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**VOLUNTEERISM IN THE PHILIPPINES: DEAD OR ALIVE?  
ON MEASURING THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF  
VOLUNTEER WORK**

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# **VOLUNTEERISM IN THE PHILIPPINES: DEAD OR ALIVE? ON MEASURING THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEER WORK**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Volunteerism is a worldwide phenomenon that has played an increasing role in society. It has had a long history with the scale of voluntary work varying from country to country implying that volunteerism could be culture-bound. It contributes towards the improvement of the quality of life of several sectors of society, and is a renewable resource for addressing issues and concerns in the broader context of human development.

The UN General Assembly has passed several resolutions on volunteer service, notably A/RES/40/212 adopted on 17 December 1985 inviting governments “to observe annually, on 5 December, an International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, and urges them to take measures to heighten awareness of the important contribution of volunteer service, thereby stimulating more people in all walks of life to offer their services as volunteers, both at home and abroad.” Toward this end, it encouraged governments to support efforts to measure the contribution of volunteer work and through the UN Statistics Division came up with a “Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts”.

In the Philippines, there is a wide network of non-profit institutions doing voluntary work. While volunteerism has had a long history in the country, organized volunteer work in the Philippines was enhanced with the government’s creation of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Committee in 1964 which became the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), a government agency mandated to advocate, promote and coordinate volunteer programs and recognize the contributions of volunteers to nation-building. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the United Nations organization that supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism started in the Philippines in 1981. Both the PNVSCA and the UNV actively engage in the promotion of volunteerism in the Philippines. In addition, there are several nonprofit institutions that do similar work.

Despite the presence of institutional mechanisms to promote volunteer work in the country, and notwithstanding the efforts of the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, currently there is dearth of information on volunteerism. Thus, there is no available reliable measure of the economic contribution of volunteer service in the Philippines.

Recognizing the importance of quantifying the economic value of volunteer service, this paper presents some efforts towards the formulation of a conceptual and statistical framework for the measurement of contribution of volunteer work. It also presents some statistics on volunteerism generated through these efforts. Lastly, it describes the issues and challenges encountered and proposes a way forward.

**KEY WORDS: volunteerism, volunteer work, economy, non-profit institutions, contribution/economic value, conceptual and statistical framework, system of national accounts, Gross Domestic Product**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Volunteerism has existed for centuries and is a worldwide phenomenon. Whether described as *mephato* in Botswana, *minga* in Ecuador, *gotong royong* in Indonesia, *dobrovolchestvo* in the Federation, *kwitango* in Rwanda, *ubuntu* in South Africa, *sharamadana* in India or *jitolee* in Kenya (or *Harambee*<sup>2</sup>), *al taawun wal tawasul* in many Arab States, volunteerism is a universal human phenomenon that occurs across all cultures, economic levels, genders, and ages.

Volunteerism is an expression of people's willingness and capacity to freely help others and improve their society. Under its many cultural names, guises, and dimensions, volunteerism remains embedded in the tradition of sharing. It brings significant benefits to individuals and communities and helps to nurture and sustain a rich social texture and a strong sense of mutual trust and cohesion, essential to the stability of society. In 1985, the UN General Assembly invited governments of member nations to observe annually on every 5<sup>th</sup> of December the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development and urged them to take measures to heighten awareness of the important contribution of volunteer service by stimulating more people in various walks of life to offer their services as volunteers. UN member states have recognized the importance of volunteerism through a number of General Assembly resolutions. In conformity with this universal declaration, Presidential Proclamation No.194 was issued by then President Corazon C. Aquino in 1987 declaring December 5 as "International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development in the Philippines."

Recently, a growing number of international organizations have come to recognize (see [24]) the contribution and importance of volunteer work. The 2001 Resolution of the UN identified volunteering as "an important component of any strategy aimed at poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention, and management". In addition, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have declared that volunteers are at the heart of effective humanitarian assistance for millions of vulnerable people (see [14]). In 2008, the European Parliament identified volunteering as "perhaps our most sustainable form of renewable energy" (see [9]). And in an effort to "raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering", in 2009, the European Commission declared 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering ( see [7]).

From the point of view of social science, volunteer work has had various social and direct economic benefits to the communities through the generation of social capital. There is increasing evidence that the formation of social capital is essential to sustainable economic development, and empirical studies suggest that as the social capital of a community increases, violent crime and mortality levels decrease, while educational outcomes and household incomes increase (see [24]). Thus, in recent years we have witnessed the spectacular expansion of volunteering throughout the world. Indeed, we seem to be in the midst of a "*global associational revolution*," a massive upsurge of organized private voluntary activity in virtually every corner of the globe (see [27]). We have also witnessed the significant growth in the role of volunteers including the mobilization they play in addressing social needs, promoting civic involvement, and improving the quality of life. Volunteerism reinforces key development principles like National Ownership and Sustainability, Gender, Capacity Development, achievement of Millennium Development Goals, Disaster Risk Management, and Peace Building for economic benefit and social capital generation ( see [43]).

Data generated by the John Hopkins Comparative Non Profit Sector Project in 37 countries (see [29]) reveal that:

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<sup>2</sup> Ancient East African Tradition called Harambee, Swahili for "pulling together".

- a. Approximately 140 million people in these countries engage in some volunteer activity in a typical year. This represents approximately 12 percent of their adult population.
- b. These volunteers represent the equivalent of 20.8 million full time equivalent paid workers, or 45 percent of the non-profit workforce, much larger than those employed by the utilities industry and just slightly less than those employed in the transportation and construction industries in the 37 countries. In Sweden and Norway, it is as high as 76 percent and 63 percent respectively (see [15]).
- c. Even conservatively estimated, these volunteers make a \$400 billion contribution to the global economy. In Canada, the contribution volunteers make to the GDP is more than that of agriculture and motor vehicle manufacturing industries (see [32]).
- d. Volunteer work is a significant component of charity giving. In fact, conservatively, the value of contributions of time is higher than the value of cash contributions by at least 50 percent. (see [15]).

In addition to these strictly economic impacts, volunteer work has a variety of broader social impact that delivers significant added benefits to society and to the volunteers themselves. Volunteer work provides important employment training and a pathway into the labor force; it enhances social solidarity, social capital, political legitimacy, quality of life, social inclusion and integration; and it provides a sense of personal satisfaction, fulfillment, well-being, and belongingness to persons who volunteer.

### ***Why Measure Volunteer Work?***

While volunteerism is part of the old, deeply rooted traditions in most societies, deeply embedded in most cultures, emerging from long-established, and ancient tradition of sharing, there is little scientific, evidence-based analysis of its manifestations, how it is perceived, and its social, economic and environmental impact.

Notwithstanding the contributions that volunteer makes to the volunteers and to the beneficiaries, notwithstanding the recognition that volunteer work is sizable and creates significant economic value, efforts to measure volunteer work have been sporadic and frequently uncoordinated, leaving us without up-to-date, reliable, and comparable data. The lack of systematic data on volunteer work is not simply an academic matter. It also limits the ability to make the most effective use of this important renewable resource. Volunteer work can be most effectively managed with good returns to investments in volunteer management if there is reliable information on the various management approaches on the recruitment and retention of volunteers. Without reliable information on the value of volunteers, it is hard to make sensible decisions about volunteer management strategies and approaches. Not only does the lack of adequate information complicate decision-making, it also obscures the real value of volunteer work and therefore fails to encourage volunteerism.

The recent developments in volunteering, particularly the increasing visibility of volunteers, have called attention to the need to analyze and document the economic contribution of volunteer work. However, efforts to understand better this sector and to fashion vital policy decisions supportive of its further development have been impeded by lack of information and statistical research framework. Thus, only a relatively small fraction of volunteer economic activity is recognized and counted, hindering efforts to harness volunteerism as a significant economic force towards national development.

In this regard, in 2003, the United Nations Statistical Division published the “UN Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts”. It is the first ever

officially accepted international guidelines in capturing basic information on non profit institutions including the volunteer work they harness. Its features include (a) a detailed definition of NPIs, which makes it possible to identify them as a group, (b) the valuation of volunteer labour, which is significant in the activities of NPIs and (3) introduction of a detailed classification of NPIs by function.

Relatedly however, for the past twenty five years, the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies has been conducting a non profit project aimed to systematically gather information to analyze the scope, structure, financing, and impact of the non profit activity throughout the world to improve the knowledge and enrich the theoretical understanding of this sector.

It is worth recognizing that the Philippines, through the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) also undertook a collaborative project with JHU in 2008, on the measurement of the economic contribution of non profit institutions and voluntary work, and as part of NSCB's effort to improve the Philippine System of National Accounts. However, progress towards more sustainable efforts has been impeded by of lack of available data.

In the Philippines, volunteerism has evolved from its historical and cultural tradition of sharing. Notions of *Filipino volunteerism* (see [3]). employ various indigenous meanings such as *Bayanihan* (a Tagalog term referring to mutual assistance and self-help among equals); *Damayan* (a Tagalog term which means assistance to others in times of grief or crisis. It is closest to the concept of episodic volunteering), *Kawanggawa* (a Tagalog term associated with the notion of charity, and embodies a relationship between unequals in society. It is the nearest notion of philanthropy), *Pahinungod* (a Cebuano term taken to mean a higher form of self-sacrifice and rooted to the Roman Catholic faith. It could be the local version of "pure" altruism because of its endemic nature), and *Bahaginan* (a tagalog term that implies a more generic connotation of "sharing". It is a discreet expression of *pakikipagkapwa*<sup>3</sup> and associated with social cohesion). Whether understood (see [1]) as *tulong* (help), *pakikipagkapwa-tao* (a shared sense of one's humanity), *pagbabahagi* (sharing) or *paghahandog* (offering), voluntary work is an asset resource that can and should be tapped to address many social and economic development challenges of our time. *Filipino volunteerism* has the potential to significantly contribute towards nation building.

While volunteerism has had a long history in the Philippines, an upsurge in more organized and managed volunteering efforts came about towards the turn of the millennium (see [1]). It continued to gain prominence with the creation by government of the Philippine National Service Committee in 1964 which, in 1980 became the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), the professionalization of volunteer management by the International Association of Volunteer Efforts Philippines (IAVE), the linking of nation-wide programs of Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange (VOICE), and the establishment of enabling mechanisms like the school-based and community outreach volunteer programs of academic institutions like the *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod* of the University of the Philippines, the volunteer-receiving government program called the *Bayanihang Bayan*, the employee-volunteering programs coordinated by the League of Corporate Foundations and research and development like the volunteer management training of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Philippine Nonprofit Sector Research Project on giving and volunteering of the UP-National College of Public Administration and Governance. Dr. Cariño in her study of the NPIs has written and published : (a) "What they Contribute: Case Studies on the Impact of Non profit Organizations (2007); (b) Mobilizing for Active Citizenship (2005); (c) Between the State and

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<sup>3</sup> pp. 33 - 51 Aguilin-Dalisay, Yacat, and Navarro. 2004. Extending the Self: Volunteering as Pakikipagkapwa. Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy. National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines.

Market: The Non Profit Sector and Civil Society in the Philippines (2004), (d) Defining the Non Profit Sector: The Philippines (2001) as well as Dr. Oliva Domingo, of the UP NCPAG, has written two publications related to NPI namely: (a) Governance in the Philippine Third Sector: Highlights from the Country Study (2008), and (b) Good Governance and the Philippine Third Sector Organizations (Paper presented to International Conference of the International Third Sector Research (ISTR), 2006

In line with the increasing recognition by the national government of the role of volunteerism, one momentous achievement that provided an impetus to the statutory status and policy framework for volunteerism is the enactment of Republic Act No. 9418 “An Act Institutionalizing A Strategy for Rural Development, Strengthening Volunteerism and For Other Purposes”, also called the “Volunteer Act of 2007.”

With all these opportunities for institutional / formal volunteering available, one might expect a fair level of volunteering incidence in the Philippines. But is this true? Is volunteerism in the Philippines dead, or alive?

To fill the information gap and gain a clearer understanding of volunteer work in Philippine Society, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and Johns Hopkins University Civil Society Studies (JHU-CCSS) launched in 2008 the pilot implementation of the *2003 United Nations Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts (hereafter referred as UN NPI Handbook)*. Building from these efforts, the NSCB hopes to institutionalize the NPI Satellite Account within the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA).

The current worldwide efforts led by the United Nations to achieve the Millenium Development Goals by 2015 will require engagement of millions of people through volunteer action. Through the UNV, the UN recognizes clearly that putting prime importance on the economic contribution of volunteer work will create volunteer infrastructures responsible for creating an enabling environment towards sustainable peace and development. As the 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the International Year of Volunteers nears, opportunities for a new pace and direction of volunteerism emerge.

### ***Objectives of the Paper***

Recognizing the value of volunteerism, this paper will present the efforts of the National Statistical Coordination Board, as the highest policy making body on statistical matters, to lay the groundwork for a more permanent mechanism of generating information about volunteerism through the formulation of a statistical framework that will measure the contribution of volunteer work to the economy via a satellite account on non profit institutions within the context of the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA). Specifically, this paper will discuss pilot implementation of the 2003 UN Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts as it applies to volunteer work.

Section 2 will provide a glimpse of the information on volunteerism in the Philippines available from surveys, administrative records, and research studies. It will discuss the classification of volunteer work, how other countries define volunteer work, and the proposed definition of volunteer work in the Philippine context. Section 3 presents the preliminary conceptual and statistical framework particularly the recommended NPI Satellite Account and an approach towards the measurement of volunteer work including its sources and methods. Section 4 will present the preliminary estimates covering the year 2000-2009, and lastly, Section 5 will dwell on the issues/limitations/challenges in measuring volunteer work and the ways forward.

## II. AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERISM

Notwithstanding the various and varied cultural and traditional dimensions of the purpose and motives, the place and time, size and magnitude of Filipino volunteering, the lack of systematic information has resulted to the “shadowed statistical relevance” of volunteerism in the Philippines. (see [1]) In this section, we present the sources of available quantitative and qualitative information on volunteer work relevant to the pilot of the UN Handbook on the Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts and its institutionalization in the PSNA thru the NPI Satellite Account. The information is sourced out from (a) Studies from the University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and Governance (UPNCPAG); (b) the NSCB JHU -NPI Project and (c) Administrative Records from source agencies. A summary is provided in Annex A.

### 1. The Philippine Non Profit Sector Project (PNCP) of the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance

Two sources of information on Filipino volunteer work are:

- The first set or benchmark information on volunteerism in the Philippines from the 1998 Giving and Volunteering Survey Study of the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG) released in 2002
- The 2004 study of Aguilung-Dalisay, Yacat, and Navarro on “Extending the Self: Volunteering as Pakikipagkapwa”

The UP NCPAG PNCP used two survey instruments to measure characteristics and behavior on volunteer work. In 1999 it implemented the PNSP Organizational Surveys of Non Profit Organizations or Non Profit Institutions and the Survey on Giving and Volunteering. The results were published in a book entitled “Between the State and the Market: The Non Profit Sector and Civil Society in the Philippines<sup>4</sup> with a companion second volume entitled “Beyond the Household: Giving and Volunteering in Six Areas in the Philippines<sup>5</sup>”.

#### A. Organizational Survey of Non Profit Institutions / Non Profit Organizations

The 1999 Organizational Survey of NPOs was administered in four cities – Baguio, Makati, Iloilo and Davao – representing the major geographical areas of the country. These cities are chosen because each hosts a relatively large number of nonprofit organizations or institutions. For the purpose of the project, the survey used the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) structural-operational definition to identify non profit organizations locally and to facilitate comparison across countries. From these four areas, a total of 2,921 organizations were identified as existing in the areas and 1,848 NPOs were covered by the survey. In the organizational survey, the measure of “voluntariness” is the involvement of volunteers in the operations of the organizations.

#### B. Survey on Giving and Volunteering

The conceptualization of the Survey on Giving and Volunteering started in 1998 as part of the Philippine Non Profit Sector Project (PNSP). It was conducted in 1999 and 2000

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<sup>4</sup> Carino, Ledivina V. (ed) 2002. *Between the State and the Market: The Non Profit Sector and Civil Society in the Philippines*. Quezon City: Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, National College of Public Administration and Governance University of the Philippines.

<sup>5</sup> Fernan, Ramon L. (ed) 2004. *Beyond the Household: Giving and Volunteering in Six Areas in the Philippines*. Quezon City: Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines.

using a cluster sampling design. The six survey areas were purposively chosen: Benguet Province including Baguio City and Metro Manila in Luzon, Southern Leyte and Ilo-ilo City in Visayas, and Zamboanga del Norte and Davao del Sur including Davao City in Mindanao. The study assumed that volunteering was a personal decision and in order to capture this, randomly chosen interviewees from each household-interviewee were selected from among eligible household members of thirteen years old and older. This yielded a total of 8,000 individual respondents from more than 6,000 household respondents in the six survey areas.

### **C. The UP NCPAG Study on Psychology of Volunteerism**

The third volume of the Philippine Non Profit Sector Studies Series and Ugnayan ng Pahinungod/Oblation Corps project by Grace H. Aguilin-Dalisay, Jay A. Yacat, and Atoy M. Navarro focused on the Psychology of Filipino Volunteerism. Released in 2004, and entitled “Extending the Self: Volunteering as Pakikipagkapwa”, it used a qualitative research methodology in studying volunteering that is culturally appropriate as espoused by *Sikolohiyang Filipino* (Filipino Psychology). It employed two research methods *Ginabayang Talakayanan* (Focused Group Discussion) and *Pakikipagkwentuhan* (exchanging stories). Five project areas were selected: the National Capital Region, Baguio City, Naga City, Cebu City, and Davao City. A total of 156 participants took part of which 143 were volunteers and 13 were non-volunteers. Adolescents (18-24 years old) and middle adults (36-60 years old) turned out the most number of participants while young adults (25-35 years old) had the least, numbering 31 participants only. The study looked into the sociological and psychological roots of volunteering in Philippine culture and society.

#### **2. The 2000 National Statistics Office (NSO) Pilot Time Use Survey (TUS)**

Implemented in 2000, the pilot time-use survey aimed to generate information on the activity patterns and value of unpaid housework as well as on usage of time for both women and men. The survey adopted and tested the Trial Classification for Time Use Activities that had been proposed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). There two survey areas selected were Batangas and Quezon City, generating information on the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the members of the households 10 years and over.

#### **3. National Statistical Coordination Board and Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies Project on the Measurement of the Economic Contribution of Non Profit Institutions and Volunteer Work in the Philippines.**

In the next section, this paper will provide the initial findings from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Non Profit Institutions (NPI) Project as part of the NSCB-Johns Hopkins University pilot implementation of the “UN Handbook on Non Profit Institution in the System of National Accounts” produced by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) issued in December 2003.

The JHU Comparative Non Profit project revealed that non profit institutions (NPI) constituted a much bigger economic force. Thus, the handbook provided four major refinements to the 1993 System of National Accounts treatment of non profit institutions: (1) it recommended that countries produce regular NPI satellite accounts that pull together data on all NPIs, including those assigned to the corporations or government sector; (2) it provides a refined definition of an NPI to make it possible to identify these entities in the other sectors; (3) it recommends the use of an International Classification of Non Profit Institutions (ICNPO) that elaborates on the prevailing consensus system for classifying economic activities in order to differentiate NPIs more precisely, and (4) it calls for inclusion of volunteer work in the NPI Satellite account and recommends a way to value it.



The NPI Handbook recognizes that NPIs produce goods that are financed by volunteer efforts and a lot of NPIs employ substantial volunteer labor or rely solely on volunteer input as their human resource. However, currently only the volunteer work that leads to the production of goods or to the production of services for market enterprises or for non-profit enterprises operating in the market (e.g. some schools and hospitals) are considered as part of the SNA production boundary, including employment. It leaves out many other volunteer services such as the production of services by volunteers for non-profit enterprises not operating in the market or for households. Thus sometimes an anomaly arises because providing services to a public or community school is not recorded in the employment statistics but doing exactly the same activity for a private, fee-paying school would be included (see [47]).

#### **4. Administrative Records**

*a. Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)*  
<http://www.pnvsca.gov.ph/>

The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) started as a committee on December 17, 1964. Its creation is the Philippine Government's commitment to the agreements in the International Middle-Level Manpower Conference held in Puerto Rico in 1962 to promote volunteerism as a tool for socio-economic development. It became a government agency in 1980 by virtue of Executive Order No.635 under the administrative supervision of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA). PNVSCA is mandated to promote volunteerism and coordinate volunteer service programs in support of national development and international cooperation. The PNVSCA led the passage of RA 9418 entitled "An Act institutionalizing A Strategy for Rural Development, Strengthening Volunteerism and for Other Purposes" also known as the "Volunteer Act of 2007". The PNVSCA has four major programs: Foreign Volunteer Deployment<sup>6</sup>, Volunteer for Information and Development (VIDA), Volunteer Exchange Program, and the Bayanihang Bayan. In addition, the PNVSCA listed 176 entries in its first Volume of Directory of Volunteer Organizations printed in 2000, which reported information on number of volunteers, based on these listed organizations. PNVSCA's administrative records provide information on number of volunteers engaged in organized volunteering from 1961 until 2010 August.

*b. Caucus of Development Non Profit Organizations (CODE-NGO )* <http://code-ngo.org/home/>

The Caucus of Development NGO is an umbrella coalition of various non-profit groups numbering about 1,600 organizations many of which utilize volunteer labor for their programs, projects or advocacies. In 2007, CODE NGO conducted an organization survey of its member-network coalitions. It solicited information on the human resources including volunteers of the organizations, received 643 recorded responses,.

*c. United Nations Volunteers ([www.unv.org](http://www.unv.org))*

The United Nations Volunteers deploys international volunteers into the country. It also recruits and deploys Filipino volunteers for assignment in other developing countries. As a foreign-support volunteer organization globally active in advocating volunteerism and recruiting Filipinos for national volunteering, the UNV provides information on the number of

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<sup>6</sup> Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid); German Development Service (DED); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International (OISCA), Pax Christi Germany, United States Peace Corps (USPC), Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO); United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Filipino volunteers serving in the country and abroad. The information covers the years 1995 – 2010 for National UNV and 1981 – 2009 for the International UNVs.

d. *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod* ( <http://www.up-ncpag.org/>) and *Jesuit Volunteers Philippines* (<http://jvpfi.org/>)

Other organizations where information on volunteer work is available are the University of the Philippines - *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod* and the Jesuit Volunteers Philippines (JVP) Foundation based in Ateneo de Manila University. The *Ugnayan ng Pahinungod* provides information on the number of students involved in non-academically required social civic activities from years 2000 to 2003, while the JVP provides information on number of volunteers serving the marginalized sectors of society for a period of 10-12 months from years 1980 - 2009.

e. *Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)* <http://www.pbsp.org.ph/>

Since its inception in 1970, The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) is the largest corporate-led social development foundation in the Philippines committed to poverty reduction. PBSP is the first of its kind in Asia leading the promotion and practice of corporate social responsibility (CSR) with more than 260 large, medium-scale and small businesses as members. The PBSP focuses their programs on Education, Health, Sustainable Livelihood, Micro Enterprise Development and leads the way in the practice of corporate citizenship, by influencing companies to integrate CSR into their core businesses, and advocating the application of business solutions to poverty. As an administrative resource, the PBSP gathers annual reports identifying the visible impact of volunteer contributions.

f. *League of Corporate Foundations (LCF)* <http://www.lcf.org.ph/>

The League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) started in 1991 and gained legal identity in 1996 as a membership association of 75 operating and grant-making corporate foundations and corporations, seeking to provide business solutions to social problems in the Philippines through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This network foundation creates visible impact through the involvement of employee-volunteers to corporate foundations.

### ***What are the Various Forms of Volunteerism?***

While there exists a variety of forms of voluntary work, one of the most crucial aspects of its structure and dimension is the differentiation between paid and unpaid work. Volunteer work belongs to unpaid work.

Based on the “2003 UN Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts”, volunteering involves two general categories: **informal volunteering** and formal volunteering. Informal volunteering is defined as giving a certain amount of time without working through an organization. **Formal volunteering** occurs if a person contributes time to an organization such as hospitals, welfare associations or schools. Based on the “*International Labour Organization (ILO) Manual on Measurement of Volunteer Work*” (see [16]), informal volunteering is defined as volunteer activities directly for other people and formal volunteering are volunteer activities engaged through non profit institutions or other types of organizations.

In the Philippines, *boluntarismo* (volunteerism) has gained considerable attention and has evolved in scope and diversity since the 1980s. Many non-government organizations have been created at the national and community levels, and government has recognized

the potential contribution of volunteerism to overall social and economic development. Academic institutions are managing volunteer programmes and inculcating social responsibility among the youth. Foreign volunteer organizations have been operating in the country, providing intercultural exchange and international expertise. The corporate sector has also been known to be more active in developing new models of business community relations and corporate citizenships.

In the strategic review of the volunteer system in the Philippines done by Beasca in 2004 (UNDP, UNV, DED, 2004), there were five types of volunteering observed namely, academe-based volunteering, corporate volunteering, government-supported volunteering, nongovernmental organization volunteering, and foreign-supported volunteering.

### *1. Academe-Based Volunteering*

Structured volunteering activities are highly observable in the education sector at the level of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) e.g. colleges and universalities. However, with enormous volunteering activities done as part of the academic programs, it is worth mentioning that volunteerism is different from conventional extension work, because there is an emphasis on the education value of the volunteering experience to the volunteer rather than the value added of the academic credits/load (see [8]). This connotes that volunteering should not be compulsory, because it is designed to improve the social values of the students rather than purely satisfying academic requirements to graduate<sup>7</sup>. As a consequence, academe volunteering is to be associated (disassociated) with the concept of university extension work.

### *2. Corporate Volunteering*

Volunteering in the Philippine business sector is regarded as a component of overall corporate social responsibility (CSR). CSR has evolved from corporate behavior within the social context such as plain philanthropic activities in the 1960's to employee involvement or employee philanthropy thru gift giving by employees. In 2000, the concept of volunteering in the corporate sector became identified with employee or human resource volunteering, as distinguished from institutional or corporate volunteering, though both are still highly considered as expressions of CSR. Unlike volunteering in the academe, which is coordinated by formal structures, the volunteer mechanism in companies is most often loaded into employee groups and human resource units.

### *3. Government-Supported Volunteering*

The Government has promoted volunteerism in order to mobilize resources for its own programs, both at the national as well as local levels. Government Volunteering was pioneered by the – Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA) of the PNVSCA, established in 1979 as a nationwide volunteer program run by government through the PNVSCA to train, organize, mobilize, support and monitor a pool of Filipinos who are willing to render volunteer service. An impact assessment on the program observed that VIDA activities had evolved from mere support to the government housing project in the early 80s to broader activities related to social development, linkaging, gender equality, and environmental concerns (see [31]).<sup>8</sup>

In 2001, the Office of the President issued a directive on the implementation of National Government Volunteer Program called the *Bayanihang Bayan* Program for Government Service. According to PNVSCA (2010), the program has been piloted in four national government agencies: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Department of

<sup>7</sup> The law requires 54 hours as requirement for graduation.

<sup>8</sup> Sobritchea, Carolyn. "Impact Assessment on the Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA) Program". 1999.

Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Later in 2002, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued a memorandum to all heads of national agencies, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges in support of the *Bayanihang Bayan* Program. (see [3]). However, there is no system yet to monitor the level of adoption by the LGUs of the programs. Weak compliance by the LGUs is perceived by the PNVSCA to be due to other budgetary priorities at the local levels, especially those set by the Local Government Code (see [3]).

#### *4. Volunteering for Non Government Organizations (NGOs)*

Many non profit organizations or NPI/NGO use volunteers, either to do staff work or for those that have professionalized, to assist in operations and program implementation. A number of voluntarism-promoting organizations known as volunteer organizations or VOs, function exclusively to place volunteers in long term positions locally or internationally. The PBSP estimated around 630,000 volunteers working for NGOs in 1997 at a ratio of about three volunteers for every one paid personnel (see [3]). According to Racelis (see [25]) the top contributors are organizations classified as culture and recreation groups, development and housing organizations and business association/unions. However, there have been no updated estimates on volunteering in the non-profit sector.

#### *5. Foreign-Supported Volunteering*

Foreign-supported volunteering activities cover both domestic rendering of volunteer services by foreign nationals and external deployment of Filipino volunteers. It includes engagement of Americans, Japanese, Germans, British, and Koreans in Philippine development efforts as well as the involvement of Philippine nationals in global civic engagement through the facility of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV).

### **III. CONCEPTUAL AND STATISTICAL FRAMEWORK**

In order to establish the consistency of the measure of volunteer work with other macroeconomic measures and to promote its credibility as well as its comparability within and across countries, it is important that it be coherent with the System of National Accounts (SNA).

#### **The NPI and Volunteer Work in the System of National Accounts**

This section discusses the interlocking relationship of NPIs and Voluntary Work in the context of the SNA and the recommended methodologies of the UN NPI Handbook.

In the Philippines, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) is mandated as the compiler of the Philippine System of National Accounts (PSNA). The contribution of the various sectors including NPIs and voluntary work to the economy is captured in the SNA both under the production side and the expenditure side of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). On the production side, the NPIs are considered as resident producers of goods and services. Examples are Ayala Foundation, Meralco Foundation, Corregidor Foundation, Kawad Galinga, etc. On the expenditure side, their expenditures are part of the expenditures of Non-profit Institutions serving households which is one of the institutional sectors in the SNA. They are considered as consumers of goods and services produced by both resident and non-resident producers. Aside from the NPIs serving households, the other institutional sectors are financial corporations, nonfinancial corporations, general government and households. The institutional sectors are economic entities that are capable of owning assets, incurring liabilities and engaging in economic activities and in transactions with other entities. They are considered as the “economic transactors” (see [38])

However, in the present PSNA<sup>9</sup>, the NPIs do not form a separate industry; instead they are subsumed by the different industries/institutional sectors which they serve like NPIs serving non-financial corporations, financial corporations, government and households. For the voluntary work, it forms part of the household sector whether as producers or consumers of goods and services. Given the present PSNA compilation environment therefore, the economic contribution of NPIs/volunteer work could not be ascertained and thus remains statistically invisible.

The PSNA follows the framework of the SNA in accordance with a compilation manual and internationally recognized and adopted guidelines jointly developed by the United Nations (UN), the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank (WB). (see [38 and 39])

The System of National Accounts is the most widely accepted tool for monitoring the performance of the economy. The SNA provides a comprehensive accounting framework within which economic data can be compiled and presented for purposes of economic analysis, policymaking, and planning a development agenda. It is based on internationally agreed standards and recommendations on how to compile measures of economic activities in accordance with strict accounting conventions based on economic principles. (see [39 and 45]) The latest SNA framework is discussed thoroughly in the 2008 SNA, an update of the 1993 SNA, both of which took off from the 1968 SNA. While the NPI serving households has been clearly defined as an institutional sector in the 1968, 1993 and 2008 versions of the SNA framework, voluntary work is not explicitly articulated within the framework.

The 1993 SNA defines the Non-Profit Institutions (NPI) as legal or social entities created for purposes of producing goods and services whose status does not permit them to be a source of income, profit or other financial gain for the units that establish, control and finance them. [see [38]]

### The Conceptual Framework

The central focus of the SNA framework is the industry as a producing sector and the institutional sectors, which are the consuming sectors. The relationship between the producing industries and consuming sectors can be illustrated in the simple analytical framework of the Input-Output (I-O) Table. Input-output analysis was developed as an analytical framework to describe the inter relationships among the various producers in an economy. It presents the inter relationships between the industries in terms of the production and the uses of their products and the imported products in a table format. In the table, the economy is viewed with each industry listed along the column as a consuming sector and along the rows as a supplying sector. Thus, the I-O table sets out in a systematic manner these transactions which facilitates economic analysis. (see [18])

**Table 1. Simple Analytical I-O Framework**

	Intermediate Demand	Final Demand	Total Output
Intermediate Input	Quadrant I Intermediate Inputs	Quadrant II Final Demand	
Primary Input	Quadrant III Primary Inputs	Quadrant IV	
Total Input			

<sup>9</sup> The NSCB is currently in the process of migrating to the 1993/2008 SNA where NPIs are treated as a separate institutional sector.

As shown in Table 1, the IO transactions table is made-up of four quadrants: Quadrant I shows the flow of goods and services, which are both produced and consumed in the process of production and are usually referred to as inter-industry flows or intermediate demand; Quadrant II shows the various elements of final demand for the output of each producing sector namely the personal consumption expenditure, government expenditure, gross fixed capital formation, changes in stocks, exports and imports; Quadrant III shows the primary inputs to the productive sectors; and, Quadrant IV shows the primary inputs which go directly to the final demand. (see [18])

The I-O framework provides answers to the following questions:

- 1) how much good and services is produced by the supplying sector;
- 2) how much good and services is used in the process of production; and
- 3) how much of the goods and services produced is used by the consuming sector.

### **Operationalizing the SNA Framework to Capture NPI and Voluntary Work**

In an I-O framework, the NPIs and voluntary work as an industry form part of each of the industries in the rows and columns, intermediate input and intermediate demand. Correspondingly, services consumed by the NPIs and by households are entered in the Final Demand.

For purposes of measuring the contribution of NPI and voluntary work, the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC), and in correspondence with the Philippine Central Product Classification (PCPC), serve as basis for classifying the establishments. For the NPI Classification, the Handbook on NPI in the System of National Accounts recommends the adoption of the International Classifications of Non-Profit Organizations (ICNPO). (see [36]) **Annex B** illustrates the ICNPO by group at one digit and 4-digit codes.

The measurement of the contribution of NPIs and Voluntary Work will be viewed in terms of its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The GDP<sup>10</sup> is the sum of all final goods and services produced by residents of the compiling economy. Using the production approach the GDP is computed as:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Gross Output (GO)} \\
 \textbf{Less:} \quad \text{Intermediate Consumption (II)} \\
 \textbf{Equals:} \quad \text{Gross Value Added (GVA) for Particular} \\
 \quad \quad \quad \text{Industrial Origin}
 \end{array}$$

**And**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) **Equals** : Sum of GVAs of All Industries)

The output of an industry refers to the goods and services produced in the resident economy. Intermediate inputs (or consumption) consist of the value of the goods and services consumed as inputs or transformed by a process of production. This includes supplies, materials, fuel, light, water, consumption of fixed capital and other inputs to production except compensation of employees. For example, the gross output or the value of NPI in the present PSNA represents the aggregate or total output of the industries/sectors served by the NPIs regardless of the consumers of the goods and services. To be able to measure the contribution of NPIs and voluntary work, there should be a disaggregation of outputs of NPIs done by establishments and the voluntary work done by households.

<sup>10</sup> The GDP Can be computed using the production approach, the expenditure approach, or the income approach

Using the expenditure approach, GDP is computed as:

	Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE)
Plus	Government Consumption Expenditure (GCE)
Plus	Gross Domestic Capital Formation (GDCF)
Plus	Exports (X)
Less	Imports (M)

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Equals Expenditure on Gross Domestic Product

PCE consists of resident households consumption of goods and services. The GGCE consists of resident government collective consumption of goods and services<sup>11</sup>. Meanwhile, gross domestic capital formation includes investments on durable equipment, construction, breeding stocks, orchard development, afforestation and net changes in inventories and acquisitions less disposals of valuables for a unit or sector<sup>12</sup>. Exports and imports consist of transactions in goods and services (exchange, sale, barter) between residents and non-residents of the compiling economy.<sup>13</sup>

In the present PSNA compilation, the expenditures of resident producers is reflected in general government and households which can capture the consumption of NPIs and that of voluntary work. But to be able to measure the distinct contribution of NPI and voluntary work, we need to separately estimate the expenditures of NPIs and volunteers.

The preceding discussion implies that goods and services produced by NPIs and volunteers are already included in the current compilation of the PSNA; but the appropriate disaggregation is needed to ascertain the contribution of voluntary work in the Philippine economy.

But while the current PSNA already captures at least part of the contribution of voluntary work<sup>14</sup>, due to data constraints and existing classification systems, neither the production approach nor the expenditure approach allows the generation of the estimates of the contribution of voluntary work. In situations like this, the SNA provides the flexibility of the satellite accounts that allow analysis of specific sectoral concerns without disturbing its central framework.

Satellite accounts provide information for a particular concern not provided in the central conceptual framework. It uses complementary or alternative concepts, classifications and accounting frameworks while maintaining consistency with the central framework.

The Philippines is currently compiling satellite accounts on environment, tourism, health and education, thru the Philippine System of Environmental and Economic Accounts (PSEEA), the Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA), the Philippine Tourism Satellite Accounts (PTSA) and the National Expenditures on Education (NEXA). There are also developmental satellite accounts that are being explored like research and development accounts, ICT and others.

In volunteer work, the volunteers constitute a significant input to many if not most non-profit organizations. Although people volunteer for other organizations, such as government agencies and even businesses, most voluntary work takes place in non-profit

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<sup>11</sup> 1993 SNA, Para 9.94

<sup>12</sup> 1993 SNA Para 10.32

<sup>13</sup> 1993 SNA Para 14

<sup>14</sup> Nonmarket services like unpaid work of household members are generally not included in the production boundary of the SNA

organizations.

Following the Input-Output Framework in the SNA, for the NPIs, the value of volunteer input may presumably be reflected in the value of their output. However many of these NPI typically produce non-market output of services which the existing SNA system does not generally capture. Because volunteer labour is so critical to the output of the NPIs that employ it and to their ability to produce the level and quality of services that they provide, it is important to capture volunteer labour in the NPI satellite account.

### ***Volunteer Work as Defined in Some Countries***

To enhance the credibility and acceptability of the satellite account on volunteer work, it is necessary to agree on a definition of volunteer work.. A number of statistical offices in other countries have done work on this area.

#### ***United Kingdom***

The United Kingdom Central Statistical Office defines volunteer activity as: “any activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which aims to benefit someone (individuals or groups) other than or in addition to close relatives, or to benefit the environment” (see [33])

#### ***Canada***

Statistics Canada’s definition is: “people who perform service without pay, on behalf of a charitable or other non-profit organization which includes any unpaid help provided to schools, religious organizations, sports or community associations” (see [32])

#### ***United States***

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics considers volunteers to be “persons who performed unpaid volunteer activities...through or for an organization...” (see [44])

#### ***Denmark***

Denmark Statistical Office defines volunteer work as “unpaid work done for non profit institutions” (see [4])

There are also exiting definitions from international organizations, handbooks/guidelines, and international manuals, as well as from the Philippines based on statutory provisions.

#### ***UN General Assembly***

The UN defines volunteering as the “wide range of activities, including traditional forms of mutual aid and self-help, formal service delivery and other forms of civic participation, undertaken of free will, for the general public good and where monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor” (see [34])

***UN Handbook on NPI in the SNA.*** The UN NPI Handbook defines volunteer work as “work without monetary pay, or legal obligation provided for persons living outside the volunteer’s own household.” (see [36])

***ILO Manual on Measurement of Volunteer Work.*** In July 2010, the ILO defined volunteer work as “unpaid non-compulsary work; that is, time individuals give without pay to activities performed either through an organization or directly for others outside their own household.” (see [16])

#### ***Republic Act 9418: Volunteer Act of 2007***

The RA 9418, An Act Institutionalizing a Strategy for Rural Development, Strengthening Volunteerism and for other purposes, also known as the “Volunteer Act of 2007” , defines volunteerism as “an act involving a wide range of civilities including traditional forms of mutual aid and development interventions that provides an enabling and empowering environment both on the part of the beneficiary receiving, and the volunteer rendering the act, undertaken for reasons arising from socio-developmental business or



corporate orientation, commitment or conviction for the attainment of the public good and where monetary and other incentives or reward are not the primary motivating factor”.

Relatedly, according to Carino (see [5]), Filipinos tend not to conform to the usually accepted (i.e. western) definition of what activities constitute voluntary service. For example, “praying for someone” and “lending money without interest” are considered as popular forms of volunteering. Fernan (see [10]) noted that for someone with absolutely nothing material to give, praying is an affirmation that the person empathizes and sympathizes with people in need. In addition, lending money without interest can be interpreted as an act of “sacrificial” service by people who themselves tend to have little surplus cash helping others in more desperate situation. Fernan defined volunteerism as “the giving of time, service or talent to someone other than a member of one’s household or some organization without consideration of money or kind”. On the other hand, Aguilin-Dalisay et al., 2004, (see [1]) defined *Filipino volunteerism* as “helping someone out of absolute free will or without compulsion to help and without consideration of any remuneration of anything in exchange”

### ***Proposed Operational Definition and Components of Volunteer Work***

While there are always multiple ways to define any complex concept, building on the various existing definitions, this paper proposes to define volunteerism as:

***“an act that denotes service or work activity to promote a cause or help someone, performed by an individual or an organization / entity / enterprise, wherein monetary reward is not the principal motivating factor, undertaken as non-compulsory and non-obligatory, and for the benefit of persons outside the volunteer’s household”*** (see [19])

Operationally, volunteer work is uncompensated hours spent on the following activities classified under the United Nations Trial International Classification for Time Use Statistics:

- (a) Community organized construction and repairs: buildings, roads, dams, wells, etc.
- (b) Community organized work: cooking for collective celebrations, etc.;
- (c) Volunteering with/for an organization (which does not involve working directly for individuals) and
- (d) Volunteer work through organizations extended directly to individuals and groups

### ***Current Approaches to Measuring Volunteer Work***

The inclusion of volunteer labour input thru a satellite account of the SNA permits more accurate comparisons of input structure and cost structure in the SNA. In the implementation of this extension of the production boundary, the inclusion of imputed value of volunteer work requires additional information beyond the regularly collected and used data for SNA purposes; specifically information is needed both on the number of hours volunteered and on the wage at which to value those hours (see [36])

Key variables in measuring the economic contribution of volunteer work are the volunteer number (volunteer rate) and Full Time Equivalent Employment(FTE)<sup>15</sup>. The NPI Handbook recommends that volunteer number be classified by occupation, age and sex. In extensions, it recommends classifying also by education, by skill level, by average

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<sup>15</sup> Full-time equivalent employment (FTE) is a measure of labour input considered inferior to total hours worked in the 1993 SNA (para. 17.14); however, it is recommended that FTE employment also appear in the national accounts to facilitate comparison with countries that can only estimate FTE employment and to make allowance for variations in the full-time annual hours of a job group over time (see 1993 SNA, para. 17.16).

replacement wage, and by ratio of paid to unpaid work.

For valuation on volunteer work there are basically two approaches: **output-based** and **input-based**. Both approaches imply the existence of comparable goods and services available on the market. Whereas output-based methods value the result of production process, income-based methods refer (mainly) to the labor force spent for the volunteer activities. The *Handbook* proposes three methods by which volunteer services can be valued under the input-based approach. Each method involves assigning a wage rate to the total number of hours worked by volunteers.

### **Output Based Valuation**

Output based methods measure the result (the output) of the production process, the goods and services produced by the private household or the nonprofit organizations and values them with the market price of equivalent market products. Therefore goods and services produced have to be recorded in detail. Crucial to the valuation is the definition of output in a manner consistent with the SNA in order to assure comparability across countries. Obviously, this introduces severe data constraints and is therefore not yet commonly used.

### **Input Based Valuations**

Input-based methods determine the value of the labor factor by imputing a notional wage the working time invested in voluntary work. There are three different ways:

#### **Opportunity Cost**

The opportunity cost refers to the wage unpaid workers would earn in the market if they decided to give up the voluntary work and take up a job at a wage rate associated with usual occupation of the volunteer. The *Handbook* recognizes that while theoretically desirable for some analytical purposes, this valuation approach is not often used, as it assumes that paid work is foregone in order to undertake voluntary work.

#### **Replacement Cost**

The replacement cost or market cost refers to the cost that would arise if the work done voluntarily were to be brought on the labor market. This method implies that volunteers could be replaced by wage earners and uses the cost of replacing the volunteer with paid labour. The applicable wage rate is related to the particular activity being undertaken by the volunteer. This method is preferred over the opportunity cost approach. (see [36])

#### **Fallback Option / Wage Rate**

The *Handbook* recognizes that both the opportunity and replacement cost methods require more information on the activities in which volunteers engage than is likely to be available in most countries, like the Philippines.

In situations where detailed data are not available, the *Handbook* recommends a fallback option which values each hour of volunteer time at the average gross wage for the community, welfare, and social service occupation category since the work of volunteers is most likely to resemble this occupation category. The associated wage rate is conservative and is typically towards the low end of the income scale but not at the very bottom. However, in the Philippine Standard Occupational Classification,

there is no category for community, welfare and social service and information on this group is not collected by the NSO surveys.

These approaches challenge volunteer organizations to help find ways to most effectively describe their contribution and how to adapt these methods to their respective volunteer management and information infrastructure.

### **Capturing the Value of Volunteer Work in the Philippines**

As mentioned earlier, there are three key variables needed to be able to quantify the economic value of voluntary work when data constraints prevent the use of more rigorous approaches as suggested in the United Nations Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts (see [36]).

- (1) The Number of volunteers
- (2) The Number of hours volunteers rendered
- (3) The wage at which to value those hours

#### **Number of Volunteers**

The number of volunteers is the total number of individuals who are engaged in volunteer work. The approach proposed is to find a survey-based estimate of the proportion of the population that do volunteer work.

#### **Number of Hours Volunteered**

Hours volunteered represents the total number of hours of each volunteer activity during a specific period. Volunteer hours are hours spent on the following categories of activities as defined under the United Nations Trial International Classification for Time Use Statistics, as discussed earlier. These categories are:

- a. Community organized construction and repairs: building, roads, dams, wells, etc
- b. Community organized work: cooking for collective celebrations, etc.
- c. Volunteering with/for an organization (which does not involve working directly for individuals) , and
- d. Volunteer work through organizations extended directly to individuals and groups. Not included is assistance provided to one's direct family.

#### **The Wage Rate (or Average Compensation)**

The UN NPI Handbook identifies the wage rate as “the shadow wage” (see [36]) and which can be determined using either the opportunity cost, replacement cost, or the fall back option.

Thus, the value of volunteer work is calculated as follows:

1. Estimate the total number of volunteers in the country for a given period, say year.
2. Estimate the total volunteer hours spent during the given period (year).
3. Decide on the appropriate wage rate to use.
4. The contribution of volunteer work (compensation component of the GDP) is computed as the total hours of volunteer work multiplied by the wage rate.

The data on number of volunteers and hours of volunteer work can be sourced either from administrative records of volunteer organizations or regulatory authorities or from a register of volunteers or from existing censuses or surveys. The wage rate can be obtained from usually existing censuses/surveys.

In the Philippines, based on the findings of the NSCB-JHU project, volunteer organizations and regulatory bodies have no or very incomplete records. Also, the register of NPIs compiled under the project does not have information on number of volunteers nor hours of volunteer work. There is also no nationwide survey that collects information on volunteer work. But the Labor Force Survey, the Census of Philippine Business and Industry (CPBI) and the Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI) conducted by the NSO can be used to determine the wage rate particularly for those engaged in other Services such as community services and social work.

This paper uses the pilot Time Use Survey conducted by the NSO in 2000 in Batangas and Quezon City which collected information on voluntary work – both number and hours. The Batangas sample was assumed to represent rural areas while the Quezon City sample represented urban areas. From the TUS, the specific data used were the number of respondents doing “Community Service or Volunteer Work” and the hours they spent. The data came from 180 households from 1,077 total barangay in Batangas and 60 households in 142 total barangays in Quezon City. Following the Classification for Time Use Activities that has been proposed by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the activities defined under the community service and volunteer work are:

- (1) Attending meetings of the organizations;
- (2) Work for groups or associations;
- (3) Work for school and kindergarten;
- (4) Work for neighborhood groups;
- (5) Work as committee member, preparing for events, etc;
- (6) Fund raising activities, helping organization collecting money, planning a collection drive;
- (7) Care of the elderly, sick or disabled, hospital visitation;
- (8) Unpaid baby sitting;
- (9) Teaching or supervising, tutoring, mentoring;
- (10) Coach, referee, etc in sports;
- (11) leading a youth group;
- (12) working in a child care group, teaching or supervising children; and
- (13) leading or organizing a self-help group, support groups.

The TUS produced “estimates” of the proportion of individuals 10 years old or over who do volunteer work on weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays, disaggregated by sex and urbanity. These parameters were used to estimate the total number of volunteer hours in 2000.

For the wage rate, the paper uses the 1999 CPBI and the 2000 ASPBI. The average compensation of voluntary work is derived from the social work activities under the PSIC 4 digit code of Health and Social Work and is equal to the total compensation divided by total employment. This amounted to P28.45 per hour.

Benchmark estimates of the contribution of volunteer work were derived for the year 2000. From 2001 to 2009, the contributions were derived by extrapolating the benchmark estimate using the growth rate of GVA for Other Services under Private Services.

Because of the coverage limitations of the Time Use Survey, the computations in the paper are admittedly very heroic in approach but it illustrates the methodology and provides some insight on the contribution of volunteer work in the Philippines.

## **Limitations**

Given the current state of measurement of the contribution of volunteer work, the input-based methodology adopted in the paper for the benchmark estimate is acceptable and is in fact used in efforts to value similar concerns such as unpaid housework (see [46]). However, the estimates on the number of volunteers and the average hours spent per week by a volunteer on volunteer work with urban-rural disaggregation definitely need validation/refinement thru a full-blown TUS. Using the GVA growth rate of other services under Private Services to extrapolate the benchmark estimate to later years also needs to be reviewed. In addition, the operationalization of the coverage of volunteer work in the TUS must be consistent with the proposed definition of volunteer work.

## **IV. SOME RESULTS**

As stressed in the preceding discussions, the results presented here only aim to illustrate the feasibility/viability of the recommended valuation methodologies suggested in the UN NPI Handbook in capturing the value of volunteer work.

### **1. CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEER WORK TO GDP**

In 2009, the total value of volunteer work reached Php 44.5 billion, accounting for 0.6 percent of the total GDP. Meanwhile, in 2000 the total value of volunteer work amounted to Php 20.1 billion. The contribution of volunteer work showed a fairly steady share of 0.6 percent from 2000-2009.

On the average, the value of volunteer work at current prices continued to increase by 10.2 percent during the 9-year period from 2000-2009. At constant prices, it increased by 6.4 percent on an annual basis.

### **2. VOLUNTEER RATES**

Based on very scanty data from Batangas and Quezon City,

#### **2.1) In urban areas ((Quezon City)**

- Women do not do volunteer work during weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays!
- Volunteer rate of men is about 1.1 percent during weekdays and Saturdays. They do not do volunteer work during Sundays.

#### **2.2) In rural areas (Batangas)**

- The volunteer rate of women was about 0.37 percent during weekdays. 0.74 percent during Saturdays and a higher rate of 2.2 percent during Sundays.
- The volunteer rate of men is about 2.2 percent during weekdays, 1.73 percent during Saturdays, and 3.0 percent during Sundays.

### **3. NUMBER OF HOURS VOLUNTEERED**

In 2000, the estimated total hours the volunteers rendered reached 312.3 million hours. Volunteers from the urban areas accounted for 69.0 percent of the total hours while 31.0 percent came from the rural areas.

### **4. VALUE OF VOLUNTEER WORK IN URBAN AND RURAL**

The value of volunteer work in urban areas amounted to Php 6.1 billion in 2000 while rural areas recorded Php 2.8 billion on volunteer work.

## **V. ISSUES: CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD**

### ***Conceptual/Methodological/Valuation Concerns***

The Input-Output framework for the measurement of the contribution of voluntary work may be more conceptually appealing but most, if not all of the existing national statistical systems in the world do not have the capacity nor the capability to provide the data support.

The wage approach as proposed in this paper definitely is doable under reasonably favorable conditions in a fairly developed national statistical system. Certainly, this is possible with the PSS. However, this may not measure the true value of volunteering. The boundaries of volunteering goods and services are not covered and cannot probably be covered in the near future, by the censuses and surveys of the PSS nor by the administrative records of the volunteer organizations themselves.

Conceptually, there are outstanding questions like whether helping in the form of lending is considered as volunteer work. The standard and trial classification systems currently used like the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification and the International Classification of Non Profit Organizations need to be revisited to assess their relevance to volunteer work. Also, volunteering has intangible benefits to both beneficiaries and the volunteers themselves like social cohesion, love and affection, acquiring a greater sense of responsibility to society, which are obscured by the wage approach.

It may also be useful to disaggregate the contribution of voluntary work into formal volunteering and informal volunteering

### ***Data Availability Issues***

The biggest stumbling block to measuring the contribution of volunteer work is the lack of data support. This is of course a problem common to many measurement concerns like the satellite accounts on tourism, environment, education, health, research and development and unpaid work. Even the core of the PSNA has data problems that have persisted over the years. But given the importance of volunteering to society, and despite the competing priorities on the measurement of other concerns, a reasonable amount of investments must be allocated to the generation of data on voluntary work. For one, the Non Profit Institutions must be adequately represented in the existing establishment censuses and surveys of the NSO and the ILO recommendation to incorporate data on volunteer work in Labor Force Surveys (see [16]) should be considered. In addition, other potential data sources like the regulatory bodies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other government data sources as well as associations of NPIs/NGOs should improve their information management systems to be able to contribute to the measurement of volunteer work. . The output of the NSCB-JHU NPI Project on the NPI Directory can be a valuable source of information and could serve as a frame for future studies / surveys and should be institutionalized. To facilitate the availability of the required data on volunteer work and to systematically organize its generation, government-private sector partnerships should be encouraged.

### ***Documentation, Dissemination, and Advocacy***

Despite local and international efforts to increase the visibility of volunteerism, at present, very little is known about volunteer work – their outputs, their “compensation”, their intermediate inputs, their working environment and how they relate to “paid” staff, etc. Moreover, the cost and benefits of volunteering are under-researched. Most data available

are administrative-based with very little relevant information to come up with a satellite account or a more complete picture of volunteer work. But whatever information on volunteer work is available, it is highly desirable that this be disseminated to the public using the latest advances in information technology. It is also time the PSS adopted emerging statistical dissemination practices which promote the free sharing of regular outputs including the provision of anonymized microdata.

Corollarily, continuing advocacy must be pushed both at the local and international arena to enhance the statistical visibility of volunteer work and to facilitate the measurement of its contribution. In this regard, the NPI Advisory Committee created by the NSCB-JHU project to serve as an experts group that can provide technical guidance will be useful. One forthcoming advocacy forum on the Measurement of the Economic Contribution of NPIs in the Philippine Economy. is planned for December 2011.

### ***Institutional Arrangements and Commitments: Non Profit Institutions Satellite Account in the PSNA***

One of the policies of the NSCB is to engage in statistical developmental initiatives only if it has the mandate and the capacity for institutionalization. When the NSCB started its efforts on the measurement of volunteer work, it had the manpower to allocate to the institutionalization of this initiative. The institutionalization of the NPI satellite account in the PSNA can be pursued, which can generate the regular measures of the NPI sector including volunteer work and which will make the PSS a pioneer in its compilation, as it had been for environmental accounts, tourism accounts, education accounts, health accounts and unpaid work. At present, the severe depletion of the NSCB manpower resources as a result of the rationalization program of government makes it impossible to pursue the agenda beyond the NSCB-JHU project. Hopefully, things will get better in the near future and the NSCB can contribute its share in the institutionalization of measurement of the contribution of volunteer work within the context of the PSNA. Nevertheless, the support of the following agencies will be needed:

#### *National Statistics Office (NSO)*

To incorporate in its surveys / censuses the collection of information on volunteer work; to conduct a survey of non-profit institutions; and to institutionalize the Time Use Survey.

#### *Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)*

To regularly compile / consolidate the financial statements of non-profit institutions / non stock corporations to generate information on the costs incurred by these organizations in the delivery of volunteer work.

#### *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)*

To improve its data management system to be able to share its available information on volunteer work including processed data from the financial statements of the registered and accredited organizations

#### *Development partners specially the International Labor Organization Philippines*

To support financially the initiatives of integrating volunteer work survey in the labor force surveys.

## ACRONYMS

<b>ASPBI</b>	Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry
<b>CHED</b>	Commission on Higher Education
<b>CPBI</b>	Census of Philippine Business and Industry
<b>CSC</b>	Civil Service Commission
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>DENR</b>	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
<b>DSWD</b>	Department of Social Welfare and Development
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HEI</b>	Higher Education Institutions
<b>IAVE</b>	International Association of Volunteer Efforts
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organizations
<b>IYV</b>	International Year of Volunteers
<b>JHU CCSS</b>	Johns Hopkins University Center Civil Society Studies
<b>LGU</b>	Local Government Unit/s
<b>NGO</b>	Non Government Organizations
<b>NPI</b>	Non Profit Institutions
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>PBSP</b>	Philippine Business for Social Progress
<b>PNVSCA</b>	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistics Division
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UP</b>	University of the Philippines
<b>VIDA</b>	Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance
<b>VO</b>	Volunteer Organizations
<b>VOICE</b>	Volunteer Organizations Information Coordination and Exchange
<b>VSO</b>	Voluntary Service Overseas
<b>WB</b>	World Bank

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## Annex A AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON VOLUNTEERISM

Data Type	Publication/Data	Source
Surveys	1999 Survey to Non Profit Institutions as part of Philippine Non Profit Project	University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG)
	1999 and 2000 Survey on Giving and Volunteering as part of Philippine Non Profit Project	University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG)
	2000 Pilot Time Use Survey	National Statistics Office (NSO)
	2007 Membership Data Base Survey Project	Caucus of Development – NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)
Administrative data	1961-2010 Information on Summary of Volunteer Deployment (Local and International)	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA)
	1975-2009 Data on Number of Filipino Volunteers Deployed – International United Nations Volunteers	United Nations Volunteers Philippines
	1995-2009 Data on Number of National United Nations Volunteers	United Nations Volunteers Philippines
	1980-2009 Data on Number of Local Volunteers	Jesuit Volunteers Philippines Foundation, Inc, (JVPI)
	2001-2003 Number of Volunteers	University of the Philippines (UP) <i>Ugnayan ng Pahinungod</i>
	2000 Directory of Local Volunteer Organizations (Volume 1)	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) and National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
	Data on Names of Companies with Number of Volunteers	Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

	Data on Names of Companies with Number of Volunteers	League of Corporate Foundations (LCF)
Ad Hoc Studies	2007 Study Measuring Progress of Philippine Society: Gross National Product or Gross National Happiness	Virola, Romulo A, and Encarnacion, Jessamyn O. Paper presented on the 10 <sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics, 1-2 October 2010.
	NPI Project on the Measurement of the Economic Contribution of Non Profit Institutions in the Philippine Economy	National Statistical Coordination Board in partnership with Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies
	Factors for Entry into Formal Volunteering  Factors for Staying in Volunteer Work	University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG) in Aguilang-Dalisay, Grace H., Yacat, Jay A., Atoy, Navarro, M., <i>Extending the Self: Volunteering as Pakikipagkapwa</i> . Published in 2004
	Giving and Volunteering Information from Six Areas in the Philippines	University of the Philippines College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG) in Fernan, R L (Ed), <i>Beyond the Household: Giving in Six Areas in the Philippines</i> published in 2004.

**ANNEX III B : DESCRIPTION OF INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF NON PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (ICNPO)**

<b>ICNPO class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>ISIC, Rev. 3 class</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Culture and recreation</b>		
1 100	Culture and arts	2211	Publishing of books, brochures, musical books and other publications
		2212	Publishing of newspapers, journals and periodicals
		2213	Publishing of recorded media
		2219	Other publishing
		9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		9211	Motion picture and video production and distribution
		9213	Radio and television activities
		9214	Dramatic arts, music and other arts activities
		9231	Library and archives activities
		9232	Museums activities and preservation of historical sites and buildings and buildings
		9233 <sup>a</sup>	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserves activities
1 200	Sports	9241	Sporting activities
1 300	Other recreation and social clubs	9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		9249	Other recreational activities
<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Education and research</b>		
2 100	Primary and secondary education	8010	Primary education
		8021	General secondary education
2 200	Higher education	8030	Higher education
2 300	Other education (vocational/technical schools)	8022	Technical and vocational secondary education
		8090 <sup>a</sup>	Adult and other education
2 400	Research (medical research, science and technology)	7310	Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering (NSE)
		7320	Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities (SSH)
<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Health</b>		
3 100	Hospitals and rehabilitation	8511 <sup>a</sup>	Hospital activities
3 200	Nursing homes	8519 <sup>a</sup>	Other human health activities
3 300	Mental health and crisis intervention	8511 <sup>a</sup>	Hospital activities
		8512 <sup>a</sup>	Medical and dental practice activities
		8519 <sup>a</sup>	Other human health activities
		8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
3 400	Other health services	8512 <sup>a</sup>	Medical and dental practice activities
		8519 <sup>a</sup>	Other human health activities
		9000 <sup>a</sup>	Sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation and similar activities
<b>Group 4</b>	<b>Social services</b>		
4 100	Social services	8531	Social work with accommodation
		8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
4 200	Emergency and relief	8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
		7523	Public order and safety activities
4 300	Income support and maintenance	8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation

Table T3.3 (continued)

ICNPO class	Description	ISIC, Rev. 3 class	Description
<b>Group 5</b> 5 100	<b>Environment</b> Environment	9000 <sup>a</sup>	Sewage and refuse disposal, sanitation and similar activities
		9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		9233 <sup>a</sup>	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserves activities
5 200	Animal protection	0140	Agricultural and animal husbandry service activities, except veterinary activities
		8520	Veterinary activities
		9233 <sup>a</sup>	Botanical and zoological gardens and nature reserves activities
<b>Group 6</b> 6 100	<b>Development and housing</b> Economic, social and community development	4520	Building of complete constructions or parts thereof; civil engineering
		4530	Building installation
		4540	Building completion
		6519	Other monetary intermediation
		7414	Business and management consultancy activities
		7421	Architectural and engineering activities and related technical consultancy
6 200	Housing	9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		4510	Site preparation
		4520	Building of complete constructions or parts thereof; civil engineering
		4530	Building installation
		4540	Building completion
		7010	Real estate activities with own or leased property
		7020	Real estate activities on a fee or contract basis
		8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
6 300	Employment and training	9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		8090 <sup>a</sup>	Adult and other education
		8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
<b>Group 7</b> 7 100	<b>Law, advocacy and politics</b> Civic and advocacy organizations	9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
7 200	Law and legal services	7411	Legal activities
		7523	Public order and safety activities
		8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
7 300	Political organizations	9192	Activities of political organizations
<b>Group 8</b> 8 100	<b>Philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion</b> Grant-making foundations	6599 <sup>a</sup>	Other financial intermediation n.e.c.
8 200	Other philanthropic intermediaries and voluntarism promotion	8532 <sup>a</sup>	Social work without accommodation
		7499	Other business activities n.e.c.
		9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.
		9249	Other recreational activities n.e.c.
<b>Group 9</b> 9 100	<b>International</b> International activities	9199 <sup>a</sup>	Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.



**Table T3.3 (continued)**

<b>ICNPO class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>ISIC, Rev. 3 class</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Group 10</b> 10 100	<b>Religion</b> Religious congregations and associations	9191	Activities of religious organizations
<b>Group 11</b> 11 100 11 200 11 300	<b>Business and professional associations, unions</b> Business associations Professional associations Unions	9111 9112 9120	Activities of business and employers organizations Activities of professional organizations Activities of trade unions
<b>Group 12</b> 12 100	<b>Not elsewhere classified</b> Not elsewhere classified		

<sup>a</sup> ISIC, Rev. 3 uses a catch-all category of activities that is specified in more detail in ICNPO. Source: *UN Handbook on Non Profit Institutions in the System of National Accounts*; <sup>a</sup>Part of the class.