* **Population Disaggregation: 50.4% male to 49.6% female[[1]](#endnote-1)**
* **Population Age Disaggregation: <15yrs: 31.9%, >60yrs: 7.3%[[2]](#endnote-2)**
* **Household Size: 4.7 people2**
* **Female Headed Households: 18.9%2**
* **Maternal mortality of 99 per 100,000 live births[[3]](#endnote-3)**
* **Infant Mortality rates: 23 per 1000 live births2**
* **Literacy Rates: 96.1% female; 95.1% male[[4]](#endnote-4)**
* **Rate of Gender Based Violence: 20%[[5]](#endnote-5)**

# Gender in Brief

The Philippines is one of the world’s largest archipelago nations, comprised of 7,107 islands and 17 administrative regions. Despite significant improvements in the Philippines’ human development performance, poverty remains widespread and social inequities, particularly for women and indigenous people, are rife. In 2014 ranked 80th in the Gender Inequality Index and women’s political participation, while improving, remains low. Poverty, unequal gender roles that limit women’s ability to exercise their economic and labor rights, maternal mortality, access to reproductive health care services and gender-based violence remain among the most pressing concerns for women in the country, particularly for Indigenous and rural women. Its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire makes Philippines extremely vulnerable to natural disasters, especially earthquakes, cyclones, and volcanic hazards. Long-lasting armed conflict in certain parts of the country, such as Mindanao, and the negative impact of increasing effects of climate change continue to hinder sustainable development and intensify poverty; all factors that worsen women’s vulnerability to poverty and the pre-existing inequalities they face, particularly in relation to livelihood opportunities, land ownership and inheritance, access to credit, wages and workplace benefits and gender-based violence.

**Gender roles and responsibilities:** For most people in the Philippines traditional gender roles exist; women are responsible for the household, childcare and caring work while men are expected to take on the role of the “provider” and decision-maker. Although men mainly remain responsible for decisions about family assets this is changing and in 2013, more than half (51%) of women reported that they and their husband jointly make decisions about the wife’s earnings and 46% report making decisions about their own earnings.2 There are significant differences between and within different populations. For example, women in rural areas traditionally have limited access to and control over resources, decreased decision-making power and generally are positioned subordinate to men. Indigenous women and women who live in rural areas also comprise the majority of the more than ten million Filipino women who live in poverty. Such poverty contributes to women and children being highly vulnerable to human trafficking particularly in hot-spots, such as Eastern Visayas, which is also among the poorest demographic in the Philippines.[[6]](#endnote-6) While women and men can both own and inherit land, in practice, indigenous communities and women, including many women in Muslim communities have limited land rights, and land titles are usually given to men. Limited access to resources, entitlements, and the division of household labour continue to exacerbate women’s vulnerability and gender inequality at large, particularly for those already marginalised.

**Education and Economic Empowerment:** Women and men are both highly literate with gender disparities favouring girls and women, who have higher literacy, enrolment and completion rates. However, this has not been translated into employment and labour force attainment and men continue to assume the lead role in Traditional workloads, such as agriculture and fishing while women are usually expected to support them by taking on the “light work” such as processing and selling fish and sowing seedlings and harvesting, on top of their domestic un-paid work. Although changing economic conditions have meant that women are increasingly working outside of the home, most women work in the informal sector where they are at a higher risk of being engaged in risky and less secure work without legal and social protections. The International Labor Organization (ILO) reports that less than half (45.9%) of working age women are able to access decent and productive employment, compared to 3 in every 4 males (72.6%) of working age. Women’s participation in paid work is constrained by unpaid domestic and care work, and a lack of productive employment opportunities and 30% of working-age women reported that household or family duties prevented them from participating in the labour market.[[7]](#endnote-7) A large number of Filipino women are work overseas, mostly in the informal sector and sometimes in the unregulated care industry.

**Participation and Policy:** The Philippines has signed and ratified the CEDAW, the Rights of the Child and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It has also successfully enacted policies and laws for the protection and promotion of women’s rights and the implementation of gender mainstreaming initiatives and advocacy efforts for key national legislation, including the creating and implementation of the 2009 *Magna Carta on Women* (MCW)[[8]](#endnote-8), which is monitored by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). While significant steps continue to be undertaken, the implementation of policies appears uneven and slow and women’s representation in politics, though improving, continues to be low: less than 20% of the seats in Congress and 13% in the Senate are occupied by women.[[9]](#endnote-9) Further, women, particularly indigenous and marginalized women tend not to be involved or consulted in planning and decision-making processes and as a result, policies and programs largely neglect the needs and rights of women. In addition, there is a conflict between customary laws and the justice system, especially on issues of gender based violence and traditional mechanisms continue to prevent survivor/victims from seeking justice. Women’s groups continue to be fundamental to advocating for women’s freedom’s and rights exist in many parts of the Philippines however they are often disregarded and not consulted in planning and decision-making processes, which greatly hinder their capacity to advocate for and advance the needs and rights of women.

**Gender Based Violence and Protection:** Violence Against Women and trafficking are of serious concern in the Philippines and there are reports of early and forced marriages, particularly among some Indigenous People and Muslim communities.[[10]](#endnote-10) Studies report that 20% of women between 15 and 49 years of age have experienced at least one form of gender based violence; 6% of women aged 15-49 have ever experienced sexual violence, 20% have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 4 % of women age 15- 49 who have ever been pregnant experienced physical violence while pregnant.2 The main perpetrators of this violence include current and/or former husbands and partners, however, fathers, stepfathers, mothers and stepmothers are also reported as perpetrator. The militarization of many indigenous areas has also resulted in the sexual violence of women, particularly women of local indigenous communities. For example, a specific case in 2008 involved the gang rape and subsequent settlement of two indigenous girls, aged 13 and 14 years by soldiers, while on their way to school in the village of Malapatan in the Sarangani Province of Mindanao.[[11]](#endnote-11) While there has been progress in halting human trafficking it continues to be a major concern, particularly during humanitarian emergencies.[[12]](#endnote-12) For example, during Typhoon Yolanda there were persistent reports of an increase in trafficking of women and children. The Government of the Philippines also finds that the majority of the 2.7 million unregistered children in its country are Muslim indigenous children living in the Autonomous Regions, which is of concern as a result of the dangers of offers from unidentified people for ‘adoption’ or ‘transport’ out of the affected areas.

**Gender in Emergencies**: To strengthen a gendered-response to Typhoon Yolanda, CARE Philippines has agreed to a minimum set of actions for emergencies: collect sex and age disaggregated data in all programs and services, provide for equal participation between women and men in assessments, program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, build a gender-balanced team and establish a reporting mechanism for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. For all sectors, it is important to include separate consultations (through informal discussions, focus group discussions, one-on-one interviews) with women and men during assessments, planning and defining the program strategy. To put these goals into practice, CARE will work local partners with a capacity building plan on gender and women’s empowerment

1. Age and sex structures of the Philippian Populations. Census of Population and Housing. Philippines, 2010 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2013: https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR294/FR294.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Adjusted maternal mortality rates. At a glance statistics: Philippines. UNICEF and UNITED Nations Statistics Division, 2012 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey, Philippines Statistics Authority 2008 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. National Demographic and Health Survey 2008 cited in Philippines Gender Alert, IASC Sub Working Group on Gender, Novemeber 2013 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. http://www.interaksyon.com/article/76390/focus--one-month-after-typhoon-yolanda-reconstructing-a-just-and-resilient-society, article written by Lan Mercado, OXFAM [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2015/03/21/is-gender-inequality-really-so-low-in-the-philippines/ [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. IPS website: http://www.ips.org/mdg3/philippines-womens-rights-laws-in-place/#sthash.LkXFX6YL.dpuf [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. http://www.undp.org/content/dam/philippines/docs/Governance/fastFacts%20-%20Gender%20Equality%20and%20Women%20Empowerment%20in%20the%20Philippines%20rev%201.5.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Maguindanaoan, Tausug and Teduray communities were mentioned in the UN Women Mindanao Consultation – Scoping Mission in Davao City, September 2011. Unpublished Notes by Eleanor Conda [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Report on Asia, 2007. E/C.19/2007/CRP.11. para 44 [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Philippine Commission on Women, 2013, Filipino Women and Men Fact Sheet, US State Department IACAT Report, June 2013 [↑](#endnote-ref-12)