



Republic of the Philippines

Development Assessment 2020

©2020 by the Philippines Group of INTL 422 at the University of Oregon

All rights reserved.

Any part of this publication may be used and reproduced, provided proper acknowledgement is made.

The Republic of the Philippines Development Report 2020.

Printed in the United States

Republic of the Philippines

Development Report 2020

Intl 422

Table of Contents

Overview.....	3-4
<i>Ensuring Trust Between Filipino Government and Citizens</i>	5-9
<i>Economic Opportunity and Employment</i>	10-15
<i>Gender Equality and Women’s Rights</i>	16-20
<i>Education</i>	21-24
<i>Environmental Sustainability</i>	25-31
<i>Sanitation</i>	32-37
<i>Health and Disease</i>	38-42
<i>Poverty Alleviation</i>	43-49
Works Cited	

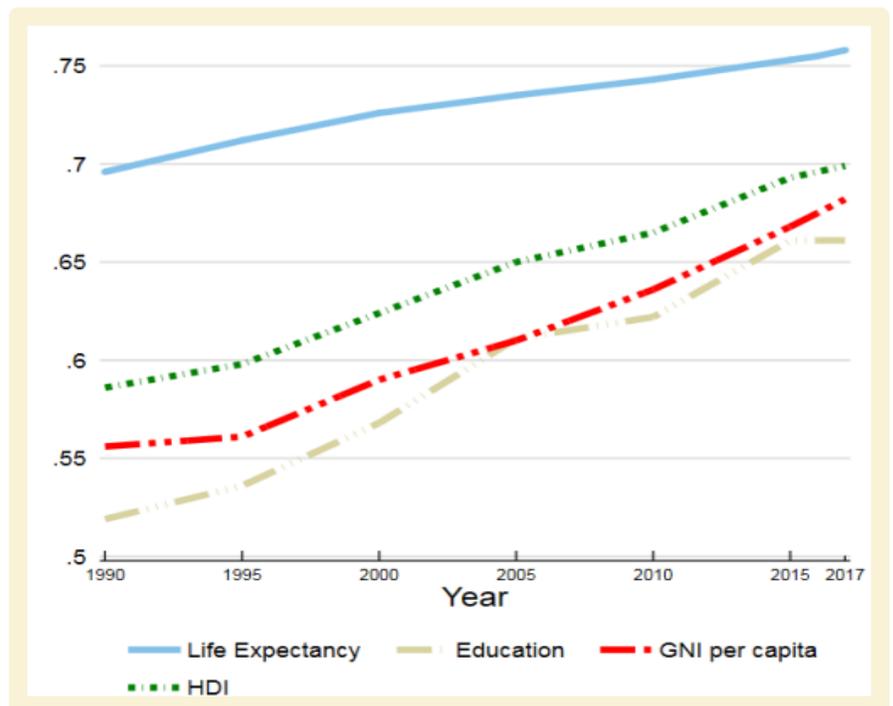
➔ Overview

Our country, the Republic of the Philippines, is an island country which has retained its independence since July of 1946. The population is approximately 110,000,000 people, making it the 12th most populous country in the world. The official languages are Tagalog (approximately 8 different dialects nationwide) and English (CIA Factbook).



The Philippines experienced rapid development since its independence and continues to make immense achievements towards progress in 2020. One of the most recent United Nations Human Development Reports (2019) places the Philippines in the “high” category of human development, with an HDI rank of 106th in the world.

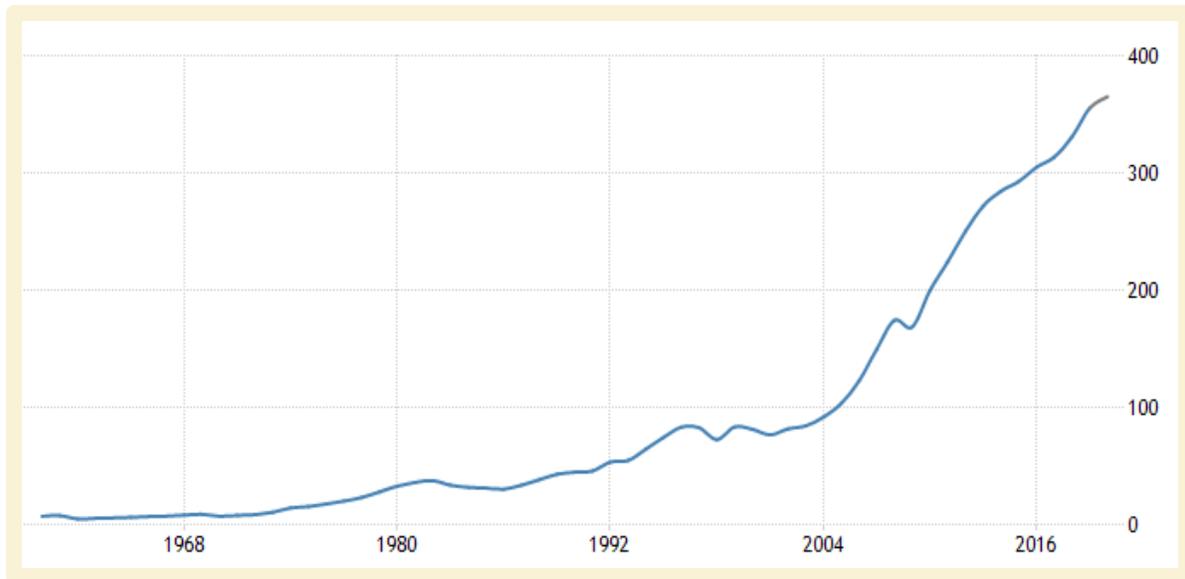
Trends in Philippines' HDI Component Indices 1990-2017



(UNDP)

The Philippine's economy is also experiencing rapid growth and progress. The World Bank positively characterizes the current economy of our nation as one "With increasing urbanization, a growing middle class, and a large and young population." The Philippine's GDP is \$383 billion as of 2018, which places its GDP at 39th largest worldwide (Philippines Statistics Authority).

GDP of the Philippines 1968-2016

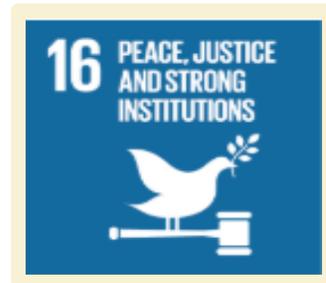


(World Bank)

Though our country has achieved massive progress in development and economic growth, it will continue to advance through further initiatives and strategies well into the 21st century. The most recent nation-wide development plan for the Philippines was designed by the National Economic and Development Authority of the country and is meant to extend from 2017-2022. This 2020 report was strongly advised by the NEDA plan, the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and other development agencies' and statistical authorities' recommendations. It has been compiled to provide a comprehensive overview of the Philippine's development progress, strategies, and needs in this emerging decade.

➤ Ensuring Trust Between Filipino Government and Citizens

In this section, the political situation of the Philippines will be discussed, focusing in on SDG 16, to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”



Progress

The island nation is a presidential republic but retains a fair mixed legal system of civil, common, Sharia and customary law (CIA World Factbook). The nation is focused on increasing trust between the government and the citizens it serves.

The vision of the Philippines is encapsulated by the phrase *matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay* or strongly-rooted, comfortable, and secure

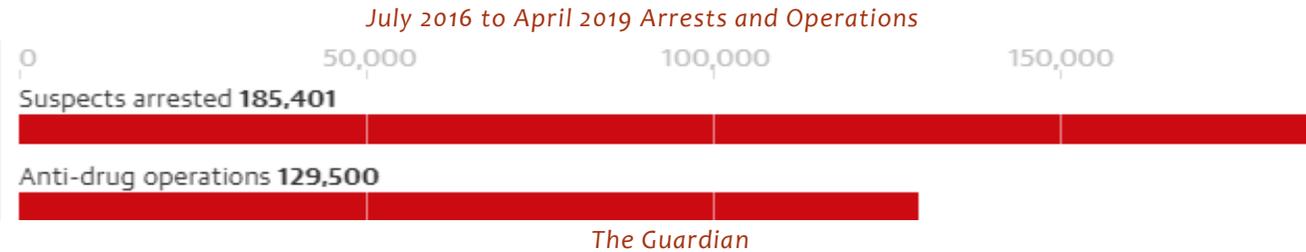


life. Good, strong governance is a critical part of the NEDA (2017-2022) plan, particularly under the “*malasakit*” pillar, and involves the elimination of corruption in the government while maintaining security. These efforts have clearly been successful across several metrics. Public accountability and integrity were made a national priority in 2011, proving successful, as NEDA described “in the 2018

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), the Philippines climbed to the 99th spot out of 180 countries. This is an improvement of 12 spots from 111th out of 180 in 2017. The current ranking puts the country in the 45.0 percentile rank, which exceeds the 2018 target of 44.0 percentile, making the country the biggest gainer among its ASEAN neighbors.” Since taking office in 2016, President Duterte has pledged to take action against corruption and has already taken steps towards this, such as eliminating customs brokers, who are known to authorities to accept bribes and support illicit financial flows (Jennings). Other programs in the country are also part of ensuring strong institutions and an effective justice system for all people within the Philippines’ borders.

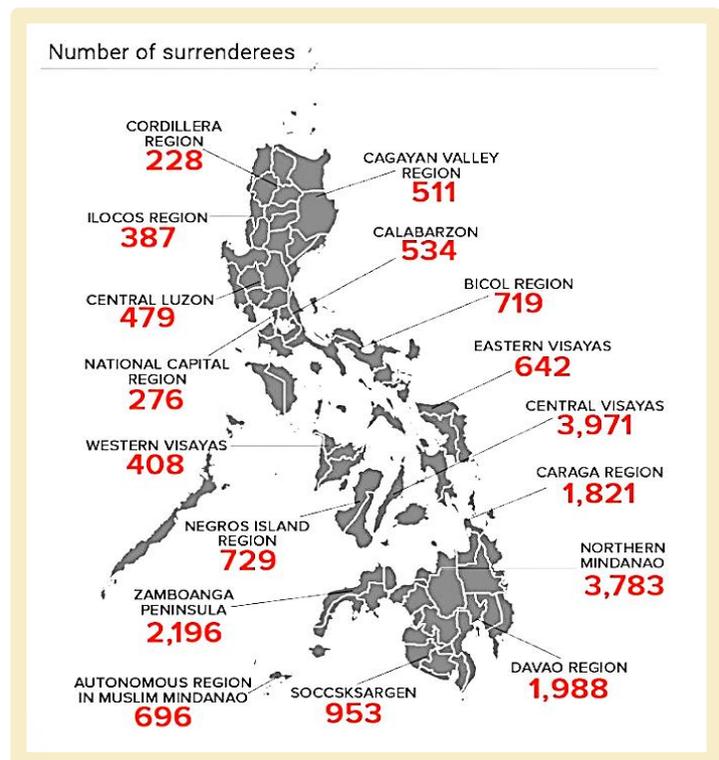
The Philippines is also addressing justice within the migrant and refugee population. The Philippine government is launching immense efforts to support the wellbeing of migrants and continue to welcome immigrants so they can contribute to the economy. At the borders, the Philippines has provided protection to over 7,000 stateless people as of 2018 (CIA World Factbook). In 2017, the nation launched the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Statelessness, the only country in South-East Asia to do so, acknowledging the injustice that these migrants face without the protection of a nationality and basic necessities like a birth certificate.

The Philippines is also very focused on crime as a part of justice-enforcement and the protection of citizens. The current administration’s War on Drugs has been fruitful in cutting down drug trafficking and seizing the vast majority of stockpiles in the country. From July 2016 to April 2019, the Philippine government made over 1.3 million successful seizures, demonstrating the efficacy of the program, as well as numerous arrests of drug traffickers through anti-drug operations.



Our biggest concerns are with domestic methamphetamine production, consumption of amphetamines and production of marijuana (CIA World Factbook). These industries are responsible for corrupting a variety of industries and encourage violent crime, drug wars, and bribery within the justice system. The Philippines withdrew from the International Criminal Court in 2018 in order to keep justice within our borders and hold people accountable for drug trafficking and threatening the safety and stability of the civilian population.

Drug Surrender Map



(Lucero, Vino)

Challenges

In spite of the numerous successes of building safe and just institutions through having a strong and fair political system, launching anti-corruption efforts, securing justice for refugees, and tackling the rampant drug problem in the country, the Philippines still faces many obstacles in securing peace and justice for the entirety of the nation.

In terms of corruption within business and administrations, there are still a variety of issues.

President Duterte has been very focused on anti-corruption efforts in taxation, ensuring businesses pay their allotted dues, however, according to GAN, “Companies indicate that they perceive that only a fifth of businesses in their line of business pay their taxes honestly.” Tax collection and

honesty from businesses must be enhanced in order for the institutions of the Philippines to enjoy true security and continue building a strong justice system.

Additionally, the country does not have the necessary facilities to continue to protect civilians through the War on Drugs.

Additional infrastructure is necessary, as there are not enough prisons and courts to successfully and efficiently process the many drug traffickers in the country. Public



defenders in the country face a difficult situation. One agency explained that it “has 1,665 lawyers to handle a total of 709,128 criminal cases currently pending, meaning an average of 426 cases for each of them.” The country requires expanded public defenders’ offices in order to handle the situation justly as well as more jails to detain people who violate drug trafficking and production laws in order to keep the community safe and the justice system fair.

Moving Forward

The NEDA plan outlines several steps to achieve SDG16 and overall improve the country’s efficiency in achieving justice, peace, and strong institutions, which may be assisted through international aid if agencies align with these interests. These steps have been combined with other considerations of justice in the Philippines to produce the following steps towards progress in the country’s institutions;

- Institutionalize the Justice Sector Coordinating Council
- Strengthen economic justice. (including the reduction and elimination of tax loopholes)
- Deliver justice real-time
- Build new criminal infrastructure including new jails to address overcrowding and more offices for public defenders
- Deliver fair and equal justice
- Enhance accountability through an engaged citizenry
- Enhance sector efficiency

➔ Economic Opportunity and Employment

According to the World Bank 2019 update, our nation, while still progressing towards our financial goals, has hit a lull in economic growth due to an overall weakened global economy and a lack of investment in our nation. The Philippines is acting to reinvigorate our economy and achieve SDG8, to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.”



Progress

As demonstrated in the ‘overview’ section of the report, the Philippines’ economy has substantially improved from prior decades. Currently the country has been focused on growing the economy sustainably alongside the climate crisis. Job creation is no exception, and the Philippines has been working to generate jobs that work to offset climate change, known as ‘green jobs.’ Since 2016, the International Labor Organization (ILO) has been helping the nation in realizing the ILO’s standards for a “Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All” (Edera, Emma). We passed the Green Jobs Act (Republic Act 10771) in 2016 in order to demonstrate our commitment to economic improvement alongside environmental sustainability.

Unemployment overall has also declined as a mark of development progress. In 2013, the unemployment rate peaked at 7.1%. The rate, in spite of fluctuations, has now fallen to around 5.3% (The Philippines Fifth Progress Report). The declining unemployment rate also clearly shows the dedication of the Philippines towards development and employment opportunities. The trends are shown in the below figures.

Unemployment rate, Philippines, 2012-2020



(National Statistics Office of Philippines)

Table of Employment and Unemployment Rate in the Philippines (2019-2020)

Results from the January 2020 Labor Force Survey (LFS)		
Philippines	January 2020^{a/}	January 2019
Population 15 years and over (in 000)	72,997	71,886
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	61.7	60.3
Employment Rate (%)	94.7	94.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.3
Underemployment Rate (%)	14.8	15.4
Youth Population 15 -24 Years Old (in 000)	19,851	19,699
Youth Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	37.4	35.9
Youth Employment Rate (%)	86.4	85.8
Youth Unemployment Rate (%)	13.6	14.2
Youth Underemployment Rate (%)	12.5	14.6
Youth NEET as % of Youth Population	16.9	19.5
Proportion of Youth New Entrants to Youth Labor Force	8.7	12.2

^{a/} Estimates for January 2020 are preliminary and may change.

(Philippine Statistics Authority)

The evolving pandemic is also impacting current labor and employment projections, but the Philippines is adapting well. Due to COVID-19, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has allowed an unemployment package to a particular subsection of workers, called Department Order No. 209, Series of 2020, or the "Guidelines on the Implementation of the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP). Under this program, the government has gifted affected workers both employment facilitation and financial assistance of Php 5,000.00 (Philippines: Department of Labor Issues). The Duterte Administration has also sought to improve the unemployment situation caused by the pandemic by pledging cash assistance to 18 million poorer residences and vulnerable members of society, such as people with disabilities, senior citizens, the unhoused and informal workers (Billing, Lynzy).



Additionally, the Philippine government is committed to improving labor conditions throughout the country. The government has implemented a variety of programs to improve labor conditions, including the Decent Work Country Program in collaboration with the International Labor Organization. Between 2013 and 2015, the number of occupational accidents declined by 5.7% and these trends are continuing (Philippine Statistics Authority).

Overall, the Philippines has made major progress in employment solutions.

Challenges

Improvement in employment and opportunity in the Philippines persists, but there are still many obstacles for the country to overcome to enjoy a truly robust work force.

Working conditions, in spite of improvements, still require major changes to meet SDG standards. For example, according to the International Labor Organization, “2.2 million Filipino workers in medium and large enterprises enjoy effective occupational safety and health (OSH) protection and services. In other words, 17 of 18 persons in the nation’s workforce of 38.8 million do not benefit from acceptable working conditions.” The vast majority of workers in the Philippines face highly unsafe conditions on the job.

This is also true for child laborers, which is another persistent issue in the country. In the Philippines, there are over 2.1 million child laborers, age 5-17, according to the ILO, and 95% of them work in hazardous conditions. This is especially true for the agricultural sector, which employs 58% of child laborers. According to the ILO, “Children work in farms and plantations, in dangerous mines, on streets, in factories, and in private homes as child domestic workers.”

Employment issues span all ages. There is also a lack of income security for the elderly in the country. The Manila Bulletin estimates that, in 2020, around 40% of elderly Filipinos do not have income security. There’s a severe lack of pension payments in the country, even for those who have worked full time jobs their entire lives. This is known as the Pension Gap, and it is due in part to the rapidly growing population of the country (Mabasa).

Additionally, in spite of the government’s best efforts, the Covid-19 epidemic is causing massive problems in employment for Philippine citizens. According to Al Jazeera, “An estimated 10 to 12 million Filipinos work abroad. In 2019, they sent home between \$33.47bn to \$35.1bn in remittances, accounting for just under 10 percent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product) in 2019.” The

disease is threatening the security of all of those jobs as well as the remittance payments that the country's people so heavily rely on. Overall, around 500,000 workers have been displaced with thousands in the informal sector impacted as well



(Billing, Lynzy). Amidst all of this, women, particularly single mothers, are bearing the weight of this financial turmoil the most: the Philippine Institute for Development Studies revealed 8 in 20 women are in vulnerable employment. The majority of call center jobs, which employ mostly women, have had to make cuts, exacerbating this economic vulnerability.

Overall, the country struggles with labor conditions, youth unemployment, social security for the elderly, and employment during the current pandemic.

Moving Forward

The NEDA plan details a variety of steps to ensure stability and prosperity within the employment sector. Those needs are listed here and augmented by other suggestions for the current employment situation of the Philippines.

- Encourage skills development and retooling through continuing education and training
- Strengthen employment facilitation services
- Strengthen and expand internship, apprenticeship, and dual training programs
- Implement programs that encourage women to participate in the labor market
- Strengthen the process by which the minimum wage is determined

- Ensure safety and health in the workplace
- Provide income support through an unemployment insurance and emergency employment
- Enhance the efficacy of the minimum wage policy
- Implement a convergence approach to help the poor and vulnerable become self-sufficient and self-reliant
- Reduce child labor by 30 percent, continue to strengthen safety conditions for agricultural workers
- Intensify social protection programs for overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their families
- Improve social pension system
- Establish a Council for the Welfare of Older Persons
- Establish unemployment insurance
- Enhance social protection for the informal sector
- Strengthen mechanisms to ensure enrolment in the social security systems
- Support those impacted by the Covid-19 epidemic

➔ Gender Equality and Women's Rights

The Philippines is highly advanced in terms of gender equality for men and women. We are fully committed to SDG5 and the elimination of all forms of inequality in the country in order to achieve progress.



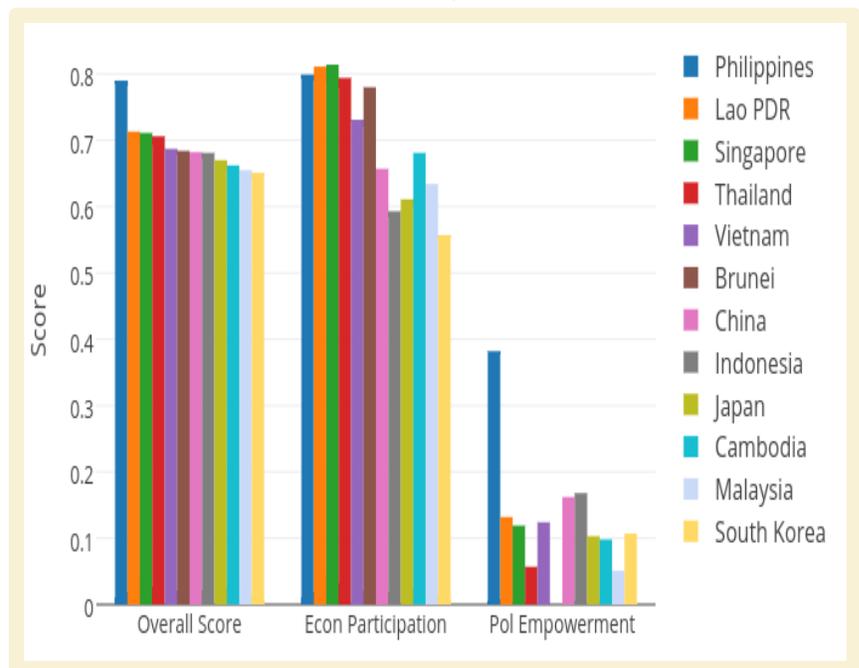
Progress

In 2020, the country received the following equality rankings by the World Economic Forum;

- #16 in overall equality
- #14 in Women's Economic Participation and Opportunity
- #37 in Educational Attainment
- #41 in Health and Survival
- #29 in Political Empowerment

The Philippines also closed 78% of its overall gender gap and currently has the smallest gender gap of the entire Asian continent by many metrics (Global Gender Gap Report 2020).

WEF Gender Gap Scores: ASEAN +3



(Tai, 2016)

The country has worked towards these achievements since the construction of its 1987 constitution which states that "The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men" and another article which demands that "The state shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation." In addition to the constitutional foundation for women's rights, the nation has launched many initiatives to empower women over the last several decades. Typically, the plans last several years and address key gender issues in the Philippines. The following were the most substantial plans implemented by the Philippine government;

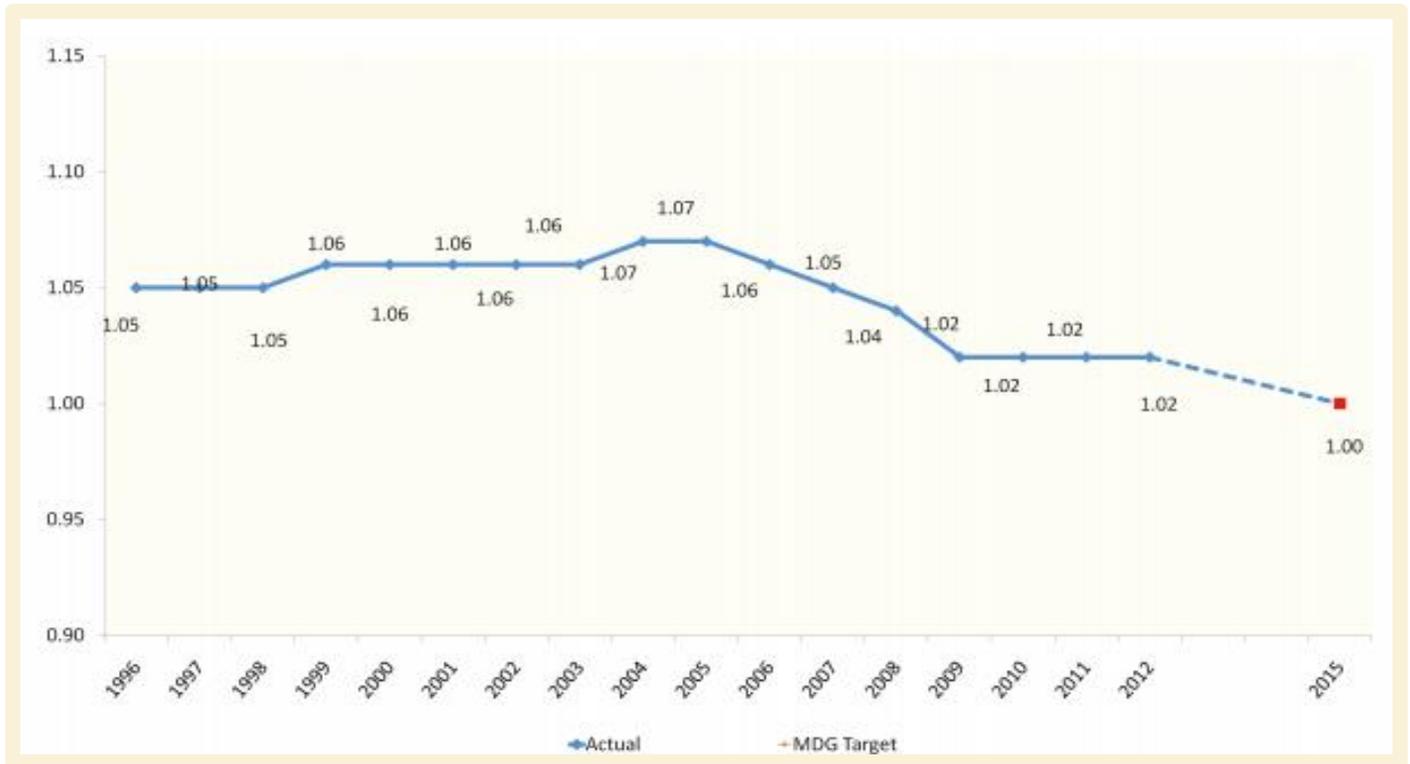
- Philippine Development Plan for Women (PDPW 1989–1992)
- Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD 1995– 2025) (more long-term)
- Framework Plan for Women (FPW2004–2010)

The most recent plans include the Women's Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality Plan 2013–2016 as well as the more general Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, which describes a critical need to "Strengthen the protection of the rights of vulnerable sectors of society," including women. The Philippines also works in conjunction with CIDA to operate the GREAT Woman Project to promote women's economic empowerment throughout the country (Philippines Commission on Women, Philippine initiatives to promote Women's Economic Empowerment). All of these plans have demonstrated the dedication of the Philippines to women's equality and achieved major milestones, including the massive reduction in the gender gap.

By international standards, the Philippines has also done extremely well in achieving women's equality. The country successfully reached the vast majority of Millennium Development Goal 3, to

promote gender equality and empower women, as indicated by several achievements, including the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary Education (1996-2012)



(NEDA, Fifth Progress Report)

The Philippines is also well on the way currently to achieving SDG5, the equality and empowerment of women and girls. The Manila Bulletin describes how “On gender issues, the Philippines has expanded maternity leave benefits and extended its conditional cash transfer to poor families in order to promote social protection and to narrow the gap between male and female labor force.”

For goal 5.2.s1 of the SDGs, which is to reduce the number of gender-based violence cases, the Philippines has made major progress. In 2016 the country experienced 60,755 cases of VAW whereas in 2018 the cases dropped to 39,675 (Philippine Statistics Authority, SDG Watch). The country has, in many respects, made great strides towards gender equality and clearly demonstrates a commitment to implementing efficient programs and policies to empower women and achieve true equality.

Challenges

There are, however, still obstacles that the nation needs to overcome and which may be assisted by the provision of international aid. One such issue is reporting statistics on VAW. A 2017 survey showed that only 6% of VAW victims in the Philippines seek help from proper authorities (Villanueva). Enhanced funding can assist in reporting efforts for young women through providing additional facilities for counseling, care, and communication.

Child marriage is also an issue in the Philippines for women and children's rights. In 2017, 16.5% of women in the Philippines were married or in a union before age 18. According to UNFPA Philippines, marriage at this age greatly contributes to issues such as "poorer health and education outcomes, reduced employability, and higher risks to abuse and violence." Child marriage often surges during and after natural or economic catastrophes, proving a need for greater financial assistance to families at



those times. UNFPA Philippines, which assists child brides and provides economic opportunities for young women, should continue to be supported to enhance the options of women and young girls throughout the country and especially in times of crisis.

Other ongoing issues include a lack of participation of women in politics (women held only 28.7% of national parliament seats in 2019), access to sexual and reproductive health services for young

women, a relatively high maternal mortality rate (still at 121 per 100,000 live births), and the proportion of women still “subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months,” which is still at 14.7% (Philippine Statistics Authority, SDG Watch 5).

These issues, though improving, could benefit from the utilization of international aid and the implementation of further programs to more quickly reduce women’s suffering in the Philippines and enhance overall development in gender-related issues.

Moving Forward

Overall, it’s clear the Philippines has effectively implemented programs to assist in the achievement of women’s equality and is making immense progress towards SDG5. The country has established many laws, programs, and institutions for the empowerment and equality of women and continues to make political, educational, and employment-related changes that will eradicate the gender gap completely over time. The following strategies were established by the NEDA 2017-2022 plan in order to fully achieve this goal. Additional strategies were also inserted to reflect further development needs in gender equality.

- Implement programs that encourage women to participate in the labor market
- Reduce maternal mortality rates
- Eliminate child marriages, especially before age 16
- Encourage greater political participation by women- increase number of women serving in representative roles
- Increase reporting capabilities for VAW
- Provide more women’s shelters
- Provide extra security to women’s employment during the COVID crisis

➤ Education

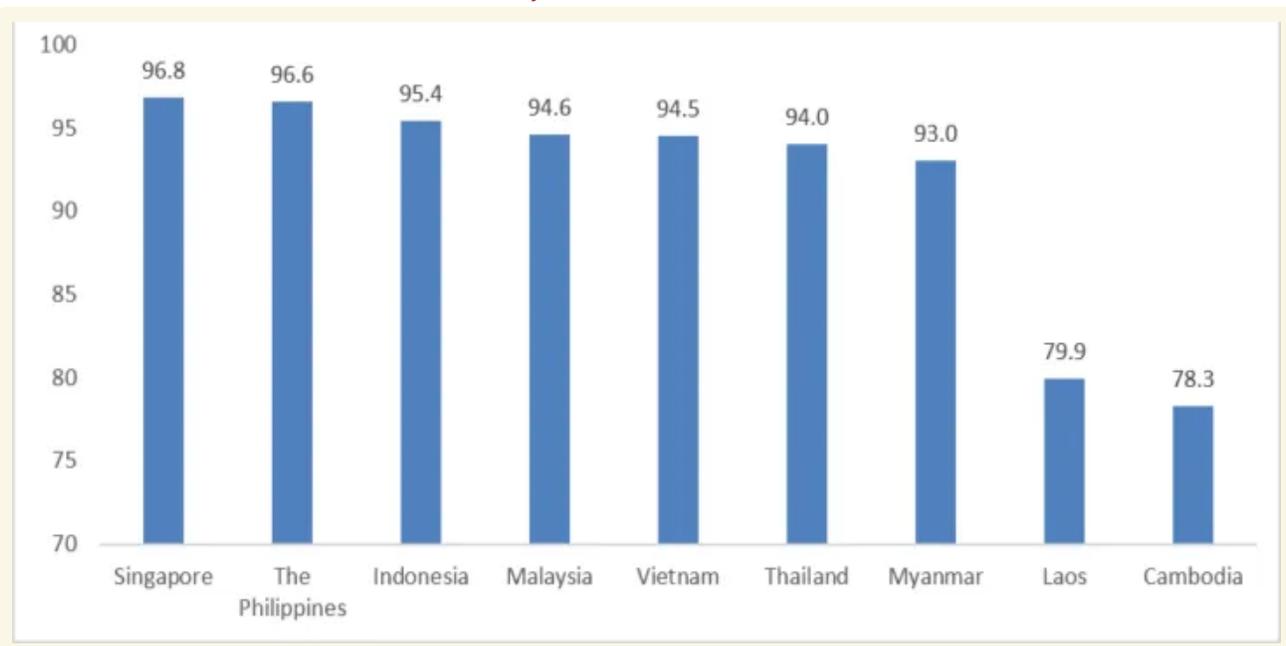
SDG5 is another primary concern of the Philippines moving into the new decade, to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” Education is truly the foundation upon which the country is built.



Progress

The Philippines has achieved immense progress in terms of education. It ranks 46th in the world for skills and education, and among ASEAN nations the Philippines is second only to Singapore. The literacy rate in the Philippines is 98.2%, further depicting the high levels of education across all rungs of Philippine society (CIA World Factbook).

Literacy Rate in Southeast Asia



(ASEAN Today)

The Philippines has already successfully implemented changes to improve education nationwide in accordance with the SDGs. For example, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the UN issued a joint statement describing how the Philippines “has achieved a near-universal primary enrollment rate of 94.2 percent in 2017 under Quality Education or SDG 4, and improved access to education for vulnerable groups.” The completion rate for secondary education increased from 80.9% in 2016 to 88.4% in 2018, already improving greatly in the short time since the issuance of the SDGs (PSA, SDG Watch). Dropout rates across all levels of schooling have also significantly declined over the last several years. This makes it clear that reforms and strategies for improvement are already working.

Challenges

Overall, the country has made massive improvements and progress, but there are still several obstacles to overcome that could be supplemented with aid in order to achieve a truly equitable and advanced education system for the Philippines.

The Philippines is still lagging behind in several areas of education in spite of its progress, citing issues such as a lack of infrastructure. World Education News and Reviews estimates “that the government still [needs] to hire 43,000 teachers and build 30,000 classrooms” in order to keep up with the demand of new education reforms. This is contingent with the extremely high growth and fertility rate of the country, due to which the population of the Philippines is expected to reach 142 million by 2045. Educating that number of new children is an incredibly daunting task.



Access is another issue facing the Philippines. This is especially true within higher education. Access is oftentimes correlated with income levels, as currently only 12% of “students at state institutions come from low-income households” in the Philippines (Macha). K12 Academics summarizes the issue, stating “Socioeconomically disadvantaged students otherwise known as students who are members of high and low-income poverty-stricken families, have immensely higher drop-out rates in the elementary level. Additionally, most freshmen students at the tertiary level come from relatively well-off families.” It’s important to eradicate this inequality in opportunity.

Philippine schools are also lagging behind in terms of technology for education. As of 2018, only 60.4% of secondary schools (senior high schools) had sufficient access to computers. This is one issue in terms of access that definitely must be addressed in order to prepare Philippine students for an increasingly globalized world and technology-based education.



Budget constraints are another issue. Currently, the Philippines only spends 2.7% of its GDP on education, permitting only limited facilities and infrastructure. That is one of the lowest budget allotments for education of all the ASEAN nations (K12 Academics).

Moving Forward

In further pursuit of the SDGs and overall development, educational strategies are also deeply ingrained in the NEDA (2017-2022) plan, and generating a knowledge economy is a primary goal of

the Philippines moving forward. The government has implemented strategies aimed at “[boosting] enrollment levels, graduation rates and mean years of schooling in elementary and secondary education, and [improving] the quality of higher education (Macha).” The strategies and needs included in the official NEDA plan and supplemented by other ideas are to;

- Strengthen early childhood care and development programs
- Pursue full implementation of the K to 12 programs
- Strengthen the inclusion programs to reach stakeholders outside the formal education system
- Develop and improve interventions to keep children in school
- Continue curricular reforms
- Enhance teacher competencies
- Increase technological availability in schools
- Provide greater access to higher education across multiple income levels

➤ Environmental Sustainability

As a country that is extremely vulnerable to environmental catastrophe, pollution, and global warming, the Philippines is incredibly concerned with SDG 7 (to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”), 12 (to “ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”), and 13 (to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”). The Philippines is



one of the fastest growing countries in Asia at the moment. Because we know that any environmental issues which arise as a result of our growth will greatly impact our disadvantaged population, our country has been doing its best in improving in this aspect.

Progress

We have been quite successful so far in becoming more energy efficient and are constantly discovering new methods for our industries to become more environmentally sustainable. In addition, the Philippines is blessed with an environment that is diverse in plants and animals both on its islands and deep in its oceans. Through the initiatives described in this section, we hope to take care of this environment so that it can continue to thrive.

In January 2018, the Philippines was ranked as number one in environmental sustainability by the World Energy Council (WEC). The council's World Energy Trilemma Index ranks 125 countries based on their ability to distribute sustainable energy based on three categories. These three categories include energy security,



energy equity, and environmental sustainability (Victor). The Philippines was the only country in Asia to have made it on to the environmental sustainability list at the time, with the rest of the spots filled by primarily European countries.

There are a variety of developments in renewable energy being made by the country. Philippine-based companies such as Emerging Power Inc. are involved in renewable energy development. These companies work to develop more renewable energy sources in hopes of improving energy security, equity, and narrowing “energy poverty,” or lack of access to energy sources (Victor). Initiatives to combat energy poverty include providing renewable energy access to off-grid islands. The people of these islands often have only run diesel generators at certain hours of the day in order to avoid high fuel costs. Studies from our Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis show that by providing solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources to these small islands, we reduce their dependence on fossil fuel energy. Our renewable energy sources under development are also a more reliable form of energy for major portions of the population. The below graphic details the

Philippine’s energy gathered from renewable energy resources in various regions.

Philippines Renewable Energy Generation

PHILIPPINES’ POWER OUTPUT

23,188,735
RENEWABLE ENERGY

94,370,341
TOTAL GENERATION

	LUZON	VISAYAS	MINDANAO	TOTAL
 GEOTHERMAL	3,909,704	5,563,581	796,792	10,270,077
 HYDRO	5,729,567	90,087	3,791,144	9,610,799
 BIOMASS	598,665	414,483	0	1,013,148
 SOLAR	495,984	626,957	78,211	1,201,152
 WIND	899,397	194,161	0	1,093,558
TOTAL	11,633,318	6,889,270	4,666,147	

(Business World)

Beyond energy sustainability, public transport is another area of policy implementation for the betterment of the environment. According to the Philippine Information Agency, the Philippine government and the United Nations created the Low Carbon Urban Transport System in the Philippines Project, meant to help streamline public transport and utilize more renewable resources for transportation. The program is also involving private businesses in order to fully reduce carbon emissions from transportation and mobilize private entrepreneurship in the green movement.

The Philippines is also very focused on ecosystems and nature preservation. Our Department of Environment and Natural Resources, along with the Department of Agriculture manages, protects,

and rehabilitates degraded coastal and marine environments (Briones 64). In order to meet the people's demand for fish while also taking steps to preserve the fisheries, we refer to The Fisheries Code of 1998. This code makes access to the fisheries and the ability to harvest in specified waters much more



regulated in addition to prioritizing local fisherfolk who rely on these fisheries to live. Local governments are expected to ensure that this code is properly enforced and are held to very high standards. For the sake of preserving all forms of biodiversity, the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act was passed in 1992 for protection of the Philippines' valuable ecosystems.

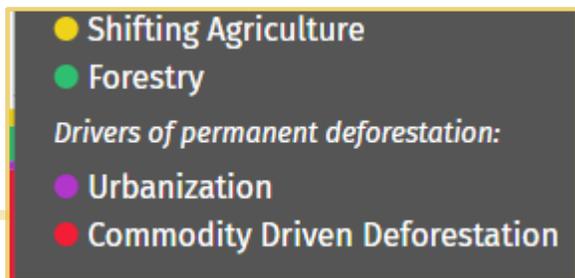
Waste disposal and forest protection are other areas of progress in environmental policy in the Philippines. We have always recognized the amount of waste that our human activities produce. This is why we place importance on correct solid waste practices, such as properly separating your waste according to guidelines. As for our forests, we completely ban logging, strip mining, and the Philippines Fisheries Code of 1998 prohibits the pollution of our waters. To protect the forests, the Philippines has forced the mining industry to be accountable and through the Mining Forest Program mining companies have reforested nearly 28,000 hectares of mined lands (Kritz). We have always and will continue to work toward becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Challenges

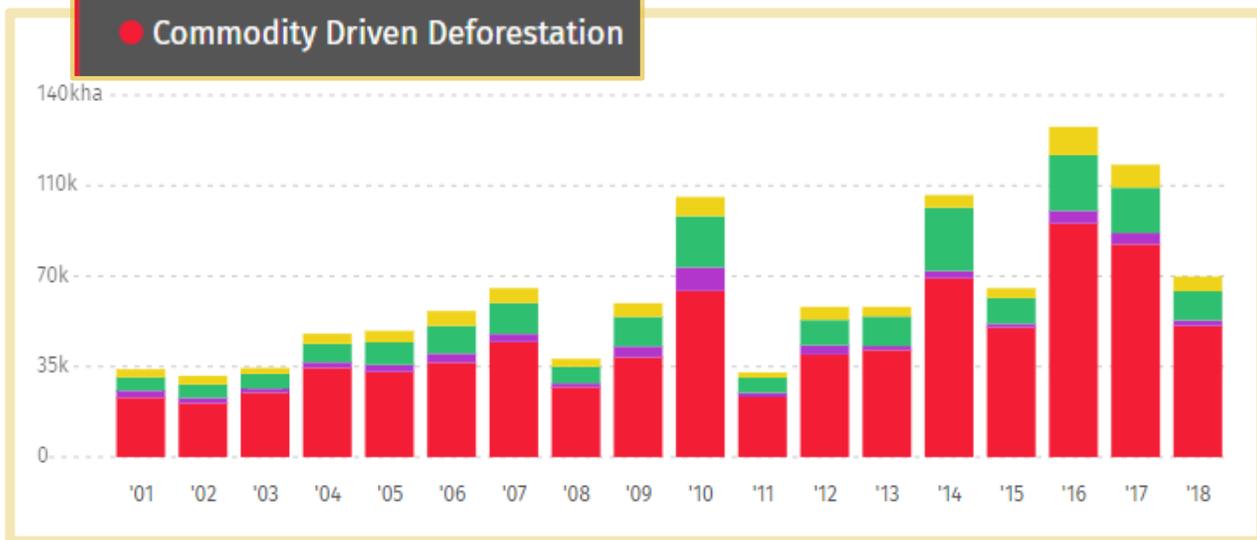
The Philippines has taken many steps to prevent environmental degradation. Nonetheless, it continues to face challenges in regards to protection of its sensitive ecosystems.

Air pollution is one major issue facing the Philippines in terms of environmental sustainability. According to the Philippines Information Agency, “at least 90 percent [of the population] in urbanized regions are exposed to harmful levels of air pollution.” This is damaging to both the health of the civilian population as well as the animals and ecosystems of the region.

Deforestation is another major cause of concern, in spite of efforts to stop it. According to the Manila Bulletin, “a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) study estimates that 47,000 hectares of forest cover is lost each year, attributed mainly to rampant illegal logging and lack of security in protected areas.” Experts predict that, at current rates, the majority of the nation’s forests will be lost within the next two decades. This is especially of concern when the Philippines is home to hundreds of endangered species of animals that live nowhere else in the world and are essential to the ecosystems that they live in. The following graphic describes tree cover loss by cause in the Philippines.



ANNUAL TREE COVER LOSS BY DOMINANT DRIVER IN PHILIPPINES



(Global Forest Watch)

The marine life of the Philippines is also in danger. The coral colonies that contribute to the livelihood of many fishers in the region have been destroyed as a result of environmentally harmful fishing practices (Avancena 55). Small fishermen's use of dynamites and cyanide destroyed approximately 60% of the areas fish would normally breed. As a result, the fishermen have to go further out into the sea to fish where they compete with the bigger fishing operations, which continues to threaten wildlife and contributes to an overall scarcity of fish.

Moving Forward

There are many strategies to consider moving forward in environmental sustainability for the Philippines. In addition to NEDA, the country has the Philippine National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought, which extends through the rest of 2020. The plan is combined below with steps from NEDA and other evaluations to achieve an environmentally-conscious country, hopefully with the assistance of the international community.

- Achieve sustainable agriculture and natural resources-based livelihood development: to provide livelihoods in rural areas and improve their resilience to land degradation and climate change
- Strengthen environmental and social safeguards for mineral resources
- Strictly enforce existing laws, rules and regulations in the mining industry on prices, farmer incomes, and environmental protection
- Prevent depletion and degradation of natural resources and protect biodiversity through practices that consider these resources as interdependent ecosystems
- Ensure environmental sustainability through the development of synergy with other Conventions

- Strengthen enforcement of environmental laws especially on air, water, and land quality management
- Reducing air pollution through investment in clean, eco-friendly businesses across sectors
- Promote sustainable consumption and production such as eco-friendly technologies, systems, and practices
- Review, codify, and streamline existing environment and natural resources policies, rules and regulations to improve compliance, address conflicting provisions, and promote transparency and accountability
- Encouraging anti-plastic campaigns
- Clearly demarcate the high-value conservation areas that need proper management (protection zones) from areas for private sector investment (production zones)
- Reverse the loss of forest cover by continuing to rehabilitate degraded forestlands, including critical watersheds, and strengthening protection of remaining natural forests

➤ Sanitation

The Philippines is also concerned with sanitation as a country. This is reflected in our commitment to SDG 6, to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”



Progress

The Philippines has made continuous efforts to solve sanitation and water access issues for our citizens.

One tremendous way that we are combating the spread of poor sanitation is by conducting major waterway cleanup crews within communities. Many families in the Philippines utilize the waterways for bathing, cleaning clothes, and in unfortunate situations, for hydration. In 2009, the Estero de Paco river was cleaned for the first time in many years. This raised major awareness of the issue and called for a much larger cleanup crew and a major grant was received by the Spanish Cooperation Fund. With the approximate \$400,000 received, the project that lasted about 3 years not only revived a once dead waterway but saved the Pasig river from becoming the same way (Brotons 2). It also kickstarted the “River Warriors” who were known as a social group that pledged to clean up the river and protest waste dumping in the Pasig river (Brotons 3). This was a new beginning for the Philippines given that our people were beginning to recognize the harm that they had inflicted upon the surrounding ecosystems.

The government here in the Philippines has been striving to make a difference in water pollution since the early 2000s. The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 is a huge milestone for

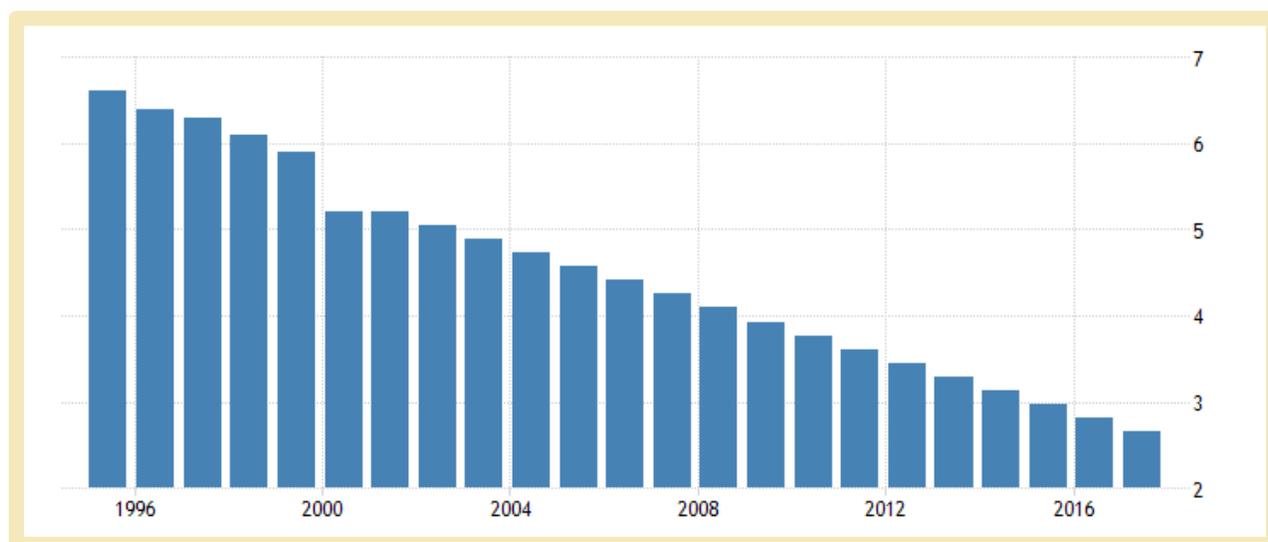
our country in terms of environmental legislation. This act was solely implemented given the severe waste issue that was affecting the sanitation in very populated and urban areas (Aquino 1). The plan has since attempted to create a sustainable waste management program that will mitigate public health issues and preserve the wildlife in urban areas, through monitoring waste and sorting it into different categories.

In addition to waste removal, the government has implemented waste management programs for some of the small-scale villages throughout the country. Many of these villages are responsible for retrieving excess waste and taking it to processing plants now, so the waste is now dealt with and not left unattended (Larracas 1). This kickstarted the “Birth of a Zero Waste City” through the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, also known as GAIA (Larracas 2). This partnership allowed countless villages to make large strides toward completely cleaning their given areas. With the funding received from GAIA, the Filipino villages received many tools and educational materials that would help the people learn about what exactly it was that they were doing and why. Organic composters and plastic shredders were provided to try and promote recycling of goods as well as eco-sheds and agricultural equipment in an attempt to divide waste and agriculture (Larracas 2). After only 2 years of the project that began in 2009, 25 of the 39 villages that were in dire need of waste removal regulations were in much better standing and could function on their own with the new tools that they had acquired. This new way of life helped hundreds of thousands of people in the Philippines with sanitation issues across numerous villages and taught many the importance of proper waste removal.

This also kickstarted other programs for waste management, including ones that address open defecation. One in particular, called the Zero Open Defecation Program (ZODP), focuses on ensuring equal access to toilets for all citizens in the Philippines (Duque 1). The plan was implemented to provide everyone access to proper bathroom services to improve overall livelihoods (Duque 1). When

proper sanitation measures were taken in areas of study through this program, water and foodborne illness levels also drastically decreased. It was part of the 2017 Philippine Health Agenda to eliminate all open defecation by 2022. The graphic below depicts the reduction in open defecation in the urban population of the Philippines, decreasing from over 6% in 1996 to less than 3% in 2016.

Open Defecation by Urban Population in the Philippines 1996-2016



(World Bank)

Finally, access to clean water is another area in which the Philippines has improved through water treatment plans. According to the Philippines Statistics Authority in 2017, 94% of Philippine families have improved sources of drinking water as compared to years prior due to programs implemented by the country and improved, widespread testing of drinking water.

The Filipino government has created a timeline of measurable goals, achieving true sanitation coverage by the year 2030, which include substantially decreasing the number of deaths due to improper sanitation through air, water, soil, and pollutants, to end open defecation and create equitable and accessible hygiene for all, and to water quality (WHO Representative Office for the Philippines 2).

Challenges

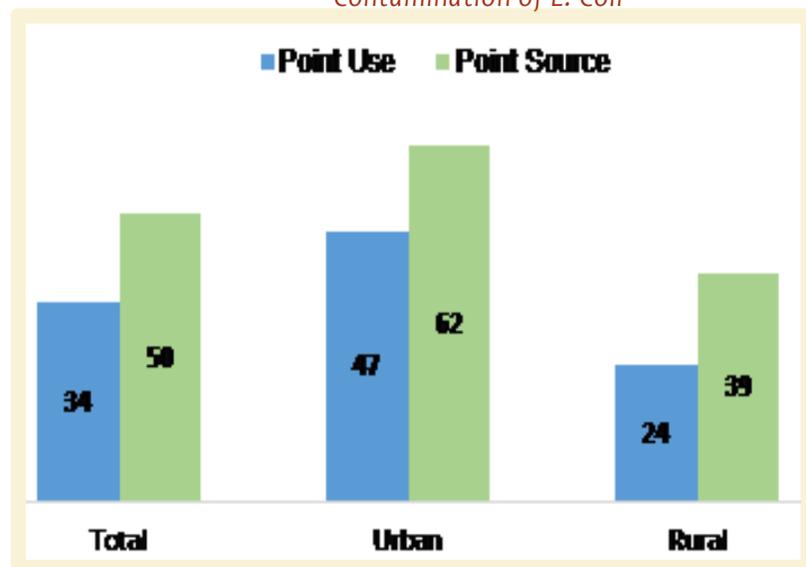
The Philippines still needs to address a variety of prevalent problems in sanitation.

Water scarcity and lack of water sanitation is one issue facing the people of the Philippines.

According to the World Bank, 1 in 10 people in the Philippines don't have any access to fresh and clean water sources. The WHO representative for the Philippines, Dr. Gundo Weiler, expressed that "Water is an extremely important resource that we cannot live without. But there are Filipinos who are still being left behind in terms of access to improved water sources, especially in rural communities." Many individuals in the Philippines suffer from severe illness related to dehydration because they must resort to drinking from unhealthy water sources as a last option or delay drinking for extended periods of time. Lack of access to clean water also leaves thousands of Filipino children prone to waterborne illnesses that are potentially fatal (ChildFund 2). According to the World Health Organization, "Over 100 million people in the Region are affected by NTDs (Neglected Tropical Diseases) such as helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, trachoma, and lymphatic filariasis," a result of drinking or being exposed to

unclean water. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, 77% of rural families "do not practice any method or treatment in ensuring that their drinking water is safe to drink" and only 1/3 families have access to water with no e. coli bacteria present.

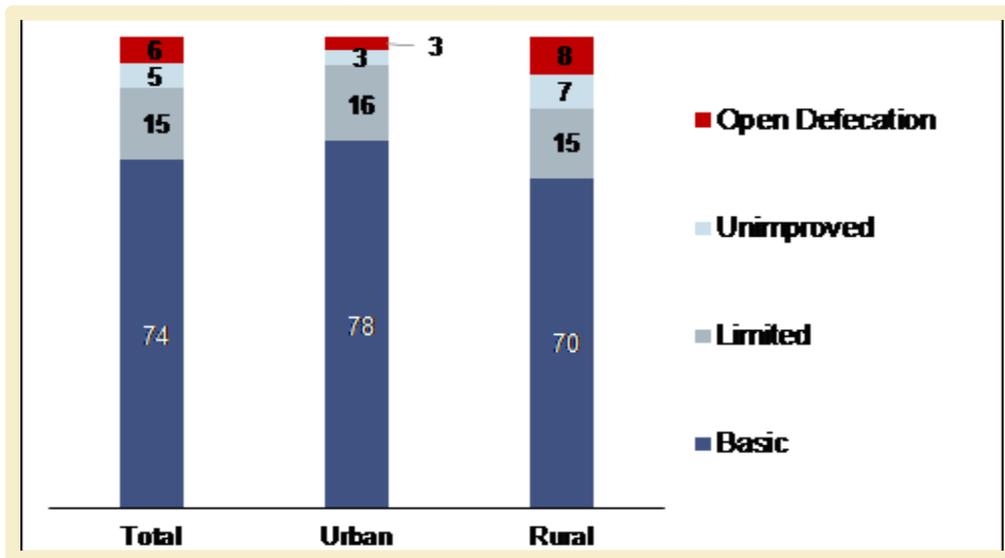
Percentage of Families with Drinking Water Free of Contamination of E. Coli



(Philippine Statistics Authority)

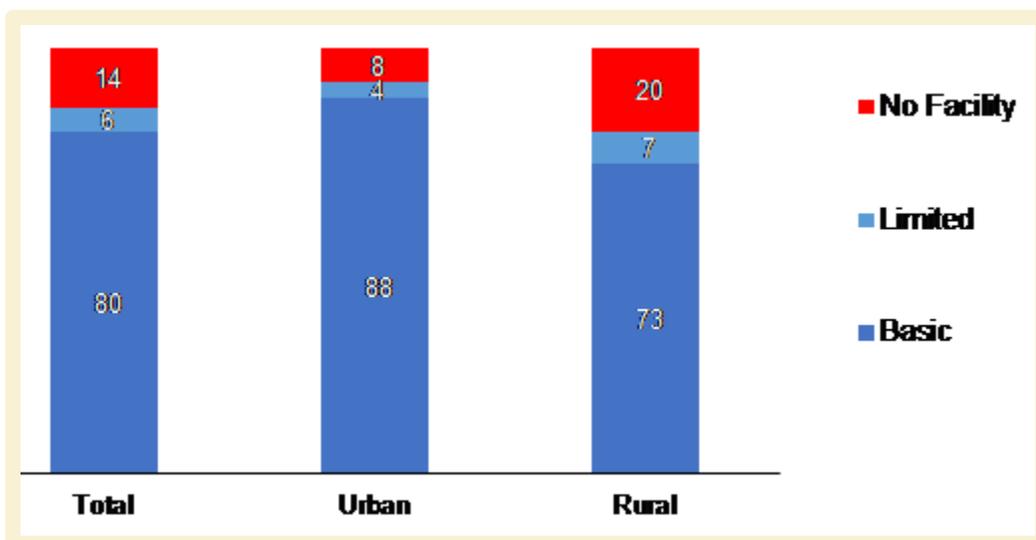
Open defecation and toilet access are also still problems for many Filipinos in spite of major progress nationwide. Approximately 9% of the Filipino population must use the restroom in the open, making sanitation very difficult. In 2017, it was recorded that 84% of Filipinos surveyed said that they had access to a cell phone, although only 70% have access to a functional, flushing toilet (Duque 1). Facilities are improving, but there is still a lack of adequate access and facilities, especially in rural areas, as demonstrated by the 2017 graphics below.

Percent Distribution of Families by Service Level of Sanitation Facilities



(Philippine Statistics Authority)

Percent Distribution of Families by Handwashing Facilities



(Philippine Statistics Authority)

Moving Forward

As with other areas, the NEDA plan outlines sanitation development needs well, but is supplemented here with other suggestions to truly achieve sustainable and healthy sanitation practices for the entirety of the Philippines. The priorities and strategies are as follows;

- Greater treatment of rural drinking water
- Widespread provision of information services on water-borne diseases in both rural and urban areas
- Greater access to public healthcare, especially for water-borne diseases
- Toilet installations in homes (flushing toilets installations, etc.)
- Committing to additional long-term waste removal projects
- Reworking and streamlining the collection of waste in villages
- Pursue institutional reforms such as streamlining processes in involved agencies to encourage and guide investments in water supply, sewerage, and sanitation

➤ Health and Disease

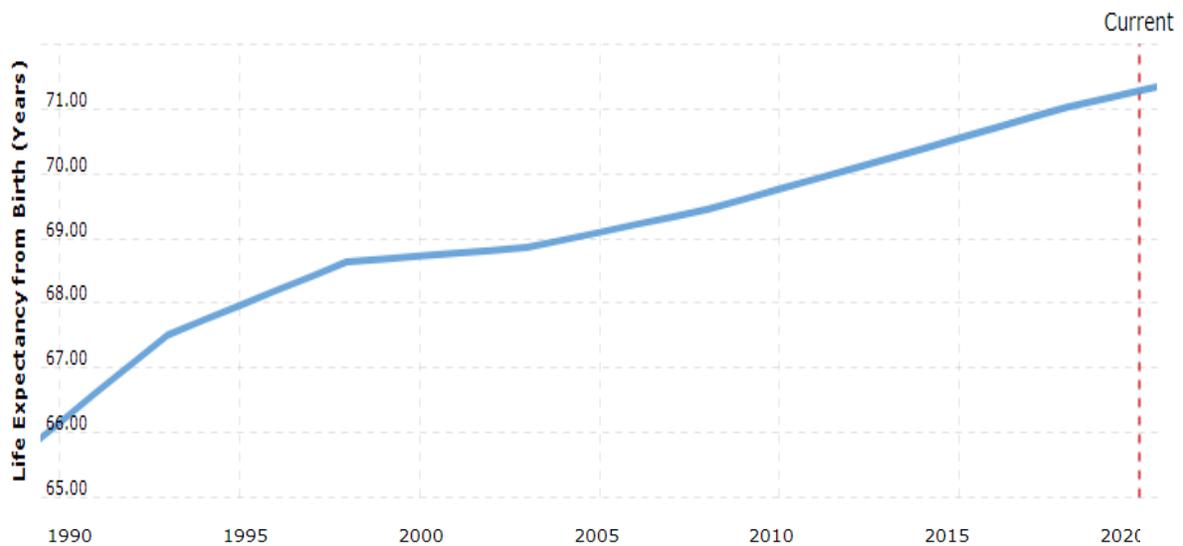
The Philippines intends to achieve improved health and wellbeing for all of its people. This area is of critical significance, especially in light of the evolving Covid-19 epidemic.



Progress

The Republic of the Philippines has rapidly improved in terms of health development. The country cares deeply about the wellbeing of its people. Our healthcare services are constantly improving in order to serve our communities in the most efficient way. In the 1990s, the national life expectancy average was approximately 66, whereas now, through health developments, the national life expectancy is over 71 (WHO).

Philippines Life Expectancy (1990-2020)



(United Nations Projections)

We have a strong healthcare system with policies that keep our constituents' best interests in mind. Part of this is providing maternal healthcare and family planning. Our government's policies make it so all pregnant women will be able to give birth in a healthcare facility such as a hospital, where they will have access to help from licensed medical professionals. In 2013, approximately 73% of births were attended by a skilled health personnel (WHO). The Philippine government has also implemented policies which ensure that all pregnant mothers make it to at least four prenatal care visits, are able to deliver with the help of a licensed person in the proper facility, and receive adequate postpartum care. In 2014, the amount of facility-based deliveries was 33% for the lowest quintile, and 91% for the highest quintile. In 2018, however, the percentage of facility-based deliveries increased to 58.4%, decreasing the gap. About 92% of women receive prenatal care, and roughly 80% of children age one have been immunized against measles (WHO).



Another priority for us in the aspect of health/health services is disease control. For example, our National Tuberculosis Program ensures that anyone who is in need of anti-Tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment is able to receive that at any public health center. We have also made



great progress in eliminating malaria with the help of the Global Fund, which distributed free anti-malaria drugs and mosquito nets to local governments (EU Philippines Health System Review).

President Duterte has always been vocal about decreasing drug use in the Philippines as an aspect of health care. We do our part in this initiative by implementing policies that will help drug users rehabilitate so that they are no longer dependent on those substances. These people can find help at one of our country's 49 drug rehabilitation facilities, 46 of which provide residential care. With President Rodrigo Duterte's current emphasis on our challenges with illegal drugs, our public facilities have been prepared to rehabilitate even those who cannot afford the medical bills. A prime example is one of our facilities in Nueva Ecija, which is now opened with 10,000 beds and ready to provide services.

Challenges

The Philippines has made great strides in public health. Nonetheless, there are issues that remain to be solved.

One issue is a health gap between the rich and the poor and lack of affordability in health coverage in the Philippines. There has always been a large gap in facility-based deliveries between the rich and the poor due to the high expense of health care in the country (EU).

According to the Philippines Star in 2019, "Nearly half of Filipinos are unsure if they can pay for their hospitalization if they get sick... A study found out that 40 percent of 1,350 respondents from various parts of the country expressed



uncertainty on their capability of paying medical bills." The country is the 2nd most expensive in terms of health coverage in the Southeast Asian region. This is largely attributed to "high-cost

pharmaceuticals, new diagnostics and procedures, and overprescribing of low-value health tests and procedures (PhilStar).”

Malnutrition is another problem within Philippine health coverage. According to UNICEF, “The undernutrition facts in the Philippines are disturbing – one in three 12-23-month-old children suffer from anaemia while one in three children are irreversibly stunted by the age of 2.” This health issue is greater inflamed by a lack of family planning.

Family planning is a health issue of great significance to the Philippines. While the country provides numerous family planning services in both public and private hospitals and the public’s knowledge of said services range from 98-100% for women, the country lags behind in use of contraceptive methods, leading to high fertility rates and an average of 6 children for many poor families in rural areas (WHO). This leads to poor vaccine coverage and less adequate medical care for the vast majority of rural children.

Overall, there is inadequate vaccine coverage in the Philippines, leading to outbreaks of preventable diseases. According to The Lancet Infectious Diseases, this led to an increase in cases in 2019, and as the

website states, “As of Nov 5, 371 717 dengue cases, including 1407 deaths, have been reported in 2019, which is 106% cases more than in 2018. Children aged 5–9 years have



been the most affected age group for dengue incidence (23%) and deaths (38%). For diphtheria, the

Department of Health has reported 197 cases with 47 deaths through Oct 5, an increase in cases of 47% compared with the same period in 2018.” There was also a measles outbreak that caused over 500 deaths. This increase in the outbreak of preventable disease clearly depicts a major issue in terms of vaccine coverage for children as well as a lack of sanitary water procedures.

Another major issue is the linkage between pollution and health in the country. Air pollution in the Philippines has become one of the biggest health emergencies, recording a total of 45.3 deaths for every 100,000 people due to air pollution-the third-highest in the world, based on the 2018 WHO study. This is especially complicated by the breathing problems that can emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moving Forward

The Philippines has come up with a list of prioritized strategies and goals to achieve better health coverage and eliminate diseases in the country in the NEDA 2017-2022 plan, which is outlined below alongside other recommendations for the evolving health situation in the Philippines.

- Improve health-seeking behavior of the citizens, especially the most vulnerable
- Ensure functional and efficient networks of health care providers
- Improve vaccine coverage for children
- Continue to enhance public awareness and familiarity of and with family planning
- Launch media campaigns to encourage use of contraceptives
- Upgrade and equip health facilities, and improve human resources for health
- Expand health insurance coverage and improve benefit packages
- Invest in e-Health and data collection mechanisms for decision making to address data gaps
- Elicit multisector, multistakeholder support for nutrition and health

➤ Poverty Alleviation

Poverty has been one of the Philippines number one priorities from the very beginning, given that so many citizens are suffering from poor living conditions. This is in line with SDGs 1 (to



“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”) and 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture).

Progress

Poverty has been one of the Philippines number one priorities from the very beginning given that so many citizens are suffering from poor living conditions. The 1987 Philippine Constitution states in Article XII that “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged” (Africa 65-66). With the reform of the economy and new approaches that prioritize poverty, the issue has been massively improved.

The Philippine Development Plan, also known as the PDP, is a 5-step series that divides our long-term goals into medium term goals. We are currently in stage 1 of 5, which is set to end in 2022. The official mission statement of the PDP is “By 2040, the Philippines is a prosperous middle-class society where no one is poor. People live long and healthy lives and are smart and innovative. The country is a high trust society where families thrive in vibrant, culturally diverse, and resilient communities” (NEDA Philippines 1:30-2:00). This encompasses the entirety of the strategic five-part plan, which has so far made major progress in eradicating poverty.

One focus in the PDP is to ensure safe and affordable housing by 2022 in the Philippines and to alleviate homelessness from natural disasters. The PDP and donors like USAID have worked together by attempting to salvage the communities that have been destroyed by natural disasters as well and rebuilding places for them to live. New forms of housing and systems to control natural disaster impacts are being

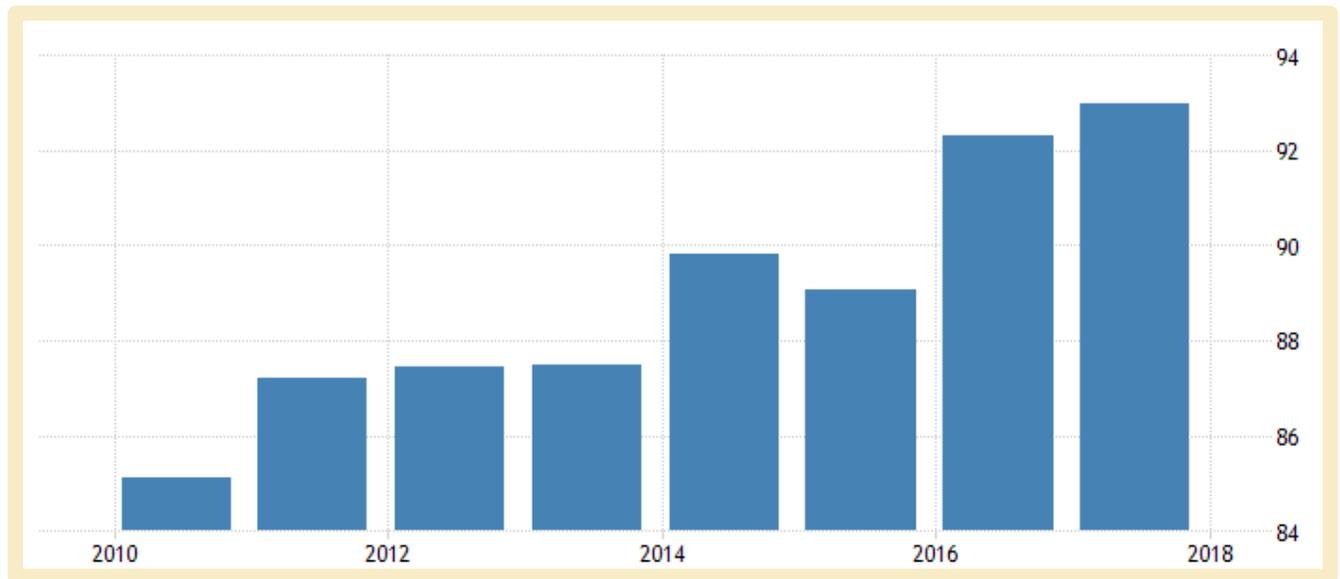
implemented in an attempt to prevent complete home destruction when these certain types of events occur, which is a primary cause of poverty in the Philippines. To address overall homelessness, the



government, through the National Housing Authority, has built over 115,000 units of public housing across the country and is committed to building 800,000 more over the next several years. The Philippines is also extremely centralized around the urban areas and slums. In order to address this, the government has developed new rural housing plans that provides affordable housing for lower income families that suffer within the city. The condensed living quarters makes maintaining health an extreme issue, so by decentralizing, we've seen a decrease in impoverished families within the major Filipino cities (World Bank).

One major indicator of poverty is also a lack of access to basic technology and electricity. The Philippines has made progress in this area specifically, greatly improving electricity access over the last decade, as demonstrated by the graphic.

Access to Electricity (Percentage of the Population) in the Philippines

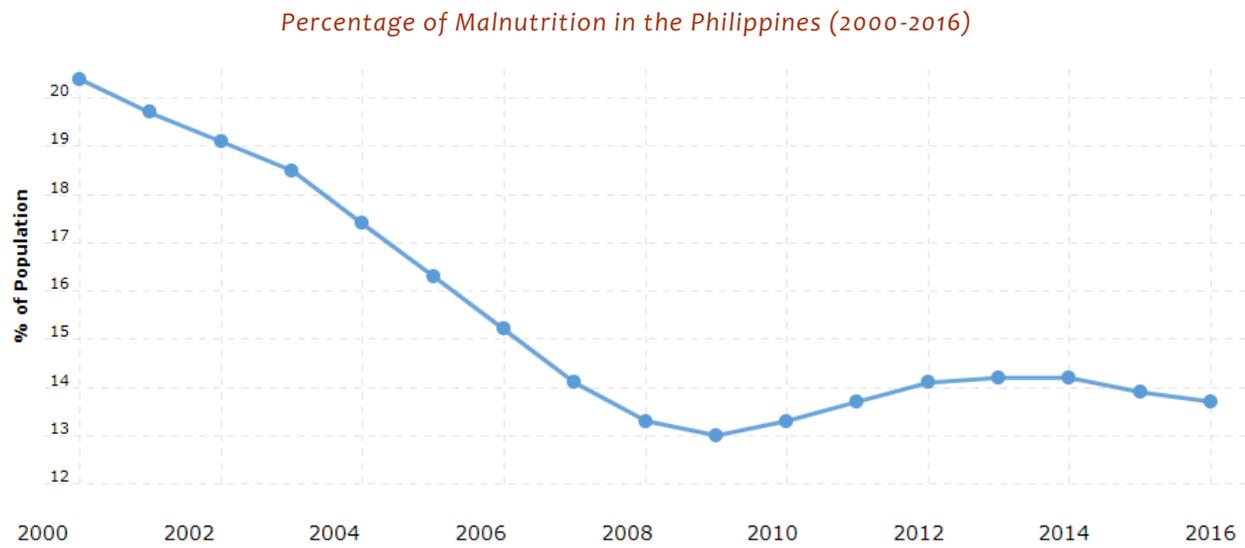


(World Bank)

Another area of improvement is in providing children adequate opportunities and schooling. In total, only about 1/3 of children in the Philippines complete their education, which is mainly attributed to a lack of funding for the household so families resort to forcing their children into labor and work at a young age in attempt to gain extra income (Wilson 1). The PDP has introduced many new strategies that have strengthened the public-school system and incentivize families to send their child through formal education and skill-building programs. The list includes enhancing childcare programs, which allows the adults to work full days rather than having to take care of their children, as well as community involvement in education through inclusion programs. These programs fund and incentivize more ceremonies, sporting events, concerts, and other skill-building, educational activities, all of which increase the opportunities and potential of young children in the poverty cycle (Republika ng Pilipinas 24).

A final area of poverty improvement has been in reducing hunger in the Philippines. According to Borgen Magazing, the percentage of underweight children in the Philippines was reduced from “29.1 percent in 1992 to 20.2 percent in 2003.” This has occurred thorough programs such as the

Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program, which, according to Borgen Magazine, “provides one kilo of rice daily for families with school-aged children in grade one or below.” The graphic below shows how malnutrition has been reduced over the last two decades in the Philippines.



(World Bank)

Challenges

The government is working on the alleviation of poverty, but some areas are slow to progress and the country faces a variety of obstacles to eliminating poverty. Overall-poverty still makes the living situation for more than ¼ of the Philippine population “inhumane” according to the United Nations Development Program and the actual poverty rate is still at 20% for the country.

Homelessness continues to pose a major problem in the Philippines and augments poverty statistics. According to Reuters, there are over 4.5 million homeless people in the Philippines. The Philippine Statistics Authority estimates that to address the homelessness crisis in its entirety, over

3 million housing units still need to be constructed before 2030 (Lawrence). Oftentimes, this is due to natural disasters or the expansion of industry in low-income housing areas.

Additionally, the country lacks the resources to address poverty caused by natural disasters and climate change. Rising sea levels and other environmental disasters continues to decimate families and livelihoods. According to ReliefWeb, “Empirical evidence has shown that natural disasters, such as typhoons and cyclones, play an important role in preventing people from moving out of poverty and in pulling back into poverty people who were able to escape poverty.” These events put 60 percent of the

land, which houses 74 percent of the people, at risk, according to Borgen Magazine. Natural disasters also discourage investment in the economy that would otherwise benefit many poor households (Benson).



The wealth gap between rich and poor households is also a major issue facing the country and perpetuating poverty. The gap continues to widen as the richest families in the Philippines continue to grow wealthier while the poor families enjoy little social and economic mobility. The GDP of the country has increased while the percentage of impoverished individuals has grown since the early 1990s, despite the government producing much more and being in control of a much livelier economy (Africa 15). The graph shows the percentages of certain subgroups in the

Philippines that have been most greatly affected by poverty. These sectors are the nine most

Sector	2006		2009		2012		2015		Increase/Decrease		
	Poverty Incidence (%)	CV	2006 - 2009	2009 - 2012	2012 - 2015						
Philippines	26.6	1.9	26.3	2.0	25.2	2.1	21.6	3.6	(0.3)	(1.1)	(3.6)
Farmers	38.5	2.1	38.0	2.1	38.3	2.5	34.3	3.0	(0.5)	0.2	(4.0)
Fishermen	41.2	4.6	41.3	4.0	39.2	4.7	34.0	5.8	0.1	(2.1)	(5.2)
Children	35.2	1.7	35.3	1.4	35.2	1.7	31.4	1.9	0.1	(0.1)	(3.8)
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers *	30.6	2.2	29.9	2.0	29.0	2.4	25.0	2.8	(0.8)	(0.9)	(4.0)
Women	25.9	1.9	25.7	1.6	25.6	1.9	22.5	2.1	(0.2)	(0.1)	(3.1)
Youth	21.1	2.2	21.6	1.8	22.3	2.2	19.4	2.4	0.5	0.7	(2.9)
Migrant and Formal Sector Workers	16.0	2.5	16.8	2.1	16.6	2.6	13.4	2.7	0.7	(0.2)	(3.2)
Senior Citizens	16.9	3.1	16.1	2.5	16.2	2.9	13.2	3.1	(0.7)	0.0	(3.0)
Individuals residing in urban areas	12.6	4.0	12.6	3.3	13.0	4.2	11.5	5.0	(0.0)	0.4	(1.5)

common sectors in the Philippines and fisherman, farmers, and children have remained near the top of the poverty index for decades. This chart also shows that 5 out of the 9 sectors are more impoverished than the entirety of the Philippines. This also relates back to natural disasters as a factor for poverty in the country, as the most impoverished sectors of the economy are also the most impacted by them. According to Borgen Magazine, “Hunger occurs the most in the agriculture and fishing sectors where 70 percent of workers are poor. In fact, 33 percent of the working population resides in these sectors, facing low wages, risks of natural disasters and poverty.” This demonstrates the unequal burden of poverty throughout society (Bersales 2).

Finally, while the country has managed to eradicate much of the hunger crisis, it still persists in the Philippines. According to Borgen Magazine, the Global Hunger Index of the Philippines is still considered “Serious” at a rating of 20.3. In 2018, the Philippines was ranked 9th in the world for

stunted children's growth due to malnutrition. Food insecurity impacts over 20% of households and is especially prevalent in rural areas.

Moving Forward

To address poverty, the Philippines has put forward several plans and strategies. These suggestions and focus areas are drawn from NEDA and the Reforming Philippine Anti-Poverty Policy Act. In order to address poverty moving forward, the Philippines intends to implement the following;

- Approaching the issue through a firm grounding in a human rights-based and social development approach
- Attempt a structural transformation of the national economy
- Implement further children's nutrition programs
- Ensure a just and progressive social policy
- Create high paying and accessible jobs for all
- Rework the allocation of tax money and economy
- Decentralize cities and provide rural housing
- Support rural communities
- Prioritize the public school system
- Ensure children's health
- Rework anti-poverty coalitions
- Force real people's participation
- Intensify implementation of alternatives and innovative solutions in addressing the housing needs of the lower-income classes and the vulnerable sector
- Strengthen housing as a platform to reduce poverty and improve social outcomes

Works Cited

- Africa, Jose. *Reforming Philippine Anti-Poverty Policy | National Anti ...* National Anti-Poverty Commission, 2017, www.napc.gov.ph/articles/reforming-philippine-anti-poverty-policy.
- Al Jazeera. "Top Philippines Broadcaster Fights Government Order to Shut Down." *Philippines News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 7 May 2020, aljazeera.com/news/2020/05/top-philippines-broadcaster-fights-government-order-shut-200507120816428.html.
- Aspinwall, Nick. "Left High and Dry: Virus Ban Hits Millions of Philippine Workers." *Philippines News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 12 Mar. 2020, www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/philippines-legion-overseas-workers-pay-price-virus-bans-200312021938306.html.
- Aquino, Albert. "Asia-Pacific Information Platform on Agricultural Policy." *Ecological Solid Waste Management Act: Environmental Protection Through Proper Solid Waste Practice*, 9 Dec. 2013, ap.fftc.agnet.org/ap_db.php?id=153&print=1.
- Austin, Rod. "'War on Drugs' Makes Philippines Fourth Most Dangerous Country – Report." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 9 July 2019, www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/jul/09/war-on-drugs-makes-philippines-fourth-most-dangerous-country-report.
- Avancena, Ricky. "The Philippine Environment: Epicenter of Wealth, Beauty and Destruction." *Asia Pacific Perspectives*, University of San Francisco, 2018, www.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/arts_and_sciences/center_for_asia_pacific_studies/4-avancena-philippine-environment.pdf.
- Billing, Lynzy. "For Single Mothers in the Philippines, Unemployment Is COVID-19's Biggest Threat." *Vice*, 2 Apr. 2020, vice.com/en_asia/article/jge3e4/single-mothers-philippines-unemployment-coronavirus-lockdown.
- Briones, Nicmendes. *Environmental Sustainability Issues in Philippine Agriculture*. University of the Philippines, www.researchgate.net/publication/237408111_Environmental_Sustainability_Issues_in_Philippine_Agriculture.
- Castaneda, Christine. "How Reliant Is the Philippines on Renewable Energy?" *BusinessWorld*, 31 July 2018, www.bworldonline.com/how-reliant-is-the-philippines-on-renewable-energy/.
- Chanco, Boo. "Philippines Healthcare Unaffordable." *Philstar.com*, The Philippine Star, 5 July 2019, www.philstar.com/business/2019/07/05/1932014/philippines-healthcare-unaffordable.
- Chandran, Rina. "Manila's Homeless Set to Move into More Empty Homes If Official Handover Delayed." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 28 Mar. 2018, www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-landrights-lawmaking/manilas-homeless-set-to-move-into-more-empty-homes-if-official-handover-delayed-idUSKBN1H41L7.

Child Fund International . “Improving Sanitation in the Philippines.” *ChildFund*, 6 June 2013, www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489253/.

Edera, Erma. “Green Jobs to Allow PH to Meet Social, Environmental Goals.” *Manila Bulletin News*, 6 Mar. 2019, news.mb.com.ph/2019/03/06/green-jobs-to-allow-ph-to-meet-social-environmental-goals

“Education, Inequality, Poverty – a Paradox in the Philippines.” *ASEAN Today*, 22 Mar. 2017, aseantoday.com/2017/03/education-inequality-poverty-a-paradox-in-the-philippines

“Employment Rate in January 2020 Is Estimated at 94.7 Percent.” *Philippine Statistics Authority*, 5 Mar. 2020, psa.gov.ph/content/employment-rate-january-2020-estimated-947-percent.

“Empowering Maranao Girls against Child Marriage.” *UNFPA Philippines*, United Nations, 11 Oct. 2019, philippines.unfpa.org/en/news/empowering-maranao-girls-against-child-marriage.

Environment: Philippines. (2019, July 26). Retrieved May 21, 2020, from <https://www.usaid.gov/philippines/energy-and-environment>

Fjellestad, Christian. “Infectious Disease Crisis in the Philippines.” *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, vol. 19, no. 12, 2019, p. 1265., doi:10.1016/s1473-3099(19)30642-5.

GOV Philippines Department of Health. “FILIPINOS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO TOILETS MORE THAN CELLPHONES: Department of Health Website.” *DOH*, 27 Nov. 2017, www.doh.gov.ph/node/11787.

Glavin, Chris. “Issues Regarding the Educational System.” *Issues Regarding the Educational System / K12 Academics*, 12 Feb. 2017, www.k12academics.com/Education Worldwide/Education in the Philippines/issues-regarding-educational-system.

“Global Gender Gap Report 2020.” *WEF*, World Economic Forum, 2019, www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf.

“Identifying the Vulnerable to Poverty from Natural Disasters: The Case of Typhoons in the Philippines - Philippines.” ReliefWeb, reliefweb.int/report/philippines/identifying-vulnerable-poverty-natural-disasters-case-typhoons-philippines.

“Infectious Disease Crisis in the Philippines.” *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Dec. 2019, [www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(19\)30642-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(19)30642-5/fulltext).

International Labour Organization. “Child Labour in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines).” *Child Labour in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines)*, www.ilo.org/manila/areasofwork/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm.

- International Labour Organization. "Labour Market Governance and Working Conditions in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines)." *Labour Market Governance and Working Conditions in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines)*, www.ilo.org/manila/areasofwork/labour-market-governance-and-working-conditions/lang--en/index.htm.
- International Labour Organization. "Safety and Health at Work in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines)." *Safety and Health at Work in the Philippines (ILO in the Philippines)*, www.ilo.org/manila/areasofwork/safety-and-health-at-work/lang--en/index.htm.
- Kritz, Ben. "Responsible Mining in PH." *Responsible Mining in PH*, 28 Feb. 2020, www.manilatimes.net/2020/02/28/supplements/responsible-mining-in-ph/697658/.
- Larracas, Anne. "Zero Waste from Dream to Reality in the Philippines." *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives*, 23 Nov. 2016, www.no-burn.org/zero-waste-from-dream-to-reality-in-the-philippines/.
- Lawrence, Christopher. "Ending Homelessness." *Daily Tribune*, 24 Nov. 2019, tribune.net.ph/index.php/2019/11/25/ending-homelessness/.
- Lucero, Vino, and Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. "Drug War Lists 20,584 Kids as 'Users, Pushers, Runners'." *ABS*, 21 Sept. 2016, news.abs-cbn.com/focus/09/21/16/drug-war-lists-20584-kids-as-users-pushers-runners.
- Mabasa, Roy. "The Philippines Reports Substantial Progress in Achieving U.N. Mandated SDGs." *Manila Bulletin News*, 24 Oct. 2019, news.mb.com.ph/2019/10/24/the-philippines-reports-substantial-progress-in-achieving-u-n-mandated-sdgs/.
- Macha, Wilson, et al. "Education in the Philippines." *World Education News Reviews*, World Education Services, 6 Mar. 2018, wenr.wes.org/2018/03/education-in-the-philippines.
- Nations, United. *The 2019 Voluntary National Review of the Philippines*. 2019, sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23366Voluntary_National_Review_2019_Philippines.pdf.
- NEDA Philippines. "Aksyon Para Sa Ambisyon: Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022." *Youtube.com*, 8 Aug. 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjWyOnp4LCs.
- Ng, Kate. "Philippine President Duterte Threatens to Impose Martial Law after 120,000 Arrested for Violating Coronavirus Lockdown." *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 17 Apr. 2020, independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/coronavirus-rodrigo-duterte-martial-law-arrests-lockdown-philippines-a9470446.html.
- ng Masa, Partido Lakas. "Statement on West Philippine Sea/South China Sea Territorial Dispute: US Butt out!: Links International Journal of Socialist Renewal." *Statement on West Philippine Sea/South China Sea Territorial Dispute: US Butt out! | Links International Journal of Socialist Renewal*, 28 May 2015, links.org.au/node/4446.

Purushothaman, Chithra. “Why Is the Philippines Turning Away Foreign Aid?” – *The Diplomat*, For The Diplomat, 25 May 2017, thediplomat.com/2017/05/why-is-the-philippines-turning-away-foreign-aid/.

“Philippines: Department of Labor Issues Guidelines on Adjustment Measures Program for Affected Workers Due to COVID-19: Insight: Baker McKenzie.” *Insight | Baker McKenzie*, 18 Mar. 2020, bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2020/03/guidelines-adjustment-measures-program-covid19.

Philippine Development Plan. National Economic and Development Authority, 2017, pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP%202017-2022-06-06-2017.pdf.

The Philippines Fifth Progress Report. National Economic and Development Authority and United Nations Development Programme, 2014, neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/MDG-Progress-Report-5-Final.pdf.

Philippine Information Agency. “Air Pollution Has Become Serious Threat in Philippines.” *Big News Network.com*, 10 Jan. 2020, www.bignewsnetwork.com/news/263670053/air-pollution-has-become-serious-threat-in-philippines.

Philippine Statistics Authority. “PSA: Farmers, Fishermen Remain Poorest in PHL | BusinessMirror.” *Farmers, Fishermen and Children Consistently Posted the Highest Poverty Incidence among Basic Sectors - PSA*, 30 June 2017, businessmirror.com.ph/2017/07/02/psa-farmers-fishermen-remain-poorest-in-phl/.

Philippine Statistics Authority. “Release of Revised and Rebased to 2018 National Accounts of the Philippines.” *Philippine Statistics Authority*, 20 Apr. 2020, psa.gov.ph/content/release-revised-and-rebased-2018-national-accounts-philippines.

Philippine Statistics Authority. “Safety and Health in the Workplace Cases of Occupational ...” *Safety and Health in the Workplace Cases of Occupational Injuries (First of a Series)*, 27 Dec. 2017, [psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/LABSTAT Updates Vol. 21 No. 19 Safety and Health in the Workplace Cases of Occupational Injuries_0.pdf](http://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/LABSTAT%20Updates%20Vol.%2021%20No.%2019%20Safety%20and%20Health%20in%20the%20Workplace%20Cases%20of%20Occupational%20Injuries_0.pdf).

Robles, Raissa. “Philippines Proposes Tax on Netflix, Facebook Ads, Lazada Purchases.” *South China Morning Post*, 21 May 2019, www.scmp.com/week-asia/economics/article/3085323/philippines-proposes-tax-netflix-facebook-ads-lazada-purchases.

Rollo, Cris. “Zero Waste from Dream to Reality in the Philippines.” *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives*, 1 Dec. 2011, www.no-burn.org/zero-waste-from-dream-to-reality-in-the-philippines/.

Salvosa, Felipe. “Philippines Struggles with Unemployment despite Economic Growth.” *CNBC*, CNBC, 2 Sept. 2015, www.cnb.com/2015/09/01/unemployment-in-philippines-an-issue-despite-rapid-economic-growth.html.

Tai, Catherine. "Empowering Women: Good for Business." *Center for International Private Enterprise*, 15 June 2016, cipe.org/blog/2016/06/15/empowering-women-good-for-business/.

"The Economic Impact of Natural Disasters in the Philippines." ODI, 1 June 1997, www.odi.org/publications/5629-philippines-economic-impact-natural-disasters

"The World Factbook: Philippines." *Central Intelligence Agency*, Central Intelligence Agency, 1 Feb. 2018, cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rp.html.

The World Bank. "The World Bank in the Philippines." *World Bank*, www.worldbank.org/en/country/philippines/overview..

"Top 10 Facts About Hunger in the Philippines." BORGEM, 28 Nov. 2018, www.borgenmagazine.com/top-10-facts-about-hunger-in-the-philippines/.

"UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO NEW RECORD LOW IN 10 YEARS." *The National Economic and Development Authority*, 21 Jan. 2016, neda.gov.ph/unemployment-rate-drops-to-new-record-low-in-10-years/.

United Nations Development Programme Philippines. "Poverty Reduction." *UNDP in Philippines*, 2020, www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/ourwork/povertyreduction/overview.html.

United Nations Development Programme. "Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation." *UNDP in Philippines*, 2020, www.ph.undp.org/content/philippines/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html.

Victor, P. (2018, February 18). The Philippines tops energy ranking for environmental sustainability. Retrieved May 21, 2020, from <https://theaseanpost.com/article/philippines-tops-energy-ranking-environmental-sustain>

Villanueva, Rhodina. "Violence against Women Still Rampant- Report." *Philstar.com*, The Philippine Star, 6 Mar. 2020, philstar.com/headlines/2020/03/06/1998521/violence-against-women-still-rampant-repor.

Vera-Ruiz, Ellayn. "How Reliant Is the Philippines on Renewable Energy?" *BusinessWorld*, 2 Apr. 2020, www.bworldonline.com/how-reliant-is-the-philippines-on-renewable-energy/.

WHO Philippines. "Philippines." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 21 Mar. 2020, www.who.int/countries/phl/en/.

WHO Representative Office for the Philippines. "Water Shortage in the Philippines Threatens Sustainable Development and Health." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, 22 Mar. 2019, www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health.

