The Statistical Annex
Introduction

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In this volume, Social Watch-Philippines presents a compendium of social development indicators culled from various government agencies, research institutions and alternative databank outfits. The compendium was designed to fill up a critical vacuum as it brings under one cover key social indicators found in different publications and unpublished reports. This statistical annex serves as a handy reference for social analysis and development planning. Through this, Social Watch also hopes to monitor more closely the progress and shortfalls of the Philippine Government in fulfilling its commitments to the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD).

The statistical annex has been customized to highlight certain distinct features. First, the basic social indicators are presented with provincial breakdown to provide a more substantive understanding of provincial realities. Social Watch takes a step further and looks behind the national statistics to monitor the social situation across local areas. Second, disparity and equity statistics, whenever available, were included to highlight disparities between gender, rural-urban, income groups and across provinces. Third, select data at the national level is presented in a time series for comparative purposes across years. Fourth, regional comparison of key social development indicators is presented for a glimpse of how the Philippines performs compared to its Asian neighbors.

Putting together this statistical annex was not an easy task. Social Watch organized a series of workshops and consultations to discuss and identify indicators that should be included in this annex. The final list was based on relevance, reliability, consistency and data availability.

Unfortunately, not all indicators are available in the desired format, comparable time periods needed, or level of breakdown sought for. Gathering the data had been a tedious process. Researchers have had to contend with the lack of standards, late reporting, substantial gaps in data, inconsistencies in measures and the seeming apathy of those who deal with statistical information without appreciating their significance and purpose.

❖ In cases where differences exist between data provided for the same year by different sources, two options were considered. Data is taken from the sources considered to be the authority on the indicator. Otherwise, the source with the most recently published data is selected on the assumption that adjustments had been done between preliminary estimates or projections and final reports.

❖ In cases where data does not correspond to same year in the time-series presentation, data of the immediately succeeding or preceding year is taken.

❖ In cases where data for the same indicator in the same year is generated by various sources using different methods (e.g. between survey and regular monitoring) both sets of data are presented.

❖ Specific to social indicators with provincial breakdown, note that some sources have separate data for selected cities and have differing categories/groupings of provinces as reflected in the tables. Data from these sources were taken as is, without any attempts at re-classification/re-grouping.

The annex is divided in three parts.

Part A consists of statistics on social indicators with provincial breakdown. It covers demographics, health facilities and services, nutritional status, education indicators, crime rates and solution efficiency, status of irrigation development and poverty statistics.

Part B contains indicators that are national in scope and are presented in time series. It consists of key economic and financial data, agricultural statistics, health and education indicators, poverty statistics and other social indicators.

Part C compares selected Asian countries in terms of economic performance, flows of aid, private capital and debt, priorities in public spending, inequality in income or consumption, social and health statistics.

The statistical annex intends to capture current Philippine realities as well as the immediate past. It may not tell the whole story about the social situation in the country today, but it can definitely surface issues, identify shortfalls and inform policy. By presenting the matrix of indicators, Social Watch intends to call the attention of concerned government units, interest groups and stakeholders to validate the identified issues and work towards decisively addressing such issues and concerns.

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