



POVERTY

The blue print of President Arroyo's administration is laid out in the Medium -Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-2010.

The MTPDP says that its basic task "is to fight poverty by building prosperity for the greatest number of the Filipino people."

In 2004, the President approved the National Development Agenda to flesh out the earlier set 10-point agenda of the Arroyo government.

*In this, the government set out to reduce poverty by half:
"Bring down the incidence of poverty from 34 percent*
to 17 percent [among population] by 2010 (at least 20 percent.)"*

*The latest available poverty incidence data used by the National Development Agenda at that time was 34 percent. NSCB later finalized the data at 33 percent in the year 2000 (as indicated in the table below.)

*The 2006 data, the latest so far,
show poverty incidence among population at 32.9 percent.*

Poverty and subsistence incidence

Source: NSCB (see QS for details)

Poverty incidence is defined as the proportion of families with income less than the poverty threshold, or with income less than the cost of minimum basic food & non-food needs.

- The NSCB culls poverty incidence data from the Family Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by the NSO every three years.
- Poverty incidence, both among population (individuals) and among families, worsened from 2003 to 2006.

Poverty incidence among population (individuals)

- Poverty incidence among population increased by 2.9% from 2003 to 2006.
- Estimated number of poor individuals increased by 3.78 million from 2003 to 2006.
(Note: Population increased at a rate of 2.04 % from 2000 to 2007.)

Poverty incidence among families

- Poverty incidence among families increased by 2.5% from 2003 to 2006.
- Estimated number of poor families increased by more than 650,000 from 2003 to 2006.
(NOTE: Population increased at a rate of 2.04 % from 2000 to 2007.)

Subsistence incidence is defined as the proportion of families with income less than the food threshold, or income less than the amount required for a family to meet the basic needs.

- Subsistence incidence worsened from 10.2 to 11 percent from 2003- 2006.
- Actual number of food poor families in 2006 exceeded 2000's figure by 64,000

Hunger... (cont'd)

Hunger & poverty surveys

SWS HUNGER SURVEY

- Estrada's last full year in office was the year 2000. Based on the 2000 SWS hunger survey, the highest report of hunger was at 12.7 percent. This means 12.7 percent of families-- or 13 in 100 families -- said they experienced involuntary hunger.

When PGMA took office in 2001, the SWS hunger figures showed 16.1 percent or 16 in 100 families.

- During Arroyo's term from 2001 to the first quarter of 2009, SWS hunger figures reached its best in 2003 with only 5.1 percent of families reporting hunger; its worst figures in almost nine years is reflected in 2008, with 23.7 percent of families reporting involuntary hunger.
- The SWS hunger survey in 2008 was the only year during Arroyo's term when there was a steady rise in the number of families reporting hunger from first to the last quarter.

2008 was the year when the country experienced a drastic increase in the prices of rice and petroleum products.

YEAR	1ST QUARTER	2ND QUARTER	3RD QUARTER	4TH QUARTER
2000	10.5	11.2	8.8	12.7
2001	16.1	9.8	9.3	10.4
2002	11.1	11.5	8.8	9.0
2003	6.7	6.6	5.1	9.4
2004	7.4	13.0	15.1	11.5
2005	13.0	12.0	15.5	16.7
2006	16.9	13.9	16.9	19.0
2007	19.0	14.7	21.5	16.2
2008	15.7	16.3	18.4	23.7
2009	15.5			

SWS SELF-RATED POVERTY *(see QS for details)*

- Self-rated poverty was at 59% when PGMA took office during the first quarter of 2001. This means 59 percent of families—more than half-- see themselves as poor.
- Self-rated poverty was highest during the early years of PGMA's term, reaching 66 percent in 2001 and 2002.
- Self-rated poverty was lowest at 46% during the 2nd quarter of 2004 and 4th quarter of 2007. Self-rated poverty last reached the 40%-level during the early part of Cory's presidency.



Hunger... (cont'd)

PULSE ASIA SELF-RATED POVERTY *(see QS for details)*

In Pulse Asia's self-rated poverty surveys from 2000 to 2009, the percentage of families rating themselves as poor or very poor was consistently more than half – the lowest at 57 percent and the highest at 75 percent.

In the most recent self-rated poverty survey in February this year, 70% of families considered themselves poor or very poor.

This is six percentage points higher than when Arroyo took office in early 2001. This means more families considered themselves poor now, nearing the end of Arroyo's term, than when she started.

The best self-poverty rating during Arroyo's entire term was months after she was sworn into office, in June 2001, with 57% of families rating themselves poor or very poor.

The figures got worse as Arroyo's term nears its end – 75 percent of families rating themselves poor in October 2005 and July 2007.