



SALIGAN



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

SALIGAN concluded the implementation of its 2023–2025 strategic plans, ensuring the programs’ sustainability through policy changes, paralegal engagements, and partnerships with CSOs and government agencies. SALIGAN continues its partnership with Misereor with the Legal Empowerment and Assistance Program iteration from 2025–2027. The project supports SALIGAN’s programs on paralegal formation and legal education, policy work, litigation, and internship. SALIGAN completed its project “Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Local Governance” with DKA Austria in Mindanao by September 2025. The project capacitated CSO representatives across Mindanao and strengthened the access of at least 12 CSOs to formal participation spaces within local government systems. SALIGAN’s partnership with DKA Austria continues with the new project “Transforming Local Initiatives for Safer Communities in the Caraga Region” which commenced in October 2025, and aims at strengthening local mechanisms in addressing GBV. SALIGAN also completed the implementation of the SAFER Women in 2025, a project funded by the European Union through the Governance in Justice II Programme.

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PARALEGAL

FORMATION PROGRAM

Three (3) paralegal formation programs commenced in 2025 with the conduct of TNAs, FGDs, and module development for gender equality advocates, environmental advocates, and community-based service providers in GBV cases. Two (2) groups started with the training program, and are expected to complete their formation by midyear of 2026, while the module for the gender equality advocates formation program will be completed by first quarter of 2026, with the training sessions commencing by midyear of 2026.



24 community-based service providers in GBV cases (20 women) who are barangay officials, representatives from CSOs, federation officers, and government service providers in Mobo, Masbate participated in the basic and advance training sessions.

28 members of indigenous peoples communities (13 women) in Davao Oriental participated in the basic training session for environmental advocates.



LEGAL LITERACY

921 individuals (580 women) increased their knowledge on laws and remedies related to the MDES through the 29 legal literacy training sessions conducted with partner organizations across the Philippines. One of these sessions was organized and facilitated by SALIGAN's graduate-paralegals and Women's Rights Advocacy Team among community members in Rizal.

17 representatives from the DILG Regional Offices and 1 from the PCW attended the SAFER Women: Training of Trainers on Strengthening the Capacities of Local Government Units in Handling Violence Against Women (VAW) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Cases in January 2025. This final session of the SAFER Women training series widened the program's reach by covering almost all the regions in the country. The project was supported by the European Union through Governance in Justice Programme II, in cooperation with DILG and PCW.



Photo Credit: Stop VAW Paralegals

The graduates of SALIGAN's Paralegal Formation Program to Stop VAW, who are also members of the Women Advocacy Team, have relaunched their Learning Caravan last May 7, 2025 during the APOLA Women's Assembly in Brgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal. The learning session was participated by 198 residents of Lupang Arenda. Paralegal graduates Luzviminda Domingo and Cecilia Recuerdo discussed the salient features and remedies under the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act while Elisa Maceda and Josephine Cordero served as resource persons on the Magna Carta of Women and pending legislation on divorce. The paralegals started the caravan after their graduation from the paralegal formation program in 2018 but was halted during the pandemic. They would go to barangays in Metro Manila and its environs to discuss and popularize women's laws in the communities.

LEGAL LITERACY

SALIGAN also partnered with the Philippine Action for Community-led Shelter Initiatives, Inc. (PACSSI) for the Legal Empowerment Training on Housing Rights and Urban Governance among communities in Guinobatan in Albay and Davao City. A training in Mandaue City will be conducted in January 2026.

Twenty (20) HOA members representing four organizations—Blessed Savers Initiative Association (BSIA), Greenland Savers Initiative Association (GSIA), Masikap Homeowners Association (MVHOA), and Camalig Flood Victims Association (CAFLOVAS)—participated in the Legal Empowerment Training on Housing Rights and Local Governance held in Guinobatan, Albay on October 24–26, 2025. The training strengthened urban poor communities by enhancing their knowledge and skills to advocate for the right to housing.



Thirty (30) HOA members (23 of which are women) participated in the Legal Empowerment Training on Housing Rights and Local Governance held in Davao City on October 24–26, 2025.

LITIGATION

AND LEGAL CONSULTATION

SALIGAN represented members of the MDES in 76 cases. 12 legal consultations were facilitated, and an area-based legal jamming session was conducted among 3 HOAs of urban poor communities in Albay. Mondays were devoted by SALIGAN lawyers to legal consultations.

POLICY ADVOCACY

Three (3) national advocacy teams were convened in 2025: the Labor Advocacy Network (LABAN) composed of the women workers who completed their paralegal formation program in 2024, the Women's Rights Advocacy Team (WAT) who are graduate-paralegals, and the Gender Rights Equality Advocacy Team (GREAT). The Housing Rights Advocacy Team (HRAT) continued with their advocacies. SALIGAN, with these advocacy teams, worked on legislative policy proposals related to housing rights of informal settlers, land use, enhancing responses to GBVs, gender equality and LGBTQIA+ rights, and workers' security of tenure, among others, through participation in TWGs and RTDs, and submission of position papers.

SALIGAN and its advocacy teams continue to lobby their policy proposals with the legislators.





SALIGAN and its interns participated in Love Laban Pride Festival organized by the Quezon City government and Pride PH.



Photo Credit: Philippine Commission on Women

SALIGAN was a panelist of the Women's Priority Legislative Agenda (WPLA) for the 20th and 21st Congresses. SALIGAN, in addition to the 17 policy proposals under the WPLA, reiterated its call to Congress to ensure that more resources are allocated to Barangay VAW/ASH Desks, and to pass an enabling law for Local Sectoral Representation, mandating women sectoral representatives at the local levels.

POLICY ADVOCACY

BICOL

In Bicol region, three (3) advocacy teams working on gender equality (Gender Advocacy Team – GAT), people’s participation (People’s Participation Advocacy Team – PPAT), and anti-GBV advocates (Community Based Advocacy and Monitoring Group – CBAMG) worked on several local policy proposals. The CBAMG of Mobo, Masbate drafted and lobbied for the passage of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance, and drafted the proposed localization of the Safe Spaces Act. The PPAT of Camarines Sur drafted and lobbied for the proposed amendments to the Kaantabay sa Kauswagan (Partners in Development) Ordinance in Naga City, while a proposed people empowerment ordinance is pending in Sipocot in Camarines Sur. The GAT have been responding to issues of GBV cases in Naga City.

The Community-Based Advocacy and Monitoring Group (CBAMG) of Mobo, Masbate during their strategizing session on May 29, 2025, defining their advocacy agenda to address community violence—particularly trafficking in persons, violence against women, and sexual harassment—through the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance.



The Naga City People’s Council (NCPC) introduced proposed amendments to further strengthen the Kaantabay sa Kauswagan Program - a pioneer housing and urban development in the country. Under the Empowerment Ordinance, the NCPC can introduce measures to the Naga City SP. SALIGAN’s Peoples’ Participation Advocacy Team (PPAT) has worked on this proposed measure. Councilor Jess Albeus, the Chairperson of the SP Committee on Housing and Urban Development, sponsored the proposal.

The Naga City Children’s Rights-based Protocol Flowchart for CAR and CICAL Cases was launched by the NCCWPC last May 2025.

The new flowchart consolidates and restructures the government’s assessment and responses to sensitive cases involving children identified as CAR and/or CICAL through a comprehensive and coherent referral system. The formulation of this flowchart began in 2024, in partnership with SALIGAN, the City Social Welfare and Development Office, participating barangays, civil society organizations, and other child protection offices of the LGU.



Photo Credit: Naga City Government

POLICY ADVOCACY MINDANAO

In Mindanao, two (2) advocacy teams were convened: the SOCCSKSARGEN Workers Advocacy Team (SWAT) composed of SALIGAN's graduate-paralegals from the manufacturing and transport industries, and the CSO Participation Advocacy Team (CPAT) who are representatives from partner CSOs across Mindanao. The two teams worked on several local policy proposals. The SWAT submitted a position paper before the RTWPB Region 12 which increased the minimum wage. CPAT drafted proposals on responses to GBV, child protection, and environmental protection in local governments across Mindanao.

Union officers and paralegals from the Yellow Bus Line Employees' Union (YBLEU) and Tenpoint Manufacturing Corporation Employees' Union (TMCEU) convened in General Santos City to establish the SOCCSKSARGEN Workers Advocacy Team (SWAT) through a learning and strategizing session aimed at strengthening collective action for workers' rights.



Representatives from civil society organizations in Davao, Caraga, SOCCSKSARGEN Regions, and BARMM, who are working on issues related to women and children, the environment, indigenous peoples, health, migrants, fisherfolk, and peacebuilding, convened to establish the CSO Participation Advocacy Team (CPAT).



Photo Credit: GOJUST II

SALIGAN was one of the panelists of the session on CSO Government Collaboration in the Justice Sector during the Open Government Week on May 21, 2025. Together with Lovesita Dumar of the DILG-NBOO and Michelle Gecale of the Power and Justice Foundation, they presented the impact of SALIGAN's collaboration with DILG on the protection of women and children thru the SAFER Women Project funded by the European Union – Governance in Justice Programme. The panel highlighted the sustained impact of the collaboration with the partner-justice zones of Calamba City, Quezon City, Baguio City, Balanga City, and Zamboanga City, and the regional offices of the DILG.



Photo Credit: Alternative Law Groups Facebook Page



SALIGAN participated in the Carbon Justice Learning Exchange in Thailand organized by the Grassroots Justice Network – Southeast Asia (GJN).

INTERNSHIP

Alternative Lawyering Fora were conducted in partnership with the Angeles University Foundation (AUF) in Pampanga, University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) in Davao City, and Ateneo de Naga University (AdNU) in Naga City.





7 law students from the partner law schools completed the 8-week internship program.



7 law students from Ateneo de Davao College of Law completed their externship (Batch 1 & 2) with SALIGAN as part of their Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP).



Eunice Ayen Ondo, a law student of Università di Trento majoring Comparative European and International Legal Studies, completed her internship with SALIGAN.



*As we look into the new era,
SALIGAN envisions a people who,
in the face of injustice, persists.*



STRATEGIC PLANS 2026-2028

SALIGAN's overall goal is an improved legal environment that addresses the needs of the marginalized, disadvantaged, and exploited in the Philippines, with the following outcomes:

1. The MDEs influenced laws, policies, and legal systems for the advancement of their rights.
2. Stakeholders have increased awareness of laws, rights, remedies, and legal processes relating to the MDEs.
3. Law students are engaged in the practice of alternative lawyering.
4. People have access to information on laws and issues relating to the MDEs.
5. SALIGAN enhanced its organizational competencies, integrity, and sustainability.



SALIGAN TEAM

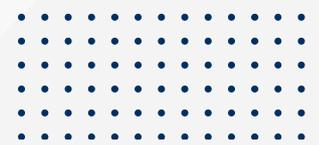


Hazel, Lani, Sol, Dave, Maya, Lulu, Jaypee, Cel, Angela, Shan, Jing.

**SALIGAN's BOT continues their tenure from
January 2026 to December 2028.**



- President:** Fernando T. Aldaba
- Vice-President:** Antonio C. Salvador
- Secretary:** Marie Hazel E. Lavitoria (Ex-Officio)
- Treasurer:** Alaya M. De Leon
- Members:**
 - Marlon J. Manuel
 - Aubrey Albo-Perez
 - Jocelyn V. Ramos





SALIGAN

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