

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

Gains, Challenges and Opportunities for Civil Society Participation in Bangsamoro Governance



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Thomas Wiersing

Charge d'Affaires a. i.

Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

The European Union (EU) has always been a proud partner of civil society in the promotion of good governance in the country. Over the last eight years, the EU has provided support through programs on strengthening democratic institutions and empowering civil society groups in Mindanao. The EU believes that active and meaningful engagement by civil society contributes to nation-building and making political and government institutions to become more accountable, inclusive, and effective in engaging with its constituents. In countries with a vibrant civil society, the complementary relationship between civil society and government has significantly improved the quality of basic services provided to communities and marginalized groups.

As the region transitions to a new regional political entity in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), democratic governance in the region will need the significant contribution and active participation of civil society in order to achieve the Bangsamoro's collective aspiration for genuine peace and progress in the region. With the EU's support, the Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment in the Bangsamoro (DELACSE Bangsamoro) was able to provide capacity-building activities to around 100 civil society groups from all over BARMM.

As one of its major outputs of the project, the EU is proud to be part of the research publication entitled *Looking Back, Moving Forward: Gains, Challenges, and Opportunities for Civil Society Participation in Bangsamoro Governance*. This publication studied civil society political participation and outlines opportunities for engagement under the political entity in the Bangsamoro. The research also looked into the profile of civil society focusing on who and where civil society organizations are, what their advocacies and interests are, and the ongoing dynamics between them and the political institutions in the region. This research likewise analyzed the gains and challenges in promoting civil society participation in the Bangsamoro and assessed the quality of civil society participation in governance.



Atty. Benedicto R. Bacani

Executive Director

DELACSE Bangsamoro Project Director

The Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) has been at the forefront in shaping public policies and institutional capacities for meaningful autonomy and governance in the southern Philippines. Through dialogue, training and research, we facilitate public policy process and institution building founded on the principles of inclusivity, human rights, rule of law and democracy.

This research on the role of civil society in politics and governance in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) provides evidence-based data and a snapshot of the state and challenges faced by civil society in engaging political institutions and public leaders in this period of political transition in the BARMM. Our constitution and laws, particularly the Bangsamoro Organic Law, recognize the critical role of civil society in nation building and in making public institutions and leaders accountable to the people they uphold to serve. Yet, civil society is voiceless and disempowered without the capacities and will to assert this role. The program “Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment” (DELACSE) Bangsamoro is implemented to respond to this great need to ramp up civil society’s active leadership and participation in building strong, accountable and effective political institutions and processes. This research is envisioned to help civil society, government and aid institutions in designing policy and concrete initiatives to make civil society a strong pillar in governance and politics in Mindanao.

IAG thanks its institutional partner Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the European Union for their support to IAG’s mission.



Prof. Dr. Stefan Jost

Country Director
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung - Philippines

The context behind the title of the DELACSE project is in itself an understanding that “democratic leadership” entails the significance of both a democratic political system and a strong civil society. These two factors are paramount to each other.

This has been the core focus of all DELACSE activities in the previous years. Part of these actions consisted of the current study on the development of civil societies in the Bangsamoro region.

Subsequent to a historical overview about the understanding and development of civil society in the past, the study intends to focus on a present-day inventory and has shown both interesting and imperative results.

To name a few of the important keywords:

- a “vibrant civil society”
- a growing number of CSOs
- a depiction of a broad spectrum of society, some of which have existed for more than ten years
- to offer “acquired skills and wealth of experience in program / project implementation”
- a depiction of diversity in the region
- to offer a “community-based approach”

The study has certainly looked into other fields that are in need of further development. An example would be “influencing governance.” A field that is predominantly existent in municipal and provincial levels but not in the BARMM / regional level.

It must take into consideration that a real influence on governance requires this influence at the regional level. This will be one of the biggest challenges faced by the various civil society organizations. However, this should not just be dealt with by civil society organization themselves. The government

of the BARMM must yield this as a challenge and opportunity for inclusive governance.

The study consists of a listing of several key areas in which the CSOs can and should actively contribute to, both in the present transition period and in view of the 2022 elections. These are also areas in which the BARMM government should consider for an active participation of civil society.

I would like to conclude by stating the following:

I personally find the title of the study appealing, "Looking back, moving forward". The lessons and experiences of the past, regardless if they were positive or negative ones, these are the exact grounds to further develop all aspects that lies ahead. One must put in mind, that when one hides the past, there is a possibility of repeating the same mistakes. Diversely, one must not be discouraged from the past experiences. It would always be helpful to refer to precedent experiences in order to enhance future dealings. There is certainly no doubt that the future of a democratic and inclusive Bangsamoro will confide in an active civil society.

The groundwork for this have been laid out. The DELCAGE project has made a vital augmentation to this. The study published here offers an important and current overview as well as relevant starting points for future strategic development.

This indeed is sufficient reason to be optimistic about the future!

My appreciation goes to all partners of the DELACSE project: EU, IAG, IID and most importantly the men and women of the Bangamoro, who have been active in diverse areas to achieve a strong civil society and an improvement of living standard in the region.

List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
ATD	Association of Tausug with Disabilities
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Basulta	Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi
BBL	Bangsamoro Basic Law
BirthDev	Birth Development, Inc.
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit
BOL	Bangsamoro Organic Law
BTA	Bangsamoro Transition Authority
BUSCF	Basilan Ulama Supreme Council Foundation
BWIF	Basilan Women Initiative Foundation
CBCS	Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DELACSE Bangsamoro	Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment in the Bangsamoro
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
IDP	Internally displaced person
INGO	International non-government organization
IP	Indigenous peoples
IPDM	Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao
Kadtabanga	Kadtabanga Foundation for Peace and Development Advocates, Inc.
Kalimudan	Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc.
Kapamagogopa	Kapamagogopa, Inc.
LGU	Local government unit
LIPAD	Local Initiative for Peace and Development in Mindanao
Magpatulahad	Magpatulahad Basilan
MARADECA	Maranao People Development Center
MUCAARD	Muslim-Christian Agency for Advocacy, Relief, and Development
MINCODE	Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks
MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
MMI	Magungaya Mindanao, Inc.
MOSEP	Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress, Inc.

MWDECC	Moro Women Development and Cultural Center, Inc.
Nagdilaab	Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc.
NGO	Non-government organization
Noorus Salam	Noorus Salam-Central Mindanao
NOR	Network Organization for Reforms
Pailig	Pailig Development Foundation, Inc.
Pakigdait	Pakigdait, Inc.
PLGU	Provincial local government unit
PO	People's organization
PWD	Person with disability
RIDO	Reconciliatory Initiatives for Development Opportunities, Inc.
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SIAP	Social Initiatives for the Advancement of Peace
SBYO	Sitangkai Badjao Youth Organization
TACOS	Tawi-Tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations
Taga	Youth Concerns Tagah Youth Concern, Inc.
TAGG	Tawi-Tawi Alliance for Good Governance
TAS	Tumpukan Anak Sama
TASBIKKA	Tabang Ako Siyap ko Bangsa Iranun Saya ko Kalilintad ako Kapamamagayon, Inc.
TAWAG	Tawi-Tawi Alliance for Genuine Unity in Mindanao
TBS	Tumpukan Bangsa Sama, Inc.
TJG	Timuay Justice and Governance
TLWOI	Teduray and Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc.
TLYSA	Teduray and Lambangian Youth and Students Association
UnYPAD	United Youth for Peace and Development
UnYPaD-RANAO	United Youth for Peace and Development - Relief Assistance Network and Organization, Inc.
UnYPhil-Women	United Youth of the Philippines-Women
WAVE	Women Against Violent Extremism
WOMB	Women Organization and Movement for the Bangsamoro

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment in the Bangsamoro (DELACSE Bangsamoro) Phase 2 is a European Union-funded project being implemented by the Institute for Autonomy and Governance and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, along with the Initiatives for International Dialogue.

DELACSE Bangsamoro commissioned this research to:

- a) study what CSOs – civil society organizations – are doing to promote citizen participation in Bangsamoro governance;
- b) analyze the gains and challenges in promoting civil society participation;
- c) assess the quality of civil society participation in governance; and
- d) explore opportunities for civil society participation and political engagement in the newly established Bangsamoro autonomous region.

The research looked into the history and organizational profiles of CSOs in analyzing the gains of, challenges to and opportunities for civil society participation in the Bangsamoro as it moves away from the shadow of the former ARMM and transitions into the newly established BARMM. It also analyzed programs/projects and services; sectoral focus and area of operations; and the quality of civil society participation and influence in governance, including women's participation in Bangsamoro politics.

The research has reached the following conclusions:

There is a vibrant civil society movement in the Bangsamoro autonomous region. This movement is represented by a growing

number of CSOs, including non-government organizations (NGOs) working with indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, youth and women's organizations, faith-based and academic institutions, and people's organizations and associations. The majority have acquired skills and wealth of experience in program/project implementation, being in operation for more than a decade. The majority of the CSOs were organized by self-help groups, NGOs and government agencies. Most of these organizations are duly accredited with government agencies.

The strength of Bangsamoro CSOs lies in the diversity of their programs/projects and services, sectoral focus, and community-based approach. The concentration of CSOs at the municipal/city and barangay levels is reflective of their strength in building local capacities, community-based advocacy and information drives, as well as improving access and delivery of services at the grassroots level.

The wide menu of services that Bangsamoro CSOs provide is built around a holistic community development approach that integrates these components to maximize the impact on target partner beneficiaries. The strength of CSOs in the Bangsamoro is also evident in the way they perceive themselves to be more effective in influencing governance at the barangay, municipal/city, and provincial levels, rather than at the BARMM/regional level.

A weakness among Bangsamoro CSOs is in strategic policy development and advocacy at the BARMM/regional level, and monitoring development and governance concerns at various levels. Most CSOs do not have the financial and human resources to mobilize communities and monitor activities on the ground, given the huge amount of resources

needed to launch a campaign all over BARMM. Thus, only a small select group of mature and highly skilled CSOs would likely be interested to focus their efforts on strategic, long-term policy advocacy and campaign for good governance.

The lack of CSO 'warm bodies' at the regional level underscores the need to build the knowledge and skills of more CSOs in strategic management, public policy development, advocacy, and lobbying that they need to apply in the Bangsamoro Parliament. Program/project monitoring at any level is also a specialized field that requires technical skills in research and documentation.

The newly established Bangsamoro government offers fresh opportunities for civil society participation and political engagement. There are several ongoing initiatives of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) along with provisions in the Bangsamoro Organic Law that can be the basis for setting up platforms and mechanisms for civil society participation that Bangsamoro CSOs can explore. A number of these platforms and mechanisms are as follows:

Formulation of legislative agenda. Members of the BTA and the Bangsamoro Parliament have their hands full in preparing several priority legislative measures, including the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, Bangsamoro Revenue Code, Bangsamoro Civil Service Code, Bangsamoro Educational Code, Bangsamoro Electoral Code, and Bangsamoro Local Government Code. The CSOs can observe the deliberations of various working committees in Parliament and offer suggestions or lobby for the inclusion of certain provisions relevant to civil society organizations.

Program planning and implementation. The BTA has recently approved the creation of the Human Rights Commission, Women’s Commission and Youth Commission and launched Project Tabang for health and education assistance. The CSOs working on women and children, youth, and human rights issues can approach the commissioners and explore opportunities for collaboration in program/project implementation.

Monitoring utilization of the block grant. One of the provisions in the BOL is the automatic allocation of the annual block grant from the national government equivalent to 5% of the net national internal revenue of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. There will also be an added annual allocation of PHP 5 billion for the rehabilitation of conflict-affected areas. CSOs can take the initiative in tracking the remittance and utilization of the block grant and assessing its impact, either as an independent third-party monitor or by seeking accreditation and becoming part of a tripartite monitoring team.

Election and membership in the Bangsamoro Parliament. At the end of the political transition in 2022, BARMM residents will elect an 80-member Parliament representing different parties, districts and sectors. Members of Parliament will elect from among themselves the Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers, with the former appointing members of the Cabinet. CSOs can lobby for reserved seats while the Bangsamoro is in transition and form political parties and join the election for membership in the Bangsamoro Parliament.

Accreditation and advocacy with inter-governmental development and planning boards. Parliament is mandated

to create a Bangsamoro Sustainable Development Board comprising representatives from the National Government and the Bangsamoro Government. This is an important policy-making body that Bangsamoro CSOs need to influence to ensure the integration and harmonization of economic, social and environmental considerations as vital dimensions of sustainable development policy and practice. CSOs can seek accreditation for board membership and lobby for policy measures with other board members. CSOs can also seek accreditation for membership in the BARMM Socioeconomic Development Planning Board.

Given the findings and conclusions generated by the research, listed below are recommendations on how CSOs can move forward and maximize the opportunities for civil society participation in Bangsamoro governance.

Form political parties and strengthen civil society voices in the Bangsamoro Parliament. CSOs should take advantage of the parliamentary structure of government and begin the process of developing political parties from various marginalized groups and sectors, i.e. women, indigenous peoples, youth, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, single mothers, orphans, etc., in preparation for the first Bangsamoro parliamentary election in 2022.

Women's civil society groups are in the best position to lead the way in building their political parties. Bangsamoro women are more organized and have the skills and experience in strategic policy development and advocacy. There are also existing platforms and coalitions where women civil society leaders and politicians can converge and collaborate, like the Women's Organization and Movement for the Bangsamoro (WOMB), Women Against Violent Extremism (WAVE), Mothers

for Peace, etc.

Build the capacities of political parties and their representatives in public policy development and advocacy.

Bangsamoro CSOs, admittedly, have very limited knowledge of political party formation and management. It is imperative to build their knowledge and skills of political parties and their representatives in all aspects of policymaking, advocacy and lobby work for them to be effective Members of Parliament.

Continue building a strong constituency on the ground and strengthen CSO coalitions.

Political parties would not be effective without a strong constituency on the ground. Hence, Bangsamoro CSOs need to continue their work in community organizing and community development to maximize civil society participation and political engagement at the grassroots level. Some CSOs can take the lead in building alliances and strengthen coalitions at various levels – at the provincial/city level, among mainland and island CSOs, and at the BARMM/regional level.

Explore other platforms and ways for civil society participation in governance.

There are other platforms for civil society participation and political engagement outside of the Bangsamoro parliament that CSOs can explore. They can apply for accreditation and participate in regional planning bodies. They can also take the role of an independent third-party monitor and track the remittance and utilization of the block grant.

Some CSOs can help promote full disclosure and transparency in government transactions. Faith-based organizations can help in mainstreaming moral and inclusive governance in public education. The Bangsamoro Organic Law provides the basis for

active citizen participation in Bangsamoro governance. CSOs need to study its key provisions and be creative in opening more spaces for civil society participation, transparency and democratic governance.

1.0 Background

The important role of civil society as the ‘third sector’ in the political system is well recognized in democratic public governance, especially in the Philippines where civil society organizations (CSOs) are widely viewed as the most vibrant and advanced in the world (ADB, 2013).

These highly diverse, non-state, non-profit and largely voluntary entities include community-based organizations such as people’s associations and cooperatives, as well as non-government organizations (NGOs) inclusive of philanthropic family foundations, faith-based charity organizations and academe-based research and training institutions that serve as intermediaries for and on behalf of the communities and sectors that they represent. NGOs, in particular, help organize marginalized groups and sectors, conduct training and other capacity-building activities, raise funds, and implement various community programs/projects that would improve access to social services, foster self-reliance, and self-governance.

In the Philippines, CSOs bring the issues and concerns of marginalized groups to the attention of the government and the business sector; act as vibrant voices of civil society in planning and budgeting processes at the local, sub-national and national levels; implement and/or monitor government programs/projects; influence policy and lobby for policy actions and reforms at various levels of governance; and facilitate the formation and representation of sector-based political parties

in Congress through the party-list system.

1.1 Civil society as an evolving concept

While the concept of 'civil society' dates back to the Age of Enlightenment in 18th century Europe, it has a much older history in the realm of political thought. The concept has evolved from the time of the Greek philosopher Aristotle (348-322 BCE), who introduced the notion of a political community as an 'association of associations' that enables citizens to share in the task of ruling and being ruled.

The teachings of Plato (428-348 BCE) underscored the important role of citizens in an ideal state and just society, and that is to dedicate themselves to the common good and the practice of the civic virtues of wisdom, courage, moderation and justice. On the other hand, Socrates (469-399 BCE) introduced the use of 'dialectic' or rational public dialogue to uncover the truth in resolving societal conflicts.

The philosophers in the classical period that followed did not make any distinction between the state and society, believing that the state represented a civil form of society and 'civility' represented the requirement of good citizenship. To this effect, the Roman concept of civil society was introduced by Cicero (106-43 BCE). (Ibana in Nabre, 2012)

In modern times, Antonio Gramsci (1937) underlined the crucial role of civil society as a contributor to the cultural and ideological capital required for capitalism to survive. Civil society's role is to defend citizens against the state and the market, and in asserting the democratic will, to influence the state. This is in contrast to how Hegel (1770) defined civil society, which he described as an instrument of capitalism that

serves its interests in promoting individual rights and private property. This was taken further by Karl Marx (1883), who considered the state and civil society as executive arms of the bourgeoisie that should wither away. (Ibana in Nabre, 2012)

1.2 Philippine civil society in the colonial era

The Roman Catholic Church and religious orders established the first civil society organizations in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period. These were welfare organizations like schools, orphanages, and hospitals that served the local elite at the time. Foundations and brotherhoods were also established that encouraged neighborly acts such as visiting the sick and helping with town fiesta preparations.

More welfare organizations were established during the American colonial period. These include the American Red Cross, Anti-Tuberculosis Society, and various schools and hospitals built by the American Methodist and Protestant churches as well as the Church of England. The colonial government at the time made distinctions between state provision of public goods, religious and private philanthropy.

The Philippine Corporation Law of 1906 recognized the right to create private non-profit organizations. The government subsidized the operations of some of these organizations. Hundreds of farmer's credit cooperatives were created in the 1920s and 1930s, with government support.

But dissatisfaction among peasants increased membership in the federation of labor organizations linked with the communist movement. This triggered a counter-reaction from government, religious organizations and non-communist organizations. The Catholic Church expanded its social agenda

to direct engagement with workers and peasants. Protestant and other non-Catholic churches expanded their services to rural development, cooperatives and credit unions. (ADB 2013)

1.3 Civil society during martial law and after the People Power revolt

The declaration of martial law by Ferdinand Marcos in 1972 marked a dark age for civil society in the Philippines. Many organizations were forced to operate underground and join the communist armed struggle, while others affiliated with universities and religious institutions. A few CSOs that were not on the radar of military operations continued to operate above ground and provided services to communities not reached by government agencies. Many of these organizations built strong relationships with poor communities. The activism of CSOs contributed to the People Power Revolution in 1986 that ousted Marcos and brought Corazon Aquino to power. (ADB 2013)

The period 1986-1992 was a golden age for Philippine civil society. Under a new constitution, legislation was passed that enshrined civil society participation in development processes and governance. These include the Cooperative Code of 1990, the Local Government Code of 1991, and the Women in Development and Nation Building Act of 1992. The favorable legal environment and inflow of official development aid allowed the number of CSOs to mushroom.

The government started to institutionalize civil society participation in national and regional development planning. While this contributed to CSO growth and development, some organizations were established by politicians, businesses and bureaucrats to advance personal, rather than public, welfare.

In response to this concern, ten of the largest NGO networks formed the Caucus of Development NGO Networks in 1991 to promote professionalism as well as expand the reach and effectiveness of CSOs. (ADB 2013)

1.4 Mindanao civil society and the Bangsamoro CSOs

Like its counterparts in Luzon and the Visayas, Mindanao CSOs flourished after the People Power revolt in 1986. Confronted with highly protracted armed conflicts involving the Communist Party of the Philippines, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Mindanao CSOs further evolved into peacebuilding development organizations, starting with the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the national government and the MNLF in 1996.

The majority of Mindanao CSOs at the time were Christian-led organizations based in Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City and Zamboanga City. The Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE), the largest coalition of Mindanao CSOs based in Davao City, was organized in 1992 and formally registered with the SEC in 1993. In a study conducted by Rood in 2005, MINCODE had 539 members, 20 of which were Bangsamoro CSOs that included the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS) organized in 2002.

At the time, home-grown CSOs were relatively new, as observed by Guiam in a study conducted in 1999. She underscored the middle-class background of most of these CSOs whose founders were urban-based professionals, although grassroots organizations of farmers, fisherfolks, and urban poor were also present. There were also religious and missionary organizations such as the Tableegh and a national association of Muslim converts.

Since the inception of the autonomous region, Bangsamoro CSOs have grown much in number and experience. The CBCS currently has around 160 members, and more CSOs and coalitions are being formed and organized in various parts of the Bangsamoro region. These organizations have been very active in moving the peace process forward in Muslim Mindanao.

In partnership with national CSOs, international NGOs (INGOs) and other Mindanao civil society groups, Bangsamoro CSOs were involved in various capacities in the implementation and monitoring of the Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF in 1996. They helped in the conduct of public consultations and dialogues with the peace panels of both government and the MILF, and in the formulation of a peace agenda for the Bangsamoro that is inclusive of women, youth and indigenous peoples' rights and concerns.

They supported the drafting of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro in 2012 and 2014, respectively, as well as the passage and ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law. The BOL formalized the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), with enhanced powers and autonomy compared to its predecessor, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

With the ministerial-democratic BARMM government in place, civil society in the Bangsamoro is given a fresh start and opportunity for active participation in governance and development processes within the region. They have the chance to ensure that the changes in socio-economic, cultural and political institutions and mechanisms would be both inclusive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of the

Bangsamoro people, especially the women, youth, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups.

With this in mind, it is important to take stock of the gains and challenges that confronted Bangsamoro CSOs in promoting civil society participation and democratic governance in the former ARMM and to explore the opportunities for civil society participation and political engagement in the newly created BARMM political entity.

2.0 Research design and objectives

The study employed a qualitative research design using key informant interviews as the main source of data.

The Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment in the Bangsamoro (DELACSE Bangsamoro) Phase 2, a European Union-funded project being implemented by the Institute for Autonomy and Governance and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung along with the Initiatives for International Dialogue, conducted research to assess the level of civil society participation and political engagement in the Bangsamoro. The project has identified more than 100 home-grown Bangsamoro CSOs involved in various peacebuilding and community development initiatives.

While some of these CSOs are actively involved in governance processes at various levels, their gains and achievements need to be assessed in terms of how well they influence policies, lobby for reforms, and widen spaces for the inclusion and meaningful participation of civil society in shaping people-centered governance.

Thus, the specific objectives of the research are: a) to profile CSOs in the Bangsamoro; b) to examine the challenges and facilitating factors in civil society participation in governance; c) to assess the level of women's participation in Bangsamoro politics; and d) to identify potential areas and ways for civil society engagement in the new Bangsamoro.

A close examination of civil society participation in the Bangsamoro is guided by a basic democratic principle: Power is in the hands, not of a minority, but the whole people. However, given the unique socio-cultural and political context of the Bangsamoro, civil society participation in governance and development processes can be a huge challenge. Prominent clans and families currently have complete control of political and economic powers, thereby weakening formal governance structures. The result is extreme poverty and insecurity in local communities, which have become passive and highly dependent on political clans as their patrons.

A key driver in the political economy of the Bangsamoro is competition over access and control of resources needed to sustain various political clans through a network of client-patron relationships. Thus, the impact of civil society participation and political engagement in the Bangsamoro must be viewed in terms of how civic spaces have been opened to marginalized groups and sectors at various levels of governance, and how political clans have been influenced by CSOs to share powers and economic resources with disenfranchised groups, sectors and communities.

2.1 Research questions

Guided by the above research objectives, the study revolved around the following questions:

- *How visible and active are civil society organizations in promoting democratic governance in the Bangsamoro?*
- *How many home-grown CSOs engage in initiatives to promote civil society participation in governance processes?*
- *What are the challenges faced by civil society organizations operating in the Bangsamoro?*
- *What factors facilitate civil society participation in governance?*
- *How well are women represented in the Bangsamoro political leadership?*
- *What are the gains and challenges of women participation in Bangsamoro politics?*
- *What are available platforms and ways for civil society engagement in the newly established Bangsamoro government?*

2.2 Analytical framework

In looking at civil society participation and visibility in the Bangsamoro, the following areas of inquiry were factored in: a) programs/projects and services that promote citizen participation; b) sectoral focus and area of operations; c) quality of civil society participation; and d) platforms and ways to sustain active political engagement.

The first two areas of inquiry involved a quick inventory of Bangsamoro CSO operations – where they are and what they do to promote citizen participation in governance. The

third area involved an analysis of the gains and challenges in promoting civil society participation and democratic governance, particularly in the former ARMM. The fourth is an exploratory discussion of how active political participation can be sustained based on emerging opportunities offered by the newly installed BARMM government.

Programs/projects and services. The research describes the various programs/projects and services of CSOs operating in the Bangsamoro, and how these programs/projects and services are directly or indirectly contributing to widening civic spaces for political participation in governance. These include initiatives that promote women’s political leadership and participation in Bangsamoro politics.

Sectoral focus and area of operations. The research also describes the sectoral focus of CSO initiatives – the marginalized groups and communities that CSOs train and mobilize toward self-reliance and self-governance – as well as the area of operations and the geographical reach of CSO programs/projects and services.

CSOs may choose to narrow their initiatives and focus on some communities or barangays in selected cities and municipalities. They can also be strategic in their operations and concentrate more on the provincial and regional levels. Other CSOs may find it more important to work on key policy issues at the BARMM level rather than implement programs/projects directly on the ground.

Quality of civil society participation. The participation of CSOs in various governance platforms and development processes goes beyond numbers. The quality of civil society participation, including women’s participation in Bangsamoro

politics, is equally or arguably more important. As part of its analytical framework, this research examines how civil society and women leaders are influencing policies, planning and budgeting processes, and the implementation of government programs/projects and delivery of services.

Platforms and ways to sustain active political engagement.

The research explores various platforms, ways and mechanisms for civil society participation and active political engagement, including an analysis of women's prospects in Bangsamoro politics. New opportunities may open to CSOs in the political sphere because, equipped with more administrative and fiscal powers than the former ARMM, the parliamentary regional government structure unique to the BARMM is expected to facilitate good governance and a strong political party system not dominated by political clans.

2.3 Methodology

The research is qualitative and highly descriptive, utilizing one-on-one key informant interviews (KII) as the main tool in data gathering, supplemented with desk review and analysis of relevant studies and scholarly opinions on civil society participation and governance in the Bangsamoro. A team of highly experienced researchers was deployed for fieldwork and data gathering, closely supervised by the Lead Researcher and Project Team Leader.

Two researchers covered Cotabato City and the mainland provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, while another pair of researchers covered the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City. Most data gathering activities were completed in seven weeks, from August 30 to October 16, 2019. However, there were delays encountered due

to the busy schedule of most key informants. The last interview conducted was in Lanao del Sur on November 7, 2019.

A total of 58 out of 60 targeted interviews were conducted. Forty four of these interviews were with CSO leaders, selected at random from a list of more than 90 civil society organizations that included women, IP and youth organizations operating in the five provinces of the Bangsamoro region.

Data gathered from the CSOs were supplemented with 14 additional interviews, as a way of ‘triangulating’ or cross-checking the data coming from CSOs, including those from desk review and analysis of related studies and commentaries. Eight of these interviews were with CSO coalitions; one was with a ‘think tank’ group; four were with members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA); and one with a former woman legislator from Tawi-Tawi. The list of CSOs, coalitions, think tanks, BTA and LGU representatives who participated in the research is in Annex A.

3.0 Findings

3.1 Civil society organizations in the Bangsamoro region



Figure 1.

Bangsamoro CSOs sampled in the Study



3.1.1 Brief profile of the CSOs in the study

Table 1. Profile of Selected CSOs in the Bangsamoro

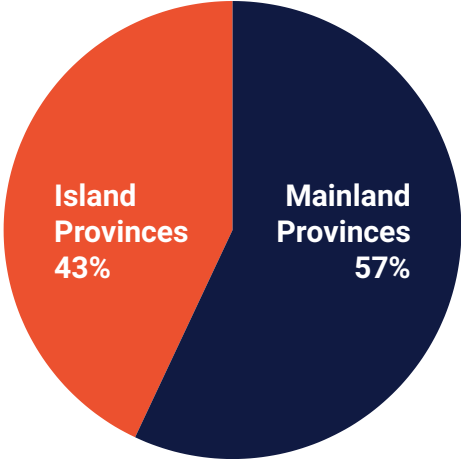
Features	Mag and Cot. City (13)	Lanao del Sur (12)	Basilan (8)	Sulu (5)	Tawi Tawi (6)	Total (N=44)	Percentage (%)
1. Registration	11	9	8	5	2	35	80
2. Years in operation							
• 20 years and above	2	5	2	0	0	9	21
• 10 - 19 years	9	4	4	0	3	20	45
• 6 - 9 years	2	2	2	3	0	9	21
• 5 - 3 years	0	1	0	1	0	2	4
• 2 years and below	0	0	0	1	3	4	9
3. Prime movers/organizers							
• Family members	0	0	1	0	1	2	4
• Religious leaders	0	2	2	0	0	4	9
• Women leaders	3	0	1	1	0	5	11
• Self-help groups (youth, IPs, IDPs, PWDs)	6	2	2	4	4	18	41
• CSOs/Government	4	5	2	0	1	12	28
• Schools/Teachers	0	3	0	0	0	3	7

Extrapolating from the data in the above table, four in every five CSOs in the Bangsamoro are registered, mostly with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Almost half of CSOs have been operating for 10-19 years, while a fifth has been in existence for at least two decades. Among younger CSOs, 9% are two years old and below while 4% have been operational for 3-5 years.

Four in every ten CSOs were organized by self-help groups (e.g. youth, IP, IDP, and PWDs) while a third were established by other CSOs and government agencies. One in every ten CSOs was organized by women and religious leaders. Only a small fraction of CSOs was formed by family members.

The table also shows the comparative advantage of mainland provinces over their island counterparts. More than half of CSOs (56%) are concentrated in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, including Cotabato City, which is the center of political and economic power in the Bangsamoro region. Among registered CSOs, the majority (57%) operate in the mainland. All 13 of the CSOs in the island provinces of Basilan and Sulu are registered. In contrast, only two of the six CSOs in Tawi-Tawi (33%), also an island province, have completed registration paperwork.

Figure 2. **Areas of Operation of Registered CSOs in the Bangsamoro**



In terms of experience, the majority of CSOs (66%) have been operating for at least ten years, and these are mostly in the mainland provinces (69%). These figures reveal that mainland CSOs are more advanced and experienced compared to CSOs operating in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (known collectively as Basulta).



66% of Bangsamoro CSOs have been operating for at least 10 years

69% are in mainland provinces

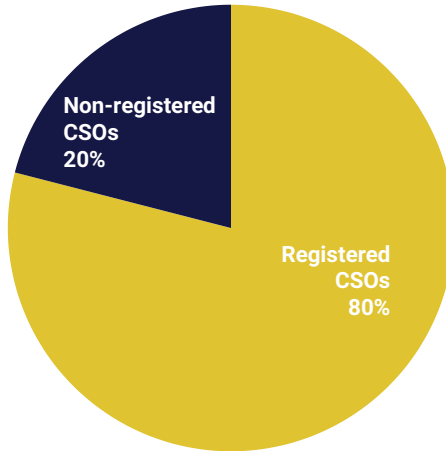
Registered vs. non-registered CSOs

In principle, voluntary organizations are not necessarily legal entities. But part of the evolution of the civil society movement in the post-Martial Law era Philippines is for CSOs to operate legally and register with the government, either with the SEC (for NGOs), Department of Labor and Employment or DOLE (for POs and associations), or the Cooperative Development Agency or CDA (for cooperatives).

Registered CSOs are generally more established compared with their non-registered peers. They have clear organizational vision, mission, goals and objectives (VMGO), constitution and by-laws, organizational structure, and manual of operations, among other documents required by law. As shown in the above table, all CSOs operating in Basilan and Sulu are duly registered, while 11 CSOs (85%) operating in Maguindanao and Cotabato City are registered. In Lanao del Sur, three in every four CSOs are registered while Tawi-Tawi has the least number of registered CSOs.

Figure 3.

Percentage of Registered Bangsamoro CSOs



Among non-registered CSOs, four are based in Tawi-Tawi, three are in Lanao del Sur while two IP organizations based in Maguindanao have decided to remain as 'loose groups', although they are duly recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Three organizations, including one PO in Tawi-Tawi, are also not registered since these entities are attached to government agencies and a state university that organized them.

Years of experience

The capacities and maturity of CSOs are often reflected in the number of years of operations and experience. Organizations that have been in existence for more than 20 years understandably have a wealth of experience and a good track record compared to those that have existed for less than ten years.

Among Bangsamoro CSOs, those based in Maguindanao and Cotabato City are relatively more mature in terms of experience, with nine organizations (70%) operational for 10-19 years. Two CSOs have more than 20 years of experience – the Teduray and Lambangian Women’s Organization, Inc. or TLWOI (25 years), and Timuay Justice and Governance or TJG (24 years).

Other mature CSOs include:

- Noorus Salam-Central Mindanao (19 years)
- Tiyakap Kalilintad (19 years)
- Kadtabanga Foundation for Peace and Development Advocates, Inc. (17 years)
- Teduray and Lambangian Youth and Students Association or TLYSA (17 years)
- Tabang Ako Siyap ko Bangsa Iranun Saya ko Kalilintad Ako Kapamamagayon or TASBIKKA (16 years)
- United Youth of the Philippines-Women or UnYPhil-Women (15 years)
- United Youth for Peace and Development or UnYPAD (15 years)

Next in line are Magungaya Mindanao Inc. or MMI (13 years), Moro Women Development and Cultural Center (MWDECC) Inc. (10 years), Local Initiatives for Peace and Development (LIPAD) in Mindanao (seven years), and Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress (MOSEP) Inc. (seven years).

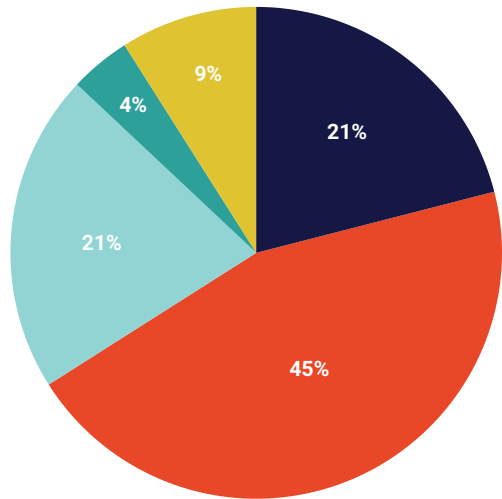
Lanao del Sur-based CSOs are equally mature. Five out of 12 CSOs in this province (42%) have been operational for more than 20 years, followed by four CSOs (33%) that have been in existence for 10-19 years. Two of these mature CSOs have more than 30 years of experience – the Muslim-Christian Agency for Advocacy, Relief, and Development or MUCAARD

(34 years) and the Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc. or Kalimudan (31 years).

Figure 4.

Years of Operation of CSOs in the Bangsamoro

- 20 years and above
- 10-19 years
- 6-9 years
- 3-5 years
- 2 years and below



Other mature CSOs include:

- Pailig Development Foundation, Inc. (23 years)
- Maranao People’s Development Center or MARADECA (21 years)
- Birth Development, Inc. or BirthDev (20 years)
- Pakigdait, Inc. (19 years)
- Kapamagogopa, Inc. (15 years)

Next in line are the Reconciliatory Initiatives for Development Opportunities (RIDO), Inc. (12 years), Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao or IPDM (12 years), United Youth for Peace and Development - Relief Assistance Network and Organization, Inc. or UnYPaD - RANAo (nine years), and Social Initiatives for the Advancement of Peace or SIAP (six years).

Only one CSO in Lanao del Sur claimed to have limited experience and to be not fully operational, the Network Organization for Reforms (NOR). It was established less than four years. NOR is currently attached to Kalimudan, which launched the organization of young professionals in 2015.

In Basilan, half of the CSOs have been operational for 10-19 years while two organizations have existed for 6-9 years. The Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc. has been operational for 16 years, followed by Basilan Women Initiative Foundation or BWIF (14 years) and Magpatulahad Basilan (eight years).

Two CSOs have been operating for more than 20 years – the Al Ihsaan Foundation (35 years) and the Basilan Ulama Supreme Council Foundation or BUSCF (27 years) – but they were registered with the SEC only recently, in 2018 and 2016, respectively. Half of the CSOs operating in Basilan are newly registered. These include Bantay Basilan, Inc. (operating for 17 years, registered in 2016), and Kabataan Advocates for Peace and Unity Association or KAPUA (operating for 7 years, registered in 2016). One DOLE-registered CSO that has been operating for ten years, Tagah Youth Concerns, Inc., is in the process of re-organizing and registering with the SEC.

Sulu-based CSOs are relatively younger, with three organizations (60%) having 6-9 years of experience. The remainder have been in existence for less than five years. Matawaksi, Inc. has been operational since 2011 (eight years), although the organization was registered only in 2013. In the same vein, E-Wave Integrated Services was established in 2012, but registered with the SEC only in 2016. On the other hand, Tumpukan Anak Sama (TAS) has been operational and duly registered since its inception in 2012. The younger CSOs are Kapatut Bangsa Sug or KBS (four years in operation) and the Association of Tausug with

Disabilities (ATD), which organized and registered with DOLE in 2017.

In Tawi-Tawi, two out of six CSOs are registered with the SEC, one of which is part of a duly registered national coalition of people organizations. As the most experienced CSO in the province, Tarbilang has been operating since 1988 under a different name. It was registered with the SEC in 2003. On the other hand, Kalipi is part of a national women's organization that has been operational for ten years. The Tawi-Tawi Alliance for Good Governance, Inc. (TAWAG) was established in 2005 but has yet to be registered with the SEC.

The rest of the CSOs are in the process of applying for registration since most of them are still in the inception stage with very limited experience. These are the Tumpukan Bangsa Sama, Inc. (TBS), Sitangkai Badjao Youth Organization (SBYO), and Tawi-Tawi Alliance for Genuine Unity in Mindanao (TAGUM).

The case of Tawi-Tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations or TACOS is unique. It operates like a CSO but is really a coalition of 84 community-based organizations (NGOs, POs, cooperatives, and associations) that provide services and implements various programs/projects, including monitoring of mining operations. While not profiled like individual CSOs, this study finds valuable TACOS's experience in partnership building and collaboration with LGUs and government agencies, as well as with various national, Mindanao-wide and regional CSO coalitions. This is true as well of CBCS, Women Against Violent Extremism (WAVE), C-CARE and other networks and alliances of CSOs in the Bangsamoro.

Prime movers and organizational mission

Civil society organizations are often reflective of key issues that affect their immediate environment, expressed in their organizational mission as an embodiment of the ideals and aspirations for change by their founding members and prime movers. In the case of Bangsamoro CSOs, the majority were organized by self-help groups such as indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities (41%), followed by civil society and government leaders and agencies (28%), women leaders (11%) and religious leaders (9%). Three CSOs were organized by school-based professionals while two others report that they were established by family members.

Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs. Among Maguindanao and Cotabato City-based CSOs, MMI, TASBIKKA, Tiyakap Kalilintad, and UnYPhil-Women were organized as a humanitarian response to the issues of internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially the women and children who were affected by the 2000 and 2003 all-out war between government and rebel forces. Human rights violations and gender-based violence were quite rampant at the time, compelling development workers to monitor and document human rights violations, and improve the living conditions of displaced families.

MWDECC was organized by women leaders and professionals to empower women and promote the Bangsamoro culture. For its part, TJG was established in 1995 to protect the rights, ancestral domain and customary laws of indigenous Teduray and Lambangian in the Bangsamoro. After some time, IP women leaders who wanted to have a voice in the tribal council dominated by men decided to establish their own organization, giving birth to TLWOI.

Soon after, the TLYSA was established to focus on the issues of IP out-of-school youth, students and young professionals. Discrimination and bullying were a major concern among IP students at the time. UnYPAD also started as a youth organization to address oppression and help uplift the lives of Bangsamoro youth through peace education and advocacy.

Kadtabanga is an organization of former MNLF combatants and peace advocates established with financial and technical assistance from the government and various international donor agencies. It was designed as a sustainability mechanism in support of the implementation of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement.

Noorus Salam-Central Mindanao was formed by the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) and the National Ulama Council of the Philippines (NUCP) as a response to the concerns of Aleema (women ustadz). Ulamas are typically more focused on the men. MOSEP was formed by a group of professionals, mostly medical doctors and former staff of international NGOs, to provide a broader and more flexible response to various community concerns that international NGOs and development agencies cannot easily respond to.

Lanao del Sur CSOs. The formation of CSOs in Lanao del Sur mainly revolves around addressing clan-based conflict or 'rido' and other forms of horizontal, low-intensity conflict between Muslim and Christian populations that are exacerbated by vertical armed struggles. RIDO, as an example, was organized by traditional leaders and peace and order council members of Marawi City to address the problem of 'rido' by training the council of elders on conflict resolution and organizing clan-based conflict mediators.

MUCAARD, on the other hand, was formed by the church and civic leaders during martial law in the 1970s as a showcase for Muslims and Christians to live and work harmoniously towards community peace and development. Likewise, Kalimudan was organized by Mindanao State University professors and young professionals as a response to misunderstandings between Muslims and Christians in Iligan and Marawi City on issues related to politics and the environmental crisis in 1991. Pakigdait was also formed to address the 'disconnect' and divisiveness felt among various religious groups in the municipality of Kauswagan brought about by the 2000 all-out war.

MARADECA was started as a response to the issue of vote-buying and lack of voters' information on election matters. The organization was also at the forefront of the campaign against the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the US. The Pailig Development Foundation, Inc. was organized by political and social activists who realized, in the course of their struggles, that nothing would prosper if they continue to go against the government. The organization was formed to engage the government on sustainable development initiatives.

BirthDev was once part of a national NGO, the Balay Rehabilitation Center. After five years of operations, it became an independent psychosocial organization that focuses on victims of armed conflict and natural disasters. Likewise, UNYPAD-RANAO evolved as a local chapter of a youth organization, providing relief services to far-flung areas not reached by other humanitarian organizations.

Kapamagogopa is the first and only institutionalized Muslim volunteering organization in Mindanao and the whole country. Organized by civil society leaders with support from VSO

Philippines, it mobilizes and sends Muslim youth volunteers to share their knowledge and skills with Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

SIAP was organized by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) as Secretariat of its Bantay Bayanihan program. Its mission was to monitor and oversee the community policing initiative of the government's armed forces. It is lodged with the Mindanao State University's IPDM, another academe-based NGO organized by MSU professors and the Board of Regents to focus on peace advocacy, conflict studies, policy research, sustainable development, and public service.

Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi CSOs. Civil society organizations were formed in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi (Basulta) as a direct response to urgent issues and needs of the day. In Basilan, the Al Ihsaan Foundation established in 1984 by local leaders worked for the inclusion of women in Madrasa education, which was male-dominated at the time. Bantey Basilan, organized by CBCS in 2002, mobilized community volunteers to monitor and document warrantless arrests and other human rights violations that were rampant in the province. Nagdilaab Foundation, on the other hand, is a church-based NGO established in 2003 to help vulnerable sectors and empower the community through capacity-building in governance and decision-making.

Women community leaders also took the initiative to empower their ranks. One project was the establishment of BWIF in 2005 to help Yakan women develop their skills in cloth weaving as a way to make a living. Magpatulahad was organized in 2011 to campaign for the passage of the BBL. Tagah Youth Concerns and KAPUA were organized to focus on the issues and concerns of the youth amid heightened insecurities and vulnerability to

armed conflict.

Matawkasi is a community-based CSO operating in Sulu. Women leaders organized it in 2011 to give communities a clear identity in implementing water, sanitation and hygiene and other low-cost community programs of the Department of Agriculture. E-Wave Integrated Services, on the other hand, was formed in 2012 to give Tausug marginalized groups a voice and help them protect their rights.

TAS was organized in 2012 to stop discrimination and to protect the rights of Sama as an indigenous group. The organizers were hoping that they would be given a seat in the Bangsamoro parliament to represent the Sama people. Kapatut Bangsa Sug was organized by local leaders in 2015 to document and raise awareness on human rights violations. ATD was formed in 2017 to promote the rights and well-being of PWDs, not only in Sulu but throughout the BARMM.

The most mature CSO operating in Tawi-Tawi, Tarbilang started as a micro-lending organization formed by school professors and teachers under a different name in 1988. The original group could not be sustained, prompting one of its prime movers to revive the organization as Tarbilang in 2003, with assistance from nephews and nieces who worked as volunteers.

TAWAG was formed as a multi-sectoral body to help marginalized groups such as women and the Badjao communities to fully understand their rights and responsibilities in governance. Kalipi, on the other hand, is a national coalition of women's associations organized by Department of Social Welfare and Development in 2009 to help in implementing the government's 4Ps poverty alleviation program.

TBS was organized by Sama indigenous leaders in 2017 to lobby for their rights and representation in the BTA and the Bangsamoro parliament. TAGUM and SBYO were formed by young leaders – officials of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), the youth council of 15-30-year-old barangay residents, young professionals and students. Both CSOs promote quality education for the youth, especially young Badjaos in Sitangkai who have very limited access to education.

3.1.2 Programs/projects and services

The various programs, projects and services of CSOs in the Bangsamoro can be broadly classified under the following categories: a) capacity building; b) advocacy and information drive; c) improving access and delivery of services; and d) monitoring development and governance concerns. The table below provides a snapshot of these programs/projects and services.

Table 2. Programs/projects and services of CSOs in the Bangsamoro

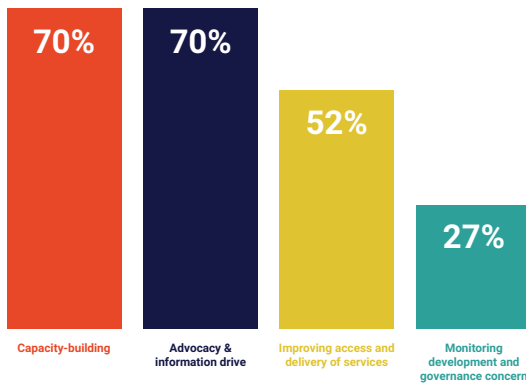
Programs, projects and services	Number of CSO Implementers						Percentage (%)
	Magui and Cot City	Lanao del Sur	Basilan	Sulu	Tawi-tawi	Total.	
Capacity building	12	8	5	4	2	31	70
Advocacy and information drive	9	8	7	2	5	31	70
Improving access and delivery of services	9	3	3	5	3	23	52
Monitoring development and governance concerns	5	3	2	1	1	12	27

Seventy percent of CSOs operating in the Bangsamoro have programs/projects and services on capacity building, advocacy, and information drive. Half of the CSOs (52%) have initiatives on improving access and delivery of services, while one in every four (27%) is actively involved in monitoring development and

governance concerns.

The strengths and weaknesses of the CSOs are reflected in the type of programs/projects and services that they provide. For example, most mainland CSOs and those in the island province of Basilan have the expertise and experience in capacity building, advocacy, and information drive. CSOs that are good in improving access and delivery of services are mostly in Sulu, Maguindanao and Cotabato City. In the case of Tawi-Tawi CSOs, their strengths lie more in advocacy and information drive.

Figure 5. **Programs, projects and services of CSOs in the Bangsamoro**



Most CSOs seem to have limited capacities and experience in monitoring development and governance concerns.

Capacity building

There is a long list of capacity building programs/projects and activities that Bangsamoro CSOs engage in. These include, among others:

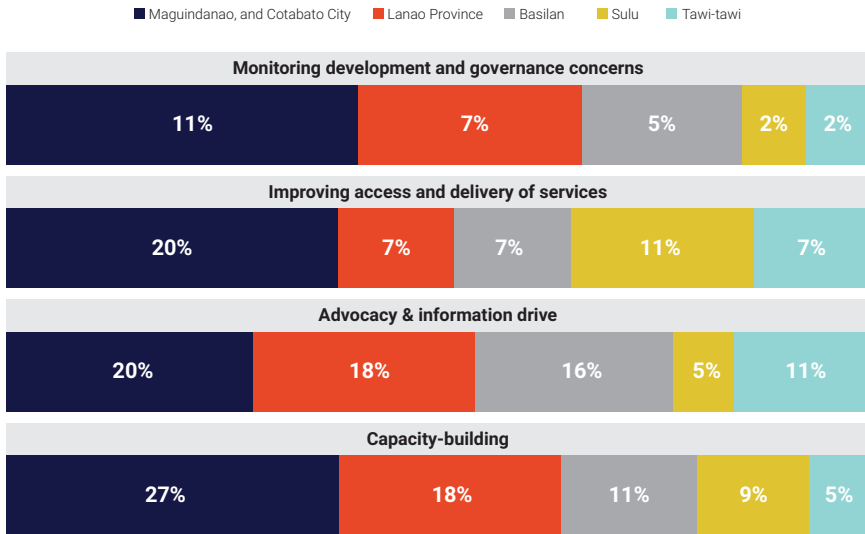
- skills and livelihood training for marginalized groups like women, farmers and fisherfolks
- leadership training for community leaders as part of community organizing and people empowerment development objectives
- social healing and peace education, inclusive of interfaith dialogues and the promotion of a culture of peace among highly diverse groups
- skills training on conflict mediation and conflict resolution in areas affected by clan feuds or 'rido'
- research and documentation of human rights violations
- gender and development
- disaster risk reduction and emergency response
- prevention and countering violent extremism among the youth
- barangay development planning
- strengthening barangay-based institutions

Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs. Ninety percent of CSOs in Maguindanao and Cotabato City have implemented various capacity building programs/projects for partner beneficiaries. As an example, MOSEP conducted voters' education and extended election assistance to MILF camps and communities in the last elections, in partnership with The Asia Foundation and the Commission on Elections. It also implemented a project that aims to build social cohesion among internally displaced persons in the aftermath of the 2017 Marawi siege.

TASBIKKA facilitated the federation of five barangay women's groups and conducted livelihood training on the production of bottled sardines. MMI conducted various training on emergency preparedness and disaster response, water, sanitation and hygiene programs, humanitarian protection and human rights, women and children protection, food security, and livelihood.

TJG facilitated the consolidation and widening of Teduray tribal villages across political boundaries in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato City.

Figure 6. **Area of operation of CSOs per program, project, and service**



MWDECC conducted leadership and management training for the women’s group BIWAB, livelihood training on bio-intensive gardening, provision of fingerlings, and fishnets for fisherfolks. TLWOI organized 35 barangay chapters of women tribal leaders in South and North Upi, Datu Odin Sinsuat, and Datu Blah Sinsuat, and conducted training on development education. Noorus Salam conducted training on women’s rights in Islam, maternal and newborn care, voters’ education, and good governance.

TLYSA conducted training for the IP youth on sustainable livelihood, resource generation and savings, conflict resolution, spiritual healing, indigenous sports, and arts. UnYPhil-

Women conducted training on peacebuilding and disaster risk reduction, livelihood support for IDP communities, gender and development, and mainstreaming gender in the Bangsamoro Basic Law, while UnYPAD conducted skills and livelihood training on mat weaving, baking, chicken and goat raising.

LIPAD conducted training on conflict negotiation, mediation, and resolution, and provided livelihood support (i.e. the distribution of corn seeds and fertilizers) as incentive for parties in conflict to settle. Kadtabanga conducted a series of capacity building activities to transform conflict-affected and vulnerable areas into peace and development communities all over Maguindanao.

Lanao del Sur CSOs. Lanao del Sur-based CSOs have also implemented a wide range of capacity building programs/projects and activities. MARADECA is focused on peace and governance, particularly on voters' education and electoral reforms. RIDO provided training on conflict mediation and resolution, human rights, and governance, including training on the traditional justice system for elders and formal state security actors.

Pakigdait conducted listening sessions in six municipalities that were not included in the BARMM. This is part of its capacity building program to promote peace and social cohesion in conflict-vulnerable communities. Pailig implemented capacity-building projects and activities on sustainable agriculture, 'rido' reduction and community peacebuilding, research and development, conflict transformation, prevention, and countering violent extremism among the youth.

MUCAARD implemented capacity building programs and projects on community development, primary health care,

barangay development planning, gender in Islam, and social enterprises. SIAP conducted quarterly dialogues with the military on peace and security concerns, peacebuilding workshops, and radio programs on understanding peace and violent extremism. In partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Kalimudan implemented social healing and peace education programs covering eight barangays in Marawi City in the aftermath of the Marawi siege in 2017.

In partnership with various international NGOs and development agencies, UnYPAD-RANAO has implemented a wide range of capacity building programs/projects and activities from community empowerment and youth development to basic literacy education. It has also focused on livelihood peacebuilding through intra and interfaith dialogues, barangay development planning, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

BirthDev implemented capacity building programs on sustainable livelihood (provided capital, management training on livelihood activities, and organizational development for POs), development education, and training on psychosocial support, coping and recovery for internally displaced persons. For its part, Kapamagogopa conducted interfaith dialogues in collaboration with other CSOs in Iligan City and Lanao del Sur.

As part of the government's efforts to institutionalize and integrate peace in basic and tertiary education, IPDM has been active in the rehabilitation of Marawi City after the siege. It implemented a microfinance project for internally displaced persons, with funding support from actor Robin Padilla.

Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi CSOs. The Nagdilaab Foundation based in Basilan has implemented various capacity building programs/projects and activities on community development, women and children, and out-of-school youth. BUSCF, on the other hand, conducted training on new teaching methods and strategies in madrasa education, as well as basic training on Janaza of the Islamic way of cleansing the body before burial. The Al Ihsaan Foundation and BWIF implemented capacity building programs on gender and development, particularly on women's rights in the context of Islam. Tagah Youth Concerns conducted orientation seminars for the youth, while ATD implemented livelihood training for persons with disabilities in Sulu. The capacity building programs and projects implemented by Tarbilang in Tawi-Tawi are more focused on health, education and livelihood. Currently on its third year, its program on women empowerment and leadership development has expanded coverage to Sulu and Basilan.

Advocacy and information drives

Advocacy work and information drives by Bangsamoro CSOs revolved around lobbying for the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) that actively involved most CSOs in the BARMM. Now that those two laws are being implemented, they also focus among others on human rights and humanitarian protection especially of internally displaced persons; electoral reforms and voters' education; women's rights and Violence Against Women and Children legislation; policy advocacy opposing the cultural practice of early and arranged marriages that violate women and young girls' rights; and understanding IP culture and customary laws.

All mature and highly experienced CSOs operating in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basulta have programs/projects with advocacy and information drive components. As an example, capacity building is always coupled with advocacy and information drives in implementing community development programs and projects. These two components work hand-in-hand in empowering community leaders and marginalized groups to analyze problems and take actions to address the root causes, rather than just the symptoms of marginalization, poverty and exclusion.

Disadvantaged groups and sectors like women, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolks, youth, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities are organized and developed into viable community associations or cooperatives through a series of training, information drive and advocacy for policy support, with technical and financial assistance from LGUs and the Bangsamoro regional government.

An integral part of advocacy and information drive is research and documentation. Academe-based CSOs like IPDM in Lanao del Sur are often commissioned to conduct conflict studies, policy research and documentation. Community-based organizations like TJG and TLWOI in Maguindanao have also conducted participatory research and documentation in support of their campaign and advocacy to protect the rights and ancestral domains of Teduray and Lambangian IP groups. Basulta-based CSOs like Bantay Basilan and Kapatut Bangsa Sug have conducted research and documentation of human rights violations in their respective areas to raise awareness on these issues and protect the rights of local populations from security threats and violent extremism.

A point of unity among Bangsamoro CSOs is the sustained

advocacy and massive information drives they conducted to support the passage of the BBL in Congress and the ratification of the BOL through a plebiscite. It was a momentous occasion for all Bangsamoro CSOs when the newly installed BARMM region replaced the defunct ARMM, with more fiscal powers and autonomy than its predecessor.

Improving access and delivery of services

The programs/projects and services of Bangsamoro CSOs around improving access and delivery of social services are focused on child and maternal health care; humanitarian relief and rehabilitation of displaced communities recovering from armed conflict and natural calamities; provision of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in far-flung communities; microfinance for internally displaced persons in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur and ambulant vendors in Tawi-Tawi; and provision of social services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities , among others.

In communities directly affected by armed conflicts, CSOs have been quick to provide humanitarian relief and rehabilitation services. In Lanao del Sur, BirthDev distributed school supplies, food, and transportation, as well as scholarships for children evacuees. Kalimudan and Kapamagogopa provided water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in evacuation centers while UnYPAD-RANAO conducted medical outreach activities. In Maguindanao, MMI and UnYPhil-Women provided water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Matawkasi provided temporary shelters for internally displaced persons in Patikul in Sulu.

In communities not directly affected by armed conflict, CSOs have also provided access to social services. In Maguindanao, MOSEP implemented a cash-for-health project by providing

cash incentives to traditional birth attendants for every referred pregnant woman to undergo prenatal checkups in barangay health centers. In Basilan, BUSCF distributed food packs to the poorest of the poor. Al Ihsaan Foundation, on the other hand, paid for the tuition for women attending the madrasa.

In Sulu, Kapatut Bangsa Sug provided school materials to madrasas in far-flung areas while Matawkasi supplied water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to daycare centers. E-Wave Integrated Services extended education assistance to orphans and children of war.

Monitoring development and governance concerns

Many Bangsamoro CSOs also engage in monitoring development and governance issues around human rights violations and election-related violence. In Maguindanao, these are MOSEP, MWDECC, and Noorus Salam-Central Mindanao. LIPAD and Tiyakap Kalilintad are more focused on monitoring the peace process and conflict incidence, respectively.

In Lanao del Sur, CSOs that actively engage in election monitoring and advocacy for electoral reforms are IPDM, MARADECA and UnYPAD-RANAO. In 2018, retired professors, lawyers and CSOs in the province organized the Ranao Movement Against Corruption, an information drive for clean elections.

Among island CSOs, BWIF in Basilan is part of the audit team for the Seal of Good Housekeeping in Local Governance program organized by the Department of Local Government to promote accountable governance at the local level. Another CSO, Bantay Basilan, is a member of BARM Watch, an advocacy platform that promotes inclusive and morally upright governance in the newly created Bangsamoro region.

In Tawi-Tawi, CSO participation in monitoring activities is led by TACOS, which conducts regular monitoring of mining operations in partnership with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as well as concerned mining companies operating in the province.

3.1.3 Sectoral focus and area of operations

As development catalysts and change agents, CSOs specialize in several issues and focus on certain groups/sectors in the delivery of programs/projects and services. The majority of CSOs in the Bangsamoro help women and children (59%), youth (50%), indigenous peoples (30%), religious leaders and community elders (23%), and internally displaced persons (18%). A smaller number of CSOs focus on farmers and fisherfolk (11%) and persons with disabilities (7%).

Table 3. Sectoral focus of Bangsamoro CSOs

Sector/Group	Maguindanao	Lanao del Sur	Basilan	Sulu	Tawi-tawi	Total	Percentage (%)
Women and children	6	7	5	4	4	26	59
Youth	2	7	8	2	2	21	48
Farmers and fisher folks	2	3	0	0	0*	5	11
Ips	3	1	1	3	5	13	30
IDPs	3	5	1	2	0	8	19
PWDs	0	1	1	1	0	3	7
Religious leaders and community leaders	2	3	5	0	0	10	23

*Does not reflect the 12 POs of seaweed farmers' and fisherfolks that are members of TACOS

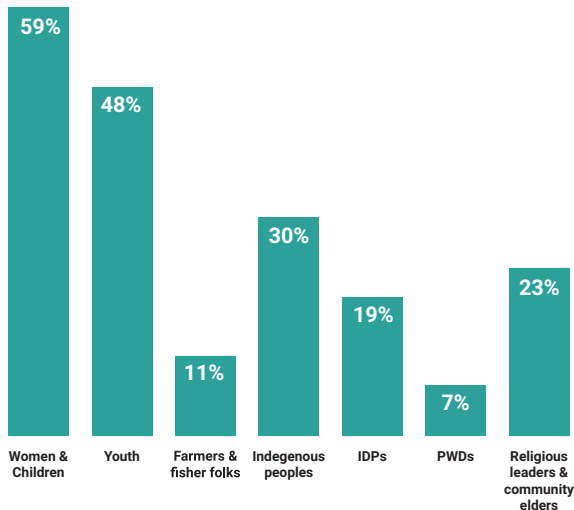
All CSOs across the five provinces prioritize women and children in their programs/projects. In Lanao del Sur and Basilan, more CSOs work with the youth, while indigenous peoples are a top priority among CSOs in Tawi-Tawi. More CSOs focus on

internally displaced persons in Lanao del Sur than in other areas.

The 84-strong alliance of CSOs in Tawi-tawi, as represented by TACOS, shows a wide diversity of community-based, self-help organizations operating in 11 island municipalities within the province. The POs represent seaweed farmers and fisherfolks, market vendors, mat weavers, health workers, parents, teachers, women leaders, senior citizens, MNLF peace advocates, young professionals and the youth. (See Annex B)

In Maguindanao, three CSOs working on IP concerns were organized by indigenous leaders themselves. The presence of faith-based CSOs in Basilan, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao has drawn attention to the needs of religious leaders and community elders.

Figure 7. **Sectoral Focus of CSOs in the Bangsamoro**



Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs. In Maguindanao and Cotabato City, almost half of the CSOs (46%) focus on women and children as partner beneficiaries. Three CSOs – MMI, MWDECC and UnYPhil-Women – work with internally displaced persons (23%). For their part, TLYSA and UnYPAD assist farmers and fisherfolks, children and out-of-school youth, respectively.

TASBIKKA provides services to teachers, barangay health workers and council of elders, while MMI serves community peace advocates, barangay local officials, religious leaders, members of the MNLF, MILF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade, and government security forces. TJG, TLWOI, and TLYSA cater to the needs and concerns of indigenous Teduray and Lambangian, including young professionals, students and out of school youth.

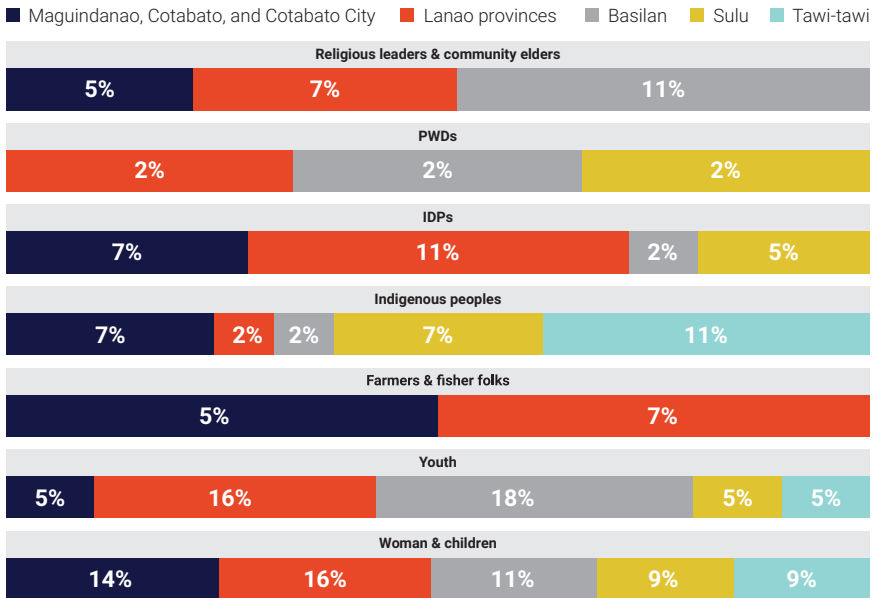
Lanao del Sur CSOs. In Lanao del Sur, seven CSOs focus on women and children (58%), and these are BirthDev, Kalimudan, MARADECA, MUCAARD, Pailig, Pakigdait and RIDO. The same number of CSOs have the youth as their primary partner beneficiaries (58%) – Kapamagogopa, MARADECA, MUCAARD, Pailig, Pakigdait, RIDO and UnYPAD. Three CSOs assist farmers and fisherfolks (25%), and these are MARADECA, MUCAARD, and Pailig.

Five CSOs work with internally displaced persons – BirthDev, Kalimudan, Kapamagogopa, Pailig and RIDO. Pakigdait focuses on religious leaders, surrendering combatants and wives of members of ISIS-inspired groups, while NOR is focused on promoting peaceful elections and good governance in the BARMM, along with advocacy on federalism.

Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi CSOs. All eight CSOs in Basilan focus on the youth, of which five also work with women and children, religious leaders and community elders. In Sulu, four CSOs are focused on women and children while three other CSOs work on the concerns of indigenous Sama and Badjao communities.

Two CSOs said their partner beneficiaries are the entire marginalized community. The rest were more specific. E-Wave Integrated Services works with the youth, women and children, including indigenous Badjao communities. Tumpukan Anak Sama is focused on indigenous Sama and Badjao communities while ATD concentrates on persons with disabilities, single parents and senior citizens. Matawkasi provides humanitarian relief to internally displaced persons affected by armed clashes in Patikul.

Figure 8. **Area of operation of CSOs per sectoral focus**



Seventy percent of CSOs in the Bangsamoro operate at the municipal/city level while 43% are more visible in the barangays. Twenty-seven percent of the CSOs focus their operations at the provincial level while 9% operate sub-regionally, having expanded their operations to other provinces within and outside of the BARMM. Only one CSO said it operates more at the BARMM regional level. (See Table 4 below.)

Table 4. Area of operations of Bangsamoro CSOs

Area of operations	Maguindanao and Cotabato City	Lanao del Sur	Basilan	Sulu	Tawi-tawi	Total	Percentage (%)
Barangay	5	4	7	1	2	19	43
Municipality/City	9	9	8	2	3	31	70
Province	4	1	3	3	1	12	27
Sub-regional/inter-provincial	3	0	0	0	1	4	9
BARMM Region	1	0	0	0	0	1	2

The large concentration of CSOs operating at the municipal/city (70%) and barangay (43%) levels reflects the civil society movement’s development focus and strength in building local capacities, community-based advocacy and information drives, as well as in improving access and delivery of services at the grassroots level.



70% of CSOs in the Bangsamoro operate at the Municipality or City Level

The fewer CSOs operating at the provincial level (27%) are focused more on policy advocacy and local governance reforms in support of various initiatives at the barangay and municipal levels. The CSOs operating at the sub-regional and BARMM levels are more strategic and have a broader view of development and governance issues. This small group of Bangsamoro CSOs (11%) tends to focus on long-term policy advocacy and governance reforms, regional development planning, and monitoring of flagship programs and governance issues at the regional level.

Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs. Nine CSOs in Maguindanao and Cotabato City operate at the municipal/city level, while five other CSOs are more visible in the barangays. Four CSOs operate at the provincial level while three have extended their operations to other provinces in and outside the BARMM region.

MMI has extended its operations to Region 12 (South Central Mindanao) while MOSEP has its geographical reach all over BARMM through its voters' education project. MWDECC operates beyond Maguindanao and Cotabato City to also cover some municipalities in North Cotabato. Noorus Salam operates in Central Mindanao, which includes the provinces of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. Lipad covers all municipalities in North Cotabato and the municipalities of Pagalungan and Datu Montawal in Maguindanao. UnYPAD operates beyond Maguindanao and is visible in North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

Lanao del Sur CSOs. Nine CSOs focus their operations at the barangay and municipal levels in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte, including Marawi City. These are BirthDev, IPDM, Kalimudan, MARADECA, MUCAARD, Pailig, Pakigdait, RIDO,

and UnYPAD-RANA0. Three CSOs operate only in Lanao del Sur and Marawi City. These are Kapamagogopa, NOR, and SIAP, although Kapamagogopa is sending volunteers to many areas of Mindanao. MARADECA's operations extend to Basulta and Maguindanao while MUCAARD's operations reach as far as Zamboanga City and Cagayan de Oro City.

Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi CSOs. In Basilan, five CSOs operate at the provincial level. These are Bantay Basilan, BUSCF, BWIF, Magpatulahad and Nagdilaab. Three other CSOs – Al Ihsaan Foundation, KAPUA and Tagah Youth Concerns – are more visible at the municipal level.

All five Sulu-based CSOs operate at the provincial level, although Matawkasi is more focused at the municipal level, particularly in Patikul, Omar, Jolo and Luuk. In the case of Tawi-Tawi, two CSOs say they operate at the provincial level. These are TBS and TAWAG, although the latter's activities are currently confined in the municipalities of Simunul and Tandubas.

Kalipi operates in all barangays of Bongao while other municipalities have their Kalipi-affiliated associations as well. SBYO's activities are currently confined in Sitangkai, which is very far from the capital of Bongao. TAGUM, on the other hand, is more focused in Brgy. Hadji Bidin in Sibutu. Only Tarbilang extends its programs/projects and services beyond Tawi-Tawi to include Sulu and Basilan.

3.2 Quality of civil society participation in governance

3.2.1 Effectiveness and level of influence

Beyond programs/projects and services that CSOs provide, how their development initiatives and assistance have influenced

governance at various levels speaks to the quality of civil society participation and political engagement in the Bangsamoro. The table below provides a snapshot of the perceived effectiveness of CSOs in influencing governance at various levels, based on self-assessment by the CSOs interviewed.

Table 5. Effectiveness of CSOs and level of influence in governance

Level of influence on governance	Maguindanao and Cotabato City	Lanao del Sur	Basilan	Sulu	Tawi-tawi	Total	Percentage (%)
Barangay	10	8	6	1	2	27	61
Municipality/City	10	7	3	3	1	24	54
Province	7	7	5	2	1	22	50
BARMM Region	4	4	0	0	0	8	18
Not influential	1	1	0	0	3	5	11

Around half of the CSOs in this study perceive themselves to be influential and effective at the local level – 61% at the barangay level, 52% at the municipal level and 50% at the provincial level. The majority of these CSOs are based in Maguindanao and Cotabato City (61%), Lanao del Sur (45%) and Basilan (32%).

Eight CSOs based in Maguindanao, Cotabato City and Lanao del Sur (18%) consider themselves to be influential at the regional/BARMM level as well. These are TLWOI, Noorus Salam, UnYPAD, Lipad Mindanao, Kalimudan, RIDO, UnYPAD-RANAO and MSU-IPDM. These CSOs are experienced in long-term policy advocacy and lobbying.

Meanwhile, five CSOs (11%) perceive themselves to have no influence on governance matters at any level. These CSOs are start-up organizations that have limited knowledge and experience in implementing programs/projects and delivery of services, except for a few sponsored activities that they have participated in.

3.2.2 Gains and successes in civil society participation

Bangsamoro CSOs are proud of their gains and successes in promoting civil society participation in governance. The majority of these achievements revolve around the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law and Bangsamoro Organic Law and capacity building in LGUs and communities to address armed conflict such as ‘rido’/clan feuds and land conflict as well as security threats associated with violent extremism.

The CSOs are also proud of their successes in mainstreaming the participation of marginalized groups/sectors like women and children, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities into the development processes, influencing policies on child protection and inclusion of the women’s agenda and protection of rights of indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

The table below lists a summary of these gains and successes.

Table 6. Summary of the gains and successes in civil society participation in the Bangsamoro

CSOs by location	Gains and successes
Maguindanao and Cotabato City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in settlement of ‘rido’/clan feud and land conflict, resulting in the de-escalation of community violence • Lobbying and drafting of Cotabato City LGU’s child protection policy and structure • Raised awareness on the issue of malnutrition as well as the importance of family planning and reproductive health • Inclusion of the women’s agenda in the BOL • Participation in the crafting of 11 provisions on IP rights in the BOL
Lanao del Sur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in resolving 3,305 cases of ‘rido’/clan feuds • Successful lobbying and passage of the BBL and BOL • Reduction of vote-buying during elections as a result of voter’s education and close monitoring • Raised international awareness on the issues and concerns of IDPs and the devastating effects of the 2017 Marawi Siege

Basilan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of the BOL through massive advocacy on the ground • HR violations were documented and addressed • Award is given to BLGU as a result of continuing collaboration and alliances with government and other CSOs • Provision of shelters for orphans affected by armed conflict • Mainstreaming madrasa in public education • Promoting women's rights in the context of Islam
Sulu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful campaign for the passage of the BOL despite opposition from LGUs • Mobilized resources and provided talking watches for the blind • Built a mosque for the community, provided shelter for IDPs • Helped community women in promoting their livelihood • Award is given to cooperative being assisted by CSO
Tawi-tawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information dissemination and lobbying for the passage of the BOL • Provided access to credit for ambulant vendors • Provided shelter and educational assistance to Badjao families • Mobilized 10% SK fund to implement projects for the youth

On the mission to influence governance at various levels, Bangsamoro CSOs have achieved only varying degrees of success. The more mature and experienced mainland CSOs have made major gains. The relatively younger organizations in the island provinces report more modest achievements.

Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs. In Maguindanao and Cotabato City, CSOs report gains and success in settling 'rido'/clan feuds and land conflicts, resulting in the de-escalation of violence at the community level. They have also influenced the drafting of Cotabato City LGU's child protection policy and raised LGU awareness on the issue of malnutrition as well as the importance of family planning and reproductive health, which are development issues considered taboo, especially among men. The CSOs also contributed to the formulation of a women's agenda and strongly lobbied for its inclusion in the Bangsamoro Organic Law. They also helped in crafting 11 provisions for the protection of indigenous rights in the BOL.

Lanao del Sur CSOs. In Lanao del Sur, CSOs highlight their gains and successes in resolving 3,305 cases of 'rido'/clan feuds, and in lobbying for the passage of Framework

Agreement on the Bangsamoro, Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro, Bangsamoro Basic Law, and BOL. They also managed to reduce vote-buying during elections as a result of voter's education and election monitoring in collaboration with the military, LGUs and COMELEC. The CSOs were also allowed to raise awareness on the issues and concerns of internally displaced persons and the devastating effects of the 2017 Marawi siege before an international court.

Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi-based CSOs. All CSOs from the island provinces that lobbied hard in support of the BOL are unanimous in claiming its passage as a monumental achievement, despite strong opposition from LGUs and certain groups in Sulu and Basilan. The CSOs in Basilan also highlight their gains in addressing human rights violations that they documented and reported to concerned agencies and duty bearers. One barangay LGU was honored with an award as a result of the continuing collaboration between government and CSOs. They also take note of successful efforts in providing shelters for orphans affected by armed conflict, mainstreaming of a madrasa in public education, and promoting women's rights in the context of Islam.

The efforts of CSOs in Sulu to mobilize resources to help marginalized groups and communities have resulted in tangible outputs, such as the provision of talking watches for the blind and construction of a mosque for the community and shelters for internally displaced persons. The CSOs also helped women in the community to promote their livelihood. One CSO takes pride in the award received by a cooperative that they have been assisting.

In Tawi-Tawi, the gains of CSOs revolve around microfinance operations that gave ambulant vendors in Bongao access to

credit, provision of shelters and educational assistance to 20 Badjao families in Simunul, and mobilization of the 10% SK fund to implement projects for the youth.

3.2.3 Women's participation in Bangsamoro politics

There is unanimous recognition among key informants of the gains and importance of women's participation in Bangsamoro politics and governance. There is a growing number of women politicians occupying key positions at the local level, as well as civil society women leaders appointed as Members of Parliament and Ministers in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. The huge contribution of women politicians and civil society leaders is also well recognized in lobbying support for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Basic Law in Congress and the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law through a plebiscite.

However, while having more women in Bangsamoro politics is a good start, informants are quite divided and have expressed concern about the quality of women's participation in mainstream politics. Some said that neophyte women politicians tend to have limited knowledge, skills and experience in pushing for women's rights and a genuine development agenda at various levels of governance. They are often viewed as mere substitutes of their husbands, fathers or brothers who can no longer run for public office due to term limits. They are also perceived to lack confidence in decision-making, making them reliant on male relatives in performing their duties and functions as public officials.

3.2.4 Facilitating factors

Bangsamoro CSOs take note of two important factors that have facilitated the gains and successes they have achieved in promoting civil society participation in governance. These are strong partnerships and collaboration with LGUs and government agencies, and alliance building and networking with other CSOs.

Strong partnership and collaboration with LGUs and government agencies. All CSOs in the Bangsamoro recognize the importance of partnership and collaboration with LGUs, government officials, and the relevant government agencies in implementing programs/projects and in providing services to marginalized groups, sectors and communities. Thus, most CSOs are willing to go through the process of accreditation as a first step in gaining the trust and confidence of the government as a key development partner.

They also seek membership in local special bodies and local development councils, as well as participation in regional planning bodies, as a strategy to influence policies, development programs and projects, and lobby for resources and efficient delivery of services to local communities. Furthermore, highly skilled and accredited CSOs also look for opportunities to apply and bid for government-funded programs/projects as consultants and service providers. A good working relationship with the government allows CSOs to implement, monitor and evaluate the impact of certain government initiatives on target beneficiaries and communities.

2 Facilitating Factors



Strong partnerships and collaborations with LGUs



Alliance building and networking with other CSOs

Alliance building with other CSOs. All CSOs recognize the importance of building alliances and networking with other CSOs, which they see as key in achieving tangible gains and successes in program/project implementation. Bangsamoro CSOs are quite well aware of their strengths as well as their weaknesses and limitations in sustaining initiatives that would build the capacities of marginalized groups/sectors in lobbying for genuine reforms. The flexibility and voluntary nature of most CSOs in the Bangsamoro have opened opportunities for them to seek alliances with other like-minded organizations.

Building alliances and collaboration with other organizations have given CSOs a stronger voice in rallying support for certain advocacies, in accessing funds and other resources, and in keeping abreast of development initiatives and good practices at the national and international levels. Some of these CSOs have been organized as spin-offs and sustaining mechanisms of development programs/projects, having built their capacities

as catalysts and change agents through their participation and active membership in various civil society networks and coalitions. Highly experienced and visible CSOs with good track records are often engaged by national and international NGOs as well as development aid agencies to become key partners or associates in program/project implementation.

3.3 Challenges in promoting civil society participation in the Bangsamoro

Key informants raised two major challenges that tend to limit civil society participation in Bangsamoro governance. These challenges revolve around the dynamics between LGUs and CSOs, and institutional constraints and dynamics among CSOs.

Dynamics between CSOs and LGUs. While LGUs, public officials and government agencies are generally appreciative of the services and assistance that non-profit organizations provide, some LGUs were observed to be not so keen on collaborating with certain CSOs. They would rather engage with 'friendly CSOs' that are not too critical of governance issues that can put the government in a bad light. Thus, some LGUs may choose not to partner with CSOs while others simply refuse to recognize the importance of civil society participation in governance.

There are also instances where the CSO-LGU partnership has become overly politicized, making it difficult for some CSOs to sustain the engagement when a new political leadership does not recognize the value of partnership and collaboration with civil society. Furthermore, local politicians would sometimes feel threatened by the active participation of independent-minded CSOs in governance.

The key informants said there is a misconception that CSOs are merely begging for funds from donors, government and other external sources to sustain their operations. On the part of CSOs, not all are familiar with various local government mechanisms for civil society participation. While CSOs generally seek strong partnerships and support from LGUs and government agencies, some organizations lack the knowledge and experience needed in applying for government accreditation.

Institutional constraints and dynamics among CSOs. Most CSOs raised the issue of limited funding sources, especially among small community-based organizations. This limits their operations and geographical reach, as well as their effectiveness and influence in addressing governance concerns. The recurring issue of lack of funding has also resulted in stiff competition and turf wars among them.

Some informants noted that local organizations, small NGOs in particular, cannot compete with big national NGOs that have more skills and a wider network needed in accessing funds for their programs/projects. Furthermore, international NGOs are observed to directly implement programs and projects on the ground themselves instead of outsourcing to capable local NGOs.

On top of these challenges, some CSOs often wear too many hats. They get caught up in a whirlwind of issues and advocacies because their membership belong to many networks and coalitions that require constant support. The lack of focus can sometimes limit the effectiveness of CSOs in responding to core concerns.

There is a common observation among key informants on the lack of unity among Bangsamoro CSOs. This is due in part to logistical constraints and limitations in communications technology, which make it difficult to convene civil society groups to discuss and build consensus on important matters. As an example, it can be very costly for CSOs coming from the island provinces to attend training or conventions in Cotabato City. The budget for these events is often limited to one or two representatives, thereby limiting the participation of island CSOs.

3.4 Challenges in women's participation in Bangsamoro politics

Women politicians and civil society leaders in the Bangsamoro are often confronted with gender biases deeply rooted in a predominantly male political culture and an interpretation of Islam that sets rigid boundaries on women's leadership roles. These challenges tend to relegate women to traditional gender roles that could take back the gains in promoting women's political leadership and active participation in Bangsamoro politics.

The political culture that perpetuates male dominance. While women leaders in the Bangsamoro are widely recognized in their multiple roles and capacities as peacebuilders, conflict mediators, humanitarian workers, planners, lobbyists, financial managers, trainers, facilitators, etc., most informants question their decision-making skills and effectiveness as politicians. How these women are ushered in the political arena as replacements for their male relatives underscore a predominantly male political culture and clan-based politics in the Bangsamoro.

Islamic perspective tends to limit women's leadership roles.

Most male informants cite Islamic laws as a limiting factor in promoting women's political leadership in the Bangsamoro. The Islamic perspective, according to them, does not allow women to hold high leadership positions, the top position in particular, as this is reserved solely for men. This is based on the notion that women are weak in decision-making and have mood swings, especially during menstrual periods, concerns that reinforce the belief that women cannot lead.

Among Maranaos, women below 40 years old are not allowed to travel without a male companion (husband or relative) based on certain Arabic traditions. In the same vein, leadership is exclusive to men among Iranuns, even if women are found to be more competent. As one informant emphasized, the current leadership is always guided by Islamic teachings and traditions in appointing key positions in the BARMM government. Thus, under the current political setup, women leaders are likely to remain in the sidelines, subservient to their male counterparts in Bangsamoro politics.

3.5 Opportunities for civil society participation in the BARMM

While formal mechanisms for CSO engagement in the Bangsamoro are not yet in place, informants offer some platforms and ways that CSOs can explore and act upon, to find entry points that would sustain the momentum in their political engagement under the newly installed Bangsamoro government. Listed below are examples of short-term concrete actions that CSOs can undertake while the BARMM government is in transition.

- Participation in the formulation of policies of various working committees and technical working groups in

Parliament;

- Linking with other CSOs (especially those that are already working closely with BARMM officials) and strategizing how CSOs can effectively engage with the regional government;
- Consultations and dialogues with the Ministry of Interior and Local Government to discuss specific platforms on civil society participation;
- Women CSO networks to continuously push for the women's agenda in the Bangsamoro;
- Keeping track of development updates and cascading information down to communities;
- Continuing dialogues with the BARMM leadership on pressing issues and concerns;
- Discussions among CSOs on how to effectively utilize the block grants for CSOs and other sectors;
- Initiate discussions on the formation of political parties as a way to maximize the effectiveness of CSO representation, including supporting women and indigenous peoples to occupy the reserved seats in Parliament.

Once the political transition is complete and the BARMM government is fully installed, CSOs can take on long-term tasks and initiatives listed below, which would sustain their political engagement and strengthen the partnership between civil society and the BARMM government.

- Assist the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (now Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity) and the BARMM government in the decommissioning of weapons and demobilization of combatants;
- Conduct baseline studies (for research institutions and academe) as the basis for monitoring of programs and projects;

- Lobby for transparency in the preparation of plans and budgets at various levels of governance;
- Assist the BARMM government in implementation and monitoring of programs and projects;
- Build a strong constituency on the ground and widen spaces for civil society participation;
- Plan the formation of political parties to strengthen civil society voices in the Bangsamoro parliament.

4.0 Conclusions

This research analyzed the gains, challenges and opportunities for civil society participation in the Bangsamoro as the autonomous region moves away from the shadow of the former ARMM and transitions into the newly established BARMM. It looked into the history and organizational profiles of CSOs and examined their programs/projects and services, sectoral focus and area of operations, as well as the quality of civil society participation and influence in governance, including women's participation in Bangsamoro politics. As a result, this research has reached the following conclusions:

There is a vibrant civil society movement in the Bangsamoro autonomous region. This is represented by a growing number of CSOs – NGOs, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, youth and women's organizations, faith-based and academic institutions, people's organizations and associations. The majority have acquired skills and wealth of experience in program/project implementation, having been established for more than a decade.

While most of the CSOs have their base of operations in the mainland provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, and in the cities of Cotabato and Marawi, a wide network of

community-based organizations also operates in the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and has reached as far as the remote islands of Sitangkai, Mapun and Turtle Islands in Tawi-Tawi.

The majority of the CSOs were organized by self-help groups, NGOs and government agencies. Most of these organizations are duly accredited with government agencies.

The strength of Bangsamoro CSOs lies in the diversity of their programs/projects and services, sectoral focus, and a community-based approach. The concentration of CSOs at the municipal/city and barangay levels is reflective of their strength in building local capacities, community-based advocacy and information drives, as well as in improving access and delivery of services at the grassroots level. The wide menu of services they provide is built around a holistic community development approach that integrates these components to maximize their impact.

Their target partner-beneficiaries are the Bangsamoro's marginalized and underserved groups/sectors and populations, such as the indigenous Badjao and Sama in Basulta, women, children, youth, farmers and fisherfolk, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, orphans, senior citizens and religious groups. Most mainland CSOs and those in Basilan have expertise and experience in capacity building, advocacy and information drives, while CSOs in Sulu, Maguindanao and Cotabato City mostly focus on improving access to and delivery of services.

The strength of CSOs in the Bangsamoro is also evident in the way they perceive themselves to be more effective in influencing governance at the barangay, municipal/city, and

provincial levels, rather than at the BARMM/regional level. A summary of the gains and successes in promoting civil society participation further validates the above conclusion.

A weakness among Bangsamoro CSOs is in strategic policy development and advocacy at the BARMM/regional level, and in monitoring development and governance concerns at various levels. Only one CSO reports that its focus is on the BARMM level through voter education and election monitoring. While some CSOs have a similar campaign for free and honest elections, it is more confined at the local level. Most CSOs do not have the financial and human resources needed to mobilize communities and monitor the conduct of elections all over BARMM.

Only a select group of mature and highly skilled CSOs would likely be interested to focus their efforts on strategic, long-term policy advocacy and campaign for good governance, and to participate in regional development planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects implemented by the Bangsamoro regional government.

The above weakness is also reflected in the perceived ineffectiveness of most CSOs in influencing governance at the BARMM/regional level. Only a few organizations based in Maguindanao, Cotabato City and Lanao del Sur have the skills and experience in policy advocacy and lobbying with the Regional Legislative Assembly of the former ARMM government. These CSOs took the lead in lobbying for the passage of the BBL and BOL at the regional level; the inclusion of a women's agenda and crafting of 11 provisions on the rights of indigenous peoples in the BOL.

The lack of CSO ‘warm bodies’ at the regional level underscores the need to build the knowledge and skills of more CSOs in strategic management, public policy development, advocacy and lobbying that they need to apply in the Bangsamoro Parliament.

Program/project monitoring at any level is a specialized field that requires technical skills in research and documentation. Seven in every ten CSOs in the Bangsamoro do not have the skills and experience in monitoring since most of these organizations are program/project implementers. It is usually the schools and other academe-based institutions that are good at doing research, monitoring, and evaluation of programs/projects.

The newly established Bangsamoro government offers fresh opportunities for civil society participation and political engagement. The Bangsamoro government is currently in transition up to the year 2022. In the interim, the Bangsamoro Transition Authority was organized to set up the policies, structure, and mechanisms in preparation for the synchronized national and Bangsamoro parliamentary elections. On top of the BTA, several provisions in the Bangsamoro Organic Law can also be the basis for setting up platforms and mechanisms for civil society participation that Bangsamoro CSOs can explore. Some of these platforms and mechanisms are as follows:

- **Formulation of legislative agenda.** Members of the BTA and the Bangsamoro Parliament have their hands full in preparing some priority legislative measures, among them the Bangsamoro Administrative Code, Bangsamoro Revenue Code, Bangsamoro Civil Service Code, Bangsamoro Educational Code, Bangsamoro Electoral Code and Bangsamoro Local Government Code. The CSOs can observe the deliberations of various working committees in Parliament, and offer

suggestions or lobby for the inclusion of certain provisions relevant to civil society.

Article VI, Section 10 of the Bangsamoro Organic Law highlights the mandate of parliament to formulate the Bangsamoro Local Government Code without diminishing the privileges enjoyed by LGUs under the Local Government Code of 1991. Hence, CSOs need to participate in the formulation of said code to include the formation of local special bodies and local development councils of which at least 25 percent of membership comes from CSOs.

• **Program planning and implementation.** The BTA has recently approved the creation of the Human Rights Commission, Women’s Commission and Youth Commission and launched Project Tabang for health and education assistance. The CSOs working with women and children, youth and human rights can approach the commissioners and explore opportunities for collaboration in program/project implementation.

As stated in Article V, Section 2 of the BOL, “it is within the powers of the Bangsamoro government to develop laws and programs for women, labor, youth, elderly, differently-abled, and IPs.” Thus, CSOs have the right to participate in the formulation of laws, program planning and implementation to ensure that marginalized groups/sectors would benefit from development initiatives.

• **Monitoring utilization of the block grant.** One of the key provisions in the BOL is the automatic allocation of the annual block grant from the national government equivalent to 5% of the net national internal revenue of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. There will also be an added annual allocation of PHP 5 billion for the rehabilitation

of conflict-affected areas. The CSOs can take the initiative in tracking the downloading and utilization of the block grant and assess its impact, either as an independent third-party monitor or as an accredited part of a tripartite monitoring team.

- **Election and membership in the Bangsamoro Parliament.**

At the end of the political transition in 2022, BARMM residents will elect an 80-member parliament representing different parties, districts and sectors. Members of Parliament will elect among themselves the Chief Minister and two Deputy Chief Ministers, with the former appointing members of the Cabinet. The CSOs can lobby for reserved seats while the Bangsamoro is in transition and form political parties to contest the election for membership in the Bangsamoro Parliament.

- **Accreditation and advocacy with inter-governmental development and planning boards.**

Article VI, Section 8 of the BOL states that “the Parliament shall create a Bangsamoro Sustainable Development Board composed of representatives from the National Government and the Bangsamoro Government.” This is an important policy-making body that Bangsamoro CSOs need to influence in order “to ensure the integration and harmonization of economic, social, and environmental considerations, as vital dimensions of sustainable development policy and practice in the Bangsamoro region,” as the BOL puts it. CSOs can seek accreditation for membership and lobby for policy measures with other board members. They can also seek accreditation for membership in the BARMM Socioeconomic Development Planning Board.

5.0 Recommendations

Given the findings and conclusions generated by the study, listed below are recommendations on how CSOs can maximize

the opportunities for civil society participation in Bangsamoro governance.

Form political parties and strengthen civil society voices in the Bangsamoro Parliament. CSOs should take advantage of the parliamentary structure of government and begin the process of developing political parties from various marginalized groups and sectors, i.e. women, indigenous peoples, youth, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, single mothers, orphans, etc., in preparation for the first Bangsamoro parliamentary election in 2022. CSOs also need to get their act together and lobby for more reserved seats in Parliament. Having a strong and united voice can only be achieved through the formation of strong and principled political parties that can diminish the influence and dominance of political clans in the Bangsamoro.

Women's civil society groups are in the best position to lead the way in building their political parties. Bangsamoro women are more organized and have the skills and experience in strategic policy development and advocacy. There are also existing platforms and coalitions where women civil society leaders and politicians can converge and collaborate, like WOMB, WAVE, Mothers for Peace, etc. With a political party as vehicle, women civil society leaders can help develop the skills and confidence of neophyte women politicians, influence political clans to open more civic spaces for women, strengthen women's leadership roles, and fight gender bias and discrimination in Bangsamoro politics.

Build up the capacities of political parties and their representatives in public policy development and advocacy. Bangsamoro CSOs, admittedly, have very limited knowledge of political party formation and management, although they

have shown a keen interest to learn the ropes and participate in Bangsamoro politics. At this critical stage of the transition, it is imperative to build up the knowledge and skills of political parties and their representatives in all aspects of policymaking, advocacy and lobby work. CSOs can play a role in this mission, but they must first develop skills in policy formulation and technical writing, parliamentary procedures, public relations and public speaking, advocacy, and media work.

Continue building a strong constituency on the ground and strengthen CSO coalitions. Political parties would not be effective without a strong constituency on the ground. Hence, Bangsamoro CSOs need to continue their work in community organizing and community development to maximize civil society participation and political engagement at the grassroots level. Some CSOs can take the lead in building alliances and strengthen coalitions at various level – provincial/city level; among mainland and island CSOs; and at the BARMM/regional level.

Well-established coalitions like the CBCS can take the initiative and gather all CSOs to formulate a unified CSO agenda and a five-year strategic plan on how to maximize civil society participation and political engagement in the Bangsamoro. The strategic plan should include a directory of all Bangsamoro CSOs and coalitions, an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, development goals and objectives, and their strategies, including a list of capacity building, organizational development and training programs for CSOs.

Explore other platforms and ways for civil society participation in governance. As discussed previously, there are several platforms for civil society participation and political engagement outside of the Bangsamoro Parliament that CSOs

can explore. They can apply for accreditation and participate in regional planning bodies like the BARMM Socioeconomic Development Planning Board. They can also take the role of an independent third-party monitor and track the downloading and utilization of the block grant.

Some CSOs can offer their services to the BARMM government in promoting full disclosure and transparency in government transactions. Faith-based organizations can get accredited to help the BARMM government in mainstreaming moral and inclusive governance in public education. Furthermore, CSOs can form alliances and lobby for funds from the block grant to support priority programs/projects.

Research institutions can also apply for a grant and conduct independent studies and impact assessment on BOL implementation, with funding support from the block grant. The Bangsamoro Organic Law provides the basis for active citizen participation in Bangsamoro governance. CSOs need to study its key provisions and be creative in pushing the envelope to open more spaces for civil society participation, transparency, and democratic governance.

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ANNEX A: Bangsamoro CSOs, Coalitions and Think tanks, BTA and LGU key informants

A. Maguindanao and Cotabato City CSOs
1. Kadtabanga Foundation for Peace and Development Advocates Inc.
2. Local Initiative for Peace and Development (LIPAD) in Mindanao
3. Magungaya Mindanao, Inc. (MMI)
4. Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress, Inc. (MOSEP)
5. Moro Women Development and Cultural Center Inc. (MWDECC Inc.)
6. Noorus Salam-Central Mindanao
7. Tabang Ako Siyap ko Bangsa Iranun Saya ko Kalilintad ako Kapamamagayon (TASBIKKA INC.)
8. Teduray and Lambangian Women's Organization, Inc. (TLWOI)
9. Teduray and Lambangian Youth and Students Association (TLYSA)
10. Timuay Justice and Governance (TJG)
11. Tiyakap Kalilintad
12. United Youth for Peace and Development (UnYPAD)
13. United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UnYPhil-Women)
B. Lanao del Sur CSOs
14. Birth Development
15. Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM)
16. Kalimudan sa Ranao Foundation, Inc.
17. Kapamagogopa, Inc.
18. Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA)
19. Muslim-Christian Agency for Advocacy, Relief and Development (MUCAARD)
20. Network Organization for Reforms (NOR)
21. Pailig Development Foundation, Inc.
22. Pakigdait, Inc.
23. Reconciliatory Initiatives for Development Opportunities (RIDO), Inc.

24. Social Initiatives for the Advancement of Peace (SIAP)
25. United Youth for Peace and Development - Relief Assistance Network and Organization, Inc. (UnYPaD-RANAO)
C. Basilan CSOs
26. Al Ihsaan Foundation
27. Bantay Basilan, Inc.
28. Basilan Ulama Supreme Council Foundation
29. Basilan Women Initiative Foundation
30. Kabataan Advocate for Peace and Unity
31. Magpatulahad Basilan
32. Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc.
33. Tagah Youth Concern, Inc.
D. Sulu CSOs
34. Association of Tausug with Disabilities
35. E-Wave Integrated Services
36. Kapatut Bangsa Sug
37. Matawkasi, Inc.
38. Tumpukan Anak Sama
E. Tawi-tawi CSOs
39. Kalipi
40. Sitangkai Badjao Youth Organization
41. Tarbilang
42. Tawi-tawi Alliance for Genuine Unity in Mindanao
43. Tawi-Tawi Alliance for Good Governance
44. Tumpukan Bangsa Sama, Inc.
F. Coalitions and think tanks
45. Mindanao Multi-Stakeholders' Group (MMG)
46. Lumad Husay Mindanaw
47. Mindanao Peace Weavers
48. Noorus Salam
49. Mothers for Peace-Basilan

50. C-Care
51. Women Against Violent Extremism (WAVE)
52. Tawi-tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations (TACOS)
53. Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS)
G. BTA and LGU key informants
54. MP Eddie Alih, BTA
55. MP Mussolini Lidasan, BTA
56. MP Romeo Saliga, BTA
57. MP Prof. Sahie Udjah, BTA
58. Ms. Elmasia L. Madjilon, former Tawi-Tawi Provincial Board Member

ANNEX B: Tawi-tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations (TACOS) List of Members by Municipality

A. Bongao	
1.	Tawi-Tawi Mothers' Club Marketing Cooperative
2.	Tawi-Tawi Family Life Foundation, Inc.
3.	Bongao Federation of Women Association for Development Advocacy
4.	Unified Successors for Change
5.	Anak Tawi-Tawi Youth Association
6.	Tawi-Tawi Youth Network
7.	United Youth for Peace and Development
8.	Bangsamoro for Peace and Development
9.	College Education Advocates for Peace-Youth Initiatives for Social Enterprise Sustainability
10.	Noorusalam
11.	Bongao Islamic Discovery Dialogue Center
12.	Al-Asar Institute
13.	Tarawakan MNLF Women Multi-Purpose Cooperative
14.	Sumping Malul Multi-Purpose Cooperative
15.	Tora-Tora Multi-Purpose Cooperative
16.	Markadz, Inc.
17.	Botica sa Campo Barangay Multi-Purpose Cooperative
18.	Sea Orchids Homeowners' Association
19.	Sumangat MNLF Multi-Purpose Cooperative
20.	Bongao Senior Citizens Association
B. Panglima Sugala	
21.	Manggis Producers Cooperative
22.	Buan Seaweed Farmers' Association
23.	Buan Women's Association

24.	Tihiman Seaweed Producers' Cooperative
25.	Panglima Sugala Federation of Seaweed Farmers' Association
26.	Batu-Batu Christian Youth Organization
27.	Karaha Fisherfolks Association
28.	Panglima Sugala Federation of Women's Organization
C. Simunul	
29.	Simunul Youth Guild
30.	Bakong Parent Leaders Association
31.	Simunul Fisherfolks and Seaweed Farmers' Cooperative
32.	Manuk Mangkaw Chili Products Producers Marketing Cooperative
33.	Simunul Mothers Club
D. Sibutu	
34.	Ungus Ungus Fisherfolks Multi-Purpose Cooperative
35.	Sheik Makdum Parent Leaders Association
36.	Pasague Women Marketing Cooperative
37.	Sibutu Weavers Association
38.	Datu Bidin People's Organization
39.	Tandubanak Seaweed Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative
E. Sapa-Sapa	
40.	Poblacion Parent Leaders Association
41.	Sapa-Sapa Youth Organization
42.	Baldatal Seaweed Farmers' Association
43.	Sunsang Youth Organization
44.	Banaran Youth Organization
45.	Lookan Banaran Women Association
F. Tandubas	
46.	Muslim Upliftment for Tandubas Youth Advocates
47.	Ungus Matata Parent Leaders Association
48.	Sallangan Youth Association
49.	Kepeng Women's Club

50.	Tandubas Matweavers Club
G. South Ubian	
51.	South Ubian Senior Citizens Association
52.	Women of South Ubian Multi-Purpose Cooperative
53.	Kahapan ma Kawman Ubian, Inc.
54.	Tong Tampak Parents Association
55.	Ubian Proper Association of Barangay Health Workers
56.	Tampak Dampong Matweavers Club
57.	Talisay Fisherfolks Multi-Purpose Cooperative
H. Languyan	
58.	Languyan Health Family Associations, Inc.
59.	Tau Lead Spartan Youth Organization
60.	Darul-akram Dressmakers Association
61.	Sikullis Parent Leaders Association
62.	Ungusan Farmers Association
63.	Jakarta Fisherfolks Association
64.	Languyan Motor Launch Operators Association
65.	Look Tamban Women Producers Association
66.	Mindanao State University-Tawi-tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO) Parents-Teachers Association
I. Sitangkai	
67.	Sitangkai Advocates for Islamic Development, Inc.
68.	Sama Dilaut Culture Preservation Movement
69.	Panglima Alari Parent Leaders Association
70.	Sama Dilaut Young Professionals Organization
71.	Luuk Tamban Seaweed Farmers MPC
72.	Sipangkot Seaweed Farmers Cooperative
73.	South Larap Women's Association
J. Mapun	
74.	Sapah Farmers Association
75.	Liyubud Parent Leaders Association

76.	Lupa Pula Central School Parent-Teachers Association
77.	Jama Mapun Youth and College Students Association
78.	Jama Mapun Professionals Association
79.	Poblacion Women Association
K. Turtle Islands	
80.	Taganak Fisherfolks Association
81.	Turtle Islands Go-Green Advocates
82.	Poblacion Parent Leaders Association
83.	Taganak Market Vendors Association
84.	Women Council of Taganak

About the Researcher



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Starjoan 'Starj' D. Villanueva is a freelance researcher, technical writer, trainer and facilitator, with more than 20 years of extensive knowledge and experience on peace and development issues affecting Mindanao. She has written a book on conflict-sensitive performance management framework for the Action for Conflict Transformation (ACT) for Peace Programme (2009), and is one of the authors of the book, *Out of the Shadows: Violent Conflict and the Real Economy of Mindanao*, published by International Alert Philippines in 2013. She is currently leading a team of researchers on maritime trade and security in the Sulu archipelago, with the Asia Foundation's Philippine Office and Regional Conflict and Fragility Unit.

She was the Executive Director of the Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao, Inc. (AFRIM) in 2010-2018; Civil Society Organization (CSO) Mindanao representative in the Multi-stakeholders' Group of the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH-EITI) in 2013-2018; and founding Board Member of Bantay Kita-Publish What You Pay Philippines, a national coalition of more than 80 CSOs that promotes transparency and accountability in the extractives sector. She is a member of the Women Waging Peace Network that promotes women participation in peace and security matters worldwide; and a fellow of the Asia-Pacific Center for Peace and Security Studies. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Mindanao State University in General Santos City, and a Bachelor of Science' degree in Inland Fisheries from the University of the Philippines in Iloilo City.

About DELACSE Bangsamoro

The Democratic Leadership and Active Civil Society Empowerment (DELACSE) in the Bangsamoro Phase 2 is a 24-month project focused on building the individual and organizational capacities of civil society groups and political movements in the Bangsamoro region. Majority of the activities are trainings and capacity-building interventions that seek to develop the full potential of civil society leaders including women, indigenous peoples, other marginalized groups, internally displaced persons, and emerging political parties. The project aims to empower civil society leaders in these sectors so they can actively participate in public decision-making and in shaping policies & mechanisms needed to establish favorable environment and political structures that promote peace and democratic actions. Its main activities include a series of leadership trainings, mentorship activities, organizational development seminars, study tours, townhall discussions, dialogues with government officials and policymakers, networking with CSOs and political parties, and locally initiated activities.

DELACSE Bangsamoro Phase 2 is a continuation of 2 previous projects, DEPADEV and DELACSE Phase 1, which were also funded by the European Union (EU) and previously implemented by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Philippines. For the second phase, the project is being implemented by the Cotabato City-based Institute for Autonomy & Governance (IAG), with KAS Philippines and the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) as its partners. The project is fully funded by the EU. The project currently has at least 100 civil society groups and political movements all over the Bangsamoro region as partners within its network, which includes the mainland provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao, and Cotabato and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi.



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