



# CAGAYAN VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2024







# CAGAYAN VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2024



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# FOREWORD

The Cagayan Valley Regional Development Report (CV RDR) 2024 reflects the notable progress made in implementing the current Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (CV RDP) across various sectors, showcasing the collective efforts and collaboration of the different stakeholders involved.

This is the second annual monitoring report in the implementation of the plan. The report also showcases the initiatives of regional line agencies (RLAs), local government units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) in their respective attempt to stimulate the economy. It also highlights the adjustments on the actions and specific measures to be implemented to overcome emerging issues and challenges to protect the capabilities of individuals and families and to generate jobs and new investments in the business sector.

The sectoral committees of the Regional Development Council, namely: the Economic Development Committee, Social Development Committee, Infrastructure Development Committee, and the Committee on Development Administration and Communication reviewed and validated the respective chapters of the report pertinent to their area of concern. Their comments and insights enhanced the content of the document. This report was presented and was approved and adopted by the RDC Full Council during its meeting held on 26 March 2025.

The Secretariat extends its appreciation for the support and cooperation of the various government agencies in the preparation. The support, collaboration, and collective efforts were instrumental in achieving the goals and objectives set in the plan.

Let us continue to strive together to sustain the achievements gained to help realize the Filipinos' aspirations of a *"matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay"*.

**DIR. DIONISIO C. LEDRES, JR.**

NEDA Regional Office 02



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
CAGAYAN VALLEY REGION

134<sup>th</sup> RDC Full Council Meeting  
March 26, 2025

**Resolution No. 02-08**  
-Series of 2025-

**“ADOPTING THE CAGAYAN VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2024”**

**WHEREAS**, the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Report (RDR) serves as the second annual assessment of the implementation of the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (CV RDP) 2023-2028;

**WHEREAS**, the RDR 2024 aims to provide timely, useful, and relevant evaluation of the progress in implementing the strategies and policy directions indicated in the CV RDP;

**WHEREAS**, the RDR will be utilized as input in drafting the country's 2026 Budget Priorities Framework;

**WHEREAS**, the RDR serves as a guide in coordinating regional development through activities such as planning, policy formulation, investment programming, and budgeting;

**WHEREAS**, the RDR was subjected to the review and validation of the sectoral committees of the Regional Development Council (RDC) during their respective first quarter meetings, and have endorsed the same to the RDC for adoption;


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to adopt the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Report 2024.

**APPROVED** during the 134th RDC Full Council Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, this 26th day of March 2025 in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Certified Correct:

  
**OIC-ARD GINA V. DAYAG**  
Interim Secretary

Attested:

  
**RD DIONISIO C. LEDRES, JR.**  
Vice Chair

Approved:

  
**PSR CHRISTIAN R. GUZMAN**  
Co-Chair and Presiding Officer





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# ***Data Sources***

AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BLGF	Bureau of Local Government Finance
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CEZA	Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
COA	Commission on Audit
CSC	Civil Service Commission
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DepEd	Department of Education
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DMW	Department of Migrant Workers
DOE	Department of Energy
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ-ORP	Department of Justice – Office of the Regional Prosecutor
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOLE-AKAP	Department of Labor and Employment - Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOT	Department of Tourism
DOTr	Department of Transportation
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
GSIS	Government Service Insurance System
HDMF	Home Development Mutual Fund

IPOPHIL	Intellectual Property of the Philippines
LTO	Land Transportation Office
LTFRB	Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
NAPOLCOM	National Police Commission
NCCA	National Commission for Culture and the Arts
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEA	National Electrification Administration
NHA	National Housing Authority
NLP	National Library of the Philippines
NMP	National Museum of the Philippines
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NRCO	National Reintegration Center for OFWs
NTC	National Telecommunications Commission
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OWWA	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
PAO	Public Attorney's Office

PCG	Philippine Coast Guard (Coast Guard District North Eastern Luzon)
PCIC	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
PHIC	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PNP	Philippine National Police
CHD	Commission on Population and Development
PPA	Parole and Probation Administration
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PRC	Professional Regulation Commission
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
SHFC	Social Housing Finance Corporation
SSS	Social Security System
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority



# *List of Acronyms*

4PH	Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Program
ARB	Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries
AFF	Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
ACAP	Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal
AbRF	Agroecology-Based Rice Farming
ADS	Alternative dispute resolution
ALS	Alternative Learning System
LIWC	Local Institutions on Women and Children
ABDD	Area-Based and Demand-Driven
A.R.R.E.S.T.	Artificial Intelligence Facial Recognition Through Responsive Electronic System
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AICS	Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATM	Automated Teller Machines
AKAP	Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program
BWSP	Baggao Water Supply Project
BASIL	Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BCPC	Barangay Council for the Protection of Children
BDP	Barangay Development Program
BHRAC	Barangay Human Rights Action Center
BIMS	Barangay Information Management System

BIP	Basic Infrastructure Program
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BOI	Board of Investment
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BLGF	Bureau of Local Government Finance
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
BIRD-C	Business Intelligence Research and Development Center
BNR	Business Name Registration
BOSS	Business One-Stop Shop
BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
CEZA	Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
CSEZFP	Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport
CSU	Cagayan State University
CVAMIA	Cagayan Valley Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture
CVCHD	Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development
CVRDP	Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan
CVRDR	Cagayan Valley Regional Development Report
CVRIIC	Cagayan Valley Regional Inclusive Innovation Center
CVRRDA	Cagayan Valley Regional Research and Development Agenda
CSRIP	Calapangan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project
CUCPD	Capacitating Urban Communities for Peace and Development

CWP	Cash-for-work Program
CPR	Certificate of Product Registration
COATS	Checking Our Aptitude on the Typhoon Seasons
CAEXPO	China-ASEAN Expo
CMPI	Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CC-AMIA	Climate Change – Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture
CCAM	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
CDRA	Climate Disaster Risk Assessment
CIS	Climate Information System
CRVAF	Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment for Fisheries
COMELEC	Commission on Elections
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CTG	Communist Terrorist Group
CPDS	Community Program Development Services
CBT	Community-Based Training
CBC	Competency-Based Curriculum
CBLM	Competency-Based Learning Materials
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CMGP	Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces

CONSUMER	Consumer Organizations Nurtured and Strengthened in Uniting the Multi-level Sector to Enforce their Rights
CWAC	Consumer Welfare Assistance Centers
CCB	Contact Center ng Bayan
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region
CFSS	Customer Feedback Satisfaction Survey
CAMERA	Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Awareness through Mentoring, Education, Reminders, and Advisories
DPEARP	Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project
DSA	Data Sharing Agreement
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DARAB	Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board
DA	Department of Agriculture
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DepEd	Department of Education
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOF	Department of Finance
DOH	Department of Health
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development

DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOT	Department of Tourism
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DOTr	Department of Transportation
DSIP	Development of Salt Industry Project
DJ for ME	Digital Journey for Micro-Enterprises
DMC	Dinapigue Mining Corporation
DRRAP	Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DRRM-H	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Health
DEO	District Engineering Offices
DOJ-NPS	DOJ-National Prosecutorial Services
DILP	DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program
ELLN	Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy
EODB	Ease of Doing Business
EODB EGSD	Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery
ESC	Education Service Contracting
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
eBOSS	Electronic Business One-Stop Shop
EMR	Electronic Medical Records
EPAHP	Enhance Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty
ECLIP	Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program
ELCCAP	Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan

EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EnMOs	Environmental Management Officers
ETL	Equivalent Teaching Loads
FMRNDP	Farm-to-Market Road Network Development Program
FHSIS	Field Health Services Information System
FALGU	Financial Assistance to LGU
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDP	Food Defense Plan
FSP	Food Stamp Program
FR	Former Rebels
FRS	Fund Release System
GRLG	Gender Responsive Local Governance
GAA	General Appropriations Act
GLS	General Labor Standards
GIS	Geographic Information System
GICA	Geographically Isolated and Conflict-Affected Areas
GIDA	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas
GIP	Government Internship Program
GovNet	Government Network
GOCC	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations
GRIND	Grassroots Innovation for Inclusive Development
GVA	Green Viability Assessment
GVA	Gross Value Added
GEF	Growth Equity Fund
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

HCPN	Health Care Provider Network
HFEP	Health Facilities Enhancement Program
HIMS	Health Information Management System
HLI	Healthy Learning Institutions
HVC	High Value Crops
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HEIRIT	Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship
HH	Household
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRD	Human Resource Development
HRH	Human Resources for Health
IP	Indigenous People
IPMR	Indigenous People Mandatory Representatives
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	Information and Education Campaigns
IT-BPM	Information Technology and Business Process Management
IFP	Infrastructure Flagship Projects
ITSO	Innovation and Technology Support Offices
iSTART	Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-Based Development
IBPLS	Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System
IHMIS	Integrated Hospitals Management Information System
ITDS	Integrated Territorial Defense System
IPOPHL	Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines

IPRDP	Intellectual Property Regional Development Plan
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IRI	International Roughness Index
IA	Irrigators Association
ISELCO II	Isabela II Electric Cooperative
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular
JHS-SPTVE	Junior High School - Special Program for Technical Vocational Education
KMME-MME	Kapatid Mentor Me-Money Market Encounter
KALAHI-CIDSS	Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
KIST	Knowledge, Innovation, Science, and Technology
LEES	Labor and Employment Education Services
LIP	Labor Inspection Program
LMI	Labor Market Information
LTO	Land Transportation Office
LAC	Learning Action Cell
LIFT	LGU Integrated Financial Tools
LTO	License to Operate
LCE	Local Chief Executive
LCPC	Local Council for the Protection of Children
LCAC	Local Culture and Arts Councils
LDF	Local Development Fund
LGSF	Local Government Support Fund



LGU	Local Government Unit
LHSD	Local Health Systems Development
LIWP	Local Institutions on Women and Children
LNC	Local Nutrition Committees
LPCC	Local Price Coordinating Councils
LSP	Local Shelter Plans
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
LINIP	Lusod Integrated National Irrigation Project
LES	Luzon Eastern Seaboard
MRIDP	Masagana Rice Industry Development Program
MTWD	Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MLD	million liters per day
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
NAT	National Achievement Test
NLE	National and Local Elections
NBP	National Broadband Program
NCR	National Capital Region
NC	National Certification
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NFRDI	National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
NG-LG	National Government-Local Government
NGP	National Greening Program
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines

NHIS	National Health Insurance System
NHNFC	National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation
NHTS-PR	National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction
NHRHMP	National Human Resources for Health Master Plan
NICA	National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NSRP	National Skills Registration Program
NTA	National Tax Allotment
NUPAP	National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program
NICER	Niche Centers in the Regions
NBFI	Non-Bank Financial Institutions
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NVAT	Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal
OSH	Occupational Safety and Health
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OTOP	One Town, One Product
OSYA	Out-of-School Youth and Adults
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
PM10	particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter
PM	Particulate Matter
PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan
PLEB	People's Law Enforcement Board
PROUD	Personnel Relations and Organizations for Unity and Development

PDL	persons deprived of liberty
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
PCIC	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
PHFDP	Philippine Health Facilities Development Plan
PHIC	Philippine Health Insurance Company
PNP	Philippine National Police
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PoP	Point of Presence
PSIR	Post Sentence Investigation Reports
PROTECT	Program Response in Overtaking Threats to Enterprises from Calamities and Transitions
PRIME-HRM	Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management
P/CWHS	Province/ City-wide Health System
PLGU	Provincial Local Government Unit
PESO	Public Employment Service Offices
PES	Public Employment Services
PPP	Public-Private Partnerships
QSU	Quirino State University
R2 ASSETS	Region 2 Adopting Safe, Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure System
RDC	Regional Development Council
RESU	Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

RGC	Regional Government Center
RLA	Regional Line Agency
RPPF	Regional Physical Framework Plan
RRDIC	Regional Research and Development, and Innovation Committee
ReSEED	Regional Startup Enablers for Ecosystem Development
RSBSA	Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture
RAIP	Regular Agricultural Insurance Program
R&D	Research and Development
R4D	Research for Development
RM	Results Matrix
RSCP	Retooled Community Support Program
RPB	Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay
RESP	Rice Extension Services Program
ROLL-IT	Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade
REGSE	Rural Employment Generation for Social Equity
SMU	Saint Mary's University
SIAL	Salon International de L'Alimentation
SLF	Sanitary Landfills
S&T	Science and Technology
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
SGLG	Seal of Good Local Governance
SHS-TVL	Senior High School - Technical Vocational Livelihood
SSF	Shared Service Facilities

SSF-LAMP	Shared Service Facility - Local Advisory and Mentoring Program
SWISA	Small Water Irrigation System Association
SWIM	Smart Water Infrastructure Management
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SPISC	Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens
SPOF	Social Protection Operational Framework
SPP	Social Protection Plan
STH	Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis
SPP	Solar Power Project
SPES	Special Program for Employment of Students
SUC	State Universities and Colleges
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SBDP	Support to Barangay Development Program
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SHINE	Sustaining Harvest through Innovation and Nurturing Enterprise
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
STI	Systems Technology Institute
TSS	Teacher Salary Subsidy
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TBI	Technology Business Incubator
TES	Tertiary Education Subsidy
T&C	Testing and Commissioning

ARJOW	Agrarian Reform Justice on Wheels
TRIP	Tourism Road Infrastructure Program
TPB	Trabaho Para sa Bayan
TC	Transport Carriers
TB	Tuberculosis
TDP	Tulong Dunong Program
TUPAD	Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced/ Disadvantaged
TRMP	Tumauini River Multipurpose Project
TKDSP	Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplementation Program
UHC	Universal Health Care
USL	University of Saint Louis
VAW	Violence against Woman
WDDSP	Water District Development Sector Project
WODP	Workers' Organization Development Program
WHO	World Health Organization
YEP-BYOB	Youth Entrepreneurship Program - Be Your Own Boss

# 01

## Regional Development Report Overview

## SECTION 1.1

# Overview of the Regional Economy, Development Context, and Trends



## Introduction

At the start of the Marcos Administration, the region formulated the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan (CV RDP) 2023-2028. Its preparation was guided by the socioeconomic agenda and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for the same period. It is also the second of the four medium-term plans that guide the pursuit of the country's long-term vision tagged as Ambisyon Natin 2040, as well as the region's vision to be the gateway to East Asia. The Regional Development Report (RDR) 2024 is an annual assessment of the accomplishments attained after the first three years of the RDP implementation.

The RDR highlights how development strategies and interventions fared against set development outcomes, goals, and objectives as spelled out in the RDP. The discussion



in this chapter focuses on regional headline targets. The rest of the accomplishments are elaborated in the succeeding chapters, namely: Chapter 2 reviews the progress of interventions towards advancing economic transformation and growth; Chapter 3 provides discussions on ensuring food and water security; Chapter 4 presents what the region has done so far to achieve social development; Chapter 5 discusses accomplishments along environmental protection towards a climate resilient nation; Chapter 6 elucidates actions directed towards ensuring peace and order and national security; and Chapter 7 focuses on what has been done so far to pursue good governance and bureaucratic efficiency.

## **Accomplishments for 2024**

Cagayan Valley Region sustained its growth, expanding by 6.2 percent in 2023. Albeit lower than the preceding, this year's growth is the 7th highest recorded among all regions, surpassing the national average of 5.6 percent growth rate. This growth validates the strategies spelled out in the Regional Development Plan. The past year saw the region work towards building a strong economic and fiscal foundation, enhancing its business climate, promoting productivity-enhancing and job-generating investments. Several programs and interventions were implemented to strengthen the supply-side or production sectors of the economy, namely, the agriculture, industry, and services sectors.

The agriculture sector grew faster from 0.5 percent in 2022 to 2.2 percent in 2023, resulting from efforts on enhancing the efficiency of production, expanding access to markets, and improving the resiliency of the sector to natural disasters. Key accomplishments include: (i) increased adoption of technologies by farmers and fisherfolks; (ii) continued implementation of farm consolidation; (iii) pursuit of initiatives on value chain and agribusiness; and (iv) increased investments in infrastructure and climate-smart technologies. A sustained collaboration among all stakeholders is crucial to overcome the remaining challenges and ensure the long-term sustainability of a modernized agriculture and agribusiness sector.

For the industry sector which expanded by 8.5 percent in 2023, the emphasis was on expanding the domestic market and supplier base, moving up the value chain, and enhancing linkages across sectors. The industry sector's performance in the succeeding years is anchored on the region's vision for an "economy driven by agro-industries, manufacturing, information technology-based industries." This hinges on a dynamic

ecosystem that will be made accessible to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to drive industrialization forward.

For the services sector, the focus was on the expansion of economic opportunities through tourism development, MSMEs empowerment, and ICT services improvement. Improving physical and digital connectivity was a priority to facilitate transactions, as well as attract investors in the IT-BPM sector. MSMEs were encouraged to adopt e-commerce in their business processes. The region banks on its diverse landscape and rich culture to make tourism a strong growth driver. New circuits were launched and stronger partnerships with LGUs and the private sector were forged. All these initiatives contributed to a 7.2 percent growth rate in 2023.

The expansion of the production sector, and the increase in income earning ability of the labor force boosted household spending, contributing to last year's sustained high growth. This is an offshoot of efforts to ensure an adequate supply of labor force, steady job growth, and better employment and income opportunities for the regional workforce. The robust growth in spending were seen in accommodation and food service activities, professional and business services, and transportation services, thus, reflecting improvements in the level of household income.

Government spending contributed to delivering a sustainable modern infrastructure system. Consistent with the President's Socioeconomic Agenda, public investments were made to: (i) enhance infrastructure; (ii) achieve seamless and inclusive connectivity; (iii) promote water security, integrity, and resilience to water hazards; (iv) develop affordable, reliable, and clean energy; and (v) intensify support to social development. Improving public financial management and bolstering the revenue-generating capacities of local government units have likewise paved the way for more government spending.

Capital formation was vigorously sought to take advantage of the region's strategic location, as well as its natural and human resources, posing as opportunities for domestic investments and trade. Aside from improving the business climate, more attention was given to the development of the region's export industry and pool of talents. Nonetheless, there is a need for more investments to drive export growth, technology transfer, and innovation to unleash the region's market potential.

**Poverty incidence among families decreased.** The 2023 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics Report released today by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reveals that Region 2 registered a 7.2 percent poverty incidence among families in 2023. This is the 5th lowest among the 18 regions of the country last year. This is significantly lower than

the 11.7 percent in 2021, and the 10.9 percent national poverty incidence among families in 2023. The 7.2 percent is equivalent to around 66,690 poor families in 2023, lower than the 105,090 figure in 2021.

**Inflation settled with government target at 2 to 4 percent.** The headline inflation of Cagayan Valley reached 3.1 percent in October 2024, from 1.6 percent in September 2024, bringing down the average regional inflation from January to October 2024 to 3.3 percent. This figure is lower than the October 2023 inflation rate at 3.4 percent, and average inflation rate from January to December 2023, which settled at 4.6 percent. Although the 2024 inflation rate is lower than the previous year's figures, food inflation in Cagayan Valley increased due to the weather disturbances that occurred during the last quarter of 2024.

**Employment rate slightly increased.** The average employment rate was 95.7 percent for the period January to October 2024, higher than the 2023 employment rate of 95.4 percent. The average unemployment rate in October 2024 stood at 4.3 percent. This is higher than the whole year's target range of 3.7 - 3.9 percent. Underemployment is still a major concern as it averaged 13.3 percent, slightly lower than the previous year's 13.6 percent. Cagayan Valley has a large share of workers in the agriculture sector, where underemployment is most prevalent.

Although Cagayan Valley succeeded in reducing the poverty incidence, the region remains vigilant in monitoring and addressing challenges such as inflation that could undermine efforts to alleviate poverty. Indeed, poverty would have declined further without the high inflation experienced. The government continues to ensure that food is available, accessible, and affordable for all Filipinos. On the other hand, to address the challenges on unemployment and underemployment, the region will benefit from the Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) Act which has been signed into law. The said law will focus on improving the employability and competitiveness of Filipino workers through upskilling and reskilling initiatives.

## Ways Forward

Imbedded in our Plan is the transformation agenda that will be pursued through the implementation of six cross-cutting strategies, namely: (i) digitalization; (ii) connectivity; (iii) leveraging the role of the private sector through public-private partnership; (iv) servicification; (v) technology and innovation; and (vi) greater collaboration between the

local and national government. These will be achieved through the following key regional development strategies that will be implemented over the medium-term:

**Improve the productivity and resilience of the agriculture sector.** This will be pursued through the various interventions and programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other agencies, with the end in view of enabling the region to contribute to the goals of ensuring food security, and making the agricultural sector productive, efficient, and competitive.

**Strengthen the linkage of agriculture with industry and services.** The agriculture sector will supply a large and sustainable production base for agricultural and fishery industries, given its vast land, including land with potential for industrial use. To optimize these resources, the region will strengthen the linkage among the production sectors. Agricultural resources will be tapped in spurring manufacturing activities, increasing value-adding activities, and building up its industrial niche.

**Promote investments in manufacturing and IT-BPM industries.** Investments will likewise be promoted in manufacturing industries that are non-agri based and have the potential to generate jobs and create positive spillover effects on the economy. This will be pursued through the upgrading of existing ICT facilities and infrastructure system, establishment of technology hubs in SUCs and cities, and improvement of manpower skills attuned to globalization technologies and trends.

**Develop and promote agriculture, nature, adventure, and culture tourism.** The region's natural and scenic attractions make the region a destination for adventure, culture, and agri-tourism. Considering the tourism industry's contribution to the regional economy, the region will continue to push for the development of the sector.

**Promote investments in alternative energy sources.** The development of alternative energy sources will be pursued and supported. These include solar and hydro power to achieve stability of supply, cope with increasing power demand, reduce the cost of electricity, and lessen reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

**Improve land, sea, and air transport infrastructure.** Addressing transport infrastructure will improve the region's investment climate and address the lack of efficient intermodal, integrated, and inter-regional transport system.

Corresponding interventions, programs and projects will reinvigorate job creation initiatives and accelerate poverty reduction. These interventions will be instrumental in

the region's bid to help achieve the country's social and economic transformation agenda. All these pursuits will be supported by an enabling environment with emphasis on good governance and bureaucratic efficiency, accelerating climate action and strengthening disaster resilience, and ensuring peace and security.

# 02

## Advancing Economic Transformation and Growth



## SECTION 2.1

# Promote Financial Inclusion and Improve Public Financial Management



Participants of the "UPLIFT towards 5D LGUs" or Upskilling on the LIFT System towards Data Disaggregation for Data-Driven Decisions conducted by BLGF Regional Office 2

Source: BLGF Region 2 Facebook Page

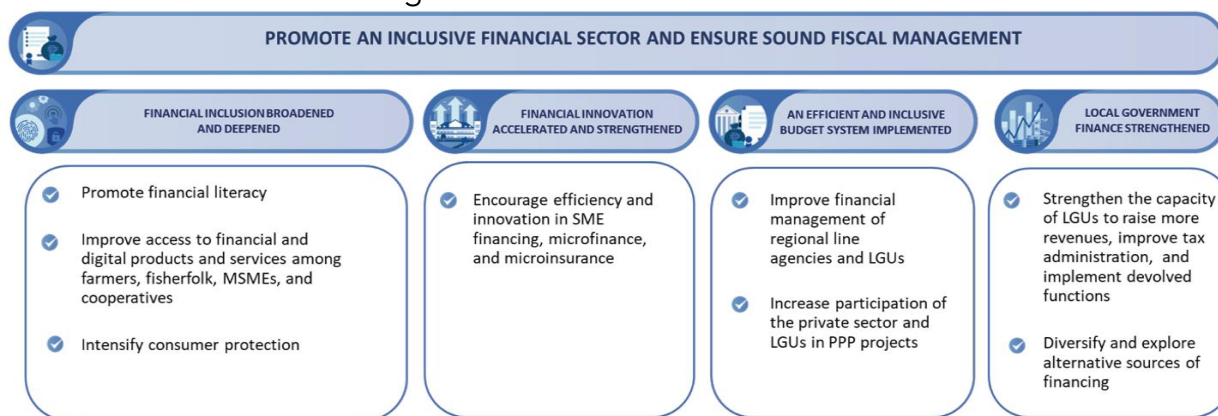
## Introduction

Creating an inclusive and improved financial sector is pursued in the region by promoting digitalization initiatives and strengthening the capacity of local government units (LGUs) in public financial management. This section focuses on the sector's accomplishments in 2024, in terms of increasing access to financial products and services, engaging consumers and businesses in digital financial services, and strengthening local government finance. Actions to improve sectoral performance and achieve the set targets are also outlined.

## Strategy Framework

Efforts to strengthen financial resiliency of every Filipino are focused on strategies supporting the following sector outcomes: (1) financial inclusion broadened and deepened; (2) financial innovation accelerated and strengthened; (3) an efficient and inclusive budget system implemented; and (4) local government finance strengthened.

Figure 2.1.1 Strategy Framework to Promote Financial Inclusion and Improve Public Financial Management



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Financial inclusion broadened and deepened

**Financial Education Programs.** Public information campaigns and financial literacy sessions were conducted, benefitting 4,053 participants from the public and private sector during the year. The literacy sessions catered to market vendors, MSMEs, transport operators, cooperatives, government personnel, and other business establishment owners, for them to gain knowledge on the financial and digital products and services of the government.

### Financial innovation accelerated and strengthened

**Paleng-QR Ph Plus Program.** In support of the Paleng-QR Ph Plus Program, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) provided Free Public Internet Access during the seven (7) launching activities of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Paleng QR Sites in Cagayan (3), Isabela (2), Nueva Vizcaya (1), and Batanes (1). This program aims to promote cashless payments to speed up and ensure efficient transactions. This is supported by the Connectivity in Public Places program.



## An efficient and inclusive budget system implemented

**Public Financial Management Program.** The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) continued to validate and monitor the LGUs' implementation of their Public Financial Management Improvement Plans. The agency conducted trainings on Barangay Planning and Budgeting in the barangay LGUs of Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, and Quirino. A Local Budget Forum was also facilitated to prepare the FY 2025 Annual Budget of LGUs, while a Corporate Budget Forum for Local Water Districts was conducted to prepare the FY 2025 Corporate Operating Budget.

## Local government finance strengthened

**Capacity Development Program for LGUs.** The Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) provided training programs to enhance the financial capabilities of LGUs in the region. These focused on updating local revenue codes, rationalizing fees and charges, and preparing barangay tax codes. Several sessions upskilled LGUs on data-driven decision-making through the LGU Integrated Financial Tools (LIFT) system, while others covered cash custodianship, accounting, market value preparation, and real property taxation. The programs aimed to strengthen financial management and improve governance across various LGUs.

**Evaluation and Assessment of Local Treasury Offices.** The BLGF evaluated the Local Treasury Offices in the region. The observations and recommendations were discussed with the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) to get their commitment and response findings. This mode of monitoring aimed to enhance financial management and operational efficiency across LGUs.

**Enhancing LGU Credit Access.** The BLGF provided timely analysis and issuance of Certificate of Net Debt Service Ceiling and Borrowing Capacity to LGUs to enhance their credit access to lending institutions. This effort enabled 20 LGUs, including one barangay, to secure financing for various projects, fostering local development.

## Results Matrix

Overall, the region achieved above-target accomplishments along five major indicators, namely: (i) Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) scores of the four city LGUs in the region; (ii) number of automated teller machines (ATM) by type and location;

(iii) number of banks by type; and (iv) ratio of local source of LGU income to total current operating income.

During the year, all the four city LGUs in the region exhibited improved CMCI scores, with Tuguegarao City recording the highest increase. The accessibility of financial services in the region also improved with more banks and ATMs established. By location, the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan accounted for the increase in number of ATMs. A decrease in the number of thrift banks and ATM of rural and cooperative banks was noted, by 11 units and 15 units, respectively, compared to the baseline data in 2022. Microfinance-oriented banks and non-bank financial institutions also displayed a slow growth. The rise of digital banks and electronic money issuer non-bank financial institutions has yet to be seen.

As regards the local financial management of LGUs, the LGUs' utilization of the Local Development Fund (LDF) was recorded at 65.79 percent, far below the target of 100 percent. The year-on-year social and economic expenditures also declined by 11.36 percent. The LGUs' dependence on the national tax allotment persisted, as the growth in their locally-sourced income shrank to 3.42 percent from 12 percent in 2023.

Table 2.1.1 Result Matrix: Promote Financial Inclusion and Improve Public Financial Management

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
<b>Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) scores on financial deepening of four City LGUs in the region improved</b>				
Cauayan City	*0.3202	improved	improved	0.4274
Iligan City	*0.3608	improved	improved	0.3644
Santiago City	*0.6693	improved	improved	0.6706
Tuguegarao City	*0.6421	improved	improved	0.7552
<b>Number of ATMs increased by type (Total)</b>				
Universal and commercial bank	447 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 470
Thrift bank	42 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 54
Rural and Cooperative bank	47 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 32
<b>Number of ATMs increased by location (Total)</b>				
Batanes	4 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 4

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Cagayan	192 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 201
Isabela	254 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 267
Nueva Vizcaya	61 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 59
Quirino	25 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 25
<b>Number of banks increased (Total)</b>				
Universal and commercial bank	145 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 148
Thrift bank	95 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 84
Rural and Cooperative bank	247 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 255
Digital	0 (Sept 2022)	increasing	increasing	** 0
<b>Number of Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) increased (Total)</b>				
Pawnshops	467 (2021)	increasing	increasing	*** 517
Electronic money issuer	0 (2021)	increasing	increasing	*** 0
Money business services (remittance and transfer) companies	157 (2021)	increasing	increasing	*** 150
Non- stock savings and loans association	6 (2021)	increasing	increasing	*** 0
Financing companies	8 (2021)	increasing	increasing	*** 0
<b>Number of microfinance-oriented bank</b>	10	increasing	increasing	**** 10
<b>Utilization of the 20% component of the NTA for the Local Development Fund maintained at 100%</b>	100	maintained	maintained	**** 65.79
<b>Ratio of local source of LGU income to total current operating income maintained above baseline (%)</b>	13	15	15	**** 15.62

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Year-on-year growth in social and economic service expenditures of LGUs maintained at 6 percent (%)	18	6	6	**** -11.36
Growth in locally- sourced LGU income maintained at > 12 percent (%)	12	12	12	**** 3.42

\* Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (2022)

\*\* Banking statistics as of June 2024

\*\*\* NBF1 statistics as of September 2024

\*\*\*\* BLGF data as of September 2024

Source: DTI, BSP NLRO, BLGF

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

The following are some of the strategies to promote financial inclusion and improve public financial management for 2025-2026:

**Conduct key activities for public financial management.** Key activities planned include the 2024 Fund Release System (FRS) and 2025 Budget Preparation Fora, validation of LGUs' 2024-2025 Public Financial Management Improvement Plans, and the 2025 cycle of Public Financial Management Assessments for LGUs. Capacity-building efforts will feature a Trainers' Training on Barangay and SK Planning and Budgeting, and the rollout of the Public Financial Management Competency Program for LGUs.

**Continue evaluation and assessment of Local Treasury Offices.** Complete the evaluation cycle of all 98 LGUs in the region and start with the new cycle, focusing on new thrusts of treasury and assessment operations, while sustaining the positive improvements implemented as a result of the previous evaluation cycle.

**Establish a training center for local government finance.** A training center for local government finance will be established in the Cagayan Valley Region to address the need for capacity building, in response to recent laws, policy changes, and the upcoming full devolution of services. The center will offer essential courses, including training on the Revised Valuation Standards, the new Manual for Local Assessment Services,

Property Appraisal with a focus on the Mass Appraisal Guidebook, Digital Tax Mapping, Electronic Records Management, Fundamentals of Effective Local Assessment Services, Skills Enhancement in Cash Accounting, Safeguard and Handling, Local Treasury Service Operations, Economics for Tax Collectors, and the Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act.

**Promotion of digital banking and payments.** The implementation of the Paleng-QR Ph Plus Program and the electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) will be promoted in all LGUs. Shifting to digital banking and payments will not only make transactions faster and convenient, but also strengthen the region's digital economy.

## SECTION 2.2

# Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation



Grand Inauguration of the 1st Regional Technology and Product Exhibit at Isabela State University in Echague, Isabela

Source: RAISE Cagayan Facebook Page

## Introduction

Research and development (R&D), technology, and innovation play a critical role in driving growth and transformation in economies. These areas are key to generating high-quality jobs, improving competitiveness, and enhancing the overall productivity of various sectors. This section highlights the region's significant strides in advancing R&D, technology, and innovation, which have been key drivers of growth and transformation across the agriculture, industry, and services sectors. By fostering innovation, the region enhanced its productivity and competitiveness, ultimately contributing to the generation of quality jobs and the creation of more competitive products.

## Strategy Framework

The region pursued strategies to achieve the following sector outcomes: (1) basic R&D and knowledge creation strengthened; (2) market-driven and customer-centered R&D advanced; (3) technology adoption, utilization, and commercialization scaled-up; and (4) innovation and entrepreneurship accelerated.

Figure 2.2.1 Strategy Framework to Advance Research and Development, Technology and Innovation



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Basic research and development and knowledge creation strengthened

**R&D Capacity Building Program.** The regional line agencies and research consortia conducted capacity development and mentoring activities. The R&D centers assisted in enhancing research studies to ensure excellent researches and compliance with ethical standards and relevant policies. Incentives and recognition systems were reviewed and upgraded to encourage more researchers to engage in high-impact studies.

**Curriculum Development.** The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) continued to provide training to teachers of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through the S&T Education Development Program. The program aims to intensify efforts to promote and cultivate a STEM culture, sparking greater interest in STEM careers among young learners. Students with high aptitude in STEM were also granted with scholarships under the S&T Scholarship Program and the Scholars Technopreneurship Training Program.

Also, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) enhanced the technical-vocational education curriculum. It integrated the 21st century skills into the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) and the Competency-Based Learning Materials (CBLMs) for Basic Competencies that are adopted by TESDA training institutions. Capability building programs were also provided to trainers to enhance their competencies in various areas.

### Market-driven and customer-centered research and development advanced

**Grassroots Innovation for Inclusive Development (GRIND) Program.** The DOST implemented the Grassroots Innovation for Inclusive Development (GRIND) Program to foster the development of innovative context-specific solutions from local communities to address local challenges. The five provinces in the region were tapped in implementing the program to bring S&T closer to the marginalized, support the communities' innovative ideas, and provide communities with the tools they need to achieve economic stability and growth.

**R&D Collaborations.** Collaborations among government agencies, SUCs, private HEIs, LGUs, research institutions, and the private sector scaled-up through sharing of R&D experts, resources, and research results. These leveraged expertise and enhanced productivity across various fields of R&D, technology, and innovation. These partnerships supported researchers, promoted the efficient use of resources, and fostered the development of new technologies. The SUCs, in partnership with the DOST, collaborated with United Cities, the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and the Digital Economy Promotion Agency in Thailand through the Cagayan Valley Smarter City Belt Program.

**R&D Agenda.** This year, the implementation of the Cagayan Valley Regional Research and Development Agenda (CV RRDA) 2023-2028 was strengthened through the conduct of annual research dissemination forum and the execution of Memorandum of



Agreement between the Regional Research and Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) and the key research implementing agencies in the region. Researches that are responsive to the development priorities of the region, as stated in the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan and the CV RRDA, are selected to present in the research forum and awarded with plaque and cash prize.

During the year, a total of 58 R&D proposals on agriculture, aquatic, natural resources, and health were evaluated and endorsed by the R&D consortia and regional offices. In addition, 20 R&D projects were implemented under the Research for Development (R4D), focusing on smart farming, digital agriculture, and climate resilience.

### Technology extension, adoption, utilization, and commercialization scaled-up

**Technology transfer and commercialization activities.** The DOST conducted 11 technology transfer and commercialization support services in an effort to promote the R&D outputs in the region for adoption, further development, and commercialization by industry players. There were 110 R&D outputs/ technologies that were promoted during these activities. Moreover, the DOST also continued to establish partnerships and collaborations with the private sector to help in the financing, commercialization, and marketing of these R&D outputs. This was carried out through the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program, Smart and Sustainable Communities Program, Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology, technology caravans, technology transfer day, and conduct of Regional S&T Week.

The DOST also encouraged venture capital firms to invest in early-stage or seed projects in R&D, technology, and innovation. It provided financial assistance to assist them in commercializing their products through the Venture Financing Program.

**Intellectual Property Regional Development Plan.** The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) launched the Intellectual Property Regional Development Plan (IPRDP) for the Cagayan Valley. This is a strategic initiative aimed at positioning the region as a pivotal East Asian gateway for investment. The Cagayan State University (CSU), University of Saint Louis (USL), Quirino State University (QSU), and Saint Mary's University (SMU) joined the Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSO) Program, providing the region's academic community an expanded access to intellectual property services.

## Innovation and entrepreneurship accelerated

**Innovation Hubs.** The region is home to seven key industry-academe centers that are instrumental in driving resource-based R&D, technology, and innovation initiatives, fostering innovation and technological advancement across a variety of sectors. These centers include: 1) Food Innovation Centers - CSU Carig Campus; 2) Business Intelligence Research and Development Center (BIRD-C); 3) Electromobility Research and Development Center; 4) Food Innovation Center - ISU Cauayan Campus; 5) Citrus Research and Development Center; 6) Smart Water Infrastructure Management (SWIM) Research and Development Center; and 7) Freshwater Fisheries Center. The region's commitment to supporting these centers is evident in the provision of technical assistance and guidance from the Regional Research and Development Information Center, the DOST, and international collaborators. This collaborative framework has facilitated the exchange of expertise, resources, and knowledge, enabling the development and implementation of cutting-edge technologies and practices that benefit local communities and industries.

**Financing opportunities for innovation-related projects or activities.** The DOST implemented the HEIRIT-ReSEED: Accelerating the Cagayan Valley Startup Ecosystem Project and the DOST-ISU-Smart City Technology Business Incubator (TBI) to link local startups with local investors and funding agencies. It also implemented the Innovation, Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) Project in six pilot LGUs (five municipal LGUs and one PLGU) to assist them in integrating STI to their local development plans, as well as in developing technology-based products.

The DTI also continued its assistance to startup innovators. The TechBridge Program was established to empower startups with entrepreneurship skill sets. The Investor's Pitch was also conducted to showcase innovative solutions being developed, aiming to capture the interest of potential investors and drive future economic growth. Market-oriented STI products and TBIs were promoted during regional and local events, as well as in e-commerce platforms and physical stores. In addition, the Startup 101 and 102 programs were also offered to students, teachers, and the general public to orient them on the concepts and foundational elements of a startup enterprise. This will foster potential collaborations with startup innovators and advocates.

**Financial and entrepreneurial literacy campaigns.** A total of 63 public information campaigns on Philippine currency, financial literacy, and digital literacy were conducted among LGUs, students, market vendors, owners of MSMEs, transport operators, members of cooperatives, and other entrepreneurs. These were attended by 5,159 participants.

## Results Matrix

Overall, the targets across all eight performance indicators were exceeded. Gross expenditure on R&D in the region increased, demonstrating a strong progress in R&D and a growing commitment to investing in innovation and technology.

During the year, the number of research proposals evaluated and endorsed by the R&D consortia and regional offices increased to 46 proposals from 29 proposals in 2023. This surpassed the year target of 10 proposals.

The number of technology transfer and commercialization support services also increased to 11 activities from five activities in 2023. This resulted in greater number of technologies transferred by commercialization, extension, or public good, which increased to 66 technologies from four technologies in 2023. This exceeded the year target by 94 percent. Similarly, the number of technology adopters registered at 110 and the startups at 10, surpassing the target by 57 percent and 400 percent, respectively.

Moreover, the number of innovation hubs increased to 16. There was also a significant increase in the number of assisted MSME and industry-innovators. A total of 1,342 innovators were provided with assistance, greater by 437 percent from the year target of 250.

Table 2.2.1 Result Matrix: Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
Gross expenditure on research and development (R&D) as proportion of gross regional domestic product increased	<b>0.06 (2018)</b>	<b>increasing</b>	<b>increasing</b>	<b>increasing</b>
Number of R&D proposals evaluated and endorsed by the R&D consortia/regional office increased	<b>11 (2021)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>
Number of DOST-developed/funded knowledge and technologies transferred by commercialization, extension, or public good increased	<b>70 (2021)</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>66</b>
Number of technology adopters increased	<b>-</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>110</b>
Number of technology transfer and commercialization support services rendered increased	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>
Number of startups increased	<b>2 (2021)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
Number of MSMEs/industries (with innovation/STI application) assisted increased	<b>413 (2021)</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1,342</b>
COPD Number of innovation hubs increased (e.g., TBIs, innovation centers, niche centers, etc.)	<b>1 (2021)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>

\* As of September 2024

Source: DOST

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Carry out extensive promotion of market-driven and customer-centered R&D, marketing and commercialization, technology, and innovation outputs.** The NICER Program will be sustained and strengthened through international collaborations to capacitate the HEIs to undertake quality researches that will enhance industrial competitiveness and boost regional development. The HEIs will be supported and capacitated to help them access institutional grants to improve their S&T infrastructure. The sharing of knowledge and resources will be actively promoted to foster collaboration between industry-academe centers, which will play a crucial role in developing market-driven and customer-focused products. The RRDIC will provide guidance to improve the innovation ecosystem in the region.

**Create mechanisms for integrating market/ user information systems to support technology business incubators.** The commercialization and promotion of TBI for MSMEs will be accelerated to foster innovation and drive economic growth. This effort will focus on several key mechanisms designed to create a supportive ecosystem for MSMEs and startups.

**Expand and strengthen the presence of IPOPHL by strengthening Innovation and Technology Support Offices (ITSOs) and its partner satellite offices in the region.** Strengthening ITSOs and satellite offices will support to boost intellectual property rights (IPR) applications and increase opportunities for innovation-related projects. IEC campaigns and capacity building activities on IPR will be conducted, and assistance during IPR application and registration will be provided.

## SECTION 2.3

# Promote Trade and Investments



**Ms. Alma Grace Manzano Casumpang, founder of One Vizcaya Export Corporation at SIAL Paris 2024**

Source: Saint Mary's University Alumni Affairs Office Facebook Page

## Introduction

The region aims to become the gateway to East Asian countries, opening its economy to both domestic and international markets. To foster a robust and resilient economy, the region will leverage its strategic northern location to enhance market access and attract investments. By collaborating with diverse stakeholders, the region will stimulate intra-regional trade and investments, while diversifying its industrial base.

The primary focus will continue to be on the advancement of the region's export industry, capitalizing on prior achievements to solidify a robust foundation for local export development. Moreover, investments will be harnessed as drivers for export growth and as sources of crucial technology to unlock the region's potential in renewable energy development.

## Strategy Framework

Figure 2.3.1 Strategy Framework to Promote Trade and Investments



## Accomplishments

### Export market in the region expanded

**Cagayan Valley's export products in the global value chain positioned.** The region participated in different national and international trade fairs, namely: (a) Maison & Objet in Paris, France on January 18-22, 2024; (b) Ambiente Fair in Frankfurt, Germany on January 26-30, 2024; (c) GulFood (Gulf Food Hotel and Equipment Exhibition and Salon Culinaire) in Dubai, UAE on February 19-24, 2024; and (d) SIAL (Salon International de L'Alimentation) in Paris, France on October 19-23, 2024.

**Real time market information sharing platform to provide critical assistance for exporters established.** Tradeline Philippines, an export data and service portal for existing and aspiring Philippine exporters is continuously operational. It provides access to the latest trade statistics, meet foreign buyers through real-time business matching and be part of the buyers' and suppliers' database. Additionally, this portal allows one to download industry or market reports and file, and resolve export complaints.

### **Region's spot as a possible supplier of tradeable intermediate services secured.**

"FiestaKucha" is a regional initiative that blends the vibrancy of Filipino "Fiestas" with the narrative charm of "PechaKucha," a Japanese onomatopoeia for "chit-chat." It serves as a platform to celebrate, promote, and enrich the diversity of talent and creativity in various regions of the country. This program benefits participating artists and creatives, and contributes to the cultural and economic development of the region.

The region held the Fiesta Haraya Cagayan Valley – Nawag Kang Zilog: Valley of Creative Visions, Waves of Innovation on November 28, 2024, with component activities such as Generation Connect PH, Regional Creative Industry Council Meeting, 2nd Cagayan Valley Creative Summit: Tungtungan and Fireside, Creativity: R2 Creative Industry Networking Night, Cagayan Valley Creative Local Governance Congress, 2024 Cagayan Valley CMC Creative Research Conference and Paskuhan sa Lambak: A Showcase of Cagayan Valley's Creative Gifts.

The DICT Region 2 conducted 43 digital literacy/ education and capacity building activities with 7,401 participants all over the region. Moreover, two Health Information Management System (HIMS) career roadshows and job fairs (Tuguegarao City, Cauayan City) were conducted with a total of 757 participants. Three investment pitching and business forums (Tuguegarao City, Ilagan City, Cauayan City) with services being pitched such as the IT-BPM, BPO and career opportunities in the HIMS, and a regional Start-Up Challenge competition were conducted.

### **Investments Diversified and Expanded in AFF, Industry and Services Sectors**

**Issues affecting the business environment like energy supply and mobility and connectivity issues addressed.** The Regional Development Council has approved the adoption of the Invest in Bountiful Cagayan Valley as the region's Program 2.0 for Investment Promotion. Several activities supporting the program were conducted, which include the BOI Investment Briefing, Ready For Occupancy Locations Briefing for Region 02 Stakeholders, Investment Promotion and Competitiveness Orientation in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, Investment Pitching of Tuguegarao City, Cauayan City and Ilagan City for prospective IT-BPM services, participation in the Investment Showcase during the 33rd North Luzon Area Business Conference, and development of the Cagayan Valley Investment Website, among others.

**CEZA's bid as prime foreign direct investment destination in the Philippines by developing its unique locational assets and environs supported.** To support the development of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone and Freeport, the construction of



the Driving Range and Three Holes is completed, and the Retrofitting and Rehabilitation Works of Port Irene is about to be completed (98.91%). To further develop and expand the accommodation of bigger ships, Phase 1 of the dredging and reclamation of Port Irene is completed, while Phase 2 is ongoing (5.46% complete). The completion of these projects will boost the Port’s capacity to enhance opportunities for international trade.

## Results Matrix

The number of facilitated export certifications increased to 38, above the 2024 target of 30 applications and 11 applications higher than that of the previous year. The number of potential preferred local suppliers identified and capacitated also achieved its target of 30. However, the number of registered exporters (indirect exporters) reached only 62, falling short of the yearly target of 65. The number of facilitated standards and certifications exceeded its target, with 314 recorded this year compared to the target of 285.

Total approved investments in the region reached PHP20.59 billion, exceeding the 2024 target of PHP19.93 billion. This was driven by the strong performance of both foreign and Filipino national investments, which surpassed their respective targets. Foreign national investments reached PHP6.90 billion, slightly higher than the target of PHP6.67 billion, and Filipino national investments reached PHP13.69 billion, also surpassing the target of PHP13.26 billion.

Table 2.3.1 Result Matrix: Promote Trade and Investments

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
<b>Number of facilitated exports certifications increased</b>	25	27	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 314 FDA - CPR &amp; LTO/ Halal/ HACCP Maintained</li> <li>• 38 FDA - CPR &amp; LTO/ Halal Applications</li> <li>• 4 FDP Services</li> <li>• 39 MSMEs assisted</li> </ul>
<b>Number of potential preferred local suppliers identified and capacitated increased</b>	25	27	30	*30
<b>Number of registered exporters increased</b> (indirect exporters)	65	59	65	62 exporters assisted
<b>Number of standards and certification facilitation increased</b>	200	259	285	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 314 FDA - CPR &amp; LTO/ Halal/ HACCP Maintained</li> </ul>

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
(LTO, CPR, HALAL, HACCP)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38 FDA - CPR &amp; LTO/ Halal Application</li> <li>• 4 FDP Services</li> <li>• 39 MSMEs assisted</li> </ul>
<b>Total amount of approved investments increased</b> (In Billions PhP)	17.312 (2021)	19.933	19.933	20.585
<b>Total amount of approved investments of foreign nationals</b> (In Billion PhP)	2.273 (2021)	6.671	6.671	6.896
<b>Total amount of approved investments of Filipino nationals</b> (in Billions PhP)	15.026 (2021)	13.262	13.262	13.689

\* As of September 2024

Source: DTI

## Ways Forward

By resolving key constraints to export growth and competitiveness, the region can position its export products globally. This can be achieved by implementing support strategies for new export market entrants and embarking on the following additional strategies:

**Significantly diversify regional export products and services by strengthening sectoral backward and forward linkage.**

The DTI will intensify the development of existing and potential regional export products. These include purple yam, corn, coffee, coconut, cacao, citrus, mango, banana, pineapple, mungbean, seaweeds, seafoods, rattan, bamboo and wood/ forest products. Research and development will be promoted in partnership with the business sector and higher education institutions to explore utilization of these commodities to produce high-value commodity exports. To ensure quality and sustainability of supply, production will be carried out through rural cooperatives, and agricultural and industrial estates, which will be linked to downstream export industries such as food processing, furniture design and assembly, and related industries.

**Secure the region’s spot as supplier of tradeable intermediate services.**

The region will take advantage of its pool of talents in the field of tourism and hospitality services, healthcare services, information technology and creative arts. With the presence of

private and public universities, it will build a concentration of digital talents particularly in the field of animation, applications development, software solutions, and IT-based business process outsourcing. Investment projects in recreation, health and wellness, township and mixed-use real property development located in economic zones and other areas in the regions will be undertaken to employ the region's supply of healthcare, tourism, IT and engineering professionals.

**Advance the region's interest through Foreign Trade Agreements.** Regional stakeholders, through the DTI, will actively advocate its export products in the negotiation of Free Trade Agreements. It will assert inclusion of local exports in trade agreements and ensure that benefits from international trade will redound to marginalized regions and local MSMEs. Local government units, with assistance from the national government and investment promotion agencies, will be encouraged to initiate trade links and forge economic cooperation agreements with potential partners abroad. For instance, Cagayan Valley will take active participation in the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) to promote trade between China and the ASEAN region, which include: (a) culture, tourism and education exchange; (b) merchandise and services retail and trade; and (c) investment promotion.

Foreign and national investments will be one of the pillar strategies to achieve a high trajectory in the region. The following strategies will be employed to achieve this:

**Streamline NG-LG regulatory policies and business processing to encourage investments.** The DTI, CEZA and other partner investment promotion agencies will take a proactive role in fostering development of the exports industry by pursuing ease-of-doing business and creating a business-friendly environment. The role of LGUs will be emphasized particularly in the development of trade and industrial products utilizing locally available raw materials. The government will upscale its provision of technical assistance to LGUs particularly in the crafting of their Local Investment and Incentives Code to attract, retain, expand, and diversify investments in the local economy. Assistance will also include support to LGUs' initiatives in the establishment of the Business One Stop Shop (BOSS) to facilitate acquisition and renewal of business permits, among other service facilitation activities. The DTI is also in partnership with the LGUs and other RLAs in capacitating investors and other stakeholders along efficient and effective investment promotion in the new normal.

**Support CEZA's bid as prime foreign direct investment destination in the Philippines by developing its unique locational assets and environs.** CEZA has set new growth targets and development priorities for the Cagayan Special Economic Zone

and Freeport, targeting it to be a catalyst of development in the northern part of the Philippines as a full-service industrial, agro-industrial, commercial and tourism enclave. The new development master plan for the CSEZFP is aligned with regional and national development plans, mapping out key development thrusts in multiple areas over the medium term. To attract domestic and foreign investors, enterprises will benefit from a package of incentives which include income tax holidays, special corporate income tax, duties and value-added tax exemptions, among others. Activities that qualify for registration with CEZA include: (a) financial technology; (b) tourism & eco-tourism development; (c) integrated resort, gaming and leisure; (d) logistics and cargo handling operations; (e) industrial estate development; (f) manufacturing and agro-industry and fisheries; (g) power development; (h) retail and other commercial establishments including duty free shops; (i) hotel and resort accommodation; and (j) entertainment and recreational establishments. The DTI and CEZA will continue to jointly undertake trade and investment promotion projects that will support the attainment of the region's vision as the "Gateway to East Asia."

## SECTION 2.4.

# Revitalize Industry



**Hallal Certification Inspection and Audit conducted by Department of Trade and Industry Region 2 and Alliance for Halal Integrity Phils., (AHIP) Inc.**

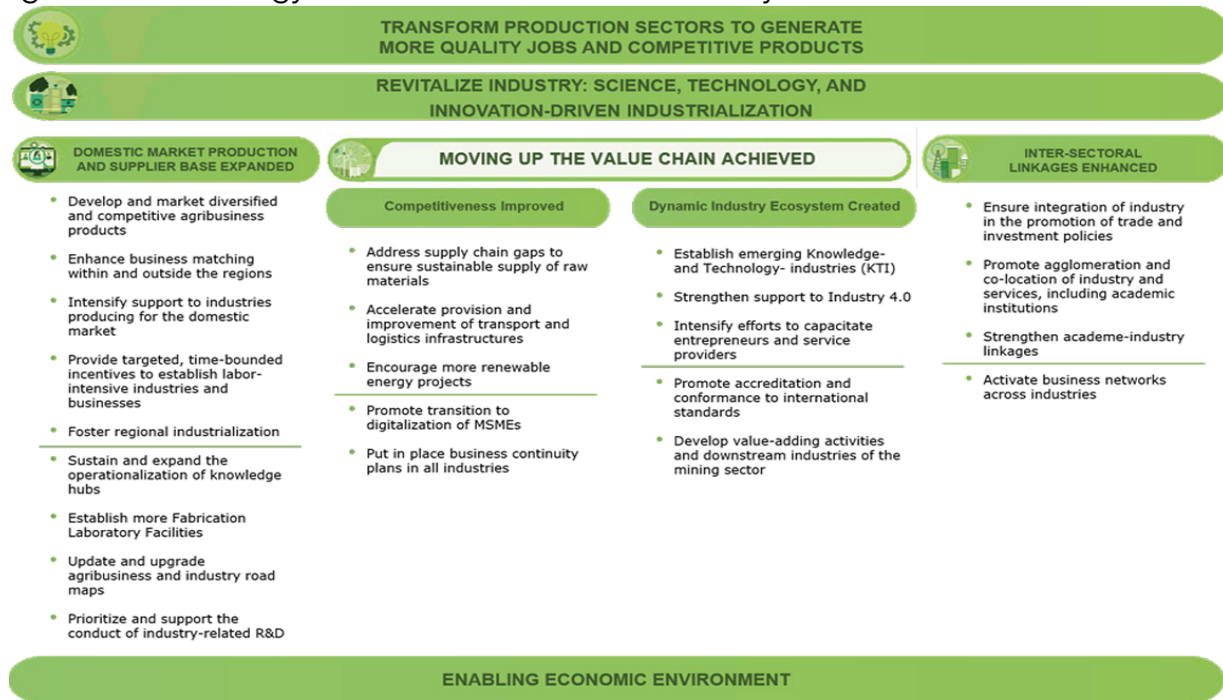
Source: DTI R2 Facebook Page

## Introduction

The region's vision for an "economy driven by agro-industries, manufacturing, information technology-based industries" is dependent on the industry sector's expansion. This will be done through expanding domestic market and supplier base, moving up the value chain, and enhancing linkages across other sectors of the economy. This year, the region implemented these strategies through various programs that provided assistance to MSMEs to develop their products, scale up production, and widen their consumer base. In line with its vision, the region also explored and expanded the use of local agricultural materials in manufacturing. The LGUs also improved their competitiveness, creating a more dynamic ecosystem for business establishments to thrive.

# Strategy Framework

Figure 2.4.1 Strategy Framework to Revitalize Industry



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Domestic market production and supplier base expanded

**Agribusiness products developed and marketed.** The Food Development Program of the DTI offers a package of public-private assistance for MSMEs to improve and innovate in the areas of quality, product development and standard compliance. The program covers the conduct of sensory, market and consumer assessment, capacity building on food safety management, product development, and facilitation of regulatory and statutory certifications. A total of 39 MSMEs were assisted during the year.

The region gives particular focus on harnessing the potential of bamboo, given its large supply in Cagayan Valley, through the Bamboo Development Program. The Regional Yarn Production and Innovation Center launched in Ilagan City in 2023 continued to process bamboo fibers in addition to abaca, pineapple and banana fibers. The Center is a micro-scale yarn-spinning facility catering to the textile industry in Northern Luzon. A benchmarking mission was also undertaken to position bamboo as a structural and architectural material.

**Business matching enhanced.** Several events were held during the year to bring together local entrepreneurs and to showcase locally-made products. This year's Padday na Lima held last September brought together 100 MSMEs and 30 industry players, contributing to the attainment of negotiated sales and booked sales amounting to PHP1.6 million and PHP3.0 million, respectively.

To further support local agricultural producers, the Walang Sayang Project was implemented, benefitting 62 MSMEs and 731 farmers, and generating almost PHP2.2 million in sales. The project aims to create linkages among the local community of farmers, fisherfolks, and processors in the food supply chains to avoid wastage.

**Support to industries producing for the domestic market intensified.** The Buy Local Advocacy Campaign was initiated to encourage government agencies and LGUs to patronize local MSME products and services pursuant to the Magna Carta for MSMEs. As of September this year, 94 LGUs and 43 government agencies including higher educational institutions have adopted their Buy Local ordinance, benefitting over 2,500 MSMEs and generating almost PHP157 million in sales. The DTI also maintained 21 Buy Local kiosks, with the number of beneficiaries expanding to 299 MSMEs this year from 99 last year, and sales growing to PHP2.1 million from PHP1.5 million last year.

**Regional industrialization fostered.** To ramp up industrialization, Shared Service Facilities (SSF) were made accessible to MSMEs to help them increase production capacities and improve product quality, resulting in increased markets, increased sales, and jobs generation. Through the SSF, MSMEs were given access to machinery, equipment, tools, systems, accessories, and other auxiliary items. As of 2024, a total of 381 SSF projects have been established.

The One Town, One Product (OTOP) Next Generation aims to aid crafters of local and traditional products by providing assistance in product and packaging development, with the goal of leveling up the products in the areas of design, quality, volume, among others. A total of 1,359 MSMEs in the region have been assisted in the development of 389 products and 85 brands as of September 2024.

While the OTOP Next Generation targets the supply side, OTOP hubs improve demand by giving MSMEs wider access to the market. The region's 7th OTOP hub was opened in Cabagan, Isabela in December 2023. The seven OTOP hubs operating in the region have collectively generated PHP4.8 million in sales across 2,293 MSMEs. The 8th OTOP hub is targeted to be opened at the Cauayan City Airport before the year ends.

**Knowledge hubs sustained and expanded.** The region maintained the operation of the Cagayan Valley Regional Inclusive Innovation Center (RIIC) with the theme “Sustaining Harvest through Innovation and Nurturing Enterprise (SHINE).” The Center aims to provide MSMEs access to a network of R&D and innovation resources. It has as pilot industry the citrus sector, with the banana sector next in line for the replication of best practices and convergence models.

The Bamboo Textile Fiber Innovation Hub in Isabela State University - Cauayan City also continued to engage local communities in fiber processing and empower them with knowledge about equipment operations in the conversion of raw materials into fibers and fiber processing. The hub aims to innovate ways to incorporate bamboo textile fibers into various products.

**Fabrication Laboratory Facilities maintained.** A total of 102 prototypes were developed within the three operating Fab Labs in the region. A Fab Lab is a digital laboratory which enables clients to translate design ideas into physical forms with the help of technology.

**Agribusiness and industry road maps updated and upgraded.** The “Invest in Bountiful Cagayan Valley Region 2.0” Investment Program was crafted this year to harness the region's investment potential and provide assistance to the investment promotion stakeholders to boost investments in the region, in line with the strategies laid down in the CVRDP 2023 – 2028. The Program is discussed in Section 2.3: *Promote Trade and Investments*.

### Competitiveness improved

**Renewable energy projects encouraged.** The use of indigenous energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro power aids in reducing production cost and ensuring reliable energy supply for the operation of industries in the sector. The accomplishments in implementing this strategy are discussed in Section 2.6: *Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure*.

**Transition to digitalization of MSMEs promoted.** During the year, 100 MSMEs were coached on how to maximize the benefits of online platforms such as social media, logistics, e-payment, and other online tools through the Digital Journey for Micro-Enterprises (DJ for ME). Such tools aid in increasing productivity, expanding the market and improving the resilience of business establishments.



**Business continuity plans in all industries put in place.** The Program Response in Overtaking Threats to Enterprises from Calamities and Transitions (PROTECT) spearheaded by the DTI aims to increase the operational readiness and resilience of MSMEs through environmentally sound manufacturing practices. This helps them develop an effective risk and contingency system or response-recovery plan in case of disasters or any unforeseen business disruption. Four trainings and fora were held during the year with 30 participating MSMEs.

### Dynamic industry ecosystem created

**Efforts to capacitate entrepreneurs and service providers intensified.** The DTI advised 19 mentees on business strategies through the Shared Service Facility - Local Advisory and Mentoring Program (SSF-LAMP). The program aims to provide SSF cooperators with relevant and timely strategies to support their business operations and sustain their SSF projects.

Meanwhile, a total of 94 mentees also graduated from the Kapatid Mentor Me-Money Market Encounter (KMME-MME) Program of the DTI. The program aims to produce more confident entrepreneurs by providing them with modules on various topics ranging from entrepreneurial mindset up to business laws.

To inculcate business sense among the youth, specifically, trainings were also conducted under the Youth Entrepreneurship Program - Be Your Own Boss (YEP-BYOB) Program where 168 participants from the youth sector were encouraged and capacitated to pursue entrepreneurship.

**Accreditation and conformance to international standards promoted.** The aforementioned Food Development Program also helps integrate MSMEs under the food sector in the global supply chain. Through the program, 314 FDA Certificates of Product Registration and Licenses to Operate and Halal/ HACCP certifications were maintained during the year.

## Results Matrix

Of the 14 core targets of the sector, five require full-year data, specifically, those referring to the gross value added of different industries and labor productivity. There are no data available for employment generated in the sector and its sub-sectors, firms' adoption of e-commerce via the internet (%), share of medium enterprises to total number of micro,

small, and medium enterprises (%), number of scientists, engineers, and technicians employed in businesses, and knowledge, innovation, science, and technology (KIST) parks established.

Regarding the establishment of innovation centers, the region successfully maintained operations of the RIIC-SHINE.

Regarding competitiveness rankings, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Batanes moved up from their CMCI rank last year, while Cagayan slipped but remained above its baseline rank. All provinces in the region except Quirino improved their CMCI rankings relative to their baseline position in 2022.

Table 2.4.1 Results Matrix: Revitalize Industry

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
<b>Ranking of Provinces in Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (Overall Ranking) improved</b>				
Isabela	27 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
Cagayan	40 <sup>th</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>	36 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Nueva Vizcaya	58 <sup>th</sup>	56 <sup>th</sup>	54 <sup>th</sup>	38 <sup>th</sup>
Batanes	80 <sup>th</sup>	78 <sup>th</sup>	76 <sup>th</sup>	66 <sup>th</sup>
Quirino	33 <sup>rd</sup>	32 <sup>nd</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup>
Regional inclusive innovation centers established	1	≥1	≥1	1

\*As of September 2024

Source: DTI

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Address supply chain gaps to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials.** The region will work towards ensuring the accuracy of data on raw materials to allow investors to predict their availability throughout the year. Databases on logistics and utilities will also be established. The government and private sector will work closely to develop the industry to upgrade commodities to the value chain through R&D, access to technologies, finance and capacity building.

**Enhance business matching within and outside the region.** The region will optimize the Invest in Bountiful Cagayan Valley Program to foster a responsive and efficient investment ecosystem conducive for the growth of new and existing investments. To expand the market of local industries, the crafting of a Regional Export Promotion Program will be prioritized.

**Strengthen academe-industry linkages.** The government will continue to support the commercialization of innovation products produced by existing innovation centers. SUCs will be tapped to pursue industry-related R&D. The immersion of faculty members of SUCs in industries will be undertaken through formal programs. SUCs will also intensify the promotion of courses related to the needs of the industry sector among students.

## SECTION 2.5

# Reinvigorate Services



**Ongoing Construction of Access Roads Going to Sicalao Falls, Lasam, Cagayan**

Source: Explore Lasam, Cagayan Facebook Page

## Introduction

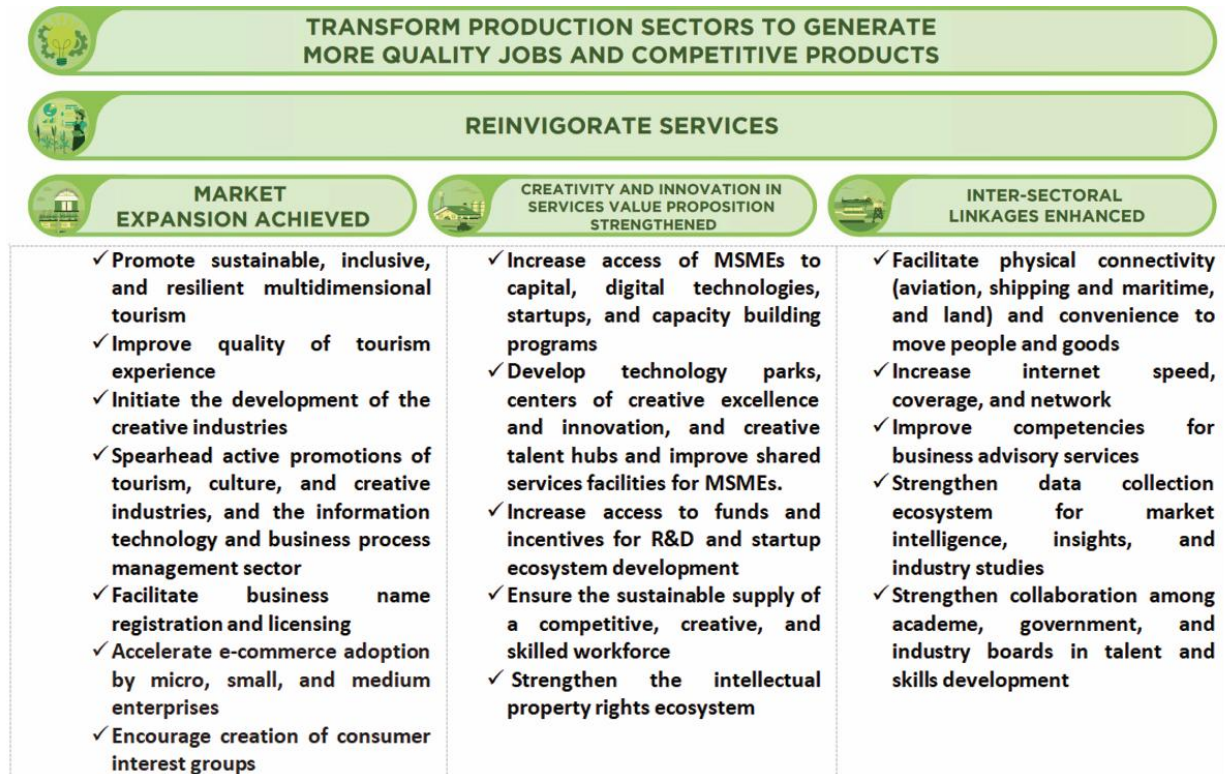
The service sector constitutes the biggest sector of the region's economy. Under the Cagayan Valley Regional Development Plan 2023 - 2028, the sector is expected to further expand through strategies that focus on empowering MSMEs, strengthening the tourism sector, and inviting investments in the IT-BPM sector.

In 2023, the region displayed a stronger and more diverse tourism sector with the launch of a new circuit and improvement of existing ones, which offered a wide range of experiences to locals and tourists alike. MSME development was pursued by providing access to credit and shared service facilities and rendering assistance in adopting e-commerce. On the demand side, programs focused on consumer protection were also pursued. The region also laid the foundation for a strong IT-BPM sector through digital infrastructure improvement projects.

## Strategy Framework

The CVRDP aims to transform production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products. In the service sector, this will be done by expanding the market, strengthening creativity and innovation, and enhancing intersectoral linkages.

Figure 2.5.1 Strategy Framework to Reinvigorate Services



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Market expansion achieved

**Sustainable, inclusive and resilient multidimensional tourism promoted.** Boosting the tourism industry continued to be a priority for the sector during the year. In line with this, a new tourism circuit in Isabela was launched, dubbed as “AuthentiCity of Ilagan: Your Journey to Leisure and Discoveries.” Meanwhile, existing circuits were promoted through an RDC Resolution. These circuits offer a wide range of experiences for tourists,

such as nature tourism, culture tourism, farm tourism, cruise and nautical tourism, diving and marine sports tourism, and sun and beach tourism.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) also pushed for the involvement of LGUs as equal partners in developing the sector. In 2023, the Tourism Product Development Workshop for the creation of Municipal Tourism Circuits was conducted in the province of Nueva Vizcaya. Various local festivals and events were celebrated throughout the year. Tourism products were promoted through travel fairs and expos, social media campaigns and the TravelPH app.

**Quality of tourism experience improved.** Local tourism governance was championed through the formulation of Provincial, City and Municipal Tourism Development Plans and Tourism Code. Tourism enterprise forums were also held in Isabela, Cagayan and Batanes.

To build skills and knowledge among the stakeholders of the sector, the DOT held total of 60 trainings as of September. These include Cave Guides Training, Eco-Tour Guides Training, Homestay Training Program, Farmsthetics: The Art of Creating a Beautiful Farmscape, Tourism Awareness Seminar, Carrying Capacity Development Workshop, and Filipino Brand of Service Excellence Seminars. Other trainings geared for public servants were also undertaken, such as the Integrated Tourist-Oriented Police for Community Order and Protection, and Barangay Tanod sa Turismo Program. Tourist safety was also given particular focus during the Tourism COATS (Checking Our Aptitude on the Typhoon Seasons) Safety and Security Seminar. Inclusivity in the sector was also espoused through the Barrier Free Tourism Training which focused on enriching the tourist experience of persons with disabilities.

Through the Standards Development and Enhancement Program, the DOT also ensured that tourism enterprises maintained and improved the quality of their facilities and products. Technical assistance, mobile express accreditations, and random inspections were undertaken under this program.

**Development of creative industries initiated.** The FiestaKucha Philippine Regional Creative Festivals provided a platform for artists and creatives to showcase their talent and contribute to the cultural and economic development of the region. This year's regional festival was dubbed as Fiesta Haraya Cagayan Valley – Nawag Kang Zilog: Valley of Creative Visions, Waves of Innovation. Component activities include the Regional Creative Industry Council Meeting, Tungtungan: The Second Cagayan Valley Creative Summit, the Cagayan Valley Creative Local Governance Congress, the CMCI

Creative Research Conference and Paskuhan sa Lambak: A Showcase of Cagayan Valley's Creative Gifts.

To encourage LGUs to pursue innovations in the sector, three cities in the region are set to receive funding support collectively amounting to PHP4.6 million through the Lunsod Lunsad Program of the DTI. The project identifies and supports project proposals from Philippine cities, with focus on maximizing their creative resources for economic and cultural development. Tuguegarao City will receive funding for “Dayaw nat Tuguegarao” – Forever Proud of our Cultural Heritage and Tradition” program, Cauayan City for “Minnapparabuak and Lunsod Lunsad – Celebration of Culture, Arts, Tradition, and Innovation” program, and Santiago City for Lunsod Lunsad Creative Festival.

**Business name registration and licensing facilitated.** The DTI continuously processes applications for business name registrations, with 13,163 Business Name Certificates issued as of September 2024. The online BNR system made applications easier and more accessible to establishments seeking registration.

**E-commerce adoption by micro, small, and medium enterprises accelerated.** Through the Kapatid Mentor Me-Money Market Encounter (KMME-MME) Program, selected mentees learned to develop business improvement plans aimed at improving productivity, enhancing the quality of products and services, and capturing their target market. Of the 97 mentees, 94 graduated from the program.

**Creation of consumer interest groups encouraged.** To ensure a strong demand for services, the region also pushed for consumer protection. Through the Consumer Organizations Nurtured and Strengthened in Uniting the Multi-level sector to Enforce their Rights (CONSUMER) Program, the DTI assisted consumer organizations in providing interventions to address gaps in consumer services. Stakeholders were also oriented on consumer laws and relevant DTI programs.

Creativity and innovation in services value proposition strengthened

**Access of MSMEs to capital, digital technologies, startups, and capacity building programs increased.** Through the RISE UP Program, 354 borrowers received an aggregate amount of over PHP123 million in multi-purpose loans that have soft terms. The RISE UP loan program aims to sustain the gains of MSMEs that survived the COVID-19 crisis.

The Digital Journey for Micro-Enterprises (DJ for ME) Program also continued to serve MSMEs through modules and sessions, teaching them how to maximize the benefits of online platforms such as social media, logistics, e-payment, and other online tools. A total of 100 MSMEs were assisted during the year.

**Shared services facilities for MSMEs improved.** The Shared Service Facility (SSF) Program of the DTI provides MSMEs access to technology including machinery, equipment, systems and other auxiliary items, skills, and knowledge under a shared system. The program is continuously implemented, resulting in a total of 381 established SSF projects in 2024.

The DTI also maintained the operation of three Fab Labs in the region. A Fab Lab is a digital laboratory which enables clients to translate design ideas into physical forms with the help of technology. A total of 102 prototypes were developed in such Fab Labs during the year.

**Access to funds and incentives for R&D and startup ecosystem development increased.** The programs related to expanding financing opportunities for research and development and promoting innovations and technology transfer are discussed in Section 2.2.: Advance Research & Development, Technology, and Innovation.

### Intersectoral linkages enhanced

**Physical connectivity (aviation, shipping and maritime, and land) and convenience to move people and goods facilitated.** The construction and improvement of access roads leading to trade, industries and economic zones are ongoing under the Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT) Program or DTI-DPWH Convergence Program. Access roads leading to declared tourism destinations are similarly being improved through the Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP). Accomplishments in facilitating physical connectivity are discussed in more detail in Section 2.6: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure.

**Internet speed, coverage, and network increased.** Fast, reliable and affordable internet access is important to enable establishments to adopt digital tools in product development and allow consumers to transact online. To this end, laying of the fiber optic cable from the NGCP to the DICT Point of Presence was undertaken this year as part of the National Fiber Build Phase 2 Project. Free WiFi sites were also maintained all over the region. The accomplishments in implementing this strategy are also discussed in Section 2.6: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure.



**Data collection ecosystem for market intelligence and insights in the tourism industry strengthened.** Following the conduct of trainings on basic tourism statistics last year, the Department of Tourism initiated Advance Tourism Statistics Trainings in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Quirino in 2024. Orientations on the use of standard forms for tourism statistics data gathering and reporting were also held for accommodation establishments.

## Results Matrix

Of the six core targets of the sector, two require full-year data, specifically, GVA growth rate and labor productivity of the services sector. One indicator, specifically the number of MSMEs assisted through the Creative Digital Content program was not targeted for the year.

Table 2.5.1 Results Matrix: Reinvigorate Services

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
Tourist Receipts projections (in PHP)	1,046,221,640	2,350,807,120	3,524,511,640	6,932,749,920
Tourist Arrivals increased (Foreign and Domestic)	261,257	587,272	880,612	792,202
Number of MSMEs doing e-commerce	Region: 14,122	Region: 14,817  Batanes: 1,600 Cagayan: 4,290 Isabela: 4,890 N. Vicaya: 2,437 Quirino: 1,600	Region: 15,558  Batanes: 1,700 Cagayan: 4,450 Isabela: 5,063 N.Vizcaya: 2,465 Quirino: 1,600	Region: 13,209  Batanes: 1,675 Cagayan: 3,312 Isabela: 4,210 Nueva Vizcaya: 2,639 Quirino: 1,373

\* As of September 2024

Sources: DOT and DTI

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Further strengthen data collection ecosystem for market intelligence, insights, and industry studies across all service sectors.** The region will work towards updating and improving databases on investment data, logistics and utilities data, production and raw materials data, and tourism statistics. SUCs and HEIs will be tapped to analyze these data. The region will also support the creation of ICT units in line agencies, LGUs, and government entities that will adopt digitally-enabled data collection tools and measures. Big data will complement the collection of traditional indicators for improved decision making in the entire value chain.

**Pursue servicification in other sectors.** The region will pursue servicification. Services will be embedded into manufacturing and other industries to add greater value to local products.

**Spearhead active promotion of the information technology and business process management sector.** The region will reap the benefits of the ongoing improvement of ICT infrastructure through investments in the IT sector. The ten-hectare cyberpark development project spearheaded by CEZA will cater to business process outsourcing operators and other financial and technology-based companies in the Cagayan Freeport.

## SECTION 2.6

# Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure



**Construction of the Camalaniugan Bridge connecting the municipalities of Aparri West and Camalaniugan.**

Source: JFilms Facebook Page

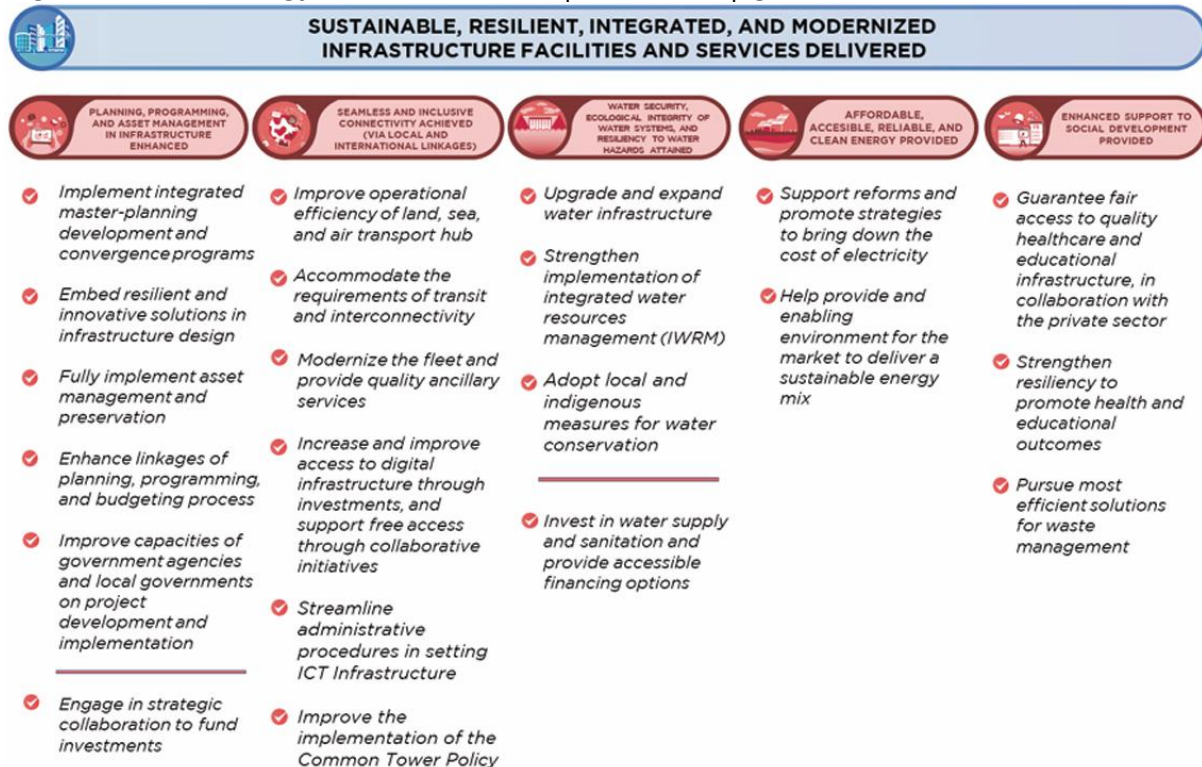
## Introduction

The second year of the plan witnessed significant progress in infrastructure development across various sectors within the region. Key accomplishments include ongoing interventions along connectivity, disaster resilience, digital infrastructure, and social infrastructure development. Policy reforms related to Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and road right-of-way acquisition showed notable developments. While challenges encountered include funding constraints and implementation delays due to unforeseen events and natural disasters, the region remained committed to advance economic transformation and growth through infrastructure development. To ensure continued success for the ensuing plan period, sustained funding, effective implementation, and calibrated improvements are crucial. Midterm adjustments may be necessary to address evolving needs.

## Strategy Framework

The thrust to deliver sustainable, resilient, integrated, and modern infrastructure systems in the region will be pursued through: (1) enhanced planning, programming, and asset management in infrastructure; (2) seamless and inclusive connectivity achieved (via local and international linkages); (3) water security, ecological integrity of water systems, and resilience to water hazards; (4) affordable, accessible, reliable, and clean energy; and (5) enhanced support to social development.

Figure 2.6.1 Strategy Framework to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Planning, programming, and asset management in infrastructure enhanced

The updating of the Cagayan River Basin Flood Control Masterplan, through the technical assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), considers the existing, ongoing, and proposed measures to address the flooding at the lower Cagayan River. Additionally, the ongoing study of the Magat Dam includes countermeasures to

address the sedimentation at the reservoirs such as sediment traps, density flow measures, sediment bypass, and dam raising, among others.

The Road Network Master Plan of the Luzon Eastern Seaboard (LES) was also completed this year. The construction of the Region 2 sections that include the Palanan-Sta. Ana, Palanan-Dinapigue, and Dinapigue-Dilasag road sections will connect the region’s coastal areas to the economic centers and enhance integration of Cagayan Valley with nearby regions particularly in the eastern seaboard.

Figure 2.6.2 Luzon Eastern Seaboard Road Network



Source: LES Masterplan

In addressing the deterioration of the region's road surface, the RDC passed a Resolution to amend Section 6 (penalty clause) of RA 8794, or the Anti-Overloading Law. The proposed stiffer sanction aims to deter overloaded trucks and trailers, thus, ensuring highway safety, road traffic management, and protection of public infrastructure investments.

## Seamless and inclusive connectivity achieved

### Land Transportation

As of September 2024, there are 25 kilometers of new national roads constructed, six kilometers upgraded, 36 kilometers widened, and 32 kilometers rehabilitated. A total of 136 kilometers of road were constructed out of the 169 kilometers funded in 2024 through the DPWH's major road convergence programs, namely: (i) Farm-to-Market Road Network Development Program (FMRNDP) with DA; (ii) Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP) with DOT; and (iii) Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade Infrastructure Program (ROLL IT) with DTI. These initiatives on land transportation are summarized in Table 2.6.1.

Table 2.6.1 Completed Road Projects for FY 2024, as of September 2024

Project Type/ Program	Target (km)	Accomplishment	
		Percentage (%)	Length (km)
<b>A. Regular Road Project</b>			
1. Construction	45.64	56.41	25.74
2. Upgrading	6.39	96.52	6.16
3. Widening	52.25	70.37	36.77
4. Rehabilitation	46.42	70.17	32.57
<b>B. Convergence Program</b>			
1. FMRDP	114.21	77.15	88.11
2. TRIP	26.42	87.01	22.99
3. ROLL IT	29.21	86.24	25.20

Source: DPWH

There are two major road projects included in the NEDA Infrastructure Committee's list of Infrastructure Flagship Projects during the year. These include the Aritao-Quirino Road with an allocation of PHP447 million, and the Alicia-Angadanan-San Guillermo-Cauayan City-Naguilian Alternate Route with a PHP50 million allocation under FY 2024. To decongest traffic in four cities and highly dense municipal centers, the construction of bypasses and diversion roads in the three provinces is being carried out as shown in Table 2.6.2.

Table 2.6.2 Number and Allocation of Bypasses/ Diversion/ Alternate Roads, FY 2024

Province	Number	FY 2024 Allocation (in PHP million)
Cagayan	11	1,205
Isabela	14	1,693.99
Nueva Vizcaya	4	415

Source: DPWH 2024 GAA

Major bridge projects were implemented across the Cagayan River and its tributaries during the year. These include the Camalaniugan Bridge, Amulung Bridge, Alcala Bridge, Tuguegarao-Solana Bridge, Pinacanauan 2 Bridge, Tuguegarao-Enrile Bridge, Itawes Bridge, and the Cabagan-Sta. Maria Bridge. Table 2.6.3 below presents the status of major bridges in the region.

Table 2.6.3 Status of Major Bridge Projects in the Region, as of September 2024

Program	FY 2024 Allocation (PHP in million)	Accumulated Percentage of Accomplishment (%)
Camalaniugan Bridge	676.63	98.40
Tuguegarao-Solana Bridge	280.00	20.95
Amulung Bridge	151.00	86.07
Alcala Bridge	230.00	23.48
Pinacanauan 2 Bridge	280.00	31.77
Itawes Bridge	10.00	20.12
Tuguegarao-Enrile Bridge	280.00	2.59

Source: DPWH

The Philippine Government, through the DOF, and the JICA signed the PHP37 billion loan agreement in March 2024 for the procurement and civil works of the 23-kilometer Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project (DPEARP). The DPEARP is one of the projects included in the IFP that aims to provide faster, safer, and more efficient transportation services and connectivity to and from the region.

## **Air Transportation**

During the year, several airport development projects have been implemented: (i) ongoing construction of a tower building and other facilities with a project cost of PHP57.93 million, and ongoing rehabilitation of the existing terminal building of the Tuguegarao Airport with a total cost of PHP110.69 million; (ii) ongoing installation of the airfield lighting system of the Cauayan Airport with a total cost of PHP76.318 million; (iii) completion of the extension of the runway of the Basco Airport, including strip grade correction and slope protection, and ongoing widening of the stop way and runway; and (iv) ongoing apron expansion, runway extension and fence construction of the Itbayat Airport. Airport development projects will improve the region's air transport connectivity and capability, not only for trade and commerce but also for tourism, emergency and other social services.

## **Water Transportation**

In order to fully maximize the region's water transport capability, the development of Port Irene and Claveria Port is underway. The dredging and reclamation of Port Irene were already completed and the retrofitting and rehabilitation works posted a 99 percent accomplishment. Also, the construction of wharf and breakwater piles of Claveria Port reported a 92 percent accomplishment as of December 2024. The construction of said facilities aims to optimize operations and increase the docking capacity of both ports.

## **Digital Infrastructure**

The DICT launched the online portal to facilitate the registration and permitting requirements for independent tower companies in addition to the "Digital Infrastructure Monitoring System: Tower Watch PH" to monitor the development of towers among telecom companies. The DICT also assisted 68 LGUs in setting up the Integrated Business Permit and Licensing System and 26 LGUs for the electronic Local Government Unit System. Both systems will promote ease of doing business and efficient delivery of services in the respective localities of LGU beneficiaries.



Water security, ecological integrity of water systems, and resilience to water hazards attained

### **Irrigation facilities**

There are two major irrigation projects of NIA that are ongoing, the Calapangan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (CSRIP) in Sto. Niño, Cagayan, and the Lusod Integrated National Irrigation Project (LINIP) in Nagtipunan, Quirino. The CSRIP and LINIP were endorsed by the RDC in 2022 and were initially funded with PHP50 million each in 2023. In the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the CSRIP was allocated PHP400 million and the LINIP with PHP100 million, with 56 percent and 36 percent accomplishment, respectively as of September 2024. These two major irrigation projects will increase the region's irrigated area by 2,761 hectares with 1,572 farmer beneficiaries.

### **Water supply**

There are two major Level III water supply projects implemented at the local level. The Metropolitan Tuguegarao Water District (MTWD) implemented its Caggay Surface Water Treatment Plant with a capacity of 30 million liters per day (MLD) to augment the water supply of Tuguegarao City and nearby municipalities. The project reduces dependence on groundwater, has a total cost of PHP320 million, and was co-funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)—Water District Development Sector Project (WDDSP). As of September 2024, the project registered a 29 percent accomplishment with an obligated amount of PHP92 million.

The implementation of the Baggao Water Supply Project (BWSP) in Baggao, Cagayan started with a groundbreaking in October 2024. This PHP210 million PPP project involves the design, finance, construction, operation, and maintenance of a Level III water supply service for the 24 barangays of the municipality. It is one of the local PPP projects awarded under the Marcos administration and is seen as a model of PPP implementation for the LGUs in the country.

### **Flood control structures**

As of September 2024, flood control/ riverbank protection structures constructed totaled 67 kilometers, which is 76 percent of the total 88 kilometers funded in 2024. A total allocation of PHP15.07 billion was shared among the District Engineering Offices (DEOs) under the DPWH Flood Management Program. This on-going program aims to minimize

economic losses and property damages within the project sites brought about by flooding occurrences.

Table 2.6.4 Flood Management Program Target and Accomplishment for FY 2024

DEO	Target and Allocation for FY 2024			Accomplishment (as of September 2024)	
	Allocation (in PHP million)	Number	Target Length (km)	Percentage (%)	Length (km)
Batanes	290.40	14	3.82	66.10	2.52
Cagayan 1st	927.50	15	3.53	91.97	3.25
Cagayan 2nd	420.00	9	1.67	96.48	1.61
Cagayan 3rd	466.95	14	2.46	58.14	1.43
Isabela 1st	1,622.00	13	5.60	80.77	4.52
Isabela 2nd	2,332.88	25	16.54	43.90	7.26
Isabela 3rd	5,793.00	59	28.45	84.18	23.95
Isabela 4th	921.60	12	9.07	81.37	7.38
Nueva Vizcaya 1st	1,850.00	16	11.20	94.50	10.59
Nueva Vizcaya 2nd	443.90	7	5.88	75.10	4.41
Quirino	125.00	4	1.28	97.28	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,193.23</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>89.51</b>	<b>76.17</b>	<b>66.93</b>

Source: DPWH

### Affordable, accessible, reliable, and clean energy provided

Two solar power farms are expected to be commissioned by the end of the year or by the first quarter of 2025. These include the Cordon Solar Power Project (SPP) and the Gamu SPP with an installed capacity of 52 megawatts and 41 megawatts, respectively. Other committed power projects in the region are in the pre-construction stage as shown below.

Likewise, the ongoing construction of the Tuguegarao-Lallo 230 kilovolts transmission line is expected to be completed in September 2025. The project was included in the Transmission Development Plan of the NGCP. This will address the imminent

overloading of the Tuguegarao-Magapit 69 kilovolt line due to the forecasted load generation in the northern part of Cagayan.

Table 2.6.5 Status of Committed Power Projects as of October 2024

Name of the Project	Company Name	Location	Installed Capacity (MW)	Target Testing and Commissioning/ Target Commercial Operation		Remarks
1. Tumauni Hydroelectric Power Project	Philnew Hydro Power Corp.	Tumauni, Isabela	11.30	May 2026	July 2026	15.46% (as of Dec. 2023) Embedded Plant - ISELCO II
2. Cordon Solar Power Project (SPP)	Greenery for Global, Inc. Doing Business Under G4G	Cordon, Isabela	52.80	November 2024	July 2025	92% Construction  0% Testing and Commissioning (T&C) -
3. Gamu SPP	Megasol Energy 1 Inc.	Gamu, Isabela	41.24	November 2024	December 2024	98% Construction - completed  70% Interconnection/ Transmission Activities  30% T&C
4. San Pablo SPP Phase 1	Solar Valley Energy Solutions Inc.	San Pablo, Isabela	49.40	October 2025	December 2025	0% Construction  Construction to start in Q3 2024
5. Limbauan SPP	BKS Green Energy Corp.	San Pablo, Isabela	28.00	August 2025	December 2025	28.58% Construction (Site Dev.)  0% Construction of Solar/ Grid Facilities
6. San Pablo SPP Phase 2	Solar Valley	San Pablo, Isabela	79.04	October 2026	December 2026	0% Construction

Name of the Project	Company Name	Location	Installed Capacity (MW)	Target Testing and Commissioning/ Target Commercial Operation		Remarks
	Energy Solutions Inc.					Construction to start in Q3 2024
7. Linglingay SPP	Linglingay Power Corp.	Gamu, Isabela	82.08	November 2026	December 2026	100% Acquisition of Possessory Rights  0% Construction
8. Gamu Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Phase 1 and 2	SMGP BESS Power Inc.	Gamu, ISabela	40	March 2024	October 2024	Delays due to COVI-19 pandemic; Contingent to the releasing of bid bulletin for the second round of Competitive Selection Process by NGCP/ For Reserve Market
9. Magapit BESS Phase 1 and 2	SMGP BESS Power Inc.	La-lo, Cagayan	40	March 2024	November 2024	
10. Tuguegarao BESS	SMGP BESS Power Inc.	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	40	TBD	TBD	Delays due to COVI-19 pandemic
11. Bayombong BESS	SMGP BESS Power Inc.	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	40	TBD	TBD	Delays due to COVI-19 pandemic

Source: DOE website

Enhanced support to social development provided

**Health**

The Department of Health continues to implement the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) with 80 projects completed, 21 ongoing, and nine under procurement. The HFEP is a national program that aims to strengthen the health system by constructing/ upgrading/ rehabilitating public health facilities such as hospitals, rural health units, and barangay health stations.

## **Education**

To achieve quality and inclusive basic education, the DPWH constructed a total of 31 school buildings out of the 84 funded under the 2024 GAA. A total of PHP738 million was allocated for the construction of school buildings under the Department's Infrastructure Program (BIP), which was implemented by DEOs.

## **Waste Management**

To date, 62 LGUs (70 percent) have operational sanitary landfills (SLFs), while the rest rely on open dumpsites. The limited financial and technical capacity of low-income class LGUs hinders the establishment of SLFs.

## **Results Matrix**

In terms of road development, the region has the second lowest road density at 6.80, far from the national average of 10.62. This indicates that the region has limited accessibility and connectivity measured in terms of the ratio of the total length of a region's road network to its land area per 100 square kilometers. This hinders access, economic development, and delivery of essential services to the region's geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The region's low road density also indicates challenges in transportation efficiency and infrastructure development. The region ranks fifth in road roughness index (IRI) with an average of 5.05, higher than the national average of 4.69. Region 2, along with Region 5, NCR, BARMM, and CAR reported poor road conditions, with most needing immediate intervention. Overloading is one of the reasons for the deterioration of roads in the region. To address this, the region called for the strict enforcement of RA 8794 or the Anti-Overloading Law, along with the amendment for stiffer penalties for violations incurred.

For sea passengers and cargo transport, the possibility of attaining targets before the year ends remains optimistic. However, for air transport, weather disturbances, and the inability of existing airports to cater night flights poses a challenge. Meanwhile, to improve the state of the transport industry in the region, both by sea and air, the region needs to improve its products and services to make it more accessible to both local and international passengers and cargo. Hence, there is a need to sustain existing efforts to develop the ports and airports in the region.

Table 2.6.6 Result Matrix: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure; Passenger and Cargo Transported via Sea and Air, as of October 2024

Indicators	2023 Accomplishment	2024 Target	2024 Accomplishment
Passenger transported via air	105,770	450,000	Awaiting data from CAAP
Passenger transported via sea	26,195	28,000	19,433
Cargo transported via air	1,252,472	4,000,000	Awaiting data from CAAP
Cargo transported via sea	817,708	695,000	747,237

Source: CAAP, PPA, and CEZA

The classroom-to-pupil ratio improved this year as compared to 2023 (as shown below). However, the improvement in the supply of classroom setup may be adversely affected given the damage of typhoon events from September to November 2024. Nonetheless, the repair and rehabilitation of school facilities are underway.

Table 2.6.7 Result Matrix: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure; Classroom-to-Pupil Ratio, School Year 2024-2025

Grade Level	2023 Ratio	2024 Ratio
Primary	1:29	1:24
Junior High School	1:36	1:30
Senior High School	1:36	1:30

Source: DepEd

## Ways Forward

To sustain the gains and improve on whatever has been achieved in expanding and upgrading the region’s infrastructure sector, below are the priority strategies that will be pursued from 2025 to 2026.

**Continuous funding of the region’s high-impact projects.** This year, the region endorsed the top 3 priority programs and projects that include the Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project (DPEARP), the Tumauini River Multipurpose Project (TRMP), and

the Cagayan Bridge Projects for Economic Development (Tuguegarao-Solana Bridge, Alcala Bridge, Pinacanauan 2 Bridge).

The DPEARP provides an alternative road to the existing Dalton Pass which is prone to heavy traffic and road closures due to road construction and maintenance, accidents, and landslides. The continued allocation of government counterpart funding for the project is necessary, given the importance of the project to interregional connectivity. In terms of intra-regional connectivity, completion of the Cagayan Bridge Projects is essential. This includes ongoing bridge projects, namely: (i) Camalaniugan Bridge; (ii) Amulung Bridge; (iii) Itawes Bridge; and (iv) Tuguegarao-Enrile Bridge. Similarly, the conduct of a feasibility study of the Luzon Eastern Seaboard Road Network, particularly for Region 2 sections, should be pursued with the master plan already completed. The development of the high standard highway along the coast will boost interregional cooperation and economic integration of Luzon Island.

Fortunately, the TRMP was funded under the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) with a total allocation of PHP2.1 billion. The region supports the continued funding and completion of the project to expand the region's potential irrigable area and contribute to the country's agriculture and food production.

**Strict implementation and amendment of the Anti- Overloading Law.** To preserve roads and bridges, the strict implementation of RA 8794, or the Anti-Overloading Law is deemed necessary. The region passed a Resolution to amend Section 6 (penalty clause) of the law to serve as a deterrent for violators. This entails a graduated fine, imprisonment, and cancellation of the truck's registration on the part of the operator or owner, and a graduated fine and suspension of license on the part of the driver. The region also reiterates its position to involve the local government units in the strict implementation of the law and the continuous deployment of the LTO-PNP-DPWH Composite Team in the region's weighbridge stations. The provision of additional weighbridge stations and personnel is also necessary to carry out monitoring and enforcement activities.

**Strengthen advocacy for PPP as a modality to implement projects.** Given the government's limited fiscal space, it is crucial for agencies, especially LGUs to seek alternative funding schemes beyond traditional government appropriations to ensure the execution of programs and projects. With the enactment of the PPP Code, LGUs can draw inspiration from projects such as Cauayan City's Digitalized Traffic Enforcement and Mega Market, Baggao Water Supply Project, Tuguegarao Septage Management Project, and Santiago City Hemodialysis Center Project. PPP-implemented projects foster

cooperation, exchange technical and management and financial know-how among local government and private partners in achieving local infrastructure needs.

**Pursue upgrading and development of ports and airports.** To support the region's vision as the premier hub of the North, the upgrading and development of airports and seaports necessitates funding. This will improve the region's capacity to transport passengers and cargo, further contributing to the country's capacity for international trade, tourism and other services. Additionally, this will also improve the region's interconnectivity, especially for its island and coastal areas.

In particular, the region pushes for the continuous funding for the improvement of the Tuguegarao Airport, Cauayan Airport, Basco Airport, and Itbayat Airport, including the Bagabag Airport, Calayan Airport, Maconacon Airport, and Palanan Airport. The continued upgrading of Port Irene and Claveria Port, as well as the development of an all-weather port in Batanes, Aparri Port, and other port developmental projects of the region, likewise remains a priority. The Department of Transportation (DOTr), in coordination with its regional counterparts such as the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), will endeavor to consolidate and harmonize the priority projects of the region to facilitate investment programming and mobilization of resources from national government, private sector and development financing partners.



# 03

## Ensuring Food and Water Security



## SECTION 3.1

# Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness



## Introduction

Cagayan Valley has made significant strides in modernizing its agriculture and agribusiness sector in 2024. The successful implementation of the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) boosted productivity through improved technologies and diversified farming practices. Further, support from government agencies ensured farmers' access to essential production inputs such as high-quality seeds, fertilizers, and farm machinery.

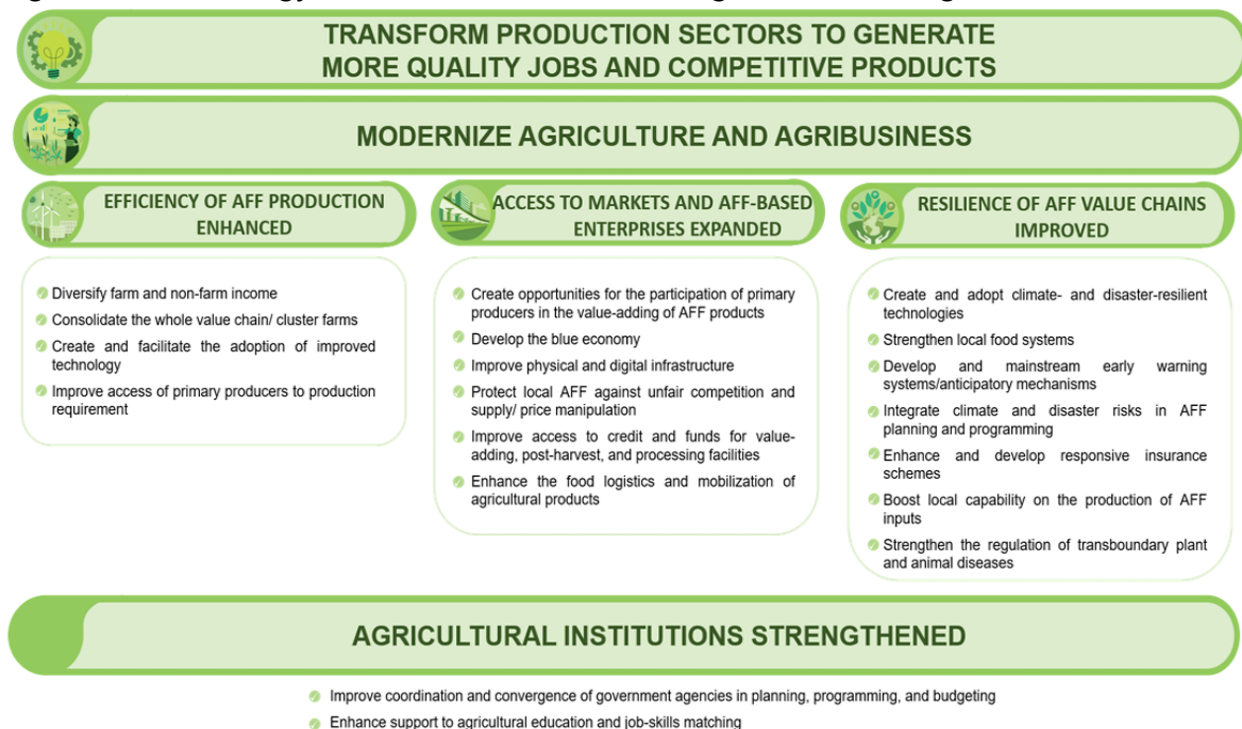
Initiatives such as the establishment of processing facilities and the expansion of market access through e-commerce platforms have also empowered farmers to transform raw produce into higher-value products, enhancing their income-generating potential.

Moreover, the region has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of climate change through the implementation of the Climate Change – Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (CC-AMIA) program.

## Strategy Framework

The RDP envisions the region to have modern, innovative, and sustainable agri-food systems. This vision necessitates a collaborative effort between the government and the private sector. All entities will work together in achieving the desired outcomes of boosting the AFF production efficiency, expanding access to markets and AFF-based enterprises, improving resilience of AFF value chains, and strengthening agricultural institutions.

Figure 3.1.1 Strategy Framework to Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Efficiency of AFF production enhanced

**Consolidated the whole value chain/ cluster farms and facilitated the adoption of improved technology.** As part of the strategy outlined in the MRIDP, the region embraced innovative agricultural technologies through the Farm and Fisheries Consolidation and Clustering Program of the Department of Agriculture. The region implemented several key initiatives in enhancing rice productivity and sustainability. These include the establishment of farm clusters such as Agroecology-Based Rice Farming (AbRF) Clusters, the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Clusters, and the scale-up of Palayamanan farming system for rice-based farms. The AbRF focuses on transforming rice monoculture into diverse and ecologically balanced systems, while the SRI is a resource-efficient method emphasizing improved crop management practices to maximize yield, while minimizing environmental impact. Palayamanan promotes integrated farming, combining rice cultivation with other crops, livestock, and aquaculture to enhance land productivity and resilience. In the first nine months of 2024, the region established three AbRF clusters, seven SRI clusters, and five Palayamanan farms, demonstrating commitment to sustainable and productive rice cultivation.

**Diversified farm and non-farm income.** The DA continued to play a crucial role in diversifying agricultural production. The distribution of high-quality seeds for high-value crops like lowland vegetables, red onion, mungbean, and peanut encouraged farmers to explore new avenues and enhance their income streams. The establishment of 53 techno-demo units across the region also showcased the growing adoption of improved agricultural technologies among farmers.

**Access of primary producers to production requirement improved.** The DA also prioritized ensuring farmers' access to essential production inputs. Over four hundred thousand bags of hybrid rice seeds, along with thousands of lowland and upland vegetable seeds and assorted organic seeds were distributed during the year. To address fertilizer requirements, the DA provided fertilizer discount vouchers, soil ameliorants, and bio-fertilizers, covering over four hundred thousand hectares of farmland.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) consistently supported the fishing industry through its robust fingerling and seedstock production and distribution program. This program also includes the distribution of essential fishing gear and

equipment. In the first nine months of the year, BFAR successfully distributed 446 fishing gears and 21 motorized boats. Additionally, the program produced 11.3 million fingerlings/ seedstock, procured 2.5 million, and distributed 12.59 million, contributing significantly to the sustainability of fisheries in the region.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) continued its efforts to support agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs). In the first nine months of 2024, DAR distributed 428 hectares of land to 333 ARBs and provided 23 units of farm machinery and equipment to benefit 826 ARBs.

### Access to markets and AFF-based enterprises expanded

**Opportunities for the participation of primary producers in the value-adding of AFF products created.** Value-added processing was pursued as a key strategy for enhancing the marketability of local products in the region, as evidenced by the successful operationalization of the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT) juice processing facility. With four new products developed as of September 2024, the NVAT demonstrated the region's potential to transform raw agricultural produce into higher-value products, creating new income streams for farmers and expanding market opportunities for local agricultural goods.

The DTI, through its "Walang Sayang" project also played a crucial role in reducing post-harvest losses, a significant challenge faced by many farmers. By assisting 62 MSMEs and benefiting 731 farmers, this project not only minimized wastage but also generated 120 jobs, contributing to local economic growth.

Further, the DTI's Grand Bagsakan Program effectively leveraged e-commerce and e-payment platforms, connecting Cagayan Valley's producers with consumers in the NCR and other regions. The successful conduct of the Regional Grand Bagsakan and 1st Negosyo Agraryo Fair in 2024, with 61 MSMEs and ARBOs participating, generated a remarkable PHP1.13 million in sales, through transactions with online buyers, foreign buyers, and other customers. This demonstrates the growing importance of digital platforms in expanding market access for regional products.

**Blue economy developed.** The BFAR successfully completed the enhancement of a management area within its Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) program in Quirino. This initiative focuses on rehabilitating and restoring the ecological health of water bodies, leading to improved fisheries and the revival of indigenous species.

This year, BFAR also rolled-out the Development of Salt Industry Project (DSIP). By providing inputs, technical assistance, establishment of techno-demo projects, and conduct of trainings, this project aims to revive salt making as a viable economic activity, addressing escalating import dependence, and creating new livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.

**Physical and digital infrastructure improved.** Infrastructure development plays a vital role in supporting the growth of the AFF sector. The concreting of 40.203 kilometers of farm-to-market roads significantly improved connectivity and facilitated the timely transportation of agricultural produce. The completion of processing and post-harvest facilities, such as rice processing centers and onion cold storage units, has enhanced the quality and shelf life of agricultural products.

For digital infrastructure, updating of the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture was a continuing effort of the DA. The DICT, through its National Broadband Program, also aims to support the needed digital infrastructure to improve access to markets and facilitate growth of AFF-based enterprises. As of September 30, 2024, the implementation of the Fiber Optic Cable laying from NGCP Tuguegarao to DICT Point of Presence (PoP) as part of the NBP-National Fiber Build Phase 2 Project is already ongoing.

**Local AFF sectors safeguarded against unfair competition and supply or price manipulation.** The coordinated effort among government agencies, collectively known as ConsumerNet, continued to play a crucial role on this matter. By streamlining redress mechanisms for consumer complaints and engaging in joint monitoring activities, ConsumerNet ensures fair competition and protects consumers from unfair practices. The Consumer Connect Program, a platform for farmers and fisherfolks to connect with government agencies and receive timely assistance, has aired 29 episodes, providing valuable support to the agricultural community.

**Food logistics and mobilization of agricultural products enhanced.** The KADIWA ng Pangulo, which was further enhanced to KADIWA ng Pangulo Program para sa Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas emerged as a vital channel for connecting farmers directly with consumers. By establishing KADIWA Centers and KADIWA Stores, this initiative eliminates middlemen, allowing farmers to earn more and ensuring consumers access to safe, fresh, and affordable products.

The DA also facilitated the issuance of registration documents for 148 Livestock, Poultry and by-products Handlers (LH) and 227 Transport Carriers (TC), ensuring the safe and efficient transportation of agricultural products within the region.

### Resilience of AFF value chains improved

**Climate- and disaster-resilient technologies adopted.** Recognizing the increasing threats posed by climate change, the DA implemented the Cagayan Valley Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (CV-AMIA) program to enhance the resilience of agricultural and fisheries communities.

A cornerstone of the CV-AMIA program is the establishment of "AMIA Villages," which serve as centers of learning for climate-resilient agricultural practices. These villages act as "go-to places" where farmers can acquire knowledge and skills to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. As of 2024, the region boasts of five pilot AMIA villages (Lucban, Benito Soliven, Sta. Victoria, Ilagan City, Calametagan, Buguey, Nararagan, Ballesteros, Giayan, Nagtipunan), 10 expansion AMIA villages, and 11 adopted AMIA villages. To further enhance knowledge dissemination, three Climate Information Learning Centers were established, providing valuable training and learning opportunities for AMIA villagers.

The CV-AMIA program also championed the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural technologies, including the planting of hybrid varieties, the implementation of Alternate Wetting and Drying techniques, and the utilization of Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems. Further, the program has diversified livelihoods through the introduction of sustainable practices such as mushroom production, cattle production, silage production, ready-to-lay production, egg production, vegetable and seedling production, citrus processing, Pan de RISE, swine, and sheep production.

**Early warning systems/ anticipatory mechanisms mainstreamed.** Early warning systems are crucial for effective climate change adaptation. The CV-AMIA program regularly provides farmers and fisherfolk with vital information through Regional and Provincial Seasonal Climate Outlook Advisories and data collected from Automated Weather Stations. To further enhance information dissemination, the program is actively promoting the Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP) System. This innovative platform aims to provide timely and customized climate information to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions and proactively adapt to changing conditions.

This year, the ACAP survey of AMIA villages was conducted in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan. The activity aimed to comprehensively assess the climate risks and evaluate the users' needs for the Climate Information System (CIS), which supports the goal of ACAP in providing a customized CIS that meets the specific requirements of local farmers in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan.

**Climate and disaster risks in AFF planning and programming integrated.**

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by the fisheries sector, the DA, in collaboration with BFAR and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), developed the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment for Fisheries (CRVAF). This science-based tool empowers fisherfolk to assess and address climate-related risks in both aquaculture and capture fisheries, guiding the prioritization of much-needed investments.

**Responsive insurance schemes enhanced.** To safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk in Cagayan Valley, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) offers a diverse range of insurance products. These include subsidized programs such as the RSBSA Agricultural Insurance Program for farmers and fisherfolks listed under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). The Agri-Agra Agricultural Insurance Program provides coverage for borrowers availing agricultural loans from lending institutions. Additionally, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Crop Insurance Program offers protection to coconut farmers registered in the National Coconut Farmers Registry System. For farmers who do not qualify for subsidized programs, the PCIC provides the Regular Agricultural Insurance Program (RAIP).

As of October 30, 2024, the PCIC reported a significant number of insured individuals. The RSBSA Agricultural Insurance Program covered 252,626 farmers and fisherfolks. The Agri-Agra Agricultural Insurance Program provided coverage to 29,012 farmers and fisherfolks. The Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Crop Insurance Program insured 2,725 coconut farmers. Further, the RAIP covered 163,840 farmers and fisherfolks.

Local capability on the production of AFF inputs improved. The DA played a crucial role in enhancing local capabilities within the AFF sector by providing essential laboratory services and supporting the production of sustainable inputs. From January to September 30, 2024, the DA laboratory conducted a significant volume of analyses, including 7,574 soil samples, 300 fertilizer samples, 2,274 feed samples, 312 food samples, 758 aflatoxin analyses for corn and peanuts, and 995 plant samples. These



analyses provide valuable data for farmers, ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural inputs and outputs.

**Regulation of transboundary plant and animal diseases strengthened.** The DA, in collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), has been actively monitoring and inspecting agricultural products entering the region. An additional 12 new checkpoints have been strategically established.

The DA was also crucial in disease surveillance and control through rigorous laboratory analysis. From January to September 30, 2024, the office conducted 11,449 animal disease diagnoses and 549 plant disease diagnoses. To proactively address animal health concerns, the office administered 45,000 doses of bio dewormer to 900 animals within the region. Field validations in 36,118 hectares of rice areas, 36,389 hectares of corn areas, and 2,286 hectares of high-value crop areas were also conducted, which resulted in the issuance of nine pest advisories.

## Results Matrix

As of September 2024, most core indicators surpassed the annual targets set for the year. Notably, the production volume of fruit crops, and non-food and industrial crops surpassed not only their annual targets for 2024, but also exceeded the projections for 2025. The production volume for vegetable and root crops is also poised to meet the full-year target for 2024.

Table 3.1.1 Results Matrix: Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
<b>* Volume of Production of HVC increased (in metric tons)</b>				
<b>Vegetables and root crops</b>	295,150	325,403	341,674	321,396
<b>Fruit crops</b>	444,142	489,666	514,150	514,183
<b>Non-food &amp; industrial crops</b>	429,146	473,133	496,790	510,400
<b>Level of mechanization improved</b>				
<b>Rice (hp/ha)</b>	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2
<b>Corn (hp/ha)</b>	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.5

\* January-September 2024

Source: DA

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Pursue development of the blue economy.** Recognizing the immense economic potential of the nation's coastal and marine resources, relevant agencies like DA, BFAR, DTI, DENR, and DOST will need to prioritize the allocation of resources to activities that can harness the full potential of the blue economy. These include the implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan, operationalization of the science advisory group to assess priority species of 3 sub-fisheries management areas, establishment of Lambaklad project along coastal areas, and distribution of 62-footer vessels with complete fishing gear and paraphernalia.

**Enhance and develop innovative insurance schemes.** Given the region's vulnerability to weather disturbances that impact the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolks, insurance schemes by PCIC will be implemented and further enhanced to ensure adequate and timely compensation to primary producers. To accelerate transactions, the PCIC will also pursue digitalization to streamline processes, expedite claims process, and ensure faster disbursement of indemnity payments to farmers.

**Enhance support to agricultural education and job-skills matching.** This strategy will focus on enhancing agri-fishery education and skills enhancement, through accreditation and conduct of trainings and other AF-related activities, provision of scholarship and extension support, certification and accreditation of learning sites, administration of e-learning courses and other modalities, development and dissemination of knowledge products and services, and partnership with SUCs for skills development and agri-preneurship of students.

## SECTION 3.2

# Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition



Typhoon rehab seeds from the Department of Agriculture allocated distribution to LGU Angadanan, Isabela

Source: Department of Agriculture Facebook Page

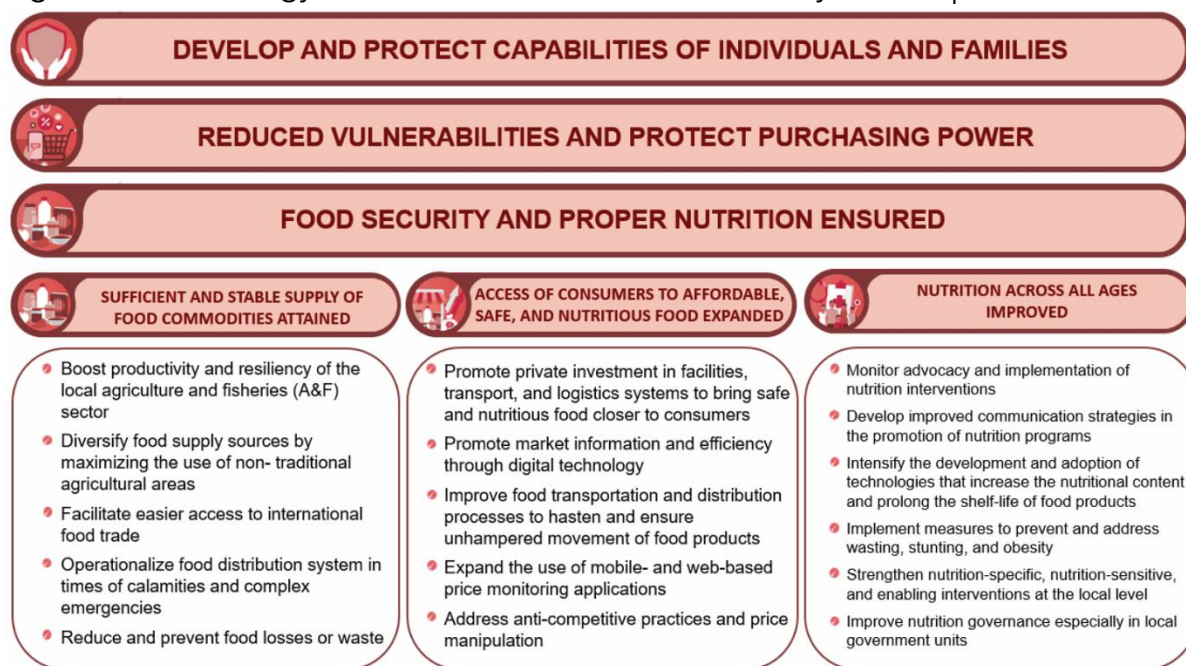
## Introduction

In 2024, the region demonstrated progress towards the attainment of food-secured and nurtured families. Despite the challenges posed by the El Niño phenomenon, concerted efforts of various agencies effectively tempered food inflation and ensured a steady food supply. Diversification of food sources was also pursued through the implementation and promotion of the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture program. Farmers and fisherfolks were also capacitated to increase their resilience against natural disasters and mitigate the risks of food insufficiency. Likewise, nutrition governance at the local level was enhanced to address malnutrition by strengthening the Local Nutrition Committees.

## Strategy Framework

The attainment of food security and proper nutrition in the region is a collaborative effort among the national and local government units, the private sector, and other stakeholders. The intermediate outcomes of this collaboration include: (a) sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained; (b) access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded; and (c) nutrition across all ages improved.

Figure 3.2.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained

**Productivity and resilience of the local agriculture and fisheries sector boosted.** The BFAR distributed 446 fishing gears and 21 motorized boats as of September 2024 to enhance the fishing capabilities of local fisherfolks. Moreover, the Bureau also distributed fingerlings and seedstocks. The DA also played a vital role by providing farmers with the necessary tools and infrastructure. This includes the distribution of farm machinery and equipment, and construction of various agricultural facilities. Other notable accomplishments include the Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa (BASIL) of BFAR, which aims to

rehabilitate and restore the ecological health of water bodies, leading to improved fisheries and the revival of indigenous species.

**Food supply sources diversified by maximizing the use of non-traditional agricultural areas.** A key initiative under this strategy is the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), which provided substantial support to beneficiaries. In 2024, a total of PHP25 million was allocated to 11 Farmers' Cooperative and Associations, four local government units, three DA experiment stations, and SM City Tuguegarao to establish smart farming communities. This support included the provision of essential resources such as assorted vegetable seeds, plastic crates, seedling trays, plastic drums, soil augers, mini tilling machines, wheelbarrows, potting media, organic fertilizer, calamansi seedlings, greenhouse with hydroponics, poultry house, nurseries, and mushroom houses. Technical briefings on edible landscaping were also conducted, providing valuable knowledge and skills to program beneficiaries. Further, to foster a deeper understanding and wider adoption of these innovative approaches, the first-ever NUPAP summit was held. The event aimed to transform urban spaces and empower farmers by promoting modernized agricultural practices.

**Food distribution system operationalized in times of calamities and complex emergencies.** The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) played a critical role in responding to disasters/ calamities by distributing 48,045 family food packs to affected communities. This timely intervention provided vital support to vulnerable populations, ensuring their food security and well-being during crises.

[Access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded](#)

**Private investments in facilities, transport, and logistics systems to bring safe and nutritious food closer to consumers promoted.** The DTI promoted two initiatives, the Walang Sayang Project, and the Grand Bagsakan to improve food accessibility and at the same time reduce food waste. The former assisted 62 MSMEs and generated a total sale of PHP2.2 million as of September 2024, from marketing high-value crops, and lowland and highland fruits and vegetables. The latter optimized the e-commerce and e-payment platforms in bringing the region's products to NCR and adjacent regions. For this year, the regional Grand Bagsakan and 1st Negosyo Agraryo Fair was conducted, which resulted to a total sale of PHP1.13 million from transactions with online buyers, foreign buyers, and other customers.

**Market information and efficiency through digital technology promoted.** The DTI operationalized online platforms, namely: (1) Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal, Inc.

(NVAT) Fresh Online; and (2) Padday na Lima Webshop. In 2024, as part of the continuous improvement of the NVAT Fresh Online, the DTI conducted an onboarding session for Value Service Providers to further improve the platform, specifically on its logistics. The DTI also assisted 50 MSMEs through its Padday na Lima Webshop, an e-commerce platform that serves as another venue for entrepreneurs to have permanent presence online.

**Use of mobile and web-based price monitoring applications expanded.** The DTI continuously operationalized a real-time price monitoring tool called e-Presyo to monitor the prices of necessities and prime commodities in the region. As of September 2024, a total 105 monitoring activities were conducted.

**Anti-competitive practices and price manipulation addressed.** The DTI is joined by the Local Price Coordinating Councils (LPCCs) in conducting monitoring and enforcement activities. This ensured the compliance of establishments with fair-trade laws, and protect consumers from trade malpractices and risks from defective products. As of September 2024, a high level of compliance with Fair Trade Laws was observed in the region, with only 30 firms found to be in violation. This translates to a 98.35 percent compliance rate among businesses in the region. Moreover, 25 Consumer Welfare Assistance Centers (CWACs) of the DTI were established during the year. The CWACs serve as avenues for consumers to air their grievances on products and transactions for possible amicable settlement. Additionally, the CWAC provides various information regarding consumer rights and responsibilities, product safety and quality tips, and warranties, among others.

#### Nutrition across all ages improved

**Advocacy and implementation of nutrition interventions monitored.** The National Nutrition Council (NNC) conducted monitoring and evaluation of Local Level Plan Implementation Protocol for Nutrition Programs of all provinces and cities and some municipalities during the year.

**Improved communication strategies in the promotion of nutrition programs.** As part of the Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) for the Nutrition program, the NNC allocated and utilized PHP500 thousand to promote proper nutrition in the region using quad media. Further, the National Online Conference of the Nutriskwela Community Radio Network Program was conducted to provide updates on the Nutriskwela Program and the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023-2028.

**Development and adoption of technologies that increase the nutritional content and prolong the shelf-life of food products intensified.** The One Town One Product (OTOP) Next Gen Program of the DTI is a priority program to empower local entrepreneurs and communities to determine, develop, support, and promote culturally-rooted products or services prominent in their localities. As of September 2024, the program assisted 2,293 MSMEs across the region, generating total sales amounting to PHP4.85 million. Seven OTOP hubs were also maintained, and two Product Standard Fairs were conducted during the year, showcasing products that passed the mandatory quality and safety standards set by the DTI.

**Planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive interventions strengthened.** The NNC facilitated the formulation and implementation of Local Nutrition Action Plans 2023-2025 of all LGUs in the region. These LGUs conducted nutrition program management trainings and orientation activities.

Through the DILG, the functionality of Local Nutrition Committees (LNC) is regularly monitored. All LNCs were reported functional and spearheaded the conduct of training on nutrition as well as mentoring activities for low-performing LGUs. During the year, Quirino province was designated as a Learning Hub for Nutrition in the region.

## Results Matrix

Although the regional food inflation slowed down to 4.9 percent from January to November this year, compared to the full-year 2023 food inflation of 7.6 percent, this is still beyond the target for the year. Higher food prices were heavily driven by the price increase in rice in the first half of the year due to supply constraints as production was affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

The subsistence incidence, defined as the proportion of Filipinos whose income is not enough to meet the basic food needs, declined to 1.9 percent in 2023 compared to the incidence rate of 3.9 percent in 2021. To help Filipinos earn higher income, the government developed programs and projects to reinvigorate and revitalize the industry, and services sector and modernize agriculture.

Table 3.2.1 Results Matrix: Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
Food inflation kept within a stable rate (%)	3.7 (2022)	2.0-4.0	2.0-4.0	* 4.9
Subsistence incidence among the population (%) reduced	3.9 (2021)	decreasing	2.0	** 1.2

\* January to November 2024

\*\* January to December 2023

Source: PSA

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

From 2025 to 2026, the following strategies will be accelerated to help achieve more food-secured and healthy citizens in the region:

**Facilitate easier access to international food trade.** The government will explore ways to expand the utilization of existing ports to speed up the flow of food and agricultural supplies.

**Reduce and prevent food losses or waste.** Local Councils of respective LGUs will enact ordinances in support of the Food Waste Management Policy. Private sector investments in value-added processing, utilizing surpluses of local produce will continuously be promoted to address wastage and price fluctuations.

**Implement measures to prevent and address wasting, stunting, and obesity.** The implementation of the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition will be further strengthened and expanded. The establishment of “gulayans” in schools, offices, communities, and homes will be promoted, and their produce will be utilized by the feeding programs of the government.



# 04

## Investing in Social Development



## SECTION 4.1

# Boost Health and Nutrition



**New sea ambulance awarded to the Municipality of Maconacon by the Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development through the Health Facility Enhancement Program**

Source: Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development Facebook Page

## Introduction

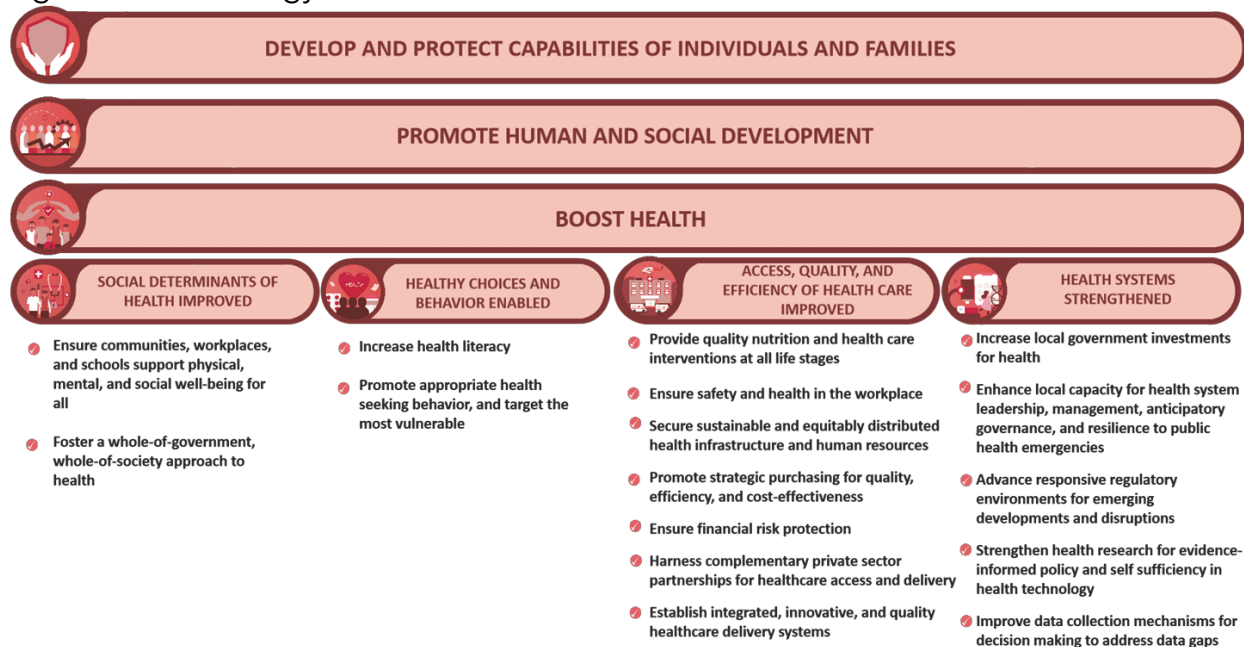
Cagayan Valley continues to adopt a holistic approach to healthcare by promoting health literacy, encouraging a healthy lifestyle, ensuring safe and healthy environments, and providing accessible and affordable healthcare services.

## Strategy Framework

By 2028, the CVRDP 2023-2028 aims to boost the health of the region's population as a way to promote human and social development. The framework emphasizes that the quality of health services to be provided is important to affect health outcomes.

The Figure below illustrates the strategy framework to boost health along the four outcomes: (a) improving the social determinants of health; (b) enabling individuals and households (HH) to have healthy choices and behavior; (c) improving access, quality and efficiency of health care; and (d) strengthening the health systems so that all Filipinos can access high quality health services.

Figure 4.1.1 Strategy Framework to Boost Health and Nutrition



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Social determinants of health improved

**Ensure that communities, workplaces, and schools support physical, mental, and social well-being for all.** The World Health Organization (WHO) defined the social determinants of health as the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and provide for existence in shaping the conditions of daily life. As of September 30, 2024, a total of six Province/ City-wide Health System (P/CWHS) were capacitated on Health Communities Implementation Playbook (Karinderya para sa Healthy Pilipinas, Behavioral Nudges for Hand Hygiene, Smoke and Vape-free Environment in the New Normal, and Juana Be Wais: Violence Prevention, Key Assistance for Developing Adolescents Network, Bakuna Champion, Peer Support groups for the Youth, & Sexual and Reproductive Health). Moreover, three out of three P/CWHS were capacitated on

the foundational concepts of Healthy Learning Institutions (HLIs), particularly a long needs assessment of Last Mile Elementary Schools through the Self-Appraisal Checklist.

**Foster a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to health.** All members of the society who have a great impact on the region’s desired health outcomes are involved in health promotion activities. The role of local governments in nutrition and health services delivery, such as advancing local health policies, providing family planning services and commodities, and reducing disaster risks were pursued. This approach will strengthen the resilience of communities to withstand threats to their health and well-being. Five of the six P/LGUs were already certified as Fully Functional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units for supply chain and cold chain management. LGUs and Health partners were provided with technical assistance on the institutionalization of the DRRM-H System.

#### Healthy choices and behavior enabled

**Increase health literacy.** The health sector in the region focuses on the re-orientation of health systems to prioritize health promotion and prevention in the new normal. As of September 2024, the region conducted the following seven major various events for programs and campaigns, namely: (a) Oral Health Month Celebration; (b) Philippine Heart Month; (c) World Immunization Week Celebration; (d) Cervical Cancer and other NCD diseases Caravan Launching; (e) Biyaheng Kalusugan: Nutrition Month 2024; (f) Deworming Month Kick Off; (f) National Diabetes Day; and (g) PuroKalusugan strategy: Cervical Cancer Campaign Caravan.

**Promote appropriate health-seeking behavior and target the most vulnerable. Health promotion in all interventions is being undertaken to increase awareness of health entitlement.** A total of 121 barangays were catered to in the implementation of the community playbook people-focused activities such as Healthy Karinderya, Handwashing Nudge, Bakuna Champions, Smoke and Vape Free Communities, Peer Support Group for the Youth, Key Assistance for Developing Adolescent Network, and Juana Be Wais-Communicating Violence Prevention.

#### Access, quality, and efficiency of healthcare improved

**Provide quality nutrition and health care interventions at all life stages.** The provision of health care and services to the well and the sick at all life stages, from infancy to old age, helps in ensuring improvements in social health determinants. This was carried out through the provision of technical assistance to LGUs and other health

partners on public health programs. All LGUs were provided with technical assistance on public health programs (98/98) or 100 percent accomplishment.

**Ensure safety and health in the workplace.** Sound, gender-responsive occupational safety and health (OSH) practices were ensured through dynamic enforcement of existing regulations by the LGUs. Three government facilities/ hospitals were recognized as green, safe, and resilient hospitals based on the Green Viability Assessment Tool. GVA monitoring and evaluation of six target hospitals, and capacitation activities on health facility operations were implemented.

**Secure sustainable and equitably distributed health infrastructure and human resources.** The region supports the implementation of national policies and initiatives such as the National Human Resources for Health Master Plan (NHRHMP) and the Philippine Health Facilities Development Plan (PHFDP), where necessary and applicable. Medical doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, medical technologists, dentists, nutritionists, and physical therapists were deployed to identified doctorless areas. The 5th to 6th-class municipalities, Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), national priority for poverty reduction, and peace-building efforts are the priority areas for HRH Supplementation. The Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) and provision of HFEP equipment are ongoing and monitored at least once per quarter.

**Promote strategic purchasing for quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.** Capacity building on supply chain management concepts such as good storage, warehousing, logistics, cold chain management, complete and timely submission of inventory reports of all commodities stored, and data reconciliation on vaccine wastage and inventories were conducted.

**Establish integrated, innovative, and quality healthcare delivery systems.** The Health Care Provider Network (HCPN) was expanded and strengthened to allow people to reach health facilities and avail of the needed health services. LGUs were capacitated and provided technical assistance on Electronic Medical Records/ Integrated Health Information Systems Operational Policies and Standards, and Administration of Standards Conformance and interoperability. Also conducted were the mapping, profiling, and accreditation of health facilities to ensure that the standard ratio of one physician, one registered nurse, and one registered midwife is met. Moreover, Telemedicine and cross cutting implementation areas such as Data Management, Data Privacy and Cybersecurity were implemented.

## Health systems strengthened

**Enhance local capacity for health system leadership, management, anticipatory governance, and resilience to public health emergencies.** Health system leadership, management, governance, and resilience to public emergencies were strengthened in the LGUs by increasing their local capacity and capability along local health systems development, institutionalization of DRRM-H Systems, Health Facilities Enhancement Program, and other support provided by the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU). Technical assistance provided to LGUs, RLAs and other stakeholders on Local Health Systems Development were technical outputs, funding assistance and capacity development on good governance and leadership

**Strengthen health research for evidence-informed policy and self-sufficiency in health technology.** Health research is essential in improving the region's health systems and in contributing to the attainment of universal health coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional and local levels. For 2024, there are five commissioned ongoing research projects, namely: (a) Knowledge and Attitude of Parents on Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) Infection Control and Prevention and STH Incidence among School-Age Children in Cagayan; (b) Procurement Prices of Medicines in the region; (c) Lived Experiences on Streamlined HIV Care; (d) Analysis of Radiographic Findings of the 2022 Active TB Case Finding Activities in Region 2; and (e) Compliance of Licensed Health Facilities in Cagayan Valley to Regulatory Standards and Requirements of the Department of Health (DOH).

**Improve data collection mechanisms for decision-making to address data gaps.** For better decision-making, the region has improved the iClinicSys in LGUs. The iClinicSys is an integrated clinic information system that is primarily designed to generate the required national health statistical requirements such as Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS), and Disease Registry Reports, among others. Also implemented were the Integrated Hospitals Management Information System and the CODA (COVID system in Region 2).

## Results Matrix

On maternal deaths among women, the DOH recorded a decreasing trend in annual live births for 2024.

For provinces/ LGUs with adequate bed-to-population ratio, the region was able to register 112.31 percent. The number of public healthcare workers in the region is sufficient. The region was also able to achieve a 100 percent accomplishment on the percentage of identified cities and provinces with adequate HRH-to-population ratio for nurses and midwives.

Premature mortality rates attributed to non-communicable diseases showed fair performance with the decreasing rates in coronary artery disease, cancer, diabetes, and tuberculosis.

Table 4.1.1 Results Matrix: Boost Health and Nutrition

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Maternal mortality ratio decreased (per 100,000 live births)	<b>48.44</b> (2022)	<b>95</b>	<b>decreasing</b>	<b>63.41</b>
Percentage of provinces with adequate bed-to-population ratio increased (%)	<b>80</b> (2021)	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>112.31</b>
Percentage of functional regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units increased (%)	<b>0</b> (2021)	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b> (1/1)
Percentage of identified cities and provinces with adequate HRH-to- population ratios based on WHO reference ratios to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) increased (%) for Nurses and Midwife	<b>100</b> (2021)	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Premature mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases decreased (number of deaths per 1,000 population aged 30-70 years old)				
- Coronary Artery Disease	<b>43.67</b> (2022)	<b>100.5</b>	<b>97.05</b>	<b>96</b>
- Cancer	<b>19.26</b> (2022)	<b>27.36</b>	<b>26.54</b>	<b>17.92</b>
- Diabetes	<b>18.49</b> (2022)	<b>9.69</b>	<b>9.39</b>	<b>4.54</b>
Tuberculosis incidence decreased (per 100,000 population)	<b>275</b> (2022)	<b>650</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>169.95</b>

\* Source: Cagayan Valley Center for Health Development, 2024 latest data

## Ways Forward

For 2025 to 2026, the region will focus its efforts to further improving health outcomes for individuals and communities. This must be done by implementing strategic actions aligned with the following outcomes: (a) social determinants of health improved; (b) healthy choices and behavior enabled; (c) access, quality and efficiency of health care improved; and (d) health systems strengthened.

## Priority Strategies

**Foster a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to health.** A whole-of-society approach will extend the whole-of-government approach by placing additional emphasis on the involvement and roles of the private sector, civil society and volunteers. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including volunteers, will be mobilized to participate in budget development, service delivery, and monitoring and evaluation through their involvement in Local Development Councils (LDCs) and other special bodies of LGUs. The role of LGUs in nutrition and health services delivery, including advancing health policies, providing family planning services and commodities, and reducing disaster risks will also be pursued. This approach will strengthen the resilience of communities to withstand threats to health and well-being.

**The region will strengthen inter-agency collaborations to address the social determinants of health.** These collaborations include sustained efforts in education, nutrition, water and sanitation, and hygiene. Raising awareness of the links between the health needs of the people in the region and the role of the community, workplaces and schools in promoting a healthy community will increase the understanding of all sectors for greater collaboration to improve human well-being and sustain healthy environments. The health promotion campaigns of the DOH and LGUs will be more visible in the region such as the Health is Life Campaign and KonsulTayo Campaign and the Biyaheng Kalusugan campaign.

**Secure sustainable and equitably distributed health infrastructure and human resources.** The LGUs will sustain spending on health infrastructure and human resources alongside the implementation of the Mandanas law. This is to ensure that infrastructure investments will improve primary health and community facilities, supplies, equipment, and information technology systems. Increasing the number of health facilities and services in underserved areas will help promote health-seeking behavior of the people.



Human Resources for Health (HRH) will be more responsive to local needs and will focus on primary and preventive health care. HRH in GIDAs will also be ensured. Health care workers will be properly compensated and given opportunities for professional development in a healthy working environment. The region will support the implementation of national policies and initiatives such as the National Human Resources for Health Master Plan and Philippine Health Facilities Development Plan where necessary and applicable.

## SECTION 4.2

# Improve Education and Lifelong Learning



**Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Aparri Polytechnic Institute (API) trainers' industry immersion in welding at JVV Precision General Machining and Services Inc., Cavite**

Source: TESDA Region II Facebook Page

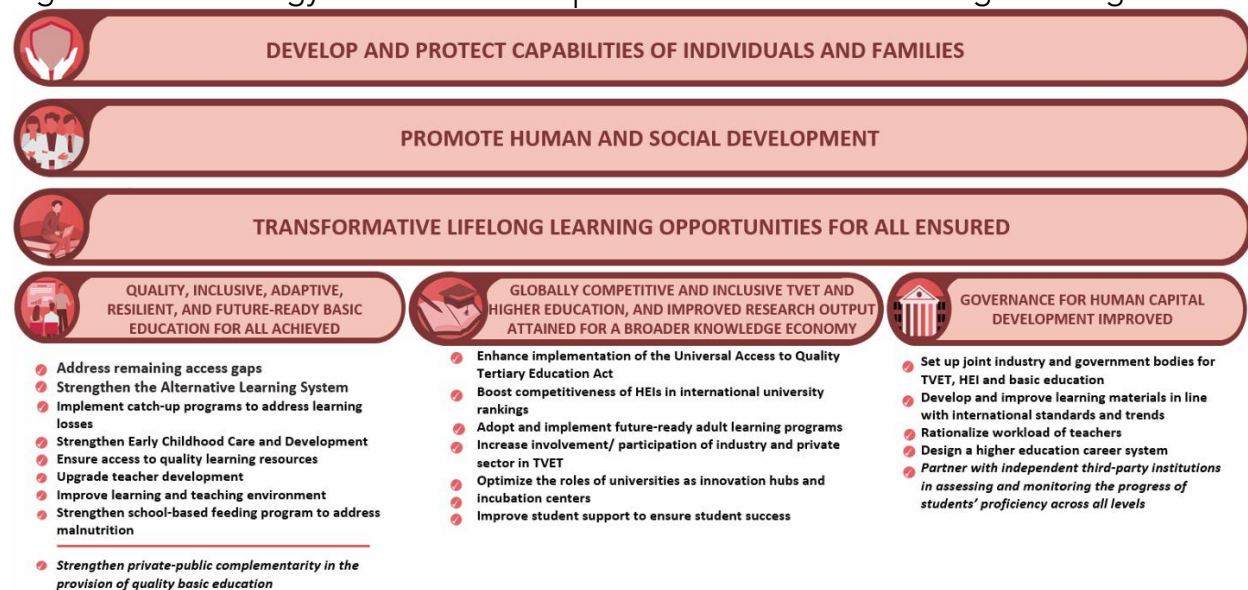
## Introduction

Embracing lifelong learning empowers Filipinos to achieve personal goals and build meaningful careers by equipping them with critical competencies. This continuous pursuit of knowledge fuels economic growth by fostering a robust and adaptable workforce capable of navigating the evolving demands of the agriculture, industry, and service sectors. Inclusivity demands that education reach beyond traditional structures, ensuring access for those marginalized by conventional schooling. Because learning is a journey that continues beyond formal education and career advancements, a diverse and flexible education system is essential to satisfy the increasing demand for lifelong learning opportunities for the entire population.

## Strategy Framework

The ultimate goal of this sub-chapter is aligned with the country’s long-term vision called Ambisyon Natin 2040 and the SDGs. The strategy framework has three major outcomes: (a) achieving quality, inclusive, adaptive, resilient, and future-ready basic education for all; (b) to have globally competitive and inclusive technical vocational education and training programs and improved research output for a broader knowledge economy; and (c) improved governance for human capital development.

Figure 4.2.1 Strategy Framework to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Quality, inclusive, adaptive, resilient, and future-ready basic education for all achieved

**Alternative Learning System strengthened.** The DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS) offers an educational pathway for out-of-school youth and adults (OSYA) to complete basic education. The program allows learners to finish elementary and secondary studies outside of traditional schools. Currently, around 1,020 community learning centers support 19,104 ALS learners across the region.

**Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) reinforced.** As of October 20, 2024, the DepEd enrolled 54,747 kindergarten students for SY 2024-2025, showing progress in implementing the Kindergarten Education Act (Republic Act 10157). This act

mandates free and accessible kindergarten. DepEd is working further to strengthen the act's implementation and ensure equal opportunities for all.

**Access to quality learning resources ensured.** The DepEd's Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials program provided learning resources aligned to the K–12 curriculum to 2,538 public schools. These serve as primary or supplementary teaching and learning resources.

**Teacher development and improve learning and teaching environment upgraded.** The DepEd prioritizes the professional development and career advancement of its school and learning center personnel, as mandated by DepEd Order No. 21, s. 2018. This order promotes growth opportunities for teaching and non-teaching staff across all DepEd offices. Human resource development (HRD) funds support training, technical assistance for Learning Action Cell (LAC) sessions, and the development of learning materials. As of September 2024, there were 43,086 personnel that benefited from the HRD initiatives.

**Private-public complementarity in the provision of quality basic education strengthened.** The DepEd strengthens private-public partnerships to deliver quality basic education through financial assistance programs. The Education Service Contracting (ESC) program supported 33,096 elementary graduates enrolling in private junior high schools in SY 2023–2024. The Senior High School Voucher Program assisted 25,641 Grade 10 completers enrolling in private or non-DepEd public senior high schools. The Teacher Salary Subsidy (TSS) program provided subsidies to 2,102 teachers in ESC-participating schools. These programs demonstrate DepEd's commitment to expanding educational access through collaboration.

Globally competitive and inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education, and improved research output attained for a broader knowledge economy

**Implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act enhanced.** The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) successfully implemented the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) and Tulong Dunong Program (TDP) for the first semester of Academic Year 2023-2024, including two orientation meetings with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) focal persons. The TDP, a CHED scholarship initiative, provides financial assistance to students enrolled in recognized HEI who meet specific eligibility criteria.

**Competitiveness of HEIs in international university rankings enhanced.** The CHED Region 02 exceeded its initial target, with six higher education institutions now recognized in reputable international rankings, surpassing the original goal of three HEIs by 2024. This accomplishment significantly bolstered the region's competitiveness within the global higher education landscape. The recognition highlights the high-quality education and standards these HEIs provide, and encourage continued efforts toward excellence in higher education across the region.

**Future-ready adult learning programs implemented.** The CHED issued memoranda to regional Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on developing lifelong learning and micro-credential programs. These memoranda serve as guide to modernize adult continuing education. In 2025–2026, CHED Region 02 will continue disseminating policies and guidelines on adult learning programs to strengthen lifelong learning.

**Participation of industry and the private sector in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) increased.** The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Region 02 significantly expanded its industry partnerships for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs. While collaborating with 121 industries in 2023, the agency achieved a notable increase to 185 partnerships in 2024. This strengthened collaboration facilitated advancements across the TVET sector, including competency standards and training resource development, learning facilitator development, and enhanced industry learning integration. Furthermore, the expanded network improved the delivery of skills training, assessment and certification services, and employment facilitation. Future efforts will concentrate on sustaining and further developing these industry partnerships.

**Roles of universities as innovation hubs and incubation centers optimized.** Universities are essential for student learning and economic advancement, fostering partnerships to transform knowledge into real-world solutions. Cagayan State University (CSU) exemplifies this by enhancing its function as an innovation hub. On September 30, 2024, CSU's Futures Thinking and Smart Hub was approved, securing space in the Athena Building and renovation funding. CSU also implemented two youth programs focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2024. CSU will use the Smart Hub to foster future thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation expertise.

**Student support to ensure student success improved.** Higher education institutions (HEIs) prioritize student success through comprehensive support services. These services promote access, equity, and inclusive learning, fostering growth. Student organizations,

grants, and mutual aid programs enhance the student experience. This support helps students flourish academically, personally, and professionally.

### Governance for human capital development improved

**Joint industry and government bodies for TVET, HEI, and basic education established.** In 2024, TESDA in partnership with CHED and various industries, recognized one new diploma program, adding to the 25 recognized programs in the previous year. This collaboration aligns technical-vocational training with labor market demands. The joint diploma program fosters cooperation among government, academia, and the private sector, strengthening the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system and supporting worker transitions into in-demand jobs.

**Workload of teachers rationalized.** HEIs implemented a standardized faculty workload of 21 teaching units per semester to ensure equitable teaching responsibilities and optimize resource use. This standard creates consistent workload expectations, promoting fair labor distribution and enhancing educational quality. The 21-unit minimum applies to all regular faculty, regardless of Equivalent Teaching Loads (ETLs). Overload assignments are given only to qualified faculty after meeting the minimum workload. This workload is subject to review and adjustment, prioritizing work-life balance and efficient room use, per board resolutions.

**Higher Education Career System designed.** CSU undertook a comprehensive review of its admission and retention policies in September 2024, forming specialized teams to develop a revised qualifying examination. These teams engaged in onboarding and capacity-building to effectively reconstruct the admission test. An independent panel of internal and external experts was appointed to validate the revised exam.

**Partnered with independent third-party institutions in assessing and monitoring the progress of students' proficiency across all levels.** CSU prioritizes impartial student competency assessment through collaborations with independent organizations and TESDA. Regular evaluations provide crucial insights into student performance, informing instructional adjustments and personalized learning interventions. For 2024, CSU operationalized 37 assessment centers and 33 training centers, underscoring its commitment to robust skills development.

## Results Matrix

In 2024, the region's education sector saw significant advancements. The CHED secured six internationally ranked higher education institutions, surpassing its previous targets of two in 2023 and three in 2024. This progress has enhanced educational opportunities throughout the region.

Additionally, two faculty engineers from CSU obtained ASEAN-recognized professional certification, underscoring the growing quality of the university's engineering programs.

The TESDA achieved a 92.55 percent skills certification rate as of September 2024, slightly exceeding its 92.5 percent target. This rate is subject to revision upon the release of the fourth quarter 2024 report.

The 2024 National Achievement Test (NAT) and Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy Assessment (ELLN) results for DepEd indicate varying academic performance across grade levels. While some grades exceeded expectations, others revealed areas needing improvement.

Grade 3 and Grade 6 students demonstrated strong performance in English. Grade 3 surpassed its target, with 65.54 percent of learners achieving at least a "Proficient" rating compared to the 63.66 percent target. Grade 6 significantly outperformed expectations, reaching 43.25 percent proficiency against a 14.8 percent target. The success of these cohorts merits further investigation to identify and replicate effective strategies.

However, other areas presented challenges specifically for Grades 10 and 12 which fell short of their English proficiency targets. Grade 10 achieved 30.86 percent proficiency, compared to a 36.81 percent target, while Grade 12 reached 27.02 percent, falling short of the 8.29 percent target. In mathematics, Grade 3 reached 29.51 percent proficiency against a 43.9 percent target. Grade 6 exceeded its 17.24 percent target, achieving 42.37 percent proficiency. Grade 10 achieved 35.45 percent proficiency compared to a 15.1 percent target, and Grade 12 slightly surpassed its 8.29 percent target with 17.36 percent proficiency.

These findings highlight the need to evaluate educational approaches and implement targeted interventions. Careful analysis of these results and subsequent action can lead to improved learning outcomes for all grade levels in English and Mathematics.

Table 4.2.1 Results Matrix: Improve Education and Lifelong Learning

INDICATORS	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Proportion of learners achieving at least "Proficient" in the National Achievement Test (NAT) (%)				
ENGLISH (Information Literacy)				
Grade 3	* 61.19	61.41	63.66	65.54 (Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy)
Grade 6	* 14.23	14.51	14.8	43.25
Grade 10	* 35.38	36.09	36.81	30.86
Grade 12	* 7.97	8.13	8.29	27.02
Mathematics				
Grade 3	* 42.20	43.04	43.9	29.51
Grade 6	* 16.57	16.9	17.24	42.37
Grade 10	** 14.57	14.8	15.1	35.45
Grade 12	* 7.97	8.13	8.29	17.36
Number of HEIs in reputable international rankings increased	2	2	3	6
Number of ASEAN-recognized professionals (e.g., ASEAN Engineer, Nurse, Architect) in accordance with MRAs	No target since application of professionals as ASEAN recognized professional is voluntary			2 ASEAN Engineers (CSU)
TESDA Certification Rate (%)	92% (2022)	92%	92.5%	*** 92.55%

\* DepEd data, National Achievement Test (2018)

\*\* DepEd data, National Achievement Test (2021)

\*\*\* TESDA Certification Data as of September 2024

Source: DepEd, TESDA, and CHED

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Develop Digital Learning Resources.** Invest in developing and disseminating digital learning resources to complement traditional materials. This initiative includes providing schools with the necessary digital infrastructure and teacher training on effective



technology integration in education. The goal is to create a more engaging and effective learning environment for students. This modernization effort will help bridge the digital divide and ensure equal access to educational resources.

**Foster University-Industry Collaboration. Encourage partnerships between universities and industry to translate research into practical solutions.** Establish platforms that enable knowledge sharing and collaborative project development, fostering a symbiotic relationship where academic expertise meets real-world industry needs. This partnership will help bridge the gap between theoretical research and marketable solutions, accelerating innovation and economic growth.

**Expand Financial Aid Opportunities.** Explore and develop additional financial aid programs beyond TES and TDP-TES to address the financial barriers faced by students. Streamline application processes and ensure transparency in grant distribution.

**Strengthen Joint Diploma Programs.** A key strategy for enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET involves increasing the number of joint diploma programs offered in conjunction with the CHED and industry stakeholders. These collaborative programs should bridge the gap between vocational training and higher education, facilitating pathways for career advancement. This expansion should encompass emerging industries and technologies to equip the workforce with skills that are future-ready

## SECTION 4.3

# Establish Livable Communities



**Groundbreaking and Time Capsule Laying ceremony in Barangay Bugallon Proper, Ramon, Isabela**

Source: Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Facebook Page

## Introduction

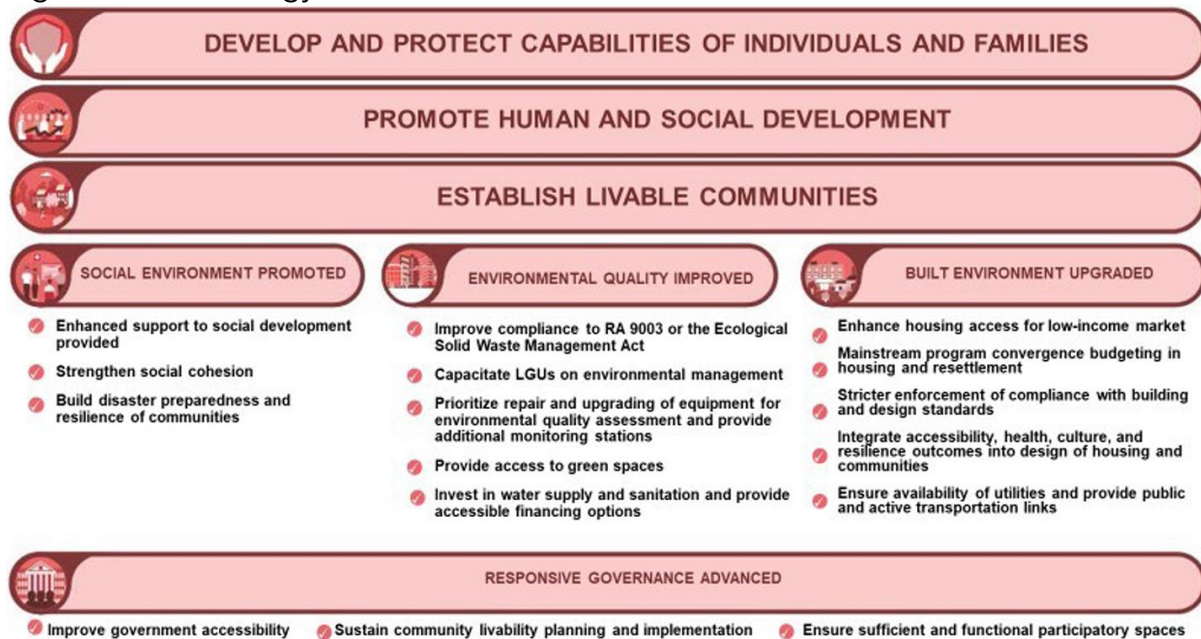
Economic transformation seeks to build thriving communities that promote prosperity, inclusion, and resilience for all people. These flourishing communities prioritize safety and security, offering diverse housing and accessible transportation. They serve people of all ages, abilities, genders, and incomes equitably. This chapter examines the key interconnected elements needed to achieve such communities namely: cultivating a positive social environment; improving environmental quality through sustainable practices; and modernizing infrastructure and buildings. This integrated approach ensures communities meet current needs and are prepared for future challenges.

# Strategy Framework

The livability of communities is tracked along three outcomes: (a) social environment is promoted; (b) environmental quality is improved; and (c) built environment is upgraded. These outcomes are guided by the principles of equity, inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability. Promoting the social environment gives priority to the needs of residents for food, health, education, social protection, and quality jobs. It builds a strong sense of community among individuals and families. Improving the quality of the natural environment allows communities to thrive in a clean environment and access green and public spaces. Upgrading the built environment helps ensure that appropriate housing is connected to utilities and linked to social, economic, and recreational spaces by public and active transportation.

All three outcomes are supported by a governance system that is accessible and ensures that the livability of communities is sustained.

Figure 4.3.1 Strategy Framework: Establish Livable Communities



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Social environment promoted

**Social cohesion strengthened.** Civil society engagement strengthened significantly in 2024, with the number of organized Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) represented in local development councils across the region increasing to 1,995 from 1,648 in 2023. These CSOs serve as vital partners, delivering community services and promoting citizen participation in local governance. Recognizing the importance of cultural preservation, there are 48 local government units in the region that have already established their Local Culture and Arts Councils (LCACs). These councils play a key role in promoting the region's cultural heritage and implementing government programs related to culture and the arts.

**Disaster preparedness and resilience of communities built.** The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Region 02 actively promotes disaster-resilient communities by assisting local governments in creating and updating comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) and zoning regulations. Building on the 40 LGUs that updated their plans in 2023, an additional 46 LGUs completed their updates in 2024, demonstrating a significant increase in proactive planning.

### Environmental quality improved

**Compliance with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 improved.** In 2024, collaborative efforts between the national government and LGUs yielded substantial progress in environmental protection and management, particularly solid waste management. The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 02 provided technical assistance to 523 out of 500 barangays (exceeding its target) in developing and implementing their solid waste management programs through the mobilization of Environmental Management Officers (EnMOs).

Furthermore, 57 of the 69 LGUs were monitored for compliance with their approved 10-year solid waste management plans and Section 24 of Republic Act 9003 (RA 9003), which mandates separate compartments or vehicles for different waste types during transport. These initiatives demonstrate a strong commitment to improving waste management practices across the region.

**Repair and upgrading of equipment for environmental quality assessment prioritized.** To enhance regional air quality monitoring in 2024, six particulate monitors

were calibrated, focusing on total suspended particulates and PM10 (particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter). EMB Region 2 plans to acquire PM2.5 monitoring equipment in 2025-2026 for a more comprehensive assessment of air quality.

**Access to green spaces provided.** The DENR made significant strides in 2024 to expand and document urban green spaces. Ilagan City's green space inventory was completed, pending formalization through an agreement with the agency. That same year, Tuguegarao City successfully established a new green space. Furthermore, an interagency MOU fostered stronger collaboration among regional government agencies at the Regional Government Center (RGC), promoting shared responsibility for urban greening initiatives.

### Built environment upgraded

**Access to housing for low-income dwellers achieved.** DHSUD Region 2 prioritized housing development in 2024, launching key initiatives under the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Program (4PH). Partnering with the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) and local government units, DHSUD broke ground for three housing projects in Isabela province on July 25, 2024: Balai Isabeleño in Gamu, Green Valley Residences in Roxas, and Casa de Jonesians in Jones. These projects will create over 16,000 housing units, complete with amenities such as clubhouses, swimming pools, and recreational areas.

To further strengthen housing initiatives, DHSUD Region 2 hosted a Housing Summit in Tuguegarao City in October 2024. The summit emphasized the 4PH program, the PLANADO comprehensive planning initiative, and disaster relief housing programs. This integrated approach, combining new construction, planning initiatives, and disaster relief efforts, underscores a commitment to addressing the region's diverse housing needs. The summit facilitated collaboration among LGUs, national government agencies, and key shelter agencies, culminating in a signed commitment to collaborative housing and urban development.

**Housing and Resettlement Program Convergence Budgeting Mainstreamed.** To address local housing needs, DHSUD encourages integrating Local Shelter Plans (LSPs) into CLUPs. While 10 LGUs mainstreamed their LSPs in 2023, progress slowed in 2024 with only four LGUs completing this integration. DHSUD aims to reverse this trend by ensuring LSPs are mainstreamed in all updated CLUPs within the region in 2025-2026. These LSPs analyze that local housing conditions, affordability, resource availability, and

strategies for providing affordable and decent housing, particularly for informal settler families and low-income households.

### Responsive governance advanced

**Community livability planning and implementation sustained.** DHSUD Region 2 prioritized capacity building and technical assistance to LGUs throughout 2024. In April and May 2024, a total of 47 personnel from 13 LGUs received Basic and Advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) training, equipping them with essential skills for land use planning and disaster risk assessment. This training directly supported the formulation of CLUPs, crucial for sustainable development. From May 13-24, workshops on sectoral studies and spatial strategies were held for several municipalities, further enhancing their CLUP formulation process. In June, the municipality of Amulung in the province of Cagayan was capacitated along local housing boards, disaster shelter assistance, and electronic database management. Similar trainings were also conducted on August 8-9 for the municipality of Buguey, also in Cagayan. September saw two key initiatives: Training Workshop on mapping government-owned lands for housing, supporting the 4PH Program; and, Climate Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) training for the municipality of Solana in Cagayan, enhancing their ability to integrate climate resilience into development plans.

## Results Matrix

A significant progress was made on the attainment of development targets in achieving sustainable and livable communities. As of September 2024, the region successfully accredited approximately 2,000 CSOs, exceeding the projected target for the year. At the same time, the expansion of sanitary landfill services now covers 58 percent of cities and municipalities, surpassing the 2024 target. These achievements contributed to the creation of more livable communities in the region. This goal is further supported by the ongoing water body classification and reclassification efforts which will ensure water quality for the sustenance of communities once completed.

Further progress is also evident in air quality monitoring which shows that 50 percent of cities met PM<sub>10</sub> guidelines as of September 2024. This could still be improved, as monitoring will continue until the end of the year. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> data collection is currently unavailable due to equipment limitations. Moreover, the inventory of geotagged green spaces, including GIS data, has been completed in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and City of Ilagan, Isabela. This accomplishment, coupled with the near-completion of the CLUPs

of LGUs with a 99 percent completion rate, demonstrates a strong commitment to sustainable community development.

Table 4.3.1 Results Matrix: Establish Livable Communities

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET 2024	ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Number of CSO accredited by the Provincial/ Municipal/ City Sangguniang	1,648	increasing	1995
The proportion of cities/ municipalities served by SLFs (%)	43	54	58
<b>Percentage of water bodies conforming with water quality guideline values for the following intended use (%)</b>			
water supply	33	67	<b>Classification and re-classification of water bodies are still ongoing.</b>
food production	0	100	
primary contact recreation use	26	31	
Percentage of cities within ambient air quality guideline values for particulate matter (PM) 10 (%)	25	50	50
Percentage of cities within ambient air quality guideline values for particulate matter (PM) 2.5	No data provided	No data provided	No equipment for PM 2.5 measurement
No. of cities with an inventory list of green spaces with geotagged photos, location map with GIS shapefiles	0	2	2
Percentage of LGUs preparing their CLUP	52 (48 LGUs)	100 (93 LGUs)	99 (92 LGUs)

Sources: DHSUD, DENR, EMB, and DILG

## Ways Forward

For CY 2025 and beyond, the region will be environmentally sustainable, resilient, and socially inclusive. To achieve these, our communities especially the LGUs, will strengthen the implementation of the following strategies:

Forge partnerships between the national government, LGUs and private entities in the establishment and development of resettlement areas for households within high-risk areas that are severely threatened by geo-hazard and climate-induced disasters;

Undertake cross-administrative area planning for resilience and ridge-to-reef approach to promote planning and action across larger physical settings which is consistent with the system;

Invest in water supply and sanitation and provide accessible financing options. PPP will be tapped to deliver the needed water infrastructure facilities and services, particularly projects for water supply and sanitation;

Promote sustainable consumption and production;

Strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance with environmental laws and regulations by:

- a) recognizing the key roles of local authorities, law enforcement agencies, and communities towards sustainable environmental governance;
- b) adopting innovative technologies to enforce and monitor compliance with environmental regulations to reduce waste and pollution;
- c) achieving strategic management and coordination among the regional offices of the DENR, MGB, and EMB; and
- d) intensifying environmental education and advocacy on environmental laws issues, and solutions in partnership with stakeholders.

Promote innovation and sustainable use of natural resources as well as improve waste management infrastructure;

Strengthen initiatives on preparedness, prevention, mitigation, and response, as well as rehabilitation and recovery efforts;

Enhance the establishment of green spaces in cities and growth centers in the region; and

Support the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino project of the current administration.



## SECTION 4.4

# Increase Income Earning Ability



**Kalayaan Job Fair 2024: Over 88 job seekers participated in the job fair organized by DOLE Region 2 in celebration of the 126th Philippine Independence Day at SM City Tuguegarao**

Source: DOLE Region 2 Facebook Page

## Introduction

This chapter highlights the region's accomplishments in advancing the income-earning ability of the region's workforce. In 2024, the region actively pursued the alignment of skills training programs with evolving industry demands, equipped farmers with modern agricultural techniques, and fostered robust partnerships with key stakeholders. It also made a substantial progress in terms of enhancing the income-earning capacity of its labor force through a comprehensive strategy focused on improving employability and expanding access to employment opportunities.

The region demonstrated a remarkable ability to match qualified jobseekers with employment opportunities, exceeding the 2024 target. The placement rate of qualified jobseekers showed a significant increase. Efforts to empower the workforce through the

provision of timely and responsive emergency employment assistance were actively pursued. These initiatives played a crucial role in addressing unemployment and underemployment, contributing to a more inclusive and prosperous labor market.

## Strategy Framework

To increase the income-earning ability of the region’s workforce, the CVRDP 2023-2028 seeks to improve employability, expand access to employment opportunities and achieve a shared labor market between the government and private sectors. The strategy framework below will be undertaken to achieve the chapter’s desired outcomes. Region-specific strategies were also included.

Figure 4.4.1 Strategy Framework to Increase Income-earning Ability



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Employability Increased

**Placement rate of job seekers increased.** Through the employment generation and facilitation strategies of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region 2, the placement rate of qualified jobseekers in the region increased to 95.03 percent or approximately 57 thousand placed jobseekers.

**Alignment of skills training programs with emerging industry trends in the region actively pursued.** The Enhanced Area-Based and Demand-Driven (ABDD) tools were introduced in the region, specifically in the provinces of Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya. The primary objective of these tools is to assess and ensure alignment between skills training programs and emerging industry trends. In conjunction with this initiative, a comprehensive revalidation and updating of priority job requirements at the district level, and recalculation of baseline supply and infrastructure gaps for priority jobs at the provincial level were also conducted. This comprehensive approach aimed to ensure that the skills training programs were relevant and responsive to the needs of the local labor market.

**Training on modern farm practices provided.** The Rice Extension Services Program (RESP) implemented by TESDA Region 2 empowered numerous farmers in the region by equipping them with valuable skills in modern agriculture. Approximately 200 farmers participated in training programs focused on modern farm mechanization, and high-quality inbred rice production and seed certification in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. This initiative enhanced rice production and improved their income. The region also provided several capacity development activities such as the conduct of 19 agricultural-based livelihood workshops, one workshop on the operation and upkeep of farm machinery, equipment, and facilities, eight Small Water Irrigation System Association (SWISA) and Irrigators Association (IA) Institutional Development workshops, four corn cluster development workshops, four cassava production workshops, two Bantay Peste Brigade workshops, and four trainings on good agricultural practices for rice.

**The Tulong Trabaho Scholarship Program of TESDA consistently implemented.** The program offers training for both in-demand and newly emerging skills. This is essential to equip the region's workforce with the necessary skills to excel in a rapidly changing work environment and remain highly competent. The program has benefitted 2,169 individuals. Hence, its implementation will be further intensified to maximize its potential and make a significant contribution to enhance the workforce's employability.

**A more robust partnership with stakeholders established.** The TESDA Region 2, in partnership with the DepEd Region 2, implemented a comprehensive 33-day Trainers' Methodology Level I training for teachers in Senior High School - Technical Vocational Livelihood (SHS-TVL) and Junior High School - Special Program for Technical Vocational Education (JHS-SPTVE). The training aims to empower educators with essential skills in facilitating learning, supervising work-based learning, maintaining training facilities, and conducting competency assessments. The region also actively engaged in strengthening

partnerships for technical vocational education and training through a series of TVET fora across the five provinces.

Also, in partnership with the DOT Region 2, TESDA also pursued programs to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge in business planning, market analysis, financial management, and marketing strategies. These initiatives highlighted the region's commitment in fostering a skilled workforce and driving economic growth through strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives.

The TESDA and DOLE Region 2 also signed a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) and Data Sharing Agreement (DSA). The JMC-DSA outlines a framework for DOLE and TESDA to create a more integrated approach to employment facilitation, skills development, and labor market information. The agreement aims to harmonize programs such as career counseling, soft skills training, technical-vocational education, and job-matching services through the PhilJobNet and TESDA's Registry of Certified Workers. Furthermore, the region successfully forged a collaborative partnership with the private sector particularly the Dinapigue Mining Corporation (DMC) to implement Community-Based Training (CBT) programs and provide employment opportunities. This partnership aims to equip the region's workforce with industry-relevant skills and promote sustainable practices within the mining sector.

**TVET programs streamlined and advanced through digitalization.** The TESDA Region 2 launched its newly developed Databank System in October 2024 which is designed to streamline data management processes and enhance efficiency across TESDA's operations.

**Workforce in the TVET sector were advanced in terms of human capital development.** The successful conduct of the Regional Multiplier Program on Community Program Development Services (CPDS) Level IV produced competent trainers equipped with the necessary expertise to deliver high-quality training programs in CPDS Level IV. This initiative aimed to strengthen the capacity of trainers to effectively implement community-based programs, empowering them to address the diverse needs of their respective communities. Furthermore, 39 trainers, diploma graduates, and certificate holders from the region participated in an international agriculture internship program through the Israel Agro Studies Program, which provided specialized training on agriculture. These initiatives demonstrate the region's commitment to enhance the skills and knowledge of its workforce, contributing to a more robust TVET sector.

## Access to Employment Opportunities Expanded

**Maximized utilization of PESO pursued.** The TESDA accredited the DOLE Region 2 as an Assessment Center for Public Employment Services (PES) National Certification IV in May 2024. This signifies a significant step towards strengthening the region's employment facilitation efforts. With this accreditation, DOLE was able to evaluate the competencies of its Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) and other similar occupations, ensuring their knowledge and understanding of the latest labor market trends, employment frameworks, and relevant labor and employment policies. This collaboration was one of the key factors in addressing unemployment and underemployment in the region.

**Steady implementation of employment facilitation services.** The employment and skills development programs in the region were continuously implemented and demonstrated a strong commitment to empower the region's workforce. As of September 2024, the Public Employment Services (PES) program recorded a placement rate of 95.03 percent for qualified jobseekers. This translates to 56,000 placed jobseekers out of the total 59,000 referred. Furthermore, the Labor Market Information (LMI) program reached 186,000 individuals with valuable labor market insights, while the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) assisted 5,000 youth in securing employment opportunities. The JobStart program also provided Life Skills Training to 150 youth and the Government Internship Program (GIP) assisted 8,000 youth in gaining valuable work experience.

**Support to displaced workers provided.** There are approximately 148,000 individuals who received emergency employment through the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced/ Disadvantaged Workers Program (TUPAD) as of September 2024. This program offers an opportunity to displaced workers affected by natural calamities to broaden their access to employment opportunities.

**Ongoing advancement of technical capacity to develop dynamic and responsive labor market information systems.** The Labor and Employment Education Services (LEES) effectively reached a significant number of stakeholders in the labor market, engaging 18,000 individuals comprising of workers, employers, and students. This demonstrates the program's extensive reach and commitment to fostering a skilled and informed workforce. Also, the Workers' Organization Development Program (WODP) Training empowered 104 union members by strengthening their capacity in collective bargaining and advocacy. This investment in labor organization development promoted a fair labor practice in the region. Furthermore, there are eleven LGUs that received

capacity development under the National Skills Registration Program (NSRP) as of September 2024.

### Shared Labor Market Governance Achieved

**Significant progress in promoting a gender-inclusive workforce through the implementation of Labor Inspection Program (LIP).** As of September 2024, the region recorded an 84.57 percent compliance rate on General Labor Standards (GLS) based on DOLE's data. The region also continued its commitment to monitor and enforce labor policies that promote women's participation in the workforce.

## Results Matrix

**Placement rate of qualified jobseekers increased.** The region demonstrated significant progress in connecting qualified jobseekers with employment opportunities, exceeding the target set for 2024. The placement rate of qualified jobseekers, a key indicator of the region's labor market performance has shown a remarkable upward trend since 2020. The baseline placement rate stood at 80 percent in 2020, indicating a strong foundation for job placement efforts. The target for 2024 was set at 81 percent, aiming for a modest increase in placement rate. However, the region surpassed this target by a significant margin, achieving a remarkable 95.03 percent placement rate as of September 2024. This translates to 56,000 qualified jobseekers successfully employed out of 59,000 referred.

**The employment rate of Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates has demonstrated significant progress.** The TVET employment rate already surpassed its target of 70 percent, reaching 80.82 percent as of September 2024. This translates to 10,900 employed graduates out of the 13,500 graduates monitored, representing a substantial increase in the number of TVET graduates successfully entering the workforce. This achievement underscores the region's efforts in aligning TVET programs with industry demands, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the skills necessary for successful employment.

As of September 2024, a significant number or 92.55 percent of individuals who have completed TESDA skills training successfully obtained their national certificates. These trainings greatly enhanced their technical skills, leading to higher potential income. It is anticipated that these accomplishments will continue to grow in the succeeding years.

Table 4.4.1 Results Matrix: Increase Income Earning Ability

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Placement rate (%) of qualified jobseekers	81 (2021)	81.00	81.00	95.03
Employment rate of TVET graduates (%) increased (TVET Scholars)	70 (2022)	70	70.33	80.82
TESDA certification rate (%)	92 (2022)	92	92.50	92.55

\* As of September 2024

Sources: DOLE and TESDA

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

**Intensify the development and implementation of innovative skills training programs that align with emerging industry trends.** This can be achieved by leveraging technology and data analytics to identify emerging job roles and skills gaps. The region will invest in developing virtual reality and augmented reality training simulations, online learning platforms, and personalized learning pathways to equip individuals with future-ready skills. This approach will ensure that the workforce is equipped with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving economy.

**Further strengthen partnerships with the private sector to create more job opportunities and promote entrepreneurship.** The region will actively collaborate with business establishments to identify their workforce needs and explore skills development initiatives. This could involve expanding apprenticeship programs, internship opportunities, and joint research projects to cover not only government offices and large private companies but also Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

**Strengthen the implementation of a two-tiered wage system.** To establish a stronger correlation between wage and productivity growth, the two-tiered wage system will persist as a means of setting minimum wages. Both workers and businesses will be motivated and empowered to create incentive programs based on productivity.

To remain competitive, educational institutions will proactively and continuously assess and update their skills training and curriculum, aligning them with the evolving needs of both local and global industries. This includes prioritizing ongoing professional development for graduates to ensure they possess the latest skills needed in a rapidly changing technological landscape. Furthermore, training equipment and facilities of TVET schools will be upgraded to ensure that graduates are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge. The technical capacity of key stakeholders for the development of dynamic and responsive labor market information systems will also be strengthened.



## SECTION 4.5

# Strengthen Social Protection



**DSWD FO2 kicks-off social pension distribution for 2024 in Cagayan, Isabela provinces**

Source: DSWD Region II Facebook Page

## Introduction

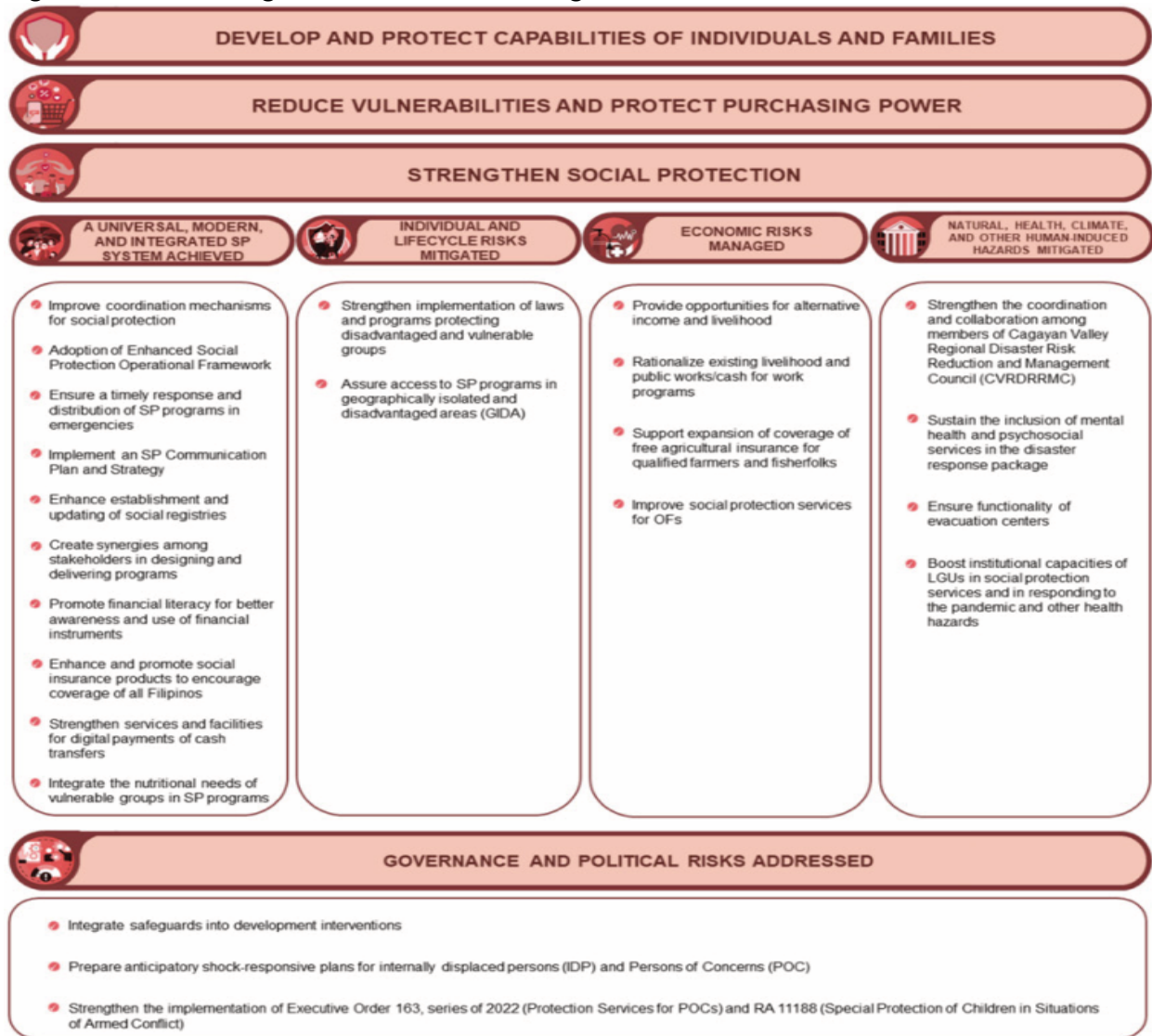
The government have sustained its social protection programs to increase the resilience of the vulnerable sectors against the impacts of socioeconomic stresses from natural and climatic disasters. These programs uplifted the status of the poor sector by ensuring the timely delivery of basic social protection services through an integrated whole-of-government approach where no sector is left behind.

## Strategy Framework

The CVRDP 2023-2028 clearly highlighted the need to strengthen social protection through the implementation of universal, modern and integrated systems, and mitigation of socioeconomic risks from natural and human induced calamities and hazards. Effective

social protection programs will reduce the vulnerability of the population and further strengthen resilience against socioeconomic stresses.

Figure 4.5.1 Strategic Framework to Strengthen Social Protection



## Accomplishments for 2024

### Universal, modern, and integrated SP system achieved

**Social protection programs sustained.** Recent occurrences of natural disasters in the region exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized sector in attaining their basic needs. The implementation of social protection programs cushioned the crippling effects of these phenomena. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

provided cash grants to 128,811 households where 48,488 households are with 18 and below children. There were 197,653 school-age children monitored and provided with conditional cash grants. Among these are 87,457 elementary pupils, 73,427 Junior High schoolers and 36,769 Senior High schoolers. Also, families affected by calamities during the latter months of 2024 were provided with cash assistance and food and non-food items to hasten their recovery.

**Care for Senior Citizens sustained.** The Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) Program provided cash gifts to 252,617 indigent senior citizens and 90 Centenarians. The Social Pension Program (SPP) grants PHP1,000.00 monthly stipend to eligible senior citizens to help in their daily living and medical expenses. The Centenarians were awarded with PHP100,000.00 cash gift each in accordance with the Centenarian Act of 2016 or R.A. 10868.

**Health and nutrition improved.** For a minimum of five and a maximum of seven days a week for 120 days, children are provided with hot meals during snack or lunch time. Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) served 58.16 percent (4,057 out of 6,975 children) as of September 2024, thus contributing to improved health condition and enhanced growth of children ages three to five. The National Nutrition Council (NNC) served 570 pregnant women and 223 babies in the province of Isabela under the Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplementation Program (TKDSP). The program seeks to improve the quality and quantity of food and nutrition intake among nutritionally at-risk pregnant women and children age six to 23 months old.

The region is also one of the five pilot areas for the Walang Gutom Program (formerly Food Stamp Program) where low-income households are given a PHP3,000.00 monthly food credits through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). The food credits will be used to purchase Go Food (PHP1,500.00), Grow Food (PHP900.00) and Glow Food (PHP600.00) to partner merchants. A total of 2,418 beneficiaries from various municipalities in Isabela participated in the Walang Gutom Program.

**Disadvantaged and Vulnerable groups protected.** The protection of children rights was further strengthened as 98 provinces/ cities and municipalities were audited for the functionality of their Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC). At the barangay level, the functionality of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and Barangay VAW Desk were integrated in the Seal of Good Governance for Barangays. The institutionalization of Gender Responsive Local Governance (GRLG) at the LGUs also ensures the protection of women's rights and equal opportunities at work. The region's

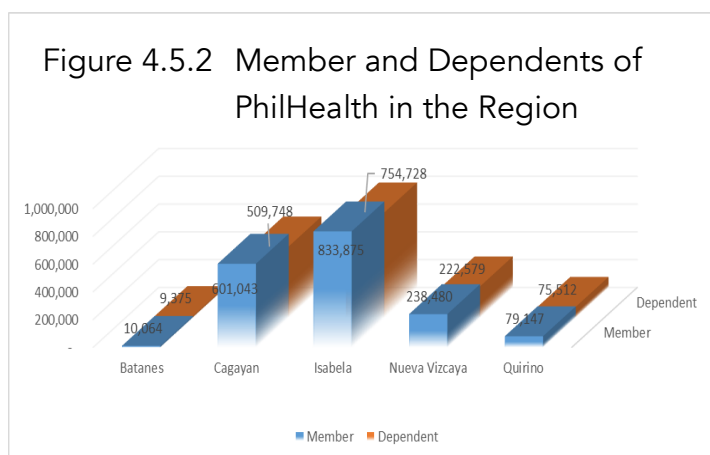
five provinces, four cities and 89 municipalities were monitored on the Formulation and Updating of their respective GRLG.

**Social registries updated.** The establishment and updating of social registries through the third National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or Listahanan 3 provided an up-to-date list of beneficiaries in 2024 for social programs such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino, Sustainable Livelihood Assistance and other programs that help alleviate poverty in the region.

**Social Protection programs in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas delivered.** The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 2

ensured the timely implementation of social projects from the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) through the Support to Barangay Development Program (SBDP), Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP), Financial Assistance to LGU (FALGU), Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program (DRRAP), and Growth Equity Fund (GEF). Projects

implemented include rural electrification, improvement of access roads, construction of health stations, water systems, school buildings, solar dryers, and farm sheds.



**Opportunities for alternative income and livelihood provided.** A total of 5,394 beneficiaries were provided with livelihood assistance while a total of 6,282 households were provided with livelihood intervention under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

## Results Matrix

The Universal Health Care (UHC) Act of 2019 enabled the country to make all citizens automatic members of the National Health Insurance System (NHIS) that gives access to health care services. Using the 2020 Population of Cagayan Valley, the Philippine Health Insurance Company (PHIC) covered 90.47 percent of the region’s population or a total of 3,334,000 individuals as of October 2024. Of this figure, 40 percent are indirect contributors belonging to the vulnerable sector without the capacity to pay premium

contributions. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) surpassed its 2024 target with 126,811 households provided with cash assistance. Of this, 37.64 percent or 48,488 households are with members 18 years old and below.

Meanwhile, the number of children monitored on education for the 4Ps vary at different levels, wherein the Elementary level exceeded its 2024 target by 51.1 percent or 87,457 children. The Junior and Senior high school targets though fell short of its target by 13,195 and 9,530 students, respectively.

Table 4.5.1 Results Matrix: Strengthen Social Protection

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Percentage of families covered with social insurance (%)	83.8 (2020)	100	100	90.47
Percentage of poor households with members 18 years old and below that are 4Ps beneficiaries (%)	64.52 (2019)	67.5	71	37.64% (48,488 poor household declared PANTAWID with 18 and below)
Number of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Households provided with conditional cash grants and rice subsidy	106,212	116,455	120,524	128,811 HHs are provided with cash grants
<b>Number of children monitored on education and provided with conditional cash grants</b>				
a. Elementary	26,606	61,659	57,895	87,457
b. Junior High School	145,208	94,074	86,622	73,427
c. Senior High School	34,354	36,478	46,299	36,769

Sources: DSWD and PhilHealth

## Ways forward

### Priority Strategies

**Implementation of social protection plans.** The implementation of the Social Protection Plan (SPP) 2023-2028 further improved the delivery of social services, together with the establishment of SP Communication Plan. The monitoring of the Social Protection Operational Framework (SPOF) of LGUs will be sustained through the Social Development Report.

**Continued implementation of social protection programs.** Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) will continue to provide cash assistance to household identified by the Listahanan 3 as poor families. The 4Ps beneficiaries will also be capacitated on financial literacy and management through Family Development Sessions. The Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), Community Driven Development, Cash-for-work Program (CFWP) and Sustainable Livelihood Program will complement for more available social assistance programs to the poor population. Senior Citizens will avail of the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens while the Pag-abot Program, Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) and the new Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) will serve the remaining sectors not covered by the above-mentioned SP programs.

**Strengthening of the implementation of laws and programs protecting the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.** This will be sustained through continuous monitoring of the functionality of LCPCs, Barangay VAW Desks, and institutionalization of Gender Responsive Local Governance (GRLG) and Local Institutions on Women and Children (LIWC). In addition, social protection programs in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas under the LGSF will be regularly monitored by the DILG.

**Promotion of proper nutrition to food-poor households.** The implementation of Walang Gutom 2027: Food Stamp Program (FSP), Enhance Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program will further expand the coverage of the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) and SBFP.

# 05

**Protecting the  
Integrity of the  
Environment Toward a  
Climate-Resilient  
Nation**



## SECTION 5.1

# Accelerating Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience



**In the aftermath of typhoon Pepito, DICT Region 2 quickly mobilized to support the internet connectivity need of Kailans in Quirino by providing FREE WIFI access in partnership with Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).**

Source: DICT Region 02 - Cagayan Valley Facebook Page

## Introduction

Given its history of vulnerability to flooding and super typhoons, Cagayan Valley is actively implementing ecosystem protection, rehabilitation, and management strategies. The periodic conduct of capacity building activities to ensure successful implementation and long-term sustainability of these strategies, government engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, including the private sector, academic institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the general public on plan and program implementation related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation, and the review of local disaster risk-reduction management plans were undertaken.

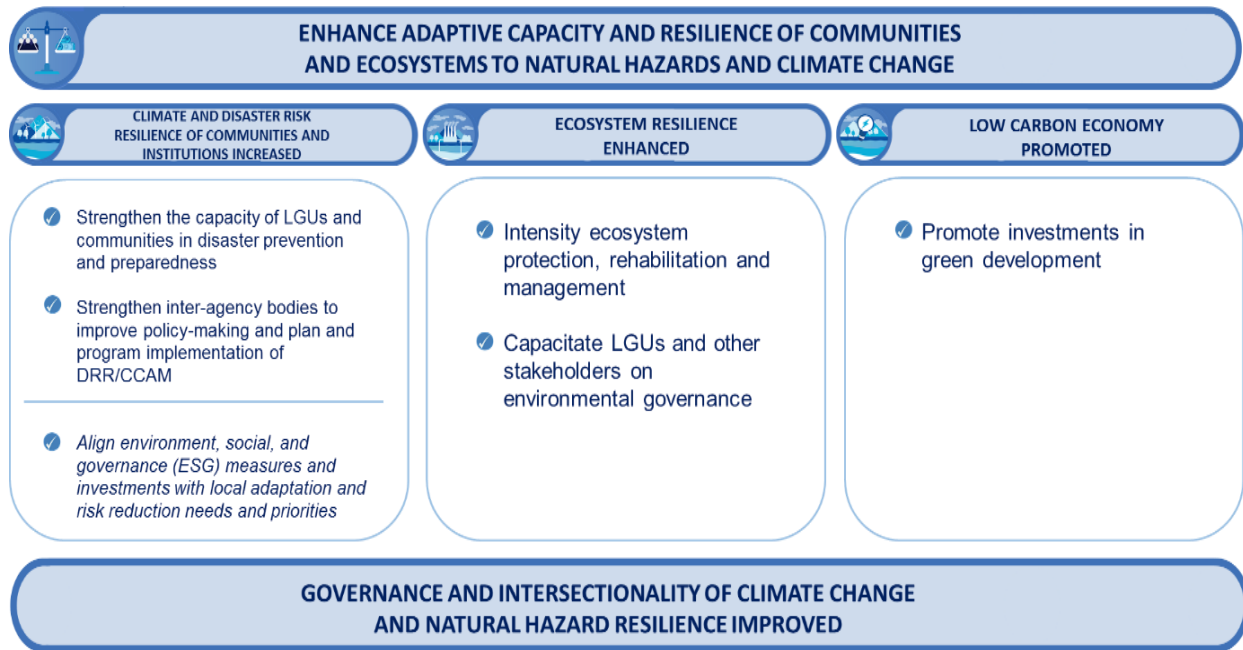


## Strategy Framework

To effectively implement the Strategy Framework for Climate Action and Disaster Resilience, a whole-of-society approach is required to promote convergence and enhance intersectoral coordination. This collaborative approach will focus on enhancing the well-being of communities and institutions, contributing to economic transformation through capacity building, increased incomes, green investments, and green job creation. Ultimately, these efforts to protect and rehabilitate the environment will improve public health and generate widespread socioeconomic benefits.

The strategies detailed in this chapter aim to achieve the following key outcomes: (a) enhanced climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions; (b) strengthened ecosystem resilience; (c) promotion of a low-carbon economy; and (d) improved governance frameworks and integration of climate change and natural hazard resilience considerations.

Figure 5.1.1 Strategy Framework to Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience



## Accomplishments for 2024

Climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions increased

**Capacity of local government units and communities in disaster prevention and preparedness strengthened.** The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) consistently conducted Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) capacity building and training activities to enable the LGUs to deliver timely and quality services in times of crisis and calamities. Among the trainings conducted include Flood Forecasting and Warning System, Navigating Hazards and Building Resilience, and formulation of the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (ELCCAP). Consequently, 27 LGUs were conferred as Beyond Compliant for the GAWAD KALASAG Seal, while 56 LGUs were conferred as Fully Compliant.

**Inter-agency bodies to improve policy-making and plan and program implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CCAM) strengthened.** The Regional/ City/ Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils regularly conducted meetings to strengthen and improve policy coordination and enforcement. Robust and adaptive institutions are crucial for enhancing regional environmental governance. This necessitates the timely and effective implementation of environmental policies, plans, programs, and projects. In this regard, the government has institutionalized the national and regional inter-agency coordinating cell, which served as a platform for immediate coordination by all government agencies. This facilitated response and recovery of the region from the different disaster events that occurred in the fourth quarter of 2024.

**Alignment of environment, social, and governance (ESG) measures and investments with local adaptation and risk reduction needs and priorities ensured.** The OCD completed the review of 67 local DRRM Plans to serve as guide in achieving sustainable development through inclusive growth, while building the adaptive capacities of communities.

The National Economic and Development Authority led the formulation of the draft Regional Physical Framework Plan (RFPF) 2025-2055. The RFPF provides a comprehensive framework that incorporates land use and physical components of the region, with the requirements of a socioeconomic plan. In the formulation of the RFPF, the mainstreaming of DRR and CCAM principles was ensured to attain a sustainable future. The RFPF is aligned with the Regional Spatial Development Framework that has vulnerability reduction as one of its pillar strategies.

## Ecosystem resilience enhanced

**Ecosystem protection, rehabilitation, and management intensified.** Forest management and rehabilitation was intensified through the Enhanced National Greening Program (NGP) in the region. As of December 20, 2024, a total of 1,107 hectares of forestland and protected areas were either planted or reforested, while 577,083 seedlings were produced. Priority activities were likewise pursued such as forest patrolling through the Lawin System in 10,493 sq. kms. of forest conservation area, maintenance of five forest ranger stations, and establishment of two exit monitoring centers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources identified Punta Aparri in the province of Cagayan as the site for the establishment of a new marine scientific research station, along with five project sites nationwide. The marine station will enhance ocean science and resource management and development strategies in the country, and develop a deeper understanding and management of site-specific concerns in the region.

The Protected Area Management Boards of the 13 protected areas of the region ensure the implementation of Protected Area Management Plans, particularly on the establishment and management of multiple use zones, strict protection zones, and buffer zones within protected areas.

## Results Matrix

The desired level of performance to accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience is being realized in terms of low disaster-related mortality despite the consecutive typhoons that struck the Cagayan Valley region in a span of three weeks within the fourth quarter of 2024. While progress has been made in improving the capacities of LGUs on disaster response and preparedness, the series of calamities resulted in eight casualties and two missing persons, as recorded by the OCD.

The forest cover of the region remained at its 2023 level. Table 5.1.1 shows the region's accomplishments along core indicators to accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience.

Table 5.1.1 Results Matrix: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience, Accomplishments as of December 20, 2024

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (YEAR)	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Number of deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased	* 0.3798	12	10	8
Number of missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased	* 0.0543	0	0	2
Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased	* 15,786.50	14,997.19	13,497.49	39,386
** Forest cover increased (hectare)	1,077,999	1,129,255	1,185,718.01	1,129,255
Closed Forest	507,729	533,1115	559,771.22	533,115
Open Forest	564,810.17	593,051	622,703.03	593,051
Mangrove Forest	2,937.19	3,089.30	3,243.76	3,089.30
Employment generated from resource-based enterprises or industries increased	5,199 (2022)	increasing	increasing	No data submitted

\* Average data from 2020 to 2022

\*\* Forestry Statistical Book (2022)

Sources: DENR and OCD

## Ways Forward

### Priority Strategies

For CY 2025 and beyond, the region will foster resilience of its communities and institutions, and increase ecosystem resilience as well. To achieve these, local government units, with the active involvement of the private sector and civil service organizations will strengthen the implementation of the following strategies:

The region to prioritize convergence opportunities, align priorities, and harmonize collaborative efforts in program implementation related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation;

The private sector and CSOs will be assisted in aligning their ESG targets and investments with local adaptation and risk reduction needs and priorities. This will help the government harness convergence opportunities with non-government entities. This will boost multistakeholder partnerships, mobilize resources to priority programs and projects, and harmonize efforts for climate and disaster resilience;

Environmental leadership at the local level will be strengthened to achieve effective and sustainable ways of environmental governance. The LGUs play an important role in implementing environmental programs and projects in vulnerable communities and in ensuring compliance with environmental laws. Communities also play an important role in sustaining project benefits;

The government will work with the private sector, development partners, and the academe to promote green investments by: (a) improving access to financing; (b) improving access to information on green technologies including benefits and risks involved; (c) providing capacity building programs on tools and approaches to measure economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of green investments; and (d) exploring ways to reduce carbon emission and promote energy efficiency in various industries.

# 06

**Ensuring Peace and  
Order and National  
Security**



## SECTION 6.1

# Ensuring Peace and Security



**Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Public Health Unit, has joined forces with the Philippine National Police Drug Enforcement Group Special Operations Unit 2 (PNP DEG SOU2) for the "Buhay Ingatan Droga'y Ayawan" (BIDA) program, conducted at the Outpatient Department Triage Waiting Area**

Source: Cagayan Valley Medical Center - Public Health Unit Facebook Page

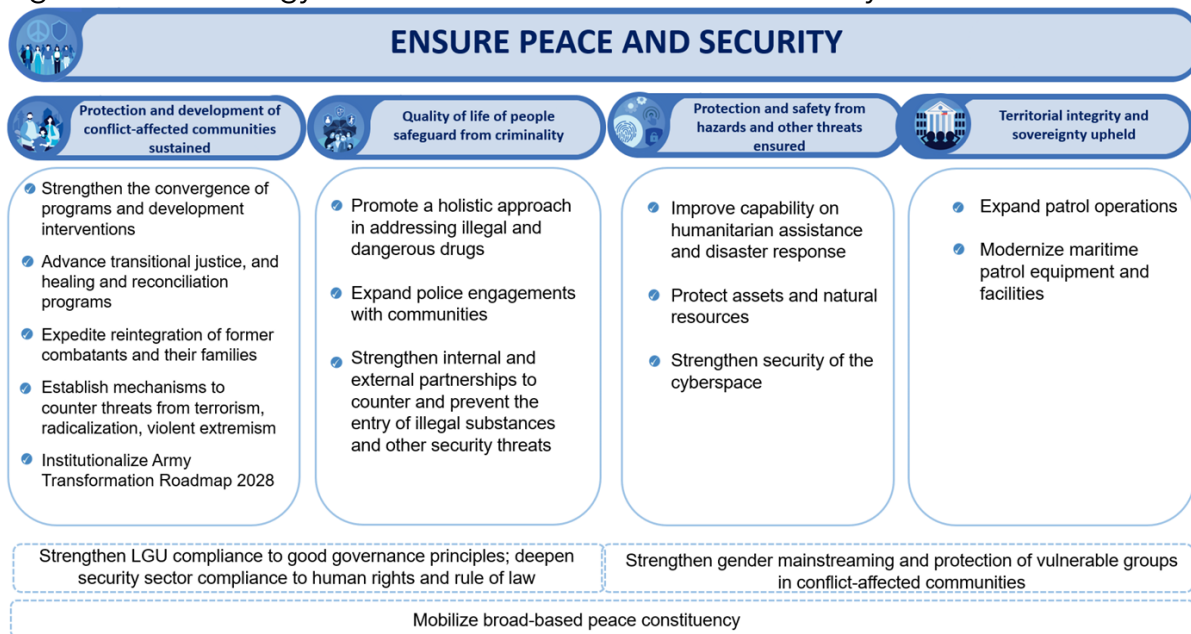
## Introduction

Ensuring peace and security is essential to further drive socioeconomic development. This entails being free from threats of war, invasion, criminality, and disasters as pronounced in the AmBisyon Natin 2040, or the desire of every Filipino for a "matatag" and "panatag" lifestyle. This chapter delves into the sector's accomplishments measured against the Results Matrix (RM). It assesses the progress of government programs and projects aimed at ensuring peace and security, and provides recommendations to facilitate the attainment of inclusive and sustainable peace.

## Strategy Framework

The figure below shows the strategies that will be implemented to achieve key outcomes namely: (1) sustaining protection and development of conflict-affected communities; (2) safeguarding the quality of life of people from criminality; (3) ensuring protection and safety from natural hazards and other security threats; and (4) upholding territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Figure 6.1.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Peace and Safety



## Accomplishments for 2024

This section presents the programs and projects that were implemented to ensure peace and security in the region.

### Protection and development of conflict-affected communities sustained

**Convergence Programs.** The implementation of convergence programs was maintained as a mechanism to address the development issues and concerns at the barangay level. Among these programs are the Serbisyo Caravan/ LAB for All Caravan, Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP), and Capacitating Urban Communities for Peace and Development (CUCPD). Livelihood assistance and seminars, scholarships, farm inputs/ implements, fishing equipment, medical and school supplies, and establishment of Wi-Fi sites (Tech4Ed Centers) were among the government services



brought to the barangays during caravans. During the year, the Serbisyo Caravan conducted in the coastal towns of Palanan, Maconacon, and Divilacan in Isabela delivered over PHP20 million worth of assistance to more than 4, 000 residents. These towns were declared as insurgency-free or in a state of stable internal peace and security. Nine barangays were enrolled under the RCSP while two municipalities were assisted under the CUCPD.

**Barangay Development Program.** Socioeconomic interventions were provided to geographically isolated and conflict-affected areas (GICAs) through the Barangay Development Program (BDP). In 2024, a total of 57 beneficiary-barangays were assisted with 58 projects, amounting to PHP142 million. The projects include the construction of farm-to-market roads, agricultural facilities, health centers, water systems, school buildings, and other non-infrastructure projects. Of these projects, five were completed, 16 are ongoing, and 37 are under procurement stage.

To ensure quality and timely implementation of BDP projects, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) implemented the R2 ASSETS (Region 2 Adopting Safe, Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure System) Program. This is an incentive program that recognizes the commendable efforts of LGUs in project implementation.

**Package of Assistance for Former Rebels (FR).** A total of 294 FRs were given assistance under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP). This includes monthly rice allowance, livelihood assistance, educational aid, as well as remuneration for surrendered firearms. Halfway houses were also erected to be awarded to FRs, awaiting guidelines on operation and maintenance. The PRO2 Pabahay Project also provided housing units to 19 families of FRs.

In addition, the Cooperative Development Authority conducted mandatory trainings to cooperatives organized by FRs, and assisted them in their registration and submission of mandatory reports.

**Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay Program.** To bring the government closer to the people, the PRO2 continued to implement the Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay (RPSB) Program. Under this program, police personnel in the region undergo a six-month training in barangays. This started in September 2024 and will end in March 2025. Police personnel also perform other tasks such as assisting in live birth registrations, facilitating free theoretical driving course, providing home medical assistance, and conducting lectures in schools about the DILG's Buhay Ingatan, Droga'y Ayawan program, and other services.

**PAMANA Projects.** Two units of classrooms constructed under the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (KALAHI-CIDSS PAMANA) were awarded to the IP communities in Gonzaga and Sta Ana, Cagayan. Other PAMANA projects in Baggao, Cagayan are underway, namely, two solar dryer pavements and hanging bridge project.

**Legal Support to FRs.** Legal assistance was provided to FRs through participation in case build-up, conduct of case conference, and status monitoring of communist terrorist group (CTG) cases. During the period, 29 legal assistances were provided and 11 case conferences were conducted.

**Awareness Campaigns.** The regional offices of the PNP and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) conducted 2,021 orientation sessions on EO 70, Bagong Pilipinas, National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, and the CTG Problem, with a total of 82,392 participants.

#### Quality of life of people safeguarded from criminality

**Balay Silangan Reformation Centers.** The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) continued to provide interventions to drug offenders using humane methods to turn them into productive members of the society. A total of 56 Balay Silangan Reformation Centers were inaugurated during the year with 890 graduates. This is in addition to the 55 centers with 889 graduates last year.

**Barangay Drug Clearing Program.** The PDEA continued to accelerate its efforts to prevent the proliferation of illegal drugs in the barangays through the Barangay Drug Clearing Program. A total of 1,698 barangays were declared as drug-cleared out of 2,311 barangays in the region.

**Community Information Program.** To strengthen the capacities of communities in combatting security threats, the PRO2 and the PDEA conducted lectures on crime prevention, public safety measures, and illegal drugs all over the region. This is in addition to the conducted barangay and school visitations to build relationships with communities.

#### Protection and safety from natural hazards and other security threats ensured

**Construction of Typical Design Fire Stations.** The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) improved its emergency, medical response, and disaster preparedness. Five fire stations

were completed in Calayan and Enrile in Cagayan, San Manuel in Isabela, and Bambang in Nueva Vizcaya. The construction of two more fire stations is ongoing in the municipalities of Camalaniugan in Cagayan and San Pablo in Isabela, while that of Tuao in Cagayan is under procurement stage. Fire safety training, drills, and seminars in barangays, offices, and business establishments were also conducted.

**Cybercrime Awareness Activities.** The Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit of PRO2 continued to spread awareness on the rights and responsibilities in using cyberspace. It conducted a total of 47 cybercrime awareness activities in various communities in the region under the Project CAMERA (Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Awareness through Mentoring, Education, Reminders and Advisories). It also conducted 231 lectures and attended 32 radio and television interviews.

### Territorial integrity and sovereignty upheld

**Maritime patrol equipment and facilities.** To boost operational capabilities, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Northeastern Luzon District has intensified its efforts against poaching within the territories of the region. During the year, 20 substations were established and maintained in coastal municipalities and three more substations are underway. The PCG modernized its floating vessels and increased its workforce to safeguard the region's maritime resources, as well as provide immediate response during emergencies and calamities.

**Integrated Territorial Defense System (ITDS).** A total of 7,378 ITDS was established in the region. The ITDS is an effective and proactive defense system which aims to strengthen the barangay intelligence networks to monitor the presence of armed rebels and other threat groups, and to insulate the residents from their influence that may undermine peace and development of the barangay.

### Cross-cutting Programs and Projects

**Human Rights Promotion Activities.** As part of the peace-building strategy of the government, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) conducted a total of 75 human rights promotion activities for law enforcement agencies, military officials, other government personnel, and stakeholders. It also conducted training sessions in various barangays on the establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) and equipped them with tools needed to uphold fundamental rights within their community. The LGUs in the region have enacted ordinances on the establishment of BHRAC.

## Results Matrix

Overall, the targets to ensure peace and security in the region were achieved for this year.

More conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas were reached out through the Barangay Development Program, marking a 235 percent increase in barangay-beneficiaries from 17 barangays in 2023 to 57 barangays in 2024. This is, however, lower than the baseline data of 82 barangays in 2022.

Crime incidence in the region slightly declined. The average monthly index crime rate dropped to 1.96 percent from 2.18 percent in 2023. All the focus areas in the region (province and independent city) recorded a decreasing trend, except Cagayan. Moreover, the number of cybercrimes in the region also decreased to 270 from 316 in 2023.

The number of solved cases increased. Crime solution efficiency increased to 86 percent, achieving the targeted increasing trend from last year's performance of 81 percent.

To uphold territorial integrity and sovereignty, maritime security and law enforcement activities were intensified, with 813 activities conducted, greater by 146 percent compared to last year. Patrol operations also increased, with 583 seaborne patrols and 1,680 shore/ coastal patrols conducted.

Table 6.1.1 Results Matrix: Ensure Peace and Security

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
<b>Outcome 1: Protection and development of conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable communities sustained</b>				
Barangay Development Program beneficiary– barangays provided with socioeconomic interventions	82	increasing	increasing	57
<b>Outcome 2: Quality of life of people safeguarded from criminality</b>				
Average monthly index crime rate decreased	2.09	decreasing	decreasing	1.96
Batanes	6.11	decreasing	decreasing	2.33
Cagayan	1.71	decreasing	decreasing	1.94
Isabela	1.82	decreasing	decreasing	1.57

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2023	2024	
Nueva Vizcaya	3.54	decreasing	decreasing	3.13
Quirino	1.55	decreasing	decreasing	1.54
Santiago City	3.79	decreasing	decreasing	2.98
Proportion of families that feel safe walking along in the community at night (%) increased	95.5	increasing	increasing	
Crime solution efficiency rate (%) improved	82.91	increasing	increasing	85.58%
<b>Outcome 3: Protection and safety from natural hazards and other security threats ensured</b>				
Number of cybercrimes recorded	171	decreasing	decreasing	270
<b>Outcome 4: Territorial integrity and sovereignty upheld</b>				
Number of maritime security and law enforcement activities increased	231	increasing	increasing	813
Seaborne Patrol	288	increasing	increasing	583
Shore/ Coastal Patrol	1,075	increasing	increasing	1680

Sources: RIDMD PRO2, PNP Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit 2 and PNP Regional Maritime Unit 2

## Way Forward

The priority strategies that need to be done for 2025-2026 to achieve the overall outcomes are as follows:

### Priority Strategies

**Advance transitional justice, and healing and reconciliation programs.** Explore adopting the specialized program for violent extremists developed by the United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime.

**Expedite reintegration of former rebels (FRs).** Facilitate the crafting of guidelines on the operation and maintenance of halfway houses. Also, strengthen the employability of FRs by enrolling them under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's Rural Employment Generation for Social Equity (REGSE) Program.

**Establish mechanisms to counter threats from terrorism and radicalization.**

Institutionalize Project A.R.R.E.S.T. or the Artificial Intelligence Facial Recognition thru Responsive Electronics System Tracking of Wanted Persons, a software used to record data on the identity of rebels, and the monitoring system for CTG-related cases. This will assist the PRO2 in identifying rebels who will be arrested.

**Institutionalize the Army Transformation Roadmap 2028.** Revisit and strengthen the institutionalization of the Program.

**Strengthen internal and external partnerships to counter and prevent the entry of illegal substances and other security threats.** Capitalize on partnerships established with our neighboring countries such as Taiwan, Japan, and China to stop transboundary transfers of illegal drugs, especially in the islands of Batanes and Calayan.

**Protect assets and natural resources.** Improve resilience by embracing technological tools in updating geohazard maps, installing early warning systems, implementing flood control programs and projects, and employing an ecosystem-based approach to address disaster and climate risks.

**Expand patrol operations.** Strengthen maritime patrol alliance of the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Navy, and the Philippine Coast Guard.

**Modernize maritime patrol equipment and facilities.** Prioritize the modernization of maritime patrol equipment and facilities and the construction of Batanes Light Station.

## SECTION 6.2

# Enhance Administration of Justice



Employment and livelihood aids were provided to PDLs in Cabarroguis District Jail in Quirino by DOLE during the 122nd celebration of Philippine Labor Day

Source: DOLE Region 2 Facebook Page

## Introduction

This section covers the performance of the region in advancing a well-functioning justice system. These include protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of the marginalized sector, as well as the persons deprived of liberty (PDL). The programs and projects implemented in 2024 aimed to ensure protection of human rights for all, as well as provide access to swift, fair, and inexpensive adjudication and resolution of cases. Increasing manpower in the justice sector, improving prosecutorial and frontline services through the construction of more prosecutorial offices, improvement of penal facilities, and fully reintegrating the parolees and probationers in the community remain as challenges that need to be addressed.

## Strategy Framework

Figure 6.2.1 below is the strategy framework to achieve the targeted outcomes: (1) quality and efficiency in disposition of cases improved; (2) access to free or affordable quality legal services improved; and (3) quality of life and rehabilitation of PDL in jail facilities improved, and productive re-integration of PDL in the community ensured.

Figure 6.2.1 Strategy Framework to Enhance Administration of Justice



## Accomplishments for 2024

This section presents the programs, projects, and activities implemented in the region to enhance administration of justice.

### Quality and efficiency in disposition of cases improved

**Construction of DOJ Prosecution Office Buildings.** In 2024, the construction of the prosecution office building in Cauayan City, Isabela was completed. The construction of prosecution office buildings in Ilagan City, Isabela and the provinces of Batanes and Nueva Vizcaya, including Phase 2 of the DOJ Building in Tuguegarao City will start in 2025.



**Katarungang Pambarangay.** The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) continued to promote and monitor the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms such as the Katarungang Pambarangay to resolve conflicts at the barangay level. The Katarungang Pambarangay provides a speedy, inexpensive, and accessible way to resolve disputes in the region.

**Conduct of seminars for law enforcement officers.** The DOJ-National Prosecutorial Services (DOJ-NPS) conducted seminars for law enforcement officers to cascade the policy on proactive involvement of prosecutors in the investigation of crimes pursuant to DOJ Department Circular No. 20 s. of 2023. This is to improve the quality and efficiency in the disposition of cases.

**Creation of additional plantilla positions of the DOJ Regional Office.** The DOJ Regional Office conducted recruitment activities to fill-up its vacant positions. It also lobbied for the creation of additional plantilla positions. These efforts to increase the number of key personnel and staff are geared towards speeding up the processing of cases in the courts of justice, and unclogging the court dockets. Learning and development interventions along administrative and technical fields were also implemented.

*Access to free or affordable quality legal services by Filipinos improved*

**Provision of free legal services to communities.** Government programs to provide free legal services to communities were sustained. The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB) continued the implementation of the Agrarian Reform Justice on Wheels (ARJOW) and the “Abogado Ti Mannalon” Programs, of which 543 DARAB cases were disposed of, 394 agrarian justice cases were resolved, and 476 ADR conferences were conducted.

**Provision of legal protection and assistance to human rights victims.** The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) continued to provide legal protection and assistance to human rights victims including 80 PDLs. The agency also provided 518 free legal assistance services and two legal clinic caravans.

*Quality of life and rehabilitation of PDL in jail facilities improved, and productive re-integration of PDL in the community ensured*

**Sustainable livelihood program for PDLs.** The BJMP intensified its partnerships with other government offices, NGOs, and private individuals to ensure financial support and continuous provision of training programs for PDL-beneficiaries.

**e-Dalaw System.** The BJMP has institutionalized the e-Dalaw system to boost the morale of PDLs and their families. The agency also coordinated with the barangay LGUs to provide communication access to the families of PDLs who are economically challenged to visit or get in touch with them.

**PDL-Welfare and Development Programs.** The BJMP maintained the implementation of Welfare and Development Programs for PDLs. It conducted reformative activities such as the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and promoted participation of PDLs in sports activities, assessments, livelihood programs, and spiritual counseling. These are aimed to effectively rehabilitate and transform them into productive members of the society.

**Provision of paralegal services to PDLs.** The DOJ-Parole and Probation Administration (PPA) submitted 1,106 Post Sentence Investigation Reports (PSIR) for probation, out of the 1,337 court referrals. The agency ensured the timely submission of PSIRs to facilitate the release of qualified PDLs. These efforts aim to decongest jail facilities for male and female PDLs.

**People’s Law Enforcement Board.** The DILG maintained its monitoring on the functionality of the People’s Law Enforcement Board (PLEB). The PLEB ensures the protection of citizens against abusive and erring policemen in the region. This supplements the CHR’s provision of legal protection and assistance to human rights victims in the region.

**Construction, repair, and improvement of jail facilities.** The DILG-Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) included in its budget proposal and investment program for FY 2025 the construction of: (i) multi-purpose hall of the Sta. Teresita District Jail; (ii) perimeter fence for the Cauayan City and Solano District Jails; and (iii) concrete stairs of the Aparri District Jail. This is to address the problem on jail congestion and improve the security and well-being of PDLs.

## Results Matrix

The targets on seven out of the eight indicators were achieved: i) improving percentage of criminal complaints resolved on preliminary investigation; (ii) improving settlement rate of ADR cases by the Katarungang Pambarangay; (iii) decreasing congestion rate in regional- and local government-controlled jail facilities (three indicators); (iv) improving percentage of parolees, pardonees, and probationers not recommitted into prison due

to reoffending or other infractions; and (v) decreasing percentage of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.

The disposition of cases improved. The percentage of criminal complaints resolved on preliminary investigation recorded a 100 percent case resolution rate. Disputes coursed through the Katarungang Pambarangay were also settled, with a settlement rate of 88.04 percent has surpassed the target of 86.5 percent. However, more effort is needed to improve the prosecution of cases as measured by conviction rate. This year, conviction rate registered at 85.67 percent, falling short by 2.92 percentage points from the target of 88.58 percent and lower than the baseline rate of 88.57 percent in 2021.

Collaborative efforts to improve the quality of life and rehabilitation of PDLs in jail yielded positive results. The target of lowering the congestion rates in regional government-controlled jail facilities for male and female PDLs was attained, with the rates reduced to 100 percent for both sexes. This is even lower than the target rate of 111 percent for male and 155 percent for female. The congestion rate in Cagayan Provincial LGU-controlled jail facilities is 75.48 percent, which is lower than the base year target of 158 percent in 2022.

The implementation of PDL-welfare and development programs contributed to the attainment of the region’s objective of ensuring the productive re-integration of PDLs in the community. The percentage of parolees, pardonees, and probationers not recommitted into prison due to reoffending or other infractions improved at 99.57 percent, hitting the target of above 99 percent. Further, the total number of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population in the region decreased from 93.2 percent to 91.34 percent. By province, only the province of Cagayan showed an increasing rate at 86.27 percent, higher by 1.47percentage points compared to the baseline data in 2021.

Table 6.2.1 Results Matrix: Enhance Administration of Justice

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	VALUE (YEAR)	2023	2024	
Percentage of successful prosecution improved (convictions vis-a-vis acquittal) (%)	88.57 (2021)	88.58	88.59	85.67
Percentage of criminal complaints resolved on preliminary investigation improved (%)	99.53 (2021)	99.53	99.54	100

INDICATOR	BASELINE	TARGETS		* ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
	VALUE (YEAR)	2023	2024	
Settlement rate of ADR cases by the Katarungang Pambarangay improved (%)	83.50 (2021)	85.5	86.5	88.04
Congestion rate in jail facilities with male PDL reduced (%)	153 (July 2022)	116	111	100
Congestion rate in jail facilities with female PDL reduced (%)	153 (July 2022)	160	155	100
Congestion rate in Cagayan Provincial jail facilities reduced (%)	158 (2022)	decreasing		75.48
Percentage of parolees, pardonees and probationers not recommitted into prison due to reoffending or other infractions improved (%)	2,836/ 2,847 = 99.61 (2022)	maintained above 99		99.57 (4,169/ 4,187)
** Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population reduced (%)	93.2	decreasing		91.34
Cagayan	84.80	decreasing		86.27
Isabela	96.70	decreasing		94.44
Nueva Vizcaya	96.10	decreasing		85.71
Quirino	97.60	decreasing		94.66

\* As of September 2024

\*\* BJMP statistics (2021)

Sources: DOJ, DILG, BJMP, and PPA

## Ways Forward

The priority strategies that need to be done for 2025-2026 to achieve the overall outcomes are as follows:

### Priority Strategies

**Establish/ Construct more prosecution offices in strategic locations.** The establishment and construction of more prosecution offices in strategic locations such as in Ilagan City, Isabela and in the provinces of Batanes and Nueva Vizcaya will improve the prosecutorial and frontline services in the region.

**Construct more jail facilities to address jail congestion and improve the security and well-being of PDLs.** The construction of new jail buildings will address jail congestion problems and improve the security and well-being of PDLs while being incarcerated.

**Institutionalize welfare and development programs for PDLs to ensure their productive re-integration to the community.** In addition to the conduct of reformative activities, new approaches to effectively rehabilitate and transform the PDLs will be developed.

# 07

**Pursuing Digital  
Transformation and  
Good Governance  
Toward Inclusive  
Progress**



## SECTION 7.1

# Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency



The Civil Service Commission Regional Office 2 conducting a 2-day training on Personnel Relations for Organizational Unity and Development (PROUD) at Las Palmas de San Jose Hotel, Tuguegarao City.

Source: PIA Cagayan Valley Facebook Page

## Introduction

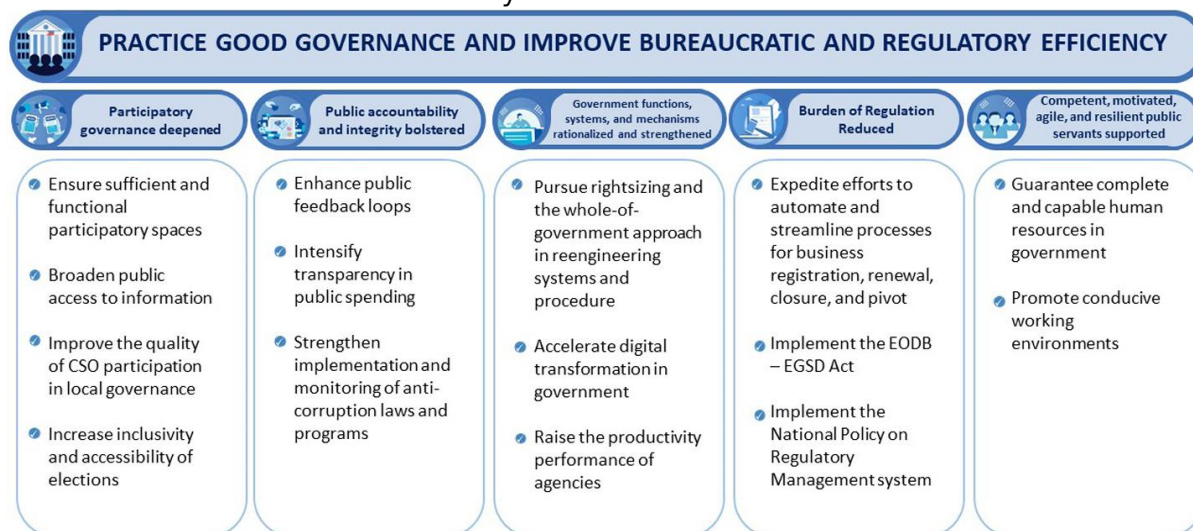
A foundation of good governance is essential for building a high-trust society, where citizens can rely on government to deliver trustworthy and efficient public services. This chapter delves into the sector's accomplishments measured against the Results Matrix (RM); assesses the progress of government programs and projects aimed at promoting good and efficient local governance; and outlines recommendations to guide and support the realization of effective and efficient bureaucracy. The installation of indigenous people mandatory representatives (IPMR) among LGUs remained a challenge. There is a need to intensify initiatives that will encourage LGUs to provide a seat for IPMR automatically, fast-track formulation of local guidelines on the selection,

and train seated and potential IPMRs with legal knowledge and skills for their roles in the local development councils.

## Strategy Framework

The strategies to attain good governance and bureaucratic efficiency (Figure 7.1) will focus on the five key outcomes: 1) deepening participatory governance, 2) bolstering public accountability and integrity, 3) rationalizing and strengthening government functions, systems, and mechanisms, 4) reducing the burden of regulation, and 5) supporting the development of competent, motivated, agile, and resilient public servants.

Figure 7.1.1 Strategy Framework to Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency



## Accomplishments for 2024

This section provides an overview of the current status of government programs and projects for good governance and bureaucratic efficiency and the five sector outcomes.

### Participatory governance deepened

**Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) in local councils.** The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) conducted various community consultations and information and education campaigns (IECs) on the formulation of local guidelines



on the selection of IPMRs in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino. As of the third quarter of 2024, there are 436 out of 1,220 LGUs (province to barangay) with seated IPMRs in their local legislative councils or the Sanggunian. Various para-legal training sessions and orientations were also conducted for these seated IPMRs.

**Synchronized Barangay Assembly Day.** The DILG implemented a synchronized Barangay Assembly Day in 2,311 barangays in March and November 2024. The assembly serves as a venue to promote accountability, transparency, and participatory governance between and among barangay officials and the residents, enabling equal partnership in local development.

**E-KNOW and I-SHARE.** To broaden public access to information, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) introduced the E-KNOW and I-SHARE as part of the information dissemination drive and knowledge-sharing platforms. The CSC also provided waiting area with free wifi for clients, and upgraded its IT infrastructure system for efficient transactions.

**Voter Registration and Participation Programs.** To increase inclusivity and accessibility of elections, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) implemented the special satellite registration for persons with disability, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable sectors. The COMELEC also conducted various voter registration programs in preparation for the 2025 National and Local Elections (NLE) such as the iRehistro, online reactivation process, free voters' certification, and establishment of satellite and mall registrations across the region. As of October 2024, a total of 2,360,210 voters were registered. To increase voter turnout in the 2025 NLE, the COMELEC is planning for the possible implementation of mall voting.

### Public accountability and integrity bolstered

**Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).** The DILG conducted various technical assistance to ensure that more LGUs exhibit continual performance improvement in all ten governance areas of the SGLG. These governance areas include (i) financial administration and sustainability; (ii) disaster preparedness; social protection and sensitivity; (iii) health compliance and responsiveness; (iv) sustainable education; (v) business-friendliness and competitiveness; (vi) safety, peace, and order; (viii) environmental management; (ix) tourism, heritage development, culture, and arts; and (x) youth development. This year, 61 LGUs passed the "all-in" criteria, and will be conferred with the 2024 Seal of Good Local Governance in December.

**Online Customer Feedback Satisfaction Survey (CFSS) and Contact Center ng Bayan (CCB).** The CSC implemented the online CFSS, in conjunction with the CCB of DILG, to monitor and ensure the resolution of referred complaints from the public. The CSC posted hundred percent accomplishments in terms of Complaints Referral Rate and Complaints Resolution Rate. These are continuing programs of government agencies aimed at enhancing public feedback mechanisms.

### Government functions, systems, and mechanisms rationalized and strengthened

**Digitalization Projects.** The DICT launched the e-LGU system and the eGov PH Super App in all provinces of the region. The e-LGU system is part of DICT's eGov PH Super App, a unified platform aimed to streamline and improve the delivery of government services on business permits, community tax, and civil registry.

The Tuguegarao Government Network (GovNet), established at the Regional Government Center in 2023, expanded its reach with a total of 75 government agencies, LGUs, state universities and colleges (SUCs), public schools, hospitals, and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) integrated into the fiber optic cable network. The National Broadband Program – National Fiber Build Phase 2 will be implemented in the region by next year. A fiber backbone will be part of the Phase 2 Project. Once completed, this will provide better ICT infrastructure and increase the internet connectivity service capacity of government offices and data centers, enabling a high-speed and reliable internet connection to serve the people.

**Barangay Information Management System (BIMS).** On November 5, 2024, the DILG launched the BIMS, a digital platform aimed to modernize barangay governance by streamlining operations, ensuring transparency and accountability among barangay officials, and increasing accessibility of public services for communities. Its unique features include inhabitant profiling, issuance management, certification processing, incident handling, and barangay website management.

### Burden of regulation reduced

**Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Compliance Audits.** The DILG, in cooperation with the DTI, continually monitored 98 LGUs for their compliance with the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery (EODB EGSD) Act. The DICT also monitored LGU compliance with the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS), which recorded a total of 68 LGUs with implemented business permits, 36 with

integrated barangay business clearance, and two LGUs onboarded with eGovPay and eReceipt.

### Competent, motivated, agile, and resilient public servants supported

**Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM).** The CSC continued to implement and provide technical assistance for the accreditation of government agencies to the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM). As of August 2024, there were 48 PRIME-HRM Bronze Awardees from regional lines agencies, LGUs, SUCs, and GOCCs. The CSC also conducted the 2024 Regional Human Resource Summit in October, which brought together 255 Human Resource Management Officers and Practitioners. The activity aimed to equip the HRMOs and practitioners with knowledge, innovative strategies, and best HR practices to foster a resilient, adaptable, and capable government workforce.

**Personnel Relations and Organizations for Unity and Development (PROUD).** The CSC led several learning and development interventions under its PROUD Program during the year. PROUD aims to improve employee morale and promote harmonious relationships between rank-and-file employees and the management as partners for effective governance.

**National Policy Framework on the Promotion of Healthy Workplace.** The DOH conducted an orientation on the Healthy Workplaces Framework among 30 national government agencies. The Framework promotes the establishment of healthy workplaces in support of the Universal Health Care. This will be implemented until 2025 along with the conduct of capacity-building activities, in partnership with the CSC and the DOLE.

The CSC maintained the adoption of flexible work arrangements in government agencies to provide safe work spaces for government officials and employees, facilitate productivity and work-life balance, and contribute to the government's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures under the Government Energy Management Program.

## Results Matrix

This year's accomplishments on the major indicators on practicing good governance and improving bureaucratic efficiency were above the set targets. In particular, 61 LGUs will

be conferred with the Seal of Good Local Governance, almost doubling the number of LGUs conferred in 2022. Among the SGLG awardees in the region are the four cities and the provincial governments of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino. The increasing number of LGUs conferred with the Seal illustrates the government’s commitment to operational efficiency, excellence, transparency, and accountability in local governance.

All cities in the region recorded improvement in the government efficiency index ranking based on the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) scores. Tuguegarao City ranked 4th among the component cities nationwide. This shows improved quality and reliability of government services for effective and sustainable productive expansion. On the economic dynamism pillar, the cities of Ilagan, Cauayan, and Santiago recorded index increases, while Tuguegarao City posted a slight decline of 2.52 points. This pillar focuses on the creation of a stable climate for business expansion and job creation.

Table 7.1.1 Results Matrix: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency

INDICATOR	BASELINE VALUE (2022)	TARGET		ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
		2024	2025	
*Percentage of PCMs compliant with Local Development Council functionality standards increased (%)	35.0	61	Increasing	* 62.24%
Percentage of PCMs conferred with the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) increased (%)	36	61	Increasing	* 62.24%
Scorecard of cities in the CMCI Government Efficiency pillar improved				
Tuguegarao City	11.09	Increasing	Increasing	12.4256
Ilagan City	10.15	Increasing	Increasing	12.0473
Cauayan City	9.59	Increasing	Increasing	11.1431
Santiago City	9.74	Increasing	Increasing	11.7558
Scorecard of cities in the CMCI Economic Dynamism pillar improved				
Tuguegarao City	5.34	Increasing	Increasing	4.8666
Ilagan City	3.37	Increasing	Increasing	6.306
Cauayan City	3.26	Increasing	Increasing	4.6483
Santiago City	3.78	Increasing	Increasing	5.5459

\* Percentage of LGUs conferred with seal of Good Local Governance

Sources: DTI and DILG

## Ways Forward

To contribute to the digitalization of systems and procedures in government, the Regional Development Council 2 and its Advisory Committee jointly passed Resolution No. 02-06, s. 2024, supporting the passage of House Bill No. 7327, “An Act Institutionalizing the Transition of the Government to E-Governance in the Digital Age, Creating for the Purpose the Philippine Infostructure Management Corporation and Appropriating Funds Thereof” during the 131st Joint Meeting on May 29, 2024. The passage of the bill will push for the full digital transformation of the government, creating more responsive and efficient public services. The bill is still pending for second reading in the Senate.

## Priority Strategies

The following are the strategies to be implemented to ensure good governance and efficient bureaucracy for 2025-2026:

**Ensure sufficient and functional participatory spaces.** Technical assistance to LGUs on the formulation of IPMR guidelines will be intensified to increase the participation of indigenous peoples (IPs) in local bodies. Capacity-building among the IPs will be prioritized to equip them in planning and legislative processes. Participatory governance practices, including volunteerism, will be promoted to encourage citizen engagement and active involvement in local affairs.

**Enhance public feedback loops and increase inclusivity and accessibility of elections.** Programs and initiatives focusing on improving stakeholder feedback mechanisms will be prioritized to ensure continual innovation and improvement of government operations and services. The implementation of full automation in the 2025 national and local elections will be strengthened to ease the voting processes. Policies to safeguard a transparent and fair electoral process will be put in place.

**Accelerate digital transformation in government.** More government offices and institutions will be targeted for integration into the government network. Integrating government administrative and financial transactions and services through digital applications and platforms developed by DICT will be continuously enhanced and disseminated for wider adoption of LGUs and utilization by the public.



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#1 Dalan na Pavvurulun, Regional Government Center  
Carig Sur, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

Telephone Number: (078) 304-1243; 09176891223

Email: [neda\\_ro2@yahoo.com](mailto:neda_ro2@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.rdc2.gov.ph](http://www.rdc2.gov.ph)

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