ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER: TRACKING PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY AMONG FILIPINOS

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BACKGROUND

The aim of Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1) is to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. One of its three targets was to halve from 1990 to 2015 the proportion of people suffering from hunger. This was measured by the proportion of underweight children under-five years of age and the proportion of households with per capita dietary energy adequacy below 100 percent of the requirement, both measurable outcomes of severe food insecurity and extreme hunger.

OBJECTIVES

The study aimed to assess the Philippines’ performance towards the achievement of MDG 1 particularly on the proportion of households with per capita dietary energy adequacy below 100 percent of the requirement.

METHODS

Five data sets from the Food Consumption Survey component of the National Nutrition Surveys conducted by the Department of Science and Technology’s Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) (1993-2015) and the “2015 Updating of the Nutritional Status of Filipino Children and Other Population Groups Survey” was utilized in the study. Data on household food security status using experienced-based scale was also included to complement food consumption data and to contribute to baseline information for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

RESULTS

The trend of proportion of households with mean per capita intake below 100 percent adequacy has significantly decreased from the baseline of 74.2 percent in 1993 to the end line of 69.0 percent in 2015. However, a deficit of 31.9 percentage point fell short to meeting the MDG target of 37.1 percent by 2015. Similarly, the proportion of households who were considered food-insecure declined gradually from 84.4 percent in 2001 to 66.1 percent in 2015, a proportion consistent with the proportion of households not meeting the energy requirement.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings showed that about two-thirds of Filipino households are still at risk for hunger and malnutrition. Attention should be given to (1) strengthen livelihood programs, (2) support agricultural sector in producing more weather-resilient crops, and (3) encourage cultivation of produce for own consumption.