



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

THE NATIONAL ICT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

ABRIDGED VERSION

Digitally Empowered Philippines

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OVERVIEW

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), as mandated under Republic Act 10844, is the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch responsible for planning, developing, and promoting the National ICT Development Agenda (NICTDA). In fulfillment of this mandate, the DICT presents the NICTDA a comprehensive blueprint that charts the strategic direction for the Philippines' digital transformation from 2025 through 2028 and beyond.

The NICTDA is built on the conviction that technology holds the power to positively transform every aspect of Filipino society. It envisions a future where the Philippines fully harnesses the potential of digital innovation enabling diverse individuals, businesses, and communities to thrive in the digital age. This agenda is not merely a government initiative; it is a call to action for the whole nation, guided by the principle of Digital Bayanihan collective collaboration across government, private sector, civil society, and communities to achieve shared digital goals.

To achieve these goals, the NICTDA outlines six key ICT Development Agendas, each designed to drive progress and ensure that the benefits of digital innovation reach every corner of the Philippines. The NICTDA is aligned with international frameworks including the ITU Connect 2030 Agenda, the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nationally, it supports the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 and Ambisyon Natin 2040, which highlight innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable growth as central to the country's long-term prosperity.

VISION

A Digitally Empowered Philippines

Where the transformative power of technology drives economic growth, improves the quality of life, and builds a more inclusive and connected nation where every Filipino thrives in the digital age.

MISSION

Lead. Connect. Empower.

To lead an inclusive, secure, and sustainable national ICT ecosystem that empowers Filipinos through strategic policy, accessible ICT infrastructure, and affordable digital connectivity.

₱2.25T

Digital Economy GVA
(2024)

8.5%

Share of National GDP

86.98M

Internet Users (2024)

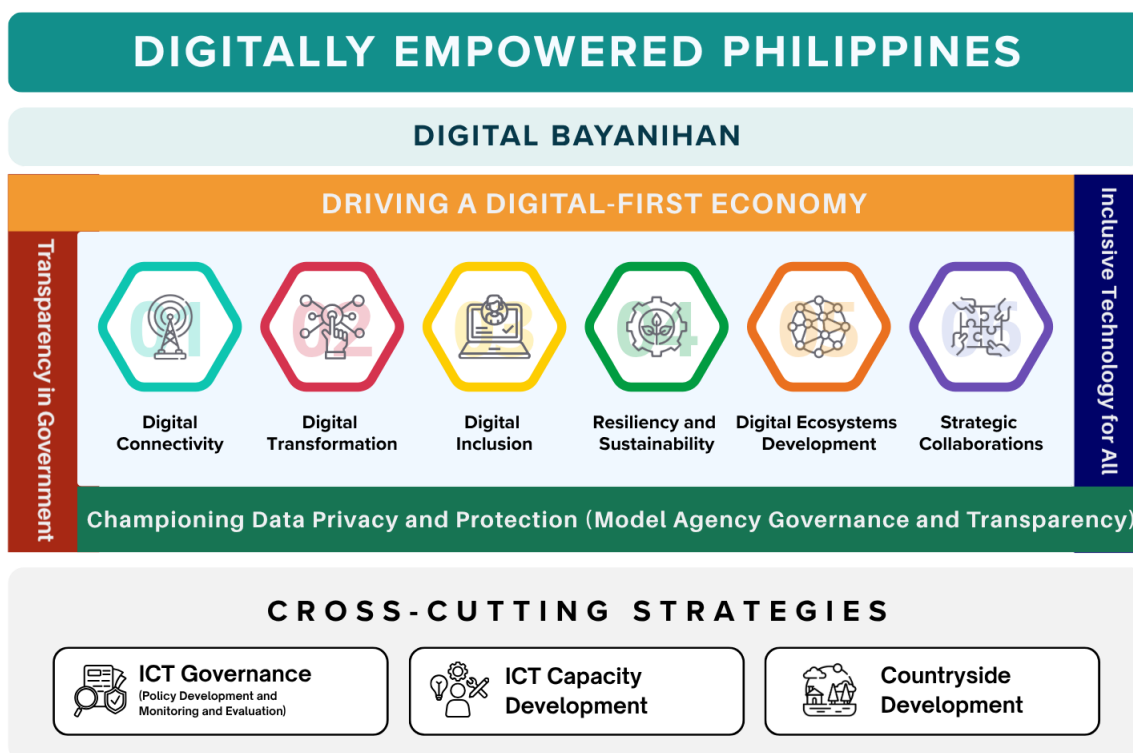
73.6%

Internet Penetration Rate

In 2024, the Philippines' digital economy reached PhP 2.25 trillion, accounting for 8.5% of the country's Gross Domestic Product, a 7.6% increase from the PhP 2.09 trillion recorded in 2023. This growth reflects four key components: digital-enabling infrastructure, digital content and media, e-commerce, and government digital services. However, despite this progress, significant challenges remain, including poor digital infrastructure in underserved areas, low digital literacy, outdated regulations, and the high cost of digital connectivity, all of which must be addressed to fully unlock the potential of ICT as a driver of national development.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The NICTDA is organized around six interrelated ICT Development Agendas, supported by three cross-cutting strategies that provide essential foundations for implementation. This framework presents a sequenced and interconnected pathway toward a Digitally Empowered Philippines beginning with Digital Connectivity as the foundation, and progressively building toward ecosystem maturity and strengthened collaboration. It emphasizes a whole-of-nation and whole-of-government approach to ensure that no sector or region is left behind.



Cross-Cutting Strategies

ICT Governance

Empowering dynamic ecosystems through strategic plans, sound policies, and monitoring mechanisms. ICT Governance ensures that digital initiatives are guided by accountability, coordination, and results-driven progress.

ICT Capacity Development

Empowering Filipinos to be digitally literate and equipped with the skills needed to utilize emerging technologies, innovate ideas, and collaborate with diverse stakeholders in the digital economy.

Countryside Development

Ensuring that rural areas are fully included in the country's ICT development journey so that no one is left behind through prioritizing ICT infrastructure, access, and economic opportunities in less-developed and GIDA communities.

PHILIPPINE ICT: GLOBAL STANDING

The Philippines has made significant strides in ICT development, though it continues to trail several ASEAN neighbors in key metrics. Across four major global indices, the country demonstrates above-expectation performance given its income level particularly in cybersecurity and innovation while connectivity and e-governance gaps remain priorities for action.

Index	Global Rank	ASEAN Rank	Key Insight
Network Readiness Index (NRI)	63rd / 133	6th in ASEAN	Strength in 'People' pillar. Above the NRI trend line for its income level.
E-Government Development Index (EGDI)	73rd / 193	6th in ASEAN	Expanded digital public services, but interoperability and access remain challenges.
Global Innovation Index (GII)	53rd / 133	5th in ASEAN	Improved 3 spots from 2023, surpassing PDP target. 3rd in the lower middle-income group.
Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)	61st / 182	6th in ASEAN	Score rose from 77 pts (2020) to 93.49 pts (2024) 1.51 pts from Tier 1 status.

While the Philippines showed a significant 14% increase in the 2024 ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) reaching a score of 74.4 from 65.0 the previous year the country remains below the global average of 74.8. The Philippines ranks among the lowest five countries in ASEAN in this measure, surpassing only Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste. In terms of internet connectivity, only 56.1% of households currently have internet access, with affordability remaining a key barrier particularly for low-income groups where the cost of a basic internet-enabled device can exceed 50% of monthly income.

THE SIX DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The NICTDA is organized around six interrelated ICT Development Agendas that collectively address the country's strategic priorities from foundational infrastructure to ecosystem development and global collaboration. Each agenda identifies the current challenges, intended benefits, responsible agencies, target outcomes, key performance indicators, and legislative priorities needed to drive results by 2028.

AGENDA 01: DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Objective

"Connecting Filipinos through cost-effective, accessible, and resilient ICT infrastructures." Anchored on the ITU Framework for Universal and Meaningful Connectivity, Agenda 01 aims to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that 90 to 95% of the Philippine population has access to affordable, reliable, and secure internet connectivity by 2028. This agenda addresses existing challenges in digital infrastructure, internet access, spectrum management, and the connectivity gap facing Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs).

Current State and Challenges

As of 2024, the Philippines has reached 73.6% internet penetration with 86.98 million internet users. Mobile network coverage now reaches over 99% of the population through 4G/LTE networks, and the rollout of 5G technology is underway in major urban centers. However, digital infrastructure remains unevenly distributed. Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) continue to face substantial service gaps, and nearly half of the population, approximately 43.9% of households, remains without internet access.

In terms of broadband speed, the Philippines ranked 73rd globally for mobile broadband (34.5 Mbps) and 49th for fixed broadband (94.18 Mbps) as of Q2 2024. Fixed broadband penetration remains at just 33% of households, significantly below the ASEAN average of 41%. The cost of entry-level fiber broadband is pegged at approximately PhP 1,299 per month accounting for 11% of per capita GNI, double the ASEAN average. These gaps highlight the urgent need for sustained policy reform and infrastructure investment.

Issues / Gaps	Inadequate digital infrastructure, limited data availability, digital divide between urban and rural areas, insufficient regulatory mechanisms, and the need to reform spectrum management for universal connectivity.
Target Outcomes	
	Outcome 1.1 Established pervasive, resilient, and accessible broadband connectivity
	Outcome 1.2 Increased and strengthened digital infrastructure investments

Responsible Agencies	DICT, NTC, DOST, DILG, DOE, PSA, Interagency Committee on ICT Statistics, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): National Digital Connectivity Plan Medium Term (2025–2028): Philippine Communication Satellite Framework Long Term (2028–2033): Digital Connectivity Observatory and Investment Framework
SDG Alignment	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities PDP Chapter 6 & 8: Infrastructure Development

Key Performance Indicators

- Infrastructure development and fiber backbone expansion
- Increase in nationwide connectivity and internet access
- Effectiveness of policy and regulatory frameworks
- Growth in ICT investment from public and private sectors
- Progress in inclusive connectivity for GIDAs

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- Konektadong Pinoy Act (National Broadband Act)
- Satellite-Based Technologies for Internet Connectivity Act
- Open Access in Data Transmission Act
- Comprehensive Spectrum Management Reform
- Amendment to the National Building Code for ICT ecosystem requirements
- Repeal and replacement of the 1931 Radio Communication Law

AGENDA 02: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Objective

"Making services accessible to Filipinos through accelerated ICT adoption and digital transformation, adopting a Whole-of-Nation approach." Agenda 02 aims to accelerate the delivery of accessible, inclusive, and efficient public services ensuring that at least 95% of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and 80% of Local Government Units (LGUs) are digitally connected, interoperable, and actively delivering services through secure, citizen-centric platforms by 2028.

Current State and Challenges

The Philippines has made notable progress in e-governance, including the launch of the E-Government Masterplan, implementation of the E-Governance Act, and the rollout of digital platforms across agencies. As of November 2024, 20 out of 25 eGov platforms were developed and made available for use, and 306 out of 677 agencies already have an active Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP). However, the e-governance landscape remains fragmented many

agencies operate in silos, LGUs in remote areas struggle with limited capacity and digital literacy, and a persistent lack of interoperability prevents seamless, cross-agency service delivery.

Additional challenges include inadequate data governance, slow rollout of data-sharing policies, human resource gaps in digital competencies, and the absence of user-centric design in citizen-facing platforms. Addressing these gaps requires a federated approach where agencies operate interconnected but independently managed platforms with common standards and a unified user experience.

Issues / Gaps	Fragmented systems and data, interoperability challenges, privacy and security concerns, resource constraints, inefficient legal and regulatory frameworks, and need for reskilling of government workforce.
Target Outcomes	
	Outcome 2.1 Facilitated transformation from traditional to ICT-enabled services in government agencies
	Outcome 2.2 Implemented interoperability across G2G, G2B, G2C, and G2E
	Outcome 2.3 Fostered smart and sustainable cities and communities
Responsible Agencies	DICT, DTI, NEDA, DHSUD, DILG, League of Cities of the Philippines, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): E-Government Masterplan 2028 Medium Term (2025–2028): Philippine Interoperability Framework Long Term (2028–2033): Monitoring, evaluation, and updates
SDG Alignment	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities PDP Chapter 6 & 8: Bureaucratic Efficiency and Technology

Key Performance Indicators

- Progress in e-government platforms and services adoption
- Advancement in open data and digital infrastructure (including data centers)
- ICT integration in urban planning and smart cities development

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- E-Governance Act
- Rightsizing the Government Act
- Harmonizing plans on Sustainable Smart Communities and Cities
- Policies on Freedom of Information and Open Data
- Strengthening the MITHI to include ICT investment monitoring

AGENDA 03: DIGITAL INCLUSIVITY

Objective

"Breaking barriers through holistic ICT development where no one is left behind." Agenda 03 aims to ensure that everyone regardless of background or abilities can fully leverage the opportunities and benefits of digital technologies. By 2028, at least 85% of Filipinos aged 15 to 64 will possess foundational to advanced digital skills through integration of digital literacy across all public schools, TVET institutions, and state universities and colleges.

Current State and Challenges

Despite improvements in digital infrastructure, the Philippines continues to face a significant digital skills gap. While Filipinos are highly active online, most lack advanced skills in areas such as AI, coding, cybersecurity, and data analytics. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), only 6% of those aged 15 and above have basic internet skills, and less than 1% possess advanced digital competencies. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) notes that approximately 40% of Filipinos have at least one ICT skill, while projecting a surplus of 171,960 unfilled IT positions by 2025 underscoring a deep mismatch between workforce capabilities and industry demand.

The rise of freelance and platform-based work has also introduced new vulnerabilities, with gig workers often lacking access to social protection mechanisms. Meanwhile, marginalized groups including women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, rural youth, and senior citizens face compounding barriers to digital participation. Bridging these gaps requires a whole-of-society approach to digital skills development.

Issues / Gaps	Challenges in accessing digital infrastructure, limited representation of women and PWDs in ICT, insufficient digital literacy and training, language and cultural barriers, and inadequate government policies on digital inclusion.
Target Outcomes	
	Outcome 3.1 Empowered marginalized sectors through targeted digital skills programs
	Outcome 3.2 Strengthened support for local languages, content, and meaningful use of ICT
Responsible Agencies	DICT, CHED, TESDA, DepEd, DSWD, DILG, NGAs, SUCs, HEIs, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): ICT Human Capital Roadmap Medium Term (2025–2028): Implementation and monitoring Long Term (2028–2033): Sustained expansion and assessment
SDG Alignment	SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 4: Quality Education SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities PDP Chapter 11 & 6: Reducing Vulnerability and Social Development

Key Performance Indicators

- Increase in ICT education and training for PWDs, senior citizens, and marginalized sectors
- Increase in digital inclusion initiatives nationwide
- Promotion of multilingual content and accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG)

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- Integration of ICT literacy in the education curriculum
- Use and promotion of assistive digital technologies in government services
- Government assistance on DTTB migration for the most vulnerable sectors
- Empowerment of Filipino women and youth in the ICT ecosystem

AGENDA 04: ICT RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Objective

"Modernizing ICT infrastructure to maximize economic benefits while limiting environmental impact and ensuring the security of every Filipino." Agenda 04 aims to design, develop, and use digital technologies for cybersecurity, disaster risk reduction and management, and environmental sustainability. Achieving ICT trust, safety, and sustainability will drive innovation, growth, and social progress while minimizing the negative impact on the environment, strengthening emergency response, and lessening the risks of cyber threats.

Current State and Challenges

The Philippines faces critical vulnerabilities from natural disasters, cyber threats, and environmental degradation. Typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic activity frequently disrupt digital connectivity, while cyberthreats have grown in both volume and sophistication. The DICT's National Cybersecurity Plan (NCSP) 2023–2028 represents a significant step forward contributing to the Philippines' cybersecurity score rising from 77 points in 2020 to 93.49 points in 2024, just 1.51 points from joining Tier 1 countries in the Global Cybersecurity Index.

At the same time, the Philippines produced approximately 537 million kilograms of e-waste in 2022 translating to 4.7 kg per capita making it among the top generators of electronic waste in Asia. Data center growth, while essential for digital transformation, is increasingly energy-intensive. A national strategy must be pursued to balance digital infrastructure development with environmental sustainability through e-waste regulation, green ICT initiatives, and energy-efficient data infrastructure.

Issues / Gaps	Deficiency in cybersecurity awareness, inadequate financial allocation, increase in cybercrime, shortage of cybersecurity personnel, inadequate safeguarding of critical infrastructure, and negative environmental impact of technology.
Target Outcomes	
	Outcome 4.1 Strengthened cybersecurity ecosystem

	Outcome 4.2 Institutionalized cybersecurity awareness and literacy programs
	Outcome 4.3 Enhanced cybersecurity measures for critical information infrastructure
	Outcome 4.4 Synergized and environmentally sustainable ICT practices
	Outcome 4.5 Established ICT for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
Responsible Agencies	DICT, CICC, NPC, PNP-Anti-Cybercrime Group, DOST, DENR, DA, DHSUD, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): National Cybersecurity Plan & National Emergency Communications Plan Medium Term (2025–2028): Philippine Green Digital Initiative Framework Long Term (2028–2033): Monitoring and updates
SDG Alignment	SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure PDP Chapter 8: Resilience Against Disaster and Climate Change

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- Comprehensive Cybersecurity Act
- Promotion and implementation of Green Digital Initiatives
- Regulatory Framework on Artificial Intelligence
- JMC on Early Warning Broadcast System through ISDB-T
- Supplemental Guidelines for RA 11927, Child Online Safeguarding Policy

AGENDA 05: DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS AND DEVELOPMENT

Objective

"Propelling the economy through ICT-enabled industry development." Agenda 05 aims to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting startups, providing access to funding, and creating incubation programs. By the end of 2028, the goal is to strengthen the digital economy by enabling the growth of at least 10,000 tech-enabled MSMEs and startups, supporting the establishment of at least 20 innovation hubs and accelerators across all regions, and creating 8 million digital jobs.

Current State and Challenges

The ICT sector has emerged as a key driver of economic growth, contributing 8.5% to the country's GDP. However, the digital ecosystem still faces notable constraints in innovation, diversification, and inclusiveness. Startups and MSMEs struggle to scale due to limited access to capital, inadequate support infrastructure, and lack of mentorship. A study by PIDS projects a surplus of 171,960 unfilled IT positions by 2025, signaling a significant misalignment between ICT graduates and industry needs. Innovation remains concentrated in urban hubs, leaving rural areas with limited exposure to emerging digital technologies.

Issues / Gaps	Technology divide across generations, limited exposure of educators to innovation, quality concerns in digital content, underpaid ICT workforce, and insufficient support for open-source technologies.
Target Outcomes	Outcome 5.1 Strengthened ICT investment through local and international collaborations
Responsible Agencies	DICT, NTC, DOST, NEDA, DTI, DOLE, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): Digital Terrestrial Television and Broadcast Medium Term (2025–2028): ICT Industry Development Framework, INSPIRED IoT National Strategy Long Term (2028–2033): Monitoring and updates
SDG Alignment	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 4: Quality Education PDP Chapter 7 & 10: Growth Potential and Economic Opportunities

Key Performance Indicators

- Growth in the digital economy and business for urban and rural communities
- Contribution of the creative industry and employment in the digital economy
- Increase in startups, innovation hubs, and ICT economic zones

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- Implementation of the Tatak Pinoy Act for rural and urban branding
- JMC on Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Government
- Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (RA 11904)
- Innovative Start-up Act (RA 11337)
- Establish Data for Development (D4D) Policy

AGENDA 06: STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

Objective

"Leveraging local and international partnerships in maximizing ICT development in the country." Agenda 06 acknowledges the necessity for the Philippines to actively engage and fortify relationships with both local and international stakeholders to advance the ICT Development Agenda. By 2028, the agenda aims to establish a National Digital Cooperation Framework, forge at least 30 new bilateral and multilateral digital agreements, and activate partnerships with at least 80% of provinces in collaborative ICT projects.

Current State and Challenges

Strategic partnerships have played a significant role in advancing ICT development in the Philippines. As of October 2024, the Public-Private Partnership Center reported a total of 173 infrastructure projects in the pipeline amounting to an estimated PhP 3.17 trillion. Despite this, many initiatives operate in silos and lack long-term integration with national ICT plans. Some LGUs have made significant strides in digital transformation, while others lag due to limited resources and technical expertise. International engagements offer valuable expertise and funding, but a centralized mechanism to harmonize bilateral and multilateral initiatives remains absent leading to duplication of efforts and missed opportunities for impact.

Issues / Gaps	Bureaucracy and lack of forward-thinking as hindrances to ICT agency support, complex telecommunications operations and policies, and absence of centralized coordination for international digital engagements.
Target Outcomes	
	Outcome 6.1 Strengthened ICT investment through local and international collaborations
	Outcome 6.2 Increased support to programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) promoting ICT development
Responsible Agencies	DICT, DOF, DTI, NEDA, DBM, PPP Center, Investment Promotion Agencies, OSAPIEA, concerned LGUs
Timeline	Short Term (2023–2025): ICT Cooperation Strategy Framework Medium Term (2025–2028): Monitoring and updates Long Term (2028–2033): Sustained implementation
SDG Alignment	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure PDP Chapter 12: Strengthening Partnerships PDP Chapter 9: Accelerating Innovation and Digitalization

Key Performance Indicators

- Increase in public-private partnerships and ICT investment
- Improvement in global ICT standing and collaboration
- Progress in mapping and implementation of ICT programs and initiatives

Legislative and Policy Priorities

- Strengthen innovation, research, and development through public-private partnership
- Establish an effective sectoral coordination mechanism to include public and private institutions

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The implementation of the NICTDA requires a phased and structured financial commitment from both government and private sector partners. The table below presents the estimated funding requirements per agenda, organized by implementation timeline short term (2023–2025), medium term (2025–2028), and long term (2028–2033). These budget allocations reflect the financial resources necessary to carry out each agenda's programs, activities, and projects from planning through full operationalization.

Agenda	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Agenda 01: Digital Connectivity	PhP 2.53 Billion	PhP 84.6 Billion	PhP 150 Billion
Agenda 02: Digital Transformation	PhP 1.42 Billion	PhP 3.16 Billion	PhP 10 Billion
Agenda 03: Digital Inclusivity	PhP 5 Billion	PhP 6.57 Billion	PhP 10 Billion
Agenda 04: Resiliency & Sustainability	PhP 100 Million	PhP 300 Million	PhP 1 Billion
Agenda 05: Digital Ecosystems Dev.	PhP 30 Million	PhP 60 Million	PhP 100 Million
Agenda 06: Strategic Collaborations	PhP 20 Million	PhP 30 Million	PhP 50 Million
TOTAL	PhP 9.1 Billion	PhP 94.72 Billion	PhP 171.15 Billion

In addition to agenda-level allocations, the development and operationalization of ICT plans and policies itself requires a structured two-year budget of PhP 100 million, covering preparatory planning and scoping (PhP 15M), data gathering and stakeholder consultations (PhP 30M), construction and formalization of ICT plans (PhP 10M), implementation and advocacy (PhP 20M), and monitoring and evaluation (PhP 25M).

OPERATIONALIZING NICTDA

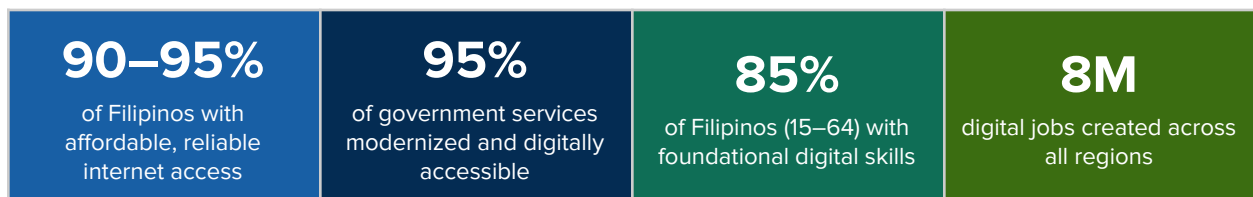
The National ICT Development Agenda 2028 (NICTDA) represents a transformative vision to propel the Philippines into a digitally empowered nation. Through maximizing the potential of technology as a driver of economic growth, social inclusion, and innovation, the NICTDA aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure no Filipino is left behind in this digital age.

The six ICT Development Agendas covering Digital Connectivity, Digital Transformation, Digital Inclusivity, ICT Resiliency and Sustainability, Digital Ecosystems Development, and Strategic Collaborations collectively aim to establish digital infrastructure, implement efficient e-governance, empower Filipinos through capacity development, foster opportunities through partnerships, and encourage Digital Bayanihan across all sectors. Operationalization calls for a

unified commitment from all sectors including government, private sector, and civil society working together to address gaps, maximize opportunities, and overcome challenges.

The DICT, through the National ICT Planning, Policy and Standards Bureau (NIPPSB), will lead the coordination and monitoring of NICTDA implementation. All National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) are encouraged to align their respective plans, programs, and projects with the NICTDA's strategic directions. The issuance of an Executive Order on the dissemination, adoption, and implementation of NICTDA across all agencies will be a critical step in institutionalizing this whole-of-government commitment.

As the country advances towards 2028 and beyond, sustained collaboration, strategic partnerships and investments, and adaptive policies will be vital in realizing this vision. Together, we can build a Philippines where the transformative power of technology not only improves lives but also fosters inclusivity, resiliency, and global competitiveness. The NICTDA is a commitment to creating a better, digitally inclusive future for all Filipinos.



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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