



Did you know that...

11 of the 25 provinces in Mindanao in 2003 have poverty incidence above 40.0 percent?

Much is yet to be done to reduce poverty in Mindanao. Of the 11 in 25 provinces in Mindanao in 2003, four in every ten of the families had incomes not enough for their food and other basic requirements. This is improvement when compared to 2000 with 14 of the 25 provinces had poverty incidence above 40 percent. The four provinces in 2000 with poverty incidences that improved to below 40 percent in 2003 were Camiguin (from 54.2% to 34.5%), Lanao del Sur (from 54.7% to 37.6%), Tawi-Tawi (from 52.4% to 34.6%) and Agusan del Norte (from 40.9% to 33.2%).

Zamboanga del Norte the poorest province

Among the 25 Mindanao provinces in 2003, Zamboanga del Norte posted the highest poverty incidence at 64.6 percent. The province also registered the largest increase in poverty incidence from 47.0 to 64.4 percent. From being the 17th poorest province in 2000, Zamboanga del Norte outranked Masbate as the poorest province in the country during the reference period.

For the past three years (2000-2003), Maguindanao remained at the number two slot as the second poorest province in the country. The poverty situation in the province had worsened from 59.3 percent in 2000 to 60.4 percent in 2003.

Lanao del Sur, Camiguin and Tawi-Tawi graduated from the top slots of the ten poorest provinces in 2000. Succeeding them in the 2003 top 10 poorest list were Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Misamis Occidental.

The other provinces in the 2003 top 10 poorest list were Agusan del Sur, Lanao de Norte, Sulu, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat.

Improved poverty situation seen in Region XII and the ARMM

Among the six regions in Mindanao, three regions succeeded in reducing poverty in their areas of jurisdiction. Region XII had registered the most improved poverty situation in 2003 as it was able to bring down the proportion of poor families to 45.4 percent from 53.8 percent in 2000. All of its four provinces showed reductions in the proportion of poor families from 2000 to 2003 with Cotabato Province posting a significant fall of 15.5 percentage points.

Region XII was followed by the ARMM with an 8.4 percentage points decline from 53.8 percent in 2000. The intensified poverty alleviation efforts in Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Sulu bring about improvements in the lives of these Muslim-dominated areas.

All three provinces recorded double digit declines in their poverty incidences. Tawi-Tawi posted the biggest drop at 17.8 percentage points.

Region X's poverty incidence, on the other hand, slightly declined by 0.3 percentage points from 38.0 percent in 2000 to 37.0 percent in 2003. Among its provinces, Camiguin recorded the largest drop at 19.7 percentage points followed by Lanao del Norte (2.9 percentage points) and Misamis Oriental (0.8 percentage points).

Ten provinces posted worsening poverty situation

In contrast to Region XII, ARMM and Region X, Regions IX, Caraga and Region XI all posted worsening poverty situation.

The proportion of poor families in Region IX expanded from 38.6 percent to 44.0 percent; in Caraga - from 43.8 percent to 47.1 percent and in Region XI - from 27.9 percent to 28.5 percent.

Aside from Zamboanga del Norte and Maguindanao, the remaining eight provinces that posted deteriorating poverty incidences were Bukidnon (from 33.4% to 36.9%), Misamis Occidental (from 46.8% to 48.1%), Davao del Sur (from 18.3 percent to 24.2%), Davao Oriental (from 33.7% to 37.2%), Surigao del Norte (from 42.6% to 54.5%), Surigao del Sur (from 38.4% to 48.6%), Basilan (from 31.5% to 33.%) and Maguindanao (from 59.3% to 60.4%).

Number of poor families largest in Region X

Among the six regions in Mindanao in 2003, Region X is home to 278,538 impoverished families or about 22.8 percent of the total poor families in Mindanao.

Region IX followed Region X with 258,497 poor families, ARMM (228,970 poor families), Region XI (231,068 poor families), Region XII (227,093 poor families), and Caraga (195,622 poor families).

The three provinces with poor families over the hundred thousand mark in 2003 were Zamboanga del Norte (110,831), Davao del Sur (103,963) and Zamboanga del Sur (103,323).

In Region XII, South Cotabato had 66,792 poor families followed Cotabato (52,759), Sultan Kudarat (52,064), Sarangani (41,346) and Cotabato City (14,132).