MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDG) 7C: THE REDUCTION OF THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION BY HALF: PHILIPPINES, 2015

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BACKGROUND

MDG 7C aims to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. It has two indicators: a) the proportion of population using an improved drinking water source and b) the proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility.

OBJECTIVE

This study aimed to present the rates and trends of reported results in tracking MDG 7 in ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

METHODS

Data from the socio-economic component of the 2015 Updating Survey of the Filipino Children and Other Population Groups were used to determine the proportion of households with sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Reports from the National Demographic and Health Survey and the Annual Poverty Indicator Survey were utilized to establish trends. Definitions for access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facility were based on the WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP).

RESULTS

Among the households surveyed nationwide, 94.5% had access to improved drinking water sources, with higher proportions in the urban areas (98.3%) than in rural areas (90.8%). About four in five (86.3%) Filipino households had access to improved sanitation facility with higher proportions in urban areas (92.8%) than in rural areas (80.0%). From the baseline proportions of 73% for improved drinking water source and 67.6% for improved sanitation facility in 1990, there was generally an increasing proportion of households having access to improved drinking water sources and improved sanitation facility with highest proportions achieved in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

CONCLUSION

In 2015, the set deadline for meeting the MDGs, the Philippines has achieved its target for improved drinking sources and basic sanitation facilities. Communities with low access rates to safe drinking water and basic sanitation facilities especially those living in rural areas and among the poorest quintile, should be a priority target area of the government in providing intervention to reduce the onset of diarrhea and other health outcomes that may even compromise their poor nutritional status.