



**SALIGAN**  
SENTRO NG ALTERNATIBONG  
LINGAP PANLEGAL

[www.saligan.org](http://www.saligan.org)



# SALIGAN **ANNUAL REPORT** 2023

## SENTRO NG ALTERNATIBONG LINGAP PANLEGAL

SALIGAN commenced the operationalization of its 2023-2025 Strategic Plans, focusing on workers' rights to security of tenure and freedom of association, gender equality, children's participation, and people's participation in governance, specifically the informal settlers, indigenous peoples, and environmental advocates. SALIGAN further strengthened its engagements at the local level as it expanded its advocacy teams and networks.

# PARALEGAL FORMATION PROGRAM



21 workers (7 are women) from manufacturing and transport industries in SOCCSKSARGEN Region in Mindanao completed the paralegal formation program. The paralegals worked on regularization of contractual workers and other benefits through collective bargaining agreements.

As part of the GOJUST Program, 24 barangay officials (17 are women) completed the paralegal formation program on strengthened barangay responses to gender-based violence in the municipality of Mobo, Masbate. The program complemented the policy adopted by the municipal government of Mobo on establishing the referral mechanisms for GBV cases.



19 women workers from GMMA continued with the program. Additional participants from the construction and BPO industries joined the program in 2023 and catch-up sessions were conducted. This batch is SALIGAN's pioneer batch on all-women workers PL formation.



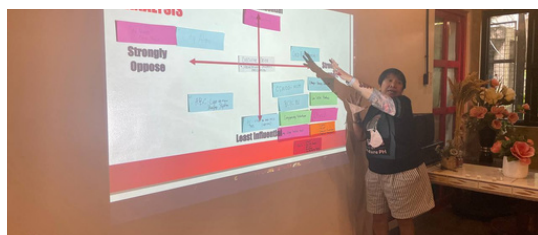
# PARALEGAL FORMATION PROGRAM

15 CSO representatives (10 are women) from various provinces in the Bicol region continued the intensified PLT program directed towards local governance engagements. The original plan was to have participants from Camarines Sur but due to the demand, the program expanded its coverage to cover the entire Bicol region.



# LEGAL LITERACY SESSIONS

25 legal literacy sessions were conducted reaching 580 individuals (412 are women), and 16 children (10 are girls) across the country, in partnership with government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.



Safe, Fair-Environment and Responsive Barangays for Women (SAFER Women): As part of the GOJUST Program, SALIGAN conducted two Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions among 61 members of the Local Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (LCAT-VAWC) in the cities of Calamba, Quezon, Balanga, Baguio and Zamboanga. Pilot training sessions were conducted among 89 barangay officials from 7 barangays each from the cities of Calamba and Quezon. The pilot sessions were facilitated by the trainers. Similar pilot sessions will be conducted among barangay officials from the cities of Balanga, Baguio, and Zamboanga will be conducted in 2024.



Strengthening Children’s Participation in Malabon City: In partnership with Save the Children Philippines (SCP), a series of 4 learning sessions were conducted among 14 advocates. The sessions centered on public speaking, child-centered social accountability, child-friendly spaces in local governance, and local governance responses on child protection laws. 16 children-advocates participated in the I-Know Learning Sessions. The learning sessions complemented the advocates’ finalization of the draft Executive Order on children’s participation in Malabon City.



Enhancing Local Government Capacities in Delivering Justice Services for Children at Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL): As part of the GOJUST Program, SALIGAN conducted 2 Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions among members of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) in the cities of Naga and Balanga. A pilot training in Naga City was participated by representatives from 5 barangays. The sessions enabled the LGUs to enhance their respective intervention plans for CAR-CICL and to craft policy proposals.



Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance: In partnership with DKA Austria, 23 CSO representatives in Mindanao continued their learning sessions on transitional justice, public policy, local governance and budgeting. The sessions increased the engagements of these CSOs in local governance processes and enabled them to formulate local advocacy agenda.



# POLICY WORK



SALIGAN's advocacy teams were crucial in the approval of policies addressing the issues of the MDES. In the municipality of Mobo in the province of Masbate, the Community-Based Advocacy and Monitoring Group (CBAMG) drafted and successfully lobbied for Ordinance No. 2023-03, which institutionalized the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Referral System.

The CBAMG monitored its initial implementation especially with pilot barangays which underwent the paralegal formation program in 2023.



SALIGAN, with the Naga City Council for Women (NCCW), proposed the Naga City Safe Spaces Ordinance, with Councilor Gayle Abonal-Gomez as its principal author, in the Sanggunian. Due to the tireless effort of the Gender Advocacy Team and series of consultations with various stakeholders, Ordinance No. 2023-107 or the Naga City Safe Spaces Ordinance was approved.

The children and CSO advocates finalized the proposed Executive Order on Strengthening Children's Participation in Malabon City. The local governments of Naga City and Balanga City enhanced their Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Programs (CLJIPs).



The workers who completed the paralegal formation program in Mindanao convened as the labor advocacy team and actively worked for the regularization of at least 40 contractual employees in the manufacturing sector and for the wage increase in Region 12.



SALIGAN's Housing Rights Advocacy Team (HRAT), with other partners and networks, submitted position papers on the expropriation bill and the extension of the NHA charter. The HRAT continued the discussions on the JAHRA, LISA, and People's Plan among stakeholders and agencies. At the local level, SALIGAN moved for the creation of the People's Plan Committee at the Quezon City Local Housing Board.



SALIGAN presented before the Inter-Agency Council on Violence of Women and Children (IAC-VAWC) its findings and recommendations on its review of R.A. 9262 Jurisprudence in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). SALIGAN continued as one of the CSO representatives to the Inter-Agency Oversight Council on the Safe Spaces Act (IOACSSA). It maintained its participation in Naga City governance mechanisms.

Representatives from SALIGAN also participated in the Asia Pro Bono Conference, the Learning Agenda Global Convening of NAMATI, and the Writeshop on Legal Empowerment in Informa Settlements organized by International Development Research Centre (IDRC).



# LITIGATION, LEGAL CONSULTATIONS, LEGAL JAMMING SESSIONS

SALIGAN handled 88 cases in 2023, 15 of which were new cases including sexual harassment and security of tenure of gig workers. In addition, SALIGAN provided assistance to unions in their collective bargaining negotiations. 48 legal consultations were facilitated by SALIGAN lawyers, while 22 individuals benefited from legal jamming sessions conducted in Pilar in the province of Sorsogon and Mobo in Masbate. These sessions were organized by graduate-paralegals and partner organizations.



SALIGAN's graduate-intern, Maree Bajamunde, joined SALIGAN-Bicol Team during its recent legal jamming in Barangay Putiao, Pilar, Sorsogon. Maree was an intern of SALIGAN-Bicol from 2017-2019 while she was a law student at the University of Nueva Caceres College of Law. She now has her own private practice in Camarines Sur. Her husband, BJ Importante, is also a graduate-intern in the same batch. They both volunteered to participate in SALIGAN's activities.





## PUBLICATION

SALIGAN published four editions of SALIGAN Batas featuring developments in law, jurisprudence and policy advocacy. A Manual for CSO participation in governance was also published. SALIGAN developed a primer and an AVP on barangay protection order, which is being reviewed by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

## INTERNSHIP

Seven law students completed the 8-week summer internship program. The interns were assigned to SALIGAN's 3 offices and were able to immerse in the work of SALIGAN's partner organizations. SALIGAN also conducted an alternative lawyering forum at the University of South Eastern Philippines (USEP) in Davao City. In addition, SALIGAN launched its Interventions in Legal Education Program (INLET), a one-hour session on labor laws, which challenges students to strategize on cases, including the use of extra-legal tactics.



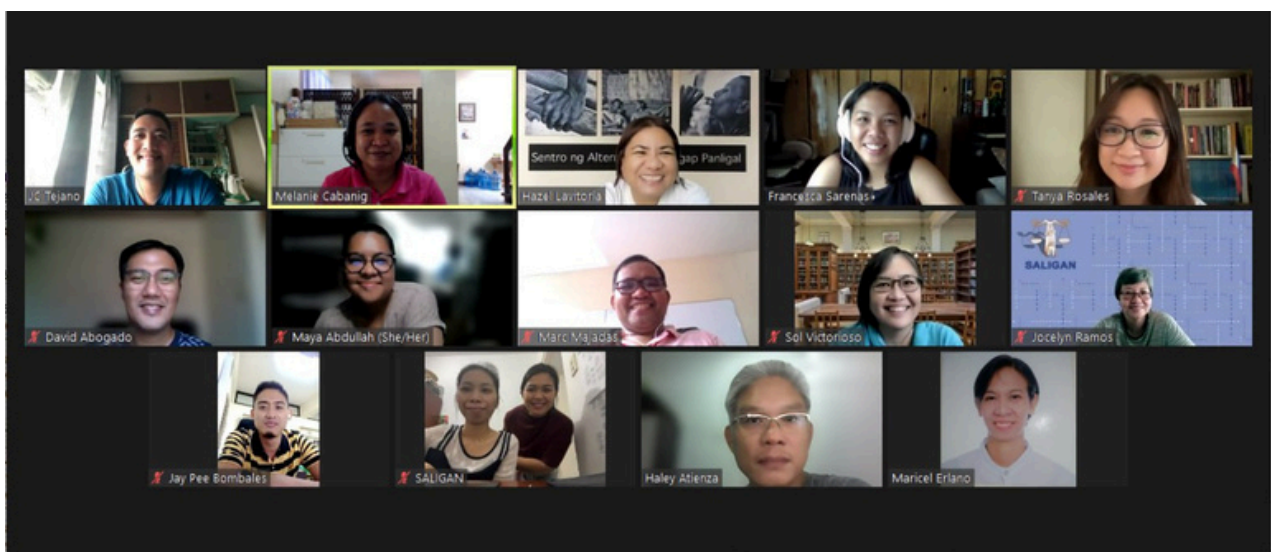
# PARTNERSHIPS AND

# NETWORKS

SALIGAN maintained its active membership with the Alternative Law Groups (ALG), the NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR), the Philippine Misereor Partner, Inc. (PMPI), and the Partnership for Philippine Support Services, Inc. (PHILSSA). Development partners include Misereor, Save the Children Philippines (SCP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Philippines, DKA Austria, and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Manila.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

SALIGAN continued the process of enhancing its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Systems, and commenced the process of fully adopting its Performance Management and Development System (PMDS). Its mental health program and support to its personnel further strengthened. SALIGAN also adopted its red-tagging protocol, which other organizations can base their own policies on.



SALIGAN’s programs were implemented by a competent and committed team of lawyers, legal staff, and finance-admin support: Hazel, Olyn, Sol, JC, Maya, Jaypee, Dave, Shyla, Danica, Cel, Kix (until March 2023), Marc, Angela (from April 2023), Tanya (until August 2023), and Lani.



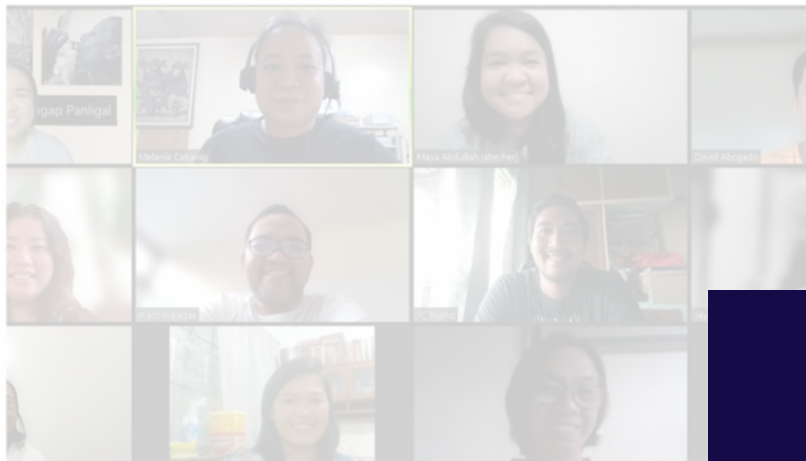
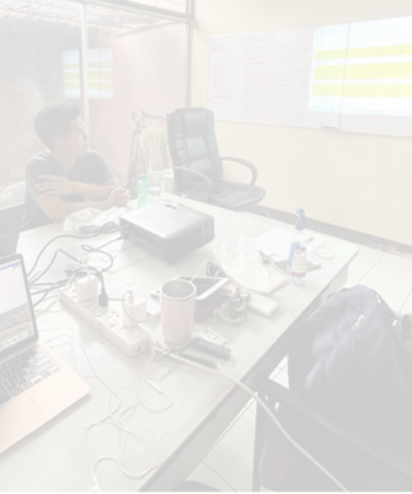
## #SALIGANTeam2023

SALIGAN Team was supported by its Board of Trustees: Nandy, Tony, Aya, Marlon, and Aubrey.



After almost 36 years, SALIGAN’s Administrative-Finance Coordinator, **Jocelyn V. Ramos**, retired on December 31, 2023. Olyn joined SALIGAN one year after its inception, and was SALIGAN’s constant in all its endeavors. SALIGAN was able to pursue its mission because of Olyn’s efficiency and effectivity in her work. She saw SALIGAN through its triumphs and failures, and never wavered in her belief that SALIGAN’s work is important for social change.





# SALIGAN

SENTRO NG ALTERNATIBONG  
LINGAP PANLEGAL



Phone

**+63 2 84266001 ext  
4859-4860**



Email

**saligan@saligan.org**



Website

**www.saligan.org**



Office Address

**Room 104 1st Floor, Cardinal Hoffner Training  
Center, Social Development Complex  
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights,  
Quezon City 1108**