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**Efforts of the Philippine Statistical System on the compilation of gender statistics<sup>1</sup>**

**Introduction**

1. The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) is a decentralized statistical system. Many agencies of government generate statistics, hence, the need for a coordinating agency. Addressing this need, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) was created under Executive Order No. 121 issued on January 30, 1987 to serve as the highest policy-making and coordinating agency on statistical matters in the Philippines. Foremost among the objectives of the NSCB is to develop an orderly PSS capable of providing timely, accurate, relevant, and useful data for the government and the public for planning and decision-making.

2. The paper presents various initiatives in the PSS on the compilation of gender statistics. The paper is organized as follows. The next section presents the coordination mechanisms institutionalized by the PSS to ensure the regular compilation of gender statistics. In addition, it presents PSS products and services, including developmental activities on GAD concerns. The third section presents statistics on violence against women (VAW) compiled/measured by various government agencies. In the last section, some concluding remarks and recommendations are made.

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### **Efforts on the Compilation of Gender Statistics**

3. In line with its commitment to present the latest available and relevant statistics deemed important to planners, researchers and other users, the PSS has institutionalized: 1) coordination mechanisms to ensure that statistical issues relating to GAD are addressed by concerned agencies; 2) production/generation of products and services relating to gender concerns; and 3) developmental activities to address emerging concerns of the society.

#### Coordination mechanisms

(a) Inter-Agency Committee on Gender Statistics.

4. The NSCB Technical Staff (NSCB-TS) coordinates various inter-agency sectoral committees, one of which is the Inter-Agency Committee on Gender Statistics (IAC-GS). The IAC-GS was created by virtue of NSCB Memorandum Order No. 3, Series of 2002, *Creation of the IAC-GS*. It serves as a forum to discuss and resolve statistical issues and concerns towards improvement in the generation, dissemination, and utilization of gender statistics in the country (see [1]).

5. Major functions of the IAC-GS include, among others: 1) discuss and resolve statistical issues and concerns towards improvement in the generation, dissemination, and utilization of gender statistics in the country; and 2) ensure the implementation of the core GAD indicators data framework. Presently, the Committee is addressing data gaps of the core GAD indicators framework (e.g., development of a methodology to generate GDI, number of local government units with operational GAD institutional mechanisms, etc. (see [2]).

(b) 2005-2010 Philippine Statistical Development Plan (PSDP)

6. The 2005-2010 PSDP serves as a guide to the PSS in the formulation and implementation of statistical activities during the period as well as the directions/work plan of the NSCB-coordinated IAC-GS. One of the chapters in the PSDP is the Social Needs, Gender and Development, which particularly addresses concerns on the generation, dissemination, and utilization of statistics on women and children (see [3]).

(c) National Convention on Statistics (NCS)

7. The NCS, triennially conducted/ spearheaded by the NSCB, provides a forum for practitioners and theoreticians in the field of statistics to discuss emerging statistical issues and concerns. A session on gender statistics is regularly organized and has always been one of the most popular sessions during the NCS (see [4]).

(d) National Women's Month

8. This is spearheaded by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), which aims to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

Women (CEDAW) and widen its reach among policy makers, planners and other stakeholders with emphasis on promoting women's economic rights and empowerment (see [5]).

9. Other mechanisms also in place include: 1) 1995-2025 Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development; 2) NSCB Resolution No. 8, Series of 1994, *Enjoining Different Agencies to Promote Gender Concerns in the Generation of Statistics*; 3) NSCB Resolution No. 5, Series of 2001, *Approval and Adoption of the Statistical Framework on Gender and Development Indicators System*.

#### PSS Regular products and services

10. NSCB products and services

- *Statistical Handbook on Women and Men in the Philippines (SHWMP)*. The SHWMP presents in tables and figures, with brief comparative analyses, the latest available gender statistics. Recent developments on the thrust to promote the welfare of women and men are also included. Production of this publication is replicated in all the regional divisions of the NSCB.
- *Factsheet on Women and Men in the Philippines*. The fact sheet contains more than 50 indicators covering ten socioeconomic sectors and gender concerns. This is also replicated in all regional divisions of the NSCB (see [6]).
- *GAD online database*. To ensure that users have access to latest gender statistics, an on-line GAD database is lodged at the NSCB website (see [7]).
- *Statistically Speaking*. These are NSCB web articles, which presents viewpoints and perspectives of the members of the NSCB Technical Staff on various statistical concerns. It seeks to assist the users by informing, enlightening, and guiding them on various statistical concerns, including GAD (see [8]).
- *Statistical Series on Reported Rape Cases in the Philippines, as reported to the Philippine National Police (PNP)*.
- *MDGWatch provides statistics at a glance of the Philippines' Progress based on the MDG indicators; [http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg/mdg\\_watch.asp](http://www.nscb.gov.ph/stats/mdg/mdg_watch.asp) (see [9]).*

11. Aside from “conventional” gender statistics produced from censuses and surveys (e.g., population structure from the CPH, labor and employment trends from the LFS, etc.), following are some statistics on gender compiled in the Philippines:

Area of Concern	Source	Gender Statistics Generated	Agency
1. Health	2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFSS)	Attitude on sex-related issues; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Approve of a woman having PMS</li> <li>•Approve of a woman having abortion</li> <li>•Would support bill to legalize divorce in the Philippines</li> <li>•Agree that it is alright for unmarried people to live together even if they have no plans to marry</li> <li>•Ever had PMS</li> </ul>	University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI)
2. Peace and human rights		Percentage of respondents who are aware of their rights to ancestral domains and lands Percentage of respondents who experienced violation of rights to ancestral domains and lands	CHR-NCIP-NSCB-NSO-SRTC Metagora Project implemented by the OECD under the institutional aegis of PARIS 21 with financial assistance of the European Union, France, Sweden and Switzerland
3. Public life		Judges and lawyers trained	Phil. Judicial Academy
		Applicants to the Bench; Appointees to the Bench	Judicial and Bar Council
		Bar applicants, passers, and topnotchers	Office of the Bar Confidant
		Judges and court personnel in the Trial Courts	Office of the Court Administrator-Office of Administrative Services
4. Agriculture		Recipients of agricultural training services	Agricultural Training Institute, Department of Agriculture (DA)
		Farmers and fisherfolks who availed of the microfinance credit	Agricultural Credit Policy Council, DA
		Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of emancipation patents (EP) and Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA)	Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)

Area of Concern	Source	Gender Statistics Generated	Agency
5. Violence against women	2003 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Percentage of women who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife</li> <li>•Percentage of women who believe that a wife is justified in refusing sex with her husband for specific reasons</li> </ul>	National Statistics Office (NSO)
	2008 NDHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Whether husband/ partner/ boyfriend/ dating partner ever various forms of physical abuse;</li> <li>•Result of violence against women (e.g., injury, anxiety/ sleeplessness, depression, became irritable, etc.)</li> <li>•Alcohol or drug intake of husband/partner/boyfriend/dating partner;</li> <li>•VAW committed during pregnancy;</li> <li>•Forced sexual intercourse; and</li> <li>•How victim reacted to different forms of violence experienced.</li> </ul>	NSO
	2002 YAFSS	<p>Violence during the past month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ever been physically injured by someone</li> <li>•Ever hurt someone physically</li> </ul>	UPPI

#### Developmental activities

12. To address emerging concerns on GAD, the PSS has undertaken several developmental activities, which include the following NSCB-initiated activities:

Activity	Indicators used/generated	Areas for improvement
1. Local-level gender-related development index (GDI), compilation of municipal level GDI (for five pilot provinces)	<p>Follows the HDI framework</p> <p><u>Provincial GDI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<b>Health:</b> life expectancy</li> <li>•<b>Education:</b> functional literacy rate and combined elementary and secondary net enrolment rate</li> <li>•<b>Income:</b> Average annual per capita income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Replication in all cities and municipalities in the country;</li> <li>•Greater data support from local government units</li> <li>•Users/stakeholders need to demonstrate actual policy uses</li> </ul>

Activity	Indicators used/generated	Areas for improvement
	<p><u>Municipal GDI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<b>Health:</b> Proportion of population aged 50 and above</li> <li>•<b>Education:</b> simple literacy rate, instead of functional</li> <li>•<b>Income:</b> same as provincial</li> </ul>	
2. Estimation of women's contribution to the economy	<p>Expansion of the SNA production boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GDP, NFIA, and GNP by sex, industry</li> <li>•“Adjusted” GDP, NFIA, and GNP by sex, industry (i.e., including “unpaid work”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Methods for valuing unpaid work</li> <li>•Institutionalization</li> </ul>

### Measurement of violence against women

13. Awareness about the prevalence of cases of VAW in the country has risen considerably in recent years. As a result, demand for information/statistics on VAW has correspondingly increased over time. Cognizant of this need, the NSCB undertook a Project on the Development of a Methodology to Generate Statistics on VAW in 1997, with funding assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency, which produced the following major outputs:

- *Report on the Existing Administrative Based Data Collection and Reporting System of Government and Non-Government Agencies Concerned with VAWC;*
- *Statistical Framework for VAWC;*
- *Glossary on VAWC and Other Related Concepts (for statistical purposes);*
- *Statistical Handbook on VAWC; and*
- *NSCB Resolution No. 6, Series of 2001, Approval and Adoption of the Statistical Framework and Glossary Related to the Protection of Women and Children.*

14. In terms of measurement of the extent/prevalence of cases of VAW in the country, various methods have been institutionalized in the PSS using: 1) police records-based data; 2) service-based data; and 3) survey-based data.

#### Police records-based data

15. On March 8, 1993, a presidential directive mandated the setting up of policewomen's desks and the conduct of training toward a more gender-sensitive response by law enforcers to cases of

VAW. Reported cases of VAWC are regularly monitored by the Philippine National Police (PNP), which is available by type of reported case and by region.

Service-based data

16. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provides services and programs (e.g. crisis counseling facilities, shelters, support groups, etc. to respond to the needs of abused women and children. VAWC cases served by the DSWD are regularly compiled and disseminated, also by type of case served and by region.

Survey-based data

17. On the other hand, survey-based data on VAW in the country are obtained from the following:

- *2002 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFSS), which provides information on the percentage of Filipino youth who have: 1) ever been physically injured by someone; and 2) ever hurt someone physically (see [10]).*
- *2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), which includes a module on VAW with 36 questions. It is also worth noting that the 2003 NDHS presented results on the percentage of women who agree that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife and percentage of women who believe that a wife is justified in refusing sex with her husband for specific reasons (see [11]).*

18. However, while these are very useful means of obtaining information on the prevalence of VAW, it is important that users of these statistics are aware of their strengths and weaknesses:

On records-based data:

- (a) Strengths of records-based statistics on VAW:
- Lesser cost of implementation as mechanisms are already in place (e.g., police, service providers);
  - Provide a valuable source of information on the number of VAWC cases covered by police'/service providers' records;
  - Can be used to monitor women who come forward for help ; and
  - Can help to estimate the cost to society of responding to VAW
- (b) Weaknesses of records-based statistics on VAW:
- Do not normally cover all forms of VAW (e.g., psychological, economic as commonly reported cases are based on physical and sexual abuse;

- Underreporting of VAW cases as these cover only those reported to the police, served by providers

On survey-based data:

- (a) Strengths of survey-based statistics on VAW:
- Possible to estimate the overall prevalence of VAWC cases in a country/area;
  - Can reach women who would not otherwise report to a police; and
  - Can reflect actual occurrences of VAW rather than what is reported to police, service providers.
- (b) Weaknesses of survey-based statistics on VAW:
- Costly to implement (e.g., specialized training of interviewers).

**Concluding remarks and recommendations**

19. The paper presented the efforts of the PSS to compile relevant statistics on gender. Toward enhancing the generation of gender statistics, the following observations/recommendations are made:

- Aside from the compilation of “conventional” gender statistics, it is possible to produce new statistics on gender despite limited budgetary and manpower resources (e.g., youth’s attitude on sex-related issues, rights to ancestral domains and lands, etc.).
- The international community should push the agenda on the improvement/refinement of developmental activities undertaken by national statistical systems (e.g., estimation of local level GDI, women’s contribution to the economy accounting for unpaid work, and prevalence of VAWC) to benefit from the learnings, experiences of other countries.
- Statistical Capacity building, not only of the producers, but also of the data users must be pursued.
- Data users should demonstrate actual policy uses of the statistics they say they need.



## ACRONYMS

<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>DSWD</b>	Department of Social Welfare and Development
<b>GAD</b>	Gender and development
<b>GDI</b>	Gender-related development index
<b>NCRFW</b>	National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women
<b>NCS</b>	National Convention on Statistics
<b>NDHS</b>	National Demographic and Health Survey
<b>NSCB</b>	National Statistical Coordination Board
<b>PNP</b>	Philippine National Police
<b>PSDP</b>	Philippine Statistical Development Plan
<b>PSS</b>	Philippine Statistical System
<b>SHWMP</b>	Statistical Handbook on Women and Men in the Philippines
<b>StatSpeak</b>	Statistically Speaking articles by Dr. Romulo A. Virola
<b>VAW</b>	Violence against women
<b>VAWC</b>	Violence against women and children
<b>YAFSS</b>	Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey

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UPPI, University of the Philippines Population Institute. Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Survey.

NSO, National Statistics Office. National Demographic and Health Survey.

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