



Two Ilocos Provinces Record Low Probability of Attaining MDG Goal on Reducing Poverty

Official poverty statistics showed that the Ilocos Region has a high probability of attaining the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on poverty reduction. MDG Goal 1 aims to halve the proportion of poor population by 2015. In 1991, the region's poverty incidence of population was recorded at 55.3 percent. This improved to 32.7 percent in 2006 or a reduction of 22.6 percentage points. As of 2006, the region's poverty incidence was only five percentage points away from the 27.7 percent MDG target. Poverty incidence refer to the proportion of individuals with per capita income/expenditure less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of individuals. Per capita poverty threshold is the minimum income/expenditure required for an individual to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.

Among the provinces of Region 1, only La Union has a high probability of attaining MDG Goal 1 by 2015. La Union's poverty incidence was registered at 43.5 percent in 1997. In 2006, its poverty incidence decreased to 32.6 percent or a reduction of 10.9 percentage points. Ilocos Norte has a medium probability of attainment with a poverty reduction of 3.9 percentage points, from 25.1 percent poverty incidence in 1997 to 21.2 percent in 2006.

On the other hand, Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur have low probability of attaining MDG Goal 1. Pangasinan's poverty incidence of 39.5 percent in 1997 only decreased by 4.5 percentage points to 35.0 percent incidence in 2006. Meanwhile, Ilocos Sur's poverty incidence declined by only 2.6 percentage points, from 35.2 percent in 1997 to 32.6 percent in 2006. Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur need 15.2 and 15.0 percentage points reduction, respectively, to attain their MDG target by 2015.

Table 1. Poverty Incidence of Population, Region 1

Province	Baseline (1991/1997)*	Latest (2006)	Target (2015)	Probability of Attainment**
Region 1	55.3	32.7	27.7	
Ilocos Norte	25.1	21.2	12.6	
Ilocos Sur	35.2	32.6	17.6	
La Union	43.5	32.6	21.8	
Pangasinan	39.5	35.0	19.8	

Source : National Statistical Coordination Board

* Baseline Year

Region 1 - 1991

Provinces - 1997

**Probability of attainment of goal



Low ; Pace of Progress is less than 0.5



Medium ; Pace of Progress between 0.5 and 0.9



High ; Pace of Progress is greater than 0.9

Table 2. Magnitude of Poor Population, Region 1: 1997- 2006

Province	1997	2000	2003	2006
Region 1	1,508,503	1,452,222	1,262,799	1,464,245
Ilocos Norte	127,607	115,116	120,945	112,835
Ilocos Sur	214,974	194,881	154,922	184,397
La Union	288,986	253,382	198,307	229,739
Pangasinan	876,936	888,844	788,625	937,274

Source : National Statistical Coordination Board

Pangasinan's 39.5 percent poverty incidence in 2006 was the highest among the region's provinces. The province also recorded the highest magnitude of poor individuals in 2006 at 937,274 representing 64.0 percent of the region's poor population. On the other hand, Ilocos Norte recorded the lowest poverty incidence (21.2 percent) and magnitude of poor individuals (112,835) during the same period.