



Students in public schools benefit from improved technology introduced by the Government with UNDP support.

Philippines

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY IN EDUCATION

“What you’re seeing now is the fastest procurement of IT packages in a government agency. UNDP came to us as an answer to our prayer.”

—FORMER SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BROTHER ARMIN A. LUISTRO, FSC

IN SHORT

The Philippines is striving to deliver improved public services, having shown significant results but also some challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At a middle level in income and human development, with significant fiscal space, and where official development assistance now represents a small fraction of total financial flows, the country is committed to making more effective use

of its internal resources to fulfil its development goals.

In 2016, under a \$60 million government financing agreement, UNDP began assisting the Department of Education in delivering one of the Government’s most critical programmes, the Kinder to Grade 12 Basic Education Programme. Through this agreement, UNDP provides an assistance package that includes technical support for public financial management reform, capacity development, citizens’ engagement in monitoring service delivery and procurement services.

THE ADDED VALUE OF UNDP

UNDP is well positioned to support a country where domestic resources for development have soared exponentially in recent years, but capacities to deliver services have not kept up, resulting in delays in project implementation and expenditure of allocated budget.

Under a financing agreement with the Department of

Education, where the bulk of funding is from the Government, UNDP offers global expertise, high standards of transparency and accountability, and expert programme management support to accelerate service delivery. The support is time-bound, as UNDP will exit once the Department of Education's policies and programmes are refined, and its service delivery capacities are sufficiently strengthened.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Recent fiscal reforms helped double budgetary resources in the Philippines in six years. In 2016, the national budget topped 3 trillion pesos, over 37 percent of which was allocated to social service sectors. The Department of Education's budget, the highest among all government departments, continues to grow, surpassing 460 billion pesos in 2016.

Given high ratios of children and youth—one-third of the population is under age 15—the Philippines cannot afford to fall short on education. While it attained the MDG target on primary enrolment, only 64 percent of adults have some secondary education, and the quality of education is still a major challenge.

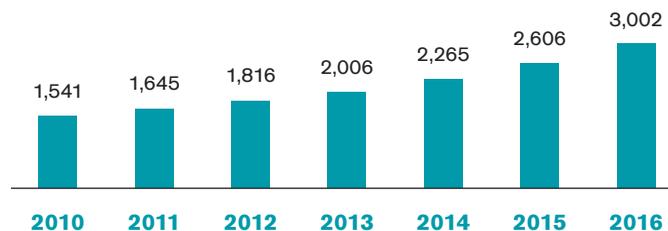
With these issues in mind, the Department of Education has been pursuing a series of reforms, including under the 2013 Enhanced Basic Education Act, colloquially called the Kinder to Grade 12 (K-12) Basic Education Programme. It aims to establish and maintain a complete, adequate, integrated system of education relevant to the needs of all people and the country while also bridging the divide between education and the requirements of today's labour market. The impacts could be profound, particularly in terms of reducing inequities in access to schooling. Dropout rates will also fall.

EXPEDITING PROCUREMENT AND CLOSING MANAGEMENT GAPS

As part of expediting implementation of the K-12 Programme, a government financing partnership with UNDP was agreed to help reduce remaining capacity gaps and ensure the timely delivery of quality development services. The partnership

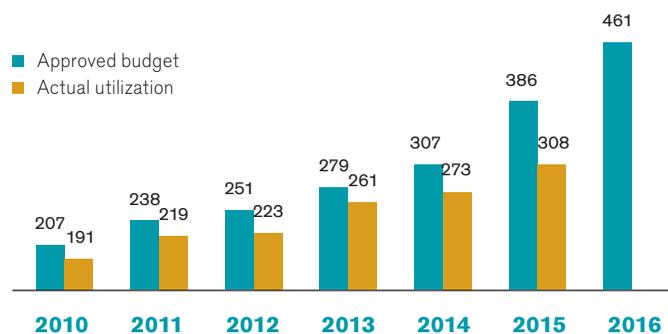
THE NATIONAL BUDGET HAS DOUBLED IN SIX YEARS

(billions of pesos)



EDUCATION ABSORBS THE LARGEST SHARE OF FUNDS

(Department of Education, billions of pesos)



initially focused on expediting the procurement and delivery of ICT equipment and services for schools, while ensuring quality and best value for money.

UNDP procurement support services access a highly competitive global market and globally recognized brands with after-sales support services, which can extend equipment use beyond the current three-year asset replacement period of the Department of Education. UNDP also provides expertise in the complicated logistics of delivering procured items to approximately 5,000 points across the Philippine archipelago. Further, it uses the procurement process to provide hands-on experience to government staff, backed by training on new skills, such as under the CIPS Level 2 Certificate in Procurement and Supply Operations.



IT FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

To tackle the issue of high youth unemployment and provide better jobs for Filipino workers, the Government envisions strengthening the IT and telecommunications sectors. This has led the Department of Education to invest in building IT skills among senior high school students

Partnering with UNDP, the Government plans to deliver packages of computers and other IT equipment to more than 5,000 public senior high schools throughout the country. This includes 4,000 schools with no access to power, and where the ICT packages will be bundled with solar power systems.

So far, UNDP has awarded three out of four contracts for providing IT packages, installation and training to 184 public high schools, 889 specialized high schools and 209 division offices of the Department of Education. The contracts were procured within three months—well below the time involved in government procurement processes.

Alongside the provision of procurement and programme management support services, UNDP is implementing a technical assistance package to help the Department of Education improve its delivery of education services. First, a diagnostic assessment will identify strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities for reform in the Department's public financial management systems.

Second, a capacity development programme will boost the professionalization of public financial management in the Department, especially in the area of procurement. A parallel capacity development programme for civil society organizations will enable them to engage in the Department's public financial management processes, from budget preparation to budget accountability.

Third, as part of the Department's efforts to boost transparency, accountability and citizen participation, UNDP is helping to devise a third-party monitoring system. Through this, civil society organizations and community volunteers are tapped to track the delivery of ICT packages, the preparedness of schools prior to delivery and the satisfaction of users after delivery. This monitoring system can potentially be extended to cover all aspects of education service delivery.

UNDP is offering technical assistance in an inclusive manner through the Governance Host Universities Bridging Services (G-HUBS). G-HUBS bring together academic institutions and civil society organizations as partners and service providers for public financial management assessments, capacity development and third-party monitoring. A G-HUBS-based strategy ensures that reform efforts are undertaken bottom-up rather than top-bottom.

BASIC FACTS

TIME FRAME: *May 2016 to December 2017*

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS: *\$60.6 million (\$600,000 from UNDP)*

GOVERNMENT FINANCING: *\$60 million (Department of Education)*

PARTNERS: *Department of Education*
