



How are the Poor People in La Union?

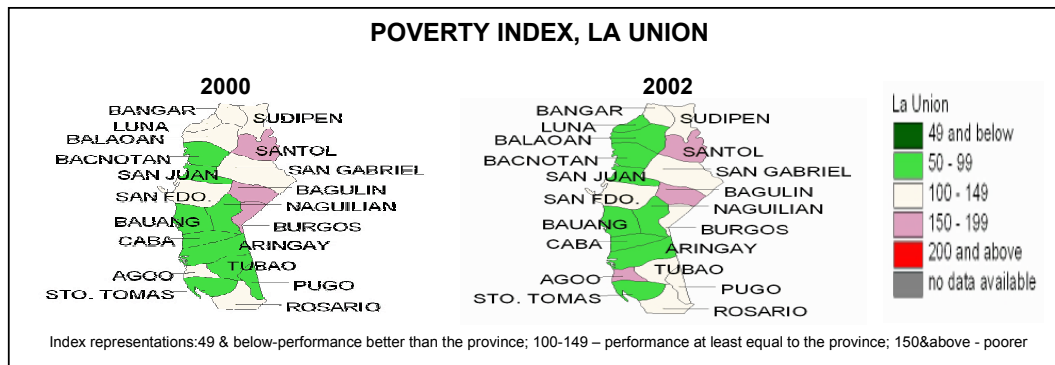
In support to the government's poverty alleviation program, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), in collaboration with the Provincial Government of La Union, has embarked into a Poverty Mapping that aims to identify the poor areas in the province as measured by social and economic indicators. The maps will serve as basis of policy and decision makers in identifying what and where poverty reduction programs/projects will be implemented.

The 2000 and 2002 poverty maps of La Union were produced by the NSCB Regional Division (RD) I based on the data provided by the Provincial Planning and Development Office of La Union. The results will be presented in a Users' Forum on La Union's Poverty Mapping on September 10, 2003 at the Diego Silang Hall, Provincial Capitol of La Union, San Fernando City. About 80 participants from the 20 municipalities/city of La Union, from the Provincial Government and from selected provincial and regional line agencies will attend the forum. The participants are expected to validate the poverty maps and suggest ways to improve them.

The poverty maps show the following indicators: number of underweight children 0-5 yrs. old, number of overweight children 0-5 yrs. old, number of new born baby with weight less than 2.5 kg., number of moderately underweight children 0-5 yrs. old and 7-10 yrs. old, number of severely underweight children 0-5 yrs. old and 7-10 yrs. old, infant mortality rate, child mortality rate, number of medical and other health workers, number of households with access to potable water, number of crimes against persons, number of crimes against property, and literacy rate.

The poverty index of each municipality was computed using these indicators and the municipal indices were compared with the provincial index.

Results of the poverty mapping showed that, in general, the poverty index of the municipalities did not change much from 2000 to 2002. In 2000, out of the 20 municipalities/city of La Union, nine performed better than the province while eight and three had the same and poorer performance than the province, respectively. In 2002, the same figures were observed. However, changes were noted in the performance of some municipalities during the same period. Two municipalities whose indices were almost equal to the provincial index in 2000 performed better in 2002 while another two municipalities experienced the opposite. Meanwhile, one municipality, whose index in 2000 was almost equal to the provincial index, improved in 2002 while the performance of another municipality deteriorated.



Inquiries on the activity or on the results of the poverty mapping can be directed to Ms. Irena Ubungen or Mr. Frederick Dulay of NSCB RD-1 located at the 2/F L.M. Chan Bldg, 663 Quezon Avenue, San Fernando City, La Union. Telephone (072 8882160/7003035) or e-mail (nscbru1@sflu.com) inquiries are also encouraged.

Local government units who are interested to have such maps can contact the NSCB Poverty Team thru Mr. Joseph Addawe at the NSCB Central Office with tel no. (02)897-2170 and e-mail address: jm.addawe@nscb.gov.ph.

IRENEA B. UBUNGEN
Head, NSCB RD I