

## Highlights of the 2021 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics Among The Basic Sector in The Philippines

This publication presents the estimates of the 2021 poverty and subsistence incidence for the nine (9) out of the fourteen (14) basic sectors identified in Republic Act No. 8425 (or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act) that have sectoral and income data. The nine sectors are: 1) women, 2) youth, 3) children, 4) senior citizens, 5) individuals residing in urban areas, 6) migrant and formal sector workers, 7) farmers, 8) fisherfolks and 9) persons with disability starting in 2018 through the inclusion of the disability identifiers using the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning in the January round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS). Poverty estimates were also generated for other two sectors, namely: 1) individuals residing in rural areas, 2) and self-employed and unpaid family workers, which is used as proxy indicator for workers in the informal sector. The source of data is the merged results of the 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and the January 2022 round of the LFS.

### A. National

#### 1. Poverty Incidence and Magnitude of Poor

Fisherfolks, farmers, children, and individuals residing in rural areas remained the poorest sectors in terms of poverty incidence in 2021 (Figure 1). These sectors had the highest proportion of individuals belonging to families with income below the official poverty thresholds compared to the other basic sectors of the population. The poverty incidences of these basic sectors in 2021 were as follows:

- a) Fisherfolks, 30.6 percent;
- b) Farmers, 30.0 percent;
- c) Children, 26.4 percent; and
- d) Individuals residing in rural areas, 25.7 percent.

These sectors also registered the highest poverty incidences in 2015 and 2018.

On the other hand, the least poor sectors in 2021 were as follows:

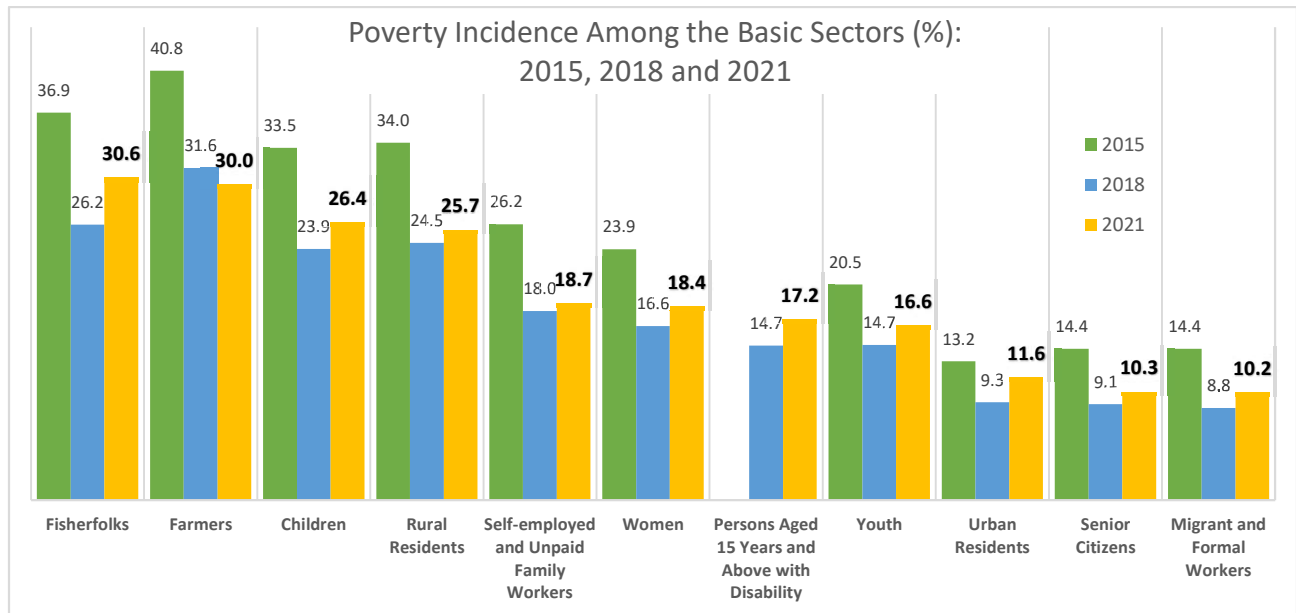
- a) Migrant and formal sector workers, 10.2 percent;
- b) Senior citizens, 10.3 percent; and
- c) Urban residents, 11.6 percent.

These sectors also had the lowest poverty incidences in 2015 and 2018.

Comparing the 2021 poverty incidences among the basic sectors with the estimates in 2018, all the sectors exhibited significant changes, except for the self-employed and unpaid family workers. It was also noted that all sectors showed an increase in poverty incidence following the trend of the official poverty estimate at the national level, except for farmers, which indicated a significant reduction in poverty incidence of -1.6 percentage points from 2018.



**Figure 1. Poverty Incidence among the Basic Sectors: 2015, 2018 and 2021**



Source: Merged datafile of the 2015 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) and January 2016 Labor Force Survey (LFS), merged datafile of the 2018 FIES and January 2019 LFS and preliminary merged datafile of the 2021 FIES and January 2022 LFS, Philippine Statistics Authority

In terms of magnitude of poor population (Figure 2), the top three basic sectors with the highest number of poor population in 2021 were the following:

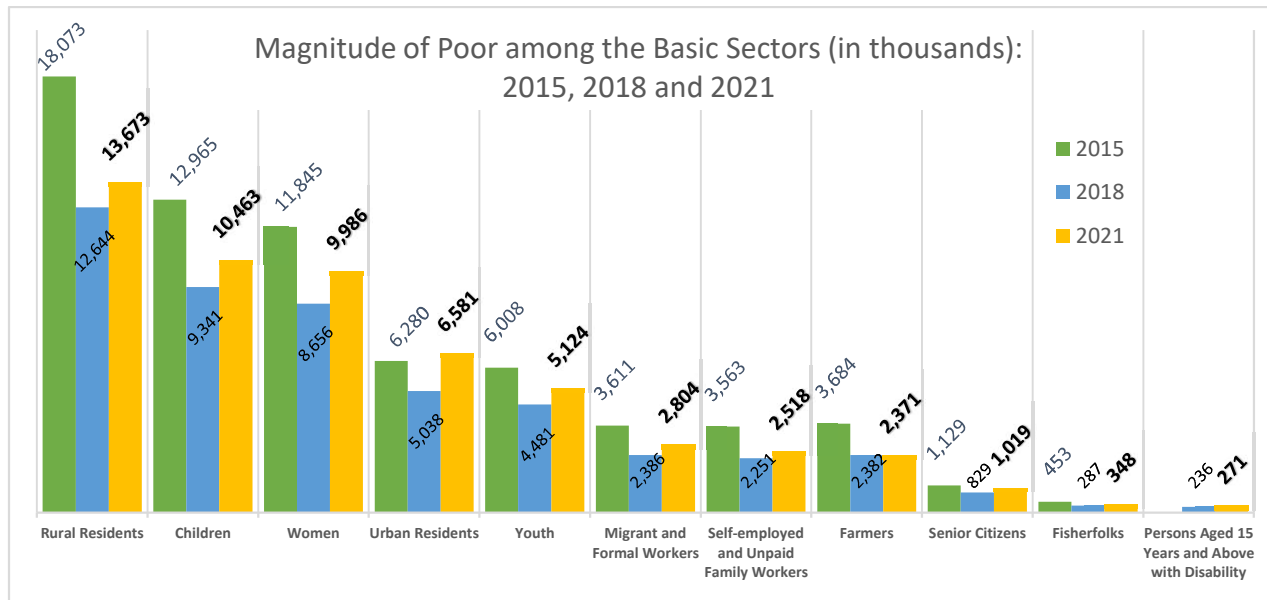
- a) Individuals residing in rural areas (13.67 million);
- b) Children (10.46 million); and
- c) Women (9.99 million).

On the other hand, the top three basic sectors with the least number of poor population in 2021 were as follows:

- a) Persons aged 15 years and above with disability (271 thousand);
- b) Fisherfolks (348 thousand); and
- c) Senior citizens (1.02 million).

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**Figure 2. Magnitude of Poor among the Basic Sectors: 2015, 2018 and 2021**



## 2. Subsistence Incidence and Magnitude of Food Poor

Similarly, the fisherfolks sector remained to have the highest subsistence incidence of 10.8 percent (Figure 3). This indicates that around one in every ten fishermen belongs to a family that is food poor or a family with income that is not sufficient to buy its minimum basic food needs. This was followed by the following:

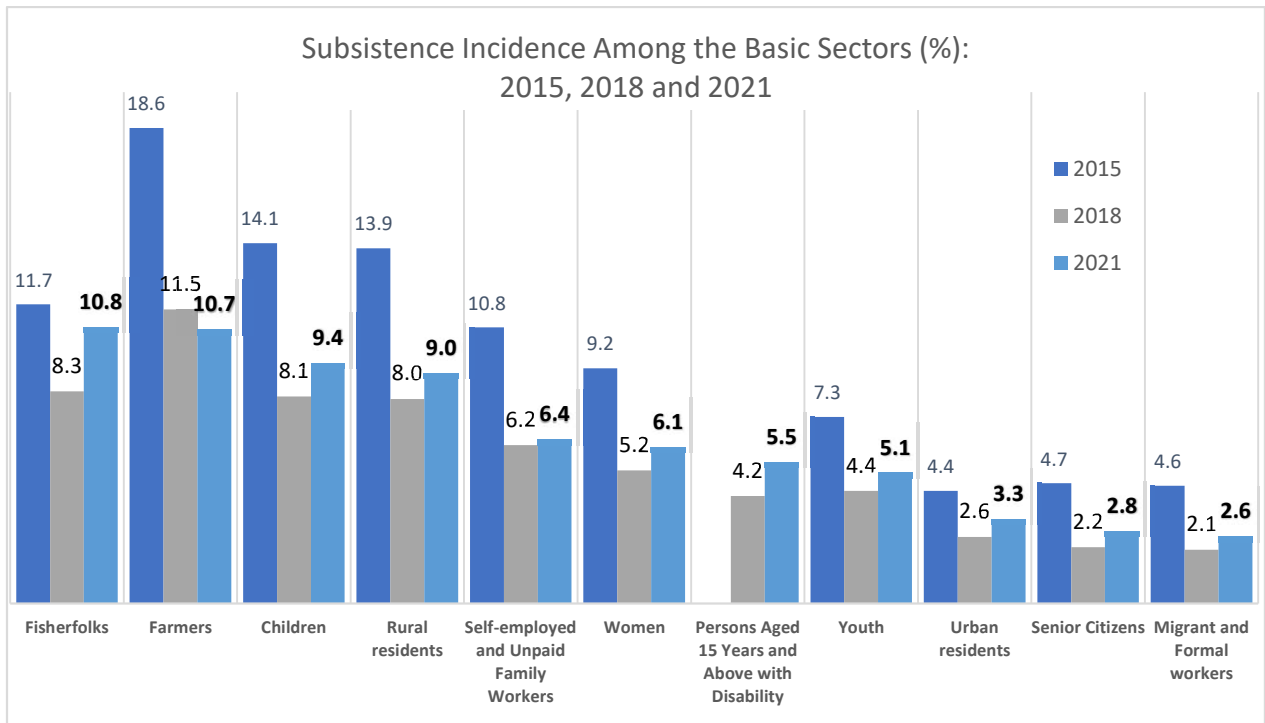
- a) Farmers, 10.7 percent; and
- b) Children with 9.4 percent.

On the other hand, the top three basic sectors with the lowest subsistence incidence were:

- a) Migrant and formal sector workers, 2.6 percent;
- b) Senior citizens, 2.8 percent; and
- c) Urban residents, 3.3 percent.

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**Figure 3. Subsistence Incidence among the Basic Sectors: 2015, 2018 and 2021**



On the magnitude of food poor, it can be observed that individuals residing in rural areas had the highest magnitude of food poor population since 2015 (Figure 4). It showed a significant decline of 2.61 million, from 7.41 million in 2015 to 4.80 million food poor population in 2021. The other basic sectors with the highest food poor population in 2021 were children at 3.73 million and women at 3.30 million.

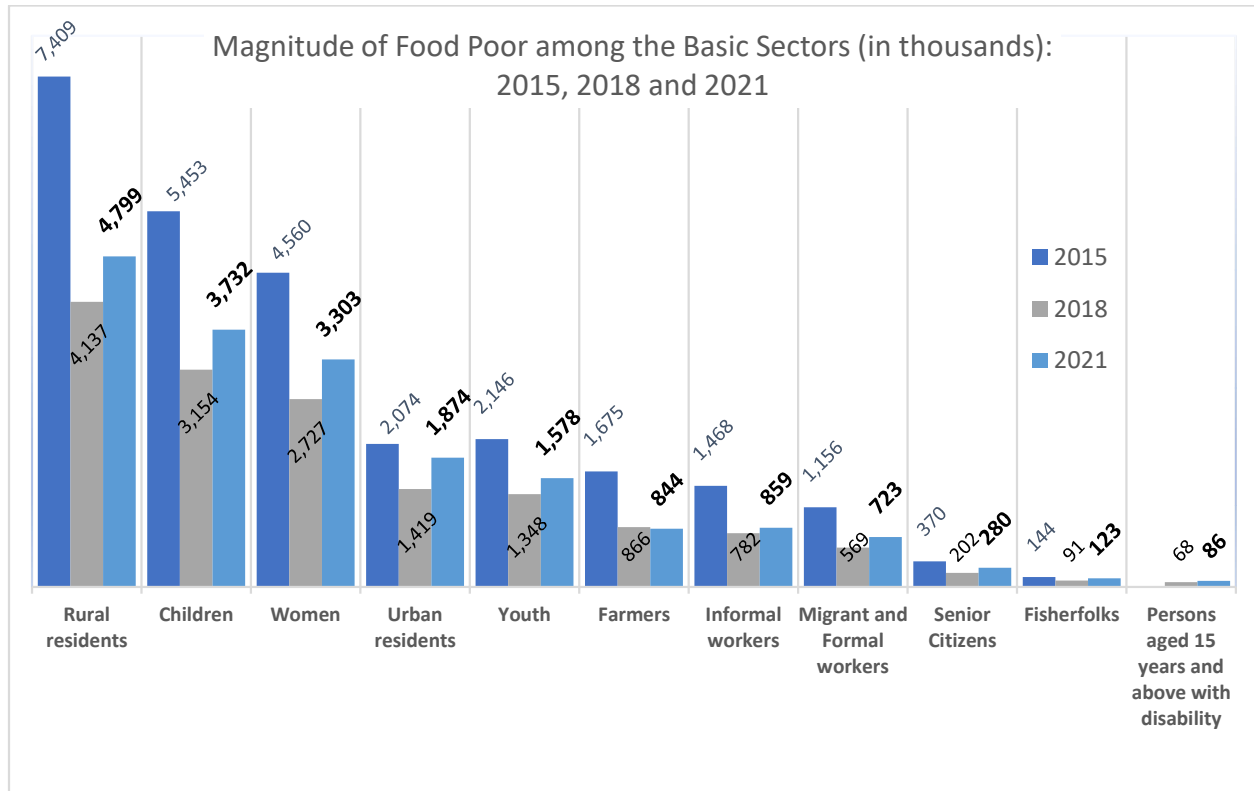
Meanwhile, the top three basic sectors with the least number of food poor population were the following:

- a) Persons aged 15 years and above with disability, 86 thousand;
- b) Fisherfolks, 122 thousand; and
- c) Senior citizens, 280 thousand.

These sectors also registered the lowest magnitude of food poor population in 2018, while fisherfolks, senior citizens, and self-employed and unpaid family workers sectors were observed to have the lowest magnitude of food poor population in 2015.

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**Figure 4. Magnitude of Food Poor Population among the Basic Sectors: 2015, 2018 and 2021**



## B. Regional

To serve as useful tools for planners and policy makers, both at the national and local levels, sectoral poverty statistics were also estimated at the regional level to aid in identifying priority groups and areas that could benefit from anti-poverty interventions.

At the regional level, the regions with the lowest poverty incidence among the basic sectors in 2021 were the National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region III, and Region IV-A. On the other hand, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which had the biggest reduction in terms of poverty incidence from 2018 to 2021, consistently in the top three poorest regions for all the basic sectors, except for the sectors among farmers and persons with disability. Caraga was also included in the top three poorest regions for eight of the 11 basic sectors. Furthermore, NCR was the least poor region in seven basic sectors, which are women, children, youth, senior citizens, urban residents, migrant and formal sector workers, and the self-employed and unpaid workers sectors.

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**Table 1. Summary of Regional Poverty Incidence, by sector: 2021**

Sector	Poverty Incidence (%)	Range of Regional Poverty Incidence (%)		Regions Based on Their Poverty Incidence		Regions Based on Their Magnitude of Poor Population	
	National	Minimum	Maximum	Top Three Regions with the Highest Poverty Incidence	Region with Lowest Poverty Incidence	Top Three Regions with the Largest Magnitude of Poor	Region with Lowest Magnitude of Poor
Women	18.4	3.6	37.6	BARMM Caraga Region V	NCR	Region VII Region V Region IV-A	CAR
Children	26.4	6.3	44.2	BARMM Caraga Region V	NCR	Region VII Region V BARMM	CAR
Youth	16.6	3.1	35.2	BARMM Caraga Region IX	NCR	Region VII BARMM Region V	CAR
Senior citizens	10.3	1.7	25.7	BARMM Region IX Region VII	NCR	Region VII Region V Region IV-A	CAR
Urban Residents	11.6	3.6	37.9	BARMM Caraga Region V	NCR	Region IV-A Region III Region VII	CAR
Rural Residents	25.7	12.8	41.3	Region IX Caraga BARMM	Region III	Region VII Region V BARMM	CAR
Migrant and Formal Sector Workers	10.2	1.5	24.5	BARMM Caraga Region V	NCR	Region VII Region VI Region IV-A	CAR
Farmers	30.0	15.6	49.1	Region IX Caraga Region VIII	CAR	Region XII Region VI Region IX	CAR
Fisherfolks	30.6	19.7	43.9	BARMM Region IX Region VII	Region IV-A	BARMM Region VII Region IX	Region XI
Self-employed and unpaid workers <i>(Proxy for Informal Sectors)</i>	18.7	2.4	34	Region IX BARMM Region VII	NCR	Region VII BARMM Region IX	NCR
Persons Aged 15 Years and Above with Disability	17.2	10.2	30.7	Caraga Region IX Region VII	CAR	Region VII Region V Region VI	CAR

Based on the magnitude of poor population, Region VII and V were in the top three poorest regions for most of the basic sectors, while CAR had the least number of poor individuals for nine sectors.

In terms of the range of the poverty incidences across regions, children, urban residents and women exhibited the widest spread.

Across the basic sectors and across regions, farmers in Region IX obtained the highest regional poverty incidence with 49.1 percent, which implies that about one in every two farmers in the region was considered poor in 2021.



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