

# Philippines Socioeconomic Panel Survey:

Providing publicly available data to investigate the long-run processes of social and economic development



## The Challenge

A major constraint in the understanding of development is the absence of long-term, representative, rich and high-quality data. Most data collection efforts are carried out at a single point in time and focus on only a few variables of interest, relevant to a particular policy question or impact evaluation.

Panel studies can offer rich, comparable, and representative data by regularly tracking individuals over an extensive period of time with a wide array of questions to capture both the natural and man-made environment in which they live. This relies on strong survey infrastructure, and experienced personnel ensuring high quality standards of the data collected.

## Socioeconomic Panel

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Philippines and the Global Poverty Research Lab (GPRL) at Northwestern University have partnered with the Philippines Institute for Development Studies and the University of the Philippines School of Economics to launch a twenty-year panel survey, tracking a sample of rural households Western Visayas.

The objective is to provide publicly available data for government actors, researchers, and practitioners to better understand the long-run processes of social and economic development. Most importantly, the panel will serve as a unique platform for enabling rigorous impact evaluations that test specific programs and policies designed to alleviate poverty.

The survey instrument will encompass over 500 questions covering household demographics, education, health, economic and social outcomes, and others. Targeting a specific region in the Philippines, enables a deeper understanding of household circumstances and choices over the years.

We are partnering with researchers and organizations to run rigorous impact evaluations on the panel sample, as a way of leveraging data collection efforts and infrastructure already in place. Our priority is to run evaluations with high policy relevance for which long-run data will be important, as well as simple light-touch interventions with high expected impact, for which independent data collection would not be practical otherwise.

## PSPS at a Glance



Location: Rural Western Visayas (Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental)



Scope: ~13,500 households across 500 barangays

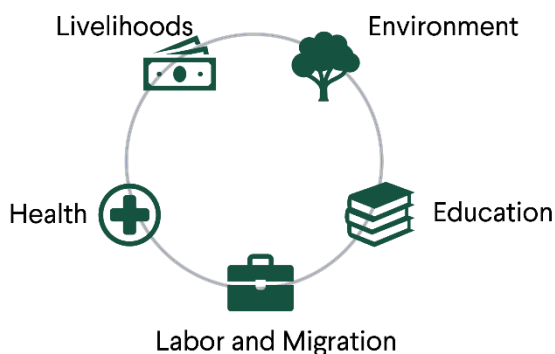
2023 First wave of data collection in December  
Regular data collection **every four years**

2043 Various interventions take place **over twenty-year time frame**



## Focus Areas

The panel survey will help shed light on five key sectors of policy importance:



At the most basic level, this panel survey will collect demographic information, including age, education, family structure, etc. as well as economic outcomes like employment, household income, consumption, assets, food security, etc. Collecting these data regularly will showcase how the economic well-being and livihoods of these households change over time.

Secondly, the panel survey will include questions on key priority sectors in the Philippines: educational outcomes, climate change effects, health, and migration choices. Through collecting information on these sectors, researchers and policy makers will be able to base policy decisions on high-quality data and feel empowered to rigorously test the impact of their programs through the platform of the panel.

## Grounded in Research

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) is a research and policy nonprofit that discovers and promotes effective solutions to global poverty problems. Since 2002, IPA has worked with over [600 leading academics](#) to conduct [over 900 evaluations](#) in 51 countries. Through IPA’s extensive experience collecting high-quality data, guiding protocols and local presence, hundreds of successful programs

have been developed impacting millions of individuals worldwide. The Global Poverty Research Lab is an academic hub for empirical developmental economics. Founded in 2017, it uses empirical evidence and interdisciplinary engagement to understand drivers, consequences, and solutions to poverty issues.

## Policy Impact

Around the world, panel surveys are not just informing policy, but acting as catalysts to new initiatives, each engaging researchers, stakeholders and collecting funds to tackle the issues uncovered through the provision of long-run data.

The **Kenya Life Panel Study (KLPS)**, launched in the late 1990s by Nobel Laureate Michael Kremer and Prof. Edward Miguel, still tracks a representative sample of children to evaluate the long-term impacts of the health, educational, and economic impacts of mass school-based deworming interventions in rural Kenya. Informed by KLPS, the NGO Evidence Action launched the [Deworm the World Initiative](#) while countries including India, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Pakistan carry out mass deworming programs that reach hundreds of millions of children each year.

## Get Involved!

IPA Philippines is seeking implementing partners—such as governments, NGOs, and multilateral organizations—who are interested in measuring the impact of their programs through rigorous impact evaluations as a part of this panel survey.

For more information about the Philippines Socioeconomic Panel Survey, please contact Tara Marwah, Policy Manager at IPA Philippines: [tmawah@poverty-action.org](mailto:tmawah@poverty-action.org)