

Provincial Reports

The Social Watch Monitoring System

SOCIAL WATCH MONITORING REPORT 2003

NUEVA ECIJA

Nueva Ecija is the largest in size and second most populated of the six provinces that comprise the Central Luzon Region (Region III). A landlocked province, it lies north of Manila and is found in the eastern part of the central plains of Luzon. Travel to the province from Manila can be done by bus in around three hours. Classified as a first class province, Nueva Ecija is politically subdivided into five cities, 27 municipalities and 849 barangays clustered into four congressional districts.

Nueva Ecija has a total population of 1.66 million persons, comprising 21 percent of the region's population and contributing 2.22 percent to the total Philippine population of 76.5 million based on the 2000 Census of Housing and Population. The 2000 Census also revealed that half of the population in

the province was below 22 years old. Nueva Ecija has an annual growth rate of 2.11 percent, lower than both the national and regional figures. In terms of average household size, Nueva Ecija has an average of 4.88 persons, and which also falls below the national and regional averages of 5.0 and 4.91 person, respectively.

In terms of ethnicity/language spoken, most (77 percent or four out of five) were Tagalogs followed by Ilocanos at 19 percent and the rest with less than 1 percent each were Kapampangan, Kankalay and Bisaya.

Traditionally, agriculture has been the main industry of Nueva Ecija and because of this the province has acquired a reputation as the "rice bowl" or "food basket" of the Philippines.

Demographic Profile						
	Total Population (Census 2000)	Annual Growth Rate	Average Household Size	Population Density	Labor Participation Rate (Oct 2003)	Employment Rate (Oct 2003)
Philippines	76,498,735	2.36	5.0	255	67.1%	89.9%
NCR	9,932,560	1.06	4.62	15,617	66.4%	83.8%
RIII Central Luzon	8,030,945	3.2	4.91	441	64.2%	89.0%
Nueva Ecija	1,659,883	2.11	4.87	314		

Source: NSO

Area. No. of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, Barangays and Income Class						
	Land Area (km ²)	Provinces	Cities	Municipalities	Barangays	Income Class
Philippines	300,000	79	115	1,499	41,969	
RIII Central Luzon	18,231	7	11	119	3,099	
Nueva Ecija	5,284		5	27	849	1st Class

* Average Annual Income of First Class provinces in the last 3 years is P150 M or more

Source: NSCB, Philippine Standard Geographic Code as of September 2003

Poverty Incidence

In 2000, poverty incidence of families for the entire Central Luzon region was at 18.6 percent, only half of the national average of 33.7 percent. While the data denotes low poverty incidence for the region, this is not so across provinces. A wide disparity exists as reflected in the gap in poverty incidence between Bulacan province with a low 9.8 percent compared to Tarlac where nearly one third (30.6 percent) of the families in the province are estimated to be impoverished. Fortunately for Nueva Ecija, which stood midway at 21.8 percent, the province is considered to be among those with low poverty incidence, in fact it ranked 11th among the least poor provinces.

Over time, while the poverty situation has been improving nationally, the same trend was seen in Central Luzon region where poverty incidence of families declined from 31.1 percent in 1991 to 18.6 percent in 2000. Even in the province of Nueva Ecija, in a span of about ten years, poverty incidence of families was reduced by fifty percent or one half, from 47.6 percent in 1991 down to 21.8 percent in 2000. If the province can sustain this annual decrease in poverty incidence, Nueva Ecija will most likely meet, even surpass, the MDG target of reducing poverty incidence by half in 2015. Nueva Ecija can even eradicate poverty altogether by 2015.

Poverty Incidence, by Family (Year 2000)	
PHILIPPINES	33.7
Region III	18.6
Bataan	18.3
Bulacan	9.8
Nueva Ecija	21.8
Pampanga	15.0
Tarlac	30.6
Zambales	29.0

PIDS Website

Poverty graph

Poverty Incidence (Family)
1988 - 2000



Access to Potable Water and Sanitary Toilet

Access to potable water has been improving nationally, while regionally, Central Luzon had already exceeded the target since 96 percent of its households have safe water facilities since 1985. For Nueva Ecija, access of families to potable water was already almost universal at 99.1 percent since 1994. By 2000 access was at 99.9 percent. Given these trends, the chance of meeting the 87 percent access goal by 2015 is very high.

Proportion of Families with Access to Potable Water

	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	71.9	73.91	77.4	76.88	78.5
NCR			90.1	87.82	85.1
Region III			97.1	97.14	96.3
NUEVA ECUJA			99.1	98.44	99.9

Proportion of Families with Sanitary Toilet Facility, 2000

	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	69	71	74.9	76.32	82.5
NCR			95.0	91.84	95.6
Region III			81.1	82.63	91.0
NUEVA ECUJA			76.8	88.45	89.2

Under Five Mortality Rate

While nationally, the target of reducing under-five mortality by two thirds will more likely be met, the same does not hold true for the Central Luzon region as well as the province of Nueva Ecija. Based on available data, under-five mortality rate for the region was reduced from 60.94 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to only 52.63 in 1995. For Nueva Ecija, under-five mortality rate was reduced from 64.25 in 1990 to only 59.18 in 1995. The current slow rate of progress at both regional (1.6 per year) and provincial (one per year) levels cast doubts in meeting the two-thirds reduction target in under-five mortality

Current trends indicate that the Philippines will not meet the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality rate by three-fourths, particularly for Central Luzon. Though this region ranks among those with low poverty incidence, it has a high maternal mortality rate at 170.7 per 100,000 live births in 1995 from 189.7 in 1990 and with slow rate of progress (reduction of 3.7 per year). For the province of Nueva Ecija, where maternal mortality rate was reduced from 211.3 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 198.62 in 1995; the rate of progress is slow (2.5 in a year) and will not meet the demands of the MDG target.

Under 5 Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
PHILIPPINES	79.64	77	74	72	69	66.79			40
NCR	62.22	57	53	48	43	38.53			
Central Luzon	60.94	59	58	56	54	52.63			
Nueva Ecija	64.25					59.18			

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

Maternal Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
PHILIPPINES	209	203	197	191	186	179.74
NCR	170.1	160	150	139	129	119.07
Central Luzon	189.66	186	182	178	175	170.73
Nueva Ecija	211.3					198.62

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

Infant Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
PHILIPPINES	56.69	55	54	52	50	48.93			36
NCR	45.81	43	40	38	35	32.22			41.5
Central Luzon	44.75	44	43	42	41	40.43			31.4
Nueva Ecija	47.19					44.38			

Prevalence of malnutrition among children

At the national level, available data shows decrease in malnutrition from 34.5 percent in 1989 to 30.6 percent in 2001, although the trend has been erratic and uneven. The Philippine official report on the MDG noted that the probability is low for meeting the target of 50 percent reduction in malnutrition if not already off-track in meeting the nutrition target. At the regional level, Central Luzon data seems steady at 25 percent prevalence of malnutrition from 1996 up to 2001. At the provincial level, the incidence of mal-

nutrition in Nueva Ecija had improved from 34.4 percent in 1996 to 26.95 percent in 1998, moving below the national average.

Prevalence of underweight children, 0-5 years old*

	1989	1992	1993	1996	1998	2001
PHILIPPINES	34.5	34	29.9	30.8	32	30.6
NCR				23	26.5	20.3
Central Luzon				25.3	26.7	25.9
Nueva Ecija				34.4	26.9	

*using NCHS standards

source: FNRI

Education: Access and Survival

Since the 1990s, data has shown increasing enrolment over the years, along with improving access to primary education. Nationally, the school participation rate in the elementary level increased from 85.1 percent in 1991 to 97.02 percent in 200. This leaves little doubt that the MDG target of universal access to primary education can be reached by 2015. At the regional level, elementary participation rate of Central Luzon is a high 99.88 percent for school year 1999-2000. At the provincial level, Nueva Ecija was not far behind with elementary participation rate at 94.07 percent for the same school year.

While universal access to primary education as shown by the participation rate is easily achievable, the problem of how students could stay in school and at least reach sixth grade if not complete elementary level is another matter. In the past decade, survival rate in primary school at the national level has remained low and stagnant from 69.7 percent in 1990 to 67.21 percent in 2000. Fortunately for Central Luzon, survival rate has been much higher than the national average at 83.22 percent in 1990 and 79.51 percent in 2000. For Nueva Ecija, the survival rate has always been higher than the national average though lower than the regional rate; but at least not more than 30 percent of the children in Nueva Ecija fail to reach grade 6.

Cohort Survival Rate, Elementary Level

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Philippines	69.7	68.65	66.38	67.5	66.40	67.15	67.96	68.60	69.75	69.3	67.21	67.13
NCR	97.73	87.38	86.93	87.73	85.20	85.85	86.96	84.72	82.78	81.60	80.19	79.04
Central Luzon	83.22	80.49	79.63	77.45	77.72	76.87	79.45	80.77	81.33	82.15	79.51	79.15
Nueva Ecija	77.80				72.10			76.90		79.10		

HDI and QLI, alternative measures of human achievements/development

Nueva Ecija has been among the better performing provinces as indicated by various measures, be it poverty, Human Development Index (HDI) and Quality of Life Index (QLI). Since 1994, Nueva Ecija has belonged to the top 20 provinces in terms of HDI. Although the HDI level of the province is lower than the national average since 1997. In terms of QLI, since 1991, Nueva Ecija has also been with the top raters, even reaching rank 9 in 1999. In addition, Nueva Ecija's QLI has always been much higher than the national level from 0.713 in 1991 to 0.803 in 1999. In terms of poverty measure, in 2000, Nueva Ecija ranked 11th province with the lowest poverty incidence of families.

In terms of the QLI components, Nueva Ecija had shown notable improvements in two of three components. Its nutrition index had increased from 0.77 in 1991 to 0.85 in 1999 while its safe reproduction index had increased from 0.62 in 1991 to 0.89 in

1999 with only 11 percent of deliveries not attended by any doctor, nurses or midwives. Although Nueva Ecija's cohort survival has been better than the national average, the province still has to attend to its children's need to reach and complete elementary level of education.

Human Development Index

	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	0.63	0.63	0.66
NCR	0.88	0.89	0.89
Cavite	0.72	0.72	0.73
Bulacan	0.63	0.70	0.76
Nueva Ecija	0.66	0.60	0.64

Quality of Life Index

	QLI 1991	QLI 1994	QLI 1997	QLI 1999
Philippines QLI1	0.671	0.659	0.687	0.689
Philippines QLI2	0.614	0.613	0.652	0.654
Bulacan	0.836	0.830	0.866	0.820
Cavite	0.785	0.766	0.782	0.844
Nueva Ecija	0.713	0.749	0.731	0.803

Under-Five Nutrition

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68
Nueva Ecija	0.74	0.82	0.66	0.73
Bulacan	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.78
Cavite	0.77	0.68	0.78	0.85

QLI Ecohort

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.70	0.66	0.69	0.69
Bulacan	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.86
Cavite	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.87
Nueva Ecija	0.78	0.72	0.77	0.79

Births Attended

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.70
Cavite	0.75	0.79	0.69	0.81
Bulacan	0.82	0.84	0.91	0.82
Nueva Ecija	0.62	0.71	0.77	0.89

CAMARINES SUR

Camarines Sur is the largest and most populated of the six provinces that comprise the Bicol region (Region V). It lies some 450 kilometers southeast of Manila and is situated in the strategic center of the Bicol peninsula. Travel to the province from Manila can be done by air (45 minutes), by land (eight hours), by railway and by sea. Camarines Sur, classified as a first class province, is politically divided into two cities, 35 municipalities and 1,063 barangays clustered into four congressional districts.

Total population stood at 1.55 million (as of May 2000) and was growing at an annual rate of 1.72 per-

cent. Labor participation rate, as of April 2003, is estimated at 72.1 percent of the total labor force of 15 years old and over. Employment rate as of April 2003 is 91.9 percent, indicating a low unemployment ratio of 8.1 percent. About half of the population depends on agriculture as the main source of livelihood.

The Bicol region is the second poorest region in the country, next only to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). In 2000, poverty incidence (by family) for the entire region was computed at 55.4 percent while the poverty headcount ratio or the percentage of the population below the poverty level stood at 61.9 percent.

Demographic Profile						
	Total Population (Census 2000)	Annual Growth Rate	Average Household Size	Population Density	Labor Participation Rate (Apr 2003)	Employment Rate (Apr 2003)
Philippines	76,498,735	2.36	5.0	255	67.1%	87.8%
Bicol (Region V)	4,674,855	1.68	5.24	265	67.5%	90.4%
Camarines Sur	1,551,549	1.72	5.37	295	72.1%	91.9%

Area, No. of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, Barangays and Income Class						
	Land Area(km2)	Provinces	Cities	Municipalities	Barangays	Income Class
Bicol (Region V)	18,130.4	6	7	107	3,471	
Camarines Sur	5,481.6		2	35	1,063	1st Class*

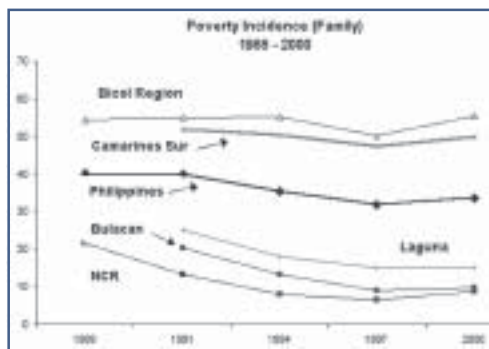
* Average Annual Income of First Class provinces in the last 3 years is P150 M or more
Source: NSCB

cent, which is significantly below the national average of 2.36 percent. The relatively low growth rate can be explained more by migration to Metro Manila and other urban centers rather than by low fertility rate. In fact, the province has one of the highest average household sizes at 5.37 compared to the national average of 5.0.

While not as poor as Masbate and Camarines Norte, poverty remains widespread in the province of Camarines Sur. Base on the latest income survey (FIES, 2000), Camarines Sur is the 25th poorest province in the Philippines with a 50 percent poverty incidence. That means that half of the families were living below the poverty threshold and, thus, considered poor.

Poverty Incidence, by Family (Year 2000)	
PHILIPPINES	33.7
Region V	55.4
Albay	43.1
Camarines Norte	58.1
Camarines Sur	50.0
Catanduanes	47.9
Masbate	70.1
Sorsogon	50.0

Source: PIDS Website



Source: Basic data on poverty statistics from the National Statistics Coordinating Board

What is alarming is the fact that over time, the poverty situation in Camarines and the entire Bicol Region remained basically the same. In contrast, poverty incidence (by family) for the entire country decreased from 40.2 percent in 1988 to 33.7 percent in 2000. Significant improvement in the poverty situation is also noted for the high-income provinces of Bulacan, Cavite and Laguna.

Given the poverty trend in the last ten years, Camarines Sur will most likely not meet the MDG target of reducing extreme poverty by half by the year 2015.

Access to Potable Water and Sanitary Toilet

Access to potable water has been improving nationally, thus, the chance of meeting this target, given current trends is high. However, the same trend is not observed for the Bicol region, with access decreasing from 69.7 percent in 1994 down to 65.7 percent in 2000. For Camarines Sur, despite the slight increase, it has to watch out for the backslide that happened in 1997.

The proportion of families with sanitary toilet facility has also been increasing over the years at the na-

tional, although at the regional and provincial levels the trend seems quite erratic. Indirectly, improved access to sanitary toilet helps prevent the spread of diseases.

Proportion of Families with Access to Potable Water

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	69.9	71.9	73.7	77.4	76.9	78.5
NCR	88.4	92	89.5	90.1	87.8	85.1
Region V	58.5	60.9	64	69.7	67	65.7
CAMARINES SUR	63.5	64.7	68.9	81.2	73.2	82.6

Proportion of Families with Sanitary Toilet Facility, 2000

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	68.8	69.1	71.6	74.9	77.2	82.5
NCR	88	88.5	89.2	95	91.9	95.6
Region V	59.2	56.6	60.2	62.8	70.7	66.8
CAMARINES SUR	84.2	73.9	79.5	82.3	85.4	81.9

Under Five and Maternal Mortality Rate

While nationally, the target of reducing under-five mortality by two thirds will more likely be met, the same does not hold true for the Bicol region as well as the province of Camarines Sur. Based on available data, under-five mortality rate for the region was reduced from 91.31 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to only 82.34 in 1995. For Camarines Sur, under-five mortality rate was reduced from 79.94 in 1990 to only 73.07 in 1995. The current rate of progress at both regional (one per year) and provincial (one in five years) level cast doubts in meeting the two-thirds reduction target in under-five mortality.

Current trends indicate that the Philippines will not meet the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality rate (MMR) by three-fourths. Even for the Bicol region and the province of Camarines Sur whose maternal mortality rates are both lower than that of the national, the rate of progress is slow and could not meet the demands of the MDG target. According to available data, MMR for the Bicol region was reduced from 180 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 165.5 in 1995. On an annual basis, rate of progress is a reduction of 3 deaths per year. However, to meet the MDG target, MMR should be reduced by at least 5 deaths per year. For the Province of Camarines Sur, MMR was reduced

Under 5 Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
PHILIPPINES	79.64	77	74	72	69	66.79			40
NCR	62.22	57	53	48	43	38.53			
Bicol	91.31	90	88	86	84	82.34			
SurCamarines	79.94					73.07			

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

Maternal Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
PHILIPPINES	209	203	197	191	186	179.74
NCR	170.1	160	150	139	129	119.07
Bicol	180	175	169	164	158	165.6
Camarines Sur	152.8					148.62

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

Infant Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
PHILIPPINES	56.69	55	54	52	50	48.93			36
NCR	45.81	43	40	38	35	32.22			41.5
Bicol	63.69	63	62	60	59	58.28			23.6
Camarines Sur	57					55.72			

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

from 152.8 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 148.62 in 1995. Annual rate of progress is a reduction of 1 death per year, but to meet the MDG target, MMR should be reduced by at least 4 deaths per year.

Prevalence of malnutrition among children

At the national level, available data shows decrease in malnutrition from 34.5 percent in 1989 to 30.6 percent in 2001, although the trend has been erratic and uneven. Official reports on the MDG noted that the probability is low for meeting the target of 50 percent reduction in malnutrition if not already off-track in meeting the nutrition target. At the regional level, data is higher than the national average and has not change much from 37.6 percent in 1996 to 37.8 percent in 2001. But at the provincial level, the incidence of malnutrition in Camarines Sur had de-

clined from 38.9 percent in 1996 to 32.7 percent in 1998.

Education: Access and Survival

Since the 1990s, data has shown increasing enrolment over the years, along with improving access to primary education. Nationally, the school participation rate in the elementary level increased from 85.1 percent in 1991 to 97.02 percent in 2001, leaving little doubt that the country can achieve MDG target of universal access to primary education by 2015. At the regional level, elementary participation rate in Bicol region is a high 95.78 percent for school year 1999-2000. At the provincial level, Camarines Sur is not that far behind with elementary participation rate at 91.33 percent for the same school year. Though both data fall below the national average of 96.95 percent.

While universal access to primary education as shown by the participation rate is easily achievable, the problem of how students could remain in school and at least reach sixth grade if not complete elementary level is another matter. In the past decade, survival rate in primary school has remained low. In some of the poorest regions, survival rate had stagnated as in the case of the Bicol region (from 66.27 percent in 1991 to 69.05 percent in 2001) and the province of Camarines Sur at 69.71 percent in 1990 to 71.25 percent in 1999.

Prevalence of underweight children, 0-5 yrs old*

	1989	1992	1993	1996	1998	2001
PHILIPPINES	34.5	34	29.9	30.8	32	30.6
NCR				23	26.5	20.3
Bicol Region				37.6	36.5	37.8
Camarines Sur				38.9	32.7	

*NCHS standards / Source: FNRI

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Philippines	69.7	68.65	66.38	67.5	66.40	67.15	67.96	68.60	69.75	69.3	67.21	67.13
NCR	97.73	87.38	86.93	87.73	85.20	85.85	86.96	84.72	82.78	81.60	80.19	79.04
Bicol Region	66.27	68.23	66.86	70.24	69.67	68.38	69.35	67.97	70.00	69.02	66.39	69.05
Sur Camarines	69.71				70.27			69.94		71.25		

HDI and QLI, alternative measures of human achievements/development

Since 1994, the HDI level of Camarines Sur has always stood below the national average and much farther below the HDI of top raters such as Cavite, Bataan and Bulacan.

Camarines Sur did not rank among the bottom 20 provinces in terms of HDI but it still is within the vicinity of the bottom performers hovering at rank 56 in 2000, rank 52 in 1997 and rank 66 in 1991. In the same manner, Camarines Sur's QLI was always below the national QLI average since 1991. Actually for Camarines Sur the HDI levels are consistent with QLI levels. Even for poverty incidence of families, there is a level of consistency, with Camarines Sur ranking as the 25th poorest province in the year 2000.

In terms of the QLI components, the nutrition index has been improving from 0.54 in 1991 to 0.67 in 2000, while cohort survival has been stagnant at 0.70 since 1991 up to 1999. The third QLI component, though showing an upward trend from 0.26 in 1991 to 0.36 in 1999, has been pulling down the QLI average of the province with less than half of the deliveries attended to by doctors, nurses and midwives.

Localizing QLI. At the local level, QLI indices were generated for three municipalities of Camarines Sur, namely Baao, Buhi, and Nabua. For the year 2000, the QLIs of these three municipalities ranked among the top 25 performers in QLI for 1999.

Human Development Index

	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	0.63	0.63	0.66
NCR	0.88	0.89	0.89
Cavite	0.72	0.72	0.73
Bulacan	0.63	0.70	0.76
Camarines Sur	0.58	0.57	0.60

Quality of Life Index

	QLI 1991	QLI 1994	QLI 1997	QLI 1999
Philippines QLI1	0.671	0.659	0.687	0.689
Philippines QLI2	0.614	0.613	0.652	0.654
Bulacan	0.836	0.830	0.866	0.820
Cavite	0.785	0.766	0.782	0.844
Camarines Sur	0.5	0.628	0.593	0.583

Under-Five Nutrition

Area	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68
Camarines Sur	0.54	0.84	0.61	0.67
Bulacan	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.78
Cavite	0.77	0.68	0.78	0.85

Elementary Cohort Survival Rate

Area	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.70	0.66	0.69	0.69
Bulacan	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.86
Cavite	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.87
Camarines Sur	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.71

Births Attended

Area	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.70
Cavite	0.75	0.79	0.69	0.81
Bulacan	0.82	0.84	0.91	0.82
Camarines Sur	0.26	0.34	0.47	0.36

Municipal QLIs

Province /Municipality	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Camarines Sur					
Baao	0.740	0.697	0.765	0.704	0.725
Buhi		0.702	0.718		
Nabua	0.742	0.761	0.750	0.737	

GUIMARAS

The island province of Guimaras is the least populated and smallest of the six provinces that comprise the Western Visayas region (Region VI). Guimaras is located between Panay and Negros islands. Travel to the province from Manila can be done by plane (55 minutes), boat, or bus to Iloilo City (the gateway to the island province) then ferry to Guimaras for at least 10 minutes. Classified as a fourth class province, Guimaras is politically subdivided into five municipalities and 98 barangays clustered into one congressional district. Guimaras, once a sub province of Iloilo, was converted into a province in 1992, making it the youngest province of the region.

Labor participation rate, as of April 2003, is estimated at 69.9 percent of the total labor force of 15 years old and over. Employment rate as of April 2003 is 86.4 percent, indicating a low unemployment ratio of 14.6 percent.

In terms of ethnicity/language spoken, most (nine out of ten) of the household population refer to themselves as Ilongo/Hiligaynon while the rest consider themselves as either Karay-a/Kinaray-a, Kankanaeys, Cebuano, Tagalog or some other ethnicity.

Western Visayas is among the poorer regions in the country. In 2000, poverty incidence of fami-

Demographic Profile						
	Total Population (Census 2000)	Annual Growth Rate	Average Household Size	Population Density	Labor Force Participation Rate (Apr 2003)	Employment Rate (Apr 2003)
Philippines	76,498,735	2.36	5.0	255	67.1%	87.8%
NCR	9,932,560	1.06	4.62	15,617	63.8%	83%
R VI: Western Visayas	6,208,733	1.56	5.12	307	67.6%	87.5%
Guimaras	141,450	2.43	5.14	234	69.9%	86.4%

Area, No. of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, Barangays and Income Class						
	Land Area (km ²)	Provinces	Cities	Municipalities	Barangays	Income Class
Philippines	30,000,000	79	115	1,499	41,969	
R VI - Western Visayas	20,223.11	6	16	117	4,050	
Guimaras	604.6		0	5	98	4th Class

* Average Annual Income of First Class provinces in the last 3 years is P150 M or more
Source: NSCB

Guimaras has a total population of 141,450 persons; almost double its size from thirty years ago, according to the 2000 population census. It also registered an annual growth rate of 2.43 percent (1995 to 2000) slightly higher than the national average of 2.36. In terms of average household size, Guimaras also has a slightly higher figure (5.1) than the national average of five persons.

lies for the entire region was at 43.1 percent, much higher than the national average of 33.7 percent.

While not as poor as Negros Occidental and Capiz where half of the families were living below the poverty threshold, still, poverty remains widespread in Guimaras. Nearly one third (32.7 percent) of the families live below the poverty threshold in Guimaras.

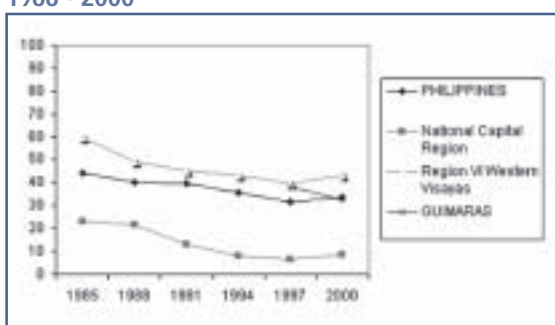
Over time, there has been a noted decrease in poverty incidence in the region, from 49.4 percent in 1988 to 43.1 percent in 2000; a trend that ran parallel to the national average where poverty incidence for the entire country decreased from 40.2 percent in 1988 to 33.7 percent in 2000. Although, poverty incidence in the region still remains higher than the national average.

In Guimaras, available data show that poverty incidence decreased from 38.1 percent in 1997 to 32.7 percent in 2000. If this trend continues, there is a ray of hope that Guimaras will be able to meet the MDG target of reducing poverty incidence by half in 2015. Estimates using straight line method could show that by 2009, Guimaras would have reduced poverty incidence to 16.5 percent and by 2015, poverty incidence would be just a mere 6 percent.

Poverty Incidence, by Family (Year 2000)	
PHILIPPINES	33.7
Region VI	43.1
Aklan	38.0
Antique	42.3
Capiz	52.7
Iloilo	31.9
Guimaras	32.7
Negros Occidental	50.1

Source: PIDS Website

Poverty Incidence (Family) 1988 - 2000



Access to Potable Water and Sanitary Toilet

Access to potable water has been improving nationally and in the Western Visayas region but not in Guimaras. In 2000, less than half (43.9 percent) of families in Guimaras have access to potable water. Guimaras is the lowest among the six provinces in

Western Visayas and belongs to the bottom ten of the 79 provinces in the country in terms of access to safe drinking water. Without persistent efforts to reverse current trend of decreasing access to potable water, it is unlikely that Guimaras will reach the MDG target. Although nationally and regionally, the chance of meeting this target given current trends is high.

In terms of access to sanitary toilets, Guimaras fares better showing improvement over time, from 58.38 percent in 1997 to 70.4 percent in 2000.

Proportion of Families with Access to Potable Water

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	69.9	71.9	73.7	77.4	76.9	78.5
NCR	88.4	92	89.5	90.1	87.8	85.1
Region IV	47.6	54.4	54	62.4	65.6	68.3
GUIMARAS					56.6	43.9

Source: PIDS/NSCB

Proportion of Families with Sanitary Toilet Facility, 2000

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	68.8	69	71	74.9	76.32	82.5
NCR				95	91.84	95.6
Region VI				57.4	60.57	70.5
GUIMARAS					58.38	70.4

Source: PIDS/NSCB

Under Five and Maternal Mortality Rate

While nationally, the target of reducing under-five mortality by two thirds will more likely be met, the same does not hold true for the Western Visayas region as well as Guimaras. Based on available data, under-five mortality rate for the region was reduced only from 86 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 77 in 1995. For Guimaras, under-five mortality rate was reduced from 74 in 1990 to 68 in 1995.

Based on current trends, the Philippines will not meet the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality rate by three-fourths, particularly for Western Visayas. This region belongs to the poorer regions and has high maternal mortality rate at 184 per 100,000 live births in 1995 from 202 in 1990. For Guimaras, maternal mortality rate was reduced from 191 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 178 in 1995.

Under 5 Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
PHILIPPINES	79.64	77	74	72	69	66.79			40
NCR	62.22	57	53	48	43	38.53			
Western Visayas	86.24	84	83	81	79	77.36			
Guimoras Iloilo	73.59					68.12			

Maternal Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
PHILIPPINES	209	203	197	191	186	179.74
NCR	170.1	160	150	139	129	119.07
Western Visayas	202.42	199	195	191	188	184.18
Guimaras Iloilo	191.23					177.82

Prevalence of underweight children, 0-5 years old, NCHS standard

Available data shows decrease in malnutrition since 1989. But, the trend has been erratic and uneven. At the national level, the prevalence of underweight pre-school children, age 0-5 years old, decreased from 34.5 percent in 1989 to 30.8 percent in 1996, then increased to 32 percent in 1998 and decreased to 30.6 percent in 2001. For the Western Visayas region, this prevalence had increased from 36.3 percent in 1996 to 39.6 percent in 1998 and decreased to 35.2 percent in 2001. Fortunately for the province of Guimaras, there was a downtrend from 38.8 percent in 1996 to 31.6 percent in 2001. Unfortunately however, the prevalence of underweight children in the province has been consistently above national average.

With three out of ten children underweight, malnutrition remains a threat to the child's survival in Guimaras.

Prevalence of underweight children, 0-5 years old, NCHS standard

	1989	1992	1993	1996	1998	2001
PHILIPPINES	34.5	34	29.9	30.8	32	30.6
NCR				23	26.5	20.3
Western Visayas				36.3	39.6	35.2
Guimaras				38.8	38	31.6

Elementary Participation and Cohort Survival Rate

At the national level, elementary participation rate increased from 85.1 percent in 1991 to 97.02 percent

in 2001. Given this current trend, the Philippines will likely achieve the MDG target of universal access to primary education by 2015. At the regional level, elementary participation rate of Region 6, Western Visayas is a high 96.48 percent for school year 1999-2000. At the provincial level, Guimaras is not far behind with elementary participation rate at 95.15 percent for the same school year. Both figures are not far from the national average of 96.95 percent.

While universal access to primary education does not seem to be much of a problem, the issue of how to retain children in school and ensure their completion of the elementary level is a problem. In the 1990s, survival rate in primary school remained low. At the national level, survival rate to grade six even decreased, from 68.65 percent in 1991 to 67.13 percent by 2001. In some of the poorer regions, survival rate deteriorated as in the case of Western Visayas (Region 6), from 65.03 percent in 1991 backsliding to 61.76 percent in 2001. The province of Guimaras however has a different story with improving elementary cohort survival rates from 68 percent in 1991 up to 80 percent in 1999, surpassing even regional and national averages.

Elementary Cohort Survival Rate

Area	1991	1994	1997	1999	2001
Philippines	68.65	66.50	68.92	69.29	67.13
Bulacan	86	81	85	86	
Cavite	84	83	88	87	
Western Visayas	65.03	63.73	64.6	65.33	61.76
Guimaras	68	73	78	80	

Human Development Index (HDI) and the Quality of Life (QLI):

Measuring achievements in basic dimensions of human development. For Guimaras, HDI levels had improved from 0.58 in 1994 to 0.62 in 2000, though still below the national average of 0.66 in the year 2000 and much less than the top raters like Cavite and Bulacan. In terms of QLI, Guimaras had also registered improved levels from 0.617 in 1994 to 0.621 in 1999. The QLI levels were below the national average since 1994 and lag behind the top raters in QLI such as Bulacan and Cavite with QLI of 0.820 and 0.844 in 1999, respectively.

Of the three components of QLI, both the elementary cohort survival rate and the nutrition status of children under-five showed notable improvements over time. The nutrition level of children improved from 0.77 in 1991 to 0.85 in 1999. Improvements in survival rate had been shown earlier. However, in terms of the third QLI component, which monitors safe reproduction, access to professional health personnel remains wanting with less than half of live births attended/delivered by doctors, nurses and midwives.

Human Development Index

	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	0.63	0.63	0.66
NCR	0.88	0.89	0.89
Cavite	0.72	0.72	0.73
Bulacan	0.63	0.70	0.76
Guimaras	0.58	0.56	0.62

Elementary Cohort Survival Rate

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.70	0.66	0.69	0.69
Bulacan	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.86
Cavite	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.87
Guimaras	0.68	0.73	0.78	0.80

QLI of Municipalities in Guimaras

	2000				2001			
	Nutri-NCHS	Births	Ecohort	QLI2	Nutri-NCHS	Births	Ecohort	QLI2
Guimaras	0.663	0.431	0.818	0.637	0.684	0.419	0.806	0.636
Buenavista	0.670	0.609	0.939	0.739	0.690	0.620	0.883	0.731
Jordan	0.673	0.478	0.766	0.639	0.697	0.473	0.892	0.687
Nueva Valencia	0.639	0.365	0.793	0.599	0.665	0.308	0.770	0.581
San Lorenzo	0.661	0.219	0.819	0.566	0.683	0.204	0.792	0.560
Sibunag	0.675	0.258	0.775	0.569	0.684	0.256	0.668	0.536

Quality of Life Index

Quality of Life Index	QLI 1991	QLI 1994	QLI 1997	QLI 1999
Philippines QLI1	0.671	0.659	0.687	0.689
Philippines QLI2	0.614	0.613	0.652	0.654
Bulacan	0.836	0.830	0.866	0.820
Cavite	0.785	0.766	0.782	0.844
Guimaras		0.617	0.591	0.621

Under-Five Nutrition

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68
Guimaras		0.75	0.61	0.62
Bulacan	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.78
Cavite	0.77	0.68	0.78	0.85

Births Attended

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.70
Cavite	0.75	0.79	0.69	0.81
Bulacan	0.82	0.84	0.91	0.82
Guimaras		0.36	0.38	0.44

Localizing QLI. At the local level, QLIs were generated for five municipalities in Guimaras. Of the five towns, two of them, namely Buenavista and Jordan have QLI levels above the provincial average of 0.636 in 2001. The remaining three are below the provincial average, with Sibunag occupying the lowest with QLI level of 0.536. The range of QLI data from 0.536 to 0.731 for the year 2001 indicates that progress is largely uneven across regions, provinces and even across municipalities.

Based on the available data, of the three QLI components, the capacity for safe reproduction has been lagging behind, especially for the municipalities of San Lorenzo and Sibunag where only one-fourth of the deliveries are attended by doctors, nurses and midwives. On the other hand, the QLI of Buenavista compares with that of the top 20 provinces.

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Negros Oriental is the largest though not the most populated of the four provinces that comprise the Central Visayas Region (Region VII). Negros Oriental lies some 384 aerial miles south of Manila. Negros Oriental is said to be blessed with its location below the typhoon belt. Travel to the province from Manila can be done by air (60 minutes) and by sea (36 hours). Negros Oriental, classified as a first class province, is politically divided into five (component) cities, 20 municipalities and 557 barangays clustered into three congressional districts

made up of 68 young dependents and eight old dependents. Negros Oriental contributed 20 percent to the population of the region. The largest contributor, however, is Cebu with a 42 percent contribution.

Poverty Incidence

In 2000, poverty incidence of families for the entire region of Central Visayas was at 38.8 percent, a few percentage points higher than the national average of 33.7 percent. Of the four provinces in this

Demographic Profile						
	Total Population (Census 2000)	Annual Growth Rate	Average Household Size	Population Density	Labor Force Participation Rate (Oct 2003)	Employment Rate (Oct 2003)
Philippines	76,498,735	2.36	5.0	255	67.1%	89.9%
NCR	9,932,560	1.06	4.62	15,617	66.4%	83.8%
R VII - Central Visayas	5,701,064	2.79	5.03	381	65.2%	88.1%
Negros Oriental	1,130,088	2.03	4.97	208		

Source: NSO

Area, No. of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, Barangays and Income Class						
	Land Area(km2)	Province-s	Cities	Municipalities	Barangays	Income Class
Philippines		79	115	1,499	41,969	
R VII - Central Visayas		4	12	120	3,003	
Negros Oriental	5,402 sq. km		5	20	557	1st Class

* Average Annual Income of First Class provinces in the last 3 years is P150 M or more

*Source: PIDS/NSCB

Total population stood at 1.13 million (as of May 2000) and was growing at an annual rate of 2.11 percent or an additional 65 persons per day, which is still below the national average of 2.36 percent. The average household size is 4.97 persons, almost the same as in 1995 (4.99 persons) and the national average of five persons. Based on the 2000 Census, half of the total population of the province was below 21 years old and the dependency ratio is at 76. This means that for every 100 persons, aged 15 to 64 years, there were about 76 dependents. These dependents are

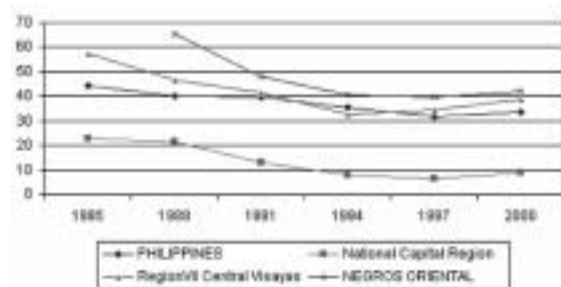
region, only Cebu had a poverty incidence below the national and regional average, the remaining three had a poverty incidence of at least 41 percent with Bohol suffering most from poverty with incidence at 55.6 percent.

While not as poor as Bohol where more than half of families live below the poverty threshold, poverty still remains widespread in Negros Oriental. Based on the latest income survey (FIES 2000), in Negros Oriental 42.2 percent of families are poor.

Over time, while the poverty situation has been improving nationally, for the Central Visayas region, poverty experienced a mild upsurge from a low 32.7 percent in 1994 to 38.8 percent in 2000. Negros Oriental seems to follow the regional path. Based on available data, poverty incidence of family in the province could be heading for an upswing with 40.6 percent in 1994 up to 42.2 percent in 2000. The province has to reverse the trend if it hopes to meet the MDG target of reducing poverty incidence by half in 2015.

Poverty Incidence, by Family (Year 2000)	
PHILIPPINES	33.7
Region VII	38.8
Bohol	55.6
Cebu	32.1
Negros Oriental	42.2
Siquijor	41.1

Poverty Incidence (Family), 1988 - 2000



Access to Potable Water and Sanitary Toilet

Access to potable water has been improving nationally, regionally and for the province of Negros Oriental. Given current trend the chances of meeting this target seems high. The proportion of families with sanitary toilet facility has also been increasing over the years and at different levels, from national, regional and the provincial level. Indirectly, improved access to sanitary toilet helps prevent the spread of diseases.

Proportion of Families with Access to Potable Water

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	69.9	71.9	73.7	77.4	76.9	78.5
NCR	88.4	92	89.5	90.1	87.8	85.1
Region VII	57	57.6	62.4	66.3	63.8	71.9
NEGROS ORIENTAL	53.8	52.7	63.5	62.7	66	68.5

Proportion of Families with Sanitary Toilet Facility, 2000

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	68.8	69.1	71.6	74.9	77.2	82.5
NCR	88	88.5	89.2	95.0	91.9	95.6
Region VII	63.6	62	64	64.5	68.3	72.9
NEGROS ORIENTAL	77.4	64	67.2	68.5	67.1	72.3

Under Five and Maternal Mortality Rate

While the Central Visayas region and the country as a whole will most likely meet the target of reducing under-five mortality by two thirds, the same does not hold true for the province of Negros Oriental. Based on available data, under-five mortality rate for the region was reduced from 79.06 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 64.02 in 1995. For Negros Oriental, under-five mortality rate was reduced from 84.47 in 1990 to 75.29 in 1995. The current rate of progress at the provincial level (1.8 per year) casts doubts in meeting the two-thirds reduction target in under-five mortality.

In the same manner, the Philippines; the Central Visayas region and the province of Negros Oriental will not likely meet the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality rate by three-fourths. Central Visayas has a high maternal mortality rate at 158.15 per 100,000 live births in 1995 from 183.87 in 1990. The region needs to do much better than its current slow rate of progress at 5 per year reduction. For the province of Negros Oriental where maternal mortality rate was reduced from 178.7 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to only 162.62 in 1995; the rate of progress is too slow at 3 per year to meet the demands of the MDG target.

Maternal Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
PHILIPPINES	209	203	197	191	186	179.74
NCR	170.1	160	150	139	129	119.07
Central Visayas	183.87	179	174	168	163	158.15
Negros Oriental	178.7					162.62

Infant Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1998
PHILIPPINES	56.69	55	54	52	50	48.93	36
NCR	45.81	43	40	38	35	32.22	41.5
Central Visayas	55.19	54	52	50	49	47.34	44.6
Negros Oriental	59.77					54.19	

Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality.

Prevalence of malnutrition among children

At the national level, available data shows decrease in malnutrition from 34.5 percent in 1989 to 30.6 percent in 2001, although the trend has been erratic and uneven. The Philippine official report on the MDG noted that the probability is low for meeting the target of 50 percent reduction in malnutrition if not already off-track in meeting the nutrition target. Data for the Central Visayas region also reflects decline in malnutrition from 32.2 percent in 1996 to 28.3 percent in 2001, moving below the national average. But at the provincial level, the incidence of malnutrition in Negros Oriental had been above the national average and had even shown an increase in the prevalence of underweight children from 30.3 percent in 1996 up to 36.1 percent in 1998.

Prevalence of underweight children, 0-5 years old, NCHS standard

	1989	1992	1993	1996	1998	2001
PHILIPPINES	34.5	34	29.9	30.8	32	30.6
NCR				23	26.5	20.3
Central Visayas				32.2	33.8	28.3
Negros Oriental				30.3	36.1	

Source: FNRI

Education: Access and Survival

Since the 1990s, data has shown increasing enrolment over the years, along with improving access to primary education. Nationally, the school participation rate in the elementary level increased from 85.1 percent in 1991 to 97.02 percent in 2001. This leaves little doubt that the MDG target of universal access to primary education by 2015 can be met. At the regional level, elementary participation rate of Central Visayas is a high 99.96 percent for school year 1999-

Education: Access and Survival

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Philippines	69.7	68.65	66.38	67.5	66.40	67.15	67.96	68.60	69.75	69.3	67.21	67.13
NCR	97.73	87.38	86.93	87.73	85.20	85.85	86.96	84.72	82.78	81.60	80.19	79.04
Region 7	65.19	64.96	63.37	63.84	66.47	68.60	69.06	68.24	68.87	68.90	68.40	65.31
Negros Oriental	45.90				49.89			48.37		51.86		

2000. At the provincial level, Negros Oriental is not far behind with elementary participation rate at 97.09 percent for the same school year. Both data indicate that the province and the region performed better compared to the national average of 96.95 percent.

While universal access to primary education as shown by the participation rate is easily achievable, the problem of how to retain students in school and help them to at least reach sixth grade if not complete elementary level is another matter, not to mention quality and equity in access. In the past decade, national survival rate in primary school has remained low and stagnant from 69.7 percent in 1990 to 69.3 percent in 1999. For Central Visayas, data though still generally low and almost the same nationally, indicates improvement in survival rate from 65.19 percent in 1990 up to 68.90 percent in 1999. For Negros Oriental however, cohort survival rate is way below national average and with only half of children able to reach grade 6. For a decade, the province had a survival rate at 45.90 percent in 1990 to 51.86 percent in 1999.

HDI and QLI, alternative measures of human achievements/development

Since 1994, the HDI level of Negros Oriental has always stood below the national average and much farther below the HDI of top raters such as Cavite, Bataan and Bulacan. Worse, Negros Oriental has always been ranked among the bottom 15 performers in terms of HDI. In the same manner, since 1991, Negros Oriental's QLI was always less than the national QLI average and aligned with the poor rating provinces. In Negros Oriental, HDI and QLI manifest consistent trends. In both measures, Negros Oriental is found among the poor raters or bottom performers. But in terms of poverty incidence, Negros Oriental is found among the middle ranking provinces, particularly in year 2000.

In terms of the QLI components, the nutrition indicator has been declining from 0.75 in 1991 to 0.64 in 2000, meaning more children below five years old are becoming malnourished. A second QLI component, the cohort survival rate, though increasing, has been consistently low ranging from 0.46 in 1991 to 0.52 in 1999. The third QLI component, though showing an upward trend from 0.39 in 1991 to 0.55 in 1999, is still a cause for worry with less than half of the deliveries attended to by doctors, nurses and midwives.

Human Development Index

	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	0.63	0.63	0.66
NCR	0.88	0.89	0.89
Cavite	0.72	0.72	0.73
Bataan	0.73	0.73	0.75
Bulacan	0.63	0.70	0.76
Negros Oriental	0.52	0.50	0.53

Quality of Life Index

	QLI 1991	QLI 1994	QLI 1997	QLI 1999
Philippines QLI1	0.671	0.659	0.687	0.689
Philippines QLI2	0.614	0.613	0.652	0.654
Bulacan	0.836	0.830	0.866	0.820
Cavite	0.785	0.766	0.782	0.844
Negros Oriental	0.53	0.551	0.59	0.57

Under-Five Nutrition

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68
Negros Oriental	0.75	0.76	0.70	0.64
Bulacan	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.78
Cavite	0.77	0.68	0.78	0.85

Elementary Cohort Survival Rate

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.70	0.66	0.69	0.69
Bulacan	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.86
Cavite	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.87
Negros Oriental	0.46	0.50	0.48	0.52

Births Attended

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.70
Cavite	0.75	0.79	0.69	0.81
Bulacan	0.82	0.84	0.91	0.82
Negros Oriental	0.39	0.40	0.59	0.55

COTABATO

In the 2000 Census, North Cotabato (Cotabato) came out as the largest and most populated of the three provinces that used to comprise Region 12, then called Central Mindanao. (By 2003, after altering regional groupings, Region 12 became SOCCSKSARGEN which consists of four provinces and Cotabato City.) Cotabato is said to be once the largest province in the Philippines until it was subdivided several times into what is now known as the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat including General Santos and Cotabato City.

North Cotabato lies some a little over a thousand kilometers south of Manila and is said to be strategically located in the central part of Mindanao. Travel to the province from Manila can be done by air via General Santos City (1 hour and 30 minutes) from where buses service North Cotabato. Cotabato, classified as a first class province, is politically subdivided into one component city, 17 municipalities and 543 barangays and clustered into two congressional districts.

Total population of Cotabato stood at 958,643 persons (as of May 2000) and was growing at an annual rate of 2.29 percent and had generated an average household size of 5.08 persons, slightly higher than the national average of five persons. With nearly a million people, Cotabato contributed some 1.25 percent to the total Philippine population; although half of the population in Cotabato was below 19 years old.

Labor participation rate is estimated at 73.2 percent of the total labor force of 15 years old and over. Employment rate as of October 2002 was 96.6 percent, indicating a low unemployment ratio of 3.4 percent. Majority of the population depends on agriculture as the main source of livelihood.

Nearly 32 percent of the household population in Cotabato refer to themselves as Ilonggo/Hiligaynon while some 22.64 percent as Cebuanos and 17.75 percent as Maguindanao. The rest are divided among different indigenous groups such as Ilocano, Karaya, Manobo/Ata Manobo and Boholano.

Demographic Profile						
	Total Population (Census 2000)	Annual Growth Rate	Average Household Size	Population Density	Labor Participation Rate (Oct 2002)	Employment Rate a (Oct 2002)
Philippines	76,498,735	2.36	5.0	255	66.2	89.8
NCR	9,932,560	1.06	4.62	15,617	64.4	83.3
R XII - Central Mindanao	2,598,210	2.08	5.16	179	69.9	90.7
Cotabato (North Cotabato)	958,643	2.29	5.08	146	73.2 /a	96.6 / a

/a including Kidapawan city; Source: NSO

Area. No. of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities, Barangays and Income Class						
	Land Area(km2)	Provinces	Cities	Municipalities	Barangays	Income Class
Philippines		79	115	1,499	41,969	
R XII - Central Mindanao		4	5	45	1,194	
Cotabato	6,565.9 a/		1	17	543	1st Class

a/ includes Kidapawan City

* Average Annual Income of First Class provinces in the last 3 years is P150 M or more
Source: NSCB, Philippine Standard Geographic Code as of September 2002

Poverty Incidence

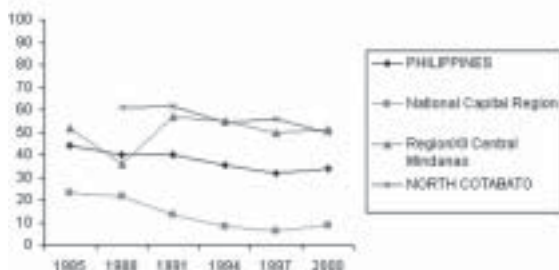
Central Mindanao is the third poorest region in the country. In 2000, poverty incidence of families for the entire region was at 51.1 percent, which is much higher than the national average of 33.7 percent. In terms of poverty headcount ratio or the percentage of the population below the poverty level stood at 58.1%

While not as poor as Sultan Kudarat where poverty incidence of families was at 57 percent, poverty still remains widespread in North Cotabato. In the latest income survey (FIES 2000), North Cotabato was recorded as the 27th poorest province in the Philippines with nearly half of the families (49.6 percent) living below the poverty threshold. In terms of poverty headcount ratio or the percentage of population below the poverty, it stood at 57.9 percent.

Over time, while the poverty situation has been improving nationally, the same cannot be said for the Central Mindanao Region where poverty has been noted to increase and had always been higher than the national average. For most of the period, 1985 to 2000, at least half of the families lived below the poverty line. The worst period was during 1991 and 1994 when poverty incidence was recorded at 57 percent and 54.7 percent respectively, from 51 percent in 1985.

In North Cotabato, available data show that poverty incidence decreased from 56 percent in 1997 to 49.6 percent in 2000. If the province can sustain this annual decrease in poverty incidence by 2.13 percent, North Cotabato will most likely meet, even surpass, the MDG target of reducing poverty incidence by half in 2015.

Poverty Incidence (Family), 1988 - 2000



Region	Poverty Incidence (%)
PHILIPPINES	33.7
Region XII	51.1
Cotabato City	35.0
Lanao Del Norte	51.5
Marawi City	50.8
North Cotabato	49.6
Sultan Kudarat	57.0

Access to Potable Water and Sanitary Toilet

Access to potable water has been improving nationally and even for the Central Mindanao Region as well as the province of North Cotabato. The chance of meeting this target given current trends seems high.

The proportion of families with sanitary toilet facilities has also been increasing over the years at the national, regional and provincial levels. Indirectly, improved access to sanitary toilet helps prevent the spread of disease.

Proportion of Families with Access to Potable Water

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	69.9	71.9	73.7	77.4	76.9	78.5
NCR	88.4	92	89.5	90.1	87.8	85.1
Region XII	49	49.7	72.9	77.1	73.7	79.6
NORTH COTABATO	46.7	50.6	58.8	63.5	70.7	77.5

Proportion of Families with Sanitary Toilet Facility, 2000

	1985	1988	1991	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	68.8	69.1	71.6	74.9	77.2	82.5
NCR	88	88.5	89.2	95.0	91.9	95.6
Region XII	51.9	53.8	71.1	71.1	77.3	83.6
NORTH COTABATO	45.8	63.1	60.4	67	74.6	86

Under Five and Maternal Mortality Rate

While nationally, the target of reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds will more likely be met, the same does not hold true for the Central Mindanao region as well as the province of North Cotabato. Based on available data, under-five mortality rate for the region was reduced from 79.11 per 1,000 live

births in 1990 to only 74 in 1995. For North Cotabato, under-five mortality rate was reduced from 73.35 in 1990 to only 71.66 in 1995. The current rate of progress at both regional (one per year) and provincial (one in five years) level cast doubts in meeting the two-thirds reduction target in under-five mortality

In the same manner, current trends indicate that the Philippines will not meet the MDG target of reducing maternal mortality rate by three-fourths, particularly for Central Mindanao. This region belongs to the poorer regions and has high maternal mortality rate at 187.25 per 100,000 live births in 1995 from 197.1 in 1990 with a slow rate of progress (two per year). The situation is not much better, for the province of North Cotabato where maternal mortality rate was reduced from 167.5 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to only 164.15 in 1995. The rate of progress is slow (four in five years) and will not meet the demands of MDG target.

Under 5 Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1998
PHILIPPINES	79.64	77	74	72	69	66.79	40
NCR	62.22	57	53	48	43	38.53	
Central Mindanao	79.11	78	77	76	75	74	
Cotabato	73.35					71.66	

Source: PIDS/NSCB; Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality

Maternal Mortality Rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
PHILIPPINES	209	203	197	191	186	179.74
NCR	170.1	160	150	139	129	119.07
Central Mindanao	197.1	195	193	191	189	187.25
Cotabato	167.5					164.15

Source: PIDS/NSCB; Source: NSCB Technical Working Group on Maternal and Child Mortality

Prevalence of malnutrition among children

At the national level, available data shows a decrease in malnutrition from 34.5 percent in 1989 to 30.6 percent in 2001, although the trend has been erratic and uneven. Official reports on the MDG noted that the probability is low for meeting the target of 50 percent reduction in malnutrition if not already off-track in meeting the nutrition target. At the regional level, data also reflects improvement and the decline in malnutrition is more notable from 36.8 percent in 1996 to

30.2 percent in 2001. This is well below the national average. But at the provincial level, the incidence of malnutrition in North Cotabato had been above the national average and had even shown a slight increase in the prevalence of underweight children. This situation continuously challenges decision-makers in allocating greater resources and summoning enough initiatives including political determination to reverse the tide of malnutrition.

Prevalence of underweight children*

	1989	1992	1993	1996	1998	2001
PHILIPPINES	34.5	34	29.9	30.8	32	30.6
NCR				23	26.5	20.3
Central Mindanao				36.8	32.4	30.2
North Cotabato				36.3	36.5	

*(0-5 years old, using NCHS standards)

source: FNRI

Education: Access and Survival

Since the 1990s, data has shown increasing enrolment over the years, along with improving access to primary education. Nationally, the school participation rate in the elementary level increased from 85.1 percent in 1991 to 97.02 percent in 2001. This leaves no doubt that the MDG target of universal access to primary education can be achieved by 2015. At the regional level, elementary participation rate of Central Mindanao is a high 93.13 percent for school year 1999-2000. At the provincial level, North Cotabato is not far behind with elementary participation rate at 92.88 percent for the same school year. Though both data fall below the national average of 96.95 percent.

While universal access to primary education as shown by the participation rate is easily achievable, the problem of how students could stay in school and at least reach sixth grade if not complete elementary level is another matter. In the past decade, survival rate in primary school has remained low. In some of the poorest regions, survival rate deteriorated as in the case of Central Mindanao region (from 61.16 percent in 1991 down to 56.45 percent in 2001) or stagnated such as in the province of North Cotabato with elementary cohort survival rate at 57.06 percent in 1990 to 58.75 percent in 1999.

Cohort Survival rate

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Philippines	69.7	68.65	66.38	67.5	66.40	67.15	67.96	68.60	69.75	69.3	67.21	67.13
NCR	97.73	87.38	86.93	87.73	85.20	85.85	86.96	84.72	82.78	81.60	80.19	79.04
Region 12	50.52	61.16	59.50	55.36	53.00	53.46	57.07	54.89	54.80	58.47	55.70	56.45
North Cotabato	57.06				57.61			58.78		58.75		

HDI and QLI, alternative measures of human achievements/development

Since 1994, the HDI level of North Cotabato has always stood below the national average and much further below the HDI of top raters such as Cavite, Bataan and Bulacan. Worse, North Cotabato has always been ranked among the bottom 20 performers in terms of HDI. In the same manner, since 1991, Cotabato's QLI was always less than the national QLI average. Actually for North Cotabato, the HDI levels are consistent with QLI levels, showing unwavering allegiance to the bottom 20 performers using either measure. Though compared to poverty incidence of families, Cotabato had departed from the bottom 20, ranking as the 27th poorest province in the year 2000.

In terms of the QLI components, the nutrition indicator has been declining from 0.73 in 1991 to 0.64 in 2000, while cohort survival has been consistently low ranging from 0.57 in 1991 to 0.59 in 1999. The third QLI component, though showing an upward trend from 0.26 in 1991 to 0.40 in 1999, has been pulling down the QLI average of the province with less than half of the deliveries attended to by doctors, nurses and midwives.

Localizing QLI. At the local level, QLI indices were generated for four municipalities and one component city (Kidapawan City). Even if over time North Cotabato's QLI had always ranked among the bottom 20 provinces, the various municipalities comprising the province experience uneven progress with QLIs ranging from 0.743 for Kidapawan to 0.541 for Pigcawayan. Actually, in terms of QLI, Kidapawan's 0.743 in 2001 compares with the top 20 provinces for the year 1999 while Carmen's QLI at 0.672 compares with at least the 27th highest QLI rank. However, Pigcawayan, with QLI at 0.541, aligns with the bottom 10 provinces in 1999.

Human Development Index

Area/Province	1994	1997	2000
PHILIPPINES	0.63	0.63	0.66
NCR	0.88	0.89	0.89
Cavite	0.72	0.72	0.73
Bataan	0.73	0.73	0.75
Bulacan	0.63	0.70	0.76
North Cotabato	0.52	0.52	0.55

Quality of Life Index

	QLI 1991	QLI 1994	QLI 1997	QLI 1999
Philippines QLI1	0.671	0.659	0.687	0.689
Philippines QLI2	0.614	0.613	0.652	0.654
Bulacan	0.836	0.830	0.866	0.820
Cavite	0.785	0.766	0.782	0.844
North Cotabato	0.521	0.494	0.554	0.541

Under-Five Nutrition

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.72	0.70	0.69	0.68
North Cotabato	0.73	0.60	0.64	0.64
Bulacan	0.83	0.84	0.84	0.78
Cavite	0.77	0.68	0.78	0.85

QLI EcoCohort

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.70	0.66	0.69	0.69
Bulacan	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.86
Cavite	0.84	0.83	0.88	0.87
North Cotabato	0.57	0.58	0.59	0.59

Births Attended

	1991	1994	1997	1999
Philippines	0.59	0.61	0.68	0.70
Cavite	0.75	0.79	0.69	0.81
Bulacan	0.82	0.84	0.91	0.82
North Cotabato	0.26	0.31	0.44	0.40

Localizing QLI

Province/Municipality	1998	2000	2001
Cotabato (North Cotabato)			
Kidapawan City	0.719	0.726	0.743
Makilala	0.588	0.528	0.567
Carmen	0.653	0.657	0.672
Matalam	0.578	0.523	0.600
Pigcawayan	0.649	0.567	0.541