

Region XII *Socio-economic- Peace & Development Profile*

As of July 2009

A. MACROECONOMY

Political Composition

Per Executive Order No. 36 issued on 19 September 2001, Region XII is composed of the provinces of North Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the cities of Cotabato, General Santos, Kidapawan, Koronadal and Tacurong. The City of Koronadal has been designated as the administrative center of Region XII by virtue of Executive Order No. 304, series of 2004.

Land Area

Region XII has a total land area of 19,165.87 sq. km., which is about 17% that of Mindanao. Among the four provinces of the region, North Cotabato has the biggest area at 6,019.78 sq. km. It is about 30.4% of the region's area. The smallest among the provinces is Sultan Kudarat with an area of 4,401.06 sq. km.

Among the five cities of the region, General Santos City has the biggest land area at 668.49 sq. km., with Tacurong City as the smallest at 161.96 sq. km.

Population

The population of Region XII in 2007 was 3.829 million. This was almost 18% of Mindanao's total population. The average annual population growth rate from 2000 to 2007 was 2.41%.

The population density of Region XII increased from 168 in 2000 to 169 persons per square kilometer in 2007. Cotabato City and General Santos City are the most densely populated areas in the region with densities of 1,472 and 1,074 persons per sq. km., respectively in 2007.

Poverty

Poverty incidence or the proportion of families who are poor or are living below the poverty threshold was estimated at about 34 for every 100 households in 2006. The annual poverty threshold or the minimum amount needed by each person in 2006 to be able to buy his basic needs for food, clothing and shelter was estimated at P14,225.00 per annum.

Employment

Employment rate as of July 2008 was estimated at 95.2 percent, which is translated to a total of 1.548 million employed persons. Unemployment rate was recorded at 4.8 percent, while underemployment rate was estimated at 26.6 percent, an improvement of about 0.4 percentage points from the previous year's figure.

Inflation

A double-digit average inflation rate of 11.6 percent was recorded in 2008, reflecting an increase of 8.2 percentage points from last year's estimate of 3.4 percent. Monthly inflation rate in 2008 was at an increasing trend from 6.3% in January, and was at its peak of 18.9% in June, then slowed down to 10% by the end of the year.

B. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Family Health and Immunization

Under family health and immunization, there was an improvement in the percentage of pregnant women or mothers who were given immunization, from 58.0 percent in 2007 to 60.35 percent in 2008. However, the 2008 figure remained low as it was way below the annual target of 80 percent coverage for fully immunized mothers. For immunization of children (Fully-Immunized Children), the coverage improved from 77.52 percent in 2007 to 79.74 percent in 2008 which has been perceived to have contributed to the improvement in the incidence of infant mortality. The figure on FIC, however, is far below the regional target of 95 percent coverage for immunization of children; hence, the region has to exert more effort to be able to achieve the annual regional target as specified in the updated plan.

Infant Mortality Ratio

The infant mortality rate (IMR) or the number of children who died below one year old slightly improved as the incidence decreased from 4.85 in 2007 to 4.61 for every 1,000 live births in 2008. The increase in the coverage of immunization of children was perceived to have contributed to this improvement.

Maternal Mortality Ratio

There was a slight increase, however, in the number of women who died due to pregnancy or childbirth (maternal mortality rate), from 67.19 in 2007 to 67.92 for every 100,000 live births in 2008. Similar to the previous years, post-partum hemorrhage remained as the leading cause of maternal deaths in 2008.

Water and Sanitation

The proportion of households with access to safe water has improved, from 85.43 percent in 2007 to 86.99 percent in 2008, posting an increase of 1.56 percentage points. However, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of households with sanitary toilets, from 75.76 percent in 2007 to 74.17 percent in 2008. The accomplishment remained low as it was way below the regional annual target of having 91 percent of households with access to sanitary toilets up to 2010.

Participation Rate

For School Year 2007-2008, participation rate in both elementary and secondary schools are quite low. About 72.99 percent of school age children were enrolled in elementary schools and only 39.86 percent were enrolled in secondary schools.

Cohort Survival Rate

Of the total school children who enrolled five years ago, only 51.69 percent were able to reach sixth grade, while in the secondary level, only 56.98 percent have reached the fourth year level as of SY 2007-2008.

C. ECONOMY

Economy

The economy of Region XII slightly expanded as it grew from 6.6% in 2006 to 6.7% in 2007. The impressive performance of the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry (AFF) sector was offset by the decelerated growths posted by the industry and services sectors.

The AFF, the biggest contributor of the region's economy at about 42%, expanded from 6.4% to 7.9%. Higher agricultural and fishery production complemented by good weather and government's agricultural programs buoyed up the sector's favorable performance.

GRDP Growth Rate, 2006 – 2007

In Percent, at constant prices

	2005-2006	2006-2007
GRDP	6.6	6.7
AFF	6.4	7.9
Industry	8.1	7.1
Services	5.1	4.6

Source: NSCB

The industry sector which accounted for 31.4% of the regional economy, decelerated from 8.1% to 7.1%. The decline is due to the slower growth in manufacturing despite gains posted by other sub-sectors such as construction, mining and quarrying and electricity and water.

The services, which comprised 26.6% of the total economic output, slipped down to 4.6% from 5.1% in 2006. Trade and government services inched up while all other subsectors such as transportation, communication and storage (TCS); finance; private services; and ODRE posted decelerated growths.

The cities of Cotabato and General Santos serve as the region's major financial, business, institutional, education and service centers.

Major Crops

The major crops in the region are as follows: Rice, Corn, Coconut, Pineapple, Oil Palm, Coffee, Sugarcane, Banana, Rubber, Asparagus and Mango.

Investments and Exports

The total value of investments generated in the first semester of 2008 amounted to P3.288 Billion, or 63 percent higher than last year's record of P2.015 Billion.

The total export earnings of the region in the third quarter of 2008 was US\$136.433 Million. It grew by 22 percent compared with last year's earnings of US\$111.781 Million.

The major exports of the region are: Fresh/Canned/Frozen tuna, Other fish products, Fresh/Canned pineapples, Frozen octopus/shrimps, Fresh bananas, Coconut/Crude/ Cochin-type coconut oil, Copra pellets, Cutflowers, Asparagus and Okra, Abaca pulp, Garments, Aquaculture products, Banana Chips, Steel scrap, Gifts and Houseware products.

Tourism

Tourist arrivals in the region during the first semester of 2008 reached 293,937 visitors. This figure however, is about 8.0 percent lower than the total visitors in the first semester of last year.

D. INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Region XII is endowed with rich natural resources and has the potential of becoming one of the fastest growing regional economies in the country. The provinces of South Cotabato, Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat, as well as, General Santos City were provided with modern infrastructure support under SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project. The province of North Cotabato and neighboring provinces are recipients of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project. All these initiatives were meant to support agricultural activities in the region as a major food supplier to domestic and export markets.

Transportation

The region has a relatively well-developed transportation system, which is critical in strengthening its ties with other economic growth centers in other parts of the country and the world. It is served by an international airport located in General Santos City and a trunk line airport in Awang, Maguindanao in the ARMM.

The port of General Santos City is the biggest seaport of the region. It is categorized as port of entry and caters to large inter-island vessels for passengers and cargo. It also accommodates international vessels from Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia. The region has one sub-port located in Cotabato City and 2 municipal ports located in Kalamansig and Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat Province.

Communication

Aside from the transportation network, the region is linked with the rest of the world through modern telecommunications facilities. Major private telephone carriers are serving the region, such as the PLDT, Bayantel, Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular, among others. Cellular sites, as well as, Internet service providers, are generally present in urban centers of the region. However, it is recognized that these services should also reach the rural areas for increased accessibility to centers of economic growth.

E. PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

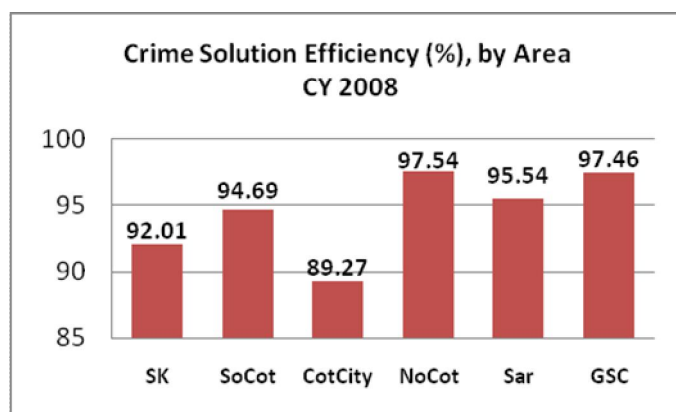
Peace and Security scenario

Total crime volume recorded in 2008 by the Philippine National Police Regional Office XII was 2,008 cases, 1,901 of which were solved marking a crime solution efficiency of 94.67%. By area, North Cotabato province had the highest record of crime volume followed by Sultan Kudarat province.

In terms of crime solution however, North Cotabato province topped the record with 97.54% crime solution efficiency, followed by General Santos City at 97.46% and Sarangani Province at 95.54%.

Of the total crime volume, 1,273 cases were index crime and 723 cases were non-index crime. Among the index crimes the highest number of cases was reported for physical injury followed by murder cases.

Source of data: PNP



Conflict-Affected Areas

The conflict-affected areas in Region XII as identified by OPAPP, include Cotabato City and the four provinces namely: North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, covering 31 municipalities with 767 barangays. The identification of these areas was based on the barangay census conducted in year 2000, pursuant to the implementation of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace signed on 22 June 2001.

The population in the conflict-affected areas of Region XII is about 79 percent of the total population of the region. Economic activity in these areas is predominantly agriculture-based and is the major producer of rice, corn and high value crops such as banana, mango, coconut, pineapple and rubber. Fishery production is also one of the major economic activities of the people in the conflict-affected area.

Likewise, employment is being dominated by agriculture and fishery having employed more than half of the labor force.

Conflict-Affected Areas in Region XI

Area	Total Number		Conflict-Affected Areas	
	Municipalities	Barangays	Municipalities	Barangays
North Cotabato	17	543	13	404
Sarangani	7	140	5	97
South Cotabato	10	225	2	38
Sultan Kudarat	11	249	11	228
Cotabato City	-	37	-	Counted under ARMM
REGION XII	45	1,194	31	767

Source of basic data: OPAPP

During the third quarter of 2008 most parts of the region were affected by MILF hostilities. Nevertheless, before the year ended, the region was relatively peaceful, following the Government's response through its peace negotiators, law enforcers and community involvement.

Peace and Development Communities

The Action for Conflict Transformation (ACT) for Peace Programme, the fourth and final phase of the Government of the Philippines – United Nations Multi-Donor Programme (GoP-UNMDP) identified Peace and Development Communities (PDCs) to facilitate efficient delivery of assistance and services to the community. The program follows a community development framework anchored on a six-stage evolution process. Conceptualized as a ladder of progression, each stage builds on the achievements of the previous one. The PDC Development Framework is likewise used to assess and measure the PDC's progress or lack of it.

Below are descriptions of each stage.

Stage 1: Early Stage. PDCs have awareness of its conflict and human security issues and concerns, and developing a sense/perspective for peace.

Stage 2: Emerging Stage. PDCs have relevant social structures and are able to practice participatory processes to collectively address its peace and human security needs and concerns.

Stage 3: Developing Stage. PDCs have capacities to plan, and act upon their priority peace and human security requirements.

Stage 4: Implementing Stage. PDCs are able to optimize local and outside resources for, and are implementing their priority peace and human security programs and projects.

Stage 5: Adapting Stage. PDCs are able to negotiate their rights to peace, and adopt practices that promote self-reliance and honest governance in communities.

Stage 6: Expanding Stage. PDCs are able to comply with service delivery standards, share their best practices with other communities, and are involved in larger peacebuilding activities.

Region XII has a total of 85 PDCs with North Cotabato, 24; Sultan Kudarat, 21 ; Sarangani, 18; South Cotabato, 16; and Cotabato City, 6.

For the progress of development in the region, most of the PDCs were in the advance stage or at Developing Stage up to Expanding Stage. One PDC in Cotabato City (specifically in Barangay Tamontaka 5) was already at its Expanding Stage as of December 2008 as shown in the table below.

Area	No. of PDCs	Stages of Development as of December 2008
North Cotabato	24	Stage 3 --- 6 PDCs Stage 4 --- 15 PDCs Stage 5 --- 3 PDCs
Sultan Kudarat	21	Stage 3 --- 5 PDCs Stage 4 --- 8 PDCs Stage 5 --- 8 PDCs
Sarangani	18	Stage 3 --- 4 PDCs Stage 4 --- 8 PDCs Stage 5 --- 6 PDCs
South Cotabato	16	Stage 4 --- 15 PDCs Stage 5 --- 1 PDC
Cotabato City	6	Stage 4 --- 1 PDC Stage 5 --- 4 PDCs Stage 6 --- 1 PDC
REGION XII	85	Stage 3 --- 15 PDCs Stage 4 --- 47 PDCs Stage 5 --- 22 PDCs Stage 6 --- 1 PDC

Source: Act for Peace Programme