

1 **Highlights of the 1st Project Board Meeting and**
2 **Project Document Signing Ceremony**

3 March 22, 2019

4 Time Commenced: 2:15pm

Time Adjourned: 4:10pm

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6 **I. Preliminaries**

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8 The 1st Project Board Meeting for the Pipol Konek - Inclusive Net Access & Service (Pipol Konek
9 Project) was held at Department of Information & Communications Technology (DICT) Seminar
10 Room, C.P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. The meeting was divided into two parts: Part 1
11 was the Project Document Signing Ceremony followed by Part 2, the discussion on the project
12 implementation status.
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14 **II. Messages**

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16 DICT Acting Secretary Eliseo M. Rio, Jr. (Sec. Rio), welcomed and thanked the participants for
17 attending the Project Document Signing Ceremony. It was mentioned that the passage of Republic
18 Act No. 10929, referred as the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act of 2017, otherwise known
19 as Pipol Konek Program paved for institutionalization of the Program and is now a tool for social
20 connectivity and economic mobility.
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22 It was narrated that Pipol Konek was previously called Juan Konek but Congress objected to its
23 name since it was not gender neutral thus, the shift in its project name. Under the DICT, the
24 project was able to establish internet service connection in 2,300 sites covering 17 regions, 72
25 provinces, and 600 municipalities and cities with over 3.4 million unit-users served for the last six
26 months. The project is a monumental undertaking as the department seeks to cover public places
27 in more than 7,000 islands of the country from public funds, to schools, government offices, health
28 units, transport terminals, and so much more.
29

30 Sec. Rio gladly informed that in 2018, DICT and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)
31 agreed to cooperate for the expeditious and efficient rollout of the Pipol Konek Program to at
32 least 6,000 sites. This partnership will also serve as convergence point of UNDP and the
33 Department of Education (DepEd) project, known as K to 12 Department of Education
34 Computerization Program (DCP). The DCP aimed to provide schools in remote areas with ICT
35 packages and connectivity.
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37 With UNDP partnership, Sec. Rio expressed that DICT is optimistic that the goal of providing free
38 internet for knowledge building among citizens to enable them to participate and compete in
39 evolving information and communication technology will soon be realized. The DICT looks forward
40 to working closely with the UNDP in this endeavor and wished the partnership good luck.
41

42 The UNDP Resident Representative and Board Co-chair, Mr. Titon Mitra (RR Mitra), acknowledged
43 the presence of all the guests and participants. The serendipitous nature of the project was
44 recounted since the UNDP came to DICT Undersecretary Denis Villorente (Usec. Villorente) with
45 a project in mind to shift governments globally from an analog system to a digital system based
46 on UNDP's successful experience in Bangladesh. The UNDP originally planned that the DICT
47 provide the hardware while the UNDP will work on the software. It turned out fortunately that
48 the meeting outcome evolved into what is now the partnership to rollout the Pipol Konek
49 Program. The Program is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals in its goal of "leave

50 no one behind" by reaching the furthest first. It was pointed that Pipol Konek is one example of
51 the said ambition.

52
53 RR Mitra enumerated some benefits that UNDP offers along with the partnership, namely.

- 54 1) An established system and processes which allows the organization to deliver services
55 faster than the government;
- 56 2) The value for money as demonstrated in the case of DCP where it was able to save 45
57 percent of the cost. It is hoped to be replicated and demonstrated in the Pipol Konek
58 project;
- 59 3) UNDP has presence in many countries with digital divide issues. There are
60 international models from these countries that can be applied in the Philippine
61 context of last mile connectivity. Here the local experiences and the international
62 models can be merged so it will suit the local situation;
- 63 4) The introduction of citizen's monitor in UNDP projects which is a powerful tool to
64 address the issue of accountability particularly among internet service providers in
65 the case of Pipol Konek; and,
- 66 5) One benefit of the project is not only limited to providing connectivity but also
67 equipping people with literacy which is hoped can be integrated into the project.

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69 RR Mitra recognized that challenges on delivery was the main reason behind the partnership of
70 DICT and UNDP, and committed to show progress within a short period of time.

71
72 By January 2020, some of the 6,000 sites will already have connectivity and the service may extend
73 beyond the targeted sites. The potential of the partnership in bridging the digital divide is going
74 to be phenomenal.

75 76 **III. Presentation of Project Document**

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78 Mr. Jonathan Hodder, UNDP Democratic Governance Unit, explained the context of the project
79 document. The partnership was conceived as DICT encountered problems in implementing the
80 Pipol Konek due to challenges in procurement regulations (e.g single biggest contract), inadequate
81 partnership agreement modalities, contractors not fulfilling agreements, the need to strengthen
82 coordination with LGUs and some national agencies, need to capacitate users and civic
83 organizations regarding the use and monitoring of the internet services. The common aim of the
84 partnership is to provide internet access as a platform for development. It was also highlighted
85 that connectivity has residual benefits to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Different
86 projects like the Bottom Up Budgeting, DepED Computerization Program, and Freedom of
87 Information, among others, will gain from the success of Pipol Konek.

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89 The main outcome of the project would be women and men from disadvantaged communities
90 are able to enhance their learning, deepen engagement in governance processes, and avail of
91 opportunities for economic development through increase Internet access from 6,000 public free
92 WiFi hotspots. It has three outputs namely:


- 93 • Output 1 - free internet service provided to women and men in disadvantaged
94 communities in 6,000 sites. Planning will include reviewing the existing technology,
95 area-based analysis and a study on past procurement of DICT; these research tracks:
96 A and,
- 97 • Output 2 - citizens and their organizations are capacitated to use and monitor the
98 internet service. This will be done through engagement with Government Hubs and

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- Citizen Participation in Governance (CPAG). It is expected to deliver digital literacy training for students and teachers in schools, venue for piloting E-Governance services, and use of internet-based disaster risk reduction tools - Track B;
- Output 3 - improve the capacity of DICT to procure and manage internet services through enrolling the DICT under the UNDP's Public Financial Management, general training, and other technical training - Track C.

The project will also accelerate the sites guided by site viability. This will be made possible by establishing other relationships as a third-party convener between: 1) commercial providers and public sites; 2) existing public entities offering Free WiFi; and 3) private sites offering Free WiFi to public areas.

The project cost will entail a total amount of PhP 1,362,084,618.28. The details of the project cost as follows:



EXPECTED OUTPUTS	Amount (PhP)
Output 1: Free internet service provided to last mile communities in approximately 6,000 sites across the Philippines.	1,297,223,445.99
Output 2: Citizens organised to ensure the efficiency and integrity of free internet service to last mile communities.	12,577,466.00
Output 3: Capacity of DICT built to procure and manage internet services.	11,421,167.74
Project Management	40,862,538.28
TOTAL	1,362,084,618.28

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Figure 1. Pipol Konek project outputs and cost

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Total resources required:	
	PHP 1,391,084,618.28
	USD 26, 153, 123.11
Total allocated resources:	
Government:	PHP 1,362,084,618.28
	USD 25,-606,-463.50
	-UNDP (advisory services, technology)
	PHP 29,000,000.00
	-USD 546,659.61

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Figure 2. Breakdown of costs

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120 The detailed workplan and multi-year AWP was also presented. The progress of the DICT UNDP
121 Pipol Konek can be monitored through the Country Programme Document and its cost is justified
122 since its benefit will accrue to SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and
123 sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, specifically in access to education. This is
124 followed by the identification and role establishment of the different institutions and agencies
125 involved with the project.
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127 **Part 2**

128 129 **IV. Presentation 1: Project Implementation Status**

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131 It was emphasized that UNDP is committed towards the end goals of the partnership to expedite
132 the program implementation, ensure quality, and maximize financial use through expanded
133 dividend by utilizing it not only for the identified primary activities but also for ancillary ones that
134 will benefit the project. The agenda was focused on the updated schedule prepared and co-
135 presented by Mr. John Garrity, UNDP Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), and co-presented by Engr.
136 Imelda Lamboon, UNDP Project Manager of Pipol Konek (PM), respectively.
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138 DICT Undersecretary Denis Villorente, the Board Co-Chair, expressed his gratitude to the
139 partnership. He also stated that 22nd of March 2019 mark an important milestone for the team
140 being day one of the project and the DICT team is thrilled about the collaboration.
141

142 CTA Garrity started the presentation by sharing the status of the implementation particularly the
143 strategies being undertaken for the rollout to 6,000 sites. An update was given on the technical
144 inputs that were being worked on including the technology assessment and area-based analysis.
145 This would ensure robust procurement plan, in-depth site selection filtering process, potential site
146 selection, budget costs, and the next steps relative to the timeline.
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148 To accomplish the three main Outputs to achieve the Outcome, the below guiding principles were
149 considered in designing the program.

- 150 1) Maximizing the number of sites deployed subject to the following constraints: budget,
151 time, quality of service, and other points around the existing network and relationships.
- 152 2) Demonstrating a replicable and scalable model (which UNDP deem with high importance
153 and it expects to help DICT in this aspect).
- 154 3) Focus the model on the targeted areas and ensure full advantage for the beneficiaries
155 thus, making a difference in closing the geographic digital divide in the Philippines.
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157 Four key components were identified during the technology assessment. First, getting a good
158 understanding from the market - its potential solutions and costs. The information was gathered
159 through a Request for Information (RFI) which was distributed globally and opened to the public.
160 The RFI was launched in January and ended in February. There were twenty-four (24) formal
161 submissions received from 15 different international and nine (9) domestic providers specializing
162 in a wide range of types of entities and technologies.
163

164 Because of the intricacies in the details about the technology assessment, , if required, a separate
165 meeting can be arranged was suggested. It was also mentioned that through the RFI, a significant
166 number of connectivity service providers and technology vendors who exhibited interest in
167 participating were recognized (see Figure 3).

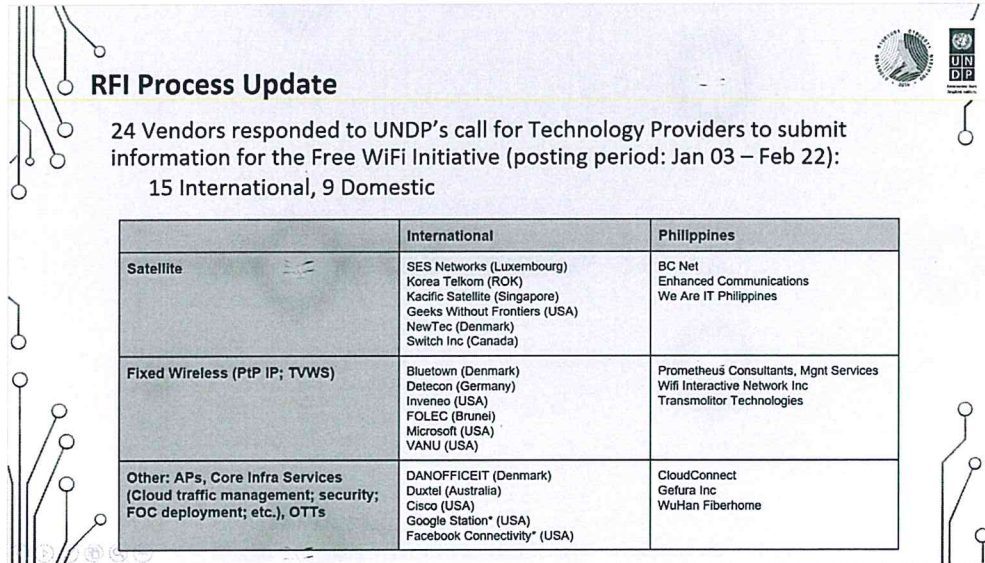


Figure 3: Pipol Konek RFI respondent

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Furthermore, the various international service providers offering satellite services were briefly introduced. Examples of such providers included **SES Networks** operating with a large global constellation of satellite entities. **Korean Telekom**, one of the largest telecommunication vendors and operators globally, completed numerous Wi-Fi deployments, exhibited a lot of interest in the project. There were newer satellite entities like **KACIFIC**, which will be launching its own HTS satellite in September, serving all the island nations from Singapore all the way through the Pacific.

There were also interests from Wi-Fi based internet service type vendors such as **Bluetown** and **Detecon**, the latter of which has introduced a new technology called "WiBack" identified as last mile Wi-Fi based internet servers. FOLEC and Microsoft who focus on TV Whitespace (TVWS) also responded.

In addition to the infra vendors that focused on satellite and fixed wireless, there were entities that focused on Wi-Fi App alone (the access end), cloud management, and other core network infrastructure management who also expressed interest in the Pipol Konek Project. Google, in partnership with Smart Telco, announced that the Philippines will be the 6th country of focus for their Google Station product – the free public Wi-Fi in high traffic areas (e.g. train stations, bus terminals, etc.). Google expressed interest with the progress of Pipol Konek hence, a meeting would be scheduled to explore complimentary strategies of its deployment and Google's current dealings with Smart Telco and SUCs. Facebook Connectivity, which entered into the market in partnership with Globe express Wi-Fi was also mentioned. The DICT team was encouraged to review the RFI responses for more information.

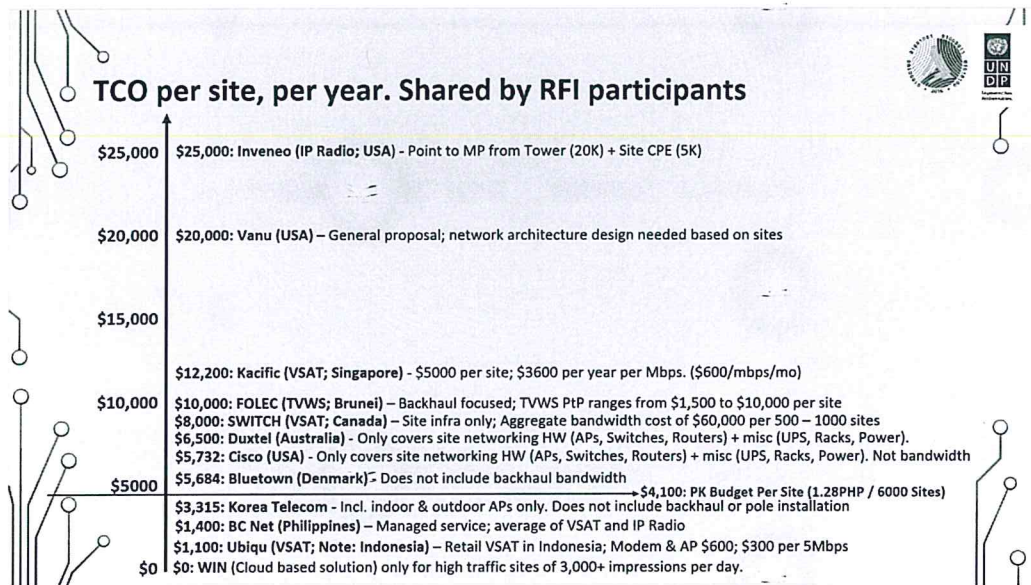


Figure 4: Rough Order of Magnitude

Figure 4 containing the Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) was presented to better understand the cost of deploying Pipol Konek solution. There are various types of business models being used by these entities for their ROM. This summarizes the total cost of deployment that includes the infrastructure and APEX for the first year.

Several free public Wi-Fi programs around the world, like Pipol Konek, were analyzed to get a sense of good practices on programs launched by public entities. Among these are the 18 free public Wi-Fi programs that range from advanced economies like EU, Canada, United States, other developing countries, and regional countries.

Five “Good Practices” emerged through the RFI, as follows:

- (1) Identification of appropriate role for government subsidy to provide Internet access;
- (2) Structure resource allocation decisions guided by demand signals
- (3) Cost sharing
- (4) Government serving as anchor tenant and/ or de-risking (it is inferred that this encouraged foreign entities to invest and go to the Philippines)
- (5) Built-in sustainability allowing for diversity of operating models/ other revenue streams, so it can expand to other sites even if funding is discontinued

The second and third components presented were on the area-based analysis, particularly on understanding specific site locations through spatial analysis, GIS, and overlaying other network infrastructure available on the site. These tools allowed visualization of each location and determine site distances, as well as to establish for potential fixed wireless technology.

The fourth component being observed during site visits to MPoPs was to verify and understand the MPoPs that are “live” on those sites. This also serves to validate the bandwidth and capacity that were initially set up in the bidding. A proposal was presented for an actual visit, however due to time constraints, it was agreed with DICT that information on MPoPs including their sites at current capacities will be shared.

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227 The different sites corresponding the number of MPoPs in the area was also discussed.

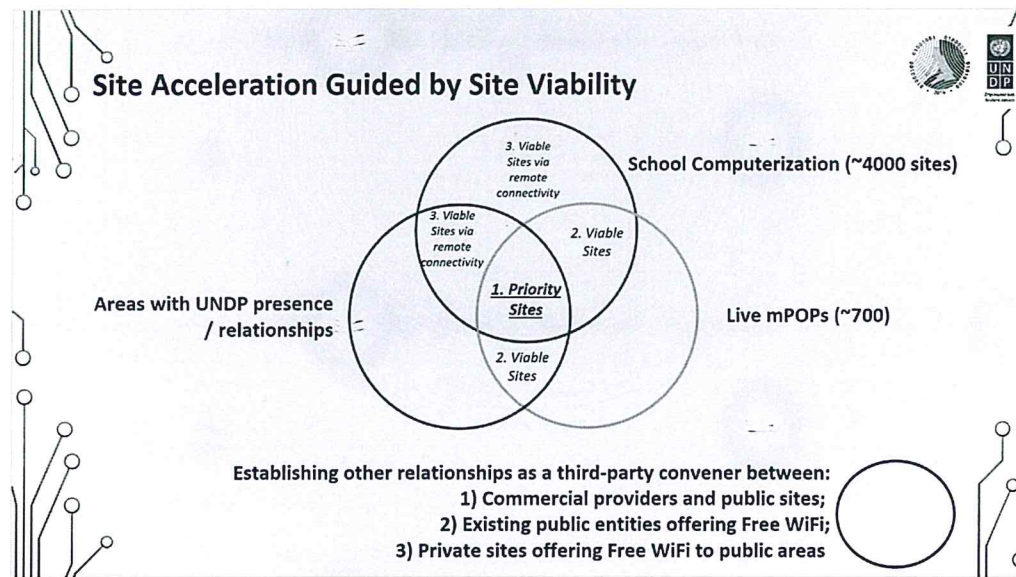
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229 A potential to establish other relationships as a third-party convener were presented. Samples
230 cited like working with Google Station or a regional/provincial chamber of commerce such as
231 Negros Oriental, which already provided connectivity to schools and its area on a nonprofit basis.
232 Similarly, partnership with private sites offering public Wi-Fi (e.g. Jollibee or 7-11) can also be
233 explored if it can be tapped by the project.

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235 Usec. Villoriente requested that the results of RFI and presentations shared by vendors be made
236 available to DICT.

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238 **V. Presentation 2: Deployment Targets**

239 The UNDP Pipol Konek Project Manager, Engr. Imelda Lamboon-(PM Lamboon), presented the
240 multi-year AWP, schedule of activities and strategies to enhance technical specifications, site
241 selection and procurement. On strategies for site selection, the site acceleration was discussed as
242 follows:

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245 **Figure 5: Site Acceleration**

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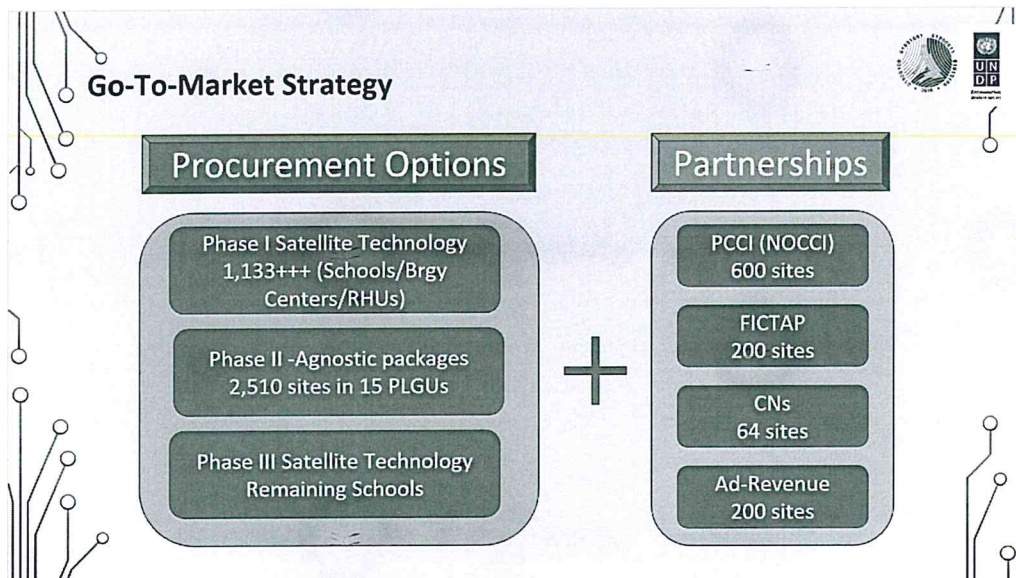


Figure 6: Go-To-Market Strategy

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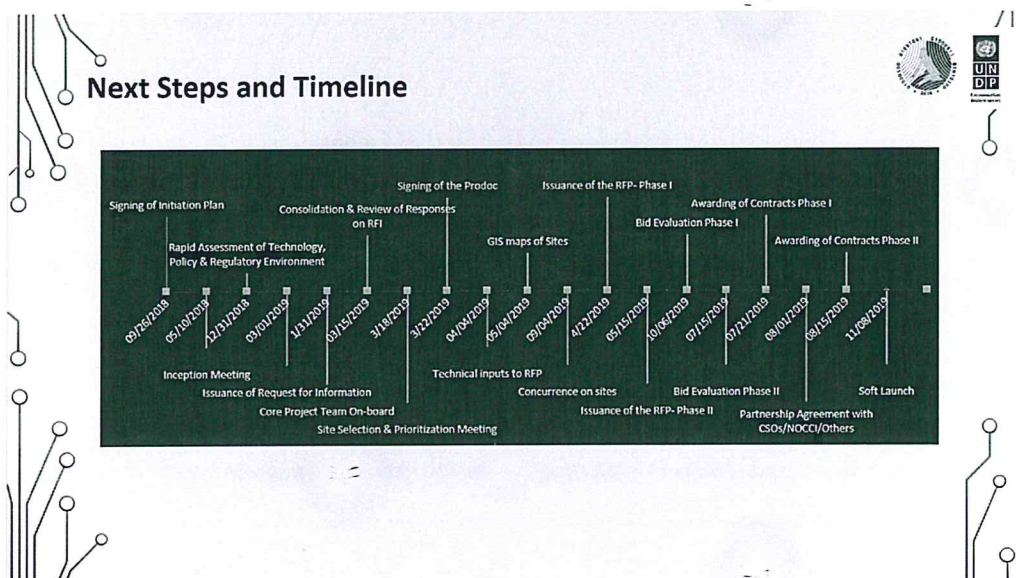


Figure 7: Next Steps and Timeline

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Using the criteria presented, the resulting provinces would be the priority for Phase 1. Provinces were determined using the above-said criteria, leveraging on UNDP's existing partnership with LGUs in projects under the DepEd, DSWD, DILG and DICT's Provincial Point of Presence (PPoPs) and Municipal PoP (MPoPs).

Applying a filter of identifying which of the 65 provinces benefited from the DepEd DCP computerization project (whereby select schools have received tablets and a laptop, but no internet provision), the team identified 15 priority provinces (see Figure 8). Of the 15 provinces there are DCP schools within the municipalities with Points of Presence (MPoPs) of DICT's Internet Protocol (IP) network, as well as DCP schools that are more remote and far flung, located outside of MPop municipalities.

Sites in 15 Partner Provinces

Province	DICT Provincial PoPs ¹	Locality	No. of Active MPoPs ²	DCP Schools In MPoPs	Barangays In MPoPs	Priority 1	
						DCP Schools outside MPoPs	Barangays outside MPoPs
AGUSAN DEL NORTE	DICT Agusan del Norte	Butuan City	2	3	33	6	134
ALBAY	DICT Albay	Legazpi City	4	0	100	30	620
BATANGAS	DICT Batangas	Batangas City	11	0	241	12	837
CAGAYAN	DICT Cagayan	Tuguegarao City	11	7	261	48	559
CEBU	DICT Cebu	Cebu City	27	0	466	0	600
DAVAO DEL SUR	DICT Davao del Sur	Davao City	0	0	0	92	232
LEYTE	DICT Leyte	Tacloban City	20	0	582	0	921
PALAWAN	DICT Palawan	Puerto Princesa City	5	78	71	446	296
PAMPANGA	DICT Pampanga	Mabalacat City	7	1	103	3	402
SAMAR (WESTERN SAMAR)	DICT Western Samar	Calbayog City	3	0	121	0	830
BENGUET	DICT Benguet	Baguio City	2	8	22	19	118
ISABELA	DICT Isabela	Cauayan City	0	0	0	30	1,055
NEGROS ORIENTAL	DICT Negros Oriental	Dumaguete City	8	0	170	0	387
QUEZON	DICT Quezon	Lucena City	10	30	213	45	996
LANAO DEL SUR	DICT Lanao del Sur	Marawi City	0	0	0	402	1,159
TOTALS			110	127	2,383	1,133	9,148

Figure 8: Priority Provinces

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There are 127 schools and 2,383 barangays in the MPoPs within the 15 provinces. This will be one package for 2,510 sites. 1,133 schools are located outside of MPoPs. Upon verification, 50 percent of the municipalities belong to the 4th, 5th and 6th income classes. More importantly, majority of the provinces are located in high risk areas in terms of flood, rain-induced landslides and severe-wind, thus the internet connectivity will be able to help in disaster and risk management.

Based on prioritization, the following proposed business strategy for procurement which corresponds to the Outcome were presented.

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- 1) The use of satellite technology for barangays and schools outside the MPoPs.
- 2) The sites within the MPoPs which uses an open technology or Agnostic, targets the 2,510 sites. If sufficient money and time is available, satellite could be provided to the remaining 3,500 schools outside of the 15 provinces.
- 3) A partnership with Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry Incorporated (NOCCI) for their initial initiatives involving 33 schools in Negros Oriental.
- 4) A partnership with Federation of International Cable TV. Association of the Philippines (FICTAP) in which initial discussion have started.
- 5) Forging partnerships with CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) for the community networks similar to the Aurora model.
- 6) Ad-revenue models, a sample of which is being promoted by WIN (WiFi Interactive Network Inc.) and Google.

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Use. Villoriente inquired on the source of numbers about the partnerships. PM Lamboon responded that in discussion with NOCCI, 600 sites were identified as targets in Negros Oriental. On the other hand, FICTAP has engaged with DICT for 500 sites and were able to at least light up an additional 200 sites. The number of sites provided were just indicative and will depend on the detailed partnership proposal and absorptive capacity of said entities.

294 DICT Pipol Konek Project Manager, Eng. Enrico A. Toledo (PM Toledo) inquired if the discussion is
295 about 200 sites or 200 cable operators. PM Lamboon responded that it referred to sites only.
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297 At the end of the presentation, it was announced that the UNDP team will commence preparing
298 for the RFP (Request for Proposal) and optimistic that RFP will be issued before end of April. The
299 target award of the first contract is in July. After issuance of the first request for proposal in April,
300 the RFP for Phase 2 will soon follow on May and the awarding would be in July for the First Phase
301 and by August for the Second Phase. A soft launch is planned in November for 200 sites as
302 discussed during the last meeting.

303 **VI. Board Approval**
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305 The Board unanimously approved the multi-year AWP, workplan and schedule, strategies
306 presented and sites for Phase 1. It was clarified that the first 15 provinces identified will be
307 expanded to other provinces in succeeding phases.
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Clarifications/ Comments	Management Response
Confirming if the start of the bid evaluation for Phase 1 is on June and other dates / timeline are not consistent with the presentation?	The dates in the presentation will be corrected.

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310 CTA Garrity added that the LTAs (Long Term Agreements) referenced are for VSAT service and
311 there are offices in the Pacific islands benefiting from the menu that UNDP established. Also, the
312 RFI processes they established that UNDP and UN organization have long term agreement with
313 communications equipment vendors. UNDP is also exploring, if not in this program but for other
314 activities with DICT on a managed service approach.
315

316 According to RR Mitra, decision points need to be taken particularly the packages for the sites in
317 the initial 15 provinces and partnerships that will be established.
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319 Usec. Villorente stated that matters concerning Phase 1 is clear and may proceed, however a
320 further review prior to confirmation of sites for Phase 2 was recommended and requested for few
321 more days for DICT to confirm the coverage of Phase 2.
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323 **VII. Other Matters**
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325 1) CTA Garrity provided an update on NETHOPE Disaster Response training. Two (2) DICT
326 engineers were invited to participate. The actionable items were: a) collecting the names of
327 the participants, and b) deciding whether DICT would like a separate training in the office for
328 a larger group. The duration would be determined by the topic that DICT is interested which
329 would be subject to further arrangements.

330 In response, Usec. Villorente, chose VSAT, point to point, networking, mobile satellite
331 communications, and TV whitespace for the topics
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333 2) RR Mitra also clarified about the composition of the Board aside from the visitors from NEDA
334 and UP to which PM Lamboon responded that DILG, DepEd, and DSWD are included. RR Mitra
335 suggested to expand the Board in the next meeting.
336

337 3) NEDA Representative clarified about the basis for the project document and M&E. According
338 to RR Mitra, UNDP have similar projects undertaken through National Acceleration Modality
339 (NAM) with have NEDA, DEPED, DSWD, OPAPP and DILG, and the legal basis is exactly the
340 same for each NAM. The GPPBs (Government Procurement Policy Board) resolution is applied
341 across the board and COA observation is also across the board. The SBAA (Standard Basic
342 Assistance Agreement) provides foundation across the board so we do not need to create
343 new legal agreements.

344
345 NEDA Representative further inquired if there will be an MOU with different LGUs which was
346 affirmatively confirmed by PM Lamboon. It was also added that the project is banking on
347 forging partnerships with the LGUs.

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349 Adjournment.

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388 **ANNEX 1: List of Participants**

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390 **Department of Information & Communications Technology**

391 Eliseo M. Rio, Jr., Acting Secretary

392 Denis F. Villoriente, Undersecretary for Special Concerns

393 Alan A. Silor, Assistant Secretary for Infostructure Management & Other Special Concerns

394 Atty. Ma. Theresita E. Patula, OIC, Legal Service

395 Engr. Enrico A. Toledo, Project Manager, Pipol Konek

396 Engr. Georben A. Torralba, Division Chief, Government Systems Strategic Program Division

397 Engr. Bernardo M. Pernia, Planning & Estimating PM, Pipol Konek

398 Ms. Cynthia Faytaren, OIC, Information and Strategic Communications Division

399 Marien N. Fulo, PDO IV / UNDP focal, Pipol Konek

400 Ian Kenneth M. Dingal, Planning Officer I, Pipol Konek

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402 **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)**

403 Maria Luisa Magbojos, Senior Economic Development Specialist

404

405 **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

406 Titon Mitra, Resident Representative

407 Dr. Emmanuel Buendia, Democratic Governance Team Leader

408 Imelda Lamboon, Project Manager

409 Andrew Parker, Senior Economic Adviser

410 John Garrity, Chief Technical Advisor

411 Alka Aneja, Procurement Specialist

412 Donna Queen Ibeas, Finance Analyst

413 Marian Theresia Valeria Co, M&E Analyst

414 Jonathan Hodder, Governance Specialist

415 Rosana Ombao, Communications Associate

416 Jessieca Aduca, Project Associate

417 Katrina Pascasio, Project Assistant

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419 **University of the Philippines**

420 Dr. Josephine Dionisio, Asst. Professor UP Diliman College of Social Sciences

421 Claire Barela, Research Fellow UP Diliman College of Engineering

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425 Approved by:



426 **ELISEO M. RIO, JR.**

427 Acting Secretary and Chairman of the Board

428 Department of Information and Communications Technology

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Approved by:



TITON MITRA

Resident Representative and Co-chair of the Board

United Nations Development Programme