Multisectoral Collaboration to Improve Birth Registration among Sama Bajaus

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Department of Justice
WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH TO CRVS (including birth registration)
Philippines’ Framework

Presidential Proclamation 1106
Declaring 2015-2024 as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade
BIRTH REGISTRATION
National and local mechanisms

Inter-Agency Committee on CRVS
1. Philippine Statistics Authority
2. Department of Health
3. Department of Justice
4. Department of Foreign Affairs
5. Department of Education
6. Department of Social Welfare and Development
7. Department of the Interior and Local Government
8. Office of the Cabinet Secretary
9. Commission on Population

Regional agencies, Local Government Units, Community workers and local leaders
1. Government agencies at the regional level
2. Local government units
3. Local civil registrars
4. Barangay Civil Registration Systems (e.g. Davao City)
5. Community workers (e.g. Barangay Health Workers) and local leaders

Technical Working Group
Action Point 5 of the National Action Plan to End Statelessness (NAP)

TWG of NAP
Action Point 5
1. Department of Justice
2. Philippine Statistics Authority
3. Department of Labor and Employment
4. Department of Social Welfare and Development
5. Department of Education
6. Department of the Interior and Local Government
7. Commission on Filipinos Overseas
8. National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
10. Office of the Solicitor General
11. Public Attorney’s Office
12. Council for the Welfare of Children
13. Office of the President
14. Judiciary
15. Philippine Association of Civil Registrars
16. Mindanao Local Civil Registrars
The Sama Bajaus

- Sea-faring Indigenous Peoples group who are mostly found in Mindanao and Southeast Asia

- one of the State-identified populations at risk of statelessness in the Philippines
Birth Registration of Sama Bajau in Zamboanga City

Started in 2019

Focus Community: Vale Vista Phase 1&2 in Barangay Kasanyangan, Zamboanga

Agencies Involved:

- Department of Justice (Lead Agency in the implementation of the NAP to End Statelessness)
- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Region IX through its Zamboanga sub-office
- Local Government of Zamboanga
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- Sama Bajau Community

Total birth certificates provided: 1,155
Challenges

The birth registration for the Sama Bajau takes time

Lack of or no documentary evidences to establish the veracity of their identity

Sama Bajaus’ cultural beliefs

Delays in the process and limitations in terms of movement due to the pandemic
Strengths/Opportunities

Partners at the national, regional, local government and community levels have already established a good working relationship with each other.

Strong commitment among stakeholders involved.

Participation of the Sama Bajau community is ensured all throughout the process of implementation.
Ways Forward

Continue the collaboration with partners to ensure birth registration of Sama Bajaus

Continue the leadership in the implementation of the National Action Plan to End Statelessness

Pursue parallel advocacy activities to ensure sustainability of the initiative

Expand birth registration of the Sama Bajaus in other communities in Mindanao.