THE ROLE OF THE ESIA INDICATOR SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM

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The Philippine Statistical System

The Philippine Statistical System (PSS) may be described as a decentralized national statistical service, wherein in statistical activities are managed and implemented separately by various government agencies. This set-up is a consequence of the government's emphasis on development planning, in recent years, which effected the creation of research and statistics division to service the information needs of the planning service staffs of the various ministries.

The major producers of primary statistics are the following: National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO); NEDA; Bureau of Agricultural Economics (BAECON); Ministry of Agriculture (MA); Department of Economic Research, Central Bank of the Philippines (CBP), Labor Statistics Service, Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE); Disease Intelligence Center, Ministry of Health (MOH); National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC); National Wages Council, Insurance Commission, Ministry of Finance (MF); Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), National Science and Technology Authority (NSTA); Ministry of Public Works; Ministry of Transportation and Communication; and the Office of the Planning Service, Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC). These agencies provide the bulk of current official statistics increasingly needed by government.

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Being a decentralized system, therefore, the PSS is susceptible to duplication of statistical activities, conflicting concepts and definitions of terms used in these activities, and data gaps borne out of confusion as to which agency should produce a particular set of official statistics. This was taken into consideration by the Integrated Reorganization Plan (IRP) of 1974 in its recommendation for the organization and coordination of government statistical operations and service throughout the country. The IRP created the Statistical Coordination Office (SCO) under the National Economic and Development Authorities as the central coordinating body for statistics, the Statistical Advisory Board, and the Cabinet Level Committee on Statistical Development.

To facilitate the SCO's system-wide horizontal coordination, inter-agency committees (IAC) were established to link the various statistical activities of the different ministries. Each committee meeting serves as a forum for discussion and resolution of common statistical problems.

At present, there are eleven inter-agency committees on statistics.

1) IAC on Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Statistics
2) IAC on Financial and Monetary Statistics
3) IAC on Industrial and Energy Statistics
4) IAC on Labor, Income and Productivity Statistics
5) IAC on Population and Housing Statistics
6) IAC on Social Statistics
7) IAC on Transportation and Communication Statistics
8) IAC on Trade and Tourism Statistics
9) Technical Committee on Price Statistics
10) Technical Committee on Statistical Standards and Classification.
11) Technical Committee on Survey Design

As the central coordinating body for statistics, the SCO reviews and monitors all government statistical acvities. It works closely with the IACs and the SAB in resolving issues affecting the quality of data produced by the system, including duplication of activities, quality of instruments used in generating statistics, and conflicting statistics on the same subject. It evolves and recommends common concepts,

definitions and standards to be adopted and used by government agencies so that statistical series may be consistent and comparable within an integrating framework.

One such framework for coordination of the production of economic statistics in the country is the National Income Accounts. Thus we see in the Philippines a fairly well-developed set of statistics on production, cost of production, imports and exports, and other related aspects within a coherent, comprehensive and closed system, with further articulations made possible through the Input/Output Tables and the Flow of Funds Accounts.

The need for a parallel system of social statistics has long been felt. The dearth of current statistics on social changes points out to the lack of such a framework. The SCO addressed itself to this problem in developing a system of macro level indicators to monitor economic and social changes under the Macro Component of the Economic and Social Impact Analysis/Women In Development (ESIA/WID) Project.
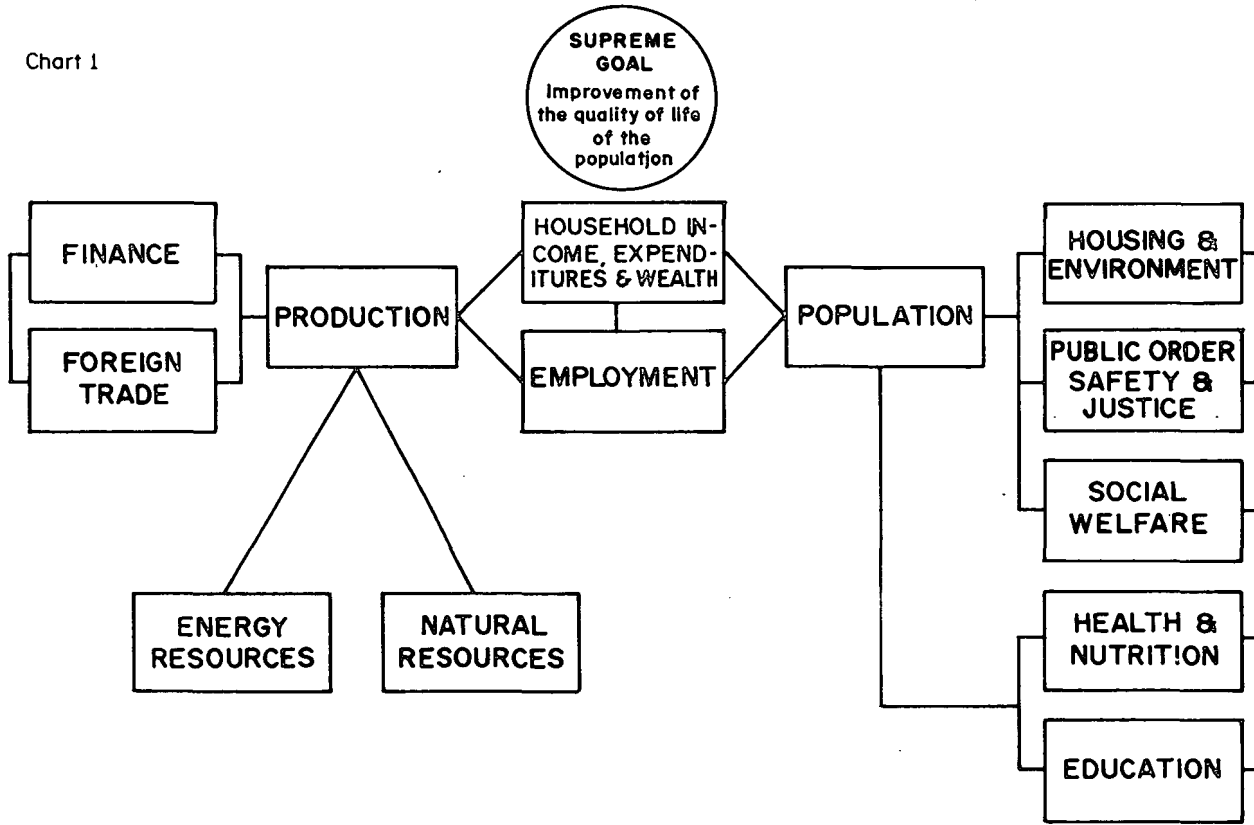
The Macro Component originally intended to develop a Philippine System for Social and Demographic Statistics simultaneously with the development of the ESIA Indicator System. This plan was abandoned early in the project since it was felt that efforts should be concentrated on the latter, and that eventually, the ESIA Indicator System could provide the impetus for the formulation of the PSSDS.

As a framework for social statistics, the ESIA Indicator System creates the demand for current and relevant infomation. It serves as a basis for the direction and prioritization of development activities for improving the statistical capabilities of the agencies responsible for data generation. As the statistical system responds to the needs of the Indicator System, efforts to build up the PSSDS could be renewed.

The ESIA Indicator System

The Economic and Social Impact Analysis (ESIA) Indicator System is a set of statistics aimed at measuring the achievements of the country against its economic and social developemnt goals. Its framework draws heavily on the goals, policies, objectives and

Chart 1

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                    ┌─────────────────┐
                    │  SUPREME GOAL   │
                    │ Improvement of  │
                    │ the quality of  │
                    │ life of the     │
                    │ population      │
                    └─────────────────┘
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FINANCE

FOREIGN TRADE

PRODUCTION

HOUSEHOLD IN- COME, EXPEND- ITURES & WEALTH

EMPLOYMENT

POPULATION

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC ORDER SAFETY & JUSTICE

SOCIAL WELFARE

HEALTH & NUTRITION

EDUCATION

ENERGY RESOURCES

NATURAL RESOURCES

AREAS OF CONCERN

strategies embodied in the Philippine Development Plan using the following assumptions:

1) The aspirations of the nation are prioritized in the development goals, which are articulated in the medium and long term development plans;

2) The attainment of these goals can be monitored on a macro level. The monitoring scheme will be quite distinct from project-specific monitoring systems;

3) These goals can be structured into a system of goal areas, goals, and sub-goals, and where necessary, sub-sub-goals.

Goal areas or areas of concern are the objects of policy. The term "area of concern" is oriented towards social development goal areas. Goals, or concerns, describe the nature and direction of influence of policies on the goal areas. They may contain statements describing growth and size, distribution, stability, attitudes, efficiency, and utilization of resources. Sub-goals are specific objectives or strategies which enhance the attainment of the goals.

Thirteen goal areas have been identified. The relationships among these goal areas were shown in Chart 1.

Key. and supportive indicators have been selected to measure the economic and social changes taking place in the various goal areas/ areas of concern. The criteria for selecting key indicators are as follows:

1) measurability,
2) appropriateness
3) comprehensiveness,
4) relevance,
5) sensitivity, and
6) impact-orientation

Supportive indicators satisfy the first two criteria but may show or explain only some aspects of the extent to which the goals are being attained. They may also be relevant input measures.

The ESIA Indicator System contains a total of 297 indicators, 100 key and 197 supportive. These are in the form of growth rates, distributions, levels and per capita measures disaggregated whereever

feasible and appropriate by geographic, demographic, social and economic characteristics.

Table 1 below shows the breakdown of these indicators by goal area.

Table 1. NUMBER OF KEY AND SUPPORTIVE INDICATORS
BY GOAL AREA

Goal Area	Total	Suggested Key Indicators	Supportive Indicators
1. Productiion (PR)	18	13	5
2. Finance (FN)	26	6	20
3. Foreign Trade (FT)	11	2	9
4. Energy Resources (ER)	17	6	11
5. Natural Resources (NR)	29	5	24
6. Household Income, Expenditure and Wealth (ID)	25	3	22
7. Employment	22	11	11
8. Population (PG)	12	8	4
9. Health (HN)	22	12	10
10. Education (ED)	29	8	21
11. Housing and Environment (HE)	35	16	19
12. Social Welfare and Community Development (SW)	35	6	29
13. Public Order, Safety and Justice (PS)	16	4	12
ALL SECTORS	297	100	197

A total of 338 variables for formulating the indicators have been identified. The data requirements of these variables represent a demand on the Philippine Statistical System to produce the corresponding statistics.

The ESIA Indicator System As Data User

The institutionalization process of the ESIA Indicator System

has made it necessary for the system to rely on the data produced by the PSS. The SCO, not being a primary data producer, had to build the indicator system around the constraints of existing data. The IACs were consulted in the formulation of the framework and in the assessment of available statistics to support the indicators. Further investigations were conducted in the specific government agencies responsible for producing the required data.

An assessment of data availability in the various agencies indicates that currently available statistics, especially in the social areas of concern, are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the ESIA Indicator System. As shown in Table 2 below only 35%

Table 2. NUMBER OF VARIABLES, BY TYPE, BY GOAL AREA

Goal Area	Type 0* Indicators	Variables with Type*						Total
		1	2	3	4	5	9	
1. Production (PR)		8	2	—	—	—	—	10
2. Finance (FN)		24	6	—	—	—	—	30
3. Foreign Trade (FT)		6	2	—	—	—	—	8
4. Natural Resources (NR)		17	5	2	3	14	5	46
5. Energy Resources (ER)		17	—	—	—	—	—	17
6. Household Income, Expenditures and Wealth (ID)		5	18	2	—	1	14	40
7. Employment (EM)		3	13	—	2	2	2	22
8. Population (PG)		8	2	—	—	5	—	15
9. Health (HN)		10	—	2	6	12	—	30
10. Housing and Environment (HE)	6	5	1	2	2	16	11	37
11. Social Welfare and Community Development (SW)	6	9	3	—	1	—	28	41
12. Education (ED)	5	2	—	4	4	8	8	26
13. Public Order, Safety and Justice (PS)	7	4	—	—	6	2	4	16
All Sectors	25	118	52	12	24	60	72	338

of the total 338 variables are available in the desired form; forty-four percent (44%) are available in some form although not in the desired frequency and disaggregation; and the remaining 21% are not available in any form and are yet to be generated by the statistical system.

The table likewise indicates that the social sectors are beset with more problems relating to data availability than the economic sectors. While the economic goal areas consist mostly of types 1 and 2 variables, the social sectors, on the other hand, are composed mainly of types 5 and 9 variables.

Types of variables:

0   —   This is a special case since the type is attached to the the indicator itself. Indicators whose variables are still to be identified or formula is still to be developed are classified into this type.

1   —   Data are available in the desired frequency and disaggregation.

2   —   Data are availabe in the desired frequency and disaggregation but are beset with limitations such as unrealibility of data due to undercoverage or data are available as part of a broader classification and no breakdown is available.

3   —   Data are not available in the desired frequency.

4   —   Data are not available in the desired disaggregation.

5   —   Other problems in data availability.

9   —   Data are not available in any form.

Economic Sectors

The NEDA, NCSO, Central Bank of the Philippines (CBP), Ministry of the Budget (MOB), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Energy (MOE), and Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) are the major sources of statistics for the economic areas of concern.

The NEDA, particularly its National Accounts Staff (NAS) provide the data for the Production, Finance, and Household Income, Expenditures and Wealth sectors. Data are obtained from the Na-

tional Income Accounts, the Regional Income Accounts, the Food Balance Sheet and the Inter-Industry (I-0) Accounts.

Some twenty variables for the Finance sector are gathered from the CBP. These financial data are being produced regularly by the Department of Economic Research (DEP) and by the Management of External Debt and Investment Accounts Department (MEDIAD). Information on government expenditures are derived from the Ministry of the Budget.

Data for all the indicators of the Foreign Trade sector are lifted from NCSO's Foreign Trade Statistics. Energy resources statistics are obtained from the Ministry of Energy, in particular, its Planning Service and Bureau of Energy Utilization.

It must be noted that majority of the data for the goal areas, Production, Finance, Foreign Trade and Energy Resources are available in the required form. Most of the variables in these sectors have been classified as type 1.

Diffuculties in data collection have been encountered in the other economic concerns, namely: Natural Resources, Employment and Household Income, Expenditures and Wealth.

Statistics on Natural Resources

Gathering of statistics on natural resources entails collection from the different agencies under the umbrella of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and several other agencies attached to the Ministry. Although the MNR has a Management Information System (MIS) which is supposed to be the center of all information gathered by the Ministry, it is mainly supported by the satellite information systems of the following: the Bureau of Forest Development (BFD), the Bureau of Lands (BL), the Land Registration Commission (LRC), the Bureau of Mines and Geo-sciences (BMG) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Seventeen (17) of the 46 variables identified in this sector are available in the desired frequency and disaggregation. The rest of the indicators are beset with limitations.

Employment Statistics

A host of variables are available for the indicators of the Employ-
ment sector from the Integrated Survey of Households (the former
National Sample Survey of Households) of the NCSO and the admin-
istrative records of the MOLE. Data on the employed, unemployed
and the labor force are obtained from the ISH while the following
are gathered from the MOLE:

   i) Employment Service Reporting System of the Bureau of
      Employment Services — data on overseas employment
      contracts processed, by occupation group and country of
      destination;
  ii) Work Accident Reporting System of the Bureau of Labor
      Standards — data in connection with industrial accidents,
      accident costs and disabling injuries;
 iii) Labor Relations Reporting System of the Bureau of Rela-
      tions — data on labor disputes, concilliation, labor unions and
      collective bargaining.

Although much information are available in the required form,
these, however, have been found to have drawbacks. The employ-
ment statistics derived from the ISH have problems concerning con-
cepts used in the labor force surveys such as the definition of work
and the reference period used. Changes in some of these concepts
have been adopted and as a result, the data from 1976 to the present
could not be compared with the data generaged prior to 1976. In
addition to these, statistics from the MOLE are based on reports of
responding establishments only as revealed by the assessment made
on the agency's administrative reporting system.

Statistics on Household Income, Expenditures and Wealth

The basic sources of data for the Household Income, Expend-
itures and Wealth sector are the NCSO's Family Income and Expend-
itures Surveys (FIES), the ISH, and the 1975 Integrated Census of
the Population and its Economic Activities (ICPEA).

Although a lot of information can be gleaned from these surveys,
these have been found to have a couple of limitations. First, the

derivation of household income by decile from the ISH annualizes the quarterly data. This assumes that within the given year, the household does not shift from one income class to another. Second, the survey is said to be biased towards the low income groups.

Variables to support the wealth indicators are not available in any form (these are the type 9 variables). The BIR can be tapped to generate the needed information from the Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the years 1973 and 1981. Since the BIR is in the process of developing its own data storage retrieval system income statistics that would produce the wealth indicators, the data requirements of the ESIA Indicators shall be incorporated in this undertakings.

Social Sectors

Social statistics are obtained mainly from two sources, namely: the Census of Population and Housing (CPH) of the NCSO and the administrative records of various agencies. These agencies include the MOH, MEC, MSSD and the Philippine Constabulary (PC).

Population and Housing Statistics

Basic data on popultion are taken from the Census of Population and Housing (CPH). These are being processed by the Population Studies Division of the NCSO to come up with indicators such as fertility rate, reproduction rate, age of females at first marriage, population density and internal migration rate. Vital Statistics, specifically, data on births, which are also being processed by the NCSO, are obtained from the Local Civil Registrars. Most of the popultion indicators have been classified as type 1.

Housing statistics are likewise taken from the CPH. These cover information on housing stock and selected characteristics. Since the CPH is conducted decennially and the initial housing data were gathered only in 1960, other sources such as the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) and other agencies attached to it (e.g. NHA, NHMFC, NPCC) are tapped. However, only data for specific housing projects and programs are available in these offices.

Health Statistics

Health statistics are gathered from two sources: the NCSO and the MOH. The NCSO provides data on life expectancy, crude death rate, infant mortality rate, households with sanitary toilet facilities and safe water supply and price indices of health services and medicines.

On the other hand, the MOH consists of several offices which collect and analyze various health information. Among these are the:

i) Disease Intelligence Center (DIC) which is the major source of morbidity, mortality and natality data;

ii) Planning Service (PS) which collects data on the number of health manpower and facilities and other essential inputs for decision making;

iii) National Nutrition Service (NNS) which gathers data on the prevalence of goiter, number of infants with low birthweight and other nutrition-related information;

iv) Department of Environmental Sanitation (DES) which collects data on number of households with toilet facilities by type and number of households by source of water supply; and

v) Bureau of Medical Services which compiles data on hospitals and hospital cases.

To improve the existing health reporting system, a Management Information System (MIS) in the MOH was set-up. Four sub-systems were developed, namely:

i) Rural Health Unit Operations Information System (ROIS) which was envisioned to monitor operations of the Rural Health Units (RHU) and to generate reports that would serve as basis for target setting and performance evaluation;

ii) Hospital Operation Information System (HOIS) which would provide information on hospital and hospital cases needed for management;

iii) Human Resource Sub-system which would provide information on allocation of manpower;

iv) Physical Resource Subsystem which would provide information on inventories and level of utilization of physical resources.

The activity has been terminated as a project. As of this date the full scale implementation has not materialized yet due to computer resource constraints. However, the ministry has been utilizing the ROIS and HOIS forms for reporting.

Another source of health information is the National Health Survey of the MOH which was conducted in 1978. Data on the following areas were made available through the survey: morbidity, maternal and child health, nutrition, dental health, family planning and environmental sanitation. A second survey, the National Health, Nutrition and Social Services Survey (NHNSSS), was undertaken in August 1981 under the Statistical Improvement and Development Program of the Macro Component. The survey gathered data on the areas covered in the first survey as well as information on other social sectors.

Education Statistics

Data for the education sector are obtained from the Office of the Planning Service (OPS) of the MEC which is charged with the task of collecting, consolidating and processing education statistics. The office is also responsible for disseminating these information, and it does so by publishing the MEC Statistical Bulletin annually.

An examination of the administrative report forms of the OPS revealed that information on the following data items that are required by the ESIA Indicator System are being gathered: a) enrollment statistics by level of education; b) statistics on the number of schools; c) count of teachers, books school buildings and other educational technologies; and d) estimates on school finances.

Recently, the MEC, OPS has set up the Education Management Information System to speed up the processing of the administrative reports. At the same time, it has done away with the mailing system and has returned to the old system of consolidating data of all regional, division and district bulletins. Furthermore, the administrative report forms have been redesigned and some of the require-

ments of the ESIA/WID were incorporated such as the collection of elementary enrollment data by age and by sex. Efforts have also been made to come up with age-specific enrollment rates to show the extent to which the over-aged pupils bloat the rate of elementary enrollment.

Other data on education were taken from the NCSO. These are information on literacy and educational attainment of the population.

Statistics on Social Welfare and Community Development

Three agencies have been identified as the possible sources of data for the Social Welfare and Community Development sector. These are the MSSD, the Ministry of Local Government (MLG) and the Presidential Assistance for National Minorities (PANAMIN). However, after the assessment of the administrative reporting systems of these agencies, it was found out that very limited information which are useful for the indicators, are available. In fact, almost 70% of the total variables comprising the Social Welfare and Community Development sector have been identified as type 9, i.e., not available in any form.

The MSSD produces data on the number of disadvantaged persons served and the number of social workers through its Planning and Management Information System (PMIS). These do not, however, satisfy the requirements of the indicators since the data needed are those on the total disadvantaged persons disaggregated by categories, i.e., family head, children, youth, elderly, etc. The MSSD records only those persons it is able to reach and serve.

Data available at the MLG are mostly confined to the programs and projects undertaken by the Ministry. These information, however, are not being used for the indicators.

Recently, the MLG conducted a survey which utilized an indicator system to enable the government to classify some 42,000 barangays into various levels of development. Although the project has not been completed, the survey is being eyed as a potential source of data for community development indicators.

The PANAMIN similarly gathers information on its programs and

projects only. Being a service-oriented agency, it does not give too much emphasis on statistics gereration.

The assessment showed that statistics collected by the agency are minimal and do not satisfy the needs of the indicators. Population count of the minorities, for instance, are limited to the non-muslim hilltribes. However, at the time the assessment was made, basic information such as the population count of cultural communities (in six cultural minority tribes) and economic and social characteristics of these minorities had just been gathered and were being processed. Results of this survey may somehow serve as the much needed baseline information on this area of concern.

Statistics on Public Order, Safety and Justice

The investigation of the existing criminal justice statistical capabilities entailed the assessment of the reporting systems of the agencies involved in the five-pillar approach to crime prevention through the criminal justice system. These agencies are:

i) Police Pillar — Philippine Constabulary/Integrated National Police
— National Police Commission
ii) Prosecution Pillar — Prosecution Branch, Ministry of Justice
iii) Courts Pillar — Supreme Court
iv) Corrections Pillar — Bureau of Prisons
— Probation Administration

The following data are available and collected from the agencies:
i) Crime and police statistics — volume of crime; number of offenders by type of crime committed: number of victims by type of crime: number of INP members;
ii) Prosecution statistics — caseloads of provincial/city fiscals and state prosecutors;
iii) Corrections statistics — number of prisoner admissions/discharges/releases in prisons and penal institutions.

The existing information system is found to lack the following data needed for the ESIA Indicators: crimes reported/handled by the police which actually go into the prosecution pillar diversion cases

or cases reported to the police which do not pass the prosecution pillar; comprehensive statistical data on fire occurrences; rate of recidivism; and crimes reported/handled by barangay courts.

Findings of the assessment likewise indicate that the decentralized system of data generation has resulted to conflicting data, inaccurate and incomplete statistics and lack of timeliness in the compilation of criminal justice statistical information. It could, at most, provide piecemeal information for a very limited number of indicators.

An integrated crime case information system is therefore needed. Integration of the statistical resources of the five pillars of justice shall ensure the generation of:

   i) Consistent, timely and adequate statistics compiled within each pillar; and
   ii) Statistics on the stock and flow of criminal cases in the criminal justice circuit.

Data Limitations

The following problems have been encountered in using data produced by the PSS for the ESIA Indicator System.

Timeliness

The timely release of statistical information is hampered by chronic non-response and slow response to survey and administrative report forms. This is brought about by the following reasons: indifference of respondents; the lack of control mechanisms to enforce strict compliance of deadlines in the accomplishment and submission of questionnaires, forms which collect the same information so that respondents are over-burdened with forms to fill up. Consequently, delays in processing result.

Existence of data gaps

The data generated by the existing statistical system fail to meet the full requirements of the ESIA Indicators. Generally, there is lack of congruence between the actual and the desired disaggregations and frequency of data production. For instance, the Indicator

System proposes a regional dimension to its indicators. Unfortuna-ely, this is beyond the present capabilities of the statistical system. Another issue is concerned with inconsistencies in the concepts used by the source agencies and those by the Indicator System.

Inadequate Resources

A host of data collected by government agencies through admin-istrative functions and surveys are not processed due to lack of processing facilities, manpower resources and technical knowhow.

Lack of coordination among data producing agencies

Duplication of statistical activities result in conflicting data generated by the different agencies. This lack of coordination implies that resources are utilized inefficiently, that costs for the national government are escalated, and that respondents are burdened with having to provide the same information for a number of times.

Statistical Improvement and Development

The assessment of the statistical system and the subsequent for-mulation of the Macro Component's Statistical Improvement and Development Program (SIDP) brought to the fore the long standing problems of the system and the possible solutions to these. Although the SIDP did not attempt to solve all these problems, it nevertheless contributed much to the improvement of the statistical machinery of the government.

Initiation/Improvement of Household-based Data Systems

The SIDP made possible the development of the National Health, Nutrition, and Social Services (NHNSSS), which actually was an up-dated and expanded version of the earlier 1978 National Health Survey, as a major vehicle for generating current household-based social statistics in a regular basis. It is important to mention that the impact of this project went beyond the mere production of data. The memorandum of agreement with the Ministry of Health included a provision to the effect that this agency should henceforth include the

conduct of the NHNSSS in its regular activities. Thus, the NHNSSS experience helped to develop the capability of the MOH to plan, conduct, process and analyze results of surveys. As of this writing, the Minsitry has in fact begun planning, on its own, for the 1984 NHNSSS.

The project on the development of packaged modules for the NCSO Integrated Survey of Households for the generation of current statistics on such diverse areas as vital events, employment, income and expenditure, education, housing, peace and order, household energy consumption, household economic activities, and food consumption, is an attempt, not only to improve the instruments, but more important, to set up the supporting processing systems and programs in comprehensive packages ready for use and implementation. Furthermore, the proejct output included a suggested scheduling of the different modules that would not unduly burden the respondents.

The development by the UP Statistical Center of survey instruments for identifying "poor" households provides a starting point for further studies towards the alleviation of poverty. With further testing on a larger scale, the results of this study could pave the way for the initiation of a household survey to monitor the characteristics of low income households. The development and actual construction of a sampling frame will be by itself a major step.

The Pilot Housing Survey showed that the listing operation of the ISH can be utilized to generate much-needed housing data during the inter-censal period. The findings of this study provided inputs to the development of the ISH modules on housing.

Administrative Reporting Systems

In the course of developing and implementing the SIDP, the Macro Component held dialogues with the data-producing agencies. While the strategy of using the inter-agency committees as coordination mechanisms showed that these bodies were effective as entry points to the agencies involved, further dialogues needed a one-on-one approach. This approach afforded both the Component and the agency to discuss and assess specific problems more candidly in

detail. Workable solutions were explored and formulated. Thus, while the SIDP could not institute actual changes in administrative reporting systems of the agencies concerned due to the short period alloted for the activity, the dialogues strengthened work relations between the SCO and the agencies, thereby paving the way for future concerted efforts along this line. In the case of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the proposal prepared by the Component will serve as an important basis for the plan of the Bureau to increase its data generating capability within the next five years. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) of the Ministry of Education and Culture which is being developed as a component of the ASEAN Development Education Project, has adopted the ESIA Indicators as vital elements of the system. The integration of the crime reporting system is expected to entail much coordination work within a long period of time, but the groundwork has been laid in terms of the awareness and interest generated among the possible source agencies to the requirements of the indicators and the statistical system. These linkages which have been established are acknowledged as one of the less visible but major milestone of the SIDP.

Statistical improvement activities need to be continued. Developmental activities should concentrate on tackling the twin problems of data gaps and timeliness. Specific problem areas which have been identified in the various assessment reports need to be studied in depth.

The greater need for improvement is in the area of social Statistics. High priority should be given to activities which would produce the much needed current data for social welfare, housing, and public order, safety and justice. Efforts to improve the quality of data in education, income and expenditure, health and nutrition, and natural resources should be sustained. Focus should be given to research studies that would develop the conceptual bases for the experimental indicators.

Additional funding may be needed to accelerate these developmental activities. For instance, further studies towards the development and actual construction of a sampling frame for identifying poor households need to be done on a scale far bigger than the UPSC

study. The Statistical Development Fund of NEDA could be tapped, as well as international funding agencies.

The Philippine Statistical Development Plan, 1983-1987, which is being prepared by the N DA SCO, articulates the major thrusts for the next five years. Inclu· ed here are the specific areas identified by the Component for the urther improvement of the statistical system.

The ESIA Indicator Sy: em As Data Producer

Three publication showing the actual indicators have so far been published: The *1980 Economic and Social Indicators,* the *1981 Economic and Social Indicators,* and *Social Development in the Philippines 1970-1980.*

The *1980 Economic and Social Indicators,* which was released in the last quarter of 1981, is a compendium of some 77 key indicators covering the 13 goals areas for which data are currently available. The document also contains a number of appendices, which include a glossary of terms, technical notes, and estimation models that were developed and used to derive current levels of the indicators. The 1981 edition presents some sixty-six (66) key indicators.

The third publication is a joint study conducted by the Macro Component, and the Economic Planning and Research Staff of NEDA. It shows, through the use of the indicators, the trends, patterns, and implications of development in seven social areas of concern: population, employment and income, health and nutrition, education and manpower, housing, social welfare, and public order, safety and justice during the last decade.

The reactions of data users to the *1980 Economic and Social Indicators* have been very encouraging. Thus, it was thought that an annual publication of the indicators would be most helpful to the readers. However, the experience gained in preparing the *1981 Economic and Social Indicators* has shown that an annual publication is not cost effective due to the lack of current data particularly in the social areas of concern. Since the major users of these data are interested in assessing the attainment of goals set forth in the Five Year Philippine Development Plan, it would be more practicable to

limit the publication to the mid-term and end of the planning period until such time that the statistical system can provide information on a more frequent basis. Compilation of available data will, however, continue on an annual basis.

The 1982 edition is now being prepared and is expected to be released by the last quarter of this year. This publication will present the trends shown by the indicators before the 1978-1982 Plan period in comparison with the development during the same Plan period.

The ESIA Indicator System As Link Between the PSS and
Developement Planning

The needs assessment and feedback stages of planning are critical in target-setting and allocation of resources. These stages rely heavily on available information about target populations, intended beneficiaries, and concommitant variables.

It has been demonstrated that the ESIA Indicators are useful tools for development planning, and hence can serve as the link between the PSS and macro level development planners.

The ESIA Indicator System was indeed utilized as a statistical monitoring system for measuring the degree to which the development goals set forth in the *Five-Year Philippine Development Plan, 1978-1982* were achieved. During the mid-term appraisal of the Plan in 1980, selected indicators from the Indicator System were used to assess actual achivements versus plan targets. The targets for the remaining half were then reviewed, and revised where necessary. In the formulation of the Plan for 1983-87, the system's contributions were in terms of statistical measures that inputted into the assessment of the 1978-1982 Plan and setting of targets/expected consequences for 1983-1987.

In the field of social development planning, the joint effort of the Macro Component and the NEDA Economic Planning and Research Staff in producing the report entitle *Social Development in the Philippines, 1970-1980* demonstrated the use of the ESIA Indicators in describing the social conditions prevailing in the country during the past decade. This document provided and has laid down statistical dimensions to the work of the Social Development Committee.

Summary and Conclusions

The goal of institutionalizing the ESIA Indicator System requires that it should utilize data from and introduce improvements within the Philippine Statistical System. As a framework for social statistics, it has served as a basis for the direction and priorization of developmental activities for improving the statistical capabilities of the agencies responsible for data generation. As a data producer, it serves as one of the links between the Philippine Statistical System and the country's development planners.

It has been recognized that the ESIA Indicator System has contributed to the further improvement of the PSS. It is also claimed that the Indicator System has been institutionalized through its integration into the regular functions of the Statistical Coordination Office. However, as long as it remains the responsibility of a temporary project staff, as it has been for the past five years, its further development and expansion will be hampered by a high turn-over of project personnel and scarcity of resources. Already, quite a number of highly qualified technical personnel have left the staff for more permanent jobs. The nature and extent of the future role of the ESIA Indicator System in the Philippine Statistical System will thus be determined by the nature and status of the organization responsible for it.

As early as 1979, efforts have been exerted to establish the Social Accounts Staff within the SCO to take primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of the ESIA Indicator System. However, these efforts through the budget process, prove to be futile. The matter is still being worked out by the NEDA. What is needed now is the wholehearted support of all concerned.