

WEBINAR SERIES 1/2024
Improving Food Environments in Southeast Asia Countries:
Where Are We Heading?

25 September 2024 | Zoom Online Platform

# The Philippine Food Environment: A Closer Look *Trends, Gaps, and Opportunities for Healthier Choices*

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## **The Philippine Food Environment**

Overview

Trends and Gaps

**Policies** 



### **Overview: The Philippine Food Environment (PFE)**



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#### **Overview: What is the Food Environment?**

"The complex physical, economic, social, and cultural factors that influence people's food choices and dietary patterns."



Swinburn, B. A., Kraak, V. I., Allender, S., et al. (2019)

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#### **Overview: What is the Food Environment?**



#### **OVERVIEW: FROM TRADITIONAL TO MODERN** Traditional [ Modern Malay & Indonesian Negritos American Spanish Chinese Rich culinary heritage, • Influence of Western emphasis on rice, fast food and processed fresh produce, and options, especially in seafood urban areas 7



#### **Philippine Food Environment: PHYSICAL FACTOR**

- 1. Traditional Markets & Grocery Stores
  - 2. Food Vendors & Eateries
  - 3. Specialized Food Sources
  - 4. Modern Food Delivery Services
- 5. Other Food Sources

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### **Philippine Food Environment: PHYSICAL FACTOR**

1. Traditional Markets & Grocery Stores

Palengkes (Wet Markets)

Supermarkets & Grocery Stores

Convenient Stores













A. Modern Food Delivery Services

Food Delivery Apps

Online Grocery Stores

Foodpanda

Online Grocery Stores

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## **Philippine Food Environment: PHYSICAL FACTOR**

Home Vegetables Gardens



#### 5. Other Food Sources

Community-Supported Agriculture



Food Banks and Community **Kitchens** 



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## **TOP 20 COMMONLY CONSUMED FOOD PRODUCTS AMONG FILIPINO HOUSEHOLD**

1. RICE

11. PORK MEAT

2. SALT

12. VINEGAR

3. COOKING OIL

13. VETSIN

4. COFFEE

14. INSTANT NOODLES

5. SUGAR

15. CHICKEN

6. BREAD

16. BISCUITS

7. ONION

17. TOMATOES

8. GARLIC

18. EGGPLANT

9. EGG, CHICKEN

19. POWDERED MILK

10. SOY SAUCE

20. BANANA

SOURCE: 2013 FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY BY THE FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE F THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHONOLOGY (FNRI-DOST)

# Prevalence of Malnutrition by Life Stages: Philippines, 2015, 2018-2019, 2021



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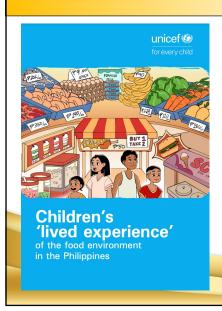
#### **Philippine Food Environment: TRENDS and GAPS**

TREND	GAPS
Rising Consumption of Processed and Ultra-Processed Foods	<ul> <li>Limited Access to Affordable and Nutritious</li> <li>Foods</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Growing Popularity of Food Delivery (Online) Services</li> </ul>	Widespread Marketing and Promotion of     Processed & Fast-Food
Government Initiatives to Promote     Healthy Food Environments	<ul> <li>Availability of Credible Philippine Nutrition</li> <li>Education &amp; promotion Platform</li> <li>Lack of Comprehensive Food Environment</li> </ul>
	Policies





#### **TRENDS & GAPS**



- Strengthen and enforce the Milk Code to restrict the marketing of breast milk
- Introduce mandatory legislation to restrict the marketing of unhealthy food to children
- Introduce mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labeling on packaged foods
- Introduce menu labeling on fast-food chains to indicate nutritional content of dishes
- Engage and support carinderias and street vendors to sell healthier food

#### **TRENDS & GAPS**



- While school-based feeding, school gardening, and nutrition education initiatives have been established, evidence of their effectiveness is limited
- Develop policies that help institutionalize integrated school-based interventions & guidelines including monitoring & evaluation

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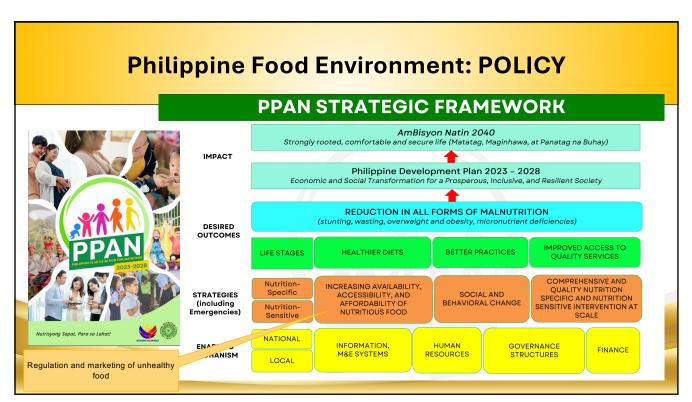
#### **TRENDS & GAPS**



Desk review of school food environment literature, policy and guidelines in the Philippines

Umali, D.J., Itliong, K., Anunciado, M.S., Monville-Oro, E., Gonsalves, J., Hunter, D., Borelli, T., Mendonce, S.

- policies and interventions on school canteen management, the school-based feeding program, food safety, and nutrition education and promotion to promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables by school children
- limited information on food safety aspects such as agrochemical residues in fruits and vegetables, marketing regulations and food prices- all of which have an impact on a child's nutritional status

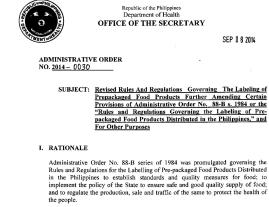


#### Sugar-sweetened beverage tax

- signed into law 19 December 2017
- Taxable products: (i) sweetened juice drinks; (ii) sweetened tea;
   (iii) all carbonated beverages; (iv) flavored water; (v) energy and sports drinks; (vi) powdered drinks not classified as milk, juice, tea or coffee; (v) cereal and grain beverages; and (vi) other non-alcoholic beverages that contain added sugar
- PhP6.00 Philippine pesos/liter for beverages sweetened with caloric or non-caloric sweeteners
- PhP12.00/liter for beverages sweetened with high-fructose corn syrup



#### **Nutrition & Front of Pack Labelling**



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

13 December 2012

FDA Circular
No. 2012-015

Subject: Guidelines on Voluntary Declaration of the Front of Pack Labeling
(Energy or Caloric Content) on the Labels of Processed Food
Products

Front-of-pack (FOP) labeling or sign posting aims to improve renewed interest
and heighten awareness of consumers on energy content of the products. The Food
and Drug Administration shall allow the use of fact-based labeling to provide a simple
and immediate way for consumers to make healtheir food choices. The FOP labeling
shall be based on the following:

1. Format of Energy Declaration on Front-of-Pack or Principal Display Panel:
a. The declaration shall be at the lower right hand portion of the principal
display panel in a cylindrical shaped with a white color background.
b. The border line of the cylindrical shapes and lines and fonts appearing
inside the cylindrical shape shall be legible and the color of which shall
be in good contrast with the background.
2. Presentation of Information inside the Cylindrical Format. The following are
the only information that shall appear inside each of the cylindrical shape:

The attenuant \*Foremuser Colonies\* in the article calor the cylindrical shape:

#### **POLICY (DRAFT) ON THE PROMOTION OF HEALTHY DIET**



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

SUBJECT: National Policy on the Promotion of Healthy Diets

I. RATIONALE

8 Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory 10 disease, diabetes, and cancer remain to be the leading cause of death in the Philippines (PSA, 12 0222). In 2019, 5 million Filipinos were reported to suffer from cardiovascular diseases, 12 while 3 million suffer from the health and lifestyle consequences of diabetes (DOH 32 Epidemiology Bureau, 2019). NCDs cause significant impact in health care costs, as well as 14 social care and welfare support needs for typical Filipino families.

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16 Among the top modifiable risk factors of NCDs is unhealthy diets, characterized by high
17 intake of food high in sodium, sugar, and fat. High intake of such nutrients have been linked
18 to adverse health consequences such as elevated blood pressure, abnormal blood lipid levels,

#### B. Food environment interventions

- environment interventions

  Measures to increase availability, accessibility, and affordability of food necessary for a healthy diet. Food necessary for a healthy diet shall be physically available, easily accessible, and generally affordable to shift consumption away from food high in sodium, sugar, and fat. As such, measures that aim to address this shall be intensified to ensure Filipinos meet recommended energy and nutrient intakes (RENI) and attain healthy diets. Such measures shall include but are not limited to:

  - a. Improved storage facilities and transport infrastructures; and
     b. Increased linkage of farmers and smallholders to community markets.
- Procurement of food using public funds. No public funds shall be utilized to procure food that is not in accordance to set nutritional quality standards, and/or contain high amounts of sodium, sugar, and fat. For this purpose, standards on the procurement, provision, and service of food products in government-administered institutions and government-funded and/or organized activities shall be developed. The standards shall include procurement and service of food during emergencies, food in community-based feeding activities, food in public hospitals and government offices, among others.
- 3. Price and fiscal measures. Novel strategies to influence consumer preference and demand for food necessary for a healthy diet shall be developed. Price and fiscal measures in the form of taxes and subsidies shall be pursued, as applicable. RA No. 10963 or the "TRAIN Law", which imposed taxes on sweetened beverages shall likewise be raised, sustained, and reviewed to account for inflation and per capita income growth.
- 4. Regulations on marketing. Marketing of food high in sodium, sugar, and fat has shown to significantly influence and shape consumer behaviors toward its consumption. As such, regulatory mechanisms to restrict and/or limit the marketing of these foods across all modes, platforms, and settings shall be developed and implemented.

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#### CONCLUSION

#### Key takeaways:

- The Philippine food environment is complex, diverse, and dynamic
- · Addressing food environment gaps requires a multi-faceted approach
- Opportunities exist to promote healthier food choices and improve public health

#### Call to action:

- Encourage collaboration and advocacy for a healthier food environment
- Empower individuals to make informed food choices
- Invest in sustainable food systems and behavior change communication initiatives & research collaboration among SEA members

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#### **MARAMING SALAMAT PO!**



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