plan for the Kalayaan Island Group for possible funding support.

House Bill (HB) 7853

House Bill (HB) 7853, which seeks to amend the Fisheries Code to allow commercial fishing in municipal waters would threaten livelihood of artisanal fisherfolk in the region. MIMAROPA has a huge area of municipal waters in which many fisherfolk are very dependent. The proposed bill

has not been enacted, but commercial fishing vessels are already encroaching the municipal waters. The passage of law will adversely many fisherfolks in the region.

Executive Order No. 130

Executive Order No. 130 was issued by President Duterte to lift a nine-year moratorium on granting new mining permits in the country. This will provide investment opportunities in mining in the region. However, the Province of Marinduque submitted its position on the moratorium of mining tenements in the province. One (41) resolutions and statements from the Provincial Government of Marinduque, LGUs, BLGUs, Academe and Civil Society Organizations requesting to deny with finality the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement application of Marcopper and 38 other mining applications, to delist the Province of Marinduque in the mining tenement area and to declare the province of Marinduque a Mining-free Zone in response to the lifting of mining moratorium thru EO 130 issued by Malacanang.

Economic Trends

Increased demand for modern agricultural machinery and equipment.

Once the pandemic started to minimize its threats, there will be an increased in demand for modern agricultural machinery and equipment in place of manual labor. Innovative technologies on processing and packaging shall keep up with the increased demand for processed food with longer shelf life. This also means that there will be a higher demand for raw materials to be used for preserving food, e.g., salt, sugar, vinegar. Higher demand for agro-industrial products like rubber (for making gloves and personal protective equipment), fiber (for making masks, etc.), and raw materials for soap and disinfectants is also expected.

A shift in consumer preferences for healthier diets, safe and nutritious food, are expected in the coming

years. More health-conscious, and selective food they eat, and will prefer eating fruits and vegetables to boost their immune system against diseases. Urban agriculture in the form of backyard food production will also continue to surge.

Significant impact of inflation on region's vulnerable sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the supply chain inefficiency in the region. It affected the manufacturing and agricultural sectors including distribution systems, e.g., the cost of some agricultural commodities like pork and vegetables remain high and further cause inflation. Further, the imposition of ECQ restrained the movement of agricultural produce, which resulted in increased food waste due to spoilage, lower farm gate prices of agriculture/fishery products, and higher retail prices. During the ECQ, the direct losses from unsold produce in MIMAROPA reached P1.52 million.

Due to this factors, vulnerable sectors and low income sectors suffered much than those with high income. This often leads to lower levels of consumer spending or changes in consumption patterns since poorer households tend to spend a greater proportion of their expenditure on food commodities. With these, poverty situation in the region may worsen and the social amelioration programs require a huge amount. Further, there is a need to study and identify the bottlenecks and gaps in the supply chain system in the region.

Social Trends

Low capacity of health care system.

There are only 28 licensed hospitals in the region, 14 of which are owned and managed by the government. The region has only three level II hospitals, all of which are privately owned. The rest are level I hospitals and 40 infirmaries in MIMAROPA serving the region's total population. With these, the capacities of the national and local

governments on health services are required to be upgraded. Local government units are expected to enhance their services and support on prevention, detection, isolation, treatment, recovery, and vaccination to eliminate COVID threat. The focus of expenditure for both national and local resources are on health services such as improving the facilities, manpower, and health programs.

Difficulty of implementing learning modules for indigenous people.

During the MIMAROPA SDC meeting held on November 6, 2020, the Department of Education (DepEd) MIMAROPA reported that there are issues concerning learning modalities of the indigenous peoples (IPs), more specifically on their difficulty in answering the modules. The following issues and challenges identified for SY 2020-2021 in relation to the learning modality for IPs: transfer of residence of students without informing the advisers and other school personnel; limitations of parents in providing instructional support to their children; unavailability of vehicle for teachers to monitor pupils (especially the IP learners who live up the mountains) and to deliver the modules per sitio; risky visitation due to weather condition; not conducive home environment; insufficient time to accomplish indicated activities in the self-learning modules (SLMs); and no internet connectivity to do some research. Kinder to Grade 1 parents including the IPs are doubtful about their ability to teach their children. Some parents have to attend to their livelihood, which leaves their children unattended and unmonitored. Specific issues and challenges identified concerning IPs and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) are as follows: lack of learning facilitators; no electricity/internet connection and are only using analog phones; modules returned were crumpled and unanswered; and the transfer of residence of indigenous cultural community (ICC) families.

These challenges and issues need to be addressed by DepED, LGUs, NCIP, Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on COVID-19, and other concerned institutions/agency. A face-to-face meeting should be explored to address the issues. Alternative learning methods or modalities can be decided once the actors act on it.

Infrastructure Trends

Physical interconnectivity.

One of the major challenges in the development of the MIMAROPA region is physical interconnectivity due to its geographic characteristics. It includes a) interconnecting the five provinces and island municipalities among each other and to Calapan City (the regional government center); b) MIMAROPA to the rest of the Luzon/Visayas Regions; and c) MIMAROPA's production areas and tourism destinations to promote economic integration, trading, and marketing efficiencies.

Efficient infrastructure projects are key solutions to these challenges to support the integration of island economies. Currently, there are three ongoing major infrastructure projects that need to fast track its implementation such as:

- Mindoro Island Circumferential Road, Abra de Ilog-Puerto Galera Section. The road project started in 2014. Three sections on the Oriental Mindoro side were already completed with the off-carriage improvement and drainage works remaining to be completed. Construction at the Occidental Mindoro side has picked up its pace, with an average weighted accomplishment of 77.44 percent. Only the construction of the bridge section remains unfunded.
- Coron-Busuanga Road, Palawan. Coron-Busuanga Road has a total length of 72.53 km, and it has a carriageway width of 6.70 m; 280 mm thick pavement and a shoulder width of 2.0 meter on both sides in conformance with the design guidelines, criteria, and standards for national roads. It started in 2017 with a total cost of P1.80 billion.
- Puerto Princesa Cruise Port and Facilities.
 The PPC Cruise Port shall be composed of a 500 linear meter x 21 lineal meter wharf to accommodate a large cruise liner; it is

provided with 36 lineal meter x 12 lineal meter trestle and 64 lineal meter x 13.4 lineal meter causeway, which serves as an entrance to the terminal building. The cruise ship terminal building has an approximate area of 10,000 square meters that can accommodate 2,500 persons where passengers will also be provided with tourist lounge, coffee shops, restaurants, souvenir and novelty shops and amenities for spa and wellness. It was started in 2016 with a total cost of P3.50 billion. The PPC Cruise port is expected to contribute to the promotion of the tourism industry.

High power rates and frequent outages.

Rotational brownouts are often experienced in the provinces and island municipalities. The region recorded a dependable capacity of 228 MW from various power generation facilities with the maximum system demand of 214 MW. Despite the shutdown of some economic activities, electricity consumption remain high due to work from home and online classes. The capacity of the existing power providers need to be augmented. LGUs and concerned agencies need to encourage new power providers. The proliferation of solar power lightings available online may be among the alternatives.

Increase in cost of maintenance and operations in the transportation sector.

The new normal in air, water, and land transport shall consist of observation of physical distancing. This may also include lessened number of passengers per travel of transport vehicles to ensure that social distancing will be observed. However, due to lessened number of passengers, price of fares may also increase. Airports, seaports, and passenger terminals shall also observe strict protocols such as limitation in capacity, provision of health and hygiene supplies, and security. This may increase in cost of maintenance and operation over a much lower revenue. In the next years, cost of travelling is expected to increase.

Technological Trends

Increased demand in ICT services and digital technology.

Demand for ICT services and the use of digital technology are likely to increase significantly. E-commerce will be hugely utilized as businesses and consumers are expected to prefer the use of online transactions, including the expanded use of cashless payment system and other financial technology platforms. This bodes well for the retail and other business activities sectors, including information technology and business process management.

Further, online learning will still be utilized in the region, for at least a year. However, in order for this to be effective, all areas in the region need a stable, fast, reliable, and accessible internet services. In line with this, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has rolled out its "Free Wi-Fi for All" project in 70 public places in the region in CY 2020. Through the "Managed Internet Service" arrangement, these newly activated sites are in state universities and colleges, hospitals, and LGUs in Occidental Mindoro (10 sites), Oriental Mindoro (9 sites), Marinduque (7 sites), Palawan (32 sites), and Romblon (12 sites). The DICT also lent 19 LTE routers with unlimited data, calls and SMS subscription to several quarantine facilities, isolation facilities, and rural health units in the region. With the implementation of National Broadband Program of DICT, the services of internet in the region will be expected to improve.

The RDC need to support the passage of Senate Bill No. 1831, "An Act Requiring All Public Telecommunications Entities and Internet Service Providers in the Country to Increase Service Coverage and Deliver a Minimum Standard for Internet Connection Speed" (or Better Internet Act) to facilitate the improvement of internet services in the country.

Environmental Trends

Increase in solid and water waste.

There will be an expected increase in volume of hazardous wastes from medical facilities and health protection commodities Solid wastes from packaging materials will also increase due to the surge in delivery of food and other essential supplies. Higher demand for water is also expected in the next years because people will continue to practice frequent handwashing and sanitation in households, workplaces, and public places. The call for all LGUs in the region to formulate and implement their solid waste management plans, including the creation of permanent positions for ecological waste management officer cannot be ignored. Many establishments will be urged not to use single use plastics in packaging their products to minimize waste generation. Nonetheless, in the next years, people will be more aware of the importance of preserving the natural resources while ensuring environmental sustainability and safeguarding the quality of public health.

Overlay of Economic Growth, Demographic Trends, and Physical Characteristics

Republic Act No. 10879 or the MIMAROPA Act established the Southwestern Tagalog Region as MIMAROPA Region composed of the following provinces and cities: Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon, Calapan City, and Puerto Princesa City.

MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 adopted the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) which provides the basis for policies to complement population and economic growth involving the core strategies of concentration, connectivity, and vulnerability reduction.

Accomplishments

Concentration

Concentration aims to increase overall densities of settlements in terms of population and economic activities as indicated in the national spatial strategy.

For MIMAROPA, activities related to concentration includes the establishment of regional government center (RGC) in Calapan City and Implementation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pagasa (BP2) Program. The RGC aims to provide a common location for all regional offices of government agencies for efficient delivery of services and functions. The BP2 aims to provide socio-economic services for certain sectors opted to transfer from Metro Manila to provinces. Both of these factors will attract investment opportunity, livelihood, employment, and other economic opportunities.

Establishment of the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center

The Regional Government Center Management Committee (RGCMC) created under RDC, conducted series of consultations and focus group discussions to gather inputs from various MIMAROPA regional government offices (RGOs) for the formulation of the MIMAROPA RGC master plan and architectural schematics. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Rodrigo

Duterte signed Proclamation 922 on March 8, 2020 effectively placing the entire Philippines under state of public health emergency. This resulted to suspension of the establishment of the MIMAROPA RGC to reprioritize government programs, projects, and activities to address the social and economic impacts of the pandemic not only for the MIMAROPA Region, but for the whole nation.

As of December 2020, there are 18 RGOs that have fully transferred to Calapan City: 1) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); 2) Cooperative Development Authority (CDA); 3) Department of Agriculture (DA); 4) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); 5) DOJ-Parole and Probation Administration (PPA); 6) Land Registration Authority (LRA); 7) Land Transportation Office (LTO); 8) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI); 9) National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); 10) National Irrigation Administration (NIA); 11) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); 12) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC); 13) Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA); 14) Philippine National Police (PNP); 15) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA); 16) Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB); 17) Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and 18) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

Further, eight RGOs have established their respective satellite offices in Calapan City: 1)

Commission on Higher Education (CHED); 2)
Department of Information and Communications
Technology (DICT); 3) Food and Drug
Administration (FDA); 4) Maritime Industry
Authority (MARINA); 5) National Police
Commission (NAPOLCOM); 6) Office of the Civil
Defense (OCD); 7) Philippine Coconut Authority
(PCA); and 8) Office of Regional Concerns -

Presidential Management Staff (ORC-PMS).

The full transfer of all government agencies in the RGC will attract industries and businesses. It will not only spur economic activities of Calapan City but also its nearby municipalities such as Naujan and Baco in the coming years (refer to Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 MIMAROPA Regional Government Center Architectural Schematics



Source: Department of Public Works and Highways MIMAROPA; Nepthy S. Del Rosario and Partners Collaborative

Implementation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pagasa Program

To reverse migration to the NCR and other congested metropolises and foster socially cohesive, resilient, and sustainable rural communities, the BP2 Program was institutionalized by virtue of Executive Order No. 114, s. 2020 entitled "Institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) Program as a Pillar of Balanced Regional Development, Creating a Council Therefor, and for other Purposes."

The BP2 Program was formulated as a national program of the government and adopted as a continuing strategy to ensure balanced regional

development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources, and opportunities through policies and programs that boost countryside development and inclusive growth, provide adequate social services, promote full employment, industrialization, and an improved quality of life in rural areas.

4-STOREY PERSPECTIVE

Pursuant to Section 2 of EO No. 114, s. 2020, the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council shall be created to ensure whole-of-government action in the implementation of the BP2 Program. The RDCs shall be the counterpart of the BP2 Council.

The MIMAROPA RDC was adopted as the BP2 Regional Council during its Full Council meeting held on September 04, 2020 virtually through

Zoom by virtue of RDC Resolution No. 2020-072-896. RDC also created the RDC Special BP2 Committee and BP2 Communication Group.

The MIMAROPA Regional BP2 Action Plan was approved during the 4th quarter RDC Full Council meeting held on December 04, 2020 virtually through Zoom by virtue of RDC Resolution No. 2020-073-924. The plan espouses sectoral and spatial strategies, strategic interventions, and priority programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) included in the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 Midterm Update, which support the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and consistent with the long term vision. The total investment requirement for the implementation of the proposed PPAs under the BP2 Program in MIMAROPA amounted to P42,120,530,328.80.

The National Housing Authority shall coordinate with other national government agencies on the transfer arrangements of approved applicants, and the provision of benefits and assistance packages to transferees and assign regional coordinators from its staff to provide regular updates and feedback to NEDA MIMAROPA on developments from the BP2 National Council while the Department and Social Welfare shall coordinate with the referring local government units and the BP2 Secretariat in the identification, profiling, and assessment of target families, conduct of social preparation and psychosocial intervention, and facilitation of family development plans and ensure linkages of beneficiary list with other targeting databases, such as the conditional cash transfer program, unconditional cash transfer program, rice subsidy program, indigent senior citizen pension, among others.

Connectivity

Improvement of inter-island connectivity

The inter-island connectivity is realized through the continuous improvement of sea vessel transport services, sea port services, and maritime administration services. Primarily, transport going to Mindoro Island and Romblon is through Batangas Port, for Marinduque is through Lucena Port, and for Palawan is through Manila port and NAIA. There is no air transport services between and among the island provinces. There are small sea vessels that transport cargoes and passengers among the islands. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, limited operation of transport services were observed in MIMAROPA. There were also no additional water transport routes identified in 2020. Nevertheless, connectivity improved virtually through the use of various online platforms such as Zoom, Webex, Google Meet, etc.

Vulnerability reduction

Vulnerability reduction aims to minimize the risk on population, settlements, and economic activities of the impacts of natural and manmade hazards. It also includes the strengthening the resiliency of population or community on possible risks. Vulnerability reduction will be an integral part of the concentration and connectivity strategy.

To address the vulnerability of the community and settlements, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) is being mainstreamed in the preparation of development and physical framework plans in the region. Armed conflict also disrupts the socio-economic activities of the vulnerable sectors of the region.

Integrate DRR/CCA in local development plans

All MIMAROPA provinces except Romblon have Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) that were endorsed by the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC).

As of December 31, 2020, 48 cities and municipalities have approved/ updated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) enhanced comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs). On the other hand, two cities and 43 municipalities have comprehensive development plans (CDPs) that have approved/ updated DRR-CCA enhanced CDPs.

Furthermore, attaining the results for the key areas of the BP2 Program Framework will be anchored on a well-crafted and adopted local comprehensive land use plans and provincial physical framework and development plans.

MIMAROPA being prone to natural disasters

During the last quarter of 2020, typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses hit the region that destroyed homes, government facilities, schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, agricultural facilities, and irrigation facilities in the region. Soil erosion and landslides were also reported in the affected areas. Land travel was temporarily hampered as roads were blocked with large amounts of soil while some were damaged and destroyed.

Series of activities were conducted relative to the preparation of the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) report and formulation of the MIMAROPA Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (RRP) for areas affected by the typhoons to identify priority programs, activities, and projects to address the damages.

Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses wreaked havoc in the five provinces of MIMAROPA leaving behind a total estimated damage of P4.19 billion. Among the five provinces, Occidental Mindoro registered the most damages amounting to P1.41 billion. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with P1.34 billion, Marinduque with P1.13 billion, Palawan with P228.12 million, and Romblon with \$\P\$2.74 million. In terms of losses, a total estimated loss of P5.66 billion was recorded in the region. Productive sector losses were the highest amounting to P5.30 billion or 93.69 percent of the total losses. This was followed by losses in social sector with ₱312.36 million or 5.52 percent, infrastructure sector with P44.86 million or 0.79 percent, and cross sectoral with ₱5,000.00 or 0.0001 percent. A total of 1,194 proposed PPAs with investment requirements amounting to P11.98 billion was recorded under the four sectors of RRP to be implemented in the region.

Isolation of island municipalities or Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) during disasters

The list of geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the region was considered by the MIMAROPA regional line agencies (RLAs) in prioritizing delivery of basic goods and services during disasters.

High exposure to communist terrorist groups

In December 2018, the President signed Executive Order (EO) No. 70 institutionalizing the whole-of-nation approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace, creating a national task force to end local communist armed conflict, and directing the adoption of a national peace framework.

The MIMAROPA regional task force to end local communist armed conflict (RTF-ELCAC) was able to identify 69 priority convergence areas in MIMAROPA following the criteria specified in the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01-2019 on EO No. 70, s. 2018. The 69 areas are being prioritized by the national government agencies in providing basic health and social services.

The implementation of whole-of-nation approach has been put in place by the MIMAROPA RTF ELCAC. Initiatives and efforts are finally taking root but more is needed to maintain the momentum in gaining headways against the communist terrorist groups (CTGs).

The region has been proactive in the implementation of EO No. 70, s. 2018 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation

Table 3.1 Supplemental Strategies to Overlay Economic Growth, Demographic Trends, and Physical Characteristics

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
Establishment of the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center/Transfer of regional line agencies to Calapan City		DBM and Congress

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
Connectivity among MIMAROPA island provinces	Prepare or update the MIMAROPA Transport Plan. Provide funds for the establishment of integrated port system and implementation of major transportation projects in the region (included in the MIMAROPA Intermodal Transport Development Plan)	LGUs, DPWH, PPA, CAAP, DBM and Congress
Flood control/mitigation measures	Promote LGU clustering to enable them to plan and implement large-scale flood control projects and drainage system infrastructures Provide funds for major flood control projects in the region Encourage collaboration between LGUs, DENR, EMB, and MGB on reforestation/greening programs and other environmental legislations to ensure disaster resilience in the future	LGUs and DPWH DENR, LGUs
Isolation of island municipalities or Geo- graphically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) during disasters	Provide safety-net programs especially to "seasonal workers" to reduce their vulnerabil- ity to climate-related disasters Strengthen/capacitate local disaster risk re- duction and management councils in handling disasters (before, during, and after disaster) Establish reliable communication facilities in the municipalities	LGUs. RDRRMC member agencies
Presence of CTGs	Provision of funds for ELCAC related activities	Congress, DBM
Absence of national land use framework	Fast tracking the passage of the National Land Use Act (NaLUA). Specific policies and mechanisms should be in place to ensure that prime agricultural lands conserved while for- est areas are protected	Congress, NEDA
Boost countryside development and inclusive growth, provide adequate social services, and promote full employment, industrialization and an improved quality of life in rural areas	Implementation of the "Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) Program" to ensure balanced regional development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities	BP2 Committee member agencies, LGUs

MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 Headline Targets

The MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update outlines the regional development policies, concrete sectoral and spatial strategies, and priority targets and programs to pursue the MIMAROPA's vision to be "The Destination of Choice." Further, it will support the attainment of national goal in laying down a solid foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally-competitive knowledge economy.

To complement the targets and strategies that fall under the three major pillars of "Malasakit," "Pagbabago," and "Patuloy na Pag-unlad", headline or core targets of the RDP are set under the four pillars of the MIMAROPA's vision including: a) empowered citizens and communities; b) food security; c) environmental integrity; and d) unified and interdependent island provinces.

The implementation of game-changing and broad-based reforms were cascaded to the region and finally taking root. The region's notable economic performance translated into generation of more jobs, improved social services, and reduced poverty incidence.

On empowered citizens and communities

Based on the 2020 regional accounts released by PSA, the region's economy contracted from 4.3 percent in 2019 to -7.6 percent in 2020. This was the first time that the regional economy has plunged since 2001, when the PSA revised and rebased the regional accounts.

The 2020's negative growth rate was the lowest growth rate achieved by the region over the last two decades, beating the next-worst region's economic performance of 0.8 percent growth rate in 2010. This negative growth, nonetheless, was still lower by 2.0 percentage points than the national average of -9.6 percent in 2020.

Similar to 2019, the 2020 target in the updated regional development plan (RDP) which was set at a range of 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent was not achieved.

Among the 17 regions that posted contracted growths, MIMAROPA ranked 6th; Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ranked 1st – in terms of growth rate.

On the other hand, MIMAROPA ranked 13th among regions with significant decrease in growth

rate from 2019 to 2020 with 11.9 percentage points. Central Luzon, National Capital Region, and Cagayan Valley were the top three regions with significant decrease in growth rate.

In 2020, a total of 188,624 Pantawid Pamilya household beneficiaries were served in MIMAROPA. Although it was 4.55 percent lower than its 197,623 household beneficiaries target for 2020, it was 8.27 percent higher than its 178,316 served beneficiaries in 2019. Beneficiaries received the maximum cash benefit allotted to cope with the health crisis during the said periods.

Another poverty alleviation program of the region is the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Services National Community- Driven Development Program (KALAHI CIDSS-NCDDP or KC-NCDDP). Using the community driven development (CDD) approach, the program empowers the communities in identifying their common issues and needs and in deciding which project could address their concerns. In such a way, the program also improves access to services and local planning and budgeting.

Moreover, due to the disruptions made by the pandemic, the program modality shifted to Disaster Response Operation Procedure (DROP) wherein a total of 80 KALAHI CIDDS projects

were implemented, which was higher than the 19 projects set as RDP target. The completed projects benefitted 28,891 KALAHI CIDDS beneficiaries.

With the passage of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, the government launched the Social Amelioration Program- Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) which provided an emergency subsidy of Php 3,650.00 for the Pantawid Pamilya households during the lockdown period of April and May, on top of their regular monthly cash grants of Php 1,350. Meanwhile, the non-Pantawid poor households in MIMAROPA who were also affected by the health crisis received a Php 5,000 subsidy per month for two months.

The Department of Labor and Employment also intensified the implementation of its livelihood assistance and other social safety net programs for the workers in the formal and informal economy taking into consideration the effects of the pandemic on employment and economic activities.

On food security, at constant 2018 prices, MIMAROPA's economy grew at a slower pace by 3.9 percent in 2019 compared to 8.6 percent growth in 2018. Services contributed 2.7 percentage points to the 3.9 percent growth in 2019, AFF contributed 0.9 percentage point, while industry contributed 0.3 percentage point. AFF gross value added

(GVA) for agriculture and fisheries accelerated by 4.7 percent in 2019 from 0.9 percent in 2018. This was also higher than the 2019 RDP target of 2.5 percent growth.

The services sector accounted for the largest share in the region's economy with 46.7 percent. This was followed by the industry sector with 35.1 percent and the AFF sector with 18.2 percent.

On environmental integrity, most of the indicators specified in environment and natural resources subsector missed their respective targets. No tamaraw population count was conducted during the year. The annual Tamaraw count which was scheduled on April 14-21, 2020 was cancelled due to the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

The implementation of enhanced national greening program (eNGP) in the region during the year was challenged with the reprioritization of FY 2020 budget to PAPs related to COVID-19 response. This limited the activities of eNGP to patrolling, fireline construction, ring weeding, re-staking, fertilizer application and replanting.

On unified and interdependent island provinces, the indicators specified infrastructure subsectors missed their targets except for the percentage of paved national roads which surpassed the expected target.

Table 4.1 Vision-Reality Gap

PILLARS OF MIMAROPA VISION	INDICATORS	BASELINE DATA (2016)	2020		END OF PLAN	
			PLAN TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	TARGET (2022)	AGENCY/SOURCE
Empowered citizens and communities	GRDP growth rate increased (in %)	2.6	4.7-5.7	-7.6	6.2-7.2	PSA
	Decreased poverty incidence among population (in %)	24.4 (2015)		15.1 (2018)	13.0 (2021)	PSA
	Number of poor households covered by RCCT/MCCT	193,065	197,623	188,624	197,623	DSWD
	Number of stakeholders provided with capability building services	649)	ANA	2	ANA	DSWD
	Number of SLP beneficiaries	8.721	2.256	4,619	2,730	DSWD

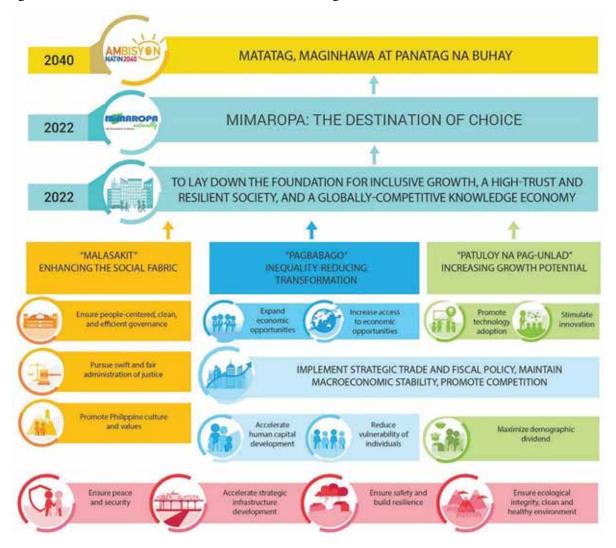
PILLARS OF MIMAROPA VISION	INDICATORS	BASELINE	2020		END OF PLAN	
		DATA (2016)	PLAN TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	TARGET (2022)	AGENCY/SOURCE
	Number of Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) households assisted through the Microenterprise Development Track	5,697			4,616	DSWD
	Number of SLP households with one adult family member assisted through Employment Facilitation Track	3,024			3	DSWD
	Number of KALAHI- CIDSS projects	728	19		80	DSWD
Food security	Regional palay production (in MT)	1,080,408	1,286,998.34	1,183,149.32	1,352,152.63	DA/LGUs
	Yield of palay increased (in MT/ha)	3.75	4.19	4.04	4.40	DA/ATI/DOST/ DTI/FDA /LGUs
	GVA growth rate in agriculture, fishery, and forestry (constant prices, in %)	-6.8	2.0-3.0	-4.7(2019)	2.0-3.0	PSA/DA/BFAR/ DTI/DOST/PFIDA/ DOT/DPWH/ PCA
Environmental integrity	Population of tamaraw species increased	413	Increasing	(Increasing)	No data due to change of Tamaraw count method	DENR MIMAROPA
	NGP number of seedlings produced increased	36,270,310	7,713,030	18,971	41,511,371	DENR MIMAROPA
	NGP number of seedlings planted increased	32,213,952		16,906		DENR MIMAROPA
	NGP survival rate of seedlings equal or above 85%	85	85	85	85	DENR MIMAROPA
Unified and interdependent island provinces	Percentage of paved national roads (secondary)	84.67	94.0	94.52	100.0	DPWH
	Percentage of households provided with electric supply power	84.10	94.0	92.51	95.0	NEA, DOE
	Proportion of households with access to safe water supply	92.04	98.82	45.62	100	DOH MIMAROPA
	Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilets	82.94	89.26	79.72 (2018)	85	DOH MIMAROPA

Sources: PSA MIMAROPA; DOE; DSWD MIMAROPA; DA MIMAROPA; LGUs; ATI; DOST MIMAROPA; DTI MIMAROPA; FDA; PhilFIDA; DOT MIMAROPA; DPWH MIMAROPA; PCA; DENR MIMAROPA; and NEDA MIMAROPA

Table 4.1 Vision-Reality Gap presented the accomplishments of RDP's core targets in 2020 in key development sectors/chapters included in the RDP. The core targets provide an overall assessment of the implementation of the MIMAROPA RDP

2017-2022 towards achieving the country's long-term vision of a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat. The chapters are consistent with the overall strategic framework of the MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 in Figure 4.1.

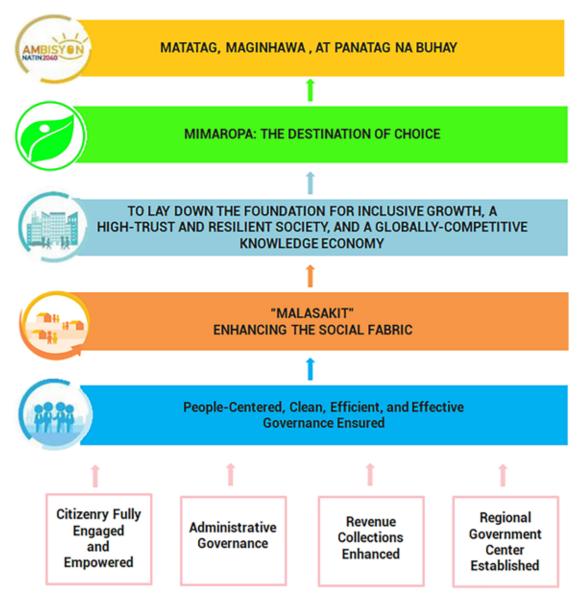
Figure 4.1 MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Overall Strategic Framework



Ensuring People-Centred, Clean and Efficient Governance

A high-trust society is necessary to ensure quality, responsive, and accessible public service for the citizens. This chapter reports the effectiveness, efficiency, and responsiveness of government institutions in terms of budgeting, spending, and delivery of public goods and services. Assessment of the programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) carried out by the regional line agencies (RLAs) and local government units (LGUs) to ensure a people-centred, clean, efficient, and effective governance are presented.

Figure 5.1 Ensuring People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance Strategic Framework



Accomplishment

Citizenry fully engaged and empowered

Article 6, Rule XIII of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) mandates LGUs to promote the establishment and operation of people's organization (PO), non-government organizations (NGO), and the private sector, to make them active partners in the pursuit of local autonomy and to directly involve them in the plans, programs, projects or activities of the LGU, such as, but not limited to, membership in local special bodies (LSBs) and involvement in the delivery of basic services and facilities. Such also prescribed 25 percent or more NGO representation in local development councils (LDCs).

In 2020, the number of LGUs that recorded 25 percent or more NGO representation in LDCs logged a notable increase of 13.24 percent from 68 LGUs or 87.18 percent in 2019 to 77 LGUs or 98.72 percent in 2020.

All MIMAROPA provinces have functional Provincial Development Councils (PDCs). On the other hand, the number of functional Municipal Development Councils (MDCs) significantly increased by 21.13 percent from 56 functional MDCs in 2019 to 71 functional MDCs in 2020.

Seamless service delivery achieved

The 2020 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Awards was cancelled in 2020 due to the declaration of State of National Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) is an award system that puts premium to good performance while seeking to institutionalize the continuity of local governance reforms and development. It ensures that measures of local government units are aligned with national and international good governance framework specifically those pertaining to local government responsibilities. Under the SGLG, the LGUs need

to pass the seven areas of assessment which include financial administration, disaster preparedness, social protection, peace and order, businessfriendliness and competitiveness, environmental management, and tourism, culture and the arts.

The number of LGUs in the region compliant to full disclosure policy (FDP) logged an increase of 14.29 percent from 63 compliant LGUs in 2019 to 72 compliant LGUs in 2020.

Full disclosure policy (FDP) is a measure imposed by the DILG to the LGUs to support the government's advocacy in promoting transparency and accountability in the government. It requires local government units to fully disclose financial documents to inform the public on how the finances of the LGUs are managed, disbursed, and used.

In 2020, the total of LGUs in the region compliant to DTI-DICT-DILG JMC No. 2016-01 also recorded an increase of 10.77 percent from 65 compliant LGUs in 2019 to 72 compliant LGUs in 2020.

Administrative Governance Enhanced

In 2020, 78 LGUs participated in the cities and municipalities competitiveness index survey. Out of these, 54 LGUs or 69.23 percent recorded improved rankings.

Among provinces in the region, Oriental Mindoro placed the highest rank at 22nd in the 2020 CMCI survey. Along with Oriental Mindoro, provinces of Romblon and Palawan also improved their ranking from 65th in 2019 to 56th in 2020 and 72nd in 2019 to 70th, respectively. Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro slipped from their previous ranking from 24th in 2019 to 38th in 2020 and 49th in 2019 to 64th in 2020, respectively.

Among highly urbanized cities in the country, Puerto Princesa City was hailed most improved highly urbanized city which registered 16 notches up from rank 33 in 2019 to rank 17 in 2020.

Among first to second class municipalities nationwide, municipalities of Pinamalayan, Puerto Galera, and Roxas in Oriental Mindoro were hailed as the top 3 most improved first and second-class municipalities in 2020 ranking 478th in 2019 to 98th in 2020, 481st in 2019 to 125th in 2020, and

482nd in 2019 to 135th in 2020, respectively.

A total of 49 municipalities or 69.01 percent of the 71 municipalities recorded improved rankings in 2020. Following the aforementioned most improved first to second class municipalities, are the next five of improved municipalities in the region such as Boac, Marinduque (164th to 147th), Bataraza, Palawan (353rd to 153rd), Brooke's Point, Palawan (222nd to 160th), Taytay, Palawan (239th to 214th), and Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro (270th to 266th). A total of 17 first to second class municipalities have improved rankings from 2019.

A total of 15 third to fourth class municipalities in the region has improved CMCI ranking from 2019. First five in the improved 3rd to 4th class municipalities in the region includes, Romblon and San Fernando in Romblon and Gloria, Bulalacao, and San Teodoro in Oriental Mindoro from 803rd in 2019 to 31st in 2020 and 111th in 2019 to 107th in 2020 and 425th in 2019 to 169th in 2020, 455th in 2019 to 430th in 2020, and 506th in 2019 to 434th in 2020, respectively.

A total of 17 fifth to sixth class municipalities in the region has improved CMCI ranking from 2019. First five in the improved fifth to sixth class municipalities are, Looc, Occidental Mindoro (507th to 76th), Santa Maria, Romblon (675th to 139th), Magdiwang, Romblon (273rd to 143rd), Santa Fe, Romblon (864th to 189th), and San Jose, Romblon (704th to 199th), respectively.

The other 22 municipalities or 30.99 percent of the municipalities in the region slipped from their 2019 rankings.

In 2020, all 100 percent of the government instrumentalities in the region have approved and functional strategic performance management system (SPMS).

In 2020, 90.79 percent of the LGUs in the

region were compliant with set public financial management (PFM) standards and adopted the PFM improvement measures. This was 22.37 percentage points higher than 2019 which logged at 68.42 percent. However, the 2020 target set at 100 percent was not met.

All provinces in the region were compliant with set PFM standards and adopted PFM improvement measures. While all municipalities of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Romblon were all compliant. Only 16 out of 23 municipalities in Palawan were compliant to PFM standards and adopted PFM improvement measures.

Revenue Collection Enhanced

The total actual revenue decreased by 16.96 percent from P4.59 billion in 2019 to P3.82 billion in 2020. Palawan recorded the highest gross revenue at P1.22 billion, while Marinduque recorded the lowest gross revenue at P242 million.

The revenue collection efficiency also decreased by 16.65 percentage points from 126 percent revenue collection efficiency in 2019 to 109 percent revenue collection efficiency in 2020.

Regional Government Center Established

The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of RA 10879 identified Calapan City as the regional center. In pursuit of regional development and decentralization and in compliance with the RA 10879, 18 MIMAROPA regional government offices (RGOs) have fully transferred to Calapan City while eight RGOs have established satellite offices in 2020.

Table 5.1 Results Matrix for People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance

INDICATOR	REGION/	BASELINE (Value)	AN	INUAL PLAN TARG	BET	Accomplish- ment	Reporting
INDICATOR	PROVICE	2016	2019	2020	2021	2020	Entity
Sub-chapter Outco	ome 1: Citizenry fu	lly engaged and er	npowered	•		•	
Number of LGUs that are compliant with 25% or more NGO representation in LDCs maintained	MIMAROPA		78	78	78	72	DILG
Number of functional MDCs	MIMAROPA					71	DILG
Number of functional PDCs	MIMAROPA					5	DILG
Sub-chapter Outco	ome 2: Seamless s	ervice delivery ach	nieved				
Number of LGUs conferred with the Seal of Good Local Governance	MIMAROPA	12	17	37	57	SGLG awards was cancelled in 2020	DILG
Number of LGUs compliant to full disclosure policy increased	MIMAROPA	68	76	78	78	72	DILG
Number of LGUs compliant with DTI-DICT-DILG JMC No. 2016- 01 on business permits and licensing system	MIMAROPA		73	73	73	72	DILG/DICT
Percentage of NGAs compliant to the transparency seal increased	MIMAROPA	88%	100%	100%	100%	-	DBM
Sub-chapter Outco	ome 3: Administrat	ive governance en	hanced				
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI ranking	MIMAROPA	15	14	15	17	54	DTI
% of agencies with functional strategic performance management system	MIMAROPA	100%	100%	100%	100%	100% (2020)	CSC
Proportion of LGUs assessed that are compliant with set Public Financial Management (PFM) standards (cum.,%)	MIMAROPA	100%	100%	100%	100%	90.79%	DBM
Proportion of LGUs adopting PFM improvement measures (CUM., %)	MIMAROPA	100%	100%	100%	100%	90.79%	DBM

INDICATOR	REGION/	BASELINE (Value)	AN	NNUAL PLAN TARGET		Accomplish- ment	Reporting
INDICATOR	PROVICE	2016	2019	2020	2021	2020	Entity
Sub-Chapter Outco	ome 4: Revenue co	llection enhanced					
Percent in revenue collection increased	MIMAROPA	5	5	5	5	(16.96)	BLGF
Percent points in revenue collection efficiency increased annually	MIMAROPA	5	5	5	5	(16.65)	BLGF
Sub-chapter Outco	ome 5: Regional Go	vernment Center I	Established				
Number of RGOs fully transferred in Calapan City increased	MIMAROPA	12	37	37	37	18	RGCMC/ RDC
Number of RGOs with satellite of- fice in Calapan City Increased	MIMAROPA	2	0	0	0	8	RGCMC/ RDC

Sources: Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA, Civil Service Commission Region 4, Bureau of Local Government and Finance MIMAROPA, MIMAROPA Regional Development Council

Moving Forward

In order to keep the citizens fully engaged and informed of the government's development agenda, advocacy activities must be carried out. It is also important to ensure proper and timely implementation of programs and projects to improve efficiency and productivity in delivering government services despite adversities brought about by political dynamics.

Regional line agencies shall adhere to the Lowest Calculated and Most Responsive Bid principle to ensure that bidders compete in terms of both cost and quality. Clauses on sanctions or penalties on suppliers/contractors deviating from contract terms must be clearly articulated and strictly enforced Government transactions and processes shall be streamlined by designing programs to reduce regulatory burdens and re-engineer systems and procedures in frontline services.

The LGU taxing powers need to be enhanced to improve local public finances and to reduce LGU dependency to IRA. Likewise, LGUs shall consider updating their respective Local Revenue Codes (LRC) and Schedule of Fair Market Value (SFMV). Human resource development and

capacity building on financial management shall be provided regularly.

Lobbying for the funding of backfilling and installation of perimeter fence in the RGC site to concerned funding and implementing agencies should be done.

RGOs shall pursue for the inclusion of budgetary allocation in their FY 2022 proposed PPAs for the establishment of their respective regional offices in Calapan City, the designated regional government center, as required under RA 10879.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has caught all local government units on guard in 2020. Sharing and adoption of best practices in responding to the pandemic should be encouraged among LGUs. Intensification and strengthening of LGUs' capability on testing, surveillance, tracing, isolation, and treatment should be dealt with.

Institutionalization of Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF-COVID-19) should be pursued. This is to ensure a more focused and mandated response against the

virus and its adverse effects to the economy.

Recommendation

To address the gaps in the implementation of PPAs, the following strategies are recommended:

Table 5.2 Supplemental strategies to ensure a People-Centered, Clean, and Efficient Gover-

nance

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic	 Continue the implementation of suspended programs, projects, and activities Provide funds and strengthen the implementation of programs, projects, and activities included in the MIMAROPA Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan for COVID-19 Adopt technological advancements in the delivery of services as well as in the implementation of programs, projects, and activities 	All agencies
Lack of proof of identity of individuals	Expand the implementation of the National ID system	PSA
Level of difficulty of metrics in the Seal of Good Local Governance	 Scale-up LGU performance metrics Expedite implementation of RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Act and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 	DILG
Poor access to technology in remote areas	Accelerate investments in technology	All agencies
Administrative burden in payment of government services	Establish e-payment platform systems	BLGF
Increase the number of LGUs with improved CMCI ranking	 Conduct self-evaluation of LGUs using the indicators of the different pillars of local economic development and competitiveness as used by the CMCI to identify the gaps and to implement appropriate interventions. 	All LGUs
Establishment of the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center/Transfer of regional line agencies to Calapan City	 Provide funds for the creation of MIMAROPA regional offices for agencies that have not yet separated with CALABARZON Region (CSC, NICA, NFA, PhilFIDA, LTFRB, DICT, and MARINA) Provide funds for the backfilling and installation of perimeter fence in the RGC site Provide funds for the construction of agency regional office buildings in Calapan City 	DBM, DPWH, MIMAROPA RLAS, RGCMC
Poor access of LGUs to funds for devolved services	Craft transition plan for the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the "Mandanas Case" (Framework and template to be prepared by DBM/ DOF)	All LGUs, DBM, DOF
Access and continuity of government services	Immediate development and implementation of ICT systems and infrastructure for governance	DICT/DILG

Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

This chapter assesses the region's recent development in pursuing swift and fair administration of justice. The region aims to ensure swift and fair administration of justice by enhancing access to civil and criminal justice system and increasing sector efficiency and accountability. With the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc in the country, relevant agencies work towards in improving the justice system in the region. Significant efforts had been recorded in order to regain and boost the confidence of the people in the country's justice system.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGEECONOMY "MALASAKIT" ENHANCING THE SOCIAL FABRIC Swift and Fair Administration of Justice Ensured Access to Civil and Criminal Sector Efficiency and Justice System Enhanced Accountability · Deliver fair and equal Support the Justice Zone Enhance the e-Subpoena and e-Warrant systems Enhance accountability through engaged citizenry Implementation of automated hearings Enhance sector efficiency

Figure 6.1 Framework for Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

Accomplishment

Access to civil and criminal justice system enhanced

The number of indigent clients provided with legal assistance decreased by 23.07 percent from 167,077 indigent clients in 2019 to 128,528 indigent clients in 2020 to (refer to Table 6.1). The decrease in indigent clients provided with legal assistance in 2020 was due to the declaration of State of National Emergency in the country following the imposition of lockdown in the entire Luzon. PAO Regional office were temporarily closed along with other courts in different areas in the region. Clients were hampered to go out and attend face-to-face consultations and hearings.

In 2020, a total of 3,771 cases with favorable disposition was recorded. This was 11.89 percent lower than the previous year which logged 4,280 cases. The target set at 10 percent increase from the previous year was not met.

Sector efficiency and accountability improved

In 2020, a total of 2,239 persons deprived of liberty (PDL) benefitted from welfare and development programs. This was 26.15 percent lower than 2019 which recorded 3,032 PDLs.

Welfare and development programs include, provision of basic needs, cultural, sports, and recreational activities, educational programs, livelihood and enhancement programs, after-care programs, behavioral programs, Katatagan Kontra Droga sa Komunidad program, and help desk program.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in all jail facilities were jail personnel and PDLs are isolated, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) temporarily suspended jail visits in its facilities. The BJMP implemented the E-Dalaw Program where the PDLs can safely meet with their families outside the facility through video teleconferencing.

The number of trial courts increased by three from 74 trial courts in 2019 to 77 trial courts in 2020. There were 23 regional trial courts (RTCs), 10 family courts (FCs), 19 municipal

trial courts (MTCs), 21 municipal circuit trial courts (MCTCs), and four municipal trial courts in cities (MTCCs) recorded in the region as of December last year. However, two MCTCs are not being served by the Puerto Princesa City, Palawan District Office due to its geographical location, MCTC Cuyo-Agutaya-Magasaysay and MCTC Araceli-Dumaran. These two island municipalities has no regular means of transportation.

On the other hand, the number of trial lawyers increased by 4.55 percent from 44 trial lawyers in 2019 to 46 trial lawyers in 2020 (refer to Table 6.1). Of the 46 PAO lawyers in the region, 25 of them are males, while 21 are females. There are also 23 support staff in which three are males and 20 are females.

Despite the increase in lawyers in the region, lawyer to court ratio remained at 1:1.75 in 2020.

During the imposition of strict community quarantine measures in the region, PAO MIMAROPA resorted to the provision of its services through online platforms such as via calls and video teleconferecing.

The jail guard to inmate ratio recorded a slight setback from 1:10 in 2019 to 1:12 in 2020. A ratio of 1:7 on jail guard to inmate was set by the end of 2022.

As of December 2020, only one jail construction project was completed: construction of perimeter fence at Odiongan District Jail in Romblon which costed P4.19 million.

All 1,460 or 100 percent of barangays in the region has maintained their Lupon ng Tagpamayapa (LT) in 2020. The annual target was set to maintain 100 percent compliance by the end of 2022.

The 2020 Lupon ng Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA) was cancelled due to imposition of enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

Under the Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, LT was created to operationalize the Katarungang Pambarangay (KP). The KP is established as a venue to resolve disputes within a community and beyond the formal courts of justice. It is composed of the barangay chairperson and 10 to 20 members who are residents of the barangay and not otherwise expressly disqualified by law.

Table 6.1. Results Matrix for Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

Indicator	Region/ Province	Baseline VALUE (2016)		Annual plan target	Accomplish- ment 2020	Reporting entity	
% increase in number of in- digent clients provided with legal assis- tance	MIMAROPA	114,774	2019 10%	2020 10%	2021 10%	128,528 23.07% decrease from previous year	PAO
% increase in disposition rate of cases	MIMAROPA	2,548 cases with favorable disposition	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	3,771 cases with favorable disposition; 11.89% decrease from previous year	PAO
Increase in number of inmates benefitted from welfare and development program	MIMAROPA	1,266	10%	10%	10%	26.15% decrease from previous year (2020)	ВЈМР
Increase in plantilla position: improved public attorney to court ratio	MIMAROPA	1:2.36	1.1.87	1:1.28	1:1	1:1.75	PAO
Increase in plantilla position: improved jail guard to inmate's population ratio	MIMAROPA	1:8.7	1:7	1:7	1:7	1:12 (2020)	ВЈМР
Number of barangay with organized Lupong Tagapamayapa	MIMAROPA	1,435 (2015)	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	DILG
% decrease in jail congestion rate	MIMAROPA	110% (2015)	80%	70%	60%	14.35% (2019)	ВЈМР

Sources: Public Attorney's Office MIMAROPA; Bureau of Jail Management and Penology MIMAROPA; Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

To achieve the target lawyer to court ratio of 1:1 by 2022, additional lawyers should be appointed in the region as well as the establishment of more district offices and trial courts to serve clients in far flung areas and island municipalities in the region and to be able maintain the increasing percentage of indigent clients provided with legal assistance. Abrupt digitalization due to pandemic should be dealt with in advantage. Technological reforms especially in the delivery of legal assistance to clients should be considered to maintain continuity of delivery of service.

For the welfare and development of inmates, additional new programs should be created while existing programs should be revisited and expanded. Monitoring and evaluation of existing programs on the other hand should be intensified. BJMP should intensify its efforts in ensuring safe and healthy environment in all jail facilities.

Regular monitoring of construction of jail facilities should be undertaken to ensure that there will be no delay and if there are some, reasons be identified and proper measures be undertaken to catch up with the target completion date.

Granting good conduct time allowances to those

qualified PDLs may also help lessen congestion on jail facilities.

The Lupon ng Tagapamayapa in the region should be encouraged to be recognized at the national level.

Recommendation

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges/issues in pursuing swift and fair administration of justice:

Table 6.2 Strategies to Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

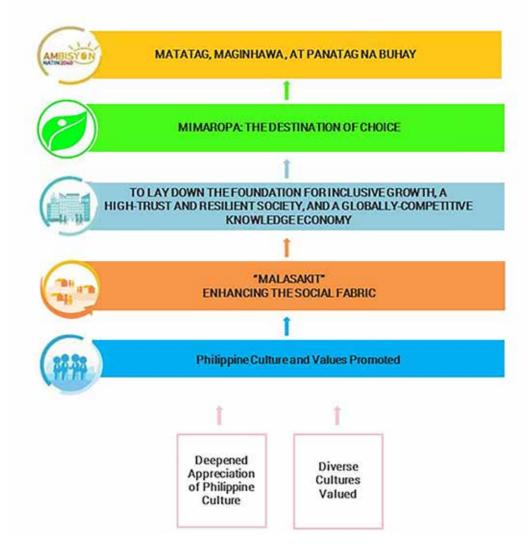
Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic	Continue the implementation of suspended programs, projects, and activities	All agencies
	Provide funds for the procurement of medical supplies for the protection of all government instrumentalities	
	 Adopt technological advancements in the delivery of services as well as in the implementation of programs, projects, and activities 	
Target ratio of lawyer to court is still not achieved	Enhance human resource processes	PAO
Target ratio of jail guard to inmate is still not achieved	Intensify campaign on recruitment of Jail OfficersEnhance human resource process	BJMP, DILG
Jail congestion rate did not decrease ideally	 Increase jail construction projects. Explore PPP options on jail construction projects. Repair, renovation and expansion of existing jail facilities. Strict monitoring on the ongoing jail construction projects to ensure project is on track Implementation of automated hearings Upgrade/enhance existing health facilities in jail Establish health facilities where there is none Establish of molecular laboratory in jail facilities 	BJMP, DILG, DOJ
Number of courts decreased	 Establishment of district offices and courts in far flung areas Appointment of more lawyers 	PAO

Promoting Philippine Culture and Values

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc in countries around the world. With the economy under pressure, there have been calls for government action regarding many sectors, including the promotion of culture and values and performing arts industry. Tourism and the cultural and creative sectors are among the most affected by this pandemic, with jobs at risk and levels of innovation bounded due to several restrictions and challenges in financial sustainability.

This chapter highlights the strategies, programs, projects, and activities conducted for the promotion of culture and values in the region amid the global pandemic. Together with the combined efforts of creative professionals and government action regarding concerned sectors, there has been wide utilization of digital platforms for ease of use and connection sustainability. As challenging as it is, these activities aim to contribute and align with country's long-term vision of a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay.

Figure 7.1 Framework for Promoting Philippine Culture and Values



Accomplishments and Challenges

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 and the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 emphasize the establishment of local culture and arts councils (LCACs) as one of the legislative agenda to promote Philippine culture and values. This aims to protect and promote local cultural heritage and arts by mandating local government units (LGUs) to establish offices for culture and arts councils.

Moreover, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2017-133 enjoins all provinces, cities, and municipalities to enact legislation for the establishment of a local culture and arts council, implementation of related projects, and improvement of existing ones.

One of the functions of the LCACs is to prepare an annual plan on culture, arts, and cultural heritage aligned with the PDP chapter on culture and the arts. The annual plan shall also be integrated in the local development plans and considered in the annual appropriation ordinances.

A total of 78 LGUs in MIMAROPA (71 municipalities, 5 provinces, and 2 cities) were recorded to have established LCACs in 2020. This was based on the inventory of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Of the established LCACs, 55 were validated by the NCCA. Two of these were created by legislation. However, there were 53 that were created by an executive issuance, while 46 LCACs were validated as exclusive, which means that they are strictly for culture and arts purposes only. Finally, there were nine LCACs that were validated as hybrid.

Table 7.1: Results Matrix for Promoting Philippine Culture and Values

	Baseline	Targets			Actual	5 0 50
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Deepened apprecia	tion of Philippine Cul	ture				
Number of doc- umentations conducted on in- digenous knowl- edge systems and practices (IKSPs) increased		1	2	3		NCIP
Percentage of LGUs with cultural maps completed		1	1	1	2 LGUs Brookes point, Palawan Sta. Cruz, Marin- duque	NCCA and LGUs
Diverse Culture Val	ued					
Number of val- idated Local Culture and arts Councils (LCACs) increased		3 LGUs	3 LGUs	3 LGUs	7 LCACs validated in MIMAROPA	NCCA and DILG
Percentage of LGUs main- streaming culture in their local de- velopment plans increased						LGU
Percentage of declared heritage and historical structures with completed State of Conservation reports (SOCs) increased					1	National Museum and NHCP

	Baseline		Targets		Actual	
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
No. of LCACs with Annual Cultur- al Development Plans		16 LCACs	16 LCACs	16 LCACs		NCCA and DILG
Number of indige- nous people man- datory represen- tative (IPMR) with issued Certificate of Affirmation and installed		145	164	183		NCIP

Source: NCCA

There are currently 15 cultural mapping activities in MIMAROPA that are being assisted by the NCCA Cultural Mapping Team. The municipalities of Brooke's Point in Palawan and Sta. Cruz in Marinduque were recorded to have completed cultural maps.

The Cultural Mapping Training Program of the NCCA, which serves as a tool to help the LGUs identify and account for its cultural heritage properties, is currently offered upon request. Thru this program, the NCCA will provide technical assistance and guidance to LGUs interested in implementing a Local Cultural Mapping Project. The project design involves six phases composed of Scoping and Negotiation, Social Preparation, Training of Local Mappers, Data Gathering, Data Validation, and Finalized Profile.

The status of local government units in MIMAROPA with cultural mapping projects with NCCA are as follows:

- 1. Brooke's Point, Palawan For Submission of Local Culture Profile
- 2. Torrijos, Marinduque For Training of Local Mappers
- 3. Province of Oriental Mindoro For Training of Local Mappers
- 4. Santa Cruz, Marinduque For Submission of Local Culture Profile
- 5. Gasan, Marinduque Ongoing Data Gathering
- 6. Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro Ongoing Data Gathering
- Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro For Training of Local Mappers

- 8. Mogpog, Marinduque- Ongoing Data Gathering
- 9. Buenavista, Marinduque- Ongoing Data Gathering
- 10. Corcuera, Romblon- For Data Validation
- 11. San Fernando, Romblon Ongoing Data Gathering
- 12. Naujan, Oriental Mindoro For Scoping and Orientation
- 13. Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro For Scoping and Orientation
- 14. Aborlan, Palawan For Scoping and Orientation
- Kalayaan, Palawan For Scoping and Orientation

The National Museum has reported that for the year 2020, it has accomplished the State of Conservation Report on the Cathedral of San Jose, a declared national cultural treasure in Romblon. The Cathedral of San Jose was reported as heritage site with state of conservation as of December 31, 2020. The author of the heritage site was Architect Arnulfo F. Dado and was completed as SOCR in 2018. It is located at Poblacion, Municipality of Romblon.

"Saot sa Kapupuroan," a multimedia documentation project implemented by the LGU Magsaysay, Palawan, that will help in preserving, developing, disseminating and protecting Cuyunon and Agutaynen culture, was one of the projects funded by the NCCA under its Competitive Grants Program.

In Aborlan, Narra, and Quezon in Palawan, there was pilot inventory of intangible heritage and

profiling of Cultural Masters among the Palawan, Batak and Tagbanwa Indigenous Communities.

The town of Boac, the capital of the province of Marinduque, carried an acting workshop on March 3-7, 2020, in preparation for the Passion Play, or Senakulo, one of the highlights of the observance of Holy Week in the Philippines. It was to re-enact the passion of Jesus Christ in a theatrical setting performed by members of the community.

The province of Marinduque celebrated its founding anniversary and kicked off the weeklong festivities and celebrations on February 16-22, 2020, with the unveiling of the plaque of the historic Boac Cathedral, declaring it an Important Cultural Property (ICP), officially known as the Immaculate Conception Parish Church and regarded as the greatest monument of local faith and history.

In addition to this, an art workshop was held on February 20, 2020, titled "Sining SikLAVan sa Sentenaryo," led by well-known artist Maestro Fernando Sena and the Miss Marinduque Centennial Queen, Ms. Angela Nicole Ilagan.

The celebrations also peaked on February 21 with Araw ng Marinduque - Anniversary Festival Street Dancing Competition, which emphasized the parade of floats of the six municipalities depicting significant historical events, the moryonan parade of the morions, the launch of the PhilPost commemorative stamp and the Gawad Marinduqueño Awards as well as the Baliktanaw sa Kasaysayan at Kulturang Marinduque. There was an evening musical show with the Marinduqueño singers and pop music star Ogie Alcasid, which was also the highlight of the celebration.

Other activities included various socio-civic activities and the Barakalan sa Sentenaryo agrotrade and tourism fair of the Marinduque Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Department of Trade and Industry. A 4×4 Offroad Jeep Club Philippines National Jamboree was held for the opening ceremonies along with the Centennial Heritage Tour which went around the province.

Also part of the celebration in Marinduque was the unveiling of the Centennial Monument and the Bantayog-Wika, an initiative of the NCCA, Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino and the Provincial Government, in recognition of the language from which our modern national forms have sprung and from where remnants of archaic Tagalog forms can be found. This was held on August 26, 2020, at the Provincial Capitol in Boac.

Due to pandemic in 2020, webinars and online activities were held. A webinar titled "A Culture that Heals: The NCCA-RDC Webinar on Filipino Values and Culture in the Time of Pandemic" was conducted on September 24. Organized by the MIMAROPA Regional Development Council and the NCCA, the said webinar tackled the "crucial role of Filipino values and culture in helping communities recover from the social, mental, and economic effects of the pandemic." The activity also sought to "assist the region in continuing its cultural activities even in the period of public health crisis to deliver results for the cultural component of their COVID-19 Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs (CRRPs)."

Moving Forward

Due to the damaging effects of the pandemic, many cultural activities have been postponed or cancelled. However, these activities are just in suspended animation and will return once the dust of the virus has settled.

The conduct of cultural activities such as annual festivals, cultural awareness, and other related activities contributes to the promotion of culture and values in the region. These events are potentials to increase revenues of the communities as well as promote tourist destinations in the region. Future enhancements of some festivals may include other cultural activities like exhibition and storytelling so the celebration will not be limited to street dancing.

Identification of influential persons or organization to champion the activation or strengthening of LCAC is necessary. It will ensure the promotion of culture and the arts at the local levels periodically. Consequently, the identification, protection, and conservation of local cultural and historical heritage shall also be ensured.

The mapping of cultural assets involves identification and documentation of both tangible and intangible cultural resources in a locality. This shall be pursued and integrated in the local plans and activities to promote awareness of the cultural heritage and traditions of the communities. A

wide range of cultural mappers in every LGU in the region from different sectors shall be formed and capacitated in order to strengthen and institutionalize cultural mapping in every locality.

Undeniably, culture increases the state wellbeing through maximizing the opportunities with governance, productive, and social sectors. Culture influence the norms of society towards a more acceptable social and economic outcomes in the society.

Filipinos strongly believe in the unity amidst cultural diversity and this shapes local policies, interactions between the people in the society and each and every individual's actions. While each person is different and achieve things in our own ways, there is culture to respect each rights and dignity. It is being reflected with the way individual interact and deal with all the members of the community and accountable to each personal behaviors.

Culture serves as a pillar for the growth of the economy and achievement of sustainable development goals. It can be a powerful driver for success backed up by community-wide longterm objectives. It is also considered as a symbolic communication that includes skills, knowledge, attitudes, and motives of a certain group aiming for one common goal. Cultural communication is worthy of preservation efforts since it unifies the society despite differences in norms, body language, and thinking.

In light of the effects of COVID-19, local government units have introduced multiple measures to support firms, workers, and different sectors including the cultural and creative sector. This is indeed an era of uncertainties. Despite this frightening pandemic, there has been continuous support for the activities and special projects promoting our culture. A lot of which have been done and held in various online platforms. As we gear towards digitalization using several medium, these activities still have one goal, which is to continuously enrich Philippine culture.

To ensure that the learning process does not stop, it is recommended to organize series of virtual trainings that will equip the people with the right knowledge, information, values and skills to further empower cultural development.

Cultural cooperation is much needed when this health crisis is putting pressure in the society. It deserves protection, as it is definitely an important instrument to achieve the goals not only of the sector itself but of the country as a whole.

Recommendation

In order to address the challenges being faced in terms of promotion, preservation, and appreciation of Philippine culture particularly in the region, following strategies are recommended:

Table 7.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Promotion of Philippine Culture and Values

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies	
Incomplete participation of other provinces and cities/municipalities in MIMAROPA Festival	 Priority agenda in the MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee Highlight the importance of culture-sensitive governance among LGUs through capacity development 	Department of Tourism MIMAROPA, NCCA	
Lack of skilled cultural mappers in a province/city/municipality	Capacitate stakeholders on cultural mapping	NCCA	
Lack of knowledge on cultural heritage, assets, and resources in the region	 Conduct advocacy activities Capacitate cultural workers per local government unit 	DOT-MIMAROPA, NCCA	
Establishment of IKSPs of indigenous cultural communities in the region	 Develop a more detailed manual or guidelines on the documentation of IKSPs for the communities, which would include processes on how to do the documentation based on Administrative Order No. 1, s. 2012 (The Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices and Customary Laws Research and Documentation Guidelines) Establishment of museums or arrangement with existing museums to display IKSPs 	NCIP MIMAROPA	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Activation of LCACs	 Identify champions to promote the activation of the LCACs LGUs to allocate funds for the activation 	LGU
Museum	 Establishment of local museum or as a component of a program/project to display and serves as repository of local practices, culture, traditions, arts, or history. Existing museums may expand its services or coverage 	LGU

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and **Fisheries**

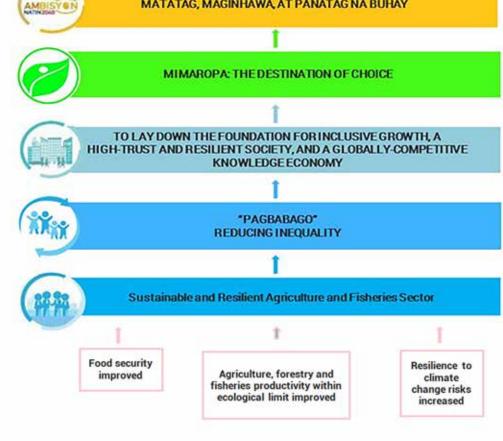
The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (AFF) Sector is one of the primary growth drivers of the MIMAROPA economy. AFF continues to contribute to the country's goal of food security as MIMAROPA is known as one of the top producers of rice, corn, cashew, calamansi, onion, garlic, cacao, and fishery products.

Based on the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 Midterm Update, the desired outcomes for the AFF are: (a) Sustainable Growth in Agriculture and Fisheries Achieved, (b) Food Security Improved, (c) Sector Resilience to Climate Change Improved, and (d) Rural Income Increased.

This chapter discusses the performance of the AFF sector in the region and its contribution to the attainment of the development goals set in the MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE

Figure 8.1 Framework for Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries



Accomplishments

Achieving Sustainable Growth in Agriculture and Fisheries

At constant 2018 prices, MIMAROPA's economy declined by 7.6 percent in 2020 compared to 4.3 percent growth in 2019. AFF decreased by 2.2 percent in 2020 from 4.7 percent growth in 2019. Industry declined by 8.2 percent in 2020 compared with 2.2 percent in previous year due to continued decline in construction, mining, quarrying, and manufacturing.

The services sector accounted for the largest share in the region's economy with 45.6 percent. This was followed by the industry sector with 35.2 percent and the AFF sector with 19.2 percent.

The decrease in the growth of the AFF sector in the region can be associated to the COVID-19 pandemic. The onset of COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the limited movement of workers and agricultural products especially during the early stage of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ). This, combined with the archipelagic nature of the region, resulted in the oversupply of some crops such as watermelon and melon which further resulted to the lower market price of these products. There was also an increase in the distribution cost of products due to impositions of local policies. Based on the business rapid assessment survey for AFF sector, the estimated direct losses from unsold agricultural produce in the region was at least P1.5 million. Almost 50 percent of the incurred losses were from cereals.

Improving Food Security

Total crops production generally decreased. Generally, decreases in the production of major commodities in the region were observed in 2020. These may be attributed to typhoons that hit the region in 2020 along with the onset of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the imposed restrictions that came with it.

 Palay production in MIMAROPA slightly decreased by 1.01 percent, from 1,195,197 metric tons (MT) in 2019 to 1,183,149.32 MT in 2020. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target of 1,286,998.34 MT for palay production. Among all the MIMAROPA provinces, Oriental Mindoro and Palawan were the major producers of palay contributing 36.43 percent and 32.73 percent, respectively. Palay yield in the region increased by 1.25 percent but fell short of the 2020 RDP target of 4.19 MT/ha.

- Corn production also missed the RDP target for 2020 of 136,068.07 MT despite increase in production by 13.34 percent from 106,939.80 MT in 2019 to 121,201.15 MT in 2020. Occidental Mindoro remains the biggest producer of corn in the region with a share of 74.24 percent. Production of yellow corn increased by 15.63 percent from 91,213.90 MT in 2019 to 105,467.99 MT in 2020 while the production of white corn slightly increased by 0.05 percent from 15,725.90 MT in 2019 to 15,733.16 MT in 2020. However, these were still lower than the RDP targets for 2020.
- Banana production significantly decreased by 42.11 percent from 108,084.09 MT in 2019 to 62,574.73 MT in 2020 and fell short of the 2020 RDP target set at 98,875.57 MT. Palawan and Oriental Mindoro were the major contributors to banana production in the region with shares of 54.81 percent and 32.82 percent, respectively. Saba remains the dominant banana variety being produced in MIMAROPA with a 63.31 percent share to the total banana production.
- The region's total calamansi production of 35,382.35 MT significantly decreased by 32.99 percent. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target production of 42,176.58 MT. All MIMAROPA provinces recorded a decrease in production. Oriental Mindoro continues to be the highest producer of calamansi in the region with a share of 96.77 percent.
- Coconut production in the region decreased by 4.01 percent from 791,120.73 MT in 2019 to 759,368.93 MT in 2020. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target of 819,760.88 MT of coconut. All MIMAROPA provinces recorded decreases in coconut production except for Palawan which registered an increase of 4.99 percent from 409,832.98 MT in 2019 to 430,283.74 MT in 2020.

- The volume of cashew nuts produced in the region exceeded the 2020 RDP target as its production increased by 5.82 percent from 235,334.74 MT in 2019 to 249,023.78 MT in 2020. Palawan remains the biggest producer of cashew nuts and contributed 99.92 percent or 248,817.68 MT to the total cashew nut production in the region.
- Mango production increased by 5.27 percent from 17,180.55 MT in 2019 to 18,085.66 MT in 2020 and exceeded the 2020 RDP target by 1.11 percent. Palawan was the highest producer of mango contributing 85.18 percent share to the total mango production of the region.
- Garlic production in the region significantly decreased by 22.33 percent from 1,479.93 MT in 2019 to 1,149.51 MT in 2020. The 2020 RDP target for garlic production was not achieved. All MIMAROPA provinces recorded a decrease in production except Romblon that registered a 0.17 percent increase in outputs. Occidental Mindoro is still the biggest producer of garlic in the region contributing 91.60 percent to the total garlic production in MIMAROPA.
- Onion production in the region decreased by 4.07 percent from 35,055.30 MT produced in 2019 to 33,629.85 MT produced in 2020. All MIMAROPA provinces registered decreases in onion production. Occidental Mindoro remains the top onion producer among all MIMAROPA provinces and contributed 94.02 percent to the region's total onion production. The decrease in onion production was associated with the increase of area harvested in 2019 of about 1,194.98 hectares
- Production of vegetables including ampalaya, eggplant, gabi, kangkong, monggo, okra, pechay, radish, string beans, tomato, cabbage, and squash registered a slight increase of 0.28 percent from 24,415.21 MT produced in 2019 to 24,484.70 MT produced in 2020.
- Cacao production increased by 5.29 percent from 99.94 MT in 2019 to 105.23 MT in 2020 exceeding the 2020 RDP target of 90.03 MT cacao production. Palawan was the highest producer of cacao in the region and contributed 83.54 percent to the total cacao production.

• Coffee production in the region decreased by 8.37 percent from 154.66 MT produced in 2019 to 141.72 MT produced in 2020. This was also lower than the 2020 RDP target of 171.31 MT for coffee production. Similarly, cassava production decreased by 9.19 percent from 21,210.10 MT produced in 2019 to 19,260.38 MT produced in 2020 and also fell short of the RDP target production of 23,222.16 MT.

Some livestock and poultry commodities increased production while some decreased production. The livestock volume of production decreased by 2.44 percent from 98,039 MT produced in 2019 to 95,650 MT produced in 2020. Poultry production reached 19,198.72 MT and exceeded the 2020 RDP target of 19,172.38 MT.

- Carabao production decreased by 2.81 percent from 4,916 MT in 2019 to 4,778 MT in 2020. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target set at 5,909.17 MT carabao production. Cattle production failed to achieve the 2020 RDP target as it recorded a decrease of 24.42 percent from 11,448 MT produced in 2019 to 8,652 MT produced in 2020.
- Hog production slightly increased by 0.52 percent from 79,381 MT produced in 2019 to 79,794 MT produced in 2020. This was, however, lower than the 2020 RDP target set at 84,518.22 MT hog production. Goat production also increased by 5.75 percent from 2,294 MT in 2019 to 2,426 MT in 2020. This exceeded the 2020 RDP target set at 2,344.01 MT goat production.
- from 11,174 MT produced in 2019 to 10,905 MT produced in 2020. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target set at 11,362.49 MT chicken production. Chicken eggs, on the other hand, increased by 7.14 percent and surpassed the 2020 RDP target of 6,912.85 MT chicken eggs production.
- Duck and duck eggs production decreased by 15.41 percent and 10.01 percent, respectively.
 The 2020 RDP targets for both duck and duck eggs production were not achieved.

Fish production for all fishing types declined. The total fisheries production in

the region reached 474,217.69 MT in 2020. This was lower than the RDP target for the year of 557,666.93 MT.

- Commercial fisheries production decreased by 3.75 percent from 29,305.92 MT outputs in 2019 to 28,200.02 MT in 2020. The decline in commercial fish production may be attributed to the decrease in fishing days and trips. All MIMAROPA provinces recorded decreases in commercial fisheries production. Palawan remains the top producer of commercial fish products contributing 71.03 percent to the region's total production.
- Municipal fisheries production decreased by 3.77 percent from 29,305.92 MT produced in 2019 to 28,200.02 MT in 2020. The 2020 RDP target set at 136,509.99 MT municipal fisheries production was not achieved. The provinces of Palawan, Oriental Mindoro, and Romblon suffered losses during the year. Only the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Marinduque recorded increases in production by 16.66 percent and 6.15 percent, respectively. Large pelagic fishes like Yellow Fin Tuna and blue marlin (malasugue) that feed on round scads have been observed in Occidental Mindoro. Catching Yellow Fin Tuna in Occidental Mindoro is done by hand line (kawil) using a single hook-and-line method and involves the use of drop-stone technique. Starting in 2010, Mamburao's tuna was being exported to the European Union member countries because it conformed to international standards for exporting tuna. Importers from European and Asian countries are said to prefer tuna fished through hand line methods because it maintains the intactness of the flesh as well as maintain its excellent fresh taste.

Recently, most of the tuna being exported by the Philippines to Japan, Korea, Australia, Switzerland, and Germany mostly come from Mamburao and Sablayan. In 2020, the annual tuna catch in Occidental Mindoro was estimated at 20,301.93 MT including 9,234.80 MT of Yellow Fin Tuna; 7,538.79 MT of Bullet Tuna; 2,109.46 MT of Skipjack Tuna; and 1,418.87 MT of other tuna fish varieties . The tuna industry has long been considered as one of the backbones of Occidental Mindoro's economy. The Municipality of Mamburao in

- Occidental Mindoro was tagged by World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Philippines as the "emerging new tuna capital of the Philippines."
- Aquaculture production in the region decreased by 6.19 percent from 344,326.59 MT produced in 2019 to 323,024.30 MT in 2020. This was lower than the 2020 RDP target set for aquaculture production. All MIMAROPA provinces registered decreases in aquaculture production except for Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro that registered an increase of 29.07 percent and 9.48 percent, respectively. Palawan remains the top producer of aquaculture products (seaweeds) with a share of 99.26 percent.

Improving AFF Sector Resilience to Climate Change

The 2020 RDP target for agri and fishery production loss due to weather and climate related disasters set at P408 million was not achieved. The onslaught of typhoons Quinta (October 2020), Rolly (November 2020), and Ulysses (November 2020) caused a total of P1,674,537,728.79 worth of damages to AFF in the region. Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest estimated cost of damages amounting to P1,083,974,829.87. Moreover, a total of P5,292,880,150.91 worth of losses was reported in the region. The province of Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest estimated cost of losses amounting to P2,931,589,121.38. The amount of damages and losses covered crops, livestock, and irrigation facilities, among others.

The fisheries sub-sector also incurred heavy damages estimated at P138,636,075 with losses amounting to P15,468,337.00. The reported damages in fisheries came from destroyed motorized boats and gears that were washed out by storm surges in the coastal communities. Estimated losses in aquaculture were recorded at 345.61 MT amounting to P15,468,337.00 due to floods caused by continuous rains that led to the overflowing of fishponds of different aquaculture commodities including shrimp, tilapia, milkfish, and seaweeds.

 $Table\,8.1\,\,Results\,Matrix\,for\,Expanding\,Economic\,Opportunities\,in\,Agriculture,\,Forestry,\,and\,Fisheries$

	Baseline		Targets		Accomplishment	
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
GVA in AFF increased (in %)	-6.8	22.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	2.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	2.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	-2.2%	PSA
Growth in GVA of A	FF by subsector (Con	stant Price)				
crops	-6.54	2.50	2.50	2.50	No data	PSA
livestock	2.75	2.50	2.50	2.50	No data	PSA
poultry	-3.26	2.50	2.50	2.50	No data	PSA
Fishery	-14.51	2.50	2.50	2.50	No data	
Growth in Value of	Production in million	pesos (constant)				
crops	- 7.01	2.50	2.50	2.50	-2.90	PSA
livestock	2.23	2.50	2.50	2.50	-3.30	PSA
poultry	- 3.75	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.60	PSA
fisheries	- 14.94	2.50	2.50	2.50	-2.60	PSA
Value of Production	of Fisheries by type	of fishing activity inc	creased			
Commercial Fisheries ('000)	1,714.73	1,801.98	1,838.01	1,874.77	1,564.82	PSA
Municipal Fisheries ('000)	7,756.15	8,150.80	8,313.81	8,480.09	11,381.31	PSA
Aquaculture ('000)	1,808.21	1,900.22	1,938.22	1,976.699	2,528.38	PSA
Rice self- sufficiency level maintained (%)	151.56	171.45	175.73	180.13	79.8	DA
Sufficiency levels o	f other priority comm	nodity				
Banana (%)	17.12	42.16	56.92	76.84	No regional data	DA
Calamansi (%)	1,576.91	1,876.22	1,932.51	1,990.49	No regional data	DA
Cashew (%)	7,445.35	7,744.52	7,976.85	8,216.15	No regional data	DA
Mango (%)	13.64	30.39	41.03	55.39	No regional data	DA
Garlic (%)	113.61	153.48	161.15	169.21	No regional data	DA
Onion (%)	23.86	58.52	70.22	84.27	No regional data	DA
Chicken (%)	24.93	31.78	42.9	57.91	No regional data	DA
Beef (%)	215.43	207.21	211.35	217.69	No regional data	DA
Pork (%)	112.50	78.58	84.09	90.00	No regional data	DA
Chevon (%)	182.36	94.81	104.29	114.72	No regional data	DA
Yield of major com	modities increased (M	MT/ha)				
Palay	3.75	4.19	4.30	4.40	4.04	PSA
Corn	3.27	3.63	3.72	3.81	3.98	
White Corn	2.31	2.42	2.48	2.54	2.31	PSA
Yellow Corn	4.23	4.83	4.95	5.07	4.47	PSA
Banana	4.31	4.38	4.49	4.61	No data	PSA
Calamansi	6.44	6.43	6.59	6.75	-	PSA
Coconut	3.53	3.78	3.87	3.96	No data	PSA
Cashew Nuts	0.80	0.88	0.90	0.93	No data	PSA
Mango	4.18	4.59	4.71	4.83	No data	PSA
Garlic	6.23	6.90	7.07	7.25	No data	PSA
Onion	8.64	9.17	9.38	9.63	No data	PSA
Vegetables	4.06	5.04	5.17	5.30	No data	PSA
Cacao	0.74	0.74	0.76	0.78	No data	PSA

	Baseline Targets			Accomplishment		
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Coffee - dried berries	0.18	0.18	0.19	0.20	No data	
Cassava	7.03	8.24	8.45	8.66	No data	PSA
Volume of Producti	on increased (MT)				ļ.	
Volume of Crop Production	2,511,652.00	2,780,620.75	2,850,136.27	2,921,389.67	2,628,758.46	PSA
Palay	1,080,408.00	1,286,998.34	1,319,173.30	1,352,152.63	1,183,149.32	PSA
Corn	114,604.00	136,068.07	139,469.77	142,956.51	121,201.15	PSA
White Corn	17,287.00	16,152.32	16,556.12	16,970.02	15,733.16	PSA
Yellow Corn	97,317.00	119,915.75	122,913.65	125,986.49	105,467.99	PSA
Banana	97,993.93	98,875.57	101,347.46	103,881.15	62,574.73	PSA
Calamansi	42,315.15	42,176.58	43,230.99	44,311.77	35,382.35	PSA
Coconut w/ husk	758,748.45	819,760.88	840,245.90	861,261.27	759,368.93	PSA
Cashew nuts	209,378.90	228,711.70	234,429.50	240,290.30	249,023.78	PSA
Mango	14,939.10	16,341.19	16,749.72	17,168.46	18,085.66	PSA
Garlic Dried Bulb (MT)	1,818.84	1,823.67	1,869.28	1,915.99	1,149.51	PSA
Onion (MT)	14,664.58	20,592.58	21,107.39	21,635.07	33,629.85	PSA
Vegetables (Am- palaya, Eggplant, Gabi, Kangkong, Monggo, Okra, Pechay, Radish, Stringbeans, Tomato, Cabbage, Squash) (MT)	20,876.77	27,889.55	28,586.79	29,301.46	24,484.70	PSA
Other Crops (MT)	48,433.51	52,713.28	54,031.11	55,381.88		PSA
Cacao (MT)	84.26	90.03	92.28	94.59	105.23	PSA
Coffee - dried berries (MT)	166.73	171.31	175.59	179.98	141.72	PSA
Cassava (MT)	19,888.18	23,222.16	23,802.72	24,397.79	19,260.38	PSA
Volume of Live- stock Production	100,712.00	105,501.41	108,138.94	110,842.41	95,650.30	PSA
Carabao (MT)	6,169.00	5,909.17	6,056.90	6,208.32	4,777,.85	PSA
Cattle (MT)	12,466.00	12,730.00	13,048.25	13,374.46	8,652.27	PSA
Swine (MT)	79,585.00	84,518.22	86,631.18	88,796.95	79,794.00	PSA
Goat (MT)	2,492.00	2,344.01	2,402.61	2,462.68	2,426.18	PSA
Volume of Poultry Production	16,486.00	19,172.38	19,651.69	20,142.98	19,198.72	PSA
Chicken (MT)	10,302.00	11,362.49	11,646.56	11,937.72	10,905.00	PSA
Chicken Eggs (MT)	5,401.00	6,912.85	7,085.66	7,262.81	7,437.91	PSA
Duck (MT)	321.00	372.20	381.50	391.04	351.89	PSA
Duck Eggs (MT)	463.00	524.84	537.96	551.41	503.92	PSA
Volume of Fisheries Production	482,790.72	557,666.93	578,608.67	600,528.08	474,217.69	PSA
Commercial Fisheries (MT)	35,585.00	37,030.14	37,400.44	37,774.45	28,200.02	PSA
Municipal Fisheries (MT)	131,183.00	136,509.99	137,875.09	139,253.84	122,993.37	PSA
Aquaculture (MT)	316,022.00	384,126.79	403,333.13	432,499.78	323,024.30	PSA
Tilapia	1,076.96	1,483.77	1,520.86	1,558.88	186.54	PSA

	Baseline		Targets		Accomplishment	
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Bangus	2,514.45	1,516.06	1,553.96	1,592.81	1,604.55	PSA
Seaweed	312,922.64	362,052.49	371,103.80	380,381.39	320,717.21	PSA
Tiger Prawns	341.36	285.96	293.11	300.44	249.08	PSA
White Shrimp	122.91	81.22	83.25	85.34	1.87	PSA
Other					265.05	PSA
Annual agri and fishery production loss due to weather and climate-related disasters reduced on the average (PhP)	312,032,283.00	408,655,738	367,790,165	331,011,149.00	2,169,886,699.02	PSA
Growth in Labor Productivity of Farmers and Fisherfolk Increased	-1.26	2-3	2-3	2-3	1.69	PSA

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA and Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

As a way forward, there is a need to empower MIMAROPA's farmers and fisherfolk as well as the private sector to increase agricultural productivity and profitability, taking into account sustainability and resilience. This can be done through the use of relevant and innovative technologies, provision of affordable credit, value-adding, developing markets at the local and national levels, and sustained empowerment and skills development of farmers and fisherfolk.

With the onset of COVID-19 and the new normal, there will be an increased demand for modern agricultural machinery and equipment in place of manual labor, given the need to limit the movement of people. Innovative technologies on processing and packaging need to keep up with the increased demand for processed food with longer shelf life. This also means that there will be a higher demand for raw materials used for preserving food such as salt, sugar, and vinegar. These innovative coping mechanisms, which have rapidly sprung up, are proving to be a lifeline for farmers allowing them to take advantage of the recent increased demand for locally sourced goods.

For MIMAROPA's AFF Sector to transition to the new normal and ways forward, the following strategies shall be implemented in the region:

1. Development of programs that will modernize agriculture and promote diversification.

Modernizing the agriculture sector holds the key to reducing, if not eliminating, rural poverty in the Philippines. Part of the modernization process is farm diversification or a more balanced agricultural production that is not necessarily focused on rice, corn, and coconut but shall include those products with export potential in processed or value-added forms such as coffee, cacao, cassava, tropical fruits, and rubber, among others.

- 2. Agriculture and Food Supply Resiliency Strategy in place. The unhampered movement of AFF goods and services through efficient transport and logistics systems is necessary. This shall involve the construction of better roads and transport infrastructures as well as sufficient and strategically-located facilities such as wholesale food terminals and trading centers, warehouses, cold storage and refrigeration facilities, mobile storage, mobile marketplaces, rolling stores, and food banks. Crafting a plan and developing strategies that would ensure a steady supply of these goods are recommended.
- 3. Research, development, and extension activities shall be intensified. The government shall intensify financial support for public research institutions and state universities and colleges (SUCs) on research and development programs for commercialization of safe, nutritious, medicinal or therapeutic, and well-packaged agri-food products. Partnerships

- and joint projects by AFF agencies should be explored for the development of agri-food processed products with improved nutritional content and longer shelf-life.
- 4. Encourage Go Lokal. Buying locally produced goods and services will benefit the MIMAROPA economy. There is a need to promote the local products and improve packaging to make the products more attractive to consumers. Establishing online transactions among MSMEs should be encouraged. Agricultural commodity production needs to adopt urban agriculture, backyard or household gardening of edibles, and community farming. Vacant urban spaces could be utilized for gardening

and farming. Households shall be encouraged to establish backyard 'edible' gardens while community farming shall be promoted especially in schools.

Recommendations

Apart from ensuring the implementation of the strategies identified in the PDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update and MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update, the following identified strategies and interventions need to be implemented:

Table 8.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Low productivity	Increase budget allocation for PAPs gearing towards modernization of the AFF sector	DA, BFAR
Lack of market outlets	Training on post-harvest processing Promotion of local produce to the local markets in the region	DA, BFAR
Weak resilience to risks especially those from natural disasters brought about by climate change phenomena	Development/establishment of disaster-resilient agriculture related facilities (e.g. irrigation infrastructure facilities and cold storage) that can withstand extreme temperature and off-season typhoons	NIA/DA, BFAR
	Adoption of disaster-resilient farming technologies and practices and development or updating of cropping models in the region, which can guide farmers especially during the onset of El Niño or La Niña	DA/DOST/BSWM
	Provision of crop insurance to farmers	PCIC

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through **Trabaho and Negosyo**

This chapter discusses the performance of the industry and services sectors in achieving the desired outcome of reducing inequality through: Trabaho or expanding economic opportunities in the sector and Negosyo or increasing access to economic opportunities for MSMEs and cooperatives.

Figure 9.1 Strategic Framework for Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through Trabaho and Negosyo



Accomplishments

Industry

Table 9.1 Targets and Accomplishments on Industry, MIMAROPA, 2020, 2021 and 2022

Indicator	Baseline (2016)	Annual Plan Targets			Accomplish- ment	5
		2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Increased employm	nent and livelihood op	pportunities in indust	ry	,	,	
GVA in Industry (in %)	2% (actual)	4.0% (low) 5.0% (high)	4.5% (low) 5.5% (high)	5.0% (low) 6.0% (high)	(8.2%)	PSA MIMAROPA
Manufacturing GVA as proportion of GRDP	5.17%	No set target			14.59	
Employment Generated by the idustry ('000) (10% increase annually)		9,616	10,577	11,635	data not yet available	
Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita		No set target	No set target	No set target	data not yet available	
Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment increased (%) (annual increase)		17%	18%	19%	data not yet available	
Number of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises assisted (by DTI)	4,717	10,500	11,025	11,576	14,071	DTI MIMAROPA
Jobs to MSMEs ratio	5	7	8	8	2	DTI MIMAROPA
Sales to MSMEs ratio (in peso per MSME)	808,491	889,428.00	898,322.00	907,306.00	584,390.00	DTI MIMAROPA
No. of LGUs with automated business transaction processes (e-BPLS, RPTACS)	25	41	45	50	35 (eBPLS)	DTI MIMAROPA
Number of Business Name Registered	9,490	22,477	24,724	27,197	14,610	DTI MIMAROPA
Number of shared service facilities established and maintained	27	41	45	50	61	DTI MIMAROPA
Number of shared service facilities beneficiaries	2,866	3,300	3,630	3,993	118	DTI MIMAROPA
Number of established and maintained Negosyo Centers	31	58	63	63	57	DTI MIMAROPA

Indicator Baseline			Annual Plan Targets			Reporting Entity
inuicatoi	(2016)	2020 2021 2022		2020	neporting Entity	
Volume of exports	1,308,509,683	5,767,877,427.32	6,921,452,912.79	8,305,743,495.34	4,402,891,816.00	PSA MIMAROPA
Volume of imports	601,284,514	500,794,666.20	450,715,199.58	405,643,679.62	620,622,418.00	PSA MIMAROPA

Source: PSA MIMAROPA, DTI MIMAROPA

GVA Growth Rate suffered due to pandemic. The GVA growth rate in 2020 for the industry sector suffered a reversal of growth recorded at -8.2 percent. The decrease can be attributed to decreased

activities in manufacturing and construction due to COVID-19.

The pandemic had a huge impact in the industry and services sectors as it temporarily suspended production activities for both goods and services. The imposition of lockdown resulted to the temporary closure of many establishments and a huge number of displaced workers. The workers from the manufacturing, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other tourism-related businesses are the most affected by the pandemic. The economic opportunities in the industry and services contracted due to decrease in investments, decreased employment and livelihood, among others.

Business One-Stop-Shop (BOSS) in the region created. The Business One-Stop-Shop (BOSS) is part of the government's initiative to streamline the processing of business permits and licenses and improve the ease of doing business. Seventy-two (72) out of seventy-three (73) municipalities and cities in the region have their Business One Stop Shop, only the municipality of El Nido in Palawan does not have a BOSS. The establishment of business one-stop-shop for business licensing improved the local government units' (LGUs) efficient delivery of services.

Total approved investments declined. The total approved Foreign and Filipino investments in the region declined by 26.14 percent in 2020, from P5.53 billion pesos in 2019 to P4.21 billion pesos in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic affected the flow of investments in the region as it recorded 0 investments during the first and second quarters of 2020. Decline in foreign investments was also observed as it only contributed 1.26 percent to the total approved investments in the region. The region's contribution to the country's total investments of 1.13 trillion in 2020 remained marginal at 0.4 percent.

The jobs to MSMEs ratio and sales to MSMEs ratio failed to meet RDP target.

In 2020, the job to MSMEs ratio contracted to two jobs generated per MSME. The average sales generated per MSME was recorded at 584,390 thousand in 2020, falling below the RDP target for the year by 34.3 percent and 35.6 percent below the end-of-plan target (refer to Table 9.1)

LGU's Adoption of Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System (e-BPLS) showed slight improvement. The number of LGUs with automated transactions and e-BPLS slightly increased by 6.06 percent in 2020 reaching 35 LGUs compared to 33 recorded for the previous year. However, the RDP target of 41 LGUs was not achieved.

Established and Maintained Negosyo Centers (NC) failed to meet RDP target.

Negosyo Centers (NCs) aims to expand economic opportunities by encouraging entrepreneurs to establish their own business by promoting the ease of doing business in the municipalities and cities in the region. NCs provide MSMEs with assistance/ services to ensure sustainability and continuity of their operations. In 2020, the number of established and maintained NCs was 57 which was 1.72 percent lower than the 2020 RDP target.

Business Names Registration slightly decreased. The business names registration assisted by DTI in the region decreased by 3.6 percent from 15,156 business names registered in 2019 to 14,610 business names registered in 2020. This was 35 percent lower than the 2020 target of 22,476 business name registration in the MIMAROPA RDP. The decrease may be attributed to the travel restrictions and inability to physically visit the DTI offices. The province of Palawan recorded the highest number of business names registered comprising 42.27 percent of the region's total business name registration. Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Palawan recorded an increase in business names registration with 6.05 percent and 5.02 percent, respectively.

On the other hand, the province of Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest decrease in business names registration at 19.99 percent. This was followed by the provinces of Marinduque and Romblon at 7.37 percent and 2.68 percent decreases, respectively.

Table 9.2 Business Names Registration, MIMAROPA, 2019 -2020

Region/ Province	2019	2020	Percent Change (2020/2019)
MIMAROPA	15,156	14,610	(3.6)
Marinduque	1,832	1,697	(7.37)
Occidental Mindoro	1,687	1,789	6.05
Oriental Mindoro	3,776	3,021	(19.99)
Palawan	5,881	6,176	5.02
Romblon	1,980	1,927	(2.68)

Source: DTI MIMAROPA

MSMEs assisted recorded a significant increase. The total number of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) assisted in the region increased by 28.78 percent from 10,926 MSMEs assisted in 2019 to 14,071 MSMEs assisted in 2020, exceeding the RDP target for 2020. The assisted MSMEs were comprise of 8,901 registered new MSMEs, 712 unregistered new MSMEs, 3,975 registered existing MSMEs and 483 registered existing MSMEs. Assistance includes trainings, seminars and other interventions related to MSME and industry development. These were reached

through the various programs and activities implemented such as Negosyo Centers, CARP, One Town One Product Next Generation, Shared Service Facilities Projects, P3 Loan Application, Industry Cluster Enhancement Program and Consumerism.

The provinces of Palawan and Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest number of MSMEs assisted with 5,172 and 3,123 respectively. The province of Palawan recorded the highest percentage increase with 94.95 percent. All provinces recorded an increase in the number of MSMEs assisted in 2020.

Table 9.3 Number of MSMEs Assisted, MIMAROPA, 2019 -2020

Region/ Province	2019	2020	Percent Change (2020/2019)
MIMAROPA	10,926	14,071	28.78
Marinduque	1,715	1,789	4.31
Occidental Mindoro	2,001	2,067	3.3
Oriental Mindoro	2,831	3,123	10.31
Palawan	2,653	5,172	94.95
Romblon	1,726	1,920	11.24

Source: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) MIMAROPA

Marketing activities were also conducted to help MSMEs generate sales amidst the challenges of product marketing during the pandemic. OTOP Hubs were established in Marinduque and Romblon to provide market access on local products in the provinces. Several Mini Bazaars and Mobile Trade Fairs were held in MIMAROPA provinces. Lastly, DTI MIMAROPA came up with its first online trade fair, the MIMAROPA Naturally Virtual Fair 2020, to adapt to the growing popularity of e-commerce.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) MIMAROPA also implemented

programs and activities to assist MSMEs and the grassroots communities in terms of adopting to technological innovations, improving productivity and operations, and developing a sustainable livelihood opportunity. The agency provided a total of 254 intervention projects to MSMEs, communities, and other beneficiaries in the region under the following programs: (1) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), (2) Grants-In-Aid Program (GIA), (3) Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST), (4) technology trainings, and (5) technology consultancy services.

The number of shared service facilities (SSFs) established and maintained exceeded the RDP target. In 2020, a total of 61 SSFs including the Business Resource Centers (BRCs) was established and maintained, exceeding the RDP target by 48.78 percent. Numerous forms of assistance were provided to 118 SSF beneficiaries. About 97 percent of the established SSFs were operational, and one unit was already transferred to the Cooperator, following the Usufruct Agreement. Direct and indirect beneficiaries were still aided through involvements in SSF projects despite the threat caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

The region posted a foreign trade surplus of US\$206.71 million. The region's total export value went up by 12 percent from US\$233,394,232.00 in 2019 to US\$261,408,976.00 in 2020. High export earnings were recorded in the months of February, October, and November. All export commodities (mostly from mining) of the region originated from Palawan. China emerged as the top destination of exports accounting for 43.32 percent of the region's total exports. This was followed by Thailand and Korea with 32.64 percent and 9.0 percent, respectively. Other major export trading partners were Singapore, Japan, United States of America, and United Kingdom. Ores were the region's primary export commodity contributing to 49.60 percent the region's total exported goods. This was followed by condensates and crude petroleum oils with 38.27 percent and 14.76 percent contribution, respectively.

On the other hand, the total value of imports in 2020 US\$ 54,700,097.00 decreased by 40.06 percent compared to 2019's value of US\$ 76,611,843.00. This may be attributed to less demand for import commodities particularly the industrial machinery and equipment commodity group. The value of imported goods was highest during the month of August with US\$6,541,948.00 and lowest in April with US\$ 1,446,551.00. Indonesia was the leading source of imported goods in the region amounting to US\$ 10,774,355, or 19.69 percent of the total imports in 2020. The port in Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone in Palawan recorded a huge quantity of imported products from Japan, Vietnam, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Netherlands and Thailand, among others. Coal

from Indonesia accounted for the largest share of the total imported goods of the region in 2020 valued at US\$7,278,875.00, or 13.31 percent.

The production of minerals in the region showed mixed performances in 2020.

The total value of minerals produced increased by 7 percent compared to the value of minerals produced in 2019.

The nickel direct shipping ore production increased by 27 percent. This resulted in about 55 percent increase in its production value. Generally, the COVID-19 pandemic has not affected the mining operations in the region. The significant increase may be attributed to the higher price of nickel in the global market caused by unstable supply of raw materials as well as the increasing demand on stainless steel production in China.

The main metal product is a mixed sulfide of nickel and cobalt produced by Coral Bay Nickel Corporation (CNBC). In 2020, the volume and value of main metal product decreased by 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively. The operation was affected by the global market prices of nickel and cobalt and the supply of low grade ore from Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation (RTNMC), which caused the decreased in production.

The sand and gravel production in the region in 2020 reached 35,314 cubic meters, a decrease by 91 percent compared to the volume produced in 2019. Its production value consequently decreased by 88 percent. However, it has to be noted that the data on volume and value were based on the submission of production reports by permit holders and operators per province. Non-submission or submission of partial reports affected the accuracy of the data on sand and gravel production in the region.

The volume and value of limestone fell by 55 percent and 31 percent, respectively, in 2020. Incomplete data on limestone production were also noted by the MGB MIMAROPA. The RTNMC is the sole large - scale producer of limestone in the region. The demand for limestone is dependent on the operations of CNBC and UNICHAMP Mineral Philippines, Inc, as buyers of limestone produced.

Services

Table 9.4 Targets and Accomplishments on Services including Tourism. MIMAROPA, 2020

8	Baseline	Annual Plan Targets			Accomplishment	
Indicators	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
GVA in Services increased (in %)	7.90%	7.5% (low) 8.5% (high)	8.0% (low) 9.0% (high)	8.5% (low) 9.5% (high)	(9.2%)	PSA MIMAROPA
No. of tourism products developed based on the NTDP product portfolios	12	20	21	22	6	DOT MIMAROPA
Interregional Flights	1	2	2	2	0	DOT MIMAROPA
International Flights	1	1	1	1	0	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of sustain- able destina- tions developed	2	1	1	1	0	
No. of road projects endorsed to the DOT-DPWH convergence program	0	25	25	25	2	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of softscapes built through DOT-TIEZA	2	2	2	2	0	DOT MIMAROPA
Percentage increase in tourist arrivals, both in foreign and domestic	10%	10%	10%	10%	(91.87%)	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of prov- inces/cities/ municipalities with instituted tourism offices	6	2	2	2	0	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of prov- inces/cities/ municipalities with tourism development plans and tourism codes formulated	3	5	5	5	2	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of properties/ establishments accredited	397	600	660	726	515	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of capability building programs and activities for LGUs	185	355	400	445	388	DOT MIMAROPA
No. of industry workers trained to enhance skills and knowledge	225	580	600	620	1,702	DOT MIMAROPA

Source: Department of Tourism (DOT) MIMAROPA

GVA in Services suffered. GVA services decelerated with -9.3 percent in 2020. The primary reason of the low performance was the implementation of community quarantines which restricted travel

of both local and foreign tourists in the region's tourist destinations and resulted to the suspension of operations of tourism and other related services.

Number of tourist arrivals recorded a huge decline. Recorded tourist arrivals in the region dropped by 91.87 percent in 2020 compared to the previous year record. Tourist arrivals for the year was recorded at a meager 176,214 compared to the 2,167,695 recorded tourist arrivals for 2019. The decrease in tourist arrivals was greatly felt during the 2nd quarter of 2020 where there were no guests or tourist arrivals recorded in the region due to the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon. It caused temporary closure of accommodations and other tourism-related services. The suspension of land and sea transport and the cancellation of international and domestic flights also resulted to low mobility of tourists. There were no new interregional and international flights recorded in 2020,

The provinces of Palawan and Oriental Mindoro have already formulated their Provincial Tourism Development Plans. The Tourism Master Plan of Oriental Mindoro awaits the adoption of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Accredited establishments in the region decreased. The number of accredited tourism establishments decreased by 6.02 percent from 548 in 2019 to 515 in 2020. This was 14.17 percent lower than the RDP target of 600 accredited tourism establishments. Moreover, there were no sustainable destinations or accommodation with green initiatives developed. There were also no tourism offices instituted in the region and softscapes built through TIEZA support.

Tourism appreciation and recognition conducted. The Department of Tourism MIMAROPA recently awarded outstanding public and private individuals and other stakeholders, who provided valuable support to the national efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic despite its impact on the tourism industry. Themed "Pink Life: Nurture, Foster and Understand amid a Pandemic!" the MIMAROPA Tourism Appreciation and Recognition Day honored tourism players who rendered the Filipino brand of service beyond the call of duty. DOT was able to extend assistance to 6,893 foreign tourists and 318 local tourists by arranging sweeper flights from various domestic gateways and facilitating repatriation flights

mounted by foreign governments. A total of 244 tourists was assisted through Tourist Care Program of the DOT.

Road projects endorsed under the DOT-DPWH convergence program decreased.

Tourism Road Infrastructure Program of the DOT and DPWH aims to improve access and connectivity to tourism gateways, service centers, and tourism sites. The DPWH and the DOT have embarked on a convergence program where they worked together in prioritizing tourism road infrastructure. In 2020, only two (2) new road projects were endorsed under the said program. This is 88.89 percent lower than the previous year.

Provision of skills training program for industry workers pursued. A total of 388 tourism industry trainings was conducted to increase the capability and skills of 1,702 tourism industry workers. The skills training provided include: homestay training program, child safe tourism training, community guiding seminar, and occupational basic life support for tourism frontliners, among others.

Moving Forward

The pandemic deeply impacted the industry and services sectors as it restricted production activities for both goods and services. The following are the interventions and strategies to help the sectors bounce back under the "new normal" and address the issues and challenges.

- 1. Develop mechanisms to increase the resilience and capacity of MSMEs. There is a need to build MSMEs' resilience through capacity building on formulating and implementing business continuity plans (BCPs). The government shall provide stimulus package that will help the MSMEs especially those in the tourism and industry sector to recover and provide social protection and benefits for workers involved in the delivery of goods and services. Provision of COVID-19 response and support to heavily affected tourism stakeholders will be sustained.
- Continue the implementation of programs and projects that will enhance MSME development which include Kapatid Mentor Me, OTOP

Next Gen, Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso, Shared Service Facilities, Negosyo Centers, Go Local, and participation to trade fairs and exhibits. MSMEs should also be encouraged to adopt digital solutions and online transactions to increase financial inclusion, improve operations, and expand access to market.

- 3. Adopt universal and standard health and safety measures. Coming out of this pandemic requires establishment of new protocols and better programs for the country to adapt to the "new normal". It is also important that all MIMAROPAns would practice and strict enforcement of these measures shall be implemented. Minimize confusion for travellers by developing travel applications/ system that will provide tourists with updated documentary requirements for open domestic destinations.
- 4. Formulate local development plans. Formulation of local development plans and local incentives and investment codes are necessary to provide direction and prioritization of interventions. Development plans are sources of investment programs both for public and private sector. This includes infrastructure support, capability building, resource development, revenue human generation, and promotion and identification of priority development areas or destination. LGUs should be able to harmonize their plans, incentives, and investment codes.
- 5. Ensure appropriation for the development of ICT infrastructure. Increased demand in ICT services and digital technology are likely to increase significantly. E-commerce will be hugely utilized as businesses and consumers are expected to prefer the use of online transactions, including the expanded use of cashless payment system and other financial technology platforms. This bodes well for the retail and other business activities sectors, including information technology and

business process management.

- 6. Confident restarting and restoring the tourism sector. The tourism sector is one of the hard-hit sectors in terms of economic impact. Since tourism is one of the region's primary growth drivers, needs assessment among tourism stakeholders shall be done. The development of proper trainings, marketing, and livelihood assistance to MIMAROPA tourism stakeholders shall complement the efforts at the national level. There is also a need to become more innovative in handling domestic tourists without jeopardizing their health and safety.
- 7. The availability and rollout of the vaccine will have a major influence on boosting international and domestic travel. Foreign tourists are expected only to travel to destinations that require a pre-travel vaccination. This is why promoting domestic tourism will be vital. Enhance and promote the travel bubble strategy to operate and reopen to visitors from within and outside the region.
- Improve physical and virtual connectivity. Improving connectivity and access within and outside the region through intermodal transportation and ICT programs shall be done.
- 9. To help the industry and services sector to bounce back, there is a need to create more attractive and competitive business environment at the local level and sustain the access to economic opportunities for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives.

Recommendations

The following are the recommended strategies based on the challenges faced by the sector:

Table 9.5 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through Trabaho and Negosyo

Chapter Outcome/Cross sectoral concerns	Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services Expanded	Improving business and invest- ment climate	Full implementation Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018	DTI, LGUs
		Pursue Business Continuity Planning workshops for MSMEs	
		Continue the promotion of automation of critical business transactions such as E-BPLS and e-RPTACS	
		 Provision of assistance and encourage MSMEs to adopt to digital solutions to increase financial inclusion, improve operations, and expand access to market. 	DTI, LGUs
		*Support MSMEs to expand business by providing financial assistance packages like Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso.	
		Provision of interest free loans to MSMEs	DTI
		Ensure efficient transport. Port integration, completion of roads, and improvement of airports must be accelerated to attract more investments and enhance the flow of goods and services in the region.	
		 Funding of the proposed projects under the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) shall also be pursued 	DOT, DOTr, DPWH, LGUs
		 Provide capacity-building to MSMEs and tourism workers 	DOT, DTI, SUCs, HEI
		Accelerate the development of ICT infrastructure	
	Jumpstarting tourism and ensuring safety and consumer confidence	Provide sustained COVID-19 response and support to heavily affected tourism stakeholders	DOT, LGUs
		Activate regional and provincial tourism councils to assist in the promotion and development of tourism products and services and improve tourist facilities	
		 Formulation of local development plans. Develop measures to build a more resilient tourism. 	DOT, LGUs
		Enhance and promote the travel bubble strategy	

Chapter Outcome/Cross sectoral concerns	Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
		Ensure compliance of tourism establishments to the DOT's health and safety guidelines	DOT, LGUs
		Continue the conduct of mobile accreditation of tourism establishments	DOT

Accelerating Human Capital Development

Health and Nutrition

The country's health sector was challenged as COVID-19 took center stage in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic is considered to be one of the most devastating health crises causing massive economic and social disruptions not only in the Philippines but globally as well.

In the efforts to cope with the devastating effects of the pandemic, Republic Act (RA) No. 11494, or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," was enacted. This law provides COVID-19 for the response and recovery interventions and mechanisms to accelerate the recovery and bolster the resiliency of the economy.

The passage of the law ensured the benefits for COVID-19 patients because it provides compulsory and immediate isolation and treatment of patients, and that the cost of such treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

RA 11519 was also enacted in December 2020 to extend the availability of appropriations under RA 11494.

The passage and implementation of the Universal Health Care Act before the pandemic began helped the marginalized and vulnerable sectors in coping with the pandemic as well. The law guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care services for the Filipinos. It automatically enrolled all Filipino citizens in the NHIP and prescribed complementary reforms in the health system.

Other forms of assistance which were provided to the people especially during the community quarantine period showed that the government is serious in its efforts to uplift the lives of the people.

While there is continuous implementation of public health programs, the private sector also played a critical role in battling the pandemic. Capital investments in advanced technology in the health sector is being undertaken by the private sector. The private sector is also being tapped in the provision of protective equipment and other components to various local health facilities and LGUs.

The health crisis since 2020 brought into fore the already overburdened public health system particularly in the regions. Much emphasis was given in the challenges faced in terms of recruiting, retaining, and protecting sufficient well-trained, supported, and motivated health workers. The challenges brought about by the pandemic proved that there is a need to focus on sustainable investments in the health system. There is a need to continuously strengthen public health programs particularly at the local level. Building a resilient health system, one that is prepared for future health emergencies, shall be prioritized.

Accomplishments

As the country was struck with one of the most devastating health crises in recent history, the region was not spared from the effects and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In MIMAROPA, the total number of COVID-19 cases reached 3,481 as of April 6, 2021. Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest number of cases with 1,829, while Romblon recorded the least number of cases with 165. The total number of deaths due to COVID-19 was recorded at 74. Marinduque recorded the highest case fatality ratio (CFR) of 4.06.

To manage and combat COVID-19, testing laboratories were established in the region. The following are the established licensed GeneXpert laboratories in the region: (1) Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital; (2) Occidental Mindoro Provincial Hospital; (3) Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital; (4) Ospital ng Palawan; and (5) Puerto Galera Molecular Laboratory.

Despite challenges, regular programs such as routine immunization, micronutrient supplementation, feeding programs, family planning services, oral health care services, improvement in breastfeeding practices, capacity building for health workers, and deworming were continuously conducted.

However, the health outcomes were not favorable to the region. This can be attributed to the impact brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, as more funds were allocated in the fight against the virus to protect the population.

The region's maternal mortality rate significantly increased from 46 per 100,000 live births in 2019 to 100 per 100,000 live births in 2020. This was also higher than the RDP target set at 60 per 100,000 live births.

The infant mortality rate increased from 9 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 10 per 1,000 live births in 2020. This was also relatively higher than the RDP target set at 6.5.

There was an improvement in the under 5 mortality rate, as it decreased from 13 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 8 per 1,000 live births in 2020. This was also better than the RDP target set at 10 per 1,000 live births.

One of the challenges faced by the region even before the pandemic struck is the inadequacy and uneven distribution of human resources for health. In 2020, the doctor to population ratio is recorded at 1:28,066, dentist to population ratio was 1:61,055, and public health nurse to population ratio was recorded at 1:7,762. These ratios fell short in achieving the RDP target of 1:20,000; nonetheless, the public health nurse to population ratio had a significant improvement.

The hospital bed to population ratio improved from 1:2,011 in 2019 to 1:1,873 in 2020. However, this fell short to the RDP target of 1:1,000 hospital bed to population ratio.

The region recorded 84.12 percent proportion of births delivered in health facilities. However, this was a reduction compared to the 90.62 percent proportion recorded in 2019. This was also significantly lower than the RDP target set at 92 percent.

Meanwhile, the proportion of births attended by health professionals slightly increased, from 83.05 percent in 2019 to 84.93 percent in 2020. However, it failed to meet the RDP target set at 90 percent.

The proportion of households with access to safe water was recorded at 99.96 percent, while the proportion of households with sanitary toilet was recorded at 96.13 percent. These were higher than the RDP target set at 94 percent and 83 percent, respectively.

In terms of modern contraceptive prevalence rate, the region recorded 29.10 prevalence rate in 2020. This was lower than the 33.37 prevalence rate recorded in 2019 and far lower than the target of 78.85 prevalence rate indicated in the RDP.

The region met the RDP target in terms of HIV prevalence rate recording a <1 percent prevalence rate in 2020.

The malaria morbidity rate per 100,000 population slightly increased from 175.76 percent in 2019 to 175.89 percent in 2020. This was higher than the RDP target set at 57.92 percent. Although, malaria cases were recorded in Palawan, the region recorded zero malaria mortality rate in 2020.

There was an improvement in the tuberculosis (TB) incidence in the region, from 365 per 100,000 population in 2019 to 287.1 per 100,000 population in 2020. This surpassed the RDP target

set at 493 per 100,000 population.

However, the TB mortality rate was recorded at 8.1, which is relatively higher compared to the RDP target set at 1. The TB cure rate decreased from 88 percent in 2019 to 64.3 percent in 2020. This was significantly lower than the RDP target set at 92.6 percent. The TB case detection rate recorded was 60.34 percent in 2020, which was also lower than the RDP target set at 94 percent.

The prevalence of malnutrition among children 0-59 months generally improved from 2019 to 2020.

The prevalence rate of underweight and severely underweight increased, from 7.2 in 2019 to 7.6 in 2020. However, it surpassed the RDP target set at 26.8 prevalence rate. Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest prevalence rate of underweight and severely underweight at 8.7.

The region recorded a 14.7 prevalence rate on stunted and severely stunted children aged 0-59 months old. This was an improvement compared to the 15.3 prevalence rate in 2019. This also surpassed the RDP target set at 35.9 prevalence rate. Palawan recorded the highest prevalence rate of stunted and severely stunted children at 16.4.

The prevalence rate of wasted and severely wasted children also improved, from 5 in 2019 to 4.6 in 2020. This was lower than the identified RDP target of 4.7 prevalence rate. Palawan registered the highest prevalence rate at 5.9.

Meanwhile, the overweight and obese prevalence rate slightly increased from 2.8 in 2019 to 2.9 in 2020. However, this met the RDP target of no further increase in the baseline data of 3.2 prevalence rate. Puerto Princesa City has the highest overweight and obese prevalence rate recorded at 5.2.

Table 10.1. Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Health and Nutrition)

Indicator	Region/	Baseline	Update	ed Annual Plan 1	Accomplish- ment	Reporting	
maicator	Province	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	84.68	60	58	56	100	DOH
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	10.48	6.5	6.3	5.9	10	DOH
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	13.79	10	8	7	8	DOH
Proportion of births attended by health professionals	MIMAROPA	80.2	90	92	94	84.93	
Skilled health person	nel to population rat	io					
Doctor	MIMAROPA	1:36,971 (2017)	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:27,240	DOH
Dentist	MIMAROPA	1:61,855 (2017)	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:70,710	DOH
Public health nurse	MIMAROPA	1:16,666 (2017)	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:2,967	DOH
Hospital bed- population ratio	MIMAROPA	1:1,457	1:1,000	1:1,000	1:1,000	1:1,873	DOH
Proportion of fully immunized children increased	MIMAROPA	No baseline data	95	95	95	52.11	DOH
National health insurance program enrolment rate (in %)	MIMAROPA	94.15	100	100	100		PhilHealth
National health insurance program coverage rate (in %)	MIMAROPA	94.51	100	100	100		PhilHealth

Indicator	Region/	Baseline	Updated Annual Plan Target			Accomplish- ment	Reporting
indicator	Province	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Proportion of households with access to safe water	MIMAROPA	92.04	94	95	96	99.96	DOH
Proportion of households with sanitary toilet	MIMAROPA	82.94	83	84	85	96.13	DOH
Crude birth rate	MIMAROPA	17.38	21.9	22.14	22.37	13.8	DOH
Crude death rate	MIMAROPA	3.28		No targets		3.3	DOH
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate	MIMAROPA	59.88	78.85	82.79	86.92	29.10	DOH
Total fertility rate decreased (ave. number of women aged 15-49 during her lifetime)	MIMAROPA	3.7 (2013)	2.3	2.2	2.1		DOH
HIV prevalence rate (per 1,000 uninfected population)	MIMAROPA	0.04	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	DOH
Proportion of births delivered in health facilities	MIMAROPA	76.57	92	94	95	84.12	DOH
Malaria morbidity rate (per 100,000 population)							
TB cure rate	MIMAROPA	203.51	57.92	37.92	18.68	175.9	DOH
Malaria mortality rate (per 100,000 population)	MIMAROPA	0.20	0.001	0	0	0	DOH
TB prevalence rate (per 100,000 population)/ Tuberculosis incidence decreased (per 100,000 population)	MIMAROPA	3.1 (2015)	493			287.1	DOH
TB mortality rate (per 100,000 population)	MIMAROPA	2 (2015)	1	<1	<1	8.1	DOH
TB case detection rate	MIMAROPA	118	94	94	95	60.34	DOH
TB cure rate	MIMAROPA	90	92.6	93.4	94	88.68	DOH
Prevalence of malnou	rished children unde	er 5 years of age					
Underweight	MIMAROPA	31.8 (2015)	26.8	25.8	24.8	7.6	DOH/NNC
Stunting	MIMAROPA	40.9 (2015)	35.9	34.9	33.9	14.7	DOH/NNC
Wasting	MIMAROPA	9.7 (2015)	4.7	3.7	2.7	4.6	DOH/NNC
Overweight	MIMAROPA	3.2 (2015)	No	o further increas	e	2.9	DOH/NNC

Source: Department of Health (DOH) MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

The pandemic situation revealed that there is really a need to develop long-term and sustainable strategies to address the challenges in the health sector. To strengthen the health system in the region, there is a need to scale up public health programs and projects and improve the capacity of the local government units with regard to managing and implementing these projects.

The threat of COVID-19 is still likely to persist until the vaccination program has been fully rolled-out. The "new normal" setup has to be put in place even after the COVID-19 problem has been fully addressed. Minimum health standards like wearing of face masks, physical distancing, and frequent hand washing shall still be observed.

The enhancement/improvement of health facilities in the whole region shall be prioritized. Provision of adequate quality and quantity of medical supplies, drugs, and medical facilities/equipment shall be ensured to attain high quality services in local health facilities.

Continuous support systems shall be implemented to ensure that essential services are continuously provided. Free basic health services such as, routine immunization, micronutrient supplementation, feeding programs, family planning services, oral health care services, deworming, etc., should continue amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is also a need to continuously lobby for the region to get a bigger share in the national budget to be able to fund the programs and projects in the region, particularly those PAPs identified in the recovery and rehabilitation plan for COVID-19.

Recommendation

To address the existing challenges in the health sector particularly on the challenges brought about by COVID-19, the following are the recommendations for implementation concerned stakeholders:

Table 10.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Health and Nutrition)

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies/entities
Availability of enough vaccines that shall cover the vulnerable sector and most-at-risk groups	Provision of adequate budget for the vaccination roll-out	
	Strict observance and imposition of the prioritization of vaccinees	
	Forge partnerships with the private sector to increase their involvement and ensure access to additional resources	DOH, LGUs, private sector
Inadequacy and uneven distribution of human resources for health	Scholarship programs for medical- related courses, as well as training for health professionals and nutrition service workers, to augment human resources especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs)	
	 Pursue policy-related measures to recruit, retain, and regain skilled health professionals that will satisfy the local demand on human resources for health 	
	Support the establishment of the School of Medicine in Palawan State University	DOH, LGUs
Inaccessibility of health care services in GI- DAs	Increase coverage, access, and utilization of health care services through implementation of sector-wide approach and provision of equitable pro-poor, client-oriented, and best quality services	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies/entities
	Implementation of the Ancestral Domain Investment Plan for Health. This aims to set guidelines that will address access, utilization, coverage, and equity issues in the provision of basic health care services for indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) to achieve better health outcomes.	
	Provision of health care services and facilities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas	DOH, NCIP, LGUs
Low capacity of health care facilities in the region	Increase health fund allocation to enable LGUs to upgrade medical facilities	DOH, LGUs
Many informal workers lack social and health care protection	RDC Resolution to Support the passage of the Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy	House of Representatives; RDC

Basic Education

This section presents the assessment and accomplishments of the basic education subsector in ensuring access to good quality education in the region.

The implementation of community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 17, 2020, made a huge impact on basic education subsector. Classes and other school-related undertakings were suspended and various national and regional activities were postponed. The pandemic also disrupted the delivery of basic education programs of the government, which can be seen from the performance of the subsector's outcomes.

Despite the presence of the unprecedented health crisis, efforts to make education accessible to all especially to those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas were undertaken.

Strategies to adapt to new normal brought by the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring access to quality education are also included in this Chapter.

Accomplishments

The net enrolment rate (NER) in kindergarten decreased by 12.76 percentage points, from 71.37 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 58.61 percent in SY 2019-2020. The NER in elementary level slightly decreased by 0.73 percentage point, from 90.99 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 90.26 in SY 2019-2020. This was also lower than the RDP target of 94.00 percent. The NER in secondary level was 79.74 percent in SY 2018-2019. In SY 2019-2020, the NER in junior high school and senior high school were recorded at 81.12 and 46 percent, respectively.

The gross enrolment rate (GER) in kindergarten decreased by 18.13 percentage points from 101.07 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 82.94 percent in SY 2019-2020. This was lower that the RDP target of 102.04 percent. The GER in elementary level also decreased by 1.04 percentage point from 98.73 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 97.69 percent in SY 2019-2020. This was also lower than the RDP target of 100 percent. On the other hand, GER in junior high school increased by 0.87 percentage point from 98.99 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 99.86 percent in SY 2019-2020. This was also higher than the RDP target of 99.45. Moreover, the GER in senior high school increased by 5.57 percentage points from 69.43 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 75.00 percent in SY 2019-2020. This was also higher than the RDP target of 81.77 percent.

Completion rate in elementary level increased by 1.85 percentage point from 94.80 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 96.65 in SY 2019-2020. It exceeded that 2019 RDP target of 96.40 percent. Completion rate in junior high school also increased by 3.01

percentage points from 83.17 in SY 2018-2019 to 86.18 percent in SY 2019-2020. However, it did not meet the RDP target of 89.36 percent and was lower than the completion rate in SY 2017-2018 at 84.16 percent. This may be attributed to the absence of secondary schools in far-flung areas.

Cohort survival rate (CSR) in elementary level increased by 1.97 percentage point from 95.37 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 97.34 percent in SY 2019-2020. It exceeded the 2019 RDP target of 97.19 percent. CSR in junior high school in SY 2019-2020 also increased by 1.59 percentage point from 84.59 in SY 2018-2019. However, it did not meet the 2020 RDP target of 87.30. This may be attributed to the absence of secondary schools in far flung areas. High school students also tend to leave school to work.

The pupil-teacher ratio in SY 2019-2020 was 1:26. It exceeded the 2020 RDP target at 1:28. Student-teacher ratio was 1:24 in SY 2019-2020. It also exceeded the 2020 RDP target set at 1:26. Moreover, the pupil-classroom ratio was 1:27 in SY 2019-2020. It also exceeded the 2020 RDP target set at 1:30. Student-classroom ratio was 1:46 in SY 2019-2020. It did not meet the RDP target of 1:42.

Graduation rate in elementary level slightly decreased by 0.67 percentage point, from 98.90 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 98.23 percent in SY 2019-2020. It was also slightly lower than the 2020 RDP target of 99.35 percent. On the other hand, graduation rate in junior high school increased by 0.31 percent, from 96.74 percent in SY 2018-2019 to 97.05 percent in SY 2019-2020. However, this was still lower than the RDP 2020 target of 98.46

percent.

The School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) aims to provide hot meals to undernourished (severely wasted and wasted) pupils for 120 calendar days. The beneficiaries of the SBFP in the region reached 170,786 pupils in 2020. The target beneficiaries for 2020 is only 85,186. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the classes started only in October 2020, leaving roughly 60 days for the feeding. To maximize the utilization of feeding funds until December 2020, the DepEd Central Office decided to just limit the feeding days into 60 days and just doubled the number of beneficiaries capturing not only severely wasted and wasted learners but also all kindergarten, indigent and IP pupils.

Alternative learning system (ALS) is a parallel learning system that provides a practical option to the existing formal instruction. ALS is an alternate or substitute when one does not have or cannot access formal education in schools. ALS includes both the non-formal and informal sources of

knowledge and skills. In SY 2019-2020, there were 31,440 ALS enrollees in the region, of which 13,772 are completers. During the school year, Palawan registered with the highest number of enrollees among MIMAROPA provinces at 10,011 of which only 2,634 are completers.

Other programs were continuously implemented in the region such as Multigrade Education Program, Indigenous Peoples Education Program, Madrasah Education Program, and Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Program. Education (GASTPE) Multigrade Education Program addresses pressing concerns and issues on the provision of customized teaching and learning materials for multigrade classes and professional development of teachers. The Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program is in response to the right of indigenous peoples (IPs) to basic education that is responsive to their context, respects their identities, and promotes their indigenous knowledge, skills, and other aspects of their cultural heritage.

Table 10.3 Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Basic Education)

Indicator	Region	Baseline Value	,	Annual Plan Target	Accomplish- ments	Reporting	
	/Province	(Year)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Net Enrolment Rate	increased (%)						
Kindergarten	MIMAROPA	64.48 (2016-17)	78.19 (2020-21)	81.59 (2021-22)	85.00	58.61 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Elementary	MIMAROPA	92.25 (2015-16)	94.00	95.50	97.00	90.26 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Secondary (Junior High School)	MIMAROPA	68.94 (2015-16)	84.87	87.44	90.00	81.12 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Secondary (Senior High School)	MIMAROPA		55.26	57.63	60.00	46.00 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Gross Enrollment R	ate (GER)						
Kindergarten	MIMAROPA	82.29 (2016-17)	102.04	102.52	103.00	82.94 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Elementary	MIMAROPA	109.76 (2016-17)	99.37	99.68	100.00	97.69 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	91.43 (2016-17)	99.45	99.72	100.00	99.86 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Senior High School	MIMAROPA	48.14 (2018-19)	81.77	85.89	90.00	75.00 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Completion Rate in	creased						
Elementary	MIMAROPA	92.32 (2016-17)	96.40	97.2	98.00	96.65 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	79.91 (2016-17)	89.36	92.18	95.00	85.18 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Cohort Survival rate	9						
Elementary	MIMAROPA	93.56 (2016-17)	97.19	98.09	99.00	97.34 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA

Indicator	Region	Baseline Value	, i	Annual Plan Target	s	Accomplish- ments	Reporting
	/Province	(Year)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	82.31 (2016-17)	87.30	88.65	90.00	86.18 (2019-2020)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Achievement rate						The current NAT result available is for SY 2017-2018	
Elementary	MIMAROPA	39.28 (2016-17)	47.72	51.36	55.00	36.80 (2017-18)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	43.09 (2016-17)	53.73	56.87	60.00	44.33 (2017-18)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Senior High School	MIMAROPA		47.62	51.31	55.00	36.54 (2017-18)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Dropout Rate						DepEd is now using the School Leaver Rate, the EFA Indicator for Dropout	
Elementary	MIMAROPA	0.70 (2016-17)	0.39	0.29	0.20	0.67 (2017-18)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	2.91 (2016-17)	1.75	1.37	1.00	2.87 (2017-18)	DepEd MIMAROPA
Pupil-Teacher Ratio	MIMAROPA	1:28 (2016-17)	1:28	1:28	1:28	1:26	DepEd MIMAROPA
Student-Teacher Ratio	MIMAROPA	1:26 (2016-17)	1:26	1:26	1:26	1:24	DepEd MIMAROPA
Pupil-Classroom Ratio	MIMAROPA	1:30 (2016-17)	1:30	1:30	1:30	1:27	DepEd MIMAROPA
Student- Classroom Ratio	MIMAROPA	1:48 (2016-17)	1:42	1:40	1:40	1:46	DepEd MIMAROPA
Graduation Rate							DepEd MIMAROPA
Elementary	MIMAROPA	98.04 (2016-17)	99.35	99.67	100.00	98.23	DepEd MIMAROPA
Junior High School	MIMAROPA	95.39 (2016-17)	98.46	99.23	100.00	97.05	DepEd MIMAROPA

Source: Department of Education (DepEd) MIMAROPA

Alternative learning delivery platforms were provided to learners during the community quarantine period. The Department of Education tied up with local telecommunication company in ensuring educational continuity amidst the COVID-19 situation. Learners and teachers were able to access online learning platforms like DepEd Commons without incurring data charges. However, the online platforms are only given as an option for those who have access to internet. To provide continuous learning for those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, radio stations were being tapped where teachers were allotted a certain time to air their lessons.

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases approved the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) of the Department of Education to address the challenges in basic education brought by COVID-19. The LCP is the major response and commitment of DepEd in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of the learners, teachers, and personnel in the time of COVID-19 while finding ways for education to continue amidst the crisis. Series of consultations and collaborations with education institutions and organizations were conducted in crafting the LCP which includes key features on K-12 curriculum adjustments, of learning materials, alignment modalities of delivery, and corresponding teacher and parent/guardian training for homeschooling. Modifications on certain policies and practices are necessary steps in adapting to the "new normal"

while still remaining true to the framework of Sulong EduKalidad and Education Futures.

In the implementation of self-learning modules (SLMs), several issues and concerns were encountered by the learners, teachers, and parents. The following issues and challenges were identified in SY 2020-2021 in relation to the learning modality for indigenous peoples (IPs): transfer of residence of students without informing the advisers and other school personnel; limitations of parents in providing instructional support to their children; unavailability of vehicle for teachers to monitor pupils (especially the IP learners who live up the mountains) and to deliver the modules per sitio; risky visitation due to weather condition; not conducive class home environment; insufficient time to accomplish indicated activities in the selflearning modules; and no internet connectivity to do some research. Kinder to Grade 1 parents including the minorities are doubtful about their ability to teach their children. Some parents have their livelihood to attend to, which leaves their children unattended and unmonitored. Specific issues and challenges identified concerning IPs and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) include lack of learning facilitators; no electricity/internet connection and are only using analog phones; modules returned were crumpled and unanswered; and the transfer of residence of indigenous cultural community (ICC) families.

Moving Forward

Implementation of blended or flexible learning will continue in the region. However, in order for this to be effective, the region needs to invest in stable, fast, and accessible internet connection. There is also a need to fast-track the passage of Senate Bill No. 1831, "An Act Requiring All Public Telecommunications Entities and Internet Service Providers in the Country to Increase Service

Coverage and Deliver a Minimum Standard for Internet Connection Speed" (or Better Internet Act), which seeks to improve internet services in the country.

There is also a need to ensure quality of modules being distributed/disseminated and address other issues and concerns related to basic education learning delivery modalities. Other means of delivering learning to students especially to indigenous peoples and those who are in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas shall also be explored. It is also recommended to allow face-to-face interventions under strict conditions set by the DepEd, the Department of Health DOH and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The following interventions shall be pursued in order to ensure delivery of good quality education to returning learners under the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa (BP2) program: investments in learning management system and e-learning resources; implementation and coordination of programs and projects in formal and non-formal basic education to support returning learners; supervision of transfer of all returning learners in elementary and secondary education institutions in the provinces; promotion of community learning centers that offer learning systems such as blended distance learning, learning, apprenticeship, and face-to-face learning; and development of criteria for allocating additional resources such as scholarships and other similar programs intended for the BP2 beneficiaries.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges and issues in accelerating human capital development specifically in basic education:

Table 10.4 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Basic Education)

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Sectoral concerns		
There were several issues and concerns encountered by the learners, teachers, and parents in the implementation of self-learning modules (SLMs).	 Ensure quality of self- learning modules being distributed/ disseminated and address other issues and concerns related to basic education learning delivery modalities Identify other means of delivering learning to students especially to indigenous peoples and those who are in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas 	DepEd, LGUs

Challanges	Decemmended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Limited access to basic education services and facilities especially	 Improve internet connectivity in the region to support various learning modalities 	DepEd, LGUs, DICT
of those in geographically isolated	Establish digital learning resources and libraries and enhance access	
and disadvantaged areas	among students/learners	
Backlog in construction of school buildings	 Identify and implement alternative modes of implementing school buildings projects to address backlog in school buildings e.g., by public-private partnership through build-transfer scheme Implement School Building Program (SBP) through regular contracting scheme while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) may still implement the SBP specifically those complex structures like multi-storey buildings; however, the DepEd will be allowed to construct schools that are single up to two-storey buildings LGUs may also help in the acceleration of the implementation of SBP by going into joint venture agreements, with the assistance and guidance of the DepEd and DPWH with regards minimum performance standards and specifications for school buildings 	DepEd, DPWH, LGUs
Cross-sectoral concerns		
Support to the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa (BP2) Program	 Invest in learning management system and e-learning resources Implement and coordinate programs and projects in formal and nonformal basic education to support returning learners Promote community learning centers that offer learning systems such as blended learning, distance learning, and apprenticeship 	DepEd, LGUs
Readiness of the local government units (LGUs) to implement the Su- preme Court ruling on Mandanas Case relative to the increase of in- ternal revenue allotment and devo- lution of functions and responsibil- ities from the national government agencies by 2022	Assess readiness of LGUs and provide technical assistance to them to facilitate the smooth implementation devolve functions.	DILG, DBM, LGUs, NEDA, and other agencies con- cerned

Higher Education

This section presents the assessment and accomplishments of the higher education subsector in ensuring access to good quality education in the region.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, classes in higher education and other school activities including on-the-job trainings and internships were suspended. During the period of community quarantine due to COVID-19, higher education institutions (HEIs) were directed to deploy available flexible learning and other alternative modes of delivery in lieu of incampus learning. Licensure examinations were also postponed during the ECQ period.

The need to improve ICT infrastructure for the state universities and colleges and other HEIs was highlighted during the pandemic to support the teachers and students in distance learning.

Strategic interventions need to be undertaken to ensure access to good quality higher education despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is included in this Chapter.

Accomplishments

The number of higher education (HE) graduates decreased from 19,110 in 2019 to 8,020 in 2020. This was higher than the RDP target of 7,871 graduates. Of the total graduates, 3,438 are males and 4,582 are females.

The number of higher education institutions in the region increased from 47 in 2019 to 48 in 2020.

The number of higher education enrollees increased by 20.74 percent from 80,428 in 2019 to 97,113 in 2020. This was higher than the 2020 RDP target of 89,320. Of the 97,113 enrollees, 41,609 are males and 55,504 are females.

The number of higher education faculty with master's degree was retained 1,993 in 2020. It surpassed the end of plan target of 1,027 higher education faculty with master's degree. Of the 1,993 faculty with master's degree, 867 are males and 1,128 are females. Moreover, the number of higher education faculty with doctorate degree was also retained at 812 in 2020. It also surpassed the RDP end of plan target of 323. Of the 812 faculty with doctorate degree, 320 are males and 492 are females.

The Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) is a program under the Free Education Law or Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017 (Republic Act No. 10931) which provides financial assistance to deserving students in tertiary education. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Financial Assistance System

for Tertiary Education Act (UNIFAST) continued the release of funds for the TES program to grantees in state universities and local universities amid the COVID-19 global pandemic. Under the TES program, Marinduque State College (MSC) was granted with ₱14,620,000.00 for 731 student beneficiaries; Occidental Mindoro State College (OMSC) with \$26,160,000.00 for 1,808 student beneficiaries; Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MINSCAT) with ₱18,060,000.00 for 903 student beneficiaries; Palawan State University (PSU) with P43,980,000.00 for 2,199 student beneficiaries; and Western Philippines University (WPU) with ₱27,180,000.00 for 1,359 student beneficiaries for first semester of Academic Year 2020-2021. The City College of Calapan and Baco Community College were also granted with P1,140,000.00 and P920,000.00 for 57 and 46 student beneficiaries, respectively. Private higher education institutions in MIMAROPA were also granted with tertiary education subsidy amounting to ₱319,140,000.00 for 10,638 student beneficiaries.

Filipino undergraduates enrolled in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and CHEDrecognized LUCs enjoyed free tuition, miscellaneous, and other school fees which started AY 2018-2019 under the Free Higher Education (FHE) program. In 2020, there were 73,815 beneficiaries of the FHE program in the region. Of the total beneficiaries, 6,421 are from Marinduque; 13,158 are from Occidental Mindoro; 10,099 are from Oriental Mindoro; 31,750 are from Palawan; and 12,387 are from Romblon.

Faculty members were also provided with faculty development grants. Total approved grantees for the program are 435 broken down as follows: doctoral degree (117); master's degree (291); dissertation (12); and thesis (15).

HEIs were provided with seminars on developing their respective learning management systems (LMS) as well as policies on flexible learning including trainings and activities for the implementation of the said policies. The HEIs submitted their learning continuity plans. CHED MIMAROPA facilitated the submission of SUCS Smart Campus Proposals to the DICT. All SUCs submitted their project proposals focusing on campus networking, learning management systems and learning information systems.

Table 10.5. Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (Higher Education)

Indicator Region		Baseline Value	Annual Plan Targets			Accomplis- ments	Reporting
	/Province	(Year)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Number of higher education graduates	MIMAROPA	17,776	7,871	10,238	11,159	8,020	CHED MIMAROPA
Number of higher education institutions	MIMAROPA	49	49	49	49	48	CHED MIMAROPA
Number of board passers	MIMAROPA	3 (2015-16)	1,574	2,048	2,232	No data available	CHED MIMAROPA
Number of higher education enrollees	MIMAROPA	86,693	89,320	90,213	91,115	97,113	CHED MIMAROPA
HE faculty with master's degree	MIMAROPA	850 (2015)	1,016	1,021	1,027	1,993	CHED MIMAROPA
HE faculty with doctorate degree	MIMAROPA	306 (2015)	319	321	323	812	CHED MIMAROPA
HEIs with accredited programs (%)	MIMAROPA	711 (2015)	719	720	722	100%	CHED MIMAROPA
National passing percentage (across disciplines) in licensure exams	MIMAROPA	(2015)	40.87	42.92	45.06	No data available	CHED MIMAROPA

Source: Commission on Higher Education (CHED) MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

The higher education subsector shall continue to adopt innovative ways to ensure delivery of good quality education. Various programs such as upgrading of ICT infrastructure shall be pursued to support flexible learning.

Convergence efforts among the academe, the industry, and the government shall be promoted to generate more decent, productive, and sustainable jobs for the people. Promotion of skills training and apprentice programs to improve the quality of graduates, thus lessening the uncertainty involved in hiring fresh graduates shall be prioritized.

As required by the Republic Act No. 11396, all SUCs shall prepare and implement a land use development and infrastructure plan (LUDIP) designed to improve and optimally utilize the spatial use of land resources. The existing and future use of land for production, protection, and infrastructures such as dormitories for students and housing sites for employees shall be indicated in LUDIP such as buildings, roads, farms, forest, easement, and other uses of land. LUDIP shall situate itself with the land use plan and practice of the local government units to ensure complementation of activities across geographical boundaries. The implementing rules and regulations of the LUDIP needed to be fast tracked to serve as guide of SUCs in preparing their plans.

Learning management systems (LMS) of HEIs shall also be strengthened to facilitate efficient and effective delivery of blended or flexible learning in higher education.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges and issues in accelerating human capital development specifically in higher education:

Table 10.6 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (Higher Education)

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Sectoral concerns		
Full implementation of the LUDIP Act	Fast track preparation of LUDIPs of SUCs	
	SUCs shall closely coordinate with the local offices of the regional government agencies such as NCIP, DAR, DA, DENR, and LRA to discuss with them the status of the lands of SUCs	CHED, SUCs, and other concerned agencies
Need to improve/upgrade ICT infrastructure to support flexible learning	Upgrade ICT infrastructure	CHED, SUCs
Need to improve the quality of education to respond to evolving challenges brought by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.	 Higher education institutions need to identify their entry points to the Industry 4.0 and the requirements to meet its demands. 	
	 Higher education institutions need to be responsive to international challenges and developments in higher education as this can significantly affect the region's competitiveness 	
	Improve internet connectivity in the region to support various learning modalities	
	 Establish learning management system (LMS) to facilitate blended and flexible learning modalities in higher education 	CHED, SUCs
Cross-sectoral concerns		
Readiness of the local government units (LGUs) to implement the Supreme Court ruling on Mandanas Case relative to the increase of internal revenue allotment and devolution of functions and responsibilities from the national government agencies by 2022	Assess readiness of LGUs and provide technical assistance to them to facilitate smooth implementation of the Mandanas case ruling	
	 Explore public-private partnership or joint venture scheme to provide services and facilities 	DILG, DBM, LGUs, and other agencies concerned

Technical Vocational Education and Training

This section presents the assessment and accomplishments of the technical vocational education and training (TVET) subsector in ensuring access to good quality TVET in the region.

Training programs and the conduct of competency assessment and certifications were suspended at the onset of the imposition of community quarantine. This has seriously affected the performance in the delivery of TVET services in the region. The effects of COVID 19 and the community quarantine on the TVET sector manifest in the loss of opportunity for learners and skilled workers to contribute to society during the pandemic.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts to make TVET reachable to all especially to those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas were undertaken.

Strategies to adapt to new normal brought by the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring access to quality TVET are also included in this Chapter.

Accomplishments

The number of TVET enrollees significantly decreased by 54.22 percent from 69,482 enrollees in 2019 to 31,812 in 2020. This was lower than the estimated RDP target for 2020 at 79,030 enrollees. Of the total TVET enrollees, 17,848 are male and 13,964 are female.

The number of persons profiled also decreased by 54.22 from 69,482 enrollees in 2019 to 31,812 in 2020. However, this was significantly higher than the 2020 RDP target of 227,106.00. Of the total number of persons profiled, 17,848 are male and 13,964 are female.

The number of TVET graduates dropped by 53.20 percent from 64,425 in 2019 to 30,153 in 2020.

This was far below than the estimated target in the RDP that was set at 71,128 TVET graduates.

The number of persons assessed for certification decreased by 54 percent from 39,031 in 2019 to 17,953 in 2020 of which 11,053 are male and 6,900 are female. This was far below than the 2020 RDP target set at 40,780. However, the certification rate of TVET graduates reached 93.02 percent in 2020. It surpassed the set RDP target of 85 percent for 2020.

Significant decrease was recorded in the number of TVET graduates who were employed. It decreased from 2,553 persons in 2019 to 1,374 in 2020. This was also lower than the estimated target set at 2,474. Of the 1,374 persons employed in 2020, 674 are males and 700 are females.

Table 10.7. Results Matrix for Accelerating Human Capital Development (TVET)

		,	0		•		
	Region/ Baseline		ļ.	Annual Plan Target	Accomplish-	Reporting	
Indicator	Province	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	ments 2020	Entity
Number of persons profiled	MIMAROPA	36,064	27,106	28,461	29,884	31,812	TESDA
Number of TVET enrollees	MIMAROPA	51,092	79,030	82,981	87,130	31,812	TESDA
Number of TVET graduates	MIMAROPA	52,308	71,128	74,684	78,418	30,153	TESDA
Number of persons assessed	MIMAROPA	39,483	40,780	42,819	44,960	17,953	TESDA
Certification rate (in %)	MIMAROPA	84%	85%	85%	85.00%	93.02%	TESDA
No. of persons employed	MIMAROPA	1,992	2,474	2,597	2,727	1,374	TESDA

Source: Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) MIMAROPA

Due to the implementation of community quarantine, the students were encouraged to register and enroll in courses offered for free through eTESDA or the TESDA Online Program to retain productivity amid the mobility restrictions and to further prevent spreading of COVID-19. The e-TESDA online courses is available to those who would like to acquire new skills in the convenience of their homes, mobile phones and computers. The e-TESDA learning portal offered courses on agriculture, automotive, electronics, entrepreneurship, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. Enrollees can also gain access to learning materials on human health/ health care, information and communication technology (ICT) lifelong learning Maritime, Social, Community Development and other services, Tourism and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) provides immediate interventions to meet the need for highly critical skills. It aims to purposively drive TVET provision to available jobs through incentives and appropriate training programs that are directly connected to existing jobs for immediate employment, both locally and overseas and to build and strengthen the capacity and capability of TVET institutions in expanding and improving the delivery of quality, efficient and relevant training programs that meet job requirements, including programs for higher levels of technology. Beneficiaries of the TWSP program in the program decreased by 59.44 percent, from 13,048 in 2019 to 5,292 in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA) program offers educational grants to qualified and deserving college freshmen both in degree and non-degree courses. Beneficiaries of the PESFA program in the region increased by 10 percent, from 660 in 2019 to 726 in 2020.

Moving Forward

The provision for education and trainings programs under TVET subsector to produce competitive skilled workers shall continue in the region. To pursue this, the procedures for availing TESDA scholarship programs must also be easier and the mobile training laboratory (MTL) programs be expanded to better serve far-flung areas.

Most applicants of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa (BP2) program in the region preferred to pursue technical skills on agri-business and agriculture. This require an appropriate interventions such as strengthening job facilitation for BP2 applicants and expanding government-academe-industry collaboration. Enterprise-based trainings through training grants shall explored. Moreover, trainings or capacity building to acquire skills and capacities needed in the locally available jobs, area and sector-specific TVET, and beneficiaries of the TESDA-certified workers, and possible trainers and assessors on their areas of expertise shall be provided.

The Tulong Trabaho Act aims to strengthen the qualifications of the Filipino workforce to meet the challenges of the rapidly evolving workplaces and structures and to provide a more innovative approaches on TVET toward a more competitive Filipino workforce. The law will facilitate access to quality TVET opportunities. This will also encourage the participation of industry and communities in competencies formation and skills upgrading. The Tulong Trabaho Fund will be tapped in funding programs for the upskilling and reskilling of workers in the region.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges and issues in accelerating human capital developments specifically in TVET sector:

Table 10.8 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Human Capital Development (TVET)

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Sectoral concerns		
Need to redesign TVET programs to adapt to new normal	 Pursue adult learning opportunities through online and/ or blended training such as massive open online courses (MOOCs), flexible training arrangements, and blended programs to reduce facetoface contact. 	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
TVET programs need to be more responsive to local and regional industry needs	 Subsidize upskilling and reskilling to enable workers who have been displaced, whether temporarily or permanently to take courses for employability. The subsidies may be shouldered by the government or through partnership with the private sector under institutionbased, enterprisebased or online modalities. Expand government-academe-industry collaboration Linkages between academic and training institutions and industry shall be strengthened to look into ways of supporting enterprise-based trainings through the provision of training grants 	TESDA, LGUs, SUCs, private sector
Cross-sectoral concerns		
Readiness of the LGUs to comply in the requirements of the Executive Order No. 138, s. 2021, approving the full devolution of certain functions of the executive branch to local governments, creation of committee on Devolution, and for other purposes.	Assess readiness of LGUs and provide technical assistance to them to facilitate smooth implementation of the Execu- tive Order as a result of Supreme Court ruling on Mandanas Garcia Case.	NEDA, DILG, DBM, LGUs, and other agencies concerned

Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families

Reducing vulnerability of individuals and families remains to be one of the priorities of the region, as people continue to face various risks brought about by natural calamities, political disruptions, economic instability, health-related shocks, and other unexpected events. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthened and intensified implementation of the social protection programs and responses was ensured by the region in 2020.

Among the various social protection programs that are continuously implemented in the region are the conditional cash transfers, employment and livelihood assistance, feeding program, and assistance to individuals with inherent vulnerabilities such as children, older persons, indigenous peoples, overseas Filipinos, women, and persons with disability. Additionally, the passage of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act mandated the implementation of immediate social protection responses for the poor and vulnerable groups in the form of emergency subsidies, livelihood assistance, and expanded and enhanced conditional cash transfers, among others.

This Chapter focuses on the concerted efforts in the region to achieve progress in the reduction of vulnerability of individuals and families. It gives emphasis on the strategies and initiatives to ensure that social protection services are accessed; robust employment is achieved; and ancestral domain is secured.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY

MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE

TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

PAGBABAGO
REDUCING INEQUALITY

VULNERABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES REDUCED

Social protection services accessed

Robust employment achieved

Ancestral domain secured

Figure 11.1 Framework for Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families

Accomplishments

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or the 4Ps is the country's flagship poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment program. It aims to uplift the level of well-being particularly of the poorest of the poor with 0-18 years old children by providing the families with cash grants for the health and education needs of the children. As conditional cash transfer (CCT) program, these cash grants are based on the compliance of the beneficiaries on the program conditionalities such as 85 percent attendance of the children to school, once a month attendance of one responsible person or appropriate member of the household to family development sessions (FDS), and avail of pre- and post-natal services, among others.

In 2020, Pantawid Pamilya covered a total of 195,598 household beneficiaries from the regular and modified CCTs in the region. Palawan has the highest number of household beneficiaries with 78,437 households (40 percent), followed by Oriental Mindoro with 56,496 household beneficiaries (29 percent). The least number of household beneficiaries are from Marinduque, 11,378 households (6 percent). The total number of household beneficiaries already covered the new set of beneficiaries in November and December 2020.

Out of the 195,598 Pantawid Pamilya household beneficiaries, 193,334 households were served or funded and provided with cash grants, which is eight percent higher than its 178,316 served beneficiaries in 2019. This increase may be attributed to the implementation of the force majeure from February to July for health conditionality and in February to September for education, given the pandemic situation. Beneficiaries received the maximum cash benefit allotted to cope with the health crisis during the said periods. The transfer of beneficiaries to other Pantawid areas is one of the reasons for the decrease in the number of served beneficiaries in the previous years, but with the imposition of lockdowns and limitations on travelling, movement of beneficiaries to other Pantawid areas was not possible.

The pandemic also impelled the program to explore other delivery modes in the conduct of FDS such as the use of online platforms, distribution of printed materials, and reclustering of its existing parent groups into small groups. In total, 143,410

beneficiaries were able to participate in FDS through livestreaming, eFDS Facebook post, eFDS via chat or messaging groups, small group neighborhood sessions, and through sharing of printed materials. A total of 4,100 copies of posters and booklets printed for "COVID Paalala," a partner's guide on the program implementation amid pandemic, and "SaMa-SaMa Success Stories," a compendium of success stories, initiatives, and parent leadership in the face of pandemic, were distributed in 2020.

Despite the pandemic, the program was able to administer the Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SWDI) tool to 159,253 beneficiaries to assess their level of well-being and facilitate appropriate case management, which in turn helped in their transition out of poverty. By looking at the economic efficiency and social adequacy indicators, 3,909 beneficiaries were assessed under Level 1 or under Survival; 132,642 beneficiaries are under Level 2 or Subsistence; and 12,951 are already in Level 3 or Self-Sufficiency.

Another poverty alleviation program in the region is the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery Community-Driven Services National Development Program (KALAHI CIDSS-NCDDP or KC-NCDDP). Using the community driven development (CDD) approach, the program empowers the communities in identifying their common issues and needs and in deciding which project could address their concerns. In such a way, the program also improves access to services and local planning and budgeting. Moreover, due to the disruptions caused by the pandemic, the program modality shifted to Disaster Response Operation Procedure (DROP) wherein a total of 80 KALAHI CIDDS projects were implemented, which was higher than the 19 projects set as RDP target. The completed projects benefitted 28,891 KALAHI CIDDS beneficiaries.

With the passage of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, the government launched the Social Amelioration Program–Emergency Subsidy Program (SAP-ESP), which provided an emergency subsidy for the Pantawid Pamilya households during the lockdown period of April and May, on top of their regular monthly cash grants. The non-Pantawid poor households in MIMAROPA who were also affected by the health crisis received a P5,000

emergency subsidy per month for two months. The subsidy was intended to meet their basic needs such as food and medicine during the quarantine or lockdown period. As of December 31, 2021, a total of 668,802 families were provided with SAP-ESP amounting to P3,081,287,850. Twenty-nine percent of them or 194,609 families are Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries. During the first tranche, 394,939 non-Pantawid beneficiaries were provided with SAP, while 86,464 non-Pantawid beneficiaries were given assistance during the 2nd tranche.

The impact of the pandemic was also evident in the 95 percent increase in the number of clients served through Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) from 2019 to 2020. AICS is a social safety net measure that assists individuals and families in recovering from unexpected life events or crises through the provision of financial and material assistance, psychosocial intervention, and referral to other services. From 9,478 served clients in 2019, the program has provided P94,942,938 financial assistance to a total of 18,509 beneficiaries in 2020. Three-eighths of the clients requested medical assistance amounting to P56,694,236. Majority or 64.99 percent of these clients are female.

Another program that promotes and protects the rights of the poor and vulnerable children is the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), which provides hot meals to children enrolled in child development centers (CDCs) and in supervised neighborhood play (SNPs). However, due to the crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the program recalibrated its strategy and identified equally nutrient-dense food alternatives such as Nutripack as replacement for hot meals for areas under community quarantine. Despite the challenges in the procurement and distribution due to travel restrictions and safety protocols, MIMAROPA was still able to serve 80,886 children, with an average of 115 days for regular feeding and 32 average feeding days on Nutripack implementation. The accomplishment was 47.73 percent higher than the 54,751 served beneficiaries in 2019 and 1.05 percent higher from its 80,048 RDP target. On the aspect of improved nutritional status of SFP monitored children, the region recorded a 51.63 percent accomplishment in turning severely underweight children to having normal body weight.

Children in conflict with the law (CICL) are also one of the vulnerable groups that the region continues

to assist and protect. Out of 44 clients served by MIMAROPA Youth Center (MYC) for 2020, 16 or 36.36 percent were discharged or reintegrated to families. In order to improve its services, MYC's bed capacity was also increased from 30 to 50. MYC also applied for the renewal of its accreditation, aiming for compliance with mandatory and higher set of indicators required for its work areas or compliance with Level 2 accreditation.

On the aspect of provision of alternative parental care services to children, the region processed a total of 69 adoption cases. Of these, 30 are for independent placement, 28 were for domestic adoption, six for foster adoption, and five for inter-country adoption, while the remaining three cases were endorsed for issuance of Certification Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption (CDCLAA).

Recognizing the inherent vulnerabilities of the indigent senior citizen, the region continuously implements the Social Pension for the Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) program, which provides senior citizens with a ₱500 monthly stipend for their essential and medical needs. In MIMAROPA, a total of 150,801 senior citizens were assisted. It was higher than the 92,595 assisted senior citizens accomplishments in 2019 but only 74.94 percent of the 201,222 senior citizens targets for RDP 2020. The travel restrictions and 14-day quarantine policy that the SPISC workers had to follow made on-site payouts difficult. Moreover, a total of 15 centenarians received cash gifts in the region for 2020.

The DSWD also continued the provision of assistance to distressed and undocumented Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and trafficked persons. In 2020, a total of 55 OFs and 56 trafficked persons were assisted. Out of the number of trafficked persons, 43 are new cases for 2020, while the remaining 13 cases are carryover cases from 2014 and 2015.

The region also ensures the immediate relief and early recovery of victims of natural and human induced calamities as well as the technical assistance and resource augmentation to LGUs. DSWD, as the lead agency in disaster response, conducts disaster monitoring and reporting to determine the number of affected families in an area. The agency also provides assistance to the affected families in the form of core shelter assistance, food packs, cash for work, and food for work. Its target is to provide disaster relief assistance within

three days upon receipt of request from LGUs to 80 percent of disaster-affected families. Out of the requests for LGUs to provide disaster relief assistance to 218,768 affected families, the agency was able to provide assistance to a total of 215,768 families (99 percent). Of this number, 2,962 were provided with emergency core shelter assistance. Food packs amounting to \$26.88 million were provided to 59,077 families in 52 LGUs, while hygiene kits worth P6.15 million were provided to 3,609 indigenous peoples (IP) families in 28 LGUs of MIMAROPA. Early recovery services amounting to P96.63 million were given to 2,959 (or 100 percent) households with damaged homes. Food and non-food items worth \$27.34 million were also provided to 95,357 internally displaced families. In response to the Bayanihan 1 Act, repacking of goods, amounting to ₱20 million, was also conducted to augment LGUs.

Partnership with Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) or those organizations that are engaged in providing directly or indirectly social welfare and development services and programs is an essential strategy to strengthen the social protection services for the poor and vulnerable. Consequently, the region also ensures that these SWDAs comply with the standards in the implementation of the said services. In 2020, the region was able to process the registration and license of three social work agencies (SWAs), accreditation of two beneficiary civil society organizations (CSO), endorsement for accreditation of two social workers managing court cases (SWMCC) and accreditation of 66 day care centers and 66 day care workers. Despite the pandemic situation, technical assistance and consultative services to organizations engaged in social welfare and development activities were still provided through online orientations on new policies and guidelines such as duty-free entry and foreign donations, public solicitations, communitybased assessment tools and provision of premarriage orientation and counseling (PMOC) services during state of public state of emergency.

On the aspect of delivering social interventions to IPs, the Pampamayanang Mangyan Ugnayan Inc (PMUI) is one of the civil society organizations that provided COVID-19 response and other community development projects in IP communities in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. Each of the 159 IP beneficiaries from Oriental Mindoro received 25kgs of rice from the

organization during the lockdown period. The organization also provided soaps, alcohol, masks, and COVID-19 learning materials to a total of 1,867 families in IP communities in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. As a disaster response to Typhoon Tisoy, the organization distributed a total of 17,201 seedlings to 1,559 beneficiaries in Oriental Mindoro. Among the community development projects that the organization implements in Mangyan communities in the two provinces are the literacy program, birth registration, capacity building, seed distribution and some advocacy and lobbying assistance.

As the region aims to achieve robust employment for its people, it continues to strengthen its livelihood programs and opportunities and the protection and promotion of the welfare of the workers. One of the livelihood programs that provides socio-economic opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized communities and households such as 4Ps is the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). It covers two tracks: 1) microenterprise development (MD), which focuses on providing assistance and resources for beneficiaries to build and expand their businesses, and 2) employment facilitation (EF), which assists beneficiaries to access appropriate employment opportunities. In 2020, a total of 4,619 SLP beneficiaries were served, 4,616 of them were served under the MD track while three beneficiaries were served under the EF track. This was more than a hundred percent (104.74%) higher than its 2,256 RDP target beneficiaries for 2020 and 53.81 percent higher than its 3,003 served beneficiaries in 2019. It is noteworthy that on the latter part of SLP operations in 2020, it focused on providing livelihood assistance grants (LAG) as a response to COVID 19 pandemic. As of December 2020, 4,200 LAG beneficiaries, out of the 4,219 assessed and validated, were provided with assistance amounting to ₱43,786,159.74.00

The Department of Labor and Employment also intensified the implementation of its livelihood assistance and other social safety net programs for the workers in the formal and informal economy taking into consideration the effects of the pandemic on employment and economic activities. In MIMAROPA, a total of 1,691 youth beneficiaries were assisted through the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), 1,207 beneficiaries provided with livelihood assistance

through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP)-Kabuhayan; and 74,775 beneficiaries provided with temporary wage employment through the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced (TUPAD) Workers.

As earnings of the workers from the formal economy were also compromised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) was implemented to provide P5,000.00 financial assistance to the displaced formal workers. A total of 43,325 beneficiaries were served under CAMP under Bayanihan 1, CAMP regular, and CAMP 2 (DOT). On the other hand, MIMAROPA recorded a total of 2,388 displaced land-based and sea-based Filipino workers who were provided with financial assistance through the DOLE-AKAP.

Given the limited data on child laborers, DOLE has started profiling child laborers in which the data gathered will serve as a basis for the provision

of appropriate services and interventions necessary to remove the children from child labor. MIMAROPA was able to profile 1,851 children in 2018 and 8,490 children in 2019. All of the profiled child laborers in 2018 and 2019 (100%) were referred to appropriate agencies and organizations for the necessary services for them. However, the child laborer profiling for 2020 was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, in terms of DOLE MIMAROPA's target number of families with child laborers provided with livelihood assistance, it was able to achieve its 142 families target for 2020.

In terms of securing ancestral domain, there was no approved certificate of ancestral domain title (CADT) for 2020, yet there were two CADTs that were in process or have completed the first two stages in the approval process. CADT is a certificate issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to recognize the claims of indigenous cultural communities (ICCs)/IPs to their ancestral lands or domain.

Table 11.1. Results Matrix for Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families

Indicator	Region/ Province	Baseline	А	nnual Plan Targ	Accomplish- ments (2020)	Reporting Entity	
		2016	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL	
Number of poor households covered by RCCT/MCCT	MIMAROPA	193,065	197,623	197,623	197,623	193,334	DSWD
Number of trained PWDs and parents of PWDs	MIMAROPA	53	ANA	ANA	ANA	0	DSWD
Number of poor senior citizens covered by social pension	MIMAROPA	83,423	201,222	201,222	201,222	149,789	DSWD
Number of day care centers assessed	MIMAROPA	224	100	100	100	66	DSWD
Number of day care centers accredited	MIMAROPA	224	100	100	100	66	DSWD
Number of day care workers assessed	MIMAROPA	224	100	100	100	66	DSWD
Number of day care workers accredited	MIMAROPA	224	100	100	100	66	DSWD
Number of children served by supplementary feeding	MIMAROPA	85,219 (81,907)	80,048	81,649	83,282	80,886	DSWD
Number of clients served under community based programs	MIMAROPA	4,794 (2015)	ANA	ANA	ANA	848	DSWD
Number of stakeholders provided with capability building services	MIMAROPA	649	ANA	ANA	ANA	301	DSWD
Number of workers including migrants covered by social protection services	MIMAROPA	16	ANA	ANA	ANA	317	DSWD

Indicator	Region/ Province	Baseline	A	nnual Plan Targ	et	Accomplish- ments (2020)	Reporting Entity		
		2016	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL			
Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100, 000 population									
Deaths	MIMAROPA	0.7	0	0	0	0 (10 - cumutive)	OCD		
Missing persons	MIMAROPA	0.2	0	0	0	0 (7- cumulative)	OCD		
Directly Affected persons	MIMAROPA	11,778	7,280	3,582	1,765	273,378	OCD		
Percentage of families affected by natural and human-induced calamities provided with relief assistance	MIMAROPA		100 percent	100 percent	100 percent	98.6% or 99 percent (215,768 HHs out of 218,768)	DSWD		
Percentage of emergency shelter assistance provided	MIMAROPA		100 percent	100 percent	100 percent	100 percent (provided to 2,962 HHs)	DSWD		
Percentage of out-of- pocket expenditure over total health expenditure decreased	MIMAROPA	67 percent	50 percent	45 percent	40 percent	61 percent	Philhealth		
Percentage of population covered by PhilHealth insurance (cumulative)**	MIMAROPA	94 percent	90 percent	100 percent	100 percent	90 percent	PhilHealth		
Number of employed in the government covered by GSIS	MIMAROPA	51,210				No data provided	GSIS		
Number of women age 15- 49 who have experienced spousal violence	MIMAROPA	86	279	230	184	83	PNP		
Physical abuse	MIMAROPA	84				76	PNP		
Sexual Abuse	MIMAROPA	2				2	PNP		
Number of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	MIMAROPA	86	279	230	184	30	PNP		
Number of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	MIMAROPA	86				115	PNP		
Number of reported gender-based violence cases (includes e-VAW)	MIMAROPA	86	391	333	267	655	PNP		
	Marinduque					76			
	Occidental Mindoro					80			
	Oriental Mindoro					189			
	Palawan					216			
	Romblon					94			

Indicator	Region/ Province	Baseline	A	nnual Plan Targ	et	Accomplish- ments (2020)	Reporting Entity	
		2016	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL	,	
Number of reported abuse cases for women and children	MIMAROPA	86	900	765	612	907	PNP	
	Marinduque					96		
	Occidental Mindoro					114		
	Oriental Mindoro					282		
	Palawan					297		
	Romblon					118		
Number of Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances Served	MIMAROPA		ANA	ANA	ANA	411	DSWD	
Number of clients served in residential and nonresidential care facilities	MIMAROPA		50	50.0	50	44	DSWD	
Number of children placed for alternative care	MIMAROPA	151	ANA	ANA	ANA	81	DSWD	
Number of trafficked persons provided with social welfare services	MIMAROPA	102	ANA	ANA	ANA	67	DSWD	
Number of clients served through assistance to individuals in crisis situation	MIMAROPA	343	ANA	ANA	ANA	18,509	DSWD	
Number of clients served through assistance to communities in need	MIMAROPA		ANA	ANA	ANA	N/A- no funds provided for 2020	DSWD	
Number of SLP beneficiaries	MIMAROPA	8,721	2,256	2,482	2,730	4,619	DSWD	
Number of Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) households assisted through the Microenterprise Development Track	MIMAROPA	5,697				4,616	DSWD	
Number of SLP households with one adult family member assisted through Employment Facilitation Track	MIMAROPA	3,024				3	DSWD	
Number of KALAHI-CIDSS projects	MIMAROPA	728	19			80	DSWD	
Number of households and benefited from completed KC-NCDDP sub-projects	MIMAROPA					28,891	DSWD	
Proportion of children aged 5-17 years removed in child labor	MIMAROPA					No data provided	DOLE	
Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	MIMAROPA					No data provided	DOLE	
Number of approved CADTs	MIMAROPA	20	24	25	26	0 (2 were on process)	NCIP	

Sources: DSWD MIMAROPA, PRO MIMAROPA, OCD MIMAROPA, PhilHealth, and NCIP MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought disruptions in the implementation of the social protection programs and services in the region. Nonetheless, the region was still able to recalibrate its strategies to meet some of its regional targets while responding to the impact made by the pandemic to the poor and vulnerable groups.

The country's experience on the COVID-19 pandemic only shows how social protection should be at the core of government policies and attention as the poor and vulnerable are more likely to be the most affected, whether there is pandemic or not.

Along with the continuous implementation of various social protection programs, the establishment of a data bank system of vulnerable groups and persons should be ensured to expedite the delivery of services during crisis and disasters.

The government should also continue investing in livelihood and employment programs and opportunities for the poor and disadvantaged in order to empower and build their socioeconomic resilience, especially in times of crisis.

Social protection programs and services specified in the MIMAROPA Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (RRP) for Coronavirus Disease should also be monitored and assessed to see how well they helped their intended recipients and to identify implementation areas to be improved in the future.

Collaboration between and among government entities and other stakeholders should be strengthened to ensure effective and efficient delivery of social welfare programs and services especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the region.

Recommendations

To address existing challenges in reducing vulnerability of individuals and families, the following are recommended for implementation of concerned agencies and LGUs:

Table 11.2. Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies
Sectoral Concerns		
Limited opportunities in employment facilitation within the area; Limited private partnership for entrepreneurial and employment opportunities	Expand convergence on the livelihood programs and opportunities and identify potential partnership even outside of the municipality	DSWD, DOLE and LGUs
Limited data on other vulnerable groups such as children, youth, PWDs, IPs, and OFs/OFWs which are needed for the effective targeting and delivery of social services.	Establish a databank system of vulnerable groups that contains essential provincial-disaggregated information that could be used in the provision of other social safety net programs for them Fasttrack implementation of and registration to the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) and Community-Based Monitoring System	LGUs, PSA, DSWD, CWC, NYC, NCDA, NCIP, OWWA
Slow processing of certificate of ancestral domain titles (CADTs) in the region	Review agency compliance with the DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP joint administrative order (JAO) No. 1, s. 2012 Fast-track the issuance of CADTs Review the IPRA Law and other institutional issues	NCIP
Inadequate provision of basic services to IPs, especially those living in GIDAs	Ensure the delivery of basic social services to con- flict-affected areas and vulnerable communities especially those in GIDAs/IP areas in accordance with ADSDPP (Ancestral Domain Sustainable Devel- opment and Protection Plan)	NCIP, DSWD, LGUs
Cross-Sectoral Concerns		
Full devolution of some social welfare programs to LGUs in line with the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Case Ruling	Provision of technical assistance such as capacity building for LGUs as well as the regional line agencies in devolution transition	LGUs and RLAs

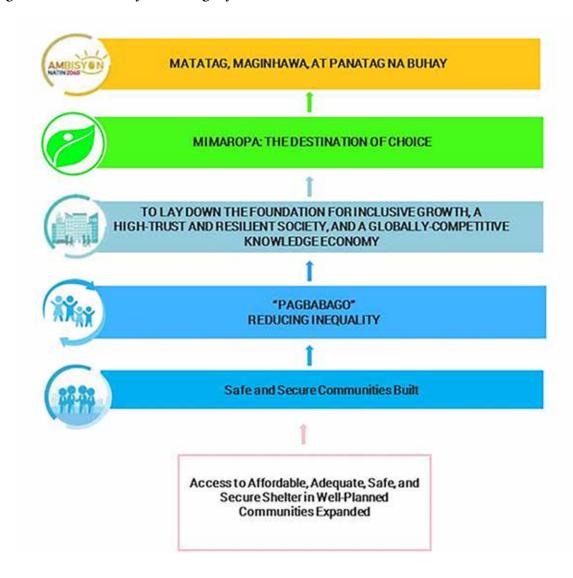
Building Safe and Secure Communities

This Chapter discusses the performance of the housing sector in the region and the strategic interventions through programs, projects, and activities in expanding access to affordable, adequate, safe, and secure shelter in well-planned communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously affected the housing sector. Works in construction sites were stopped as part of the health protocols and social distancing measure imposed by the government to combat COVID-19. Many households also experienced difficulty in paying for shelter.

Strategies towards providing decent, affordable, and resilient homes for MIMAROPAns are also included in this Chapter.

Figure 12.1 Framework for Building Safe and Secure Communities



Accomplishments

To help the payees ease their burden on the height of the enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19, moratorium on the collection of monthly loan amortization from the members of key shelter agencies that include the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG), the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, the Social Housing Finance Corporation, and the National Housing Authority was issued.

All municipalities in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Oriental Mindoro have already undergone workshops on the preparation of local shelter plans (LSPs). Fifteen out of 17 municipalities in Romblon and 19 out of 24 municipalities in Palawan have undergone workshops on the preparation of LSPs. Forty of these local government units (LGUs) have also conducted writeshops on the formulation of LSPs. However, none of them has an approved LSP. LSPs provide information on the analysis of the present local housing situation, which includes identification of housing problems, upgrading and future housing needs, capacity of target households, housing affordability, and local resources such as land, provision of basic services, and financing services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pampamayanang Mangyan Ugnayan, Inc. (PMUI), provided the Alangan tribe in Oriental Mindoro with improved housing to promote social distancing, especially that the tribe is used to living in balay-lakoy where five families live in one shanty.

Table 12.1. Results Matrix for Building Safe and Secure Communities

	Region	Baseline	Aı	nual Plan Targe	et	Accomplishment	Reporting
Indicator	/Province	Value (Year)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Proportion of socialized housing target to housing needs improved	MIMAROPA	15.4	21.83	24.58	27.21	8.64% (89,364: 1,034,063) This represents national total; do not have regional breakdown for 2020	DHSUD
Number of housing units for resettlement with complete housing facilities prior to occupancy	MIMAROPA	18,742	24,409	*	*	No data provided	NHA
Percentage of Local Government Units (LGUs) with Local Shelter Plan (LSP)	MIMAROPA	35	80	90	100%	0 As of Oct 2020, all MIMAROPA LGUs have LSP workshops and writeshops but none have approved LSPs.	DHSUD
Proportion of families with owned or owner-like possession of housing units	MIMAROPA	56.54	57.66	58.25	58.88%	Data not available	PSA Census of Population and Housing (CPH)

Source: Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

As a way forward, public health must be among the priorities for consideration in the land use and local shelter planning. The new normal may necessitate to redesign the socialized and low-cost housing development projects that will ensure enough public and green spaces as well as sanitary and health requirements.

The observance of social or physical distancing and wearing of face masks in all public and workplaces are among the new-normal practices in the aftermath of COVID-19 that may affect the construction industry, including the housing sector.

To ensure rural prosperity and complement initiatives towards attaining resilient and sustainable communities, Executive Order No. 114, s. 2020, or the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-

Asa Program (BP2), was institutionalized. The BP2 program was established as a national program of the government and was adopted as a continuing strategy to drive inclusive and balanced urban and rural development.

The development of a housing and settlements upgrading program that will offer affordable, disasterresilient, liveable, sustainable, and gender-sensitive housing is one of the basic services that should be provided to BP2 beneficiaries. This shall also include new modalities for delivery, such as usufruct and rental housing, farm-lot subdivision projects and agrarian urbanism development, housing microfinance, and employee housing programs.

The passage of the National Land Use Act (NaLUA), which will govern the use of land including settlement, needs to be fast-tracked. This will ensure the sustainable and efficient use of the land and physical resources of the country. This will also harmonize sector-specific land use policies and institutionalize land use planning. This includes determination of how much space for settlements development to meet housing demand.

The provision of technical assistance on the formulation of local shelter plans shall be intensified, as it provides information on the analysis of the present local housing situation that includes identification of housing problems, upgrading and future housing needs, capacity of target household, housing affordability, and local resources such as land, provision of basic services, and financing services.

The housing and settlement sector needs to address issues that focus on the movement (and non-movement) of people during health emergencies. There is a need to revisit the preparation of comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances and socialized housing and resettlement packages such as the components of hazard and health standards, open or public space, waste water treatment plant, drainage, and sewerage system in accordance to Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and Sanitary Code. These parameters will ensure the readiness of the local government when similar pandemic will happen in the future.

Moreover, legislative actions are needed to address the gaps and challenges in the housing and settlement sector which include a review of the housing and urban policies to improve the living conditions in informal settlements. There is also a need for appropriation for alternative modes of provision of housing with adequate space for the low-income informal settlers.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges and issues in building safe and secure communities:

Table 12.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Building Safe and Secure Communities

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies	
Sectoral concerns			
Complexity of transacting with government, need to improve housing affordability, and the lack of a cohesive framework to address the livability, sustainability, and safety of human settlements and to improve urban development policies, programs, and projects.	Review procedures to streamline the issuance of housing-related licenses, clearances, and permits Coordinate with partnerdevelopers to ensure synchronization of efforts in the housing sector	DHSUD, private sector	
	 Prioritize the implementation of the housing rental subsidy program for lowincome informal settler families (ISFs) and shoulder additional costs for moving ISFs into better housing conditions 	DHSUD, LGUs	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Proliferation of slums and informal settlements and people living in disaster-prone areas	Retrofitting of existing housing units residing in vulnerable/disaster prone areas Relocation of families residing in highly vulnerable and dangerous areas Holistic resettlement program prioritizing on-site resettlement and economic livelihood restoration Integration of basic infrastructure support to resettlement sites such as potable water, safe and sufficient electricity, access roads, among others	DHSUD, LGUs
Cross-sectoral concerns		
Measures against COVID-19	 Ensure the health and safety of all those employed in the housing sector. Implement a standard physical distancing strategy especially in urban areas. 	DHSUD, LGUs

Reaching for the Demographic Dividend

Demographic dividend may be defined as the growth in an economy resulting from a change in the age structure of a country's population. The change in age structure is typically brought on by a decline in fertility and mortality rates.

To achieve demographic dividend, it is important to continuously provide interventions supporting demographic transition. Family planning is necessary to establish the conditions for a demographic dividend. Investments in child health, education, and gender equality are also critical factors in demographic transition.

The region continues to accelerate human capital development by investing in health and education to maximize the demographic dividend.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE **KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY** "PATULOY NA PAG-UNLAD" INCREASING GROWTH POTENTIAL Maximize the Demographic Dividend Quality of Human Investments in Health Capital Improved and Education

Figure 13.1 Framework for Reaching for the Demographic Dividend

Accomplishments

Interventions are continuously being undertaken to support demographic transition challenges brought about by COVID-19.

The region's maternal mortality rate significantly increased from 46 per 100,000 live births in 2019 to 100 per 100,000 live births in 2020. This was also higher than the RDP target set at 60 per 100,000 live births.

The infant mortality rate increased from 9 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 10 per 1,000 live births in 2020. This was also relatively higher than the RDP target set at 6.5.

There was an improvement in the under 5 mortality rate, as it decreased from 13 per 1,000 live births in 2019 to 8 per 1,000 live births in 2020. This was also better than the RDP target set at 10 per 1,000 live births.

The region recorded 84.12 percent proportion of births delivered in health facilities. However, this was a reduction compared to the 90.62 percent proportion recorded in 2019. This was also significantly lower than the RDP target set at 92 percent.

Meanwhile, the proportion of births attended by health professionals slightly increased, from 83.05 percent in 2019 to 84.93 percent in 2020. However, it failed to surpass the RDP target set at 90 percent.

In terms of modern contraceptive prevalence rate, the region recorded 22.36 prevalence rate in 2020. This was significantly lower than the 33.37 prevalence rate recorded in 2019 and the target of 78.85 prevalence rate indicated in the RDP.

The number of teenage pregnancies in the region decreased from 8,931 in 2019 to 5,462 cases in 2020. Palawan recorded the highest number, with 2,853 cases.

The prevalence of malnutrition among children 0-59 months generally improved from 2019 to 2020.

The prevalence rate of underweight and severely underweight increased from 7.2 in 2019 to 7.6 in 2020. However, it surpassed the RDP target set at 26.8 prevalence rate. Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest prevalence rate of underweight and severely underweight at 8.7.

The region recorded a 14.7 prevalence rate on stunted and severely stunted children aged 0-59 months old. This was an improvement compared to the 15.3 prevalence rate in 2019. This also surpassed the RDP target set at 35.9 prevalence rate. Palawan recorded the highest prevalence rate of stunted and severely stunted children at 16.4.

The prevalence rate of wasted and severely wasted children also improved from 5 in 2019 to 4.6 in 2020. This was lower than the identified RDP target of 4.7 prevalence rate. Palawan registered the highest prevalence rate at 5.9.

Meanwhile, the overweight and obese prevalence rate slightly increased from 2.8 in 2019 to 2.9 in 2020. However, this met the RDP target of no further increase in the baseline data of 3.2 prevalence rate. Puerto Princesa City has the highest overweight and obese prevalence rate recorded at 5.2.

Table 13.1 Results Matrix for Reaching for the Demographic Dividend

Indicator	Region/ Baseline		Update	d Annual Plan	Accomplish- ment	Reporting	
maioutoi	Province	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	84.68	60	58	56	100	DOH
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	10.48	6.5	6.3	5.9	10	DOH
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	MIMAROPA	13.79	10	8	7	8	DOH
Proportion of births attended by health professionals		80.2	90	92	94	84.93	DOH
Proportion of births delivered in health facilities	MIMAROPA	76.57	92	94	95	84.12	DOH
Crude death rate	MIMAROPA	3.28		No targets		3.3	DOH

Indicator	Region/	Baseline	Update	d Annual Plan	Accomplish- ment	Reporting		
maioutoi	Province	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity	
Modern contraceptive preva- lence rate	MIMAROPA	59.88	78.85	82.79	86.92	22.36	DOH	
Total fertility rate decreased (ave. number of women aged 15-49 during her lifetime)	MIMAROPA	3.7 (2013)	2.3	2.2	2.1	No available data	DOH	
Adolescent birth rate (aged 15- 19 years) (per 1,000 women in that age group decreased)	MIMAROPA	No baseline data	7	6	3	No available data	DOH	
Population growth rate (%)	MIMAROPA					1.82 (2015-2020)	PSA	
Unmet need for family planning (%) / Proportion of women of reproductive age 15-49 years with unmet need for family planning	MIMAROPA	21 (2013)	5	3	0	3	DOH	
Prevalence of malnourished children under 5 years of age	MIMAROPA						DOH/ NNC	
Underweight		31.8 (2015)	26.8	25.8	24.8	7.6		
Stunting		40.9 (2015)	35.9	34.9	33.9	14.7		
Wasting		9.7 (2015)	4.7	3.7	2.7	4.6		
Overweight		3.2 (2015)	No	further increa	se	2.9		

Source: DOH, NNC

Moving Forward

In reaching for demographic dividend, the region shall focus on lowering fertility and child mortality substantially by investing in child survival and health programs and in the reproductive health needs of both married and unmarried youth.

Continuous support systems shall be implemented to ensure that essential services are continuously provided. Free basic health services particularly on family planning should continue amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adolescents are a significant portion of the regional population; that is why it is necessary to prioritize interventions that will prevent pregnancies among them. Interventions promoting healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies shall also be prioritized.

Investing in girl's and women's education is also essential in reaching demographic dividend, as women who are educated are more likely to work outside the home, thereby increasing the size of the labor force and the potential for economic development. Enforcing policies that enable girls to go to school and equip them with skills to compete for higher-paying jobs is an important step toward gender equity that also fosters economic growth.

Integrating sexuality education lessons in elementary and high schools to curb the incidences of teenage pregnancies, population growth, and sexual diseases is still of utmost importance. School-based programs have the potential to reach the majority of adolescents, so it will be more strategic to introduce programs through school curriculums.

Recommendation

To support demographic transition in reaching for the demographic dividend, the following are the recommendations for implementation of concerned stakeholders:

Table 13.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Reaching for the Demographic Dividend

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies/entities
Unfavorable health outcomes in the region like increase in maternal and infant mortality rates	Intensify programs on nutrition and reproductive health like the early childhood care and development (ECCD) Intervention Package for the First 1,000 Days	DOH, NNC, LGUs
Inadequacy and uneven distribution of human resources for health	 Scholarship programs for medical- related courses, as well as training for health professionals and nutrition service workers, to augment human resources especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) 	
	 Pursue policy-related measures to recruit, retain, and regain skilled health professionals that will satisfy the local demand on human resources for health 	
	Support the establishment of the School of Medicine in Palawan State University	DOH, LGUs
High teenage pregnancy cases in the region	Integration of age- and development- appropriate reproductive health education in DepEd curriculum as stated in Sec. 14 of RA 10354, also known as "The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012"	
	 Enactment into law of House Bill No. 4742, or "An Act Providing for a National Policy in Preventing Teenage Pregnancies (NPPTP), Institutionalizing Social Protection for Teenage Parents" 	
	Availability of cheap, safe, and easy-to- use contraceptives	POPCOM, RPEB

Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

The promotion of science, technology, and innovation (STI) is vital to long term socio-economic development. Thus, the strategy is part of the 0 to 10 point socio-economic agenda of the current administration. The MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update provides interventions, legislative agenda, and recommendations on STI to expand economic activities, improve productivity in agriculture, industry and services, improve competitiveness to strengthen the regional economy, and increase delivery of social services.

This chapter assesses the activities and interventions relative to STI for 2020 vis-à-vis targets set updated MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 gearing towards the increased utilization of STI in the region.

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MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE

TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

PATULOY NA PAG-UNLAD INCREASING GROWTH POTENTIAL

Productivity and Competitiveness Improved

Utilization of Science, Technology, and Innovation Increased

Figure 14.1 Framework for Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

Accomplishments

The STI sector recorded mixed performances in terms of achieving the targets set in the updated MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update (Table 14.1).

Table 14.1 Targets and Accomplishments on Science, Technology, and Innovation, MIMAROPA, 2020,

Indicator	Baseline Data		Targets	Accomplishment	Reporting Entity	
indicator	(2018)	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Enhanced adoption of I	ocal research and de	velopment outputs	to improve produ	ctivity and competiti	veness	
Number of Technology adoptors/ start-ups assisted under SETUP	92	96	98	100	62	DOST
Marinduque					14	
Occ. Mindoro					15	
Or. Mindoro					17	
Palawan					9	
Romblon					7	
Number of technology	interventions under S	ETUP				
Technology upgrading	92	96	98	100	62	DOST
Consultancy	36	25	25	25	20	DOST
Marinduque					5	
Occ. Mindoro					5	
Or. Mindoro					5	
Palawan					5	
Laboratory testing	651 tests and calibration for 159 customers)	600	650	700	1,513 tests and calibration to 103 customers	DOST
Training & fora	148	65	76	83	72 training 4 for a	DOST
Marinduque					10	
Occ. Mindoro					13	
Or. Mindoro					21	
Palawan					13	
Romblon					15	
For SETUP-assisted fire	ms:					
Increase in productivity	16.18%	10%	10%	10%	-8.52%	DOST
Jobs Generated	90	100	100	100	142	DOST
Creative capacity for kr	nowledge and techno	logy generation, a	equisition, and add	ptions enhanced (20)19 baseline)	
Research and development expenditure as proportion of GRDP increased (in percent, cumulative)	-	-	-	-	.03 % (2018)	DOST R&D survey results (Data available every 3 years)
No. of industrial designs registered in RADIUS	1 filed and 1 granted	-	-	-	1 filed and 1 granted	

Indicator	Baseline Data (2018)	Targets			Accomplishment	B 0 50
		2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
No. of R&D proposals on applied and basic researches funded	71	-	-	-	3	DOST
No. of researchers registered in RADIUS	516	-	-	-	624 (cumulative)	DOST
No. of learning and development opportunities provided through R&D consortia	17	-	-	-	14	DOST
No. of technologies developed as output of R&D	25	-	-	-	-	DOST
No. of technologies commercialized/ utilized/ adopted	19	6	5	2	16	DOST
No. of publications registered in RADIUS	303	-	-	-	619 (cumulative)	DOST
Number of patent applications registered in RADIUS	1	-	-	-	21 filed; 2 granted	DOST
No. of utility model registered in RADIUS	2	-	-	-	37 filed;16 granted	DOST

Source: Department of Science and Technology (DOST) MIMAROPA

Most of the technology adoption and other related activities fell below the RDP targets.

The Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SET-UP) continues to assist Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region in adopting appropriate technological innovations to improve or develop their products, services, and operations. In 2020, the region assisted a total of 62 firms under the SET-UP. This was below the RDP target of 96 firms for the year and was 3.13 percent lower than the 64 assisted firms recorded in the previous year. The following were the accomplishments of each intervention under the SET-UP.

- Technology Upgrading. A total of 62 technology upgrading interventions was recorded in the region, a decrease by 36.73 percent compared to previous year. The RDP target on technology updating set at 96 interventions was not achieved
- Consultancy Services. A total of 20 consultancy services under Manufacturing Productivity Extension (MPEx) for 2020 was recorded

in the region. This accomplishment was 20 percent below the set RDP target of 25. The non-attainment of the target may be attributed to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic which restricted movements and travel within and outside the region.

- Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL). The RSTL was established to provide MSMEs with laboratory testing and analysis services. It is composed of three (3) laboratories on microbiology, physicochemical, and metrology laboratories. The sector was able to consistently exceed the set targets for 2018-2022 for laboratory testing analysis services. For 2020, a total of 1,513 tests and calibrations where offered to 103 customers. This exceeded the 1,271 tests and calibrations target for the year by 19.04 percent.
- Trainings and Fora. Due to travel restrictions brought by COVID-19 pandemic, trainings for 2020 were conducted online via various online platforms. A total of 76 trainings and fora was provided to clients during the year. The ease of conducting trainings online resulted to the increase number of trainings conducted exceeding the RDP target by 16.92 percent. Trainings and fora were conducted to enhance

the capability of participants to maximize the usage of technologies to improve their products and services.

The SET-UP assisted firms recorded a total gross sales of ₱344,239,700.00 and generated about 142 employment opportunities in the region, surpassing the 2020 RDP targets. However, the productivity rate these firms was decreased to a negative 8.52 percent. This was lower than the previous year's rate of 24.20. The decrease in productivity was attributed to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. The RDP target for 2020 of 10 percent productivity rate was not achieved.

Creative capacity for knowledge and technology generation, acquisition, and adoptions enhanced

The Research and Development Information Unified System (RADIUS) was established to provide the database for all R&D-related information and materials.

For 2020, there were one industrial designs filed and one designs registered in the region. Moreover, there were three (3) R&D proposals on applied and basic researches funded in the region. The total number of registered researchers in RADIUS increased by 20.93 percent from 516 in 2019 to 624 researchers in 2020.

A total of 14 learning and development opportunities provided through R&D consortia was recorded for the period. This was 17.65 percent lower than the 17 recorded learning opportunities in 2019. On the other hand, a total of 16 technologies was commercialized/utilized/adopted under the RADIUS. This was 15.79 percent lower compared to the 19 technologies recorded for 2019.

The recorded number of publications registered in RADIUS for 2020 was 619 (cumulative). On the patent applications registered in RADIUS, a total 21 patents were filed and two (2) were granted. Moreover, there were 37 utility models and 16 models, filed and granted, respectively, as registered in the RADIUS.

Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe)

Based on the assessment stated in the updated PDP 2017-2022, the Philippines is not yet prepared for the FIRE. The assessment further states there is a need to improve or capacitate the workforce to comply with the requirements of FIRe. Acquisition of logistics by firms and institutions that are responsive to the requirements of FIRe is also challenging, especially with the effect COVID-19 to the economy.

Moving Forward

Assessment of the STI sector accomplishments showed varied performances in terms of achieving set targets. While some targets were exceeded, other targets set in the RDP 2017-2020 were not. The region should consider the following strategies identified in previous development reports as they are still applicable and consider the new strategies identified in response to COVID-19 pandemic to achieve the sector end-of-plan targets:

1. Continue to strengthen collaboration among actors in the STI ecosystem.

There is a need to promote the implementation of the Republic Act No. 11337, otherwise known as Innovative Startup Act, which was signed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on April 17, 2019.

The law aims to improve and promote a better business environment and entrepreneurial system in the country by providing benefits and removing constraints for aspiring entrepreneurs to establish businesses. As stated in the previous development reports, the DOST, DTI, DICT and other host agencies shall continue to promulgate appropriate policies, guidelines, rules, and regulations in accordance with their respective agency charters and enabling laws, for the coordinated implementation of the startup development programs through joint orders, memoranda of understanding. In the region, the Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee may explore to address this concerns such as collaboration with private

firms or enterpreneurs in the region.

Address the decreasing number of science and technology personnel.

The Republic Act No. 11035 or the Balik Scientist Act should be promoted to Filipino scientists. The government should continue provide a more competitive working environment to encourage Filipino experts, scientists, and investors that are currently working in other countries to return to the country. The law and its benefits may be promoted by conducting intensive information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns on the said Act.

- 2. Increase the number Science and Technology Innovation (STI) hubs and its. As stated in previous development reports, there is still a need for the government to fast-track the establishment of more innovation hubs in the region. The innovation hubs serves as onestop-shop food research and development centers in order for local food products. Innovation hubs in are currently located in the province of Oriental Mindoro and Palawan and continues to provide development opportunities for scientists, researchers, students, and entrepreneurs in the area. It is suggested that the same facilities should also be established in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon.
- 3. Increase public awareness on R&D activities. The government should ensure the availability of science and technology and R&D data for stakeholders. The establishment of RADIUS is

- a welcome development. Access to RADIUS should be promoted to stakeholders, this can be done by conducting of information, education, and communication campaigns to stakeholders. The access to these data shall provide better plan and policy formulation as well as better monitoring of the sectors development performance.
- 4. Create an enabling environment for STI investments.

The region recognizes the need to create a more competitive and enabling environment for STI investments. The updated PDP stated the need for the institutionalize implementation of the Science for Change Program (S4CP). The program seeks to establish and expand STI programs along with the accelerated R&D thrusts under NICER and RDLead. It is also expected to boost industrial competitiveness through the CRADLE and Business Innovation through S&T (BIST) Programs.

5. Increase investments in STI-based startups, enterprises, and spin-offs. Technology adopters of commendable R&D products and services will be provided with incentives to encourage more clients to adopt their technologies.

Recommendations

The following strategies are recommended to address the challenges and gaps of the existing programs on vigorously advancing STI:

Table 14.2 Challenges and Supplemental Strategies to Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

Chapter Outcome/Cross sectoral concerns	Challenges	Recommended Strategies Implementing Agencies
Strengthen collaboration among actors in the STI ecosystem	The need to harmonize gover- nance framework of the STI sec- tor	Encourage the DOST, DTI, and DICT to follow the IRR of the RA No. 11337 or the Innovative Startup Act
		Intensify Collaborative R&D to Leverage Philippine Economy (CRADLE) Program
Enhance capacity for knowledge and technology generation, ac- quisition, and adoption	"Brain Drain"/ Decreasing num- ber of science and technology personnel	Promote the enhanced benefits and incentives of the balik scientists under Republic Act No. 11035, also known as an "Act Institutionalizing the Balik Scientist Program" through IEC campaigns

Chapter Outcome/Cross sectoral concerns	Challenges	Recommended Strategies Implementing Agencies
		Provide more S&T scholarships to produce and develop more S&T professionals who will take lead in the S&T activities
		• Sustain Young Innovators DOST Program
Increase STI utilization in agri- culture, industry, and services sectors	Commercial viability and market- ability of R&D outputs of HEIs	Introduce research outputs ready for adoption to SUCs, HEIs, entrepreneurial organizations, and Negosyo Centers DOST, SUCs, HEIs
		Establishment of innovation hubs in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon
	Public awareness on R&D activities	Conduct more STI IEC campaigns, exhibits, and expositions
		Sustain initiatives such as funders forum relative to the approved MIMAROPA R&D Agenda 2017-2022
		Enhance the features of the MIMAROPA Research and Development Information Unified System (RADIUS) to include a link to and for easy access to researches
Increase investments in STI- based start-ups, enterprises, and spin-offs	Low STI investments	Establish and expand STI programs along with accelerated R&D trusts under NICHE Centers in the region for R&D (NICER) and R&D Leadership (RLead) Program
		Provide operational and monetary support to innovative and tech start-ups DOST, DTI, DICT

Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy

This chapter assesses the performance of the region in the three major sectors of the economy, namely agriculture (including hunting, forestry, and fishing) industry, and services. The fiscal, monetary, and trade sectors which boost the economy and ensure price stability are also presented.

The region aims to enable a stable and supportive economic environment by sustaining the macroeconomic stability. Specifically, the region intends to achieve the following outcomes: a) expanded and improved access to economic opportunities; b) accelerated, strategic, and resilient financial sectors; c) enhanced and strengthened product competitiveness; and d) peaceful and secured community living in clean and healthy environment.

Figure 15.1 Strategic Framework to Sustain a Sound, Stable, and Supportive Macroeconomic Environment



Accomplishment

Access to economic opportunities expanded and improved

Based on the 2020 regional accounts released by PSA, the region's economy contracted from 4.3 percent in 2019 to negative 7.6 percent in 2020 (refer to Table 15.1). This was the first time that the regional economy has plunged since 2001, when the PSA revised and rebased the regional accounts.

The 2020's negative growth rate was the lowest growth rate achieved by the region over the last two decades, beating the next-worst region's economic performance of 0.8 percent growth rate in 2010. This negative growth, nonetheless, was still higher by 2.0 percentage points than the national average of -9.6 percent in 2020.

Similar to 2019, the 2020 target in the updated regional development plan (RDP) which was set at a range of 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent was not achieved.

Among the 17 regions that posted contracted growths, MIMAROPA ranked 6th; Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ranked 1st – in terms of growth rate.

On the other hand, MIMAROPA ranked 13th among regions with significant decrease in growth rate from 2019 to 2020 with 11.9 percentage points. Central Luzon, National Capital Region, and Cagayan Valley were the top three regions with significant decrease in growth rate.

Table 15.1 Economic Performance by Sector and Subsector, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020 (at constant 2018 prices, in percent except GVA)

Sector/Sub-	2019	2020	Contribution to GRDP growth	Percent d	istribution	Growt	h rate
sector	GVA (in P'000)	GVA (in P '000)	19-20	2019	2020	18-19	19-20
Agriculture, hunting, forestry, and fishing	70,293,568	68,770,540	-0.4	18.2	19.2	4.7	-2.2
Industry sector	136,989,190	125,715,307	-2.9	35.4	35.2	2.2	-8.2
Mining and quarrying	38,672,878	34,587,581	-1.1	10.0	9.7	-1.5	-10.6
Manufacturing	52,385,393	52,147,874	-0.1	13.5	14.6	14.2	-0.5
Electricity, steam, water and waste management	14,630,393	15,058,696	0.1	3.8	4.2	10.3	2.9
Construction	31,300,526	23,921,156	-1.9	8.1	6.7	-12.1	-23.6
Service sector	179,500,874	162,900,159	-4.3	46.4	45.6	5.8	-9.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	49,634,335	48,799,782	-0.2	12.8	13.7	10.4	-1.7
Transportation and storage	23,975,062	16,915,896	-1.8	6.2	4.7	-2.2	-29.4
Accommodation and food service activities	13,180,609	7,182,300	-1.6	3.4	2.0	7.0	-45.5
Information and communication	11,375,856	12,155,294	0.2	2.9	3.4	8.6	6.9
Financial and insurance activities	17,380,711	18,356,994	0.3	4.5	5.1	10.2	5.6

Sector/Sub- sector	2019 GVA (in P'000)	2020 GVA (in P '000)	Contribution to GRDP growth	Percent d	istribution	Growt	h rate
Sector	GVA (III F 000)	GVA (III F 000)	19-20	2019	2020	18-19	19-20
Real estate and ownership of dwellings	11,166,215	9,837,779	-0.3	2.9	2.8	2.1	-11.9
Professional and business services	3,653,060	3,239,280	-0.1	0.9	0.9	5.2	-11.3
Public administration and defense, compulsory social security	11,586,089	12,083,565	0.1	3.0	3.4	6.1	4.3
Education	19,915,028	18,674,795	-0.3	5.1	5.2	-0.8	-6.2
Human health and social work activities	5,887,729	5,505,876	-0.1	1.5	1.5	10.7	-6.5
Other services	11,746,179	10,148,598	-0.4	3.0	2.8	8.0	-13.6
Gross regional domestic product	386,783,632	357,386,005	-7.6	100.0	100.0	4.3	-7.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) MIMAROPA

All major sectors contracted, where deceleration in the industry and services sectors weighed heavily on the region's economy. Among the major sectors, services recorded the lowest contraction of 9.2 percent. This was followed by Industry Sector with -8.2 percent and agriculture, forestry, and fishing with -2.2 percent.

This may be attributed to the effect of imposition of community quarantine in the entire country due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally, the guidelines on community quarantine allows private and commercial establishments that provide basic necessities to remain operational. This includes establishments providing services related to food, health, banking and financial remittances, supermarkets, hospitals, pharmacies, preparation and delivery services, manufacturing and processing food and medicines, basic utilities on communications, power, and water, among others. This means that losses in these sectors are likely to be lower.

On the other hand, non-essential establishments engaged on wholesale and retail trade, transportation, recreation and entertainment, hotel and accommodations, restaurants, tourism-related businesses, manufacturing, and services activities on non-food and health sectors recorded significant losses.

All subsectors suffered reversal growth except for four: electricity, steam, water and waste management;

information and communication; financial and insurance activities; and public administration and defense and compulsory social activities – which still managed to increase at a slower pace. Accommodation and food service activities recorded the highest decline with 45.5 percent.

Industry declined by 8.2 percent in 2020 from 2.2 percent growth in 2019, thereby contributing 0.1 percentage point to the -7.6 percent GRDP growth and making up 35.2 percent of the region's economy. All of industry's subsectors recorded contracted growth except electricity, steam, water and waste management with slowdown growth of 2.9 percent in 2020. Increase in household consumption for basic utilities was reported during quarantine period as more individuals stayed at home.

Services remained to be the biggest contributor to the region's economy with a 45.6 percent share in 2020, slightly lower than its 46.4 percent share in 2019. Only three of its subsectors registered slowdown growth: information and communication with 6.9 percent from 8.6 percent in 2019; financial and insurance activities with 5.6 percent to 10.2 percent in 2019; and public administration and defense and compulsory social activities with 4.3 percent from 6.1 percent in 2019.

This can be attributed to the surge in the use of digital financial platforms during the community quarantine, especially in its early period of implementation. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin E. Diokno during the Sulong Pilipinas 2021 Partners for Progress Forum held last Monday, reported an increase in the use of national retail payment system such as PESONet and instaPay.

The opening and use of digital accounts, like e-wallet and bank account, recorded a significant increase in the volume and value of payments made in 2020 compared to 2019. This can be attributed to the transition of physical banking transaction to digital banking transaction as a result of limited mobility and social distancing measures for the management of the COVID-19 situation. Further, more individuals opened bank accounts to receive cash assistance from the government.

Further, a 30-day grace period for all loans with principal and/or interest due within the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) period without incurring interest, fees, and penalties given by various government financial institutions including Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), and PAG-IBIG Fund. The deferment of the payment of loans lasted for about 3 months. The increased budget allocation for defense to support the Government's pursuit in attaining inclusive and sustainable

peace, order, and security and the implementation of the second tranche of the Salary Standardization Law of 2019 which grants salary increase to government employees in 2020 contributed to the increase in growth but at slower pace.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishing plunged to 2.2 percent in 2020 from 4.7 percent in 2019, contributing -0.4 percentage point to the MIMAROPA's economic growth.

The region's per capita GRDP contracted by 8.7 percent in 2020 from 3.0 percent in 2020. This was higher by 2.1 percentage points than the national average of -10.8 percent in 2020. This growth was below target per capita GRDP growth rate in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at a range of 3.3 percent to 4.3 percent.

MIMAROPA's average inflation rate eased to 3.3 percent in 2020 from 3.9 percent in 2019. This was, however, higher than the national average inflation rate of 2.6 percent. All provinces registered lower inflation rates except Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro. Marinduque registered the highest inflation rate at 6.3 percent. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro with 3.8 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively. Palawan recorded the lowest inflation rate with 2.1 percent (refer to Figure 15.1).

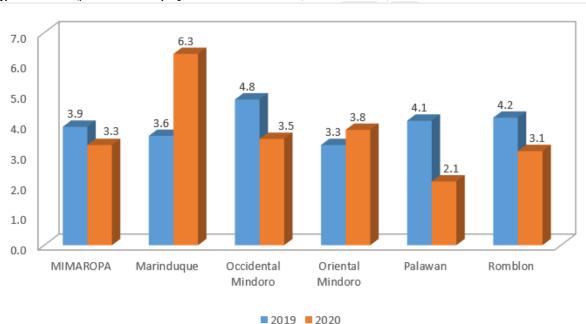


Figure 15.2. Inflation Rate by Quarter and Province, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) MIMAROPA

Lower inflation rates may be attributed to the implementation of price control measures during the community quarantine and price freeze on basic necessities and prime commodities in the entire Luzon after it was placed under a state of calamity due to the onslaught of several typhoons.

All commodity groups registered upward price movements compared to previous year's index levels, which contributed to the region's 3.3 percent average inflation rate in 2020 (refer to Table 15.2). Alcoholic beverages and tobacco's index rose 20.5 percent in 2020 compared to that of the previous year. It also recorded the highest CPI of 239.6. Increases in the indices of health at 8.3 percent, housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels at 5.1 percent, and transportation at 5.0 percent, also contributed to the 2020 inflation.

On the other hand, communication registered the lowest CPI of 103.1.

In terms of selected food items, corn recorded the highest increase in index at 17.8 percent in 2020. This was followed by increase in indices of food products (not elsewhere classified) and fruits with 6.1 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. Price indices of all selected food items increased except for rice and bread and cereals, where price indices decreased by 2.6 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively.

The purchasing power of peso in the region decreased from last year's 0.82 to 0.79.

The region's working age population increased by 1.64 percent from 2,016,000 in 2019 to 2,049,000 in 2020. Labor force participation rate decreased by 1.10 percentage points from 60.7 percent in 2019 to 59.6 percent in 2020 (refer to Table 15.2).

Table 15.2. Consumer Price Index, Inflation Rate, and Purchasing Power of Peso, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020

14	Per	riod	Percent Change
Item	2019	2020	(2020/2019)
Average Consumer Price Index (All Items)	122.2	126.2	3.3
Food	128.3	129.2	0.7
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	128.8	129.9	0.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	198.8	239.6	20.5
Non- Food	113.3	118.5	4.6
Clothing and Footwear	115.8	119.6	3.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	114.3	120.1	5.1
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	115.1	120.3	4.5
Health	111.5	120.8	8.3
Transport	108.7	114.1	5.0
Communication	102.5	103.1	0.6
Recreation and Culture	113.3	115.8	2.2
Education	114.8	118.9	3.6
Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	116.8	121.4	3.9
Average Inflation Rate (%)	3.9	3.3	(0.6)
Average Purchasing Power of Peso	0.82	0.79	(3.66)

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA

Chart Area 7 92.7 100.0 90.0 0.08 70.0 60.0 50.0 40.0 23.9 19.5 30.0 20.0 4.3 7.3 10.0 0.0 **Employment Rate** Unemployment Rate Underemployment Rate 2019 2020

Figure 15.3 Annual Labor Force Rates, MIMAROPA, 2019-2020

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Employment rate decreased by 3.0 percentage points from 95.7 percent in 2019 to 92.7 percent in 2020. The region's employment rate was higher by 3.00 percentage points compared to the national average employment rate of 89.7 percent.

The region's unemployment rate of 7.3 percent was lower by 3.00 percentage point compared to the national average unemployment rate of 10.3 percent. This was higher by 2.93 percentage points compared to 2019's 4.3 percent. Based on the 2008-2020 annual result of Labor Force Survey, the unemployment rate in 2020 was the highest unemployment rate recorded in the region following the 4.8 percent unemployment rate reported in 2017. This was mainly attributed to the imposition of community quarantine in the region due to COVID-19 and weather disturbances and typhoons that hit the region that affected the productivity of farmers and fishermen.

Underemployment rate increased by 4.40 percentage points from 19.5 percent in 2019 to 23.9 percent in 2020. This was also higher by 7.63 percentage points compared to the national average underemployment rate of 13.8 percent.

As of December 2020, MIMAROPA has a total of 52,853 MSMEs affected by COVID-19. Palawan recorded the highest number of affected MSMEs with 19, 270 MSMEs. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 14,046 affected MSMEs, Marinduque with 6,839 affected MSMEs,

Occidental Mindoro with 6,673 affected MSMEs, and Romblon with 6,025 affected MSMEs.

Out of the 52,853 MSMEs affected by COVID-19, 42,282 MSMEs are fully operational, 7,924 MSMEs are partially operational, and 2,647 remain closed.

Accelerated, strategic, and resilient financial sectors

The total number of registered cooperatives increased by 5.13 percent from 1,072 registered cooperatives in 2019 to 1,127 registered cooperatives in 2020. This was below the target number of registered cooperatives in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 1,131 registered cooperatives.

Palawan registered the highest number of cooperatives with 491 cooperatives. This was followed by Occidental Mindoro and Marinduque with 273 cooperatives and 139 cooperatives, respectively.

The total number of compliant cooperatives increased by 18.82 percent from 425 compliant cooperatives in 2019 to 505 compliant cooperatives in 2020. This exceeded the target number of compliant cooperatives in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 558 compliant cooperatives.

The number of applications for registration/amendments increased by 57.45 percent from 141 applications in 2019 to 222 applications in 2020. This was below the target number of applications for registration/amendments in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 411 applications.

The number of new members decreased by 18.51 percent from 1,810 new members in 2019 to 1,475 new members in 2020. This was below the target of new members in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 1,609.

MIMAROPA's IRA dependency rate increased from 81.0 percent in 2019 to 87.0 percent in 2020. The actual IRA dependency rate met the target IRA dependency rate in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 87.0 percent.

All MIMAROPA provinces recorded increase in IRA dependency rate except Palawan, which IRA dependency rate decreased from 82.0 percent in 2019 to 62.0 percent in 2020. Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest IRA dependency rate at 90.0 percent. This was followed by Romblon with 89.0 percent, Marinduque with 87.0 percent. Palawan registered the lowest IRA dependency rate with 62.0 percent.

The revenue collections of LGUs were affected by the imposition of community quarantine due to COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the largest portion of LGU income came from the national government allocations, in terms of IRA. On the average, the locally sourced income of LGUs is only 19.05 percent of their total operating income, registering an increase of 4.14 percentage points from 14.91 percent in 2019. This is below the target ratio of local source of LGU income to total current operating income in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 22.05 percent.

In terms of ratio of expenditure on social services to total current operating expenditures, MIMAROPA significantly decreased from 24.51 percent in 2019 to 7.72 percent in 2020. This can be attributed to realignment of allocated budget to health and nutrition sector as one of the strategic response to mitigate the spread COVID-19.

The total actual revenue decreased by 16.96 percent from \$\text{P4},594.37\$ million in 2019 to \$\text{P3.814.96}\$ million in 2020. This was still higher than the target total actual revenue in the MIMAROPA regional

development plan, which was set at \$2,526.46 million. Palawan, including Puerto Princesa City, recorded the highest revenue at \$1,780.22 million while Marinduque recorded the lowest revenue at \$242.43 million.

The total revenue collection efficiency also decreased by 28.00 percentage points from 103.00 percent total revenue collection efficiency in 2019 to 75.00 percent total revenue collection efficiency in 2019.

The total real property tax increased by 9.36 percent from P1,005.87 million in 2019 to P1,099.98 million in 2020. The total real property tax was still higher than the target real property tax collection in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at P676.38 million. Palawan, including Puerto Princesa City, recorded the highest real property tax at P625.44 million while Romblon recorded the real property tax at P17.67 million.

The total business tax significantly decreased by 27.01 percent from P1,214.43 million in 2019 to P886.39 million in 2020. This exceeded the target business tax collection in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at P800.19 million. Palawan, including Puerto Princesa City, recorded the highest business tax at P412.26 million while Marinduque recorded the lowest business tax at P49.82 million.

The fees and charges significantly decreased by 37.35 percent from P1,187.71 million in 2019 to P744.10 in 2020. This exceeded the target fees and charges collection in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set P655.94 million. Palawan, including Puerto Princesa City, recorded the highest fees and charges at P277.89 million while Romblon recorded the lowest fees and charges at P73.22 million.

The economic enterprise collection significantly decreased by 41.86 percent from P486.66 million in 2019 to P282.96 million in 2020. This is below the target fees and charges collection in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set P393.95 million. Romblon, recorded the highest economic enterprise collection at P122.53 million. No collection was recorded in Occidental Mindoro for this revenue source.

In terms of number of LGUs assessed on revenue and assessment performance, a total of 37 LGUs was assessed including 29 treasury offices and eight assessor offices. This exceeded the target number of LGUs assessed on revenue and assessment performance in the MIMAROPA regional development plan, which was set at 25 LGUs.

Peaceful and secured community living in a clean and healthy environment

All MIMAROPA provinces, except Romblon, have Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) that were endorsed by the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC).

As of March 18, 2021, 28 LGUs have approved/updated comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs), 38 LGUs are currently updating their CLUPs, while seven LGUs have no CLUPs.

On disaster risk reduction/climate change adoption (DRR/CCA) enhanced comprehensive development plans (CDPs), 59 LGUs have approved CDPs, 49 of are DRR/CCA enhanced, and 16 LGUs are on-going updating of CDPs.

The assessment of the implementation of the MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 towards enabling a stable and supportive economic environment by sustaining its macroeconomic stability is presented in Table 15.3.

Table 15.3 Results Matrix for Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Policy

	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets		Accomplishment	Reporting
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Poverty incidence among population reduced	25.2% (2015)		13.0%		15.1 % (2018)	PSA
Marinduque	16.9% (2015)				14.7% (2018)	
Occidental Mindoro	41.7% (2015)				21.7% (2018)	
Oriental Mindoro	22.4% (2015)				10.8% (2018)	
Palawan	17.6% (2015)				12.1% (2018)	
Romblon	38.6% (2015)				28.3% (2018)	
Poverty incidence among families reduced	18.0% (2015)		8.1%		10.5 (2018)	PSA
Marinduque	12.5% (2015)				10.0% (2018)	
Occidental Mindoro	30.5% (2015)				16.1% (2018)	
Oriental Mindoro	15.3% (2015)				7.3% (2018)	
Palawan	12.6% (2015)				8.2% (2018)	
Romblon	29.3% (2015)				19.7% (2018)	
GRDP growth rate (constant prices) increased	2.6%	5.3% (low) 6.3% (high)	5.7% (low) 6.7% (high)	6.2% (low) 7.2% (high)	(7.6)%	PSA
AHFF growth rate (constant prices) increased	-6.8%	2.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	2.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	2.0% (low) 3.0% (high)	(2.2)%	PSA
Industry growth rate (constant prices) increased	2.0%	4.0% (low) 5.0% (high)	4.5% (low) 5.5% (high)	5.0% (low) 6.0% (high)	(8.2)%	PSA
Services growth rate (constant prices) increased	7.9%	7.5% (low) 8.5% (high)	8.0% (low) 9.0% (high)	8.5% (low) 9.5% (high)	(9.2)%	PSA
Per capita GRDP growth rate (at constant prices) increased	0.5%	3.3% (low) 4.3% (high)	3.7% (low) 4.7% (high)	4.2% (low) 5.2% (high)	(8.7)%	PSA
Employment rate increased	95.9%	97.2%	97.3%	97.4%	92.7%	PSA
Unemployment rate decreased	4.1%	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%	7.3%	PSA

Indicator	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets		Accomplishment	Reporting
muicatoi	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Underemployment rate decreased	21.8%	16.8%	16.0%	15.2%	23.9%	PSA
Number of business establishments increased	27,226	28,331	28,615	28,901	23,952 (2018)	PSA
Marinduque	2,830				3,020 (2018)	
Occidental Mindoro	5,030				4,209 (2018)	
Oriental Mindoro	7,828				7,852 (2018)	
Palawan	9,453				5,682 (2018)	
Romblon	2,085				3,189 (2018)	
IRA dependency rate decreased	88%	87.0%	86.5%	86.0%	87.0%	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	95%				87.0%	
Occidental Mindoro	95%				90.0%	
Oriental Mindoro	89%				84.0%	
Palawan	89%				62.0%	
Romblon	92%				89.0%	
Total actual revenue increased	2,743.59 million	2,526.46 million	2,652.79 million	2,785.43 million	3,814.96 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	32.73 million				242.43 million	
Occidental Mindoro	77.14 million				443.68 million	
Oriental Mindoro	173.21 million				797.84 million	
Palawan	211.03 million				1,780.22 million	
Romblon	60.56 million				287.90 million	
Real property tax increased	661.31 million	676.38 million	710.20 million	745.71 million	1,099.98 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	10.73 million				40.32 million	
Occidental Mindoro	38.99 million				100.76 million	
Oriental Mindoro	59.60 million				315.79 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Palawan	59.30 million				625.44 million	
Romblon	12.91 million				17.67 million	
Business tax increased	752.64 million	800.19 million	840.20 million	882.21 million	886.39 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	1.66 million				49.82 million	
Occidental Mindoro	4.94 million				118.10 million	
Oriental Mindoro	8.82 million				249.40 million	
Palawan	89.70 million				412.26 million	
Romblon	3.44million				56.81 million	
Fees and charges increased	948.19 million	655.94 million	688.74 million	723.18 million	744.10 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	20.34million				83.25 million	
Occidental Mindoro	33.21 million				124.07 million	
Oriental Mindoro	96.86million				185.67 million	
Palawan	58.48 million				277.89 million	
Romblon	5.92 million				73.22 million	
Economic enterprise increased	381.45 million	393.95 million	413.65 million	434.33 million	282.96 million	BLGF MIMAROPA
Marinduque	0.00				28.73 million	
Occidental Mindoro	0.00				0.00	

	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets		Accomplishment	Reporting
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Oriental Mindoro	7.93 million				66.57 million	
Palawan	3.56 million				65.13 million	
Romblon	38.30 million				122.53 million	
Ratio of local source of LGU income to total current operating income increased	13.78%	22.05%	24.05%	26.05%	19.05%	BLGF MIMAROPA
Ratio of expenditure on social services to total current operating expenditures increased	22%	27%	28.5%	30%	7.72%	BLGF MIMAROPA
Number of LGUs assessed on revenue and assessment performance maintained	13					
13 (treasury offices)						
13 (assessor offices)	25					
25 (treasury offices)						
25 (assessor offices)	25					
25 (treasury offices)						
25 (assessor offices)	25					
25 (treasury offices)						
25 (assessor offices)	37					
29 (treasury offices)						
8 (assessor offices)						
BLGF MIMAROPA						
Number of banks increased	267	314	330	346	302 (2019)	BSP Lucena Branch
Marinduque	15				17 (2019)	
Occidental Mindoro	50				58 (2019)	
Oriental Mindoro	122				137 (2019)	
Palawan	69				75 (2019)	
Romblon	11				15 (2019)	
Number of ATMs increased	250	356	392	431	314 (2019)	BSP Lucena Branch
Marinduque	13				18 (2019)	
Occidental Mindoro	27				39 (2019)	
Oriental Mindoro	80				90 (2019)	
Palawan	122				152 (2019)	
Romblon	8				15 (2019)	
Deposit liabilities increased	65,056 million	87,894 million	96,683 million	106,351 million	97,838 million (2019)	BSP Lucena Branch
Marinduque					6,886 million (2019)	
Occidental Mindoro					10,339 million (2019)	
Oriental Mindoro					29,336 million (2019)	
Palawan					45,917 million (2019)	

Indicator	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets		Accomplishment	Reporting
indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Romblon					5,340 million (2019)	
Loan portfolio increased	21,910 million	28,733 million	31,606 million	34,767 million	32,701 million (2019)	BSP Lucena Branch
Marinduque					362 million (2019)	
Occidental Mindoro					5,521 million (2019)	
Oriental Mindoro					10,652 million (2019)	
Palawan					15,943 million (2019)	
Romblon					224 million (2019)	
Annual value of outstanding microfinance loans by banks	35 million	>17 million	>17 million	>17 million	16 million (2019)	BSP Lucena Branch
Number of cooperatives increased	931	1,131	1,187	1,247	1,127	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					139	
Occidental Mindoro					273	
Oriental Mindoro					138	
Palawan					491	
Romblon					86	
Number of compliant cooperatives increased	478	558	586	615	505	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					81	
Occidental Mindoro					102	
Oriental Mindoro					79	
Palawan					203	
Romblon					40	
Total cooperative	7,256.25 million	13,915.91 million	16,003.30 million	18,403.79 million	10,912.95 million	CDA
assets increased	.,			,	(2019)	MIMAROPA
Marinduque						
Occidental Mindoro						
Oriental Mindoro						
Palawan						
Romblon						
Number of applications for registration/ amendments increased	111	411	432	453	222	CDA MIMAROPA
Number of new members increased	1362	1609	1689	1,773	1,475	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					471	
Occidental Mindoro					150	
Oriental Mindoro					64	
Palawan					690	
Romblon					100	

Indicator	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets		Accomplishment	Reporting
Indicator	2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Entity
Registration transaction increased						
Registration of cooperative branch	1	3	3	4	0	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					0	
Occidental Mindoro					0	
Oriental Mindoro					0	
Palawan					0	
Romblon					0	
Registration of satellite	2	9	9	10	84	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					0	
Occidental Mindoro					15	
Oriental Mindoro					27	
Palawan					32	
Romblon					10	
Registered cooperative	42	56	59	62	55	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					15	
Occidental Mindoro					6	
Oriental Mindoro					4	
Palawan					28	
Romblon					2	
Amendment	69	39	41	43	26	CDA MIMAROPA
Marinduque					3	
Occidental Mindoro					7	
Oriental Mindoro					4	
Palawan					11	
Romblon					1	
Growth in regional labor productivity increased	6.8%	5.3% (low) 6.3% (high)	5.7% (low) 6.7% (high)	6.2% (low) 7.2% (high)	6.6% (2017)	PSA
Growth in labor productivity in industry increased	4.2%	4.0% (low) 5.0% (high)	4.5% (low) 5.5% (high)	5.0% (low) 6.0% (high)	-2.6% (2017)	PSA
Growth in labor productivity in services increased	21.4%	7.5% (low) 8.5% (high)	8.0% (low) 9.0% (high)	8.5% (low) 9.5% (high)	2.3% (2017)	PSA

Source: Bureau of Local Government Finance MIMAROPA, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Lucena Branch, Cooperative Development Authority MIMAROPA, Philippine Statistics Authority

Moving Forward

The economic performance of the region was greatly affected by the disruptive impact of COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses that occurred during the last quarter of 2020.

The economic disruption was exacerbated by the archipelagic nature of the region, which resulted to

limited movement of commercial and agricultural products, sharp and sudden reduction of services and products demand, job loss, falling consumer and business confidence, and tighter financial conditions, especially during the early stage of ECQ. The differing guidelines on the quarantine imposition hampered the delivery trucks carrying food and other basic items.

During the ECQ, interruptions in the supply chain were mainly attributed to issues on logistics,

unavailability of products from suppliers, different local policies where some traders do double handling of products, hiring of several drivers, among others. In particular, the restrained movement of agricultural produce resulted to increased food waste due to spoilage of highly perishable commodities, lower farm-gate price of agricultural/ fishery products, and higher retail price of food commodities.

In this context, careful and calibrated tradeoffs were done by the government to ensure public health and mitigate the repercussions in livelihoods, employment, and economy brought by the COVID-19 pandemic while pushing for social and economic recovery.

Alongside the implementation of FY 2020 budget and Bayanihan Act I and II, adaptive and timely strategies and measures were carried out to accelerate mitigation and recovery. These include: a) implementation of price control measures during the community quarantine; b) establishment of sub-national task force against COVID-19; c) lax quarantine rules and health protocols (reopening of businesses, mass transportation, and age group restrictions); d) reprioritization of 2020 budget towards more urgent areas; e) reduction of key policy rates and reserve requirements, relaxation of the know-your-customer requirements for bank transactions, and provision of a 30-day grace period or extension for the payment of loans due within ECQ without imposing additional interest, penalties, or charges; f) implementation of amelioration program for the poor and vulnerable (financial support to families and relief for small businesses and agriculture sector); g) adoption of effective quarantine and contact tracing system; and h) conduct of effective information education campaign against COVID-19. Further, price freeze on basic necessities and prime commodities in the entire Luzon after it was placed under a state of calamity due to the onslaught of several typhoons helped the region's economy to bottom out.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic, new normal was characterized based on the current situation or environment and behavioral adjustments of the communities. Demand for ICT services will continue to increase significantly due to continued implementation of community quarantine following limited mobility and social distancing measures for the management of the COVID-19.

Commercial businesses will continue to adopt ecommerce services to facilitate product selling and setting up payment method. Government sector will remain to utilize e-government services to ensure unhampered delivery of public services. Internet will serve as main platform for online communication or transactions with other agencies or the public. Tax administration reforms should be intensified by adopting technology-based system for recording, sharing, and monitoring purposes.

Education sector will also take advantage of using digital technology to support the remote learning, distance education, and online learning during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Upgrading of ICT infrastructure plays a vital role in adapting to new environment and supporting the economy.

With the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation, the region is confronted with two major challenges in ensuring sound macroeconomic environment including: a) recovery and further mitigation of disruptive impacts of COVID-19 on economy; and b) limited ICT infrastructures that support economic activities in the new normal environment.

Recommendations

The following strategies are recommended to address the challenges and gaps of the existing programs and projects on enabling a stable and supportive economic environment by sustaining its macroeconomic stability:

Table 15.4 Supplemental Strategies to Ensure Sound Macroeconomic Policy

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Recovery and further mitigation of disruptive impacts of COVID-19 and typhoons to economy	• Realign expenditure priorities in 2021 and 2022. NGAs will have to realign expenditure priorities to facilitate the transition and adjustment to the "new normal." There will be reprioritization and reallocation of PPAs for the FY 2021 and 2022 to meet the health and recovery needs. For 2021, the list of Build Build Build projects can be revisited to give priority to crucial and shovelready projects, to provide more space for relevant healthrelated expenditures. Extension of Bayanihan Law will allow to continue budget and procurement flexibility.	
	 Promote cofinancing between the national government and LGUs for development programs. Costsharing schemes between the national and LGUs for response measures that are local in nature but may benefit multiple LGUs should be explored. This can also help facilitate synergy in the implementation of national and local measures. 	
	Communicate the rehabilitation and recovery plan. To manage market expectations and ensure stability, the national government should carefully and clearly communicate its recovery plans for COVID-19 and areas affected by typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses, as well as the temporary nature of the deviation from the mediumterm fiscal program.	
	 Strengthen financial inclusion and improve implementation of social mitigation measures by leveraging on financial technology. Mobile banking and payment services of banks and emerging financial technology companies can be utilized to widen the reach of financial services in the country. 	
	 Fast track the implementation of the National ID System to improve the implementation and targeting poor and vulnerable beneficiaries and to lessen the burden of tedious account opening requirements, allowing for the people's easier access to the financial system. 	
	The SC ruling on Mandanas Case shall provide substantial increase in financial resources available to LGUs by 2022. In this context, to strengthen the public financial management, the following should be done: a) review and intensify the linkage between planning, investment programs, and budgeting; b) continue harmonizing national and local development priorities; c) review guidelines of IRA utilization; d) rationalize the computation for allocation of funds in IRA; e) fast track the formulation transition plan on further devolution of PPAs in the national budget; f) provide capacity building/training program for devolved functions to LGUs provided by SC ruling; h) adoption of technology in public financial management system and project monitoring and evaluation; and i) timely dissemination of budget guidelines.	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
	Fast track the implementation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pagasa (BP2) Program. BP2 is a decongesting strategy for metropolises which primary aim is to encourage jobless individuals in the urban areas to go back to their respective provinces with supposed livelihood opportunities awaiting. While it is important to ensure that employment opportunities will be provided to the individuals who will avail the BP2 Program, the identification of settlement areas is also critical to ensure positive outcome.	
	Improve resilience to climate and disaster risk by mainstreaming build-back-better principle. Integrating disaster risk reduction measures in the rehabilitation measures of different agencies in times of natural disasters and calamities shall transform physical infrastructures, shelters, rehabilitation of damaged government and non-government facilities, and environment a more efficient and resilient one. This shall improve the quality of infrastructures as well as the delivery of basic services. Further, this also calls for strict implementation of zoning ordinances, identification of climate change resilient crops appropriate in the region, and construction of infrastructures that mitigate the adverse impact of disasters such as flood control projects, irrigation systems, and farm-to-market roads.	
	 Re-open the economy to Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) or better at the appropriate time. Preparations should be made for the re-opening of businesses, mass transportation, and relaxation of age group restrictions while strengthening the implementation of health standard and sanitation protocols. 	
	Continue implementation and mainstreaming of Administrative Order No. 13, s. 2018 or Removing Non-Tariff Barriers and Streamlining Administrative Procedures on the Import of Agricultural Products and RA No. 11032 or Ease of Doing Business.	
	Establish digital taxation framework. With the expected shift of the private sector to online transactions, the government needs to establish a digital taxation framework. There is also a need to invest in digital taxation infrastructure.	
	Formulation of local incentives and investment codes.	DBM, BSP, NEDA, DOF, DOLE, DOST, DOH, DA, DPWH, DOTr, DSWD, DepED, DILG, DTI, TESDA, NHA, PIA, PSA, LGUs, and private sectors
Limited ICT infrastructures that support economic activities in the new normal environment	Upgrade ICT and transportation infrastructures that will support the uninterrupted delivery of services of public and private sectors through ICT services.	
	 Fasttrack the implementation of Republic Act No. 10929 or the Act Establishing the Free Internet Access Program in Public Places in the Country by expanding deployment of ICT infrastructures. 	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
	The support in the implementation of free WiFi program must be continued for fast track deployment of ICT infrastructures and other alternative communications system to provide access points to local communities, particularly in remote areas. To reduce costs in the deployment of ICT infrastructure, the following should be considered: a) facilitation and promotion of ICT infrastructure sharing; and b) leveraging existing government infrastructure assets. Government requirements and processes, clearances, and fees issuances should be harmonized into onestop shop offline and online facilities. In addition, encourage new ICT companies/institutions capable of providing connections to far flung areas by providing incentives.	

Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy

Market competition was introduced in the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 as a new Chapter. Four years after the implementation of the Plan, challenges in identifying competitive neutrality issues and reviewing anti-competitive policies is still being observed. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the region's competitiveness remains the same or with very little progress. Nevertheless, the government's goal of improving consumer welfare and market efficiency through competition has not been discounted.

The region aims to improve its competitiveness with the following intermediate outcomes: a) competition in water transport services improved; b) competitiveness in MIMAROPA improved; and c) increase participation of large-sized construction companies in the region. The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) conducted by the Regional Competitiveness Committee (RCC) and the Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA were assessed. A brief discussion on the level of transportation services and the capacity of accredited construction companies present in the region is also presented.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT Competitiveness in MIMAROPA Enhanced Competition in Large Sized Water Competitiveness Construction Transport of LGUs Companies in Services Improved the Region Improved

Figure 16.1 Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy Strategic Framework

Accomplishment

Competition in Water Transport Services Improved

There are two categories for water transport routes in MIMAROPA region: a) regular routes, and b) missionary routes.

Regular routes involve one or more direct links covering two RoRo-capable ports that have viable shipping service, while missionary routes involve one or more direct links covering two RoRo-capable ports that have no existing shipping service due to geographic limitation and/or limited market viability.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no additional water transport routes were identified in 2020.

Competitiveness of LGUs improved

All provinces, cities, and municipalities in MIMAROPA are included in the 2020 Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index (CMCI). A total of 55 LGUs improved their ranking in the 2020 CMCI exceeding the 2020 RDP target of 15 LGUs.

Among the five provinces, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, and Palawan improved their respective Competitive Index ranking. Oriental Mindoro moved up 37 places from 59th in 2019 to 22nd in 2020, Romblon moved up 9 places from 65th in 2019 to 56th in 2020, and Palawan moved up two places from 72nd in 2019 to 70th in 2020. The provinces of Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro moved down by 14 and 15 places from 24th in 2019 to 38th in 2020 and from 49th in 2019 to 64th in 2020, respectively.

The City of Puerto Princesa also moved up by 16 places from ranking 33rd among 32 highly urbanized cities in 2019 to ranking 17th in 2020.

Also, the City of Calapan improved one place from ranking 17th among 112 component cities in 2019 to ranking 16th in 2020.

The following are the number of LGUs with improved ranking per pillar: a) on economic

dynamism, 25 LGUs have improved rankings; b) on government efficiency, 49 LGUs have improved rankings; c) on infrastructure, 56 LGUs have improved rankings; and on resiliency, 53 LGUs have improved rankings.

For the pillar on economic dynamism, 25 LGUs have improved rankings: a) municipalities of Calintaan, Paluan, and Looc in Occidental Mindoro; b) municipalities of Gloria and San Teodoro in Oriental Mindoro; c) municipalities of Sta. Maria, Santa Fe, San Jose, Banton, Ferrol, Alcantara, Calatrava, Corcuera, and Concepcion in Romblon; and city of Puerto Princesa and municipalities of Brooke's Point, Busuanga, Dumaran, Araceli, Cuyo, Kalayaan, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Agutaya, and Magsaysay in Palawan. This is below the RDP target which was set at 40 LGUs.

For the pillar on government efficiency, 52 LGUs have improved rankings: a) municipalities of Boac, Mogpog, and Santa Cruz in Marinduque; b) municipalities of Sablayan, Mamburao, Santa Cruz, Lubang, Magsaysay, Calintaan, Paluan, Rizal, and Looc in Occidental Mindoro; c) municipalities of Pinamalayan, Puerto Galera, Roxas, Bongabong, Victoria, Mansalay, Socorro, Gloria, Baco, Bulalacao, San Teodoro, and Pola; d) municipalities of San Agustin, San Fernando; Romblon, Santa Maria, Magdiwang, Santa Fe, San Jose, Banton, Ferrol, Alcantara, Calatrava, Corcuera, and Conception; and e) city of Puerto Princesa and municipalities of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, El Nido, Quezon, Busuanga, Culion, Dumaran, Araceli, Cuyo, Kalayaan, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Agutaya, and Magsaysay. This surpassed the RDP target, which was set at 28 LGUs.

For the pillar on infrastructure, 58 LGUs have improved rankings: a) municipalities of Mogpog, Torrijos, and Buenavista in Marinduque; municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Mamburao, Santa Cruz, Lubang, Magsaysay, Calintaan, Paluan, Rizal, and Looc; c) municipalities of PInamalayan, Puerto Galera, Roxas, Bongabong, Victoria, Bansud, Mansalay, Socorro, Gloria, Baco, Bulalacao, San Teodoro, and Pola; d) municipalities of Odiongan, San Agustin, Looc, San Fernando, Cajidiocan, Romblon, Santa Maria, Magdiwang, Santa Fe, San Jose, Banton, Ferrol, Alcantara, Calatrava, Corcuera, and Concepcion; and municipalities of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Taytay, Narra, El Nido, Quezon, Aborlan, Busuanga, Culion, Dumaran,

Araceli, Cuyo, Kalayaan, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Agutaya, and Magsaysay. This surpassed the RDP target, which was set at 29 LGUs.

In 2020, the number of LGUs compliant to DTI-DICT-DILG JMC No. 2016-01 pertaining to the Enhanced Business Permitting and Licensing System (EBPLS) increased by 10.77 percent from 65 compliant LGUs in 2019 to 72 compliant LGUs in 2020. This was, however, below the RDP target which was set at 73 compliant LGUs.

Large-sized construction companies increased

The number of construction companies licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) increased by 4.80 percent from 229 licensed construction companies in 2019 to 240 licensed construction companies in 2020 (as of February). The number of large-sized companies remained at seven companies. The number of AAA

(with minimum equity of P80,000,000.00) category companies remained at four and the number of AA (with minimum equity of P90,000,000.00) category companies remained at three. The implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in March hampered the renewal and special license-joint venture applications of the contractors.

Market size improved

The region's economy contracted by 7.6 percent or about P29.4 billion from P386.78 billion in 2019 to P357.39 billion in 2020. This was the lowest growth rate achieved by the region over the last two decades, beating the next-worst region's economic performance of 0.8 percent growth rate in 2010. The region's negative growth was still higher by 2.0 percentage points than the national average of -9.6 percent in 2020. This may be attributed to the effect of imposition of community quarantine in the entire country due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 16.1 Results Matrix for Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy

	Baseline		Annual Plan Target		Accomplishment	5 2 52
Indicator	(Value) 2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI Ranking, by province, cities, and municipal- ities increased annually	15	15	17	20	55	DTI-RCC
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI Ranking on Economic Dynamism, by cities, and municipalities increased annually	25/58 participat- ing LGUs	increase by 10% (40 LGUs)	increase by 10% (44 LGUs)	increase by 10% (48 LGUs)	25/73 participat- ing LGUs	DTI-RCC
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI Ranking on Government Efficiency, by cities and municipalities increased annually	15/58 participat- ing LGUs	increase by 10% (28 LGUs)	increase by 10% (31 LGUs)	increase by 10% (34 LGUs)	49/73 participat- ing LGUs	DTI-RCC
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI Ranking on Infrastructure, by cities and municipalities increased annually	17/58 participat- ing LGUs	increase by 10% (29 LGUs)	increase by 10% (32 LGUs)	increase by 10% (35 LGUs)	56/73 participat- ing LGUs	DTI-RCC

	Baseline		Annual Plan Target		Accomplishment	
Indicator	(Value) 2016	2020	2021	2022	2020	Reporting Entity
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI Ranking on Resiliency, by cities and municipalities increased annually		increase by 10% (29 LGUs)	increase by 10% (32 LGUs)	increase by 10% (35 LGUs)	53/73 participat- ing LGUs	DTI-RCC
Number of LGUs compliant with BPLS Standards, by municipalities and cities increased		73	73	73	72 compliant LGUs	DILG
Number of large-sized construction companies increased	4 (2 - AA, 2 -AAA)	No	annual targets indica	7 (3 - AA, 4 - AAA)	PCAB	
GRDP increased	125,597,581.54				-29.397,63 million	PSA

Sources: Department of Trade and Industry- Regional Competitiveness Council, Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA, Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board, Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

For MIMAROPA Region to improve its competitiveness, cities and municipalities should strive to maintain if not improve its CMCI rankings. The LGUs should also strive to be listed among the top 100 municipalities in the rankings.

The "Build, Build, Build" program of the government gives emphasis to infrastructure as a primary driver for economic growth. The 229 construction companies in the region simply are overwhelmed by the sheer number of government infrastructure projects being implemented.

Republic Act No. 4566 otherwise known as "Contractors' License Law" as amended by P.D. No. 1746 states that no contractor (including subcontractor and specialty contractor) shall engage in the business of contracting without first having

secured a PCAB license to conduct business. The purpose of the Contractors License Law (R.A. 4566) is to ensure, for the safety of the public, that only qualified and reliable contractors are allowed to undertake construction in the country. The law also aims to promote for the benefit of the public and private sectors and for the national interest, the orderly growth of the contracting sector and the upgrading of construction capability. The Contractors License is required for both private and public construction projects.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges/issues in leveling the playing field through a national competition policy:

Table 16.2 Supplemental Strategies to Level the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy

Challenges		Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Greater participation in future assessments	CMCI	A special recognition by the Regional Development Council (RDC) shall be provided to LGUs who performed well in their rankings to ensure greater participation in future CMCI assessments.	

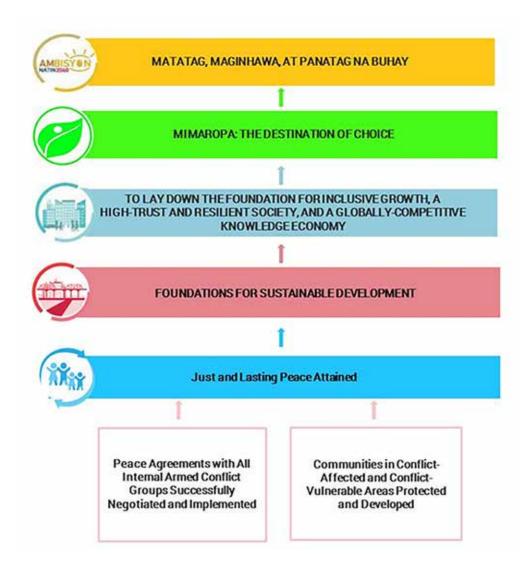
Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
	CMCI survey is a very important indicator and serves as gauge to determine what specific aspect or criteria that the local government units needs to improve.	DTI, Regional Competitiveness Committee (RCC), and MIMAROPA RDC
Accessibility to best practices	Promote competition-related policies and best practices. The Philippine Competition Commission should have a database on the best practices of other regions or LGUs in relation to market completion which can be replicated in other areas. The Divine Word College of Calapan in partnership with DTI Oriental Mindoro developed a CMCI data collection system which aims to ease and help DTI in gathering the data needed for more effective and comprehensive results for the CMCI annual ranking.	Philippine Competition Commission
	 Provision of technical assistance to LGUs with low CMCI rankings. Technical assistance should be provided to LGUs that belongs to the lowest rankings including the completion of required documents (Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Disaster Risk Reduction Plans, etc.). Additional resources should be provided for the conduct of surveys and enumeration in the island municipalities. 	RCC Member agencies
	Update the local investment and incentive codes (LIICs) to ensure LGU's participation in promoting competition. The LIIC states the local government investment policies and programs, investments priority areas (IPAs), local incentives (fiscal or non-fiscal) available to domestic and foreign investors and the mechanics for availing them.	LGUs, DTI, and DILG
Increase share to the gross domestic product	Promote establishment of special economic zones (SEZs). The collaboration among LGUs, PEZA, DTI and TIEZA will promote and expedite the establishment of ecozones in the region, which in turn, will increase the MIMAROPA's activities, trade balance, job opportunities/ employment, and investment.	LGUs, PEZA, DTI, TIEZA
Limited number of available contractors in the region	Encourage small scale contractors to comply with the provisions of RA 4566 as amended by P.D. No. 1746. This will dramatically increase the number of available contractors for both private and public infrastructure projects. The small contractors could very well handle small private projects while contractors with license category B and above could concentrate on larger government projects.	LGUs
	LGUs must ensure that all contractors applying for business permit are registered with PCAB	
Transport services for missionary routes	LGUs to identify the possible missionary routes that could be provided with transport services.	LGUS, MARINA

Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

MIMAROPA continuously enjoys a generally peaceful and orderly environment through the efforts of all stakeholders concerned. Existence of insurgency may disrupt normal business operations and the everyday lives of the people. Different programs and initiatives were made to address the problem on internal conflict with armed groups and create a conducive and favorable environment for economic and social development.

Unity for a just and lasting peace can be attained by addressing the roots of the armed conflict and forging comprehensive agreements on major social, economic and political reforms, at the regional level. The law enforcement agencies, community, and other stakeholders aim to ensure a safer and more secure environment that offers just and lasting peace in the region.

Figure 17.1 Strategic Framework for Attaining Just and Lasting Peace



Accomplishment

In December 2018, the President signed Executive Order (EO) No. 70 institutionalizing the whole-of-nation approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable peace, creating a national task force to end local communist armed conflict, and directing the adoption of a national peace framework.

The MIMAROPA Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) was able to identify 69 priority convergence areas following the criteria specified in the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01-2019 on EO No. 70, s. 2018. The 69 areas are being prioritized by the national government agencies in providing basic health and social services.

The implementation of whole-of-nation approach has been put in place by the MIMAROPA RTF ELCAC. Initiatives and efforts are finally taking root but more is needed to maintain the momentum in gaining headways against the communist terrorist groups (CTGs).

The region has been proactive in the implementation of EO)No. 70, s. 2018 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peace agreements with all internal armed conflict groups successfully negotiated and implemented

In 2020, a total of five violent incidents perpetrated by the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's Army (CPP/NDF/NPA) was recorded. Four of these incidents were in the province of Palawan and one incident was in Oriental Mindoro, which was a reported ambush to the Philippine National Police in the municipality of Mansalay. Despite the decrease of 44.44 percent from last year's nine incidents, which include ambushes and harassments, the target of having zero incidents for CY 2020 was not achieved.

The region set the target at zero insurgency-affected barangays by 2020. However, a total of eleven conflict-affected barangays in the region was recorded: a) five in Oriental Mindoro (barangay Lisap in Bongabong; barangay Benli in Bulalacao, and c) barangays Panaytayan, Balugo, and Teresita in Mansalay) and b) six in Occidental Mindoro (barangay Monteclaro in San Jose; barangays Paclolo, and Purnaga in Magsaysay; and barangays Manoot, Limlim, and Tanyag in Rizal) This was higher by 120 percent compared to the five affected barangays recorded in 2019.

Communities in conflictaffected and conflictvulnerable areas protected and developed.

In 2020, the 100 percent compliance to the establishment of barangay information networks (BINs) was maintained.

A total of 216 rebel returnees was recorded in 2020. This exceeded the target set at 30 surrendered rebels (refer to Table 17.1).

A total of 12 high powered firearms and six low powered firearms was seized, while six high powered firearms and three low powered firearms were surrendered in 2020.

The indigenous peoples of Mindoro islands remain the primary targets for enemy recruitment. No incidents were recorded in Marinduque and Romblon. This led to the declaration of these provinces as unaffected or with a stable internal peace and security.

A total of 216 surrenderers from the region was recorded in 2020, 96 of which are now beneficiaries of the enhanced comprehensive local integration program (E-CLIP). This exceeded the target set at 30 recipients (refer to Table 17.1). The E-CLIP seeks to contribute toward achieving the goal of permanent and peace closure of all armed conflicts with non-state armed group.

Table 17.1 Results Matrix for Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

	Region/	Baseline		Annual Plan Targe	t	Accomplish-	Reporting		
Indicator	Province	Value (2016)	2020	2021	2022	ment 2020	Entity		
Peace agreements with all internal armed conflict groups successfully negotiated and implemented									
Number of NPA initiated violent incidents decreased	MIMAROPA	8	0	0	0	5 (below target)	AFP PNP		
Number of insurgency- affected barangays decreased	MIMAROPA	11	0	0	0	11 (below target)	AFP PNP		
Percentage of barangays affected by internal armed conflict cleared and protected		0.8%	33%	100%	100%		AFP PNP		
Number of CNTs neutralized		4	37	12	0	13 (below target)	AFP		
Number of surrendered rebels increased	MIMAROPA	20	30	35	40	216 (exceeded target)	AFP PNP		
Communities in o	conflict-affected a	nd conflict-vulner	able areas protect	ed and developed					
Number of barangays with active BIN	MIMAROPA	1,459	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460 (target achieved)	PNP		
Number of PAMANA projects	MIMAROPA	1	27	30	33		DILG		
OPPAP									
Number of E- CLIP recipients	MIMAROPA	15	30	35	40	96 (exceeded target)	DILG		

Sources: Armed Forces of the Philippines; Philippine National Police MIMAROPA; Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process

Moving Forward

Monthly meetings of key government agencies and law enforcement agencies were also vital to exchange information on counter terrorism, destabilization, anti-criminality, and threat groups. Partnerships among pillars of the criminal justice system and other agencies were strengthened through collaboration on religious, health, education, and environmental protection, and other activities.

The following priority strategies included in the RDP 2017-2022 shall be implemented: 1) Institutionalization of Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018 through the MIMAROPA Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) and convergence approach; 2) delivery of basic services and social development packages in

conflict-affected areas and vulnerable communities especially those in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) should be prioritized and harmonized. A total of 69 barangays was identified as priority convergence areas for 2019; 3) ensure the rights of IPs during armed conflict; 4) support the peace and development roadmap of the present administration which aims to have a final peace agreement with the CNN; 5) support the AFP's development support and security plan; 6) intensify intelligence monitoring of law enforcement entities; 7) activate the barangay information networks; 8) provide and strengthen livelihood assistance to conflict-affected areas through the PAMANA program; and 9) continue the E-CLIP project.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are provided to address the challenges/issues in attaining just and lasting peace:

Table 17.2 Supplemental Strategies to Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

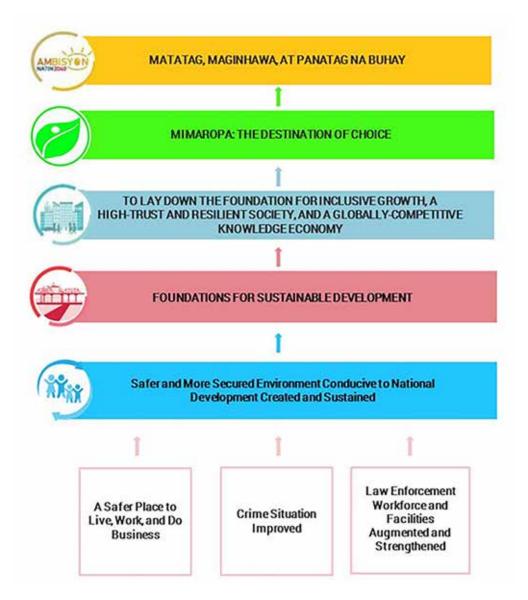
	8,	
Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Presence of CNN still poses threat to peace and security situation in MIMAROPA	 Intensify intelligence monitoring of law enforcement entities to prevent terror threats. Activate the barangay infor- mation networks (BINs) and capacitate them in information gathering. 	AFP, PNP
Region's archipelagic characteristic provides numerous entry and exit points which may open opportunities to terrorist groups	Establish constant presence at the exit points in order to sustain peace and or- der situation	AFP,PNP
Popularity of the region as a tourist destina- tion can bring potential threats to peace and security	Security protocols on all ports	
	Collaborative effort of law enforcement offices with other RLAs and LGUs	AFP, PNP, DILG

Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

This chapter presents the different undertakings of the law enforcement agencies to ensure security, public order, and safety.

MIMAROPA region continuously enjoys the environment of peace and stability due to the sustained implementation of anti-criminality plans. The region remains to be a safe place to live and do business, and a safe haven in the region.

Figure 18.1 Strategic Framework for Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety



Accomplishment

Crime situation improved

MIMAROPA's index crime volume decreased by 17.35 percent from the registered 1,078 index crimes in 2019 to 891 incidents in 2020. This surpassed the 2020 target in the updated RDP which was set at 7,000 index crimes. The average monthly index crime rate for 2020 was recorded at two incidents per 100,000 population. This was lower compared to the three incidents per 100,000 population recorded in 2019. Index crimes include crimes against persons such as murder, homicide, physical injury, and rape; and crimes against property such as robbery, theft, carnapping/carjacking, and cattle rustling.

The region's crime clearance efficiency rate increased by 1.12 percentage points from 97.36 percent in 2019 to 98.48 percent in 2020, exceeding the RDP target of 80.04 percent. The region's crime solution efficiency rate decreased by 6.59 percentage points from 84.36 percent in 2019 to 77.77 percent in 2020. Despite the decrease, the RDP target of 63.62 percent was exceeded.

In MIMAROPA, the index crime solution efficiency decreased by 8.43 percentage points from 70.50 percent in 2019 to 62.07 percent in 2020. The region's non-index crime solution efficiency also decreased by 1.26 percentage points from 79.43 percent in 2019 to 78.17 percent in 2020. Non-index crimes are violations of special laws such as illegal drugs, violence against women and children, child abuse, traffic code, firearms, illegal gambling, illegal logging, juvenile act, and illegal fishing.

The number of arrested wanted persons decreased by 5.92 percentage points from 34.67 percent in 2019 to 28.75 percent in 2020. This was also lower than the 2020 RDP set target of 80 percent.

In 2020, the number of illegal drug-affected barangays in the region decreased to 201 barangays from 340 illegal drug-affected barangays in 2019. Palawan recorded the highest drug affectation with 21.25 percent or 92 affected barangays, 32 barangays of which were from Puerto Princesa City. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 78 barangays, Occidental Mindoro with 28

barangays, and Romblon with three barangays. The province of Marinduque was recorded as a drug cleared province. Out of the 1,460 barangays in the region, 1,259 barangays were reported as drug-cleared barangays.

A safer place to live, work, and do business

In 2020, 32.24 percent of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) members in the region were trained. This was 11.31 percentage points lower than the 43.55 percent recorded in 2019. The 80.0 percent RDP target for 2020 was not achieved. The province of Romblon recorded the highest percentage of BPAT members trained of about 85.00 percent. It is followed by Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro with 69.98 percent and 37.46 percent, respectively. The BPAT members were conceived to address concerns on peace, order, and safety at the grassroots level, the barangay. The BPATs are the prime movers of the Barangay Peacekeeping Operations that will render services tailor-made for the community to which they belong and serve. They focused on the three general endeavors which are; security services focused on the proactive communitybased policing system, conflict resolution through Barangay Justice System, and crisis management which includes disaster mitigation.

In 2020, all 1,460 barangays in the region have already established and maintained their own Barangay Anti-Illegal Drug Abuse Councils and have active Barangay Information/Intelligence Networks (BIN). The council is established to assist law enforcement agencies in the eradication and clearing operations of illegal drugs within their jurisdiction while BINs are used to gather or collect information in the community also known as "Eyes and Ears" in the barangay or anything that can affect the peace and order in the community. Both indicators achieved the end-of-plan targets indicated in the MIMAROPA RDP.

Community participation plays an important role in ensuring security, public order, and safety. The PRO MIMAROPA reported a total of 1,429,579 community – awareness activities was conducted in 2020. These are community-wide campaigns and initiatives that increase audience knowledge and share information and resources to prevent violence,

promote safety, and ensure security and public order in the region. It exceeded the MIMAROPA RDP target of 34,583 activities for 2020.

No human trafficking incident was reported in the region in 2020.

A total of 250 VAWC victims was reported in 2020. This was 10.07 percent lower than 278 reported total number of VAWC victims in 2019.

In 2020, a total of 48 casualties was recorded due to natural disasters. Of the 48 death incidents, 43 deaths were due to COVID-19 pandemic while five were due to the effects of typhoon, particularly typhoon Quinta. There were no casualties recorded after typhoons Rolly and Ulysses.

Law enforcement workforce and facilities augmented and strengthened

As of 2020, there are eight forensic laboratories in the region to support the region's campaign against illegal drugs. Seven of these laboratories were under the management of the PRO MIMAROPA and the remaining were under PDEA MIMAROPA.

No drug rehabilitation center established in the region as of to date. However, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in collaboration with the PNP and host LGUs, continuous to implement the "Balay Silangan", a national drug reformation

program aimed to reform drug offenders into selfsufficient and law-abiding members of society.

A total of 517 fishery law enforcement field operations was conducted by BFAR MIMAROPA Fishery Protection and Law Enforcement Group in different hotspot areas consisting of seaborne patrol operation, market denial, and fish landing denial, mobile checkpoint, and information gathering/surveillance and boarding inspection. The bureau also rendered a total of eighty (80) legal and advisory services and all of those was filed in court against fishery law violators. These cases are violations on RA 10654 Section 97, Section 113, Section 121, Section 86a (2), Section 95, Section 128 in relation to FAO 198 Section 28, Section 126, and Section 86a (1).

The current police officer to population ratio for the period is 1:526. It was actually better compared to 1:559 ratio in 2019, but still not achieved the target of 1:500 police officer to population ratio for 2020.

Currently, there are 58 fire stations established and maintained fire stations in the region. A total of 944 firefighters has been recorded in the region in 2020: 142 firefighters in the Regional Headquarters, 80 in Marinduque, 121 in Occidental Mindoro, 216 in Oriental Mindoro, 245 in Palawan, and 140 in Romblon. In 2020, a total of 182 fire incidents was suppressed across the region. Out of the 182 incidents, 87 incidents are in the province of Palawan. The current fireman to population ratio for the period is 1:3,139. It was actually better compared to 1:3,322 ratio in 2019, however, it was still far from achieving the target of 1:2000 fireman to population ratio.

Table 18.1 Results Matrix for Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

	Region/	Baseline	An	nual Plan Targ	et	Accomplish-	
Indicator	Province	Value (2016)	2020	2021	2022	ment 2020	Reporting Entity
Percentage of BPAT members trained	MIMAROPA	8.11%	80%	90%	100%	32.24%	PNP
Number of Barangay Anti-Illegal Drug Abuse Councils established/ maintained	MIMAROPA	1459	1460	1460	1460	1460	PNP
Number of barangays with active BIN	MIMAROPA	1459	1460	1460	1460	1460	PNP
Number of community- awareness activities	MIMAROPA	20,603	34,583	36,312	38,128	1,429,579	PNP
Number of victims of VAWC	MIMAROPA					250	PNP

	Region/	Baseline	Ar	nual Plan Tarç	jet	Accomplish-	
Indicator	Province	Value (2016)	2020	2021	2022	ment 2020	Reporting Entity
Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population	MIMAROPA	13	0	0	0	0	PNP
Reduce index crime volume	MIMAROPA	3,774	7,000	6,000	5,000	891	PNP
Reduce average monthly index crime rate	MIMAROPA	10.23%	27.99%	24.84%	22.04%	2	PNP
Crime clearance efficiency rating increased	MIMAROPA	58.38%	80%	85%	91%	98.48%	PNP
Crime solution efficiency rating increased	MIMAROPA	45.30%	63.62%	68.62%	73.62%	77.77%	PNP
Index crime solution efficiency improved	MIMAROPA	31.72%	44%	47%	51%	62.07%	PNP
Non-index crime solution efficiency improved	MIMAROPA	51.33%	75%	81%	87%	78.17%	PNP
Number of arrested wanted persons increased	MIMAROPA	1,363	80%	85%	90%	28.75%	PNP
Number of illegal drug- affected barangays	MIMAROPA	162	0	0	0	201	PDEA
Number of drug-cleared barangays	MIMAROPA	614	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,259	PDEA
Zero casualties due to natural disasters	MIMAROPA	4	0	0	0	48	OCD
Number of maintained forensic laboratories	MIMAROPA	0	5	5	5	8	PDEA, PNP
Drug rehabilitation centers established/ maintained	MIMAROPA	0	5	5	5	0	PDEA
Number of fishery law enforcement activities conducted in Fishery Management Areas (FMAs)	MIMAROPA	71	272	286	286	517	BFAR
Police to population ratio	MIMAROPA	1:651	1:500	1:500	1:500	1:526	PNP
Fireman to population ratio	MIMAROPA	1:5604	1:2000	1:2000	1:2000	1:3,139	BFP
Number of Suppressed Fire Incidents	MIMAROPA	472	0	0	0	182	BFP
Number of fire stations established/ Maintained	MIMAROPA	42	67	70	73	57	BFP

Source: Philippine National Police MIMAROPA and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency MIMAROPA, BFAR MIMAROPA, BFP MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

To mitigate increasing tensions in the region arising from the possible militarization of reclaimed islands, the MIMAROPA region shall advocate and work towards the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes and overlapping maritime

claims in the West Philippine Sea.

Modernization of the Armed Forces and Coast Guard shall be sustained. The establishment of maritime watch centers must be pursued. Likewise, the facilities, equipment, and skills of maritime law enforcers and of LGUs should be enhanced.

The government's capability to address criminality and illegal drugs need improvement. As a result of intensified criticisms, the President designated the PDEA as the sole agency in charge of the anti-illegal drugs campaign, however, the agency does not have the adequate budget, personnel, and equipment to fully and effectively enforce the campaign, which may counter the recent achievements of the government.

The integration of human rights in police and military training shall be institutionalized, while human rights offices, desks, or units shall be established in all police and military headquarters. Further, the security sector shall establish and strengthen mechanisms to monitor human rights abuses in law enforcement operations in support of the CHR.

Equally important are strategies to reduce the demand for illegal drugs. There should be a more aggressive promotion of activities involving the youth like sports, civic action, culture, and the arts.

Recommendations

To address the gaps of the existing programs and projects on ensuring security, public order, and safety, the following strategies are recommended for implementation of concerned agencies:

Table 18.2 Supplemental Strategies to Ensure Security, Public Order, and Safety

Challenges		Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Upholding and protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty	•	Strengthen border security and patrol measures to protect our porous borders from smuggling, piracy, and trafficking.	AFP (WesCom), PNP, PCG, BFAR
Reducing all forms of criminality and illegal drugs	•	Advocate participation of the Community to ensure greater participation in the various peace and order programs and initiatives in the region.	
Conduct crime prevention campaigns in the communities to ensure awareness of social responsibilities in crime prevention.	•	DepEd, CHED, NCCA, NYC, LGUs, PSRs	
No drug rehabilitation center in the region	•	Establish rehabilitation centers or increase the number of Balay Silangan	PDEA, DOH

Accelerating Infrastructure Development

The Infrastructure Development Sector is the basic physical system of the region that is vital to its economic development and prosperity. The hard and visible infrastructure, like roads, bridges, electricity, water supply, health and educational facilities, and telecommunications, need to be complemented with soft components such as policies and regulations, to enable the whole system to work efficiently and produce positive results to the economy.

The Infrastructure Development Sector covers the following sub-sectors: Transportation, Water Development, Communications, Power and Energy, and Social Infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the implementation of infrastructure projects—for both on-going and proposed projects in 2020. Most of the ongoing infrastructure projects were delayed due to lockdown or strict health and travel restriction for the contractors, and workers coming from outside of the project locations.

The need for a reliable digital infrastructure is critical in the new normal of doing business in lieu of physical contact.

This chapter highlights the performance of the five infrastructure subsectors in 2020 and its contribution to the attainment of the development goals set in the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 amidst the challenges that the sector faced in the presence of the COVID 19 pandemic.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY

MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE

TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

PAGRABAGO
REDUCING INEQUALITY

**Accelerate Physical Connectively of All Islands

Of All Islands

PAGRABAGO
REDUCING INEQUALITY

**Accelerate Physical Connectively of All Islands

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Region

Strategic Flood Cont

Figure 19.1 Strategic Framework for Accelerating Infrastructure Development

Accomplishments

Transportation

The transportation subsector is composed of water transportation, air transportation, and land transportation. Transportation plays a critical role in physically integrating the region through interregional and intra-regional connection.

Water Transportation

The MIMAROPA region is archipelagic in nature, composed of island provinces and municipalities; this makes water transport the primary mode of

transportation of the region. Because of this, the region recognizes the need for the continuous improvement of water transport services to ensure the effective and efficient means of transporting people, primary goods, and other services.

To measure the development of the sector, the RDP 2017-2022 monitors four (4) indicators on water transportation, these include the increase in shipcalls, increase in domestic and foreign, and cargo throughput, and the increase in number of passengers.

Shipcalls posted an upward trend from 49,275 in 2016 to 55,774 in 2019. The trend was broken in 2020 when the number of shipcalls dropped to 31,823.

Total cargo volume discharged and loaded at the

ports in the region showed a decreasing trend from 8.405 million metric tons (mmt) in 2016 to 8.202 mmt in 2018 and gradually increasing to 9.443 mmt in 2020. The downward trend in cargo was associated with the slowing of mineral exports from Palawan due to low prices of nickel in the world market. Domestic cargo continued to increase from 2016 to 2020 which confirms sea transport as the primary mode of transport in the region.

Due to the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon since March 16, 2020, water transportation operations were affected negatively, especially the number of shipcalls and passenger traffic. No cruise ship docked in MIMAROPA ports in 2020 due to the worldwide travel restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Air Transportation

The region experienced a rapid increase of aircraft movement from 41,946 in 2016 to 76,561 in 2017. The increase is associated with the increased demand for flights in aviation schools in the region. A regular downward but gradual trend can be observed if flights from aviation schools were excluded. This can be attributed to the airline companies' shift to bigger capacity aircrafts. A sharp decline in aircraft movement was observed from 28,584 in 2019 to 8,327 in 2020.

Passenger traffic continued a steady increase from 2,060,895 in 2016 to 2,941,005 in 2019 before dropping to 651,155 in 2020.

Air cargo also showed a steady increase from 20,468,110 in 2016 to 24,609,519 in 2019 before dropping to 11,231,505 in 2020.

The decrease in the aircraft movement, passenger traffic, and air cargoes in major airports in the region was associated with the stoppage and limited airport operations due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of the pandemic on the tourism industry also affected the air passengers' movement due to the mandatory protocols and requirements for travelers.

Land Transport

The number of motor vehicles registered in MIMAROPA decreased by 15.67 percent from 241,032 motor vehicles in 2019 to 203,264 motor vehicles in 2020.

Of the 203,264 registered motor vehicles, 26.30 percent or 53,453 motor vehicles are newly registered, while the remaining 149,811 motor vehicles are registered for renewals.

Among the MIMAROPA provinces, Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest number of registered motor vehicles with 74,052 motor vehicles. This was followed by Palawan with 39,122 registered motor vehicles, Occidental Mindoro with 20,334 registered motor vehicles, and Marinduque with 8,793 registered motor vehicles. Romblon recorded the lowest number of registered motor vehicles with 7,510 motor vehicles.

The decline in the registration of vehicles for 2020 is due to the imposed community quarantine and health protocols/guidelines.

Percentage of paved secondary roads in the region have improved from 84.67 percent in 2016 to 98.81 percent in 2020. Percentage of paved tertiary roads in the region also increased from 77.13 percent in 2016 to 98.32 percent in 2020.

Length of permanent bridges increased from 21,097 l.m. in 2016 to 22,619 l.m. in 2020. The number of permanent bridges increased from 602 in 2016 to 625 in 2020.

Power and Energy

The MIMAROPA region is served by eight (8) Electric Cooperatives (ECs) namely: Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO), Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMECO), Lubang Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LUBELCO), Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO), Tablas Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TIELCO), Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ROMELCO), Palawan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PALECO), and Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO).

Generally, the demand of power during the ECQ did not affect the dependable power supply in the region which still have a power supply reserve of 51.575 MW in 2020. In terms of power interruptions, Lubang Island in Occidental Mindoro experienced the most number of power interruptions and longest duration of power interruptions in minutes per month. During the ECQ, PALECO reported the most number of power interruption in a month, but ORMECO reported the longest duration of power interruption with

3,092.47 minutes per month. This is reflected in the National Electrification Administration (NEA) May 6, 2020 power monitoring report. ORMECO encountered supply shortage deficit of 4MW which resulted in rotational brown out in Oriental Mindoro on May 5-6.

The number of households with power connections in 2020 reached a total of 690, 981 from last year's 609,186 household or 91.01 percent of the total potential. The 2020 target of 93.00 percent household electrification was not achieved.

Marinduque, has achieved 100 percent household connections. Palawan has the lowest percentage of households provided with electric power supply in the region with 81 percent from last year's 58.77 percent.

Occidental Mindoro posted an increase of 2.36 percent in household electrification from 79.33 percent in 2019 to 81.2 percent in 2020. Romblon posted an increase of 0.49 percent in household electrification from 98.91 percent in 2019 to 99.4 percent in 2020.

Regional power consumption decreased by 5.94 percent from 977.1 GWh in 2019 to 919.0 GWh in 2020. The decrease in the regional power consumption can be attributed to the lockdown of schools, offices, businesses and other commercial establishments, where most of the population stayed at home due to the pandemic.

The region's renewable energy (RE) capacity increased from 43.9MW in 2019 to 50.9MW in 2020. The RE capacity added is based on existing RE installed capacity in the region inclusive of the completed 16-MW PHESI Wind Project (not yet commercially operational) and the 2-MWp Solar Para sa Bayan Project in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. The data also includes those generated for own use such as those in Puerto Princesa City Hall and Robinsons Mall in Palawan.

Average distribution losses from MIMAROPA electric distribution utilities fell to 9.9 percent in 2020 from 10.3 percent in 2019. This is within the 12 percent limit approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The operating margin or net system reserve in the region is at 15.5 percent in 2020 from 6.6 percent in 2019 which is above the 10 percent of the minimum prescribed on Section 6.1.1.1 (a) of the Philippine Small Grid Guidelines (PSGG).

The high reserve margin is not desirable as it causes over-investment in power generation and may impact the electricity prices. But since it was pandemic in 2020, industries and offices were closed which resulted to the high reserve margin.

NPC's San Jose and Concepcion Diesel Power Plants have granted 3,500 connected households round the clock power operations before 2020 ends in these island municipalities of Romblon. Both power plants have huge power reserves which allowed for the extension of service hours into 24/7. San Jose and Concepcion have a power demand of 403kW and 175kW, while their current capacities stand at 850kW and 1190 kW, respectively.

Various transmission and substation projects in the provinces of Palawan, Mindoro, and Marinduque awarded in 2019 were continued implementation in 2020. These projects will secure a more reliable and resilient transmission system to the provinces and in the long run will also help the electric cooperatives in reducing their systems losses.

The supply and installation of the Roxas to Taytay 69 kV transmission line in Palawan comes in two work packages. Package 1 will cover 36 circuit kilometers from the Roxas substation to Alimanguan while package 2 will cover 34 circuit kilometers from Alimanguan to Napocor's substation in Taytay.

The rehabilitation of the 53 km Minolo to Mamburao 69 kV transmission in Mindoro Island includes replacing wooden poles with steel and concrete. The construction of another 10 MVA substation in Mogpog and rehabilitation and transfer of the existing 10 MVA substation in Boac to Mogpog in Marinduque would ensure the safe and reliable transmission of power from Boac to Torrijos load-end substation.

Water Resources

Water Supply

The performance targets for the number of households with access to safe water and level III household connections in the region were not achieved.

In 2020, the number of households with access to safe water supply reached 735,729 or only 45.62 percent in 2020 against the 98.52 percent target. Level III household connections recorded 29.74

percent in 2020 against the 53 percent target.

Marinduque showed the highest percent increase of households with access to safe water with 2.85 percent and number of households with access to safe water in Oriental Mindoro decreased by 0.19 percent. Only partial report was submitted for Palawan, Puerto Princesa and Romblon.

Marinduque showed the highest percent increase of level III household connections with 1.4 percent or 1,684, followed by Oriental Mindoro with 0.97 percent or 2,655. Only partial report was submitted for Palawan, Puerto Princesa and Romblon.

Irrigation

Majority of the targets for the irrigation development were achieved. The cropping intensity increased by 15.75 percent from 51.61 percent in 2019 to 59.74 percent in 2020 and the ratio of actual Irrigated area to the total potential irrigable area increased by 11.83 percent from 75.84 percent in 2019 to 84.81 percent in 2020.

The National Irrigation System (NIS) and Communal Irrigation System (CIS) developed areas exceeded the 2020 target by 14,726.51 hectares and 4,646 hectares respectively.

The National Irrigation System (NIS) developed area in MIMAROPA increased by 13.92 percent from 30,732.46 hectares in 2019 to 35,010.46 hectares in 2020. Oriental Mindoro has the highest percentage of NIS developed area with 32.77 percent, followed by Occidental Mindoro with 1.6 percent. There is no increase in the NIS developed area in Romblon and Palawan. Marinduque has no national irrigation system.

In 2020, the total Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) area developed in MIMAROPA is at 48,151.68 hectares, an increase of 4.63 percent from the previous 46,021.64 hectares developed in 2019.

Occidental Mindoro has the highest percentage of communal irrigation system developed area with 28.34 percent, followed by Marinduque with 11.32 percent. Romblon has the lowest percentage of CIS developed area at 1.65 percent.

Flood Control

The target for the number of flood control projects

along principal river basins was not achieved. For 2019, DPWH invested a total of 2.765 billion for 92 flood control projects which is higher than the 81 projects amounting to 2.187 billion funded in 2019. The number of flood control projects along principal river basins in 2020 increased by 11 projects compared to 2019.

Oriental Mindoro has the greatest number of flood control projects with 37, followed by Palawan with 19, Romblon with 14, Occidental Mindoro with 13, and Marinduque with only nine (9) flood control projects funded in 2020.

A total of 12 flood control projects were completed in 2020, four (4) of the completed flood control projects were located in Oriental Mindoro, and two (2) flood control projects each were constructed in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan.

Communications

Critical roadmaps and programs towards the development of ICT have been taking roots in the region. These include the implementation of the following: a) free Wi-Fi access in public areas; and b) National Broadband Plan (NBP). Additional digital infrastructures were established in the region to provide connections to unserved and underserved areas and to streamline e-government services.

Through the Free Wi-Fi for All Program, internet connectivity is being provided in public places for free. Since online connectivity is becoming more and more significant in the new normal, the great need of MIMAROPAns is being continuously responded with the implementation of various Free Wi-Fi for All Projects.

For 2020, the region has activated seventy (70) sites in MIMAROPA. These newly activated sites were utilized in state universities and colleges, hospitals and local government units within the region.

In Occidental Mindoro, the sites are for public use at Occidental Mindoro State College, Occidental Mindoro State College-Labangan Campus, Occidental Mindoro Provincial Hospital, Occidental Mindoro State College-Mamburao and Provincial Capitol of Occidental Mindoro.

For Oriental Mindoro, the additional Free Wi-Fi

for All sites were established at Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital, Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology-Calapan City Campus, Oriental Mindoro Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, Provincial Capitol of Oriental Mindoro, Bongabong Community Hospital, Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology-Bongabong Campus, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Bansud and Baco Community College.

The DICT-UNDP partnership provided internet connection in remote areas in Palawan, with ten sites which includes, Salvacion Elementary School, Malcampo Elementary School, New Cuyo Elementary School, Rodriguez Elementary School, Caramay Barangay Hall, Nicanor Zabala National High School, Maribong Elementary School, Sofronio Española Municipal Hall, Panitian Interior Elementary School and Tiniguiban Sports Complex as the beneficiary sites. More remote sites are to be implemented and covered with Free Wi-Fi for All through the DICT-UNDP partnership.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the region totally worked towards providing the internet connection needs of the public, citing the lending of nineteen (19) LTE routers with subscribed unlimited data, calls and SMS subscription in quarantine facilities, isolation facilities and rural health unit in MIMAROPA.

In Occidental Mindoro, the following has been provided with temporary unlimited internet subscription: Abra De Ilog Community Hospital and Municipal Hall, Occidental Mindoro Provincial Hospital, San Sebastian District Hospital and Sta. Cruz Community Hospital.

In Oriental Mindoro, temporary unlimited internet subscription is being utilized at Calapan City College Quarantine Facility, Calapan City LGU Quarantine Facility, Calapan RHU North, and Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital.

In Marinduque, temporary unlimited internet subscription is being utilized at Marinduque State College - Boac Quarantine Facility, Sta. Cruz District Hospital and Torrijos Municipal Hospital.

In Romblon, temporary unlimited internet subscription is being utilized at Romblon District Hospital and Romblon Provincial Hospital.

In Palawan, temporary unlimited internet subscription is being utilized at Aborlan Medicare Hospital, Bataraza District Hospital, Camp Ricarte Station Hospital, Ospital ng Palawan Isolation Facility for Front liners, Ospital ng Palawan Isolation Facility for Patients and Southern Palawan Provincial Hospital.

Social Infrastructures

Education Facilities

The support to provide better quality and access to basic education facilities continues through the Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF) program. The program covered the provision of school furniture and construction, repair, and electrification of classrooms.

The classroom-pupil ratio for elementary and secondary recorded at 1:26 and 1:39 for SY 2019-2020 to 1:27 and 1:46 for SY 2020-2021, respectively. Both indicators are lower than the target classroom-pupil ratio set in the RDP in 2020, which were set at 1:30 and 1:40, respectively.

Among the five provinces in MIMAROPA, Romblon recorded the lowest classroom-pupil ratio for elementary at 1:21 and Marinduque for secondary at 1:41. While Occidental Mindoro registered the highest classroom-pupil ratio for both elementary and secondary at 1:29 and 1:55, respectively.

From 2018 to 2020, the proportion of public schools with connection with basic utilities (electricity, computer, internet, safe water to drink, and functional hand washing facility) to total number of public schools in region improved. This is attributed to the continuous implementation of BEFF program in the region.

The proportion of public schools with connection to electricity to total number of public schools (elementary level) improved by 4.5 percentage points from 93.91 percent in 2018 to 98.41 percent in 2020, while proportion of public schools with connection to electricity to total number of public schools (junior high school level) increased by 1.71 percentage points from 96.79 percent in 2018 to 98.50 percent in 2020. In addition, the proportion of public schools with connection to electricity to total number of public schools (senior high school level) recorded at 100 percent for 2020.

The proportion of public schools with access to internet to total number of public schools (elementary level) decreased by 1.96 percentage points from 28.28 percent in 2018 to 26.32 percent in 2020, while proportion of public schools with access to internet to total number of public schools (junior high school level) increased by 1.72 percentage points from 48.89 percent in 2018 to 50.61 percent in 2020. The proportion of public schools with access to internet to total number of public schools (senior high school level) recorded at 47.74 percent in 2020.

On the other hand, the proportions of public schools with access to computer to total number of public schools in elementary level increased by 5.4 percentage points from 82.10 percent in 2018 to 87.50 percent in 2020, while a decrease of 0.53 percentage points from 87.39 percent in 2018 to 86.86 percent in 2020 was recorded for the junior high school level. A 74.44 percent proportion of public schools to the public schools in the senior high school level in 2020 was also recorded.

The proportion of public schools with access to basic drinking water/safe water to drink to total number of public schools in elementary and junior high school level both decreased by 17.85 percentage points from 42.80 percent in 2018 to 24.95 percent in 2020 and 16.07 percentage points from 39.68 percent in 2018 to 23.61 percent in 2020, respectively. For senior high school level, the region recorded 21.8 percent for 2020.

The proportion of public schools with access to water supply/functional hand washing facility to total number of public schools in elementary and junior high school level increased by 4.9 percentage points from 76.69 percent in 2018 to 81.59 percent in 2020 and 7.18 percentage points from 67.43 percent in 2018 to 74.61 percent in 2020, respectively. The proportion of public schools with access to water supply/functional hand washing facility to total number of public schools in senior high school level recorded at 63.53 percent in 2020.

Further, the proportion of public schools with access to single-sex toilet bowls/urinals to the total number of public schools in elementary, junior high school, and senior high school level were recorded at 50.21 percent, 79.29 percent, and 53.13 percent in 2020, respectively.

Health Facilities

Gaps in health infrastructures in rural areas has narrowed, however, delays in implementing Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) continue to hinder the improvement of access to quality healthcare services.

In 2019, there were a total of 26 programmed HFEP projects being implemented amounting to P73,400 million (only for construction of infrastructure facilities and provision of medical equipment), 8 has been completed, 1 on-going, 16 were awarded, and 1 for procurement process. No budget was allocated for HFEP projects in 2020.

For hospitals and infirmaries, the number of hospitals in the region increased from 28 hospitals in 2019 to 31 hospitals in 2020, while the number of infirmaries also increased from 40 infirmaries in 2019 to 42 infirmaries in 2020. Among the five MIMAROPA provinces, Palawan recorded the highest number of hospitals with 14 hospitals, followed by Oriental Mindoro with 10 hospitals, and Occidental Mindoro and Romblon with 3 hospitals. Marinduque registered the lowest number of hospitals with one hospital.

The hospital bed to population ratio in the region increased from 1:2,011 in 2019 to 1:1,884 in 2020. This is still below the target hospital bed to population ratio, which was set at 1:1,000 in 2020. This may be attributed to: a) increase in projected population; and b) decrease in authorized bed capacity because of reclassification of some level 1 hospitals to infirmaries.

Among the five MIMAROPA provinces, Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest hospital bed to population ratio with 1:2,575. Palawan recorded the lowest hospital bed to population ratio with 1:1,481.

The number of barangays with barangay health stations (BHS) and rural health unit/urban health center (RHU/UHC) in the region increased. There are 1,171 BHS in 2020 compare to the 1,134 BHS in 2019, while there are 79 RHU/UHC in 2020 from 71 RHU/UHC in 2019.

Among the 31 hospitals in the region, 17 were selected as COVID-19 accepting hospital: a) one hospital in Marinduque; b) three hospitals in Occidental Mindoro; c) four hospitals in Oriental

Mindoro; d) seven hospitals in Palawan; and e) two hospitals in Romblon.

The number of hospital beds in the region remained at 1,596 beds. In the outburst of pandemic COVID-19, the DOH identified number of hospital beds which are allocated for COVID use (ICU beds with negative pressure, ICU beds without negative pressure, COVID isolation beds,and beds in COVID-positive ward) in the region.

Of the 1,596 hospital beds available in the region, 304 of which are allocated for COVID use. Palawan recorded the highest number of hospital beds allocated for COVID use with 99 beds. Marinduque reported the lowest number of hospital beds allocated for COVID use with 24 beds.

Of the 511 infirmary beds available in the region, 124 of which are allocated for COVID use. Oriental Mindoro registered the highest number of infirmary beds allocated for COVID use with 59 beds. Occidental Mindoro reported the lowest number of infirmary beds allocated to COVID use with seven beds. No infirmary bed was reported allocated for COVID use in Marinduque.

In terms of COVID-19 facilities, a total of 148 COVID-19 facilities (hospitals, evacuation centers, BHS, RHUs, UHCs, gymnasium, day care centers, and public schools) was recorded in the region.

The COVID-19 facilities identified by the DOH MIMAROPA and LGUs served as, including isolation/quarantine and temporary treatment and monitoring facilities.

Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest identified COVID-19 facilities with 61 facilities. This was followed by Palawan with 20 identified COVID-19 facilities, Romblon with 11 identified COVID-19 facilities, and Marinduque with four identified COVID-19 facilities. Occidental Mindoro registered the lowest number of identified COVID-19 facilities with three facilities.

Relative to the testing capacity of the region, there were three COVID-19 testing laboratory performing Rapid PCR testing using the GeneXpert machines in the region: 1) Ospital ng Palawan; 2) Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital; and 3) Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital.

Drug Rehabilitation Facilities

The P800 million MIMAROPA Regional Drug Rehabilitation and Treatment Center for drug surrenderers will soon rise in the Municipality of Bansud, Oriental Mindoro.

The facility which can serve more than 500 patients, would be the prime rehabilitation and recovery center for drug surrenderers of the five provinces of MIMAROPA. The facility will serve to augment the community-based rehabilitation being facilitated by provincial and local government units.

According to DOH there are currently 15 DOH-accredited physicians who handle the drug rehabilitation programs in MIMAROPA; three in Palawan; three in Marinduque; three in Romblon; two in Occidental Mindoro; and one in Oriental Mindoro.

Sanitation, Sewerage and Solid Waste Management

For 2020, of the 82.33 percent proportion of total households with access to basic safe water supply in the MIMAROPA, 46.41 percent of which used level 1 water supply, 18.76 percent used level 2, and 34.83 percent used level 3 water supply.

The households with access to basic sanitation facility in the region decreased from 79.72 percent in 2018 to 66.30 percent in 2020.

Among the five MIMAROPA provinces, Marinduque recorded the highest proportion of household with access to basic sanitation facility in 2020 with 94.97 percent. Palawan, excluding Puerto Princesa City, registered the lowest proportion of household with access to basic sanitation facility with 55.32 percent.

Table 19.1 Results Matrix for Accelerating Infrastructure Development

Indicator	Region/	Baseline			Accomplish-	Reporting	
muicator	Province	Value (2016)	2019	2020	2021	ment (2020)	Entity
Transportation							
Air Transport							
Number of flights (annual)	MIMAROPA	43,173	92,623	106,196	119,769	8,327.00	CAAP
Air passenger movement	MIMAROPA	2,091,353	3,244,667	3,590,120	3,935,573	651,155.00	CAAP
Cargo shipped via air (international and domestic) (kgs, annual)	MIMAROPA	20,714,791	27,229,574.50	29,584,699.60	31,939,824.70	11,231,505	CAAP
Water Transport							
Domestic cargo throughput (MT)	MIMAROPA	2,629,565	2,723,429	2,859,600	3,002,580	3,983,706.93	PPA
Foreign cargo throughput (MT)	MIMAROPA	5,775,784	5,251,446	5,514,019	5,789,719	5,459,911.39	PPA
Number of shipcalls	MIMAROPA	49,275	58,080	60,989	64,039	31,823	PPA
Number of passengers	MIMAROPA	9,612,022	11,384,712	11,957,522	12,555,398	2,934,924	PPA
Roads							
Percentage of paved national roads (secondary)	MIMAROPA	84.67%	90.00%	94.00%	98.00%	98.81	DPWH MIMAROPA
Percentage of paved national roads (tertiary)	MIMAROPA	77.13%	92.00%	94.00%	97.00%	98.32	DPWH MIMAROPA
Length of national roads	MIMAROPA	2,297.80	2,297.80	2,297.80	2,297.80	2,297.98	DPWH MIMAROPA
Road Incidence							
Road traffic accident rate reduced (in number of deaths per 100,000 population) - incidents of accidents	MIMAROPA	47 (2018)	0	0	0	No data	PNP MIMAROPA
Bridges							
Length of permanent bridges along national arterial roads increased (cumulative) (linear meters)	MIMAROPA	21,097	21,900	21,970	22,000	22,619	DPWH MIMAROPA
Length of National Bridges (cumulative) (permanent and temporary) (linear meter)	MIMAROPA	22,228.93	22,794.00	22,994.40	23,013.00	23,080	DPWH MIMAROPA
Number of National Bridges (permanent and temporary)	MIMAROPA	617	626	626	626	634	DPWH MIMAROPA

Indicator	Region/	Baseline		Annual Plan Target		Accomplish-	Reporting
indicator	Province	Value (2016)	2019	2020	2021	ment (2020)	Entity
Registrations and Permits/ Licenses	MIMAROPA	152,848	217,943	224,481	231,216	73,451	LTO MIMAROPA
Number of Motor vehicles registered	MIMAROPA	145,646	223,049	229,740	236,632	203,264	LTO MIMAROPA
	Marinduque		No Target	No Target	No Target	8,793	LTO MIMAROPA
	Occidental Mindoro		No Target	No Target	No Target	20,334	LTO MIMAROPA
	Oriental Mindoro		No Target	No Target	No Target	74,052	LTO MIMAROPA
	Palawan		No Target	No Target	No Target	39,456	LTO MIMAROPA
	Romblon		No Target	No Target	No Target	8,883	LTO MIMAROPA
	New Registration		No Target	No Target	No Target	53,453	LTO MIMAROPA
Others							
Public infrastructure spending (% share to GRDP)	MIMAROPA	125,597,582	150,151,495.57 (low) 151,585,607.2 (high)	158,109,524.82 (low) 161,135,500.52 (high)	167,121,767.74 (low) 171,931,579.05 (high)	2020 GRDP has yet to release.	PPA, NIA, PPA, NAPOCOR, CAAP, DOTr
Power and Energy							
Percentage of households provided with electric power supply	MIMAROPA	77.0	93.00	93.00	94.00	91.0	DOE
Regional Energy Consumption, GWh	MIMAROPA	739.3	948.3	1,019.4	1,089.2	919.0	DOE
Distribution loss (%) not exceed ERC-approved distribution system loss cap of 12%	MIMAROPA	11.36	9.78	9.65	9.53	9.9	DOE
Maintain operating margin or net system reserve above the minimum prescribed in the Philippine Small Grid Guidelines (10%)	MIMAROPA	14.73	37.56	38.37	39.19	15.5	DOE
Renewable energy (RE) capacity increased (MW. Cumulative)	MIMAROPA	6.00	43.725	57.725	71.725	50.9	DOE
Water Resources							
Proportion of household with access to safe water supply	MIMAROPA	92.04%	97.78%	98.82%	99.26%	45.62%	CHD
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	98.39%	CHD

Indicator	Region/	Baseline		Annual Plan Target		Accomplish-	Reporting
indicator	Province	Value (2016)	2019	2020	2021	ment (2020)	Entity
	Occ. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	54.13%	CHD
	Or. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	100.4%	CHD
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	5.02%	CHD
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	0%	CHD
Level III household connections	MIMAROPA	26.63 %	48%	53%	58%	29.74 %	CHD
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	46.38 %	CHD
	Occ. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	21.53 %	CHD
	Or. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	25.99 %	CHD
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	64.6 %	CHD
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	0 %	CHD
Cropping intensity increased (%, cumulative)	MIMAROPA		43.44%	45.90%	47.54%	35,010.46	NIA
Ratio of actual irrigated area to the total potential irrigable area increased (%, cumulative)	MIMAROPA		70.64%	72.75%	74.21	84.81%	NIA
National Irrigation Systems (NIS) Developed Area	MIMAROPA	19,007.95	20,130.95	20,283.95	20,436.95	35,010.46	NIA
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	0.00	NIA
	Occ. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	7,995.30	NIA
	Or. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	16,457.71	NIA
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	10,183.45	NIA
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	284	NIA
Communal Irrigation System	MIMAROPA	34,554.64	42,036.64	43,505	43,064.14	48,151.68	NIA
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	1,838.94	NIA
	Occ. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	14,931.74	NIA
	Or. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	12,365.06	NIA
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	17,048.84	NIA
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	1,967.10	NIA
Number of flood control projects along major river basins	MIMAROPA	31	101	121	141	92	DPWH MIMAROPA
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	9	DPWH MI- MAROPA
	Occ. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	13	DPWH MI- MAROPA
	Or. Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	37	DPWH MI- MAROPA
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	19	DPWH MI- MAROPA
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	14	DPWH MI- MAROPA

Indicator	Region/	Baseline		Annual Plan Target	Accomplish-	Reporting	
illuicatoi	Province	Value (2016)	2019	2020	2021	ment (2020)	Entity
Communications							
New powered- sites with free Wi-Fi internet access available in public areas increased		2	No Target	183	No Target	70	DICT Luzon Cluster 3
Social Infrastructur	e				'		ı
Classroom per pupi	l ratio						
Primary	MIMAROPA	1:30	1:33	1:30	1:33	1:27	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	1:22	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Occidental Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	1:29	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Oriental Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	1:29	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	1:27	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	1:21	DepEd MI- MAROPA
Secondary: Junior High School	MIMAROPA	1:48	1:44	1:40	1:44	1:46	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Marinduque		No target	No target	No target	1:41	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Occidental Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	1:55	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Oriental Mindoro		No target	No target	No target	1:47	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Palawan		No target	No target	No target	1:42	DepEd MI- MAROPA
	Romblon		No target	No target	No target	1:42	DepEd MI- MAROPA
Proportion of public	schools with cor	nection to electr	icity to total numbe	r of public schools i	increased (%, cumu	lative)	
Primary	MIMAROPA	66.86%	73.43%	75.62%	77.81%	98.41%	DepEd MI- MAROPA
Secondary: Junior High School	MIMAROPA	82.96%	86.48%	87.65%	88.83%	98.50%	DepEd MIMAROPA
Proportion of public	schools with ade	equate water and	sanitation facilities	to total number of	public schools incr	eased (%, cumula	tive)
Primary	MIMAROPA	95.26%	93.63%	98.42%	99.21%	No available data. NSBI for SY 2019-2020 is now being conducted	DepEd MIMAROPA
Secondary: Junior High School	Mimaropa	97.55%	99.18%	99.59%	100%	No available data. NSBI for SY 2019-2020 is now being conducted	DepEd MIMAROPA
Proportion of school	ols with:						
a. access to electric	city						

Indicator	Region/	Baseline		Annual Plan Target	Accomplish-	Reporting	
maicutor	Province	Value (2016)	2019	2020	2021	ment (2020)	Entity
a.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	66.86%	73.43%	75.62%	77.81%	98.41%	DepEd MIMAROPA
a.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	82.96%	86.48%	87.65%	88.83%	98.52%	DepEd MIMAROPA
b. access to interne	t						
b.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	21.17%	25.59%	27.06%	77.81%	26.32%	DepEd MIMAROPA
b.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	48.89%	54.45%	56.30%	58.15%	50.61%	DepEd MIMAROPA
c. access to compu	ters						
c.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	54.74%	57.37%	58.25%	59.12%	87.50%	DepEd MIMAROPA
c.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	68.40%	74.20%	76.13%	78.07%	86.86%	DepEd MIMAROPA
d. basic drinking wa	ater/ safe to drink	water					
d.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	21.17%	60.59%	30.48%	86.86%	24.95%	DepEd MIMAROPA
d.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	24.69%	62.35%	35.55%	87.45%	23.61%	DepEd MIMAROPA
e. single-sex toilet l	bowls/ urinals						
e.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	41.46%	70.73%	50.17%	90.24%	50.21%	DepEd MIMAROPA
e.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	78.68%	89.34%	86.74%	96.45%	79.29%	DepEd MIMAROPA
f. water supply/fund	ctional hand wash	ing facility					
f.1 Elementary	MIMAROPA	66.70%	83.35%	73.54%	94.45%	81.59%	DepEd MIMAROPA
f.2 Junior HS	MIMAROPA	76.05%	88.03%	83.85%	96.01%	74.61%	DepEd MIMAROPA
Health Facilities							
Available hospital beds per 1000 population	MIMAROPA	1:2,253	1:1,213	1:1,000	1:1,000	1:1,884	DOH MIMAROPA
	Marinduque	1:1,867	No target	No target	No target	1:2,410	DOH MIMAROPA
	Occidental Mindoro	1:2,870	No target	No target	No target	1:2,575	DOH MIMAROPA
	Oriental Mindoro	1:2,404	No target	No target	No target	1:2,053	DOH MIMAROPA
	Palawan	1:1,916	No target	No target	No target	1:1,481	DOH MIMAROPA
	Romblon	1:3,282	No target	No target	No target	1:2,411	DOH MIMAROPA
	Palawan	0	No target	No target	No target	1	EMB MIMAROPA
	Romblon	0	No target	No target	No target	0	EMB MIMAROPA
Drug Rehabilitation	facilities						
Number of drug rehabilitation center	MIMAROPA	0	No target	No target	No target	1	DOH MIMAROPA

Sources: DICT Luzon Cluster 3, EMB MIMAROPA, NIA MIMAROPA, DOH MIMAROPA, DPWH MIMAROPA, NEA, DOE, PPA, CAAP, PNP MIMAROPA and DepEd MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

The region faced many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Transportation networks, and ongoing projects that support trade and tourism activities in the region were hampered due to the limited movement of people and goods due to Enhanced Community Quarantine (EC), and lockdowns all throughout the country.

The completion of critical infrastructure projects in transportation, energy, water supply, irrigation, and communication sectors will have to be given priority despite the limitations imposed on travels, strict health protocols and other measures to control the spread of COVID-19.

The need to invest more in digital infrastructure surfaced with most of economic activities were conducted through online. Online classes also require efficient and reliable internet connection with a reliable power supply to support the online activities.

Transportation networks in the region such as those roads implemented through the convergence projects (e.g., ROLL IT, TRIP) must continue to improve tourism and agriculture in underdeveloped areas, connect remote towns and municipalities to production, markets and tourists to induce trade and move economic activities once travel restrictions are lifted.

Infrastructures in MIMAROPA are vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change. Rigorous site selection and applying risk-mitigation measures must be included in planning infrastructure projects.

Modernization of facilities in transportation services may help in improving these areas. Also, by assuring that the roads and bridges are constructed within building standards and quality, it will assure the community that roads are safe and will last longer.

The remaining area for irrigation development is at 42.86 percent or 77,509.15 hectares of the total 180,838.95 hectares of the total irrigable area in the region. RDC MIMAROPA endorsed the NIA MIMAROPA budget proposal of 2.515 billion for FY 2020 to implement irrigation projects comprising the national irrigation system, communal irrigation system, and pump irrigation projects, among others.

The timely completion of National Fiber Backbone component of the NBP and establishment of ICT facilities in various areas in the region plays a crucial role in the operations of GovNet to interconnect agencies and ensure fast delivery of e-government services.

A total fund of P14.63 billion will support the activities under the implementation of NBP for FY 2020-2021 which include: a) completion of terms of reference for procurement and installation of ICT equipment; b) procurement and installation of ICT equipment and cable landing stations; c) 100 percent completion, testing, and acceptance of the terrestrial roadwork and the Modular IT facilities; d) completion, construction, and rehabilitation of tower, microwave radio system; e) testing, acceptance, and operations of two additional GovNet sites; f) procurement of fiber optic cable installation through GovNet project; g) operations and maintenance of the two (2) international cable landing stations and repeater stations; and h) provision of IP transport for GovNet project sites.

Likewise, the establishment of additional 743 powered-up sites with free Wi-Fi internet access starting 2020 is necessary in the expanded rollout of free Wi-Fi access in public areas in the region.

For FY 2020, 258 programmed projects amounting to ₱528.22 million to implement BEFF program. Strategic planning and implementation of basic education facility projects ensures fast tracking of BEFF programs. This calls for strengthening the roles and involvement of schools and governing boards in planning, management, and monitoring of school infrastructure projects. Further, LGUs may review and allocate Special Education Fund (SEF) for the construction and improving school buildings.

In support to implementing HFEP projects, the LGUs should be more proactive in allocating funds for the completion, operations, and maintenance of health facilities. Proposed projects should be implementation ready. Further, implementing Republic Act No. 1123 or the Universal Health Care Act provides additional funds for the improvement of health facilities.

The continuous encouragement to LGUs to comply with RA No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act translated to increase number of cities and municipalities with approved

SWM plans in the region with 36 LGUs. This may be attributed to: a) continued support provided by the LGUs for the proper implementation of waste management; and b) provision of financial and technical assistance to LGUs in preparing SWM plans and safe closure and rehabilitation of open dumpsites. Continuous monitoring and reporting of disposal facilities as well as approval

of SWM plans must complement these efforts and initiatives.

Efforts and initiatives on the campaign against illegal drugs should be continued. Since, number of drug surrenderers are continuously increasing, there should be a more aggressive promotion to push the establishment of drug rehabilitation in the region.

Recommendation

Table 19.2 Supplemental Strategies to Accelerating Infrastructure Development

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Transportation		
Adherence of airlines and shipping industry in the health and safety protocols which will be the normal for the transportation sector.	Encourage investments in new designs and standards that will adhere to health and safety protocol.	MARINA, DOTr
Reduction of greenhouse gas emission in the transport sector	Enactment of the law establishing the national energy policy and regulatory framework for the use of electric vehicles, and the establishment of electric charging stations	DOE, Congress
Implementation of Infrastructure Projects		
Timely completion of infrastructure projects while ensuring the health and safety of workers	Ensure that projects are implementation ready (feasibility studies, detailed engineering design, program of works are prepared and requirements are already secured/ complied).	DPWH, NIA, DOTr
	Health and safety protocols are in place and properly observed.	
	Encourage community involvement in project identification, project formulation, and post-evaluation	
Power and Energy		
100 percent Household energization	Encourage investments in off-grid household energization	NEA, DOE, ECs, LGUs
Timely completion of energy projects including transmission lines and sub-stations	Declare energy projects (power plants, transmission lines and sub-stations) as Energy Projects of National Significance (EPNS) to ensure its timely completion	Energy Investment Coordinating Council (EICC), DOE, NPC, NGCP
Water Resources		
Timely implementation of water supply and sanitation development plans	A single agency should be mandated to lead the plan formulation	To be determined through a policy recommendation.
Construction of effective flood mitigation structures	Incorporate upgraded engineering standards for design and O&M to cope with climate change	DPWH
Communications		
Gaps in digital connectivity were still existing as access to broadband services is mainly concentrated in urban areas	Fast-track the implementation of Republic Act No. 10929 or the Act Establishing the Free Internet Access Program in Public Places in the Country by expanding deployment of ICT infrastructure by providing technical and financial support	DICT, LGUs
	Ensure broadband access to unserved and underserved areas by fast-tracking the roll-out of National Fibre Backbone component of the NBP	
	Strengthen the campaign on cyber security establishment and implementation of ICT and Cyber security Policies, Development and Management	
	Provide incentives for new companies/institutions capable of providing connections to far-flung areas	

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing Agencies
Limited data disaggregation of ICT concerning indicators (regional and provincial data)	Establish regional and provincial database for ICT indicators	NTC, DICT, and LGUs
Social Infrastructures		
Limited data available on education concerning indicators (regional and provincial	Establish and maintain regional and provincial database for education concerning indicators.	DepEd, LGUs
data)	Prioritize the allocation of budget for the conduct of NSBI and EIBEIS and fast track the processing of data.	
Slow implementation of BEFF program.	Continue to prioritize the allocation of resources for the BEFF program.	DepEd, DPWH, LGU
	Capacitate technical persons of concerned agencies in identifying needs, gaps, and bottlenecks in the allocation of resources and implementation of projects.	
	Review the design of on-going public construction projects of school buildings.	
	Seamless coordination and monitoring of projects of concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of school facilities that are consistent with standards.	
	Explore public-private partnership scheme	
Slow implementation of HFEP program	Capacitate technical persons of DOH and LGUs in identifying needs, gaps, and bottlenecks in the implementation of projects, particularly in providing budgetary requirements for the pre-investment activities and complying with various procurement requirements, DOH, LGUs and identifying lands best suited for the construction and expansion of health facilities.	DOH, LGUs
	Seamless coordination and monitoring of projects of concerned agencies to ensure timely completion of health facilities that are consistent with standards.	
	Review and adopt policies, strategies, and measures that will continue to ensure functionality and sustainability of health facilities including the human resource requirements and tax abatement/incentives to compliant constructors.	
	Rehabilitate existing health facilities to increase capacity of the health care system. Review the design of on-going public construction projects of health facilities.	
	Adoption of digital technologies in modular designs and structural specifications that can be replicated across the country.	
The number of LGUs with approved SWM plans is lower than number of LGUs with	Operationalization of SWM funds must be accessible to LGUs to ensure the compliance with RA No. 9003.	EMB, DILG, LGUs
approved SWM plan	Capacitate technical persons of LGUs in the preparation, operations, and maintenance of SWM plan; Explore PPP or joint venture scheme.	
Limited number of Sanitary landfills	Encourage clustering of LGUs in the establishment, operations, and maintenance of SLF.	EMB, DILG, LGUs
	Mainstream and establish waste-to-energy facilities	
Lack of drug rehabilitation center in the region	Establish rehabilitation centers or increase the number of Balay Silangan	PDEA, DOH, LGUs

Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean, and Healthy Environment

Ensuring environmental balance is the priority of the region. The state of the region's environment and natural resources and its efforts on environmental preservation and environment protection remained on track.

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY MIMAROPA: THE DESTINATION OF CHOICE TO LAY DOWN THE FOUNDATION FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH, A HIGH-TRUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETY, AND A GLOBALLY-COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGEECONOMY FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Promote More Productive Activities and Ensuring Sustainable **Utilization of Natural Resources** Resilience in Natural Natural Resources Cleaner Air and Disasters and Sustainably Water Quality Capacities of Managed Improved Communities Enhanced

Figure 20.1 Strategic Framework for Ensuring Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment

Accomplishments

Natural Resources Sustainably Managed

Forest Resources and Watershed Management

The clonal nursery covering 1.05 hectares situated in Gloria, Oriental Mindoro was supported through maintenance of facilities, establishment of hedge garden, and production of high-quality planting material. In 2020, a total of 3,054 cloned seedlings of indigenous forest tree species (Molave, Bitaog, Kalantas, Dao, Philippine Teak, Yakal, Dalingdingan, Lauan, Guiho, Kamagong and Narra) were produced and 1,550 cloned seedlings were planted.

A huge amount of budget for the implementation of enhanced national greening program (eNGP) was reprioritized to programs related to COVID-19 response. Thus, during the year, the eNGP focused on the maintenance and protection activities of established plantations in CYs 2018 and 2019. The region failed to achieve its RDP target for 2020 as it only recorded a total of 12,323 hectares of NGP areas were maintained and protected. Moreover, the RDP target of 7,713,030 NGP seedlings production for 2020 was not achieved as the recorded number of seedlings produced was only 18,971. The 89.11 percent or 16,905 seedlings were planted while the remaining 2,065 seedlings production was used as replacement seedlings. The region was able to maintain the 85 percent survival rate of planted seedlings. This rate serves as the requirement for payment of services to the eNGP partners (people's organizations).

A total of 81 hectares of new bamboo plantations was established during the period. This was below the CY 2020 RDP target of 8,550 hectares. On the other hand, a total of 56 forestry extension officers and NGP support staff were hired in 2020. This was 43 percent lower than the 2020 RDP target of 130 officers. These personnel were responsible in providing assistance to provincial environment and natural resources offices (PENROs) in the conduct of monitoring, maintenance, protection activities of NGP sites, and provision of assistance to the NGP contractors and partners in the region.

The delineation of boundaries between production and protection forests in the region are being done to address illegal forest activities and support forest developments for potential forest investment opportunities. In 2020, the targeted delineation and mapping of 500 kilometers forest production and protection areas but was deferred to CY 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, the forest cover survey which will be conducted by NAMRIA is scheduled on 2021.

Among the notable activities of DENR MIMAROPA on watershed management was the preparation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). On December 2020, the IWMP of Caguray Watershed in Occidental Mindoro and Bansud River Watershed in Oriental Mindoro were finalized. Moreover, DENR MIMAROPA has already started its initial activities relative to the formulated Climate Change-Responsive Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan for Cluster 3 river basins from Oriental Mindoro (Butas, Mag-asawang Tubig, Malaybalay-Baco, Pula, and Pulang Tubig river basins in Oriental Mindoro) and Cluster 4 from Palawan (Iwahig Penal, Inagawan, Aborlan, Malatgao, and Batangbatang river basins in Palawan).

A total of 5 watershed monitoring instruments located in Oriental Mindoro was installed during the year. The instrument provides a real-time and science-based data in the ongoing hydrologic processes within the watershed which can be used as bases for policy formulation and decision making for the effective management of critical watersheds and forest resources.

Management of Protected Areas

The region was able to manage and maintain all of its 15 protected areas and achieved its RDP target for 2020. The following four marine protected areas (MPAs) covering 414,733 hectares were managed and sustained complying with the RDP target:

- i. Tubattaha Reef Natural Park
- ii. Apo Reef Natural Park
- iii. Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape
- iv. El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area

Caves Management

Four (4) caves namely (1) Hamindang Cave in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, (2) San Rafael Cave 2 in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, (3) Andagao Cave System, and (4) Nabuhos Cave Connection in Calatrava, Romblon were assessed and recommended for classification, thus, achieving the 2020 RDP target.

Two (2) caves in Occidental Mindoro were targeted for management planning in 2020. These caves were Manturidao and Alibog Caves classified as Classes I and II respectively. However, only Alibog Cave was able to draft their management plan. Continuing activities for the formulation of the cave management plans will be done in the succeeding year.

Inland Wetlands

No activities relative to assessment of inland wetlands as well as preparation of management plans was recorded during the year due to budgetary constraints. Instead, inventories of inland wetlands in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan and profiling of Caluangan Lake in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro were conducted during the year.

Land Distribution

Various activities to encourage land owners to secure registration of original certificates of title were conducted in the region. A total of 537 agricultural patents were reviewed, processed, and monitored in 2020. This was 24.80 percent higher than the 2020 RDP target. However, the region fell short by 17.70 percent of its target for residential free patents issuances with 1,440 issuances during the year.

As of 2020, 19 barangays in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro have undergone activities related to cadastral mapping. The cadastral map is required in the conduct of Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal (RLTA) which is one of the strategies to accelerate land titling in the country.

Management of Foreshore Area

The region fell short of its RDP target on draft permits/leases of contract reviewed and endorsed to Land Management Bureau (LMB) as there were only eight permits/leases of contracts that were reviewed and endorsed to LMB during the year.

Coral Reef Management and Protection

The MIMAROPA region has a total of four marine protected area networks (MPANs) established namely: a) SaCa (Sablayan Calintaan) MPAN in Occidental Mindoro; b) Verde Island Passage (VIP) MPANLEN (Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network) covering the provinces of Mindoro, Romblon, Marinduque and Batangas; c) MPAN in South Palawan; and d) MPAN in North.

In 2020, the activities relative to management and protection of SaCa MPAN and VIP Romblon were funded by DENR MIMAROPA. The region was able to sustain its 2020 RDP target in terms of management and protection of coastal and marine ecosystems (CMEs). A total of four CMEs covering 414,733 hectares was maintained and protected during the period.

Wildlife Resources

No tamaraw population count was conducted during the year. The annual Tamaraw count which was scheduled on April 14-21, 2020 was cancelled due to the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon.

In 2020, there were nine reported incidence of dugong sightings in Palawan. One dugong was found dead in Aborlan due to head trauma as manifested by bleeding in its olfactory organ.

Monitoring activities on nesting sites (Olive Ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea), Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas), and Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)) were conducted in the provinces of Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon. A total of 28 marine turtles (26 Green Sea Turtle and 2 Hawksbill Turtle) was stranded, rescued, rehabilitated, tagged and released this year in the provinces of Palawan, Romblon and Occidental Mindoro

On January 2020, the Asia Water Bird Census was conducted in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan. Based on the records, there were approximately 73 species of water/migratory birds identified in the region. The total number of water/migratory birds counted decreased by 60.27

percent from 14,358 birds in 2019 to 5,705 birds in 2020. However, the census did not cover some sites in Palawan due to travel restrictions.

Clean Air and Water Quality Improved

Air and Water Quality Management

In CY 2020, the ambient air quality in MIMAROPA was within the National Ambient Air Quality Guidelines Value (NAAQGV). Out of the four stations, three stations located in Oriental Mindoro (Baco, Calapan City, and Naujan) passed the standard level of total suspended particulate level (90ug/Ncm) and particulate matters (PM) 10 (60ug/Ncm) and 2.5 (25ug/Ncm) as targeted

in the RDP. No data was recorded in one station located in Puerto Princesa City.

All the four (4) priority rivers in the region fell below the standard criteria of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) level of less than 7mg/L. Calapan River in Oriental Mindoro recorded an average BOD level of 13mg/L, Madugo River in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro at 9mg/L, Pinamalayan River, in Oriental Mindoro at 10 mg/L, and Tagburos River in Palawan at 7.5mg/L BOD level.

In MIMAROPA, there are three waterbodies officially designated as Water Quality Management Area (Coron Bay in Palawan, Sabang Bay in Puerto Galera, and Calapan River in Oriental Mindoro). The water quality monitoring for these three WQMA failed in terms of fecal coliform in CY 2020 (Table 20.1).

Table 20.1 Summary of Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Results by Station, MIMAROPA, 2020

	Water F			
Monitoring Station	Standard Water Quality Guidelines	Fecal Coliform	Water Body Classification	
Calapan River, Oriental Mindoro	200 MPN/ 100 ml	92,989.63 MPN/ 100 ml	С	
Coron Bay, Coron, Palawan	100 MPN/ 100 ml	734.00 MPN/ 100 ml	SB	
Sabang Bay, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	100 MPN/ 100 ml	248.60 MPN/ 100 ml	Class SB	

Source: EMB MIMAROPA

The region was able to sustain the monitoring of two priority and three recreational waterbodies as targeted in the RDP. Moreover, the region exceeded the target number of discharge permit issued for the year. The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) issued a total 181 discharge permits in 2020. The increase may be attributed to the intensive information advocacy of EMB on the requirements and process flow on the issuance of discharge permits and the ease of online permitting and monitoring system being implemented by EMB.

Provision of technical assistance in Ecological Solid Waste Management

The total waste collected in MIMAROPA was recorded at 127,831.46 tons. Out of the five provinces, Palawan has the highest total waste collected at 58,434.78 tons while Occidental Mindoro recorded the lowest with 8,181.92 tons.

A total of 38 local government units (LGUs) in the region have an approved 10-year solid waste management plan (SWMP) as of December 31, 2020. On the other hand, the EMB assisted the remaining 40 LGUs in the preparation of their respective 10-year SWMP. This exceeded the region's target of 10 LGUs assisted in 2020.

A total of 33 open and controlled dumpsites was already closed and subjected to rehabilitation. This was higher than the 2020 RDP target of 10 dumpsites. However, the region fell short of its target in terms of monitoring of the implementation of safe closure and rehabilitation plan as only 6 LGUs were monitored during the year. This was also lower than the 2019 record of 18 LGUs.

The EMB MIMAROPA provided a financial assistance amounting to P200,000.00 nine LGUs with functional EMB funded material recovery facilities (MRFs). These are the municipalities of Buenavista and Mogpog in Marinduque, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, Calintaan and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro, Corcuera and Sta. Fe in Romblon, and Bataraza and Brooke's Point in Palawan.

Hazardous Wastes

The generated hazardous wastes in the region during the year was 44,067.86 metric tons. About 95 percent of these wastes were from the industrial oil used by power plants. Among the five provinces, only Palawan has its registered transporter and treatment and storage facility for hazardous wastes.

In 2020, about 358 registered hazardous waste generators were recorded in the region. This was higher than the 30 registered generators targeted in the RDP for 2020. Oriental Mindoro has the highest number of registered generators with 152.

Resilience in natural disasters and capacities of communities enhanced

Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

In pursuing the region's resiliency of its communities and ecosystems, the DRR/CCA was mainstreamed in local planning processes. Only a total of three municipalities in the region were assessed for vulnerability and risk in 2020 due to the imposition of lockdowns and stricter quarantine protocols. The assessment process undertaken determines the nature and extent of disaster risk posed by analyzing and evaluating the various hazards and vulnerabilities of the communities.

In 2020, a total of 45 LGUs have completed/updated their respective enhanced DRR/CCA comprehensive land used plans (CLUPs), 57 LGUs completed/updated their comprehensive development plans (CDPs), and 62 adopted their respective forest land use plans (FLUPs). The expected completion of FLUPs in the region

was moved to 2021 due to restrictions brought by COVD-19 pandemic. The municipalities of Alcantara, Calatrava, Looc, San Agustin, and San Jose in Romblon were in the process of revising their FLUPs while the municipalities of Corcuera and Romblon in Romblon were in the process of completing their FLUPs.

On other local disaster plans implemented in the region, a total of 46 LGUs have completed/ updated their local disaster risk reduction and management plans (LDRRMPs) while 44 LGUs have adopted their local climate change action plans (LCCAPs) based on the monitoring records of DILG MIMAROPA.

Given the region's high exposure to natural hazards such as typhoons, rain induced landslides, and flooding, among others, the resiliency has improved over the years. All the five provinces in the region have established Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices (PDRRMOs). As of 2020, 78 LGUs in the region (including the 5 provinces) have fully functional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Operations Centers. A total of 45 LGUs have 24/7 manned operators while 33 LGUs have on-call manned operators.

To serve as baseline parameters for immediate responses during disasters, a total of 146 units of hydromet sensors were installed in 53 municipalities in the region. Early warning systems in 29 LGUs were in place. However, due to the implementation of community quarantine which limited transportation and mobility, DOST-MIMAROPA was not able to conduct frequent early warning systems (EWS) maintenance and troubleshooting which affected the operation of the system. DOST MIMAROPA was set to conduct the maintenance, troubleshooting, and calibration of down stations in 2021.

Table 20.2 Targets and Accomplishments on Environment, MIMAROPA, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Indicator	Baseline Data		Targets		Accomp (2020)	Reporting
illuicatoi	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	Accomp. (2020)	Entity
Forest area as propo	ortion of total land are	ea				
NGP Number of seedlings produced	36,270,310	7,713,030	1,984,400	1,143,000	18,971	DENR
NGP Number of seedlings planted	32,213,952	-	-	-	16,906	DENR
NGP Survival rate of seedlings equal or above 85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	DENR

	Baseline Data		Targets			Reporting
Indicator	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	Accomp. (2020)	Entity
NGP area planted and site prepared (ha)	19,935.60	8,550	1,150	1,150	81	DENR
NGP area maintained and protected (ha)	62,411	66,631	46,239	27,945	12,323	DENR
Forest cover increased (in ha) from 2010 forest cover data vis-à- vis 2015	34,937.17		Dependent of NAMF survey every 5 years	NAMRIA's forest cover survey will be conducted on 2021	DENR	
Forest cover change (from close to open forest) - 2010 forest cover vis-a-vis 2015 forest cover	3.51%		Dependent of NAMF survey every 5 years		NAMRIA's forest cover survey will be conducted on 2021	DENR
Delineation of Production and protection forests (km)		500	500	500	Deferred due to COVID 19	DENR
Hiring of extension officers	151	130	96	60	56	DENR
No. PAs subjected for the updating of their respective SRPAO database	4		No target		completed	DENR
No. of protected areas managed and maintained	15	15	15	15	15	DENR
Area of marine protected areas with high biodiversity value effectively managed (ha) (This include (Tubattaha Reef Natural Park (TRNP) and Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) , Malampaya sound Protected Landscape and Sea Scape and El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area)		4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	DENR
Coverage of protected areas (PAs) in relation to marine areas	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	4 PAs 414,733 has.	DENR
Caves management						
No. of caves assessed	7	4	No target	No target	4	DENR
No. of caves management plan prepared and recommended for approval	7	2	2	2	2	DENR
No. of caves classified	2	No regional target	No data	DENR		

Indicator	Baseline Data		Targets		Accomp (2020)	Reporting
mulcator	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	Accomp. (2020)	Entity
No. of caves ecommended for classification	7	4	No target	No target	4	DENR
nland Wetlands						
No. of Inland wetlands assessed	1	4	No target	No target	No data	DENR
No. of Inland wetlands management plan prepared	1	3	3	3	No data	DENR
and Distribution						
No. of land patents	issued:					
Agricultural	400	430	340	320	537	DENR
Residential Free Patents	1,930	1,750	900	880	1,440	DENR
Management of Fore	shore Area					
Provincial Foreshore Management and Development Plan (PFMDP) Formulation	-	-	-	-	completed in 2018	DENR
Provincial Foreshore Management and Development Plan Adoption	-	-	-	-	No data	DENR
No. of draft permits/lease of contracts reviewed and endorsed to LMB	17	9	2	2	8	DENR
Coral Reef Managem	ent and Protection					
Coral reefs assessed and napped (ha)	729		No target		No data	DENR
Coastal and marine ecosystems (CMEs) maintained and protected (ha)		4 CMEs 414,733 has.	4 CMEs 414,733 has.	4 CMEs 414,733 has.	4 CMEs 414,733 has.	DENR
Mangrove area rehabilitated (ha)			No target		No data	DENR
Mangrove area managed and protected (ha)	10,175	Tar	get is inclusive with N	NGP	No data	DENR
Famaraw population	413	increasing	increasing	Increasing	No data due to change of Tamaraw count method	DENR
Survey of wild duck habitat	1	1	1	1	No data	DENR
Vatershed Characterization and Vulnerability Assessment conducted in critical watersheds		2	2	1	3 watersheds (2019)	DENR

Indicator	Baseline Data		Targets		Accomp (2020)	Reporting
Indicator	(2016)	2020	2021	2022	Accomp. (2020)	Entity
Maintain/Reduced total suspended particulate (TSP) level in major urban centers (90µg/Ncm.)					Baco, Oriental Mindoro is the only air quality monitoring station using TSP level; TSP level: 20 ug/Ncm	ЕМВ
1. Calapan City			dard Particulate Matt Ncm; PM2.5: 25 ug/N		PM 10: 59 ug/ Ncm	ЕМВ
2. Puerto Princesa City			dard Particulate Matt Ncm; PM2.5: 25 ug/N		-	ЕМВ
BOD and other water tests of rivers within standard quality criteria				Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels within standard criteria (less than 7 BOD mg/L)	Ave. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), mg/L: Calapan River = 13 Madugo River = 9 Pinamalayan River = 10 Tagburos River = 7.5	ЕМВ
Priority River, no.		2	2	2	2	EMB
Other Waterbodies and Adopted Esteros (Outside WQMA), no.		5	5	5	5	ЕМВ
Other Waterbodies and Adopted Esteros (Within WQMA), no.		3	3	3	3	EMB
Priority Recreational Waterbodies, no.		2	2	2	2	EMB
Other Recreational Waterbodies, no.		3	3	3	3	ЕМВ
No. of discharge permits issued		165	165	165	181	ЕМВ
Provision of technica	al assistance in the ir	nplementation of ES	WM (No. of LGUs ass	isted)		
Proper closure &rehabilitation of open and controlled dumpsites (no)		10	10	10	33 dumpsites	ЕМВ
10 year SWM plans assisted (no.)		10	10	5	40 LGUs	ЕМВ
Other Sectors Assist	ed					
Public markets oriented/ monitored (no.)		No target	No data	EMB		
Commercial establishment assisted and monitored (no.)		No target	No data	ЕМВ		
Closure and rehab plan implementation (no)		18	15	15	6 LGUs	EMB

Indicator	Baseline Data (2016)		Targets		(0000)	Reporting Entity
		2020	2021	2022	Accomp. (2020)	
Establishment of MR	Fs (with financial gr	ants)				
1. MRF with Shredder						
2. MRF without shredder		The targets of Regional Offices for this activity are being downloaded by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC)	No data	ЕМВ		
Compliant LGUs (no.) SWM plans, SS & SC, MRF,SLF/ environment- friendly disposal/ alternative technology/ undergoing closure and rehab of OD and CDF)		5	5	5	No data	ЕМВ
No. of registered hazardous waste generators		30	30	30	358	ЕМВ
Resilience in natural	disasters and capac	cities of communities	enhanced			
Vulnerability and Ris	k Assessment					
No. of municipalities and cities assessed for vulnerability and risk	11	8	8	6	3	MGB
Number of (reviewed) completed/update	d Climate Change (CC	C)/ Disaster Risk Red	uction Management	(DRRM)-enhanced pla	ans increased.
a. FLUP		to be completed by 2021			5 LGUs (with FLUPs adopted)	DENR
b. CLUP					45 LGUs	DHSUD
c. CDP					57 LGUs	DILG
d. LDRRMP					46 LGUs	LGUs
e. LCCAP					44 LGUs	LGUs
Number of LGUs with operating early warning systems (EWS) in place					29 LGUs with operating EWS in place	DOST
Number of fully functional DRRM operation centers increased					71 MDRRMOC;2 CDRRMOC; 5 PDRRMOC	OCD
Groundwater resourc	e assessment					
No. of provinces assessed for groundwater resource	1				Completed in 2018	MGB

Sources:DENR,EMB,MGB MIMAROPA

Moving Forward

Balancing economic growth and environmental conservation and protection is needed to optimize the possible gains of sustainable development. The 2020 performance the region in terms of management of the environment and natural resources has successes and misses. The development, conservation, and protection of the region's natural resources and biodiversity must be accorded highest priority and shall never be compromised given the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety nets shall be developed and put in place to mitigate environmental degradation, over exploitation, and damaging uses of the region's resources. Parallel efforts between the government and private sectors shall be exerted to restore and rehabilitate denuded forest areas, mine sites, over logged areas, and damaged marine areas.

The role of protected area management boards (PAMBs) in the management and protection of the protected areas is important and need to be strengthened. Active participation of relevant stakeholders is necessary and should be institutionalized for stronger interagency board responsible in safeguarding the environmental integrity of the region. Enhanced capacity building should be provided to the members of the PAMB being the oversight body in ensuring sustainability of protected areas on the ground.

The pandemic created positive behavioral effects on people especially on the need to preserve the natural resources while ensuring environmental sustainability, and safeguard quality of public health. The new normal setting requires a strengthened and innovative actions from the government and private sectors in curbing solutions without prejudicing the risks posed by COVID-19 on environmental sustainability while ensuring public health.

Furthermore, the promotion of green spaces in major urban areas through urban forestry activities be strengthened. This may involve but not limited to the development of forest parks, greenbelts, nature center or road side planting including the planting of trees and ornamentals in vacant lots.

Recommendations

The following supplemental strategies are recommended to address the persisting challenges/ gaps towards maintaining ecological integrity and a clean and healthy environment:

Table 20.3 Supplemental Strategies to Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean, and Healthy Environment

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
Establishment of database management	 Revisit the Department Order on establishing database to: Improve the database management systems of the environment sector; and Standardize indicators with other regions for regular data generations 	DENR, EMB, MGB, and LGUs
Enforcement of environmental laws	 Institutionalize the PAMBs; Strengthen the role of PAMBs in environmental protection through conduct of capacity building; Encourage community-based participatory activities in the implementation of environmental laws; and Hire/deputize/deploy more forest rangers, bantay dagat, eco-warriors, PNP/AFP personnel in major areas for environmental conservation 	DENR, BFAR, PNP, AFP, LGUS
Environmental Degradation	Inventory of the region's with critical and degradation hotspots Intensify surveillance and enforcement activities to protect critical wildlife/endangered species and its habitats Research and Development on agroforestry development	DENR, DA, BFAR, PNP, AFP, LGUs

CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES	IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
Strengthen the air quality monitoring stations in the region	 Upgrade/Standardize the equipment used in existing air quality monitoring stations to have a uniform parameters used Provision of additional monitoring stations in other provinces of the region 	EMB, LGUs
Maintain good water quality of major bodies of water like rivers, lakes, and beaches.	 Exercise constant patrolling, monitoring and testing of water quality of major bodies of water Apprehend violators and file appropriate charges Establishment of sanitary water treatment plant in major tourism destinations Require tourism related enterprises clearance from EMB prior to issuance of business permit. Provide laboratory for water quality analysis 	DENR-EMB, DOH, BFAR, DILG, DOT, PNP, DOST, SUCS, LGUs
Solid and Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal	 Restructure the management of health care and infectious wastes through strict compliance of health care facilities with the standards for hazardous waste management and improvement of disposal of healthcare wastes at household/barangay levels; and Intensify the information advocacy on hazardous waste management and disposal to combat the spread of COVID-19 Strict monitoring of closed dumpsites to ensure the continuous rehabilitation of the dumpsite and minimize the possibility of LGUs reverting to using the closed dumpsite Initiate possible clustering efforts within the region for different solid waste management facilities Strengthen partnership/collaboration with LGUs on new technologies for a better solid waste management and ensure compliance to RA 9003 	EMB, LGUs
Disaster risk management	 Strengthen and improve the capacity of disaster risk management offices at the provincial and city/municipal levels through capability trainings and exercises, provision of sufficient emergency response equipment, formulation of DRRM plans and implementation of PAPs particular on the combat against COVID-19; Existing DRRM and crisis management frameworks must be harmonized through revisions of the implementing rules and regulations of the Philippine DRRM Act 2010 (RA10121) to explicitly identify public health emergencies such as pandemics in the definition of disaster events; and Provision of stockpiling of medical equipment and supplies, and adequate storage, logistic, and isolation facilities 	DENR, EMB, DOH, OCD, PDRRMOs/ CDRRMOs/ MDRRMOs

Ensuring Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

Migration is a powerful force or influence in the Philippines. In 2015, about 10 percent of Overseas Filipinos (OF) were living already outside the country. The massive exodus resulted in shaping the Philippine economy, with Filipinos moving abroad to seek economic opportunity. Once they find it, they send money back to their native home and families. This financial transaction is called remittances and they are the essential building block of the country's economy, accounting 10 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP). People who received remittances often used the money for buying food, housing or rentals, and educational purposes.

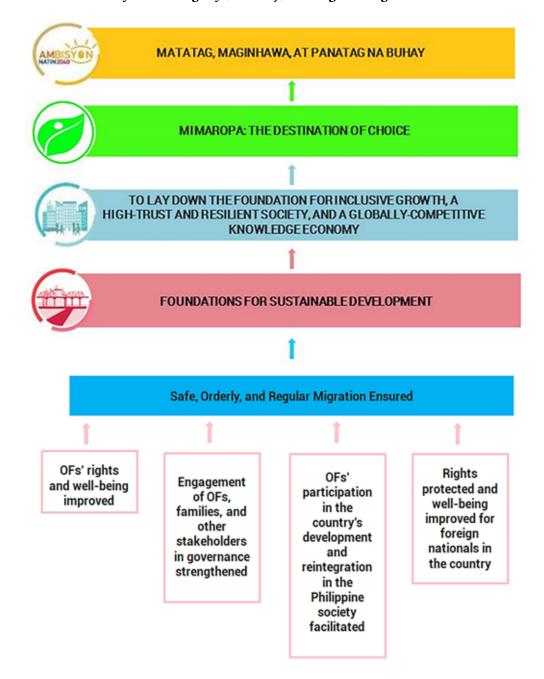
The steady flow of foreign money acts as a form of insurance helping people whether regional or domestic financial crisis. However, the dependence on overseas workers makes the Philippines more vulnerable to the forces outside of its control. For example, when foreign governments restrict migrant labor, or if the value of a foreign currency drops reducing the benefit from remittances, it becomes a deficit. With low income and less job opportunity, people either leave the country or migrate to a highly urbanized city. This means more opportunities to the ones who remained and employers will raise wages to compete for labor.

Further, some experts argue that emigration creates brain waste. OFs work menial jobs or in industries unrelated to their degrees. Also, immigrants who gain valuable skills abroad and return to the Philippines often choose to leave. Migration affects different Filipinos in different ways; many see it as a path to prosperity, but the lowest income Filipinos can't afford to migrate and even then making the move is no guarantee of financial success nevertheless migration still benefit millions.

The COVID-19 pandemic had tremendously affected the world especially in terms of human mobility and migration. Almost all governments have forced the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) to repatriate to their respective homes. Many OFWs were left stranded in their host countries because of the declaration of travel ban. These OFWs were also affected by layoffs and other work arrangements, resulting in drop in remittances. With less migration or movement, it means there are less money sent home, more inequality, and greater vulnerability.

The imposition of the different levels of community quarantines greatly affected domestic migration. The government provided assistance to affected OFWs who were stranded in their host countries and those who were left jobless due to the pandemic.

Figure 21.1 Framework for Ensuring Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration



Accomplishments

In the 2018 Survey on Overseas Filipinos, there were 2.29 million Filipinos working abroad. Only 1.8 percent of the total number came from the MIMAROPA region. The country's labor and employment challenges were quite similar to what other countries in the world are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, several OFWs were also affected by layoffs and other work arrangements.

In the midst of the pandemic, the government established a repatriation assistance program to bring back distressed OFWs. Under the program, repatriated OFWs were given temporary shelter, food packs, psychosocial counseling, stress debriefing, and transport services of fares as they travel back to their respective provinces. A total of 17 facilities for repatriates was established in the region: eight in Oriental Mindoro, four in Occidental Mindoro, three in Marinduque, and two in Romblon.

The DOLE-AKAP program for OFWs provides a one-time financial assistance to displaced land-based and sea-based Filipino workers due to COVID-19 amounting to 10,000.00. A total of 782 OFWs benefitted from this program.

Similarly, with the geographical condition of the region, internal migration/domestic migration was also affected due to the travel restrictions on land, sea, and air transportation during the ECQ. In view of this, the LGUs responded accordingly by providing assistance to stranded individuals who are not citizens of their city or municipality.

The BP2 Program aims to provide opportunities for families from urban areas who opt to start anew in rural areas by providing comprehensive services including financial assistance, capacity building, and intervention on community preparation to support families to resettle in their hometown or resettlement area.

The BP2 Program shall benefit low-income families who opt to move out of NCR or other highly urbanized cities, and return or relocate to other provinces, due to but not limited to the following circumstances: a) voluntary decision to return to the provinces; b) loss of job or other sources of income; c) unsafe current dwelling places; or d) exposure to health and safety risks and other environmental hazards.

The Regional Development Council MIMROPA, pursuant to the BP2 Implementing Guidelines, formulated the Regional BP2 Action Plan. The action plan will serve as roadmap for ensuring balanced regional development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources, and opportunities through policies and programs with focus on the following key results areas (KRAs): a) empowerment of local industries; b) food security and agricultural productivity; c) housing, social welfare, health, employment, and human resource development; and d) infrastructure development.

With the implementation of the BP2 program, a total of 3,034 individual applicants chose MIMAROPA as their region of destination.

The province of Palawan recorded the highest number of applicants with 767 applicants or 25.28 percent of the total number of applicants. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 766 applicants or 25.25 percent, Romblon with 531 applicants or 17.50 percent, and Occidental Mindoro with

492 applicants or 16.22 percent. The province of Marinduque recorded the lowest number of applicants with 478 applicants or 15.75 percent.

In terms of destination municipalities, the city of Puerto Princesa in Palawan, municipality of San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, municipality of Boac in Marinduque, and municipality of Pinamalayan and city of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro are the region's top destination municipalities with 223 applicants, 162 applicants, 134 applicants, 104 applicants, and 102 applicants, respectively.

Moving Forward

With the pandemic and the subsequent global recession, the unprecedented volume of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) intending to return and those who have already returned will put pressure on the capacities of OF-serving agencies in providing assistance and reintegration programs.

Returning OFWs will face a weak labor market in the country amidst social distancing measures and an economic slowdown. Meanwhile, those who will choose to continue to stay abroad will face increased vulnerabilities as the pandemic transforms economies, resulting in shifts in labor demand, aggravated by inadequate social protection.

Demand for workers in the healthcare sector and manufacturing of essential goods is expected to remain strong, while it may decline in other sectors such as tourism and retail. Furthermore, the impact of lower remittances will be felt by many Filipino households.

The government shall continue to implement programs, projects, and activities that ensure a safe, orderly, and regular migration. Migration and development shall be mainstreamed in local development planning processes to ensure that solutions for possible migration issues and problems will be formulated and facilitated.

The BP2 Program is set for implementation aiming to have a socially cohesive, vibrant, resilient, and sustainable communities which are: a) sustainable engines of economic growth; b) healthy, safe and resilient to disasters and health pandemics; c) fully connected to promote economic integration; and d) enjoy improved well-being and better-quality life.

Recommendation

As in many other crises, migrants may be particularly vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19. Their ability to avoid the infection, receive adequate health care, and cope with the economic, social and psychological impacts of the pandemic can be affected by a variety of factors, including their living and working conditions, lack of consideration of their cultural and linguistic diversity in service provision, xenophobia, their limited local knowledge and networks, and their access to rights and level of inclusion in host communities, often related to their migration status (Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic).

Table 21.1 Overview of Migrants' Vulnerability to COVID-19

Recurring conditions of vulnerability	Increased likelihood of:
Limited awareness of recommended prevention measures, including due to linguistic barriers Inability to respect social distancing in crowded, multigenerational homes Reliance on public transportation Continued exposure in close contact professions Limited access to key hygiene items Limited personal protective equipment in the workplace	Contracting COVID-19
Lack of entitlement to health care and deprioritization in service provision Lack of access to facilities in underserved locations Limited awareness of options or right to receive health care Language barriers hindering communication with providers Unwillingness to come forward for assistance due to fear of arrest and/or stigmatization	Not accessing appropriate care
Pre-existing pulmonary/respiratory issues due to travel and living conditions Physical weathering Inability to access timely assistance	Showing severe symptoms
Restrained living and outside space during lockdowns Isolation and inability to communicate Obstacles to proper burial of deceased ones Anxiety linked with being stranded, potentially arrested or victim of xenophobic acts	Suffering psychosocial impacts
Discontinued provision of basic assistance and integration services Loss of precarious, unprotected job No inclusion in COVID-19 income support schemes, housing provision programs or rental subsidies/exemptions Inability to maintain regular migration status	Livelihood and income insecurity

Source: Migrants and the COVID-19 pandemic: initial analysis

To address the existing challenges in international and domestic migration particularly on the challenges brought about by coronavirus

disease (COVID-19), the following are recommendations for implementation concerned stakeholders:

Table 21.2: Recommendations for implementation of concerned stakeholders.

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies/entities
Repatriation of OFWs due to COVID-19 Pandemic	Facilitate the employment of repatriated OFWs	
	 Enhance government financial support and legal assistance for repatriated OFWs 	
	Enhance health insurance and social security for OFWs	DOLE, POEA, LGUs
Limited data on domestic and international migration in the region.	Establish an accurate, timely, and comprehensive database on international and internal migration including monitoring and mapping mechanisms that identify OFs and their families	DOLE, POEA, LGUs

Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Implementing agencies/entities	
Lack of data on cases of abuse and exploitation involving migrants from the region.	Strengthen measures to protect OFs against human tracking by capacitating local government units and other regional government agencies to invest in and conduct anti-trafficking interventions such as seminars and mechanisms for reporting violations	DOLE, POEA, LGUs	
	Continuity of social protection programs for the OFWs	Strengthen employment and livelihood fa- cilitation programs, especially for distressed OFWs.	
	Continuous provision of social protection services to OFs and their families	DOLE, POEA	

Plan Implementation and Monitoring

The implementation of the MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 is a concerted effort among the RLAs, GOCCs, SUCs, LGUs, private sector, and civil society organizations. The coordination among these actors is undertaken through the MIMAROPA RDC and its sectoral committees. The attainment of the development goals of the Plan will be carried through the implementation of program, activities, projects (PAPs) indicated in the plan and those of other regular activities of government offices in the region.

The NEDA Regional Office MIMAROPA monitors and shepherds the implementation of the RDP with guidance from the RDC. The RDR serves as the annual measure of the Plan's accomplishments vis-à-vis with its development goals and targets. For 2020, the RDR included both reports of the agency accomplishments for the year and the accomplishments of the Plan at the mid-term. The RDP 2017-2022 was updated during its regular mid-term updating in 2019 and during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Planning, Investment Programming and **Budgeting Linkages**

The Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) is the accompanying document of the RDP. RDIP contains the list of priority programs, activities, and projects to be implemented by RLAs, SUCs, and other government agencies to support the implementation of the RDP. The RDIP also serves as a basis in the RDC review and endorsement of budget proposals of RLA, SUCs and other government offices for the region. RDIP 2017-2022 is a six year indicative investment portfolio for the current RDP. Annually, this document is updated to consider the approved RDC-endorsed PAPs in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and the new proposals on PAPs in the succeeding years. For 2020, there 350 PAPs amounting to Php37,215,598.46 that were considered in the FY 2020 GAA. These programs and projects contributed to the achievement of goals and targets of the Plan.

In May 2020, The RDC also adopted and endorsed the MIMAROPA Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan (RRP) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) to MIMAROPA Regional Interagency Task Force. The requirements for the PAPs of RRP amounts to P30,916,417,170.00. Some of the PAPs in the GAA were reprioritized for COVID 19 interventions.

Project Implementation, Monitoring and **Evaluation**

On monitoring and evaluation of PAPs, the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) is being used to guide the monitoring and evaluation of all major government PAPs including official development assistance (ODA) funded projects, undertaken by national government agencies (NGAs), SUCs, GOCCs, and LGUs. The RPMES Operational Guidelines prescribed the institutional mechanism and functions of project monitoring and evaluation committees (PMC) at various levels.

The monitoring and evaluation of PAPs is being coordinated at the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC). RPMC regularly conducts committee meetings and field inspections of major ongoing programs/projects to ensure their efficient and effective implementation. Problemsolving sessions were also proactively conducted to resolve program/project bottlenecks at the onset. The Local Project Monitoring Committees were likewise involved in these monitoring and facilitation activities considering their first-hand knowledge of the programs/projects on the ground. For 2020. RPMC field activities were not pursued due to COVID 19 pandemic.

To support the RPMES, NEDA MIMAROPA launched the ProyekTanglaw in December 2020. It is a web-based RPMES application that integrates data entries and updates on projects and programs in order to produce and generate faster and more accurate reports in real -time and meet the flexible demands of NEDA and the general public. It provides fast and efficient transact ion, processing, and wider access to implementing agencies in reporting their programs and projects undertaken. It also enhances the timely submission of RPMES forms from implementing agencies, including the five (5) provinces and two (2) cities in the MIMAROPA region.

RDP Advocacy

To gain support for the RDP and Ambisyon 2020, advocacy activities were being conducted to make the people aware of their roles in nation-building and also understand the various development initiatives and interventions of the government, the role of the private sector and the civil society organizations towards a Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Pamumuhay, especially at this challenging "New Normal" Situation.

Formulation of the RDP and RDIP were conducted through a workshops participated by RLAs, SUCs, LGU representatives, and private sector representatives. The documents were also approved and adopted by the RDC.

Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals

The RDP 2017-2022 Revalidated Result Matrix also contains indicators on Sustainable Development Goals. The indicators were revalidated to update the 2019-2022 targets based on updated information and lessons learned during the first half of the Plan's implementation, while taking into consideration the following: (a) Sustainable Development Goal indicators (SDGs); (b) SDGis with provincial disaggregation; and (c) Core Regional Indicators (CoRe Is). Performance of these indicators is included in the Regional Development Report.

In support of this, MIMAROPA RDC created a Special Regional Sub-Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGIs) which conducted its organizational meeting on December 9 via Zoom conference.

Further, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in MIMAROPA conducted monitoring activities relative to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and SDG localization from 2016 to 2019. For 2020, the DILG MIMAROPA focused its efforts on the updating of Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) and Local Development Investment Programs (LDIPs) to align provincial geographic commitments and transform local development plans into risk-informed plans.

The Committee members were also informed on the result of the CoRe SDG Watch. The SDG Watch is compiled by the PSA, the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines per PSA Board Resolution No. 09, s. 2017, and includes 72 indicators and 14 goals. The CoRe SDG Watch MIMAROPA and SDG Watch Philippines can be viewed at rssomimaropa.psa. gov.ph and psa.gov.ph, respectively.

Acronyms

4Ps Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

AFF agriculture, forestry, and fisheries

AHFF Agriculture, Hunting, Fishery and Forestry

AICS Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation

ALS Alternative learning system

ATMs automated teller machines

BADACs barangay anti-illegal drug abuse councils

BCPs Business continuity plans

BEFF Basic Education Facilities Fund

BFAR Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

BHS barangay health stations

BIN Barangay Information/Intelligence Networks

BISELCO Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc.

BIST Business Innovation through S&T

BJMP Bureau of Jail Management and Penology

BOD biochemical oxygen demand

BOSS Business One-Stop-Shop

BP2 Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa

BSP Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

CADT certificate of ancestral domain title

CAMP COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program

CCT conditional cash transfer

CDA Cooperative Development Authority

CDCLAA Certification Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption

CDCs Child development centers

CDD community driven development

CDD community driven development

CDPs Comprehensive Development Plans

CEST Community Empowerment through Science and Technology

CFR case fatality ratio

CHED Commission on Higher Education

CICL Children in conflict with the law

CIS Communal Irrigation System

CLUPs comprehensive land use plans

CMCI Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index

CMEs coastal and marine ecosystems

CNBC Coral Bay Nickel Corporation

CORDS Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security

COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease 2019

CPI Consumer price index

CRADLE Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage Philippine

Economy

CSO civil society organizations

CSR Cohort survival rate

CTGs communist terrorist groups

DA Department of Agriculture

DAR Department of Agrarian Reform

DepEd Department of Education

DHSUD Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development

DICT Department of Information and Communications Technology

DILEEP DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program

DILG Department of the Interior and Local Government

DOJ-PPA DOJ - Parole and Probation Administration

DOLE Department of Labor and Employment

DPWH Department of Public Works and Highways

DROP Disaster Response Operation Procedure

DRR/CCA Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

e-BPLS Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System

ECQ Enhanced community quarantine

EF employment facilitation

EMB Environmental Management Bureau

EMB Environmental Management Bureau

eNGP enhanced national greening program

EO Executive Order

ERC Energy Regulatory Commission

FCs family courts

FDA Food and Drug Administration

FDP Full disclosure policy

FDS family development sessions

FGDs focus group discussions

FIRe Fourth Industrial Revolution

GAA General Appropriations Act

GASTPE Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private

Education

GER gross enrolment rate

GIA Grants-In-Aid Program

GRDP gross regional domestic product

GSIS Government Service Insurance System

GVA gross value added

HB House Bill

HE higher education

HEIs Higher Education Institutions

HFEP Health Facilities Enhancement Program

IATF-EID Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases

IPEd Indigenous Peoples Education

IPs indigenous peoples

IRA Internal Revenue Allotment

IRR Implementing Rules and Regulations

IWMP Integrated Watershed Management Plan

KALAHI CIDSS- Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated

NCDDP Delivery of Services National Community- Driven Development

Program

KP Katarungang Pambarangay

KRAs key results areas

LAG livelihood assistance grants

LCACs culture and arts councils

LDCs local development councils

LDIPs Local Development Investment Programs

LGUs local government units

LGUs local government units

LMB Land Management Bureau

LRA Land Registration Authority

LRC Local Revenue Codes

LSBs local special bodies

LSPs local shelter plans

LT Lupon ng Tagpamayapa

LTIA Lupon ng Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards

LTO Land Transportation Office

LUBELCO Lubang Electric Cooperative, Inc.

LUDIP land use development and infrastructure plan

MARELCO Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc.

MARINA Maritime Industry Authority

MCTCs municipal circuit trial courts

MD microenterprise development

MDCs Municipal Development Councils

MINSCAT Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology

MPANLEN Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network

MPANs Marine protected area networks

MPAs marine protected areas

MPEx Manufacturing Productivity Extension

MRFs material recovery facilities

MSC Marinduque State College

MSMEs micro, small, and medium enterprises

MTCCs municipal trial courts in cities

MTCs municipal trial courts

MTL mobile training laboratory

MYC MIMAROPA Youth Center

NAAQGV National Ambient Air Quality Guidelines Value

NaLUA National Land Use Act

NAPOLCOM National Police Commission

NBI National Bureau of Investigation

NBP National Broadband Plan

NC Negosyo Centers

NCCA National Commission for Culture and the Arts

NCIP National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

NEA National Electrification Administration

NEDA National Economic and Development Authority

NER net enrolment rate

NGAs national government agencies

NGO non-government organizations

NIA National Irrigation Administration

NICER Niche Centers in the Regions

NIS National Irrigation System

NPPTP National Policy in Preventing Teenage Pregnancies

NSS National Spatial Strategy

NTC National Telecommunications Commission

NTF COVID-19 National Task Force Against COVID-19

OCD Office of the Civil Defense

ODA official development assistance

ODs open dumpsites

OFs Overseas Filipinos

OJT on the job training

OMECO Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OMSC Occidental Mindoro State College

OPAST Office of the Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog

ORC-PMS Office of Regional Concerns - Presidential Management Staff

ORMECO Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OWWA Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

PALECO Palawan Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PAMB Protected Area Management Board

PAPs programs, activities, and projects

PAs protected areas

PCA Philippine Coconut Authority

PCAB Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board

PDCs Provincial Development Councils

PDEA Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

PDNA post disaster needs assessment

PDP Philippine Development Plan

PDRRMOs Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices

PENROs provincial environment and natural resources offices

PESFA Private Education Student Financial Assistance

PM particulate matters

PMC project monitoring and evaluation committees

PMOC pre-marriage orientation and counseling

PMUI Pampamayanang Mangyan Ugnayan Inc

PNP Philippine National Police

PO people's organization

PPAs programs, projects, and activities

PPC Puerto Princesa City

PPP Public-Private-Partnership

PSA Philippine Statistics Authority

PSGG Philippine Small Grid Guidelines

PSRs private sector representatives

PSU Palawan State University

PWDs persons with disability

RADIUS Research and Development Information Unified System

RCC Regional Competitiveness Committee

RDIP Regional Development Investment Program

RDP regional development plan

RE renewable energy

RGC regional government center

RGCMC Regional Government Center Management Committee

RGOs regional government offices

RHU rural health unit

RLAs regional line agencies

RLTA Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal

RMs Results Matrices

ROMELCO Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc.

RoRo Roll-on/Roll-off

RPMC Regional Project Monitoring Committee

RPMES Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System

RPTACS Real Property Tax Assessment Collection System

RRDIC Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee

RRP Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan

RSTL Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory

RTCs regional trial courts

RTF-ELCAC Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict

RTNMC Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation

RTWPB Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board

S4CP Science for Change Program

SAPESP Social Amelioration Program-Emergency Subsidy Program

SC Supreme Court

SDGIs Sustainable Development Goal indicators

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SEF Special Education Fund

SETUP, Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program

SFMV Schedule of Fair Market Value

SFP Supplementary Feeding Program

SGLG Seal of Good Local Governance

SLFs sanitary landfills

SLMs self-learning modules

SLP Sustainable Livelihood Program

SNPs Supervised neighborhood play

SPES Special Program for Employment of Students

SPMS strategic performance management system

SRDA strategic regional development agenda

SSFs shared service facilities

SSS Social Security System

STI science, technology, and innovation

SUCs state universities and colleges

SWDAs Social Welfare and Development Agencies

SWMP solid waste management plan

TB Tuberculosis

TES tertiary education subsidy

TESDA Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

TIELCO Tablas Island Electric Cooperative, Inc.

TRIP Tourism Road Infrastructure Program

TUPAD Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced

TVET technical vocational education and training

TWSP Training for Work Scholarship Program

UAQTE Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education

UHC urban health center

UHC Universal Health Care

UNIFAST Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act

VIP Verde Island Passage

WPU Western Philippines University

WQMA Water Quality Management Area

WWF World Wildlife Fund

