Question 1 (5 minutes)

NCDA (Philippine Government Focal Point on disability) and ESCAP conducted a national stakeholder consultation in 2015 to review the status of Philippine national statistical system from disability perspective.

- How various stakeholders in the Philippines (NCDA, Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Education, etc., ) have been working together to collect data on persons with disabilities from diverse sources as required by the multi-sectoral nature of the Incheon Strategy Indicators.
- Share any challenges and lessons learned from the multi-stakeholder engagement and midpoint review work.

Answer

In 2015, the UNESCAP has oriented the concerned Philippine government agencies on gathering disability data and helped the country come up with a disability data generation action plan. To operationalize this plan, the NCDA established engagements with key stakeholders and formed the NCDA Disability Data Collection Task Force. The task force is chaired by Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) National Statistician with member agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Such multi-stakeholder approach is espoused by the Philippine Development Plan as developed by the National Economic and Development Authority, the Philippine central planning agency. The discussions will be elaborated by the members of the Philippine Delegation.

As initial step to address the statistical challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda, the PSA Board issued PSA Resolution No. 4 Series of 2016 which enjoined all concerned government instrumentalities to provide the necessary data support to monitor the country’s performance vis-à-vis the SDGs based on the indicator framework that shall be determined by the NEDA, PSA and other government agencies.

Specifically, the document mentioned that:

1. The PSA shall: (a) serve as the official repository of SDG indicators in the Philippines; (b) develop mechanisms to generate and regularly provide timely and accurate statistics; and (c) develop and maintain a webpage on SDGS, SDGI database and SDG Watch;

2. The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute shall: (a) undertake capacity building activities to help PSA and other agencies generate the indicators; and (b) conduct methodological researches to address issues in generating SDG indicators;

3. Oversight agencies shall: (a) facilitate provision of the necessary resources and other appropriate assistance in ensuring the generation of data on the SDGs, specifically, to consider the inclusion of statistical development programs/projects on the SDG indicators in respective agency work programs and budgets; and

4. Other Philippine Statistical System agencies are expected to: (a) monitor and implement Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) activities geared towards generating SDG indicators; and (b)
incorporate in budget submissions the necessary funding for the generation, management and archiving SDG indicators.

In relation to this initiative, the Philippine Statistics Authority has been collaborating with other agencies to generate disability data. PSA will elaborate on the said efforts.

Likewise, the Technical Education Skills Development Authority has implemented a community level survey on the training needs of persons with disabilities to guide them in their program planning and have collected data of those who have benefitted from their training program.

Health and wellness program for persons with disabilities has been inspired by the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities. As of date, there is a significant increase of more than double of the 2012 data for those who have been given the ID for the 20% discount privileges to avail the basic health services.

Challenges

The challenges in working together for the disability data collection faced by the National Council on Disability Affairs arise from the following:

1. Varying conceptualization and appreciation of disability among stakeholders. (Difficulty in having a common understanding among stakeholders on the definition and classification of disability in a rights-based model resulting to a charity-based programs and services.)
2. The cost of disability data collection using the Washington Group Set of Questionnaires and translating it to local languages that can easily be understood by enumerators and respondents.

Question 2 (5 minutes)

Philippines has been collecting disability prevalence data mainly from population censuses and the 2010 census showed that 1.6 percent of Filipinos have a disability. In 2016, Philippines also conducted a National Disability Prevalence Survey.

- What were the challenges that kept your government from using the Washington Group’s short set of disability questions into the last Census (2010).
- How did you address the disability measurement issue in your National Disability Prevalence Survey to make sure that the Philippines disability data are more comparable.
- How did you address early detection of child disability in your Survey.

Answer:
The challenges faced in the survey is the same as the foregoing challenges in question 1. With respect to disability measurement, the Department of Health and the Philippine Statistics Authority requested the World Health Organization to provide them training and technical assistance on the development of the questionnaires for the survey on National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS). The National Council on Disability Affairs assisted PSA in translating the questionnaires in local languages.

On question 3, on the early detection of child disability, the survey includes the age of the respondents however early detection of disability cannot be addressed accurately in the survey. Although, we have a law requiring new born screening to determine disabilities arising from blood related disorders and a law for new born hearing and visual screening to ensure early detection, collecting data on this issue remains a big challenge for our government.

The Philippine delegation has this to say: Statistics tell us what to do, but stories help to sell effective collaboration.