



NEWS ROUNDUP

26 OCTOBER 2023 [08:00 am]

- EU to finance ₱3.6B PHL green projects to cut greenhouse
- 'PHL aims to lead world's march toward clean energy solutions'
- [Opinion] Heat on UAE to give COP28 ambitious edge we need
- EU, Philippines sign €60 million financing deal for Green Economy Programme
- Sinking islands of Bohol may already be 'uninhabitable' due to slow-onset sea level rise caused by climate change
- Infra projects vital for 2040 RE goal—DOE
- Most investments support renewable energy
- Climate-resilient toilet to benefit 150 Samar families
- Climate change and filthy water drive disease in Iraq
- Clean energy

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- CCC, UST seal partnership to drive climate innovation, sustainability

BUSINESS MIRROR

[EU to finance ₱3.6B PHL green projects to cut greenhouse](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

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['PHL aims to lead world's march toward clean energy solutions'](#)

By: Lorenz S. Marasigan

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ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Heat on UAE to give COP28 ambitious edge we need](#)

By: RR Rashmi

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GMA NEWS

[EU, Philippines sign €60 million financing deal for Green Economy Programme](#)

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MANILA BULLETIN

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MANILA STANDARD

[Most investments support renewable energy](#)

By: Othel V. Campos

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Hayder Indhar and Laure Al-Khoury

A worried Iraqi father points at a blister on the face of his one-year-old daughter, the result of a parasitic infection carried by sandflies in her remote village.

[\[Opinion\] Clean energy](#)

By: Tony Lopez

Good news: The global demand for the three major fossil fuels – oil, coal and natural gas – will decline. Demand for them will peak by the end of this decade, in 2030, according to the October 2023 World Energy Outlook (WEO) of the International Energy Agency.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, UST seal partnership to drive climate innovation, sustainability](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) have officially signed a cooperation agreement, solidifying their commitment to advancing climate innovation and sustainability in the country.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

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[EU to finance ₱3.6B PHL green projects to cut greenhouse](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

The European Union will finance a number of environmental projects to help the Philippines achieve its ambitious target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.

Philippine Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno and European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen signed the Financing Agreement for the Green Economy Programme in Brussels on Wednesday.

The EU financing will cost €60 million (P3.6 billion) in the form of grants.

EU-to-be-funded PHL environmental projects

According to the European Commission, the EU grant aims to finance Philippine projects that are “embracing the circular economy” such as:

- reducing waste and plastic usage
- ensuring water supply and wastewater treatment
- promoting energy efficiency
- deploying renewable energy

“To achieve this, the EU will collaborate with the national government, local government units, and the private sector to promote green investments, bonds, and skills, focusing on greener supply chains and production processes,” the EC’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships said in a statement.

Finance Secretary Diokno thanked the EU for its “generosity and staunch support” for the Philippine climate change projects.

“The financing support from the EU will help the country in fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contribution commitment to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030,” Diokno said.

Team Europe for PHL green economy

The Philippines and EU had earlier agreed to work together to help the Philippines transition to circular economy.

During the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Manila early this year, the Team Europe Initiative on Green Economy was born.

Team Europe committed to contribute €466 million for this initiative.

The recently signed financing agreement will form part of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative.

“The Team Europe Initiative on Green Economy is a testament to the power of cooperation in addressing today’s pressing challenges. With a significant contribution of €60 million through the Green Economy Programme, we are helping to build a circular economy, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting climate change mitigation,” EC Commissioner Urpilainen said.

Implementers of the Green Economy Programme will include the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Expertise France, bringing their considerable expertise to the initiative.

Spain, Finland, Germany, and France have also made financial contributions to the Team Europe Initiative, further cementing the EU’s commitment to fostering a sustainable green economy in the Philippines.

Other European Member States, including Austria, Netherlands, and Sweden, will contribute their expertise to ensure the success of this initiative.

[‘PHL aims to lead world’s march toward clean energy solutions’](#)

By: Lorenz S. Marasigan

The Philippines is positioning itself as a leader in the global shift towards clean and sustainable energy solutions, the chief of the Department of Energy (DOE) said on Wednesday.

In his speech at the DOE-United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Workshop for Offshore Wind (OSW) Development, Lotilla outlined the Philippines’s strategic plans to excel in the global shift towards clean and sustainable energy solutions.

He said in the forthcoming Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), the DOE has introduced OSW as a key component of the nation’s renewable energy (RE) portfolio.

The government’s goal is to achieve 35 percent of renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030, ultimately leading to a clean and sustainable energy future.

Lotilla went on to explain that the Clean Energy Scenario envisioned in the PEP includes mitigation and adaptation initiatives, aiming for a 50 percent share of RE in the grid mix by 2050.

“We have always acknowledged that collaboration with the private sector is imperative for us to achieve our goals. As such, we have issued several enabling policies that open new opportunities for international investments. The Philippines now allows 100 percent foreign ownership for renewable energy technologies in geothermal, biomass, solar, wind, ocean, and tidal wave,” he said.

Lotilla added that the government is now exploring variations of financing that offer a range of energy funding solutions, including a sovereign guarantee from the Philippine Guarantee Corp.

“We also expanded our options for private sector engagement so that RE developers can compete under our green energy auction openly and transparently,” he said.

With the support of the USAID-Energy Secure Philippines, Lotilla said the government is committed to enhancing the skills of Filipino workers to remain competitive in the global shift towards alternative energy development and technological advances.

He noted that a key element of this initiative is the competency mapping of skills in offshore wind energy, along with updates to skills for mature and emerging technologies such as hydro, biomass, solar, and floating solar.

Lotilla said this competency mapping is fundamental to crafting pathways that ensure a steady supply of workers with world-class technological skills, not only to support the Philippines's growing portfolio of alternative energy sources but also to qualify for premium employment opportunities worldwide.

“Through investing in the skills of our workforce, enhancing our energy security, and strengthening our resilience, we are positioning ourselves to excel in the global shift toward clean and sustainable energy solutions,” he said.

ECO BUSINESS

[\[Opinion\] Heat on UAE to give COP28 ambitious edge we need](#)

By: RR Rashmi

The world's premier climate change conference next month will be hosted by a country among those arguably with the most to lose from more ambitious climate action.

The global community is required to take ambitious actions to respond to climate change but host the United Arab Emirates might be one of those most challenged by the need to broker a faster shift away from high-emission fuels.

When COP28 — the United Nations Climate Change Conference — convenes in Dubai on 30 November, the crucial question will be how to balance the speed of energy transition and economic transformation against the needs of sustainable development and alternative energy sources.

After five years, the conference is returning to Asia, hosted by a country that is the eighth-largest global oil producer and is among the highest per capita emitters in the world.

But while the United Arab Emirates is happy to host COP28, it's too soon to say whether such a rich country would be willing to reduce its absolute dependence on oil resources.

It's also yet to be seen whether the UAE is willing to bring down its emissions in pursuit of a global goal, especially when many aspects of the Paris Agreement — a landmark climate treaty struck at COP in 2015 — are yet to become fully functional.

Although the UAE is a rich nation, it is connected to developing economies by climate change. It is a part of the Global South and a member of the G77 and China group.

The host nation's political and ideological leanings on climate change align with countries that see climate change as a global challenge resulting from cumulative emissions, and also as one that affects their economic resources and infrastructure hugely and harshly.

For such countries, addressing climate change means bearing a massive cost to their economies, sacrificing their development to support a clean energy transition.

Just energy transition is not the only issue that will cause agitation at COP28.

The UAE, as holder of the COP presidency, will have to deal with four other major tasks: getting agreements on the Global Stocktake of climate action; building consensus on Global Goal on Adaptation; setting up the Loss and Damage Fund; and advancing climate finance commitments beyond 2025.

Discussions on finance will likely move slowly. The New Collective Qualified Goal of finance under the Paris Agreement is set to be finalised in 2024 and implemented in 2025, and there are still issues over raising money from multilateral development banks and the private sector.

However, the host country will have to ensure that the talks go beyond just reaffirming the existing USD\$100 billion pledge.

An estimated USD\$4 trillion a year needs to be mobilised by 2030 to support the clean energy transition.

Achieving the net zero goal by mid-century requires much more than that. The UAE will need to work with governments, as well as multilateral development banks and financial institutions, to enhance the scope and scale of climate finance.

The Global Stocktake and the Loss and Damage Fund, both of which have big implications for developing economies, will test the ability of the presidency to remain neutral while adhering to the principles of the Paris Agreement.

UAE recently attended the G20 summit in Delhi as an invitee and climate change and energy transition were discussed at length.

The G20 does not set the terms of negotiations for climate conferences, but it is hard to imagine that the COP28 host countries and other major players in climate are not influenced by it, given the grouping's global power.

The G20 has recognised and supported the global emission reduction target reductions, as suggested by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and called for a 43 percent reduction in emissions from 2019 levels by 2030.

It has also endorsed a global peaking of emissions by 2025 and backed the demand for scaled up finance — USD\$5.9 trillion a year to meet the global net zero goal.

The G20 has underscored the necessity of developed economies meeting their commitments on climate finance at previous COPs, exhorting them to scale up contributions from billions to the promised trillions.

The first synthesis report of the technical dialogue on the Global Stocktake of climate actions was released in September 2023 by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat.

The report says the pace of global emissions does not meet desired global mitigation pathways laid out in the Paris Agreement to achieve the temperature goal of 2 degrees Celsius below the pre-industrial level.

To stay below that maximum temperature, every country needs to do a lot more and effectively transform all sectors of the world economy.

But the Global Stocktake dialogue report is silent on what might be done to bridge the widening gap between the existing efforts of countries and the options that can be adopted in time for the next cycle of Nationally Determined Contributions in 2025.

The fractured debate over future action and on the formulations that emerged from the G20's Delhi Declaration mean the presidency might find it difficult to seek more concessions on the fossil fuel phaseout beyond those agreed in Glasgow in 2021.

In Glasgow, parties agreed to phase down unabated coal-based energy but left other fossil fuels like oil and natural gas untouched beyond subsidy reduction targets. In 2022, the G20 adopted the same language.

There are no meaningful signs that developed economies have tweaked or peaked their emissions substantially since Glasgow. The strains on the global energy system and costs imposed by the Russia-Ukraine war make it doubly difficult to negotiate an immediate scaling down of conventional fuels. A reduction on conventional fuels would be difficult to achieve unless renewable energy is rapidly and significantly scaled up globally.

Both the Clean Energy Ministerial of major economies and the G20 have recently raised the possibility of setting new global targets. Options raised include tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency rates by 2030.

There is an expectation within the oil industry that the UAE might seek support for carbon capture storage technologies as a way of balancing its emissions from oil production and use it as a condition for agreeing to such targets.

India has been generally suspicious of carbon capture and storage technology because of its cost and doubts over technical feasibility.

Technological progress has been slow and is yet to make any dent on the energy system.

However, promising initiatives on clean technologies have emerged, including the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre under the purview of the International Solar Alliance. A Global Biofuel Alliance has also been launched by the G20.

If recognised at COP28, these initiatives might boost international efforts to produce, trade and use low or zero-emission fuels. But all of these are likely to make an impact only in the medium or long term.

With the Global Stocktake sending a message that the world is not on track to meet the climate change challenge, the UAE as host of COP28 will have its task cut out.

It will need to assure the world that even as an oil producer it is willing to put its weight behind the technologies and policy choices key to achieving emission cuts and use its prestige as host to achieve consensus on increased climate finance for developing economies.

GMA NEWS

[EU, Philippines sign €60 million financing deal for Green Economy Programme](#)

By: Ted Cordero

The Philippines and the European Union (EU) on Wednesday inked a €60-million financing agreement for the Green Economy Programme.

In a statement, the European Commission (EC) said the grant under the Green Economy Programme “aims to assist the Philippines in renewing its economy.”

It also forms part of the EU’s Team Europe Initiative on Green Economy.

The EC said the program includes embracing the circular economy, reducing waste and plastic usage, ensuring water supply and wastewater treatment, promoting energy efficiency, and deploying renewable energy to address the impacts of the climate crisis.

It said the EU will collaborate with the Philippines’ national government, local government units, and the private sector to promote green investments, bonds, and skills, focusing on greener supply chains and production processes.

The EC said the implementers of the Green Economy Programme will include the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Expertise France, bringing their considerable expertise to the initiative.

Moreover, Spain, Finland, Germany, and France have also made financial contributions to the Team Europe Initiative, further cementing the EU’s commitment to fostering a sustainable green economy in the Philippines.

Other European Member states, including Austria, Netherlands, and Sweden, will contribute their expertise to ensure the success of this initiative, according to the EC.

“The Team Europe Initiative on Green Economy is a testament to the power of cooperation in addressing today’s pressing challenges. With a significant contribution of €60 million through the Green Economy Programme, we are helping to build a circular economy, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting climate change mitigation,” said European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen.

For his part, Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said, “The Philippine Government is grateful for the EU’s generosity and staunch support to the country’s climate change agenda.”

“The financing support from the EU will help the country in fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contribution commitment to reduce and avoid greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030. Through this €60-million grant, the country will benefit from various measures in reducing the production of wastes and plastics, deploying renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency,” Diokno said.

Additionally, the EC said the bloc is supporting the Philippines in becoming a regional digital hub through the €20-million Digital Economy Package and a Digital Connectivity Team Europe Initiative with the aim of bringing secure and reliable connections to the country.

The EU is also looking into the potential for a free trade agreement (FTA) with the Philippines, “which could generate significant growth and job opportunities, as well as diversify and fortify supply chains.”

[Sinking islands of Bohol may already be 'uninhabitable' due to slow-onset sea level rise caused by climate change](#)

Bilangbilangan off the coast of Tubigon, Bohol had been a densely populated island, when its outer areas began subsiding following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Bohol in 2013. Its residents had to go farther inland to keep safe but since then, the island has experienced sinking.

By standards of previous studies, and because of the slow-onset of sea level rise brought on by climate change, Bilangbilangan, along with the islands of Batasan and Inanuran, may already be considered uninhabitable.

Sand bars have become a distant memory and a number of houses have been left derelict. Meanwhile sea level rise is also affecting their fish catch. According to Greenpeace, areas around the tropics are predicted to see 40% declines in potential seafood catch by 2050.

As Planet Earth continues to warm, glaciers in the arctic will continue to melt. This melting will add more water into the ocean, leaving islands like Bilangbilangan, Batasan, and Inanuran to continue to bear the brunt of climate change.

In a Generation Restoration documentary, French glaciologist Dr. Heidi Sevestre explained, "In places where the ocean is warmer, such as around the Philippines, it's making the ocean dilate even more, taking a little more room. So the more the ice is melting in the arctic, the more the Philippines will experience sea level rise."

Unfortunately, it's not just inland flow that residents of islands like Bilangbilangan, Batasan, and Inanuran must keep safe from. There are also cyclones, which have become stronger and more frequent, thanks to a warmer sea surface. It's not unlike what they experienced in 2021, when Super Typhoon Odette came battering in and hastening the collapse of these islands.

A 2019 study by Climate Central said the Philippines is one of eight Asian countries at great risk due to coastal flooding made worse by climate change in 2050.

A quick look on CostalDEM, the study's coastal risk screening tool, showed Bilangbilangan, Batasan, and Inanuran in the red — or below the annual flood level — by 2050.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Infra projects vital for 2040 RE goal—DOE](#)

The Department of Energy (DOE) emphasized the significance of finishing key infrastructure projects in country in order to attain the renewable energy (RE) target by 2040.

At the 49th Philippine Business Conference and Expo, Energy Assistant Secretary Mario Marasigan presented the DOE's masterplan in achieving an improved economy.

There, Marasigan shared that the government has looked into the power generation sector to cater the future development of renewability.

"We also need other infrastructure development, particularly the availability of transmission system, interconnection, as well as the necessary ports for our offshore wind development," he said.

The offshore wind energy is considered as RE for utilizing wind force produced on the high seas.

This has been proven to generate a more constant speed than placed on land because there are no barriers compared to the offshore placement.

Besides the public-private partnership (PPP), Marasigan also mentioned that the energy sector has been coordinating with other agencies.

"We are propagating with other government agencies, even other entities that have a stake with the energy sector," he said.

"Through the collaboration with the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), We're moving into automation by 2040," the official noted.

Marasigan also discussed the possibility of smart homes as well as creating a digital infrastructure to support the automated metering systems.

"[In the case of other government agencies], we have the Energy Virtual One Stop Shop Act (EVOSS), a digital platform wherein licensing procedures are done virtually and online," Marasigan explained on the governing measures conducted by the DOE.

The purpose of EVOSS is to streamline the permitting process of power generation, transmission, and distribution projects.

Moreover, Marasigan stated the importance of working on RE as the greater part of the Philippines' energy mix.

This was said to reduce the pressure from other energy resources and rejuvenate the natural gas industry.

By 2040, the DOE aims to reach a target of 52,826 megawatts (MW) of additional renewable energy (RE) capacity, which is seven times the current level.

Under this plan, solar energy is expected to make up 51.5 percent or 27,162 MW of the new capacity, while wind energy will contribute 16,650 MW.

The remaining capacity will come from hydro, geothermal, and biomass sources.

MANILA STANDARD

[Most investments support renewable energy](#)

By: Othel V. Campos

Department of Trade and Investment (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual said Wednesday most investments this year will support renewable energy (RE) projects.

RE accounts for most of the P1 trillion or over \$17 billion investment approvals registered with the Board of Investments (BOI).

Opening up the country's renewable projects to 100-percent foreign equity worked wonders in the attracting foreign direct investments (FDI), Pascual said.

"One of the significant policy actions we took at the start of our administration in the middle of last year was to open our country's renewable energy sector to 100-percent foreign ownership. From incentivizing renewable energy projects to creating favorable policies for businesses that integrate sustainable practices, we are laying the foundation for an economy that thrives while respecting our environment," Pascual told participants in the 2023 Arangkada Philippines Forum held Wednesday at the Marriott Hotel in Pasay City.

He said sustainable transformations are endeavors the government could not accomplish alone, thus the need for support from the private sector.

Public-private partnerships boosted FDIs not only in RE but also in aviation, rail, road and maritime transport, he said.

"For a long time, our economic growth has been consumer-driven. Our goal is to achieve an investment-led economy that brings shared prosperity to all Filipinos. We seek to harness foreign direct investments as drivers of export growth, sources of vital technology, and critical enablers of the country's long-term climate action," Pascual said.

He underscored the importance of RE to creating a sustainable circular economy through a complete industrial process cycle that ensures a minimal carbon footprint and more value-added economic activity.

The government's trade and investment missions aim to explore investment possibilities in smart manufacturing, bioplastics, green ship recycling and the transformative potential of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies like robotics and artificial intelligence (AI).

The DTI also welcomes financing and partnerships in the manufacture of energy-efficient maritime vessels and equipment, as well as electronic devices and circuits for smart grid and renewable energy, including wearable solar devices.

The Philippines also plans to enter the global electric vehicle (EV) value chain, as climate change compelled the shift to green products such as electric vehicles.

The Philippines welcomes foreign investments that bring EV technologies. EV battery manufacturing can be a thriving economic activity in the Philippines with the innate abundance of green metals in the country such as nickel, copper and cobalt, according to the DTI.

“We seek investments in the mineral processing of our abundant nickel, copper, and other green metals in the country. We also invite investments in energy storage technologies, including battery energy storage systems,” Pascual said.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Climate-resilient toilet to benefit 150 Samar families

By: Sarwell Meniano

Samar's provincial government on Wednesday signed a memorandum of agreement with microfinance institutions to make climate-resilient toilets affordable to 150 poor families in the province.

The project, supported by UNICEF, will benefit households in Basey, Jiabong, and Paranas towns.

At the signing, Samar Governor Sharee Ann Tan said the province and its partners invested in this financing initiative that would ensure the health and safety of poor families.

"Our province is highly vulnerable to experiencing adverse weather conditions, and having climate-resilient sanitation is one of the steps we're taking to mitigate the risks and shocks associated with climate change," Tan added.

The project will be implemented under two schemes – output-based aid and blended financing.

Under output-based aid, beneficiary households will be provided with PHP45,000, or about 85 percent of the cost, which will only be released after the verified completion of the toilet and compliance with Department of Health (DOH) standards.

For blended financing, households found eligible and willing to take a loan and pass the inclusion criteria verified by the town authorities, will be provided with a loan by microfinance institutions to cover the remaining cost of the toilet.

The cost estimate for a climate-resilient toilet with a double chamber septic tank and leach pit is at PHP53,000.

Microfinance institutions operating in Samar – ASA Philippines, LifeBank Philippines, and Negros Women for Tomorrow's Foundation – would finance the total upfront cost for selected households.

Beneficiary households will later assign the subsidy certificates to the microfinance institutions to pay off 85 percent of the total cost of building the toilets.

The remaining 15 percent of the toilet cost, on the other hand, will be paid by the households to the microfinance institutions in 12 monthly installments.

DOH 8 (Eastern Visayas) Director Exuperia Sabalberino said having climate-resilient toilets that safely contain fecal matter could prevent contamination of groundwater and the environment, especially during disasters.

“Addressing the persistent threat of water-borne diseases remains one of the most formidable challenges during disasters. We welcome this breakthrough initiative and the steadfast commitment of Samar province and its towns to channel resources into establishing climate-resilient sanitation solutions for vulnerable communities,” Sabalberino added.

The project is supported by UNICEF Philippines as part of its commitment to help communities adapt to climate change using smart subsidies and affordable financing.

Samar province was picked as one of the Universal Health Care law advance implementation sites. The province also has a low sanitation coverage and a high prevalence of sanitation-related diseases that the current project can help address.

Only 78.54 percent of households in Samar province have access to basic sanitation facilities, according to the 2022 report of the DOH Information System.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate change and filthy water drive disease in Iraq

By: Hayder Indhar and Laure Al-Khoury

A worried Iraqi father points at a blister on the face of his one-year-old daughter, the result of a parasitic infection carried by sandflies in her remote village.

"It's a skin disease, the 'Baghdad boil'," Najeh Farhan said of the pustule on Tiba's mouth as the toddler played with a pacifier at their home in the drought-hit province of Al-Diwaniyah.

Like countless other children in Iraq -- a country battling the effects of war, entrenched poverty, water stress and a heating planet -- Tiba is sick but has no access to good health care.

"There is no medical centre, we have nothing," Farhan, a father of seven, said of his small village of Al-Zuweiya.

Tiba has been infected with an illness called cutaneous leishmaniasis, endemic in Iraq for decades.

By 2022, the World Health Organization said 8,000 infections had been registered in the country.

But this year, in a "surprising development", it reported the first confirmed case in what had been a "traditionally sand fly-free" province in northern Iraq.

The UN agency has pointed to "inadequate access to medical treatment in remote areas" as a driver of the disease -- but a senior WHO official also highlighted the effects of climate change.

"The sandfly, like any other insect, thrives at a specific temperature and humidity level," Wael Hatahit, the WHO's acting representative in Iraq, told AFP.

He pointed to Iraq's "temperature rise and the change in the water fall pattern" and said the northward spread of the disease the sandfly carries "cannot be explained unless there is climate change".

'Rising temperatures'

Tiba and one of her brothers, who suffers from jaundice and a skin rash, are victims of Iraq's broader public health crisis.

From cholera to chronic diarrhoea and sandstorm-triggered asthma attacks, the list of health problems confronting disadvantaged communities is long.

The Iraqi Red Crescent has been running a campaign in nine provinces across the country's south and centre where soaring heat and drought have badly hit farming communities.

It has sent 25 doctors, 150 volunteers, five mobile clinics and 10 ambulances on a campaign to provide free medical care and raise awareness on a range of health threats.

On a recent stop, women dressed in black were waiting alongside ambulances to have a child examined, in Al-Ayyach, another Diwaniyah village, as aid workers sorted through their medical supplies.

Raghda Ihsane, a pharmacist, listed the most common cases the team was treating: "Intestinal infections, dermatological diseases, skin rashes resulting from poor water quality, inflamed urinary tracts."

Dirty and unsafe water is a prime health threat in Iraq, one of the five countries worst hit by climate change impacts and now gripped by its fourth consecutive year of drought.

The scarcity is compounded by reduced Tigris and Euphrates river flows because of upstream dams, and damage done by conflict and neglect to treatment plants and water infrastructure.

'Contaminated water'

An environment ministry official recently admitted that "sewer pipes in Baghdad discharge wastewater directly into the Tigris River", in comments quoted by the state-run Al-Sabbah daily.

Cholera is raging in the north, particularly in Sulaimaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan's second city, where the WHO had registered 152 confirmed cases by September 12.

"The principal cause is the use of non-potable water," said Sabah Hourami, director of Sulaimaniyah's health authority.

Officials were taking action, he insisted, by testing the chlorine content of public water supplies and tightening controls on water tankers, restaurants and mosques.

As patients have flocked to local hospitals, he said, "we no longer screen people. Those suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting are automatically treated as cholera cases."

Water stress is at the core of the health threats, said medical anthropologist Mac Skelton, who heads the Institute of Regional and International Studies at the American University of Iraq-Sulaimani.

"Decreased water flow means higher concentrations of sewage and industrial pollutants in the water supply, which Iraq's water treatment facilities typically cannot process adequately," he said.

This, he said, was "associated with a range of conditions such as cholera, gastrointestinal diseases, skin diseases and diarrhoea".

Looking ahead, Skelton said, Iraq needs "improved public health systems to warn the populace of heightened contamination and to monitor outbreaks".

He added that "enhancing Iraq's seriously deteriorated water treatment infrastructure is also essential".

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, UST seal partnership to drive climate innovation, sustainability](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) have officially signed a cooperation agreement, solidifying their commitment to advancing climate innovation and sustainability in the country.

As the lead government agency mandated to coordinate and monitor climate change programs in the Philippines, the CCC has teamed up with UST, one of the country's top educational institutions, to strengthen efforts in addressing the impacts of climate change and enhancing the climate resilience of local communities.

Through lectures, seminars and workshops, the CCC-UST partnership will facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building to enhance climate literacy, nurturing future leaders in the field of climate science.

The collaboration will also serve as a platform for sustainable entrepreneurship, fostering collaborations and initiatives that will promote environmentally conscious business practices.

“Through capacity building and education, the CCC and the UST will collaborate to create educational programs that equip our youth with the knowledge and skills needed to raise awareness about climate change and empower them to take action towards a more sustainable future – making that all-important link between technological development, innovation, research and development from the academic community to the local communities,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said during the signing of the agreement on Oct. 17.

“Our key areas of collaboration include research, knowledge sharing, and expert exchanges through academic lectures, seminars, training workshops, and even short courses. We can make a big difference in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies through our joint efforts,” UST Rector and President Fr. Richard Ang said.

After the signing of the cooperation agreement, the CCC gained firsthand insights into the restoration efforts and witnessed the dedication of UST experts working towards preserving historical library collections, which falls under non-economic loss and damage.

Non-economic loss and damage refers to the intangible and irreplaceable cultural, historical, and social heritage that is lost or damaged due to climate change impacts.

“Our partnership with UST can go beyond research and development. It can also include preserving our cultural heritage in the face of climate challenges. Witnessing the restoration efforts firsthand reinforces our determination to safeguard our historical collections, ensuring that they will be seen by the generations to come,” Borje said.

The historic collaboration brings together the CCC's expertise in policy formulation and program implementation and UST's renowned faculty and research community.

Both institutions endeavor to drive transformative climate actions, supporting local communities and fostering a more sustainable future for all.

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