

**Expert Group Meeting on Effective Data Generation
For the Incheon Strategy Indicators
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Country Brief

Country name: **PHILIPPINES**

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1. On the availability of national baseline data for the Incheon Strategy Indicators as reported in the ESCAP survey

Out of the 62 Incheon Strategy Indicators, a few selected indicators maybe generated. However, most of these data are based on administrative reports from various government departments, agencies and bureaus. Likewise, most of the available data are either input or output indicators and are not expressed in terms of proportions or ratios to the general population. For example, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has input data on 6 Incheon Strategy Core Indicators. These data are available through its program administrative reports, the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) database of poor households, and from the attached agency, the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA).

Selected indicators may also be obtained from results of household- based surveys, e.g. Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), Labor Force Survey (LFS) and the Census of Population and Housing (CPH) from the Philippine Statistical System (PSS). Contributory to this data sourcing effort is the engagement of other national government agencies (NGAs) such as the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), among others.

The need, however, is to standardize by incorporating the International Classification on Functional Disability (ICFD) questions in major household based surveys and again compile these data. Also, PWDs should also be identified on an individual level to allow segregation of data based on gender, age, livelihood, education and programs received, among others. Complete data on PWDs is essential for developing programs that will adequately address their needs.

It was also noted that gaps in data clearly exists particularly in the extent of defining disability in the country. For example, disabling conditions or effects of some chronic illnesses like cancer are not recorded as a disability rather the focus is on the illness itself. The use of the words long-term, short-term, partial, total, temporary and permanent disability have different interpretations and understanding when used by different implementing organizations and subjected to different legislations.

The main reasons for these gaps can be attributed to the laws and implementing rules and regulations that defined the concepts and because of the different understanding and interpretation of the operational definitions and modes of generating the information.

With respect to existing institutional arrangement to collect and validate data, disability data, reports and information are being generated by different agencies upon request of the NCDA. Further, there is already an existing PWD registry under the DOH that is based on issued identification cards (ID) that provides twenty percent (20%) discount in the purchase of basic services including health services. PSS through the CPH collects and validates the official PWD data.

To address the aforementioned gaps, a national clearing information data system using accessible information and communication technology will be established by the NCDA to collect all relevant disability data being produced by all government agencies. It is an information system that can extract specific reports needed by concerned agencies for planning, and program development that would lead to improvement of delivery of services. Moreover, a comprehensive consultation mechanism should be established among all stakeholders to ensure that all concerns are being taken into account and consideration which should lead to enactment of a more responsive legislation on disability data generation.

Selected indicators for which data are being collected (1-3) indicators:

- 8.1 Disability prevalence based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by age, sex, race and socioeconomic status (*NSO Census of Population and Housing*)

The primary purpose of the National Statistics Office (NSO) Census of Population and Housing (CPH) is to generate information on the size, distribution and characteristics of persons with disabilities in the Philippines. The 2010 CPH used the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) short set of questions on disability to collect ICF based model statistics. The design of the NSO CPH questionnaire on PWD used six major questions identifying the extent of functional difficulties (seeing, hearing, walking, concentrating, self-caring, and communicating) of household members (individuals). The questions were translated in English, Filipino and five major dialects.

Census is done every ten (10) years though and is always budgeted under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) being passed by the Philippines Congress and approved by the President annually. However, resources allocated are still inadequate.

CPH design development and administration is always a collaborative effort with stakeholders such as the PSS member agencies, other data users from National Government Agencies and Donor Agencies, and Local Government Units. Consultations and negotiations are made to ensure that certain data requirements from data users may be incorporated.

The CPH data has been released in 2012 publicly highlighting statistics on disability by household population with functional difficulty by age and sex and by type of difficulty.

- *National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction as an alternative administrative data source for social protection indicators*

On the other hand, the DSWD's through its NHTSPR is purposively identifying who and where the poor are in the country by assessing household/families using a proxy means test method. The previous design of the PWD module in the assessment form is still based on the absence/presence of disability and its type. It is currently being proposed that for the up and coming 2014 assessment, WG short questions are also incorporated.

The DSWD-NHTS uses 34 variables that were identified as good predictors of income; based on observable and verifiable household characteristics and socio-economic conditions such as education, occupation, and assets, among others. The validation of the initial results are made through posting of the list and encouraging communities to appeal and contest the list of poor households at the local level.

Coordination amongst prospective data users is observed from design, administration, data sharing and reporting. Data sharing is guided by Executive Order 867 series of 2010 that NHTS-PR database shall serve as basis for potential beneficiaries of social protection programs. It currently has household-level information on 10.9 million households nationwide and 5.2 million were identified as poor households and of which 357,125 households are with PWDs. Following EO 867, the database is updated every four (4) years. Normally, memorandum of agreement (indicating the extent of the data required and the responsibility of the user) is entered into by the data user and the DSWD to govern data usage.

- Number of persons with disabilities in employment to the general population in employment, establishment based statistics (*DOH's PWD Registry as alternative administrative data source*)

The Department of Health's PWD Registry focuses on the profiling of persons with disability who are availing the 20% discount benefit. It is imperative that the WG short questions be integrated to ensure standard data is collected. The PWD registry is accessible online and through the local government units.

Interface through consultations and meetings are normally led by DOH and NCTA with other stakeholders. Dissemination of data on the other hand is done internally and externally through publications and website access.

3. Achievements and lessons

One of the biggest achievements in the collection of data was the incorporation in the 2010 CPH of the ICFD short set of questions on disability based on the functional difficulty model covering the following domains: seeing, hearing, walking/mobility, self-care and communication. This effort is in compliance to the UN international principles and recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses all over the world; as well as the establishment of the PWD Registry under the Department of Health. The registry does not only provide diagnostic indicators but also employment, skills and insurance coverage characteristics of persons with disabilities.

Likewise, the Philippine Statistical System through the NSO participated in the cognitive and field testing (on a pilot basis) of questions in coordination with the UNESCAP and the World Health Organization. Results from the study showed a higher proportion of persons reporting disability.

However, the most notable lessons learnt were that data collection was very slow resulting to no significant increase in the data from the previous census. This problem is highly attributed to personnel competency in identifying and understanding disability at the community level.

With regard to the NHTSPR it can be a potential data provider of the number and proportion of households with PWDs that are living below the Philippine national poverty line. At the same time, provides data to social protection programs as to “who and where the poor PWDs are”. It is able to generate data on socio-economic and household based characteristics of households with PWDs. It is learned that its PWD module would be adjusted in line with the CPH. This move would enhance poor PWD identification at the individual level instead of the current household level. Eventually, it is probable that the PWD module would inform better the succeeding PMT model in assessing households / families with PWDs.

4. Major Challenges to improve the availability and quality of data

Institutional constraints

- There is no centralized repository or data convergence at present t being used for decision making purposes. NCDA will assert its mandate to provide direction to and coordinate and monitor the activities of government, non-government, and people’s organizations involved in PWD affairs. Also, establish, develop and maintain a data bank on disability in partnership with concerned government agencies and non-government organizations that would further strengthen the availability of collaborated data with stakeholders and service providers to persons with disabilities;
- Data matching and merging of disability information from other sources is also a challenge brought by confidentiality issues and varying ICT systems used by different data producers.

Technical constraints

Regarding the PWD Registry there were no trained personnel to upload the data to the system including the availability and quality of internet connection at the community level. Furthermore, there is a need for more trained local personnel to enumerate on disability and to deploy them to gather data instead of waiting at the local government office for PWDs to register.

The NHTS-PR data result accounted for households with PWD but not on an individual capacity during the first round of assessment in 2009. The need to include ICFD questions during design and limited technical know-how of key personnel on its proper administration is also a key constraint.

For the PSS, the existing design and sample frames used in the household based surveys i.e. LFS and FIES, do not account for disability, and developing one would take time and a lot of resources. A dedicated survey to gather information on disability while it may be the best way to generate disability statistics is farfetched, as this would require a huge amount of resources as well.

Financial Constraints

With very limited budget of PSS on statistical activities, resource allocation on PWD statistics becomes a limitation. Regularity of data generation is a question because of its cost; hence, relevance of data produced is also limiting. An investment on statistics is very important.

Alternatively, NHTS-PR can provide the number and proportion of households with PWDs that are living below the Philippine national poverty line should the 2014 NHTSPR assessment proceeds. However, this is also expensive to administer but will be a good tool for validating the official statistics at the same time respond to the social protection indicators.

5. National capacity-building needs

The capacity building needs of the Philippine government and its local partners and stakeholders to improve data collection for the Incheon Strategy indicators should start with a better understanding of the PWD policy at all levels of engagement of the government (especially defining the context of disability). Specifically, the Philippine government would require capacity building for and on the following themes:

1. For Data Producers of Statistics (PSS, DSWD, DOH, LGUs, etc.)

- Data collection and analysis of disability data (more importantly on the measurement of disability)
- Understanding and implementing the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)

2. For Data Users of Statistics (NCDA, DSWD and other PWD service providers)

- Data generation or data mining and report generation
- Data analysis and policy development on the definition (temporary and permanent disability) and types of disability (mental, visual, speech, orthopedic and hearing)
- ICT system aided data collaboration or system interoperability amongst data producers/users
- Budget prioritization about disability
- Professionalization of persons with disabilities as advocates of their rights and not of their personal interests.

5. Action Plans to improve the availability and quality of disability data¹

To mainstream disability statistics in the Philippine Statistical System towards inclusive development, towards better development outcomes for PWDs:

1. Greater Advocacy – we need convincing articulation on the importance of disability statistics by agencies promoting PWDs
 - NCSA to push for better statistics on PWDs by creating SubCommittee on Data Collection Policy and Coordination
 - PWDs are one of the 14 basic sectors – poverty statistics are available to eight (8) of the basic sectors but not for PWDs
2. Institutionalization of collection and dissemination of statistics on PWDs in the Philippine Statistical System
 - The Philippine Statistical Development Program 2011-2017 has identified programs on disability statistics
 - Conduct of household-based surveys on disability
 - Improvement of the Registry of PWDs
 - Improved sharing of disability data - Development of disability data portal
3. Better coordination - Lack of coordination wastes resources
 - Within countries, between the statistical community and the program ministries
 - Among the stakeholders in the international community
4. Methodological Work/Capacity Building
 - Development of long set of questions by Washington Group
 - Methodological Initiatives of WHO
 - Training Programs of SIAP – both producers & users of statistics
 - Conduct of Regional/International Workshops
 - UNESCAP for sharing of experiences
5. Continued engagement with/of the international community
 - Implementation of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (World Bank as a key player)
 - Financial/Technical Assistance
 - Help in the Advocacy for Statistics, Advocacy for PWDs

¹ Lifted from the presentation made by former NSCB Secretary General Dr. Romulo Virola during the Side Event on Disability Data and Statistics for Inclusive Development: Next Steps for Action at the National, Regional, and Global Levels Organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Session of the UN Statistical Commission Mainstreaming Disability Statistics in the Philippine Statistical System: Challenges and Opportunities, 2012.