

National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice in the Philippines

Center for Women's Resources

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Acronyms

4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARMM	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nation
AVAs	agribusiness venture arrangements
BBB	Build, Build, Build
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CSOs	civil society organizations
CSR	cohort survival rate
CTRP	comprehensive tax reform program
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EDCA	Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement
EPIRA	Electric Power Industry Reform Act
FDIs	foreign direct investments
FTAs	free trade agreements
GASTPE	Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education
GDP	gross domestic product
HEIs	higher education institutions
ISDS	investor-state dispute settlement
LDRRMF	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund
MCW	Magna Carta of Women
MDGs	millennium development goals
MSME	micro, small, and medium enterprises
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
ODA	Official Development Aid
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PEZA	Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PNP	Philippine National Police
POEA	Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
PPP	public-private partnerships
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PTR	pupil-teacher ratio
SDGs	sustainable development goals
SSS	Social Security System
SUCs	state universities and colleges
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TRAIN	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion
VAT	value-added tax
VAW	violence against women
VFA	Visiting Forces Agreement
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Executive Summary

The Philippines is rich in natural resources, has fertile, arable lands, diverse flora and fauna, extensive coastlines, and rich mineral deposits. Despite its rich natural resources, the Philippine economy remains underdeveloped and more than a quarter of its population is living below poverty line.

The Philippine government has committed to achieve the Goals of the Agenda 2030 through its Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022. The PDP is anchored in the Zero to 10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda, the AmBisyon Natin 2040, which the government deems the collective vision of Filipinos for the next 25 years.

The PDP follows the neoliberal model of economic growth and profit, based on market competition and free trade, and gives high priorities for the private sector involvement. The government's development framework promotes liberalized trade and investments, flexibilization of labor, privatization of public services, cutbacks on public spending, among others. This framework gives local and foreign corporations all the opportunities to grab productive resources to raise their capital, to make profits without restrictions, and get big tax cuts and privileges.

With such development plan, women are the worst-impacted, as patriarchal values continue to reinforce women's lack of socioeconomic power and disproportionate susceptibility to poverty. The Philippine government also continues to prioritize enhanced militarism over addressing the systemic and structural roots of unrest such as poverty, displacement, and the monopolization of land and resources by corporations. The realization of the SDGs in the Philippines is further threatened by the nation's high vulnerability to the climate crisis, and it is the women who bear the greatest impact of climate change.

This report focuses on five priority goals namely Goal 4 on Quality Education, Goal 8 on Decent Work, Goal 10 on Reducing Inequalities, Goal 13 on Climate Action, and Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Using relevant indicators, the report provides national and regional data derived from the national statistical system, as well as data and information gathered by different development institutions, civil society and people's organizations. It also presents stories derived from interviews, focus group discussions and consultations with women from different sectors – peasant, indigenous and national minorities, workers, urban poor, young women, as well as women leaders from different communities in the Philippines.

Goal 4 – Quality Education: Filipinos' right to education has been impeded by privatization, budget constraints, as well as reforms to liberalize the education system to adapt to global market trends instead of national development.

The Philippines posts a high net enrolment rate at 95.9%, however, cohort survival rate (CSR) remains low, especially in region with highest poverty incidence like Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao with its CSR at 39.6% in elementary level and 67.8% in secondary level. As year level increases, there is also a decrease in school participation especially in tertiary education. Out-of-school children and youth stand at 3.6 million where 2.4 are females.

Goal 8 – Decent Work: Jobs and livelihood with decent wages and incomes remain an aspiration for Filipinos. As the government allows for deregulation in labor policies, non-regular work and different forms of labor flexibilization continue.

Unemployment rate stands at 5.7%, underemployment is at 16.1%. While women post lower unemployment and underemployment, the labor force participation of women is at 46.2%, the lowest in the past decade. For those who are able to find work or livelihood, many are in low skilled, low waged, non-regular employment. Three out of 10 workers are considered in various forms of non-regular work.

Across the country, wages differ by region because of the Wage Rationalization Law, where workers from outside Metro Manila get 25% to 78% lower wages. Gender wage gap continue, where women get 3% to 25% lower daily wage compared to men in almost all occupation groups. Labor flexibilization also paves the way to further labor violations and abuse especially on the issues of occupational health and safety. There is a decreasing number of workers joining organizations or trade unions.

Goal 10 – Reduced inequalities: Redistribution of wealth and resources remain a challenge. While the country's richest 50 persons own as much as a quarter of the GDP (gross domestic product), 21.9 million Filipinos are living in poverty. Five out of nine basic sectors including women, children, farmers and fisher folks have higher poverty incidence than the general population.

Incoherent policies - like the regressive tax reform program - are furthering inequalities. Policies of privatization also limit the poor's access to basic social services and social protection.

Goal 13 – Climate action: The high poverty incidence aggravates the low capacity of the poor to cope in times of extreme weather conditions and disasters. Despite the State's commitment to support in times of disaster, its policy of deregulation in extractive and energy industry exposes the country to further corporate plunder and environmental destruction.

Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: The Philippines, despite being a signatory in almost all of international treaties on human rights and even translating them into national laws, the human rights situation of Filipinos, especially the women sector, has remained bleak. More than 22,000 were killed in anti-drug operations and 222 victims, mostly farmers and indigenous peoples, were victims of political killings. Violence against women continues to be a pressing issue and the culture of impunity persists.

If the implementation of the SDGs in the succeeding years will follow the same neoliberal framework, we will state a very bold prediction: inequality, impoverishment, injustice, and the majority will once again be left behind. It is high time that the Philippine government re-examines its development framework, review and recall its macroeconomic neoliberal policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation, and denationalization.

Significantly, every concerned Filipino is resolved to realize a society free from poverty and inequality, to live in peace and prosperity based on social justice. They are resolved to push for an alternative development model that seeks to redistribute wealth and resources, ensure economic development and social inclusion of the poor and vulnerable. They call for a development model that takes into account ecological sustainability and genuine democratic society where power lies on the people. They are collectively working to advance a development framework that respects human rights and centers on people's right to development based on five foundational shifts of redistributive justice, economic justice, gender and social justice, environmental justice, and accountability to peoples as pillars for genuine sustainable progress.

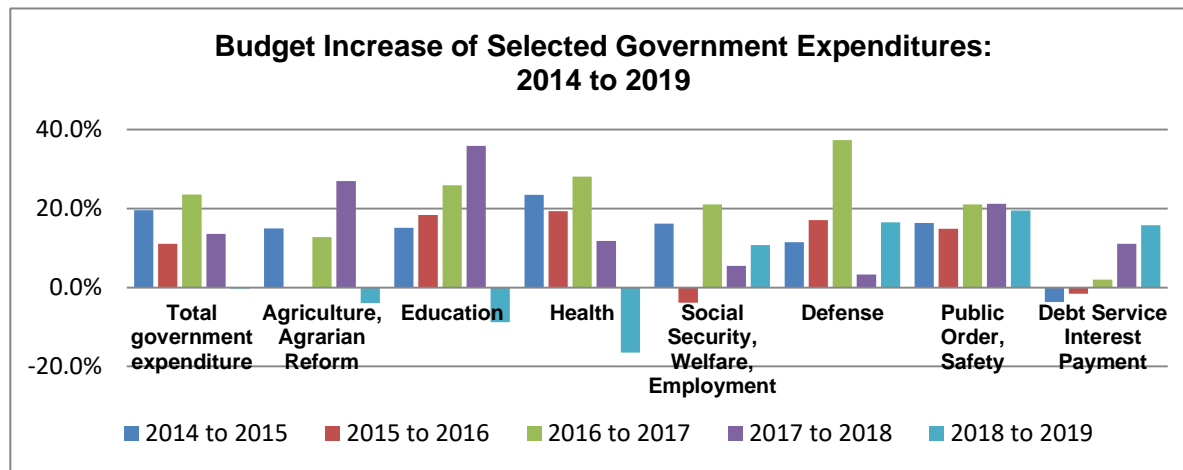
CHAPTER 1

Introduction

Collection of Key Data

Country's Palma Ratio¹: 2000 to 2017 - 1.9

Comparison of the Country's Health and Education vis-à-vis Military Spending: 2018		
Sector	In Peso	In US Dollar
Defense, Military, Public Safety and Order	Php400,811,510,000	\$7,707,913,653.8
Health	Php179,367,664,000	\$3,449,378,153.8
Education	Php760,226,151,000	\$14,619,733,673.1
Source: Department of Budget and Management, 2018		



Minimum Wage of the country vis-à-vis Wage of Richest Individual in the country:	
Annual Minimum Wage of the Country ²	Annual Net Worth of Richest Individual in the Country
Php186,880 (\$3,737)	Php951.6 billion (\$ 18.3 billion) - Henry Sy
Source: National Wages and Productivity Commission, Forbes.com	

¹ The Palma ratio is a measure of inequality. It is the ratio of the richest 10% of the population's share of gross national income (GNI) divided by the poorest 40%'s share.

² For those who do not work but are considered paid on rest days, special days and regular holidays

National Context

The Philippines is an archipelagic nation consisting of over 7,000 islands, with a population of approximately 105 million people. It is rich in natural resources, has fertile, arable lands, diverse flora and fauna, extensive coastlines, and rich mineral deposits. Despite these rich natural resources, the Philippine economy remains underdeveloped and more than a quarter of its population is living below poverty line.

The Philippine government as a member state of the United Nations has committed to adopt the General Assembly resolution on the Agenda 2030, to take transformative steps for sustainable development. The government is implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its plans and programs through the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, anchored in the Duterte administration's Zero to 10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda, as well as the AmBisyon Natin 2040, the collective vision of Filipinos over the next 25 years.

However, this Philippine development framework centers on the neoliberal model of economic growth and profit based on market competition and free trade which gives high priorities for the private sector involvement. It promotes liberalized trade and investments, flexibilization of labor, privatization of public services, cutbacks on public spending, among others. This approach gives local and foreign corporations all the opportunities to grab productive resources to raise their capital, to make profits without restrictions, and get big tax cuts and privileges.

Women are the worst-impacted, as patriarchal values continue to reinforce women's lack of socioeconomic power and disproportionate susceptibility to poverty. The Philippine government also continues to prioritize enhanced militarism over addressing the systemic and structural roots of unrest such as poverty, displacement, and the monopolization of land and resources by corporations. The realization of the SDGs in the Philippines is further threatened by the nation's high vulnerability to the climate crisis, and it is the women who bear the greatest impact of climate change.

Trade and investments

The Philippine government takes part in various intergovernmental organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) to facilitate liberalization and endorse further removal of restrictions or barriers on the free exchange of goods between member states.

As a result, the Philippines is party to a number of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) including the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Philippine-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (PJEPA). The Philippines also has free trade agreements with China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Australia and New Zealand under the ASEAN.³ There are also 14 FTAs that are either proposed or under consultation and study. This includes FTAs with Pakistan, Chile, Mexico, Australia, Canada, and the United States.⁴ (See Table 1)

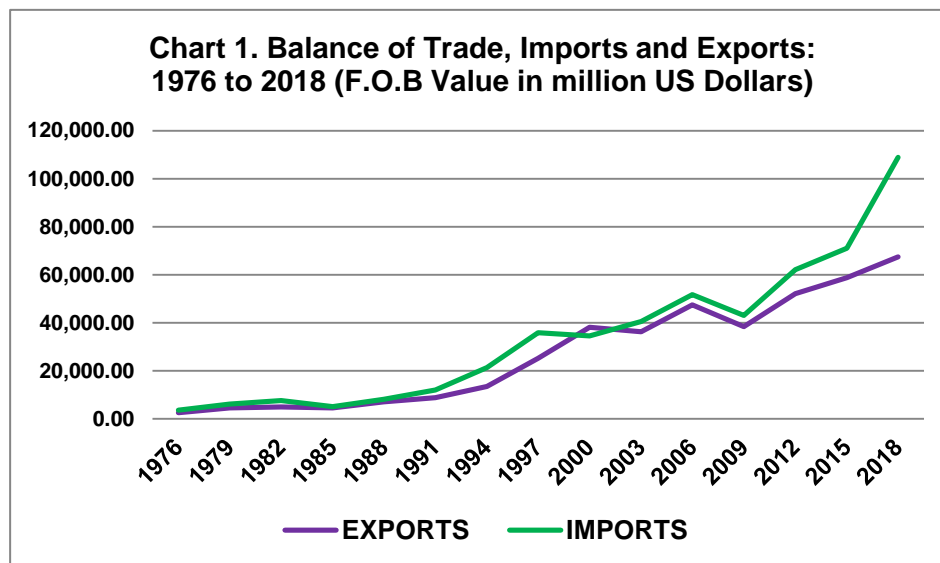
³ Philippine Free Trade Agreements. Department of Trade and Industry

⁴ Asian Development Bank. Asia Regional Integration Center

Table 1. Philippine Free Trade Agreements					
Proposed	Under Negotiation		Signed but not yet In Effect	Signed and In Effect	TOTAL
	Framework Agreement Signed	Negotiations launched			
14	0	2	2	7	25
Source: Department of Trade and Industry, 2017; Asia Regional Integration Center					

Trade agreements pressure developing countries like the Philippines to pass laws and policies to further liberalize the economy, thus, the enactment of laws such as the Foreign Investment Act (1991) and Special Economic Zone Act (1994), among others.

Through the years, the Philippines' export-oriented, import-dependent trade policy, coupled with its involvement in various trade agreements, has sunk its economy to a perpetual trade deficit. For example, since the Philippine accession to GATT-WTO (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-WTO) in 1995, and the subsequent creation of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), from an average of US\$2.34 billion deficit from 1976 to 1994, trade deficit has increased to an average of US\$5.35 billion from 1995 to 2015. It further grew in 2016, with a cumulative deficit of US\$26.7 billion and US\$41.4 billion at the end of 2018. (See Chart 1)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018

Through PEZA, foreign direct investments (FDIs) are encouraged by offering investment and fiscal incentives. Companies in special economic zones enjoy income tax holiday, tax and duty-free importation of raw materials, capital equipment, machineries and spare parts; exemption from payment of any and all local government imposts, fees, licenses or taxes, among others.⁵ But to further attract FDIs, the law called Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018⁶ has been enacted to simplify the application process of local and foreign businesses in the country.

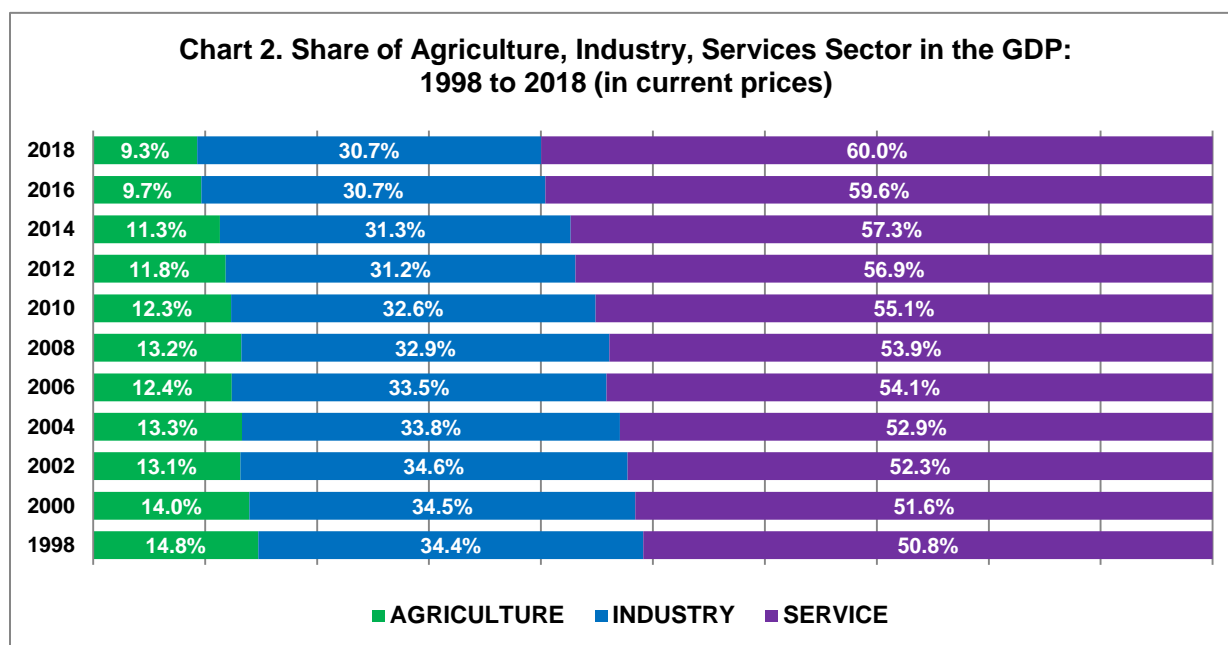
⁵ fiscal Incentives to PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises

⁶ Department of Trade and Industry. (2018). Briefer on Ease of Doing Business Act of 2018, <https://www.dti.gov.ph/business/ease-of-doing-business#ra-11032-ease-of-doing-business-and-efficient-government-service-delivery-act-of-2018>

Thus, a significant amount of FDIs goes to the special economic and export processing zones that mostly benefit foreign investors. In 2017, of the Php105 billion (US\$2.08 billion) FDIs, 74.1% went to PEZA.⁷ From 2010 to 2017, the top foreign investors came from Japan (23%), Netherlands (19%), United States (15.2%), Singapore, British Virgin Islands and South Korea. Most of these investments have gone manufacturing, business process outsourcing, commercial and residential real estate, and transport infrastructure.

These areas are profitable for foreign and local big business, but not necessarily beneficial to the country's economic development and upliftment of peoples' lives. While most of the FDIs are concentrated in manufacturing, these are low value-added, labor intensive, assembly of semiconductors and other electronics, and not investments geared for national industrialization and agricultural development. The jobs that these investments create are mostly low-skilled and low waged.

Thus, the country's economy remains underdeveloped, with the industry sector's decreasing share in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) from 34.4% in 1998 to 30.7% in 2018. (See Chart 2)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2019

Agriculture, which is the base of rural development, has also declined from 14.8% in 1998 to only 9.3% in 2018. On the other hand, services comprise 60% of the country's GDP from 50.8% in 1998.

Through ASEAN, the Philippines is also currently negotiating with the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which aims to create an FTA among 10 ASEAN members - a market of 600 million people – with its six dialogue partners to create an even

⁷ Department of Trade and Industry, 2018

bigger market of 1.3 billion.⁸ The Philippines also expressed interest to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA).⁹

Additionally, the Philippine government plans to ensure full liberalization of the economy by changing the constitution. Charter change proponents push for the wholesale removal of all domestic regulations to increase foreign direct investment flows. This includes opening up of strategic enterprises, natural resources, land ownership, public utilities, professions, education, mass media and telecommunications, including the 100% ownership of these enterprises by foreign entities.

On ISDS cases

International trade deals often come with mechanisms to settle disputes between the investors and the host countries called investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Since 2002, under the WTO, the Philippine government has been slapped with five ISDS cases.

This includes the case filed by Baggerwerken Decloedt En Zoon (BDZ) when the Philippine government scrapped the Php18.7 billion (US\$371 million) Laguna Lake Rehabilitation Project (LLRP) in 2011.¹⁰ The LLRP is said to be one of the questionable deals that former President Arroyo signed. Fisher folks group PAMALAKAYA¹¹ also argued that the dredging project was pushed at the expense of the peoples' rights to livelihood, housing and sound environment.¹² The decision favored BDZ and the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes ordered the Philippine government to pay Php800 million (US\$15.9 million) in fines plus interest for the supposed losses incurred by the firm for the cancellation of the project.

Another pending case against the Philippine government was filed by Dutch Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX). The SPEX claimed that the imposition of Php53.14 billion (US\$1.05 billion) income taxes on the Malampaya consortium was unlawful.¹³ The ISDS case is clearly being used by SPEX to challenge the decision of the Commission on Audit to stop the Philippine government from collecting taxes from the consortium. (See Table 2)

Table 2. List of ISDS Cases against the Philippine Government		
Short case name	Summary	Home State of investor
Shell Philippines v. Philippines (2016)	Summary: Claims arising out of the Government's allegedly unlawful order for payment of PHP 53.14 billion (USD 1.1 billion) in income taxes imposed on the Malampaya consortium that operates a natural gas development project in West Philippine Sea. The consortium also includes Chevron Malampaya LLC (45%) and the Philippine State-owned PNOC Exploration Corporation (10%). Outcome: Pending	Netherlands

⁸ Ted Cordero. (2018). RCEP to reach conclusion in 2019 —DTI. GMA News TV

⁹ Philippine Star Global. (2017). Philippines revives plan to join Trans-Pacific trade bloc

¹⁰ Benaning, Marvyn. (2017). PHL to pay P800 million for Laguna Lake project scrapped by Aquino administration. Business Mirror

¹¹ PAMALAKAYA (Pambansang Lakas ng Mamamalakaya sa Pilipinas) is a national federation of small fisherfolk organizations in the Philippines

¹² Villanueva, Rhodina. (2011). Group hits renegotiation of P18-billion Laguna Lake dredging. Philippine Star.

¹³ Rivera, Danessa. (2016). Shell files tax case for international arbitration. The Philippine Star

Baggerwerk en v. Philippines (2011)	Summary: Claims arising out of the Government's unilateral termination of a contract entered into by the previous administration with the claimant for the rehabilitation of Laguna Lake to reduce flooding caused by heavy siltation and to improve the ecological condition of the area. Outcome: Decided in favour of investor	Belgium
Fraport v. Philippines I and II (2003 and 2011)	Summary: Claims arising out of the annulment of a concession contract concluded between the Philippine Department of Transportation and Communication and claimant's company for the construction and operation of an international passenger terminal at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. Outcome: Decided in favour of State	Germany
SGS v. Philippines (2002)	Summary: Claims arising out of alleged breaches of an agreement concluded between the investor, a corporation which provided verification, testing, monitoring and certification services, and the Philippines. Outcome: Settled	Switzerland
Source: UNCTAD, Investment Policy Hub		

The filing of ISDS cases is driven by the interest of investors and corporations thus; it becomes a ticking time bomb that endangers host countries. A very powerful corporation from an imperialist country would always be at an advantage in a dispute settlement with a developing country, which is highly indebted and import-dependent like the Philippines.

On National Debt

The debt service burden of the Philippines has reached \$7.7 billion in 2018.¹⁴ For more than 30 years, the Philippines has implemented the Automatic Appropriations Law (AAL) that compels the government to automatically set aside a portion of its annual budget for debt servicing, including the payment for interest and principal amortization of government debts from fraudulent loans that did not benefit the people. From 2008 to 2017, the continued implementation of AAL has resulted in an average of 30.9% annual public revenues automatically earmarked for debt servicing way ahead of the allocations for social, economic and public services.

With the Build, Build, Build (BBB) infrastructure program, the national government has programmed its total gross borrowings for 2019 at Php1.19 trillion (US\$36.5 billion), which could further add up to the burgeoning national debt.¹⁵ Alarming, China, which was identified as one of the key lenders for the BBB, has relatively high interest rates for borrowings. The Philippines has so far secured loans from China for the Php4-billion Chico River Pump Irrigation project in Kalinga and Cagayan provinces, and the Php18-billion New Centennial Water Source Kaliwa dam project in Quezon province. The Philippines is said to be looking into at least 10 loan agreements with China for projects that include the Philippine National Railways South Long-Haul Project, the Subic-Clark Railway Project, the construction of five bridges across the Pasig-Marikina River and Manggahan Floodway, and the Ambal-Simuay River and Rio Grande de Mindanao River Flood Control projects, among others.¹⁶

¹⁴ Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. (2019). Selected External Debt Ratios

¹⁵ Cu, Rea. (2018). Government sets 2019 gross borrowings at P1.19 trillion. Business Mirror

¹⁶ Ariffin, Eijas. (2018). China to boost Duterte's Build! Build! Build!. The ASEAN Post

Corporate capture

The Philippine government has actively pushed for privatization and public-private partnerships (PPP). In 2010, it established the PPP Center to facilitate the implementation of the country's PPP programs and projects. According to the PPP Center, as of October 2018, there are 28 solicited projects out of which, 12 are already awarded amounting to Php323.06 billion (US\$6.4 billion). Twenty more unsolicited projects from various private companies and corporations are being considered.¹⁷

Through PPPs the richest few in the country further enrich themselves by contracting projects with the government. For instance, Henry Sy, the richest individual in the country got the contract for school infrastructure, the Ayala family acquired the contract for the automated fare collection system, and Gokongwei submitted for the Clark International Airport operations and maintenance project. (See Table 3)

Table 3. Philippines' Richest and their Corresponding PPP Projects: 2018 (net worth in billions US dollars)			
Rank	Name	Net Worth	PPP Project
1	Henry Sy	18.3	Php9.89 billion PPP for School Infrastructure Project – Phase I & II, Clark International Airport Expansion Project – Engineering, Procurement and Construction, Mactan-Cebu International Airport Passenger Terminal Building
2	Manuel Villar	5	Has not bidded for any PPP projects, but the Alloy-PAVI Hanshin LLED Consortium composed of Malaysia's MTD Group, Prime Asset Venture Incorporated of the Villar Group, Korean Hanshin Construction Corp., and Korea Rural Corp. pre-qualified as bidder for the P123 billion (\$2.8 billion) Laguna lakeshore expressway dike project but did not pursue with the bidding ¹⁸
3	John Gokongwei, Jr.	4.4	Clark International Airport operations and maintenance contract
4	Jaime Zobel de Ayala	4	Php2.23 billion DaangHari-SLEX Link Road Project, Php1.72 Billion Automatic Fare Collection System
5	Enrique Razon, Jr.	3.9	£14.5 million Tagum port project through International Container Terminal Services, Inc.
6	Lucio Tan	3.8	Mactan-Cebu airport project with San Miguel Corporation
7	Ramon Ang	2.85	Php17.93 billion Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Expressway Project (Phase II)
8	Andrew Tan	2.6	Php15.9 billion NAIA expressway extension
9	Isidro Consunji	2.45	Php62.7 billion Metro Rail Transit Line 7
10	Aboitiz Family	265 M	Php35.5 billion project — a 47-kilometer highway that will connect the Manila-Cavite and South Luzon (SLEx) expressways
Sources: Forbes, PPP Center			

¹⁷ PPP Center. (2018). Status of PPP Projects (Solicited and Unsolicited)

¹⁸ Rappler.com. (2015). 'Super consortium' clear to bid for Laguna expressway dike project.

Because most of the PPP projects are into infrastructure, there has been a general lift in the fortune of businesses in the real estate and construction sectors. Manuel Villar, a real estate tycoon, has tripled his wealth in the past year, making him the second richest man in the country in 2018. Incidentally, his son also sits as the head of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the national government agency in charge of most infrastructure development projects in the country.

Big ticket projects, such as the 75 flagship projects worth \$36 billion, are also included in the BBB infrastructure program. More private firms have already signified interest in contracting these infrastructure projects.

Through privatization, which gained its momentum in the 1980s, the government has abandoned its role of providing basic services for the people, even in highly essential public services such as water and energy. For example, since the enactment of the EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) in 2001, only four corporations – San Miguel Energy Corporation, Aboitiz Power, First Gen, and government privatization entity Power Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation – have cornered 65% of market share in power generation. This has resulted to higher electricity rates over the years.

In the water sector, the privatization of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System in 1994 has resulted in soaring water rates as private concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, rake in massive corporate profits. It is also critical to note that the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have pushed for the privatization of MWSS, which then owed them some US\$800 million in debt.

Even government social welfare programs have incorporated private partnerships. The Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), a cash transfer program aiming to reduce poverty, has partnered with Ayala's BPI Globe Banko and has started conducting financial literacy trainings as part of the sustainable livelihood program.

To give further concession to businesses, and to supposedly attract more investors, part of the comprehensive tax reform program (CTRP) being pushed by the present administration is the lowering of corporate income tax from 30% to 20%.

With the deregulation and privatization of state assets, the people endure unfair market prices, race-to-the-bottom wages, unbridled plunder of resources and environmental destruction, and denationalization of the country's economy, while the rich further enrich themselves.

Land and resource grabs

Landlessness remains widespread as farmers, including women, could hardly own the land that they till. Despite decades of agrarian reform program, seven out of 10 farmer families are landless according to the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.¹⁹ On the other hand, large landholdings, haciendas, and plantations persist.

As corporations invade state utilities and institutions, they also acquire more lands and resources. Big landowners, many of whom are also sitting as policy makers and legislators -

¹⁹ As stated by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, the largest peasant organization in the Philippines

collaborate with corporations and convert their agricultural lands to business centers than allow these lands to be confiscated by the state for agrarian reform.

Based on the records of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), after three decades of implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), only 88.9% of the 5.42 million hectares of land have been awarded to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).²⁰ The program has a total expenditure of Php286 billion (US\$5.7 billion) from 1987 to 2016, making it the longest running, most expensive land reform program. Yet, it did not fulfill its objective of distributing land to the landless farmers.

Big landlords and corporation also employ schemes to circumvent the law and prevent the farmer beneficiaries from tilling the land. Such schemes include stock distribution option (SDO), agribusiness venture arrangements (AVAs), land conversion, among others.

Under SDO, farm workers are offered shares of stock instead of land. Land grabbing, land conversion, AVAs, and similar schemes are also rampant. According to DAR, there are more than 1.2 million hectares of distributed lands that are under various AVAs as these are usually imposed on agrarian reform beneficiaries, through non-land transfer schemes which is allowed under CARP. The AVAs is also part of the government's adherence to agricultural liberalization policies, peddled by the World Trade Organization and the World Bank to devote large areas of lands and water resources for export-crops, mostly under the effective control of agribusiness corporations.²¹

In Mindanao alone, plantations are controlled mostly by transnational corporations including Dole, Del Monte, Cargill Oil, and Sumifru. They are primarily geared to export markets and occupy almost 500,000 hectares, or 12% of the island's agricultural land. Dole Philippines has pineapple plantations in at least 13,000 hectares in South Cotabato alone through lease agreements.²² (See Table 4)

Table 4. Selected Foreign Enterprises Operating in Special Economic Zones*	
Enterprise	Ownership
Cargill Oil Mills Philippines, Inc. (Agro-Industrial)	99.99%, American, 0.01% Filipino
Del Monte Philippines, Inc. (Export)	99.99% Panamanian, 0.01% Filipino
Dole Philippines, Inc. (Export)	99.88% - American, 0.12% Filipino
Green Future Innovations, Inc. (Agro-Industrial)	69% Japanese, 25.3%, Filipino, 5.7% British Virgin Islander
Manila Refining Corporation (Export)	50% Filipino, 40% Japanese, 10% French
Newtech Pulp, Inc. (Export)	99.9999% German, 0.0001% Filipino
Sakamoto Orient Chemicals Corp. (Export)	99.99996% Japanese, 0.00004% Filipino
Sumifru Philippines Corp. (Export)	99.999994% Singaporean, 0.000004% Japanese and American, 0.000002% Filipino
* as of November 2017 Source: Philippine Economic Zone Authority	

²⁰ Ballesteros, Marife, et al. (2017). The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program after 30 Years: Accomplishments and Forward Options. Philippine Institute for Development Studies

²¹ Lozande, John Milton. (2018). Agricultural workers bat for approval of Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill. Business Mirror

²² Sarmiento, Bong. (2017). Dole Philippines opens new \$20M plant in South Cotabato. Minda News

Palm oil plantations also displace peasants and small farmers from their land. According to REAP Mindanao²³, from 2005 to 2014, areas covered by plantations have doubled from 23,478 to 42,731 hectares.²⁴ The Philippine Palm Oil Development Council Inc. targets 300,000 hectares more for palm oil plantations by 2023. The Duterte administration has started inviting foreign investors to invest in palm oil in Mindanao, with the Malaysian government as one of the keen investors for a joint venture project.²⁵

The armed forces is also claiming vast tract of lands for military reservation and training ground that further displaces peasant and indigenous communities. Reports from the farmers and farmworkers attest that government military and police forces assist the foreign investors, corporations, and landlords in driving them away from their lands.

Climate change

Due to its geographic location, it is also prone to natural calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, floods, landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, making it one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. However, the human-induced climate change has worsened the risk of these extreme weather events. The Philippines ranks 5th in the most affected countries by climate change, according to the Global Climate Risk Index Report 2018.²⁶

Despite maintaining lower share of global carbon emission, as the government allows multinational corporations to explore coal mining - the carbon emission in the country is on the rise, according to the Philippine Climate Change Assessment report.²⁷ The use of coal and fuel oil for energy generation has contributed 41.8%, or almost half of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the country in 2010 and is growing annually by 3.7%.²⁸ (See Table 5)

Table 5. Philippine Carbon Emission: 2011, 2014 and 2015					
2011	2014	2015	2011	2014	2015
CO2 Emissions (Metric kiloton*, kt)			Per Capita CO2 Emissions (Metric Tons of CO2 per Person)		
85,496.10	105,653.60	113,035	0.9	1.1	1.1
*1 Metric kiloton = 1000kgs Source: World Bank					

This alarming increase is a result of the prolonged reliance of the Philippines on coal-fired plants to generate the country's energy needs. In 2010, there were only 18 coal-fired power plants in the country, by 2018, it increased to 48. (See Chart 3)

²³ REAP (Resisting Expansion of Agricultural Plantations) Mindanao is a network of people's organizations and advocacy groups resisting transnational agro-plantations in Mindanao

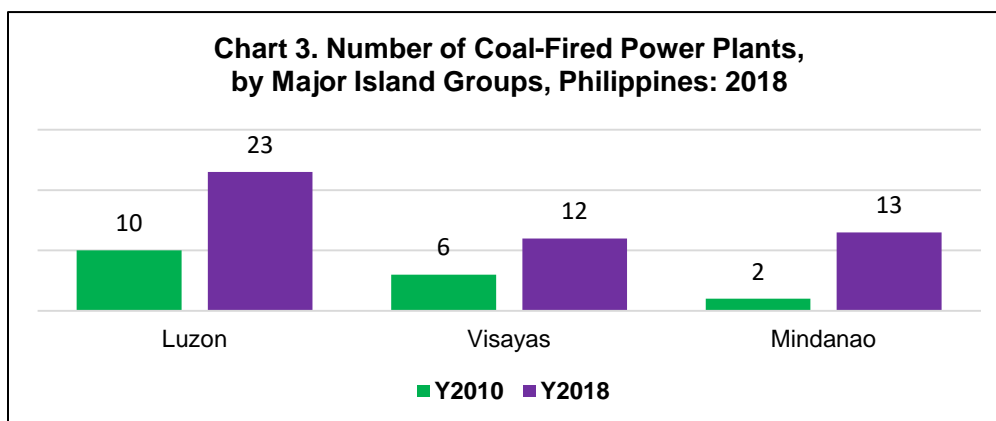
²⁴ Anakpawis Partylist. (2017). House Resolution No. 918 On the Demand for A Nationwide Moratorium of Plantation Expansion

²⁵ Ranada, Pia. (2016). Malaysian investors eye more palm oil plantations in PH. Rappler

²⁶ 5th in Global Climate Risk Index Report

²⁷ Jalandoni, Apples. (2018). Greenhouse gas emissions in PH rising: report. ABS-CBN News

²⁸ Ibid.



Source: Department of Energy

There are currently 25 more planned coal-fired power plants which have been granted environmental compliance certificates and are now either operational or under construction.²⁹ Most of these facilities are in communities of farmers and indigenous peoples. Aside from dirty carbon emission, coal fired power plants destruct natural resources to give way to their construction.

While the Philippines is among the richest countries worldwide in terms of ecological resources and diversity, its surrounding is currently mired in a rapid state of destruction, degradation, and decline. According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, a total of 703,846.67 hectares or 2.35% of the total land area of the Philippines are covered by mining tenements. Some nine million hectares have been identified with high mineral potential. Currently, there are 108 large scale operating mines and quarries in the Philippines and 3,389 small quarries and sand & gravel operations covered by permits issued by local governments.³⁰

Most of the country's vast forests, covering around 70% of the country's total land area of 30 million hectares at the beginning of the 1900s, have been damaged in the past 100 years. Reportedly, only 23.7% of the forest have been left (1987 record) and the downward trend is continuing despite log bans.

This environmental destruction and depletion due to resource grabbing exacerbates the devastating consequences of extreme weather conditions brought by climate change. Since the 1950s, the Philippines has been struck by more than 530 meteorological (storms), hydrological (flood and landslide) and climatological (drought) disasters. The number of recorded disasters has increased dramatically seven decades. (See Table 6)

Table 6. Occurrence of Disaster: 1950s to 2010s					
Year	Storm	Flood	Landslide	Drought	Total*
1950s	11	-	-	-	11
1960s	17	1	1		19
1970s	48	13	1	1	63
1980s	58	14	6	3	81

²⁹ Quismundo, Tarra. (2016). Why is PH building 25 more coal-powered plants? Philippine Daily Inquirer

³⁰ DENR - Mines and Geosciences Bureau. (2018). The Philippine Mineral Industry at a Glance

1990s	56	28	9	2	95
2000s	80	43	8	2	133
2010s	71	51	5	1	128
* Meteorological/ Hydrological/ Climatological Source: EM-DAT: The Emergency Events Database - Universite catholique de Louvain (UCL) - CRED, D. Guha-Sapir - www.emdat.be, Brussels, Belgium					

For instance, tropical storm Washi (2011) killed more than 1,200 people as the denuded mountains and forests failed to hold the huge amount of rainfall that poured into the two low-lying cities in Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao. Super typhoon Haiyan (2013) destroyed the Visayas islands, which resulted to 6,300 deaths, 28,688 injured people, more than a thousand missing, 3.42 million affected families, and approximately Php95.48 billion (US\$1.9 billion) damaged properties.

During disasters where lives and livelihood are disrupted, women initiate to find alternative sources of living. Women take on various jobs such as house helpers, laundrywomen, vendors, dressmakers, among others. Such tasks add burden to women since when they return to their families - be it in the makeshift homes or in evacuation centers - they are still the ones expected to do the housework. Climate-induced disasters also increase the vulnerability of women and girls to be victims of illegal recruitment and trafficking.

Militarism and conflict

The Philippine government exemplifies a country that embraces the culture of militarism. In guise of peace and order and “war against terror”, it promotes militaristic programs and policies.

The Duterte administration specifies peace and order at the top of its socioeconomic agenda where fighting criminality, corruption, and smuggling is the bedrock that has to be addressed to achieve development.³¹ However, this peace and order-related programs relies more on military and police strength rather than addressing the deep-seated poverty, which is the cause of unrest and armed conflict.

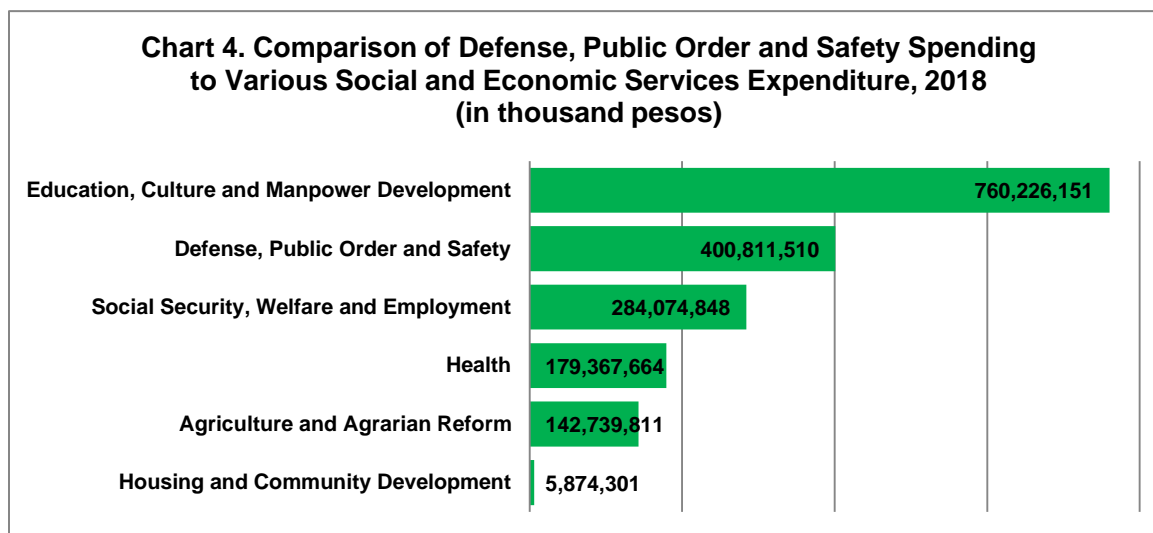
The peace and order campaign plan of the Duterte administration is the Development Support and Security Plan (DSSP) Kapayapaan based on National Security Policy 2017-2022, which is also part of PDP 2017-2022. Oplan Kapayapaan (Operation Peace), just like the past internal security plan, continues and intensifies the psychological warfare, intelligence, and military operations both in the rural and urban areas.

Oplan Kapayapaan is characterized by massive militarization in the countryside, especially in communities where big local and foreign businesses operate. In Mindanao, peasant and indigenous communities are heavily militarized when they resist the incursion of mining companies and agro-corporations. Massive rights violations have been recorded in areas with military presence.

³¹ National Economic and Development Authority. (2017). Briefer on the Zero to 10 Socioeconomic Agenda

Military spending over people's welfare

A culture of militarism among state authorities prioritizes spending on the military and public order than on people's welfare. Aside from debt servicing, military and police expenditure gobbles up a significant portion of the national budget. The combined budget is 123% higher than the budget for health and 41% higher than the spending for social security, welfare and employment. (See Chart 4)



Source: Department of Budget and Management, 2018

Militarization of the bureaucracy

One significant trend in the Duterte administration is the expanding militarization of its bureaucracy. Several military men has been appointed in top government civilian positions in major departments such as the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), National Food Authority (NFA), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Foreign military intervention

The Philippines has long history of military ties with foreign countries, particularly the United States. The Mutual Defense Treaty signed in 1951, serves as the basis for other military agreements such as the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) signed in 1999 and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) in 2015. The VFA is a bilateral visiting forces agreement between the Philippines and the United States, while EDCA is a ten-year deal that allows a strengthened U.S. military presence in the Philippines.³²

Through these agreements and military exercises, the United States military has also employed direct training capabilities, which in effect has allowed US troops to join the Philippine armed forces both in non-combat and combat operations. One of the areas of these military exercises under VFA is Crow Valley in Camp O'Donnell, a component facility of Clark Air Base spanning in the provinces of Pampanga and Tarlac. This military reservation used to be the

³² Albert, Eleanor. (2016). The U.S.-Philippines Defense Alliance: A Backgrounder. Council on Foreign Relations

home of the indigenous Aeta people but they have been displaced when the US forces occupied it as a military base. During the annual Balikatan exercises under the VFA around April and May, the Aetas could hardly tend their farms. With the signing of EDCA, an expansion for US military operation has been proposed and once again, the Aeta people are faced with the threat of dislocation.

There have also been recorded cases of abuse perpetrated by foreign troops such as the rape of “Nicole” in 2005 and the murder of Jennifer Laude in 2014.

Patriarchy and fundamentalism

Filipino women are still tied in traditional role of caregivers and nurturers of the family and their full potential as nation builders can hardly be developed in the current socioeconomic set-up. Indicative of this is the low participation of women in the labor force. In 2017, 32% of working age women are economically “inactive” due to household or family duties, compared to 2.4% among men.³³ Women are primarily considered as fillers of gaps in labor needs so any income that they generate is regarded as merely supplemental. Their productivity in their multiple tasks as worker and homemaker is widely accepted and promoted by neoliberal technocrats, even using this as a leverage to engage women in home-based and sub-contract work.

Gendered social norms also pressure women to perform satisfactorily in domestic and care work despite women’s participation in paid work. Change in views about women’s role in society seems to move in slow motion. With the double task as worker and homemaker, women are constrained to fully participate in paid work. The relative high fertility rates continue to raise the number of women who are becoming economically “inactive” due to family duties, especially given the low availability of child care services in the country.³⁴

Data on violence against women

The intensifying socioeconomic and political crisis in the country is increasing the vulnerability of women to gender-based abuses. Despite more than 37 laws, executive and administrative orders pertaining to the protection of women and children, including the Magna Carta of Women, the national translation of CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women), many women still experience abuse every day. In 2016, there were 9,943 reported cases of rape where seven out of ten victims were minors, while the number of reported cases of domestic abuse remained high at 35,093.

Alarming, the most powerful man in the country perpetuates misogyny, raising concerns from women’s rights, people and human rights organizations that it openly encourages violence against women and contributes to the culture of impunity. Since 2016, at least 30 misogynistic statements by President Duterte were monitored and recorded³⁵.

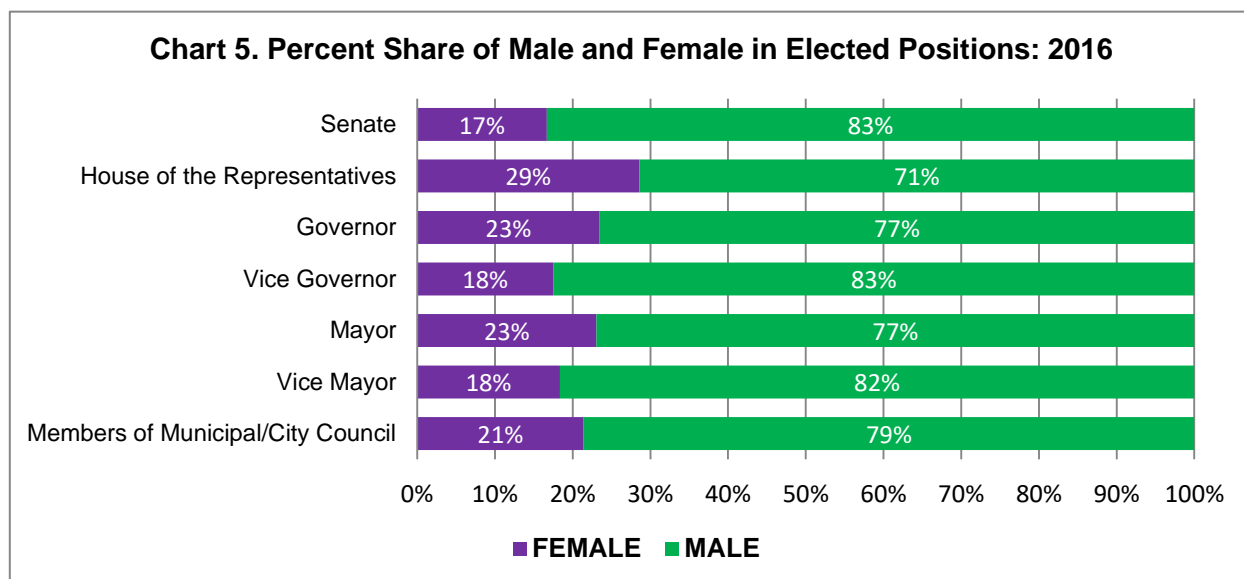
³³ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2019). Decent Work Statistics

³⁴ Center for Women’s Resources. (2017). Promises Unfulfilled, Change Unperceived: A Country Report on Filipino Women in the Time of Neoliberalism

³⁵ Center for Women’s Resources. (2018). Research and Databank. Monitoring of Pres. Duterte’s Misogynistic Remarks and Statements

Data on women in governance

Women are actively involved in the parliamentary process, registering a higher number of voters than men, according to the Commission on Elections. Since the granting of the right to vote in 1937, women have been active participants in the electoral process. While there are more registered women voters, and consequently, higher voter's turn-out, this does not necessarily translate to women sitting in elected positions. (See Chart 5)



Source: Commission on Elections, 2017

In local governments, during the 2016 national elections, only 19 out of 81 provinces elected female governors and only 14 female vice governors. A total of only 377 (23%) females were elected as mayors out of 1,257 mayoral positions.³⁶ In higher positions such as in the Senate and House of Representatives, women only account for 70 seats out of the total 435 seats.

Notably, many of the elected women are positioned because they belong to political dynasties and their family ties allow them to enter politics. This includes the election of Corazon Aquino who came from a political clan and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a daughter of a former Philippine president.³⁷

At the same time, they act as place keeper for their husbands, fathers, and brothers. In such political practice, women fill in the seats formerly occupied by their male family members whose term had ended so as to ensure the continuation of the family's position until the next elections.

³⁶ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2019). Factsheet for Men and Women

³⁷ Silvestre, Jaylyn. (2001). The Rise of Women Leaders in the Philippines. The Berkeley McNair Research Journal.

National context as it pertains to the 2030 Agenda

Despite pronouncements of growth and prosperity, the Philippine economy remains underdeveloped and in a perpetual socioeconomic crisis. While market-oriented development policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation, and denationalization benefit a few, a quarter of the population continues to live below poverty line. And in a feudal-patriarchal society such as the Philippines, women bear the brunt of this economic and social crisis.

The Philippines, as a member state of the United Nations (UN) has committed into achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets by 2030. The SDGs is pronounced as a “universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity”. The government sees this as a renewed commitment to finish what have been started through the millennium development goals (MDGs).

In 2016, the Philippines conducted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR). At the report, it stated that the country will draw lessons from the Philippine experience on its implementation of the millennium development goals (MDGs). These lessons include 1) Good governance as a key lesson where the attainment of the MDGs requires a sustained and consistent commitment from all stakeholders; 2) The need for a clear implementation plan that covers institutional arrangements, communication and advocacy strategies, and financing plan; and 3) An appropriate data monitoring system to support the accountability mechanism in place.

This year, the Philippine government is set to report again to update on the country's commitment to the SDGs by sharing the country's experiences, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned in line with its goal of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. According to NEDA, the government is taking a whole-of-society approach in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. This includes the engagement with different national and local government units, the private sector, academe, and civil society organizations (CSOs).

However, women express concern with the overall implementation plan of the SDGs which brings into play the similar neoliberal framework that the government has been following for decades. This continuation of a "free market" development framework has only kept the country underdeveloped. Thus, implementing the 2030 Agenda with this development framework becomes a business-as-usual scenario.

CHAPTER 2

Philippine SDG Commitments and Means of Implementation

The Philippines, as a member state of the United Nations (UN) has committed into achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets by 2030.

A. Philippine SDGs Architecture

The Executive Order 27³⁸ (series of 2017) directs all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units, to implement the Philippine Development Plan and Public Investment Program 2017-2022. The PDP 2017-2022 has been based on the long-term vision *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, the Duterte administration's 0+10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The PDP 2017-2022 serves as the de facto SDGs roadmap of the country.

The *Ambisyon Natin 2040* aims to achieve the long-standing Filipino dream: high quality of life. It promises a vision of “*Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay*” By 2040, it aims that: Filipinos are strongly rooted: *matatag*. Filipinos are comfortable: *maginhawa*. Filipinos are secure: *panatag*.

In the Duterte administration's Zero to 10 Point Socioeconomic Agenda, peace and order is defined as the bedrock of development. It prioritizes the following: continuation of macroeconomic policies, progressive tax reform and collection, increasing competitiveness and ease of doing business including relaxation of Constitutional restrictions, accelerating annual infrastructure spending through public-private partnerships, promotion of rural enterprise and rural tourism, ensuring security of land tenure to encourage investments, investing in human capital development to meet the demand of businesses, promotion of science and technology and creative arts, improving social protection programs including conditional cash transfer, and strengthening the implementation of the Reproductive Health Law.

The Public Investment Program 2017-2022 (PIP) accompanies the PDP 2017-2022 which contains a list of priority programs and projects to be implemented by the national government, government owned and controlled corporations, government financial institutions, and other national government offices and instrumentalities within the medium term. Each proposed program also shows how it contributes to the achievement of the SDGs.

Institutional Mechanisms

The country has taken an integrative approach in the implementation of the SDGs which uses existing mechanisms and structures both at the national, regional, and local level. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), as the cabinet-level agency responsible for economic development and planning, looks into synergies of the SDG indicator framework in relation to the monitoring of the country's medium and long term development plans, which also serves as the country's SDGs roadmap. On the other hand, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) serves as the official repository of national data, as well as the national SDG indicators.

³⁸ Executive Order (EO) 27, series of 2017 entitled “Directing all government agencies and instrumentalities, including local government units to implement the Philippine Development Plan and Public Investment Program for the Period of 2017-2022”

With regards to resolving regional disparities in development, the Philippine government embarks on the localization of the SDGs, with the Regional Development Plans (RDP) serving as its main mechanism. The RDPs are regional translations of national development strategies and priorities. NEDA's Regional Development Offices are in charge of the crafting and coordination of the RDPs.

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the government's think tank attached to NEDA, has been tasked to assist in drafting the 2019 Philippine VNR report.

C. On SDGs Indicator Development

From October 2015 to May 2017, the PSA, conducted several technical workshops and discussions to come up with the Philippine SDG indicators, identify data sources and data collection methods. These processes have identified 103 SDG global indicators as well as 28 proxy and 25 supplementary indicators, which are supposedly readily available from the entire Philippine Statistical System.

D. Financing the SDGs

According to NEDA, financing the implementation of the SDGs would require increasing government's fiscal space. Since the national budget is the primary instrument for ensuring the implementation of the SDGs, the budget department has announced the Duterte administration's "expansionary fiscal policy" to increase spending on infrastructure, rural development, and social services³⁹ purportedly to create jobs and address the inequality in the country.

Expansionary fiscal policies

1) The Philippine government focuses on promoting economic growth to increase the economic pie and attain inclusive development. It expects a strengthened GDP growth of 7% to 8%, by 2022. With this, the government continues to rely on local and foreign businesses to spur up growth. The Duterte government encourages the acceleration of the public-private partnerships, apparently to create jobs and inject economic activity in the country. It also hopes to attract more FDIs through easing economic restrictions and expunging crimes like war and "terrorism".

2) Additional domestic resource is planned to be mobilized through the collection of excise tax on alcohol and tobacco. There is a current proposal in the Philippine congress meant to raise excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products to fund the government's Universal Health Care (UHC) program.

3) The Philippine government also pushes for the comprehensive tax reform program (CTRP), including the continuous implementation of its first package, the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN). Among the key features of TRAIN Law is the expansion of the value-added tax (VAT) base, repealing 54 out of 61 previously VAT-exempted products and services. For example, TRAIN subjects to VAT the sale of electricity by generation companies,

³⁹ Diokno, Benjamin. (2018). Speech delivered by the Secretary of Department of Budget and Management entitled "To Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" at the Talakayang Alay sa Bayan, Ateneo de Manila University

transmission by any entity, and distribution companies including electric cooperatives. It also increased the excise tax of petroleum products, as well as excise tax on sweetened beverages.

The TRAIN Law aims to collect additional taxes of which 70% is to be used for infrastructure development projects while 30% is said to be allocated for social services delivery. Through the TRAIN Law, the Duterte administration is hoping to finance its Php8 trillion BBB program in the span of five years.

Official Development Aids (ODA) and Loans

While the Philippine government continues to collect additional consumption taxes through the implementation of TRAIN to fund its infrastructure projects, a significant source of funding will also come from official development assistance and foreign loans. According to NEDA, of the 75 flagship projects, 48 will be funded either by loan or ODA from China, Japan, South Korea, World Bank at Asian Development Bank. Among these are the Mega Manila Subway to be funded by a US\$7-billion loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Metro Manila Flood Management Project to be funded by US\$207.63 million loan from World Bank and US\$207.63 million from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and the China-backed Php4-billion Chico River Pump Irrigation, and the Php18-billion New Centennial Water Source Kaliwa Dam Project.

Public-Private Partnership

With the limited fiscal space, the government is looking into the private sector as a reliable partner in infrastructure development. Over the years, PPPs in the country has progressed and it continues to engage the private sector in different development efforts. As of October 2018, there are 28 solicited projects out of which, 12 are already awarded amounting to Php323.06 billion (US\$6.4 billion). Twenty more unsolicited projects from various private companies and corporations are being considered.

Other sources of financing

The Philippine government has also identified overseas remittance as another source of financing for the country's development plans, and consequently, the SDGs. Overseas remittance hit record high in 2018 at \$33.8 billion, 20.28% higher than the \$28.1 billion in 2017. These remittances are expected to be utilized for long-term investments or diaspora investments such as home and businesses and short term savings. It is also looking into remittance securitization by banks for big-ticket public-private partnerships.

Women, however, remain doubtful on the government's development framework and financing strategies in implementing the SDGs. Relying more on neoliberal framework for development and accumulation as stipulated in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. It aggravates the economic disaster in an import-dependent and export-oriented country like the Philippines.

Historically, the government's pro-market, pro-private sector approach for four decades did not uplift the dire condition of the majority, especially of women. The same neoliberal framework has given much space for the private and business sector.

Moreover, the implementation of the Duterte administration's centerpiece program of TRAIN and BBB has proven to be an ineffective measure in addressing development concerns. The

application of TRAIN Law has caused the inflation to surge up from just 3.45% in January to 6.7% in September 2018. With TRAIN's second batch of petroleum taxes this 2019, inflation is expected to remain above the target range for the year. Families belonging to the lowest income decile are the hardest hit because of the uncontrollable rising of food prices, which is the highest expenditure among households.

With regards to the BBB being funded by TRAIN, as well as foreign loans and ODAs, this will mainly serve business interests as the projects mostly consist of airports, railways, bus rapid transits, roads and bridges, and seaports. The projects aim to connect several economic zones and business districts. On the other hand, it will displace urban dwellers, farmers, fisher folks and residents living along the proposed alignment of the projects. Critically, the national debt will surely escalate significantly since the projects are lent from ODAs and foreign loans.

E. Peoples' Movements Participation

Civil society organizations and people's organizations, including women's organizations have been pushing for genuine transformative development even before the MDGs and SDGs. With the onset of the SDGs, civil society and people's movements have signified interest in opening discussions on what needs to be done.

While the Philippine government has claimed that it opens up space for engagements for CSOs in the form of consultations, which is also a very limited space as not all civil society and people's representatives are being consulted. Worse, CSO participation is being constricted as the government defines peace and security as no dissent and critical thinking.

As civil society organizations, people's organizations including women's organizations voice out their opposition on the repressive and regressive development policies of the Duterte government, the latter's response is to brand everyone as enemies and terrorists.

CHAPTER 3

Women's Priorities

This section provides a review of the progress of the Philippines related to the Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education, Goal 8 on Decent Work, Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities, Goal 13 on Climate Action and Goal 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

While discussing the progress of each Goal using specific targets, it provides national and regional data derived from the Philippine national statistical system, as well as data and information gathered by different development institutions, civil society and people's organizations. It presents the stories and experiences of women derived from interviews, focus group discussions and consultations with farmers, indigenous and national minorities, workers, urban poor, and young women, as well as insights women leaders from different communities in the Philippines. It also discusses how women and the people respond to the challenges posed by the implementation of incoherent policies that impedes the realization of genuine transformative development.

Goal 4 – Quality education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Filipinos put premium on education as the way to improve their lives. A 2013 survey by Nielsen revealed that for Filipinos, education leads to better employment opportunities (90%) and a chance to get higher income (87%).⁴⁰

As a basic human right, education should be prioritized by the State and it should avoid measures that hinder the enjoyment of this right. Education is not only important for individual development, but it is also necessary to attain inclusive growth and national development. However, the present state of the Philippine educational system characterizes an arrangement of privatized social service with budget constraints as well as reforms that adapt to global market demands.

Target 4.3. By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Indicators

- Net enrolment rate in elementary, secondary education by sex
- Cohort survival rate by region
- Youth population attending and not attending school
- Number of out of school youth
- Percent share of education budget in national expenditures

Ensuring equal access to education

Majority of elementary students are enrolled in public schools, as primary education is stipulated as compulsory in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. While the Philippines posts high net enrollment rate (95.9%) in the elementary, the number of enrolled students decreases as the year level increases. The net enrolment in the secondary schools is at 74.2%. This trend is more evident in public schools than in private schools. In private schools, while net enrolment is relatively lower than in public schools, it steadily increases as the year level increases. In tertiary education, private enrolment is 15.7% higher than public enrolment.⁴¹ Segregated by sex, there is also slightly higher enrolment rate of females than males in the country. (See Table 7) However, such a high enrolment rate of females does not guarantee an equivalent proportion of female graduates.

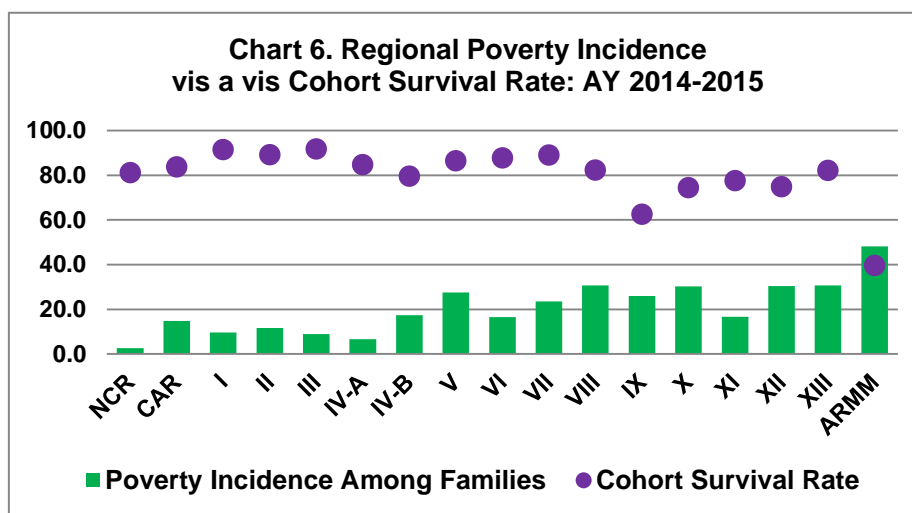
Table 7. Net Enrolment Rate in Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools by Sex: 2015		
School Level	Male	Female
Elementary	90.20	91.96
Secondary	63.59	72.95
Source: Philippine Statistical Yearbook 2018		

⁴⁰ Nielsen Holdings N.V. (2013). A Gateway to a Better Life Education Aspirations Around the World – A Global Survey

⁴¹ Department of Education. (2016). Enhanced Basic Education Information System

Cohort survival rate

In terms of cohort survival rate (CSR) or the percentage of enrollees at the beginning grade in a given school year who reached the final grade of the elementary and secondary level, the Philippines has posted 94.2% and 84.6% respectively. Regional data (2014) also yields lower rates for specific regions. The Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao⁴² (ARMM), one of the poorest regions in the country, has posted only 39.6% cohort survival in elementary and 67.8% in secondary school. (See Chart 6)



Source: Department of Education and Philippine Statistics Authority

The low CSR is consistent with the level of poverty where regions with higher poverty incidence have posted lower CSR. Household financial condition remains a major factor in accessing education. A report of 3.6 million children and youth are counted as out-of-school where 2.4 million are females (2017). As abovementioned, the higher number of female enrollees does not guarantee an equally high cohort survival rate.

Women in the communities have attested that many students are forced to stop studying because of poverty, especially in rural and remote areas. Although no tuition and miscellaneous fees are collected in public elementary and secondary schools, families bear the daily costs of going to school including school supplies, school projects, food, and transportation.

“Napakahirap, isang kahig, walang tuka ang kalagayan naming mga kababaihan sa komunidad, marami ang hindi nakapag-aral. Paano pa nila mapapag-aral ng dekalidad na edukasyon ang kanilang mga anak, kulang pa sa pagkain ang kita ng pamilya. Hanggang elementary nalang. Tumutuong sa hanapbuhay o kung minsan maagang nag-aasawa.” (Women in the communities are in dire straits, we are in a hand-to-mouth existence, many of us could not afford to go to school. So, how can we also enroll our children in a high caliber school since our income is not even enough for our food. So our children just reach the elementary level. Children help out to augment the meager family income or some of them get married early.)

- woman from General Santos (Soccsksargen)

⁴² now officially Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) after the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in a January 21, 2019 plebiscite

“Natigil din sa pag-aaral ang mga anak ko noong panahon na hindi kami makapagsaka. Kahit pa sabihing libre sa public, hindi pwedeng hindi kakain ang mga bata. May gastos yan sa araw-araw, may projects at iba pang bayarin.” (My children also stopped going to school during the time when we were prevented from tilling our land. Even if it's free in public schools, of course, our children need to eat. There are daily expenses, projects, and other fees.)

- woman from Nueva Ecija (Central Luzon)

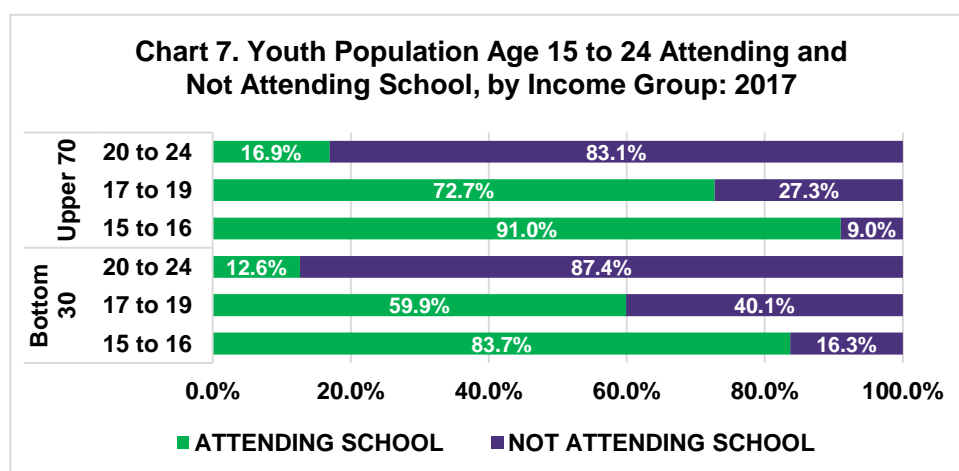
To supposedly address the problem of low survival in school, the government has implemented through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).⁴³ One of the conditions of the program is for the beneficiaries to ensure that their children of schooling age - from pre-school to high school - regularly go to school. The program provides Php300 (\$5.76) education subsidy per month for each child. However, this subsidy translates to only Php13 (US\$0.24 cents) per day per student.

According to DSWD, education compliance rate of the program is at 95.8%. However, there is a decreasing level of compliance as year level increases. For instance, pre-school compliance is 96.6% while compliance for schooling children aged 15 to 18 is 94.4%.⁴⁴

Access to higher education

As year level increases, school participation decreases. Young people belonging to low income households could hardly access higher education. In the tertiary level, private education institutions have outnumbered state universities and colleges (SUCs), with 2,396 and 686 students, respectively.

Hence, when participation decreases, there are fewer youth in school. According to the Annual Poverty and Income Survey, for youth aged 15 to 24, those in the bottom 30 percent are most likely not attending school than those in the upper 70 percent income group. For instance, for 17 to 19-year olds in the lower income group, 40.1% are not attending school as compared to 27.3% in the upper 70 percent. Such age group supposedly experiences the cognitive stage of development for tertiary education. (See Chart 7)

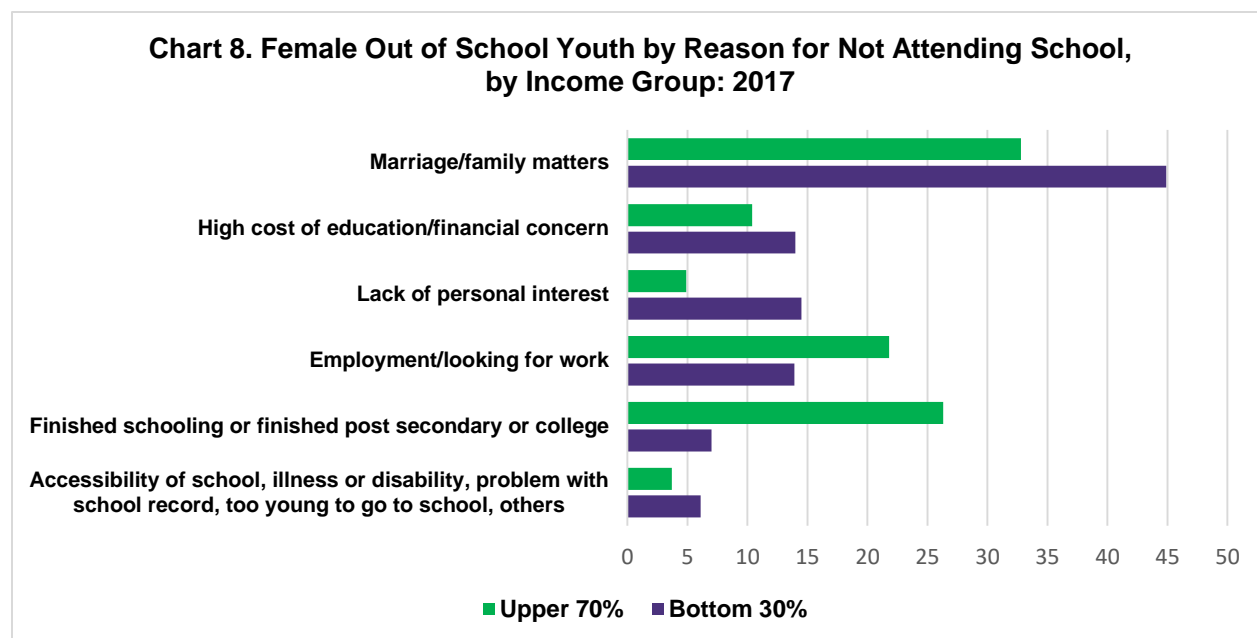


Source: Annual Poverty and Income Survey, 2017

⁴³ a conditional cash transfer program that provides cash grants to the poorest population

⁴⁴ Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2018). 4Ps Program Implementation Status Report 1st Quarter 2018

The lack of financial capacity of low-income households is one of the reasons why young women could hardly get opportunities to enhance their potential. With such limited educational opportunities coupled with the traditional dictates of women ending up as housewives, 44.9% of young women in the bottom 30 percent of families tend to marry early. (See Chart 8)



Source: 2017 Annual Poverty and Income Survey

According to women in the communities, they have stopped studying after elementary level and some after high school because their parents could hardly afford the expenses. Some of them have found odd jobs but most of them get married early, believing that their husbands could now answer for their economic needs.

“Sa mga nanay, marami sa kanila ang di nakapagtapos ng elementary. Sa kabataang kababaihan, tumitigil pagkagraduate ng high school dahil hindi na kayang pag-aralin ng mga magulang. Mamamasukan sila o naitutulak na mag-asawa ng maaga at naipapasa sa aasawahin ang responsibilidad ng pagpapamilya.” (Among the mothers, many of them did not graduate from elementary school. For the young women in the communities, majority of them stopped after high school because their parents cannot afford to pay for their studies. They look for jobs or are encouraged to marry early to pass on to their husbands the responsibility of providing for them.)

– participant from Cagayan (Cagayan Valley)

“Kahit may Free Education, hindi naman makaka-akses dito ang marami sa mga maralita sa komunidad dahil ni hindi sila nakakaabot na makapagtapos ng high school o kahit man lamang elementary.” (Despite Free Education, many of the poor in the community cannot access it because they could not even finish elementary, much more high school.)

– participant from Capiz (Western Visayas)

“Gusto ko talagang mag-aral, nursing nga sana kasi nung nagkasakit si Tatay hirap talaga kami. Kaso wala e, kasi malayo ang college dito, mahal rin. Wala namang pampaaral sina nanay. Kailangan tumulong kay nanay.” (I really wanted to study. I

wanted to take up nursing especially during that time when Father got sick. But the college (school) was far from here, it was also expensive. My mother cannot bear the cost. I had to help her.)

– young woman in Quezon (CALABARZON)

In 2017, the Philippine government has implemented the Free Education Act. The law expects to cover about 1.3 million youth, with additional subsidy for 300,000 youth from 4Ps beneficiary-families. It is expected to minimize the number of out-of-school youth with the free tuition and miscellaneous fees in state colleges and universities.

However, the target 1.3 million beneficiaries of free education only comprise 19.4% of 6.7 million young people who should obtain tertiary education. Currently, 3.7 million students are enrolled in the tertiary level while three million are out-of-school youth.

Education budget constraints

At first glance, the budget for education seems increasing for the last three years. However, the budget allocated for education remains wanting. For instance, the 2018 budget for the Department of Education comprised only 15% of the national budget. Such budget could not compensate the increasing need for teachers, classrooms, and learner's materials. (See Table 8)

Table 8. Education Expenditure, 2016 to 2018 (in thousand pesos)			
Education Expenditure	2016	2017	2018
Education, Culture and Manpower Development	444,248,360	705,934,717	760,226,151
<i>Department of Education</i>	<i>370,165,936</i>	<i>568,436,097</i>	<i>580,632,131</i>
<i>State Colleges and Universities</i>	<i>52,477,262</i>	<i>61,440,129</i>	<i>65,244,684</i>
<i>TESDA</i>	<i>6,392,287</i>	<i>6,827,560</i>	<i>7,717,368</i>
<i>Other Education, Culture and Manpower Development Agencies</i>	<i>15,212,875</i>	<i>69,230,931</i>	<i>106,631,968</i>
Total National Budget	2,682,814,855	3,350,000,000	3,767,000,000
<i>Percent Share of Department of Education Budget⁴⁵</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>15%</i>
Source: Department of Budget and Management			

For instance, while the national pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) in public schools has improved from 1:32 (2016) to 1:31 (2017) for elementary, the PTR of 1:36 in ARMM and CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon Province) indicates the high need for teachers vis-a-vis the population of students. For the classroom-to-learner ratio, from 1:35 in 2016, this has improved to 1:33 in 2017 for elementary, and from 1:43 (2016) to 1:36 (2017) for the secondary level. But in many schools especially in the National Capital Region (NCR), the number of students in a classroom can reach to 50 to 60 students to one teacher.

For several years, the Department of Education (DepEd) has been implementing a policy of double shifting of classes to address the problem of inadequate classrooms as a result of the increased enrolment and the continuing severe budget constraints.⁴⁶ With the double shift, one

⁴⁵ The Department of Education is the primary department tasked to ensure elementary and secondary education

⁴⁶ Department of Education. (2004). Department Order 62, S. 2004 – Adoption of Double Shift Policy in Public School to Address Classroom Shortage

group of students will occupy the classroom in the first half of the day and another set in the second half. Some schools even have three to four shifts.

According to DepEd, more or less 70% of the schools in NCR are implementing the double shift. To maximize learning hours, students are made to go to school as early as 5:30 AM for the morning shift, while students in the afternoon shift would go home at dusk time, which could increase the risk of endangering the safety of students, especially young girls.

The DepEd has indeed made steps to address the shortage in basic education facilities albeit, through partnering with the private sector. Using the PPP model, the education department channeled government funds to private companies to build classrooms and other school facilities through the PPP for School Infrastructure Project (PSIP). It has completed the Php9.89 billion (US\$186.5 million) - Phase I (9,296 classrooms) in partnership with two private companies, while the Php3.86 billion (US\$72.79 million) - Phase II is still ongoing.

Aside from depending on private construction companies for school buildings, another policy is implemented to supposedly address the lack of classrooms through the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) program. The ESC is provided for by the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act, or GASTPE. Its main objective is to decongest public secondary schools by “contracting” the excess capacities of private high schools through the provision of subsidies for students who, otherwise, would have gone to the public high schools. From 2012 to 2017, the government has allocated approximately Php86 billion to the GASTPE program.⁴⁷

For higher education, in 2018, an estimated Php40 billion (\$793 million) has been allocated for the Free Education program, with the following breakdown: Php16 billion (\$317 million) for higher education, Php7 billion (\$139 million) for free technical-vocational education, Php15.9 billion (\$315 million) for subsidy, Php1 billion (\$20 million) for the student loan program and Php11 million (\$218, 253) for a tracking and reporting system.⁴⁸

As it is, the budget for state universities and colleges (SUCs) remain inadequate. The budget could hardly cover the improvement of buildings and facilities. With such limitation, state universities restrict the number of students so as to avoid overcrowding in campuses. Instead of augmenting the budget for state universities and colleges, the government has opted to provide subsidies to low-income youth who will enroll in private schools through Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES).

The TES has an allocation of Php16 billion (\$317 million) from the Php40 billion (\$793 million) budget of the Free Education law. It is a grants-in-aid program that provides funding for students from the poor households enrolled in private higher education institutions (HEIs).⁴⁹ This can also cover for subsidies for books, supplies, transportation, room and board costs, and other expenses. A student with disability will also be given a separate set of allowance. Those who would opt to enroll in private institutions can receive Php60,000 (US\$1,190) subsidy a year.⁵⁰

Initially, the project seems adequate. However, private schools increase their tuition fees yearly, as approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Thus, the subsidy given to a

⁴⁷ Commission on Audit. 2018. GASTPE: Performance Audit Report

⁴⁸ Morallo, Audrey. (2018). Duterte Year 2: Philippines moves closer to free college tuition for all. Philippine Star

⁴⁹ Commission on Higher Education. (2018). Tertiary Education Subsidy in Full Swing

⁵⁰ Morallo, Audrey. (2018). Duterte Year 2: Philippines moves closer to free college tuition for all. Philippine Star

student from poor households is insufficient. Moreover, in the long run, programs like GASTPE and TES would benefit big businesses as they profit more from the government's lack of capacity to absorb students in public schools.

Target 4.4. By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

Indicators: Graduates of tertiary education and technical and vocational training by area of discipline and sex

Enhancing skills for the global market

As emphasized earlier, completion of education reduces inequality and increases the chance of an individual to attain decent and gainful employment. More importantly, the quality of education is also a capital element in going forward as a potential nation builder. In the Philippines, the long history of being subjugated to colonial powers has determined an educational system that continuously caters to the needs of the global market.

Thus, the government's framework of educating the Filipinos is to produce globally competitive citizens, which has been more institutionalized by the K+12 program. The K+12 educational system, enacted as a law in 2013, aims to copy the system of the developed nations, with additional two years in high school so as to equip them with relevant and globally competitive skills which will foster employability and entrepreneurship or technopreneurship.⁵¹

With state promotion of employability, many Filipino youth obtained a degree in business administration and related disciplines (29%), information technology (12%) and engineering and technology (12%). One third of women are in business courses, while a quarter are in teaching education. On the other hand, only 4% of the graduates obtained a degree in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, which are the necessary skills in an agricultural country like the Philippines. (See Table 9)

Table 9. Graduates of Tertiary Education by Share of Discipline, Sex, AY 2016-2017			
Area of Discipline	Men	Women	Both Sexes
Business Administration and Related Disciplines	22%	33%	29%
Education and Training Education	11%	25%	20%
Engineering	20%	6%	12%
Information Technology	14%	8%	10%
Agriculture	4%	3%	4%
Other Disciplines	28	24%	26%
Total	288,118	415,209	703,327
Source: Commission on Higher Education, 2018			

⁵¹ Department of Education. (2012). Department Order 36, S. 2012 – Guidelines on the 2012 Implementation of the Senior High School (SHS) Modelling in Selected Technical and Vocational Education and General Secondary Schools Under the K to 12 Basic Education Program

More so, the government encourages the youth to enroll in technical and vocational education through TESDA⁵² (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority). TESDA provides technical and vocational workers for the demands of the labor market locally and abroad. Since 2000, there has been a steady increase of graduates from TESDA, with a total of 24 million graduates in 17 years. (See Table 10)

Table 10. TVET Enrolment and Graduates by Year: 2000 to 2016		
Year	Enrollees	Graduates
2000-2004	4,862,094	4,097,984
2005-2009	9,561,227	7,913,581
2010-2014	8,922,496	7,829,216
2015-2016	4,551,054	4,280,994
Source: TESDA, 2018		

The push for high enrollees is the hope to find immediate and better employment through entrepreneurship, particularly for women. Particularly for young women, entrepreneurship is encouraged like promotion of the STAR Program (Sari-sari Store Training and Access to Resources) that provides women the entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and attitude. This program is in partnership with local government units, microfinance institutions, and non-government organizations involved in microfinance work. Coca-cola Philippines, a subsidiary of the multinational company is one of the key partners of the STAR Program.

Women can also be found in technical, vocational education and training (TVET) courses that cater to the demand of the global market, such as skills training on food and beverage services, cooking, housekeeping, and other household services activities. These are the available job opportunities offered for women, which are an extension of their gender roles and could hardly develop their latent abilities. These courses equip women as service workers primarily geared for employment abroad. (See Table 11)

Table 11. Top Most Aailed TVET Courses by Sex, 2016			
Qualifications	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Food and Beverage Services NC II	19,971	32,513	52,484
Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NC II	46,630	5,486	52,116
Cookery NC II	17,550	31,302	48,852
Bread and Pastry Production NC II	11,449	34,497	45,946
Housekeeping NC II	15,285	28,371	43,656
Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II	31,680	3,712	35,392
Computer Systems Servicing NC II	15,261	17,354	32,615
Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) NC I	24,141	2,839	26,980
Source: TESDA, 2018			

⁵² TESDA is the national government agency mandated to provide technical vocational education in accordance with the Philippine development goals

Additionally, TESDA now has Language Skills Institutes that teach Mandarin, English, Japanese, Korean, and Arabic language courses, to help overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) find better job options outside the country.⁵³ It has also launched the Emergency Skills Training Program to assist returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who have finished their contracts and immediately need particular skills when applying for another job abroad.⁵⁴

While indeed, these technical and vocational courses has enhanced the skills of Filipinos, they are not being part of the productive force in national development as much of the skills are geared to cater to the demands of the global market.

Target 4.7. By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Indicator: Legislations and policies that promote sustainable development and human rights through education

Perpetuating gender stereotypes in educational institutions

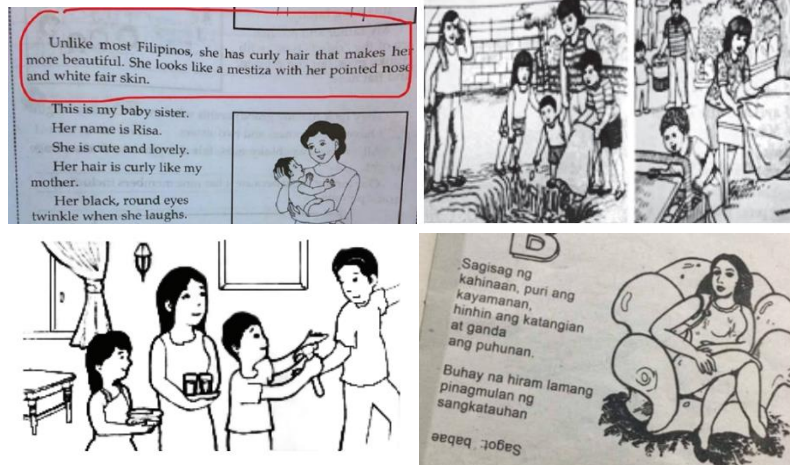
The Magna Carta of Women (MCW), enacted in 2009, provides for the elimination of discrimination against women in education. According to the MCW, "the State shall ensure that gender stereotypes and images in educational materials and curricula are adequately and appropriately revised. Gender-sensitive language shall be used at all times. Capacity-building on gender and development, peace and human rights, education for teachers, and all those involved in the education sector shall be pursued toward this end."

In a content analysis research by Java and Parcon (2016), it has revealed that reproductive and productive role portrayals are present in ten (10) basic education textbooks. In the textbook illustrations, males and females are adhering to gender stereotypes and are shown in the roles and activities traditionally and culturally assigned to them.⁵⁵ In another textbook, the physical features of a Filipino woman is presented in a way that basically reinforces beauty myths and perpetuates discrimination against Filipino women. (See illustration)

⁵³ Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. (2017). TESDA to Boost Language Training Program. Press Release

⁵⁴ Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. (2017). TESDA to Launch Emergency Skills Training Program for OFWs

⁵⁵ Java, John Rey and Parcon, Cristabel. (2016). Gendered Illustrations in Philippine Textbooks. Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Journal. Volume 3 Issue No. 1



Sources: Java and Parcon (2016), Caro, Daniella, Osmena, Tommy

Thus, there is a need to correct these traditional views and stereotypes in textbooks. Education need to be progressive that promotes gender equality and eliminates discrimination and violence.

Legislative proposals on education

Legislation could be a considerable support to improve the school curriculum. As early as 2013, proposals have been submitted to the Philippine Congress and Senate to legislate the mandatory study of gender sensitivity, human rights and labor education in all levels. To date, only the proposal on mandatory labor education in higher education curriculum has been approved at the second reading in the House of the Representatives. The rest of the proposals have been pending and are yet to be discussed. (See Table 12)

Table 12. Proposed Legislative Measures related to Gender Education, Labor and Human Rights Education	
Title of Bill	Status
HB00810 – An Act Establishing a Culture and Gender Sensitivity Program for All Elementary and High School Students, and for Other Purposes	Pending with the Committee on Basic Education and Culture since 2016-07-27
HB03511 – An Act Providing for the Mandatory Study of Human Rights in the Curricula in All Levels of Education	Pending with the Committee on Basic Education and Culture since 2016-09-13
HB07664 An Act Institutionalizing Human Rights Education in Bothe Basic and Higher Education	Pending with the Committee on Human Rights since 2018-05-21
HB7987 – An Act Integrating Labor Education into Social Science Subjects in the Higher Education Curriculum	Approved by the House of the Representatives on 2018-11-12
Source: House of the Representatives Database	

On the other hand, there is a pending proposal to reinstitute the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) for Grades 11 and 12 in public and private schools nationwide. The

proposed law will introduce basic military training for students in order to motivate, train, organize and utilize for national defense preparedness or civil-military operations.⁵⁶

The aim of instilling patriotism among the youth could not be solved by re-introducing ROTC. The curriculum of loving one's country should be instilled in grade school's social studies. However, the current textbooks for the elementary level seldom emphasize or even misinterpret the value of patriotism. Further, ROTC could even increase gender-based violence in schools since gender sensitivity is not learned in schools. Instead of reinstituting ROTC, the unsolved cases of discrimination, harassment, and mishandling of male officers against women ROTC members in the past should be addressed.

Community-based efforts in achieving sustainable development

Because of the many misses in the government's commitment in ensuring Filipino's right to education, many community-based, grassroots and people's organizations have been pushing for significant policy reforms to ensure quality education for children, youth and all learners even before the global commitments on MDGs and SDGs.

Particularly, youth-led organizations have been pushing for increase in government subsidy in the education sector. They lead in the campaigns against tuition fee and other exorbitant fee increases that burden most poor children and youth and their families.

Many organizations like the Center for Women's Resources, have educational programs that facilitate learning about literacy and numeracy, gender sensitivity, labor education, peace and human rights studies.

In some communities that have been neglected by the national and local government, the peasant organizations and indigenous peoples have initiated to build their own schools, taking into consideration the cultural and economic needs of the communities. This includes the Lumad (indigenous) schools in Mindanao.

Education needs to be transformative. The knowledge and skills that learners gain should be skills that could help them become productive forces that will contribute to the national development rather than become cheap source of labor for the global market. A transformative education should be the framework that the government follows to obtain SDG 4. The government also needs to guarantee that policy reforms towards achieving the sustainable development goals related to quality education will genuinely serve the interests of the people.

⁵⁶ Abu, Raneo. (2017). House Bill 5113: An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7077 Mandating the Institutionalization, Development, Training, Organization and Administration of Basic Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) in Grades 11 and 12 in Public and Private Educational Institutions, and for Other Purposes. House of the Representatives

Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment & decent work for all

The right to decent work is supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many internationally recognized conventions. It is also guaranteed in the Philippine constitution. Filipinos' aspiration for decent work aims to ensure that everyone – without discrimination – has sufficient access and equal opportunity to work that provides adequate compensation, just and favorable conditions, equal and adequate remuneration for work of equal value, and the rights to organize and bargain collectively is protected and promoted.

Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Indicators Unemployment, employment, underemployment rate by sex and region
Number of women in the labor force; labor force participation rate
Number of women by class of worker
Categories of work for men and women
Minimum wage by region and gender wage gap

Productive employment and decent work remain an aspiration

Unemployment and underemployment rates have remained soaring high for the past several years. The most recent data of PSA⁵⁷ reveals that unemployment rate has remained high at a national average of 5.7%, while underemployment is at 16.1%.

The worsening unemployment has in fact, merited the Philippines as the top country in the ASEAN with the highest unemployment rate since 2014. Although the official statistics on unemployment is already high, according to IBON Foundation⁵⁸, this remains relatively conservative since unemployment rate may be estimated to be at 9.2%, or equivalent to more than 4.1 million Filipinos unemployed in 2018.⁵⁹

Among the regions, Ilocos Region (8.9%), CALABARZON (7.0%), NCR (7.4%), and Central Luzon (6.6%) have posted the highest unemployment rates in the country. On the other hand, Bicol (27.6%), MIMAROPA (23.7%), and Caraga (23.1%) have recorded high underemployment rates. (See Table 13)

Table 13. Unemployment and Underemployment Rates by Region, by Sex, 2017						
Philippines	Unemployment			Underemployment		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female

⁵⁷ The Philippine Statistics Authority serves as the central statistical authority of the Philippine government on primary data.

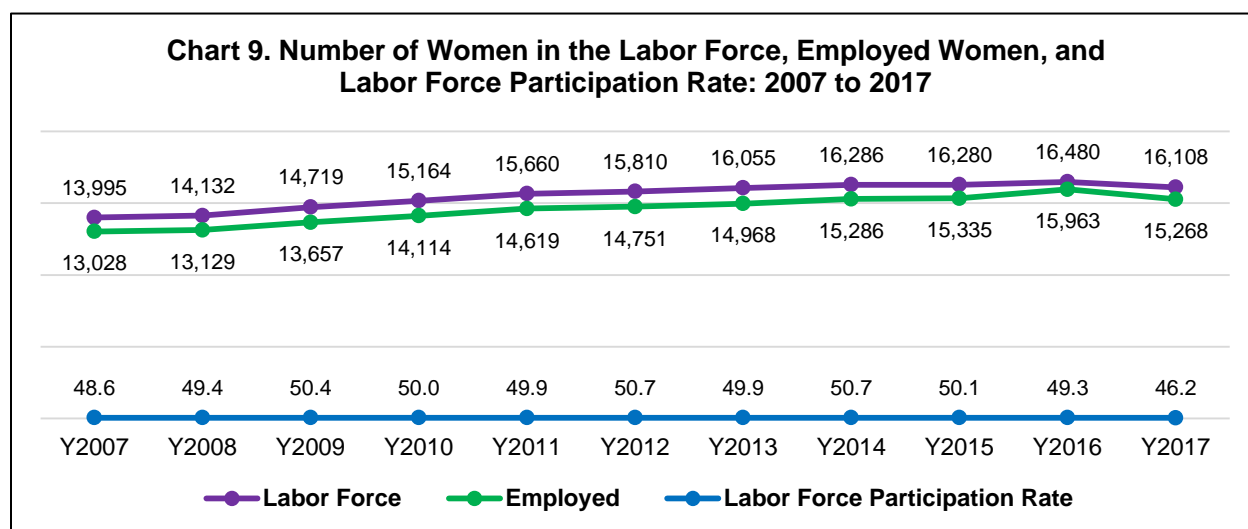
⁵⁸ IBON Foundation is Philippine-based research institution

⁵⁹ IBON Foundation (2018). Highest unemployment in ASEAN

	5.7	6.0	5.2	16.1	17.8	13.4
National Capital Region	7.4	8.4	6.0	9.3	10.5	7.8
Cordillera Administrative Region	4.3	4.2	4.2	14.8	15.5	13.5
Ilocos	8.9	9.5	7.6	19.9	22.2	15.5
Cagayan Valley	3.2	2.7	4.0	13.6	14.3	12.2
Central Luzon	6.6	6.9	6.1	11.4	12.6	9.3
CALABARZON	7.0	7.7	6.0	14.0	15.4	12.0
MIMAROPA	4.8	4.7	4.9	23.7	25.9	20.0
Bicol	4.6	5.0	3.7	27.6	30.0	23.6
Western Visayas	5.4	6.1	4.2	16.7	18.3	14.2
Central Visayas	4.5	5.2	3.7	17.5	19.5	14.8
Eastern Visayas	4.4	4.5	4.3	22.6	23.8	20.6
Zamboanga Peninsula	4.0	3.7	4.6	17.3	19.3	13.3
Northern Mindanao	5.3	5.1	5.7	18.6	20.6	15.2
Davao	4.9	4.6	5.4	17.8	20.0	13.7
Soccsksargen	4.0	3.5	4.8	17.9	20.5	13.1
Caraga	5.1	5.3	4.7	23.1	26.1	17.8
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	3.4	2.9	5.4	7.0	7.2	6.4

Source: Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment, 2018

While women seem to be posting lower unemployment and underemployment rates than men across the country, it must be noted that women's labor force participation is continuously in decline. Women's labor force participation is on a constant decline since 2014. It has fallen to 3.1% (2017), which is the lowest in the past decade. In addition, the number of employed women has also decreased to 15.258 million (2017) from 15.963 million (2016).⁶⁰ (See Chart 9)



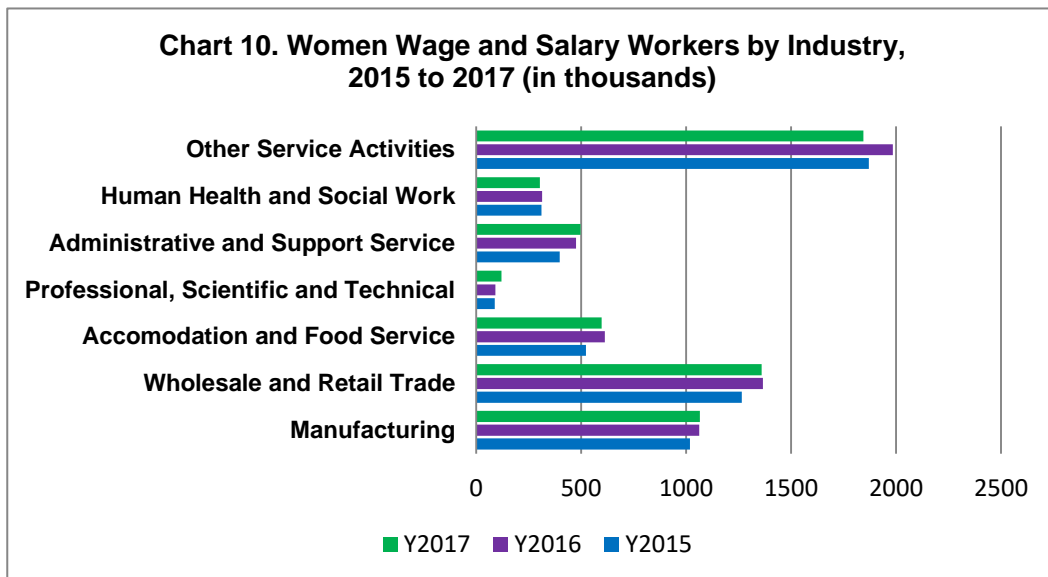
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018

In 2017, of the 15.26 million employed women, only 59.6% are wage and salary workers. Some 28.6% are considered self-employed while 9.4% are employed but are not receiving any form of compensation. (See Table 14)

⁶⁰ Philippine Statistics Authority Labor Force Survey 2007 to 2017

Table 14. Employed Women by Percent Share of Class of Worker: 2015 to 2017			
Class of Worker	2015	2016	2017
Wage and Salary Workers	56.9	58.0	59.6
<i>Worked for Private Household</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>10.6</i>
<i>Worked for Private Establishment</i>	<i>34.6</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>36.7</i>
<i>Worked with Pay in Own Family Operated Farm or Business</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>0.3</i>
<i>Worked for Gov't/Gov't Corporation</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>12.0</i>
Self-Employed Without Any Paid Employee	27.0	27.9	28.6
Employer in Own-Family-Oriented Farm or Business	1.9	2.1	2.5
Unpaid Family Workers	14.2	12.0	9.4
TOTAL (in thousands)	15,335	15,963	15,267
Source: Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment, 2018			

Most women are employed in the services sector where many are in elementary occupations, which are often extension of their reproductive work such as cooking, child care, sewing, among others. A large number of women (1.62 million in 2017) work in private households, mostly as house help, cook, cleaners, and caregiver. (See Chart 10) They receive lower compensation than the minimum wage for other workers, ranging from Php2,500 (US\$48) to Php4,000 (US\$76)⁶¹, as mandated by the Kasambahay Law of 2012.



Source: Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment 2018

In the manufacturing sector, 1.4 million women are employed. They can be found in the electronics industry (computers and peripheral equipment and accessories, consumer electronics, measuring, testing, navigating and control equipment), garments and wearing apparel, and food processing. Products of these industries are geared for exports. They are mostly operating in special economic zones that are located in the regions such as

⁶¹ as of September 2018

CALABARZON (Calamba, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) and Central Luzon areas where workers also receive lower minimum wage than in NCR.

Sadly, there are only few (92,000 in 2017) women engage in professional and scientific work.

Women as self-employed

The government deems the expansion of economic opportunities in small industries and services as the foundation for growth. These economic opportunities comprise micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The government's plan of giving opportunities through MSMEs has been the method even during the MDGs implementation. Microfinance project, with the support from IMF-WB, ADB, and other international financial institutions, has primarily targeted women to become an entrepreneur that is why as mentioned in the previous pages, technical know-how for business is a major program of TESDA.

As job opportunities become scarce, neoliberal technocrats encourage the proliferation of MSMEs, especially among women since the government could not provide regular employment and decent wages. This has been pronounced in the recent regional meetings held in the Philippines such as APEC in 2016 and ASEAN in 2017.

As women are encouraged to avail of microfinance to start their own businesses, the government leaves the class issue unexplored. Analyzing the women's status is the real gauge of who benefits and who could have the chance of starting a business. Only women in the higher income decile could confidently get a loan and initiate a business. While there is an increase in the number of women employer in their own businesses from 291,000 in 2015 to 378,000 in 2017, the number of self employed women without any paid employee is still significantly high at 4.36 million in 2017. (See Chart 11)



Source: Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment

A remarkable increase among self-employed women sends a signal of caution for the general condition of labor in the country. The growing number of self-employed women indicates the lack of job opportunities, placing them in a more precarious condition with no security and benefits. Also, such work for women encourages individual efforts and entirely removes them from collective production work.

Minimum wage by region

For wage workers, the currently minimum wage in the country remains very low. The Php537 minimum wage in NCR is only 53% of the estimated family living wage (FLW)⁶² of Php 1,004 per day.⁶³ Worse, the minimum wage in the country varies across the country as a result of the implementation of Wage Rationalization Law which mandates every region to have a unique minimum wage as set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards based on the poverty threshold, employment rate, and cost of living specific to the region.

In the Philippines, while there are 9.09 million wage and salary workers, there are only 5.6 million wage and salary workers in private establishments, which are mandated to follow the minimum wages. More than 1.8 million are working in government and government corporations, while more than 1.6 million are working in private households that are covered by a different monthly minimum wage under the Kasambahay Law. In private establishments, the highest minimum wage is set at Php537 (US\$10.6) for workers in NCR, while the lowest minimum wage is set at Php256 for workers in the Ilocos Region. (See Table 15)

Table 15. Summary of Current Regional Daily Minimum Wage Rates Non-Agriculture, Agriculture (as of December 2018, in peso)					
Region	Non-Agriculture	Agriculture		Total Wage and Salary Workers (19,776)	Women Wage Salary Workers (5,597)
		Plantation	Non-Plantation		
National Capital Region	500 – 537	500	500	3,446	1,198
Cordillera	300 – 320	300 – 320	300 – 320	283	89
Ilocos	256 – 310	265	256	908	231
Cagayan Valley	360	340	340	668	175
Central Luzon	339 – 400	324 – 370	312 – 354	2,481	711
CALABARZON	317 – 400	303 – 370	303 – 356	3,359	1,127
MIMAROPA	283 – 320	283 – 320	283 – 320	482	103
Bicol	295 – 305	295 – 305	295 – 305	952	185
Western Visayas	295 – 365	295	295	1,452	377
Central Visayas	318 - 386	313 – 368	313 – 368	1,521	454
Eastern Visayas	305	275	275	613	117
Zamboanga Peninsula	316	303	303	486	89
Northern Mindanao	343 – 365	331 – 353	331 – 353	856	205
Davao	370	365	365	1,037	263
SOCCKSARGEN	311	290	290	744	175
CARAGA	305	305	305	392	77
ARMM	280	270	270	125	19
Source: National Wages and Productivity Commission, 2018					

⁶² A family living wage is the amount a family of five (5) needs to cover basic expenses, including food, clothing, rental housing, child care and transportation.

⁶³ estimates from Ibon Foundation, March 2019

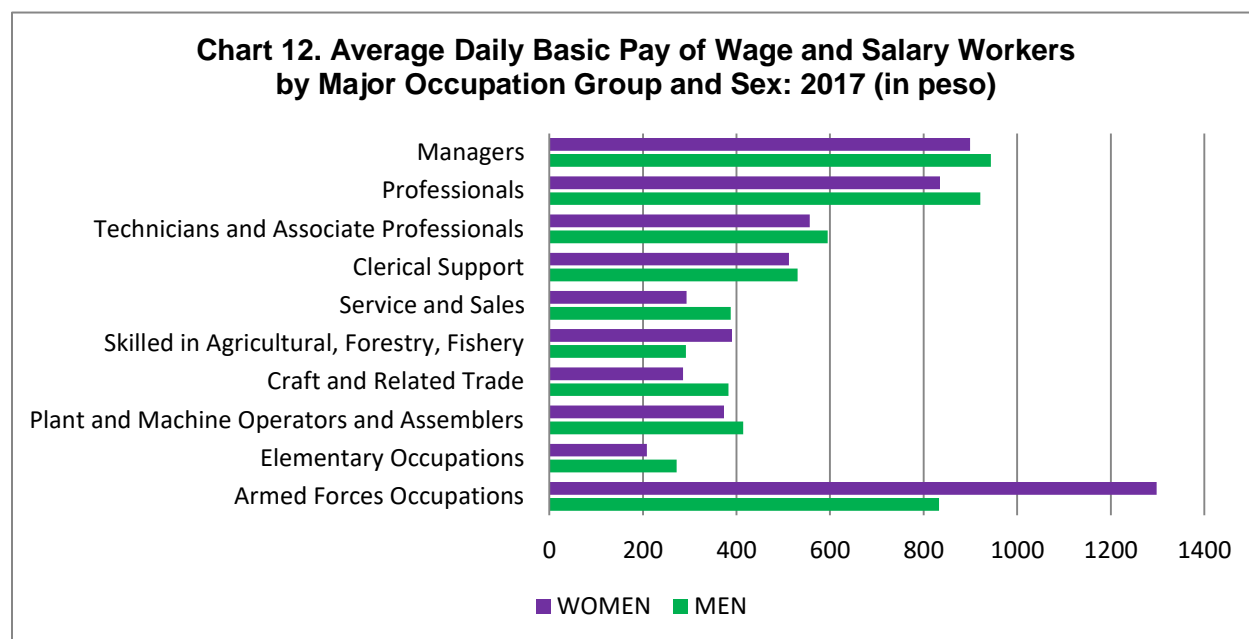
Only 21.4% of women wage and salary workers can get the highest minimum wage in NCR while almost eight out of ten women wage workers get 25% to 78% lower wages.

Even with the existing low minimum wage, not all establishments are compliant to this mandatory minimum compensation. According to DOLE, as of November 2018, only 80% of the companies that they inspected are minimum wage compliant. This is also lower than the 85.2% compliance rate in 2017.⁶⁴

For many years, progressive lawmakers, especially those who are from the Makabayan bloc⁶⁵, have pushed for abolition of regional minimum wage. They have suggested that a national minimum wage should be established instead, which is set to Php750 (US\$15) for all Filipino workers.⁶⁶

Gender wage gap remains

While the Magna Carta of Women seeks to promote gender equality and the elimination of various forms of discrimination against women, there is still a remarkable gap in the wages of men and women. Women gets lower average daily wage in almost all occupation groups ranging from 3% to 25%, except for those skilled in agriculture, forestry and fishery, and those in armed forces occupation. (See Chart 12) However, the number of women employed in these occupation groups represents a small number of women, only 6% of the total employed is in skilled agriculture and only .02% is in the armed forces.



Source: PSA, Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment, 2018

⁶⁴ Business Mirror. (2018). DOLE: 80% of PHL companies are minimum wage-compliant.

⁶⁵ Members of the Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives include Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Kabataan, Gabriela, Anakpawis, and Bayan Muna partylists

⁶⁶ Cepeda, Mara. (2018). Makabayan lawmakers file bill for P750 national minimum wage. Rappler.com

Gender wage gap further illustrates how women are still concentrated in low skilled, non-regular work, thus their lower wages. However, even among professionals and managers, women are still getting lower compensation, with a gap of 10% and 5%, respectively.

Target 8.8 **Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment**

Indicators **Number of non-regular workers in private establishment and government agencies**
Cases of labor violations
Cases of occupational safety and health
Workers' participation in labor organizations and trade unions
Number of migrant workers

Available work mostly on contract-basis

On the Global Worker's Rights Index for 2018 of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Philippines is listed as among the world's 'worst' countries to work in. The report of the ITUC ranked 142 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights from 1 to 5, with 1 as the highest rating. The Philippines got the lowest rating of 5, as there is "no guarantee of rights" for workers in the country even if there are labor laws supposed to protect workers.⁶⁷

Labor contractualization has remained rampant in the country since the amendments provided by the Herrera Law (1989) in the Labor Code created the legal grounds for contractual work arrangements. According to the 2015/2016 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment, among the sectors with the highest number of non-regular workers are in administrative and support services, manufacturing, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. (See Table 16) These are also the same sectors where women wage and salary workers are concentrated. (See Chart 10)

Table 16. Sectors with Highest Number of Non-regular Workers for Establishments with 20 or More Workers (June 2016)	
Sector	Number
Administrative and Support Services Activities	270,408
Manufacturing	269,824
Construction	155,629
Wholesale and Retail Trade	127,663
Education except Public Education	78,106
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	71,049
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	56,170
Transportation and Storage	35,929
Financial and Insurance Activities	25,064
Human Health, Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities	19,501
Source: 2015/2016 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment	

⁶⁷ International Trade Union Confederation. (2018). The World's Worst Countries for Workers. 2018 ITUC Global Rights Index 2018

Based on the survey, on the average, three out of 10 workers are considered in various forms of non-regular employment such as probationary, casual, contractual/project-based, seasonal, apprentices, or learners. Neoliberal labor policies have resulted to labor flexibilization or contractualization. In fact, the high unemployment in the country gives corporations and foreign investors an ample advantage to bargain the value of labor of Filipino workers.

In May 2018, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) released a list of companies that practice illegal contractualization. Among the companies listed were high-earning corporations such as Jollibee Food Corporation (JFC), Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), DOLE Philippines, Monde Nissin, Unipak Sardines, Middleby Corporation, and the Philippine flag-carrier airline Philippine Airlines. (See Table 17)

Table 17. List of 10 Philippine-based Companies with the Most Number of Contractual Workers: May 2018	
Name of Company	No. of affected workers
Jollibee Food Corporation	14,960
DOLE Philippines Inc.	10,521
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company	8,310
PhilSaga Mining Corporation	6,524
General Tuna Corporation	5,216
Sumi Philippines Wiring Systems Corporation	4,305
Franklin Baker Inc.	3,400
Pilipinas Kyohritsu	3,161
Furukawa Automotive Systems Philippines	2,863
Magnolia Inc.	2,248
Source: Department of Labor and Employment, May 2018	

As of May 2018 there are about 3,377 companies that practice labor-only contracting practices, which affected more than 224,852 workers in the country.⁶⁸ Consequently, DOLE has ordered the companies to regularize their workers. However, instead of regularizing workers, many companies have laid off their contractual workers.

For instance, PLDT, one of the largest telecommunication companies in the Philippines, laid off not less than 7,000 contractual workers while JFC, owner of some of the biggest fast food chains, has laid off about 400 workers. As of July 2018, JFC has more than 14,000 contractual workers, who are in danger of being laid off, according to their union Samahan sa Jollibee.⁶⁹

NutriAsia, the largest producer of condiments in the Philippines, has laid off more than 50 workers in Marilao, Bulacan. To date, NutriAsia employs not less than 1,000 contractual workers in its factories nationwide.

In an interview with a laid-off worker in Valenzuela City, one of the manufacturing hubs in the Philippines, many of the workers who were terminated had worked for their companies for decades already, yet they were never regularized. This is despite the issuance of a report by DOLE ordering the regularization in their company.

⁶⁸ Rey, Aika. (2018). Jollibee, Dole, PLDT among top companies 'engaged' in illegal contracting. Rappler.

⁶⁹ ABS-CBN News. (2018). Labor groups seek regularization of 14,000 Jollibee workers.

While there are millions of contractual workers who have been promised to be regularized by the order of the government, only 300,000 workers have been regularized in actual under this administration.

Even in government and government owned and controlled corporations, contractualization is also rampant. Data from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) reveals that more than 27% (660,390) of the 2.4 million government workers are “job order” or “contract of service” employees.⁷⁰

Workers’ vulnerability to abuses

The rise of labor flexibilization in the Philippines paves the way to further labor violations and abuse. For example, non-regular women workers in wholesale and retail trade such as those working in malls and supermarkets only receive an average of Php302 (US\$5.99) daily wage, despite the minimum wage requirement. The same labor violation happens to women in the manufacturing sector:

“Even if I already work in Metro Manila, my salary is still below the set minimum wage. It is already unfortunate that I am not a regular worker, but it is worse that I don’t get to take home even the minimum wage required by law.”

- woman worker from Valenzuela City, a manufacturing hub in Metro Manila

Apart from not getting the required minimum wage, workers also complain that they are not being provided with mandatory government benefits from PhilHealth, Social Security System (SSS), and PAGIBIG, despite getting deductions from their monthly salary.

Workers of NutriAsia, share that they pay Php450 (US\$8.93) monthly for their health insurance card; however, they are not able to avail of any health service from the provider.

“We pay PhP450 for the HMO monthly. But when the time comes that we get sick and we need to use it, it is very difficult to get LOA and avail of their services.”

- NutriAsia worker and official of Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng NutriAsia

Occupation safety and health issues

Most often than not, contractual or non-regular workers take on jobs that are dangerous or unsafe. And since they are non-regular workers who have no benefits, they endure all the issues on occupational safety and health and they suffer in silence. The huge supply of labor force and the low number of available jobs give corporations the advantage to dangle the threat of dismissal among workers. For the corporations, every worker is dispensable and there is a sea of workers waiting to be hired.

Many contractual workers work for longer hours for very little amount of overtime pay. Worse, some workers even work overtime unpaid:

“Inaabot kami ng 12 hanggang 16 oras ng paggawa sa pabrika dahil sa kagustuhan ng employer namin na kumita nang malaki. May mga pagkakataon na hinihimatay at nagkakasakit na ang mga manggagawa dahil sa pagod at init sa lobb ng paggawaan,” (We

⁷⁰ Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2018). More contractual workers in gov’t

are forced to work for 12 to 16 hours in the factory because our employer wants to earn more. There are times that workers get sick and lose consciousness because they are too tired and because it is too hot inside the factory.)

- "Daisy", a machine operator of NutriAsia

Daisy adds that they are not allowed to leave after eight hours of work: "*Kahit pa maysakit ka, hindi ka pauuwiin. Kahit pa sabihin mo na may emergency ka sa pamilya mo, hindi pa rin papayagan.*" (They won't allow you to leave, even if you are sick or you have a family emergency.)

According to Daisy, the workers call the kind of work they are doing as '*hataw*', a Filipino term which may be translated to excessive body movements, since they are working non-stop until they get really exhausted:

"Hataw talaga ang katawan namin para lang maabot ang sobra-sobrang quota para hindi na kami papasukin kinabukasan. Sobrang laki ng kita nila kasi magkano lang ang overtime namin. Tapos wala na kaming kikitain kinabukasan kasi wala na kaming pasok, pero yung na-produce namin, sobra-sobra pa." (Our bodies are really exhausted just to meet the excessive quota so that they won't need us to come the next day. They have really huge profit since we receive very little overtime pay and they won't have to pay us the next day because the amount of our produce is more than enough, if not excessive.)

"Aurora", who works as labeler in NutriAsia for more than 11 years, share that many of the workers, especially women, experience chronic body pain because of the heavy weight of products they need to lift every day:

"Aabot sa kalahating tonelada ang binubuhat namin araw-araw para maglipat ng mga bote sa paleta, at nasa 4,000 na mga bote ng iba't ibang produkto ang nagagawa nila kada araw." (We lift and transfer about half a ton of products every day, and we are able to produce about 4,000 bottles of condiments every day.)

For "Shirley", a solo parent, despite the abusive treatment in the factory, she needed to go back and work for her and her son's survival. She shared that they are not even provided with free uniform and safety gears that could protect them from chemicals and other harmful machines while working in the factory:

"Sa liit ng kinikita namin, kami pa ang pinagbabayad ng employer namin ng uniporme na proteskyon namin sa mga kemikal at naglalakihang makina sa paggawaan. Aabot ng higit sa Php 2,000.00 ang isang pares ng uniporme." (Despite our meagre salary, we are forced to pay for our uniform which may serve as our protection from chemicals and big machines in the factory. The price of each pair of uniform costs around Php2,000.)

Because of lack of uniform and safety gears, Shirley has suffered from burns countless times. The most recent and worst incident has happened when she got burns from boiling chemicals for Mang Tomas, the famous liver sauce produced by NutriAsia:

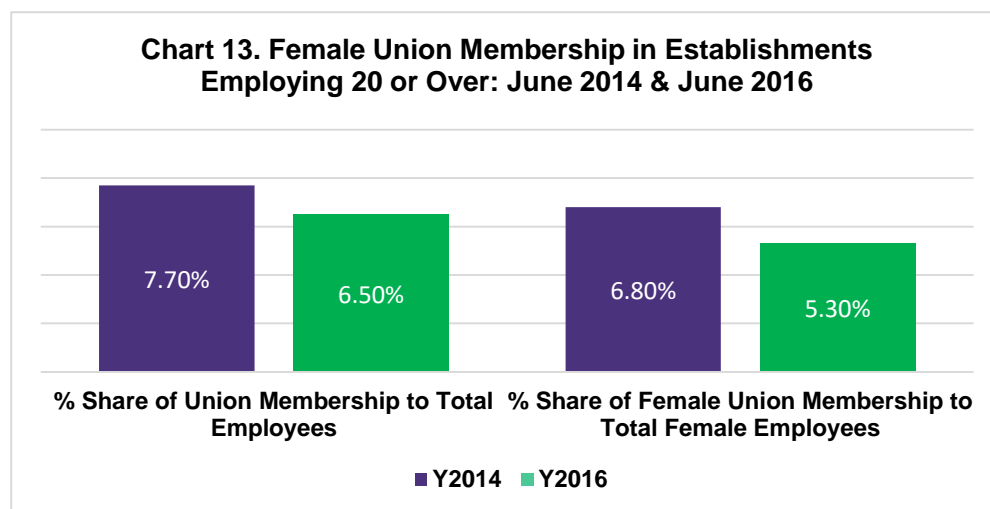
"Humigit kumulang 80 o 90 degrees yung kumukulong likido na bumuhos sa braso ko. Ni singko ay hindi ako binayaran. Huminto ako saglit sa pagtatrabaho noong March pero bumalik rin ako kasi kailangan kumita." (The temperature of the chemical that was poured on my arms was about 80 to 90 degrees. My employer did not give me anything. I stopped working for a short period in March, but I went back since I need to earn money.)

“Martha”, a contractual machine operator for more than two years in another manufacturing company lost her arm after she met an accident while on duty. Her employer did not provide complete medical assistance. Martha, who is now jobless and still recovering from her accident, could not afford the medical costs: *“Hindi na nagsustento sa akin (ang kompanya ko), kahit medical o therapy man lang. Pinabayaan na nila ako matapos ang operasyon ko,”* (My company did not provide me with any assistance, not even medical or therapy. They neglected me after my operation.)

The huge supply of labor force and the low number of available jobs give corporations the advantage to dangle the threat of dismissal among workers. For the corporations, every worker is dispensable and there is a sea of workers waiting to be hired.

Decreasing union membership

Apart from persistent labor violations and occupational safety and health issues, labor flexibilization also deprives women of the right to join unions or organizations. Union membership among women workers is in a downward trend, with a 1.5% decrease in a two-year period. A major factor of this low membership among women is the volatility of their status since their contract ends after five months of work. (See Chart 13)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018

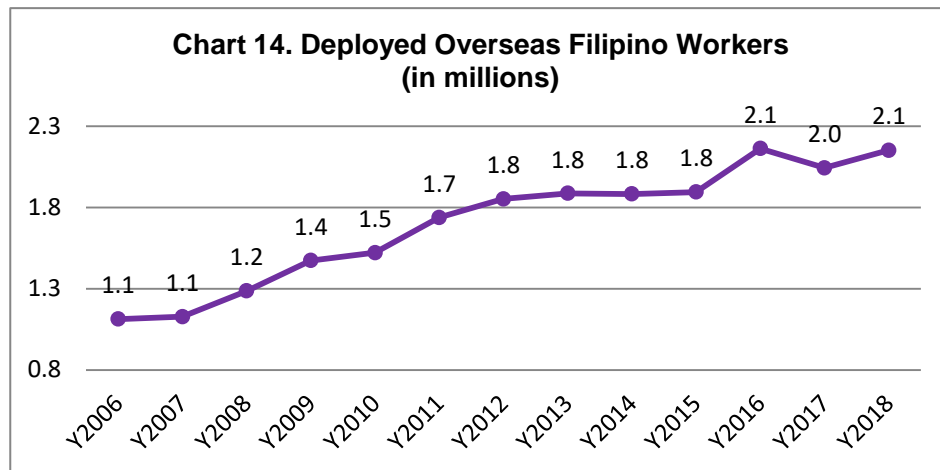
Reportedly, the standard orientation of manufacturing and retail companies includes discouraging employees to join unions. There is a need therefore to find ways on how to reach out to women workers and encourage them to join unions and organizations.

Increasing number of migrant workers

The only viable option left for women workers is to work overseas, which is encouraged by the government through its labor export policy. Despite the reported abuses and risks they would face because of their gender and qualifications, Filipino women continue to leave the country to work abroad.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) reveal that the number of Filipinos leaving the country for jobs overseas has noticeably increased: from 14,366 OFWs

(both new hires and rehires) in 1972, to 1.8 million in 2015. The number increased further to 2.1 million in 2016 to 2018⁷¹. (See Chart 14)



Source: Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, 2018

In 2017, there were about 5,053 Filipinos leaving every day to work abroad. On the average, six out of 10 of these are women. And like women employed in the Philippines, majority of the female migrants (76%) work as service workers. Since there is still gender division of work in overseas employment, women are mostly employed in household service, caregiving, cleaning, and nursing occupations, while men are employed in trade and service occupations.

Unfortunately, women who are employed in household services receive lower wages because many countries do not include domestic workers in standard minimum wage. For instance, domestic workers in Hong Kong receive only HK\$15.10 (US\$1.95) per hour even if the standard minimum wage in Hong Kong is HK\$32.5 (US\$4.19) per hour.

Most of the overseas Filipino women also work in vulnerable employment. Reported cases of abuses against Filipino migrant workers happened in Western Asia (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Israel, Lebanon and Jordan), where almost 60% of the migrant workers are deployed.

Although the president shows a tough stance on the latest reports of crimes and abuses against OFWs, the labor export policy remains. The lack of job opportunities in the country pushes women to leave the country. Moreover, the government promotes overseas work because it serves as the saving grace of the country's bankrupt economy. Overseas remittance hit record high in 2018 at \$33.8 billion, 20.28% higher than the \$28.1 billion in 2017.⁷² On the other hand, support for distressed OFWs remains wanting even with increase in the assistance-to-nationals (ATN) fund to Php1 billion and the legal assistance fund (LAF) to PHP200 million in 2018.⁷³

⁷¹ 2.1 million overseas workers in 2018 is an estimate based on the 1st semester data of POEA

⁷² Daxim, Lucas. (2019). 2018 remittances hit all-time high. Inquirer.net

⁷³ DFA. (2018). Assistance to Distress OFWs

Workers rise and unite for better opportunities

Low job quality, lack of job security, and worsening working conditions agitate the workers to look for solutions. They realize that establishing unions and organization are essential in their fight for better work opportunities and conditions. They know that they are the central drivers of development and their strong collective action could be a decisive factor to let the powers-that-be give in since they have so much at stake.

Thus, the workers' show of resistance continues. In the two years of the Duterte administration, more than 20 protest actions have been launched by different labor unions and organizations. Their protests call for abolition of contractualization, increase of wages and benefits, and better occupational safety and health conditions.

With the workers' sustained effort, they were able to push for the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Law, as well as the Expanded Maternity Leave Law.

Workers realize their precarious condition in a neoliberal economy. They challenge the capitalist monopoly that consigns millions of workers who are disproportionately women to a life they continually strive for basic survival. They know that their action foretells things to come for the rest of the working class.

Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Unequal distribution of wealth and resources, lack of sustainable livelihood and decent work opportunities, and limited or lack of access to basic social services are among the reasons that inequality in the Philippines has remained unresolved. Despite government policies and programs to supposedly include and empower the marginalized sectors, societal inequalities such as poverty have continued to hamper the genuine development of the most deprived sectors in the society.

Target 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Indicators: Rate of poverty by region
Population living below poverty threshold by region
National annual per capita poverty threshold
Income of highest earning individuals

Rate of poverty by region

According to the PSA, the magnitude of poor population in the country, those who could not cover their basic food and non-food needs, stands at 21.9 million.⁷⁴ Meanwhile, the country's poverty incidence rate stands at 21.6%. Eleven out of 17 regions in the country have even higher poverty incidence rate compared to the national average. The ARMM has the highest poverty incidence at 53.7%, which means more than half of the region's population are considered poor. (See Table 18)

Rank	Region	Poverty Incidence Rate (%)	Magnitude of Poverty (in millions)
1	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	53.7	1.99
2	CARAGA	39.1	1.06
3	Eastern Visayas	38.7	1.76
4	SOCCSKSARGEN	37.3	1.72
5	Northern Mindanao	36.6	1.75
6	Bicol Region	36.0	2.17
7	Zamboanga Peninsula	33.9	1.27
8	Central Visayas	27.6	1.36
9	MIMAROPA	24.4	.75
10	Western Visayas	22.4	.86
11	Davao Region	22.0	1.09
12	Cordillera Administrative Region	19.7	.35
13	Cagayan Valley	15.8	.55
14	Ilocos Region	13.1	.67

⁷⁴ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2016). 2015 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics of the Philippines.

15	Central Luzon	11.2	1.24
16	CALABARZON	9.1	1.29
17	National Capital Region	3.9	.49
Source: Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority			

Resource-rich Mindanao also has six of the eight provinces identified as the poorest areas. Ironically, Mindanao produces 40% of the country's food needs and contributing more than 30% to national food trade. One-third of its land area is devoted to agriculture.⁷⁵

According to the 2015 Poverty Survey, the national annual per capita poverty threshold is Php21,753 (US\$431.6) per individual, and Php108,765 (US\$2,158) for a family of five. This means the provider of a five-person family must earn at least Php9,064 (US\$180) every month in order to meet his or her family's basic food and non-food needs. However, this computation only translates to Php60.43 (US\$1.20) of the daily consumption, without considering the continuous increase of prices of basic goods.

Widening the social gap

While about a quarter of the population is living below poverty line, the overall cumulative net worth of tycoons in Forbes Asia's 2018 list of 50 richest Filipinos posted US\$73.94 billion, which is equivalent to 23.58% of the country's gross domestic product of US\$313.6 billion in (2017).⁷⁶ The richest man in the country, Henry Sy has a net worth of US\$18.3 billion, which also gained him the 9th spot in Asia's richest, and 52nd wealthiest in the world.

Henry Sy, the owner of the largest chain of retail stores, real estate development and banking, has also perfected the labor scheme of removing the corporate accountability for his workers. The scheme of consigning businesses and products leaves his corporation free of any obligation to majority of its retail business workers since the workers are now hired through agencies and consigned business arrangements.

The gap between the incomes of Henry Sy's retail business to the compensation received by its workers, illustrates the massive inequality in the country. The net income of SM Retail Inc. reached Php11.3 billion in 2018, an increase of 12% from 2017. This is equivalent to Php30.9 million income per day, compared to the average wage of a woman retail worker in an SM store in Metro Manila, which is Php537 per day.⁷⁷ (See Table 19)

Table 19. Comparison of SM Retail's Income and Retail Workers Wage		
Net Income of SM Retail Inc. in 2018		Average daily wage of a woman retail worker in SM
Net Income (2018)	Php 11.3 billion	Php 537 in Metro Manila Php 280 in ARMM
Per month	Php 941.7 million	
Per day	Php 30. 9 million	
Per hour	Php 1.29 million	
Per minute	Php 21,499.00	
Source: SM Annual Report 2018, National Wages Productivity Commission		

⁷⁵ Francisco, Katerina. (2017). FAST FACTS: Mindanao, the Philippines' food basket. Rappler.com.

⁷⁶ Forbes.com. (2018). Philippines' 50 Richest

⁷⁷ The Php 11.3 billion is only for the SM Retail income. SM Investments Corp., the holding company of the Sy family had a net income of P37.1 billion in 2018. This includes their property, retail and banking businesses.

Among the other richest in the Philippines are also owners of big corporations involved in labor violations such as low wages and contractualization. These are Jollibee Food Corporation, owned by Tony Tan Caktiong; Philippine Airlines owned by Lucio Tan. Many of these big businesses are also involved in real estate, infrastructure development, agro-corporations, mining and energy projects that displace the poor from their communities and livelihood, further widening wealth disparity.

Target 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Indicators: Decrease in poverty incidence for basic sectors
Access to land resources and other resources, by sex and by region

Poverty incidence for basic sectors

Five out of nine basic sectors in the Philippines have higher poverty incidence than the general population (2015 Poverty Census). These are farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed and unpaid family workers, and women. (See Table 20)

Table 20. Poverty Incidence for Basic Sectors: 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015					
Sector	2006	2009	2012	2015	Decrease from 2006 to 2015
Philippine National Average	26.6	26.3	25.2	21.6	-18.8%
Farmers	38.5	38	38.3	34.3	-10.9%
Fishermen	41.2	41.3	39.2	34	-17.5%
Children	35.2	35.3	35.2	31.4	-10.8%
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers	30.6	29.9	29	25	-18.3%
Women	25.9	25.7	25.6	22.5	-13.1%
Youth	21.1	21.6	22.3	19.4	-8.1%
Migrant and Formal Sector Workers	16	16.8	16.6	13.4	-16.3%
Senior Citizens	16.9	16.1	16.2	13.2	-21.9%
Individuals residing in urban areas	12.6	12.6	13	11.5	-8.7%
Source: Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority					

While there seems to be a general decline in poverty incidence for these basic sectors, the decline is still slow considering that the government has implemented a poverty reduction program, 4Ps, starting 2007 that specifically targets the poor population. Slowest decline was posted for youth, children, farmers, and individuals residing in urban areas. The 4Ps is largely funded by the US\$400-million loan from ADB and the US\$450-million loan from the World Bank.

Access to land and other economic resources

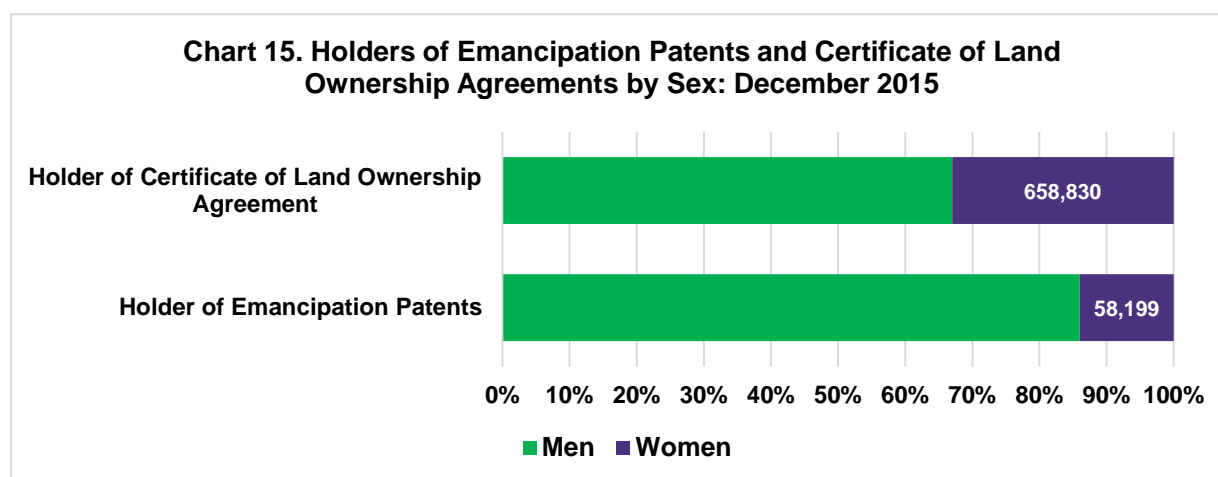
Access to land and other economic resources is vital for inclusion of women and the poor in development. Access and control of resources means that the most vulnerable groups,

including women will have the power to decide on what to do or how to use such resources to effect genuine development for the people.

However, in the Philippines, land and other resources remain in the hands of a few thus poverty remains widespread especially in the rural areas because farmers, including women, could hardly own the land that they till.

For example, while DAR says that 88.9% has been completed in the implementation of the government's land reform program, it falls short in distributing land in the government's identified priority provinces: Pangasinan, Kalinga Apayao, Ifugao, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Batangas, Quezon, Mindoro Occidental, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Antique, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Leyte, Western Samar, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, Lanao del Norte, South Cotabato, North Cotabato and Maguindanao. The total land reform area in these priority areas represents only 67% of the target.⁷⁸ These are the same provinces where large landholdings and haciendas remain.

Further, even as CARP with its extension and reforms, has guaranteed the rights of rural women to own and control land, the number of women holders of emancipation patents (EPs) and certificate of land ownership awards (CLOAs) still lags behind the number of men. Of the total 415,705 holders of emancipation patents, only 14% are women and 33% of the CLOA holders out of the total 1,996,454 total CLOA holders. (See Chart 15)



Source: Department of Agrarian Reform

Related to this, women in agricultural production remain an invisible force, and their number continues to decline over the years. From 2012, the number of women in agriculture decreased by 711,000 in 2017. Worse, 771,000 women in agriculture are considered as employed but are working without pay. (See Table 21)

Table 21. Women Employment in Agriculture by Class of Worker, 2012 to 2017 (in thousands)						
Class of Worker	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	2,962	2,885	2,967	2,782	2,652	2,251

⁷⁸ Ballesteros, Marife, et al. (2017). The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program after 30 Years: Accomplishments and Forward Options. Philippine Institute for Development Studies

Wage and Salary Worker	722	741	704	655	644	553
Self-Employed Without Any Paid Employee	713	730	795	789	841	826
Employer in Own Family-Operated Farm or Business	93	86	82	87	97	100
Worked Without Pay in Own Family-Operated Farm or Business	1,434	1,330	1,386	1,250	1,070	771
Source: Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment, 2018						

Female farmworkers also get 8.5% lower wage than their male counterparts. In sugarcane plantations, gender wage gap is at 21%. This shows that despite participating in agricultural production, doing and performing the same tasks as male farmworkers, women are not recognized and are seen as mere supplement of the family income.

Many farmworkers do not even receive minimum wage. In Negros, low-wage scheme in the form of *pakyawan* is implemented in sugarcane areas. *Pakyawan* is an informal contract with farmworkers to finish a certain scope of work for a certain amount. According to National Federation of Sugar Workers (NFSW), *pakyawan* schemes could impose a Php500 pay for a 15-day work or a daily average of Php33. Minimum wage level for plantation workers in Negros is set at Php281.50 but the NFSW has reported that 98% of *hacienda* firms do not comply with the labor law, affecting at least 300,000 sugar workers.⁷⁹

Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Indicators: Adoption of progressive taxation measures
Access to social services (health and basic utilities)

TRAIN Law aggravates poverty

As part of its socioeconomic agenda, the Duterte government has signed into law and implemented the TRAIN. This tax reform program takes into account the US policy recommendations included in the Partnership for Growth (PFG) project with the US-RP Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce (JFCC). The first package of the CTRP purportedly socializes taxation.

Under the law, Filipinos with annual taxable income of Php250,000 (US\$4,960) and below will no longer need to pay income tax. However majority of women do not benefit from the personal income tax exemption because a large number of them are already exempted even before TRAIN Law has been enforced.

First, more than 10 million women are not counted in the labor force. Second, working women are usually concentrated in low-income jobs with minimum or below minimum wage, and most often than not, involved in informal work with low and erratic incomes, which counts for the 2.04 million underemployed. Third, some 840,000 are unemployed. Lastly, more than 1.4 million women are considered employed but do not receive any form of compensation. (See Table 22)

⁷⁹ Casilao, Ariel. (2017). Agricultural and Agrarian Situation of the Philippines and the Vital Necessity of Enacting House Bill No. 555 Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill or GARB. Anakpawis Partylist

Table 22. Number of Women Who Will Not Benefit from Lowering of Personal Income Taxes Due to TRAIN, 2017	
Selected Economic Indicators (in 000s)	Number
Not in the Labor Force	10,466*
Unemployed Women	840
Underemployed Women	2,040
Unpaid Family Workers	1,433
Total	14,779
*estimates Source: PSA, Gender Statistics on Labor and Employment 2018	

On the other hand, TRAIN Law has increased indirect taxes such expanded value-added tax, excise tax for fuel products, and additional taxes on various consumer goods and services. For instance, the price of regular milled rice in NCR has increased by Php1.0 or 2.8% from December 2016 to December 2017 and another Php2.0 or 5.4% from December 2017 to December 2018. In other poor and largely agricultural regions, the price of rice has surged by 2.44% to as much as 20% from 2017 to 2018.

The upsurge in prices of basic commodities and services hit the poorest households. With the rising prices and no increase in the family's income, women find it difficult to make ends meet. According to the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, low income families spend 50% to 60% of their income on food expenses compared to 35.3% of those who earn higher income. To cope, some people eat less, while others shift to lower quality diets, just maintaining the grains such as rice, bread and other cereals. Lower-income families allocate 40.3% of their food expenses for bread and cereals and lesser on other nutritious food like fruits, vegetables, and meat. Adding fruits and vegetables are considered a luxury. For instance, only 6% of the food expense of poorest family is for meat, 9.2% for vegetables and 3.4% for fruits.

The biggest gainers from the TRAIN Law are the country's rich. The richest 1% of families with incomes of over Php1.5 million or more a year will have an average of Php100,000 to over Php300,000 additional take-home pay annually especially when income taxes are lowered further in 2023.⁸⁰ Another package of the CTRP is also proposing the lowering of corporate income from 30% to 20%, which would further increase income inequalities.

Access to social services and social protection

Ensuring the poor's access to social services and social protection is not only critical to reducing inequalities, but also a vital in the fulfillment of their right to development.

In the Philippines, around nine million still rely on unimproved, unsafe and unsustainable water sources, while 19 million lack access to improved sanitation.⁸¹ However, despite its promise of efficiency and affordability services, privatization of water services continues to fail in providing water to Filipinos. In NCR, where water services are controlled by two private concessionaires, Manila Water and Maynilad, consumers continue to suffer high water rates amidst inefficient water services.

⁸⁰ IBON Foundation. (2018). Five Reasons Why TRAIN Will Not Benefit the Poor

⁸¹ Water.org. Philippines' water and sanitation crisis, <https://water.org/our-impact/philippines/>

In March 2019, NCR has been hit by its worst water shortage in years, leaving bucket-bearing families to wait hours to fill up from tanker trucks and some hospitals to turn away less urgent cases. Taps were dry from four to 20 hours per day in the homes of about half of NCR population.⁸²

Privatized power service enacted through Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) did not likewise translate into a more efficient delivery of services.⁸³ As of July 2016, 2.36 million households are without electricity and many other areas with a limited service of only four to six hours per day.⁸⁴ Yet, the charges have become less affordable for poor women and their families. MERALCO, the biggest electricity distribution company in the Philippines, has increased its generation charge nine times in 2017. Electricity rates in different regions have also surged up in the past years.

Access to health services

The long-standing issue on inaccessibility of quality health care system persists because of budget constraints and privatization of healthcare. The government continues to expand the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) or PhilHealth coverage and benefits through budget increases from Php43.9 billion (\$871 million) in 2016 to Php50.1 (US\$994 million) billion in 2017 and Php53 billion (US\$1.05 billion) in 2018.

Essentially, PhilHealth is a financial scheme, a corporation with paying members, generating funds from its members and ensuring its financial viability. Thus, even if billions have been allocated to PhilHealth, accessibility of health services for the poor is still not guaranteed. Moreover, in terms of total expenditure in health, Philhealth's share is only 17.1% compared to 54.5% share of households in health expenses. (See Table 23)

Table 23. Philippine Health Expenditure by Financing Agent, 2017	
General government	35.7
Central government	11.6
State/Regional/Local government	7.0
Social security agency (PHIC)	17.1
Insurance corporations	2.2
Corporations (Other than insurance corporations)	7.6
Health management and provider corporations	6.0
Corporations (Other than providers of health services)	1.6
Households	54.5
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority	

Private health institutions and facilities also get more out of PhilHealth payments than public facilities. Only 35% of Philhealth-accredited facilities are government, while 65% are private.⁸⁵ On the other hand, budget for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) of public hospitals have remained low. The MOOE of DOH has decreased by almost 50% in 2017 – from

⁸² Philstar. (2019). 'Worst' water shortage hits millions in Manila

⁸³ Republic Act No. 9136. An Act Ordaining Reforms In The Electric Power Industry, Amending For The Purpose Certain Laws And For Other Purposes

⁸⁴ IRENA. (2017). Accelerating the Deployment of Renewable Energy Mini-Grids for Off-Grid Electrification- A Study on the Philippines

⁸⁵ Jara, Eleanor. (2017). Duterte's first year: Philippine health agenda 'a sham'. Council for Health and Development

Php74.4 billion (US\$1.47 billion) in 2016 to Php38 billion (US\$753.9 million) in 2017. (See Table 24)

Table 24. Department of Health Budget, 2016 to 2018 (in peso)			
ITEM	2016	2017	2018
Department of Health	128 billion	151 billion	165 billion
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	74.4 billion	38 billion	40 billion
National Health Insurance Program	43.9 billion	50.1 billion	53 billion
Source: Department of Budget and Management			

In the 2018 budget, the MOOE of 49 public hospitals – both regional and special – has been slashed by Php1.488 billion (US\$28.7 million). Budget cuts have disabled hospitals to procure essential medicines and other utilities necessary for hospital services and procedures. In addition, these public hospitals are also forced to institute new or increase existing hospital fees to compensate for the smaller operating budget.

On reproductive health

A closer look at the budget allocation for Family Health, Nutrition, and Responsible Parenting also suggests that reproductive health is still not a priority under the Duterte administration, despite its pronouncements. For instance, the 2018 budget for reproductive health supplies has been slashed, from Php4.27 billion (US\$84.7 million) in 2017 to only Php3.64 billion (US\$71.4 million) in 2018.

In addition, women especially from the rural poor communities find DOH's No-home Birthing policy an extra burden for them. The policy, initially implemented under former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has been continued by the Duterte administration without increasing the number of public birthing facilities to make it accessible to pregnant women.

Currently, most birthing facilities are still concentrated in urban areas. Due to lack of government facilities, the private sector takes advantage and puts up private and profit-oriented birthing facilities, which are often not affordable to poor women. And while the purpose of No-home Birthing policy is to reduce maternal deaths, maternal mortality rate (MMR) remains high at 221:100,000.⁸⁶ The policy seemingly ignores the fact that medical services and supplies are very limited in the country especially for women and their families belonging to the lowest income decile.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

Goal 13 – Climate action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The 2018 Global Climate Risk Index Report 2018⁸⁷ ranks the Philippines as the 5th most climate change-affected country. Human-induced climate change has worsened the risk of extreme weather events such as severe tropical cyclones that hit the country in the recent decade. While the Philippines has a minimal share in the global carbon emissions, a mere 0.39% in 2015, yet the country's 100.1 million population is bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate change because of the population's low adaptive capacity, coupled with low support from the government for disaster relief and rehabilitation.

Target 13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicators **Decrease in the number of casualties and affected population by sex**
Increased adaptive capacity to climate hazards
Budget for disaster risk reduction and management

Casualties and affected population during disasters

From 2015 to 2018, there are 44 recorded occurrences of climatological, hydrological and meteorological-related disasters that struck the country. On the average, disasters have claimed 631 lives and incurred 371 injuries. More than 20 million, or one fifth of the population are affected and millions are evacuated from their homes. In several disaster-related studies (Haiyan 2014, Vinta 2017, Ompong 2018), majority of the casualties are women and children who were mostly reside in rural poor areas.^{88 89} (See Table 25)

Table 25. Data on Casualties by Sex on Selected Disasters in the Philippines (September 2017 to November 2018)								
Climate Event	Deaths				Missing			
	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children
Maring (Sept 2017)	22	17	5	16	4	3	1	1
Vinta (Dec 2017)	44	20	24	*	14	9	2	*
Urduja (Feb 2018)	47	*	*	*	44	*	*	*
Ompong (Sept 2018)	82	55	27	12	2	2	0	2
Rosita (Nov 2018)	20	14	6	4	*	*	*	*
* no data available								
Source: processed from NDRRMC SitRep								

Most of these disaster-mortality cases are results of landslide and flashfloods, where more than half of the fatalities happened when their houses - made of light materials - are destroyed by the strong winds, landslides, and flashfloods. According to National Disaster Risk Reduction and

⁸⁷ Eckstein, David, et al (2017). Global Climate Risk Index 2018. German Watch

⁸⁸ Ching PK et al. (2015). An assessment of disaster-related mortality post-Haiyan in Tacloban City. Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal

⁸⁹ Ballera JE et al. (2015). Management of the dead in Tacloban City after Typhoon Haiyan. Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal

Management Council (NDRRMC) situational report, in many of the cases, the victims' houses are destroyed when erosion or sudden surge of water have washed out their houses.

Adaptive capacity to climate hazards

Poverty is the central factor that determines vulnerability to disasters. In addition to loss of life, impacts of disasters on the poor include total loss of livelihood, displacement, poor health, food insecurity, among other consequences.

While the whole population is affected, low-income women, children and other vulnerable groups bear the burden of disasters. Poor households have less capacity to adapt to disasters than high-income households. Likewise, disasters, for low income households can lead to a cycle of losses that further traps them into poverty. They do not have any savings or capital reserve that they could use to recover from the disaster:

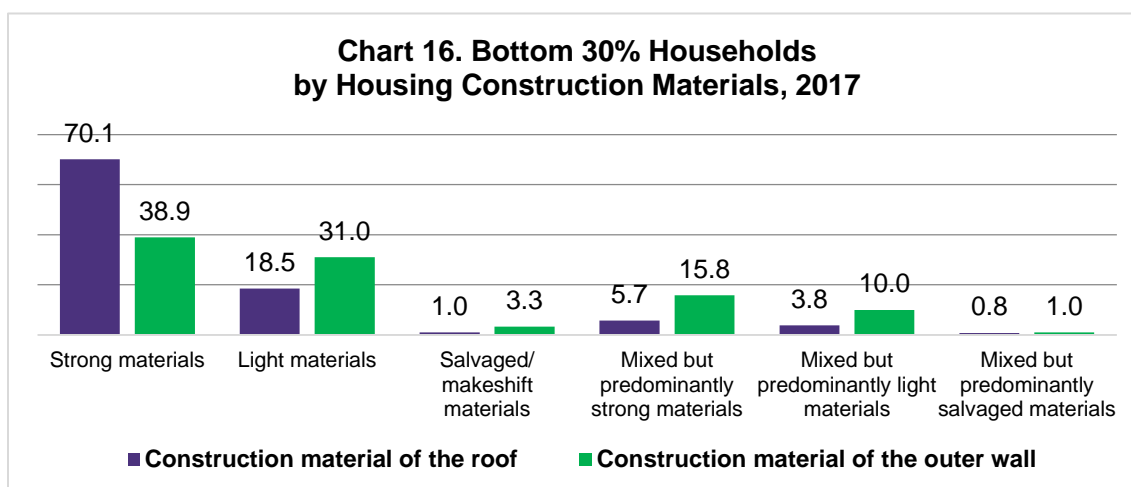
When there is a typhoon and it's not yet harvest season, we are forced to harvest the crops early. Of course, we get less. If we are expecting 40 sacks of corn, we'll only harvest 25 or 20 sacks. We just hope we can harvest so we can pay for the seedlings and fertilizers. It's okay. But most of the time, it's not even enough.

- farmer from Quezon province (CALABARZON)

During typhoons, we harvest very little or at times, none at all. But there's no (state) support. That's difficult because we spend a lot on production costs, we borrowed that money from lending. When disaster comes, we are in deeper debt.

- farmer from Nueva Ecija (Central Luzon)

Because of landlessness and rural poverty, many have migrated in the urban centers creating large concentrations of people in locations also exposed to natural hazards. Nearly a third of the 100 million Filipinos live in urban poor communities susceptible to floods. According to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and Homeless International, an estimated 22.8 million people live in urban poor communities or slum areas in the country wherein 1.2 million are children. Among poor population⁹⁰, at least 1.76 million poor families in the Philippines have houses made of light and makeshift materials which could be very much vulnerable to destruction during disasters. (See Chart 16)



Source: Annual Poverty Income Survey, 2017

⁹⁰ bottom 30%

Health condition also determines the capacity of the people in dealing with disasters. One in every ten Filipinos is nutritionally deficient due to poverty. Thus, when disaster strikes and food supplies are limited, malnutrition increases. Among pregnant women, 24.8% are nutritionally at risk. Malnutrition is even higher in a number of regions. (See Table 26)

Table 26. Prevalence of nutritionally-at-risk pregnant women by region: Philippines, 2015	
Region	Prevalence of Malnutrition
Philippines	24.8
MIMAROPA	35.1
Western Visayas	31.5
Zamboanga Peninsula	29.6
Caraga	28.3
Bicol	27.6
Central Visayas	27.0
Source: 8 th National Nutrition Survey	

Three percent or 828,000 families of the estimated 24.5 million families nationwide experience hunger. Among families in the bottom 30% group, seven% experience hunger. One in every ten Filipinos is also chronic energy deficient. More women are energy deficient (10.4%) than men (9.4%). Women are more likely to suffer from malnutrition because they have specific nutritional needs when they are pregnant or breast feeding.

Without state support in times of disaster, impoverished people can hardly cope. Their lack of access to insurance and social protection forces them to use their already limited assets to buffer disaster losses, which drives them into further hunger.

Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Indicator Environmental and climate-related policies and laws

Environmental and climate-related policies and laws

The Philippine government has enacted a number of laws and policies that would address climate change and its impacts. In March 2017, the Philippine government has ratified the country's accession to the Paris Agreement. Signed in 2016, the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, deals with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance.

But even before the Paris agreement, the Philippines has enacted several laws and policies related to disaster management and climate change. The Disaster and Calamities Plan was created in 1970 after the country was ravaged by Typhoon Joan.

The Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act (2009) has shifted government policies from mere disaster response to disaster preparedness. It also mandates that not less than five percent of the estimated revenue from regular sources shall be set aside for the Local Disaster

Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) to support disaster risk management activities.

The Climate Change Act of 2014 creates a comprehensive framework for systematically integrating the concept of climate change, in synergy with disaster risk reduction, in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques. The Act establishes the Climate Change Commission as the sole policy-making body within government, which oversees, coordinates and evaluates climate change policies and plans. (See Table 27)

Table 27. Climate Change and Disaster-Related Legislations, Policies, Strategies		
Year	Legislation/ Executive Policy/ Strategy	Type
1991	Mini-hydroelectric Power Incentive Act (RA 7156)	Law
1993	EO 123, institutionalizing the Committee on Power Conservation and Demand Management	Policy
1998	EO 472, institutionalizing the Committee on Fuel conservation and Efficiency in Road Transport	Policy
2006	AO 110, directing the Institutionalization of the Government Energy Management Program	Order
2007	Biofuels Act (RA 9367)	Law
2008	Renewable Energy Act (RA9513)	Law
2009	Philippine Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation	Strategy
2009	The Climate Change Act (RA 9729)	Law
2010	Framework Strategy on Climate Change	Strategy
2010	Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act (RA 10121)	Law
2010	Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy	Strategy
2011	EO 43 and 24, Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Policy
2011	National Climate Change Action Plan	Plan
2012	The People's Survival Fund Act (RA 10174)	Law
2014	EO 174, Institutionalizing Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management and Reporting System	Policy
Source: compiled from DENR, CCC, Official Gazette EO – Executive Order, AO – Administrative Order		

Despite the number of climate-related laws and policies, its implementation remains lacking. While aiming to reduce carbon emission, the country continues to rely on dirty coal-fired plants to generate energy needs. Currently, there are 48 coal-fired power plants across the country.

Several environmental laws also allow for the large-scale extraction of natural resources such as the Mining Act of 1995, the Fisheries Code of 1998 and the Forestry Code of 1975. The implementation of these laws have not only been detrimental to the environment but also destroyed or limited the access of indigenous peoples, small farmers and fisherfolks to their livelihood.

The Mining Act has allowed big local and foreign investors to mine more than 703,846.67 hectares of land. The Fisheries Code limited the access of small scale or municipal fisher folks to fishing waters in favor of export-based commercial fishing fleets.

Even the so-called “green policies” like sourcing renewable energy are implemented in favor of the private sector. For instance, the generation of renewable energy from biofuels has resulted to the conversion of lands for food crop generation to agro fuel plantations, as well as land grabbing cases. From 2002 to 2012, an estimated 1.5 million hectares of land is planted with jathropa, sugar cane, coconut, cassava for biofuels which is either owned or controlled by investors from UK, Japan, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea in partnership with big local companies. Many of these plantations, including Green Future Innovation (a Japanese-Taiwanese-Filipino Consortium), are also in agro-industrial economic zones where investors get various incentives such as tax holidays.

The situation in women is increasingly worsening in the provinces due to mining, land use conversion and demolition, and logging activities by foreign investors. As a result, we women are affected by floods, landslides. Our livelihood is affected as rice fields and other crops are damaged. Women continue to fight to change this situation.

– woman leader from Capiz province (Western Visayas)

Budget on disaster risk and management

The Local Government Code of 1991 and the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act enabled the LGUs to access 5% of the estimated revenue from regular sources for disaster-related expenditures. However, sourcing of funds from local government revenues are often not enough to cover the cost of assistance and rehabilitation programs. Most of the disaster-prone provinces have low-income municipalities and cities.

For example, in the province of Lanao del Sur, 32 of the 39 municipalities are low-income with revenues less than Php 45 million. In Eastern Samar, 21 of the 22 municipalities are low income. Thus, despite mandating 5% of the revenues for calamity fund, the budget still falls short. In addition, an audit of DILG has shown that 22 local government units (LGUs) have failed to allocate funds for LDRRMF; thus, no DRRM projects and programs of the concerned LGUs have been implemented.⁹¹

In the midst of poverty, in times of calamity, it is difficult to rely on the LGUs. The LGU has a disaster plan but when disaster comes, there would be no implementation and immediate response from them. Coastal areas are considered as danger zones. At the same time, the demolition of urban poor communities is due to the threat of calamity such as typhoons and floods.

– woman leader Leyte province (Eastern Visayas)

Further, the budget for the NDRRMC remains low. The Php19.6-billion budget in 2018 (US\$388 million) is 17.6% lower than the 2017 budget of Php37.2 billion.

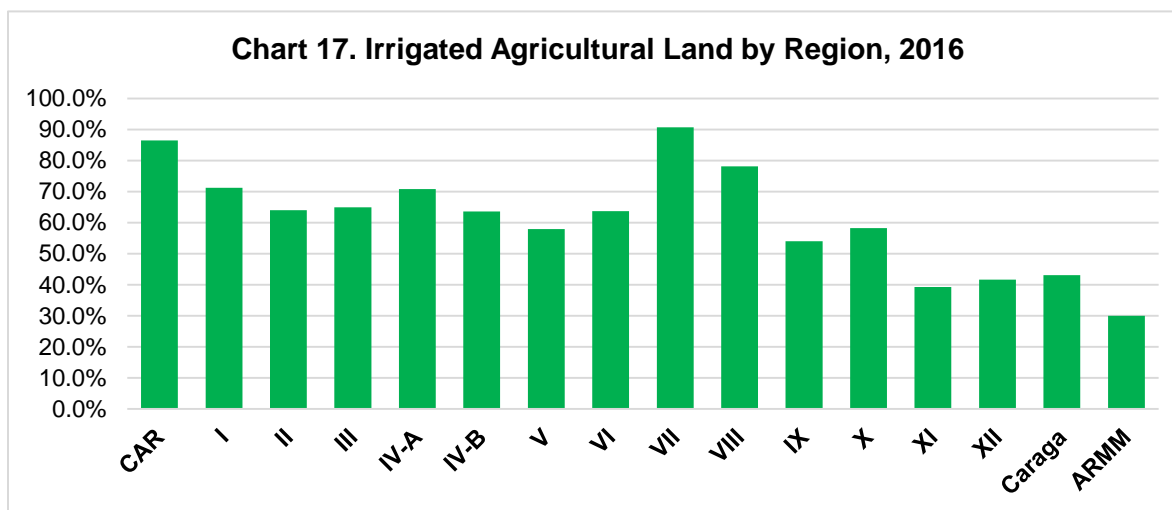
Wanting of strategic measures for disaster management

Although several studies have already revealed the vulnerability of certain communities in the country, significant steps to increase the adaptive capacity of communities, and manage the risk of disasters remain lacking.

⁹¹ Commission on Audit. (2015). Consolidated Audit of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund

For instance, provinces in the regions of ARMM, Soccksargen, Davao, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula and Central Visayas were identified as very high risk to El Nino drought. The change in temperature and decrease in the rainfall level caused negative impacts on food and other agricultural crop production in these provinces. Yet, these same provinces are also the areas with low placement of irrigation from the national government.

The ARMM has the lowest irrigated area at only 30.1%, while Davao (XI) has only 39.3%. Central Visayas (VII) has the highest irrigated land area at 90.5%, where 30,848 out of 35,079 hectares or 88% are irrigated through communal systems, and not from the national government. (See Chart 17)



Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Although several studies have already revealed the vulnerability of certain communities in the country, significant steps to increase the adaptive capacity of communities, and manage the risk of disasters remain lacking. In 2018, after decades of clamor by peasants and small farmers for free irrigation services, a vital support that they need especially during drought, the Free Irrigation Service Act was signed into law.

Case Study: Drought in North Cotabato

In the last quarter of 2015, PAGASA⁹² announced the presence of a mature and strong El Niño in the tropical Pacific Ocean. According to the advisory, the 2015-16 El Niño events would be among the four strongest droughts since 1950 (1972-73, 1982-83, 1997-98).⁹³

North Cotabato was one of the provinces affected by the El Nino drought. As one of the poorest provinces in the country with a poverty incidence of 48.9% among the peasant population, the drought aggravated their condition. Drought caused the more than Php1-billion agricultural damages, affecting the municipalities of Alamada, Pigcawayan, Kabacan, Matalam, Aleosan, Mlang, Magpet, Pikit, Tulunan, Carmen, Makilala, and Kidapawan.

⁹² Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services agency of the Philippines

⁹³ PAGASA. (2015). El Niño advisory no. 7: Issued on September 3, 2015

At least 50,000 hectares of rice and corn farms have been damaged due to increased temperature affecting 25,000 farmers who do not have any other sources of income except for farming. In Kidapawan City, 11, 000 families or 25% of its entire population have been affected.

Impacts of Drought on Women and Children

1) Loss of livelihood is the main impact of “*hulaw*” or drought for farmer families. The decreased rainfall has resulted to decreased production of crops such as corn, bananas, coconuts and palay. For instance, in a hectare of corn field, the harvested corn has decreased from 20 sacks to five - seven sacks. For rice production, there is also remarkably low harvest because of the limited water supply. Farmers have to fetch water for the rice fields, however, even the springs have dried up. Bananas trees did not bear fruits at all.

"The drought worsened our already difficult lives. Even before the drought, the prices of our produce were really low, and now there's drought. This is very difficult for women as we are the ones who take care of the budget. What can we do with only Php50.00 a day."

- peasant woman from Kidapawan City (Northern Mindanao)

2) Families experience extreme hunger due to poverty exacerbated by the drought. According to the women in the affected communities, they eat only cassava or sweet potato every single day since drought hit their small farms.

"Now, we only eat balanghoy, lagutmon, kamoteng kahoy (types of rootcrops) or banana. Before, when we still had a little money, we would buy corn rice. It's cheaper, it's only Php15.00 per kilo. Now we can't buy even that. We don't really eat white rice because it's too expensive. We mothers, know that this diet lacks nutrition, and we worry about our children's health. We know it's not healthy for our children but we don't have money so we eat whatever we have. It's pitiful, but I don't know what else to do. As a mother, it's really a problem. We don't have anything to eat, we don't have money to buy rice. It's been months. Maybe, I'd borrow money so we can buy some rice."

– woman from Kidapawan City (North Cotabato)

3) The lack of water supply also posed health concerns. One of the mothers shared, “*Our children would often have coughs, or worst asthma. Due to limited supply of water, there are cases of diarrhea and dehydration among children and adults alike.*”

4) Having no supply of water added burden to women when doing household chores. “*At early dawn, you will see the women fetching water, sometimes with the children. Before, it's just there. Now we need to walk far just to get water.*”

5) Stress and anxiety among women who think about how the family is going to survive in the next days. “*It gives me a terrible headache when I think about where we are going to get food for the day, and for tomorrow. Every night, I worry, I ask myself, 'how about tomorrow?' Yes, we manage to survive, but it's a lot of sacrifice.*”

6) Because of the destruction of their livelihood, women find alternative sources of income, which includes:

- applying as laborer or *hurnal* to clean or fetch water for rich farmers where they get Php100 (US\$1.98) to Php150 (US\$2.97) for a whole day's work. It is usually only two

to three days a week and doesn't suffice for the needs of the family but can somehow augment the family's meagre income.

- finding work in nearby urban centers as house help, cleaners, dishwasher in canteens

- finding work in banana plantations where they would be paid Php140 per day. According to one woman working in banana plantation, *"it's not enough but we try to make ends meet. It's difficult to work in plantations because of the strong pesticides used that are especially harmful to those who have weak bodies."*

In April 2016, after a series of appeal for support and relief, the victims of drought in North Cotabato, mostly peasants and small farmers organized themselves to set up a barricade in the main highway of Kidapawan City to protest and air their demands for immediate assistance of rice production and livelihood. The protest was violently dispersed by the police where three protesters died and at least 99 were injured.

Target 13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Indicator Integration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning in education

Improved education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity

According to the Philippine Disaster Reduction and Management Act, relevant agencies shall integrate DRRM education in the school curricula of secondary and tertiary level of education, including the National Service Training Program (NSTP). It shall be taught in private and public schools, formal or non-formal education, technical-vocational courses, indigenous learning, and out-of-school youth courses and programs.

In May 2016, the Department of Education included in the senior high school curriculum Disaster Readiness and Risk Reduction in senior high school education. In a study by Mamon, et al (2017) among Senior High School students, it was found that with the integration of DRR in the curriculum, students have understood some disaster-related concepts and ideas and have become aware of the risks inflicted by natural hazards. Yet, they have low perception or have no idea on the safety of their localities. They also have a low perception on resistant structures like the safety of their houses or any other buildings.⁹⁴

Another study by Bollettino, et al (2018) on perceptions of Filipino's disaster preparedness, planning, coping, and adaptation revealed that at the national average, 31% were slightly prepared or not at all prepared to respond to a disaster in the near future. Only 27% of the population could confidently adapt to changes resulting from a disaster while 41% said they would have a hard time coping. While the respondents in the survey expressed interest in training for preparedness, most of them had not previously participated in any training. For

⁹⁴ Mamon, et al (2017). Disaster risk reduction knowledge of Grade 11 students: Impact of Senior High School disaster education in the philippines. International Journal Health Systems

those who had attended disaster training, roughly a third of them cited that they gained new knowledge.⁹⁵

Much of the DRRM awareness raising and education focus mainly on disaster impact response and reduction and not on climate change mitigation such as discussions on the causes of climate change as well as in addressing the root causes of the vulnerability to climate-change impacts.

At the local government units, data from the Department of the Interior and Local Government shows that out of 782 provinces, cities and municipalities that have been trained in formulating the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), there are only 160 LGUs (1 province, 24 cities, and 135 municipalities) that have actually developed their respective local climate change action plans as of December 2015.⁹⁶

⁹⁵ Bollettino, Vincenzo. (2018). Perceptions of Disaster Resilience and Preparedness in the Philippines. Harvard Humanitarian Initiatives

⁹⁶ Philippine Star. (2016). Kidapawan tragedy: Spotlight on climate change and local governance

Goal 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The Philippine government is a signatory to a number of international treaties on human rights. Most of these treaties are translated into domestic laws, yet the general human rights situation of Filipinos, including the condition of women, remain bleak. Unabated attacks against human rights defenders prevail. Violence against women continues to be a pressing issue.

Target 16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence, related death rates everywhere
Indicators:	Cases of drug-related killings and political killings and other human rights violations Cases of violence against women

Cases of drug-related killings

The daily report of killings in urban poor communities puts a spotlight on the Duterte government's Oplan Tokhang and his war on drugs. As of June 2018, Duterte's war on drugs has claimed more than 22,000 lives, mostly of poor Filipinos living in urban cities. Their deaths are categorized as deaths under inquiry. However, these are also the deaths with unidentified assailants, those who were found with placards identifying them as drug suspects, and many were previously tagged or surrendered with the local authorities.⁹⁷

While the reported number of drug-related killings is already high, human rights organizations and advocates claim that the government data is conservative and fails to portray the damage of Oplan Tokhang to many poor communities.

According to the study conducted by Ateneo Policy Center, 55% of drug-related deaths monitored were killed during police operations, 38% were killed by unknown assailants, while 7% were found dead with placards identifying them as drug pushers (from May 2016 to September 2017). Many of the victims were tricycle drivers, construction workers, vendors, farmers, jeepney barkers, garbage collectors, and others were unemployed or by-standers.⁹⁸

Meanwhile CWR has monitored that there were 121 women who fell victims to drug-related killings, most of them were killed by unidentified assailant (from July 2017 to October 2017) (See Table 28)

⁹⁷ Felipe, Cecille. (2018, June 11). PNP: 22,983 deaths under inquiry since drug war. Philstar Global.

⁹⁸ The Drug Archive. The Drug Killings: Who, What, Where, When, How? <https://drugarchive.ph/post/26-the-drug-killings-who-what-where-when-how-master>

Table 28. Recorded Cases of Drug-Related Killings with Female Victims (as of October 2017)		
Number of Recorded Cases – 121		
Killed in Police Operation 13	Killed by unidentified gunmen 95	Found dead 13
Source: CWR Databank - Recorded Cases of Drug-related Killings with Female Victims		

There have been reports of errors in calculations just like what happened to Rowena Tiamson, a graduating Mass Communication student, who was found dead in July 2016 in Pangasinan; Zenaida Luz, a member of Citizens Crime Watch, a non-government organization that provides livelihood to former drug addicts; and Irene Dacoba, grandmother of a suspected drug personality.

The PNP admitted that Tiamson was not in the drug watch list of the authorities, Luz was accidentally killed by police officers who worked as gunmen, and Dacoba was killed while trying to protect her grandson during a drug operation.

Children and minors are not spared from Oplan Tokhang. The Children's Legal Rights and Development Center has documented 74 cases of killings of minors. Moreover, about 18,398 to 32,395 minors are estimated to have been orphaned by Oplan Tokhang, noting that these children have to endure the long-term psychological, emotional and even economic impact of losing parents, families, and relatives.⁹⁹

Political Attacks

According to Philippine-based human rights organization, Karapatan, more than 975,000 victims of various human rights violations have been monitored from July 2016 to December 2018. Majority of these victims are farmers and members of the national minority who are forced to evacuate from their communities because of intense militarization. (See Table 29)

Table 29. Civil and Political Rights Violations under the Duterte Administration (July 2016 to December 2018)	
Form of Human Rights Violations	Number of Victims
Extrajudicial Killing	222
Frustrated Extrajudicial Killing	381
Enforced Disappearance	8
Torture	111
Illegal Arrest without Detention	2171
Illegal Arrest and Detention	513
Illegal Search and Seizure	321
Physical Assault and Injury	246
Demolition	6,114
Violation of Domicile	660
Destruction of Property	6061
Divestment of Property	816
Forced Evacuation	447,963
Threat/Harassment/Intimidation	85,236
Indiscriminate Firing	8,340

⁹⁹ David, Clarissa and Mendoza, Ronald. (2018). Children and the anti-illegal drugs campaign: When the cure is worse than the disease. ABS-CBN News Online

Bombing	368,391
Forced/Fake Surrender	1,711
Forced Labor/Involuntary Servitude	25
Use of Civilians in Police and/or Military Operations as Guides and/or Shield	121
Use of Schools, Medical, Religious and Other Public Places for Military Purpose	42,720
Restriction or Violent Dispersal of Mass Actions, Public Assemblies and Gatherings	3,194
TOTAL	975,325
Source: 2018 Karapatan Yearend Report	

Politically motivated killings spare no one: farmers, lawyers, journalists, priests, and all others who have asserted their rights. According to National Federation of Sugar Workers and the Unyon ng Manggagawa sa Agrikultura, 172 farmer-activists have been killed under the Duterte administration. This includes the massacre of nine farmers in Sagay City, Negros Occidental in October 2018.¹⁰⁰ On the other hand, the National Union of Peoples' Lawyers has recorded 24 practising lawyers, three judges, and seven prosecutors killed in work-related attacks in the country since August 2016.¹⁰¹ The National Union of Journalists in the Philippines has reported that at least 12 journalists killed since Duterte became president. In addition, three Catholic priests have also been killed since December 2017, and at least 11 mayors and six vice mayors have been killed since June 2016.¹⁰²

Attacks and harassment of activists and human rights defenders have worsened. As of November 2018, about 2,000 individuals have been illegally arrested and detained. To date, there are already 540 political prisoners, 203 of whom were arrested under Duterte's watch, and 45 are women, 119 are sickly and 48 elderly. (See Table 30)

Table 30. Human Rights Violations under the Previous and Present Administrations						
Forms of Attack	Arroyo (Jan 2001 - Jun 2010)		Aquino (Jul 2010 - Jun 2016)		Duterte (Jul 2016 - Dec 2018)	
	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women
Extrajudicial Killing	1,206	153	333	33	222	37
Political Prisoners	371 (343 arrested under Arroyo)	63	524 (304 arrested under Aquino)	35	548 (225 arrested under Duterte)	66
Illegal Arrest	2,059		1,817		2,684	
Source: Center for Women’s Resources Monitoring of Human Rights Violations, Karapatan						

Women human rights defenders experience all kinds of attacks. In 2018, the Department of Justice has released a list of more than 600 people tagged as "terrorists" under the Human Security Act. The list includes United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Karapatan National Executive Committee Member Elisa Tita

¹⁰⁰ Kodao Productions. (2018). NFSW: 172 farmer-activists killed under Duterte. Kodao Productions Website

¹⁰¹ Regencia, Ted. (2018). 34 lawyers killed since Duterte became president: lawyers' group. AlJazeera Asia Pacific

¹⁰² Ibid

Lubi, Joan Carling of Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development Goals, Cordillera People's Alliance Advisory Council member Joanna Cariño, and Beverly Longid of Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation.¹⁰³

In October 2018, five women human rights defenders have been illegally arrested and detained. Four women, including Gabriela Women's Party organizer Eulalia Ladesma have been tortured before being detained with four others by the police in Nueva Ecija last October 13. Two days later, Hedda Calderon, a social worker and expert on women's development was illegally arrested with four others in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Martial Law in Mindanao

More than 20,000 military troops are deployed in Mindanao since the declaration of Martial Law in 2017. The war in Mindanao and the rest of the country made the Philippines the 27th least peaceful nation, according to the Global Peace Index of Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace.

In July 2018, results of a fact-finding mission in Sultan Kudarat, a highly militarized province in Mindanao documented 69 cases based on 22 incident reports that affected 14 communities, including the 992 students, 43 teachers and 26 parent-teachers-community association members of Lumad schools. According to the stories of young women in the communities, they have experienced harassment from the roving Marine officers:

"Isang hapon habang nasa labas ako ng bahay, may lumapit sa akin na nag-iikot na Marine officer at ang tanong niya, 'Single ka ba?' Siyempre natakot ako, nanginginig ako, sinabi ko na, 'Hindi. May asawa ako at isang anak.' Tapos nagmamadali akong pumasok sa bahay, sinabi ko sa kanya na may gagawin pa ako para sa anak ko,"

(One afternoon while I was outside our house, a marine officer who was doing rounds approached me and asked if I am single. I was so scared, I was trembling in fear while I answered that I am not single and that I am married with one child. I told him that I need to attend to my child then I rushed inside home.)

- "Linda", a 20-year old Dulangan Manobo resident of Barangay Hinalaan in Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat

Susan, a 38-year old resident of Barangay Sta. Clara, shared that there were instances in their Sitio where Marine officers catcall and sometimes follow young women to their houses. She shared: *"Nakakaalarma iyon. Marami nang dalagita ang natatakot, pati ang mga nanay nangangamba para sa kaligtasan ng anak nila."* (It was very alarming. Many teenagers are afraid, even their mothers are scared for their daughters' safety.)

This widespread harassment in their community compelled Susan and other mothers to impose a 4:00 PM curfew to their children, especially to their daughters, so as to avoid any sexual advances from the military.

Further, mothers fetched their daughters from school since they were afraid that military forces would harass their daughters if they would go home by themselves. However, the severe acts of

¹⁰³ Requejo, Rey E. (2018). Over 600 Reds on DoJ 'terrorist' list. Manila Standard

intimidation and harassment committed by Marines forced women residents and their families to flee and evacuate.

For instance, “Marina” shared that in May 2018, few days before the village elections, military forces conducted operations in their community and indiscriminately fired at the houses. They conducted illegal search at her house and destroyed some of their properties. She was also threatened that she will be delisted as a 4Ps beneficiary if she would not withdraw her children from Lumad schools and transfer them to a regular public school. The continuous harassment against her family caused Marina and her family to evacuate.

The condition in Sultan Kudarat happens in all other places in Mindanao. With the extension of Martial Law till the end of 2019, many other communities experience intensified militarization, resulting to forcible evacuation and displacement of the farmers and indigenous peoples from their residence and livelihood. Notably, the highly militarized areas are also the areas rich in natural resources. (See Table 31)

Table 31. Other Resource-rich Areas in Mindanao that are Affected by Militarization		
Area	No. of evacuees	Natural Resources
Surigao del Sur	3,000 indigenous peoples	Agricultural products: rice, bananas and other tropical fruits Aquaculture: various sea by-products Minerals: metallic – copper, chromite, silver, cobalt, nickel, lead, zinc; non-metallic – limestone, coal, feldspar, clay diatomite/ bentonite and coarse/fine aggregates Tourism: falls, rivers, seas known for surfing and skim boarding
Davao City	More than 1,000 individuals	Mineral – gold, copper, manganese and nickel Agricultural fruits Wildlife, various flora and fauna Tourism – scenic spots and its rich culture, landscape
Maguindanao	72,585 individuals	Fertile agricultural land producing corn, rice, banana, mango, lanzones, durian, coffee, cacao, cotton, rubber Liguasan marshlands, timber, fishing grounds Minerals – copper, gold, silver, nickel, iron, lead, zinc, clay, limestone
Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur	895 individuals	Considered the gateway to Lanao del Sur Water reservoir (for hydroelectric power) Tourism: lakes, scenic spots and Islam culture
Marawi City, Lanao del Sur	Not less than 19,500 individuals	Agriculture and aquatic resources; water reservoir (hydroelectric power) Tourism: lake, hills, mountains, forests, beaches, bird watching, culture
Lanao del Norte	383,420 individuals	Agriculture and aquatic resources; water reservoir Tourism: falls, culture
Source: Data of evacuees from Karapatan Monitor, 2017 and some data culled from DSWD reports		

Prevalence of violence against women, prevalence of patriarchal views

Despite the country’s consistent top ten score in the Global Gender Equity Index for a decade, the feudal patriarchal views prevail especially in the neoliberal era. It relies on women to consider their main and primary role in the private family unit and reinforces gender stereotypes: women as inferior, as sex objects, as properties, with a whole range of sexist customs, practices, and ideas.

Misogyny or the contempt for or ingrained prejudice against women reinforces inequality not simply between men and women but more on between the powerful and the powerless. It works to keep women conform to standards and to make them feel inadequate. The tolerance of its practice by society makes violence against women (VAW) built into the system.

The most powerful man in the country personifies misogyny. Since his electoral campaign, President Duterte has a string of anti-women remarks. Abuses will continue when the president himself promotes misogyny, objectification and discrimination against women. (See Box 1)

Box 1. President Duterte's Anti-Women Remarks

"If you go down, I go down. But for this martial law and the consequences of martial law and the ramifications of martial law, I and I alone would be responsible. *Trabaho lang kayo. Ako na bahala. Ako na ang magpakulong sa inyo,*" [Just do your job, I will take care of the rest,] *Pag naka-rape ka ng tatlo, aminin ko na akin iyon,*" [If you had raped three, I will admit it, that's on me.]"

- speech at the 2nd Mechanized Infantry (Magbalantay) Brigade of the Philippine Army in Iligan City, June 2017

"What I don't like are kids [being raped], You can mess with, maybe a Miss Universe. Maybe I will even congratulate you for having the balls to rape somebody when you know you are going to die"

- speech at a tourism event in Davao City, July 2017

"The come-on is that if you die a martyr, you go to heaven with 42 virgins waiting for you. If I could just make it a come-on also for those who'd like to go to my country. They do not have the monopoly of discourse in this field. And I said, one of the most is promising virgins when you go to heaven. I'd like to have the virgins here, not in heaven. God may not allow it."

- during his speech in India, January 2018

"Dal-a na. Ingna ang mga sundalo. Ingna sila ang mga sundalo. 'Ah, unsa man nang babae.' Ingna sila. Tawga run ang mga sundalo. 'Order bag-o ni mayor. Di lang daw mo patyon. Pusilon lang mo sa bisong arong—' Og wa na ma'y bisong, wa na ma'y silbi (Bring that. Tell the soldiers. 'There's a new order coming from mayor. We won't kill you. We will just shoot your vagina, so that ...' If there is no vagina, it would be useless),"

- speech in Malacanang, February 2018

Source: compiled from Presidential Communications Operations Office

Women's rights groups, people and human rights organizations and even netizens have since denounced these anti-women statements, raising concerns that it openly encourages violence against women and contributes to impunity on such. The president himself, as well as his spokespersons and supporters dismiss these concerns stating that the remarks are instances of "sarcasm" or as part of the president's "humor".

President Duterte responded to these raised concerns by directly attacking his critics. He once called a complaint filed against him by a women's group as "silly" and told members of international human rights organizations to "go to hell." His spokesperson generally described women's groups as exaggerating and over-acting: "You know, sometimes, these

feminists are really a bit OA (over-acting). I mean, that's funny. Come on. Just laugh.”¹⁰⁴ The president openly instructed government troops to shoot female New People's Army fighters in the vagina.

With the feudal patriarchal culture peddled by the highest official in the country and by the different social institutions, women continue to be treated as source of cheap labor, as commodities, or as mere properties.

On the other hand, women's strong voice has resulted to the enactment of several laws and programs that supposedly protect and develop them. Despite such laws, the number of reported cases of abuse of women and children remains alarming.

The number of reported cases of rape, including attempted rape and incest has totaled to 9,943 in 2016. Alarmingly, 74% of the victims are children. On the other hand, PNP's Bantay Krimen web-based monitoring has shown 8,461 cases reported in different police stations in the country in 2017. The same monitoring system has presented that from January 1 to February 23 of 2018, there have been 796 reported cases of rape, translating to almost 15 cases per day.

On the other hand, almost 14 years after the enactment of Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Law in 2004, the number of reported cases stays high at 35,093 (2016). (See Table 32)

Table 32. Selected Cases of Violence Against Women and Children, 2016			
Case	Women	Children	Total
Rape	2,579	7,364	9,943
Violation of Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Law (RA9262)	35,093	-	35,093
Acts of Lasciviousness	2,031	2,984	5,015
Anti-Sexual Harassment	94	67	161
Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism	79	6	85
Anti-Child Abuse	-	19,201	19,201
Source: PNP Women and Children Protection Center			

These numbers are still conservative since many victims, especially those who experienced sexual abuse, find it difficult to report their cases to the authorities. In cases where their own family members are involved as perpetrators like in incest cases, victims hesitate to report their abusers to the authorities because of the possible incarceration of their relatives. Another burden for victims that discourage them from reporting or seeking help is the culture of victim blaming. This denotes any actions or words that suggest that a victim of a crime, such as sexual assault is to be blamed for what happened to them.

Victim-blaming remarks make women feel anxious, fearful, embarrassed, and such comments discourage the victims to report their traumatic experiences. From the results of the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), only three in 10 women victims of physical or sexual violence seek help to stop the violence. In the same survey, 27% of the respondents reveal that they never ask for help but tell someone while 38% of them never tell nor seek help.

¹⁰⁴ Romero, Alexis. (2018). Feminists overreacting to Duterte's jokes – Roque. Philstar.com.

Moreover, while data does not show the economic class of women victims of VAW, studies suggest that poor women are more vulnerable to abuse. According to the 2017 NDHS, experience of spousal violence is generally higher for women in low-income households. For instance, 31.6% of women from low-income households have experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner as compared to 18.3% of women from highest income households who have experienced the same.

Lack of state support for abused women adds to the difficulty of getting out of an abusive relationship. In 2017, the budget for the DSWD services for residential and center-based clients amounts to Php1.55 billion only while the budget for protective services for individuals and families in difficult circumstances counts up to Php3.45 billion only.

Poverty-stricken and abused women, who are often financially dependent to their spouses and have limited access to resources, find it difficult to leave the abusive relationship. As poverty worsens, many women also fall victims to illegal recruiters and traffickers. Based on recently reported cases of trafficking, many of the victims come from the far-flung provinces where poverty is widespread. Traffickers take advantage of women's desperation to escape from extreme poverty. With the desire for a better life for themselves and their families, poor women are lured by traffickers to work in the cities. (See Table 33)

Table 33. Selected Cases of Trafficking of Women and Children, September 2016 to February 2018	
Date	Incident Details
August 2016	7 women and 6 minors were rescued from Pasay trafficking ring. According to authorities, the victims were from the provinces and being groomed for escort services in high-end hotels in Metro Manila. Customers reportedly placed their "orders" for escorts for P15,000 each.
August and Sept 2016	CIDG-Palawan rescued 13 women victims of human trafficking and illegal recruitment from a pension house in Barangay Rio Tuba, Bataraza, Palawan. The victims' ages ranged from 18 to 50 years old and all came from different parts of the country. The destination was supposedly Malaysia to trade the victims as domestic helpers. According to the victims, their recruiter also promised them work in Dubai. In September, another 23 women were rescued in the same town.
January 2017	Anti-trafficking forces rescued 11 women who were lured to work abroad passing via the southern backdoor to Malaysia. They came from as far as Palawan, La Union, Kalinga, Nueva Ecija, Lucena City, Tagaytay, Taytay in Rizal Province, Taguig City, Las Piñas, Davao del Sur, Butuan City and Zamboanga City.
July 2017	13 minors were rescued from two night clubs in Kamuning, Quezon City where the girls worked as waitresses and were also pimped as prostitutes
July 2017	17 minors were rescued in Caloocan City. According to NBI, someone gave information that pimps had recruited 13-year olds to be prostitutes in the area.
August 2017	27 women were rescued in two different operations in Road 10 and Juan Luna Street, Tondo. The victims were sold for P2,000 to P3,000 as sex slaves of foreigners or Filipino businessmen.
February 2018	9 women from Davao City were rescued in Santiago City, Isabela. They were forced to work as prostitutes. The operation was based on the complaints of the parents of the victims who told them how the traffickers forcibly transported their

	daughters to Santiago City. The victims were mostly minors.
Source: CWR Databank, culled from various news reports	

According to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), since the implementation of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in 2003, the Philippines has reported a total of 274 Trafficking in Persons convictions involving 304 trafficking offenders.¹⁰⁵ However, the data of PNP-Women and Children Protection Center has revealed a smaller number, with at least 923 reported cases of violation of RA 9208 in a span of 11 years (2003 to 2014). Monitoring of trafficking cases as well as apprehending the culprits in the country still needs a lot of improvement.

State-perpetrated violence becomes rampant

An important obligation of the State is protecting the peoples' rights. However, in the Philippines, many documented human rights violations are committed by state forces. The police and the military are likewise involved in harassment, killings of innocent poor people, activists, professionals, farmers, among others.

Monitoring and documentation of state-perpetrated VAW revealed that 56 cops have been involved in 33 cases of abuse against women from July 2016 to October 2018. Of those 33 cases, 13 cases involve victims who are 17 years old and below. Abuses monitored fall into the following forms: catcalling, harassment, sexual harassment, other forms of sexual abuse, physical assault, acts of lasciviousness, blackmailing, trafficking, and rape.

It is alarming how the authorities become bolder in committing abuses against women and minors. Almost half of the cases monitored, or 16 of the 33 cases, are on rape, while seven cases are on acts of lasciviousness.

Meanwhile, 12 cases monitored are drug-related, which means the victims are either drug suspects, relatives of drug suspects, or are assaulted during drug-related operations. Such is the case involving PO1 Eduardo Valencia¹⁰⁶ of the Manila Police District, who raped a 15-year-old daughter of a drug suspect, as well as the case of four policemen who harassed an 11-year old girl during a drug operation in March 2018.¹⁰⁷

Target 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Indicator Resolution of cases of drug-related and political killings

Continuing culture of impunity

The culture of impunity continues and is becoming more rampant. Human rights violations including abuses against women prevail because perpetrators are able to get away from their crimes. When the abuses carry through and the perpetrators remain scot-free, this shows an ineffective and abusive management of peace and security.

¹⁰⁵ Department of Justice Annual Report 2016

¹⁰⁶ Philstar. (2018). Manila cop accused of raping drug suspects' teen daughter under investigation

¹⁰⁷ ABS-CBN News. (2018). 11 anyos na babae, dinala sa dilim, 'hinipuan' umano ng mga pulis

With the number of cases of drug-related killings, as of August 2018, the PNP has itself reported that over 600 police officers have been charged for violating human rights during drug operations. However, human rights defenders believe that the reported number is conservative given that the operations have been uncontrolled, unrestrained, and almost in a daily basis nationwide.

In terms of resolution of cases of violence against women perpetrated by state authorities, according to the PNP-Internal Affairs Service, in November 2018, 43 cops have been charged administratively for rape complaints since 2015.¹⁰⁸ However, as of October 2018, CWR has monitored only one case of police dismissal from service due to involvement in VAW. Many of the cases have either been dropped or not pursued, while most of the police officers involved have been only relieved or transferred to a different police station.

¹⁰⁸ Macapagal, Maan (2018 November 16). PNP-IAS says 43 cops charged with rape since 2015. ABS-CBN News Online

CHAPTER 4

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Philippine government continues to follow the dominant market-driven development model that for decades did not benefit the majority of the Filipinos, especially women. This neoliberal development model has only privileged a few, the big businesses and corporations, while millions remain poor and marginalized. Evidence to this is the increasing wealth inequality and widening social gap in the country. The economic gap is aggravated by the severe environmental destruction that further traps the poor in deep poverty.

The Philippine government has upheld its commitment to implement and achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Its pronounced commitment consists of a plan to integrate the implementation of the SDGs in its current development program with a neoliberal framework of privatization, deregulation, and liberalization. Such framework has been the guide during the implementation of the MDGs and nothing has changed significantly in the country.

Looking into the priority goals and target examined in this report, and using relevant indicators, it illustrated how neoliberal policies have hampered in achieving the targets of each goal.

On the Philippine commitment to ensure quality education, the present state of the Philippine education sector is riddled with problems brought about by privatization, budget constraints as well as reforms to liberalize the educational system to adapt to global market trends, instead of developing an approach for national development.

On its commitment to achieve decent work for Filipinos, labor flexibilization policies puts workers in a more vulnerable position to be in low-waged, non-regular, precarious working conditions.

On its commitment to reduce inequalities, redistribution of wealth and resources remain a challenge. While the country's richest 50 own as much as a quarter of the GDP, a quarter of the population is living in poverty. Incoherent policies like the regressive tax reform program exacerbate inequality.

On climate action, poor women continue to bear the brunt of the impacts of extreme weather conditions as the government has yet to institute policies that would increase the adaptive capacity of the people. Worse, despite commitments to climate action, deregulation in extractive and energy industry exposes the country to further corporate plunder and destruction.

On peace and justice, the Philippines, despite being a signatory in a number of international treaties on human rights and translating them into national laws, the general human rights situation of Filipinos, especially the women sector, has remained bleak. Thousands were killed in anti-drug operations. Unabated attacks against human rights defenders continue. Violence against women remains a pressing issue, and impunity persists.

Thus, if the implementation of the SDGs in the succeeding years will follow the same neoliberal framework, we will state a very bold prediction: inequality, impoverishment, injustice, and the majority will once again be left behind. It is high time that the Philippine government re-examines its development framework.

Significantly, every concerned Filipino is resolved to realize a society free from poverty and inequality, to live in peace and prosperity based on social justice. They resolve to push for an

alternative development model that seeks to redistribute wealth and resources, ensure economic development and social inclusion for the poor and vulnerable. They call for a development model that takes into account ecological sustainability and genuine democratic society where power lies on the people.

Considering the issues discussed, this report presents the following recommendations:

General recommendations:

- Review and recall macroeconomic neoliberal policies of liberalization, privatization, deregulation, denationalization;
- Consider the alternative development framework that centers on people's right to development and respects human rights by following the five foundational shifts - such as redistributive justice, economic justice, social justice, environmental justice, and accountability to peoples - as pillars for genuine sustainable progress; and
- Recognize and consider the points raised in the Women Summit 2016, which have been affirmed by women leaders during the national consultation on the SDGs and development justice in the Philippines: "Women Want CHANGE" - **C**omprehensive social services, **H**uman rights, peace and social justice, **A**nti-Violence against Women and Children, and Discrimination, **N**ational sovereignty and social justice, **G**enuine land reform and national industrialization, and **E**nvironmental protection.

Specific recommendations:

Goal 4 – Quality Education

- Address the funding gap in education. Ensure that the budget is allocated to enhance school facilities including building of classrooms, laboratories, toilets, for procurement of books and other learner's materials, and for the salary for additional teachers;
- Review the policy of PPP in education so as to prioritize students and teachers over profit for the private sector;
- Enforce DepEd's No Collection Policy since contributions should not become monetary constraints for parents and learners
- Review and enhance the K+12 program to be relevant for the people's needs and not to answer the global market demand. Ensure that there are enough facilities to serve the increase in the number of students;
- Review policies of GASTPE, Senior High School Voucher Program, and Tertiary Education Subsidy so as to make them genuinely serving the demands of the marginalized sectors;
- Ensure that schools are built in each far-flung communities instead of being concentrated in urban or center areas;
- Certify as urgent the legislative proposal on the integration of human rights, peace, and gender studies in the curriculum at all levels of education;
- Encourage the enrollment of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and
- Ensure the protection, recognition, promotion, and commendation of Lumad and other schools of indigenous peoples and national minorities.

Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Review and make appropriate changes, including repeal, of laws and policies that legalize different forms of labor flexibilization. The Herrera Law must immediately be

reviewed for nullification. In the meantime, enforce regulations which would prohibit employers from circumventing labor laws;

- Certify as urgent the legislative proposals on regularization of employment to promote full employment of Filipinos. The right of workers to work, organize themselves into unions or organizations should be ensured;
- Repeal the Wage Rationalization Act that provides for the regional wage boards to adjust minimum wages in different provinces and regions, based on the estimated cost of living. Enact the proposed National Minimum Wage Bill;
- Ensure social protection of all workers, including those in the informal economy;
- In pursuant with the Magna Carta of Women, women should enjoy equal opportunities as men in work, receive equal pay for equal work and enjoy guarantees against discrimination in age, civil status or sexual preference and orientation;
- Instead of a self-report survey on compliance to labor standards, appropriate agencies should perform mandatory inspection of all establishments regardless of size and nature of operation. Ensure that the proper implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Law of 2018;
- Investigate the condition of women in various workplaces, especially in industries utilizing chemicals and compounds, which pose risks to women's health. Women and all workers should also be informed of their vulnerability to different occupational injuries and diseases in the workplace, as well as mechanisms to access compensation;
- Ensure social protection for women in the informal economy. Measures must also be made to prevent informalization of formal work such as subcontracting;
- Review policies that promote labor export. Generate regular jobs with decent wages in the country;
- Ensure and strengthen the protection of migrant workers and review the bilateral labor agreements forged with the host countries especially those countries with rampant cases of gender-based abuses;
- Increase the budget for programs and services for overseas Filipino workers, including legal assistance and the reintegration for those who opt to go return and work in the Philippines; and
- Create a mechanism to investigate, document, and address labor rights violations. Penalize companies that violate labor rights of workers.

Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities

- Review of the implementation of the conditional cash transfer program, the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), and assess the effectiveness of the program in addressing poverty;
- Stop the implementation of the TRAIN Law. Implement a truly progressive taxation policy that would unburden the poor from consumption taxes;
- Legislate a genuine agrarian reform law that would provide for the free distribution of land to peasants and small farmers and protection of ancestral lands;
- Resolve all pending agrarian reform cases. Immediate review of past orders issued on land exemption, exclusion, retention, conversion and cancellation of titles given to beneficiaries must be done;
- File appropriate cases against illegal and premature land conversion. Prioritize the review of agribusiness permits, leasehold and stock distribution arrangements between landowners and tenants.
- Give land access to all qualified women-headed households. Hold consultations to know the real condition of rural women and learn from them what other forms of assistance the government should extend to uplift their condition;

- The government should consult and work with local farmers' groups to learn how they can effectively implement their support in agriculture;
- Review policies of privatization in basic utilities such as water and energy;
- Increase budget for social services especially the health services. Ensure universal, accessible, and quality health services; and
- Assess and recall the no-home-birthing policy to rural and indigenous women who do not have access to birthing facilities in their communities.

Goal 13 – Climate Action

- Increase the adaptive capacity of the poor to climate-change induced disasters. Ensure regular jobs with decent wages, access to public social services, including housing support;
- Access to emergency food, water, sanitary facilities should be prioritized to lessen the burden on women who are primarily tasked to take care of the families' needs;
- On data collection, ensure segregation on sex, age, data on vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities, to help in providing appropriate disaster response;
- Quick information should be available to ensure that rural women and their families are safe during typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and similar disasters;
- Establish evacuation centers with complete amenities in every community to ensure that the evacuated families have a decent and habitable temporary shelter;
- Women should have access to resources such as seedlings, irrigation, and other necessary support from the government;
- Integration of climate-mitigation should be included in the curriculum, including topics on sustainable consumption and production;
- Review and make appropriate changes, including repeal, laws and policies that are both detrimental to the environment, women and people's lives and livelihood, such as the Mining Act, Fisheries Code and Forestry Code;
- Halt operation of coal power plants. Amend the Renewable Energy Act. Ensure that the primacy of the state in the control of renewable energy production;
- Stop land conversion and mono-cropping which results to the displacement of farmers and indigenous communities and destruction of the quality of the land.

Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Ensure that programs or actions that address criminality are carried out in full respect of human rights and international humanitarian laws;
- Take all necessary measures to bring killings associated with the campaign against illegal drugs to an end. Investigate all cases and hold perpetrators accountable;
- Take all necessary measures to bring political killings to an end. Investigate all cases and hold perpetrators accountable;
- Ensure the protection of women and human rights defenders;
- Institutionalize social justice, patriotism, and human rights education in all levels of education;
- Increase the budget for services for victims of gender-based abuses;
- Support the work of women's service institutions that respond to gender-based abuses.
- Ensure the effective and efficient implementation of policies and programs that protect the rights of women against discrimination and violence; and
- Educate enforcing agencies on how to effectively and efficiently deliver services to victims of human rights violations and violence against women.

Annex 1. List of Priority Goals, Targets and Indicators

This report focuses on five (5) Sustainable Development Goals (4,8,10,13 and 16) and covering specific targets and indicators.

Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	
Target	Indicators
4.3. By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net enrolment rate in elementary, secondary education by sex • Cohort survival rate by region • Youth population attending and not attending school • Number of out of school youth • Percent share of education budget in national expenditures
4.4. By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduates of tertiary education and technical and vocational training by area of discipline and sex
4.7. By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislations and policies that promote sustainable development and human rights through education

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	
Target	Indicators
8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment, employment, underemployment rate by sex and region • Number of women in the labor force; labor force participation rate • Number of women by class of worker • Categories of work for men and women • Minimum wage by region and gender wage gap
8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of non-regular workers in private establishment and government agencies • Cases of labor violations • Cases of occupational safety and health • Workers' participation in labor organizations

	and trade unions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of migrant workers
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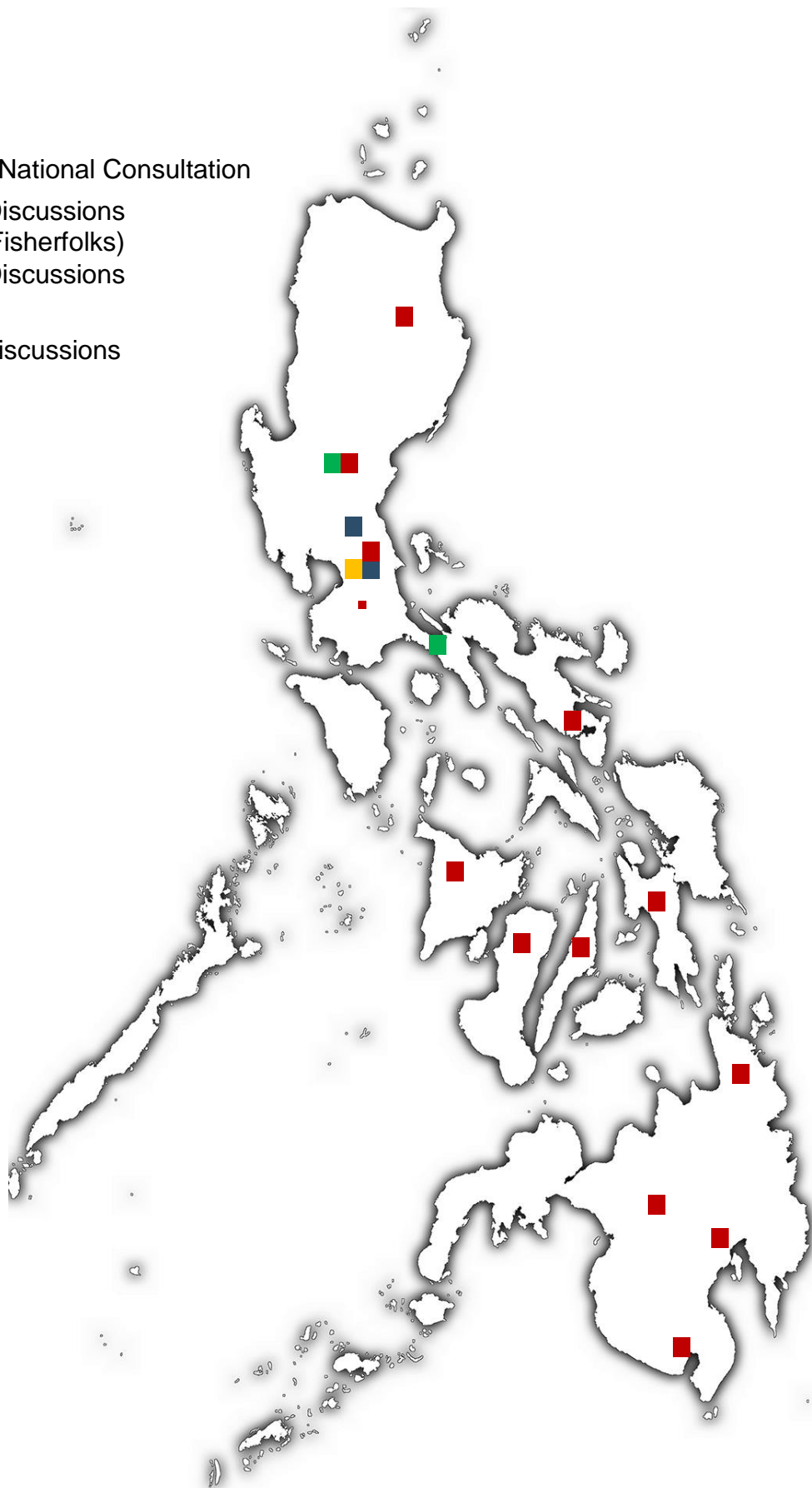
GOAL 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.	
Target	Indicator
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of poverty by region • Population living below poverty threshold by region • National annual per capita poverty threshold • Income of highest earning individuals
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in poverty incidence for basic sectors • Access to land resources and other resources, by sex and by region
10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of progressive taxation measures • Access to social services (health and basic utilities)

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	
Target	Indicator
13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in the number of casualties and affected population by sex • Increased adaptive capacity to climate hazards • Budget for disaster risk reduction and management
13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and climate-related policies and laws
13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning in education

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	
Target	Indicator
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of drug-related killings and political killings and other human rights violations • Cases of violence against women
16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of cases of drug-related and political killings

Annex 2. Map of Participants in Consultations

- Participants of National Consultation
- Focus Group Discussions (Peasant and Fisherfolks)
- Focus Group Discussions (Workers)
- Focus Group Discussions (Urban Poor)



Focus Group Discussions and Consultations with Basic Sectors		
Sector	Area	Number of Participants
PEASANT WOMEN	Unisan, Quezon (May 2018)	8
	Padre Burgos, Quezon (May 2018)	9
	Atimonan, Quezon (May 2018)	8
	Baloc, Nueva Ecija (June 2018)	5
	Guimba, Nueva Ecija (June 2018)	10
WOMEN WORKERS	Valenzuela City (May 2018)	9
	Marilao, Bulacan (July 2018)	20
URBAN POOR and other sectors	Quezon City (August 2018)	15
	Manila City (August 2018)	15

Participants of National Consultation	
Region	Number of Participants
NCR National Capital Region	1
Region II Cagayan Valley	1
Region III Central Luzon	1
Region IV-A Southern Tagalog	2
Region V Bicol	1
Region VI Western Visayas	2
Region VII Central Visayas	1
Region VIII Eastern Visayas	1
Region X Northern Mindanao	2
Region XI Southern Mindanao	1
Caraga	1



