

Philippines



Sectors: Water & Waste, Transport

Cities: Baguio City, Manila and Taguig City

Green Cities, Infrastructure and Energy Programme (GCIEP) capabilities: Institutions and capacity

UK Delivery Partners: Crossrail International and Transport for London



A waste water treatment facility in Baguio City, Philippines, where GCIEP is collaborating on climate-smart integrated water management solutions. © Bruce Pollock, GCIEP

The challenge

The Philippines faces worsening urban transport and water security challenges, driven by rapid urbanisation, climate change and inadequate infrastructure. Metro Manila struggles with chronic congestion, inefficient public transport and weak land use planning, while major transport projects face delays and funding issues. Simultaneously, declining water availability, rising demand and increasing pollution are straining urban water resources, threatening public health and cities' liveability. Without integrated, sustainable solutions, these issues will greatly undermine economic growth and climate resilience.

GCIEP's solution

In the Philippines, GCIEP is improving the enabling environment for water supply infrastructure by strengthening key stakeholder capacity to develop sustainable and fit-for-purpose integrated urban water resource management (IUWRM) solutions. GCIEP is also working with authorities in Manila to develop a transit-oriented development (TOD) masterplan.

1. Building capacity for climate-resilient integrated urban water resource management solutions

The principal delivery mechanism for the UK Centre of Expertise is the Green Cities, Infrastructure and Energy Programme (GCIEP), which is working in the Philippines and several other countries across Asia.

In the Philippines, GCIEP is improving the capacity of the national government, local government units (LGUs) and principal water operators to develop IUWRM solutions and mobilise finance and investment for climate-resilient water infrastructure projects.

Strengthening the enabling environment for IUWRM solutions entails GCIEP working closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Water Resources Management Office to move towards an integrated and circular water resource management approach in the Philippines to better withstand the impacts of climate change. This currently focuses on developing sustainable water tariffs, in collaboration with the Local Water

Utilities Administration, that will increase the financial robustness of urban water utilities to make them more attractive for investment. Complementary to this, new tariffs of 'missionary' charges will be included to realise funds for system expansion to unserved populations living in marginal urban areas.

To develop specific bankable and sustainable water infrastructure projects, GCIEP is assisting Baguio, a mountainous city of around 500,000 people, to address its severe water shortages by improving its bulk water supply. The financial aspects of this development are being designed in liaison with the Philippines Government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center to attract private sector investment. GCIEP hopes to structure the PPP financing to include support to micro-water associations in the city that provide water to residents in areas that are difficult to serve. This innovative approach to PPP could form a model to provide sustainable water services to last-mile urban residents.

Overall, this intervention will deliver

more inclusive and sustainable water services, enhance urban economic productivity and strengthen the pipeline of climate-smart water infrastructure projects in the Philippines.

Expected results

Working with national government, local government units (LGUs) and water operators to develop integrated urban water resource management solutions and accelerate financing for water infrastructure projects, will lead to greater water security and resilience for communities.

2. Developing a transit-oriented development masterplan for the Senate-DepEd Station

GCIEP is also working with the Philippines Government to enhance the enabling environment for transit-oriented development (TOD) implementation and financing. This intervention aims to develop a robust pipeline of climate-responsive, inclusive and prioritised TOD projects along the North-South Commuter Railway corridor, and other key transport infrastructure projects. By integrating land use and transport planning, GCIEP will improve connectivity, mobility, economic productivity and citizens' quality of life, particularly for low-income communities in Manila.

The first initiative, led by Transport for London (TfL), focuses on developing a TOD framework for the railway infrastructure. TfL is equipping the Department of Transportation (DoTr) with practical tools and guidance to integrate TOD into transit infrastructure



The Metro Rail Transit Line in Manila. © Bruce Pollock, GCIEP

projects and maximise land value capture to help fund public transport.

The second initiative, led by Crossrail International, supports master planning and a technical feasibility study, where GCIEP is working closely with DoTr and the Department of Education to develop a TOD implementation framework that complements the government's Build Better More programme. A key milestone will be the delivery of the country's first government-led TOD site around a key interchange of two under-construction metro lines in Metro Manila. Working alongside the Asian Development Bank to mobilise private sector investment and demonstrate land value capture in practice, this initiative aims to optimise financial returns while fostering liveable urban spaces and developing an approach for future metro station hubs.

Expected results

Working with national and Metro Manila stakeholders to demonstrate proof of concept for transit-oriented development (TOD) implementation at the Senate-DepEd pilot site, will unlock financing and lead to replication of the approach at scale, resulting in more efficient, safe and low-carbon mobility for millions of residents.

GCIEP's intervention is creating a more level playing field for water and TOD investment in the Philippines, making the sector more viable for international and UK financing and related supply chain opportunities. The leadership of Crossrail International and TfL showcases UK expertise and creates opportunities for future UK-Philippines collaboration.

GCIEP is a demand-driven initiative 'ocused on sustainable green cities and climate-resilient infrastructure in lower-income countries. As the flagship programme of the UK's Centre of Expertise for Green Cities, Infrastructure and Energy, GCIEP supports the UK Government's mission to accelerate investment in, and delivery of, infrastructure and urban development that is responsible, reliable, inclusive, low-carbon and climate-resilient.

A significant proportion of GCIEP's work is carried out in six priority countries: Ghana, Indonesia, Philippines, Mozambique, Vietnam and Zambia, where a Deep Offer programme provides long-term, systemic interventions focused on transformative change and infrastructure financing.

To keep up to date with GCIEP's work in Philippines:

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