

Current Public Health Nutrition Issues and Challenges in the Philippines

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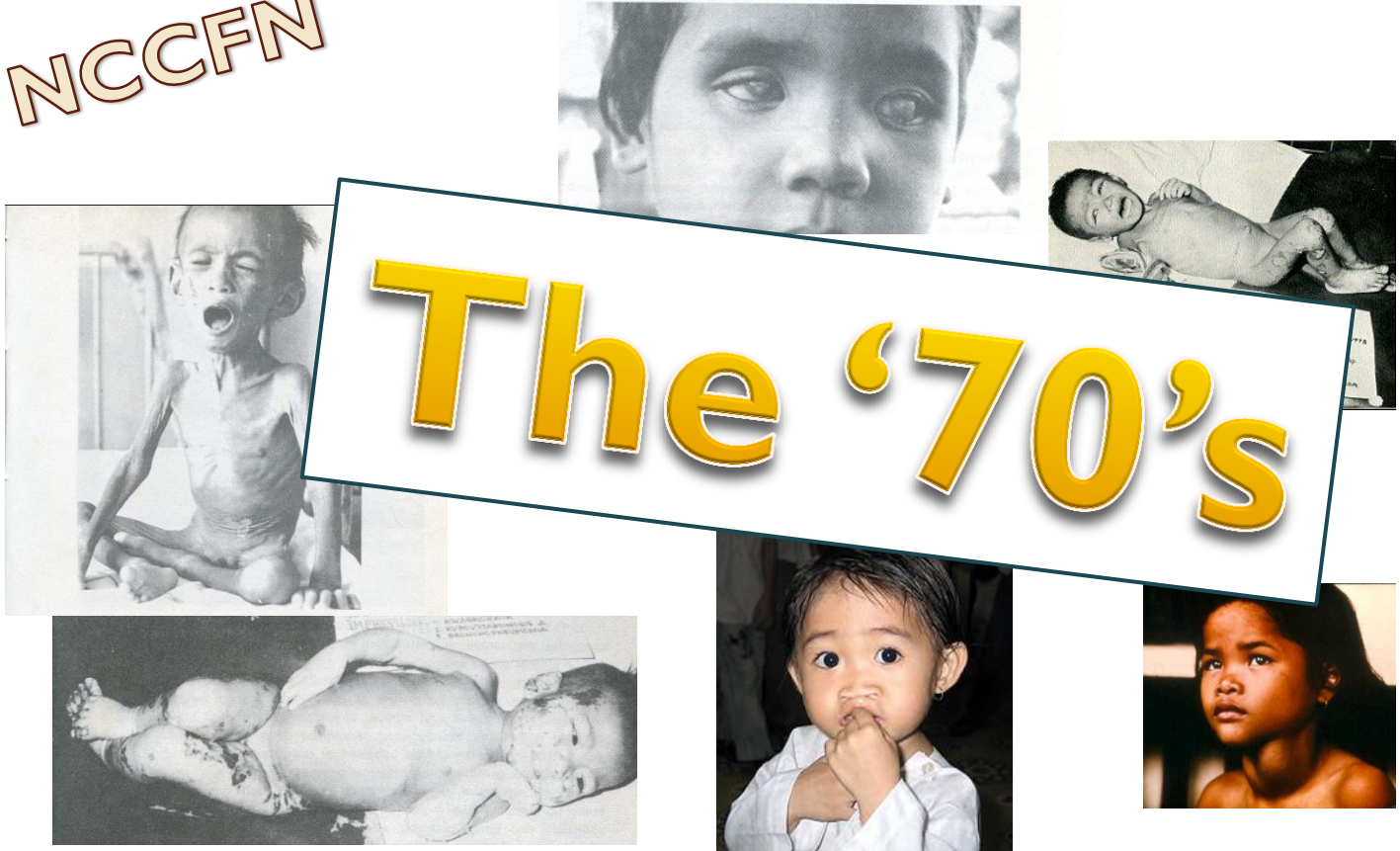
Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.



The beginnings of the PNP

NCCFN

The '70's



The beginnings of the PNP

Nutripak

NUTRIHUTS

The '70's

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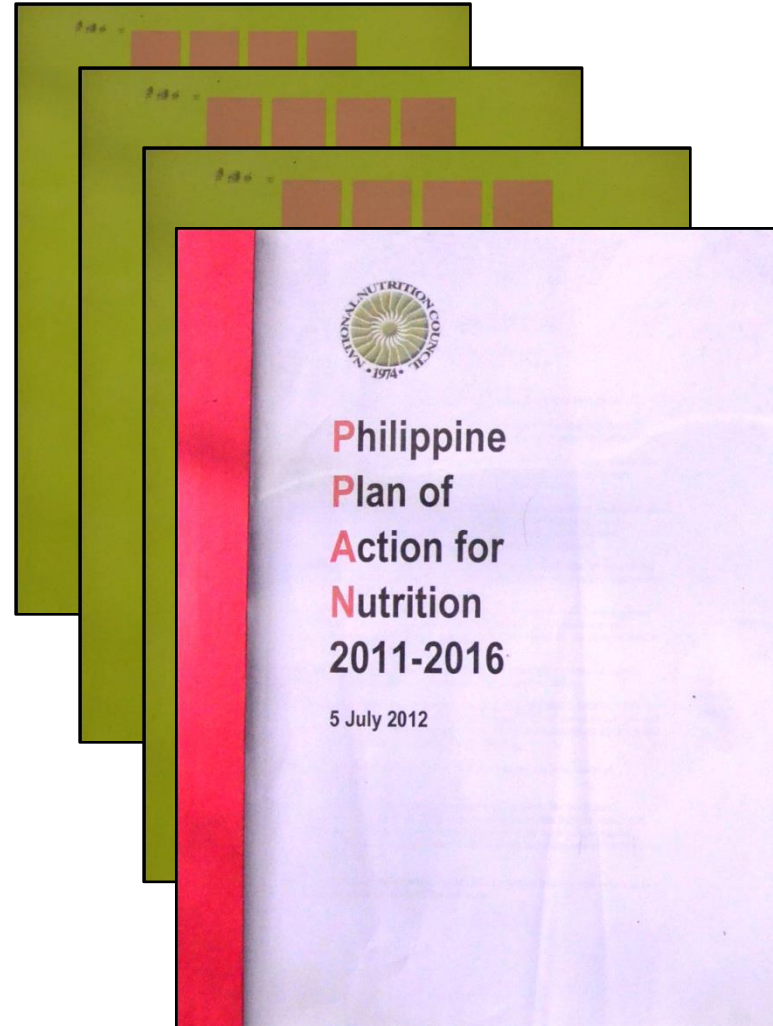
Nutribuns

MALWARDS



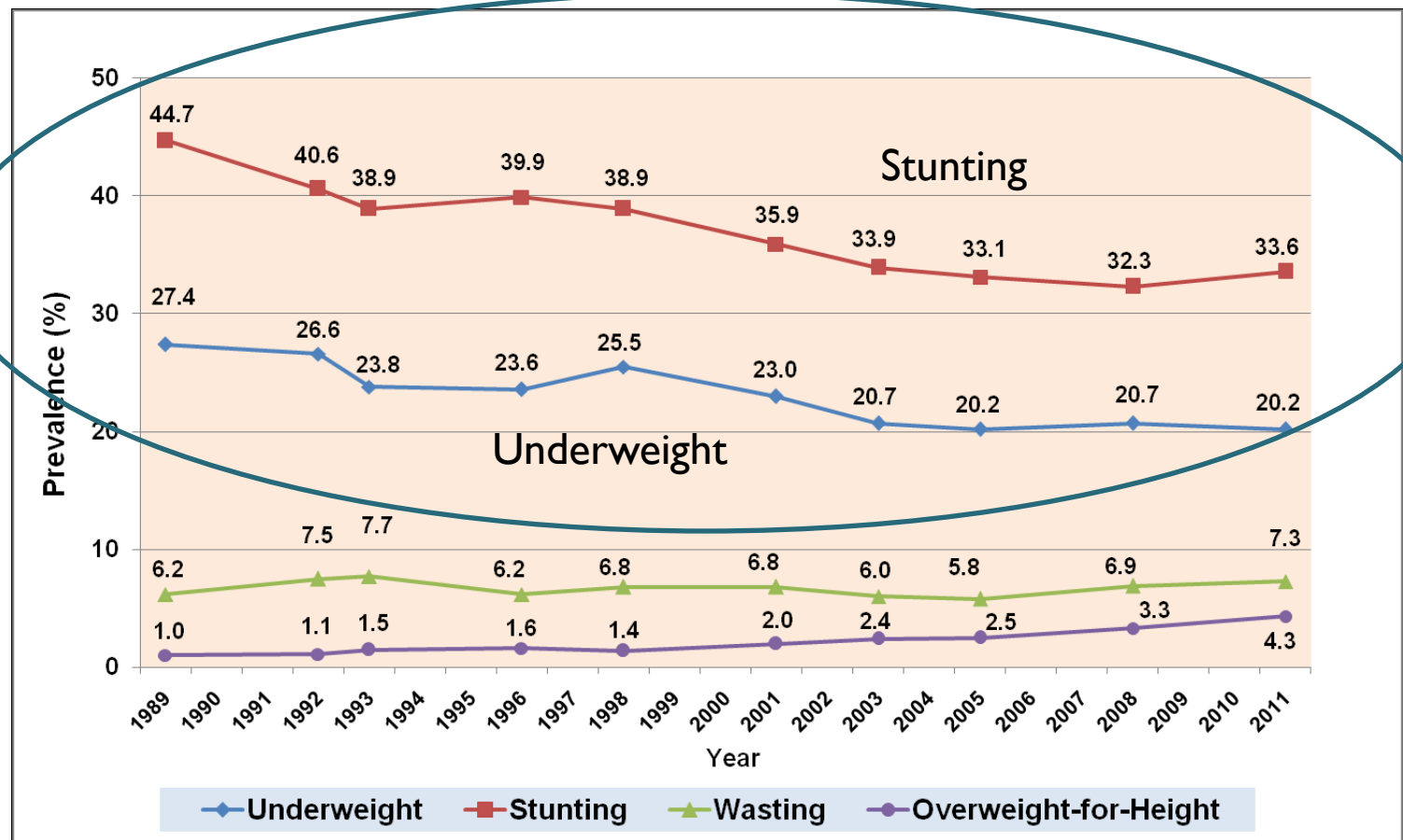
The beginnings of the PNP

NCCFN



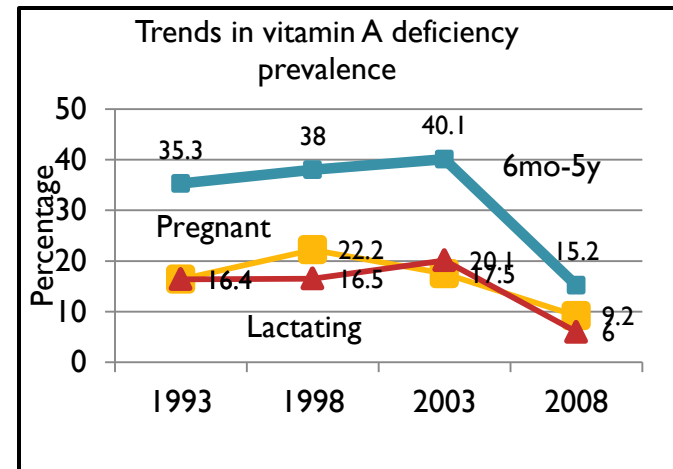
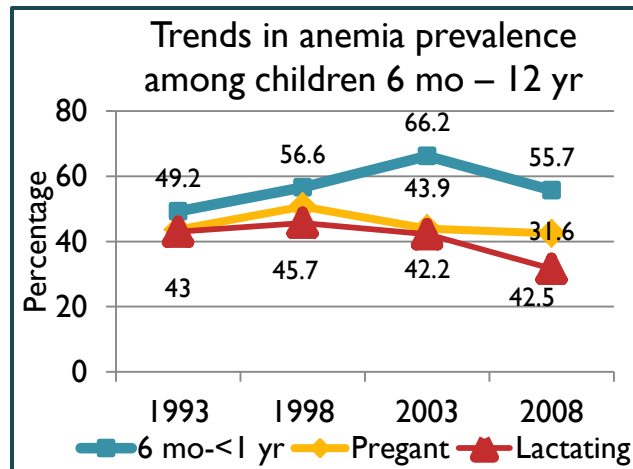
Priority Nutrition Concerns

- Slow decline of malnutrition in the young

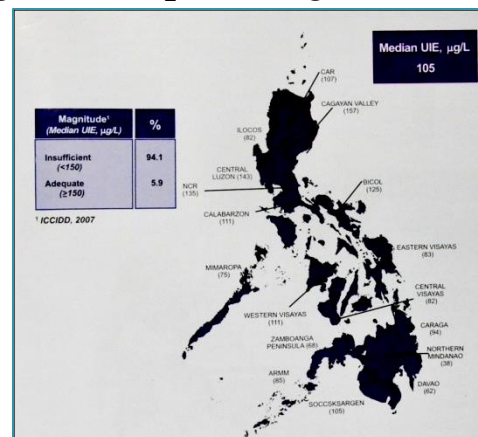


Priority Nutrition Concerns

- High rate of micronutrient deficiencies

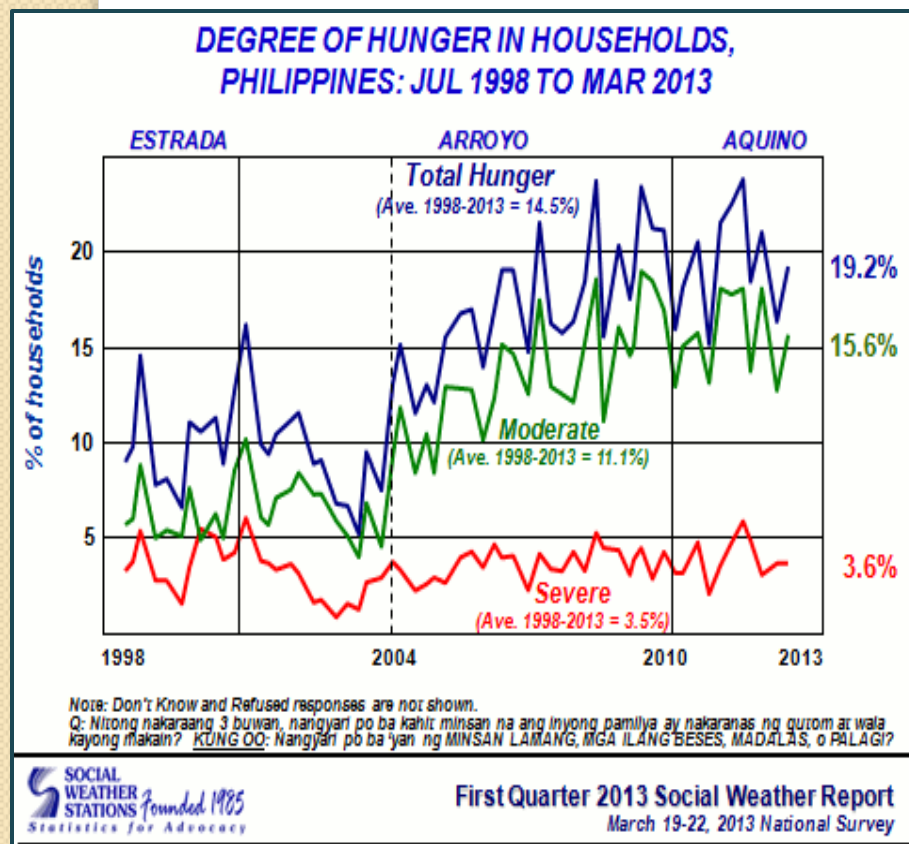


Magnitude of I₂ def., Pregnant women



Priority Nutrition Concerns

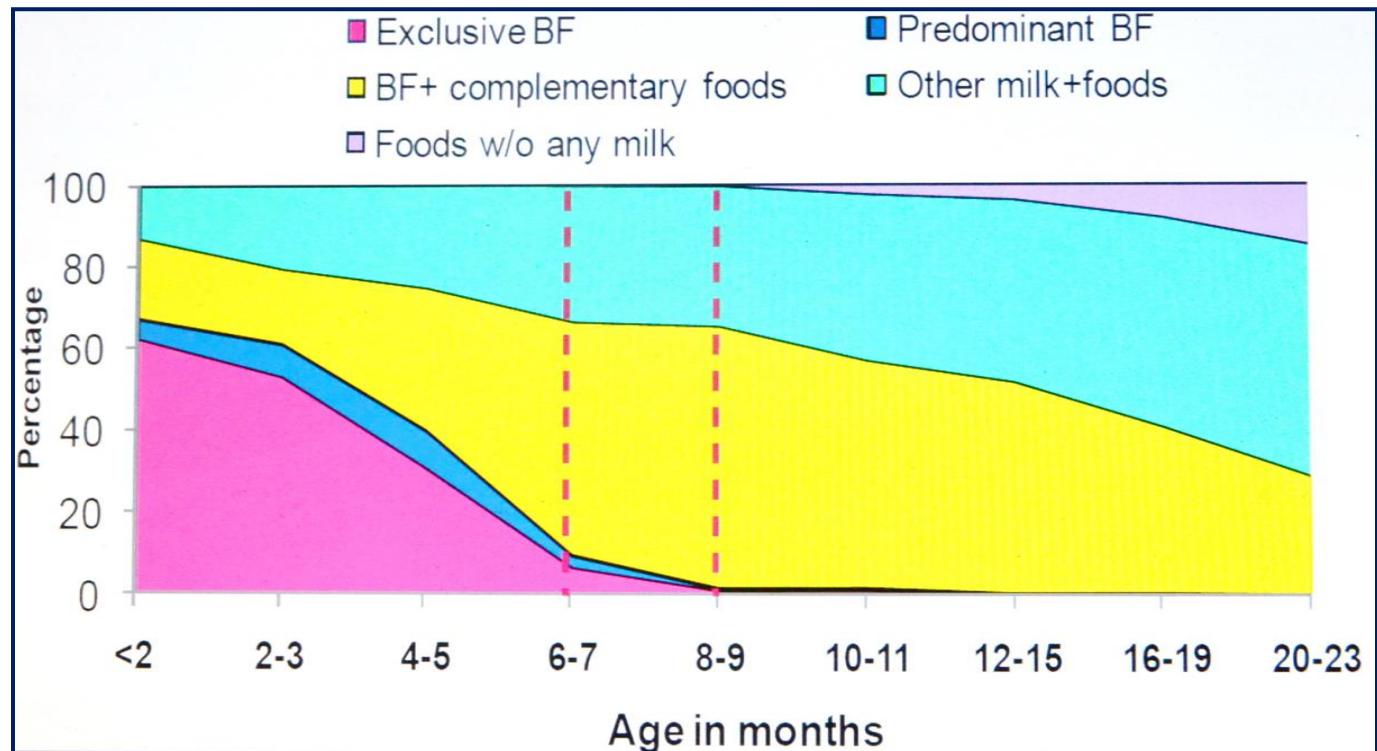
- Hunger and food insecurity
 - WHO – Global Hunger Index, 13.2 (2013)
 - Social Weather Station – Total hunger, 19.2%
 - Food insecurity – 69.3%



Percentage based on Radimer Cornell items	%	Frequency of occurrence (%)	
		Often	Sometimes
Worried that food would run out before HH got money to buy more	67.9	49.3	50.7
That food just food did not last and do not have enough money to get more	54.7	50.0	50.0
The children were not eating enough because HH do not have enough food and cannot afford to buy more	41.0	46.2	53.8
Household could not feed the children nutritionally adequate meals because HH do not have enough food and enough money to buy more	42.3	45.7	54.3
% of experience of at least one of items		69.3	

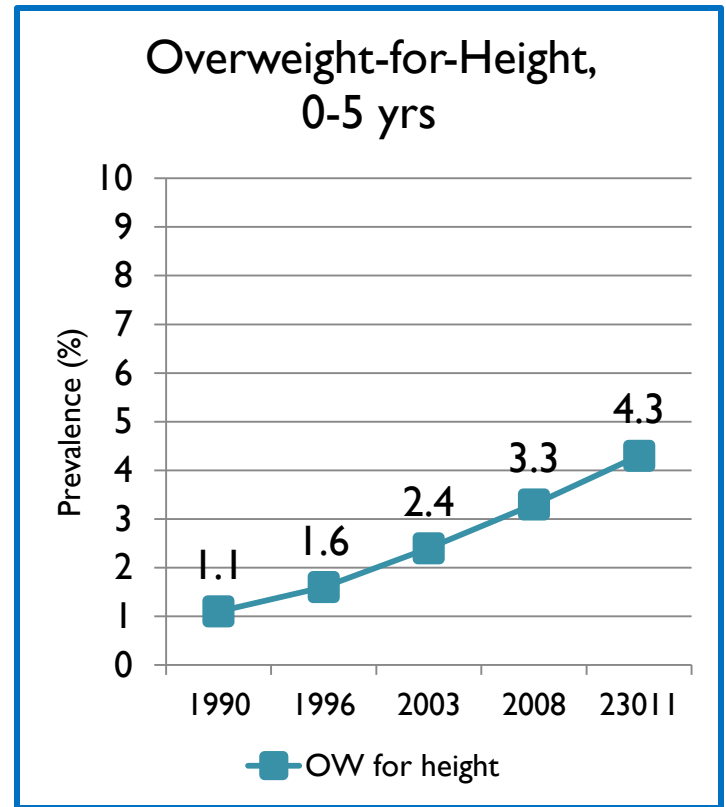
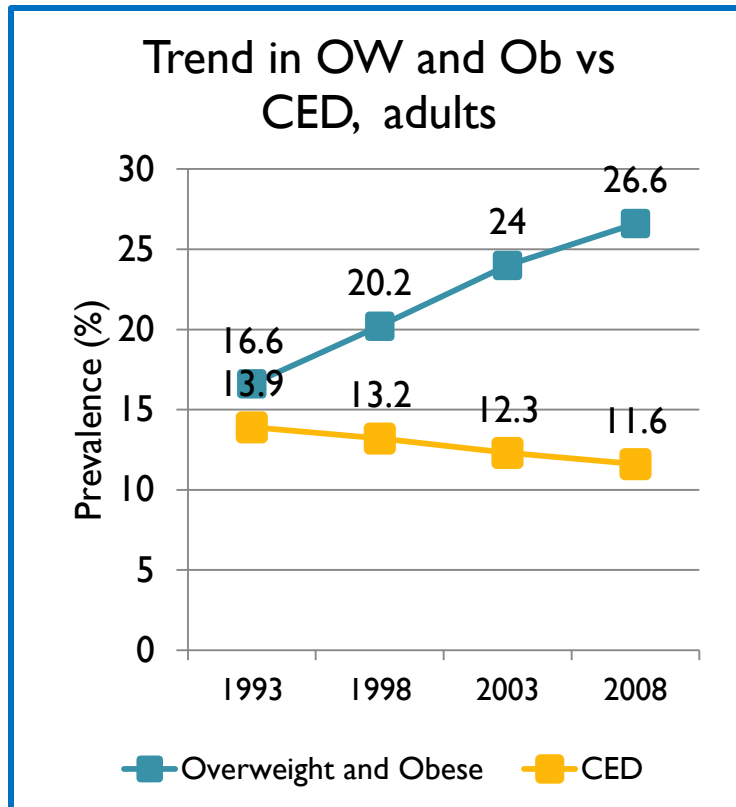
Priority Nutrition Concerns

- Poor health and nutrition support during the first 1000 days of life
 - Low birth weight – 19.5% (2000)
 - Rapid decline of breast feeding



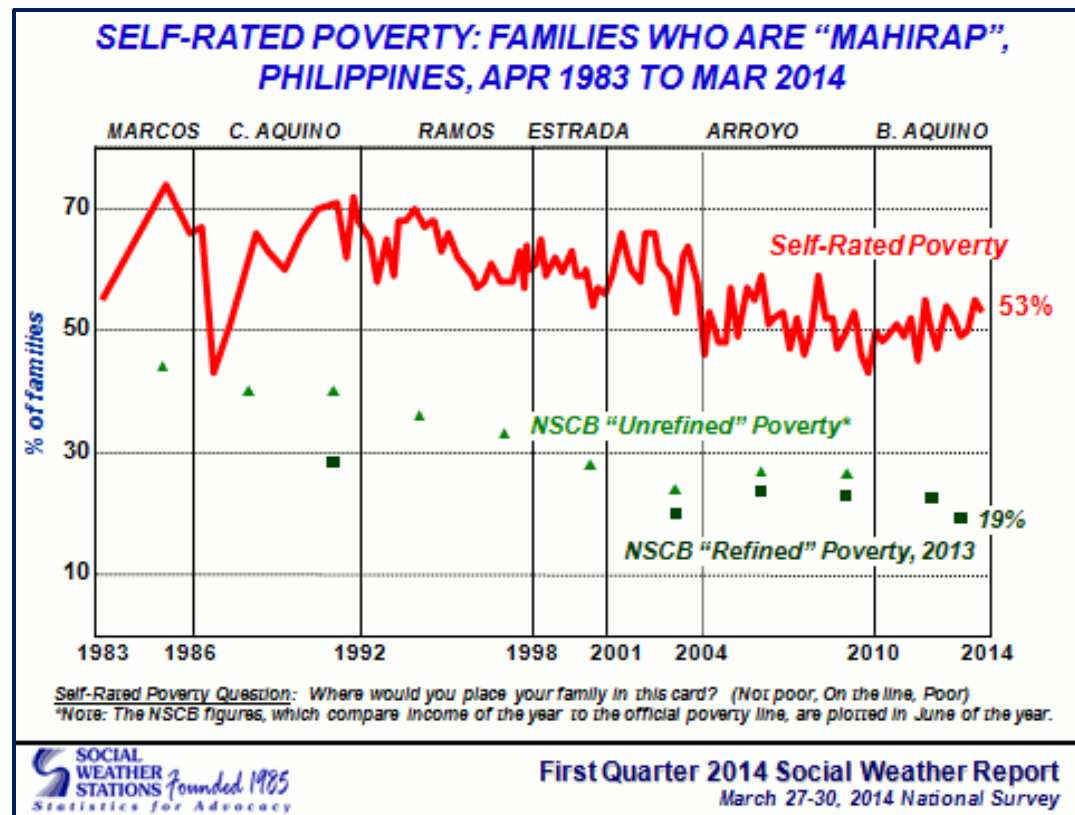
Priority Nutrition Concerns

- Rise of overweight and obesity

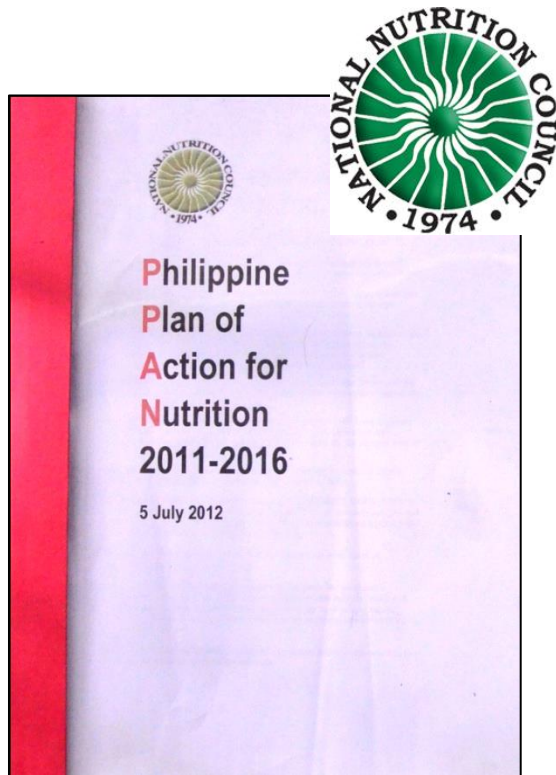


Priority Nutrition Concerns

- Persistently high incidence of poverty....



Government's Response



- Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN)
 - Goals, objectives and targets of reducing hunger, under- and over-nutrition, and micronutrient deficiencies
 - Strategies and specific interventions to reach the targets

Government's Response

- Major strategies
 - Promotion of optimum infant and young child feeding practices
 - ❖ ↑ Exclusive breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding
 - ❖ Home fortification of complementary food
 - ❖ Strengthening the training of health and nutrition workers
 - ❖ Human milk banks and lactation stations

Government's Response

- Major strategies
 - Integration and strengthening of nutrition services in ante-natal and post-natal care including supplementary feeding when needed
 - Increasing consumption of micronutrients
 - ❖ Micronutrient supplementation with vitamin A, iron, iodine, micronutrient powder and food fortification
 - ❖ Home fortification of complementary food

Government's Response

- Major strategies.....
 - Increasing food supply at the community level
 - ❖ Food production policies and programs
 - ❖ Improving economic access to food
 - Promoting a healthy lifestyle anchored to healthy eating and increased physical activity
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - ❖ Operation Timbang
 - ❖ Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance System

Government's Response

- Conditional Cash Transfer Program
 - Cash Grant for identified poor families
 - ❖ Send their children to school
 - ❖ Pregnant mother attends pre- and post-natal care and delivery attended by health professional
 - ❖ Preschool children receives regular preventive health checkups and vaccination
 - Currently operating in all 17 regions and covering almost 4 M registered HH

Nutrition Programs of Related Agencies

- International and bilateral agencies
- NGOs
 - World Vision, Save the Children, PLAN Philippines, Abot Kamay of Children International, etc.)
 - Specific nutrition programs in coordination with national and local governments
- Private sector and industrial establishments

Nutrition Programs of Related Agencies

- Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines



- Capacity building and provision of nutrition and related services in depressed communities,
- Community nutrition and nutrition education and information

Nutrition Programs of Related Agencies

- Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines

Nutrition and Health Kiddie Class

A year-long program of community-based early childhood education program that integrates health, nutrition and early education for preschool children in depressed communities



Challenges to the Nutrition Improvement Program

- Coopting and mobilizing the local chief executives for them to actively lead their respective areas in planning and implementing food and nutrition programs
 - Compounded by frequent change of political leaders

Leadership

Champion

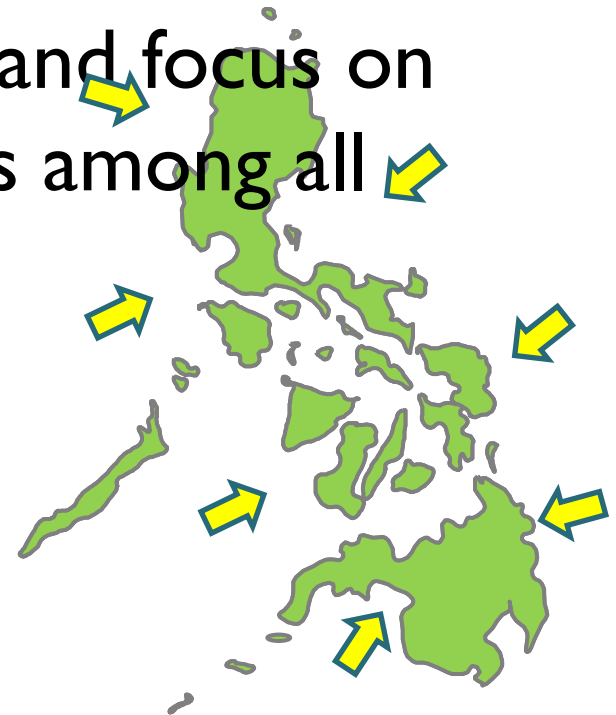
Challenges to the Nutrition Improvement Program

- Raising and increasing financial and technical resources for nutrition program implementation at the local government level
 - Need for support from the national level together with multilateral and private sector agencies



Challenges to the Nutrition Improvement Program

- Reaching geographically remote and inaccessible areas to provide the local governments and their constituents
- Promoting convergence and focus on priority areas and groups among all stakeholders



Challenges to the Nutrition Improvement Program

- Increasing the level of political support to nutrition, including the political will from the national leadership to the *barangays*



Summary and Conclusion

- Since the early '70s,
 - Well-tested as well as innovative interventions at national and local levels
- The nutrition situation has been steadfastly improving over the years, albeit rather slowly.
- Nutrition concerns continue to thwart more rapid improvement.
- Government and private sector, coordinated by NNC, have been painstakingly pursuing policies and programs to address these concerns.

Summary and Conclusion

- Challenges remain
 - Providing leadership and political will from national to local level
 - Promoting convergence and focus among all stakeholders, and
 - Reaching underserved areas

Summary and Conclusion

These challenges have to met
if the nutrition goals
that have been so nicely set
are to be achieved.

Thank you

