

United Nations Development Programme



04 May 2022

Dear Secretary Caintic,

Following our Project Board meetings and clearances from concerned DICT offices on the proposed amendments to the DICT-UNDP Free Wi-Fi-For All Project, I am plexased to transmit, for your signature, the final copy of the amended Project Document, now entitled "**Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All**" (CoRe FW4A) Project (Project ID 113425). The minutes of the Third Project Board meeting, documenting the agreements on the amendments, is also attached for your signature.

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the guidance and contributions of your DICT team and look forward to a stronger partnership as we implement the new directions of the project.


Thank you and warm regards.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

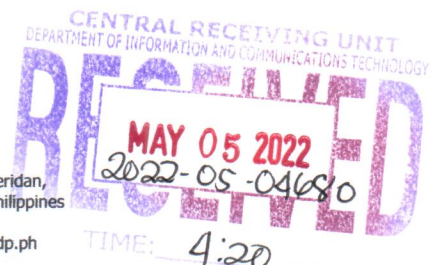
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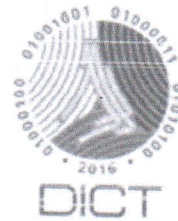
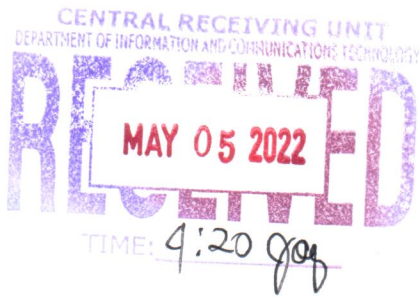
Selva Ramachandran
Resident Representative


Emmanuel Rey R. Caintic
Acting Secretary
Department of Information and Communications Technology
C.P Garcia Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

cc: Undersecretary Alan A. Silor, Resilient Government Emergency Communications
Assistant Secretary Alvin M. Navarro, Digital Capability and Transformation
Antonio Edward E. Padre, Program Director, Free Wi-Fi for All Program
Omi Castañar, Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary

Attached: as stated





Project Document Revision Cover Page

Project Title: Pipol Konek – Inclusive Net Access and Service

NEW Project Title: Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All (CoRe FW4A)

Project ID: 00113425

Output ID: 00111581

Implementing Partner: UNDP

Start Date: 26 September 2018

End Date: 31 December 2022

NEW End Date: No-cost Project Extension: 30 June 2024

Project Appraisal Committee Meeting date: 22 March 2019

Project Board Meeting Date (approval of amendments/revision): 16 March 2022

Brief Description

This Project Document was amended in view of the challenges faced by the project during the first three years of implementation, and to consider the new context and priorities of the Philippine Government, such as strengthening the health care information and communications technology (ICT) systems of government and enhancing disaster preparedness and response of Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and local government units (LGUs) for responsive and resilient connectivity and communications. The amendment was guided by the discussions and agreements made in the Project Board and High-Level Meetings between the DICT and UNDP in the Philippines, and in consultation with key government partners. The updated project is now entitled: **“Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All (CoRe FW4A)”**.

Given the new context and directions, updates to the project background, strategies, and results, with a new output created, is now reflected in this amended Project Document. The new output statement is “disaster preparedness and response for emergencies including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices”.

The implementation modality will remain to be Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) with UNDP as the Implementing Partner. The governance and management arrangement has been revised to ensure DICT supervision and oversight of the Project. Implementation of activities will be conducted by the CoRe FW4A Project Management Office, in close coordination with DICT offices and officials, through the DICT FW4A Project Management Office. Correspondingly, project resources have been reprogrammed towards the new outputs and activities, the updated deliverables, and targets, with the project end date extended to 30 June 2024.

See Annex 1 for the list of revisions per Section of the Project Document.

Contributing Outcome (UN PSFD/CPD):

Outcome 1: The most marginalized, vulnerable, and at-risk people and groups benefit from inclusive and quality services and live in a supportive environment wherein their nutrition, food security, and health are ensured/protected.

Indicative Output(s) with gender marker:

Output 1: Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites (G1)

Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install and manage ICT and internet equipment and services, and in ICT assessment and planning. (G2)

Output 3: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices (G2)

- Output 3a: Healthcare ICT ecosystem strengthened for rural health units, vaccination centers, and public hospitals
- Output 3b: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency connectivity and communications improved for DICT, sub-national and local government offices

Output 4: Project Management and Quality Assurance (G2)

Total resources required¹:		USD 19,605,535.59 PHP 1,006,058,058.80
Total resources allocated:	PHL Government (DICT):	USD 19,605,535.59 PHP 1,006,058,058.80
Unfunded:		

Agreed by:

UNDP (Implementing Partner)


Selya Ramachandran
Resident Representative

United Nations Development Programme
Philippines

DICT


Emmanuel Rey Caintic
Acting Secretary

Department of Information and
Communications Technology
mbt

Date: 11 May 2022

Date: 10 MAY 2022

¹ Updated level of project resources after \$5.88 mil was returned by UNDP to the Philippine Government in May 2021

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE/BACKGROUND *(updated)*

The long-standing issue of poor and unreliable internet connectivity has led to weak digital inclusion in the Philippines. The 2020 Philippine Digital Economy Report by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the World Bank highlights that the digital divide remains a concern in the country, with 60% of households unable to have access to a stable internet, thereby hampering their access to development (NEDA 2021; World Bank 2020). The 2020 Digital Quality of Life Index by Surfshark (2020) also ranks the Philippines as 66th out of 85 countries surveyed to determine a country's digital wellbeing. Particularly, the Philippines was identified as among the countries with least affordable internet connection, least secure internet, and lowest-quality internet connectivity.

Second-class internet connectivity in the country can be traced to two broad reasons. First, the inefficient market for the telecommunications industry stifles competition and keeps internet connections inaccessible and unaffordable (The World Bank, 2020). Second, the country's institutions do not efficiently supplement market systems by investing in infrastructure and people's capabilities to maximize Wi-Fi (Hani, 2011). The country's regulatory and legislative mechanisms reflect archaic domestic market protection, outdated analog-era laws and policies, and restrictions on network building among enfranchised telecommunications companies. This led to a non-competitive telecommunications market resulting in a lack of industry innovation and a rise in private firms' price-setting power. Weak market competition and lack of government policies to narrow the digital divide led to digital infrastructure underdevelopment, high connectivity cost, and inferior quality of internet services.

Legislative action to address low and poor internet connectivity. Given the situation, the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act of 2017 (RA No. 10929) was enacted on 2 August 2017. The law established the Free Wi-Fi for All – Public Internet Access Program (commonly known as the Free Wi-Fi for All Program [FW4A Program]) aiming to provide free internet access in public places in the country. The law tasks DICT as the lead agency to oversee the effective and efficient implementation of the FW4A Program. The public places covered by RA No. 10929 include national and local government offices; public basic education institutions; state universities and colleges (SUCs), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) technology institutions; public hospitals, health centers, and rural health units; public parks, plazas, libraries, and barangay reading centers; public airports and seaports; and public transport terminals (ITU-UNESCO, 2019).

Significantly, prior thereto, RA No. 10844, the DICT Charter, which had taken effect on 23 May 2016, mandated DICT as the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national ICT development agenda. The law's implementation is through the DICT's Free Wi-Fi for All – Public Internet Access Program (commonly known as the Free Wi-Fi for All Program [FW4A Program]) aiming to provide free internet access in public places in the country. Specifically, the DICT is empowered to undertake policy and planning, ensure improved public

access, and foster resource-sharing and capacity-building, which include a role in disaster risk reduction.

DICT and UNDP partnership. In line with RA No. 10929, the DICT, in partnership with the UNDP in 2018, approved and implemented the DICT-UNDP PIPOL KONEK Project (later retitled as Free Wi-Fi for All [FWFA] Project), a component of the DICT-led National FW4A Program, with the goal of closing the country's digital divide. The project initially aimed to install 6,000 free public Wi-Fi access points in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas across the Philippines to bolster inclusive economic development. During implementation, international and local Internet Service Providers (ISP) were invited to bid for contracts to provide internet services in more than 50 provinces. The number of access points was eventually scaled down due to project difficulties encountered and discussed in the succeeding part.

Project challenges. The slow implementation of DICT's Free Wi-Fi projects was observed in 2018 and 2019, including those in partnership with the UNDP. In general, the project rollouts were hampered by various procurement issues and administrative bottlenecks. The low rate of FWFA Program implementation in 2019 was attributed to the failure of suppliers to mobilize due to lack of personnel and labyrinthine approval process of permits from the LGUs, local electric cooperatives, and co-location agreements, among others. Compliance of contract extensions to procurement rules and regulations also affected the continuity of the project in some areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic also brought about unforeseen challenges to the DICT-UNDP FWFA Project's contractor. Commercial issues arose between the contractor and its sub-contractor because of additional costs and - pandemic-induced operational difficulties. All this further led to protracted delays in implementation. This, and other issues faced by the Contractor, made the Office of the President instruct DICT to request UNDP to return the project funds to the Government. UNDP complied and returned USD 5.88 million to the Government in May 2021. After which, DICT requested UNDP to continue managing the remaining balance of the project. Despite these challenges, UNDP remains committed to DICT to manage the remaining resources and deliver on the commitments of the project.

Pandemic, connectivity, and resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic provides new challenges and opportunities for the FW4A program. The imposition of lockdown measures and mobility restrictions to curb the spread of the virus has further exacerbated the digital divide in the Philippines (The World Bank, 2020). As the pandemic led to rising automation and digitalization, disadvantaged women and men were deprived of access to information and basic public services, especially crucial ones pertaining to education and health. For instance, students, faculty, and non-faculty members in higher education institutions (HEIs), especially in rural and far-flung areas, have no or limited access to the internet, which halts the effective delivery of hybrid/modular learning and limits their online educational resources (Mercado, 2020; Pawilen, 2021). Mercado (2020) added that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) reported that as of June 2020, a few HEIs in the Philippines do not have Wi-Fi connectivity necessary to deliver flexible learning to students.

Despite the announcements of physical classes, the CHED gave a pronouncement that the country will adopt a hybrid learning setup for students who choose to attend online (Magsambol, 2021). This move aims to preserve the gains that the country reaps from investing in technology and connectivity. The opening up of face-to-face classes and adoption of a hybrid setup therefore still support the urgency to install free public Wi-Fi in HEIs. Providing free public Wi-Fi, therefore, presents another alternative channel for students to obtain information for their education. This advantage can be felt even after the pandemic is over, as public Wi-Fi is beneficial to students transitioning to a hybrid education setup in the new normal. Aside from assistance to education for development, the free public Wi-Fi will also assist in the country's public health response as outlined below.

The Philippines Digital Economy Report 2020: A Better Normal Under COVID-19 (Digitalizing the Philippine Economy Now) authored by the World Bank highlights that internet connectivity is a core strategy for addressing COVID-19 in the country. The dissemination of critical health information and provision of online health services, such as vaccine registration and tele-medicine consultation, remain a necessary and crucial part of the country's pandemic recovery (The World Bank, 2020).

The DICT mentions two specific reasons for the necessity to provide internet connectivity to public facilities such as vaccination centers, isolation/quarantine facilities, health centers, and hospitals. First, Wi-Fi access will allow health workers and local government agencies to access and submit data to concerned government committees (Dela Cruz, 2020) such as the Philippine COVID-19 Vaccine Information Management System (VIMS), a joint effort of the DICT and the DOH. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlights that the presence of quality and updated data is necessary for a country to address COVID-19. The pandemic is an ever-evolving challenge, which requires governments to maintain a good grip of disaggregated, updated, and reliable data to plan for short-term and long-term interventions in managing the pandemic.

Second, the free public Wi-Fi will allow healthcare frontliners to maintain contact with their loved ones and keep their morale high (Dela Cruz, 2020). In a forum held by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), mental health issues were identified as among the hardest challenges frontliners need to face (Visco, 2021). All these affirm the need to provide free Wi-Fi in COVID-19 areas, as connectivity helps to alleviate distress from lockdowns and fear of isolation and disease.

Given the above, another direct benefit of ensuring internet availability in COVID-19 testing, isolation, and vaccination facilities is for health and vaccination information provision to the public. Through public Wi-Fi access points, citizens can access relevant information about the developments in the pandemic situation and public health protocols being implemented by the government. This will help the country expand its vaccination campaign and achieve herd immunity the soonest, being the government's primary strategy to restore business and consumer confidence that is vital in the country's economic recovery.

The urgency to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and support the recovery efforts of the government was affirmed during the DICT-UNDP FW4A Project Board Meeting (PBM) held on 22 September 2021. It may be noted that DICT is a new member of the Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases under Executive Order No. (EO) 168 (2014) and chairs the sub-Technical Working Group for the ICT Systems. The IATF has resolved that public COVID-19 health facilities shall be provided with necessary connectivity. Specifically, the government stated that it shall expand the provision of free Wi-Fi to COVID-19 Bakuna (Vaccination) Centers (Office of the President - Presidential Management Staff 2021). Accordingly, DICT stated that providing internet services to the public COVID-19 related facilities is the new directive of its FW4A Program. In addition, to enhance accessibility to the internet and to support the vaccination program of the government, DICT will be providing some 4,000 free tablets to be used in the COVID-19 Bakuna (Vaccination) Centers.

As the country moves forward to a new normal in the coming years, the need for strengthened connectivity will continue to be significant to carry improvements in data management and digitalization of frontline government services. This new direction is supported by UNDP, together with other multilateral institutions, in line with their commitment towards the digitalization initiatives of governments (UN-ADB-UNDP 2021). DICT also requested UNDP for support in quality assurance through monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

Disaster preparedness and response, communications, connectivity, and resilience. The Philippines' vulnerability to natural disasters and calamities underscores the need for improved internet connectivity that are crucial in disaster risk reduction and management. On the average, 20 typhoons enter or develop in the Philippine Area of Responsibility each year (PAGASA, n.d.), putting the country among the nations with high economic risks from multiple hazards (World Bank, 2005) and at the 8th spot in the latest World Risk Index (WRR, 2021) due to extreme weather conditions. However, poor signal and low quality of internet services halt the dissemination of information that are critical to disaster preparedness such as weather updates, precautionary measures, and government warnings, among others (Ona et. al., 2019). The lack of funding and logistical challenges to invest in disaster-related information communications systems was seen as the underlying cause to this problem (Espina et. al., 2013). Ensuring the continuous provision of communication and/or internet services after the disaster is also equally important (Hiroki et. al., 2017). Access to information on the latest on-the-ground situation and developments are essential in retrieval, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the government. Internet connectivity is also needed in connecting disaster-stricken areas and victims to relevant government offices and their families. This was especially felt when in mid-December 2021, Super Typhoon Odette hit the southern provinces of the country and left significant damages, including in communications and connectivity. Three months after the Super Typhoon, mobile and internet services were still not fully restored in several municipalities. The experience from Odette highlighted the need for the government to ensure that it can provide emergency response for communications and connectivity. Disaster-resilience of digital infrastructures is necessary to ensure uninterrupted delivery of internet services in any type of calamity situations and amid worsening climate crisis (Hiroki et. al., 2017).

Under EO 34 (2017), the DICT has been added as a member of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council created under the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act or RA No. 10121 (2010). The EO took note that DICT “is responsible for the planning, development, and promotion of the country’s information and communications agenda in support of national development, and is indispensable in cascading timely, accurate, and reliable information in times of emergency and disaster” and it “play[s] important role in providing life preservation systems based on acceptable standards, during or immediately after a disaster.”

It shall be noted that while the health and climate issues provided challenges to output and service delivery of the FW4A project, the end outputs did not have a focus on health and climate crisis. In an emergency Project Board meeting held on 30 December 2021, the DICT proposed that the FW4A should adapt to the needs of the times, hence, it must also be responsive to health issues and be equipped for disasters and emergencies.

II. STRATEGY (*updated*)

Under the National Broadband Plan, outcomes *inter alia* of the DICT included accelerated investment on infrastructure for internet access and more places being connected (DICT 2017). With these, the DICT expects existing and new market players to invest and provide better internet services as well as use the emerging technologies that can be easily deployed to cater to more areas. The provision of internet access is also aligned with UNDP Philippines’ Country Programme Document 2019-2023 to increase the number of people accessing essential public services, including access to information and technology. In the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan of UNDP, strategic innovation and digitalization are identified as enablers of integrated development solutions.

The Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All (CoRe FW4A) Project aims to substantially contribute to addressing the issue of limited free public Wi-Fi internet accessibility among women and men in public places and in government offices. Responding to this problem will supplement learning, help augment the government’s disaster preparedness and response, and strengthen healthcare services. Site selection shall be done in collaboration with the DICT and other project partners so that sites are mutually exclusive of each other. This means that government offices which also function as healthcare offices will only constitute one site, even though both government offices and healthcare service units are recognized as separate units in this project. It also goes the same for sites in other public places. Ensuring that the sites are mutually exclusive will widen the geospatial coverage of the project and maximize the benefits of site installation and maintenance.

The long-term goal of the Project is **“Women and men are provided with access to free internet services in public places and government offices to supplement learning and help augment the government’s disaster preparedness and response and healthcare services.”** Below is the summary of the Theory of Change (TOC) of the Project while the risk registry can be found in Annex 4 for details of the project risks considered.

The TOC provides a sustained causal pathway for the CoRe FW4A Project to respond to development challenges in providing free Wi-Fi as well as maximizing the benefits of internet connectivity. Hence, the targeting in HEIs to improve access to learning, the local health facilities to strengthen the healthcare ICT ecosystem, and the local government units to harness the importance of communication for disaster preparedness and emergency response. ICT equipment with service will be complemented with capacity-building activities that will be provided to the staff members of DICT offices, public health facilities, and LGUs covered by the Project. The Project will also integrate gender equality in its assessment activities, implementation, and sustainability to ensure that the project reflects the role of marginalised gender identities, specifically women, in the ICT ecosystem.

For the goals of the CoRe FW4A Project to be realized, it is important that the DICT and UNDP leadership remain committed to delivering the intended results of the project. Policies of the national government must also continue towards the needs of the market to expand, with consideration of its affordability for the public, especially those marginalized and vulnerable, to access such services. Moreover, the relaxation of mobility restrictions because of the pandemic will further enhance internet service deployment activities. Local government offices must also recognize the significance of the internet in governance and providing public services, especially in crises and emergencies. Lastly, if the internet services are responsive to the users' needs, the implementation process is transparent, contingencies and redundancies are in place both by private entities and government agencies, and proper safeguards against threats and risks associated with the cyberspace public opinion will mostly remain favourable towards expansion of free public internet services and the CoRe FW4A Project.

At the center of the project management is managing risks and maintaining good relations between agencies concerned with service delivery. Vendors contracted by UNDP should ensure that they are aware of the requirements and reporting needs of the DICT dashboard and remain consistent with the development thrust of DICT. Metrics of internet service performance should be coordinated and consistent with DICT's contract management or internet service monitoring system. The CoRe FW4A Project Management Office (PMO) will also tap the DICT expert group for technical guidance, review, and recommendations.

- The results and recommendations of the FWFA Project Midterm Review and Evaluation Report (MTRE Report) conducted in 2021 also informed the design of the CoRe FW4A Project. The amendment to the project document adopts the key actions identified in the MTRE report. Significant observations from the MTRE considered in the amendments to the Project are the following:

1. More time, resources, and focus on social preparation activities to increase the readiness of the communities, local governments, and partners to receive the installations and facilitate their integration.
2. Provide in the comprehensive user plan for other national agencies to use the project primarily for delivery of basic services. The plan will also consider sustainability in terms

of project ownership, technological appropriateness, and stakeholder capacities with increased involvement of local government units and the private sector.

3. Need for a robust external and internal communication strategy to address the issue of poor optics.
4. Improve speeds of VSAT technology, if identified as a suitable connectivity option, by migrating from KU to KA bands, the latter using shorter wavelengths and thus accommodating higher bandwidths.
5. A more realistic project timeframe should be designed factoring in the disruptions with attendant adjustments in implementing government and agency financial arrangements.
6. It is important for the project to engage in futureproofing. It should be more anticipatory and consider incorporating adaptive management in plans and strategies that would future-proof project interventions leading to greater sustainability.

Theory of Change of the Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All (CoRe FW4A) Project					
Outcome	Women and men are provided with access to free internet services in public places and government offices to supplement learning and help augment the government's disaster preparedness and response, and healthcare services.				
Immediate Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhanced general internet accessibility in institutions such as HEIs and government healthcare facilities ● Improvement of educational and public health online interaction and activities ● Improvement of government welfare services as part of its economic and pandemic recovery plan ● Provide essential connectivity and ICT support to the government's vaccination program ● Enhanced expertise of DICT in delivering future free Wi-Fi services ● Enriched institutionalization of emergency preparedness and response of LGUs ● Enhanced role of women and other marginalized groups in ICT in development ● Enhanced standards and highlighted significance of establishing baseline data, monitoring, and intervention on key areas for development change 				
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies, strategies, and laws that promote enabling and regulated digital ecosystems that are affordable, accessible, trusted, and secure are in place ● NGAs and LGUs are supportive in instituting reforms and strategies related to digitization, and emergency preparedness and response ● Measures for women's access in a safe and secure cyber environment ● Public and private institutions leverage digital technologies in ways that improves people's lives 				
Output Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability of free public Wi-Fi in 2,000 access points in HEIs, and government healthcare and emergency facilities ● 300,000 unique end-users in designated HEIs and healthcare facilities can use free public Wi-Fi by end of the project ● 600 DICT, sub-national, and local government staff improved skills on installation and managing communications equipment and services ● 400 health facilities of LGUs provided with 4,000 ICT equipment by 16 DICT offices as support to encoding and transmission of vaccination data ● 300 sub-national and local government offices provided with emergency communications and connectivity suite ● ICT-based capacity for emergency preparedness and response of 300 sub-national and local government offices is enhanced ● Assessment of gaps, needs and experiences in ICT access is documented, including those of women and disadvantaged groups ● Project sustainability plan developed for free public internet services ● Evidenced-based report on capacity building activities LGUs and impact on free Wi-Fi users 				
Outputs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Output 1: Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites</td> <td>Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install and manage ICT and internet equipment and services,</td> <td>Output 3: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices</td> <td>Output 4: Project Management and Quality Assurance</td> </tr> </table>	Output 1: Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites	Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install and manage ICT and internet equipment and services,	Output 3: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices	Output 4: Project Management and Quality Assurance
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		and in ICT assessment and planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output 3a: Healthcare ICT ecosystem strengthened for rural health units, vaccination centers, and public hospitals • Output 3b: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency connectivity and communications improved for DICT, sub-national and local government offices
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in DICT and UNDP is supportive of the project direction • Government continues to ease restrictions on mobility • Selection of goods/service providers completed as per schedule • International and local market is responsive to the requirements of the project • Beneficiaries remain supportive of the project • Robust communication and advocacy plan is established and implemented • Appropriate contingency plan is built in the project implementation 		
Strategies and Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement (equipment, consultants, Internet Service Providers) • Contract management and quality assurance • Participatory project planning, design, and implementation • ICT assessment and studies • Monitoring, evaluation, documentation, and communication • Capacity building on ICT installation, maintenance and use for planning, operations, and emergency preparedness and response • Sustainability and exit plan formulation 		
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and men have limited access to free internet services in public places and in government offices; learning through digital technology is limited and government's disaster response and healthcare services are constrained due to limitations in connectivity 		

UNDP's support and value-adding include the following:

1. **Cost efficiency (i.e., access to a global network of service providers and experts, existing long-term agreements).** UNDP will be able to support DICT by using its own procurement system to access both national and international markets with a variety of modalities.
2. **Highest standards of transparency and accountability.** In 2020, UNDP ranked as the third most transparent development agency in the world according to the International Aid Transparency Index (IATI). UNDP consistently placed among the top 3 of the IATI in the last 6 years. UNDP assumes full accountability for the procurement of goods and services under its direct implementation modality, thus absorbing the legal risk on behalf of the government.
3. **Clear strategy to strengthen government capacity so that it can operate independently of external support.** UNDP will focus on strengthening capacity and initiating reforms that will enable the government to gradually take on full operational functions through a clear exit strategy.
4. **Exit strategy.** UNDP will gradually phase out its support based on the achievement of measurable milestones. This phased handover ensures the government and partners have the capabilities to implement the programme directly and deliver sustainable services, supported by accountable and resilient institutional systems without the need for external assistance.
5. **Legality of UNDP-Government partnership and Government financing.** The legality of this agreement is supported by the following documents:
 - UNDP Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA): Refer to Section IX: Legal Context.
 - Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Policy Matter Opinion 001-2015 (https://www.gppb.gov.ph/GPPBTSO_Non-Policy/1406) : The GPPB recognised the provisions of the 1977 SBAA as in faithful observance of the country's treaty and international obligations – *pacta sunt servanda*, such that procurement by UNDP utilising contributions or funds received from the GoP, pursuant to the 1977 SBAA is governed by the UNDP Financial Rules and Regulations, which embodies the processes, procedures, rules and regulations that the UNDP may adopt in the conduct of its procurement activities to implement identified UNDP development support services.
 - Commission on Audit Internal Memorandum released in 2015 confirmed exemption of UNDP Support Services from CoA's scope.
 - Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations for Republic Act 9184: released in 2016, Sec. 4.2, "Any Treaty or International or Executive Agreement to which the GoP is a signatory affecting the subject matter of the Act and this IRR shall be observed. In case of conflict between the terms of the Treaty or International or Executive Agreement and this IRR, the former shall prevail."

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS *(updated)*

This Project contributes to the overall goal of the DICT FW4A National Program towards closing the digital divide in the country through its mission to provide free Internet connectivity and access in public places nationwide.

The main outcome of the CoRe FW4A Project is to ensure that **women and men are provided with access to free internet services in public places and government offices to supplement learning and help augment the government's disaster preparedness and response and healthcare services.**

The CoRe FW4A Project will deliver the following:

Output 1. Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites *(No change in output statement; revised output targets)*

Free internet access in designated sites has a multiplier effect for the individual user and the country. For individuals, access to free internet service will spell access to opportunities posted online, such as job openings, scholarship applications, and events and data that align with their interests and needs. Internet connectivity is also instrumental for the country's economic recovery towards a post-pandemic and more developed future (The World Bank, 2020). The rollout of FW4A in HEIs supports the Philippine Development Plan's goal of enhancing the resilience of the country under the 'new normal' using digital technologies (NEDA, 2021). For instance, the provision of free Wi-Fi in HEIs will facilitate the continued learning of students while community quarantines and physical distancing measures are in place.

The Project will contract the services of firms to install and deliver managed free public Wi-Fi services in designated HEIs across the Philippines. Services will focus on providing access for disadvantaged groups, such as students in satellite campuses, women, communities surrounding the university/college grounds, and people engaged in frontline services of the HEIs. The performance of managed services contactors will be monitored by a dedicated PMO working in close coordination with the DICT, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and HEI focal persons.

Prior to the installation of Wi-Fi infrastructure, the Project shall roll out a social preparation plan which will include an orientation on the program, outline of the roles and responsibilities, commitment setting to ensure stakeholders support and setting channels for communications for monitoring and evaluation. The project will also solicit assistance for necessary administrative requirements and provision of security in the installation and operation of the network infrastructure. These will be done in recognition of each agency's mandates and what they can contribute most to attain the desired output.

The Project shall manage the contract of the service provider, to include installation and managed internet services for at least six months. At the time of operation and management, accountability may be either turned over to DICT or alternatively maintained by UNDP subject to a project extension and additional resources contributed to the Project. Where necessary, DICT will

also provide the middle mile and backbone connectivity for the target sites under this partnership. Meanwhile, the cost of the operation and maintenance of free public Wi-Fi sites set up under this project for succeeding years shall be provided by DICT, and managed either by DICT or UNDP.

Sustaining the managed internet services for HEIs will be assessed during project implementation, and a policy discussion note will be submitted to DICT for consideration. This activity is lodged under the reconfigured Output 2.

Output 2. Organize and develop the capacity of citizens to use, monitor delivery and installation of internet connections and performance of the free public internet service

(Reconfigured, and merged with previous Output on capacity building)

NEW Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install and manage ICT and internet equipment and services, and in ICT assessment and planning

DICT's mandate is to play a vital role in significantly expanding access to and application of internet and cloud-based computing services for the public and government agencies at local and national level. The CoRe FW4A, in close consultation with DICT and UNDP, will develop a comprehensive set of activities to strengthen the capacity of DICT staff to progressively take on and manage the procurement and implementation process for ICT-related services. These include technical training for staff of DICT and local government units; developing a sustainability plan for providing free internet access and for strengthening health and emergency response and preparedness of LGUs; and developing a methodology and GIS-based dashboard to assess and map the impacts of the national broadband program on socio-economic development through the Digital Hunger Study: Connectivity Mapping.

A needs assessment and survey monitoring activities will be conducted to guide the project in its capacity building activities and determine its immediate impact. The survey will be performed through an independent firm which will come up with the initial random selection of respondents. The initial respondents will then serve as the panel respondents for the succeeding survey monitoring activities.

The project will mainstream gender and ICT concerns as part of its assessment study. In addition, a specific study will be done focusing on gender and ICT to address Sections 10 and 11 of RA No. 10929 on the prohibition against access to pornography and protection of children, respectively. The study shall also consider Section 10 of the Philippines' Safe Spaces Act (RA No. 11313) specifically Article 2 which tackles the prevention of online sexual and gender-based harassment. The role of gender will also be considered in the Digital Hunger Study: Connectivity Mapping in ICT planning of the DICT and local governments in the future. Overall, the Project will ensure that the performance of service providers will especially benefit women and girls who are less likely to access the internet for lack of resources (see Jorge, 2020).

Output 3: Develop the capacity of DICT to contract and oversee the performance of internet service providers

(Reconfigured and merged with Output 2)

NEW Output 3: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices

Output 3a: Healthcare ICT ecosystem strengthened for rural health units, vaccination centers, and public hospitals

A strong ICT ecosystem will fortify health service delivery, especially for populations with special needs such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and children who are vulnerable to specific sectoral illnesses (see WHO, 2021). Aside from this, ICT will also enable a more economical healthcare service that requires less costs from both the government and the individual patients. Through services such as teleconsulting or telemedicine, patients can save time and resources as they do not have to travel to the hospital anymore. The resources saved due to strong ICT availability can then be reappropriated elsewhere, such as medicines or other healthcare activities.

For women, better ICT for healthcare is most important for accessing information on gendered health risks and women-centred advocacies (see MacLellan, 2017), such as breast cancer, cervical cancer, or pregnancy concerns. Women and children will also benefit from the availability of virtual medical services given that women and children are less able to travel to hospitals and avail of government healthcare services due to constraints in their mobility (see Dupas and Jain, 2021). These constraints are not only because family resources are unevenly allocated to favour men but also due to the threats of gender-based harassment on the way to health care centers. On the other hand, better ICT will also enable women to participate in and benefit from advocacies that target women's well-being (McLellan, 2017), which upholds their psychological health as much as their physical health.

Free Wi-Fi is an enabler in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. This is shown by the April 2020 DICT Memorandum that seeks to provide adequate and free Wi-Fi access in quarantine areas. Recovering from the pandemic means strengthening the country's ICT ecosystem, especially on disseminating information to citizens. The Project will ensure that local government units, the institutions that are able to liaise with citizens, have enough equipment to uphold connectivity and make information available to citizens.

The Project will also support the government's effort to integrate its health services in the digital space (e.g., telehealth, online vaccine registration, app-based contact tracing, etc.). Free Wi-Fi will benefit vaccination centers where information is crucial, not only in terms of details about the vaccine, but also in terms of uploading vaccinated people's records and updating people on new vaccination protocols. The Project will provide 4,000 tablets and managed internet services in 400 rural health units, vaccination centers, and public hospitals with 6 months of service. This is in

line with the policy and role of DICT to support information and communication technology that advances an enabling environment where the access to free public internet is aligned to the needs and context of the times, in this case the ongoing pandemic. Hence, provision of tablets to healthcare facilities will display to maximize and effectively use the free public Wi-Fi not only for information dissemination but for healthcare facilities to store and transmit COVID-19 related data as well. Relevant Apps which will be used by the healthcare facilities will be installed in the tablets. Vaccination data can then be submitted to concerned government agencies, such as the Philippine COVID-19 Vaccine Information Management System (VIMS) through utilization of online vaccination certificate portal VaxCert, which is a joint venture between the DOH and the DICT. Providing support to strengthening the healthcare ICT ecosystem, then, is an addition to the already existing effort of DICT to partner with DOH, and this time, with LGUs. The Project will seek guidance of the DICT in identifying where the 4,000 tablets will be delivered as well as the location of the RHUs where the managed internet services will be provided. ICT ecosystem from connectivity to applications will be integrated and will be of holistic service and impact to the communities.

Output 3b: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency connectivity and communications improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices

Considering the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and its adverse impact on information dissemination, the Project will provide emergency communications and connectivity equipment suite for 300 municipalities in 15 eastern seaboard or highly vulnerable provinces according to DENR's Risk Resiliency Program (Annex 8). This will include fly away VSATs (with case and access points), 6 months of service, satellite phones, two-way base and mobile radios, and generator sets. This output aims to assist vulnerable LGUs in helping them to sustain and/or swiftly restore internet connectivity in the locality during and/or after the onslaught of calamities and to quickly respond to the urgent needs of their communities. Pre-positioning these equipment suites and training local government officers in their installation and use will strengthen the disaster preparedness and humanitarian and emergency response operations efforts in the country. To achieve this, the connectivity needs of the target provinces will be first assessed, while training on community infrastructure ownership will also be conducted on prospective beneficiaries. The Project will also conduct consultations on how to integrate the provided equipment and services to local disaster preparedness and response and plan to ensure its sustained implementation, in coordination with the Office of Civil Defence, among others.

Improving the disaster preparedness and response of DICT offices and LGUs will have a double benefit for society and for women empowerment. Women are less able to access climate information via established communication technologies, yet women are also among the first responders protecting their families when disasters hit (see International Telecommunication Union, 2020). By ensuring that local governments have emergency connectivity that is freely accessible to anyone, the Project will promote the significant role of women in enhancing the disaster resilience of communities in the process. More importantly, this output will also empower them in terms of decision-making for climate emergencies.

The gender-based vulnerability to disaster must be considered together with providing ICT equipment and services to the LGUs. It is important to note that gender does not only mean women but includes other minoritized identities that become more vulnerable to calamity shocks. However, because women are excluded in many development and climate response strategies (see UNDP, 2010), paying explicit attention to women will iron out the implementation of projects related to ICT. During disasters, women and children become more vulnerable (OCHA, 2020) across the distinct phases of climate disasters namely, their risk perception, exposure to risk, preparedness for climate disasters, physical impact of climate disasters, psychological impact of calamities, response to these calamities, recovery, and reconstruction (UNDP 2010; WHO, 2002). This means that women and children have a less informed perception of risk that negatively impacts their disaster preparedness and response. Moreover, women and children also find it more difficult to connect with support networks to aid in their reconstruction efforts as well as their psychological recovery during the pandemic. All these will be alleviated when ICT resources are provided to them. In line with these, the monitoring and evaluation of the CoRe FW4A Project shall include indicators such as the number of women who can access information related to typhoon, flooding, and earthquakes; number of women who can acquire information on socio-economic opportunities that will help them bounce back from the economic shocks of the disaster; as well as the number of women who can communicate their needs and seek support related to climate disasters.

Output 4: Project Management and Quality Assurance *(Updated)*

The CoRe FW4A PMO is organized to implement day-to-day project activities with a direct reporting line to the UNDP Programme Team and close coordination with DICT offices and officials, through the DICT FW4A PMO. Moreover, the CoRe FW4A PMO will manage the contracts and ensure quality and timely delivery of equipment and services, also in close coordination with the DICT. Joint monitoring visits, both at technical and Project Board level, and quality assurance activities will be coordinated and conducted regularly by the CoRe FW4A PMO, where accomplishments, lessons learned, as well as risks will be reported to the Project Board (detailed discussions in Section IV. Project Management and Section VIII. Governance and Management Arrangements).

Key Partners

Commission on Higher Education (CHED). CHED has the mandate to formulate and recommend development plans, policies, priorities, and programs on higher education. This will help in rationalizing the communication and coordination with the different HEIs hence, CHED will also be a strategic partner in delivering target output for HEIs. Specifically, CHED is expected to provide a list of key HEIs where the free Wi-Fi will be maximised, and where institutional organisation is capable of handling the bureaucracy of managing free Wi-Fi for students. DICT CO and regional office will then validate the list provided by CHED and share with UNDP in the planning phase of the Project. CHED may also assist in project monitoring, especially through tapping the research committees of designated HEIs where Wi-Fi access points are installed.

Department of Health (DOH). The Project will have the Department of Health as one of its partners as the head agency responsible for the pandemic response and recovery. The Project will also refer to the department on the list of most suitable and priority RHUs, vaccination centers, and public hospitals to be connected with free Wi-Fi. Vaccination and health information management using VaxCert could be strengthened and ensure that relevant information is provided to the public. The information will be made available through the Wi-Fi access points as well as the equipment, such as tablets, that will be provided to the local government units.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG): As the oversight body of local government units, DILG can provide a key role in laying the administrative framework for the installation of Wi-Fi technology in the form of a memorandum circular to all LGUs. DILG's inputs and guidance in the assessment of gaps and needs, both in terms of human resource capacities and equipment, will be crucial to the Project.

Local Government Units (LGUs): A key partner in this project will be the local governments, who can play a critical role in identifying project sites and beneficiaries and facilitating mobility and security of service providers working on the ground. Given that the Project will provide communications equipment and services to local government units, their active participation in the assessment of gaps and needs, both in terms of human resource capacities and equipment, will be crucial to the Project.

Office of Civil Defence (OCD). The Project will be implemented in close coordination with the OCD to ensure the responsiveness and adaptiveness of the communications and connectivity equipment to disaster preparedness and response. Specifically, the OCD can provide the necessary technical requirements for digital and communications infrastructure amid the threat of strong typhoons and other calamities. The DICT Office of the Undersecretary for Resilient Government and Emergency Communications through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Division will have a key role in channelling the OCD and coordinating the Project to other initiatives of the DICT and the government on emergency communications.

Academe and Civil Society Organizations. The Project will seek partnership and assistance for technical design, assessment, or evaluations and may consult with experts from the academe and CSOs, given their on-the-ground presence and local knowledge.

Sustainability Plan

Reports on the services rendered and documentation shall be handed over to DICT which will have the decision on continuing the service beyond the contracts and project duration. Assessment of improvements in terms and/or specifications such as increasing the bandwidth or observations/learnings on the ground during implementation shall be in the recommendations during the turnover. In addition, another major factor that will determine sustainability is the determination of what cost components are covered by the public subsidy. Funding for operating

expenses shall be in the direction of DICT. Partners such as local government and concerned agencies can contribute to the sustainability and continuity of the services provided by the Project.

The inclusion of training sessions with the stakeholders on how to operate and manage the equipment and services is crucial to the sustainability of the Project. Community ownership will take a significant role in ensuring that the equipment will continue to be used and services can be maintained beyond the Project.

Meanwhile, the persisting threat of extreme weather conditions in the Philippines will also likely continue highlighting the need for reliable internet connection to improve the country's disaster preparedness, response, and risk reduction. This requires that the Project ensures typhoon-proof Wi-Fi infrastructure and communication equipment.

The sustainability plan under Output 2 shall suggest measures to continually improve the implementation and sustainability of the sites and the DICT Free Wi-Fi for All Program. The study is expected to contribute to discussions on sustainability of the communications infrastructures in terms of technical, logistical, deployment, service, identifying social and workforce needs, inputs for policy in aid to legislation, and exploration of operational business models, among others.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT *(updated)*

The Project shall be implemented by UNDP as the Implementing Partner (please see detailed discussions in Section VIII. Governance and Management Arrangements) on behalf of the DICT. Under this arrangement, the CoRe FW4A Project Management Office (PMO) shall implement the day-to-day activities from preparation of terms of references of service providers, to support in technical review of proposals, to contract management and monitoring, communications, project monitoring and documentation, reporting of results, and coordination of evaluation. The CoRe FW4A PMO shall closely coordinate with the DICT FW4A Project Management Office and shall conduct at least monthly reporting and updating. The CoRe FW4A PMO will be guided in making strategic decisions by the TWG and the Project Board and may also seek advice from DICT Experts Group for technical guidance throughout the project duration.

The list of sites and suitable agencies to benefit in the provision of equipment and services of the Project shall be drawn up with DICT's guidance and approval, with inputs from relevant partner agencies such as CHED, DOH and DILG. The list shall undergo verification from the DICT regional offices to ensure that the sites selected under this Project do not duplicate ongoing deployment of DICT in its other projects and contracts. The selection and prioritisation will be governed by principles that carefully balance practical and economic feasibility, as well as ensuring a development impact for the disadvantaged.

All items to be procured by the Project shall follow the procurement process under UNDP's Financial Rules and Regulations. Technical specifications of equipment and services shall be consulted with and concurred by DICT prior to any procurement transaction.

Sample testing, approval of the delivery of equipment, installation, and services will be conducted by CoRe FW4A PMO together with the DICT FW4A PMO whenever possible. For installation and services with recurring approvals, the CoRe FW4A PMO will submit site survey results from contractors to DICT FW4A PMO for approval to synergize with the initiatives of the DICT National Free Public Wi-Fi Access Program. DICT FW4A PMO will approve sites that are not yet in their pipeline and should be consistent with the provided list during the planning phase. Approval shall be documented through a Certificate of Approval indicating surveyed sites and other relevant information for both PMOs to assess the accuracy of sites. The CoRe FW4A PMO will then take the lead in accepting the sites and their services rendered to be concurred by DICT FW4A PMO towards payment consistent with the terms of reference of the contract. Service level agreements shall be in place to ensure the quality of services that the Project is delivering to the people. Acceptance shall be documented through a Certificate of Acceptance upon successful delivery of services.

Assets and equipment may be turned over to DICT anytime during the project implementation phase, and preferably before project end date. This shall commence with a letter request for transfer or donation of assets from DICT and effected through a deed of donation or transfer title from UNDP. The process shall follow UNDP's asset management documentary requirements (physical inventory, Statement of Asset and Equipment, Asset Disposal and Transfer, among others).

Project extension and or any further amendments to the Project Document, including annual work plans, budget revisions/amendments above 15 percent of approved output level, shall be presented to and approved by the Project Board through its Project Board Meeting, or via a referendum - a formal exchange of letters between UNDP and DICT.

The Project shall harness synergies to other development projects of DICT, UNDP, and other partners, especially since the digital revolution is on the horizon for many organizations. Coordinating during the planning of activities and results shall be given attentio

<p>RESULTS FRAMEWORK (updated)</p>	<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the UN PFSD Results and Resource Framework:</p> <p>Outcome 1: The most marginalized, vulnerable, and at-risk people and groups benefit from inclusive and quality services and live in a supportive environment wherein their nutrition, food security, and health are ensured/protected.</p>
<p>Output indicator as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:</p> <p>1.1. Government capacities enhanced to utilize resources and track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>1.1.3. <i>Number of people accessing essential public services with UNDP assistance. [IRRF 1.1.2.1]</i></p> <p>1.2.1 <i>Number of UNDP-assisted NGAs and LGUs implementing reforms and innovations for delivery and monitoring of services, public finance management, or public procurement.</i></p>	<p>Applicable Output(s) and Output Indicator from the UNDP Strategic Plan:</p> <p>E.1 People and institutions equipped with strengthened digital capabilities and opportunities to contribute to and benefit from inclusive digital societies</p> <p>E.1.1 Number of policies, strategies and laws that promote enabling and regulated digital ecosystems that are affordable, accessible, trusted, and secure</p> <p>E.1.2 Number of public and private institutions that leverage digital technologies in ways that improve people’s lives at Sub-national level</p> <p>E.1.3 Number of people using digital technologies and services in ways that improve their lives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Female ● Male ● In urban areas ● In rural areas
<p>E.2 Innovation capabilities built, and approaches adopted to expand policy options at global, regional, national and sub-national levels</p> <p>E.2.2 Number of innovative solutions adopted by programme partners, which expanded policy and development options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New and emerging data 	<p>Project Outcome Statement:</p> <p>Women and men are provided with access to free internet services in public places and government offices to supplement learning and help augment the government's disaster preparedness and response and healthcare services.</p>

Project Title and Atlas Project Number: Connectivity, Capability, and Resiliency through Free Wi-Fi for All (CoRe FW4A) - 00113425											
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE				2024	2023	2022	2021	DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
			Value	Year	2022	2023					
Output 1 Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites	1.1. Number of APs in HEIs connected with free public Wi-Fi	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	40	2021	960	300	0	1,300	1,300	Quarterly progress reports, Annual progress report	
	1.2. Number of users provided with access to the internet	NMS dashboard, Survey	1,905	2021	161,095	47,000	0	210,000	210,000	Questionnaires, Network Management System, Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report	
Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install and manage ICT and internet equipment and services, and including in ICT assessment	2.1. Number of studies conducted on ICT mapping, planning, and assessment	Project and consultant's report	0	2021	1	0	0	1	1	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report; Extant Report	
	2.2. Number of ICT capacity and equipment needs assessment for LGUs	Project and consultant's report	0	2021	1	0	0	1	1	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report; Extant Report and Documents	

and planning	2.3. Number of DICT and local government staff provided with technical training on ICT infrastructure and systems	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	90	2021	300	300	300	0	600	600	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report, DICT reports
	2.4. Number of survey activities conducted for longitudinal study	Project and consultant's report	0	2021	1	2	3	0	3	3	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report; Extant Report and Documents
	2.5. Sustainability plan on free Wi-Fi implementation accepted by DICT	Project and consultant's report	0	2021	1	0	1	0	1	1	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report; Extant Report and Documents
Output 3: Disaster preparedness and response for emergency including health-related connectivity and communications resiliency improved for DICT, sub-national and local government offices											
Output 3a Healthcare and COVID-19 ICT ecosystem strengthened for rural health units, vaccination centers, and	3a.1 Number of sub-national government offices and/or health facilities provided with ICT equipment to transmit vaccination data	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	0	2021	400	0	400	0	400	400	Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report, DICT report

public hospitals	3a.2 Number of free Wi-Fi access points in RHUs and public hospitals installed	NMS dashboard, Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	0	2021	0	400	400	0	400	400	NMS, Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report
	3a.3 Number of users in RHUs and public hospitals provided with access to the internet	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	0	2021	0	55,000	55,000	0	55,000	55,000	NMS, Quarterly progress report, Annual progress report
Output 3b Disaster preparedness for emergency connectivity and communication s improved for DICT, sub-national, and local government offices	3b.1 Number of municipal and provincial LGUs provided with connectivity suite for emergency preparedness and response	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	0	2021	250	50	300	0	300	300	Quarterly progress report, Annual progress report, DICT report
	3b.2. Number of users able to access the internet connectivity	NMS dashboard, Survey	0	2021	15,000	20,000	35,000	0	35,000	35,000	Network Management System, Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report
	3b.3. Number of LGU staff trained on ICT-based capacity for emergency	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and	0	2021	300	300	600	0	600	600	Quarterly progress report; Annual progress report, Attendance

	preparedness and response	evaluation reports											sheet, Extant Report and Documents
Output 4 Project Management and Quality Assurance	4.1 Number of organized project monitoring and quality assurance activities	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	2	2021	5	5	2	14	14	14			BTOR, Quarterly progress reports, Annual progress report,
	4.2 Number of organized project board meetings	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	2	2021	4	4	2	12	12	12			PBM minutes of the meeting, Quarterly progress report, Annual progress report
	4.3. Number of evaluations conducted	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	1	2021	0	1	0	2	2	2			TOR of IC, Quarterly progress reports; Annual progress report; Extant Report and Documents
	4.4. Number of audits conducted	Monitoring (regular reporting, reviews) and evaluation reports	0	2021	0	1	0	1	1	1			M&E Systems

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN *(updated)*

In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the monitoring and evaluation plan detailed below. Effective monitoring must, at a minimum, inform analysis and decision-making related to:

- a. Results: An analysis of collected evidence against programming indicators, comprising baselines, milestones, targets and progress data at outcome and output levels, and including an assessment of why progress against results is above, at or below targets.
- b. Theory of change: An analysis of the programming approach and results against the defined theory of change to test the validity of the assumptions, and to consider alternatives, risks and cost effectiveness.
- c. Quality: An analysis of programming quality conducted against quality standards.
- d. Risks: An assessment of risks and analysis of risk management plans and implementation against the current programming situation.
- e. Operational performance: An analysis of operational performance against plans and corporate benchmarks.
- f. Knowledge: Analysis of evaluation recommendations and lessons from within the programme or project and beyond

Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
<p>Risk Monitoring and Management</p>	<p>Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk register. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.</p>	<p>DICT and CoRe FW4A PMO</p>	<p>USD 407,883.61</p>
<p>Monthly Project Meetings</p>	<p>Ensure that monthly project activities and deliverables are monitored and executed according to the project work plan (including scope, timeline, and cost) by the project management.</p> <p>Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.</p>	<p>Monthly</p>	<p>Necessary course corrections to be taken by the project management if there are delays in deployment and financial deliverables.</p> <p>Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.</p>	<p>DICT and CoRe FW4A PMO</p>	

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
<p>Quarter, Annual and Final Project Reports</p>	<p>Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analyzed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs.</p> <p>Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.</p> <p>Progress reports will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk register with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.</p>	<p>Quarterly, annually, and at the end of the project (final report)</p>	<p>Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.</p> <p>Updates and progress on the delivery, schedule, cost, and other program factors will be provided to the Programme and DICT PMO to ensure alignment and direction against scope and objectives</p>	<p>CoRe FW4A PMO</p>	
<p>Project Board Meetings</p>	<p>The Project Board will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project and its constituent projects.</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to</p>	<p>Project Board co-chairpersons and members</p>	

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
Field visit/site visits	<p>Obtain first-hand and on-site feedback and information from partners and beneficiaries. It can also provide context to the staff on the benefits and challenges encountered by the project. Human stories will be collected and communicated. Further, the visit can serve as a venue for assessing gaps, needs and client satisfaction.</p> <p>At least one Project Board per year shall be done in a project site</p>	Quarterly	<p>address the issues identified.</p> <p>Provide feedback to Programme, DICT, other partners, and contractors on the status on-site.</p>	<p>DICT and CoRe FW4A PMO</p> <p>Project Board co-chairpersons and members</p>	
Annual Project Review	<p>Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that</p>	Annually	<p>Relevant lessons are documented and will be applied in future implementation of the project. There might be a need to realign the project targets in the incoming year based on the results of the annual project review.</p>	<p>Project Board co-chairpersons and members</p> <p>DICT and CoRe FW4A PMO</p>	

Monitoring Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Action	Partners (If joint)	Cost (If any)
	these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.				
Final Project/Terminal Report and Lessons Learned	The Project's Terminal or Final Project Report (FPR) sums up the level of the project's accomplishments in meeting its committed results. The FPR will also highlight the breakthroughs and innovative contributions of the project in the field of coordination system development which are worth replicating in similar projects to be undertaken in other countries. Results from the Project will be disseminated within and beyond the Project intervention through information sharing networks and/or through publications.	During the last year of project implementation	Relevant lessons are documented and will be applied in future implementation of similar or other projects.	DICT and CoRe FW4A PMO	

Evaluation Plan

<p>Mid-Term and Terminal Evaluation</p>	<p>The midterm and terminal evaluations (MTRE) are conducted to inform decisions on the future of the project, such as whether to scale up or replicate it, and/or generate lessons for the organization and partners. All evaluations should be designed and conducted according to the United Nations Evaluation Group norms and standards. When requested by the government, it should also align with the National Evaluation Policy Framework. In July 2021, the project completed its Mid-term review and evaluation (refer to link for the FWFA MTRE Report). Project evaluations should always assess the project's contribution to outcome level change. They should not be limited to assessing the delivery of outputs and activities. Senior managers are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate human and financial resources are allocated for project evaluations, and that a management response is prepared in a timely manner.</p>	<p>Mid-term evaluation completed June 2021</p> <p>During the last year of project implementation (Terminal evaluation)</p>	<p>Assess the project's contribution to outcome level change. The mid-term and terminal evaluations will determine the follow-up actions that needs to be taken by the Programme Team.</p>	<p>DICT, UNDP, and Project stakeholders</p>	<p>USD 45,000.00</p>
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VII. 2022-2024 MULTI-YEAR WORK PLAN²

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	2022								2023				2024		RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Funding Source	PLANNED BUDGET (USD)	
		Q 1	Q 2	Q3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Budget Description		Amount					
Output 1: Broader people's access to free internet services in designated sites	1. Procurement and delivery of additional managed Internet service for 6 months		X	X	X	X	X	X	X							UNCTAD	DICT	Contractual Services-Companies	2,296,551.20
	2. Project monitoring and communications; launch; public relations, and project visibility																	Local Consultants Learning Cost Travel Supplies	
Output 2: Capacity of DICT and local government units strengthened to install, manage ICT and internet equipment and services, and in ICT assessment and planning	1. Digital Hunger Study: Assessment and mapping of national and sub-national broadband programme connectivity needs for COVID-19 and future crisis response															UNCTAD	DICT	Contractual Services-Companies	509,147.50

² See Annex 6 for 2018-2021 Multi-year Work Plan

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT *(updated)*

The project shall be implemented through Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), and therefore bound by DIM rules and regulations under UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). Under DIM, UNDP is the Implementing Partner, responsible and accountable for the effective use of resources and management of the project. DICT remains as co-chairperson of the Project Board, the highest decision-making body of the project. The Department will provide oversight and guidance during project design and implementation.

A **Project Board** shall be established with DICT and UNDP as co-chairpersons. This Project Board will maintain the highest level of oversight over the CoRe FW4A Project and be responsible in approving the key project execution decisions. The Project Board shall also review the progress of the project including monitoring and evaluation, as well as risk assessment, quality assessment, and delivery reports. Consequently, the Project Board shall also decide on actions, corrective or prospective, that will ensure the efficient delivery of outputs. These decisions shall be made in accordance with the Quality Standards for Programming using relevant, credible, and updated data. Finally, the Project Board shall also be accountable to protect against fraud or conflicts of interests surrounding the Project.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include the following:

- Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and promote gender equality and social inclusion (Leave No One Behind) in the project implementation;
- Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- Provide guidance on emerging and/or pressing project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks (including ensuring compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, Fraud/corruption, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment);
- Agree or decide on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters set by the Board, and provide direction and decisions for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded;
- Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by Board;
- Agree or decide on a project suspension or cancellation, if required;
- Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
- Receive and address project level grievance, including overseeing whatever specific compliance and stakeholder response (or grievance) mechanisms have been put in place so that individuals and communities potentially affected by the project have access to effective mechanisms and procedures for raising concerns about the social and environmental performance of the project.
- Ensure coordination with multiple government agencies and their participation in project activities;

- Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including standard quality assurance checks, progress reports, risk logs, spot checks/audit reports and the combined delivery report;
- Approve the Project Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
- Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up; and
- Providing guidance or reporting protocols to technical committees or sub-bodies reporting to the Board (if applicable).

The Project Board shall meet at least every quarter and shall provide strategic guidance and direction regarding the implementation of the project. Any changes deemed necessary to the strategy and annual work plan, including the revision of outputs and any budget allocation, realignment, and/or reallocation, shall be discussed and approved at the Project Board level, which may initiate amendment of the project document, annual work plan, and/or Project line-item budget subject to the mutual written approval of the DICT and the UNDP. These amendments shall be formalized via an exchange of letters between DICT and UNDP. Any reallocation of funds shall be related to CoRe FW4A Project activities.

The Project Board shall be composed of the following:

- **Co-Chairpersons:** DICT Secretary and the UNDP Resident Representative (UNDP Deputy Resident Representative as alternate)
- **Members: Identified DICT offices** such as Office of the Undersecretary for Digital Philippines (OUDP), Office of the Undersecretary for Resilient Governance and Emergency Communications (OURGEC), and Digital Philippines Portfolio Management Group (DP-PMG). Specifically, the DICT offices may provide significant guidance to outputs: DP-PMG (Output 2), OUDP (Outputs 1 and 3a), and OURGEC (Output 3b). DICT may designate other offices to join the project board as deemed appropriate.
- **Project Board Advisors** composed of government officials from DOH, DILG, CHED, stakeholders, and civil society who may be invited to attend Project Board meetings, when necessary. Decision-making shall not be hampered by incomplete attendance of the advisors as PB co-chairpersons should have a deciding stake in the Project.

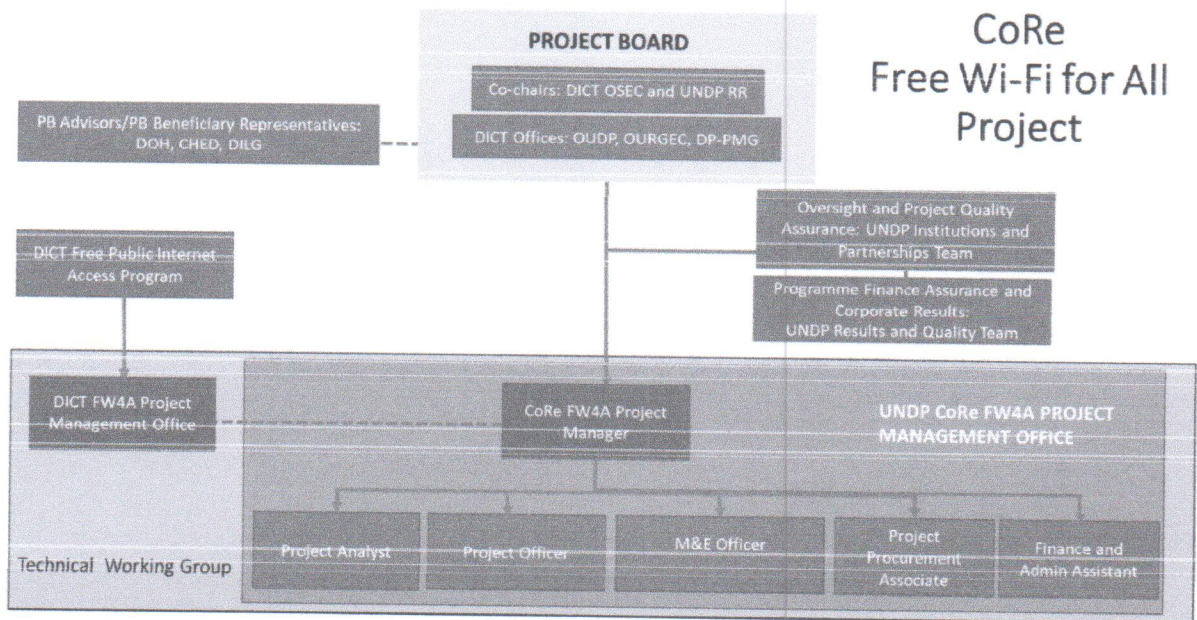
A **Technical Working Group (TWG)** shall be established under the project with DICT FW4A PMO and the UNDP CoRe FW4A PMO as members. The TWG shall meet on a monthly – or as needed – basis to discuss physical and financial progress, as well as technical and administrative matters. The TWG shall also discuss sensitive matters (such as political issues at the local level) and decide on information and/or documentation that should not be disclosed. In addition, the TWG will take the lead in data gathering and monitoring as well as share information, evidence, and lessons learned to ensure the smooth implementation of the project and overcome the challenges that will hinder achievement of the project objectives. The TWG will have the authority to decide on matters at the project activity level to be able to carry out the intent of the Project Board but shall be mindful not to encroach upon the responsibilities of the latter. If necessary, the TWG shall also be joined by the OUDP, OURGEC, and DP-PMG specially if relevant discussions on the assigned

Outputs are made. Further, they may seek the assistance of the PB Advisors to assist them in project implementation. The TWG will also be responsible for coordinating the Project Board meetings as well as inform the PB members of emerging issues that will impact the project. An ad hoc group composed of technical ICT experts from DICT and, as necessary, consultants, shall also be convened to guide and advise the PMO on technical requirements of procurement items.

The **UNDP CoRe FW4A Project Management Office (PMO)** will be created to implement the day-to-day activities of the project and coordinate with the DICT Free Wi-Fi Public Access Program through the DICT FW4A PMO. The UNDP CoRe FW4A PMO will consist of a Project Manager, Project Analyst, Project Officer, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, a Project Procurement Associate and a Finance and Administrative Assistant. Consultants shall be contracted for specific deliverables as needed. The UNDP CoRe FW4A PMO shall hold office in the UNDP Country Office.

Project oversight and quality assurance shall be performed by the UNDP Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team. The UNDP Results and Quality Team shall also be engaged for results and programme finance-related assurance activities.

As maybe necessary and depending on risk thresholds, the project will undergo a DIM audit through the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations.



IX. LEGAL CONTEXT (standard UNDP text)

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and UNDP, signed on 21 July 1977. All references in the SBAA to “Executing Agency” shall be deemed to refer to “Implementing Partner.”

This project will be implemented by UNDP (“Implementing Partner”) in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices, and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT (standard UNDP text)

1. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the project funds are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (<http://www.undp.org/ses>) and related Accountability Mechanism (<http://www.undp.org/secu-srm>).
4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
5. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.

6. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [*or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document*], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall:
 - i. put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
 - b. UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
 - c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
 - d. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
 - e. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
 - f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

- g. UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document. Such an amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement.

Where such funds have not been refunded to UNDP, the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient agrees that donors to UNDP (including the Government) whose funding is the source, in whole or in part, of the funds for the activities under this Project Document, may seek recourse to such responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient for the recovery of any funds determined by UNDP to have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Document.

Note: The term "Project Document" as used in this clause shall be deemed to include any relevant subsidiary agreement further to the Project Document, including those with responsible parties, subcontractors and sub-recipients.

- h. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.
- i. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- j. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, *mutatis mutandis*, in all its sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14NIIPITrspiOXBTaz5gVBPPv60DRc30T>

1. List of Revisions in the Project Document
2. Project Quality Assurance Report
3. Social and Environmental Screening
4. Risk Log
5. 5a. FWFA Initiation Plan and Cost-Sharing Agreement (2018)
5b. Original Project Document (2018)
6. Multi Year Work Plan (2018-2021)
7. 7a. DICT-UNDP FWFA 2nd Project Board Minutes of the Meeting (22 Sept 2021)
7b. DICT-UNDP FWFA Emergency Project Board Minutes of the Meeting (30 Dec 2021)
8. List of Eastern Seaboard Provinces and Highly Vulnerable Provinces according to DENR's Risk Resiliency Program
9. List of Acronyms
10. List of References