

METHODOLOGY IN ESTIMATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16.10.1

I. Background

In September 2015, the United Nations Member States, including the Philippines, adopted a new global plan of action - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that aims to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustices, and address climate change, among others. The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) established an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) tasked to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda seeking to attain a better future for all ensuring that no one is left behind. To facilitate the implementation of the global indicator framework, all indicators are classified by the IAEG-SDGs into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and data availability as follows:

- Tier 1 The indicator has established methodology; standards are available; and regularly collected;
- Tier 2 The indicator has established methodology; standards are available; but not regularly collected; and
- Tier 3 The indicator has no established methodology yet, but methodology/standards are being developed or tested.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is the central statistical authority of the government and as such, it is designated as the official repository of SDGs indicators in the Philippines tasked to respond to the country's commitment to monitor the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda. The PSA regularly conducts assessment and monitoring activities through the SDG Watch-Philippines and the SDG Database on Philippine Indicators, two internet-based platforms for dissemination containing updated data and metadata to assess the country's performance vis-à-vis in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As part of its mandate, the PSA established interagency committees (IACs) on statistics to coordinate and resolve agency and sectoral concerns on statistical matters. One of the IACs created was the Interagency Committee on Security, Justice and Peace Statistics (IACSJPS) to serve as a venue for discussion and resolution of issues, review of current techniques/methodologies, and for recommendation of policies and workable schemes towards the improvement of the generation, processing, analysis, dissemination and use of security, justice and peace statistics and indicators.

To track the pace of progress of achieving the Philippine SDGs, the IACSJPS is tasked to assess, update and monitor indicators under Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Among the indicators under Goal 16 are human rights-related data sourced from one of the IACSJPS member agencies - the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), an independent government institution mandated to promote and protect the human rights of all Filipinos living here and abroad, and those foreigners staying temporarily in the Philippines.

The CHR embarks on a continuing technical cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the international custodian agency for human rights-related indicators. It is responsible for the promotion and protection of the enjoyment and full realization of human rights by all people. It is tasked to strengthen institutional linkages and collaboration between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) through the use of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a tool for the formalization of collaborative working relationships.

Under the auspices of OHCHR, the CHR and the PSA executed an MOU on 23 July 2021 to formalize a collaborative working relationship between their agencies as regards their respective roles in the compilation, reporting and use of human rights indicators. For smooth implementation of the MOU, a Technical Working Group on Operationalizing Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (TWGOHRBAD) was established to strengthen their cooperation on data collection, processing, analysis, dissemination and use of human rights indicators to help measure progress and ensure that no one is left behind in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

For its share in achieving Philippine SDGs, the CHR focuses to develop a methodology to generate estimate for the indicator below, currently classified as Tier 2, both at the national and global levels:

SDG 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

Objective: To develop a methodology to generate estimate for **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.10.1**

Rationale:

1. To facilitate the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of relevant data to help victims of human rights violations and abuses seek justice from their grievances

2. To designate CHR as the official data provider for human rights-related indicators in cognizance of their mandate to promote and protect the human rights of all Filipinos living here and abroad, and those foreigners staying temporarily in the Philippines
3. To ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms (i.e., right to freedom of opinion and expression, and right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association)*

*SDG Target 16.10

4. To upgrade the Tier classification of SDG 16.10.1 indicator from Tier 2 to Tier 1
5. To strengthen institutional linkages and collaboration between National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in operationalizing human rights-based approach to data
6. To assure that the principles of human rights-based approach shall be integrated in the formulation of the country's development policies, plans and programs
7. To uphold the OHCHR's observation that the Philippines has the potential to become a champion country in terms of best practices for human rights data collection and implementation of SDGs indicators

II. Key Concepts on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.10.1

In the estimation methodology used for SDG 16.10.1, the following key concepts were adopted by the CHR:

1. The number of killings and other attacks against **journalists/associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates** is computed based on the following:
 - reported/verified cases; and
 - those acted upon on own initiative (motu proprio)
2. **Verified cases** refer to reported incidents that contain a minimum set of relevant information on particular persons, which have been reviewed by mandated bodies, mechanisms, and institutions and provided them with reasonable grounds to believe those persons were victims of human rights violations or abuses.
3. **Journalists** refer to everyone who observe, describe, document and analyze events, statements, policies, and any propositions that can affect society, with the purpose of systematizing such information and gathering of facts and analyses to inform sectors of society, or society as a whole, and others who share these journalistic functions, including all media workers and support staff, as well as community media workers

and so-called “citizen journalists” when they momentarily play that role, professional full-time reporters and analysts, as well as bloggers and others who engage in forms of self-publication in print, on the internet or elsewhere.

4. **Trade unionists** refer to everyone exercising their right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests. A **trade union** is an association of workers organized to protect and promote their common interests.
5. **Human rights advocates** refer to everyone exercising their right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at national and international levels, including some journalists and trade unionists.

III. Proposed Methodology for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.10.1

Regarding the proposed methodology for SDG 16.10.1,

- Definition

SDG 16.10.1 refers to the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months.

- Method of computation

SDG 16.10.1 is calculated as the total number of reported cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates during the reporting period which are verified by an independent entity (in this case, the CHR).

- Level of data disaggregation

- by sex** (male, female)
- by age** (adult - 18 and above, minor - below 18)
- by geographic location** (national, regional)
- by type of victim** (journalists, trade unionists, human rights advocates)
- by type of perpetrator** (state actors, state-supported actors, private actors)
- by type of violation and abuse** (killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, kidnapping)

- Periodicity of data
 - Annual
- Schedule of data release/Time lag
 - One year after the reference period
- Data compiler
 - Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
- Data source
 - CHR National Situation Monitoring Report (Admin-based)
- Data providers
 - Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU)
 - Department of National Defense-Armed Forces of the Philippines (DND-AFP)
 - Department of the Interior and Local Government-Philippine National Police (DILG-PNP)
 - Local Government Units (LGUs)
 - Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
 - Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Essential elements of investigation which shall answer the five Ws (Who, What, When, Where and Why) and one H (How) of information in the CHR Complaint Form

Element	Field	Category
Who	Victim-Perpetrator	Victim: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalist/Associated media personnel • Trade unionist • Human rights advocate Perpetrator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State actor • State-supported actor • Private actor
What	Type of violation/abuse	Killing Torture Enforced disappearance Arbitrary detention Kidnapping
When	Date of incident	Day-Month-Year
Where	Place of incident	Barangay City

Element	Field	Category
		Municipality Province Region
Why	Motive of violation/abuse	Reasonable grounds that the attack was motivated by the victim's activities as a journalist/trade unionist/human rights advocate
How	Mode of violation/abuse	By mechanism of killing By weapon used

- CHR data flow from Regional Offices to Central Office
 1. Data on the number of reported killings and other attacks against journalists, trade unionists and human rights advocates are collected from the field by the CHR Regional Offices.
 2. At the regional level, all investigators and lawyers enter and update the intake forms they received into the **Investigation and Case Management System (ICMS)**, a web-based application designed to facilitate the documentation and reporting of cases of human rights violations filed and acted upon by the CHR.
 3. The Research and Knowledge Management Division (RKMD) that is responsible for developing the National Situation Monitoring Report draws the data from the ICMS and incorporates it into said report.
 4. The Human Rights Policy Advisory Office (HRPAO) Director conducts an official review of the report for feedback. Afterwards, the HRPAO will route it to various CHR Offices and Units for comments/additional inputs.
 5. Upon finalization of the report, this will be endorsed by the HRPAO Director to the Commission En Banc for resolution and publication.
- Counting rules
 1. The basic counting unit is the **“victim”** who suffers violation/abuse from the alleged perpetrator. The victim may either be any of the following:
 - Journalist/Associated media personnel
 - Trade unionist
 - Human rights advocate

2. For reporting purposes, the reported offenses will be ordered taking into account a hierarchy of abuses or violations drawing on the “**most serious offense**” rule commonly applied in criminal justice statistics.

- **Killing**
- Torture
- Enforced disappearance
- Arbitrary detention
- Kidnapping
- Other harmful acts

3. Related violations are recorded, but **NOT COUNTED** against the indicator.

- Reference/Statistical classification used

In classifying cases, the CHR utilizes the Philippine Standard Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (PSCCS) developed by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Patterned after the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the PSCCS published in 2018 by the PSA is a common classification framework for data on crime that are collected at various stages of the criminal justice process (police, prosecution, courts and prisons) and across different data sources (administrative records and statistical surveys).

The 2018 PSCCS is now accessible on the internet through the PSA official website and e-Classification mobile app which can be downloaded for free at Google Play Store.

The Statistical Classifications Division under the Standards Service is the Unit within PSA in charge of the development and maintenance of the first crime classification in the Philippines.

The IACSJPS, being the Committee of crime experts, provided valuable inputs in the formulation and adoption of the PSCCS. Hence, the IACSJPS included it as one of the notable accomplishments of the sector for the past Plan Period 2018-2023 cited in the chapter write up for the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) 2023-2029.

IV. Next Steps

Upon approval and adoption of the methodology in estimating SDG 16.10.1, it will be upgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 1 for inclusion in the refined list of Philippine SDGs indicators for regular monitoring through the SDG Watch maintained by the PSA.

On the way forward, the CHR outlines below the timeline of activities to be implemented related to the continuous assessment, updating and monitoring of the indicator SDG 16.10.1 once its methodology will be approved by the PSA Board and adopted by the Philippine Statistical System (PSS):

Activity	Target Timeline
Capacity building on the estimation of SDG 16.10.1 in CHR Regional Offices	Q3 2023 - Q1 2024
Release of the official statistics on SDG 16.10.1 (2016-2022)	Q2 2024
Submission to the PSA of annual data on SDG 16.10.1 as inputs to the Updating of SDG Watch	Q3 2024
Upgrading of the Tier classification of SDG 16.10.1 indicator from Tier 2 to Tier 1	Q4 2024

ACRONYMS:

AFP - Armed Forces of the Philippines
CHR - Commission on Human Rights
CSOs - Civil Society Organizations
DILG - Department of the Interior and Local Government
DND - Department of National Defense
HRPAO - Human Rights Policy Advisory Office
IACSJPS - Interagency Committee on Security, Justice and Peace Statistics
IAEG-SDGs - Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators
ICCS - International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
ICMS - Investigation and Case Management System
LGUs - Local Government Units
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs - Non-Government Organizations
OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPAPRU - Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
PNP - Philippine National Police
PSA - Philippine Statistics Authority
PSCCS - Philippine Standard Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes
RKMD - Research and Knowledge Management Division
SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
TWGOHRBAD - Technical Working Group on Operationalizing Human Rights-Based Approach to Data
UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC - United Nations Statistical Commission