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**MONITORING CHILD POVERTY AND EXCLUSION
THROUGH THE COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS)**

by

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Abstract

This paper aims to apply the CBMS methodology on estimating multidimensional child poverty. The child multidimensional poverty measured using CBMS shows the nature and extent of deprivations of children in terms of nine (9) dimensions covering non-income and income measures of poverty. Aside from generating a child MPI using CBMS indicators at the local level, geospatial data is generated to show how the CBMS-MPI methodology can facilitate analysis of situation of children across sub-locations and be used for more informed policy and program implementation.

The limitation in national statistical system to generate the necessary disaggregated data for local planning is a major challenge in addressing child poverty and exclusion. While there are existing national censuses, surveys and administrative records, the frequency of data collection, sampling frame (in the case of special surveys), duration of data processing and access to data are among the issues that pose difficulty particularly for local planners and program implementers to come up with a more comprehensive analysis of poverty situation and appropriate policies and interventions. This is a key policy concern for developing countries like the Philippines with a decentralized system of governance and with limited resources to address various thematic issues including the achievement of the SDGs which adheres to the core principle of leaving no one behind.

The global call for meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) requires a regular and up to date source of information for more informed decision making, program implementation and impact-monitoring overtime. The principle of “leaving no one behind” asserts the need for disaggregated data that will facilitate a better and more comprehensive understanding of the development situation and needs of the different sectors of the population, and more evidence-based design and prioritization of appropriate interventions particularly for the vulnerable groups including women, children, youth, persons with disabilities among others. The implementation of community-based monitoring system (CBMS) fills in these data gaps and would facilitate its use in local planning and program implementation. CBMS generates data on each and every member of all the households in a locality through a census, and gathers data on the different dimensions of poverty.

This paper generally aims to show the use of the CBMS to generate more granular data for monitoring and analyzing child poverty and exclusion that can be used as inputs for local planning, policy/program design, implementation of more targeted interventions for children, and monitor outcomes and impacts overtime. The study will also discuss how CBMS complements national statistical systems by providing necessary data for computing a multidimensional poverty index for children together and other indicators that will help identify specific areas of deprivation that need priority program action.

Background

Addressing child poverty in all its forms continues to be one of the emerging challenges across the world and is one of the targets of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) to which countries including the Philippines have committed to achieve. While nations commit towards the alleviation of poverty, limitations in availability of timely and necessary disaggregated data to measure, operationalize, comprehensively analyze and monitor development conditions at a given point in time, and to assess program impacts and outcomes over time remain to be a big challenge. The importance of more granular data for development planning and needs assessment becomes even more critical in the midst of limited and depleting resources, particularly in developing countries, that can be used to address poverty and inequality while at the same time managing risks and impacts of various shocks. Monitoring deprivation or poverty in all of its dimensions and ensuring that no one is excluded

in the pursuit of sustainable development requires a regular source of needed data that can be used to set targets, measure achievements (gaps), and track progress.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (2018), better monitoring of the country's millions of Filipino children from poverty is restricted with statistics on child poverty only collected every three years. The need for a national database that includes the child well-being and deprivation indicators has been pointed out by earlier studies (Casimiro et.al, 2013) to ensure more targeted child-protection programs and a more efficient use of limited government resources.

The concept of multidimensional nature of poverty and the lack of necessary disaggregated data to measure different poverty dimensions has long been recognized (Reyes and Alba, 1994; Asselin, 2009). The community-based monitoring system (CBMS) developed by Reyes (1994) under the Micro Impacts of Macro Adjustment Policies (MIMAP) Program aims to address information gaps for policymaking and program implementation. It was designed to generate a core set of multidimensional poverty indicators composed of income and non-income measures that can be tracked at the micro level. The CBMS, pilot tested in the Philippines in 1995, is as an organized process of collecting, processing, validation and use of data for planning and program implementation. It was developed with the necessary tools that can be adopted by local governments to generate necessary disaggregated data to (1) examine and understand the nature and extent of poverty at the household level, (2) identify priority needs for program action, (3) design appropriate policies and interventions, and (4) monitor impacts of programs and policy shocks overtime. CBMS generated data informs who and where the poor are and facilitate greater understanding of the needs to be addressed for policy and program action.

This study aims to demonstrate the application of the CBMS methodology for measurement of multidimensional child poverty. It will show how CBMS data can be used to generate multidimensional poverty index (MPI) covering additional dimensions and provide corresponding data disaggregation for more in depth analysis. It also intends to generate local level indicators relating to child poverty from the CBMS database that can help local governments and communities better understand and address child poverty and exclusion in their localities in the context of protecting children's rights and meeting the SDGs. The CBMS-child poverty indicators to be generated are intended to serve as inputs in the preparation of local plans and budgets, and in the design and implementation of appropriate programs that are geared towards improving and protecting the welfare of the poor and vulnerable population.

Measuring Multidimensional Poverty

While there have been established methodologies i.e. the MPI (Multidimensional Poverty Index) that are being used to capture the multidimensional poverty globally, many countries still face limitation in data availability, coverage, and disaggregation that constraints a more comprehensive poverty analysis and more informed needs assessment, identification, and prioritization, and design of appropriate and targeted interventions .

The community-based monitoring system (CBMS)¹ is being implemented by many local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines as a tool for local planning, needs identification, prioritization, and program implementation. It is an organized and LGU-based process of data collection, data processing and database building using structured tools and training modules. The system monitors a core set of multi-dimensional poverty indicators covering health and nutrition, education, income, employment, access to safe water and sanitation, shelter and peace and order. The CBMS generates household

¹ Reyes, C., Mandap, A.B.E., Quilitis, J.A., Bancolita, J.E., et al (2014)

and individual level data that can be disaggregated by sub-location/geo-political unit, household/individual socioeconomic characteristics (i.e. gender, age-group, ethnicity, income-class, disability status, and access to programs among others). Aside from the Philippines, the use of CBMS methodology for multidimensional poverty analysis² and to examine other thematic issues have also been developed and pilot tested in over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America. Its use for developing and generating local level SDG indicators including MPI and for SDG profiling of communities have been tested in the Philippines, Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Togo, Uganda, and Nicaragua³.

The use of CBMS for developing composite indices for multidimensional poverty analysis was first done by Reyes, Valencia, Ilarde and Bancolita (2004). Two methods were explored by the study to generate a composite index. One, a simple scoring method- wherein weights are arbitrarily identified and require simpler statistical procedure, and the other, a categorically weighted composite indicator which derives weights from multiple correspondence analysis (MCA). Using a simple scoring method, the CBMS composite index (CCI) was developed which allows ranking of nature and extent deprivation of households in a particular village, city, municipality or province. The CCI, which combines a core set of multidimensional poverty indicators generated from CBMS data, can further be disaggregated and examined across sub-population groups (i.e. age, gender, ethnicity, income class, urban/rural and others). This allows for identification of priority areas, and facilitates more focused targeting and implementation of needed interventions.

Protecting Child's Rights and the Role of Local Governments

As part of the Philippine Government's commitment to implement the provisions on the Convention of the Rights of Children, a National Plan of Action for Children through the Council for Welfare for Children (CWC) has been formulated since 1991⁴. The Philippine Action Plan for Children (PAPC) was later followed by the formulation of Child21, a 25-year strategic framework for planning programs and interventions on the rights of Filipino Children. Under Executive Order No. 310 issued in November 2000, local government units (LGUs) are enjoined to integrate Child 21 in their local development plans and budgets⁵.

The LGUs, in a decentralized structure like the Philippines, are the front liners in the fight against poverty and in mainstreaming national development priorities and commitments at the local level. In particular, LGUs are mandated to assume the primary responsibility for the provision of basic services and facilities and the improvement of the quality of life of their constituents. With the limitations in availability and accessibility of data from national statistical system, LGUs in the country invest resources in the adoption of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) for purposes of preparation of local plans (including local poverty reduction action plans among others), resource allocation and implementing programs relating to various thematic concerns including poverty

² Reyes, C. and Due, E. (2009)

³ Implemented by CBMS partner institutions in these countries with technical support from the CBMS Network Office based in Manila, Philippines

⁴ The CWC is the highest policymaking body in the country mandated to formulate long range programs for the welfare and best interest of children.

reduction, gender and development, migration and development, monitoring child labor, disaster risk reduction and management, and localizing the MDGs (now the SDGs) among others.

Some Key Issues and Developments in Local Planning

Official statistics are reliable down to the regional and provincial levels only. While the national statistical system in the Philippines generates some local level data through conduct of surveys, the sampling design of many of these surveys provide estimates of variables only at the provincial level. Moreover, the collection of data is few and far in between, and data processing adds a few more years so that its usefulness for policy and program design diminishes.

On the other hand, available data comes from different surveys, censuses and administrative records of line agencies and in most instances collected with different reference periods, methodologies and indicators. Given these, it is not possible to come up with a comprehensive picture of the different dimensions of poverty for a particular household or groups of population at a given point in time.

As of July 2019, LGUs in 78 of the 82 provinces (33 of which have implemented Province-wide) covering at least 1099 (of the 1400) municipalities, 111 cities and about 31,070 barangays (villages) have adopted CBMS as a tool for local planning and governance and in filling in data requirements for poverty reduction, gender and development, migration and development, disaster-risk reduction management and climate change adaptation, and localizing/monitoring the MDGs among others. The implementation of CBMS by LGUs at the local level provides local planners and authorities with household and individual level data that can be used to compute for measures of extent and nature of multidimensional poverty at the local level. Moreover, CBMS data facilitates a more comprehensive analysis of the development status of each of the subgroups of population and households at a given point in time based on the different measures of poverty since data is collected at the same reference period. In addition, CBMS also generates panel data. With CBMS data, individuals or households across localities and subpopulation groups can be categorized as (1) health poor, (2) nutrition poor, (3) housing poor, (4) water poor, (5) sanitation poor, (6) education poor, (7) income poor, (8) job poor, and (9) security poor. This enables the design of needed programs and more focused targeting given a better and more comprehensive understanding of the nature and extent of poverty of households/individuals across relevant disaggregation of identified poverty measures.

Methodology and Data Sources

This study aims to contribute in monitoring and analyzing child poverty by applying the CBMS methodology to capture multidimensional poverty of children covering more dimensions of deprivations and generating further data disaggregation that can be used by local planners for identification of specific needs for priority action and program intervention. The global MPI relies on existing national data sets, which are mostly and often generated from sample surveys, the CBMS-MPI generated by this study uses data gathered from a household census implemented at a given point in time and can be monitored at the local level overtime.

The Community-Based Monitoring System

The key features of the CBMS are as follows: (1) It is LGU-based, (2) It taps existing LGU personnel as monitors, (3) It has a core set of indicators that monitors multidimensional poverty taking into account specificities of communities (local context), (4) It establishes local level database at each geopolitical level, and (5) It uses freeware.

Data, generated from the implementation of the CBMS, is collected and processed by trained local enumerators and data processors using a structured set of tools and instruments. Data is collected

through a household census where information on each and every member of the household within a community is gathered. Aside from demographic data, the CBMS gathers and monitors information on a core set of multidimensional poverty indicators which cover income and livelihood, health and nutrition, education, access to safe water and sanitation, housing and security.

CBMS Indicators

The CBMS was designed to monitor a core set of multidimensional poverty indicators- comprised of outcome and impact indicators- covering 9 dimensions: (1) health, (2) nutrition, (3) access to water and (4) access to sanitation. (5) education, (6) income, (7) employment, (8) housing and (9) security. These CBMS indicators, and their corresponding disaggregation, are generated using household and individual level data collected from the conduct of a CBMS household census. The CBMS indicators can be combined to generate a composite index, based on the multi-dimensional concept that is being measured⁶.

CBMS Data on Children

The CBMS collects several data on the different dimensions and indicators of children's rights that can be disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, and other socioeconomic characteristics. Moreover, since household and individual level data is collected at the same point in time, situation of children can further be understood in the context of their household characteristics and environment.

Table 1. CBMS Data on Children

Dimension	Global Child Rights Indicators	CBMS Data
Child Survival	Under-five mortality rate/ Number of Deaths Under Five/Infant Mortality Rate/Number of Infant Deaths Number of Infant deaths	Number and Proportion of children who died by age, cause of death and household characteristics
Child Health	Pneumonia/Diarrhea/Acute Respiratory Infection as a cause of death under five	Number and Proportion of children who died by age, cause of death and household characteristics
Child Nutrition	Malnutrition Rate	Number and Proportion of Children who are malnourished by age, sex, ethnicity, PWDs, income class and other household characteristics
Maternal Health	Maternal Mortality	Number and proportion of women who died due to pregnancy related causes
Water and Sanitation	Access to Safe Drinking Water	Number and Proportion of Children in Households with Access to Safe Drinking Water by age group, sex, sub-location, ethnicity, PWDs, source of water supply

⁶ For earlier applications of CBMS for generating composite index, see papers of CBMS Network Team (2006), and Bancolita and Alvarado (2007).

		and other household/individual level characteristics
	Access to Safely Managed Sanitation Facilities	Children in Households with Access to Sanitary Toilet Facilities by age group, sex, ethnicity, sub-location and other household/individual level characteristics
Education	School Participation/Enrolment/Survival Ratios by Educational Level/Literacy rate	Children who are attending school by level of education, age group, sex, ethnicity, PWDs, income-class, sub-location and other individual/household level characteristics
		Children who are literate by age group, sex, ethnicity, PWDs, sub-location, income-class, and other individual/household level characteristics
Adolescents	Proportion of Adolescents aged 10-19 in the global population	Population aged 10-19 by sex, ethnicity, PWD, sub-location, income class and other household characteristics
Early Child Bearing		Girls under 18 years old who have children by sub-location, ethnicity, educational status, income class and other individual/household characteristics
Child Disability		Number and Proportion of Children who have disability by type of disability, age, sex, ethnicity, educational status, income class and other individual/household characteristics.
Child Protection		
Birth Registration	Percentage of children age 5 whose births are registered by sex, place of residence and household wealth quintile	Number and Proportion of children whose births are registered by age group, sex, ethnicity, disability, sub (geopolitical)-location, income class, and other household characteristics.
Child Labour	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years engaged in child labour (by sex, place of residence, and household wealth quintile)	Number and Proportion of working children by age group, sex, status and sector of employment, occupation, and ethnicity, disability, educational status, sub (geopolitical)-location, income class, and other household characteristics.
Child Marriage	Percentage of Women Aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before ages 15 and 18	Number and Proportion of Population below 18 by civil status

Measuring Multidimensional Poverty Among Children: CBMS Approach

Generating CBMS-Child MPI

Composite indices provide a useful statistical measure of overall performance over time and across countries and regions. It can be used to rank and prioritize localities and groups. On the other hand,

composite indices such as the MPI have limited use for policy response. One needs simple indicators to know what the specific deprivations are. These indicators can also be generated using CBMS data. Indicators can be further disaggregated and analyzed across sub-population groups and/or household/individual characteristics with CBMS data for a given point in time. Improvements (deterioration) in specific areas of deprivation by individuals/households can also be monitored since CBMS generates panel data.

A multidimensional poverty index (MPI) for children was derived using 2 rounds of CBMS census data from a CBMS site in the Philippines. The computed CBMS-Child MPI, supplemented with the relevant data disaggregation that can be generated from the LGU-CBMS database, can serve as inputs in ranking and prioritization of needs and appropriate action by the LGU in terms of planning for strategies that would address the identified needs of poor children in their community.

An MPI for children, with age 0-17 years old, was computed and examined by the study taking into account indicators across the nine dimensions of poverty. For selected indicators i.e. housing, access to water and sanitation and income where data is collected at the household level, the study assumes that the members of the households have the same conditions as that of the household in which they belong. The CBMS-Child MPI covers nine dimensions wherein a child can be categorized if he/she is:

- **Health Poor:** If a child belongs to a household with at least 1 child who died
- **Nutrition Poor:** If a child is malnourished and/or have experienced hunger/food shortage
- **Housing Poor:** If a child is living in makeshift housing and/or belongs to an informal settler household
- **Sanitation Poor:** If a child belongs to a household that does not have access to sanitary toilet facilities
- **Water Poor:** If a child belongs to a household that does not have access to safe water
- **Education Poor:** If a child is not attending school
- **Income Poor:** If a child belongs to a household with income below the food threshold
- **Job Poor:** If the child is working
- **Security Poor:** If a child has been a victim of crime

Identifying Deprivations in Each Dimension and Assigning Weights/Deprivation Scores

To identify the multi-dimensionally poor, deprivation scores are assigned to each indicator of each dimension. Poverty (or deprivation) among children is identified across 9 dimensions: health, nutrition, housing, water, sanitation, education, income, employment and security using 11 CBMS indicators. Children who experience deprivation in at least one ninth of these weighted indicators fall into the category of multi-dimensionally poor. Each of the dimensions receives an equal weight of 1/9 (0.1111).

Table 2. CBMS Indicators for Generating Child MPI

Dimension	CBMS Indicators	Weights
Health	Children in households with children under 5 years old who died	1/9
Nutrition	Malnourished children 0-5 years old	1/18
	Children who experienced food shortage	1/18
Housing	Children in households living in makeshift housing	1/18
	Children in households who are informal settlers	1/18

Water	Children in households without access to safe water supply	1/9
Sanitation	Children in households without access to sanitary toilet facility	1/9
Education	Children 6-15 years old not attending school	1/9
Income	Children in households with income below food threshold	1/9
Employment	Working Children	1/9
Security	Victims of crime	1/9

Research Results

Table 4 shows the computed CBMS-Child MPI derived from the CBMS census 2010-2012, and 2015-2016 rounds of a city with about 39,152 households and a population of 156,385 where least 58,769 (37.6%) are children. Based on the latest data of the locality, about 31.16 % of children are multi-dimensionally poor. The situation has slightly improved by .04% since 2010-2012.

In terms of intensity of poverty, on the average, latest CBMS data shows that a poor child is deprived in 22.73 % of the weighted indicators. Intensity of poverty experienced by children has slightly decreased since 2010-2012, wherein average deprivation is marked at 23.57%.

Table 4. Multi-dimensionally Poor Children in 2010-2012 and 2015-2016

Dimension	CBMS Indicators	2010-2012					2015-2016				
		Weights	Censored Headcount (CH)	CH Ratio	Weight X CH Ratio	Contribution	Weights	Censored Headcount (CH)	CH Ratio	Weight X CH Ratio	Contribution
Health	Children in households with children under 5 years old who died	0.1111	33	0.0006	0.0001	0.0009	0.1111	46	0.0008	0.0001	0.0013
Nutrition	Malnourished children 0-5 years old	0.0556	140	0.0026	0.0001	0.0019	0.0556	237	0.0042	0.0002	0.0033
	Children who experienced food shortage	0.0556	611	0.0113	0.0006	0.0084	0.0556	262	0.0046	0.0003	0.0036
Housing	Children in households living in makeshift housing	0.0556	2912	0.0539	0.0030	0.0399	0.0556	1240	0.0219	0.0012	0.0171
	Children in households who are informal settlers	0.0556	2141	0.0396	0.0022	0.0294	0.0556	1948	0.0343	0.0019	0.0269
Water	Children in households without access to safe water supply	0.1111	14362	0.2657	0.0295	0.3939	0.1111	16035	0.2826	0.0314	0.4426
Sanitation	Children in households without access to sanitary toilet facility	0.1111	2277	0.0421	0.0047	0.0624	0.1111	1308	0.0230	0.0026	0.0361
Education	Children 6-15 years old not attending school	0.1111	2178	0.0403	0.0045	0.0597	0.1111	893	0.0157	0.0017	0.0247
Income	Children in households with income below food threshold	0.1111	13894	0.2570	0.0286	0.3810	0.1111	15462	0.2725	0.0303	0.4268
Employment	Working Children	0.1111	471	0.0087	0.0010	0.0129	0.1111	347	0.0061	0.0007	0.0096
Security	Victims of crime	0.1111	135	0.0025	0.0003	0.0037	0.1111	22	0.0004	0.0000	0.0006
	Total	1.0000	39154	0.7242	0.0745	0.9942	1.0000	37800	0.6661	0.0704	0.9926
	Total children population	54062					56748				
	MPI poor children population	17189					17685				
	headcount ratio	0.3179					0.3116				
	Intensity (A)	0.2357					0.2276				
	MPI	0.0749					0.0709				

Source of Basic Data: CBMS Census 2010-2012 and 2015-2016, CBMS site, Philippines

CBMS data (Table 5) reveal that 43.87% of poor children in the locality are deprived in at least 1 dimension, while about 27.18% are poor in at least 2 dimensions. About 2039 poor children are deprived in at least 3 dimensions.

The 2 CBMS census rounds in the locality showed that the proportion of poor children who are deprived in at least 2 dimensions has increased from 24.44 percent to 27.18. Latest CBMS data reveal that children who are both income and water-poor have increased in the locality.

There was also a marked reduction of 3 percent in poor children who are deprived in at least 3 dimensions. About 2039 of poor children are deprived in 3 dimensions while there were 219 children

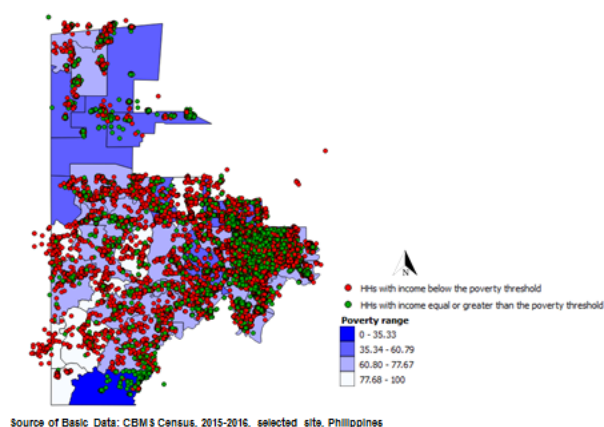
are found to be deprived in at least 4 dimensions of poverty. There were no children who experience deprivations in more than 6 dimensions of poverty.

Table 5. Magnitude and Proportion of Deprivations Among Children

No. of Deprivations	2010-2012			2015-2016		
	Magnitude	Proportion	Average Deprived Children	Magnitude	Proportion	Average Deprived Children
0	10,475	19.38		14,168	24.97	
1	26,389	48.81		24,895	43.87	
2	13,214	24.44	0.49	15,426	27.18	0.54
3	3,396	6.28	0.19	2,039	3.59	0.11
4	537	0.99	0.04	196	0.35	0.01
5	48	0.09	0.00	23	0.04	0.00
6	3	0.01	0.00	1	0	0.00
7	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
8	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
9	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
Total	54,062	100	0.72	56,748	100	0.67

Data on children in the CBMS site showed improvements in the development situation in the areas of education, housing, water, sanitation, and security. The proportion of water poor-children has declined by 10.78 %. Similarly, there was a marked reduction in sanitation poor children from 4.89 to 2.58 %. Education poor children had also decreased from 4.58 to 1.8 percent.

Figure 2. Income Poor Children in selected CBMS site

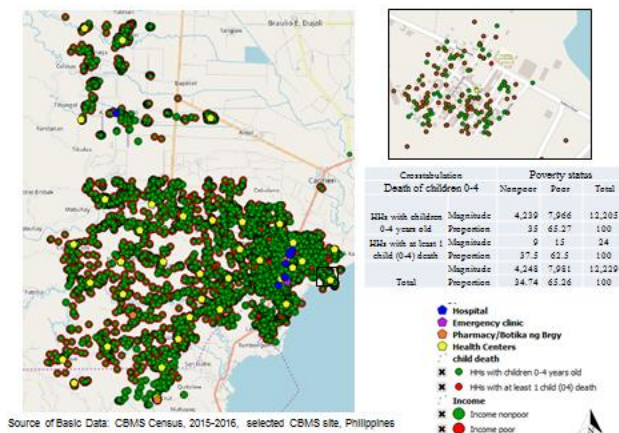


On the other hand, CBMS data reveal an increase in the proportion of income-poor and health-poor children in the locality. Based on the CBMS data for 2015-2016 across all villages in the locality, the proportion of income poor children has increased by 10.27 percent while health poor children slightly went up by .02 percent. The income poor children belong to households who have insufficient incomes to cover basic food and non-food needs. Income poverty among children using CBMS data is measured by computing for the proportion of households, with children 0-17 years, whose household income is below the poverty threshold (benchmark was the provincial poverty threshold). Location of income poor children may further be

identified using geospatial data that are also collected simultaneously from the conduct of the CBMS census during the period. Analysis of the data indicate that the highest proportion of income poor households with children whose income is below the poverty threshold are found in 3 of the 40 barangays (villages) in the locality wherein Barangay 1 has 94.6% income poor children, Barangay 2 has 89.1%), and Barangay 3 has 89.03% income poor children. Similar poverty maps may also be

generated using CBMS data to further show the location of poor children who have experienced in multiple or overlapping deprivations at a given point in time.

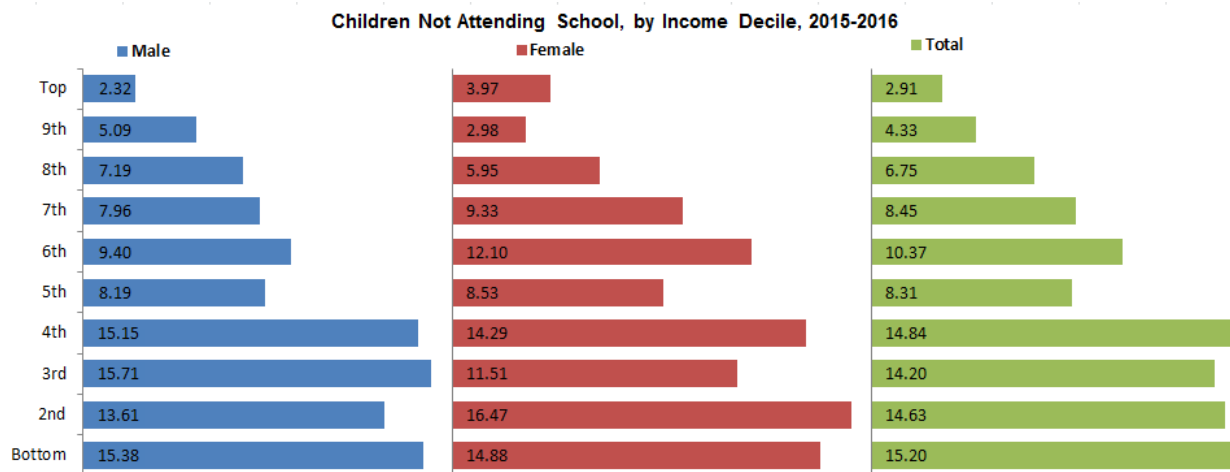
Figure 3. Income Poor and Health Poor Children in selected CBMS site



For instance, further processing of CBMS data as shown in Figure 3 reveal that 62.5 percent of households with at least 1 child, 0-4 years old, who died, are also identified as income poor. Aside from the actual geographical location of households with children who were identified as both income poor, and health poor, the map shown in Figure 3 also shows the location of health facilities in the locality. One would note the efforts of the local government to provide necessary health service infrastructures across the villages. In spite of proximity to health facilities, there are still households with children who are health poor. In line with this, further analysis of the reasons for child deaths as well as of the quality of available

service facilities may be necessary to enhance existing health program initiatives in the locality.

Meanwhile, looking at the educational status of children, CBMS data reveal that most of the children who are not attending school in the locality are income poor. About 31% of female children not attending school belong to the bottom of 20% of the income poor while at least 29% of male children not attending school belong to the same category.



Key Findings and Recommendations

Limitations in the availability of disaggregated data from national statistical system as well as differences in reference periods and methodologies of existing administrative records of line agencies pose restrictions for monitoring and assessing child poverty and social exclusion and identification of priority needs at a given point in time. This in turn has crucial implications in the design and implementation of appropriate plans and programs and allocation of resources geared towards implementing programs that are responsive to the needs of children and other vulnerable population.

While a single measure such as a composite index like MPI is useful for comparing and ranking of general situation of children across countries, it is equally important to examine specific indicators for each area of deprivation for more informed policy and program decisions. The global MPI methodology looks at 3 dimensions of poverty including health, education and living standards. It generates MPI from available data generated by national statistical system that are mostly collected from sample surveys thus have limitations in terms of more comprehensive analysis of the nature and extent of poverty that can be used for program design, targeting and needs prioritization. Better information, in terms of granularity and regularity, are still needed for greater efficiency in decision making, to point out how or where to specifically accelerate efforts, or measure the success (gaps) of efforts in addressing poverty.

The CBMS-MPI methodology allows for the examination of additional/other dimensions and indicators of poverty that are equally important for a more comprehensive poverty analysis and better understanding of the development situation of sub-groups of population including children. The CBMS-MPI, which uses socioeconomic and demographic data generated from a household census, can facilitate identification of specific areas of deprivation and needs of sub-groups of population for priority program action. Since it utilizes data from a household census, it allows for measurement of simultaneous and/or different deprivations being experienced by particular groups of population, in this case children (and their households) at a given point in time. Moreover, with the CBMS-Child MPI methodology, additional dimensions and child poverty data can be generated and examined at the lowest administrative level, and thus be very useful for policy and program implementation for monitoring improvements in child poverty and ensuring protection of children's rights overtime.

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