

## INTRODUCTION

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the agency mandated to come up with poverty statistics, has released the 2000 provincial poverty statistics early last year. This was in response to the need for a more disaggregated data that can be used by local executives, planners and policy makers. To further serve the needs of LGUs especially at the municipal level, the NSCB started to produce poverty maps covering the poorest 44 provinces in the country. The maps are useful tools for identifying priority areas that should benefit from poverty alleviation programs. They also show the relative position of the municipalities in terms of the overall poverty situation in the province.

In the poverty mapping activity, we adopted the Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) Framework which contains the three major concerns: Survival, Security and Enabling. The methodology involves the computation of the municipal indexes of each of the MBN indicators. These indexes are then plotted on the map using a Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

The NSCB Regional Division VIII is preparing poverty maps for the 5 provinces in the region belonging to the poorest 44 provinces in the country which include the Province of Eastern Samar (Annex A). The poverty maps for Eastern Samar were generated using the MBN data gathered by the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO). The 2000 and 2002 data were used to compare the poverty situation of the municipalities. The maps were validated by concerned LGUs, agencies and private sector during a Users' Forum on Poverty Mapping in Eastern Samar held on October 24, 2003, at the Provincial Governor's Conference Hall, Provincial Capitol, Borongan, Eastern Samar. The activity was funded by the German Technical Cooperation Poverty Alleviation Program Samar Island (*gtz* PAPSI). The maps are targetted to be updated annually.