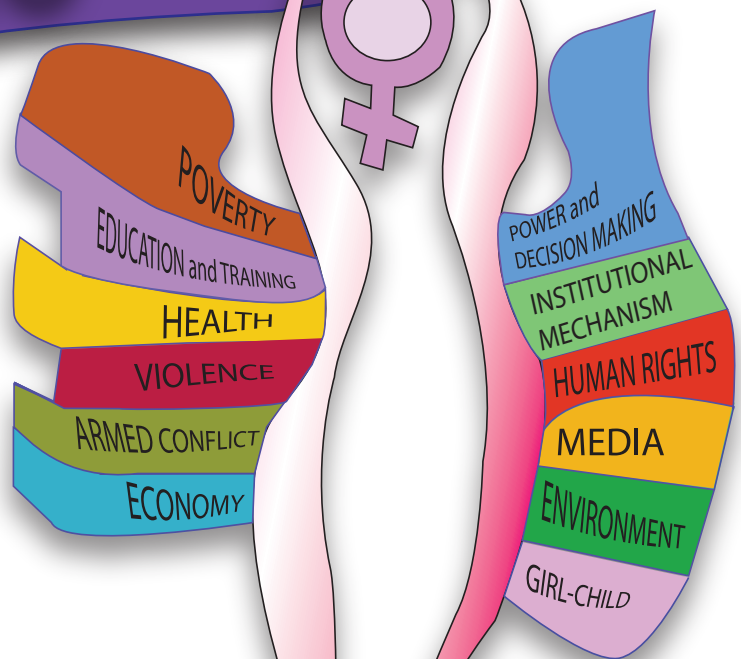


Beijing Platform for Action BPfA + 20



PHILIPPINE PROGRESS REPORT

on the Implementation of
the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
and the
Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session
of the General Assembly (2000)



Office of the President

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

National Machinery for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARBs	Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries
ARMM	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
BAS	Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (now part of PSA)
BLA	Bilateral labor agreement
BLES	Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (now part of PSA)
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CAB	Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHRP	Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
CGRJ	Committee on Gender Responsiveness in the Judiciary
CODI	Committee on Decorum and Investigation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EO	Executive Order
ER	Employment rate
FAB	Framework Agreement for Bangsamoro
FLEMMS	Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey
FPW	Framework Plan for Women
GAD	Gender and Development
GGI	Global Gender Gap Index
GOCC	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation
GPB	GAD Planning and Budgeting
GPH	Government of the Philippines
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAC	Inter-agency committee
IACAT	Inter-Agency Committee against Trafficking
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KALAHI-CIDSS	<i>Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan</i> (Linking Arms to Fight Poverty)- Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services
LDC	Local Development Council
LGBTs	Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders
LGU	Local government unit

MCW	Magna Carta of Women
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MRRS	Monitoring, Reporting and Response System
NAP WPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
NCDDP	National Community-Driven Development Program
NAPC	National Anti-Poverty Commission
NAP WPS	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NGA	national government agency
NGRP	National GAD Resource Program
NHIP	National Health Insurance Program
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board (now part of PSA)
NSCWPS	National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security
NSO	National Statistics Office (now part of PSA)
NVAWDocS	National VAW Documentation System
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
PCFC	People's Credit and Finance Corporation
PCW	Philippine Commission on Women
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PhilHealth	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PNP	Philippine National Police
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PHRC	Presidential Human Rights Committee
PHRP II	Second Philippine Human Rights Action Plan
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RA	Republic Act
SEA-K	Self-Employment Assistance- <i>Kaunlaran</i>
SIGI	Social Institutions and Gender Index
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Program
SUCs	state universities and colleges
TA	technical assistance
TIP	trafficking in persons
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWC	Violence against Women and their Children
WEF	World Economic Forum
Women's EDGE Plan	Women's Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality Plan, 2013-2016
WPLA	Women's Priority Legislative Agenda

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INTRODUCTION

2015 is a milestone year in the development arena; it was even dubbed as the international year of evaluation. It will be the time when countries have to assess and evaluate themselves on the progress in terms of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also marks the twentieth year since the Fourth World Conference on Women where States agreed to and signed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Beijing Platform for Action or the BPfA is a landmark document for advancing the rights of women and gender equality worldwide. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The international community came to a consensus and agreed to a comprehensive blueprint of commitments supporting the full development of women and their equality with men in many key areas. The BPfA affirmed the principles that would govern future actions and strategies for women, and firmly set in place an agenda for empowering women by integrating their concerns in national plans and policies. Governments and the UN agreed to promote gender mainstreaming as a strategy to ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in all policies and programs at the national, regional and international levels.

For the Philippines, the Beijing Conference broadened the discussions on women's rights to include violence against women, women's leadership and political participation and economic concerns. It connected what were previously regarded as women's issues with other pressing concerns on environment, human rights, population, and armed conflict. The country also adopted gender mainstreaming as the strategy to advance women's rights in the country.

This Philippine Progress Report on the Implementation of the BPfA and the Outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly is in preparation for the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the 59th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2015. This BPfA+20 provides an overview of the major achievements and challenges since the passage of the BPfA in 1995; updates on the 12 BPfA areas of concern covering the period 2009-2013; as well as the emerging issues to inform the future process of selecting the post-2015 development agenda and successors to the MDGs.

Led by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the national machinery on the advancement of women and gender equality, the Philippines went through a participatory process in the development of the BPfA+20 Progress Report. It created technical working groups (TWG) composed of representatives from government and non-government organizations (Annexes 1 and 2) to lead the drafting of the report for each area of concern. Each TWG was headed by co-convenors from a government and a non-government institution. They facilitated the meetings and led the drafting of Section 2. Several meetings and consultations were conducted to provide venue for the TWGs to discuss and provide inputs from their respective offices. The newly reconstituted Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) prepared Section 3 on Data and Statistics, while the PCW took charge of Sections 1 and 4 as well as the over-all consolidation and finalization of the Report.

SECTION ONE

Overview analysis of achievements and challenges since 1995

1. The review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action shows the changes in the situation of Filipino women twenty years after countries agreed to its implementation. The findings indicate that in some respect, women's lives have improved and that the gender gap has been narrowed especially in the areas of education, political participation, peace and institutional mechanisms. But there remain urgent issues that hamper the achievement of equality and development such as those related to reproductive health and poverty. There are also new or emerging issues that require priority attention as they threaten or erode progress achieved in women's condition, including the new forms of violence in electronic media that victimize women, girls and children, and those related to the impact of climate change.

2. In terms of overall progress achieved, the country showed good standing in certain global indicators on gender equality. In 2013, the Philippines rose to 5th rank (from 8th in 2012 and 2011), in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF) making it again the only Asian country to be included in the top ten. According to the WEF (2013), this rise in rank is due to the small improvements in the Political Empowerment and Economic Participation and Opportunity sub-indexes. The Philippines is also the only country in Asia and the Pacific that has fully closed the gender gap in both education and health, placing it in the first rank in the area of educational attainment and health and survival (life expectancy).

Year	Global Gender Gap Index	World Rank
2013	0.7832	5 th
2012	0.776	8 th
2011	0.769	8 th
2010	0.765	9 th
2009	0.758	9 th
2008	0.757	6 th
2007	0.763	6 th
2006	0.752	6 th

Table 1: Ranking of the Philippines in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI)

3. Similarly, the Social Institutions and Gender Index^a (SIGI) launched in 2009 put Philippines in rank 7 out of 102 countries in 2009, and 12th out of 86 in 2012. Though sliding 5 notches down, the Philippines is still the top-ranking country in the East Asia and the Pacific. The Philippines' 12th ranking was reportedly due to the decline in rates of early marriages in the country over the last two decades. It also noted the following improvements: increase in female-headed households; passage of the Solo Parents Welfare Act in 2000 which provides for flexible work arrangements, parental leave and other benefits to solo parents and their children; passage of the 2004 Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act which protects women and children from any abuse in the context of marital, dating or common-law relationships; conduct of gender-sensitivity training sessions for police officers; and granting of all women (regardless of civil status) equal rights to apply for the purchase or lease of public lands. (OECD, 2012)

Major Achievements since 1995

4. Since the BPfA was agreed in 1995, the Philippines sustained its advocacy and other measures that resulted in major policy gains and improvements in many areas of women's concern, prominent of which are in education and their participation in politics and decision-making. The period also saw the development and strengthening of institutional mechanisms that support gender mainstreaming in government at national and local levels.

5. Women's political participation and education are two areas where women have achieved considerable progress. Major/core gender and development (GAD) indicators on education show that girls continue to be ahead of boys, and women are becoming more visible in politics.

Increased share in power and decision-making

6. The promotion of women's increased participation in politics and decision-making was boosted by the Magna Carta of Women which provides that "the State shall undertake temporary special measures to accelerate the participation and equitable representation of women in all spheres of society particularly in the decision-making and policy-making processes in government and private entities, to fully realize their role as agents and beneficiaries of development.."
7. Women have become increasingly visible in the political sphere with their steady increase in representation in legislative and executive positions. The Philippines had its second woman president in 2001 and who during her administration appointed the most number of woman cabinet members in 2001-2010: 10 of 19. The present administration (2010-2016) has also appointed at least 56 women in highest positions in the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary (Official Gazette, March 2014).
8. Possibly one of the most dramatic developments in governance efforts is the peace process which is being led by a woman (Teresita Quintos-Deles) as head of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). In the last few years, government relentlessly pursued its negotiations with the Bangsamoro which led to the recent signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the start of the crafting of the Bangsamoro Basic Law. The negotiation for the peace agreement was led by a woman (Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer) who serves as the Chief Negotiator of the Government of the Philippines-Moro Islamic Liberation Front (GPH-MILF) Peace Panel. The country adopted the UN Security Council Resolutions No. 1325 and 1820 thereby committing to ensure women's full participation in resolving conflict and post-conflict situations, and to recognize, sustain, and expand women's role in peace-building processes. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and OPAPP together with other government agencies and women and peace civil society organizations (CSOs) crafted the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) to operationalize these commitments.
9. In electoral politics, the last few years saw women's slow but steadily increasing participation in key positions with six women of 24 senators (25%) and 79 of the 289-member lower house (27%). Fifteen of them represent party-list organizations. More women have won seats in the Lower House in the 16th Congress compared to the 15th Congress (67 out of 292, or 23%) and the 14th Congress (57 out of 277, or 21%). The percentage share of women in local executive positions has also shown small but steady increase from 1998 to 2013.
10. Women are also slowly breaking the glass ceiling in the private business sector. According to a recent study by Grant Thornton International Business Report 2014, four out of ten senior roles in private business companies in the Philippines are occupied by women, an improvement from last year's 37% and higher than the 24% global average. This boosted the country's ranking in the global league of countries with the highest proportion of women holding senior posts to third place this 2014 from fifth in the previous year's ranking. (GTIBR, 2014)

Sustained better performance of girls in education

11. The Philippines is likely to meet its target of universal access to primary education, particularly in terms of elementary education net enrolment rate. With greater resources being allocated to the education sector, the backlogs in classrooms, teachers and books are being addressed. (5th MDG Philippine Progress Report, 2014) In terms of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 3, the gender gap in educational performance has been bridged in favor of girls and this has been sustained over the past several years. Goal number 3 aims to "eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015." Presented below (Table 2) are the indicators for this goal and their values for the Philippines, which show that girls consistently perform as well if not better than boys. They also tend to stay longer in school as the ratios for secondary and tertiary levels indicate. At the tertiary level, many more women than men pursue higher education; and while gender tracking of professions is still manifest in certain courses, women are increasingly entering traditionally male dominated courses.

target 3.A	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015*	Base	Target	Latest
indicator 3.1a	Ratio of girls to boys in primary education	1.0 1996	1.0 2015	0.92 2012
indicator 3.1a.1	Ratio of girls to boys in elementary participation rates	1.0 1996	1.0 2015	1.02 2012
indicator 3.1b	Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education	1.1 1996	1.0 2015	1.02 2012
indicator 3.1b.1	Ratio of girls to boys in secondary participation rates	1.2 1996	1.0 2015	1.17 2012
indicator 3.1c	Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education	1.3 1993	1.0 2015	1.2 2012

Table 2: MDG 3 Goals and Indicators for the Philippines
Source: National Economic and Development Authority

12. Women have higher literacy rates than men. The comparative literacy figures from 1990 to 2008 (Figure 1) show that the trend in higher literacy among women remained, with the gap peaking during the 2003 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS).

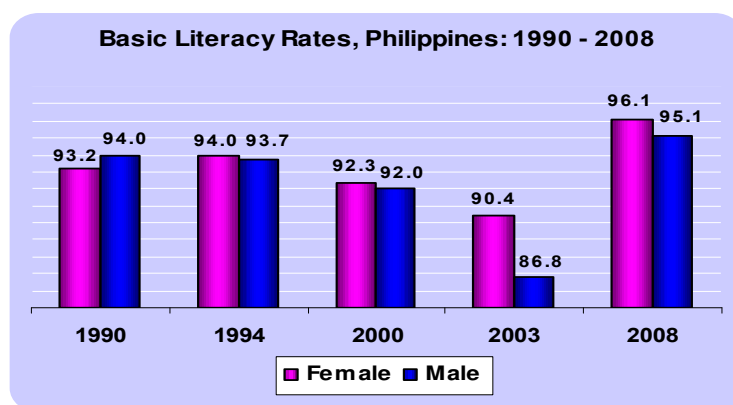


Figure 1: Basic Literacy Rates (1990-2008)
Source: FLEMMS 2003

13. A concern for the government, however, is the high dropout rates among students, which is higher for boys compared to girls, particularly those at secondary education level. Average Dropout Rate (ADR) at the elementary level was lower for girls at 5.02% compared with boys at 7.45%. This means that 5 in every 100 girls and 7 in every 100 boys failed to finish the school year 2010-2011. Different reasons of girls and boys for dropping out of school can be culled out from the Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS). For instance, among those with some elementary education, almost half of the boys (41%) gave lack of personal interest as a reason for dropping out compared to almost one quarter (24%) among girls. Notably, more than one fourth of the boys (26%) drop out of school because of employment; but girls are not equally pressed to work as boys, with 11% of them saying they quit school to earn a living for the family. The most glaring difference among girls and boys in terms of reason for dropping out is housework: 26% of girls compared to 1% of boys gave it as a reason (APIS 2004). This indicates that society's ascription of stereotypical roles and expectations of girls to do housework persists, and this continues to hamper girls' education and a better future. The probability of dropping out of school rises at the secondary level due to the higher cost of education, preference to search for employment and other economic reasons.

Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women

14. Since 1995, gender mainstreaming has consistently been promoted as a strategy to implement the BPfA, even while there were few available models, guides or tools on how to apply it in government processes. Gradually, structures and mechanisms were improved (national machinery, GAD focal point system), homegrown tools on gender analysis were developed, and knowledge and skills in use of gender analysis tools and sex-disaggregated data in policy, plan and program development improved. The GAD budget policy was institutionalized as a means to mainstream gender in government planning and budgeting process. All these became integral to the concept of gender mainstreaming in the Philippines, the interplay and complementation of which contributed to an improved environment for addressing gender issues.
15. Shortly after the Fourth World Conference on Women and the BPfA in 1995, the Philippines developed the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) 1995-2025, a 30-year strategic plan that fleshed out the BPfA. It was during the same year that a gender budget was approved as a provision of the General Appropriations Act, which gave a handle and budget support to the implementation of the PPGD. To assist government in prioritizing the issues and actions in the PPGD, the PCW, then National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, led the formulation of a shorter term version of the PPGD called the Framework Plan for Women 2004-2010 (FPW), a time slice plan derived from the larger plan. In 2012, PCW and partners crafted the Women's Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality Plan (Women's EDGE Plan 2013-2016) as a second time-slice of the PPGD and as a companion plan to the Philippine Development Plan, 2011-2016 (PDP). The Women's EDGE Plan also prides itself as the first plan for women to have a separate section devoted to the rights of the lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBTs).
16. Competency building on GAD, alongside the application of gender analysis tools, became an important requirement for government to enable them to implement the plan and utilize the GAD budget. As a result, gender became increasingly understood and mainstreamed in government work and in major government plans and policies, such as in the PDP and in the NAP WPS. The implementation of foreign-assisted projects (supported by UN, Canada and Spain) with national and local governments provided PCW critical lessons, skills and experiences in making gender mainstreaming work, particularly for women's economic empowerment.
17. During the period, other mechanisms were institutionalized and strengthened to support gender mainstreaming, among which are the GAD focal point system as enunciated by the MCW and strengthening of database on GAD including the piloting of three web-based systems: the National VAW Documentation System (NVAWDocS), the gender mainstreaming monitoring system (GMMS) and the gender resource pool data base (GRPD). Based on the MCW provisions, an indicator system was developed by PCW as basis in monitoring the implementation of the law. PCW also fine tuned the gender and development planning and budgeting process in accordance with the MCW through the issuance of a joint memorandum circular and the conduct of a series of orientation sessions on the revised GAD planning and budgeting process.
18. The continuous and determined efforts to experiment and innovate over the years taught the Philippines many lessons in gender mainstreaming. Many sectors of government require PCW's participation in policy development and planning as a result of its strong advocacy to mainstream gender in development work. While this challenged its meager resources, it is also seen as an indication that it is now being recognized as the authority on gender and development.

Major Legislative Developments

19. Much progress has been achieved in the institution of policies to address discrimination, particularly violence against women and children since 1995. Landmark laws addressing sexual harassment (Republic Act or RA 7877 of 1995); rape including marital rape, and assistance to rape victims (RA 8353 of 1997 and RA 8505 of 1998); violence against women and their children (RA 9262 of 2004); child pornography (RA 9775 of 2009; and photo and video voyeurism (RA 9995 of 2009) have been formulated. A law promoting the rights of solo parents was also passed in 2000. Among the other important laws that were passed more recently to promote the human rights of women are: a) the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2013 which provided for heavier punishments to perpetrators of human trafficking; b) the Domestic Workers Act of 2012 that provides protection to

domestic workers who are mostly women; and c) the RA 10151 or an Act allowing Employment of Night Workers, thereby expanding their employment or work options, and repealing Articles 130 and 131 of the Labor Code of the Philippines which prohibited women from working at night.

20. The passage of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) or RA 9710 in August 2009 remains as the biggest legislative development in the country in the last decade. The MCW is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination through the recognition, protection, fulfillment and promotion of the rights of women, especially those in the marginalized sectors of society across social, cultural, economic, civic and political spheres. It is also the national translation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the Philippines and therefore provides the legal definition of 'discrimination against women'. The passage of the law caps the success of the seven-year legislative lobbying of women's rights advocates from both government and non-government organizations. It is a testament of the growing commitment of the government in empowering women. As the MCW covers all 12 areas of concern of the BPfA, the succeeding Sections of this Progress Report will provide further elaboration of the law and its provisions relevant to the different areas of concern.
21. Another important policy development is the passage of RA 10354 on the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law in 2012 which underwent contentious debates among supporters and the opposition which lasted for more than 13 years. The law guarantees universal access to all methods of family planning, fertility management, sexuality education, and maternal care and it hopes to respond to the high maternal deaths related to childbirth. It also provides couples, especially women the right to freely decide on the number and spacing of their children according to their religious convictions. After the law was signed by the President, opponents of the law took their case to the Supreme Court for a status quo ante order, delaying further its implementation. On 8 April 2014, the Supreme Court declared the law constitutional. While preserving the core of the law, requiring the state to deliver the full range of family planning services to the public, the Supreme Court decision limits the scope of its coverage. In Section 7 of the law, the power of the government to oblige private hospitals and those owned by religious groups to refer patients to other facilities that offer reproductive health services was struck down. Another provision in the same section that allows minors to avail of family planning services without parental consent if they have already given birth or suffered a miscarriage was also declared unconstitutional.

Major Challenges

22. The country registered notable achievements especially in closing the gender gap and in empowering women in the areas of political participation and in education. In other areas, the progress of its work is hampered by persistent poverty, health and environmental issues. The MDG target on maternal health, which is 52/100,000 live births is unlikely to be achieved by 2015. The maternal mortality ratio went down from a high 209 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 162 in 2006, but increased to 221 based on the latest Family Health Survey (FHS) in 2011 (Figure 2). While authorities explain that the difference in figures between 2006 and 2011 may not be statistically significant, the fact remains that the country is far from achieving this MDG target.

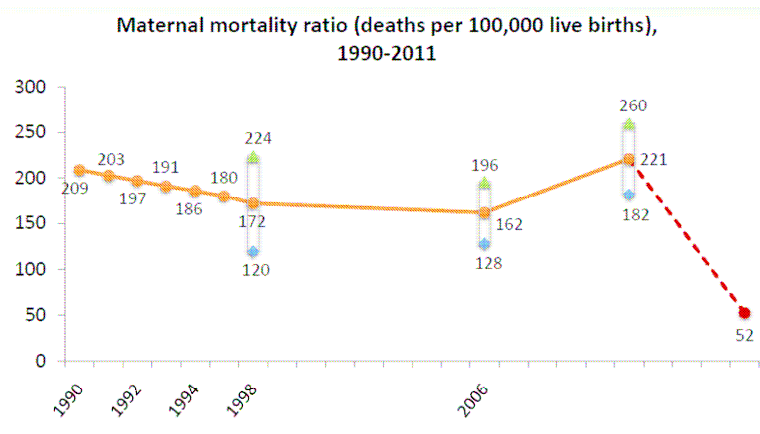


Figure 2: Maternal Mortality Ratio 1990-2011
Source: Family Health Survey 2011

23. The Philippines recorded an average growth rate of 5.2% over the past 10 years; however, poverty reduction and social inclusion continue to challenge the country's development efforts. The population living below the poverty line remains significant, and the country is at risk of not achieving by 2015 the MDG target on poverty reduction (from 26.3% poverty rate in 2009 to 17.2% by 2015), as shown in the graph below.

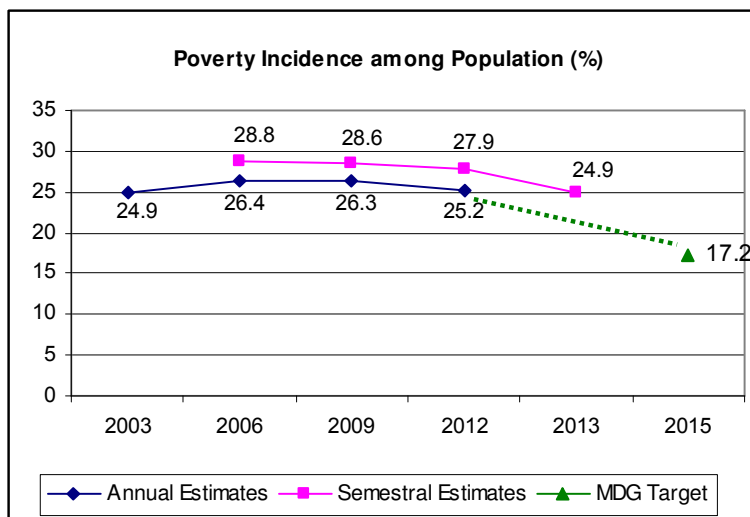


Figure 3: Poverty Incidence among population (%) 2003-2013
Source: National Economic and Development Authority

24. Poverty and other social issues are often worsened by various risks and hazards that affect the situation of the poor, the vulnerable, and the severely marginalized. Typhoons Ondoy (Ketsana), Sendong (Washi), Pablo (Bopha), Yolanda (Haiyan), among others, and the strong earthquakes in Bohol and Western Visayas wrought incalculable losses to life, livelihood and property. Typhoon Haiyan (in November 2013) alone affected more than 16 million women and men in Luzon and Visayas. It came just when the country was still reeling from the destructive impacts of the Bohol earthquake in October 2013 and was in the midst of its relief and rehabilitation work from the war in Zamboanga in September 2013. These events overstrained Philippine resources and affected relief, recovery and rehabilitation efforts. The outpouring support from the international community greatly eased the burden for the country. Women's economic welfare, health and security and stability, along with that of their families were shaken by the devastation their livelihood, family and community.
25. Natural disasters and human-induced hazards not only result in loss of many lives but also of billions of dollars of livelihood, homes, communities and habitat, not to mention the grave psychological and physical impact to those who are directly affected. With climate change bringing more disasters of greater intensity and devastation, particularly with the geographic location of the Philippines, there is a strong pressure on government to ensure the preparedness and adaptive capacity of the people, communities and local governments in terms of infrastructure, food and livelihood security measures and overall economic resiliency. These measures need to consider the interest of those who face multiple forms of vulnerability, e.g., poor women and men in rural and urban areas, indigenous peoples and elderly persons, and should ensure that protective mechanisms address these vulnerabilities, such as from gender-based violence, including trafficking, through the provision of appropriate services like the women and children-friendly spaces in evacuation centers and temporary shelters.

Approximate share of the national budget for GAD

26. The Philippines has institutionalized gender and development in the government budget. As early as 1992, the "Women in Development and Nation-Building Act" stipulated the allocation of 5 to 30% of overseas development assistance fund for gender responsive programs. This guided the Gender and Development (GAD) Budget Policy, which was institutionalized in the 1995 General Appropriations Act

(GAA), and every year thereafter.¹ It mandates all government departments, bureaus, offices and agencies to set aside at least 5% of their total budget appropriations on gender and development and to prepare their annual gender and development plans and budgets.² The Magna Carta of Women in 2009 enshrined the GAD budget policy, and its implementation is covered by the issuance of memorandum circulars³ or guidelines on the formulation of annual GAD plans and budgets and GAD accomplishment reports for national and local government. The GAD budget policy also prompted the Commission on Audit to include the audit of GAD fund expenditures by government among its priority audit policies and for which they have issued guidelines to all their auditors on the audit of the fund.

27. The GAD budget policy, which at the minimum should be 5% of the national budget, should provide an estimate of how much the country is spending to address gender issues and for what kinds of programs, policies or services. However, compliance to the policy over the years has been fraught with many challenges. The submission of many government agencies of their GAD plans and budgets has been irregular and oftentimes not according to standard requirements, despite continuing advocacy and technical assistance of PCW. Actual implementation of the plan and actual disbursement of the budget should be monitored and validated; however, PCW's limited human resource does not allow it to conduct more detailed agency review, monitoring and validation. It also does not have the people to go to local government units to provide technical assistance and to review plans and their implementation. The absence of more evidence-based assessment and analysis therefore makes it difficult to make an accurate estimate of how much is actually allocated and spent and to what extent these expenditures make a difference in the lives of affected client groups.
28. Data on agency compliance to the GAD budget policy show, for instance, that in 1995, only 19 agencies submitted their GAD Plans to PCW. By 2000, it went up to 140 GAD Plans, but declined to 113 in 2001. GAD Budget allocation declined accordingly in 2002, from \$.07 billion⁴ in 2000 to \$.02 billion in 2002 which is only .11% of the total national government budget. This does not include allocations by local government units. Figure 4 shows the trend of GAD Budget Allocation since 1995. The highest allocation of GAD Budget was recorded in 2009 and 2012, with \$.15 billion and \$.52 billion respectively. But still, the highest GAD Budget Allocation recorded did not reach the 5% target.

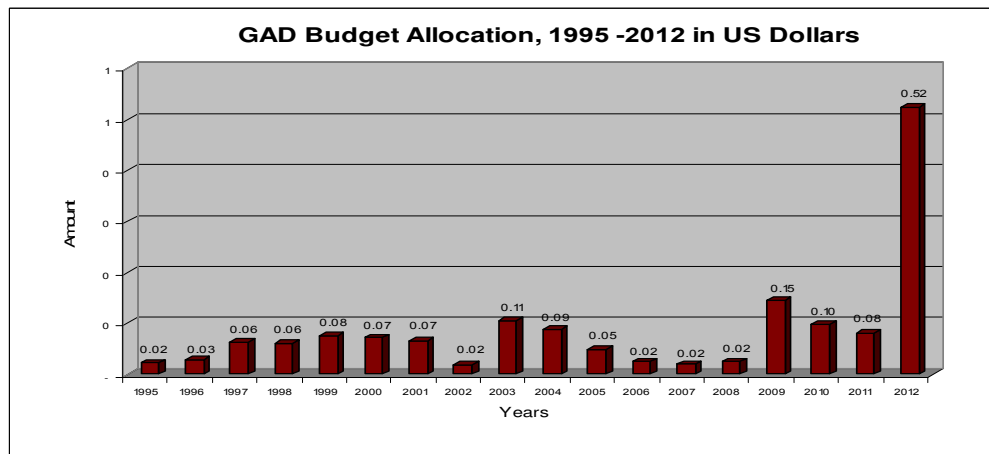


Figure 4: GAD Budget Allocation, 1995-2012 in US Dollars (in billion)
Source: Philippine Commission on Women

29. To make the GAD budget work, PCW needs to continue to strengthen its technical assistance provision to better guide government agencies in the formulation of their GAD Plans and Budgets. What mechanisms PCW has tapped and strategies it has employed will be discussed in Section 2.L Institutional Mechanisms.

¹ The General Appropriations Act is passed annually as the national government budget for the year.

² Sec. 33, General Appropriations Act FY 2014

³ Since 1995, at least 4 joint circulars were issued by the PCW together with the national planning body (NEDA) and the budget department (DBM) for national government agencies and with the local government department (DILG) for local government units.

⁴ Based on the exchange rate 1 USD = 44.51 PHP (rate as of April 15, 2014)

GO-NGO Mechanisms

30. Participatory governance is being institutionalized in the government, manifested through the various GO-NGO/CSO mechanisms in place, to foster cooperation and collaboration in addressing the wide array of development concerns. This GO-CSO engagement is inherent in the structure of the PCW, the national machinery on gender equality and women empowerment. 12 of the 22 PCW commissioners come from civil society, non-government, academe and private sector. NGO Commissioners represent mostly the vulnerable sectors like fishers and farmers, rural women, urban poor, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, young women and girls, etc., the appointment of which is done through an equally participatory process. The Board is the highest policy- and decision-making body of the Commission. To cascade this GO-NGO partnership at the local level, the guidelines issued to localize the Magna Carta of Women stipulates that the GAD focal points in LGUs should have representatives from CSOs/women's organizations among their members.
31. PCW conducts regular consultations with women's civil society and non-government organizations especially on policy and plans development and on CEDAW, BPfA and MDG reports. It has always supported the inclusion of CSOs in Philippine delegations to international and regional conferences particularly in the UN Commission on the Status of Women. And to broaden its influence and reach, the PCW is a member of various government/non-government interagency committees that deal with general and sectoral issues, where it endeavors to influence the policies and programs of the concerned institutions in said committees. Among these are the interagency councils or committees dealing with violence against women, human development and poverty reduction (a Cabinet-level cluster), social development, gender statistics, climate change, etc.
32. One NGO group that it engages with is the Women's Sectoral Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC WSC). The Council is composed of women representing various non-government, civil society and grassroots organizations nationwide. PCW's interest in partnership with the group is in the monitoring of MCW implementation at the local level, and in bringing to national attention issues of women on the ground, to enable it to articulate the same in national policies, plans and programs.
33. A more recent national GO-NGO mechanism to promote increased grassroots participation in decision making is the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Process (formerly known as Bottom-Up Budgeting or BUB). The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) introduced this to achieve community empowerment by encouraging citizens to take active roles in the community by articulating their needs and by determining projects that are responsive to their needs. Participatory budgeting is guided by 3 principles: convergence, participation, and empowerment. The process also stimulates partnership between local government and civil society and strengthens government-CSO relations in local development planning and budgeting, including in the preparation of LGUs' GAD plans and budgets.

MDGs facilitating or strengthening the implementation of the BPfA

34. The MDGs, BPfA and the CEDAW are viewed as interlinked with each other and mutually reinforcing. PCW's participation in monitoring the MDGs has always been underpinned by the human rights of women according to the CEDAW and the key areas of concern of the BPfA. Thus, it has consistently advocated for the integration of gender equality and women's concerns across all the MDG targets and for the expansion of the list of gender indicators to Goal 3 (gender equality). As a result, government has become more conscious of the gender dimension of each MDG goal, and to the extent possible, analyzed the indicators from a gender perspective, paying more attention to the needs and concerns of women and girl children in the implementation of the education, poverty eradication, health and the environment objectives. The MDGs also helped in strengthening the implementation of the BPfA and CEDAW by setting targets and timelines.

SECTION TWO

Progress in the implementation of the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action since 2009

35. National initiatives to address the BPfA 12 areas of concern highlight the government's commitment to secure equality, development and peace for Filipino women. Over the past five years since 2009, the Philippine government has undertaken further initiatives to advance the rights of women in the critical areas of concern. While there are reported improvements or some progress contributing to the desired outcome indicators, there remain challenges towards achieving desired results. There are also emerging issues along these concerns that warrant appropriate interventions.
36. This Section is a review of the progress in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the platform for action since 2009 to 2013.

A. Women and Poverty

37. The Philippine economy registered a remarkable growth which reached 7.7% in the first quarter of 2013 (from 6.5% in the same period in 2012), despite the recent string of disasters. A major decline was also observed in the poverty incidence in the first semester of 2013 with 24.9% from 27.9% in 2012. In terms of families, poverty incidence likewise declined to 19.1% in the same period from 22.3% in 2012. NEDA reported that this improvement in the poverty incidence in the first half of 2013 is evidence that the Philippine's development strategies are heading in the direction of inclusive growth. Sustaining rapid economic growth while maintaining a sound macroeconomic environment has proven to be effective in reducing poverty.
38. Despite this, the Philippines still has a "low" probability of bringing down to 17.2% the proportion of Filipinos earning less than a dollar a day by 2015; one out of five Filipino families remained poor as of 2012 according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)⁵. PSA also estimated that a total of \$2.79 billion (Php 124 billion) was required in 2012 to eradicate poverty, that is, if government were to provide mere cash transfer to all poor households to cross the poverty line.

Programs and Policies and Key Achievements

39. Guided by the 16-point Social Contract of the current President with the Filipino people, the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 (PDP) was formulated and adopted with inclusive growth as a framework, which is high growth that is sustained, generates mass employment, and reduces poverty. With good governance and anti-corruption as the overarching theme of each and every intervention, the Plan translated into specific goals, objectives, strategies, programs and projects all the things that the country sought to accomplish in the medium term. Guided by this PDP, the government aimed to pursue rapid and sustainable economic growth and development, improve the quality of life of the Filipino, empower the poor and marginalized and enhance our social cohesion as a nation.
40. The government has adopted a Convergence Strategy to address poverty through the harmonized implementation of three major and complimentary anti-poverty programs, namely: the National Community-Driven Development Program (NCDDP), an enhancement of the *Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* (Linking Arms against Poverty)-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS); the Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT, also known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program); and the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

⁵ Source: <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2013/12/09/1266027/1-out-5-filipino-families-poor>

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41. KALAH-CIDSS is a community-driven development program that seeks to empower through enhanced participation of the community, especially women, in local governance and in community-driven development projects. It provides funding for community- identified and driven infrastructure projects such as school buildings, health centers, farm-to-market roads, foot bridges, and water systems, among others. In 2013, KALAH-CIDSS expanded its coverage to reach up to 50% of the poorest municipalities in targeted provinces by utilizing the Additional Financing (AF) of the World Bank (WB) and a grant from the United States' Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) implemented KALAH-CIDSS1 from 2003 to 2010, started KALAH-CIDSS-AF in 2010, and KALAH-CIDSS-MCC in 2011. Combining the two and all other modalities, it has covered 374 municipalities. The DSWD is now also gearing for the scaling up of the implementation of KALAH-CIDSS' Community-Driven Strategy, with its expansion into the KALAH CIDSS-National Community Driven Development Program which will target the coverage of 847 poorest municipalities across the country.
 42. The CCT Program is a human rights based program that focuses on human capital investment through the provision of health, nutrition and education cash grant to eligible poor households subject to certain conditions. It seeks to enable poor households to meet certain human development goals aimed at breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Poor households with children 0-18 years old and mothers, especially pregnant or lactating women are eligible for the health transfer set at \$11.23 per month. The education transfer is \$6.74 for 10 months per year for up to a maximum of 3 children. As of December 2013, program implementation has already reached 1,484 municipalities covering over 3,841,147 household beneficiaries where 97% are women (3,505,703). The CCT Program evaluation showed that the intervention has lessened the burden of women as grant managers. It has provided them additional income for the basic needs of the family and has also given them some degree of empowerment and financial freedom from their husband. The program has also led to an increase in the enrollment of children and in the number of women availing prenatal and postnatal care, and has encouraged parents to ensure that their young children undergo monitoring, immunization, and periodic check-ups. The program has as well induced women as parent leaders to actively participate and address community issues and concern particularly in the basic rights of the CCT Program women beneficiaries. A modified CCT program is now being implemented to mainstream the street families and indigenous cultural communities in the program.
 43. The SLP extends capital assistance and capability building to beneficiaries to start their own income-generating projects. To date, 378,074 households continue to generate income through the employment and business opportunities under SLP. The Microenterprise Development Track used the Self-Employment Assistance-*Kaunlaran* (development) or SEA-K modality which is a community-based credit assistance program which utilizes people's organizations uniformly called SEA-*Kaunlaran* (development) Associations as credit conduits. The participants, majority of them women, are provided Basic Business Management Training (BBMT) which includes sessions on basic book keeping and project proposal making and were provided with financial capital assistance to start their own micro-enterprise. From January 2011 to December 2013, a total of 179,083 women were served thru SLP under the SEA-K scheme.
 44. To highlight the importance of convergence and illustrate how it works, DSWD explains that CCT Program beneficiaries can avail of basic services such as education and health through the facilities built through KALAH-CIDSS right in their communities. CCT Program beneficiaries who are graduating from the program are linked to the SLP to provide them access to livelihood and employment opportunities to sustain their daily needs.
 45. Other government agencies also implement anti-poverty programs targeting different vulnerable sectors. For instance, the labor department implements the *Kabuhayan* (Livelihood) Program which provides access to livelihood opportunities through capacity building facility on livelihood and entrepreneurial ventures for the workers in the informal economy and the vulnerable groups of workers such as parents of child laborers, women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, among others. As of December 2013, there were 43,885 women provided with livelihood assistance and 68,141 were provided with livelihood enhancement assistance or a total of 112,026 women beneficiaries. This accounted for about 27% of the program's total beneficiaries.
 46. Micro-insurance coverage in the Philippines is the highest among Asian emerging economies at 20.4% of total population. According to the National Credit Council, micro-insurance coverage rose from 3
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million in 2008, which was a mere 3.3% of the population, to 19.95 million in 2013, a six-fold increase over 5 years.⁶ The People's Credit and Finance Corporation, one of the institutions that promote micro-insurance as a means of financially empowering the poor in partnership with their accredited microfinance institutions, reported that since 2009, there has been an increasing trend in female borrowers, in the amount of loans released to them and in their savings generated. The Department of Finance and the Insurance Commission also continue to promote the increase in micro-insurance coverage through more financial literacy campaigns and through the development of more micro-insurance products especially those that reduce agricultural and disaster risks.

47. The Philippine government also implements rural agricultural programs for poor farmers through improved access to land, better land tenure, credit support to farmer productivity and participation in farmer organizations. A total of 674,486 women and 1,628,968 men Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) have been provided with Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA). Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the Program Beneficiaries Development Program has provided women and men appropriate support to make the land productive. There are 468,706 female members in the agrarian reform cooperatives; around 3,283 ARB organizations/women organizations; 11,118 female board of directors in ARB organizations; 8,311 female ARBs involved in planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of socio-economic programs of organizations within agrarian reform communities; 8,349 female ARBs elected at *barangay* (village) level; 1,244 female ARBs elected at municipal level and 193 female ARBs elected as the provincial level.
48. Victims of calamities who are poor are supported through the Core Shelter Assistance Program and Cash/Food for Work Project for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Core Shelter supports the immediate need of the vulnerable sectors in distressed areas, particularly in natural calamity and disaster-stricken communities to acquire decent shelter. It includes social preparation, food/cash-for-work assistance, technical support in housing construction and financial assistance. As of February 2014, a total of 172 shelter units for displaced families were funded amounting to \$270,501. The Cash/Food-for-Work Project for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) aims to provide temporary employment to distressed/displaced individuals in times of disaster. The wage they receive from work rendered augments their needs (food and other basic necessities). As of January 2014, a total of 216,321 IDPs were served by the program.
49. There has also been increasing advocacy and demand for support for persons with disabilities (PWDs), especially the poor. The Philippine Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons in 1992 and Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1997 provide very strong policy environment for this vulnerable group. The mechanisms have provided the following entitlements for persons with disabilities (PWDs): 1% of agency budget for PWDs, access to affordable social protection, poverty alleviation programs and a basic sector representation in the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

Remaining Gaps and Challenges

50. With the numerous interventions aimed at poverty alleviation, there is need for a deeper assessment of their gender-responsiveness to allow for more purposive targeting and planning. The basic requirement for a sex-disaggregated database for gender analysis needs to be observed, particularly in the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of programs. Gender analysis ensures that sectoral programs consider the specific needs of the different sectors including women.
51. The current administration has shown the strongest commitment to eradicate poverty through the convergence of programs such as the CCT Program, community driven development and job-skills matching. However, there is need for more in-depth monitoring and evaluation of the impact of these programs to determine the extent that they are able to ease the burden of the poor. There is also need for greater coordination and harmonization of programs and policies targeting the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups like the PWD, the indigenous and the internally displaced peoples.

⁶ Source: <http://www.malaya.com.ph/business-news/business/micro-insurance-pays-p500m-yolanda-victims>

B. Education and Training of Women

52. Education is key in moving people out of poverty and in breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty among families. It is an investment in human capital development to enable citizens to obtain decent work or livelihood to meet their basic needs and bring their families out of poverty. According to the latest Progress Report on the MDGs, the Philippines is likely to meet its target of universal access to primary education. However, although the participation rate has significantly improved, the completion rate at the elementary level has declined and quality of education still needs to be improved.
53. The MDG3 target on eliminating gender disparity in education has been met in primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Since 2009, completion and survival rates in primary and secondary education favor females than males (Annex 3). There were slight improvements in elementary cohort survival rate or CSR (74.2% to 75.3%) and completion rate or CompR (72.1% to 73.7%) from 2010 to 2012. The reverse is true for secondary education with a decline in CSR from 79.4 percent to 78.2 percent, and the CompR from 75.1% to 74.8% in the same period. As of March 2010, the PSA reported that “school attendance remains higher among females than males between the ages of 5 and 24. At the tertiary level and postgraduate level, there are more females than males enrolled in various courses. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) estimates that for school year 2011-2012, the ratio of females to males participating in tertiary education ranged consistently from 1.18 to 1.25. In terms of functional literacy, females have higher rates than males (88.7% vs. 84.2%, FLEMMS, 2008). In terms of regional performance, data showed that lowest literacy rates were reflected for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).⁷

Programs and Policies

54. Government efforts are directed towards achieving universal primary education and implementation of the universal kindergarten program, and ensuring the required resources to meet these targets. In addition, there are efforts to address disparities in educational opportunities of boys and girls particularly for the vulnerable groups, and to correct remaining biases in educational materials and methods. For instance, the Department of Education (DepEd) has gradually introduced the integration of gender concepts and use of gender sensitive principles in curriculum development and implementation at various levels. The Department is working on the release of the third edition of the “lesson exemplars” or teaching guides that have the effect of harmonizing the implementation of pedagogical strategies and gender concepts in primary and later on secondary education and in accordance with the K to 12 Program (Kindergarten plus 12 years of basic education).⁸ For the Philippine Science High School System, six GAD Training Modules were developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for more gender sensitive instructional materials and methods for the science high schools.
55. Special education programs that target the marginalized and minority groups are important to ensure and increase the chances of girls and boys belonging to minority groups to access at least basic education that recognizes and respects their culture, practices and needs. Along this line, DepEd implements Homeschooling, Alternative Delivery Modalities, Alternative Learning System and the *Abot-Alam* (Reaching Knowledge) Program which provide educational opportunities for working and out-of-school youths and over-aged populations to complete primary and secondary levels. The Department also prescribes and encourages the institutionalization of madrasah education (for Muslim students) and Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED). Today, madrasah schools, or madaris, are scattered nationwide, with the majority found in Central and Western Mindanao.⁹ President Aquino included madrasah education for Muslim learners as one of his priority concerns in his Ten-Point Education Agenda. In 2011, he approved the allocation of \$6.7 million (Php 300 million) (from \$4.5 million or Php 200 million in 2010) to fund various initiatives to ensure that the education the Muslims get is responsive to their specific learning needs. In 2013, DepEd has earmarked an additional \$5,617 (Php 250,000) grant to each Muslim school to upgrade their physical facilities and improve operational capabilities to better implement a culturally-sensitive and Islam-friendly curriculum. For the IPED Program, DepEd allocated \$2,247 for school year 2013-2014 to finance capacity-building programs for

⁷ Source: <http://www.philstar.com/business/2013/12/31/1273515/phl-literacy-rate-improves-97.5-nso>

⁸ The K to 12 Program places the country at par with international standards covering the 12 years required in basic education.

⁹ Source: <http://www.muslimmindanao.ph/madrassa.html>

IPs as part of its thrust to make education universal and inclusive of all learners. The IPED program will give the country an IP education that responds to the context of indigenous peoples, respects their identity, and supports their knowledge, skills, and cultural heritage. The fund will be given to 100 divisions in Metro Manila and in 15 regions nationwide.¹⁰

56. The National Commission on Disability Affairs (NCDA) institutionalized a Leadership Training Manual which encourages the full integration of women and girls with disability. These trainings cover leadership, enterprise management, livelihood management and knowledge acquisition on various aspects on the advancement of women's rights and accessibility for persons with disabilities.
57. Efforts to broaden career opportunities of both women and men are also underway. Through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Women Center¹¹, there has been a movement of women towards technical and vocational training programs previously dominated by men, such as in welding, consumer electronics servicing and automotive servicing. From 2009 to 2012, 52% of the 6,930,136 total enrollees in TESDA's Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)'s were females; and of the 6,181,573 TVET graduates, 52% were females. The private sector in the country has also been encouraging women to train in non-traditional skills. The first set of linewomen in Southeast Asia were absorbed and trained by the primary electric corporation in 2013.
58. For academic courses, the CHED provided scholarship grants to a total of 2,051 females who desired to enroll in male-dominated courses and males who desire to enroll in female-dominated courses from 2011-2014. CHED also established the Students' Financial Assistance Programs to provide financially marginalized and deserving Filipinos opportunities and access to quality higher education through the creation and maintenance of scholarship, grants-in-aid and loan programs, as articulated in the Long Term Development Plan provisions for "Access and Equity." The Commission is also implementing the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) mandated by Executive Order No. 330. This is a comprehensive program which involves identifying, assessing and assigning equivalent college-level learning for non-formal and informal training, knowledge, skills, attitudes and values from related work experiences towards the grant of academic undergraduate degrees to qualified individuals.
59. The Higher Education Gender and Development Accord (HEGAD) of 2011 was forged by the CHED, PCW and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) with 1,643 schools 112 state universities and colleges and 95 local community colleges in the higher education sector. This document institutionalized the commitments, responsibilities and accountabilities of higher education institutions nationwide and ensured that the learning environment discourages sexual harassment and other forms of gender biases, prejudices and discrimination. The educational system also institutionalized the implementation of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) to eliminate all forms of gender-based sexual harassment in the educational workplace or training area. State universities and colleges support women and other marginalized groups by mobilizing their Extension Services Units in the implementation of basic technical trade courses on livelihood programs of adopted *barangays* (villages).

Remaining Issues and Challenges

60. The Philippine educational system has evidently made significant advancement in so far as acknowledgement of women's contribution and potential as key actors in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) for nation-building are concerned. However, there is still a need to effectively address some issues, primary of which is keeping children in the school system until they finish the final year, especially the boys. The low literacy and functional rates among boys is also a major concern. Regional disparities in poverty and educational performance also demand attention, such as the lowest literacy rate and highest poverty incidence registered in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in 2012. This indicates the need to strengthen education programs, particularly access to educational facilities in areas where poverty incidence is high.
61. Filipino women are gaining equality in terms of figures in enrollment and graduates in technical vocational education and training, but there is need for stronger promotion for their entry to courses traditionally dominated by men, such as setting-up and making available more women-friendly facilities.

¹⁰ Source: <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/celebration-inclusive-education-indigenous-peoples-165158524.html>

¹¹ The TESDA Women Center was established in 1998 to address gender issues such as limited opportunities and access of women to technical vocational education and training (TVET) especially in courses traditionally dominated by men utilizing competency based training approach.

At the same time, there is also a need to intensify efforts to change the mindset of women themselves about engaging in non-traditional courses for which they were trained.

62. Finally, in order to address the disparity in education between girls and boys, and to ensure that boys are not left behind, an intensive research is necessary to identify contributing factors for the high drop-out rate of boys in school, as well as their low performance and interest.

C. Women and Health

63. Life expectancy is one of the indicators of human development. Based on certain indicators, the overall health status of women is generally good. With a life expectancy of 73.9 years, Filipino women, like the rest of the women population in the world, live longer than men (69.5 years). The nutritional status of pregnant women is also within “normal” range at 75% for all ages (Annex 4).
64. According to the 2011 Most-at-Risk Population (MARP) and Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) Estimate, the HIV prevalence is projected at 0.048% in 2013 or 48 cases per 100,000 adults and it will remain less than 1% by 2015, or 0.062%. It should be noted, however, that the projections show that the total HIV population may be higher compared to the cases reported in the Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry of the National Epidemiology Center which is a passive surveillance system. (Philippine 5th MDG Progress Report, 2014) The incidence among young people aged 15-24 who are living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus has consistently been low in 2011 at 0.026% for both sexes, but still lower among females at 0.0125% versus 0.0395% among males¹². In the last two years, however, there is a rapid increase in cases of HIV and AIDS infections, thereby alerting the health department to step up its efforts towards preventive interventions. Anti-retroviral drugs have been made available under the government’s universal health coverage provided for by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) for poor patients.
65. A most serious concern of government is the persistent high rate of maternal mortality among Filipino women. According to the 2011 Family Health Survey (FHS), the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) stood at 221 per 100,000 live births, higher than the 209 ratio in 1990. While authorities consider the difference insignificant, the rate is still very high and very far from the MDG target of 52 per 100,000 live births in 2015. Health authorities attribute the persistently high mortality to a number of reasons, including inadequate health services for the poor; only 59.8% of deliveries are done in health facilities. Further, other contributing factors include complications related to pregnancy, hypertension, and postpartum hemorrhage, which are perennial causes; inadequate reproductive health care services, including family planning services and lack of access thereto, especially by poor women (Women’s EDGE Plan). NDHS 2013 data show that the contraceptive prevalence rate remains low at 55.1% in 2013 despite the recorded increase from 50.7% in 2008 (Annex 5).
66. Adolescents face many threats to their health and well-being. There is now the concern for the rising trend in teenage pregnancy and fertility which poses a number of negative socio-economic and health consequences. Teenage pregnancy rose from 143,953 in 2005 to 207,898 in 2010, according to the PSA-Sta. Mesa. The 2013 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey (YAFS) reported that the percentage of girls aged 15-19 who became mothers rose to 13.6% in 2013, from 6.3% in 2002. Bringing this about is the high prevalence of premarital sex among young adults, which researchers report rose from 23.2 % in 2002 to 32% in 2013. The report also noted that 78% of the first instance of premarital sex was unprotected from pregnancy and from sexually-transmitted infections. The demographic implications of early teenage pregnancies include higher fertility (as a result of longer sexual exposure), which in turn results in a larger number of young dependents and the need for more health and nutrition interventions for this segment of the population. Further, adolescent mothers have an increased risk of premature labor and complications during and after delivery, which may lead to high morbidity and mortality among mothers and their children. Early childbearing for young women can also severely affect their education and employment opportunities, which can likely have a long-term impact on their quality of life.

¹² Source: 2012 Global AIDS Response Progress Report prepared by the Philippine National AIDS Council

Policies and Programs

67. In 2012, the country witnessed the dramatic passage of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law (RPRH Law), after languishing in the legislative mill and the subject of debate both in the government and private sector for more than 13 years. The law guarantees universal access to all methods of family planning, fertility management, sexuality education, and maternal care and hopes to respond to the high maternal deaths related to childbirth. This will provide couples, especially women the right to freely decide on the number and spacing of their children and help address the pressing issue of maternal health in the country. However, after the law was signed by the President in 2012, opponents of the law took their case to the Supreme Court for a *status quo ante* order, delaying further its implementation. It was only on April 8, 2014 did the Supreme Court (SC) declare the law constitutional, except for some provisions of the law struck down by the SC in full or partially^b. The challenge to the Philippine government is ensuring that the law is fully implemented and that poor families, especially women, will be able to access the entitlements of the law.
68. As the national health policy-maker and regulatory institution, the Department of Health (DOH) guarantees equitable, sustainable and quality health for all Filipinos, especially the poor, and leads the quest for excellence in health along with other agencies (e.g. National Nutrition Council, Commission on Population, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation). After 2009, policies relevant to women and children included (1) micronutrient supplementation to support MDG targets to reduce under-five and maternal deaths, (2) child growth standard, (3) administration of life-saving drugs and medicine by midwives to rapidly reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality, and (4) national strategy towards producing unmet need for modern family planning as means to achieve the MDG on maternal health.
69. The FOURmula ONE for Health, or F1, was the health reform strategy implemented from 2005 to 2010 which paved the way for the implementation of the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) strategy in response to MDG4 (reduce child mortality) and MDG5 (improve maternal health). It upgraded *Barangay* (village) Health Stations and Rural Health Units nearest to the communities to provide Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (BEmONC) services to reduce maternal mortality ratio and, upgraded government levels 1 and 2 hospitals to provide Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care services (CEmONC). As of February 2014, DOH designated 1,921 BEmONC health facilities for 1,535 municipalities and 279 CEmONC facilities.
70. The Aquino Health Agenda (AHA) was launched in 2010 (Administrative Order 2010-2016) to address the remaining gaps and challenges on inequity in health. The Agenda contains the operational strategy called *Kalusugan Pangkalahatan* (KP or Universal Health Care) which aims to achieve universal health care for all Filipinos. KP seeks to ensure equitable access to quality health care by all Filipinos beginning with those in the lowest income quintiles. The KP strategy has three thrusts: (1) financial risk protection through rapid expansion in National Health Insurance Program (NHIP); (2) improved access to quality hospitals and health care facilities; and (3) attainment of the health-related MDGs. Among its key accomplishments included: a) initiation and expansion of catastrophic care (Z-benefits) and primary care packages, including maternity packages of PhilHealth; b) building and upgrade of more health facilities under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP); c) training and deployment of Community Health Teams (CHT) to increase awareness on utilization of PhilHealth benefits and access to MDG-related health services; and, d) participation in advocacy for passage of health legislations like Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law.
71. One of the three thrusts of the Universal Health Care strategy is the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). The budget allocation by the national government for the premium of the indigents under the NHIP increased from \$270 million (Php 12.03 billion) in 2012 to \$283 million (Php 12.6 billion) in 2013. By 2014, the national government subsidy increased threefold \$786 million (Php 35 billion) to ensure the coverage of the 14.7 million indigent families (poor and near-poor).
72. One of the major challenges in the Philippine health sector is providing access to appropriate health facilities for the poor and the marginalized sector of the society. Responding to this particular problem, the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), one of the banner programs of the current administration, targets to upgrade health facilities as well as provide training to health professionals to

improve access of people to quality health care.¹³ The HFEP included capacitating 3,059 midwives for rural health placement to contribute to meeting MDGs 4 and 5. PhilHealth also launched Z-Benefits package intended for better health outcomes to cancer patients, including early-stage breast cancers.

73. In the 2010 update of the LGU Scorecard, better-than-target achievements were significant in TB cure rates, PhilHealth accreditation for outpatient benefit packages, and for Tuberculosis Directly Observed Short-course (TB-DOTS) among rural health units and health centers. In 2013, a total of 46,000 Community Health Teams (CHTs) (as mentored by Registered Nurses for Health Enhancement and Local Service, or RNHeals) were deployed. By 2014, an additional 26,000 CHTs, including 11,000 RNHeals, will be deployed to assist families in utilizing essential health services.
74. In 2012, the Expanded Program on Immunization included rotavirus vaccine, making the Philippines the first in Southeast Asia to implement the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation. Malaria-free provinces increased to 27. Anti-retroviral drugs (ARV) are continued to be provided to persons living with HIV (PLHIV) free of charge through the DOH and its treatment hubs. As of December 2013, there were 5,564 people living with HIV presently on anti-retroviral therapy (ART). This is estimated to be 82% of projected PLHIV needing ART (6,779 based on the 2011 MARP and PLHIV Estimate). There are now 17 HIV treatment hubs in DOH-retained regional hospitals, 2 private hospitals and 3 satellite treatment hubs in selected LGUs. Outpatient care (e.g. laboratory requirements) of PLHIV is now covered by the PhilHealth: from October 2010 to date, around 40% of PLHIV needing treatment were enrolled to the PhilHealth outpatient benefit package. (Philippine 5th MDG Progress Report, 2014)

Remaining Issues and Challenges

75. Consistency in age and sex disaggregation of data for monitoring women's health remains a major challenge including consistency in measurement methods in some indicators. Data on the elderly, indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, and those affected by disasters are limited, as are epidemiological and coverage data for pregnant women living with HIV including documentation on psychosocial aspects of interventions. Review of programs and services should include subjecting these to gender analysis to ensure inclusion of all stakeholders such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, including services in disaster areas. Policies and programs should also be in place for quality, sustainable integration of psychosocial components in interventions.
76. Other gender issues in the health sector identified during consultations conducted by the PCW with the DOH were the following: high prevalence of malnutrition and iron-deficiency anemia among pregnant women and girls; disparities in access of women and girls to health services; increasing number of reported cases of gender-based violence and lack of gender sensitivity of health care providers. These issues have been tackled in the Women's EDGE Plan 2013-2016.

D. Violence against Women

77. Several laws have been enacted to raise the awareness of the general public and to prevent and protect women from violence and abuse. Most important of these are the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law (RA 7877, 1995), Anti-Rape Law (RA 8353, 1997), the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children or intimate partner violence law (RA 9262, 2004), the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (RA 9208, 2003) and its amended version, the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, the Anti-Child Pornography Act (RA 9775, 2009) and the Anti Photo and Video Voyeurism Act (RA 9995, 2009). The most recent is the law declaring November 25 as National Consciousness Day to Eliminate Violence against Women and Children (RA 10398, 2013). General laws like the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710, 2009) and the Domestic Workers Act (RA 10361, 2013) also have specific provisions to protect women from violence and abuse. The Revised Penal Code of the Philippines (RPC) contains provisions protecting women from crimes such as seduction, abduction and acts of lasciviousness.
78. The figure below depicts the trend in the reporting of cases of violence against women from 1997, when the relevant laws were enacted, up to 2013. There was a slight but steady increase in reporting since

¹³ Source: http://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/OPCCB/fpb/g_DOH-HFEP/DOH-HFEP_executive%20summary.pdf

2006, which sharply rose in 2010, 2012 and 2013, from 16,104 in 2010, to 15,969 in 2012 and 23,865 in 2013. Majority of the cases filed (69%, 2013) were violations of RA 9262 or the intimate partner violence law and a sizeable percentage (15%) were cases of women experiencing physical injuries. Cases of rape registered at 5%. Annexes 6 and 7 show a more detailed breakdown of the reported cases for the different forms of VAW from 2009-2013, and shows the breakdown of ages of VAW victims in 2013. The rising number of reported cases (VAW)¹⁴ could mean that as a result of wider advocacy among concerned agencies, more women are aware and are encouraged to break their silence and seek help from authorities like the police and social workers.

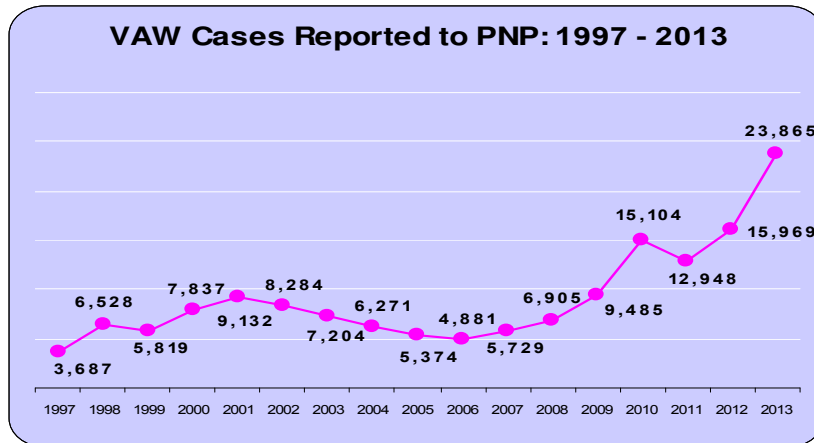


Figure 5. Annual Comparative Statistics on Violence against Women (VAW) Cases Reported to the Philippine National Police (2009-2013)
Source: Philippine National Police

79. To generate more national level data on VAW, the 2008 and the preliminary results of 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)¹⁵ included a separate questionnaire called the Women's Safety Questionnaire which focused on specific aspects of violence against women. The module sought to capture the prevalence extent and types of violence experienced by women of reproductive age (15-49 years old). Highlights of the 2008 NDHS results are the following:

- 1 in 5 women (20%) experienced physical violence since age 15, and 7% experienced physical violence in the 12 months preceding the survey;
- 4% of women who have ever been pregnant report having experienced physical violence during pregnancy;
- 9% of women have ever experienced sexual violence; 4% of women who have ever had sex had their first experience of sexual intercourse forced against their will;
- 18% of women who have ever been married have experienced physical or sexual violence by a husband;
- 10% of women experienced spousal physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months;
- Almost half (49%) of women whose husbands get drunk very often report that they are victims of physical or sexual violence; and
- About 1/5 of women report that they fought back physically, while 27% have fought back verbally; 18% have sought help from an outside source such as their own family or a friend/neighbor.

80. Three fourths (76%) of the 18,215 violence against women and children (VAWC) cases of violation of RA 9262 that reached the DOJ for investigation and prosecution in 2013 were resolved. Of these, 76% (9,286) were filed in court, 22% (3,959) were dismissed and 3% (552) were suspended/referred/other actions. DOJ also handled 9,445 rape cases for investigation, of which 7,198 or about 76% were resolved: 59% (5,614) were filed in court, 14% (1,310) were dismissed, and 3% (274) were

¹⁴ Violence against Women or VAW as used herein refers to the broader context of gender-based violence, not only of the Anti-VAWC Act. The MCW defines VAW as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

¹⁵ The NDHS collected information on the following forms of spousal violence: 1) physical violence; 2) sexual violence; 3) emotional violence; and 4) economic violence (the 3rd and 4th forms of VAW were grouped together in the survey as "other forms of violence"). The module also included questions on marital control, which may fall either under emotional/psychological violence or economic violence.

suspended/referred/other actions. In 2012, at least 1,233 court convictions were reported relative to RA 9262 violation, rape and acts of lasciviousness, almost twice the reported 664 in 2011. (DOJ, 2014)

81. Victims of trafficking are also predominantly women, although their percentage is decreasing. PNP data in 2011 showed that of 881 trafficking in person (TIP) victims, 94.8% are women. The percentage decreased to 84.6% (of 963) in 2012 and to 73.9% (of 455) in 2013. The number of TIP cases also rose from 187 in 2011 to 222 in 2012, but slightly declined to 201 cases in 2013.¹⁶
82. Records show a sharp rise in conviction of TIP cases from 2010 up to 2014. Data from the Inter-agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) showed that from 2005 to January 2014, there were 126 convictions involving 144 convicted persons; 77% of the said convictions occurred during the Aquino administration.¹⁷ This figure, however, is small compared to some 1,519 cases lodged before the courts. Those convicted were meted a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and fines ranging from \$22,467 to \$179,735 (Php 1 million to Php 8 million). Most of the convicted human traffickers were involved in sex and cyber-sex trade preying on the poor by force, fraud or through a promise of big money.¹⁸

Programs and Policies

83. To further advance the efforts to address VAW, concerned government agencies have been implementing various initiatives since 2009. Agencies such as the DOJ and DILG continuously monitor VAW cases. The DILG also monitors the compliance of LGUs to the Joint Memorandum Circular 2010-1 with DOJ and DSWD on the Creation of Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence against Women and Their Children (LCAT-VAWC). As of 2013, there were 36 out of 80 provinces with Provincial CAT-VAWC, 106 out of 143 cities with City CAT-VAWC, and 1,051 out of 1,491 municipalities with Municipal CAT-VAWC. The Inter-agency Council on Violence against Women (IACVAWC) and the Inter-agency Committee against Trafficking (IACAT) also formulated their national action plans to better guide the government in their efforts to curb trafficking and address violence against women.
84. The PCW developed the Barangay VAW Desk Handbook in 2013 as a supplement to the provision of the MCW and DILG-DSWD-DOH-DepEd-PCW Joint Memorandum Circular on the establishment of VAW Desks in all Barangays. The Handbook is meant to assist the *barangay* (village) workers and officials in responding to cases of violence committed against women. It provides a detailed discussion on how the head of *Punong Barangay* (Village Head) can set up and maintain a VAW Desk and explains to the designated Barangay VAW Desk Officer his/her responsibilities as the person-in-charge of the Desk. It also includes information to guide *barangay* officials and volunteers on how to give efficient and effective services and aid for victim-survivors. As of March 2014, 31,431 (75%) of 42,028 *barangays* have established VAW Desks.
85. In 2006, Performance Standards and Assessment Tool in Gender-sensitive Handling of VAW Cases of local officials, social workers, health workers and prosecutors were developed. Training sessions were conducted for each of the frontline service providers and each agency had the task to roll-out the training and use these performance standards. In 2008 to 2009, the Performance Standards and Assessment Tool on Handling VAW Cases for Prosecution Services was administered with Heads/Officials of prosecution offices nationwide as respondents, and results showed the need for increased capacity, facilities and resources. In December 2013, the justice department conducted a capacity development on gender-sensitive handling of VAW cases for 15 prosecutors, and the activity will be continued in 2014 and 2015. The DSWD also continues to use the Gender-sensitive Case Management Manual for their social workers.
86. The DSWD provides protective services through the Center-based and Community-Based Services for VAW victims-survivors.¹⁹ The DSWD has recorded an increase in the number of VAW cases served through center-based and community-based interventions from 2009 to 2012, although it decreased slightly in 2013 (Annex 8). In terms of trafficking in persons, DSWD has served 1,979 trafficked victims nationwide. The top three cases served are forced labor with 303 males and 525 females (total of 828

¹⁶ Data from the Women and Children Protection Center submitted to DOJ on a letter dated February 18, 2014.

¹⁷ Source: <http://www.iacat.net/index.php/human-trafficking-related-statistics>

¹⁸ GMA News Online. IACAT: 118 human traffickers convicted as of June 2013. Lifted from www.gmanetwork.com/news/story

¹⁹ Center-based services include treatment and rehabilitation while community-based services include treatment, recovery and after care.

cases), followed by prostitution with one male and 376 females (total of 377 cases), and sexual exploitation with 53 males and 302 females (total of 355 cases). Among the other cases served are illegal recruitment (62 males and 122 females) and child trafficking with (4 males and 23 females). Concerned non-government organizations also served VAWC victims. The Women's Crisis Center (WCC), a pioneer NGO, served 723 cases of physical abuses and 87 cases of sexual abuses committed against women.

87. The DSWD maintains residential care facilities and manages rape crisis centers where protective services can be availed by victim-survivors of VAW in different parts of the Philippines. The former provides protection, care and treatment, and rehabilitation services while the latter serves as a one-stop-shop facility where services of doctors, police officers, prosecutors and social workers can be availed of. Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS)²⁰ were also established in evacuation centers to address the practical and strategic gender needs of women during crisis situations brought about by natural calamities and human-induced hazards. The Department also delivers a complete package of services addressing the psychosocial, social and economic needs of trafficked clients through its Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP). It also piloted the implementation of the AECID-supported Comprehensive Pilot Intervention Plan against Gender Violence in a southern Philippines region, CARAGA, which is aimed to reduce and respond to victims of gender-based violence in a holistic manner with three major components: prevention, intervention and reintegration. The project was implemented in 61 *barangays* (villages) of 20 cities/municipalities in 3 provinces of CARAGA Region. Further, a modular guide used in Family Development Sessions which is a conditionality under the CCT Program includes topics that promote VAW awareness and prevention.
88. On trafficking, the work of the members of the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) has resulted in the increase in prosecution of suspected offenders and protection of witnesses in trafficking cases. Specifically, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has institutionalized a mechanism of cooperation between investigators and prosecutors which has led to more organized investigations and has increased the number of convictions of perpetrators. The significant steps taken to improve the identification, prosecution and dismissal from service of officials complicit in human trafficking activities, and to the two recorded criminal cases filed against government officials facilitating illegal departures of overseas workers also contributed to the improved status.
89. Recognizing the important role of the police department in the prevention of human trafficking, the PNP created the PNP National Anti-Trafficking Committee. Between 2011 and 2013, the agency has conducted a total of 13,463 police community relation trainings/seminars and 32, 306 *pulong-pulong*/information drive or dialogues nationwide to increase the communities' awareness and gather their cooperation to address trafficking in persons (TIP). The PNP leadership also issued Letter of Instructions 01-2011 to all police regional offices nationwide and all concerned units of the PNP prescribing guidelines in the enforcement of laws on anti-trafficking in persons not only in the Philippines but also across the country's borders in coordination with other government agencies both foreign and domestic. The agency also conducted seven training sessions with 258 Police Officers on managing TIP cases
90. Meanwhile the DOLE Checklist for Labor Laws Compliance System (LLCS) includes the requirements of Anti-Sexual Harassment Law (e.g. posting/dissemination of RA 7877 in the workplace, creation of the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI); Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy in the Workplace) and 10-day paid leave for victims of VAW as provided for in Anti-VAWC Law.
91. In 2010, PCW developed the National VAW Documentation System (NVAWDocS), a web-based documentation system to measure the extent of VAW cases in the Philippines. The system has the capability to generate reports to determine the number of VAW victims and to monitor the services provided by the different service providers. It was piloted in nine sites with funding from UNFPA and AECID, the result of which demonstrated that data could be integrated from the various sources, and in the process, remove duplication. The information gathered from the piloting sites was useful in improving the system and the reporting flow. A province-wide implementation is presently being done with AECID support, after which the system will be endorsed for national implementation.

²⁰ The WFS is a venue for a more systematic, organized and gender-responsive way of delivering services to internally displaced women.

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92. Last year, Republic Act 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted for a stronger anti-human trafficking measure, amending Republic Act 9208 or the “Anti-Human Trafficking in Persons Act” and giving more teeth to Philippine campaign to eradicate human trafficking. One of the new provisions under RA 10364 is the disclosure of the identities and circumstances of human trafficking offenders, previously provided with confidentiality protection to human traffickers under RA 9208. It handed its first conviction in December 2013, according to the Department of Justice. Offender Frederick Apique was handed the penalty imprisonment of 15 years and a fine of \$11,233 (Php 500,000) and to pay private complainant the civil liability of \$270 (Php 12,000) in Davao City for recruiting 3 minors to distribute flyers in public areas, but ended up being forced to let him shave their private parts and take photos of them in nude.²¹
93. Victims of various kinds of trafficking are provided with adequate recovery and reintegration services under the DSWD’s Recovery and Reintegration Programs for Trafficked persons. In 2012, the DSWD catered to 1,936 trafficking victims, 75% of which are women. Of the total number of trafficked women, 36% are victims of forced labor, 26% of prostitution, and 21% of sexual exploitation. (Annex 9)

Remaining Issues and Challenges

94. With the initiatives in place to address VAW, the need to strengthen and harmonize monitoring is indicated by varying figures reported by the concerned agencies. PCW’s NVAWDocS, once operational and used by service providers nationwide could be able to track all the services received by a VAW survivor and avoid double counting of victim-survivors. But the system has to be perfected and its prospective users trained and willing to make it work. Alongside, there is a need to implement and strengthen the VAW referral system at the LGU (LCAT-VAWC) and national level to achieve harmonized interventions for VAW victims-survivors. At the policy level is the need to prioritize pending bills such as the Anti-Prostitution Bill and expansion of the Sexual Harassment Law. Moreover, continuing education and training for service providers, massive information dissemination and awareness-raising on the VAW laws, and strengthening of the men’s movement called Men Opposed to Violence against Women Everywhere (MOVE)²² need to be stepped up.

E. Women and Armed Conflict

95. There are several policy and institutional developments within the period that sought to promote and advance the rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict. One of these is the Magna Carta of Women which provides for the inclusion of women in all discussions and decision-making in the peace process. It also institutionalizes measures to ensure protection of civilians and in conflict communities with special consideration for the specific needs of women and girls.
96. Another policy is the Executive Order (EO) 43, which mandates the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016^c and stipulates the support for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820, specifically on issues relating to increasing women’s participation in peace processes and addressing sexual violence against women in armed conflict situations. Another EO (No. 865) put forth the “Creation of the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS) to Implement the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and Providing Funds Thereof.” The NSCWPS is chaired by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the Chairperson of the PCW as Vice-Chairperson, with Secretaries and Heads of the departments of justice, foreign affairs, interior and local government, national defense, social welfare and the commissions on indigenous peoples and Muslim Filipinos as members. The NSCWPS is mandated to implement and monitor the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) formulated in 2010, the first in Asia. It also provides for cooperation with civil society organizations on NAP WPS implementation.
97. The government, through OPAPP, also remains committed to advance women’s participation in the peace process as more women take on focal roles. At present, a woman peace champion and second-

²¹ Source: <http://www.doj.gov.ph/news.html?title=First%20Attempted%20Human%20Trafficking%20Conviction%20Scored%20in%20Davao&newsid=248>

²² MOVE is an organization of men who committed themselves to be actively involved in the elimination of VAW. MOVE members are men from various organizations, including the government, private sector, academe and non-government organizations.

termer peace adviser is at the helm of OPAPP. In the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (GPH-MILF) negotiating table, two women are currently members of the government peace panel. One of them sits as the chair, and in this capacity signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) on behalf of the Philippine government, while the other one is a Moro woman who has been actively involved in working for women's rights in the context of Islam. Majority of the teams that worked on the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) Annexes were headed by women: technical working groups (TWGs) on Normalization and Revenue Generation and Wealth Sharing and Special Team on Transitional Arrangements and Modalities. Four women are part of the 15-member Bangsamoro Transition Commission that will draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law, which will pave the way for the establishment of the new Bangsamoro political entity. Likewise, two women are part of the 5-member peace panel in the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF), and two women directors are heading the government peace panel secretariats. Of the 107 secretariat and technical staff supporting the work of the government panels in talks with the MILF and CPP/NPA/NDF, 48 are women.

98. Significant participation of women in peace endeavors and negotiations was manifested in the signing of the FAB and its Annexes and, more importantly the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). The FAB^d, which was signed in 12 October 2012, has a section that promotes the rights of women to “meaningful political participation and protection from all forms of violence.”^e Women are likewise highlighted as one of the priorities in the normalization process.^f Its Annexes, particularly those relating to Normalization^g, Power Sharing^h and Revenue Generation and Wealth Sharingⁱ expressly provide provisions on women, peace and security. The CAB^j, which was signed last 27 March 2014, marks the culmination of the 17 years of peace negotiations and represents the final peace agreement between the GPH and MILF.
99. Government plans that highlight the role of women and gender in the context of peace and security were crafted in the past years. The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS), the Philippine Government's commitment to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820, was launched in March 2010, where its 14-point agenda provides for action points and set indicators to monitor its implementation. These indicators were further refined in consultation with NSCWPS member agencies and PAMANA Program (*Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan*^k / Peaceful and Resilient Communities) implementing agencies^l and were accordingly framed as results-based outcomes that guide relevant agencies in their NAP WPS implementation. The NAP WPS is a product of collaboration of several human rights, peace and women's organization and government agencies working on women, peace and security. The Philippines was one of the firsts to come up with a national plan to implement the said UN resolutions. Currently, various NGAs, particularly the security sector and foreign affairs, are undergoing capacity building training to implement NAP WPS; same efforts are being done at the local level with various LGUs to conflict-affected areas.
100. The Mindanao Peace and Development Framework Plan (2011-2030) spearheaded by the Mindanao Development Authority explicitly promotes gender sensitivity and gender balance in all development and social protection concerns.^m Civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly the coalition Women Engaged in Action on UNSCR 1325 or WE Act 1325 also assist in the implementation of the NAP WPS through the conduct of capacity building programs, research and information, advocacy work and localization projects funded by various international organizations, international non-government organizations and foreign donor agencies. WE Act 1325 has been very active in consulting and capacitating women in different parts of Mindanao since the formulation of FAB and its Normalization Annex.
101. A chapter on Women, Peace and Security is included in the Women's EDGE Plan, a companion document to the Philippine Development Plan to guide concerned agencies in mainstreaming gender dimension in their regular programs, as well as in implementing gender-focused activities in conflict affected areas. The chapter is largely based on the NAP WPS and its inclusion in the Women's EDGE Plan is expected to facilitate its implementation through the gender and development planning and budgeting process.

Remaining Issues and Challenges

102. Institutional consciousness on women in armed conflict in the Philippines has been a recent development; hence, measures towards achieving outcomes to this area of concern are, so far, confined to policy level. The MCW provides for the protection of women in situations of armed conflict, while PDP provides development roadmap for the implementation of UNSCR 1820 and 1325. The NAP WPS serves as the most specific and concrete institutional guide on responding to the needs of women affected by conflict and to their capacities in participating in various peace-building processes. Translating these policies into practice is still a challenge although there is an ongoing initiative to include programs, activities and projects on women in armed conflict and peace-building in GAD Plans and Budgets (GPBs) of relevant government offices. Still, there is a need for these agencies to fully understand and appreciate mainstreaming NAP WPS in GPBs as one of the strategies in institutionalizing the Plan.
103. The other concern is the institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation of the NAP implementation to directly respond to concerns of women in armed conflict supported by a sound database on women and gender in the context of peace and security. Presently, the challenge of data collection of NGAs and LGUs in relation to NAP are at two levels: (1) sex-disaggregated data is not yet the norm; and (2) data is not yet disaggregated between conflict-affected and non-conflict affected contexts or areas (e.g. conflict-related VAW). Thus, there must also be an institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation of the NAP implementation to construct relevant evidence-based interventions and directly respond to concerns of women in armed conflict.

F. Women and the Economy

104. It is significant to note that labor force participation gender gap narrowed to 28.3% in 2013 compared to 29.2% in 2009. Preliminary results of the October 2013 Labor Force Survey (LFS) showed a 0.1 increase in the labor force participation rate for females at 49.8%, and 0.2 decrease for males at 78.1%.
105. Employment rate (ER) also increased for both women and men from 2009 to 2012. ER for women increased from 92.8% in 2009 to 93.3% in 2012; while those of men increased from 92.4% in 2009 to 92.8% in 2012. Despite this improvement in ER, men's share in employment is higher at 60.7% compared to women at 39.3% according to the October 2013 LFS.²³ Female employment was estimated at 14.8 million compared to 22.9 million males. Underemployment of women also increased from 15.0% in 2009 to 16.2 percent in 2012 while that of men was posted at 21.7% in 2009 to 22.4% in 2012. Further, unemployment rate in the Philippines is at 7.3%, the highest in the ASEAN region, according to a 2014 report of the International Labor Organization (ILO).
106. The number of wage and salary workers, which are generally workers engaged in remunerative and stable employment, has increased significantly for both men and women with nearly 1 million more women wage and salary workers from 7.1 million in 2009 to 8.1 million in 2012. While the improvement in the employment of females in the labor sector is encouraging, it should be noted that this figure includes workers in private households.
107. Meanwhile, the average income of male-headed households in 2009 was \$4,493 (Php 200,000) and it was \$5,167 (Php 230,000) for female-headed households. Incomes of both male-headed households and female-headed households rose in 2012 at \$5,100 (Php 227,000) and \$5,774 (Php 257,000) respectively. The average income for female-headed households was higher by about \$674 (Php 30,000) for both 2009 and 2012. The difference in incomes of female-headed households and male-headed households is attributed to cash receipts and support from abroad.
108. Women also comprise roughly 45% of the medium and small and microenterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines - the least gender gap among business owners (55% male, 45% female). Women are

²³ <http://www.census.gov.ph/content/employment-situation-october-2013-final-results>

more engaged in microenterprise development with unregistered or unregulated establishments making up 62% of the 91.4% microenterprises comprising the MSMEs.²⁴

109. In terms of migration, about 175,296 female landbased workers were deployed in 2009. This constitutes 53% of the total landbased workers during the year. This share of female to total deployment has increased in 2012 with the number growing to 249,201 or 54% of the total deployed workers. Conversely, the share of male deployment decreased from 47% to 45% in the same period. Majority of the deployed women were service workers constituting almost 77 percent in 2012 while most of the deployed men were production and related workers, transport equipment operators and laborers at 61 percent in the same year.
110. Despite the improvements in some indicators, gender-based differences in labor force participation and employment continue to persist. Majority of employed men can be found in the agriculture sector while most of the employed women belonged to wholesale and retail trade industry. Women were still largely engaged in vulnerable forms of work with about 2.3 million unpaid women family workers in 2012. While the number of men in lower quality of work or vulnerable work²⁵ decreased slightly from 2009 at 1.87 million to 1.80 million in 2012, the number of women in vulnerable work has largely remained unchanged.

Policies and Programs and Key Achievements

111. The passage of RA 10151 or An Act Allowing the Employment of Night Workers of 2011 and RA 10361 or Domestic Workers Act of 2013, or the *Batas Kasambahay*, are significant milestones in support of women economic empowerment in the country. RA 10151 repealed Articles 130 and 131 of Labor Code of the Philippines that prohibited women from working during night time and expanded their employment or work options. The *Kasambahay* (domestic worker) Law defines the labor rights of domestic household workers, majority of which are women, increases their minimum wage, and provides regular employment and social protection benefits. RA 9501 or the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), on the other hand, which supports women's entrepreneurship, was also enacted. Relatively, the MSME Development Plan which incorporates programs to support enterprises at various stages of development is being implemented.
112. To promote and support a gender-responsive enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, particularly those in microenterprises, the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women Project) was implemented which highlighted the importance of an enabling environment for women's economic empowerment both at the national and local level. Through this convergence project led by the PCW and supported by Canada, national government agencies (e.g., Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Labor and Employment [DOLE], Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and PhilHealth) converged with LGUs and private social enterprise entities to provide harmonized interventions to the women micro-entrepreneurs. These interventions were through capacity development on gender-responsive governance for LGUs, and organizational and financial management, skills training, technical assistance on product development, marketing including packaging and labeling, social protection, environmental protection and financial support among others for women micro-entrepreneur groups. The project resulted in improved business skills and leadership of women in communities.²⁶
113. To further support the small and medium enterprises, the Philippine government implements the Advancing Philippine Competitiveness (COMPETE) project which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This project addresses credit constraints for these small and medium enterprises particularly the problem of inadequate collateral and developing a winning business proposal that is acceptable for loan application. The project also aims to promote increased trade and investment through better provision of infrastructure and increased competitiveness of the following key industries: tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.²⁷

²⁴ Philippine Commission on Women - GREAT Women Project. *Why are We Pursuing Women's Economic Empowerment? – A Situationer on Philippine Enterprises and Women*. August 2012. Lifted from pcw.gov.ph.

²⁵ Defined as proportion of own-account workers and contributing family workers in total employment.

²⁶ More information about GREAT Women Project's good practices can be found in this link: <http://www.pcw.gov.ph/case-studies/great-women-project>

²⁷ Source: <http://www.usaid.gov/philippines/partnership-growth-pfg/compete>

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114. To address the vulnerabilities of overseas workers, the *Balik Pinay! Balik-Hanapbuhay!* Project (Return Filipina; Return to Livelihood!) is being implemented which is a reintegration program for displaced overseas Filipino women workers. With a \$539,000 budget allocation, it aims to prioritize 2,400 women beneficiaries accessing short-period training on production skills with entrepreneurship and business management, marketing linkage and networking services, business advisory, and consultancy services, social protection services and other alternative social protection schemes and job referral system covering local labor markets to ensure the employability of target women beneficiaries.
115. For overseas Filipino workers or OFWs, particularly those in vulnerable working conditions like women domestic workers, the government has also been taking special measures to protect them from abuse and exploitation and to safeguard their overall interest in their countries of destination. Among the measures that government, through the DOLE (Philippine Overseas Employment Administration [POEA] and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration [OWWA]), Department of Foreign Affairs and DSWD has set in place include, among others, the following:
- a. The forging of bilateral labor agreements (BLAs) with receiving countries. In 2013, POEA reviewed 20 BLAs with 20 destination countries to protect the interest of Filipino migrant workers. For instance, the BLA signed with Saudi Arabia in 2013 governs household workers benefits, such as a day off each week, while preventing their hiring costs from being deducted from their salary. The agreement also includes opening of bank accounts under the name of the worker by the employer for monitoring the payment of workers' salaries. Under the agreement, a complaint mechanism was set up starting with the establishment of a 24-hour hotline for dispute resolution. Household workers are also guaranteed a \$400 monthly salary.
 - b. Adoption of a country team approach in providing assistance and services to OFWs and establishment of Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Centers and shelters for OFWs in distress. This means that under the guidance of the Philippine Embassy, foreign service officers, labor attaches and social worker attaches provide coordinated assistance to OFWs.
 - c. Certification process by foreign service posts which guides policies on whether or not to deploy OFWs in certain countries.
 - d. Blacklisting by POEA of employers who have been found guilty of abuse and maltreatment of OFWs, those who have committed contractual breaches especially non-payment or underpayment of salaries.
 - e. Allocation of a discretionary government fund called the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Fund intended for repatriation, shipment of remains/cremation, temporary accommodation, food and basic supplies, medical evacuation, hospitalization, ATN missions, immigration penalties and related charges. A Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) has also been set up for criminal cases and labor disputes, appeals of death penalty or life sentence, or in filing cases against erring/abusive employers and for rape victims.

Remaining Gaps and Challenges

116. While gender gap in the labor force participation rate between females and males narrowed from 2009 to 2012, it is imperative to appropriately address domestic work and care burdens, pervasive discrimination and gender stereotyping which contributes to this discrepancy. Likewise, it is necessary to introduce policies that will protect women from abuse in the workplace including overseas Filipino workers, as well as strengthen safety nets and create decent work opportunities for women to improve labor market outcomes.
117. To guide women-led enterprises throughout the business cycle, there is a need for a more comprehensive technical assistance to ensure sustainability and competitiveness. An improved monitoring mechanism is needed to account for the economic benefits of financial/credit assistance on the business enterprises of the large number of women microfinance beneficiaries.

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118. While programs responding to the vulnerabilities of overseas workers were implemented, these remain to be limited. To effectively address the needs of the women migrant workers, government interventions should be scaled up and linked with other programs and services being provided by other private organizations. Further, there is a dire need to develop a more reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics on migration towards a more evidence-based migration-related policy formulation.

G. Women in Power and Decision-Making

119. Over the past two decades, there has been a significant improvement in the participation and involvement of women in high posts and key positions in the government. The interplay between the political power and empowerment of women in the Philippines has become evident in the passing and pushing for more laws and policies beneficial to women. The improvement in women's status paves the way for their increased access and more effective participation in decision-making institutions, particularly in influencing policies and strategies that enhance their opportunities for growth and development. The passing of the Magna Carta of Women was realized with the support of women legislators both in the senate and the house with the incessant advocacy of women's mass movement. The law itself mandates that "the State shall undertake temporary special measures to accelerate the participation and equitable representation of women in all spheres of society particularly in the decision-making and policy-making processes in government and private entities, to fully realize their role as agents and beneficiaries of development..." (RA 9710, Section 14).

Elective Positions

120. There has been an increasing number, albeit slowly, of women occupying elective positions in the government as well as important positions in the bureaucracy and in local and sectoral councils. From 1998 to 2013, there has been an incremental increase in the number of women in the national legislative body with six of 24 (25%) senators for 2013-2016 as compared to 4 (17%) in 2010; and 79 of 289 incumbents in the lower house in 2013²⁸ as compared to 65 in 2010²⁹.
121. Women elected to gubernatorial position also increased from 15.4% in 1998 to 22.5% in 2013 while those in the vice gubernatorial positions increased from 15.02% in 1998 to 18.5% in 2013. Women elected as municipal mayors also increased from 15.26% in 2004 to 20.86% in 2013 (Annex 11).

Appointive Positions

122. In line with President Benigno S. Aquino III's Social Contract on Gender Equality, women play a prominent role in the current administration by serving key positions in all three branches of government, and recently, some appointments were in critical positions that are outside the traditional norms usually assigned to women. Fifty-six (56) women have been appointed in the highest positions in the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary (Official Gazette, March 2014). Among these are the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Ombudsman, the Secretaries of the Departments of Justice, Social Welfare and Development, Labor and Employment; the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Higher Education, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the head of the Government Panel for Peace Negotiation, the Bureau of International Revenue, and many others. Between 2002 and 2010, the percentage of women in key posts in the Foreign Affairs Department (Ambassador and Consul General) rose from 28% to 35%.
123. The statistics on appointive positions in government also showed positive development. Since the issuance of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular (MC) 8 or the "Implementing Guidelines of the Policy on Equal Representation of Women and Men in Third Level Position in Government" in 1999, the percent of women in career executive service officers (CESO) rose to 42% in 2010 from 37% in 1999. The MCW provision on a 50-50 distribution of third level positions in the

²⁸Infographic; 8 March 2014; Official Gazette and Congressional Profile; 18 March 2014; congress.gov.ph.

²⁹<http://www.pcw.gov.ph/statistics/201304/women-participation-politics-and-governance>

bureaucracy among women and men is close to being achieved with 45% of these positions occupied by women in 2013. (Philippine 7th & 8th Report to the CEDAW, 2014)

Participation in Civil Society Organizations and Other Institutions

124. Outside of appointive and elective posts, government has always promoted the participation of women in civil society and other organizations to strengthen their voice in decision making. The interior and local government department issued a memorandum circular in 2013 on the accreditation of civil society organizations and selection of representatives to local special bodies (LSBs), mandating further that “membership in the local development councils (LDCs) must have representatives from the women sector” (DILG MC 2013-70). Available data show that women comprise 48% of local school boards, 50% of local health boards, 30% of local peace and order councils, 31% of local housing boards, but a low 16% of local development councils.
125. In compliance with the MCW, the anti-poverty commission issued in 2011 an administrative order which mandates that at least 30% of national sectoral assemblies and council members of its 14 basic sectors should be composed of women and that one of three nominees for sectoral representatives should be a woman. This policy resulted in a significant increase of women sectoral representatives (eight out of 14) in the commission’s basic sectors. Similarly, the joint memo circular on the localization of MCW specifies that women NGOs be represented in GAD focal points of LGUs.
126. Government processes have, likewise, opened more opportunities for participation and involvement of women. The Grassroots Participatory Budgeting (GPB) (formerly the Bottom-up Planning and Budgeting), which is a government innovation that takes into consideration the development needs of cities/municipalities, allowed for strong participation of basic sector organizations and civil society organizations through the local poverty reduction action team (LPRAT). LPRATs composition should be at least 40% women (DBM-DILG-NAPC JMC Nos. 1, 3 and 4).

Labor Union Participation

127. Meanwhile, a civil service commission’s survey of 261 public sector unions (which is 15% of the total 1,750 registered unions nationwide) from 2010-2011 revealed that of the total of 35,122 members, 51.39% are women. Of these members, 3,783 are public sector union officers of which 54.1% are women.

Proposed Policy on Women’s Participation in Political Parties

128. Recently, House Bill 3877 also known as the “Women Participation and Representation in Political Parties Act of 2013” was filed under the 16th Congress to promote women’s participation and equitable representation in and by political parties, and proposes to provide a women in political parties empowerment fund. Among the salient provisions of the bill includes requiring political parties to craft a women and gender and development agenda, the equitable representation of women in political parties leadership and its internal policy making structures, nomination of women candidates to elective positions and the empowerment fund. The bill is still being deliberated at the committee level.

Remaining Issues and Challenges

129. Disparities among men and women in elective posts and in traditionally male/female dominated agencies in government are still evident. Women are still a minority in top level positions in such agencies as public works, national defense and law enforcement. It is thus recommended that appointments to high posts and contenders for elective positions should follow a competency-based system to ensure equal access of women and men to high positions.
130. While opportunities for women in politics and decision-making are opening up, many still hesitate to take on leadership positions due to reproductive roles, conservative mindsets and a belief that politics and leadership are not women’s world. Running in elective positions also require money. The challenge further remains in tracking whether women in elective positions have really influenced policy making for the interest of the poor and the marginalized women. Thus, measures should be introduced to encourage more women to run for leadership positions inculcating the need to introduce

gender-responsive policies and programs with budgets that support the more disadvantaged sectors, especially women. It would also be interesting to compare women's and men's styles of leadership – whether they are genuinely transformational or traditional

131. With the absence of a harmonized sex-disaggregated database on the government workforce, it is also proposed that the effective monitoring of equal representation in government, in local development councils, sectoral representations and labor unions be enforced.

H. Institutional Mechanisms

132. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) as the national machinery has led the process of mainstreaming gender concerns in development planning. The Magna Carta of Women (MCW) expanded its mandate as oversight, advisory, provider of technical assistance, and policy-making, coordinating and monitoring body responsible for working with government instrumentalities in ensuring the promotion of women's human rights and elimination of gender-related discrimination using gender mainstreaming as a strategy. Despite its expanded mandate, however, PCW is constrained to work within its existing human and other resources due to the streamlining policy of government. Thus, to enable it to perform its role as national machinery and mechanism for gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the BPfA and other laws, PCW sought to broaden its influence through capacity development of partners and gender policy development using participatory strategies. The goal is for all government to own the process of gender mainstreaming, apply it in their respective domains and assess their own efforts viz the gender issues that they need to address.
133. PCW has been focusing on the following strategies, all underpinned by partnership, convergence and advocacy with other government, NGO/CSO/academe and other development partners, to broaden its influence and reach, and to strengthen the capacity and capability of its government partners in gender mainstreaming:
- a. Building competencies on gender and development and development of gender analysis tools and guidelines (technical assistance provision);
 - b. Issuance of gender related policies and lobby for gender related laws, including the integration of gender in development plans (policy development); and
 - c. Data base and systems development for monitoring and evaluation.

Competency building on gender and development

134. Building the competencies on gender and development of government, particularly the members of the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) is the first step in enabling them to do gender mainstreaming. PCW recognizes the critical role of GAD focal points as the drivers of gender mainstreaming at national and local level. It considers them as its partners in the provision of technical assistance and in monitoring implementation of GAD mandates in their respective agency; thus, their need for a solid mandate and strong competency on GAD cannot be overemphasized. PCW is monitoring the creation of and assisting the GFPS and recently issued a memo circular on the Guidelines on the Creation and strengthening of GAD Focal Points according to the provisions of the MCW. As of writing, 119 GFPS were established among the national government agencies, their attached agencies and other government offices, in accordance with the guidelines.
135. For GAD focal points and for the rest of government, PCW has developed basic modules for the required competencies, which are focused on gender sensitivity training, gender analysis and gender planning and budgeting. These modules are recommended to become part of the capacity building program of government. With PCW's limited technical personnel, training on these modules is done in three ways:

- a. PCW itself conducts the training and orientation sessions with targeted government agency partners. This includes the convening of large groups for general orientation sessions on recent guidelines and issuances, gathering of GAD focal points for updating and training, and skill-focused training for smaller groups. On many occasions, agencies organize the training and invite PCW as trainer.
 - b. Training and/or partnering with a pool of gender experts and recommending them as resource persons to government, under its National Gender Resource Pool Program. To date, PCW has certified 35 gender pool members and is training and certifying additional members in 2014. Initial pool members are a product of earlier efforts of PCW to develop and strengthen the gender resource centers based in universities and colleges nationwide and the gender resource network, and recently, of its implementation of the GREAT Women Project, and the AECID and other UN assisted projects.
 - c. Conduct of roll out training with selected government partners where prospective trainers are trained in order for them to train the rest of agency, particularly those at the regional and local level, recently done with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and with the DILG. Graduates of roll out training are invited to become part of the gender resource pool. Under this mode, PCW is also partnering with selected regional GAD councils or RGADCs, under its localization of the Magna Carta program, to help them become the PCW in their region and for them to assist in the development of LGU learning hubs on gender equality and women's empowerment.
136. The other important role of PCW in competency development is the review and development of modules and gender analysis tools that it cascades to the rest of government. Along this line, it highlights the fact that its partnership with national and local governments in the implementation of its foreign assisted and locally-funded projects enables it to draw important lessons, insights and skills that have been useful in its development of modules and tools in gender mainstreaming. For instance, under its GREAT Women Project, it was able to develop the modules that effectively demonstrate that gender mainstreaming works for women's economic empowerment. Through these partnerships, PCW was also able to develop guidelines for national and local governments in integrating gender in policy development, planning and programming. Among the tools that PCW has developed and enhanced are the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework and the GERL KA Ba? (are you a gender responsive LGU?). Another homegrown tool for gender analysis was developed by the ODA community with participation of NEDA and PCW, called the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines for Project Development, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, now used in gender planning and budgeting for estimating amounts of projects that could be charged to their GAD budget.

Policy development on GAD

137. Policy development on GAD moves along three tracks: 1) issuance of specific policies by PCW and its other partners in the executive branch to implement the Magna Carta of Women and related laws, in the form of memo circulars or guidelines; 2) development planning and/or influencing the policies and plans of other government agencies to ensure the integration of gender dimension, and, 3) legislative review, amendment or crafting of national laws that promote or erase discriminatory provisions, in partnership with the legislative branch and other GAD advocates from NGOs, CSOs and government.
138. Memo circulars articulate policies and clarify procedures and processes in gender mainstreaming based on the MCW, issued by PCW in partnership with relevant government agencies. Recent issuances include the following: a) the GAD Focal Point System Guidelines of 2011, b) Joint Circular on the Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual GAD Plans and Budgets and Accomplishment Reports to Implement the Magna Carta of Women, jointly issued with DBM and NEDA, 2012; and c) Circular to implement the Women's EDGE Plan, 2014. For LGUs, PCW issued the Joint Circular on the Localization of the Magna Carta of Women, jointly issued with DBM, NEDA and DILG, 2013, and the guidelines for the formulation of GAD Codes and the creation and strengthening of VAW Desks with DILG.

Development planning and influencing agency/LGU policies and plans

139. Within the period, PCW led the formulation of the Women's Empowerment, Development and Gender Equality Plan, 2013-2016 (Women's EDGE Plan), a time slice action plan of the Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (1995-2025), and a precursor of the Framework Plan for Women (2004-2010). It also operationalizes the MCW and serves as a companion plan of the PDP to implement its gender responsive provisions. The Women's EDGE Plan covers five goal areas: women's economic empowerment, social development and rights, peace and security and access to justice, environment and climate change and politics and decision making. It is recommended to guide national agencies and local government units in formulating their annual gender and development plans and budgets. The Plan also boasts itself as the first development plan for women to have a separate section devoted to the rights of the LGBT sector.
140. Two national development plans integrated the gender perspective- the Medium-Term Development Plan (2004-2010) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2011-2016) which is the current administration's blueprint of action. The PDP is anchored on the President's 16-point "Social Contract with the Filipino People, which envisions inclusive growth for the country. It includes, among others, the Social Agenda No. 13 on Gender Equality which states, "From a lack of concern for gender disparities and shortfalls to the promotion of equal gender opportunity in all spheres of public policies and programs." Under its Progressive Development Orientation, the Philippines maintains that all growth must be inclusive, and that the benefits of a growing economy must be felt by all. Gender and women's concerns were tackled in all Chapters of the PDP, except in the Macroeconomic Policy Chapter. Other sector-specific development plans that incorporated a gender dimension include: Philippine Statistical Development Plan (2011-2017) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Plan (2010-2016), and Philippine Labor and Employment Plan (2011-2016), among others.
141. Through its engagement with other agencies and specifically under the GREAT Women Project, PCW influenced the development and issuance of sector specific policies that address economic empowerment of women. GREAT Women Project partners adopted 13 policies in support of women's economic empowerment. Examples are those issued by PhilHealth on the partial subsidy scheme for women micro-entrepreneurs, the TESDA policy to adopt the gender responsive training curriculum and training manual to mainstream GAD in TVET training, the DENR administrative order requiring the use of the Gender Responsive Environment and Natural Resources Enterprises in the Philippines (GREEN) Kit by all regional/local offices and the guidelines on gender responsive ecotourism development and management by the Department of Tourism. Local government partners were able to approve and adopt 41 GAD codes and integrate gender in 8 comprehensive development plans and in three (3) local revenue codes. In addition, PCW's membership in various interagency councils and committees enables it to influence the policies and plans that these bodies are issuing, such as those dealing with climate change and disaster preparedness and the conditional cash transfer program.

Legislative policy development

142. For its legislative advocacy, the Commission works closely with the House Committee on Women and Gender Equality and Senate Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality to push for the amendments of discriminatory laws against women that are included in its Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA). These include: the amendments to the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines through the Anti-Prostitution Bill³⁰ and Sexual or Marital Infidelity Bill³¹; the amendments to the Anti-Rape Law of 1997³² and Anti-Sexual Harassment Law; amendments to the Family Code removing provisions where husband's decision must prevail in certain circumstances; and the passage of the Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy.
143. PCW played a key role in pushing for the enactment of important laws that include: a) the MCW, the national translation of CEDAW; b) the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 that provides a framework for the provision of comprehensive health services especially to women

³⁰ Amendment to Article 202 on Vagrancy and Prostitutes of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines to make procurers, pimps and customers of women for sex criminally liable instead of the women in prostitution.

³¹ Amendment to Articles 333 and 334 on Adultery and Concubinage making the penalties equal for both husband and wife committing acts of infidelity.

³² To amend or exclude the provision that removes the criminal liability of the rapist once the victim forgives him.

and adolescents; c) the Domestic Workers Act of 2012 that provided protection to domestic workers who were mostly women; d) the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2013 which provided for heavier punishments to perpetrators of human trafficking; and e) the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2003.

Data base and systems development for monitoring and evaluation

144. In 2011, the PCW started the implementation of the project to facilitate implementation and monitoring implementation of the MCW with financial assistance from the Spanish Agency AECID. The project seeks to enhance the capacities of PCW, other government agencies, and selected LGUs to respond to gender and women's human rights issues. Under the project, AECID is also supporting the conduct of the baseline monitoring of the MCW, assessment of the gender mainstreaming strategy, the development of the gender mainstreaming monitoring system (GMMS) and the province-wide piloting of the NVAWDocS in Aklan province.
145. The Gender Mainstreaming Monitoring System (GMMS) is an online system that allows NGAs to submit their GPBs to PCW for comment. It aims to improve and facilitate faster submission and enhancement of agencies' GPBs as the system allows real-time review by PCW online. It shortens the waiting period where agencies could receive comments and feedback from PCW and vice-versa. Currently, the system is being piloted in five NGAs.
146. With Canadian government support, PCW also developed the initial framework for monitoring and evaluation of MCW and the gender resource pool data base. Under the M&E framework development, core indicators on the MCW and other mandates were identified and developed. PCW is presently preparing to conduct the baseline monitoring study using the indicators.

Remaining Gaps and Challenges

147. The strengthening of the PCW as the national machinery was provided for under the Magna Carta of Women. However, PCW remains very small (63 plantilla positions) in terms of organizational capacity and resources (about \$116,000 or Php 50 million annual budget) to work effectively as its mandate requires. Being based only at the national level, the PCW has staff limitations especially in reaching out and providing technical assistance to local governments and in monitoring their compliance to the GAD budget policy.
148. With all its limitations, the GAD planning and budgeting continues to be the main vehicle for monitoring the Philippine government's implementation of programs, services and budget for gender equality and women's empowerment. There is, however, a need to determine clear performance measures of the entire government's gender mainstreaming efforts, tracking how the policies and programs result in intermediate and ultimate outcomes of transforming women's as well as men's lives across all sectors. As emerging issues arise, indicators to measure interventions to address these new issues need to be identified. PCW also needs to strengthen its technical assistance to GAD focal points for them to become effective advocates within their agencies. Presently, the GAD planning and budgeting process is supported by the presence of clear guidelines and references, the modules for capacity development and the gender budget audit by COA. PCW will need to strategize better on how to maximize these advantages to improve the process.

I. Human Rights of Women

149. The language of human rights has been mainstreamed and accepted in the bureaucracy. There are, to date, 26 legislations that relate to women's human rights alone. But the main legal basis of the promotion of equality and human rights is enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution that mandates the State to guarantee full respect for human rights, and legal equality between women and men.
150. To operationalize the commitment to the Constitution and to the eight international human rights treaties to which the Philippines is a State Party, the Philippine government formulated the Second

Philippine Human Rights Action Plan (PHRP II) in 2011. The Presidential Committee on Human Rights (PHRC), headed by the Executive Secretary under the Office the President, coordinated the formulation of this Plan and monitors its implementation. Under the CEDAW Chapter, three thematic objectives were set in order to guide government agencies in implementing the Women's Convention. These are: (1) to enhance the capacity of the justice system to effectively and efficiently implement existing laws protecting women against gender-based violence; (2) to ensure the implementation of the MCW provisions, and institute legal and administrative reform mechanisms in the national and local levels that will enhance the implementation and monitor its progress; and (3) to raise the level of public awareness of duty bearers and claimholders on the MCW and the CEDAW.

Programs and Policies

151. The Magna Carta of Women as the national translation of CEDAW strengthens the implementation of the Convention in the country. It provides the national legal definition of "discrimination against women" in accordance with the CEDAW. Following a human rights based approach, the MCW has laid out quite comprehensively the rights of women and girls as claimholders, and the responsibilities of the State as duty bearers in the promotion of women's human rights across social, cultural, economic, political and civil spheres.
152. The MCW provides the legal mandate to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) as the Gender Ombud responsible for investigating violations of the law. The CHRP is currently taking preparatory steps, including the formulation of implementing rule and regulations to guide the CHRP in the operationalization of the said MCW provision. The same law also provides the mechanisms for its implementation as well as the penalties for non-compliance, and strengthens the PCW as the oversight agency to monitor its implementation.
153. RA 9745 or the "Anti-Torture Act of 2009" adheres to international instruments such as the Convention against Torture (CAT) and CEDAW, and includes among the "Acts of Torture" "rape and sexual abuse, including insertion of foreign objects into the sex organ or rectum, or electrical torture of the genitals." Another policy development is RA 9851 or "An Act Defining and Penalizing Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity, Organizing Jurisdiction, Designating Special Courts and For Related Processes" which became effective in July 2009. It enables the Philippine Government to prosecute international crimes such as genocide and other crimes against humanity such as rape and sexual slavery. This law is complemented and further reinforced by the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)ⁿ adopted in August 2011.
154. The Combined 7th and 8th Philippine Report on the Implementation of the CEDAW was submitted to the Office of the President for onward submission to the CEDAW Committee in June 2014, capping a long, tedious participatory process of consultations with government agencies and women's groups. Similarly, the PCW is being regularly consulted and has submitted inputs on women's rights in the preparation of country reports on the other human rights treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention against Torture; International Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The PCW also participated in the preparation and discussion of the Philippine Report for the UNHRC Universal Periodic Review in 2008 and 2012.
155. In terms of promoting legal literacy, the Supreme Court's Committee on Gender Responsiveness in the Judiciary, in partnership with the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Judges' Association, develops and conducts regular training programs to improve women's access to family courts. The program trained family court judges, clerks of court and interpreters, public prosecutors, public attorneys and representatives from concerned government agencies and civil society organizations involved in child and women services, on women's legal rights. There are also training sessions for legislators and other government agencies on human rights-based approach, women's laws and the CEDAW and BPfA.
156. More public attorney positions nationwide were also created to ensure adequate free legal assistance and representation, especially for indigents. Government plans to review and improve relevant

procedures and necessary facilities to better serve vulnerable sectors, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and indigenous peoples. It is also decongesting jails and instituting reforms in corrections for persons deprived of liberty (detainees/prisoners) and their families. (PDP 2014)

157. The PCW, with funding support from the Office of Senator Pia Cayetano, organized a series of information caravans on MCW and other VAW-related laws for the women sector identified by the NAPC in different regions across the country. Held from September to December 2012, the caravans covered 5 provinces with a total number of 1,043 participants with enhanced knowledge on women's rights and laws.
158. The Philippines continues its efforts to repeal or amend discriminatory provisions in existing laws (i.e. in Family Code, the giving of preference to the husband's decision in case of disagreement with the wife; and in the Revised Penal Code, on adultery and concubinage). The Senate Committee on Women, Family and Gender Equality has been taking the lead in the review of laws with discriminatory provisions by hearing Senate Resolutions 64 and 441, during the 15th and 16th Congress respectively, mandating the review of existing laws with provisions that are considered discriminatory to women as mandated by the MCW. There is also an effort to introduce new laws to address emerging issues (i.e. divorce, marital infidelity), but they have remained pending due to the rigorous demands of defending the RH bill in Congress principally by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, who is likewise the Chair of Senate Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality.
159. The Philippines continues to actively engage with different regional mechanisms on women's human rights. Even in the preparatory stage, the Philippines already vigorously participated in the drafting of the terms of reference (ToR) of both the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)³³ and the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)³⁴. Upon approval of the ToRs, the Philippine government, led by the PCW and the DSWD for the ACWC, conducted a participatory process in the selection of the representatives to the said regional human rights mechanisms. Consequently, the Philippine ACWC and AICHR representatives have been consistently participating in and initiating projects to ensure the integration of women's and children's human rights in all areas of the BPfA and in the implementation of the MDGs.

Remaining Gaps and Challenges

160. The institutional strengthening of the CHRP as the Gender Ombud is needed to enable it to adequately perform its mandate. Given its expanded mandate to monitor development and funding of programs and projects for women's empowerment, alongside the function to investigate and resolve complaints for acts that violate norms under the Magna Carta of Women, it is imperative to capacitate it with clear quasi-judicial powers to make its case findings enforceable.
161. The human-rights based approach should continue to be taught and used in all levels and settings of governance. Government agencies with mandates relating to human rights should undertake a wider coverage of advocacy campaign and training for policy makers to ensure that key implementers have the proper background on how to align domestic laws and policies with the country's human rights commitments as enshrined in CEDAW and other international HR treaties.
162. Further, recognizing the importance of an evidence-based advocacy, data collection and monitoring system on human rights violations should be scaled-up and disaggregated by sex and age. Gender analysis can also be utilized in order to surface underlying gender-related issues that surround HR violations particularly in extrajudicial and political killings.
163. The MCW specifically recognizes sexual orientation as one of the elements for non-discrimination. Thus, sexual orientation should not be a basis for non-enlistment or non-hiring of women in the

³³ The ACWC was inaugurated during the 16th ASEAN Summit held in Ha Noi, Vietnam last 07 April 2010. It aims to uphold, promote, protect, respect and fulfill the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and children in the ASEAN. The creation of such entity in the ASEAN is in line with the UN CEDAW and UN CRC which all ASEAN Members States have ratified, the Vientiane Action Programme 2004-2010, the ASEAN Charter, and the Cha-am Hua Hin Declaration on the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community.

³⁴ Inaugurated in October 2009, the AICHR is an inter-governmental and consultative body, and an integral part of the ASEAN organisational structure. It exists to promote and protect human rights, and regional co-operation on human rights, in ASEAN member states.

military, police and similar services. Equal access of women in sports regardless of sex and gender identity is also provided for in the MCW. Despite this, there is still a need for a specific law on anti-discrimination that recognizes the rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (SOGI) and promotes the rights of LGBTs. The multiple and intersecting factors that compound experiences of violence and discrimination among women and girls need to be recognized in national, regional and international policy arenas.

J. Women and Media

164. A milestone in the advocacy in eliminating gender stereotyping of women in media was the creation of the Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC) in 2012 pursuant to the MCW's provision on non-discriminatory and non-derogatory portrayal of women in media and film. The MGEC is composed of the Office of the Press Secretary, Philippine Commission on Women, and various self-regulatory bodies and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDPC), Optical Media Board (OMB), from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and representatives from women's media NGOs. The Committee produced the Code of Ethics for Media, Gender Equality Guidelines, and Media Guidelines to Protect Women against Discrimination in Media and Film, which were launched in March 2013 for government media, self-regulatory bodies, schools of journalism, information and communication, and national federations and associations to make media more gender sensitive while respecting media's self-regulation. The Executive Secretary of the President also issued a Memorandum Circular (2013) "directing all concerned government agencies to adopt the gender equality guidelines in the development of their respective media policies and implementing programs in order to promote gender mainstreaming."
165. Among the important legislations passed relative to protecting women and girls from sexual exploitation were the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 (RA 9775)³⁵, the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2010 (RA 9995)³⁶, and the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.
166. Government media institutions are active partners in advocacy against negative portrayal of women in media. Since May 2009, the Bureau of Broadcast Services, in partnership with PCW has been airing the weekly interactive radio program, "*Tinig Ng Kababaihan!*" (Women's Voices!) to raise public awareness on government's efforts to promote gender equality and uphold women's human rights, including those guaranteed under the UN CEDAW. Several media agencies have developed and produced IEC materials on anti-VAW related laws in comics, pamphlets, brochures and flyers; and conducted orientation/briefing on various gender and development topics, including but not limited to gender fair media practice and the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act.
167. Regulatory agencies like the OMB have similarly strengthened their effort to fight women and child pornography through the confiscation of pornographic materials, especially sex videos. The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has suspended television programs which were deemed to have presented women as sex objects. It has required major television networks to undergo gender sensitivity seminars conducted by the PCW.
168. Other government agencies have also been supporting advocacy efforts. The Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) directed its advertising agencies to produce marketing campaigns and promotional products that are gender sensitive and do not portray discrimination against either men or women in text or visual renditions. The directive stressed that under no circumstances should these materials promote (implicitly or explicitly) sex tourism or the commodification of women. The National Council for Children's Television also conducted two dialogues in December 2009 and May 2010 to promote a child-friendly culture, correct the discriminatory portrayal of women and men in certain situations, among others. The local government unit of Quezon City, with the initiative of its City Mayor and its

³⁵ RA 9775 protects children from sexual exploitation that occurs through the depiction and use of children in pornography, including their use in pornographic performance and materials. It penalizes the possession, sale and distribution of pornographic materials involving children.

³⁶ RA 9995 prohibits taking the photo or video coverage of a person, or group of persons, performing a sexual act or any similar activity, copying or reproducing such photos or video recordings, and selling, distributing, publishing, or broadcasting the same

GAD Resource Coordinating Office and through its City Council passed a resolution providing funds for a yearly Gender and Development (GAD) Award for the Most Gender-Sensitive Film submitted to the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Remaining Issues and Challenges

169. While there had been initiatives to address stereotyping and derogatory portrayal of women in media, there are difficulties in implementing the policies relating to gender issues because of the lack of criteria for gender neutral programming. The absence of structural mechanism to monitor this concern compounds the issue. However, the most alarming emerging gender issue recently is the use of information and communication technology (ICT), specifically the internet, on ICT-related violence and other forms of cyber harassments.
170. These issues call for the establishment of structured criteria for gender fairness in media coupled with the creation of monitoring mechanism on this concern. Sustained interaction and coordination among various government agencies and NGOs and cooperation of private media entities should be promoted to advance this advocacy. Participation of women's group in the formulation, review and enhancements of ICT policies should be ensured.

K. Women and the Environment

171. Climate change is one of the most serious and pervasive developmental and environmental challenges of today. An archipelagic nation of over 90 million people, the Philippines now faces threats from more intense tropical cyclones, drastic changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise, and increasing temperatures contributing serious impacts on natural ecosystems cascading to food security, water resources, human health, public infrastructure, energy, and human settlements.³⁷ At the core of the country's efforts to achieve resilience and sustainable development from the impacts of climate change are effective environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as disaster risk reduction.
172. Inequality is often worsened by various risks and hazards that can affect the situation of the poor, the vulnerable, and the severely marginalized. The costs of natural disasters amount not only to billions of dollars lost in economic resources but also in the distress and losses of the people affected. Over 9 million people were distressed by typhoons Ondoy (Ketsana) and Pepeng (Parma). While this number includes both the rich and the poor, the poor are far more vulnerable to such kinds of hazards; they also find it more difficult to go back to their original state of life. Women also remain to be extra vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly on the impacts of extreme weather events. Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) affected approximately 16 million individuals, half of whom are women and girls.
173. Women depend on agriculture, fishery, and forestry for their livelihood. These sectors are at risk from rising temperatures and weather variability.³⁸ The dependence of women on the environment due to the type of their livelihoods, compounded with their inability to access safety nets, significantly lowers their adaptive capacity.³⁹

Policies and Programs

174. Typhoon Yolanda's (Haiyan) damages to agriculture and infrastructure and private properties reached almost \$899 million (Php 40 billion). The Asian Development Bank estimated that it would have increased the national poverty incidence by 1.9 percentage points. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has formulated the Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) to guide the recovery and reconstruction of the economy, lives, and livelihoods of people and communities in the areas affected by Yolanda. The plan aims to restore the economic and social

³⁷ National Framework Strategy on Climate Change, 2010-2022

³⁸ NCCAP Technical Document

³⁹ "Adaptive capacity" refers to the ability of ecological, social or economic systems to adjust to climate change including climate variability and extremes, to moderate or offset potential damages and to take advantage of associated opportunities with changes in climate or to cope with the consequences thereof (NCCAP Tech Doc)

conditions of the said areas at the very least to their pre-typhoon levels and to a higher level of disaster resilience. An estimated \$8 billion (Php 361 billion) is required for shelter and resettlement, public infrastructure, education and health services, agriculture, livelihoods and enterprises and services, local government and social protection. (Philippine 5th MDG Progress Report, 2014)

175. A number of policies were passed to address the vulnerabilities of women from the impact of natural disasters. The Magna Carta of Women of 2009 mandates that “women have the right to protection and security in times of disasters, calamities, and other crisis situations especially in all phases of relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and construction efforts”.⁴⁰ The Climate Change Act of 2009 provided the institutional arrangement to mainstream climate change in government policy formulations. It created the Climate Change Commission as the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans on climate change. The Act provides that at least one (1) of the three (3) Commissioners to be appointed by the President shall be female.⁴¹ It also provided for the creation of a National Strategic Framework on Climate Change and the National Climate Change Action Plan which looks at seven (7) strategic priorities, namely, food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-friendly industries and services, sustainable energy and capacity development. Gender mainstreaming is one of the cross-cutting strategies. The People’s Survival Fund⁴² mandated that responsiveness to gender-differentiated vulnerabilities be part of the criteria in selecting adaptation projects for funding. It also provides for the allocation of an initial \$22 million per year for the government to effectively address the problem of climate change
176. The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 states that the government “must ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are gender responsive.” The law also institutionalizes gender analysis in early recovery and post disaster needs assessment and requires the Head of the Local Gender and Development Offices to be a member of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils to ensure that gender concerns and special needs of women are addressed.
177. Executive Order No. 26, series of 2011, Declaring an Interdepartmental Convergence Initiative for a National Greening Program (NGP) engaged poor communities as partners for the protection of the environment while uplifting their economic status by providing income and livelihood. Through the NGP, 683,069 hectares of land were planted and generated 1,182,764 jobs, representing 168,212 persons employed.⁴³
178. The PCW’s Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the sub-project activities of DENR-Environmental Management Bureau prioritized the integration of a gender dimension in environmental laws which helps determine women’s roles in implementing environmental laws and in promoting sound environmental practices in small and micro enterprises for women. Women were assisted in accessing technology, capital, and market for environment and natural resources enterprise like sustainable forest management.

Mechanisms to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

179. Women are more vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly on the impacts of extreme weather events. The DSWD, as one of the agencies tasked to respond to disaster needs, employs a cluster approach that aims to optimize the efforts of the local and national stakeholders, the United Nations and other international organizations. Hygiene kits for women were part of the relief packs distributed in evacuation sites. Post-disaster gender-responsive initiatives include the creation of women and child-friendly spaces, deployment of policewomen in evacuation centers, and the establishment of a referral system to protect survivors from discrimination, abuses and gender-based violence. Women are provided assistance in terms of psycho-social support and provision of livelihood opportunities. Transitional houses are built in consideration of gender and needs of

⁴⁰Sec. 10, R.A 9710

⁴¹Sec. 5, Republic Act 9729, “An Act Mainstreaming Climate Change into Government Policy Formulations, Establishing the Framework Strategy and Program on Climate Change, Creating for this Purpose the Climate Change Commission, and for Other Purposes”

⁴²The Republic Act No. 10171 or the “People’s Survival Fund” was signed into law in August 16, 2012 amending the Climate Change Act of 2009 by providing an initial P1 billion per year for the government to effectively address the problem of Climate Change.

⁴³<http://ngp.denr.gov.ph/index.php/site-administrator/ngp-accomplishment-report>

vulnerable sectors. To further strengthen their adaptive capacity, cash/food for work programs integrate the gender dimension to ensure women's equal access.

Remaining Issues and Challenges

180. Oftentimes, data on individuals exposed to risks and affected by environmental disasters and degradation are not sex-disaggregated. Further, women with compounded vulnerabilities like the poor and those with low-income, the elderly, women with disability/disease, female heads of household, homeless women, the indigenous women and women affected by violence are not represented in statistical reports. Since sex-disaggregated data are central to the formulation and implementation of "evidence based" policies affecting women, sex-disaggregated database should be institutionalized.
181. Likewise, sex-disaggregated data on beneficiaries of green jobs or payment for environmental resources management, gender-responsive agriculture, fisheries and environment surveys should be captured. Measures such as the institutionalization of harmonized sector-specific gender analysis tool to determine gender data gaps and issues; strengthening of capacity development efforts for women on adaptation, mitigation and livelihood; representation of sectoral beneficiaries in disaster risk reduction planning, management and response; and, institutionalization of the Guidelines on Vulnerability and Risk Assessment with gender perspective should be considered and implemented.

L. The Girl Child

182. The 2010 Census on Population and Housing showed that there 43.9% of the total population of the country belongs to age group 0-19 years old; almost half, at 48.6%, of which are girls. As already mentioned in Section 1, girls continue to fare better than boys in education. In terms of elementary school participation rate, girls had consistently maintained a higher proportion relative to boys enrolled in the elementary level from 1999 to 2012 and in secondary level from 1996 to 2012. Cohort survival rate from 1996-2012 also shows that girls are more likely to stay in school and finish schooling, having higher cohort survival and completion rates than boys.
183. One of the main issues being faced by children is child labor. An estimated 5.492 million children aged 5 to 17 years were working in 2011 according to the preliminary results of the 2011 Survey on Children (SOC). In this survey, children aged 5 to 17 years who worked for at least one hour during the past 12 months were considered working. These working children represented 18.9% of the total children 5 to 17 years old.⁴⁴ According to the International Labor Organization, in 2010, an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 children in the Philippines were involved in prostitution rings.⁴⁵
184. Child Pornography is a new form of child sexual exploitation and child labor fuelled by rapid technological advances, increasing global connectivity, persisting poverty rates, and growing disparity in the global distribution of resources (CWC 2014). Data from the Social Welfare Department showed 46 cases of child pornography and cyber pornography served from 2010 to 2013 while PNP reported 12 cases of child pornography, two cases of on-line child abuse and two cases of cyber-bullying from March to November 2013. On the other hand, the Terre des Hommes Netherlands exploratory study on the background and psychosocial consequences of web cam tourism in the Philippines (conducted in the 44 cases of victims of webcam child sex tourism in Angeles City and Taguig City, Cebu City and municipalities of Cordova and Dalaguete in Cebu Province) reveals that the country's web cam child sex tourism is proliferating and spreading quickly through the use of internet. This phenomenon, according to the study remained undiscovered until 2011 when the country successfully prosecuted its first case against two Swedish nationals and three Filipinos (CWC 2014).
185. A report of the United Nations recently cited the Philippines as among 22 countries in 2012 that have children in conflict with the law. According to the report, there were 11 recorded incidents of recruitment and use of children in the country, involving 23 boys and three girls recruited by the Abu Sayyaf Group, New People's Army, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2012.

⁴⁴ <http://www.census.gov.ph/content/number-working-children-5-17-years-old-estimated-55-million-preliminary-results-2011-survey>

⁴⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking_in_the_Philippines#cite_note-cnn.com-19

Policies Programs and Services

186. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is the government's inter-agency body which is mandated to formulate policies and plans for children's well-being and monitor the implementation and enforcement of laws to protect and promote children's rights. CWC is closely monitoring the persistent issues on violation of children's rights including the child sexual abuse and pornography in cyberspace, child labor and children's involvement in conflict situations.
187. Following the UN report that said rebels and security forces are using children as soldiers, a new legal mechanism that addresses children in armed conflict was put into place when President Aquino signed in August 2013, Executive Order 138 which establishes the Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict. The six violations include: 1) killing and maiming of children; 2) recruitment and use of children; 3) attack on schools and hospitals; 4) abduction of children; 5) rape and other grave sexual violence against children; and 6) denial of humanitarian access. This amended the Executive Order 56 of 2001 which adopted the Comprehensive Framework for children in Armed Conflict. (CWC 2014) The MRRS Inter-agency was also created to gather, validate, and monitor reports of incidences of grave child rights violations, and ensure provision of appropriate and timely inter-agency response.⁴⁶ Chaired by the CWC, the inter-agency team is composed of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), PNP, DILG, DOH and OPAPP. (DSWD 2013) The new MRRS and its interagency aim to protect children in situations of armed conflict by preventing the occurrence of grave child rights violations, and ensuring appropriate and timely response in the event of such violations.
188. The CWC monitors issues on cyber pornography in coordination with the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography (IACACP) chaired by the DSWD and the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) chaired by the DOJ. As it is an emerging issue, a policy forum on Protecting Children in the Cyberage co-organized by CWC, IACACP, IACAT and DOJ was conducted in November 2013. The concerned agencies, service providers, faith-based groups and children were gathered to discuss emerging concerns on child pornography and committed action points to address the issue.
189. Several new laws were passed to ensure protection of girl children from all forms of violence apart from the MCW, such as the act providing for the legitimation of children born to parents below marrying age (RA 9858, 2009); an anti-child pornography act (RA 9775, 2009); an act providing for an administrative rather than a judicial process to declare a child legally available for adoption ; and the Domestic Workers Act that sets the minimum employment age to 15 years old and declares as unlawful the employment of any person below 15 years of age for domestic work. Measures to protect children from trafficking were evident with the publication in 2009 by the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking of "The Philippine Guidelines for the Protection of Trafficked Children" which included recommendations from children survivors of trafficking, an output of the consultation with a group of girl children. RA 10364 or the "Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012" was also passed which strengthened the provisions to protect children from trafficking. Led by the CWC, the Philippines also formulated and adopted its 2nd National Plan of Action for Children and is implementing the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act of 2006 consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
190. A number of stellar policies have also been passed that aim to promote the rights of children and protect them from bullying and discrimination. The Department of Education (DepEd) issued the Child Protection Policy (CPC) in 2012 which defined the scope of 'discrimination against children' as "any act of exclusion, distinction, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as age, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social original, property, birth, being infected or affected by HIV and AIDS, being pregnant, being a child in conflict with the law, being a child with disability or other status or condition, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms." The CPC also defined "bullying or peer abuse". The definition was further elaborated under RA 10627 or the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013. Under law, bullying acts include inflicting physical harm to the child and utterance of slanderous

⁴⁶ Source: <http://www.dswd.gov.ph/2013/07/dswd-intensifies-monitoring-of-children-used-in-armed-conflict/#sthash.PwIT82mu.dpuf>

statements or accusations which causes the victim undue emotional distress such as the use of profanities, name-calling and commenting negatively on the victims' looks, clothes and body. It includes cyber-bullying or bullying done through the use of technology or any electronic means; and social bullying which refers to any deliberate, repetitive and aggressive social behaviour intended to hurt others or belittle any individual or group and gender-based bullying that humiliates a person on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Philippines is one of the first countries to implement an anti-bullying act in the world.

191. Prevalence of teenage pregnancy has been raised as an important issue of concern. Students who get pregnant have a high probability of dropping out of school, or getting expelled. This has been one of the points of discussion in the crafting of the Magna Carta of Women. The law provides for the non-expulsion of pregnant female students and faculty in school. Section 16 of the MCW IRR states "women faculty who become pregnant outside of marriage shall not be discriminated by reason thereof. They shall not be dismissed, separated from work, forced to go on leave, re-assigned or transferred. They shall have access to work already held with no diminution in rank, pay or status and shall be entitled to all benefits accorded by law and by the concerned learning institutions." Further, "no female student shall be expelled, dismissed, suspended, refused or denied admission, or forced to take a leave of absence in any educational institution solely on grounds of pregnancy outside marriage during her school term." DepEd, CHED and TESDA are responsible for monitoring and ensuring the compliance of educational institutions to the said provision of the law.

Remaining Gaps and Challenges

192. The availability of accurate data and statistics that can better define the situation of girl children from different settings such as on HIV, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, children affected by disasters, children in conflict with the law, and violence in school remains a challenge in planning interventions for girl children. As the society still finds it hard to accept that boys get sexually abused as well, cases of gender based violence against boys are still underreported.
193. The phenomenon of early marriage is still common in some indigenous groups and Muslim communities. There are also alarming accounts of incestuous relationships especially in polygamous households. Once married, schooling among girl children is stopped. Data show that among indigenous girls, only 10% finished elementary, 5% finished high school, 20% have no formal education or are classified illiterate. Lack of education severely limits girls' qualifications for work or employment to hardship and low paying jobs such as farming root crops and weaving, and subservient roles such as domestic work. There have been reports of indigenous girl children being recruited to nearby cities for domestic work or for entertainment establishments.⁴⁷
194. The scarcity of health services in indigenous areas compounds the threat to the reproductive health of young mothers. Adolescent girls are also at high risk to HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases. Minors do not have immediate access to HIV testing or other adolescent health services as these tests require parental consent. Consistently in hospital-based child protection units, most victims of child sexual abuse are girls aged 13-15⁴⁸. Further, existing facilities for children in conflict with the law (CICLs) cater only to boys. Girls are placed in shelters that do not have prevention and reintegration programs designed for CICLs.
195. The multiple forms of abuse and discrimination that girls with disabilities face should be given special attention. A report submitted to the UN noted that girls with disability are prone to abuse with the growing number of households where fathers are left to care for their daughters with disabilities and where young girls are out of school.⁴⁹ Alarmingly, there are also parents who involve their children in cybersex as these parents do not see it as a form of sexual exploitation because there is "no sexual or physical contact to the children".

⁴⁷"Early Marriage", Save the Children study, 2013

⁴⁸http://childprotectionnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CPN_2012AnnualReport.pdf

⁴⁹"Strengthening the protection of human rights of women and girls with disabilities", a joint submission from Philippine Coalition on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2013

SECTION THREE

Data and Statistics

196. The Philippine Government seeks to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women. It is widely recognized that efforts aimed at advancing the status of women require timely and accurate information on the situation of women and men. Cognizant of this, the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) has institutionalized various mechanisms to provide the necessary data support to gender-responsive development.
197. The PSS, through the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), has approved several statistical policies and established coordination mechanisms on gender statistics, and produced various gender statistical products and services. As early as the 1990's, the PSS through the former National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) has recognized the need to promote gender statistics per NSCB Resolution No. 8, Series of 1994 – *Enjoining Different Agencies to Promote Gender Concerns in the Generation of Statistics*. The Resolution directs all government agencies to promote gender concerns in the production and dissemination of statistics for planning and policy-making purposes. Further, per NSCB Resolution No.5, Series of 2001 - *Approval and Adoption of the Statistical Framework on Gender and Development (GAD) Indicator System*, the statistical framework (Annex 12), which contains the key macroeconomic impact indicators needed to monitor and assess the state of gender and development in the country, was approved. It also serves as reference for government and non-government organizations in the formulation of indicators for monitoring and assessment of outputs and impact of their GAD activities. In the same year, the former NSCB also approved the Statistical Framework and Glossary Related to the Protection of Women and Children, per NSCB Resolution No. 6 - Series of 2001 (*Approval and Adoption of the Statistical Framework and Glossary Related to the Protection of Women and Children*). The resolution also directs all concerned government agencies to adopt the Framework and the Glossary in the generation and analysis of violence against women and children statistics.
198. In accordance with these Resolutions and with the BPIA's recommendation to collect, compile, analyze and present on a regular basis data disaggregated by sex, the PSA compiles and disseminates statistical products such as the following: 1) Online Interactive gender Statistical Database; 2) Annual Factsheet on Women and Men, which focuses on the latest statistical updates on women and men in the Philippines; 3) MDGWatch, which presents data and achievements on the MDGs; 4) Poverty Statistics for the Basic Sectors, which include women and children; and 5) the Statistical Handbook on Women and Men, which is proposed and released by the Central office and its 9 Regional Divisions (RDs). The data and relevant information are collected from different source agencies and line departments of the government such as the PSA, DSWD, DepEd, among others.
199. The merged agencies of the PSA have also various and continuing efforts in the collection and dissemination of gender statistics. The former NSO has the quarterly Gender QuickStatistics and several press releases on statistics on women based on the results of the censuses and surveys. The former BLES continues to produce annually a publication on Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment, while the former BAS has statistics relating to agriculture and women. These statistics and information inform and guide policy makers in addressing the factors underlying women's lower economic and social status towards gender equality and empowerment.
200. In the international statistical community, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), which is the highest entity of the global statistical system and the highest decision making body for international statistical activities especially in the development and formulation of statistical standards, the development of concepts and methods, and their implementation at the national and international level, agreed during its 44th Session held in 2013, on the use of the minimum set of gender indicators as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics. The Philippines through PSA has been participating in the annual sessions of the Commission and makes interventions on agenda items pertaining to gender statistics.

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201. Further, the Philippines has served as the chair of the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS), which is tasked to review progress and provide guidance on future activities geared at advancing gender statistics. The IAEG-GS identified the minimum set of gender indicators composed of 52 quantitative indicators categorized into three tiers. The summary assessment of these indicators is presented in Annex 13. More than half of the minimum set of indicators are currently available in the PSS, however, there are still several challenges and issues that need to be addressed. Useful information on gender in their raw form, remain unprocessed. Hence, some of the indicators are not readily available. Further, there are also data gaps on critical issues which need substantial resources to be able to proceed with data generation considering the inadequacy of the system in the storage, retrieval and use of data. Collaboration between users and producers of statistics must be a continuing effort/activity.
 202. In the past, the Philippine Interagency Committee on Gender Statistics (IACGS) is the committee tasked to resolve statistical issues and to address emerging concerns on gender statistics to be able to provide relevant, reliable and timely data for planning and programming purposes concerning women. However, as the PSA is currently in transition, there are already plans to establish a committee on gender statistics, which will function similar to the defunct IACGS. Further, the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) 2011 - 2017, which includes a Chapter on Statistics on Children and Gender and Development, serves as a guide to the PSS in the formulation and implementation of statistical activities during the period. The PSDP includes activities and programs on the improvement of data collection and compilation of gender statistics.
 203. Aside from the minimum set of indicators, the IAEG-GS has also recommended nine indicators on violence against women. Among the nine indicators, seven are currently available from the Women's Safety Module of the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) in 2008. It was the first time that questions on violence against women have been included in the NDHS. The module addresses women's experience of interpersonal violence including acts of physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence. The information collected was on both domestic violence (spousal violence) and violence by other family members or unrelated individuals. The NDHS is conducted every five years. The results of the 2008 survey were discussed in Section 2 on VAW. Results of the latest survey done in August 2013 are set to be released this year. The list of indicators that are currently available is in Annex 14.
 204. Efforts of the PSS on the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics are not limited to the minimum set of indicators and the violence against women. Aside from these, there are other indicators being collected and released such as the poverty statistics for the basic sectors, which include women, children and senior citizens. The official poverty statistics for the basic sectors is released every three years and the latest available data is for 2009. However, for other sectors like the rural women, indigenous women and women with disabilities, these entail additional processing as they are not readily available.
 205. For women living with HIV and AIDS, the Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry of the Department of Health (DOH) reports the total number of laboratory-confirmed HIV positive individuals, AIDS cases and deaths and HIV positive blood units in the Philippines. All individuals in the registry are confirmed by the STD/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory at the San Lazaro Hospital. However, the Registry is a passive surveillance system.
 206. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Initiative is a new partnership that seeks to push existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on education, employment, entrepreneurship and assets. This initiative was launched by the United States at the OECD Ministerial Session on Gender and Development and builds on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). The joint initiative will establish a flexible mechanism co-managed by UN-Women and the UN Statistics Division. The Philippines is one of the pilot countries of the EDGE Initiative and a member of the Project Steering Committee.
 207. Challenges in gender statistics are still about availability in lower level of disaggregation and for various sectoral groups, their timeliness, and the harmonization of different sources, such as those on VAW. At the same time, available data are also not maximized for planning or are not adequately translated into responsive programs or other interventions.

SECTION FOUR

Emerging priorities and recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda

208. From the series of discussions and consultations conducted with various stakeholders and with reference to a number of key documents including previous BPfA progress reports, poverty and the adverse effects of globalization in the Philippines continue to be a pressing concern of Filipinos. Poverty gives rise to new forms of social risks and worsens current ones. The government has adopted a comprehensive framework to eradicate poverty, but there is still an urgent need to develop and come-up with innovative interventions to address the emerging issues such as those below.
209. Advancing information technology has given rise to new forms of violence against women and girls, particularly cyber prostitution and cyber pornography. These crimes that can cross geographical boundaries in a matter of seconds. Various news agencies have reported last 18 January 2014 that cyberpornography was declared by the PNP as the number one crime in the Philippines, and that the country is among the top 10 countries where cyberpornography is rampant.
210. The concerns of LGBTs are now being more openly discussed with the increasing complaints of discrimination against them. Health services for women and men are available, but LGBT persons hesitate to access these for fear of ridicule and discrimination. They also experience discrimination in their search for employment even if they feel they have the required qualifications and skills. LGBTs also complain about how police officers handle their cases as victims of gender based violence, and their experience of discrimination because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Access to housing, education and justice, and homophobia have also been brought up by the sector. An Anti-Discrimination Bill is now being pushed by advocates to protect LGBTs from further discrimination by imposing sanctions and even jail time for offenders
211. Time allocation data for many countries show a strong gendered division of domestic labor, with women having primary responsibility for household and care tasks and a higher total work burden (the sum of time allocated to paid work and unpaid domestic and care work) (OECD 2012). In the Philippines, women provide 84% of the total household time allocated to child care (Tiefenthaler 1997). There are 2.3 million Filipino women who render unpaid labor especially in the countryside, being classified as part of the 'unpaid family workers'. Gendered social norms contribute to women's greater responsibility for and time commitments to domestic and care work, and there has been a slow change, despite the increase of women's participation in paid work.
212. Many women take on any work in the informal sector with the hope of sustaining the needs of their households. About 68% of Filipino women are active players in the informal sector. The informal economy, however, is not always full of success stories. Informal workers continue to experience economic barriers and contend with low wages, poor working environment, exploitative work arrangements, absence of social protection, and limited access to market. This is worsened by the lack of concerted efforts from the government.
213. Disasters would continue to affect the pace of progress towards development and may even push back whatever progress that has been achieved. Section 2 on women and the environment made mention of the policies and plans that were formulated to help the government better respond to disaster situations in a more gender responsive manner. Along this line, the capacity of LGUs to develop and implement gender-responsive intervention during situations of disaster and calamity as well as in designing and/or implementing a sustainable gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and management plans needs to be strengthened.
214. A national consultation process, which started in September 2012, gathered inputs for the preparation of the Philippine position on a framework for post-2015 development agenda. There are four principles in the UN Charter and 1987 Philippine Constitution which guided and served as the basis of the suggested agenda, these are: a)human rights, b)equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion, and justice, c)accountable governance, and d)sustainable and inclusive

development. The consultations, participated by representatives of several government agencies, resulted in the identification of five areas for development: (1) poverty reduction and social inclusion; (2) environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk management; (3) accountable, responsive and participatory governance; (4) fair and stable order based on international rule of law; and (5) peace and security. As gender concerns are cross-cutting, it is imperative that a gender perspective be mainstreamed and integrated in all the said sustainable development goals with targets and indicators disaggregated by age, sex and location.

215. In the discussions on the post-2015 agenda, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is being put forward as a stand-alone goal. As a stand-alone goal, attention could be focused on such important issues as violence against women and girls; women's unpaid work; multiple roles played in the family and society; access to assets and productive resources; wage gap; sexual and reproductive health and rights; women's insecurity in the context of conflict; disasters and climate change; discrimination of women on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity and participation in all levels of decision-making.

^aThis Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) introduces 12 innovative indicators on social institutions, which are grouped into 5 categories: Family Code, Physical Integrity, Son Preference, Civil Liberties and Ownership Rights.

^bThe following are the 8 provisions of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012 or the RH Law struck down by the Supreme Court in full or partially:

- Section 7, only insofar as it: (a) requires private health facilities, non-maternity specialty hospitals, and hospitals owned by religious groups to refer patients not in an emergency or life-threatening situation to another health facility which is conveniently accessible (b) provides access to family planning and RH services to minors who have been pregnant or had a miscarriage without a parental consent The rest of Section 7, however, which provides access to family planning, was upheld by the court, notably this line: "All accredited public health facilities shall provide a full range of modern family planning methods, which shall also include medical consultations, supplies and necessary and reasonable procedures for poor and marginalized couples having infertility issues who desire to have children." (READ: The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012)
- Section 23-A-1, which punishes RH providers, regardless of their religious belief, who fail or refuse to disseminate information regarding RH services and programs
- Section 23-A-2-i, which allows a married individual not in a life-threatening case to access RH procedures without the consent of the spouse
- Section 23-A-3, insofar as it punishes an RH provider who fails to refer any non-life-threatening case to another RH provider
- Section 23-B, insofar as it punishes any public officer who refuses to support RH programs
- Section 17, which mandates a 40-hour pro bono service by private and nongovernment RH service providers, including gynecologists and obstetricians, as a prerequisite for PhilHealth accreditation
- Section 3.01-A and J of the RH law Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which defines abortifacients as "primarily" inducing abortion instead of simply inducing abortion
- Section 23-A-2-ii, which prohibits RH service providers from refusing to perform legal and medically-safe reproductive health procedures on minors in non-life-threatening situations without parental consent

^cThe PDP is the a six-year plan which contains programs and strategies that pursue rapid and sustainable economic growth and development, improve the quality of life of the Filipino, empower the poor and marginalized, and enhance the social cohesion as a nation. It embodies President Benigno C Aquino, III social contract with the Filipino people.

^dThe Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro defines the structure and powers of the Bangsamoro entity that will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). It also sets the principles, processes and mechanisms for the transition until the regular election in 2016 for the new Bangsamoro autonomous political entity. The Agreement paves the way forward to the just resolution of the historical divide between the Government and the Bangsamoro.

^eLetter g, Item VI on Basic Rights: The FAB

^fNo. 11 Item VIII on Normalization: The FAB

^gItems 1, 3 and 5, letter G. Socio-Economic Development Program: The Annex on Normalization to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro; signed January 25, 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

^hItems 2, 7 and 8, Part Two on Governance Structure and Items 55 and 56, Roman III, Part Three Delineation of Powers: The Annex on Power Sharing to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro; signed December 8, 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ⁱItem XII on Gender and Development: The Annex on Revenue Generation and Wealth Sharing to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro; signed July 13, 2013.

^jIt includes the FAB and its Annexes.

^kPAMANA or Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan is the national government's peace and development framework to respond and strengthen peace building reconstruction and development in conflict-affected areas (CAAs). Government agencies will implement a converged peace building program focused on the development of CAAs to address the causes of armed conflict.

^lFor the purpose of implementing the NAP, the following PAMANA agencies shall included: Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Philippine Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Technical Educational Services Development Authority (TESDA) and National Electrification Administration (NEA).

^mMindanao 2020 is a framework plan that covers the next 20 years of Mindanao's future, up to the year 2030. It focuses on equally important dimensions in the sustainable development of Mindanao: Economic, Infrastructure Development, History and Culture, Peace and Security, Governance and Institutions, Human Development and Social Cohesion. It is a guide that sets general directions, defines broad strategies and identifies a number of key initiatives for Mindanao development.

ⁿThe ICC is the first permanent international court set up to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.