

INTERSECT

QUICK FACTS

POVERTY AND THE FILIPINO FAMILY

Along with other contentious contemporary issues tackled in the landmark three-week XIV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World in October 2015, the topic of poverty and how it impacts families were high on the agenda.

In an earlier gathering, the III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, on the theme *Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization*, poverty was recognized as an urgent concern: "In such cases of extreme and increasing poverty, the family has to struggle for subsistence, a struggle to which the family has to devote most of its energy. Some observations call for the Church to raise a strong prophetic voice concerning poverty which puts a strain on family life. A Church which is 'poor and for the poor' must not fail to make her voice heard in this area" (#73).

In this issue of the *Intersect Quick Facts*, we present indicators of poverty affecting millions of Filipino families and the urgent challenges that beg for deeper reflection and immediate action by everyone.

Research and editing by
Melanie Ramos-Llana

Layout and additional research by
Gerald M. Nicolas

MILLIONS OF FILIPINO FAMILIES CONSIDER THEMSELVES POOR AND HUNGRY.



Poverty threshold

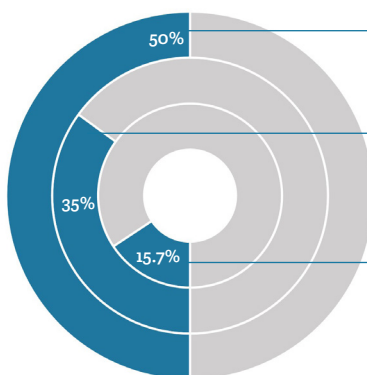
A family of five needed at least this amount in 2014 to meet both basic food and non-food needs each month.

Php 8,778

ABOUT 2 IN 10 FILIPINO FAMILIES WERE POOR IN 2014

according to the Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). But estimates generated from the survey did not include sample households from Batanes (which had less than 100 sample households) and Leyte (where no survey has been conducted since Typhoon Yolanda).

Based on a nationwide poll conducted by the Social Weather Stations in September 2015:



11.0 MILLION FAMILIES
considered themselves "poor".

3.5 MILLION FAMILIES
experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months.

7.8 MILLION FAMILIES
considered the type of food they eat as "poor".



WHERE ARE THE POOR?

POOREST REGIONS POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (%)

Eastern Visayas
33.7 2006 **37.4** 2012

Autonomous Region in
Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)
40.5 2006 **48.7** 2012

SOCSCSARGEN
31.2 2006 **37.1** 2012

PROVINCES WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF POOR FAMILIES (2012)

Cebu	185,603
Negros Occidental	164,827
North Cotabato	131,744
Negros Oriental	131,317
Leyte	128,273
Camarines Sur	121,614
Bukidnon	120,760
Davao del Sur	113,948
Zamboanga del Norte	104,138
Zamboanga del Sur	104,133
Philippines	4,214,921
Metro Manila	76,530

PROVINCES WITH THE HIGHEST POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (2012, IN %)

Lanao del Sur	67.3
Eastern Samar	55.4
Apayao	54.7
Maguindanao	54.5
Zamboanga del Norte	48.0
Sarangani	46.0
North Cotabato	44.8
Negros Oriental	43.9
Northern Samar	43.5
Western Samar	43.5
Philippines	19.7
Metro Manila	2.6

SOURCE: THE 2012 FULL YEAR OFFICIAL POVERTY STATISTICS, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)
MAP FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, RENDERED BY HOWARD THE DUCK

POVERTY AFFECTS THE FILIPINO FAMILY IN MANY WAYS...

MALNUTRITION IN CHILDREN REMAINS A PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN.

7.36 MILLION FILIPINO CHILDREN
BELOW AGE OF 5 ARE
MALNOURISHED.

Households that cannot consume nutritious foods due to income poverty are at risk of malnutrition and serious diseases. Malnutrition is related not only to inadequate dietary intake, but also to lack of access to health services and poor health education. The highest prevalence of underweight, stunting, and wasting in children is among those in the poorest quintile.



19.9% of children 0-5 years
old are underweight.



30.0% of children 0-5 years old
are stunted or too short
for their age



7.9% of children 0-5 years old
are wasted or too thin for
their age

SOURCE: 2013 NATIONAL NUTRITION SURVEY, FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (FNRI-DOST)

CHILD MORTALITY RATES HAVE DECREASED...

IN 1991,
FOR EVERY 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

57 DIE BEFORE
REACHING
1 YEAR OF AGE.

80 DIE BEFORE
REACHING
5 YEARS OF AGE.

IN 2011,
FOR EVERY 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

22 DIE BEFORE
REACHING
1 YEAR OF AGE.

30 DIE BEFORE
REACHING
5 YEARS OF AGE.

SOURCE: 2011 FAMILY AND HEALTH SURVEY

... BUT LARGE GAPS IN EQUITY FOR NEWBORN DEATHS BETWEEN THE POOREST AND THE WEALTHIEST HOUSEHOLDS STILL EXIST.

“ The Philippines is one of the top 10 countries in the world with the greatest gap in equity for newborn deaths, between poorest and wealthiest, and between rural and urban households. **Babies born to the poorest and hardest to reach groups are most at risk of dying within a few days after birth.** ”

Ending Newborn Deaths: Ensuring Every Baby Survives
Save the Children
2014



THE PHILIPPINES' MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE — OR THE NUMBER OF MATERNAL DEATHS PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS — HAS WORSENERD.

FROM **209** in 1990 TO **221** in 2011 THE **2015** MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDG) TARGET IS **52**

SOURCE: 2011 FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

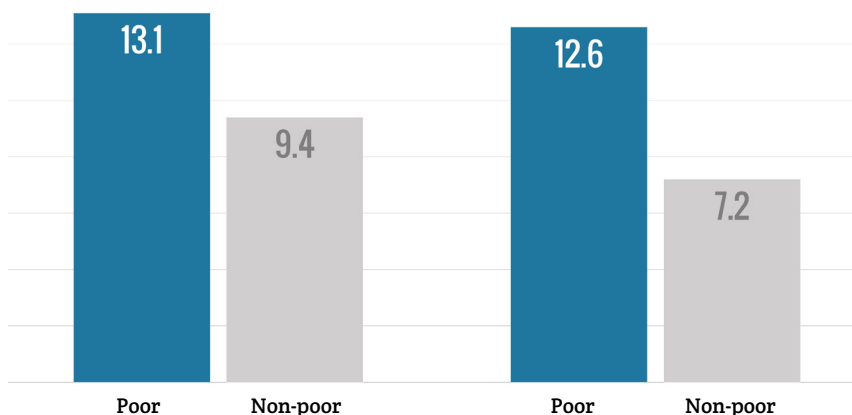
THE UNMET NEED FOR FAMILY PLANNING IS SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER AMONG WOMEN CONSIDERED POOR THAN AMONG NON-POOR WOMEN.

Data show that Filipino women desire fewer children but only half of them practice any form of family planning.

The unmet need for family planning (defined as the proportion of currently married women not using any method of family planning who want to limit their children or prefer to space births) remained high at 19.3%—10.5 % for birth spacing and 8.8 % for limiting births.

Percent of women who want to space their births

Percent of women who want to limit their child bearing



SOURCE: 2011 FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

THE RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCIES HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED THE PAST DECADE.

Early pregnancy poses serious health risks to young mothers and to their children, including complications from induced abortions. It also results in poor life outcomes for teenagers, who usually drop out of school to take care of their babies.

IN 2002,
6.3%

of girls 15-19 years old were either pregnant or already mothers.



IN 2013,
13.3%

of girls 15-19 years old were either pregnant or already mothers.

SOURCE: 2013 YOUNG ADULT FERTILITY AND SEXUALITY SURVEY (YAFS)

POVERTY HAS EXACERBATED THE PROBLEM OF CHILD LABOR IN THE COUNTRY.



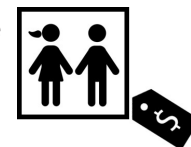
3.03M FILIPINO CHILDREN WORK IN HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTS.

Most of these children work as laborers and unskilled workers in industries such as mining, fishing, pyrotechnic production, and garbage scavenging. A significant number are also employed as domestic workers in the informal sector of the urban economy, or as unpaid family workers in rural agricultural areas.

SOURCE: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE 2011 SURVEY ON CHILDREN BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

POVERTY IS ONE OF THE RISK FACTORS THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, which, as defined by the United Nations, involves the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion, for the purpose of exploitation." The Philippines remains a major source of trafficked individuals coerced to work as prostitutes, low-wage laborers, or drug mules.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OF FILIPINOS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING, AT LEAST

300,000
ARE WOMEN.

60,000
ARE CHILDREN.

SOURCE: U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT (BASED ON ESTIMATES OF NGOs AND GOVERNMENT)


HOW IS POVERTY BEING ADDRESSED?


Below are some of the responses to poverty by the government, the Catholic Church, and civil society.

BY GOVERNMENT


CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFER


Also known as the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*, the CCT Program is the government's flagship project to cut intergenerational poverty in the country. Using the conditional cash transfer scheme, the program helps parents invest in their children's health and education in exchange of cash grants.


 **4.4 M**
HOUSEHOLDS CONSIDERED
"POOREST OF THE POOR"
ASSISTED BY THE PROGRAM
AS OF JUNE 2015


 **P62.3 B**
BUDGET EARMARKED FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PROGRAM IN 2015

MONTHLY GRANT ENTITLEMENTS:

 **P500** HEALTH GRANT
PER HOUSEHOLD

 **P500** EDUCATION GRANT PER
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
FOR 10 MONTHS

 **P300** EDUCATION GRANT PER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
STUDENT PER MONTH
FOR 10 MONTHS



CO-RESPONSIBILITIES OF BENEFICIARIES:


- ☒ Pregnant women must avail of pre- and post-natal care, and be attended during childbirth by a trained professional.
- ☒ Parents or guardians must attend the family development sessions, which include topics on responsible parenting, health, and nutrition.
- ☒ Children aged 0-5 must receive regular preventive health check-ups and vaccines.
- ☒ Children aged 6-14 must receive deworming pills twice a year.
- ☒ Children-beneficiaries aged 3-18 must enroll in school, and maintain an attendance of at least 85% of class days every month.


SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, GOV.PH

BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PONDO NG PINOY


Started by the Archdiocese of Manila, Pondo ng Pinoy is a movement launched in 2004 by the Catholic Church in the Philippines to encourage Filipino Catholics to save as little as 25 centavos daily in plastic bottles. When these improvised piggy banks are full, these are turned over to the parish. The collected donations are used for various Church-sponsored "corporal works of mercy."


 **P325 M**
WORTH OF DONATIONS
COLLECTED BY THE PROGRAM
FROM 2014 TO 2015.
ALMOST A THIRD OF THIS
AMOUNT CAME FROM THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA.


 **1.5 M**
CHILDREN FED BY
HAPAG-ASA


HAPAG-ASA is a supplemental nutrition program of Pondo ng Pinoy that aims to feed undernourished children 6 months to 12 years old, once a day, five days a week for six months. This is carried out in more than 30 dioceses.

SINCE IT STARTED, THE PONDO NG PINOY HAS SUPPORTED **MORE THAN 300 PROJECTS** SUCH AS:

 Health

 Livelihood development

 Alternative learning

 Housing

SOURCES: VERITAS846.PH, HAPAGASAFEEDING.COM, ROMAN ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA

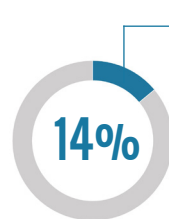
BY CIVIL SOCIETY

MICROFINANCE

Microfinance has been a popular strategy by NGOs and cooperatives to help the poor access credit that will enable them to put up small enterprises or sustain existing livelihoods. By reaching poor farmers, fishers, and micro-entrepreneurs, including women, who otherwise would not access financial services from formal banks, microfinance institutions aim to help them gain higher incomes and to promote financial inclusion.

68.8% NGOs EXTENDING MICROFINANCE SERVICES
ACCOUNTED FOR THE BULK OF TOTAL ACTIVE
BORROWERS IN 2011.
THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO **2.5 M**
INDIVIDUAL
BORROWERS.

COOPS, 2.5%
BANKS, 28.7%



PENETRATION RATE OF MICROFINANCE LOANS AMONG THE POOR

A 2012 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) showed that microfinance institutions in the Philippines have covered 14% of Filipinos (3 million individuals) living below the international poverty line of \$1.25 per day. Reaching a greater number of poor families remains a challenge.

SOURCES: ADB, CITED IN "THE MICROFINANCE INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES: STRIVING FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE MIDST OF GROWTH" BY R. HABARADAS AND M. UMALI, CENTER FOR BUSINESS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SEPTEMBER 2013), AND "MICROFINANCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2000: SECTOR PERFORMANCE AND CLIENT WELFARE" BY ADB (SEPTEMBER 2012)



**JOHN J. CARROLL INSTITUTE ON
CHURCH AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

The present moment is crucial. The work to be done is urgent.

2/F Benigno Mayo Hall
Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Email jjcisci@gmail.com
Tel (632) 426.6001 ext. 4655 to 4668
Fax (632) 426.6070
Web www.jjcisci.org.ph