



DATA &  
KNOWLEDGE GAPS





The World Bank Group team identified areas where there are gaps in data and in knowledge in the Philippines. In alphabetical order by subject, these are as follows:

**Education:** There is little information on the senior high schools, which were created in 2017, or the experiences of graduates. An extended study would be helpful to understand the impacts of senior high school and formulate improvements to the system. The analysis could detail transition rates and flows between different education levels, the pathways of mobility of students inside the tertiary education subsector, especially between technical and vocational institutions and universities, the degree of curriculum integration, the degree of flexibility of the curriculum, and the degree of inequality of the education system, including access, retention, and completion. A better understanding of tertiary education could help devise policies to boost human capital, increase country competitiveness, and improve the country's capacity to transform its economy in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution.

More generally, available data on school quality and learning are limited. The upcoming releases of the 2018 PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) and 2019 TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) data will provide an opportunity to better understand the constraints to learning. If the Philippines' National Achievement Test (NAT) is conducted on a timely basis, student-level results could be highly useful as a planning and research tool, particularly if the data are linked to student, teacher, and school characteristics. Although the Department of Education (DepEd) collects a range of detailed administrative data, the data are only used in a limited way, and little is released publicly.

**Employment:** Although a regular Labor Force Survey (LFS) is collected, understanding of the labor market and informal work is limited by the absence of data on job characteristics such as the size of the employer, job tenure, whether the employee has a labor contract, and what benefits he or she receives. There is also substantial policy interest and little recent work on many interlinked issues related to the future of work

in the Philippines: the skills needed for future jobs, existing labor market policies and programs, and the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system. A more updated and in-depth labor market analysis could help identify the skill sets for future jobs in light of the agenda of the World Development Report 2019.

**Gender:** Information on gender-based violence is lacking, particularly for conflict-affected regions. Additionally, insufficient work has been conducted on gaps in wage gaps and labor force participation between men and women.

**Governance:** Further analytics on various aspects of public administration would be useful, including comprehensive assessment and data analytics of the public procurement system. There are also gaps in understanding the links between the concentration of political and economic power.

**Infrastructure:** Information on the state of infrastructure is sparse. An infrastructure diagnostic study and associated data collection would be useful, given the current government focus on infrastructure investments. The diagnostic could assess infrastructure gaps in areas including transport, energy, water, and sanitation, and discuss financing options. This could inform a broader analysis of spatial development for the country.

**Migration and remittance:** In-depth analysis on migration trends, remittance dynamics, and the role of the Filipino diaspora is limited. A migration diagnostic, including taking stock of migration trends, governance, and regulatory structures, and analysis of challenges and opportunities can help devise solutions to harness the benefits of migration and support the execution of migration-related SDGs.

**Pensions:** There are gaps in understanding of public and private pension systems. A full-fledged pension reform analysis, including scenarios simulations, could help inform evidence-based policy-making, particularly in view of the Social Security Bill.

**Private sector:** Data on innovation, gross capital formation by sector, tourism statistics, and the contribution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to exports are limited.

**Vulnerable groups:** There is relatively little work in the Philippines on the situation for people with disabilities (PWDs); members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) community; and indigenous peoples (IPs).