

#CloseTheGap

**Accelerating Post-Pandemic Growth
Through Social Justice**

2022 Development Policy Research Month

#CloseTheGap



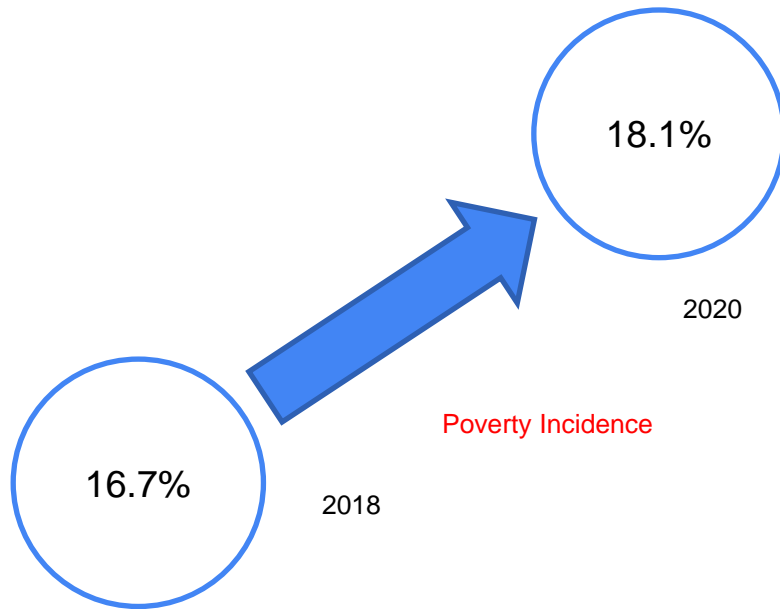
**IS COVID-19 THE
GREAT EQUALIZER?**

Apparently not!

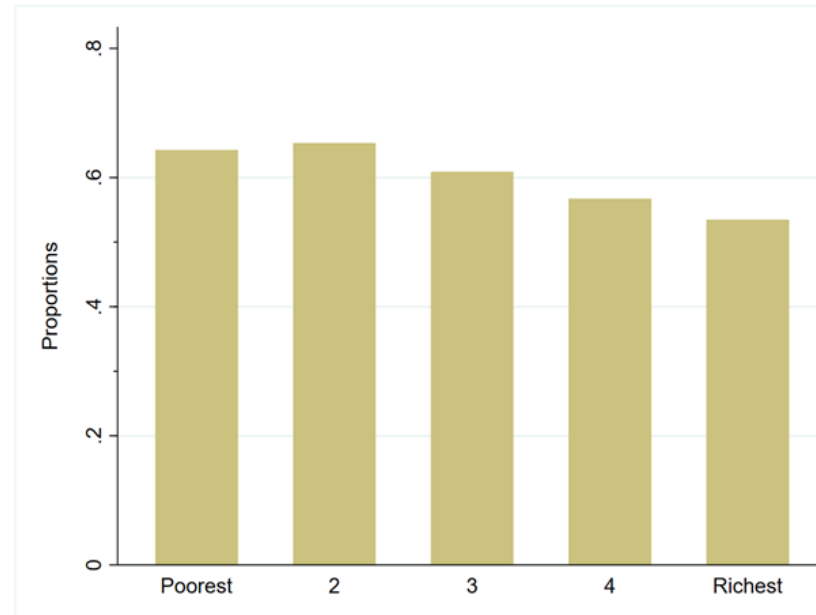
The COVID-19 pandemic
exacerbated the long-standing
inequities of society.



The decline in income was more severe among the poor.



Proportion of households reporting reduced income, Philippines, 2020



Author's analysis of WB data

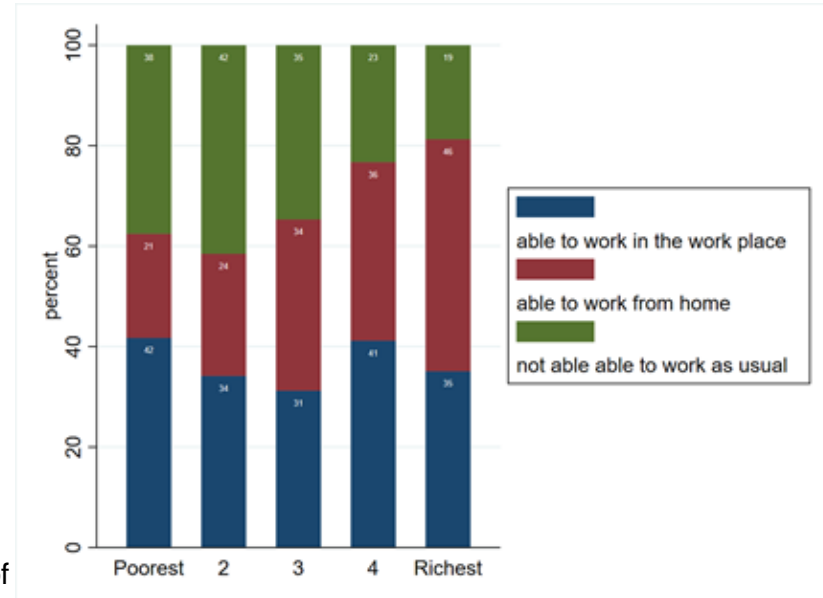
Historic high level of unemployment during the height of the pandemic, but the impact was more severe among the poor.

Unemployment rates, Philippines



The poor workers were also more at risk of infection....

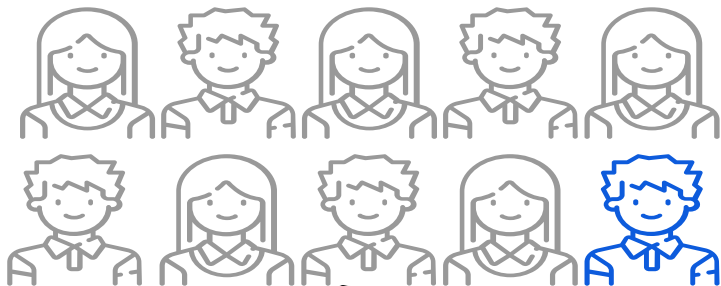
Proportion of workers, by ability to work from home



Author's analysis of WB data

The pandemic worsened the longstanding education crisis in the country; the impact was severe among the poor.

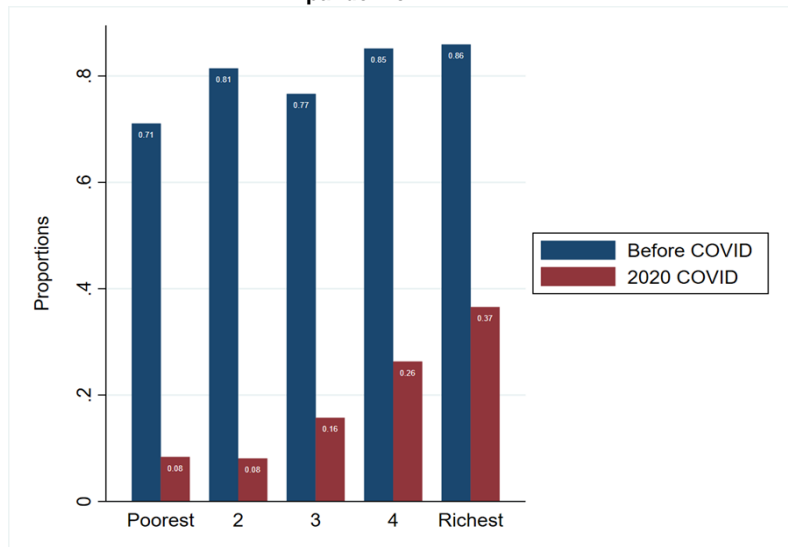
9 in 10 Filipino children struggle to read simple text...



*World Bank. 2022. The State of Global Learning Poverty: 2022 Update.

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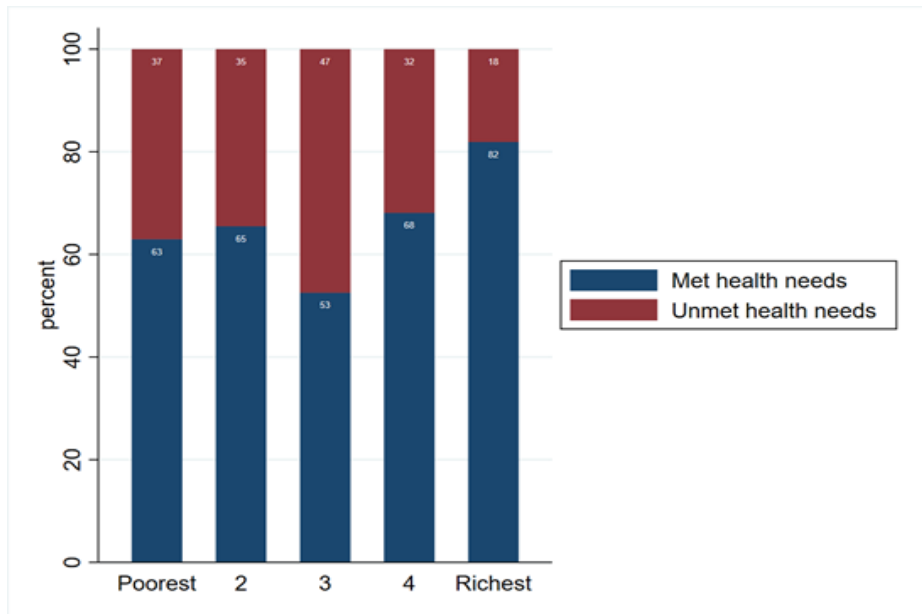
School participation before and during the pandemic



Author's analysis of WB data

The pandemic made accessing healthcare harder, especially among the poor.

Share of unmet and met need of healthcare

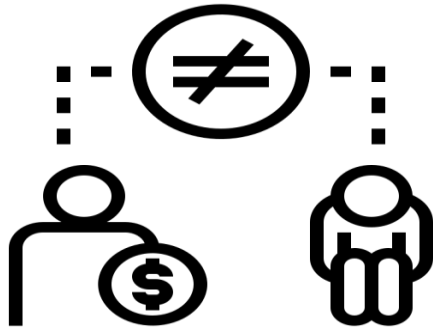


Author's analysis of WB data

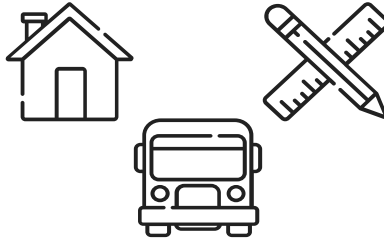
In 2020, **40% of poorest Filipinos'** health needs were unmet compared to the 16% richest counterparts.

62% of Filipino households experienced **moderate to severe food insecurity** affecting mostly the poor (CPBRD, 2021)

These disparities in human capital outcomes reflects the structural inequities that persisted even before the pandemic.



Income
inequality



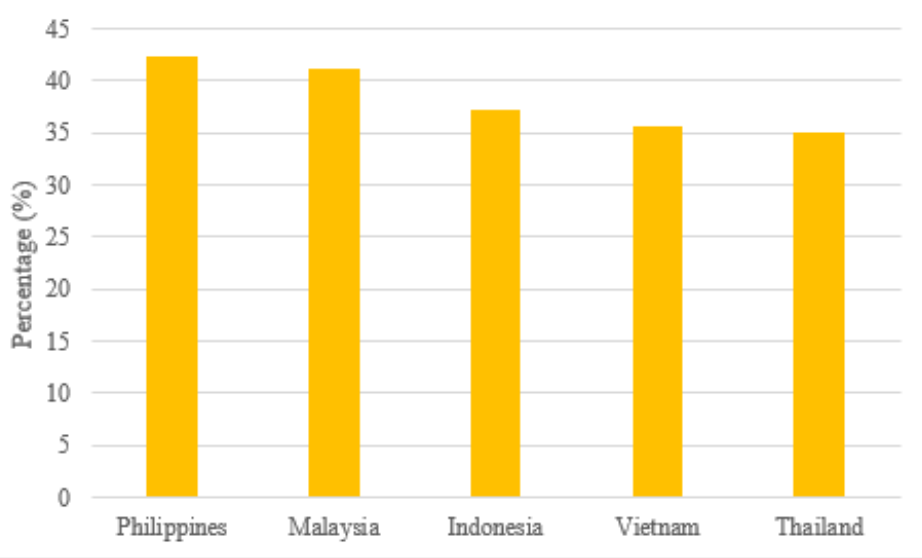
Poor working, living,
learning conditions



Eroding democratic
institutions and
political and process

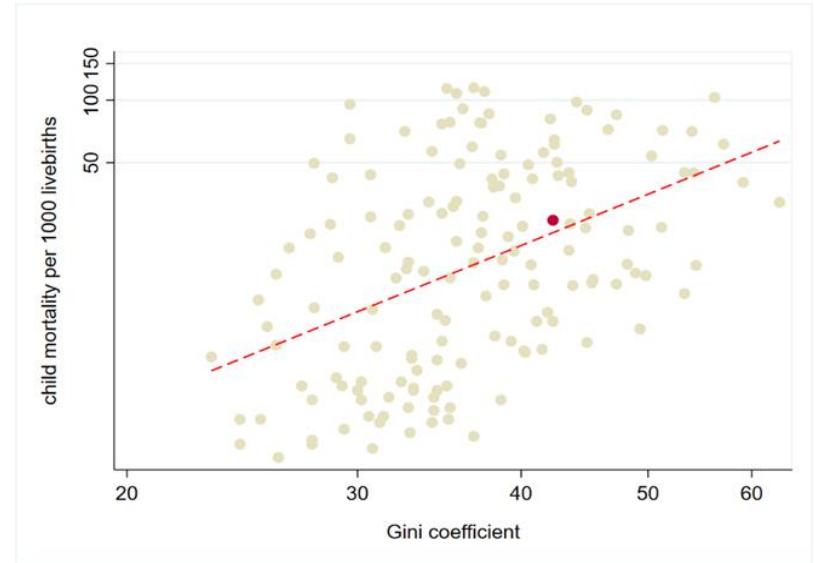
Income inequality is linked to poor health and well-being outcomes, lower social mobility, and weak social cohesion.

Gini coefficient



Author's analysis of WB data

Gini coefficient and health outcomes



Author's analysis of WB data

Precarious working conditions, and poor and learning conditions



Poor social and labor protection
(esp. informal sector workers)

Limited protection against work-
related injuries



Crowding

Lack of water and sanitation
facilities

Poor air quality



Limited access to high-quality
education

Limited access to technology
and other infrastructure to
facilities



#SocialJustice is assuring the protection of equal access to liberties, rights, and opportunities, *as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society.*

JOHN RAWLS, 1971

5 PILLARS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

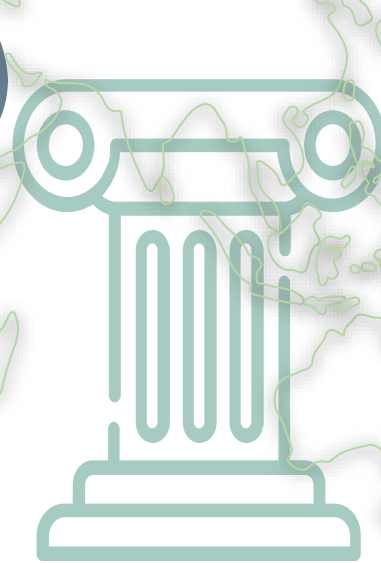
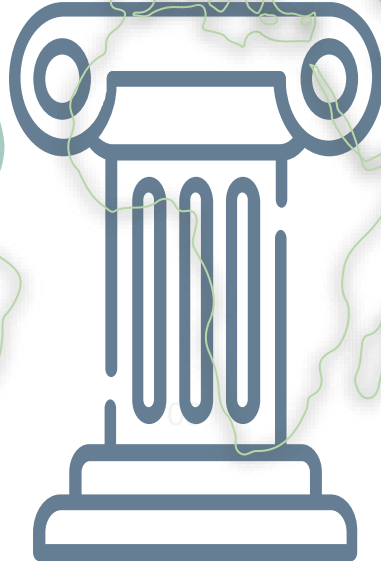
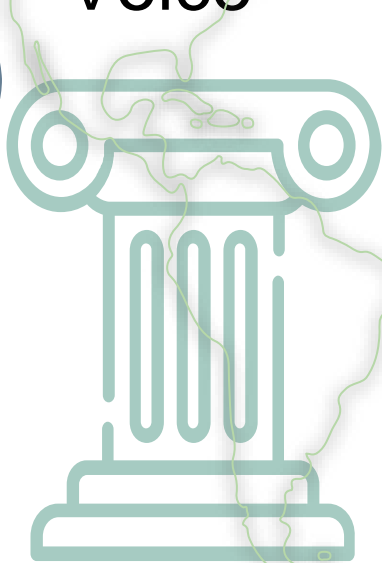
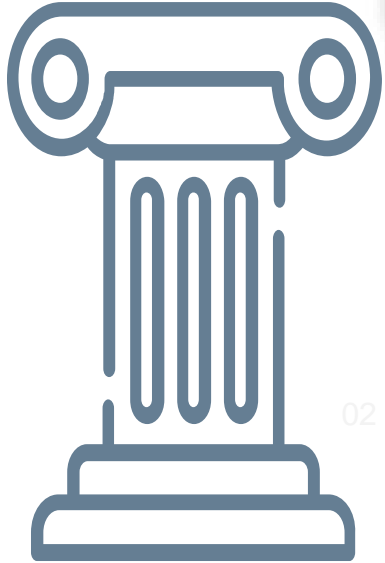
Equal
opportunity
to access
resources

Voice

Diversity

Human
Rights

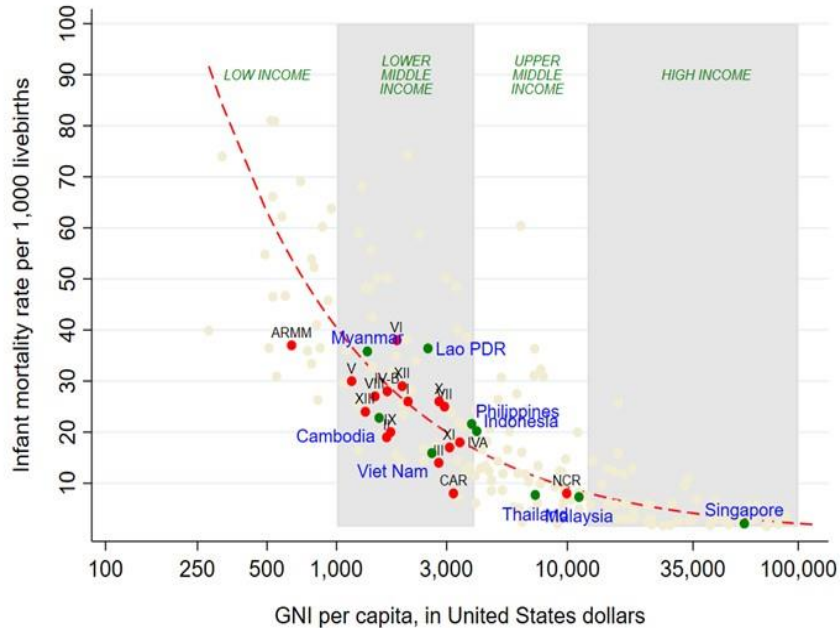
Equity



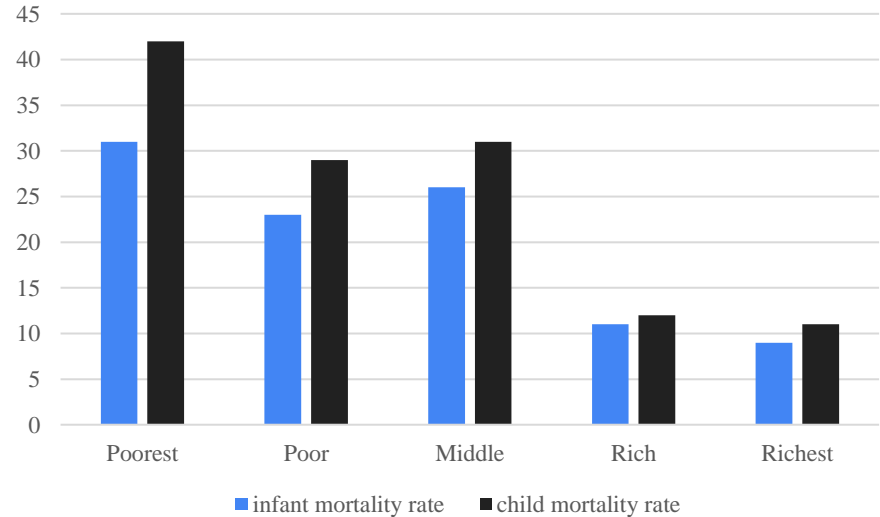
#SocialJustice in health

Large disparities in health outcomes persist in the Philippines

Infant mortality, Philippines



Infant and child mortality, Philippines



Unequal access to essential healthcare services hinder improvements in health outcomes



Health service
delivery

Health facilities are limited and concentrated in relatively rich local governments.



Health human
resources

Healthcare workers concentrated in relatively rich local governments.



Health
financing

High level of out-of-pocket

Lack of comprehensive benefit package – curative-focused.

What is **#SocialJustice** in health?

Strengthen the implementation of universal healthcare

- Expand population coverage
- Expand health benefits (e.g., primary care)
- Increase support value and financial protection

Equitable allocation of subsidies to local government

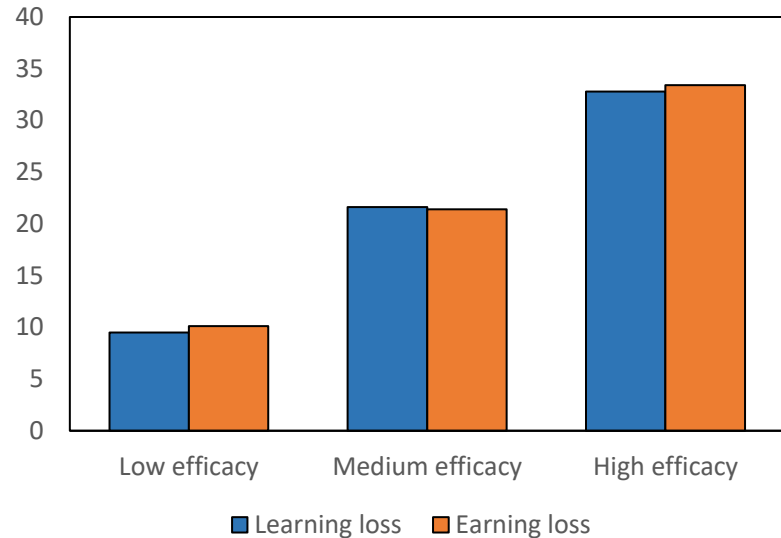
Addressing social determinants of health



#SocialJustice: education and labor

- Significant disparities in education outcomes reveal the inequity in access to quality education.
- These disparities were exacerbated by the pandemic because of digital divide and other socioeconomic barriers.
- Education is critical for ensuring access to decent work and for social mobility.

Wealth gap between the poorest and richest quintiles, Philippines (%)



Source: Table A2.3 and Table A2.4 in Gayares and Thomas (2022).

#SocialJustice: education and labor

- Informality is prevalent in the labor market.
- Massive job losses severely affected individuals who do not have access to social protection.
- The acceleration of digitalization of work raises the concern about increasing inequality, rising informality, and widening gaps on social protection.

Employment by status, Philippines
(% of total employment)



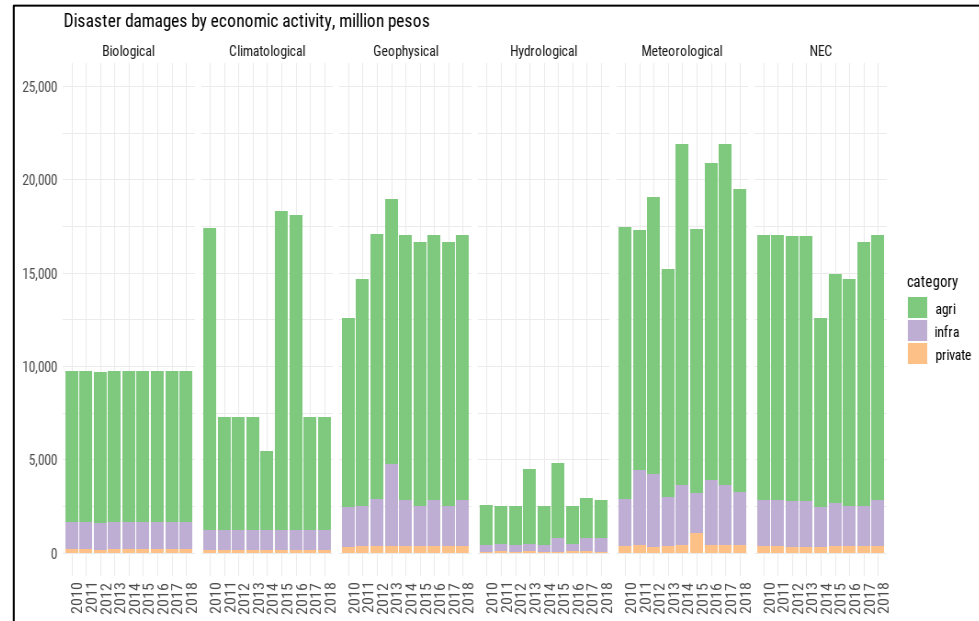
Source: Authors' calculations using ILOSTAT data.

#SocialJustice: education and labor

- Quality education involves inclusion, relevance, and democracy.
- Formalization of work and expansion of social protection schemes foster the advancement of decent work.

#SocialJustice: Environment

- Disaster risk from geological, hydrometeorological and man-induced hazards (i.e. cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, terrorism, COVID 19)
- 1st in the 2022 INFORM Risk Index for vulnerability to natural disasters; 4th in the 2021 Global Risk Index
- Community resilience as core of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Policy



#SocialJustice: Environment

DISASTER RISK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- The poor and marginalized as the most vulnerable
- Limited bottom-up representation
- Inequitable CC-DRRM resource distribution

LEGAL ADJUDICATION

- PH ranks high in terms of related deaths and environmental cases globally
- Slow progress on environmental protection-related cases

ANCESTRAL DOMAINS AND URBAN GREEN SPACES

- Compromised IP/ICC political structures and consent processes in Ancestral Domains
- Shrinking urban green spaces necessary to combat heat index and island effects

MINERAL EXTRACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Compromised Indigenous peoples and host mining community welfare
- Inequitable distribution of costs and benefits from mining

#SocialJustice: Environment

- Increase investments on climate-smart and green infrastructure across sectors, including agriculture
- Mainstream tenets of environment and climate justice in economic development blueprints
- Empower marginalized groups and strengthen community representations in institutional decision-making platforms
- Improve national and subnational planning and fiscal management for CC A/M and DRRM
- Maintain and strengthen transparency and accountability mechanisms in development projects, including extractive industries