

A FAMILY OF FIVE IN ARMM NEEDED AT LEAST P8,985 TO PROVIDE FOR ITS BASIC FOOD AND NON-FOOD NEEDS (2015 Official Poverty Statistics)

The 2015 Official Poverty Statistics released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that an individual living in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) needed at least P21,563 annually in 2015 (P1,797 on average monthly) to meet both his/her basic food and non-food needs. Therefore, a family with five (5) members in the region must earn at least P8,985 on average monthly or P295 daily to sustain its daily nutritional subsistence and other non-food basic requirements.

Table 1. **Annual Poverty Threshold in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	POVERTY THRESHOLD			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	12,647	16,683	20,517	21,563
Basilan	12,538	16,256	19,368	20,678
Lanao del Sur	13,116	17,024	22,665	22,802
Maguindanao	12,877	16,701	18,873	21,423
Sulu	13,330	17,240	20,477	20,778
Tawi-Tawi*	11,557	14,659	17,406	16,586

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The annual per capita food threshold or the amount needed for an individual to meet his/her basic food needs was estimated at P15,421 in 2015 (P1,285 on average monthly). Thus, each family of 5 in ARMM needed at least P6,425 on average monthly or P211 daily to satisfy its daily nutritional requirements for economically necessary and social desirable physical activities.

Table 2. **Annual Food Threshold in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	FOOD THRESHOLD			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	8,875	11,725	14,747	15,421
Basilan*	8,788	11,335	13,495	14,485
Lanao del Sur	9,151	11,880	15,826	15,920
Maguindanao	8,989	11,680	13,195	14,982
Sulu*	9,395	12,040	14,263	14,512
Tawi-Tawi	7,883	10,237	12,299	11,847

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Among 5 provinces in the region, Lanao del Sur has the highest annual poverty threshold at P22,802 followed by Maguindanao at P21,423. Tawi-Tawi, on the other hand, has the lowest at P16,586.

ARMM posted the highest poverty incidence in the country; Lanao del Sur was highest among provinces

Table 3. **Poverty Incidence among Families in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	POVERTY INCIDENCE (%)			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	40.5	39.9	48.7	48.2
Basilan	28.2	28.8	32.1	28.3
Lanao del Sur	38.6	48.7	67.3	66.3
Maguindanao	46.4	43.3	54.5	48.8
Sulu	35.2	35.5	40.2	49.6
Tawi-Tawi *	50.2	29.4	21.9	10.6

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The poverty incidence or the proportion of families with annual per capita income less than P21,563 was recorded at 48.2 percent in 2015, a decrease of 0.5 percent from 48.7 percent in 2012. At the provincial level, four provinces posted an improvement in poverty incidence except Sulu with 49.6 percent in 2015 from 40.2 percent in 2012. Despite the decrease, ARMM has recorded the highest poverty incidence in the Philippines. Lanao del Sur recorded the highest poverty incidence of among families not just in the region but in the entire country at 66.3 percent in 2015.

Table 4. **Subsistence Incidence among Families in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	SUBSISTENCE INCIDENCE (%)			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	14.0	10.8	19.5	17.0
Basilan*	3.7	1.8	2.2	4.6
Lanao del Sur	14.1	20.2	41.6	33.2
Maguindanao	19.1	13.3	19.0	22.0
Sulu*	7.5	3.6	9.2	5.6
Tawi-Tawi	21.3	4.5	4.3	0.0

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The subsistence incidence or the proportion of families with annual per capita income less than P15,421 was recorded at 17 percent in 2015, a notable decrease of 2.5 percent from 19.5 percent in 2012. Among provinces, Lanao del Sur has the highest occurrence of subsistence incidence followed by Maguindanao with 33.2 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Magnitude of poor families increased in 2015; food poor families decreased

Table 5. **Magnitude of Poor Families in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	POOR FAMILIES			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	205,834	212,494	271,355	296,999
Basilan	14,137	14,781	16,832	11,125
Lanao del Sur	51,408	68,770	100,946	109,258
Maguindanao	70,665	67,899	87,800	86,100
Sulu	39,478	42,530	51,278	83,289
Tawi-Tawi*	30,146	18,514	14,499	7,226

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The magnitude of poor families in ARMM was estimated at 296,999 in 2015, an increase of 25,644 poor families from 271,355 in 2012. Conversely, subsistence (food poor) families decreased by 4,110 from 108,771 in 2012 to 104,661 in 2015.

On the provincial level, Lanao del Sur posted the highest number of poor families in 2015 at 109,258 followed by Maguindanao at 86,100. Tawi-Tawi recorded the lowest number at 7,226. In terms of food poor families, Lanao del Sur and Sulu showed an improvement, respectively, reducing the number of food poor from 62,398 and 11,725 families in 2012 to 54,660 and 9,360 families in 2015.

Table 6. **Magnitude of Subsistence (Food Poor) Families in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

AREA	SUBSISTENCE (FOOD POOR) FAMILIES			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
ARMM	70,888	57,509	108,771	104,661
Basilan*	1,836	899	1,135	1,815
Lanao del Sur	18,707	28,617	62,398	54,660
Maguindanao	29,185	20,884	30,677	38,826
Sulu*	8,379	4,270	11,725	9,360
Tawi-Tawi	12,780	2,840	2,834	0

* coefficient of variation greater than 20%
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Income gap, poverty gap and severity of poverty in ARMM improved

Other poverty measures such as income gap, poverty gap and severity of poverty indicated an improvement from 2012 to 2015. The income gap went down by 1.6 percent from 26.9 percent in 2012 to 25.3 percent. This also means that the income of poor families need to be increased by 25.3 percent of the poverty threshold for them to be considered non-poor.

Similarly, the poverty gap, which measures the depth of poverty, posted a decrease by 0.9 percent from 13.1 percent in 2012 to 12.2 percent in 2015.

Finally, the severity of poverty, which captures the inequality of income among poor, improved by 0.7 percent from 5.0 percent in 2012 to 4.3 percent in 2015.

Table 7. **Income Gap, Poverty Gap and Severity of Poverty in ARMM: 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015**

	ESTIMATE			
	2006	2009	2012	2015
Income Gap	23.9	22.1	26.9	25.3
Poverty Gap	9.7	8.8	13.1	12.2
Severity of Poverty	3.2	2.8	5.0	4.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

MDG target of reducing poverty incidence by half in 2015 was not realized

In 24-year period (1991-2015), poverty incidence among families significantly increased by 21.3 percent, i.e. from 26.9 percent in 1991 to 48.2 percent in 2015. Thus, the MDG target for the region of reducing the poverty incidence by 13.45 percent in 2015 was not realized.

Furthermore, the subsistence incidence went up by 7.6 percent, i.e. from 9.4 percent in 1991 to 17 percent in 2015. The region was 12.3 percent short in achieving the target of reducing the food poor families by 4.7 percent in 2015.

Table 8. **Poverty Incidence and Subsistence Incidence in ARMM: 1991, 2015**

INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (%)	MDG TARGET (2015)	1991	2015
Poverty Incidence	13.45	26.9	48.2
Subsistence Incidence	4.7	9.4	17.0

Note: 1991 is the base year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring for poverty
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority