

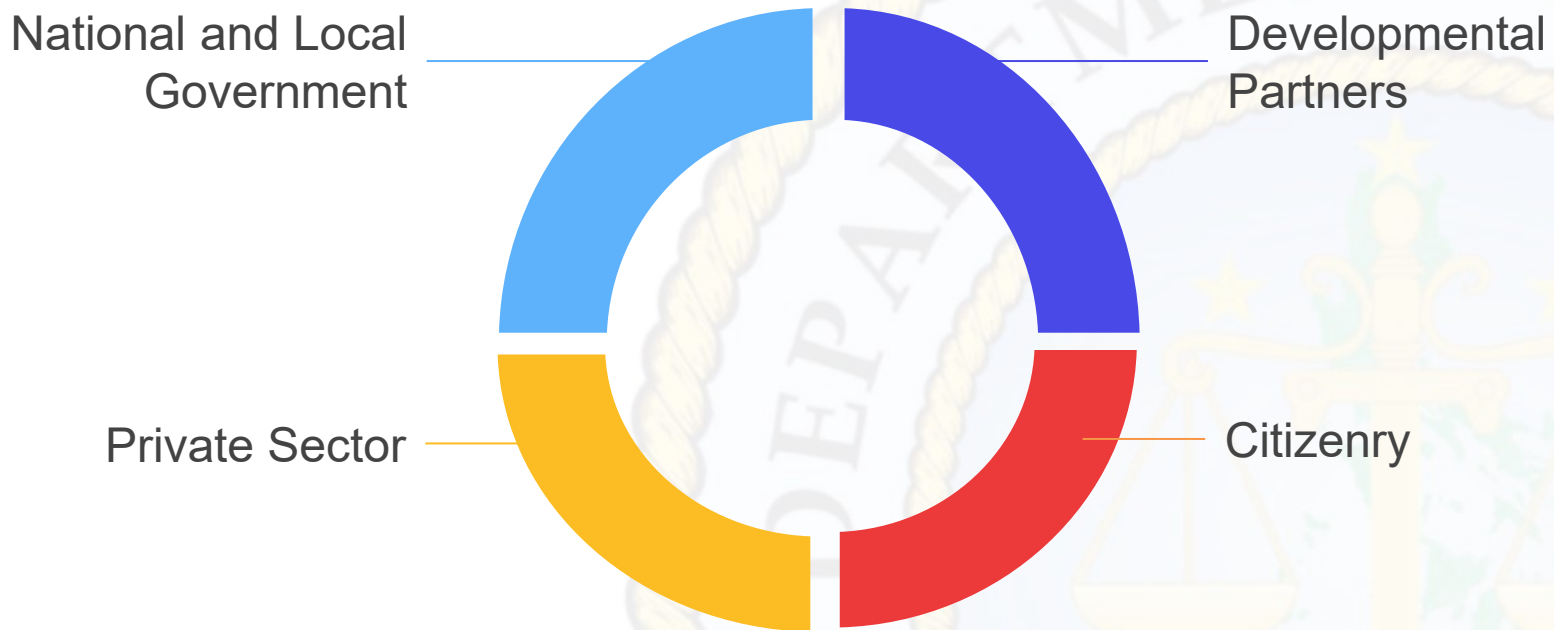


Multisectoral Collaboration to Improve Birth Registration among Sama Bajaus

State Counsel Melvin Suarez
Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit
Department of Justice

WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH TO CRVS (including birth registration)

Philippines' Framework



Presidential Proclamation 1106

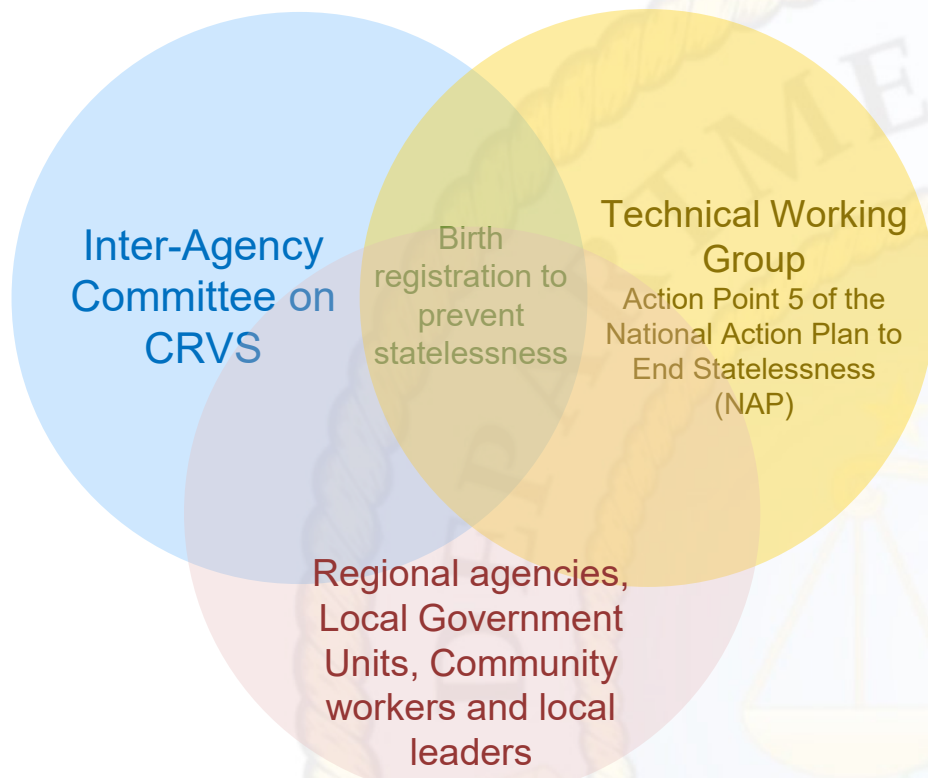
Declaring 2015-2024 as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade

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*



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*

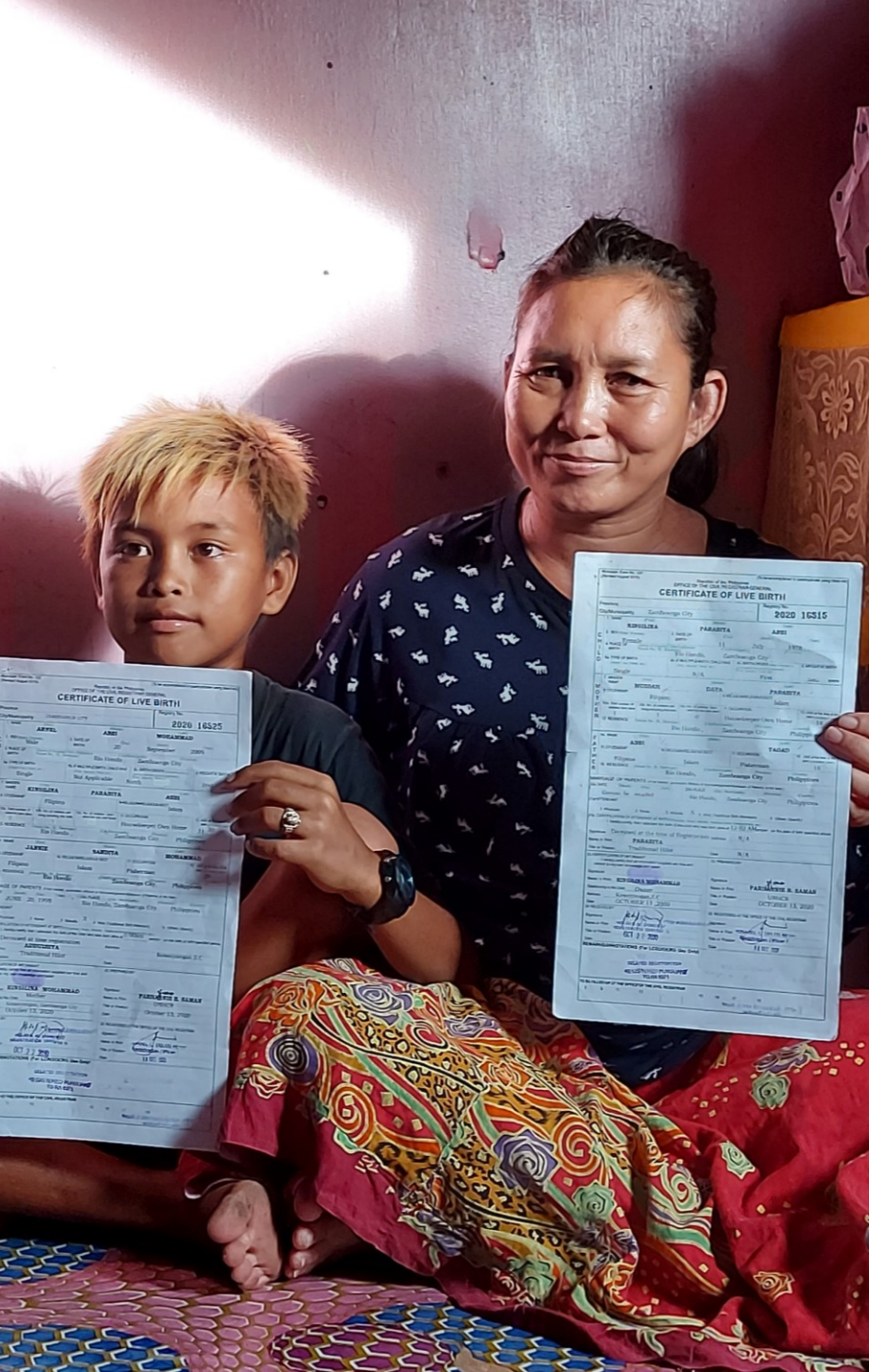
TWG of NAP Action Point 5

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*
9. *National Commission on Indigenous Peoples*
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.

