

GETTING A CLEARER PICTURE:

PHILIPPINES



Civil Society Reports on Progress Towards SDG Target 1.4 in 7 Asian Countries, 2020

SDG Target 1.4 seeks to ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property. Unfortunately, while this target's inclusion under SDG Goal 1 (ending poverty), signifies a new global recognition that secure land tenure should be a central strategy in combating poverty, this land agenda has not been prominent in recent SDG reporting processes of governments.

SGDs in Focus

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Target 1.4.2: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

GOAL 1:
END POVERTY
IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

OFFICIAL DATA RELATED TO SDG INDICATOR 1.4.2

Availability of land tenure data

A proxy indicator is used to assess Indicator 1.4.2, based on the percentage of families with "secure tenure" over their house and lot. Based on this indicator, 96% of Filipino families have secure tenure as of 2019.

On legally-recognized documentation

Data on legally-documented land rights is available through the different administrative agencies that issue different tenure instruments.

On gender-disaggregation

No single agency consolidates data on land tenure; there are overlapping claims; and there is no single map system.

Data disaggregation is done by several government agencies for specific sectors. Disaggregated data is not consistently collected or applied.

On perception of tenure security

Government does not have official data on perception of tenure security

The proxy indicator used for 1.4.2 is: "Proportion of families which own house and lot or owner-like possession of house and lot; own house, rent lot; own house, rent-free, rent lot; own house, rent-free lot with consent of owner; rent-free house and lot with consent of owner." This data is generated through surveys and censuses.

However, the data is prone to overstatement because it based on self-declarations; it is not based on legal documentation; and the definition includes rent and lease. Therefore, the proxy (latest value being at 96%), does not reflect the complexities of tenure and does not correspond well with the SDG Global Indicator 1.4.2.

COUNTRY METHODOLOGY FOR REPORTING ON INDICATOR 1.4.2

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PURSUE AND REPORT ON LAND-RELATED SDGS

The SDGs were identified as a key consideration in the formulation of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2017 to 2022). The area of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries identifies three sector outcomes: a) sustainable and resilient production; b) increased access to markets of small farmers and fisherfolk; and, c) improved access of consumers to nutritious, affordable and safe food.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) monitors the achievement of SDG targets and oversees the implementation of the SDGs. In 2019, NEDA launched a website called SDG Watch. NEDA works closely with the Philippine Statistics Authority.

NEDA also leads the process of reporting on the SDGs, undertaking Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2016 and 2019. Another VNR will be submitted in 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORE TRUTHFUL AND ACCURATE REPORTING ON TENURE SECURITY

The true meaning of 'tenure security' for the different sectors (for farmers, for fishers, for women smallholders, for indigenous peoples, etc.), and therefore better tenure indicators, must be identified

Land and justice agencies must establish an efficient and practical system to address overlapping claims on land in lieu of the controversial JAO 1 of 2012. A better basis for the recognition and respect of ancestral domain tenurial security is by declaring the indigenous territory as part of conservation areas based on their traditional practices

Gender-disaggregated data should always be gathered wherever possible to promote better-targeted policymaking. The Philippines piloted gender disaggregation in land data through the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) Project

Land agencies must enhance and intensify monitoring and documentation of land and resource conflicts in implementing resource reform programs and to make the data on land conflicts available to the public

There is a need to discard the country's Torrens System and adopt a fully administrative approach to the recognition of land rights. This includes streamlining the land administration system and possibly, forming a single land administration agency with clear roles and responsibilities

Download the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/LWA-SDG-2020>

For more details, contact ANGOC at angoc@angoc.org

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Disclaimer: The views in the Reports on SDG 1.4 do not necessarily reflect the views of ILC and GLTN

