

The Socioeconomic Landscape in Western Visayas and Negros: Insights from the Philippines Socioeconomic Panel Survey (PSPS) Wave 1

Date: June 2, 2026 (Tuesday)

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: University of the Philippines Visayas, Little Theater, Iloilo City Campus and via Zoom

Background

A major constraint in understanding development is the absence of long-term, 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, which limits the potential for evidence-based policy and long-run planning. Panel studies can offer rich, comparable data by regularly tracking individuals over an extended period across many dimensions.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Philippines and the Global Poverty Research Lab (GPRL) at Northwestern University, in partnership with the Philippines Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE), have launched a twenty-year panel survey, the [Philippines Socioeconomic Panel Survey](#), tracking more than 15,000 rural households across five provinces in Western Visayas (Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo) and the Negros Island Region (Negros Occidental).

PSPS Wave 1 Data Launch: June 2, 2026

With the completion of Wave 1 data collection, the Data Launch brings together national and regional policymakers, researchers, and development partners to explore how longitudinal panel surveys can strengthen evidence-based evaluations and program design.

The PSPS Wave 1 provides reliable, high-quality baseline data offering a detailed socioeconomic portrait covering key sectors such as education, employment, health, migration, and financial inclusion. The launch invites partners to engage with the data to identify opportunities for collaboration, including program evaluations and sustained evidence generation.

This event is also co-hosted by UP Visayas Socio-Economic Research and Data Analytics Center (UPVSERDAC).

In partnership with:

Tentative Program (as of May 15, 2026):

Please note that online participation will only be available during the morning sessions. Afternoon activities will be conducted onsite.

Session	Description	
<i>Morning Program (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 n.n.): Livestreamed via Zoom and Facebook Live</i>		
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 - 9:05 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	Welcome the participants and set the objectives of the event.
9:05 - 9:10 a.m.	Introduction	Introducing PSPS partners.
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	PSPS Wave 1 Data: Descriptive Statistics and Opportunities for Data Use	Present the overview of PSPS, descriptive statistics, the first wave of household data collection, and navigating the IPA website with the PSPS data.
9:40 - 10:20 a.m.	Keynote Message	Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics & Finance at NU, Founder of IPA, and Co-Director and Founder of GPRL.
10:20 - 11:35 a.m.	Moderated Panel Discussion	Discussion on reflections, experiences, and insights with government partners related to policy priorities, program design and evaluation, and the use of data and evidence; with 20-min Q&A.
11:35 - 11:50 a.m.	Pledge of Commitment	Ceremonial signing of MOUs with partner provincial governments, followed by a collective Commitment Wall signing by all stakeholders, and a Pledge of Commitment message on behalf of participants, reaffirming shared commitment to evidence-informed policymaking.
11:50 - 12:00 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Reflection on the key themes and takeaways from the morning sessions and look ahead to the afternoon program on translating PSPS data into policy and practice.
<i>Lunch</i>		
<i>Afternoon Program (1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.): Conducted onsite. This portion will not be livestreamed.</i>		
1:00 - 1:10 p.m.	Afternoon Session Overview	Welcome the participants for the afternoon session; and a quick overview of what will transpire for the afternoon session.
1:10 - 1:30 p.m.	Transition to Breakout Session	Participants transition to their assigned breakout rooms, get settled, and receive brief instructions before the start of the sessions.
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Breakout Session	Simultaneous sessions on impact evaluation, using PSPS data for research, data dissemination through policy products, and other topics on data-driven policymaking.

Session		Description
		<p>Breakout Session 1: From Design to Impact: Designing program evaluations for evidence-based decision-making. Facilitators: IPA and ICM</p> <p>Breakout Session 2: From Evidence to Intervention: Using PSPS Data for Health Expenditure Research and the Design of a Child Nutrition Impact Evaluation. Facilitators: UPSE</p> <p>Breakout Session 3: From Findings to Action: Writing Policy Briefs. Facilitator: PIDS</p>
3:30 - 3:40 p.m.	Coffee Break	Participants should be back to the plenary hall
3:40 - 3:50 p.m.	Synthesis	Brief recap of key insights and takeaways from the breakout sessions.
3:50 - 4:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Final message, acknowledgments, and formal closing of the program.
<i>Distribution of Participant Tokens</i>		

What's in the PSPS data?

The survey instrument encompasses more than 500 questions addressed to [individuals](#), [households](#), and [barangay](#) captains. At the most basic level, this panel survey collects demographic information, including age, education, family structure, as well as economic outcomes like employment, household income, consumption, assets, food security, and more. Collecting these data regularly will illustrate how the economic well-being of these households change over time.

It also includes questions on key priority sectors in the Philippines such as education, agriculture, climate, health, and migration. Through collecting information on these sectors, researchers and policymakers will be able to base policy decisions on high-quality data and rigorously test the impact of their programs through the platform of the panel.

The [first wave](#) of data collection commenced in December 2023 and concluded in January 2025.

For more information, visit the PSPS webpage: poverty-action.org/psps

Event Contact

For any questions or concerns, please contact our Senior Policy Associate, Anne Mallari at cmallari@poverty-action.org or 09063586166.