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**PIONEERING THE FORMULATION OF REGIONAL STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM (RSDP)**

by

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ABSTRACT

The statistical system is strengthened by improving the production, accessibility, and dissemination of statistics to stakeholders and data users. The Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP) is an essential tool in capacitating and answering the needs of the local statistical system through the identification of statistical program, activities, research & innovation, and correlating these across the development programs/activities.

The Cordillera Regional Statistical Development Program (CAR RSDP) 2017-2023 was prepared in accordance with statistical needs of the Cordillera Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 which takes off from the Duterte Administration's 0+10 Socioeconomic Agenda and the first medium term plan of the *AmBisyon Natin* 2040.

The CAR Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP) 2017 - 2023 consists of the regional statistical system-wide programs that cover statistical management and coordination, data production, statistical dissemination and use, research and capacity development, and resources in subnational statistical system. Further, the RSDP serves as a guide in monitoring the core regional indicators (region-specific indicators that determine the status of developments in the region) and the contribution of agencies and local government units in achieving the commitments to sustainable development goals (SDG).

This paper will present the coordination mechanisms employed by the Regional Statistical Services Office (RSSO) - Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in the formulation of the CAR RSDP, the pioneering activities done and the report on the monitoring of the statistical development programs enrolled for CY 2017 and 2018.

INTRODUCTION

Statistics is an indispensable tool in measuring economic growth and socio-cultural developments. The role of statistics is recognized predominantly in the domains of monitoring and assessing activities including evidence-based decision making taken by planners, program implementers, and policy-makers. Meanwhile, quality statistics is desired in order to make decisions and actions towards the fulfillment of *Ambisyon Natin* 2040 - a long-term vision for every Filipino to have a *matatag, maginhawa, and panatag na buhay* which was adopted by the current administration as their development agenda.

The demand for statistics further increased due to the global issues and commitments such as climate change and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of which different levels of

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granularity are required depending on the purpose of the data and goals to achieve. Moreover, most of the existing data are only available at the national and regional levels.

Data gaps are visible at the local level such that relevant data are absent at a lower level of disaggregation where they matter most for more precise program formulation and implementation. Sometimes existing data are insufficient and/or available data are not what are needed in planning, program formulation and decision making at the local level.

The Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) is formulated to address the pressing issues and challenges of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS). And to answer the outcries from the local level, the Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP) for each region is proposed to be formulated as the regional or local counterpart of the PSDP.

The RSDP is a compilation of statistical development programs (SDPs) prepared by government agencies and institutions in the region. These SDPs set the direction and answer thrusts of the regional and local statistical system to be responsive of the growing statistical information needs of researchers, academic institutions, policy-makers, project implementers and the general public. The statistical programs are aligned to the thrusts on management and coordination.

THE CHALLENGE

The statistical system is strengthened by improving the production, accessibility, and dissemination of statistics to stakeholders and data users. The Regional Statistical Development Program (RSDP) is an essential tool in capacitating and answering the needs of the local statistical system through the identification of statistical program, activities, research & innovation, and correlating these across the development programs/activities. In short, the RSDP is important for a healthy local data ecosystem.

These were the region's motivation for making RSDP for the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). However, much remains to be done with the merging of statistical offices in the country to form the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). These include, among others, the harmonization of processes and procedures, and sharing of institutional knowledge on the technologies and know-how specifically in the formulation of the RSDP that was the task of the former Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

METHODS

Learning from the experiences and strategies of then NSCB and inputs from the staff, PSA Cordillera was able to craft an Action Plan which outlines the course of actions for the formulation of the statistical development program. This guided the region not to overlook important processes, procedures, and even individual or institutions that may contribute significantly in the completion of the program and the publication. One of the identified actions was the setting of processes, guidelines and format that helped the participating institutions easily identify their statistical programs/activities.

Furthermore, maintaining a persistent coordination and strong linkages to partner agencies coupled with the adherence to the doctrine of Complete Staff Work (CSW) in the workplace, throughout the course of plan, were the key factors that brought about the CAR RSDP 2017-2023

as the first publication to be prepared as early as August 2017, way ahead of the national PSDP and rest of the regions' RSDPs.

The CAR RSDP 2017-2023 also recognizes the commitment of the region in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the monitoring of the Core Regional Indicators (CoRe IS). Part of the innovation in the formulation of the RSDP is the inclusion of separate chapters on the Localization of the SDG Indicators and Core Regional Indicator System.

Instruments for statistical coordination

The following instruments for statistical coordination were employed in the timely formulation of the CAR RSDP:

1. Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP)

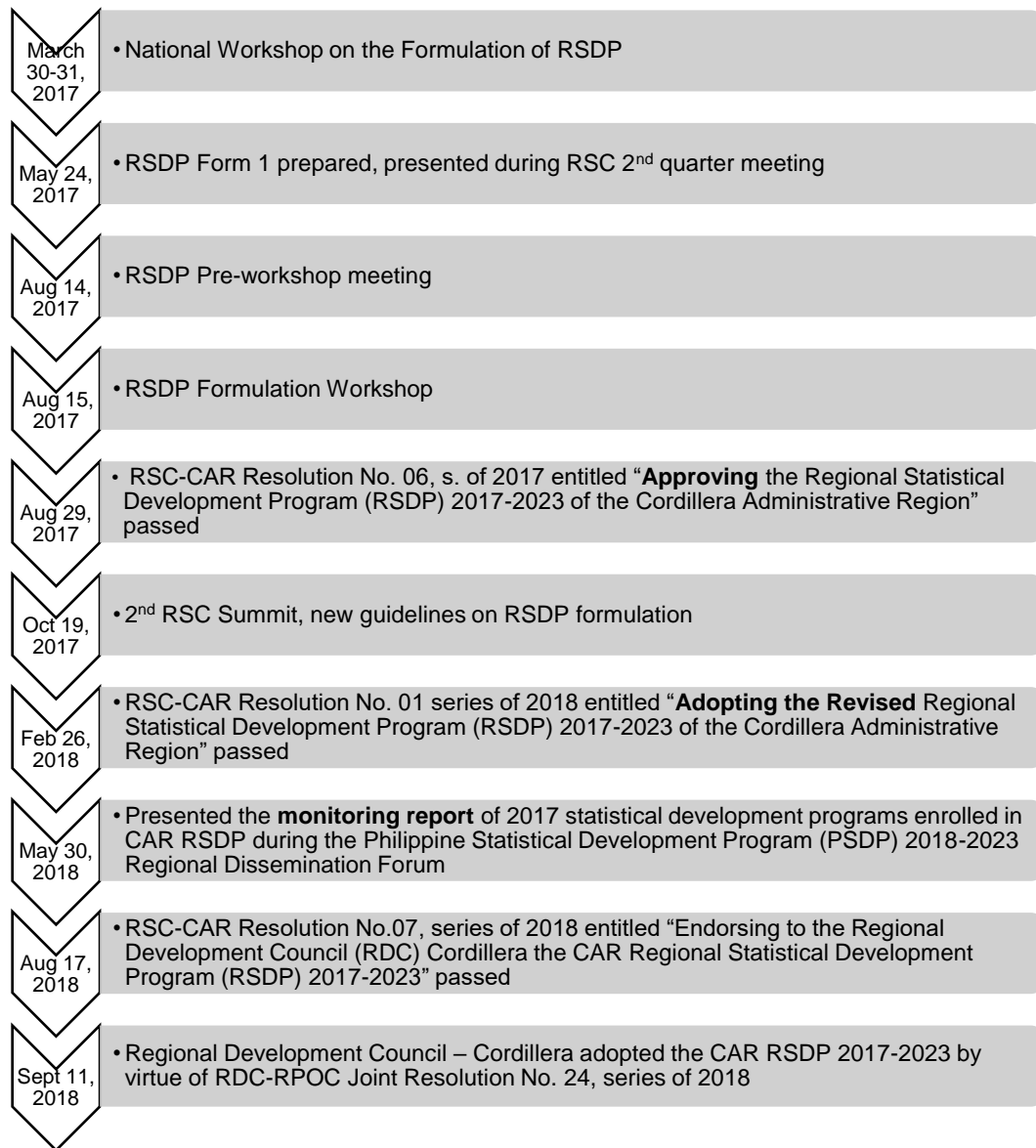
The region referred to the previous editions of the PSDP where the regional statistical development programs were included as chapters. Part 3 of the 2005-2010 PSDP was the Statistical Programs of the Subnational Statistical System. Chapter 4 of the 2011-2017 PSDP comprised the Local Statistics Development that became Chapter 5 on the 2011-2017 PSDP Update.

2. Regional Statistics Committee (RSC)

The preparation of the RSDP required inter-agency cooperation. The RSC was the venue for gathering support. Thru the RSC, the formulation of the CAR RSDP was hastened.

MILESTONES

The following were the milestones of the CAR RSDP preparation:



Furthermore, the region was first to provide updates in the monitoring of the statistical development programs/activities as early as March 2018 since the CAR RSDP compiled statistical programs starting 2017. The CAR RSDP had programs starting from 2017 while the PSDP and the rest of the other regions’ programs started 2018.

The CARS RSDP highlighted as well the important concerns on statistical needs for the monitoring of the SDGs and the CoRe IS.

THE REGIONAL STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RSDP)

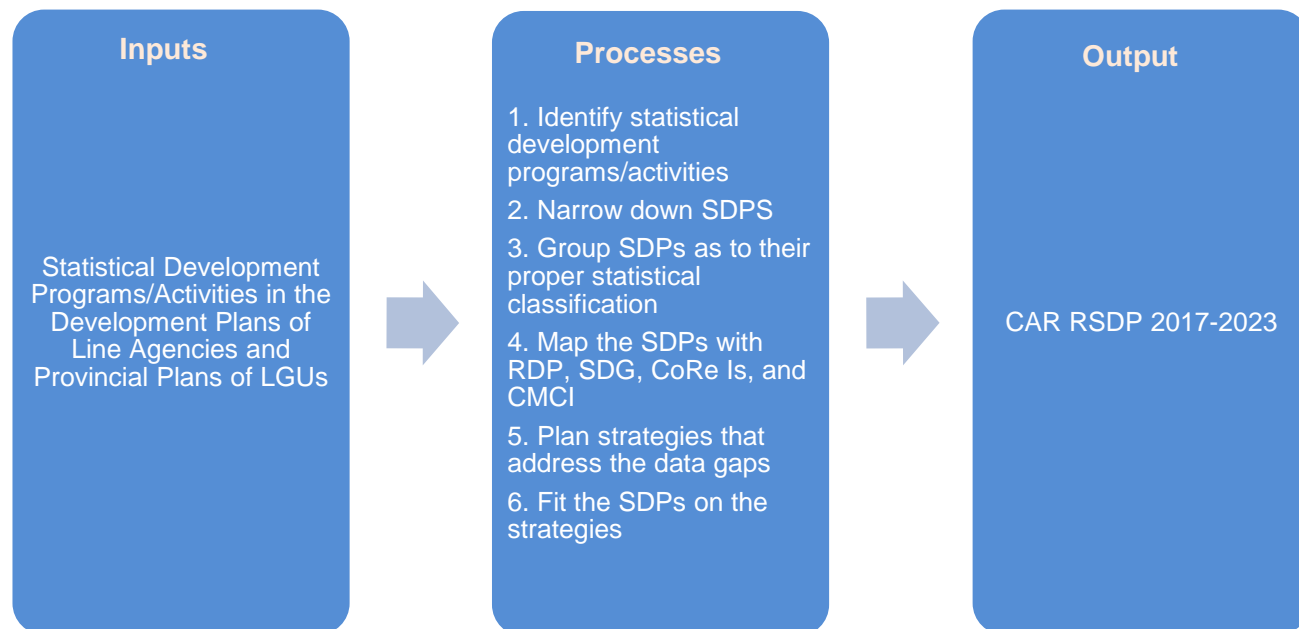
Framework

Program preparation for the RSDP starts at the provincial/local levels where the statistical development programs shall be identified, included and funded and/or to be funded as espoused in the local development plans or local development investment plans (LDIPs).

At the regional level, government agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector shall incorporate statistical development programs and projects in the annual Work and Financial Plans, Strategic and Operational Plans with counterpart funding requirements and resource allocation. The PSA shall provide technical assistance in the preparation of statistical programs of local government units (LGUs) and regional line agencies (RLAs), if called for.

The statistical development programs shall be submitted to the PSA-CAR for compilation and preparation of consolidated SDPs and alignment of program thrusts with the Regional Development Plan (RDP).

FORMULATION FRAMEWORK



The basis for identifying the statistical development programs are the program thrusts of the region in the previous Regional Statistical Development Program prepared by NSCB. The following thrust were considered: 1) Management and Coordination, 2) Data Production, 3) Data Dissemination and Use, 4) Research and Capacity Development, 5) Resources in the Regional Statistical System (RSS).

Statistical Development Programs

Management and Coordination

The RSC is the regional counterpart of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board and serves as the highest policy-making and coordinating body on statistical matters. The committee aims to strengthen the capability of the Subnational Statistical System (SSS) in producing and disseminating timely, reliable and relevant data and prescribes appropriate frameworks for the improvement of statistical products, services, and coordination up to the LGU levels.

The committee may create task forces/technical working groups to attend to technical issues and problems and set priority on statistical activities. Committee work includes the resolution of issues, formulation/adoption of policies, establishment of linkages among government and non-government agencies and the promotion of statistical awareness among the citizenry.

The presence of RSC leads the way to resolving issues and problems and able to set priority statistical activities.

One of the strategies to improve more the coordination mechanism in the region is the establishment of Provincial Statistics Committee (PSC) in each of CAR's provinces. The PSC will replicate the functions of RSC at the provincial level.

Table 1. Management and Coordination SDPs

Statistical Development Program/ Domain	Number of SDPs
Management and Coordination	8
a) Social and Demography	2
b) Economic	2
c) Multi-domain	4

Data Production

Responding to the challenges of timely, reliable and quality statistics that address information needs of local stakeholders, the PSA signifies its commitment to release census and survey results to provide on timely, reliable and quality statistics for the public. For instance, the 2016 Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) for CAR was released three months earlier in May 4, 2017 as compared to the previous years where the GRDP results were released every 4th week of July.

The most useful surveys include Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and Labor Force Survey (LFS) increased its sample size to have a more granular data responsive to the need of planners and decision makers.

Table 2. Data Production SDPs

Statistical Development Program/ Domain	Number of SDPs
Data Production	65
a) Social and Demography	24
b) Economic	34
c) Multi-domain	7

Data Dissemination

In reaching and informing the data users, the region has strategies to conduct advocacy activities, statistical appreciation seminars consultative meetings, dissemination fora for the public and the media, conferences, and timely release of statistical reports/articles/press releases.

The internet and social media are the widely accessible and popularly-used means of obtaining information nowadays and agencies can take advantage of the opportunities made available online. Likewise, most government agencies and organizations have operational websites and databases with updated open data that are available online. Information dissemination forums, press conferences, conventions and other advocacy activities and campaigns are also conducted to disseminate important statistical information to the public.

Table 3. Data Dissemination SDPs

Statistical Development Program/ Domain	Number of SDPs
Data Dissemination	34
a) Social and Demography	7
b) Economic	17
c) Multi-domain	10

Research and Capacity Development

Statistical Research and Development (R and D) is a key in developing new innovative methodologies in support of a more effective and efficient data production and dissemination. Further, the availability of human resources who are capable to undertake statistical work complemented with adequate efficient support facilities that aids the workforce in delivering timely, reliable and quality statistics is necessary to accomplish statistical development goals.

Table 4. Research and Capacity Development

Statistical Development Program/ Domain	Number of SDPs
Research and Capacity Development	41
a) Social and Demography	15
b) Economic	9
c) Multi-domain	17

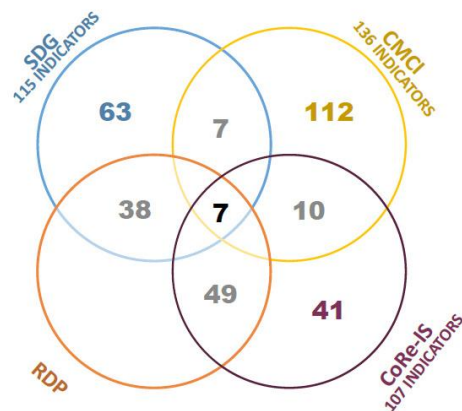
Most of the SDPs submitted are on capacity development of staff in line agencies and local government units to aid them in data handling, gathering and presentation.

RSC-CAR passed RSC-CAR Resolution No. 05, s. 2019 entitled Enjoining Regional Line Agencies and Local Government Units to Establish Statistical Units and/or Positions. Aimed at enhancing the usefulness of data for policymaking; and ensuring integrity of data to be collected.

The region also re-established the Philippine Statistics Association Incorporation (PSAI) – CAR Chapter to enhance the capacities of statisticians through proposed trainings and planned annual statistics convention.

Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals

The diagram below presents the number of indicators that comprise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI), the Core Regional Indicators System (CoRe-IS), and the Regional Development Plan (RDP), respectively. The diagram also maps the number of indicators that coincide with the indicators of each of the abovementioned systems.



Seven indicators are common to the four systems of indicators. These are: 1.4.1. p4 Net enrollment rate in kindergarten, 1.4.1. p5 Net enrollment rate in elementary education, 1.4.1.p6 Net enrollment rate in secondary education, 1.4.1.p7 Proportion of families with access to safe water supply, 1.4.1.p8 Proportion of population living in household with access to sanitary facility, 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity, and 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machine (ATM) per 100,000 adults.

There are 115 indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) classified under Tier 1. Among these, 7 and 38 indicators are similar with those of the CMCI and RDP, respectively. Furthermore, 63 indicators are distinct to the SDG.

The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) are composed of 136 indicators. 7 of which are shared with the SDG whereas 10 indicators are similar with those identified under the Core Regional indicators. There are 112 indicators unique to the CMCI.

The Core Regional Indicators System (CoRe-IS) is made up of a total of 107 indicators. Out of the 107 indicators, 498 are deemed parallel with those under the Regional Development Plan (RDP). CMCI and CoRe-IS share a total of 10 indicators. 41 unique indicators are identified under the CoRe-IS.

The Regional Development Plan (RDP) have 38 and 49 parallel indicators with CoRe-IS and the SDG indicators, respectively.

MONITORING

Monitoring of the statistical development programs in the CAR RSDP is done annually. Agencies are required to accomplish and submit the monitoring form to PSA.

The monitoring form highlights actual output of each SDPs and the extent of implementation of the program in a given year whether conducted, on-going, not yet started.

From the 151 enrolled statistical development programs (SDPs) in the CAR RSDP, 83 SDPs were implemented in 2018, 41 SDPS are still on-going implementation at end of 2018.11 SDPs are not implemented due to budget and time constraints. These are Cordillera Indigenous Peoples Ethnographic Survey (CIPES) of NCIP and Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) of Benguet for 2017-2018 and some statistical capability trainings focused on data gathering, generation, and data story telling of difference line agencies.

Table 5. Monitoring of CAR SDPs, 2018

Statistical Development Program	2018			
	Implemented	On-going	Not yet started	Others*
1. Management and Coordination	7	1	0	0
2. Data Collection/Production	33	22	3	8
3. Data Dissemination and Use	22	11	0	1
4. Research and Capacity Building	21	5	7	8
5. Resources in the Regional Statistical System	0	2	0	0
Total	83	41	10	17

* Rescheduled

IMPACTS/OUTCOMES

As the accompanying document of the Cordillera Regional Development Plan 2017-2022, the completion of the CAR RSDP 2017-2023 allows local government units, government agencies and other stakeholders align their statistical programs and activities to support the information and data needs of the regional development plan.

The pioneering efforts of PSA CAR in RSDP formulation served as a blueprint for other regions to prepare their respective RSDPs. The processes and formats were shared and PSA Cordillera staff visited several regions to serve as one of the resources persons during their RSDP formulation workshops. Regional staff of the other regions were briefed on the procedures and processes that the Cordillera has followed in the preparation of the CAR RSDP 2017-2023 as well as methodologies utilized in the publication itself.

Imbibing the doctrine of Complete Staff Work (CSW) and taking advantage of the established coordination mechanisms resulted to a pioneering output that became a model to the preparation of other regional statistical development programs. The sharing of the practices to other regional offices fostered the “bayanihan” spirit among regional offices.

The CAR RSDP 2017-2023 was also reported by the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC) as one of the major outputs of the region for CY 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the cities and provinces shall have their own compilation of statistical development programs. Just like how the CAR RSDP was formulated that started with culling the regional programs from the PSDP, the provinces can do the same by studying and culling provincial programs from the RSDP and even the PSDP to jumpstart the formulation of their own City/Provincial Statistical Development Programs (C/PrSDP).

The formulation of their C/PrSDPs will also rely on strong and effective coordination amongst provincial agencies/institutions. This calls for the creation of City/Provincial Statistics Committees (C/PSCs). CAR RSC passed Resolution No. 3 Series of 2017 entitled, “Establishing the Provincial or City Statistics Committees in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)” last 27 Feb 2017 and should enable the provinces of CAR to create their respective PSCs.

Furthermore, an Aide Memoire regarding the General Guidelines on the Operations of the Provincial Statistics Committees (PSCs) and Rules of Procedure for PSC Meetings was issued by PSA last 14 February 2019. The document specified that the PSC shall spearhead the formulation of the PrSDP. These underscore the crucial roles of the PSC and the PrSDP to a better and more responsive local statistical system.