

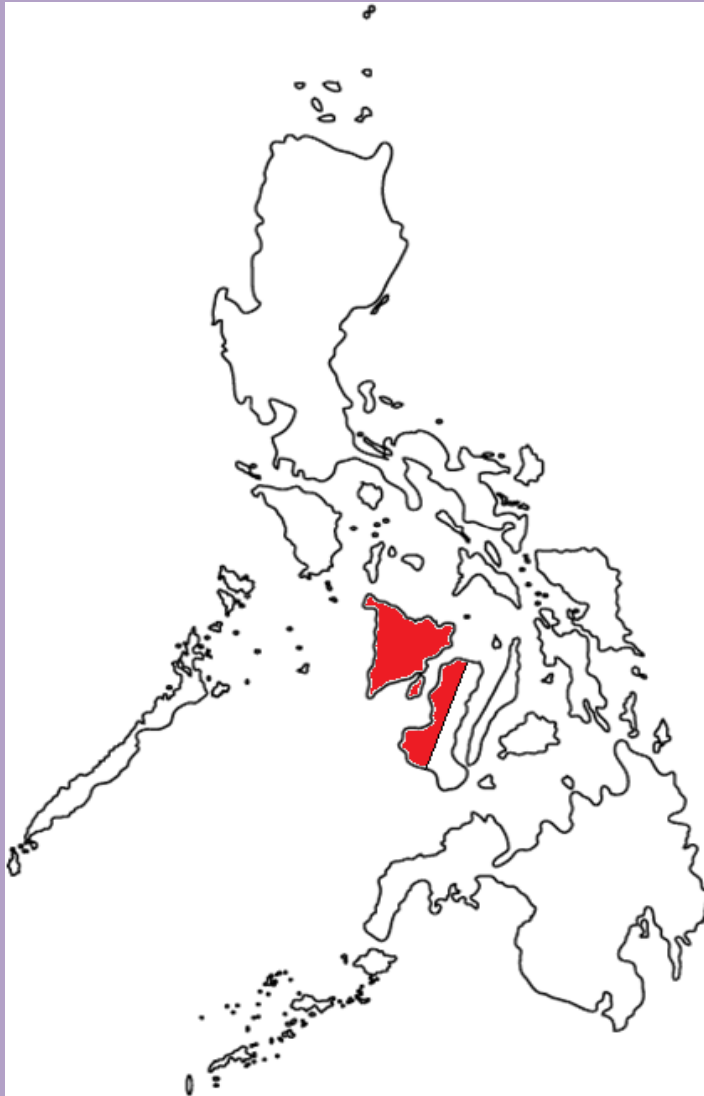
FY2009 Women Leader Empowerment Seminar in
Asia Pacific Region

Country Report
PHILIPPINES

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Country Overview

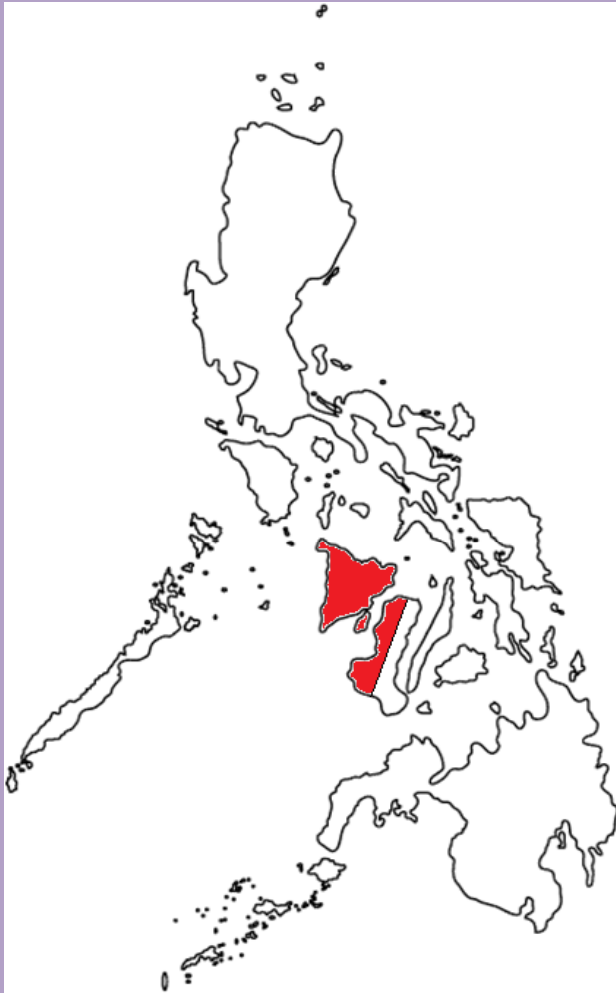


Philippine population:
88,574,614 persons
as of August 1, 2007
sex ratio of 101.4
for every 100 females
there were 101 males

Region VI (Western Visayas)
as of August 2007 6.8 million
as of the year 2000:
Females: 773, 007
Males: 786,175

Source: National Statistics Office

Country Overview



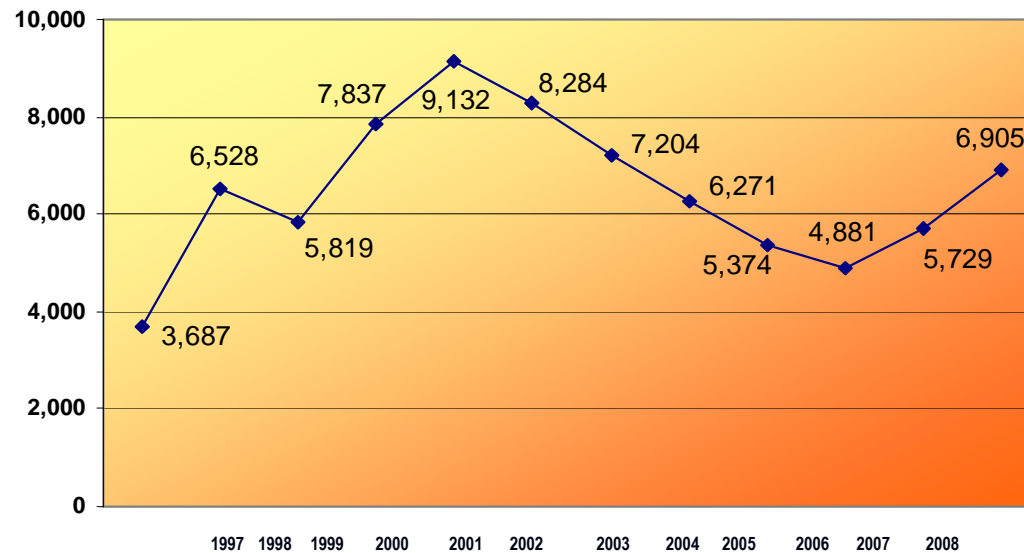
- Approx 12M of the 33 M employed Filipinos are women
- Girls are faring better in terms of enrolment and completion rates compared to boys
- Women legislators in Senate is at 10%, in the Lower House of Congress- 21%
- Dismal participation of women in judiciary
- Women dominate the bureaucracy especially the technical or second level positions

National Situation of VAW

- In 2008 the number of VAW cases reported to the police rose by 21 percent from the 2007 report. The increase caused the trend to go upward after a six-year downward trend from 2001 to 2006.
- For the past twelve years since 1997, the trend peaked at a record high of 9,132 VAW cases in 2001.

National Situation on VAW

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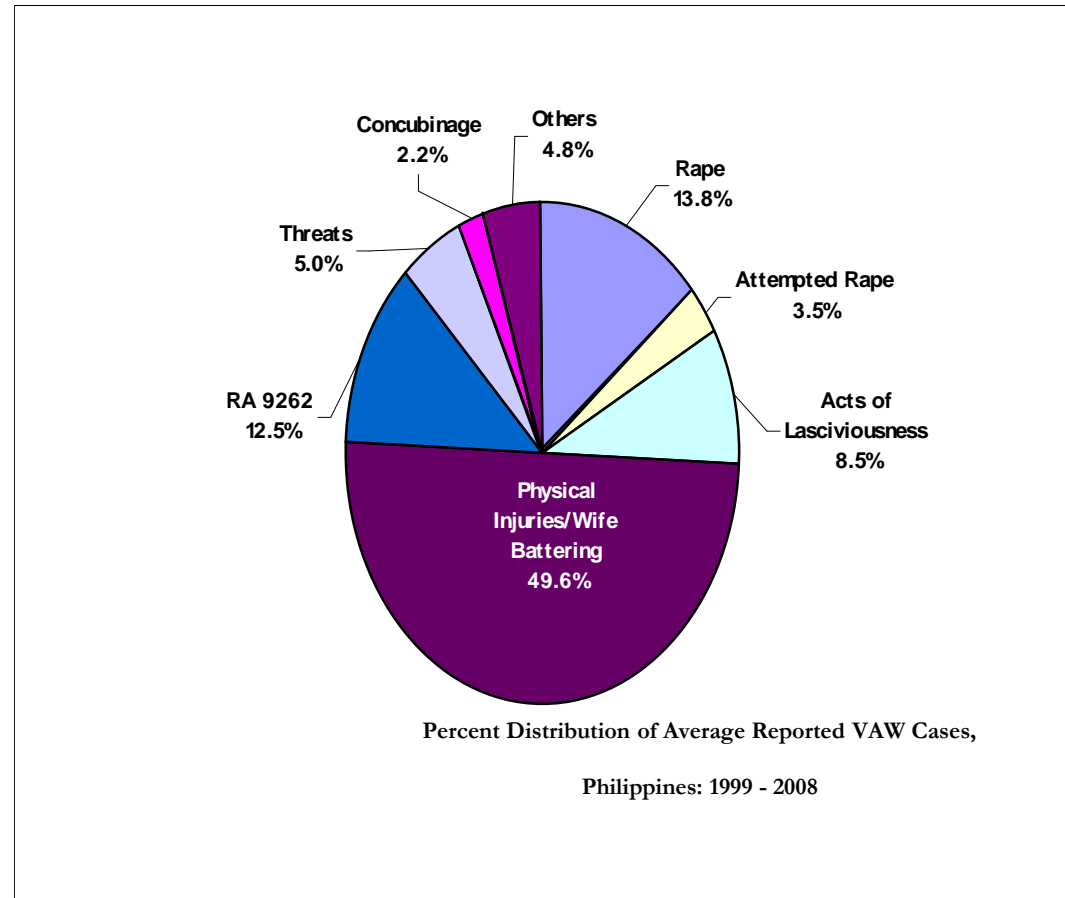


Number of VAW Cases Reported to the Philippine National Police:

1997-2008

National Situation on VAW

- Physical injuries and/or wife battering remains to be the most prevalent case of VAW



National Situation of VAW

Top Cases within a 12-year period (1997-2008):

1. Physical injuries and/or wife battering (49.6%)
...decreasing in 2001-2006
2. Rape cases reported (13.8%)
...downward trend in 1999-2008
3. Violation of RA 9262 (12.5 %)*
**5-year data only*
4. Acts of lasciviousness (8.5%)
... downward trend in 1999-2006

Region VI Situation of VAW

STATISTICS ON ABUSED CASES AGAINST WOMEN

Referred to/Handled by Reporting Police Regional Office VI

Period Covered: January to July 2009

	Total Abuse Cases	Abuse Cases Solved	Abuse Cases Unsolved	Abuse Cases Cleared
TOTAL	681	519	162	590

TOP 3 cases:

- 1.RA 9262: 407 cases
- 2.Physical Injuries: 96 cases
- 3.Rape: 36 cases

International Commitments

- **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**
- **Beijing Platform for Action (BPA)**
 - calls on governments to eliminate VAW by adapting strategies that should start with the institutionalization of a gender perspective in all policies and programs to ensure that decisions made had considered their effects on men and women

Legal Framework

“ The State recognized the role women in nation building and shall ensures the fundamental equality before the law of women and men”

-Article II, Section 14 ,1987 Philippine Constitution

Legal Framework and Government Policy on VAW

- **Republic Act No. 7877 , "Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995.**
- **Republic Act No. 8353 , "Anti-Rape Law of 1997."**
- **Republic Act No. 8369 , "Family Courts Act of 1997"**
- **RA No. 8505 , "Rape Victims Assistance and Protection Act of 1998"**
- **Republic Act No. 9208 , "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003."**
- **Republic Act No. 9262 , "Anti-Violence Against Women and their children (VAWC) Act of 2004."**
- **RA 9710 , Magna Carta of Women of 2009**

National Mechanisms to address VAW

- Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC)
 - Composed of 12 national government agencies
- Inter-agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)
 - Composed of 8 national government agencies and 3 representatives from non-government agencies representing women, children and OFW sectors

Other mechanisms/strategies to promote VAW responsiveness

- Gender Justice Awards
- VAW Responsive LGUs Awards
- 18-Day Campaign Against VAW

Examples of Government Interventions/Mechanisms at the Local Level

Formation of the following:

- Inter-Agency Committee Against Trafficking (IACAT): National, Regional, Provincial levels
- Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC)
- “*Bantay Abuso*” (Iloilo)

Philippine National Police (PNP)

Region VI: Women and Children’s Protection Desks

Area	Desk/Office	Personnel *all are women
Regional Office	1	6
Iloilo City	1	7
Iloilo Province	44	70
Antique Province	19	31
Aklan Province	19	37
Capiz Province	18	29
Guimaras Province	6	9
Bacolod City	1	11
Negros Occidental	33	54
Total	142	254

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Examples of Government Interventions/Mechanisms

Dept of Social Welfare and Devpt. (DSWD) Regional:

- 1 Regional Haven for Women, 1 Home for Girls , Counseling services

Department of Health (DOH) Regional: Women's Desk for VAWC cases

Iloilo Provincial Women's and Children's Protection Center:

Dialogues and baranggay monitoring, Disciplinary actions for perpetrators

Municipality of Pavia Women's Desk :

Videoke bars and internet café monitoring inspections, recording of and assistance in filing of cases, disciplinary action for perpetrators, emergency care

Examples of Government Interventions/Mechanisms

Antique Province:

- Violence Against Women and Children Task Force
- Temporary Center for the Protection and Development of Women and Children
- Center for the Development and Protection of Victims of Violence Against women and Children (VAWC)
- Financial, Medical and legal Assistance to Women and Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances
- male law enforcers are sensitized to women's needs; police women are made available in every municipality to address women's needs
- Reporting system on VAWC strengthened

Examples of Government Interventions/Mechanisms

- Training of VAW paralegal volunteers to assist in counseling VAWC victims
- Legal, social and health programs responsive to the needs of women and children
- Separate detention cell for men and women
- Establishment and operationalization of Permanent Center for the Protection and Development of Women
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Examples of Civil Society Intervention

- Assistance of private individuals, religious and other organizations and institutions.
- Chameleon Association: A French-Filipino association which protects and rehabilitates girls in difficult circumstances
- SM Foundation and Zonta Club International: Infrastructure for women and children's desk
- Visayan Forum: Provides assistance to victims of trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse, Provides support to household helpers/kasambahays who are prone to be abused (physical, sexual), "Halfway House", Anti-trafficking watch

Best Practices to Eradicate VAW

- Issuance of Protocols, Standards and Guidelines
 - Performance Standards and Assessment Tools for Services Addressing VAW in the Philippines
 - Manual on Law Enforcement and Trafficking in Persons Case
 - Guidelines in the Establishment and Management of a Referral System on VAW at the LGU level

Best Practices to Eradicate VAW

- Establishment of Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE)
 - a network of men who pledged never to never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women. ...
- Women's Safety Module in the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)

Best Practices to Eradicate VAW

Collaborative efforts:

- PNP: coordination with DSWD (for temporary shelter, for legal fees of victims to be waived) and the Visayan Forum Foundation
- Inter-agency activities:
 - ❖ Fora, Symposia, Round Table Discussion and 18-day campaign on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (Nov 25 – Dec 12)
 - ❖ Women's Month advocacy activities
 - ❖ Training using Rights-Based Approach (Based on Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women - CEDAW); Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Human Rights, etc.
 - ❖ Information Dissemination
 - ❖ Film showing

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Major Challenges/Obstacles in the Eradication of VAW

- Legal, social and cultural factors impede the women's access to justice and social services
- At the local level, there is a need to establish an integrated, multidisciplinary approach and standard procedures of work with VAW victims
- MOVE Philippines members need to continuously build their capacities in the provision of technical assistance
- Need to have a harmonized system of documenting VAW cases

Major Obstacles to Eradicate VAW

- Indecision/withdrawal of victims in filing cases
- Financial difficulties/economic dependence
- Long and tedious legal system process/settlement of cases and half hearted help from lawyers offering free legal assistance
- Limited number of temporary shelters
- Insufficient/lack of provision of community-based (psychosocial/economic) support systems in local government units for both victims and perpetrators
- “*Ningas Cogon*” system
- Insufficient social services

Conclusions/Recommendations

- Sustain advocacy on VAW
- Setting up of functional VAW Referral Systems
- Capacity development of MOVE members
- Institutionalization of a National VAW Documentation System
- Forging of partnerships between government and non-government stakeholders

Conclusion/Policy Recommendations

- Gender and Development (GAD) Budget must be utilized. A VAWC budget must be allocated in local government units for full implementation of programs to eradicate violence - DSWD
- Implement support services like livelihood to families below the poverty line - DSWD
- In local government units, the Municipal Social Welfare Development Officer should be the GAD focal person instead of the Human Resource Officer whose term is co-terminus with the government official for continuous programs – DSWD

Some Recommendations

- Full implementation of national referral system.
Generation of database and conduct of research.-
DSWD
- Introduce rights education in the academe as a preventive measure - DSWD
- Assigning of women prosecutors to handle VAWC cases – PNP
- Conduct of Gender Sensitivity Trainings and seminars to prosecutors – PNP



Network of Interventions to Gender-based Violence