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**Strengthening the Capacity of the Philippine Statistical System  
to Address the Statistical Requirements of the  
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

by  
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# **Strengthening the Capacity of the Philippine Statistical System to Address the Statistical Requirements of the Millennium Development Goals**

by  
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## **ABSTRACT**

One of the important purposes of statistics is to enhance capacity for effective monitoring and targeted policy-making. As statistics are necessary to demonstrate effectively any lack of progress or achievements embodied in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, the United Nations together with other international bodies identified a concise set of goals, numerical targets, and quantifiable indicators otherwise known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators. The MDG includes 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators.

In line with the advocacy efforts of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) towards mainstreaming the MDGs, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) has been compiling statistics/data updates on the MDG indicators, covering the period 1990-2002, and has been posting them on the website at [www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg) since May 2003 to provide information on the country's progress vis-à-vis the targeted goals. Prior to the initial compilation, the NSCB assessed the indicators in terms of availability, frequency of release, timeliness, and source of data/statistics. The assessment showed that a host of issues needs to be addressed such as the availability of the indicators on an annual basis, conflicting statistics, and linking of data series.

Although the UN ESCAP gauged the PSS's readiness as first in terms of relative data availability among 11 countries in South-east Asia, much remains to be done. Data gaps still exist and the PSS faces the challenge of addressing the need for more quality and disaggregated data. This paper will focus on the necessary synergies and the institutional structures and mechanisms to respond to the challenge.

## **I. Introduction**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the latest and current global framework for development being adopted, implemented, supported, and monitored by the United Nations and other international organizations that are into country and regional development coordination and technical/financial cooperation/assistance. This new set of goals encapsulates the essential dimensions with which significant progress shall have been achieved worldwide by the year 2015. The MDGs are borne of the UN Millennium Declaration that has been ratified by UN member-countries in September 2000.

The MDGs consist of 8 major goals, translated into 18 targets, which are hoped to be achieved by 2015, the end of a 25-year timeline that has been anchored on 1990 as baseline year. While many issues and concerns have surfaced on the MDGs since its inception -- some expressing support and others questioning the plausibility of each or some of the goals or even the whole lot, the MDGs have

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progressively integrated into the mainstream of development planning, resource mobilization, and decision making in many countries and international organizations.

The MDGs call for the implementation of development activities as well as mobilization of resources to:

**Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

- Target 1. Halve, between 1990s and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
- Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

**Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education**

- Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

**Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**

- Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015

**Goal 4. Reduce child mortality**

- Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

**Goal 5. Improve maternal health**

- Target 6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

**Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases**

- Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

**Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability**

- Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
- Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes to reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Target 10. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water
- Target 11. By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

**Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development**

- Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction - both nationally and

- internationally)
- Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries (includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction)
  - Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)
  - Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
  - Target 16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
  - Target 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries
  - Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

To help track progress in the attainment of the 8 goals and 18 targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) over the period 1990 to 2015, experts from the United Nations Secretariat and International Monetary Fund (IMF), Overseas Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank (WB) identified and selected 48 time-bound and measurable indicators. These 48 indicators now comprise the MDG or Millennium Indicators on which data series are compiled and analyzed primarily for the preparation of progress reports by the UN member-states.

The preparation of country monitoring reports is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), assisted by other UN agencies and the UN Secretariat. Apart from being a valuable tool in assessing country progress towards the attainment of the MDGs, the country reports are being used by the UN as basis for mobilizing resources to assist developing countries in meeting the targets. The UNDP has since spearheaded international and in-country advocacy work to mainstream the MDGs in national planning and decision making as well.

The UN, through its Statistics Division, and in close collaboration with UN agencies, WB, IMF, and OECD, maintains a database of country data series on the 48 indicators, as well as background series to supplement the basic/core indicators. These data series come from the international series compiled by the WB, IMF, Food and Agriculture Organization, International Labor Organization, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), OECD, WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNEP, and international organizations. When country data are not available or are affected by serious quality problems, estimates or projections are used.

## **II. Country Monitoring (Philippines)**

The Philippines is one of the signatories in the UN Millennium Declaration, and as such has committed to adopt, advocate, implement appropriate interventions, and monitor the progress of the MDGs in the country. Country monitoring in the Philippines is spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) through the collaborative efforts of its Multi-Sectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments (MC-IHDC) and Social Development Committee (SDC). In January 2003, the NEDA published the first *Philippines Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals*, which defines where the country is relative to the MDGs and outlines the challenges that have to be overcome in order to attain these goals.

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), in line with its participation in the *Workshops on Development Indicators* held in Manila, Philippines in October 2001 and 2002 organized by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) through the "United Nations Project on Strengthening Regional Capacities for Statistical Development in Southeast Asia," and as the coordinator of the Philippine Statistical System, has compiled and published the data series for the MDG indicators on its website at <http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg/>. The data series are updated periodically based on the latest statistics gathered from the appropriate and official sources. The compilation on the NSCB website serves as the country source of consolidated statistics on the MDGs in the Philippines.

### III. Indicators and Data Series

Since the MDGs were formulated by experts from both a country and international perspectives, not all of the indicators may be applicable or available in each of the UN member-countries. Prior to the compilation of data series, an assessment on the availability and applicability of the MDG indicators in the Philippines was first conducted. The assessment showed that out of the 48 indicators, 29 can be obtained from existing government surveys and administrative data systems; 8 indicators are currently not available; and 11 are deemed not applicable in the Philippines. For some of the 8 indicators that are not available, it is an accepted practice that estimates are sourced from international organizations such as the UNAIDS, World Health Organizations, World Bank, and ITU.

#### Matrix of goals, targets and indicators by availability and source

##### GOAL 1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress (click an indicator to view tables)	Data available	Source
Target 1. Halve, between 1990s and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.	1. <a href="#">Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day</a> (For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available)	1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000	NSCB

		2.	<u>Poverty gap ratio</u> (incidence x depth of poverty)	1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000	NSCB
		3.	<u>Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</u>	1991, 1994, 1997 and 2000 (computed using FIES results)	NSO
Target 2.	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4.	<u>Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age</u>	1990, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1998 and 2001	FNRI
		5.	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	not available (what is available is percent of households with per capita energy less than 100% adequacy (based on the 1993 NNS)	

## GOAL 2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6. <u>Net enrolment ratio in primary education</u>	1990 to 2002 (Disaggregation by sex available only from 1996 to 1999)	DepEd
	7. <u>Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5</u>	1990 to 2001	DepEd
	8. <u>Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds</u>	1990, 1994, 2000 (simple literacy)	NSO

## GOAL 3. PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015	9. <u>Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education</u>	1993-2001	DepEd and CHED
	10. <u>Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds</u>	1990, 1994 and 2000 (simple literacy)	NSO
	11. <u>Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector</u>	1990-2001	NSO
	12. <u>Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</u>	1992, 1995, 1998. 2001 to 2004	Senate and House of Rep.

## GOAL 4. REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 5. Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. <a href="#">Under-five mortality rate</a>	1990-1995 1998 and 2003	TWG on Mortality and NSO
	14. <a href="#">Infant mortality rate</a>	1990-1995 1998 and 2003	TWG on Mortality and NSO
	15. <a href="#">Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles</a>	1990-2001	DOH

#### GOAL 5. IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 6. Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. <a href="#">Maternal mortality ratio</a>	1990-1995 and 1998 (NDHS)	TWG on Mortality and NSO
	17. <a href="#">Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</a>	1990-2001	DOH

#### GOAL 6. COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women	not available (UNICEF has low and high estimates for women, 15-24)	
	19. <a href="#">Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate</a> [Amongst contraceptive prevalence methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission. The contraceptive prevalence rate is also useful in tracking progress in other health, gender and poverty goals. Because the condom rate use is only measured amongst women in union, it will be supplemented by an indicator on condom use in high risk situations. These indicators will be augmented with an indicator of knowledge and misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS by 15-24 year olds (UNICEF-WHO)]	1993, 1995 to 2002	NSO
	20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS (to be measured by the ratio or proportion of orphans to non-orphans aged 10-14 who are attending school)	not available (UNAIDS has estimates of cumulative number as of 2001)	

Target 8.	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. <a href="#">Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria</a>	Prevalence rate: 1990 to 2001  Death rate: 1990 to 1998	DOH
		22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (Prevention to be measured by the % of under 5s sleeping under insecticide treated bednets; treatment to be measured by % of under 5s who are appropriately treated)	not available	
		23. <a href="#">Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis</a>	Prevalence rate: 1990 to 2001  Death rate: 1990 to 1998	DOH
		24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)	not available (WHO has estimates for 2000)	

#### GOAL 7. ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

	Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available	Source
Target 9.	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes to reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. <a href="#">Proportion of land area covered by forest</a>	1990 to 1997, 2003	FMB-DENR
		26. <a href="#">Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area</a>	1990 to 2002	PAWB-DENR
		27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)	not available (World Bank estimates)	
		28. <a href="#">Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)</a>	CO2 emission not available (UNFCCC-CDIAC) has estimates from 1990-1998); ozone-depleting (1990-2002)	EMB, DENR
		29. <a href="#">Proportion of population using solid fuels</a>	1990 and 2000	NSO
Target 10.	Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	30. <a href="#">Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source, urban and rural</a>	1990, 1998 to 2000; and 2002	NSO
Target 11.	By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	31. <a href="#">Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation</a>	1990, 1999 to 2000; and 2002	NSO
		32. <a href="#">Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)</a>	1990 and 2000	NSO

#### GOAL 8. DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

	Goal and Target	Indicator for monitoring progress	Data available
Target 12.	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-	Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing States.	not applicable

	discriminatory trading and financial system	Official development assistance	
		Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	
	Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally	33. [	
		34. Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	not applicable
Target 13.	Address the special needs of the least developed countries	35. Proportion of bilateral ODA of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	not applicable
		36. ODA received in landlocked countries as proportion of their GNIs	not applicable
	Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	37. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs	not applicable
Target 14.	Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island States	Market access	
		38. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and LDCs, admitted free of duties	not applicable
		39. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	not applicable
	(Through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	40. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as percentage of their GDP	not applicable
		41. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity (OECD and WTO are collecting data that will be available from 2001 onwards)	not applicable
Target 15.	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through	Debt sustainability	
		42. Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	not applicable

	national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	43. Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, US\$	not applicable
		44. <u>Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services</u>	
		]	
Target 16.	In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. <u>Unemployment rate of 15-24 year olds, each sex and total (an improved measure of the targets is under development by ILO for future years)</u>	1990-2003
		]	
Target 17.	In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	not available (WHO has estimates for 1995 and 1997)
Target 18.	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. <u>Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population</u>	Telephone lines: 1990 to 2003  Cellular subscribers : 1991 to 2003
		48. Personal computers in use per 100 population and internet users per 100 population	not available (ITU has estimates for personal computers from 1990 to 2001 and for internet users from 1994 to 2001)
		]	

#### ACRONYMS

BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines)
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DOTC	Department of Transportation and Communications
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
FIES	Family Income and Expenditures Survey
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FNRI	Food and Nutrition Research Institute
FPS	Family Planning Survey
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NSO	National Statistics Office
NTC	National Telecommunications Commission

The 11 indicators, which are not applicable in the Philippines fall under Goal 8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development. Some of these indicators are

more relevant to least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states (SIDS).

In the 2003 report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) on data availability of the millennium indicators, the Philippines ranked first among the 11 countries in Southeast Asia, and fourth, to Australia, Japan, and Republic of Korea, among all of Asia and the Pacific. According to UNESCAP, the theoretical maximum is for a country to have 767 data values (59 series x 13 years). The Philippines, according to the ESCAP report, has a total of 214 available data values.

#### **IV. Issues on the indicators and data series**

This section integrates the issues and concerns on the indicators based on the assessment done by the NSCB; issues in measuring the MDG indicators identified by the Asian Development Bank; issues submitted by the source agencies; and those raised during the NEDA Workshop on Mainstreaming the MDG held in April 2003 and the NSCB Consultative Meeting on the Millennium Indicators held on 18 June 2004.

##### **1. General Issues**

- Differences in the compilation methodologies, concepts, and estimates between international and government source agencies may cause inconsistencies in the formulation of strategies, programs, and interventions by the national planners and partner international organizations to achieve the MDGs. The use of uniform/ common concepts, operational definitions and methodologies is critical in coming up with integrated approaches to addressing the MDGs.
- Some of the indicators are not being generated by the existing data systems, and can be produced only through new statistical activities or improvements in the information systems of source agencies. With the volatile fiscal situation of government, however, resources for such activities may be hard to come by.
- Annual monitoring of MDG progress may be ideal but may not be necessary or practical for some of the goals. With many of the data systems and statistical activities able to produce only periodic updates, readily available alternative or supplementary indicators need to be identified.
- The type and periodicity of conduct of statistical activities may produce inconsistent and incomparable statistics across years, i.e., censuses, surveys, and administrative systems.
- With most of the goals and targets dealing with the state, characteristics, behaviour, and condition of the populace, the current set of national-based MDG indicators and data series are deemed inadequate to monitor true

progress. Subnational and micro datasets are crucial to monitor imbalances in the distribution of resources and prioritization of development activities across the country, i.e., to determine areas where certain goals and targets are not being achieved, thus, providing basis for directing or refocusing of resources and policy and program interventions.

## 2. Specific Issues

Notwithstanding the issues and concerns raised in international discussion on the MDG indicators, the specific issues identified in the application of the MDG indicators in the Philippines, based on assessments conducted by the NSCB and ADB, and the consultative fora with stakeholders and data sources, include:

- a. Poverty
  - a.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day
  - a.2 Poverty incidence
  - a.3 Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)
  - a.4 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

The international indicator on poverty is the proportion of the population below US\$1 per day based on the purchasing power parity. This allows some comparison among countries. However, there has been a host of issues raised on the methodology leading experts to continue to find and develop more viable alternative approaches.

At the country level, the poverty incidence is being used to monitor poverty alleviation, and similarly as above, not without concerns on the methodology. Among the issues identified by national and local stakeholders include:

- need for an indicator to identify and locate the poor;
- need to resolve identified issues on the current official poverty estimation methodology, including comparability;
- need for statistical databases on income and non-income poverty indicators;
- need to generate sex- and sector-disaggregated poverty data;
- significant difference between the WB and NSCB official estimates for 2000 of the poverty gap ratio, i.e., WB reported 2.7 while NSCB estimated it at 8.4.
- develop official standard methodologies for poverty targeting
- integrate M&E (outcome and impact) system for anti-poverty interventions
- develop system to review utilization rates for poverty reduction
- strengthen use of poverty monitoring systems in LGUs

- b. Nutrition
  - b.1 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age
  - b.2 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

The prevalence of underweight children is the primary indicator of malnutrition, generated through the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) of the FNRI every three years.

On the other hand, data on the proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption **is not available**. **What is available is the percent of households with per capita energy less than 100% adequacy**. However, this data is available only for 1993 as there was no Food Consumption Survey Component in the 1998 NNS due to budget limitations, hence, no regularity of data updates.

Other supplementary information that have been suggested to be looked into include:

- Disaggregation of food intake data by age group/family member, sex, and geographic location;
- Need for single-year data on PEM to determine timing of malnutrition;
- Need for intra-household distribution of food consumption to determine changes in food habits of family members; and
- Resources to generate regular data on prevalence of micronutrients deficiencies

c. Education

- c.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- c.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
- c.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds
- c.4 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- c.5 Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds

- possible inconsistency across years of literacy rate and ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old (1990 and 2000 were sourced from the Census of Population and Housing (CPH) while the 1994 data were from the Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) although **the same operational definition is used in both activities; estimated level, if based on a sample survey, must be analyzed by estimates of standard errors and CVs**
- Inclusion of completion and cohort survival rates as these are deemed to be key indicators of a child's educational development
- Inclusion of participation rate of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate students over the school age-population of 16-21 years old to rate of access to higher level of education
- Establishment of a statistical tracking system on non-participation to be able to analyze reasons for non-participation and dropping out
- Different net enrolment ratio estimates between UNESCO and DepEd

d. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

- Need to supplement with other relevant indicators of gender equality such as women in managerial/executive positions in the public (including local government units, which exercise both executive and legislative functions) and private sectors

e. Health

- f.1 Under-five mortality rate
- f.2 Infant mortality rate
- f.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles
- f.4 Maternal mortality ratio
- f.5 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- f.6 Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate
- f.7 Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria
- f.8 Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- f.9 HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women

Among the issues/limitations raised include:

- Time lag and frequency of release vis-à-vis the desired frequency of release of the data
- Inconsistency across years of:
  - under-five mortality rate (U5MR), maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) sourced from **administrative records (civil registration system) and surveys such as the National Demographic and Health Survey**  
due to **differences in estimation procedures; understanding limitations of the data and methods used is necessary to help determine what can be considered as acceptable level; need to present metadata along with estimates used**
- **Lack of updated data on maternal mortality rate due to insufficiency of the sample size in the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey to be able to generate robust estimate of the MMR; standard error for the 1998 MMR was so large it cannot be said whether MMR has changed at all since the 1993 NDHS**
- Unavailability of annual estimates of U5MR, MMR, and IMR, proportion of population using solid fuels (for cooking), and proportion of household with access to secure tenure
- Timeliness of release of data based on the civil registration records, e.g., U5MR, MMR and IMR
- Data on HIV prevalence among pregnant women and number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS are not available in any survey or administrative-based records; subject is sensitive thus may be difficult to obtain reliable responses

f. Environmental sustainability

- f.1 Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area
  - Significant differences in the UNEP and PAWB estimates on proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity to total land area; data reported by PAWB needs validation as additional protected areas under new categories were excluded starting 2001
- f.2 Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)
  - Total carbon dioxide emissions is only available for 1990 and 1994

and is expressed in kilo tons. Data on consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs need to be verified by an independent auditor. Need to know the standard/ acceptable level of ozone depleting CFCs

- No data on carbon dioxide emissions per capita; since carbon dioxide emission is location-specific, country averages may not be meaningful
- Inclusion of indicators on marine ecosystem and indicators on mangrove management

g.

h. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons)

- Total carbon dioxide emissions is only available for 1990 and 1994 and is expressed in kilo tons. Data on consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs need to be verified by an independent auditor. Need to know the standard/ acceptable level of ozone depleting CFCs
- No data on carbon dioxide emissions per capita; since carbon dioxide emission is location-specific, country averages may not be meaningful
- Inclusion of indicators on marine ecosystem and indicators on mangrove management

i. Proportion of population using solid fuels

- No available data on energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP), what is available at DOE is total energy use. Compilation of GDP per unit of energy use seems difficult because of varying units of measures of different sources of energy and also because of the limitations of the type of energy

j. Proportion of population with sustainable access to improved water source, urban and rural

- Differences in concepts on sustainable access to improved water source (DOH –annual; NSO-CPH - every ten years; NSO-APIS, and NSO-NDHS) which affect comparability of estimates
- Lack of urban-rural disaggregation
- Need to include water quality as indicator

k. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation

- differences in concepts on sustainable access to improved sanitation (DOH –annual; NSO-CPH - every ten years; NSO-APIS, and NSO-NDHS) which affect comparability of estimates

- lack of urban-rural disaggregation
- water quality should be one of the monitoring indicators for MDG

- I. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)
- Lack of statistics on slum dwellers

Other suggested indicators for inclusion in the MDG reporting/monitoring

- Percentage of Philippine exports to developed countries admitted free of duties
- average tariff imposed by developing countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from the Philippines
- Percentage of Philippine exports barred from entry due to non- tariff barriers
- Percentage of short term debt to total (public and private)
- Percentage of debt from concessional sources
- Percentage of budget for debt service

## **V. Institutionalization and improvement of the MDG indicators**

As the first of a planned series of consultative fora on the improvement of the MDG Indicators, the NSCB, with the assistance of the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator, and in partnerships with data sources, oversight agencies/bodies such as the NEDA, Department of Budget and Management, both Houses of the Senate and Representatives, as well as civil society, a Consultative Meeting on the Millennium Indicators was conducted by the NSCB in June 2004. The Meeting served as a venue for the (a) introduction of and advocacy on the MDGs --- goals and targets, indicators and data series; (b) discussion of statistical issues such as concepts and methodologies, and other metadata and assumptions on the indicators and data series; and (c) forging of initial cooperation with data producers/sources in addressing data gaps and other statistical issues through the formulation of statistical development programs.

The study, discussion and resolution of identified and emerging issues on the concepts, methodologies, timeliness, and other quality dimensions as well as dissemination and interpretation of data on the MDG indicators shall be addressed through the existing inter-agency/technical committees and technical working groups created and coordinated by the NSCB.

As the MDGs continue to come into the mainstream of national and subnational development planning and decision making, concerns on the availability, quality and timeliness of statistics are expected. To address these issues, activities geared towards the development of the following will be pursued:

1. a medium to long-term country plan for the generation of indicators in the context of monitoring the MDGs;
2. strategies and programs for generating currently unavailable indicators through alternative data sources and/or appropriate statistical techniques, or generating other indicators that might be identified as better measures/tools to assess attainment of the MDGs than existing ones;
3. generation of subnational/local data/statistics to serve as basis for undertaking interventions to address MDGs at the grassroots level
4. recommendations to resolve issues on inter-temporal comparability and appropriate/relevant periodicity of the indicators;
5. measures towards improving international comparability of the indicators such as the proposed holding of an International Conference on the Millennium Indicators in Manila next year; and
6. program for better/wider advocacy among players/stakeholders of the MDGs including the local government units and the civil society.

These activities shall be integrated into the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP), 2005-2010, which is designed to provide for the statistics needed to measure major final outputs, and to monitor and evaluate outcomes of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan. The PSDP is being coordinated and formulated by the NSCB for the Philippine Statistical System. It is envisioned to provide time-bound targets for the continuous improvement of statistical system including those that produce the data for the monitoring of the MDG indicators.

While strategies and solutions to other concerns such as the availability of resources for new or improved statistical activities shall continue to be explored, the use of existing resources such as administrative data systems and alternative data sources/methodologies shall be prioritized.

### **MDG indicators at the subnational level**

With the country's continued thrusts of alleviating poverty and achieving sustainable development, comes the perennial but logical concern on the distribution of the benefits of government and non-government interventions among the populace, including the rational allocation of limited resources and implementation of appropriate programs and services across the country. Consistent with the national perspective, the MDGs are expected to help focus efforts to address these thrusts at the subnational levels. And since the management of resources, implementation of programs, and delivery of services that are necessary to address 7 of the 8 MDGs have been devolved to the local government units, the localization of the MDGs has become inevitable and necessary.

While there has been increasing interest from international development partners in supporting MDG-related programs, i.e., UNDP, UNMDP3, UN HABITAT, UNFPA, etc., as well as from the civil society and private sector and the media, concerns on inadequacy of baseline data and varying technical capacities and financial resources of the local government units for the improvement of MDG-related services have been raised.

The monitoring of the MDGs shall be built on existing statistical infrastructure, such as the Regional Statistical Coordination Committee which is present in practically all regions, and indicator systems, such as the Social Management Information System (SOMIS), POPDEV Indicator System, Local Governance Performance Management System, Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPI), among other frameworks/indicator systems, and data collection systems of national and local governments.

### **DevInfo System**

The DevInfo System is considered as the global tool for monitoring the MDGs. As the coordinator and central repository of the MDG indicators and data series, the NSCB shall develop and maintain the MDG national and regional databases using the DevInfo System and supplemented with its existing information products.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The MDGs may initially come as a new set of development goals that are being advocated by the UN and other international organizations, when in fact, these may be considered more of a rationalized and focused framework for realizing country and global development. What it has brought to the fore in addition to the deficiencies in resources, program management, and services delivery is the urgent need to develop databases that will support the monitoring of progress not only from a country perspective but also from the global point of view. This latter concept is borne of the historical and ever growing international partnerships to alleviate poverty, reduce imbalances, and achieve sustainable development around the world.

The statistical issues relative to the establishment of the MDG indicators and database system in the Philippines are but part of existing problems that the Philippine Statistical System has been trying to resolve all these years. There have been significant strides in the improvement of statistical services in recent years. But as country and global environments change, new sets of data needs will emerge putting more pressure to the statistical system to prioritize, among others, the allocation of its limited resources in the generation of the more critical and crucial indicators, those which will address specific and time-bound development targets at the national and subnational levels and keep watch of the global situation as well. The MDGs therefore may be considered as one of the bases for rationalizing investments in statistics by both the national and local governments.