

Human development,
from S1/1

While the index value is greater than in 2019, the UNDP said it does not mean the world has fully recovered from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and other crises.

“Essentially, we have not reached the level of human development that could have been expected had the pandemic not happened,” it said.

Life expectancy at birth is at 72.2 years in the Philippines,” according to the Human Development Index. The expected years of schooling for Filipinos is 12.8, while the mean years of school is nine.

Life expectancy in Singapore is 84.1, with 16.9 expected years of schooling and 11.9 mean years of school.

The Philippines’ gross national income per capita is about \$9,059, a far cry from Singapore’s \$88,761.

The Philippines also ranked 92nd in the gender inequality index with a score of 0.388, while its gender development score stood at 0.966.

Jose Enrique A. Africa, executive director of think tank IBON Foundation, said the Philippines’ human development ranking does not reflect an improvement in the poverty situation.

“The appearance of improvement is unwarranted though, because the country’s economic growth has long been grossly inequitable and manifests disproportionately as income, profit and wealth gains for the richest rather than a generalized improvement in the conditions

of the majority,” he said in a Viber message.

Almost half of Filipino families, equivalent to 13 million households, consider themselves poor, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations in late 2023.

Mr. Africa said the index’s measure of education does not even capture the poor quality of education in the country.

“Amid low family incomes, the government has so much more to do to improve the reach and quality of the public school system,” he said.

The Philippines had one of the longest and strictest lockdowns in the world, with schools closed between April 2020 and March 2022.

— **B.M.D.Cruz**

Fitch,
from S1/1

“Before the pandemic, Philippine GDP consistently grew by at least 6% from 2012-2019 due to the demographic sweet spot and other important economic bright spots,” he said in a Viber message.

He cited strong remittances, low unemployment, improved government spending and the uptick in tourism as growth drivers.

Meanwhile, Fitch sees inflation averaging 4% this year, within the central bank’s 2-4% target. However, it is above the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) average forecast of 3.6% for the full year.

It also expects inflation to ease further to 3.5% next year, above the BSP’s forecast of 3.2%.

The BSP earlier said it expects inflation to accelerate above the 2-4% target in the second quarter due to the El Niño weather event, as well as positive base effects.

Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings raised its global GDP growth projection by 0.3 percentage point to 2.4%, as it expects faster US growth.

In its latest Global Economic Outlook, the debt watcher said it also raised its US growth forecast to 2.1% from 1.2%.

It trimmed its China growth forecast to 4.5% for this year from 4.6%.

“An unprecedented pro-cyclical widening in the US fiscal deficit in 2023 boosted domestic demand and helped explain the surprising resilience of GDP growth,” Fitch said. “But we expect the fiscal impulse to fade this year and household income growth to slow.”

For 2025, Fitch expects global economy to grow by 2.5% as “the eurozone finally recovers on a pickup in real wages and consumption – but US growth slows.” — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsen**

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
She Slays
2024

WOMEN LEADING TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 19-20, 2024

SMX CONVENTION CENTER AURA

DAY 1
MARCH 19, 2024
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

From Invisible to Influential:
Women’s Impact in Data,
Digital, and Technology



JANA MARLE-ZIZKOVA
CO-FOUNDER & CEO MEIRO
& SHELOVESDATA

SheFinTech:
Pioneering Financial
Transformation

SARA VENTURINA
Chief Data Officer
Gcash

DR. ADRIENNE HEINRICH
Head of AI Center of Excellence
Unionbank

MILA BEDRENETS
Chief Growth Hacker,
TONIK

SheCommerce:
Redefining Online Retail

PAULINE CASTRO
Head of Traffic Strategy and
Product Operations,
Lazada

Queen of Tech

AMBE TIERRO
Country Managing Director
Accenture PH

Connecting the Archipelago:
Women at the Forefront of AI

KD DIZON
Head
Globe Business

MARIA GRACE UY
President, Co-founder, and
Chief Resources Officer,
Converge ICT

KAT LUNA-ABELARDE
Lead for Innovation Center,
PLDT and Smart

**Innovating Women’s
Healthcare & Social Media**

**DR. CIALUJ TEZA AGBAYANI-CRUZ,
MD, FPOGS, FPSRM**
Obstetrician-Gynecologist and
Reproductive Medicine Specialist,
Bayer Philippines

InnovateHER Health

PAMELA LEE
Head of Marketing
KonsultaMD

DR. VICKY BELO
CEO and Medical Director
Belo Medical Group

**Women in
Forefront of AI**

BIANCA CRUZ AZURIN
Co-Founder
TOXME ACADEMY

DAY 2
MARCH 20, 2024
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Why Women Should
Persist and Prevail in Tech



PATRICIA MULLES
DIRECTOR & GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIPS HEAD
SHE LOVES DATA

MarketHERS
Revolutionizing the
Consumer Experience

GOLDA ROLDAN
CEO,
Wunderman Thompson
and VML Philippines

KAREENA MACLANG QUIMSON
Head of Corporate Marketing,
Samsung Electronics

Gaming and Web3:
Woman in Next Tech

IVY GUTIERREZ
Lady Traders,
Global Miranda Miner Group

RAINE LA LUNA
Co-Founder
Filipinas NFT, Web3 Cebu &
Sphera Solutions

MYRTLE ANNE RAMOS
CEO,
Block Tides

**Changing the World
through Power of Tech**

KATRINA RAUSA CHAN
Founding Executive Director,
QBO and StartUp Pinay

YANI HORNILLA-DONATO
Country Head,
Canva PH

MARIA ROSARIO ILAO
CEO and Co-Founder,
MobileOptima Inc.

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PPOP Girl Group
DEMI CHELSY
Artist

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