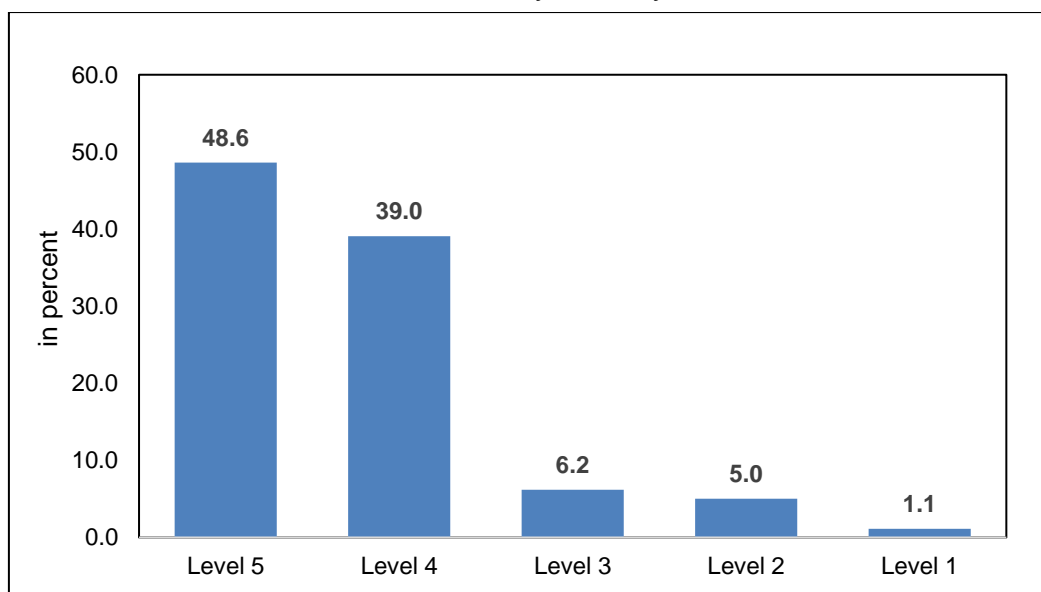


Highlights of the 2018 Municipal and City Level Poverty Estimates

In 2018, about 48.6 percent of the 1,611 municipalities and cities¹ in the country were classified in Level 5, which refers to those with poverty incidences of at most 20%. This is equivalent to 783 municipalities and cities, which include the 14 sub-municipalities of the City of Manila. About 39.0 percent of municipalities and cities were classified as Level 4 or with estimated poverty incidences of more than 20% and up to 40%. For Level 3 (poverty incidences of more than 40% and up to 60%) and Level 2 (poverty incidences of more than 60% and up to 80%), there were about 6.2 percent and 5.0 percent of municipalities and cities that belonged to these groups, respectively. Lastly, there were 18 municipalities with poverty incidences greater than 80%, or 1.1 percent of municipalities and cities which belonged to Level 1. (Figure 1 and Table 1)

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of the 2018 Municipal and City Level Poverty Incidence Estimates*, by Poverty Classification



Notes: * - Include 14 sub-municipalities of the City of Manila

- Exclude the highly urbanized cities, the Cities of Isabela in Region IX and Cotabato in Region XII. Their estimates are available in the 2018 Official Poverty Statistics. The Municipality of Kalayaan in Palawan is also excluded as it is a government-regulated island.

¹ The number includes the 14 sub-municipalities of the City of Manila and excludes the highly urbanized cities (HUCs), the Cities of Isabela in Region IX and Cotabato in Region XII since their estimates are already available from the 2018 Official Poverty Statistics. The Municipality of Kalayaan in Palawan was also excluded as it is a government-regulated island.

On the extreme end of the distribution or those in Level 1, all municipalities belonging to this category are from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Eleven municipalities are in the Province of Lanao del Sur, five municipalities are in the Province of Sulu and the other two are from the Province of Basilan. The municipality with the highest poverty incidence among population was estimated in the Municipality of Pagayawan (Tatarikan) in the Province of Lanao del Sur with poverty incidence estimated at 89.6 percent or, on average, 9 out of every 10 residents in Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur were considered poor in 2018.

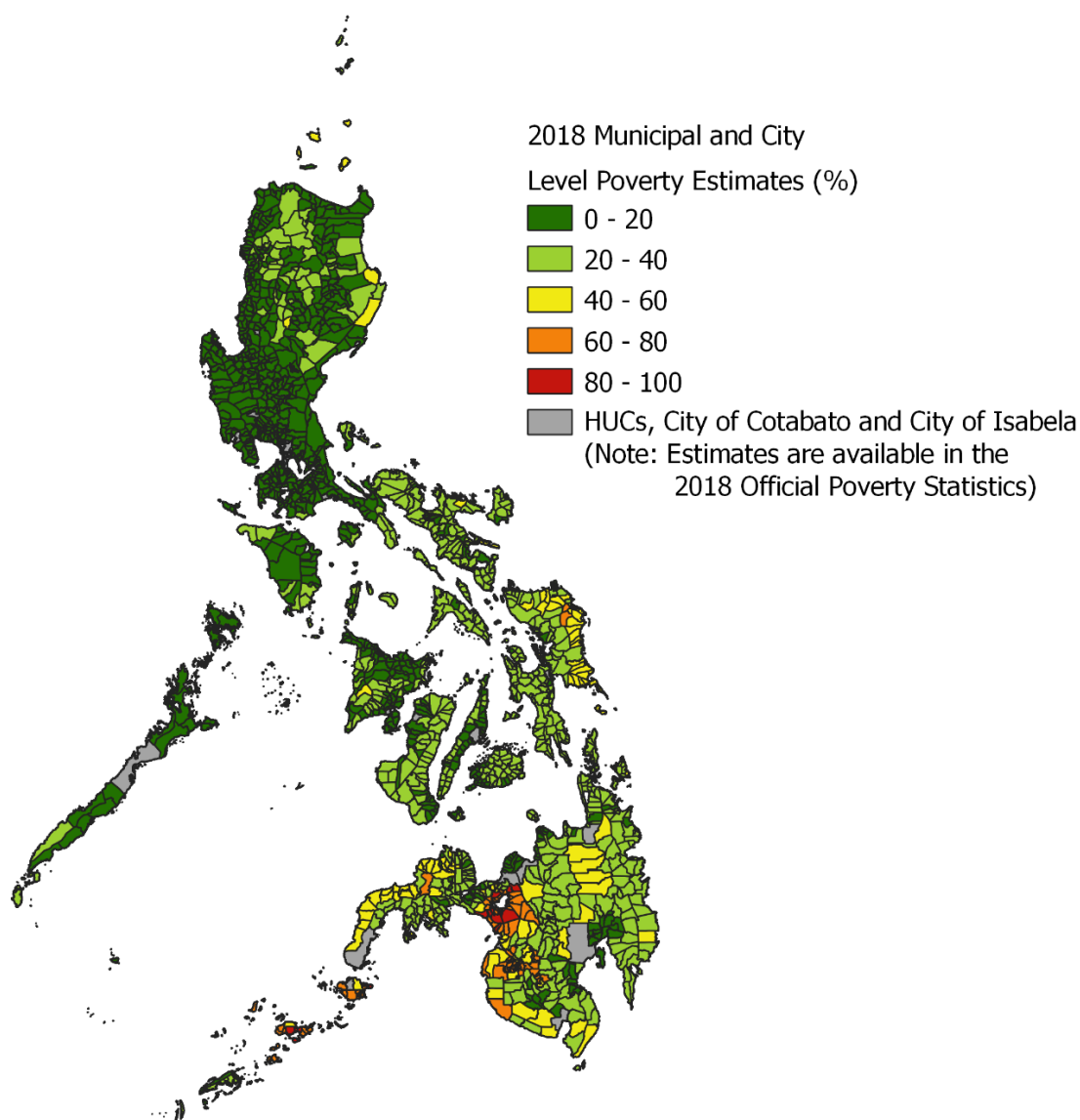
Table 1. Distribution of 2018 Municipal and City Level Poverty Incidence Estimates*, by Poverty Classification

Poverty Classification	Poverty Incidence Among Population (%)	Count	%	Cumulative Relative Frequency
Level 5	At most 20.0	783	48.6	48.0
Level 4	>20.0 to 40.0	629	39.0	87.6
Level 3	>40.0 to 60.0	100	6.2	93.9
Level 2	>60.0 to 80.0	81	5.0	98.9
Level 1	Greater than 80.0	18	1.1	100.0
TOTAL		1,611	100.0	

Notes: * - Include 14 sub-municipalities of the City of Manila

- Exclude the highly urbanized cities, the Cities of Isabela in Region IX and Cotabato in Region XII. Their estimates are available in the 2018 Official Poverty Statistics. The Municipality of Kalayaan in Palawan was also excluded since it is a government regulated island.

Figure 2. Map of Municipal and City-level Small Area Poverty Estimates: 2018



The poverty map in Figure 2 presents the poverty classifications of the municipalities and cities wherein areas shaded in dark green refer to Level 5, light green for Level 4, yellow for Level 3, orange for Level 2, and red for Level 1. As may be noted, majority of the municipalities and cities in Luzon are shaded in dark green, and only a number of areas in Regions II and V are shaded yellow. In Visayas, most areas are shaded in light green. There are only two orange-shaded municipalities in Visayas, and both are located in Region VIII. In Mindanao, the areas are shaded in various colors: from dark green to red. Majority of the areas are shaded in green, however, there are also some red-shaded areas located in ARMM.

In the generation of the 2018 municipal and city level poverty estimates, the Philippine Statistics Authority has recently explored the use of mean luminosity² variable derived from the 2018 Nighttime Lights Data of the Earth Observation Group (EOG) of the Colorado School of Mines. Among the regions, it was in Zamboanga Peninsula where this information served as a significant predictor in the final model. It was observed that compared with the other models developed for Region IX, the model with luminosity generated more estimates with coefficients of variation less than 10 or more estimates with higher precision. (Table 2)

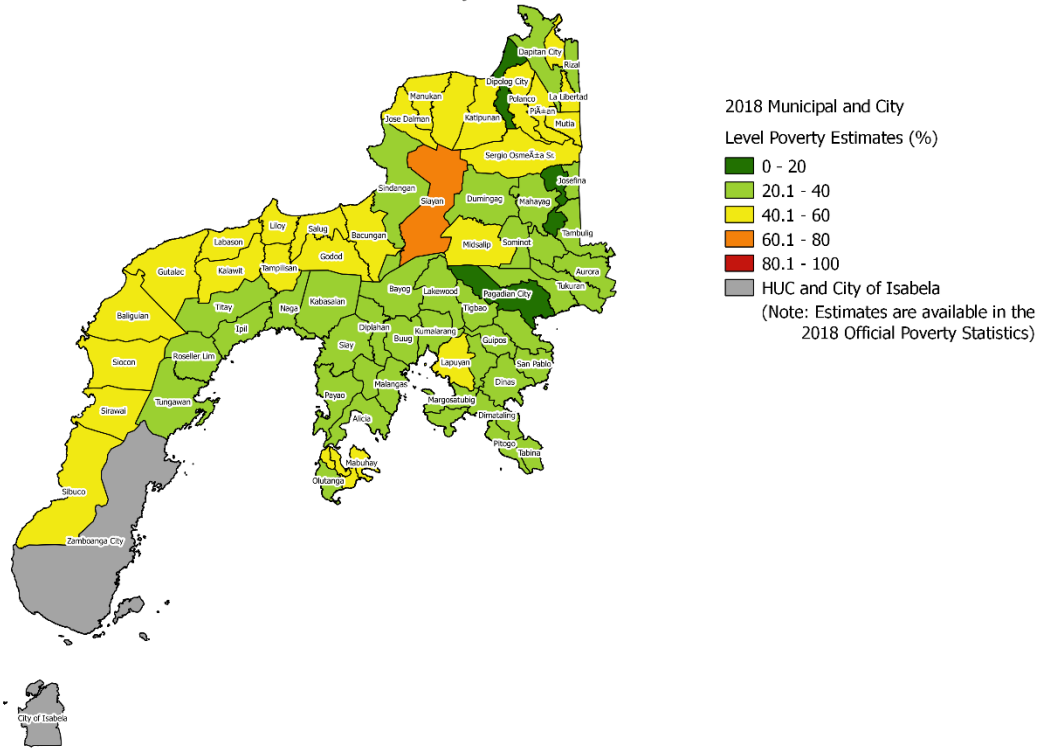
Table 2. Distribution of Coefficients of Variation Generated by Models Used for the Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX)

Grouping	With Mean Luminosity Variable	Without Mean Luminosity Variable
At most 10	50	38
More than 10 to 20	22	33
More than 20 to 30	0	1
More than 30	0	0

Based on the model developed, four cities and municipalities in Zamboanga Peninsula, namely, Zamboanga City, Pagadian City, Dipolog City, and the municipality of Molave in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur, were classified under Level 5. Meanwhile, there were 40 and 27 cities and municipalities in the same region classified under Levels 4 and 3, respectively. Only the municipality of Siayan in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte, with a poverty incidence of 62.0 percent, was classified under Level 2. No city or municipality in Region IX was classified under Level 1. (Figure 3)

² Mean luminosity for an area is obtained by dividing the sum of light by total size of the area. Data on night lights was used as a proxy for economic development since it is assumed that places that are brighter at night are generally more economically developed than those places that are less well lit. Hence, intensity of night lights was considered as a predictor of granular poverty data.

Figure 3. Map of Municipal and City-level Small Area Poverty Estimates of Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX): 2018



DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.
Undersecretary
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General

DGLDP/WAG/BBB