STRIDE
Performance Evaluation

Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) commissioned a third party, final evaluation of the Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation for Development (STRIDE) Activity. Through this evaluation, USAID can gauge the extent by which STRIDE is meeting its objectives of strengthening capacity in science, technology and innovation of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines and contributing to USAID's Development Objective of "Broad-based and Inclusive Growth Accelerated and Sustained" of the earlier CDCS as well as the Development Objective of the new CDCS (2020-2024) of "Inclusive, Market-Driven Growth Expanded."

The evaluation[1] focused on the three year extension period, which was granted to allow STRIDE to build on its initiatives during the five year base period, the lessons learned during implementation, and the strong partnerships between government, academe and industry. STRIDE works to support the Philippine government's Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR), the Government of the Philippines (GOP) Filipinnovation and Entrepreneurship Roadmap included in its 2017-2022 Development Plan, and the new framework on higher education. Results of the evaluation informs the design of the Mission's next generation, higher education activities.

Evaluation Design and Methodology

The evaluation design is mixed methods with quantitative and qualitative strands and three levels of analysis. The quantitative strand involved an electronic Capacity to Innovate survey of 70 scholars and grantees and 22 participants in remote focus group discussions (FGD) and an inventory of activities found in STRIDE quarterly and annual report documents for each intermediate result (IR). The qualitative strand used the following data collection procedures: 1) document review and 2) nine (9) remote FGDs with a total of 63 participants, 30 remote key informant interviews (KIIs), and two (2) RIIC case studies with six (6) remote KIIs for a total of 199 respondents, of which 48 percent were women.

DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS			
	NATIONAL LEVEL	REGIONAL LEVEL		INDIVIDUAL LEVEL (HEIs)
		GOV'T	INDUSTRY	
Quantitative				
• Online Survey		11	11	70
Qualitative				
• Key Informant Interview (KII) (*Private, *Small Univ, **Private and Small Univ.)	7	12		19 (45.5%*, 27.3%**)
• Focus Group Discussion (FGD)				
o RIIC-Regional Inclusive innovation Center****		13	9	9
o GIA-Government-Industry-Academe		7	14	11
Case Study		6		
Total Respondents (N = 199)	**7**	**49**	**34**	**109**
Percent Distribution	3.23	23.78	18.38	54.59

The three levels of analysis are 1) national-level innovation policy analysis; 2) regional-level collaborative framework focusing on the RIICs and other government-industry-academe linkages, including links to the Cities Development Initiatives (CDIs); and 3) individual-level granular analysis (from HEIs and government research and development institutions) of STRIDE interventions and how these have affected IE improvement. The evaluation used mind mapping to generate qualitative information and NVivo software for qualitative data processing. The evaluation team used descriptive statistics and graphi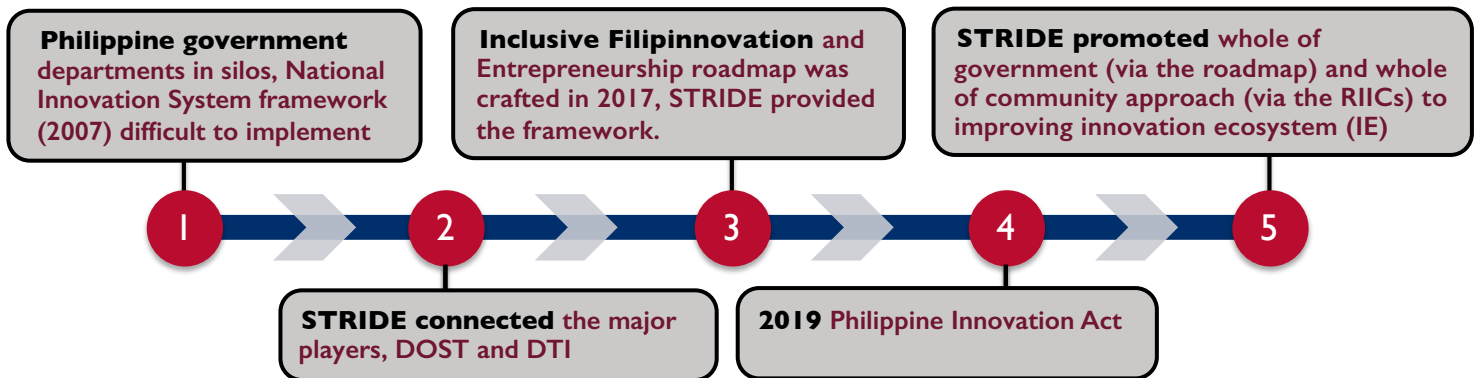c displays for quantitative data analysis and derived joint display tables. There were three evaluation parameters: relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, the evaluation was fully remote.

[1] The STRIDE external and independent performance evaluation team is comprised of: Agnes C. Rola, PhD., Cecilia P. Reyes, PhD., and Ivy P. Mejia.

Summary of Findings

Increased human capital via capacity building	**Conducted** strategic research, leading to knowledge creation	**Promoted** knowledge and technology transfer	**Strengthened** collaboration at national and regional levels	**Marginally** affected commercialization, via start-ups and spin-offs

Improved Innovation Ecosystem

Philippine government departments in silos, National Innovation System framework (2007) difficult to implement

Inclusive Filipinnovation and **Entrepreneurship** roadmap was crafted in 2017, STRIDE provided the framework.

STRIDE promoted whole of government (via the roadmap) and whole of community approach (via the RIICs) to improving innovation ecosystem (IE)

1   2   3   4   5

STRIDE connected the major players, DOST and DTI

2019 Philippine Innovation Act

Challenges and Recommendations

CHALLENGE
Need to develop a culture of innovation that supports critical thinking and creativity

ISSUES
- Low basic education level innovation skills
- Low STEM Enrolment
- Low Research & Development Budget
- Government's low perception of STI's positive impacts for economic growth

EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL

RECOMMENDATIONS
- DepED Collaboration
- Dissemination of IPR benefits
- Establish regional START Centerts

CHALLENGE
More inclusive and demand driven research sub-ecosystem

ISSUES
- Varied capacities and limited professional development of faculty members
- No existing policies for co-creation
- Procurement issues

KNOWLEDGE CREATION

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Make it inclusive
- Provide varied categories of grants for novice, intermediate, and advanced researchers
- Harmonize co-creation policies of government and industry

CHALLENGE
Low knowledge of faculty on the nature and benefits of IPR, few HEIs have technology transfer offices, trust issues

ISSUES
- Faculty just wants to publish
- Differences in the innovation competencies of partners

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Incentivize faculty for demand driven research
- Establish more knowledge and technology transfer centers

CHALLENGE
Sustaining collaboration among actors need strong leaders, community participation, private sector involvement and industry friendly academe policies

ISSUES
- Funding the collaboration platform and promote an enabling regulatory environment for all actors
- Differences in Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of partners

COLLABORATION

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Operationalize the National Innovation Center
- Develop rules for accessing the Innovation Fund
- Create more space for interaction of actors

CHALLENGE
Low quantities of patents, copyrights, trademarks and other instruments needed for commercialization, absence of faculty incentives

ISSUES
- Very slow process of IPR instruments' approval
- Lack of policy on IE actors' benefit sharing
- Lack of knowledge about commercialization
- Lack of incentives for faculty to commercialize technologies

COMMERCIALIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS
- Study the Intellectual Property application processes
- IPOPHIL to do more training programs
- Improve regulatory policies internally and across actors.

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CLAimDev aims to bolster the capacity of USAID/Philippines to effectively lead and practice collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA). Improving practices in CLA has the broader goal of enhancing USAID's development effectiveness.

Panagora Group, the implementing partner, closely works with USAID/Philippines to integrate CLA principles into the Mission's work. CLAimDev covers an implementation period of five years, 2020-2024.