

# Annual Progress Report 2024: Joint Programme in the High Impact Track

**Reporting period: From the start date of the Joint Programme (JP) until 31 December 2024.**

- Please be succinct and to the point, focusing on the most important accomplishments and issues that you want to bring to the attention of the Joint SDG Fund at the global level.
- Please do not exceed the word limit for each narrative question.
- Please feel free to contact your main focal point in the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat ([maya.marquez@un.org](mailto:maya.marquez@un.org) or [yao.wang@un.org](mailto:yao.wang@un.org)) for questions and support.

**Submission deadline from RCOs on behalf of RCs and the JP team: 31 January 2025. Please submit this document through this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/k0WF72VbDk>**

## COVER PAGE

JOINT PROGRAMME (JP) PROFILE:	
Country	PHILIPPINES
JP title	Inclusive, Competitive and Responsible Digital Philippines (Digital-PINAS)
Funding Round	Digital Transformation
Cross-fertilized Transitions (Select the 2 main SDG transition that are the most reflected in the JP results/progress so far)	<b>SDG Decent Jobs and Universal Social Protection</b> <b>Digital Transformation</b> SDG Energy Access and Affordability Food Systems Transformation Transforming Education Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution
JP TEAM:	
Resident Coordinator	Name: Gustavo Gonzalez Email: <a href="mailto:Gustavo.gonzalez@un.org">Gustavo.gonzalez@un.org</a>
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Lead PUNO focal point	Name: Vivien Suerte Title: Institutions and Partnerships Team Lead Organisation: UNDP Email: <a href="mailto:vivien.suerte@undp.org">vivien.suerte@undp.org</a>
PUNOs focal points	Name: Hideki Kagohashi Title: Enterprise Development Specialist Organisation: ILO Email: <a href="mailto:kagohashi@ilo.org">kagohashi@ilo.org</a> Name: Camille Roy Title: Associate Project Officer Organisation: ITC Email: <a href="mailto:roy@intracen.org">roy@intracen.org</a>

JP's communications focal point	designated Name: Maria Jorica Pamintuan Title: Public Information Assistant Organisation: UNIC/UNRCO Email: maria.pamintuan@un.org
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## Overall self-assessment of the JP progress as of 31 December 2024.

The primary objective of the Joint SDG Fund's seed funding track is to provide countries with support and resources to incubate and pilot transformative solutions and approaches (including actions to development and implement national roadmaps or priorities) that can subsequently lead to accelerating progress across key SDG Transitions at scale. Towards this objective, please evaluate the performance of the JP.

For more information of key SDG Transitions: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/six-transitionsinvestment-pathways-deliver-sdgs>

### Overall self-assessment of the JP progress as of 31 December 2024:

- Not on-track** to deliver results expected within the first 9 months, as per JP document.
- On-track** to deliver results expected within the first 9 months, as per JP document
- Above expectations:** besides being on track to deliver expected results, additional results are anticipated within the first 9 months

*If you responded "not on-track", please briefly explain reasons for delays in progress.*

*If you responded "above expectations", please provide the list of additional results that are anticipated for the first 9 months.*

## A. Results Narrative

### 1. Summary of JP implementation

The Joint Programme capitalized on existing partnerships with government partners and private groups to build on and improve the accomplishments of, and experiences from, previous projects that involved conducting skills training for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), providing access to digital services and support, especially in rural areas, and identifying policy, regulatory, and systemic barriers that prevent inclusive access to the digital economy.

For Outcome 1 (enhancing digital capabilities of MSMEs and entrepreneurs), the JP coordinated the roll-out plan to deliver financial education through social networking service (SNS) on mobile phones and fine-tuned existing modules to the Philippine context. Financial institution partners were tapped to extend financial services, combined with financial education, to MSMEs, facilitating access to knowledge sources even in underserved areas. The JP also defined the structure of training materials in alignment with the expected level of digital and business maturity of beneficiaries and started the development of awareness raising and training materials for entrepreneurs, MSMEs and the train-the-trainer activities, in both English and Filipino languages.

The JP contributed to the operationalization of two digital centers in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in partnership with the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (aligned with Outcome 2).

For Outcome 3, a partnership was forged with the GSM Association and officialized in November 2024 in Manila. Through this partnership, the JP will collaborate with two major mobile operators (GLOBE and SMART) to deploy capacity building on digital business skills to entrepreneurs across the Philippines, including those with low digital know-how. The partnership with key mobile operators facilitates wider scope for capacity building activities and higher MSME outreach. The JP team played a crucial role in initiating discussions, fostering a shared understanding among stakeholders, and developing the collaborative framework with the GSMA and mobile operators.

## 2. Progress towards JP's transformative impact

2.1 In bullet points, describe the JP's contribution to integrating policies, financing and actions. Focus on cross-sectoral approaches and the intersection of digitalization with other SDG transitions within the JP. Highlight emerging synergies aligned with the JP theory of change. Reference specific SDG targets from the JP document and progress made.

The JP contributed to enhancing the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem, with particular focus on policies and regulatory assessment, through the following activities:

- The JP presented the ecosystem approach of the JP (<https://adb.eventsair.com/asiasme2024/presentations>) at an ADB Conference on SMEs held in November 2024 with several key partners (DICT, DTI) in attendance. This provided the foundation for the digital entrepreneurship assessment to begin in March 2025.
- The JP team engaged relevant partners involved in policy making in relation to the digital economy in the Philippines, including the DTI's E-commerce Bureau (ECB), and initiated the identification of policies, rules and regulations requiring support from the JP for the development of an inclusive digital economy in the Philippines. Several avenues for supporting an enhancement of the policy and regulatory environment in the Philippines were identified, and will be confirmed with partners including the DTI, especially to support the implementation of the 2023 Internet Transaction Act (including online complaints tracking, code of conduct for online marketplaces, Trust Mark certification, rules of online dispute resolutions, etc.).
- Regarding the demonstration of digital access to social security as part of the e-government services in remote areas (Outcome 2), the JP team has been closely coordinating with a collaborating project of ILO that promotes formalization of the informal economy with a focus on social protection as a weak linkage of the integrated formalization approach. This provides the intersection of digitalization with SDG 1 (No Poverty), more specifically 1.3 on universal social protection. The collaboration with the ILO project will help identify the e-government challenges of social protection access which JP intends to address.

2.2 In bullet points, describe what the JP has been doing to facilitate accelerating implementation and contribute to faster achievement of the SDG targets identified in the JP document.

Coordination among PUNOs - bringing together each agency's experience and networks on digitalization projects for the full implementation of activities where each agency is the lead - and consistent engagement with government counterparts and the private sector moved the JP implementation forward, ahead of the completion of the JP Management and Coordination Unit. The JP MCU is expected to be completely onboard by February 2025.

- The JP has been working on strengthening strategic partnerships (SDG 17) with the following key partners: national government agencies (NGAs) (e.g., DICT, DTI, DOLE, BSP and TESDA), business and worker organizations (e.g., ECCP, ECOP, FFW, AI/technology/crowdwork-related organizations and programmes, PCCI), global and national private sector players (GSMA, DHL Philippines), and other development partners (e.g., USAID, ADB and the AI Opportunity Fund). Engagement with different stakeholders resulted in the identification of opportunities and spaces for synergistic work and potential for broadening of reach and achievement of transformative impact.
- Some preparatory works were undertaken such as:
  1. Explored synergies with other PUNOs projects that would complement the JP.
  2. Reviewed MSME digital skilling programs available in the Philippines, from PUNOs and partners, to explore synergies and define the most effective and efficient approach to the content creation on MSME digital adoption for trade.
  3. Defined the structure of the materials in alignment with the expected level of digital and business maturity of beneficiaries. Started the development of awareness raising and training materials for entrepreneurs, MSMEs and
  4. The JP has started communicating the new AI use case for MSMEs – *“AI voice mode is transforming how we deliver business coaching”* (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158226>; the video uploaded to [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZggTm95fYw) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZggTm95fYw>).

Enhanced coordination strategies with partners, refinement of existing training materials and programs, and utilization of digital innovations to improve training delivery laid the groundwork for impactful implementation in 2025.

2.3 In bullet points, describe what the JP has been doing to ensure achieving results at scale through: a) expanded reach to key beneficiaries and constituencies, and b) increased financial leverage.

The JP contributed to ensuring significant and scaled up impact and reach through the following strategies and key activities:

- Reactivated the national network of trainers established from previous projects and building new ones to expand training outreach under Outcome 1.
- Built on the existing collaboration with a technology partner (BOOST Capital) in Cambodia and coordinated the roll-out plan in the Philippines to deliver financial education through SNS on mobile phones linked to access to finance. This includes fine-tuning of the existing modules to the Philippines context and process of selecting and negotiating with financial institution partners that will extend financial services to the MSMEs together with the financial education. The Cambodian pilot covered 12,065 financial literacy clients. JP may expect a similar scale of outreach in the Philippines.
- Started discussion with key experts on the use of SNS to upload training video on top of expanding the online community of practice.

- Partnered with the GSM Association for the deployment of digital business skills capacity building to entrepreneurs - especially those less tech savvy - across the Philippines through two (2) mobile operators (SMART and Globe Telecom), opening potential outreach to sizable scale across the Philippines.  
<https://www.intracen.org/news-and-events/news/itc-and-gsma-to-boost-digitalinclusion-of-small-businesses-of-underserved>  
<https://www.communicationstoday.co.in/itc-and-gsma-to-boost-digital-inclusionof-small-businesses/>
- Initiated exploration of a partnership with DHL and its Philippine branch, through ITC's existing partnership with DHL Global, for the deployment of cross-border digitally enabled capacity building to more mature beneficiaries. Possibly in partnership as well with DTI, making it a tripartite initiative.

The JP identified the following potential fund leveraging opportunities by:

- Negotiating with existing partner national government agencies (e.g., Department of Labor and Employment [DOLE], Department of Trade and Industry [DTI], and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority [TESDA]) to tap available public funds to support the replication training by the partners of JP. This included, among others, on-going discussion with DOLE to leverage its Adjustment Measures Program (DOLE-AMP) and DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), as well as the DTI's Online Negosyo Program (ONP).
- Applied for the AI Opportunity Fund's grant to expand the outreach of the AI skills training of the JP for MSMEs and workers.

2.4 In bullet points, outline what sustainability measures the JP has introduced for maintaining system change and transformative impact in the mid- to long-term. Include specific mechanisms for ensuring financial and institutional sustainability, as well as strategies for continued scaling by government and partners after JP completion. Do note the previous requirement that the "exit strategy" should be developed early on and mainstreamed through JP implementation.

The JP plans to achieve sustainability of interventions and anticipated gains by:

- Revisiting the training-of-trainer (ToT) approach and monitoring system of impact among the beneficiary MSMEs from current and previous projects to ensure that training delivery is integrated into institutional priorities of the public and private partner organizations and maintained beyond the JP implementation period.
- Making most of the training materials, to ultimate beneficiaries as well as for ToT activities, available to partners and downloadable for use, including on national platforms, ensuring sustained learning and creating opportunities for knowledge cascading beyond the end date of the JP. Discussions with the DTI to integrate the training materials and publish these on their Learning Management System for use by concerned staff delivering training services for MSMEs. At DOLE, discussions are ongoing to integrate the training programs as part of the pre-implementation phase for livelihood grants to MSMEs.
- Reinforce local expertise for scalability, increased outreach and sustainable availability of support services to MSMEs and entrepreneurs across the Philippines and in the selected regions of interventions. The JP team will build on its existing network of Philippines experts, coaches and trainers created over the years to integrate digitalrelated knowledge and skills and continue providing customized advisory support and

mentorship to MSMEs with the support of trade promotion and private sector institutions.

- Translate selected training/overall project materials for adoption by different organizations and beneficiaries, where and when relevant, into Filipino for broader outreach and absorption by beneficiaries.

### 3. Contribution to the enabling / engine room actions

Reference the targets specified in your JP document, annex 2 ("JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators") regarding engine room actions / '[enabling actions](#)'.

3.1 Has your JP contributed to policy and regulatory shifts (e.g. development and adoption of new / revised national or sub-national policies and/or regulations)?

Yes

No

If yes, explain how these changes align with national priorities, Cooperation Framework results, and the Leaving No One Behind principle. Describe their catalytic effect on JP outcomes.

(max. 250 words)

3.2 Has your JP contributed to developing the “deal room” / financing mix, including leveraging resources, influencing government budgets and/or broader financing flows from diverse funding sources and partners?

Yes

No

If yes, explain how these financing mixes and partnerships align with national priorities, Cooperation Framework results, and the Leaving No One Behind principle. Describe their catalytic effect on JP outcomes.

A key achievement since the start of implementation was forging the strategic partnership between ITC and two major mobile operators in the Philippines – SMART and GLOBE – facilitated through an ITC official partnership with the GSM Association. This collaboration, once fully implemented, will unlock new financing streams from the operators dedicated to capacity building for their MSME and entrepreneur clients across the Philippines. This initiative represents a significant step forward in supporting MSME development and would not have materialized without the JP team’s direct intervention in brokering the initial discussions, aligning stakeholder interests, and developing the collaborative framework with the GSMA and mobile operators.

The JP also applied for the AI Opportunity Fund’s grant to expand the outreach of the AI skills training for MSMEs and workers. Response is expected in February 2025. This is expected to have a multiplier effect on the number of training beneficiaries and contribute to CF Output 2.1 (economic transformation).

3.3 Has your JP contributed to enhancing capacity at scale (e.g. introduction of new training modules, enhancing capacities of key institutional partners, or development of new methodologies and standard operating procedure applied at scale)?

Yes

No

If yes, explain how these capacity building efforts align with national priorities, Cooperation Framework results, and the Leaving No One Behind principle. Describe their catalytic effect on JP outcomes.

Capacity building efforts for MSMEs, informal businesses, agro-fishery associations and entrepreneurs directly align with the UN CF Output 2.1 on Economic Transformation and the MSME Development Plan 2023-2028 of the government.

The JP will foster inclusive digitalization of MSMEs and SEs to improve employment opportunities for marginalized groups such as women, PWDs and those in the informal sector, particularly in remote areas, through interventions designed to empower those who experience digital exclusion.

- New business coaching methodology:** Piloted AI voice mode for dynamic, flexible coaching, allowing trainers to apply it during MSME visits without classroom training.
- Upgraded training modules:** Upgraded "AI for Digital Novice MSMEs" content, mainstreaming AI use cases across the Start and Improve Your Business program beyond marketing.
- Improved partnership approach:** Assessed prior partner training/coaching implementation experiences and incentives/disincentives to ensure partner ownership and JP alignment with KPIs, including MSME training priorities.
- New training delivery mechanism:** Started negotiations to adapt the Cambodian mobile SNS financial education platform to the Philippines, identifying potential financial institution partners to link financial education to MSME financing access. A potential GSM Association/local operator partnership offers innovative capacity building with sizable reach.

3.4 Has your JP contributed to development of pipeline of investment-ready projects or initiatives (e.g. development of financial instruments, solutions and processes to identify investable projects/initiatives with partners from diverse stakeholders including public and private investors)?

Yes

No

If yes, explain how that pipeline development work aligns with national priorities, Cooperation Framework results, and the Leaving No One Behind principle. Describe their catalytic effect on JP outcomes.

(max. 250 words)

#### 4. Constraints, risks, adjustments, and lessons

4.1 In looking over the following examples (see below), please explain where there may be any **(a) constraints, including risks identified** in the JP doc's Risk Matrix, that were **encountered in the past period** and **(b)** any adjustments that were made or mitigation actions taken by the JP team to

strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

The JP was impacted by the removal of Sulu Province as part of BARMM following a Supreme Court decision resulted in the removal of Sulu as a beneficiary of a Digital Center and the transfer of the planned Digital Center to Cotabato, resulting in the delay of its construction and the training implementation partner to drop the trainers and their MSME beneficiaries in the Sulu archipelago from their responsibilities. This led to re-prioritization of the training targets in the Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-tawi (BASULTA) archipelago to Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

The JP faced complications in getting concrete commitments from key government agencies for the JP. Prolonged process of internal shifts, and unforeseen internal coordination challenges, within partner government agencies affected established working relationships and resulted in rescheduling of launch activities.

The JP team has remained proactive in identifying the changes and engaging and connecting with partners at working and higher levels to ensure continued or renewed buy-in, ownership of project activities, and co-creation of solutions.

4.2 In bullet points, please indicate what could have been done differently during this past period and any lessons learned. () - Please be candid about both successes and failures, explaining how these insights might be applied to JPs in the future.

- **Early designation of a government focal during the design phase of JP.** The JP encountered delays in project implementation due to internal coordination challenges with government partners. PUNOs are conducting continuous outreach activities to various offices within DICT, other NGAs (i.e., DTI, TESDA, MILG-BARMM, DOLE), and other partners (e.g., EU, ECCP) to (1) formally launch the JP and (2) move forward with the outputs.
- **Encourage participation of government and private sector partners as co-designers of the JP.** This would enable buy-in of the government and private sector partners, noting that their insights were captured at the beginning of program conceptualization.
- **Early recruitment of JP program staff.** The limited capacity of the JP Team affected the pace of JP implementation. It would be ideal if the JP Management and Coordinating Unit is already present at the beginning of program implementation.

## 5. Plans for 2025 with a focus on first results

5.1 In bullet points, please provide the key elements of the JP plan for 2025, focusing on the results expected in the first 9 months and completing the first year of the overall JP implementation.

JP is expected to showcase the following results in the first 9 months:

1. **Replication of MSME Digitalization Training:** The program plans to train 3,000 MSMEs with the first confirmed use cases of digital and AI tools and services by MSMEs.
2. **Operationalization of 10 Digital Centers:** These centers will provide e-services impacting MSMEs.

Towards First Result 1, the JP plan for 2025 includes:

- Field monitoring-cum-coaching mission to revisit MSME beneficiaries of the building block projects to collect feedback to enhance the training contents, implementation guide and impact monitoring system.
- Provision of the AI refresher training to MSMEs via the existing training partners of SIYB and SCORE from the building block project.
- Organization of a co-creation workshop to review the updated and AI-mainstreamed training contents by the experts and practitioners promoting AI and digital tools for MSMEs.
- Roll-out of financial education on SNS in partnership with BOOST and select financial institutions.
- Finalization of training contents under partnerships (e.g. GSMA) for immediate roll-out.
- Finalization and implementation of partnerships for capacity building delivery including at scale (e.g. with the 2 mobile operators and DHL Philippines).
- Identification, training and certification of trainers with partners and within existing networks in the country.
- Identification and engagement of beneficiaries with partners in the selected regions.
- Roll-out and monitoring of capacity building of MSMEs by partners and the certified trainers.

Towards First Result 2, the JP plan for 2025 includes:

- Provide procurement and technical support to MILG for the establishment of the Digital Centers in BARMM
- Onboarding of firms in charge of enhancing the e-governance systems and platforms and developing the data governance framework, security protocols, and knowledge management systems
- Procurement of AR-technology for TVET training and certification, and TESDA to identify target innovation center

In addition to the First Result 2, other key elements of the JP plan under Output 2 include preparatory works for the development of a citizen feedback mechanism.

Finally, 2025 will see concrete actions under Output 3 to look at the broader policy and regulatory environment - linked to the abovementioned results -, which include:

- Identification, analysis and assessment of gaps and needs in the Philippine policy environment for digital, including on policies, rules and regulations, codes of conducts, etc.
- Identification with partners of government processes that would require digitalization for the benefit of MSMEs across the country.
- Conduct of the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem analysis and organization of a policy workshop.

5.2 Describe your 2025 plans for JP coordination and monitoring mechanisms to ensure efficient, rapid, and agile implementation. Include coordination among PUNOs, government, EU, and other partners. Outline how you will monitor external conditions to identify emerging risks and opportunities.

Coordination and monitoring mechanisms between PUNOs and government counterparts will be anchored on joint ownership and shared learning.

The JP Programme Steering Committee will be established in Q1 2025, and the first PSC meeting is tentatively planned for early Q2.

An inception workshop will be conducted among PUNOs and partner national government agencies and private sector groups to introduce the JP, level off on the Theory of Change and results framework, present the JP work plan and governance structure and institutional arrangements, discuss agency contributions, and identify in-agency focal persons or offices who will be the the direct contact of the JP. (inserted this since report is only up to Dec 2024)

Following this, a MEL workshop will be conducted with national government partners to have a deeper dive on the JP results framework and align JP outputs, activities and indicators with their own workplans and key performance indicators. The aim is to agree on a reporting mechanism that streamlines reporting requirements among involved agencies, establish regular coordination meetings among MEL staff, and co-develop a MEL plan that will be used to jointly monitor and assess JP interventions and accomplishments.

## **B. Indicator-based Performance Assessment**

### **6. The JP results framework and workplan (Excel)**

Please assess the JP performance against the indicators identified in Annex 1: Integrated results framework and workplan, including 1) JP outputs, 2) JP contribution to Joint SDG Fund global indicators, and 3) JP workplan.

If the JP has a localization marker 3, please include also the progress against the localization indicators.

The JP has not made any progress yet on localization markers since the project has not been fully launched.

*Please upload the completed excel file together with the narrative report via the online form.*

### **7. Leaving No One Behind**

7.1 Beneficiaries are individuals, groups or organizations who actively participate in JP activities and benefit from its interventions. Please, indicate the numbers of beneficiaries in the past period, while disaggregating between a) direct and indirect, b) achieved in 2024 and anticipated for 2025, and c) Women/girls and Children/Youth - as per the table below.

	<b>Total Number</b>	<b>Number of Women and Girls*</b>	<b>Number of Children and Youth (0-24)*</b>
Directly benefited in 2024	O1: 0 O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 0 O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 0 O2: 0 O3: 0

Indirectly benefited in 2024	O1: 2 MSMEs O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 2 MSMEs O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 0 O2: 0 O3: 0
Expected to directly benefit in 2025	O1: 260 trainers 1,500 MSMEs O2: 2,500 citizens O3: 5 organizations	O1: 130 trainers O2: 1,000 citizens O3: 0	O1: 0 O2: 150 youthled MSMEs O2: 500 citizens O3: 0
Expected to indirectly benefit in 2025	O1: 8,000 MSMEs O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 4,000 MSMEs O2: 0 O3: 0	O1: 100 O2: 0 O3: 0

*\* Note that it is allowed to have overlaps in the reporting of women/girls and children/youth columns.*

7.2 In bullet points, please provide a summary of how the JP is benefiting the marginalized and vulnerable groups identified in the ProDoc. Include results to which you have contributed at both institutional/policy and local/human levels. Please find the 20 standard LNOB groups in footnote 28 on page 17 of the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework's [Implementation Guide](#).

JP interventions under the three Outcomes are expected to benefit MSMEs with limited digital connectivity and digital literacy including those located in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) tapping local partners and resources centers such as DICT digital centers in these areas, DTI Negosyo Centers, PCCI local chapters, and others. Particular focus will be given to building the capacities of MSMEs and informal businesses owned or operated by women, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and those from indigenous communities (IPs).

7.3 For each question, select the relevant response on cross-cutting issues and LNOB principles, and provide a brief 1-2 sentence explanation directly in the table.

Question	Yes	No	Explanation / Comments
The JP has adequately implemented environmental and social standards/safeguards to avoid and address adverse impacts on people and the planet.		x	Still to be addressed over the course of project implementation.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address human rights issues, undertaking and drawing upon relevant human rights analysis.	x		Fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW) are integral to ILO training interventions
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing women and girls.	x		Focusing on MSMEs and informal businesses which are predominantly owned by women addresses structural inequalities.

The JP has demonstrated positive results / effects for youth in accordance with the principles in Youth 2030.		x	Still to be addressed over the course of project implementation.
The JP has developed or operationalized a strategy to address structural inequalities facing marginalized and vulnerable persons in any other LNOB groups. Please specify which groups: _____		x	Still to be addressed over the course of project implementation.

7.4 Please select which digital cross-cutting drivers the joint programme has contributed to since its start. Please refer to these whenever applicable in the body of the report.

You can consult the description of each cross-cutting driver in the description of the funding round [here](#).

- Digital public goods
- Digital inclusion in underserved areas
- Digital capacity-building and digital skills**
- Digital human rights

7.5 Please select the window offerings the joint programme has contributed to since its start. Please refer to these whenever applicable in the body of the report.

You can consult the description of each window offering in the description of the funding round [here](#).

- Government service systems transformation
- Inclusive digital connectivity
- Digital finance and payment systems**
- E-commerce, market access, and trade enablement**
- Digital for the planet

## 8. Additional financial resources mobilized/leveraged through growing partnerships.

Please indicate the additional financial resources (in USD) mobilized or leveraged in 2024 through the JP. The source of funding/financing should be categorized by sources, including public-private partnerships, private sector investments, Government contributions, and financial commitments from IFIs, DFIs and other donors, if any. Please clarify the actual amounts already mobilized/leveraged or the potential amounts expected to be mobilized/leveraged.

Source of Funding/Financing	Amount in US\$ (mobilized/planned)
	\$
	\$
	\$

### C. Strategic Communications and Partnership Update

## 9. Strategic communications

Please provide the information of the event(s) held or planned, and links to written articles and social media posts produced by the JP per the Joint SDG Fund's [Communications Guideline for High Impact Track Joint Programmes](#).

<b>Event Title</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Participants</b> (Mention if <a href="#">Donor Member States</a> , Government representatives were present)	
<b>Objective/Outcome</b> (Briefly describe the key objective or outcome of the event)	
<b>Quotes</b> (Format: Name, Last Name, Title, Organization, Quote:” “) – especially from donors, government or UN representatives.	
<b>Additional materials and links on event coverage</b>	

<b>List of links to written articles and social media posts:</b>
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## 10. Strategic Partnerships

10.1 What type of partnerships has your JP established or is in the process of establishing? (Select all that apply)

- National Government Institutions (Please specify): DOLE, DTI, DICT, TESDA, BSP, MILG-BARMM
- Sub-national Government Institutions (Please specify): Provincial Governments of Laguna, Batangas, and Cavite (Region 4A); Municipal Governments of Igaras, Tubungan, and Aklan (Region 6); Basey, Samar (Region 8); Del Carmen, Siargao Islands (Region 12), and Region XI (Davao); select LGUs in BARMM
- International Financial Institutions & Development Finance Institutions (Please specify):
- Private Sector Companies or Industry Associations (Please specify): European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP); Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Association of the Philippines (AAP), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), GSM Association (GSMA), DHL Philippines
- Civil Society Organizations, Philanthropic Organizations and Foundations (Please specify): Women Business Council of the Philippines (WBCP), Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association (PYEA)
- Academic/Research Institutions (Please specify): Center for AI Research of DTI (CAIR)
- Bilateral Development Partners (Please specify):
- Labour Unions or Organizations (Please specify): Federation of Free Workers (FFW); National Network of Informal Workers in the Philippines (PATAMABA, Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas)
- Others (Please specify):

10.2 Outline key partnerships and their expected concrete contributions to JP outcomes in 2025 (excluding EU engagements, which are addressed separately). Include any formal partnership arrangements such as Memoranda of Understanding or similar agreements.

**Government (national, subnational) sector partnerships:**

1. DICT leads on enhancing internet access and establishing Digital Transformation Hubs to MSME digital literacy and financial education. Specifically, the JP will tap DICT for the following:
  - promoting the use of the Tech4ED centers nationwide as training and coaching venues for MSMEs.
  - technical guidance on the enhancement of the e-governance systems and platforms and development of data governance, frameworks, security protocols, and knowledge management systems
2. DOLE focuses on digitalizing labor market systems and public employment services to support vulnerable populations. Specifically, the JP will tap DOLE for partnership in training roll-out among MSMEs which are livelihood beneficiaries under its DOLE Adjustment measures Program
3. DTI spearheads the MSME Digitalization Agenda, supporting business digitalization, market linkages, and e-commerce initiatives. Specifically, the JP will tap DTI for the following:
  - training roll-out among MSMEs including those reached by business support organizations, DTI Negosyo Centers across the country, and through the DTI's current programmes on digital and e-commerce;
  - development of AI use case studies among MSMEs;
  - identifying digital and business/trade-related policies, rules and regulations requiring support on and processes requiring digitalization
4. MILG-BARMM will establish Digital Centers with public e-services. The JP will work with MILG on technical guidance on the enhancement of the e-governance systems and platforms
5. Local government units will provide support through:
  - technical guidance on the enhancement of the e-governance systems and platforms
  - maintenance and operating expenses for the Digital Transformation Hubs/Digital Centers

**Private Sector partnerships:**

1. European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) through its Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program – Creating Responsible and Competitive Agribusinesses in BARMM (BAEP-CRESCENT), and their Chapters across the Philippines for partnership in training roll-out for MSMEs.
2. PCCI for partnership in the delivery of the training-of-trainers and training to MSMEs across the Philippines through their chapters.

3. GSM Association (GSMA) for broad and extensive outreach capacity building to entrepreneurs through two (2) mobile operators on digital business.
4. DHL Philippines, for focused e-commerce and logistics capacity building of enterprises that are more mature and ready to trade beyond domestic markets.

10.3 Describe the engagements with EU during JP design, launch, and initial implementation in 2024. Describe plans to enhance EU involvement in 2025 and identify potential opportunities to leverage additional EU partnerships and investments.

During the design phase, the JP Team met with the EU delegation to explore the possibilities of alignment with current EU interventions in the Philippines especially on the Copernicus project.

The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office and the PUNOs continued to leverage their strong partnership with the EU Delegation and reached out to the new EUD leadership (Ambassador and Head of Cooperation) in Q3 2024. To ensure smooth collaboration, a focal point was assigned by the EU Delegation.

Ahead of the JP launch and inception workshop, initial feedback and commitment was also received from the EUD.

The JP Team will continue reaching out to the EUD to discuss and pursue synergies and alignment with EU ongoing initiatives and priorities in the Philippines, the EU Global Gateway Priorities, and other EU-funded projects and programmes in the Philippines (e.g. ARISE Plus Philippines, Green Economy Programme, Copernicus, BAEP, FAIR-VALUE among others).

## ANNEX: Localization Marker Survey

*Note: relevant only for the JPs with localization marker 3*

A. Did you upload the SDG Localization monitoring indicators as part of your JP results framework?

Yes

No

B. What action areas has your JP prioritized since launch to advance the SDGs at the local level? (Select all that apply) **None since not yet formally launched**  Empowering local authorities and communities (e.g. capacity building, leadership development, technical support)

Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. participatory planning processes, community consultations)

Strengthening multi-level governance (e.g. vertical coordination, central-local policy alignment)

Localizing SDG financing (e.g. municipal finance mechanisms, local resource mobilization, local SDG budgeting)

- Enhancing local data systems (e.g. disaggregated data collection, communitybased monitoring)
- Expanding social service access (e.g. last-mile delivery, integrated service provision)
- Others (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

C. To what extent have financial resources been transferred or mobilized directly to local-level actors (e.g. local governments, local community organizations, local service providers) to support SDG Localization efforts in the reporting period?

- 0% i.e. no resource has been directed to local-level actors.
- 1-24% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 25-49% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 50-74% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.
- 75-100% of total programme funding directed to local-level actors.

D. Please describe how your JP engages with sub-national (local and regional) authorities, communities, and/or local service providers to advance SDG Localization, including approaches to enhance local capacities, align policies with local contexts, and ensure sustainable financing mechanisms.

Please provide your response in the box below to upload in Q15 of MS Form or directly enter your response in Q22 of MS Form.

The JP has engaged with sub-national (local and regional) authorities, communities, and/or local services providers to advance SDG.

Plans for training outreach are presented to local chief executives and its operational units whose mandate includes service delivery for MSMEs such as Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) and Cooperative Development Office (CDO). During these presentations, local government officials are encouraged to identify areas where the JP can provide value addition in MSME service delivery. Where applicable, dialogues with local farmers groups are also organized as a way of understanding their training needs.

In the upcoming enhancement of the e-services for the benefit of the MSMEs, the JP will continuously reach out to local authorities and communities to ensure that e-services would strongly respond to MSMEs' needs.

Finally, JP interventions seek to develop locally relevant materials and identify and secure partnerships for anchoring of training materials and resources and the delivery of activities, using national experts.

When and where relevant, materials are translated into Filipino and other languages to ensure greater outreach and absorption by beneficiaries.