

NSCB Fact Sheet

NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD

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Region I on track in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015

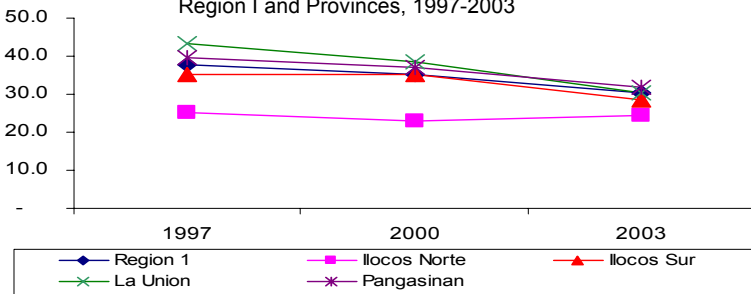
Region I is most likely to attain Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, by 2015.

Four indicators under MDG Goal 1, namely: poverty incidence, subsistence incidence, poverty gap ratio and prevalence of underweight children under 7 years of old, have high probability of attaining their 2015 targets as of 2003.

Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) showed that poverty statistics for Region I decreased from 1991 to 2003. The proportion of population below the poverty threshold, also called poverty incidence among population, in 1991 was high at 55.3 percent but significantly went down to 30.2 percent in 2003. The region is about 2.6 percentage

points away from its 2015 target (27.6 percent) of halving the proportion of people whose income is below the poverty threshold. Meanwhile, the subsistence incidence or proportion of population below the food threshold significantly dropped by 18.2 percentage points from 1991 to 2003 while the poverty gap ratio lessened from 16.7 percent in 1991 to 6.2 percent in 2003. As of 2003, the region's subsistence incidence and the poverty gap ratio were 3.5 and 2.2 percentage points ahead of their 2015 targets, respectively.

Figure 1. Proportion of Population Below the Poverty Threshold Region I and Provinces, 1997-2003



Source of basic data: NSCB

Table 1. Region I's Pace of Progress for MDG Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Indicators	Baseline	Target*	Current	Probability**
Proportion of population below the poverty threshold (NSCB)	55.3 1991	27.6 2015	30.2 2003	😊
Proportion of population below the food threshold (NSCB)	29.4 1991	14.7 2015	11.2 2003	😊
Poverty Gap Ratio (NSCB)	16.7 1991	8.4 2015	6.2 2003	😊
Prevalence of underweight children below 7 years old (DOH-CHD and NNC)	17.4 1990	8.7 2015	4.4 2003	😊

* Based from international targets.

** Based on the comparison of actual (from baseline to latest data) required (from baseline to target year) required (from baseline to target year) rates of progress

Probability of Achieving the Goal:

Low - Pace of Progress is less than 0.5
 Medium - Pace of Progress is between 0.5 and 0.9
 High - Pace of Progress is higher than 0.9

All of the provinces in Region I posted decreased poverty incidences from 1997-2003, contributing to the low poverty incidence for the region. Among the four provinces in the region, Ilocos Norte posted the lowest poverty incidence in the said period, lower than the regional average. However, its poverty incidence increased by 1.8 percentage points in 2003 from the 22.8 percent in 2000. On the other hand, La Union had the highest poverty incidence in 1997 (43.5 percent) but significantly dropped to 30.2 percent in 2003.

Similarly, the Operation Timbang (OPT) results of the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health Development (CHD) of Ilocos and National Nutrition Council (NNC) Regional Offices I revealed that the prevalence of underweight children below 7 years old in the region posted a generally decreasing trend from 17.4 percent in 1990 to 4.4 percent in 2003. The region has a high probability of achieving its 2015 target of halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger since as of 2003, it has exceeded this by about 4.3 percentage points.

The prevalence of underweight children in all the provinces in the region continued to improve from 1990 to 2003. La Union, who ranked 2nd highest in 1990 (17.6 percent), recorded the highest percentage points decrease in 2003 at 13.8 percentage points. It also posted the lowest malnutrition rate in 2003. On the other hand, Ilocos Norte, which had the lowest prevalence of underweight children in 1990 (14.8 percent), registered the lowest percentage points decrease in 2003 at 10.2 percentage points.

Table 2. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 7 Years Old, Region I and Provinces, 1990-2003

Province	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Region I	17.4	14.8	12.9	11.9	13.0	9.3	8.7	7.8	7.0	6.6	5.5	5.1	4.7	4.4
Ilocos Norte	14.8	14.8	14.0	11.9	11.5	8.3	7.2	6.5	6.2	6.3	5.3	4.9	4.7	4.6
Ilocos Sur	17.6	17.1	15.4	13.0	12.2	10.7	7.9	6.5	6.8	5.9	5.0	5.1	4.1	4.0
La Union	17.6	15.3	14.6	13.6	12.0	9.9	9.4	7.7	6.2	5.6	4.5	4.2	3.9	3.8
Pangasinan	17.8	14.1	11.8	11.1	14.0	9.0	8.9	8.4	7.4	7.2	5.9	5.3	4.9	5.0

Source of basic data: DOH-CHD and NNC Regional Offices 1

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