Highlights of the 2023 First Semester Official Poverty Statistics

A. National

1. Incidences and Magnitude

Based on the preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) Visit 1 conducted in July 2023, poverty incidence among families or the proportion of Filipino families with incomes that are not sufficient to buy their minimum basic food and non-food needs or the poverty incidence among families in the first semester of 2023 was estimated at 16.4 percent. Among individuals, the poverty incidence was estimated at 22.4 percent or 25.24 million poor Filipinos in the first semester of 2023.

Meanwhile, subsistence incidence or the proportion of Filipino families whose incomes are not sufficient to meet the basic food needs in the first semester of 2023 stood at about 6 for every 100 families. Among individuals, about 9 in 100 Filipinos lived below the food thresholds in the first semester of 2023.

Table 1. Food and Poverty Thresholds, Incidences and Magnitude of Poor and Food Poor: First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Statistics	First Semester Estimate			Coefficient of Variation		
	2018	2021	2023	2018	2021	2023
Monthly Poverty Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)	10,532	12,082	13,797			
Poverty Incidence or Proportion of Poor (%)						
Among Families[1,2]	16.2	18.0	16.4	1.1	1.2	2.2
Among Population[1,2]	21.1	23.7	22.4	1.1	1.1	1.9
Magnitude of Poor (in million)						
Among Families[1]	4.04	4.74	4.51	1.2	1.3	2.8
Among Population[1]	22.26	26.14	25.24	1.2	1.3	2.5
Monthly Food Threshold for a Family of Five (PhP)	7,374	8,393	9,550			
Subsistence Incidence or Proportion of Food Poor (%)						
Among Families[1,2]	6.2	7.1	5.9	1.8	1.8	4.7
Among Population[1,2]	8.5	9.9	8.7	1.7	1.8	4.0

Statistics	First Semester Estimate			Coefficient of Variation		
	2018	2021	2023	2018	2021	2023
Magnitude of Food Poor (in million)						
Among Families[1,2]	1.55	1.87	1.62	1.8	1.9	5.3
Among Population[1,2]	9.03	10.94	9.79	1.8	1.9	4.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority
Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.
2/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2021 to 2023 is significant.

2. Thresholds and Income

On the average, a family with five members will need at least PhP13,797 per month to meet their minimum basic food and non-food needs in the first semester of 2023. This amount, which is also referred to as the poverty threshold, was higher by 14.2 percent from the estimated PhP 12,082 monthly poverty threshold for a family of five in the first semester of 2021. On the other hand, to meet their minimum basic food needs in the first semester of 2023, a family with five members will need at least PhP 9,550 per month. This was higher than the food threshold in the first semester of 2021, which is estimated at PhP8,393.

It is to be noted that income collected in the FIES refers to various sources, such as wages and salaries, entrepreneurial activities and other sources of income. The other sources of income, include net share, cash receipts from abroad and from domestic source, rentals received, interest, pension, dividends, net receipts, those received as gifts (in cash or in kind), and imputed rent.

In the first semester of 2023, the average per capita income increased by 12.8 percent from 2021 to 2023, faster than the growth from the first semester of 2018 to 2021 of 4.5 percent. It may also be noted that the mean per capita income of families in the first and second income decile class increased by 21.4 and 19.4 percent, respectively. These families are the ones near the poverty threshold. Hence, despite the 14.1 percent increase in the prices as reflected in the poverty threshold, a 1.6 percent reduction in the poverty incidence was observed.

Table 2. Per Capita Poverty Threshold and Mean Per Capita Income: First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Indicators	First Semester Estimate			Increase/Decrease (%)	
	2018	2021	2023	2018-2021	2021-2023
Poverty Incidence (%)	16.2	18.0	16.4	1.8	-1.6
First Semester Per Capita Poverty Threshold (PhP)	12,638	14,498	16,557	14.7	14.2
Mean Per Capita Income (PhP)	34,093	35,628	40,202	4.5	12.8

Indicators	First Semester Estimate			Increase/Decrease (%)	
	2018	2021	2023	2018-2021	2021-2023
First Decile	7,604	8,318	10,098	9.4	21.4
Second Decile	12,048	13,224	15,783	9.8	19.4
Third Decile	15,416	17,022	20,141	10.4	18.3
Fourth Decile	19,014	20,945	24,686	10.2	17.9
Fifth Decile	23,176	25,378	29,792	9.5	17.4
Sixth Decile	28,262	30,897	36,095	9.3	16.8
Seventh Decile	35,143	38,168	44,471	8.6	16.5
Eight Decile	45,737	48,973	56,565	7.1	15.5
Ninth Decile	64,562	68,257	78,020	5.7	14.3
Tenth Decile	150,418	151,488	168,716	0.7	11.4

3. Other Poverty Measures

Other poverty measures being generated by PSA include the income gap, poverty gap, and severity of poverty (squared poverty gap).

The income gap measures the average amount of income required by the poor in order to get out of poverty, expressed in relation to the poverty thresholds. The income gap was estimated at 25.6 percent in the first semester of 2023, which means that on the average, a poor family with five members need an additional monthly income of about PhP 3,535 to move out of poverty in the first semester of 2023. This can serve as a useful reference especially in determining the necessary budget that can be transferred/added to the income of the poor and lift them out of poverty.

Table 3. Income Gap, Poverty Gap and Severity of Poverty: First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Statistics	First Semester Estimate			Increase/Decrease	
	2018	2021	2023	2018 - 2021	2021 - 2023
Income Gap [2]	27.0	27.0	25.6	0.1	(1.4)
Poverty Gap[1,2]	4.4	4.9	4.2	0.5	(0.6)
Severity of Poverty[1,2] (Squared Poverty Gap)	1.8	2.0	1.6	0.2	(0.3)

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority
Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.
   2/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2021 to 2023 is significant.

B. Regional

At the regional level, the regions with the lowest poverty incidence among families in the first semester of 2023 were NCR, CAR, and CALABARZON. On the other hand, BARMM consistently registered the highest poverty incidence among families at 34.8 percent in the first semester of 2023. Moreover, more than half of the regions posted significant changes in their incidences from 2021 to 2023. The regions with significant decreases were: NCR, CAR, Regions II, III, XII, Caraga, and BARMM. On the other hand, a significant increase was observed in Region XI from 14.0 percent in first semester of 2021 to 20.3 percent in first semester of 2023.

Table 4. Per Capita Poverty Thresholds and Poverty Incidence among Families, by Region: First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Region	First Semester Per Capita Poverty Threshold (in PhP)			First Semester Poverty Incidence among Families					
				Estimates (%)			Coefficient of Variation		
	2018	2021	2023	2018	2021	2023	2018	2021	2023
PHILIPPINES [1, 2]	12,638	14,498	16,557	16.2	18.0	16.4	1.1	1.2	2.2
NCR [2]	14,102	16,625	18,704	4.9	5.2	3.3	5.3	4.5	6.2
CAR [1, 2]	12,358	14,023	15,912	13.8	12.1	9.4	4.0	4.4	5.7
Region I [1]	12,837	15,470	16,839	8.7	15.8	14.2	7.9	5.7	8.7
Region II [2]	12,182	14,226	15,750	15.4	16.4	11.6	5.5	6.3	9.2
Region III [1, 2]	12,976	16,226	19,088	7.9	13.7	11.6	4.8	4.4	6.1
CALABARZON [1]	13,669	15,604	18,389	7.8	10.6	9.5	5.9	5.3	5.0
MIMAROPA [1]	11,472	13,054	15,277	15.1	19.3	19.0	4.7	4.4	5.5
Region V [1]	11,975	13,873	16,349	21.5	26.1	25.1	3.6	3.8	3.7
Region VI [1]	11,964	13,519	17,048	15.9	19.3	20.5	4.9	4.5	5.1
Region VII [1]	12,724	15,174	17,044	19.1	26.8	23.9	4.2	4.3	10.8
Region VIII	12,195	13,550	15,476	30.4	28.9	26.1	3.4	3.8	4.1
Region IX	12,424	14,467	16,286	32.4	30.9	29.7	3.4	3.5	3.9
Region X	12,259	14,302	16,542	25.6	26.2	24.8	3.1	3.8	3.4
Region XI [2]	12,718	13,324	15,278	17.8	14.0	20.4	4.0	4.4	16.9
Region XII [2, 3]	12,082	13,298	14,685	27.2	27.1	22.9	3.7	3.8	4.9
Caraga [1, 2]	12,346	13,613	14,576	28.3	31.0	20.8	3.2	3.0	4.5
BARMM [1, 2, 4]	13,599	14,126	15,179	55.9	39.4	34.8	2.4	3.6	3.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority
Notes: 1/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.
2/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2021 to 2023 is significant.
3/ Still includes the 63 barangays from Cotabato, which are now part of BARMM.
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C. Provincial

At the provincial level, the provinces which consistently belonged to the group with the least poverty incidence among families in the first semester of 2018, 2021 and 2023 were NCR, Benguet, Cavite, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal, and Siquijor. On the other hand, the provinces of Batanes and Batangas were included in the least poor cluster since the first semester of 2021. Meanwhile, the other provinces that joined this roster of least poor cluster in the first semester of 2023 are: Aklan, Apayao, Bataan, Cagayan, Camiguin, Guimaras, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Nueva Vizcaya.

Table 5. Provinces in Least Poor Cluster Based on the 2023 Poverty Incidence Among Families: First Semester 2018, 2021, and 2023

Province	2018				2021				2023			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% CI	
			LL	UL			LL	UL			LL	UL
1st District	5	5.7	3.9	7.5	5	2.0	1.3	2.7	5	3.7	2.4	5.1
2nd District	5	3.5	2.7	4.2	5	3.8	3.2	4.5	5	2.6	2.0	3.1
3rd District	5	8.1	7.3	9.0	5	8.1	7.2	9.1	5	4.8	4.0	5.6
4th District	5	3.9	3.5	4.3	5	6.3	5.6	7.0	5	3.0	2.6	3.5
Aklan	4	14.7	12.2	17.1	4	18.4	15.8	20.9	5	6.2	4.9	7.5
Apayao	3	23.2	18.4	28.0	4	12.6	8.8	16.4	5	5.4	3.2	7.7
Bataan	4	11.6	9.7	13.5	4	12.8	11.0	14.5	5	10.8	8.9	12.8
Batanes	4	13.5	10.9	16.0	5	7.5	4.9	10.0	5	10.0	6.6	13.4
Batangas	4	13.0	11.0	15.1	5	7.0	5.4	8.7	5	8.3	6.7	9.8
Benguet	5	6.1	5.0	7.1	5	7.5	6.5	8.5	5	6.4	5.2	7.7
Cagayan	4	15.1	12.9	17.3	4	12.9	10.4	15.4	5	8.8	4.5	13.1
Camiguin	3	23.8	20.4	27.2	4	17.7	15.5	19.9	5	10.6	8.5	12.7
Cavite	5	6.1	4.8	7.4	5	10.8	8.9	12.7	5	9.1	7.6	10.6
Guimaras	4	12.6	10.2	15.0	4	19.0	15.7	22.3	5	8.5	6.3	10.6
Ifugao	4	15.5	12.6	18.5	4	13.7	10.7	16.8	5	10.1	8.4	11.9
Ilocos Norte	5	5.6	4.0	7.1	5	6.3	4.5	8.2	5	0.5	0.2	0.8
Ilocos Sur	5	8.9	7.3	10.5	4	18.0	15.5	20.4	5	9.3	7.7	11.0
Kalinga	4	12.2	10.2	14.3	4	12.1	9.7	14.5	5	6.3	4.7	8.0
Laguna	5	5.0	3.7	6.4	5	10.0	7.8	12.3	5	9.5	7.6	11.4
Nueva Vizcaya	4	17.2	14.4	20.0	4	12.8	10.2	15.5	5	10.9	8.9	12.8
Pampanga	5	3.6	2.4	4.8	5	6.2	5.1	7.4	5	3.7	2.8	4.5
Rizal	5	4.8	3.6	6.1	5	6.1	4.7	7.6	5	8.9	7.4	10.5
Siquijor	5	10.0	7.4	12.6	5	4.3	2.6	6.1	5	4.6	2.9	6.2
Tarlac	5	10.4	8.8	12.0	4	13.2	11.3	15.0	5	9.4	7.4	11.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Notes: 1. Provinces were clustered using 90% confidence intervals of poverty incidence among families.

2. Five clusters were established with the poverty incidence in the First Semester of 2018 as the reference range in each cluster. Cluster 5 refers to the least poor provinces.

On the other hand, Basilan has been consistently included in the cluster with relatively high poverty incidence among families 2018, 2021 and 2023. Tawi-tawi is in the poorest cluster in the first semester of 2023.

Table 6. Provinces in Poorest Cluster Based on the Poverty Incidence Among Families: First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Province	2018				2021				2023			
	Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval		Cluster	Poverty Incidence	90% Confidence Interval	
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit			Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Basilan	1	65.5	61.8	69.1	1	46.7	42.2	51.1	1	46.9	42.9	50.9
Tawi-tawi	4	17.7	15.1	20.3	2	39.5	34.0	45.1	1	50.5	45.0	56.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority
Notes: 1. Provinces were clustered using 90% confidence intervals of poverty incidence among families.
    2. Five clusters were established with the poverty incidence in the First Semester of 2018 as the reference range in each cluster. Cluster 1 refers to provinces with relatively high poverty incidence among families.

D. Highly Urbanized Cities

In general, poverty incidence in highly urbanized cities (HUCs) are relatively lower compared to many of the provinces in the country. In HUCs within NCR, the following cities registered significant decline in their poverty incidence among families from the first semester of 2021 to 2023: Cities of Caloocan, Navotas, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasay and Taguig. On the other hand, for HUCs outside NCR, the City of Butuan registered the highest significant decrease from 26.5 percent in the first semester of 2021 to 16.9 percent in 2023 while the City of Bacolod is the only HUC that significantly increased.

Table 7. Poverty Incidence among Families, in Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs): First Semester 2018, 2021 and 2023

Highly Urbanized City	First Semester Poverty Incidence Among Families (%)		
	2018	2021	2023
City of Manila[1]	5.7	2.0	3.7
City of Mandaluyong	1.4	1.2	0.6
City of Marikina	4.1	3.4	2.3
City of Pasig	3.6	5.3	4.3
Quezon City	3.7	4.1	2.6
City of San Juan	1.7	0.4	0.0
City of Caloocan[2]	7.8	9.7	4.8
City of Malabon [1]	9.0	6.2	5.3
City of Navotas[2]	11.1	9.6	7.0
City of Valenzuela[1]	7.2	5.0	3.8
City of Las Piñas[2]	4.0	5.4	1.7
City of Makati[1]	0.9	2.3	2.5
City of Muntinlupa[2]	5.7	7.0	0.7
City of Parañaque[2]	4.8	5.2	2.4
Pasay City[2]	6.0	6.8	1.6
Pateros[a]	4.0	7.3	4.3
City of Taguig[1,2]	3.3	9.7	6.5
City of Baguio	2.7	3.4	2.6
City of Angeles[1,2]	2.2	5.1	2.1
City of Olongapo[1]	9.4	13.0	10.8
City of Lucena[1,2]	6.3	9.8	6.4
City of Puerto Princesa [1]	3.7	7.9	6.4
City of Iloilo[1]	4.4	8.4	6.8
City of Bacolod [2]	4.7	5.7	10.6
City of Cebu[1, 2]	10.3	16.1	10.1
City of Lapu-Lapu (Opon) [1]	7.7	12.7	10.6
City of Mandaue	9.5	12.3	9.7
City of Tacloban	13.1	14.7	13.2
City of Zamboanga[1]	12.3	7.9	11.5
City of Iligan	19.9	17.0	16.9
City of Cagayan De Oro	11.0	11.6	12.3
City of Davao	7.8	6.0	21.7
City of General Santos (Dadiangas) [2]	15.2	15.5	8.8
City of Butuan [1, 2]	19.5	26.5	16.9

Notes: a/ Pateros is the only municipality in NCR.
1/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2018 to 2021 is significant.
2/ Based on t-test at 95% level of significance, the observed change from 2021 to 2023 is significant.