



Global Call to Action against Poverty (Philippines)

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Philippine Poverty and Inequality Situation Fact Sheet

Poverty Incidence

1 out of 2 Filipinos see themselves as poor. (SWS, November 2007)

52% of Filipino families (9 million families or about 45 million Filipinos out of the 2007 projected population of 86 million) see themselves as poor.

1 out of 4 Filipinos is poor. (2003 NSCB)

30% of Filipinos are poor.

25.8 million Filipinos out of 86 million (2003 NSCB and 2007 NSO population projection data).

There are more than 30 million urban poor or 34% of the population (Ibon, Sept 2006)

65 million Filipinos or 80% of the population are struggling to survive on the equivalent of US\$ 2 a day (Ibon, Mar 2007)

Poverty Threshold

PhP 41 per person per day for food and non-food needs(NSCB, March 2007)

PhP 27 for food alone which amounts to PhP 9 per meal

PhP 14 for transportation, shelter, education, health, water, electricity, and other non-food needs except recreation and communication

PhP 14,866 annual per capita poverty threshold per Filipino

PhP 74,340 annual per capita poverty threshold for a family of five (5)

Cost of Living Wage

PhP 158 per person per day for food and non-food needs (NWPC, July 2007)

PhP 792 family living wage for a family of 5 living in the National Capital Region

Poverty Wages

16.1 million Filipino workers or more than 50 percent of the labor force (in 2005) earn wages around PhP5,000-8,000 (wages that hover around the poverty threshold pegged at PhP41 per person per day), which translates to PhP33-53 per person per day (6.1 M farmers and fisherfolk and 10 M laborers and unskilled workers)

(Malaluan, Nepomoceno A., Dire State of the Nation, The Crisis of Income and Employment in the Philippines , August 26, 2006)

Income Inequality

The income of 10% of Filipino households is 21 times that of the poorest 10% (NSO)

The net worth of the country's 10 richest individuals and families in 2006 pegged at US\$12.4 billion was equivalent to the combined income of the country's poorest 9.8 million households composed of 49 million Filipinos.

Income Inequality

7 out of 10 peasants still do not own land while less than 1/3 of landowners own more than 80% of agricultural land (Ibon, 2006)

Oil companies earn PhP 110 million a day in 2006 (Ibon, 2007)

Income inequality is intensified by regressive taxation (exacerbated by the recently imposed 12% E-VAT) (Ibon, 2007)

Status of Hunger

1 out of 4 Filipinos is hungry. (SWS, October 2007)

19 million Filipinos live with hunger.

21.5% of Filipinos are hungry.

Around 9.3 million Filipinos do not even meet the 100% dietary energy requirement (FNRI, 2005)

Coping Strategies on Hunger

- Cutting down the number of meals
- Sleeping through meal times
- Mothers eating smaller portions
- Skipping meals so the rest of the family will get to eat.
- Giving children to the care of relatives / other sympathetic souls

(Datinginoo, Vinia M, The Face of Hunger is Female, November 24, 2004, PCIJ)

Based on a 2001 study Surrogate Ulam is what one-third of class E & one-tenth of class D eat in lieu of vegetables, fish or meat because they cannot afford them

- Salt, soy sauce, bagoong
- Pork / chicken lard
- softdrinks, coffee
- Instant noodles drowned in plenty of water now constitute a full meal for many poor families.

Eating pagpag or batchoy or kaning baboy (thrown left-overs)

Health

- 12 Filipinos die of dirty water daily (Cebu Daily News citing USAID, November 7, 2006)
- More than 90% of all sewage in the Philippines is untreated
(Cebu Daily News citing the World Bank, November 7, 2006)
- 10 Filipino women die daily from childbirth-related complications because they do not have access to emergency obstetric care. We have among the highest maternal mortality rate (estimated at 162 per 100,000 live births) in Asia and the world. (FIES, 2006)
- Among 0-5 years old, 27% are underweight and 30% are short (FNRI, 2005)

Education

- **1 in 10 Filipinos has never gone to school (6.8 million)** (Education Network Quick Stats, 2003)
- 1 in 6 Filipinos is not functionally literate (9.6 million),
- 4.1 million Filipinos are complete illiterate.
- 1 in 3 children/ youth is not attending school(11.6 million)
- About half(51%) of Filipinos had Elementary Education at most
- Among poor Filipinos, only about 70% can read, write and compute.
- Only a little over half(54.3%) are fully literate
- Among non-poor Filipinos, 45.3% have completed at least basic education.
- In contrast, only 14.3% have achieved this level of education among the rural poor Filipinos.

Employment

- 3,300 workers leave the country daily (Ibon, Mar 2007)

Jobless Growth: **Unemployment is a problem (2.8 million in 2007) and underemployment even more so (7.8 million in 2007)** – this, in spite the change of definition of unemployment in April 2005 which has reduced the official rate by 2-3% and the number by 1-1.5 million from 4.1 to 2.8 million (or 8.1 to 7.8%) **unemployed based on new definition and measurements**, from 7.5 to 7.8 million (or 21.1% to 21.5%) underemployed, majority are 163,000 jobs in **unpaid family labor**, 133,000 jobs as **ambulant vendors**, 110,000 **Kasambahay**

(Malaluan, Nepomoceno A., Dire State of the Nation, The Crisis of Income and Employment in the Philippines , August 26, 2006)

Debt

Every Filipino owes about PhP 44,000.00. (Debt Quick Stats, Freedom from Debt Coalition)

The total debt of the Philippines as of December 2006 is \$118.19 billion

Debt service is about PhP612.8 Billion.

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