

# Region IX

# OGP Documentation

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OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP) DOCUMENTATION  
FOR DILG'S OGP LOCALIZATION PROGRAM

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NARRATIVE REPORT  
AUGUST 2025

*Submitted by:*

Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE)  
In collaboration with Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AADC)

*Submitted to:*

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) - Region IX

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## ACRONYMS

<b>AIP</b>	Annual Investment Plan
<b>ARTA</b>	Anti-Red Tape Authority
<b>CDP</b>	Comprehensive Deleopment Plan
<b>CLUP</b>	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
<b>CPDC</b>	City Planning and Development Coordinator
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DILG</b>	Department of Interior and Local Government
<b>LCE</b>	Local Chief Executive
<b>LLA</b>	Local Legislative Award
<b>LGU</b>	Local Government Unit
<b>LPDC</b>	Local Planning and Development Coordinator
<b>MLGOO</b>	Municipal Local Government Operation Officer
<b>MOA</b>	Memorandum of Agreement
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPDC</b>	Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
<b>OGP</b>	Open Government Partnership
<b>PH-OGP</b>	Philippine Open Government Partnership
<b>SB</b>	Sangguniang Bayan
<b>SGLG</b>	Seal of Good Local Governance

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**Open Government Partnership (OGP) Localization Program:  
Documentation of Open Government Practices of 16 Local Government Units  
(LGUs) in Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)**

## NARRATIVE REPORT

### Background

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global platform for government leaders and civil society advocates that promotes transparent, accountable, participatory, and innovative governance. The Philippines became one of its founding member countries in 2011. Through the issuance of Executive Order No. 31, dated June 20, 2023, the Philippine OGP (PH-OGP) was institutionalized as a multi-stakeholder partnership responsible for overseeing and implementing the country's commitments to the OGP.

The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 provides that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) will involve more agencies in the national action plan, and mainstream PH-OGP mechanisms at the regional and local levels to ensure sufficient and functional participatory spaces. It also affirms that DILG will continue to implement collaborative practices with civil society organizations (CSOs) in the development, implementation, and monitoring of government programs, and strengthen the capacity of national and local CSOs to engage effectively with government institutions. Accordingly, the DILG-led OGP Localization Program is the institutionalization of fundamental principles of the OGP within the local governance framework. This involves identifying existing local governance processes and structures, and enhancing them through the integration of OGP values – transparency, accountability, citizen participation, and innovation.

Through the OGP Localization Program, the DILG aims to facilitate the documentation of LGU practices aligned with OGP values and principles. To achieve this, the DILG partnered with accredited non-government organizations. In Region IX, the DILG Regional Office IX engaged the services of the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE)<sup>1</sup> to document OGP practices of LGUs in Zamboanga Peninsula.



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<sup>1</sup> MINCODE is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and duly accredited by the DILG Region IX. MINCODE is a coalition of CSO networks in Southern Philippines with decades of experience in advancing peace, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and good governance. MINCODE's Chairperson was formerly the Co-Chair of PH-OGP representing the NGO sector.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)<sup>2</sup> was signed between DILG-Region IX and MINCODE on July 14, 2025. A total of sixteen (16) LGUs were selected by DILG-Region IX to participate in the OGP Localization documentation process, based on the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) assessment.

### Basic Profiles of the 16 LGUs

LGU <sup>3</sup>	LGU type	Income class <sup>4</sup>	Name of LCE and Vice	Demographics (2020 Census) and Land Area	Website, Official FB Page, Other Comm Channel	SGLG Passer? Years passed
Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Silvano Zanoria, V-Mayor: Jojo Palma	52,995 people, 44 barangays, 180.95 sq km	W: aurorazds.gov.ph  FB: LGU Aurora Zamboanga del Sur  Others: Radio (105.4 FM Radyo Kaugmaran), Recorida, Handheld Radios	2024
Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Celso A. Matias V-Mayor: Jezel P. Matias	34,519 people, 28 barangays, 356.40 sq km	W: bayogzds.gov.ph  FB: Municipal Government of Bayog  Others: Radio (101.9 FM)	2024 2023 2019
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay	Municipality	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor: Dionesia B. Lagas V-Mayor: Jonam Lagas	38,425 people, 27 barangays, 134.06 sq km	W: buug.gov.ph  FB: LGU Buug  Others: Radio (105.3 FM), Handheld Radios, LED Wall, TV Monitors, Recorida	2024
Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Eric Y. Palma V-Mayor: Ramil M. Villaruel	32,585 people, 22 barangays, 255.52 sq km	W: diplahan.gov.ph  FB: LGU Diplahan  Others: Radio, Recorida	2024
Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Gerry T. Paglinawan V-Mayor: Edgardo G. Jamero	48,881 people, 44 barangays, 297.75 sq km	W: dumingag.gov.ph  FB: LGU Dumingag ZDS, Igmata sa Bag-ong Dumingag	2024

<sup>2</sup> Copy of original signed and notarized MOA is with DILG IX.

<sup>3</sup> Shown alphabetically

<sup>4</sup> <https://blgf.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/04.-BLGF-MC-No.-020.2024.pdf>

LGU <sup>3</sup>	LGU type	Income class <sup>4</sup>	Name of LCE and Vice	Demographics (2020 Census) and Land Area	Website, Official FB Page, Other Comm Channel	SGLG Passer? Years passed
					Others: Handheld radios	
Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mayor: Vicente P. Cajeta V-Mayor: Merlyn U. Rabe	21,738 people, 17 barangays, 90.53 sq km	FB: ONE Guipos (Lungsod sa Guipos)	2024
Gutalac, Zamboanga del Norte	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Eddie Justin Quimbo, V-Mayor: Aljohn Garzon	36,090 people, 33 barangays, 492.86 sq km	FB: LGU Gutalac Public Information	2024
Isabela City, Basilan/ Zamboanga Sibugay	City	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mayor: Sitti Djalía T. Hataman V-Mayor: Ar-Jhemar Ajibon	130,379 people, 45 barangays, 223.73 sq km	W: isabelacity.gov.ph  FB: City Government of Isabela de Basilan  Others: Publications, IsaTV, Radio, BION <sup>5</sup>	2024 2023  ISO Certified <sup>6</sup>
Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor: Ruel G. Molina V-Mayor: Pinky P. Molina	29,479 people, 18 barangays, 151.49 sq km	W: kumsur.gov.ph  FB: Municipality of Kumarang ZDS	2024
Labason, Zamboanga del Norte	Municipality	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor: Jelster Ed T. Quimbo, V-Mayor: Virgilio J. Go	43,934 people, 20 barangays, 169.58 sq km	W: labason.gov.ph  FB: LGU Labason ZN  Others: TV Monitors, 911 Tabang	2024 2023 2022
Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte	Municipality	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor: Roberto L. Uy, Jr., V-Mayor: John Momar T. Insong	42,213 people, 37 barangays, 126.90 sq km	W: liloy.gov.ph  FB: Municipality of Liloy	2024 2019
Mabuhay, Zamboanga Sibugay	Municipality	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mayor: Edreluisa O. Caloñge V-Mayor: Joval John Samonte	37,390 people, 18 barangays, 82.85 sq km	FB Page: LGU Mabuhay, SB of Mabuhay  Others: Radio Station (DXOI 93.5 FM) , Recordia, TV monitors	2024 2023 2022

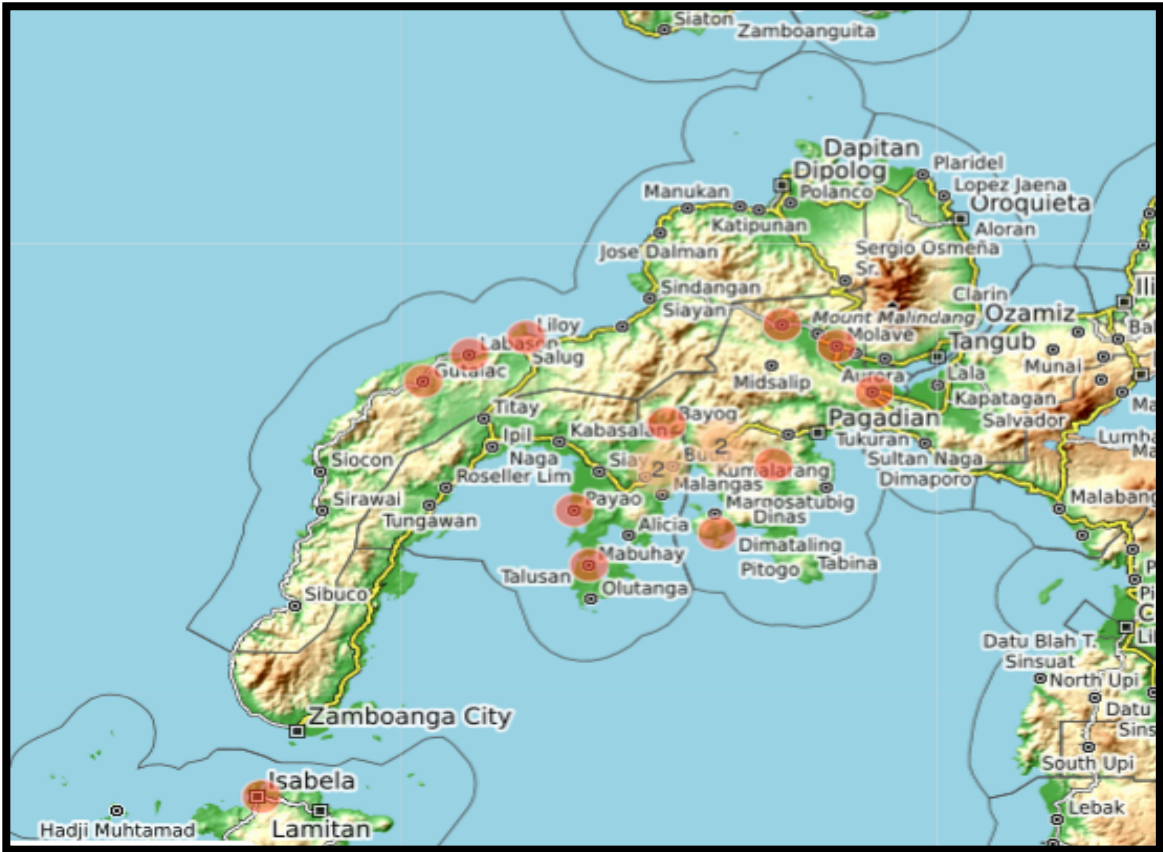
<sup>5</sup> Barangay Information Officer Network

<sup>6</sup> ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System, Provision of Public Administration for Frontline Services

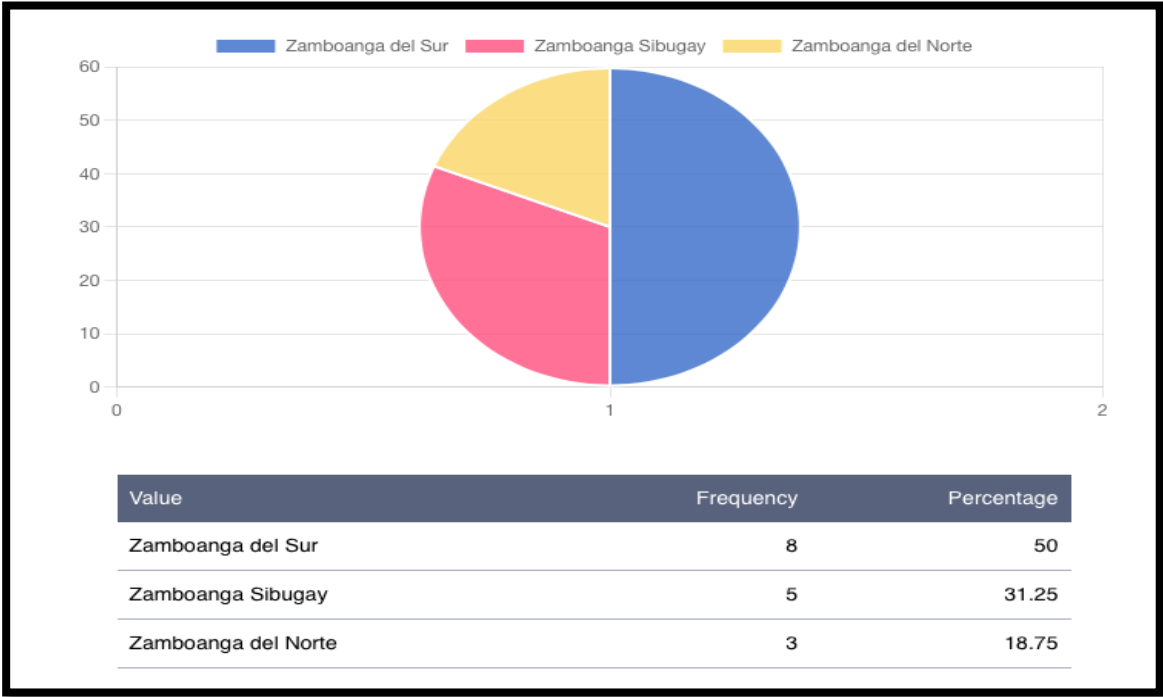
LGU <sup>3</sup>	LGU type	Income class <sup>4</sup>	Name of LCE and Vice	Demographics (2020 Census) and Land Area	Website, Official FB Page, Other Comm Channel	SGLG Passer? Years passed
Molave, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	1 <sup>st</sup>	Mayor: Cyril Reo A. Glepa, V-Mayor: Monalisa J. Glepa	53,140 people, 25 barangays, 251.50 sq km	W: molave.gov.ph, sbmolave.net  FB: IGMAT Molave ZdS, Cyril Glepa  Others: LGU Molave Online Portal for E-Services <sup>7</sup> , Radio (106.9 GH FM)	2024
Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay	Municipality	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mayor: Joshua Carlo Mendoza V-Mayor: Joeper Mendoza	34,952 people, 29 barangays, 192.33 sq km	FB: Joshua “Wang” Mendoza, Sangguniang Bayan of Payao  Others: Radio Station (97.8 Payao FM)	2024
Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mayor: Eleazar C. Carcallas V-Mayor: Rowell D. Lalican	21,675 people, 18 barangays, 120.69 sq km	FB: LGU Tigbao News & Development	2024
Vincenzo Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur	Municipality	4 <sup>th</sup>	Mayor: Jeffry P. Maata, V-Mayor: Noel D. Reales	24,852 people, 14 barangays, 63 sq km	FB: Basta Sagun Malambuon	2024

<sup>7</sup> <https://sites.google.com/view/lgu-molave/home?fbclid=IwAR3jpKKeCvpaPO3rJb2Oc-y1Uy4LIBSj3-vWDLyYaCgzBPSSTH6kwfqxi-g>

Location Map of the 16 LGUs



Distribution of 16 LGUs, per Province





## Methodology

On June 24, 2025, MINCODE attended the hybrid Orientation on the OGP Localization Program – Documentation Process, conducted by the DILG Central Office. During the session, NGO partners and service providers were given an overview of the OGP Localization Program, the objectives of the documentation initiative, its expected outputs, and the guidelines for undertaking the documentation process.

During the MOA signing, key stakeholders from DILG-Region IX, MINCODE, and participating LGUs agreed on the schedule for conducting LGU visits and interviews. MINCODE also presented its work plan, which was developed based on the guidelines provided by DILG.

In terms of selecting LGUs for inclusion in the OGP documentation, the DILG Region IX provided a list of 16 LGUs – comprising 15 municipalities and one city. These LGUs were identified based on the results of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) assessment. All 16 participating LGUs were recipients of the 2024 SGLG Award.

A focus group discussion (FGD) or group interview was organized in each of the participating LGUs to gather primary data. DILG Region IX effectively coordinated the schedules with each LGU. The OGP Documentation Guidelines recommended four (4) respondents per LGU, namely: (1) Municipal/City Planning and Development Coordinator, (2) Municipal/City Government Operations Officer, (3) CSO Desk Officer, and (4) CSO Representative – selected by LGU, preferably the President or officer of the Local People's Council or a member of the Local Development Council. However, in all LGUs, additional officials participated in the FGDs, which further enriched the data gathering process.



The FGDs typically begin with personal introductions, including name, nickname, position or designation, and organization or office/department. When schedules permit, courtesy calls and a welcome message from the Local Chief Executive (LCE) precede the actual FGDs. MINCODE provides a brief background on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and the OGP Localization Program, along with the objectives of the documentation process. An overview of the Documentation Tool is also presented,

highlighting that it is divided into two parts - Part 1: OGP Values, and Part 2: Showcase Initiatives. The documentation aims to cover practices from the past three (3) years, includes 35 OGP initiatives, and seeks to capture presence (or absence) of these initiatives, details or proof of implementation, and the results or outcomes of such practices. Consent to participate in and record the group interview is secured. *A copy of the Documentation Tool is attached as Annex A.*

For data gathering, storage, encoding and analytics, MINCODE used the Kobo Toolbox system. Kobo Toolbox is a secure, open-source suite of tools designed for data collection, management, and analysis, primarily used in humanitarian and development sectors. It is widely utilized for surveys, monitoring and evaluation, and research - especially in challenging environments with limited internet connectivity. In addition to its data analytics capability, Kobo Toolbox aided the easy extraction and downloading of Excel files containing the documentation results, which are part of the reporting requirements of the DILG. It was also used to capture GPS coordinates and operated effectively both online and offline.



MINCODE collaborated with its member network and designated convenor in Region IX, the Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AADC), a network of people's organizations with several members in the Zamboanga Peninsula. MINCODE deployed a four-member Documentation Team composed of two Facilitators and two Documenters. LGU visits were conducted from July 16, 2025 to August 15, 2025. *A copy of the schedule of LGU visits is attached as Annex B.*

For data analysis, MINCODE employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the collected information. On the quantitative side, simple statistical analysis were utilized, including frequency counts, percentages, and averages. These methods helped summarize key trends and patterns across the collected data. Meanwhile, qualitative analysis was conducted to interpret responses on open-ended questions, narratives, and observations gathered during the LGU visits. This involved identifying recurring themes, insights, and contextual factors. The employment of qualitative analysis allowed for a richer, more nuanced interpretation of the findings. This dual approach ensured that analysis is statistically sound and also grounded in the realities and voices of the communities involved.

## Documentation Output

A total of 192 respondents were interviewed during the OGP Documentation across all 16 LGUs. All 16 LGUs had their Local Planning and Development Coordinators (LPDCs) and CSO Desk Officers<sup>8</sup>. Fifteen (15) out of 16 Local Government Operations Officers (LGOOs) were present, Thirteen out of 16 LGUs had CSO Representatives during the FGDs. The table below shows the attendees and respondents in each of the 16 LGUs. *Copies of the attendance sheets are attached as Annex C.*

### Respondents in the 16 LGUs

LGU <sup>9</sup>	MLGOO	MPDC	CSO Desk Officer	CSO Rep	Other Respondents	No. of Respondents
Aurora	Present	Present	Present	Present	SB Secretary, 2 MPDO staff, DILG Cluster Head (observer)	7
Bayog	Present	Present	Present	Present	Mayor, MPDO staff, DILG Provincial Office (observer)	6
Buug	Present	Present	Present	Present	Mayor, Municipal Administrator, SB Secretary, MBO, Treasurer, IAS, IT, CSO	12
Diplahan	Present	Present	Present	Not Available	Municipal Mayor's Office, MEO	5
Dumingag	Present	Present	Present	Present	Municipal Administrator, SB Secretary, 3 MBO, 2 SB Staff, 2 MMO, DILG Cluster Head (observer), 3 CSOs	16
Guipos	Present	Present	Present	Present	Municipal Accountant, MBO, SB Secretary, SB Member, 2 MDRRMO, MHO, Treasurer, MCR, MSWDO, MAO, MEO MEEDO, PESO, MHRMO, MPDO Staff, MTO, 2 CSOs	23
Gutalac	Present	Present		Not Available	Municipal Administrator, Budget Officer, SB Secretary	5
Isabela City	Present	Present		Present	City Administrator, CIO, CHRMO, M&E Officer, Accounting, Treasurer's Office, 2 CSOs	11

<sup>8</sup> LPDC was also the designated CSO Desk Officer in both Gutalac and Isabela City

<sup>9</sup> Shown alphabetically

LGU <sup>9</sup>	MLGOO	MPDC	CSO Desk Officer	CSO Rep	Other Respondents	No. of Respondents
Kumalarang	Present	Present	Present	Present	Mayor, Vice-Mayor, SB Members, All Department Heads, DILG Cluster Head (observer), CSOs	25
Labason	Present	Present	Present	Not Available	Mayor, Municipal Administrator, SB Secretary, MCR, HRMO, MENRO, MDRRMO, Mun. Assessor, MAO, MBO, RHU, MTO	15
Liloy	Present	Present	Present	Present	Municipal Administrator, MBO, 2 CSOs	8
Mabuhay	Present	Present	Present	Present	Mayor's Office, SB Secretary, MTO, MBO, Accounting, CSO	10
Molave	Present	Present	Present	Present	SB Secretary, MBO, MAO, MDRRM, MPDO Staff, DILG ZdS Cluster Head (observer), MHO, MTO, CSO	12
Payao	Present	Present	Present	Present	MCR, Accounting, MAO, SB Secretary, MBO, Mun. Assessor, MDRRM, MTO, 2 CSOs, 2 SB Staff, 2 MPDO Staff, MMO, MADAC Focal	20
Tigbao	Not Available	Present	Present	Present	Municipal Administrator, MCR, SB, Engineering, DILG Cluster Head (observer)	7
Vincenzo A. Sagun	Present	Present	Present	Present	Municipal Assessor's Office, PESO, SB Secretary, MBO, MHRMO, BHW, CSO	11
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>192</b>

## Part 1: Initiatives aligned with the OGP values

This report highlights the significant efforts of 16 local government units (LGUs) in Region IX in advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. As outlined in the OGP Documentation Guide, a total of 35 initiatives were documented – 13 on transparency, 12 on Accountability, and 10 on Participation. The table below presents a summary of the presence of OGP practices/initiatives across the 16 participating LGUs. *A copy of the full documentation results (Excel file) is attached as Annex D, while a Kobo-generated full report is attached as Annex E (PDF file).*

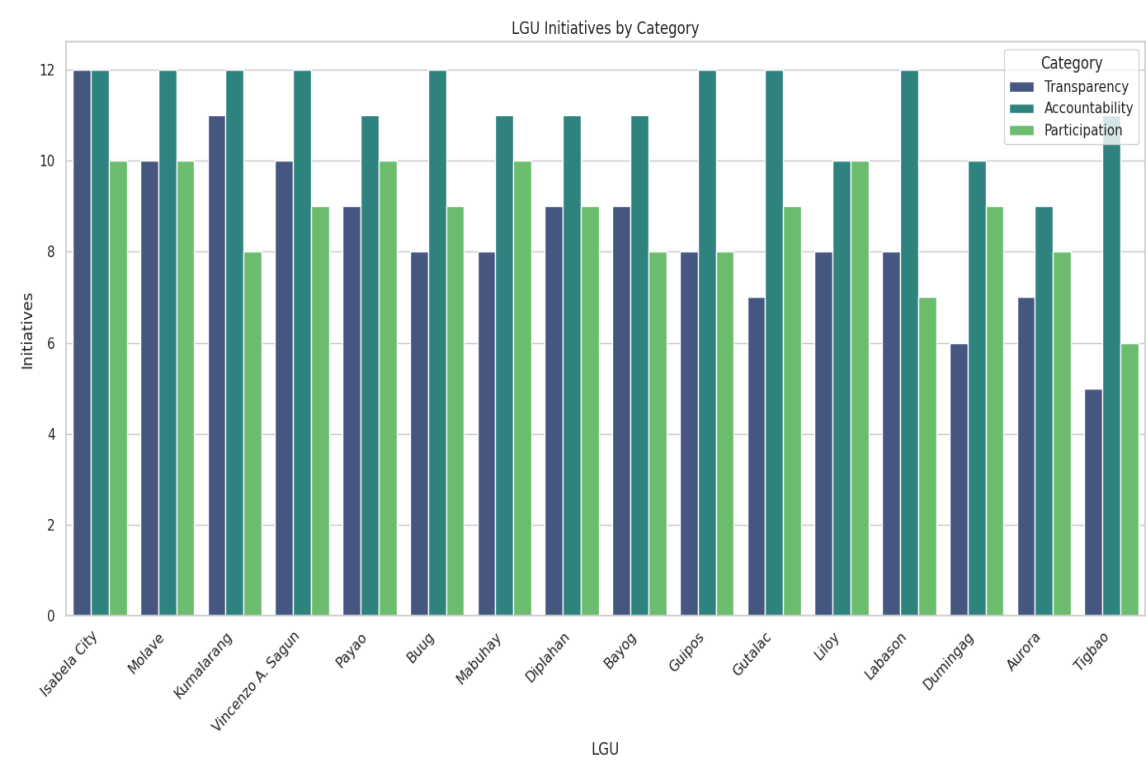
### Overall Presence of OGP Practices in 16 LGUs in Region IX

LGU	Transparency (13 initiatives)	Accountability (12 initiatives)	Participation (10 initiatives)	Total (35 initiatives)
Isabela City	12	12	10	<b>34</b>
Molave	10	12	10	<b>32</b>
Kumalarang	11	12	8	<b>31</b>
Vincenzo A. Sagun	10	12	9	<b>31</b>
Payao	9	11	10	<b>30</b>
Buug	8	12	9	<b>29</b>
Mabuhay	8	11	10	<b>29</b>
Diplahan	9	11	9	<b>29</b>
Bayog	9	11	8	<b>28</b>
Guipos	8	12	8	<b>28</b>
Gutalac	7	12	9	<b>28</b>
Liloy	8	10	10	<b>28</b>
Labason	8	12	7	<b>27</b>
Dumingag	6	10	9	<b>25</b>
Aurora	7	9	8	<b>24</b>
Tigbao	5	11	6	<b>22</b>

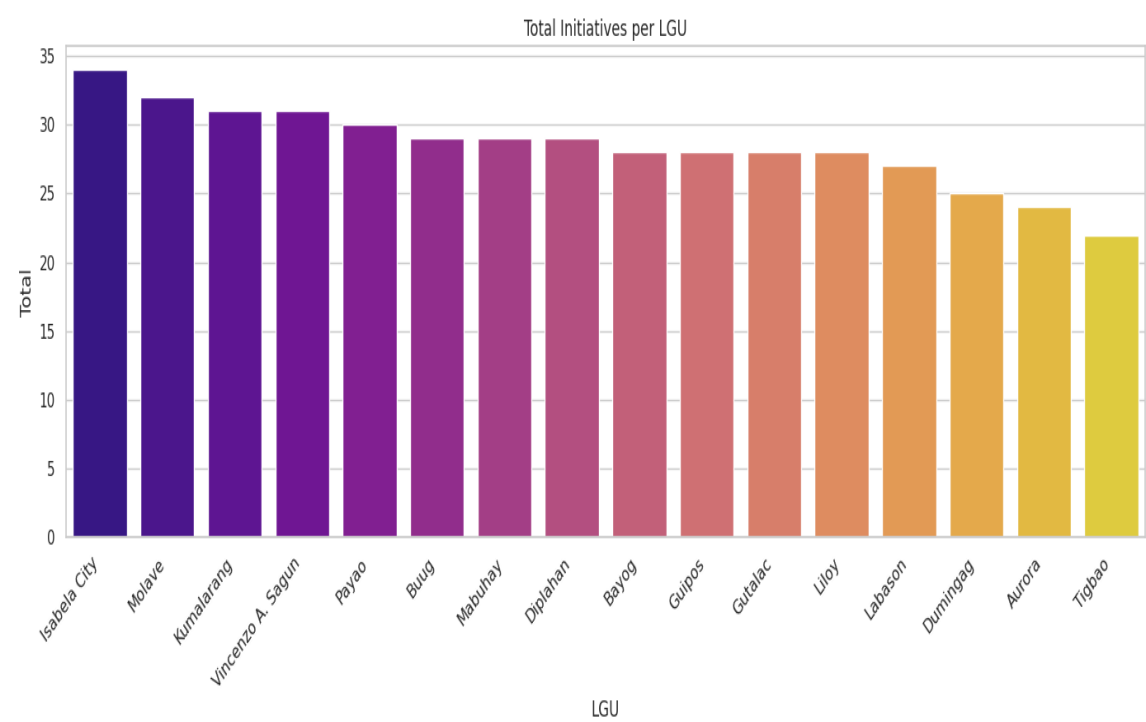
With 34 out of 35 OGP initiatives being implemented, LGU Isabela emerges as the top performer. Other high-performing LGUs include Molave, Kumalarang and Vincenzo A. Sagun, each demonstrating consistent commitment across all governance pillars.

Accountability is the most consistently implemented category, with many LGUs marking 11 or 12 out of 12. Transparency initiatives were moderately implemented across LGUs, with Kumalarang and Isabela City scoring highest. Transparency initiatives appear to be the most unevenly distributed, indicating a need for targeted interventions or knowledge sharing. Participation, while commendable in select LGUs such as Liloy and Mabuhay, showed greater variability, indicating opportunities for further strengthening inclusive governance practices.

LGU Initiatives by Category



Total Initiatives per LGU



## Transparency

OGP Value: **TRANSPARENCY**

*Definition:* This includes **publication of all government-held information** (as opposed to only information on government activities); proactive or reactive releases of information; are not restricted to data but pertains to all information (for example, releasing individual construction contracts would be “information”); **mechanisms to strengthen the right to information; and open access to government** information (it should not be privileged or internal only to government, it should promote transparency of government decision-making and carrying out of basic functions, or may seek to lower cost of obtaining information).

### Transparency Initiatives of the 16 LGUs in Region IX

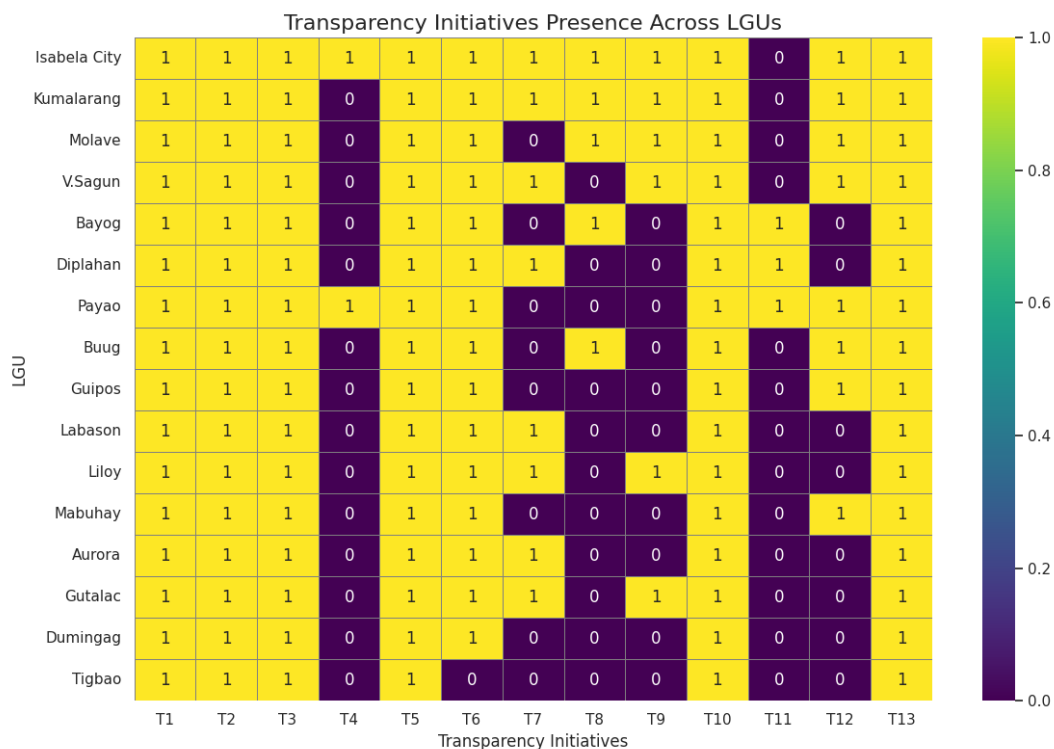
LGU	T1. Posting of proposed programs on LGU website and conspicuous places	T2. Conduct of Budget Forum	T3. Posting of LGU data and resources (ex. education and health statistics) in conspicuous places	T4. Livestreaming of budget planning sessions on the LGU website or social media	T5. Display budget allocation charts publicly	T6. Posting of Appropriation Ordinance on the LGU website and/or conspicuous places	T7. Posting of draft bills/ordinances for public comments or recommendations	T8. Online legislative tracking system	T9. Issuance and implementation of local Freedom of Information (FOI) ordinance	T10. Posting of procurement documents on LGU website and conspicuous places	T11. Disclosure of revenue from oil, gas, and mining operations (extractive sector) or	T12. Posting of audit reports	T13. Online dashboard displaying public works or projects progress	TOTAL YES
Isabela City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	12
Kumalarang	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	11
Molave	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	10
V.Sagun	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	10
Bayog	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	9
Diplahan	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	9
Payao	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	9
Buug	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	8
Guipos	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	8
Labason	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	8
Liloy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	8
Mabuhay	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	8
Aurora	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	7
Gutalac	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	7
Duminguag	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	6
Tigbao	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	5
<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	



On Transparency (13 initiatives), Isabela City emerged as the top implementer and followed closely by Kumalarang, Molave, and Vincenzo A. Sagun. Most LGUs scored between 8-10, indicating moderate transparency efforts. Encouraging peer learning from high-performing LGUs could help improve transparency.

Notably, all 16 LGUs implement T1: Posting of proposed programs and T2: Conduct of Budget Forum, showing strong commitment to foundational transparency. Meanwhile, T5: Display budget allocation charts, T6: Post Appropriation Ordinance, and T10: Post procurement documents are also widely adopted, with 14-15 LGUs implementing these practices.

The least practiced OGP initiative on Transparency is T4: Livestreaming of budget planning sessions with only 2 LGUs undertaking this (Isabela City<sup>10</sup> and Payao<sup>11</sup>). T8: Online legislative tracking system is present in only 5 LGUs. These areas may benefit from targeted capacity building interventions or technical support.



Most LGUs do not livestream budget planning sessions due to weak signal, electric power concerns, lack of equipment and capacity, and possible lack of meaningful online engagement. Meanwhile, although all 16 LGUs have legislative tracking systems in place, only 5 LGUs have them online. With regard to Freedom of Information (FOI), only 6 LGUs have institutionalized FOI. Other LGUs are waiting for a national law or are saying that there is no need because data may be accessed or provided upon written request to the Local Chief Executive.

<sup>10</sup> Through the Official Facebook Page of Isabela City: City Government of Isabela de Basilan

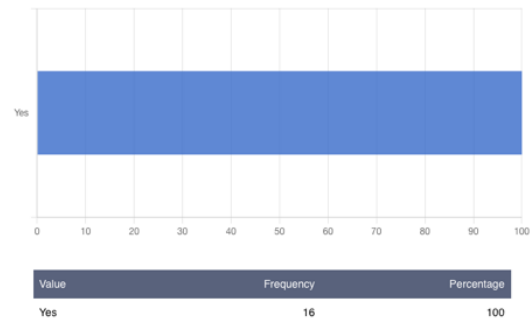
<sup>11</sup> Through the Facebook account of Sangguniang Bayan of Payao Zamboang Sibugay



### On T1 – Posting of proposed programs on LGU website and conspicuous places

- *Commonly practiced:* All 16 LGUs (100%) implement this initiative using their Full Disclosure Boards, (FDBs) and Full Disclosure Portals, official Facebook Pages, and their websites. All LGUs are compliant with the requirement of posting FDBs in at least 3 conspicuous areas. The FDBs are usually located at the Municipal/City Hall, public terminal, public market, gymnasium or covered courts, and barangay halls.
- *Common results:* Constituents and the general public may easily access information from these platforms. Citizens are able to provide feedback and suggestions, usually to the concerned office/department and/or through participation in barangay assemblies or council meetings.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Almost all LGUs have separate FB Pages for some of their departments/offices (eg. DRRM, Planning & Development Office, Tourism, Health Unit, Social Welfare & Development, etc.) and posts from these offices are shared to or by their LGU official FB Page. There are LGUs which have separate bulletin boards aside from the FDB. Some call it “Transparency Board” or simply “Information Board” or “Posting Area” which are usually located beside the FDB at the lobby of their Municipal Hall. Other documents and notices to the public are posted on these bulletin boards. Some LGUs also use their TV monitors and LED Walls to make announcements or share plans and programs. LGU Isabela City has mobilized its citizens through their Barangay Information Officer Network (BION), a network of resident focal persons in every barangay to serve as communication channel to and from the City Information Office.

T1. Posting of proposed programs on LGU website and conspicuous places  
TYPE: SELECT\_ONE. 16 out of 16 respondents answered this question. (0 were without data.)

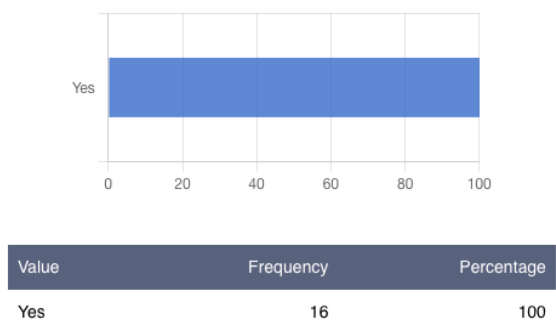


### On T2 – Conduct of Budget Forum

- *Commonly practiced:* All 16 LGUs (100%) conduct Budget Forums, although with varying approaches. Some LGUs conduct Budget Forum by allowing CSOs and other stakeholders to articulate their priority projects before finalizing its budget, while other LGUs present their proposed budget and seek suggestions or confirmation from CSOs and key stakeholders. The Budget Forums are attended by the Mayor, Department Heads, and CSOs. Usually, this is a whole day activity wherein each department presents their proposed activities and budget and this is subjected to discussions and deliberation. CSOs are given the opportunity to propose projects

T2. Conduct of Budget Forum

TYPE: SELECT\_ONE. 16 out of 16 respondents answered this question. (0 were without data.)

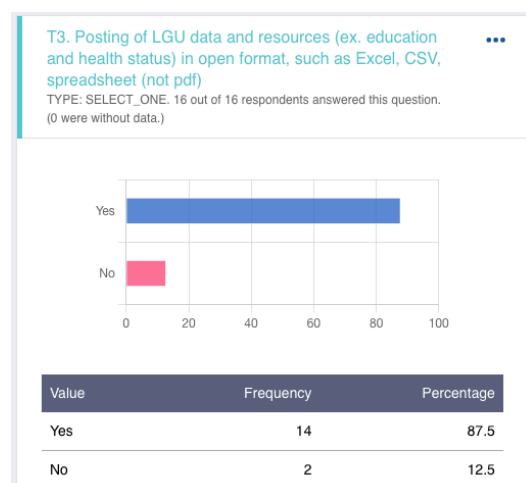


and activities, inquire about the LGU priorities, and recommend changes in the budget allocation. The proposed budget is finalized by the Mayor who then submits it to the Sanggunian for approval. The Sanggunian reviews the proposed budget and may call the Department Heads and CSOs or other stakeholders to aid them in their review process. Once approved, they pass the required legislation such as Appropriation Ordinance.

- *Common results:* CSOs are motivated to seek accreditation so they can be part of the local special bodies and other LGU committees and councils. This way, they become part of local governance processes and they are better able to access data, services, and resources. Because CSOs feel valued and their inputs are considered, they become more active in the implementation of LGU programs. Projects are more responsive to the needs articulated by community members.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Budget Forums are conducted in varying ways and with varying degrees of CSO participation. In some LGUs, the Budget Forum is more open, participatory, and engaging (i.e., CSOs are able to include their proposed project or activities in the LGU budget through workshops and meetings), whereas in other LGUs, they are only being asked for their inquiries and feedback in a one-day activity. In LGU Mabuhay, they have a simple yet effective way of crafting their budget. It starts with a Budget Call wherein their Municipal Budget Officer announces the start of the budget process and initially informs each department or sector about their forecasted budget for the following year. The local special bodies and other LGU committees, councils, and sectors are then convened. Together, CSOs and local government representatives in each council or sector then deliberates, brainstorm, and comes up with their proposed activities and budget within the forecasted amount. The proposed plans with budgets shall then be consolidated by the Budget Officer. The overall draft budget is then presented for further comments and suggestions. Once finalized, the Mayor submits the proposed budget to the Sangguniang Bayan for review and approval. As a result, LGU programs and activities are more responsive and relevant to the needs of the community, and CSOs are fully aware and engaged in the implementation of programs which lead to a more peaceful, efficient, and meaningful collaboration.

On T3 – Posting of LGU data and resources (ex. education and health status) in open format, such as Excel, CSV, spreadsheet (not PDF)

- *Commonly practiced:* Written request letters addressed to the Mayor and stipulating the purpose of gathering data is commonly required to get LGU data and resources. They cite that they do not want to violate the Data Privacy Act, thus this practice. Documents that are required to be posted on the FDB and FDP Portal are displayed or submitted. Other important LGU data are not posted or proactively shared (ex. education and health status) because it is not mandatory to do so. Copies of CDPs and CLUPs are usually very bulky, so LGUs often give out only the specific data being requested. LGUs usually provide printed copies for free.

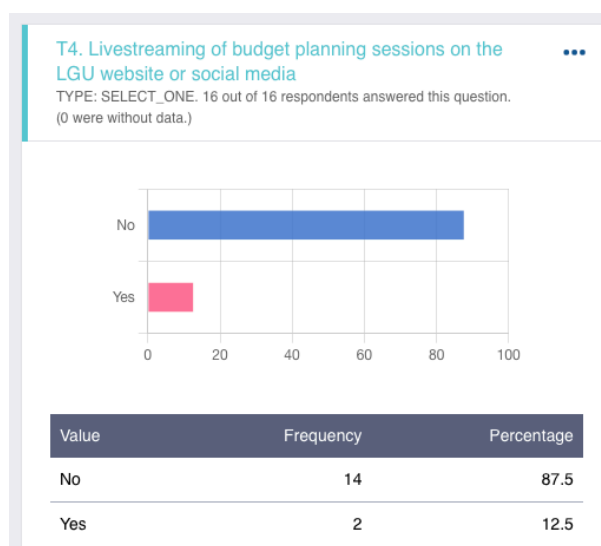


When digital copies are shared – whether by email or through flash drives – the documents are in PDF format.

- *Common results:* Citizens have access to LGU data and information, although subject to the Mayor's approval. Public data is easily obtained upon request and people feel that government is closer and within reach.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Isabela City, pursuant to its local FOI Ordinance, encourages its constituents to request for LGU data and public documents. They have devised various ways to make it easy and convenient for citizens to request for information, such as popularizing the use of their FOI QR Code<sup>12</sup> by partnering with public transport groups, schools, CSOs, and barangays. Considering their geographical predisposition as an island, the LGU has utilized available technology (e.g. Starlink) to ensure internet connection in the barangays. Meanwhile, LGU Kumalarang<sup>13</sup> provides downloadable files on socio demographic data on its website, along with other important LGU information and disclosures in graphical formats.

#### On T4 – Livestreaming of budget planning sessions on the LGU website or social media

- *Commonly practiced:* Only 2 out of 16 LGUs (13%) are doing Livestreaming of budget planning sessions. Some reasons for not having livestream sessions were technical constraints, weak signal, electric power interruptions, and limited capacity.
- *Common results:* More than 1.2k views were recorded and people are more confident with the LGU. Livestreaming is perceived as a good measure to show that the LGU officials are not doing anything deceitful.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Livestreaming is currently not a priority among LGUs, although it seems to be something they wish to do. On the other hand, netizens and constituents also need to be able to translate their views and likes into actual suggestions and propose solutions.

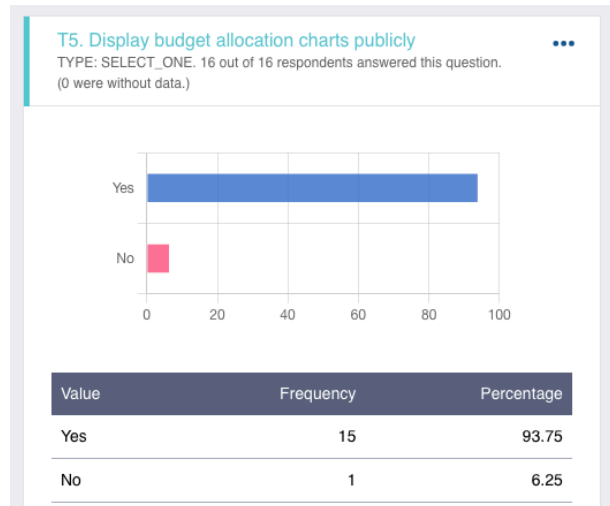


<sup>12</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph/foi/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://kumsur.gov.ph/socio-demographic-data/>

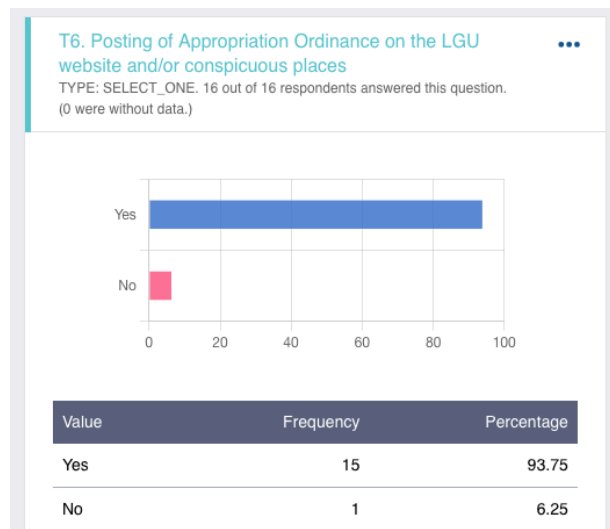
#### On T5 – Display budget allocation charts publicly

- *Commonly practiced:* Almost all LGUs include budget allocation charts and infographics when they submit or post their AIP and 20% Development Fund in the FDBs and FDP Portal. They also present the budget allocation through charts and graphs during council meetings. However, the tabular format is displayed in the bulletin boards as these are the required template and they intend to be fully compliant with the guidelines provided to them. Most of the respondents realized that they can use the graphical presentations (pie charts) as cover page to better show the budget allocation and inform the general public about the distribution of financial resources. However, respondents also expressed the need to continue using the tabular format (Excel) to show details per budget line item, which the CSOs also strongly support.
- *Common results:* CSOs do not complain about the budget allocation because they took part in its preparation. When charts are used, CSOs and LGU officials and staff tend to easily understand the distribution of resources and they are able to see beyond their own sector or office.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Although the graphical presentations are helpful in showing the bigger picture with regard to distribution of budget across sectors or offices, both CSOs and LGU officials affirm the need to retain the use of tabular form so everyone can see details per line item. LGU Kumalarang website provides budget allocation charts for FY 2025<sup>14</sup>.



#### On T6 – Posting of Appropriation Ordinance on the LGU website and/or conspicuous places

- *Commonly practiced:* Almost all LGUs post a copy of their Appropriation Ordinance on their website and/or FDBs or FDP Portal. The FDBs are found in at least 3 conspicuous places, with few LGUs having more than 3. Most LGUs also post copies of their Appropriation Ordinance on the bulletin boards or FB Page of their Sanggunian.
- *Common results:* The printed copies are browsed by concerned citizens, so the general public is aware of the



<sup>14</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gjm2zDM-zv\\_BljUcNNrnbB4MIh7Z9HwZ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gjm2zDM-zv_BljUcNNrnbB4MIh7Z9HwZ/view)

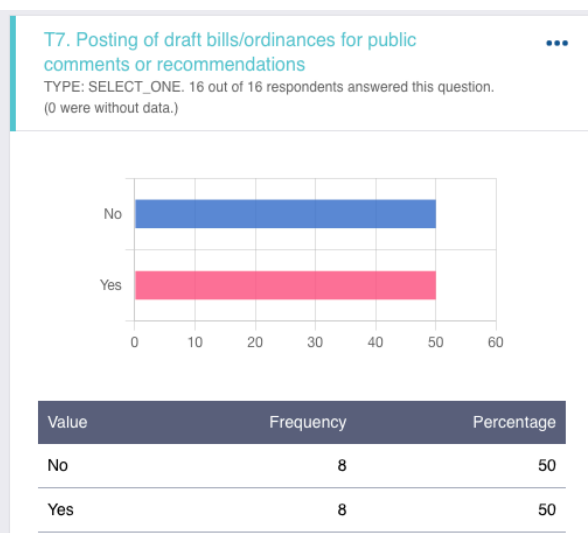
LGU's plans and budget. Because copy of the Appropriation Ordinance is posted in conspicuous places, it is easily accessible for both government and citizens.

- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* The websites of LGU Isabela City<sup>15</sup>, LGU Kumalarang<sup>16</sup>, and LGU Molave<sup>17</sup> have downloadable copies of their Appropriation Ordinances.

#### On T7 – Posting of draft bills/ordinances for public comments or recommendations

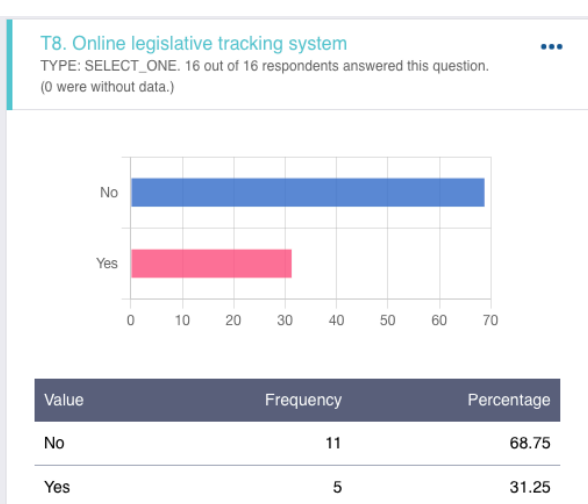
- *Commonly practiced:* Fifty percent (50%) or 8 out of 16 LGUs post draft bills/ordinances for public comments or recommendations. Draft bills/ordinances are posted ahead of the conduct of mandatory public hearings. These are usually posted on SB bulletin boards, SB FB Pages, official LGU FB Page, and bulletin boards at the Barangay Halls.

- *Common results:* Constituents are informed of proposed local legislations. As such, when they attend SB sessions or public hearings, they actively participate, speak up and express their inquiries and concerns. Citizens' feedback are strongly considered by the SB and they revise the draft ordinance as they deem best.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Posting of proposed legislations allowed constituents to review the documents in advance so they can discuss important matters and raise questions or make suggestions. Posting such drafts in the barangay halls are also deemed more effective.



#### On T8 – Online legislative tracking system

- *Commonly practiced:* Only 5 out of 16 (30%) have online legislative tracking system. Most of the LGUs with online legislative tracking system have it embedded in their website, while others use Google Drive for easy access and storage. The rest of the LGUs also have legislative tracking system, albeit offline or manual. They keep scanned copies of the signed legislations and their SB has a system of



<sup>15</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph/transparency-2/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://kumsur.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Annual-Gen.Appro\\_Ordinance-No.2024-1-LEP-2025.pdf](https://kumsur.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Annual-Gen.Appro_Ordinance-No.2024-1-LEP-2025.pdf)

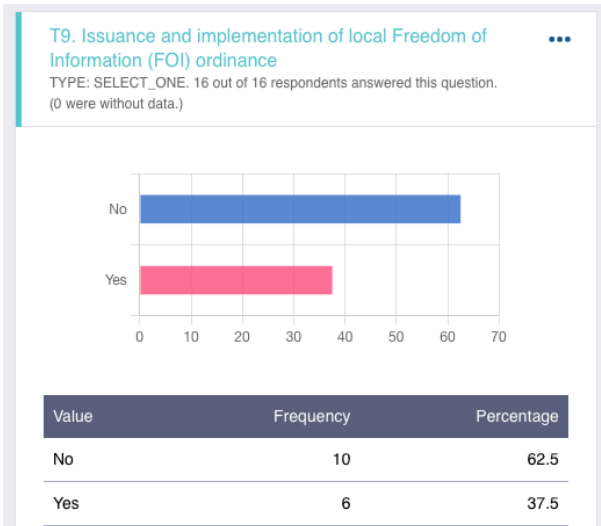
<sup>17</sup> <https://www.molave.gov.ph/category/reso-ordinances/>

filing these documents, usually in designated computers.

- *Common results:* It is easy to access copies of local legislations when the LGU has online or digital legislative tracking system. In LGUs with offline legislative tracking system, citizens may request copies from the SB and they may be furnished within the day, if not within minutes. It was noted, however, that CSOs seldom request for copies of local legislations. Usually, they only request for copy of resolutions regarding their accreditation.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Molave's online legislative information system allows citizens to search for ordinances and resolutions passed by SB Molave<sup>18</sup>. The website of LGU Isabela has a designated section on ordinances<sup>19</sup> and resolutions<sup>20</sup> and scanned signed copies of the legislations are downloadable. Among the 5 LGUs with online legislative tracking system, LGU Molave and LGU Isabela have more updated data.

#### On T9 – Issuance and implementation of local Freedom of Information (FOI) ordinance

- *Commonly practiced:* Six out of 16 LGUs (38%) have local FOI ordinance. LGUs without FOI yet are either waiting for a national law or are saying there is no need to enact a local FOI because data can be accessed/provided upon request.
- *Common results:* LGUs with local FOI ordinance share more data and information through their official channels of communications. Citizens are able to get data and information about their LGU. Residents feel more connected to the LGU and they no longer feel afraid or discriminated when requesting for data or inquiring about basic services or government programs.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* By virtue of LGU Isabela's FOI Ordinance<sup>21</sup>, "the City adopts a policy of transparency, public disclosure, and open records, as part of an effort to take effective measures toward good governance, a higher level of public accountability, and the empowerment of the people of Isabela City". As such, LGU Isabela encourages its constituents to be informed, to be vigilant, and to request for public documents. Their FOI ordinance also provides for penalties against any government official or employee who fails to comply with its provisions. LGU Isabela has also made it convenient for citizens to request for public documents and share feedback to the LGU. Notable in Isabela City's FOI is the use of technology (QR Code) and publicly posting this through tricycles, schools, barangay halls and government establishments.



<sup>18</sup> [https://sbmolave.net/#?search for ordinances](https://sbmolave.net/#?search%20for%20ordinances)

<sup>19</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph/ordinance/>

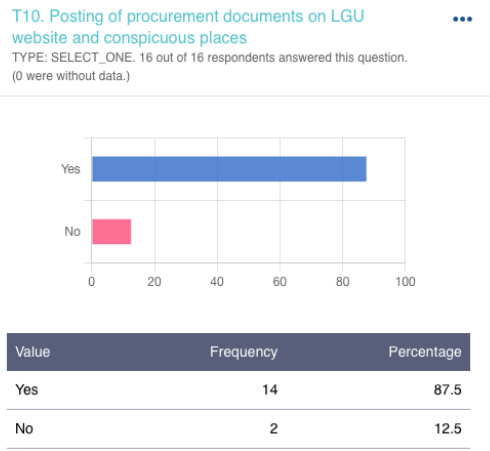
<sup>20</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph/resolutions/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph/foi/>



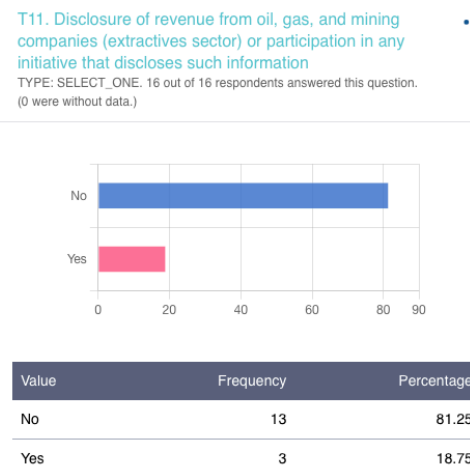
#### On T10 – Posting of procurement documents on LGU website and conspicuous places

- *Commonly practiced:* Procurement documents are posted on FDBs, FDP Portal, and on the PhilGEPS website.
- *Common results:* Citizens are generally informed about the procurement of goods and services.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGUs usually post their procurement plans on their websites, but not necessarily the calls for quotation/proposals, notice of award, and notice to proceed. More so, they rarely post these procurement documents on their social media pages.



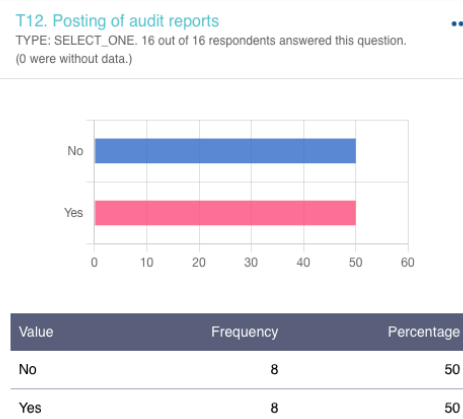
#### On T11 – Disclosure of revenue from oil, gas, and mining companies (extractives sector) or participation in any initiative that discloses such information

- *Commonly practiced:* This is applicable only in 3 out of 16 LGUs and all of them disclose revenue from mining. This is usually recorded as share from national wealth/treasury which is generated from coal mining and sand and gravel extraction.
- *Common results:* LGU is able to record and benefit from its share from the extractive activities.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* All 16 LGUs do not have revenue from oil and gas, so this is not applicable for them. For LGUs which have mining, they are able to record and benefit from their share.



#### On T12 – Posting of audit reports

- *Commonly practiced:* Eight out of 16 LGUs (50%) post their COA audit reports. This is usually posted at the Mayor's Office and at the SB bulletin boards. Some LGUs post it on their website. Exit Conference usually take place between COA auditors and LGU officials. CSOs are not part of such activity.
- *Common results:* Constituents feel more confident because their LGU does not hide the audit results. In LGUs that do not post audit reports, the LGU respondents mentioned that so far

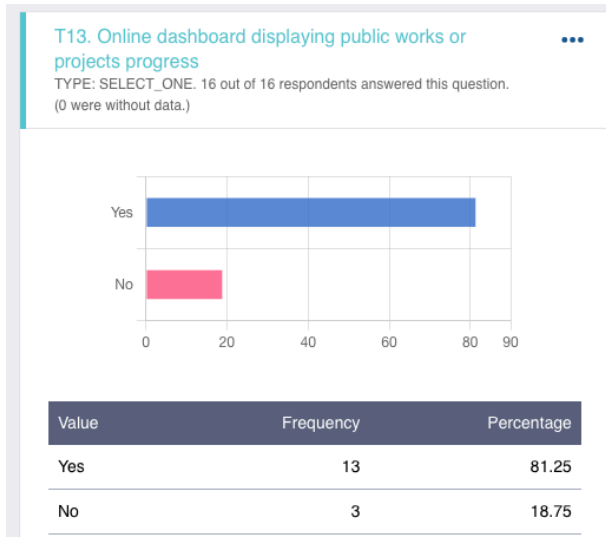


nobody has specifically requested for a copy of the audit reports.

- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Four (4) LGUs have designated internal auditors - Gutalac, Liloy, Mabuhay and Molave - which reinforces compliance with good financial management. The internal auditors have access to all financial transactions and reports directly to the LCE and/or Administrator.

#### On T13 – Online dashboard displaying public works or projects progress

- *Commonly practiced:* 13 of the 16 LGUs have online dashboards displaying public works or projects progress. Most of the LGUs use the Subaybayan Portal. For LGUs without online dashboards, usually there are bulletin boards at the Municipal Engineer's Office where project progress is monitored.
- *Common results:* Citizens are informed about the status of projects in their community. The dashboard is interactive and is able to show the types of projects, year of implementation, and status or progress. CSOs seldom check the FDP Portal and Subaybayan Portal as they are able to get more relevant and updated information during local monitoring activities and quarterly council meetings.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Isabela<sup>22</sup> and LGU Molave<sup>23</sup> have online dashboards for public works and project progress.



#### Other Transparency Initiatives<sup>24</sup>:

- Compliance to ARTA (Anti-Red Tape Act) to develop and implement Citizen's Charter
- Conduct of SOMA (State of the Municipality Address)
- Conduct of Barangay Assemblies
- LGU Updates every flag raising ceremony
- Hotline numbers or LGU contact numbers for any concerns
- Radio stations (FM) to share updates, announcements, raise awareness
- Good Governance Program, Isabela TV Program (IsaTV), Pagpahati Publication as annual accomplishment report publication, Brochures for different departments and their services, BION – Barangay Information Officer Network

<sup>22</sup> <https://isabelacity.gov.ph>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.molave.gov.ph/category/meo/>

<sup>24</sup> Note: Initiatives listed here are only those related to Transparency. Other activities, programs, or projects mentioned by the respondents are captured in the raw documentation attached as Annex D – Full Documentation Results.



## Accountability

### OGP Value: **ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Definition:** These are **rules, regulations, and mechanisms in place that call upon government actors to justify their actions**, act upon criticisms or requirements made of them, and accept responsibility for failure to perform with respect to laws or commitments. **Initiatives on accountability should typically include an answerability element**, i.e., that they are not purely internal systems of accountability but involve the public.

### Accountability Initiatives of the 16 LGUs in Region IX

LGU	A1. Implement real-time online budget reporting.	A2. Functioning fiscal management review committees	A3. Hold mandatory hearings for new legislation, ordinances, or resolutions	A4. Make legislative sessions open to the public and media	A5. Require post-enactment reviews of legislation	A6. Invite CSOs as observers in voting conducted by the Sanggunian to authorize the annual budget	A7. Conduct regular performance assessments for officials	A8. Implement measures to prevent conflicts of interest involving officials	A9. Form ethics committees with investigative powers	A10. Establish clear performance metrics for programs	A11. Public reporting of annual accomplishments of the LGU	A12. Creation of social media account/tri-media platforms as feedback mechanisms	TOTAL YES
Buug	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Guipos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Gutalac	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Isabela City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Kumalarang	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Labason	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Molave	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
V.Sagun	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	12
Bayog	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11
Diplahan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11
Mabuhay	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11
Payao	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	11
Tigbao	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	11
Dumingag	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Liloy	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	10
Aurora	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	9
<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	

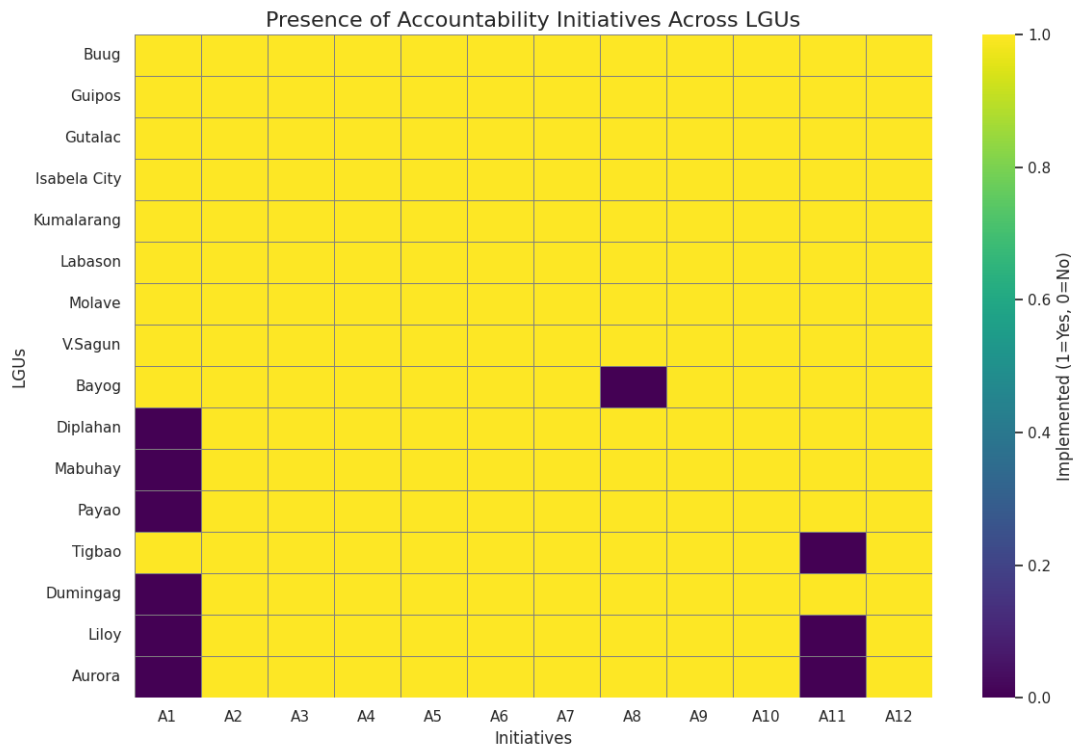
Eight LGUs - Buug, Guipos, Gotalac, Isabela City, Kumalarang, Labason, Molave, and Vincenzo A. Sagun – emerged as top performers, implementing all 12 accountability initiatives.

The following initiatives were implemented by all 16 LGUs:

- A2: Functioning fiscal management review committees
- A3: Mandatory hearings for new legislation
- A4: Legislative sessions open to the public and media
- A5: Post-enactment reviews of legislation
- A6: CSOs as observers in budget authorization
- A7: Regular performance assessments
- A12: Social media/tri-media platforms

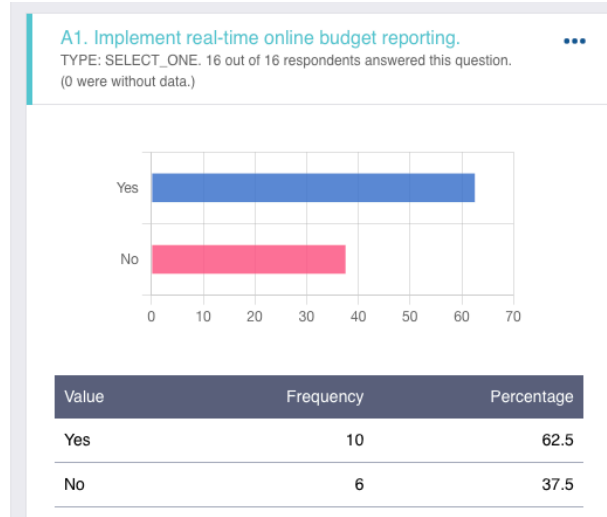
On the other hand, the following are least adopted accountability initiatives:

- A1: Real-time online budget reporting
- A9: Formation of ethics committees with investigative powers
- A10: Clear performance metrics



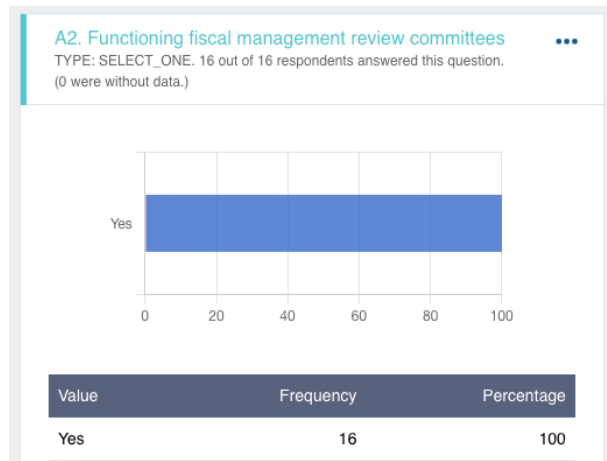
### On A1 – Implement real-time online budget reporting

- *Commonly practiced:* 10 out of 16 LGUs (63%) practice this initiative. Some LGUs do this through integrated financial management system which enables efficient financial management, while others combine manual and electronic sharing of information (eg. physical request for information, then a link or digital copy is provided). Online, budget reports are posted on the LGU website and FDP Portal. LGU Gutalac and LGU Labason also use Google Drive which may be viewed by different offices/departments. Physically, they also post copies of budget utilization reports on the FDBs and LGU bulletin boards. Most LGUs publish budget reports quarterly for public information and monthly for LGU officials.
- *Common results:* CSOs that are part of local committees and councils are informed about budget utilization during quarterly meetings. During such meetings, they are able to provide feedback and raise clarifications.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Buug adopts a digital Financial Management System that links the Municipal Budget Office, Office of the Municipal Treasurer, Municipal Assessor's Office, and Municipal Accounting Office. This enables them to easily generate real-time financial reports.



### On A2 – Functioning fiscal management review committees

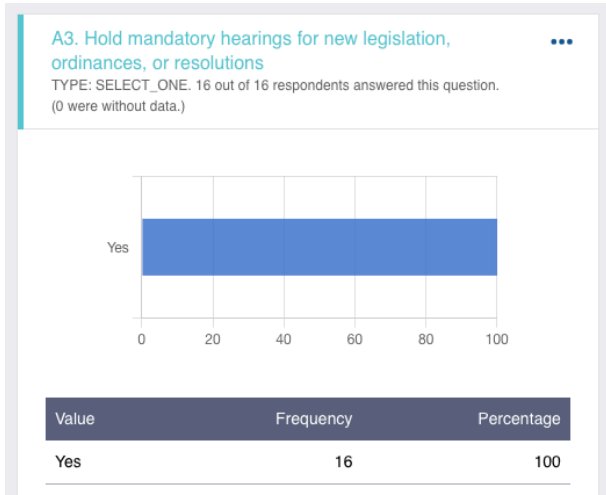
- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs have functioning fiscal management review committees, usually in the form of Local Finance Committee (LFC) in the executive branch and Committee on Appropriations and Ways and Means in the legislative branch. The LFCs are usually composed of the Mayor, MPDC, Budget Officer, and Treasurer. In most cases, the LFCs are expanded to include the Accountant. In some LGUs, it is further expanded to include any or some of the following: Vice Mayor, SB Chair of Committee of Appropriation, department heads, and CSOs. The frequency of the LFC meetings varies across the LGUs – from 1-2 times a year to once a month or every other month, while others may convene every week or 2-3 times a week, and as the need arises.
- *Common results:* LFC meetings usually result in proposed supplemental budgets. Those that meet more often usually have more supplemental budgets and realignment of funds in the past 3 years.



- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* CSOs are not part of the LFCs, except in LGU Mabuhay which includes CSOs in special meetings of their LFC. As a result, their CSOs attest to the genuine openness of the LGU.

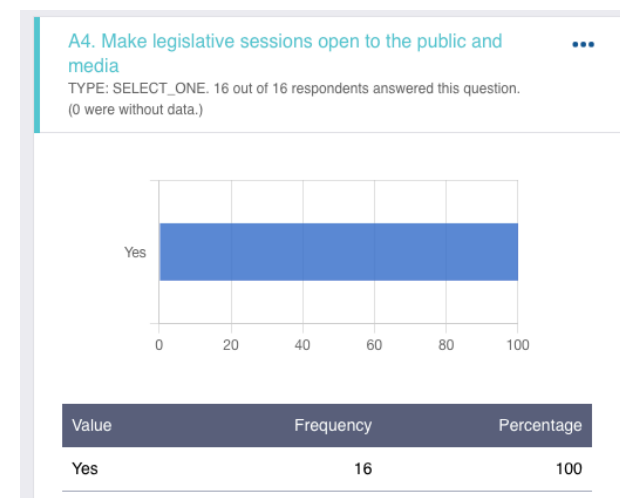
#### On A3 – Hold mandatory hearings for new legislation, ordinances, or resolutions

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs hold mandatory hearings for new legislations. Public hearings are usually held in a venue that can accommodate as many people as possible. Invitations and public announcements are made in advance, usually 1 month before the scheduled event. Copies of draft ordinance are also disseminated and posted on the website and on bulletin boards in conspicuous places. In some instances, public hearings are held in the barangays to reach more people. During public hearing, the proposed ordinance is presented and read line by line and explained or translated into the local dialect. Significant time is allotted for open forum to gather questions, clarifications, suggestions, insights, and recommendations on the subject matter.
- *Common results:* Constituents and the general public are well-informed about the proposed legislation and they are given an opportunity to articulate their thoughts, message of support, voice out their dissent, and/or present their proposed solution or suggestions.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Public hearings for new ordinance in LGU Tigbao are conducted per barangay. It is usually held on the barangay halls or at the Freedom Stage. Notices are given to the barangays one (1) month before the public hearing will be conducted. This way, more residents are able to participate and would become aware of the new policy. Citizens also appreciate this because they do not have to spend for transportation fares to participate in such activities. Because of such practice, they also feel their local government is now within reach.



#### On A4 – Make legislative sessions open to the public and media

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs make legislative sessions open to the public and media. The legislative sessions in LGU Aurora are broadcasted on Radio<sup>25</sup>, while LGU Guipos have audio recordings of the sessions. Regular SB Sessions are usually held in the



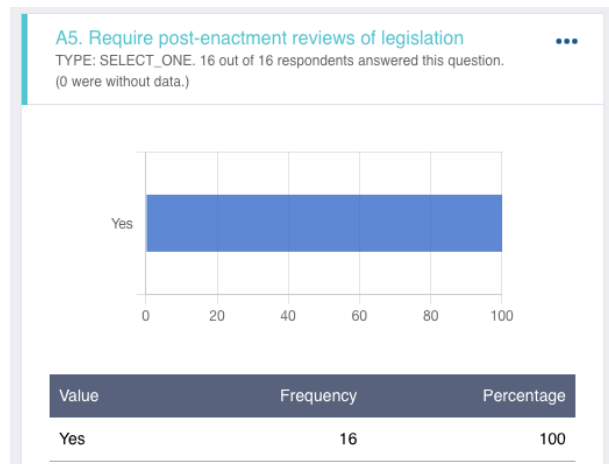
<sup>25</sup> 105.4 FM Radyo Kaugmaran

morning of Mondays or Tuesdays. The SB Sessions Halls have designated seats for guests and observers.

- *Common results:* Citizens are glad that they are able to attend legislative sessions and are allowed to present their concerns, particularly during People's Hour. Online, livestreams reach 1.2k views with likes and shares.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* It was noted that constituents usually request for solicitations before or after the regular legislative sessions and the SB members have become used to it.

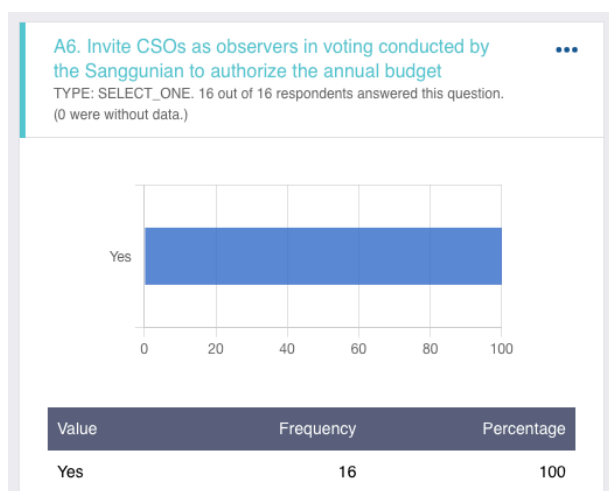
#### On A5 – Require post-enactment reviews of legislation

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs have post-enactment reviews of legislation. The reviews usually emanate from department heads, SB members, and sometimes from CSOs. From time to time, the local special bodies and other local committees and councils also provide feedback on the need to review certain policies.
- *Common results:* Obsolete ordinances are updated and legislative actions are more effective in addressing local issues and concerns. CSOs feel a sense of accomplishment when contributing to changes and development in their community through updated policies.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* The Sangguniang Bayan of Aurora has an oversight committee responsible for updating and reviewing existing legislations. On the other hand, in the Municipality of Liloy, the CSOs have successfully lobbied for the passage and/or review of ten (10) ordinances, including its Environmental Code, Freedom of Information, Fisheries Code, and Declaration of Marine Protected Areas, among others.



#### On A6 – Invite CSOs as observers in voting conducted by the Sanggunian to authorize the annual budget

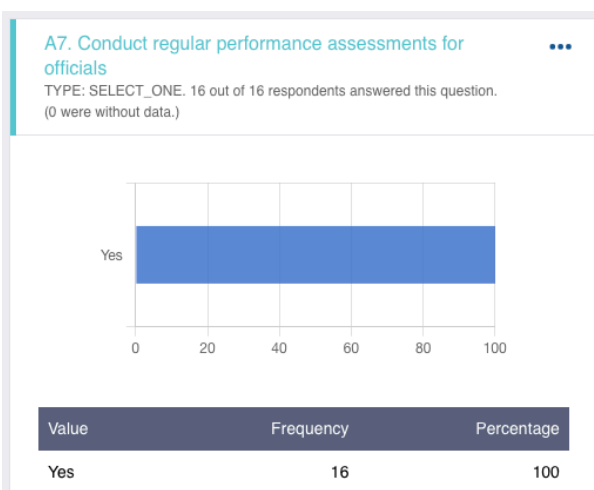
- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs invite CSOs to participate as observers during Sanggunian review and deliberation of the local budget. They are also allowed to observe in the voting conducted by the Sanggunian to authorize the annual budget.
- *Common results:* CSOs are meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes, especially during the formulation, review and deliberation of the proposed annual budget, so they feel that they are valued by the LGU.



- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Because all LGUs have open legislative sessions (i.e., open to the public and media), their voting process is also open to all observers. There has been no instance where observers were asked to leave when the Sanggunian is voting. Executive session is undertaken only when sensitive topics are discussed, such as security related concerns.

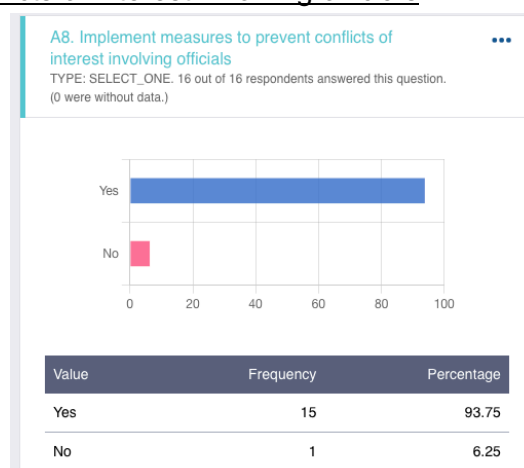
#### On A7 – Conduct regular performance assessments for officials

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs conduct regular performance assessments through the Individual Performance Committee and Review Form (IPCR) and Office Performance Review and Committee Form (OPCR) system as mandated by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The IPCR-OPCR performance reviews are done every semester and the results of which are used as basis for incentives, bonus, awards, and/or promotion. All LGU employees are required to undertake the IPCR-OPCR assessments. For elected Sanggunian Members, the SB Secretary monitors their attendance, compliance with SB rules and regulations, and the number of legislations sponsored and/or passed. DILG's Local Legislative Award (LLA) is also thought of as a way of assessing performance of the Sanggunian. Indirectly, it reflects on the performance of the Vice-Mayor. Meanwhile, the SGLG, ARTA feedback, and other awards given to the LGU is considered a reflection of the Local Chief Executive's performance. There are no direct performance assessments for the Vice-Mayor and the Mayor.
- *Common results:* The conduct of regular performance assessments contribute to improved public service delivery and citizens are more satisfied.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* All LGUs generally implement the same performance assessments. It is notable that LGU Mabuhay has a bulletin board that show monitoring of SB Members' performance which can be viewed publicly.



#### On A8 – Implement measures to prevent conflicts of interest involving officials

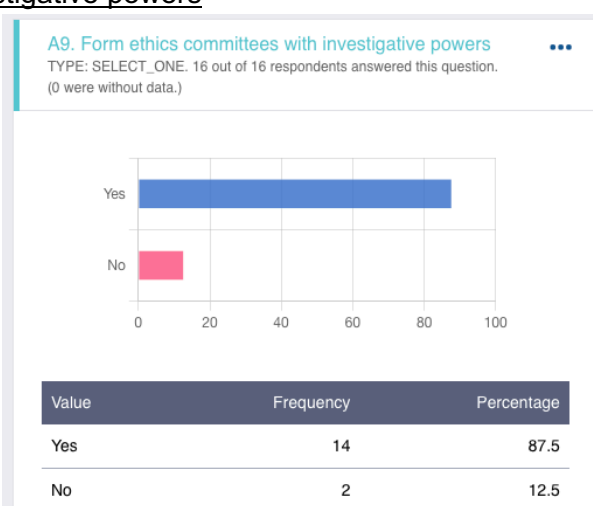
- *Commonly practiced:* 15 LGUs implement measures to prevent conflicts of interest. Submission of SALN is usually the main measure the LGUs mention. Although all employees and officials submit SALN annually, these are not used as reference document to flag potential conflicts of interest. The BAC members are cited to be vigilant in preventing conflict of interest during the procurement process. Some LGUs implement No Gifts Policy.



- *Common results:* Employees and officials were not allowed by the BAC to engage in any business transaction with the LGU. No incidents of conflict of interest were reported in the past three years.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Kumalarang has issued Executive Order on Conflict of Interest (EO No. 13-A, s2023 dated July 5, 2023) which established its Committee on Conflict of Interest and institutionalized policies to prevent conflict of interest in their municipality. This includes mandatory disclosure of interests by all local officials and employees, adoption of No Gift Policy, Recusal Policy (i.e., any official involved in a matter where a personal or family interest exists must formally recuse themselves from participation or decision-making), mandatory Conflict of Interest Declarations of all BAC members, secretariat staff, and suppliers for every procurement cycle, Whistleblower Protection Mechanism, and Special Audit and Review Mechanism. LGU Isabela has recently passed a similar Resolution on Conflict of Interest, pending the Mayor's signature as of the OGP documentation visit. Moreover, LGU Isabela is ISO Certified (ISO 9001:2015 for Quality Management System) on Provision of Public Administration for Frontline Services.

#### On A9 – Form ethics committees with investigative powers

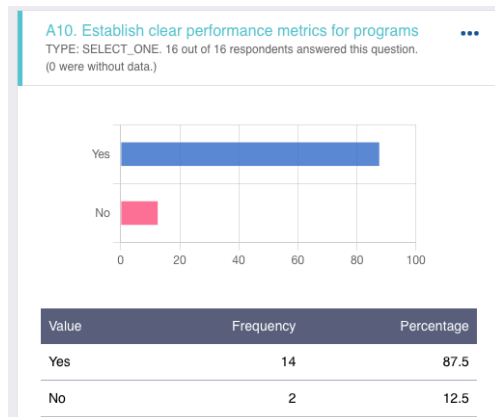
- *Commonly practiced:* 14 out of 16 LGUs (88%) has formed a Grievance and Ethics Committee with investigative powers. The ARTA catalyzed the establishment and/or activation of these committees.
- *Common results:* Feedback and complaints are raised through Feedback Boxes, Client Satisfaction Surveys, and direct reporting or complaint to the Mayor. Some complaints are channeled through the hotline 888. The Grievance and Ethics Committee is functional and activated whenever necessary. Most complaints were resolved amicably.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* The Grievance and Ethics Committee is activated only when complaints are received. LGU Payao has conducted a seminar on how to handle grievance and paralegal incidents.





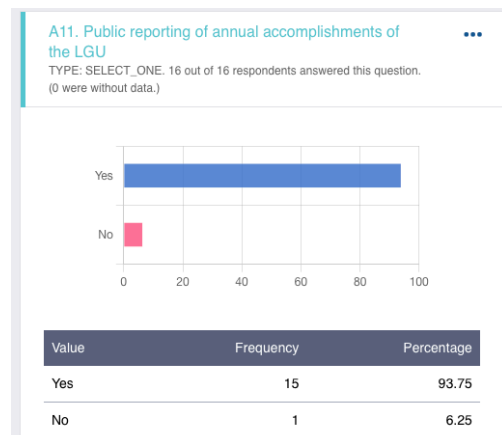
#### On A10 – Establish clear performance metrics for programs

- *Commonly practiced:* Almost all LGUs have established clear performance metrics for programs. Performance metrics are established per office/department such as for public works in the engineering office, GAD point systems for accomplishments, health scorecards, and DRRM Fund utilization. The OPCR measures the performance of every department/office. Local Special Bodies also report accomplishments and performance viz plans and targets on a quarterly basis. The Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) have measurable success indicators. LCEs with distinct development agenda also have performance metrics for their programs.
- *Common results:* Because performance metrics are clear, public service delivery has improved and projects are implemented based on what has been envisioned. Incentives were given for good performance. Although clear performance metrics helped the LGUs earn the SGLG award, they also acknowledged that the SGLG itself motivated them to define and adopt such metrics.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* The MPDCs are doing their best to monitor implementation of programs based on the CDPs while providing guidance and technical support to their LCEs and other department heads. It was observed that the timelines of the CDPs are not aligned with the terms of the elected officials, so oftentimes the CDPs are overtaken by new programs and agenda. It is crucial for the LCE and MPDC to work hand-in-hand in developing and implementing plans and programs and ensuring that all departments are in sync in achieving the desired goals. LGU Buug conducts Monthly Cabinet Meeting to discuss achievements viz targets and agree on plans for the succeeding period. Their MPDC consistently refers to the CDP and systematically highlights the components that are already accomplished. Eventually, it is recommended to align the CDP timeframe with the term of elected officials.



#### On A11 – Public reporting of annual accomplishments of the LGU

- *Commonly practiced:* Almost all LGUs publicly report their annual accomplishments. This is usually presented through the Mayor's State of the Municipality/City Address. The SOMA/SOCA is also livestreamed and usually takes place during the LGU's foundation day. For those with radio and/or TV programs, the SOMA/SOCA is also broadcasted. Annual accomplishment reports are also posted on the LGU website and snippets are posted on their FB Page.
- *Common results:* Citizens are informed and updated about the state of the LGU. They feel proud about the accomplishments presented, especially those programs where they actively participated and projects which



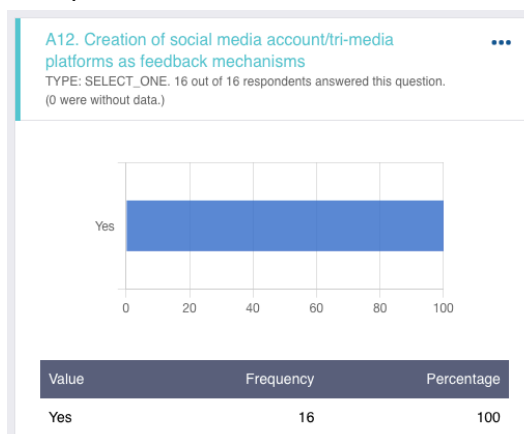


they themselves proposed. The reporting of accomplishments has improved trust and confidence.

- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* The conduct of SOMA/SOCA is done depending on the Mayor's prerogative. Annual SOMA/SOCAs are held in the following LGUs: Bayog, Aurora, Guipos, Dumingag, Gutalac, Labason, Liloy, Sagun, Mabuhay, Payao, Molave, and Isabela. LGU Isabela City produces Pagpahati, a publication of its annual accomplishment report from 2019 to 2024.

#### On A12 – Creation of social media account/tri-media platforms as feedback mechanisms

- *Commonly practiced:* All 16 LGUs (100%) have created their social media account. Fifteen (15) LGUs have official LGU Facebook Page, while 1 LGU utilizes the FB account of the Mayor. All LGUs have separate FB Pages of every department/office and their Sanggunian. Ten (10) LGUs have accessible and active legitimate websites.
- *Common results:* Citizens are updated and informed of activities and accomplishments of their LGUs. Netizens can conveniently ask questions, send messages, or share feedback and suggestions.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Eight (8) LGUs have radio stations or radio programs: Aurora, Bayog, Molave, Buug, Diplahan, Isabela City, Mabuhay, and Payao. Only Isabela City has a digital TV channel known as IsaTV which is a digital first information platform that integrates traditional TV programming with online streaming, social media updates, and citizen focused content.



#### Other Accountability Initiatives<sup>26</sup>:

- The SB has their own hotline and can be used to address issues and concerns. Additionally, the SB has appointed focal persons per barangay cluster for quick dissemination of information. The Mayor has appointed a Community Development Coordinator under the Office of the Municipal Mayor for citizen feedback.
- Culture of upholding honesty as constantly reminded by the LCE
- Conduct of regular barangay sessions
- Presentation of office accomplishment reports every flag raising ceremony
- 911 Tabang Hotline services
- Mobile government services to the barangays
- CSOs and COA take part in the procurement process

<sup>26</sup> Note: Initiatives listed here are only those related to Accountability. Other activities, programs, or projects mentioned by the respondents are captured in the raw documentation attached as Annex D – Full Documentation Results.

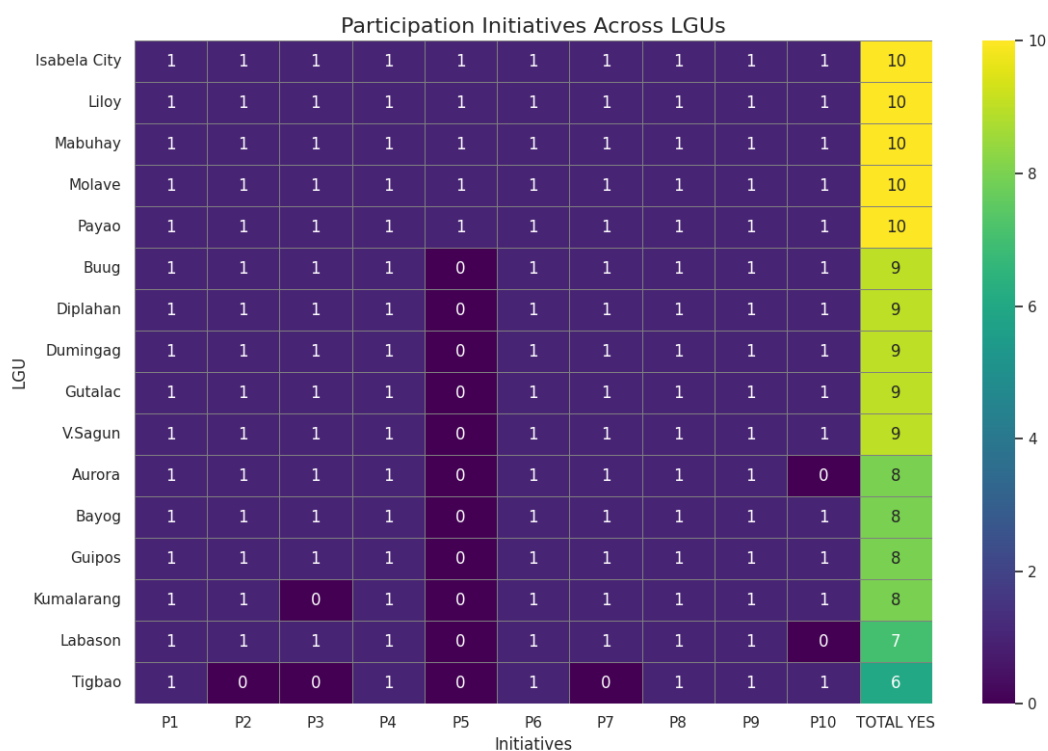
## Participation

OGP Value: **PARTICIPATION**

*Definition:* This includes initiatives to mobilize citizens to engage in a dialogue on government policies or programs; provide input or feedback; and make contributions that lead to more responsive, innovative, and effective governance.

### Participation Initiatives of the 16 LGUs in Region IX

LGU	P1. Organize consultations, public fora, workshops to gather inputs on local plans and budgets	P2. Creation of a Local People's Council	P3. Use digital tools for remote participation in planning and budgeting	P4. Participation of citizens and CSOs in budget hearings	P5. Form citizen advisory boards	P6. Invite CSOs as observers in the procurement process	P7. Engage CSOs as project partners/ implementers	P8. Conduct capacity building for CSOs and other stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation	P9. Collaborate with CSOs, academic institutions, and other non-government stakeholders for evaluations	P10. Public forums for discussing evaluation findings	TOTAL YES
Isabela City	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Liloy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Mabuhay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Molave	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Payao	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	10
Buug	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
Diplahan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
Dumingag	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
Gutalac	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
V.Sagun	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	9
Aurora	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8
Bayog	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
Guipos	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	8
Kumalarang	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	8
Labason	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	7
Tigbao	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	



Five LGUs – Isabela City, Liloy, Mabuhay, Molave, and Payao – emerged as the top implementers of Participation initiatives, undertaking all 10 practices. These LGUs exemplify inclusive governance and strong citizen engagement.

The most widely adopted initiatives on Participation are the following:

- P1: Organize consultations, public fora and workshops to gather inputs on local plans and budgets
- P4: Participation of citizens and CSOs in budget hearings
- P6: Invite CSOs as observers in the procurement process
- P8: Conduct capacity building for CSOs and other stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation
- P9: Collaborate with CSOs, academic institutions and other non-government stakeholders

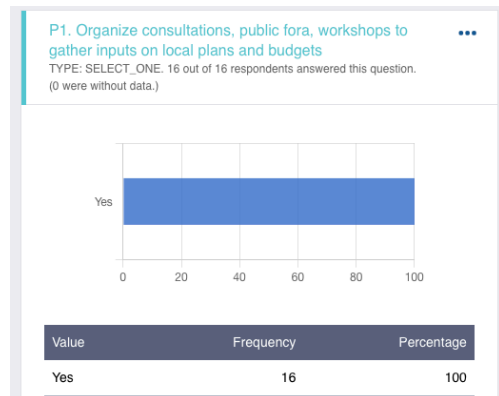
The least adopted initiatives on Participation are the following:

- P3: Use of digital tools for remote participation
- P2: Creation of Local People's Council
- P5: Formulation of citizen advisory boards

Promoting digital literacy and infrastructure could help expand adoption of P3: Use of digital tools for remote participation, especially in geographically isolated areas.

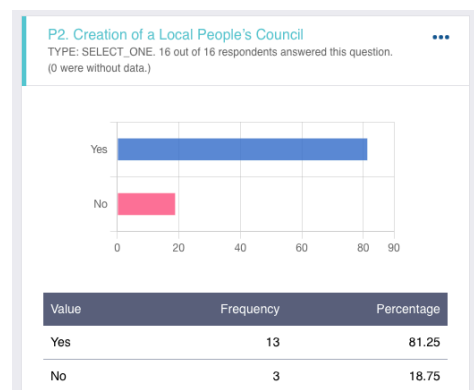
## On P1 - Organize consultations, public fora and workshops to gather inputs on local plans and budgets

- Commonly practiced:** All LGUs organize consultations, public fora and workshops to gather inputs on local plans and budgets. This is usually done as part of the process of formulating long-term and short-term plans such as the CDP, CLUP, and Annual Plans and Budget. Sectoral consultations and workshops are also organized to gather community issues and concerns as well as proposed solutions and projects. Barangay assemblies are also convened to share information about plans, programs, and accomplishments, as well as solicit suggestions and recommendations from the community.
- Common results:** CSOs are happy that they are valued, that they are allowed to participate in the formulation of plans and budget and also that they are being provided with monetary support for their mobilization. CSOs attend activities and meetings whenever they are invited and they actively participate in the discussions.
- Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:** It is notable that consultations and public fora are conducted by all LGUs, especially when crafting their plans and budget. They engage various sectors, people's organizations (PO), and CSOs. It was observed that most of these consultations are undertaken directly at the barangay or community level. Some LGUs conduct the consultation activities through sectoral representatives and PO and CSO leaders, while other LGUs seek direct engagement and inputs from community members themselves. The KALAHI's community driven development approach has been acknowledged and adopted by several LGUs and Dumingag has institutionalized its adoption<sup>27</sup>. Moreover, most LGUs exceed the required 25% CSO membership in the Municipal Development Council (MDC). Remarkably, LGU Vincenzo A. Sagun is composed of 50% CSOs.



## On P2 – Creation of Local People's Council

- Commonly practiced:** 13 of 16 LGUs (81%) have created their Local People's Council. The number of members of the LPCs vary from 16<sup>28</sup> to 78<sup>29</sup> CSOs as of the OGP documentation interviews. Most LPCs conduct meetings and/or capacity building activities every quarter. Most LGUs have designated CSO Desk Officers, usually lodged or reporting to any of the following: Office of the Mayor, MPDC, or PESO. Most LGUs have allocated budget for the LPC, ranging from around P50,000.00<sup>30</sup> to P1.8M<sup>31</sup> in a given year.



<sup>27</sup> Municipal Ordinance No. 11-16-2024

<sup>28</sup> LGU Buug

<sup>29</sup> LGU Liloy

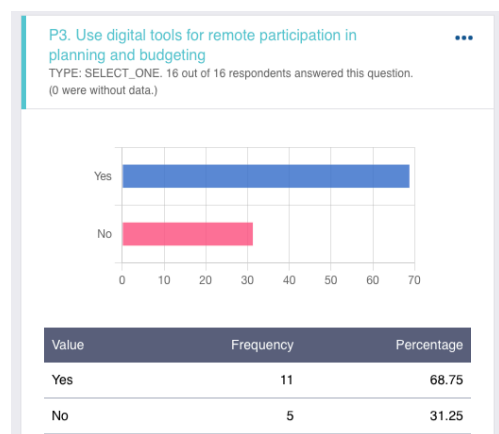
<sup>30</sup> LGU Vincenzo A. Sagun (2025)

<sup>31</sup> LGU Mabuhay (2023)

- *Common results:* CSOs are more active and motivated to engage and participate in local governance processes. More citizens joined people's organizations and sectoral groups and they have sought accreditation or recognition by their LGU. Because of the establishment of the Local People's Council, CSOs have regular meetings therefore they have become more aware and updated about government programs and services. Also, they are able to participate in training and capacity building activities which honed their skills and competency. In turn, the LGUs can rely on quality and meaningful representation in the local special bodies and other local councils and committees.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Among the 16 LGUs, LGU Liloy was the trailblazer in establishing the Local People's Council. The Liloy People's Council was established as early as year 2021 and has since then designated a CSO Desk Officer. Currently, the Liloy People's Council have 78 accredited members with a total of 400 CSOs in the municipality. LGU Liloy has also provided an office space as well as equipment and furniture for the Liloy People's Council and annually allocates budget for their operations, activities, capacity building, and projects.

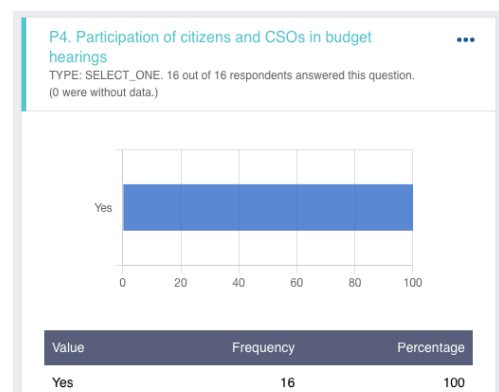
#### On P3 – Use of digital tools for remote participation in planning and budgeting

- *Commonly practiced:* 11 out of 16 LGUs (69%) use digital tools for planning and budgeting. Facebook Live, Messenger and group chats are most commonly used, in addition to email, Google Suite (GDrive, GForms, and GDocs). Some LGUs have used Zoom, Kobo Toolbox, and Padlet app.
- *Common results:* Through these digital tools, netizens are able to provide their feedback and comments on LGU plans, programs, and projects. Since most of the constituents and CSO leaders and representatives are using Facebook, it is used as a platform for interactive, convenient and practical way of gathering feedback and recommendations from community members.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Diplahan's use of Padlet app initiated by its MLGOO provides an interactive, real-time, and easy way of sharing ideas. Padlet is a tool that lets users create and share interactive boards with various types of content. LGU Diplahan uses Padlet to gather reports, feedback, and updates from barangay officials and community leaders.



#### On P4 – Participation of citizens and CSOs in budget hearings

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs actively promote citizen and CSO engagement in budget hearings. These proceedings are open to the public, with CSOs being proactively invited to participate. Furthermore, LGUs ensure that sufficient

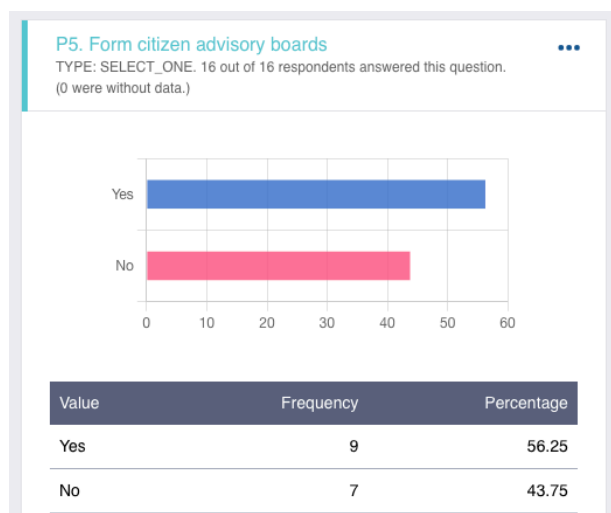


time is allocated for dialogue and open forums, providing a platform for CSOs to share their insights, recommendations, and concerns.

- *Common results:* Budget hearings usually gather around 50-80 attendees, depending on the number of barangays in each LGU. During the open forum and deliberations, CSOs raise community concerns, provide feedback, give suggestions, clarify certain matters, and actively participates in the discussions.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* It was good to note that all LGUs have opened up its governance processes to its constituents and CSOs, especially by allowing them to participate in budgeting. LGU Mabuhay provides a remarkable example of integrating citizen inputs into its local plans and budgets. At the start of budget cycle, the Budget Officer informs the local departments/offices about the forecasted budget for their office, sector, council, and committees. LGU Mabuhay then conducts council meetings and brainstorming workshops among department heads, council members, CSOs, citizen groups, sectoral representatives, and community members to gather and agree on priority projects and activities with corresponding proposed budget, based on the forecasted amount. Together, the CSOs and the government representatives, propose and agree on specific projects and activities that respond to the needs of their sector or community. These proposed projects and activities are then integrated into the annual plans and budget of the LGU. As such, CSOs in Mabuhay are actively involved throughout the entire cycle of program and project management – from conception to implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This practice gives both the LGU and the CSOs with confidence that local plans and programs are aligned with and responsive to the community's needs. This demonstrates that support for CSO initiatives is not treated as isolated or independent undertakings, but rather as integral components of the LGU's strategic plans and priorities.

#### On P5 – Form citizen advisory boards

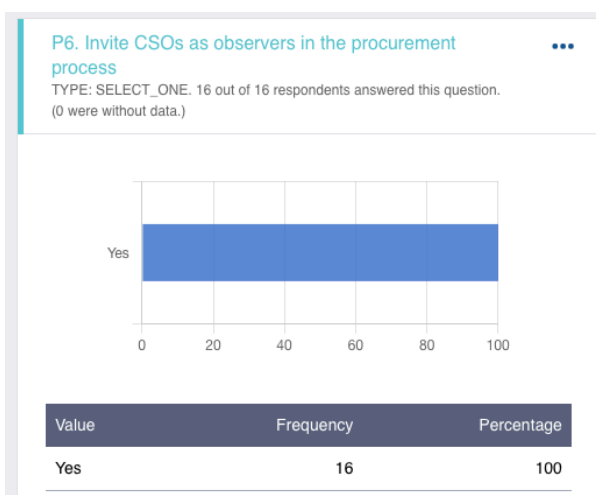
- *Commonly practiced:* 9 out of 16 LGUs (56%) have formed citizen advisory boards. The Local People's Council and CSO members of the local special bodies and other local councils and committees were considered as citizen advisory boards. They are particularly consulted to provide inputs and recommendations on proposed ordinances or resolutions, especially on matters concerning their sector.
- *Common results:* Members of the advisory board voice out their recommendations during public hearings. CSOs have given significant recommendations regarding the Environmental Code, fisheries sanctuaries, delineation of municipal waters, marine protected areas, and disaster risk reduction.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* In all 9 LGUs with citizen advisory boards, LGU Liloy has the most vibrant basic sector groups. With 400



local CSOs across 37 barangays, it signifies that most of the community members are part of organized citizen groups. Through its Local People's Council, LGU Liloy can easily gather inputs and recommendations that genuinely represent the sectors that would eventually be affected by new programs and legislations. Indeed, CSOs in Liloy has successfully lobbied for the passage of ten (10) ordinances, including its Environmental Code, Freedom of Information, Fisheries Code, and Declaration of Marine Protected Areas, among others.

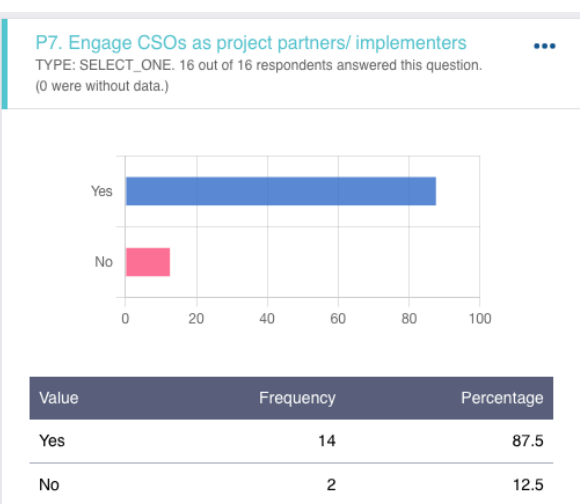
#### On P6 – Invite CSOs as observers in the procurement process

- *Commonly practiced:* All LGUs (100%) invite CSOs as observers in the procurement process. In compliance with the Procurement Law and in the interest of promoting transparency and accountability, LGUs invite CSOs to witness the pre-bidding conference and the opening of bids. BAC Chairpersons allow CSOs to ask questions, provide comments and give feedback.
- *Common results:* The procurement process is compliant with laws and regulations. This practice has enhanced the procurement process thereby making it more transparent.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* Beyond inviting CSOs as observers, both LGU Guipos and LGU Isabela also extend invitations to the Commission on Audit (COA) to participate in the opening of bids, reinforcing transparency and accountability in their procurement processes.



#### On P7 – Engage CSOs as project partners/implementers

- *Commonly practiced:* 14 out of 16 LGUs (88%) engage CSOs as project partners or implementers. CSOs are project partners of community driven projects under KALAHIL. The LGU and partner CSO usually enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), whichever is appropriate.
- *Common results:* Project partnership are usually on natural farming, abaca production, provision of agricultural equipment and livestock, legal and medical services, climate change, child protection, gender equality, construction of classrooms, DRRM, livelihood trainings, provision of psychosocial support, and solid waste management.

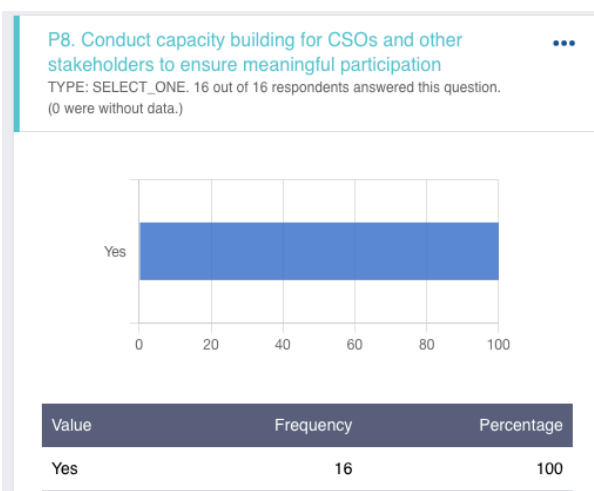




- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* It was noted that CSOs like Asisi Foundation<sup>32</sup>, XAESFI<sup>33</sup>, Chinese Chamber<sup>34</sup>, PKKK<sup>35</sup>, and Nagdilaab Foundation<sup>36</sup> were mentioned by their LGU partners. LGU Isabela City has cited a partnership with a CSO that involved transfer of funds for the implementation of certain project components and activities subject to liquidation.

On P8 – Conduct capacity building for CSOs and other stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation

- *Commonly practiced:* All 16 LGUs (100%) conduct capacity building for CSOs and other stakeholders to ensure meaningful participation. Trainings and workshops are organized and funded by the LGU. Capacity building areas include how to handle meetings, youth camp, leadership and organizational management, training on literacy, livelihood and technical skills, proposal making, governance and agenda building, enterprise organizing, and environmental management.
- *Common results:* The trainings empowered the CSOs, making them more confident in attending meetings. They have become more confident as well in organizing and managing their own organizational meetings.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Dumingag, LGU Liloy, and LGU Isabela conduct capacity building for CSOs that contribute to their meaningful participation in governance processes. This includes leadership training, participatory governance, organizational management, proposal making, project development and management, and local planning and budgeting. LGU Isabela's Good Governance Program<sup>37</sup> is a remarkable initiative on citizenship education and improving political literacy.



<sup>32</sup> LGU Kumalarang

<sup>33</sup> LGU Gutalac

<sup>34</sup> LGU Labason

<sup>35</sup> LGU Buug

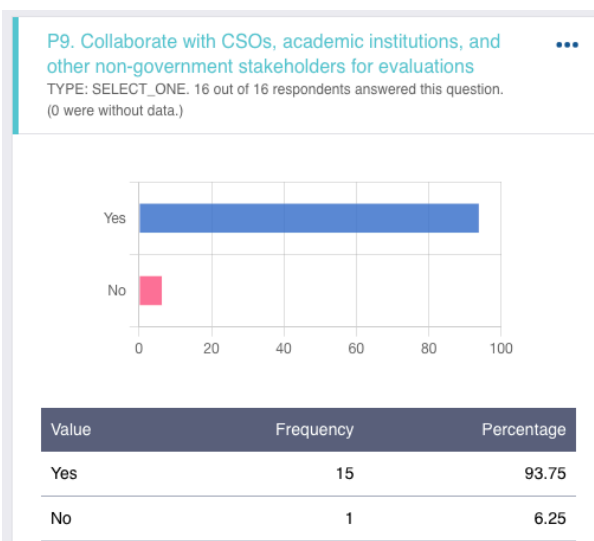
<sup>36</sup> LGU Isabela

<sup>37</sup> Discussed on page 45, Isabela City Showcase Initiatives



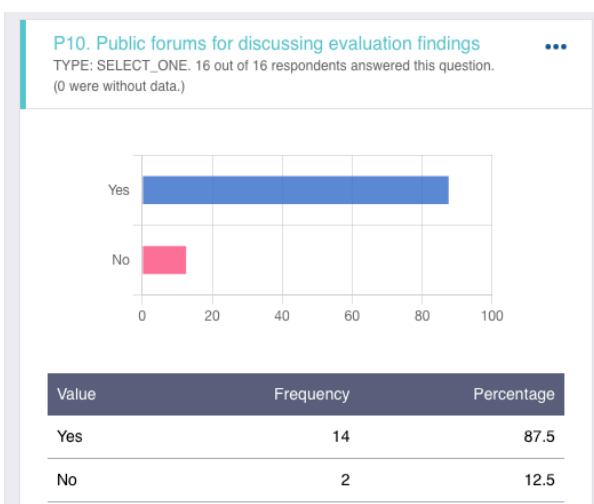
### On P9 – Collaborate with CSOs, academic institutions, and other non-government stakeholders for evaluations

- *Commonly practiced:* 15 of 16 LGUs (94%) collaborate with CSOs, academic institutions and other non-government stakeholders. This is usually exemplified when CSOs participate in monitoring of LGU programs and projects. Also, leaders of schools and colleges in the locality are proactively invited to be part of the Local School Board.
- *Common results:* As a result of engaging with CSOs and academic institutions, LGU programs and plans are more comprehensive and relevant. For instance, management of coastal areas and mangrove reforestation benefited from insights of CSOs and research by academic institutions.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* LGU Payao has strategically partnered with academic institutions to support them in their long-term plans. It collaborated with the Philippine Christian University on their CLUP and with Jose Rizal Memorial State University with the evaluation of their CDP. It has also partnered with Mindanao State University – Buug on environmental management. As such, the LGU benefits from the years of experience and expertise of these academic institutions.



### On P10 – Public forums for discussing evaluation findings

- *Commonly practiced:* 14 out of 16 LGUs (88%) conduct public forums to discuss evaluation findings. This is usually conducted during MDC meetings and Local Project Monitoring Committee (LPMC) meetings wherein findings from monitoring and evaluation activities are presented. Afterwards, plans on how to address issues and challenges, if any, are developed so as to improve future similar programs.
- *Common results:* Citizens and stakeholders are informed of results of monitoring and evaluation activities. This leads to improved service delivery and future project implementation. It may also lead to blacklisting or warning suppliers, service providers, and contractors.
- *Notable observations and/or exceptional practices:* In LGU Vincenzo A. Sagun, post-project evaluations are held and findings are posted on the LGU FB Page. In LGU Mabuhay, its Project Monitoring Committee is composed only of CSOs.



Government employees such as Municipal Engineer or Agriculturist/Agri-technicians only serve as technical support or resource persons.

**Other Participation Initiatives<sup>38</sup>:**

- Feedback boxes
- Sports development programs
- Trade Fairs
- Nutrition Month activities
- Tree planting, Nurture a Tree, Tree Parenting, Plant a Tree for Mother Earth Program<sup>39</sup>
- Bloodletting
- Inter-faith activities
- Serbisyo sa Barangay, Barangay Outreach, Ugnayan sa Barangay – LGU programs and other basic services are conducted in the barangays
- Little Government – program conducted during Children’s Month wherein children act as LGU officials and employees
- Mayor’s Visits – LCE visits barangays for FGDs and barangay sessions, and random visit to schools
- LGU provides technical assistance and support for CSO registration and accreditation
- E-BOSS – online business permit processing and payment
- Provision of internet access for barangays
- Incentives are awarded to residents who graduate with Latin Honors
- Incentives are given for citizens who rescue sea turtles for their preservation
- SB Sessions are conducted in the barangays
- Open House during Civil Service Month – the city hall will be fully open to the public and each office will present their services and programs

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<sup>38</sup> Note: Initiatives listed here are only those related to Participation. Other activities, programs, or projects mentioned by the respondents are captured in the raw documentation attached as Annex D – Full Documentation Results.

<sup>39</sup> All couples must plant a tree as part of their marriage certificate clearance and that a tree must also be planted for every newborn birthed in the municipality (LGU Mabuhay)

## Part 2: Showcase Initiatives

The showcase initiatives mentioned by the 16 LGUs may be categorized into four themes: (a) practicing good governance, (b) improving service delivery, (c) supporting citizens and CSOs engagement, and (d) adopting digitalization.

The category on practicing good governance pertains to leadership styles and strategic approaches aimed at enhancing public service delivery. By adopting community-driven planning and budgeting processes, LGUs ensure that resources are effectively allocated in response to local needs. These efforts are further strengthened by the political will and servant leadership demonstrated by Local Chief Executives (LCEs), which translate into concrete actions that make programs, projects, and activities more responsive to constituents. The active presence and community immersion of LCEs foster a sense of accessibility and trust in local governance. Under their guidance, LGUs facilitate strong coordination between department heads and civil society organizations (CSOs), promoting inclusive and well-aligned development efforts.

With regard to improving service delivery, the LGUs practice various notable programs. To provide fast and precise medical advice, the Municipal Health Unit of LGU Guipos implements a digitalized system for managing client experience during consultation visits. The system digitally records the patient's personal information and health status, then allows the medical officer/doctor to encode initial findings and diagnosis after checking the patient. The doctor can also issue prescriptions through the digital system which is linked to the pharmacy or laboratory, so the patient may immediately claim her medicines after check-up. In Labason, they have a functional and reliable system for emergency assistance, which is aptly called 911 Tabang Center. Residents simply dial 911 and rescue team will be made available immediately. Unlike other 911, however, Labason's 911 Tabang Center serves as one-stop-shop for all concerns of citizens of Labason. They have established a system wherein all relevant government agencies are within reach to provide support for residents. In Kumalarang, the LGU implements Read Alert 2.0 which has significantly contributed to the improved literacy of its students and even their parents. In various LGUs, *Serbisyo sa Barangay* are undertaken to bring government services closer to far-flung communities.

In terms of supporting citizens or CSOs engagement, various LGUs have actively implemented a range of initiatives to strengthen citizen and civil society organization (CSO) engagement, thereby fostering trust and promoting collaborative governance. Several LGUs have established dedicated office spaces for CSOs, providing them with accessible venues for consultation, assistance, and coordination. To further encourage participation, LGUs regularly invite CSOs to take part in policy deliberations and decision-making processes. In some cases, logistical support such as transportation or mobilization assistance is extended to ensure inclusive representation. Notably, LGU Liloy has institutionalized participatory governance through the establishment of the SKILL Center—Specialized Knowledge Institute in Local Leadership—which serves as a learning hub for other LGUs and stakeholders. This initiative, supported by the DILG Local Governance Regional Resource Center (LGRRC) Region IX, showcases programs that create platforms for citizen involvement, including the formation of a Local People's Council.

In line with efforts to modernize public service delivery, various local government units (LGUs) have adopted digitalization initiatives to enhance efficiency and accessibility. One notable development is the establishment of the Electronic Business One-Stop Shop (E-BOSS), a digital platform that streamlines the processes for filing applications and issuing local business licenses, permits, clearances, and authorizations. This initiative aligns with the mandates of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, and reflects LGUs' commitment to reducing bureaucratic barriers and improving client experience. In addition, LGUs have become increasingly proactive in maintaining complete, updated, and comprehensive websites to ensure transparency and provide constituents with timely access to relevant information and services. The websites of Buug, Isabela City, Kumalarang, and Molave stand out in terms of public information access and LGU website development and management.

#### Showcase Initiatives per LGU

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur	Culture of LGU to treat constituents as “Family” – <i>Dangpanan</i> (home; go-to)	Citizens feel welcomed when they approach local government officers and employees. As much as they can, the LGU immediately provides whatever is requested with less bureaucratic processes.
Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur	<i>Community Empowerment Leading to Sustainable Organization (CELSO)</i>	The LGU encourages citizens to join or form their own organizations. The LGU also provides technical support for registration and accreditation of the CSOs. Accredited CSOs are able to access government programs and they may receive equipment, production input, livelihood trainings, and/or financial assistance.
	<i>Support for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL):</i> The LGU visits the jail twice a year and distributes shirt, hygiene kits, and P2,000 cash. During Christmas, the LGU provides support to families to ensure that they can visit their loved ones.	The PDL program is a manifestation of the LGU's compassion and drive to reach even the oft-forgotten sector of society.
	<i>Maternal Support Program:</i> The LGU provides maternal rooms or temporary shelter for new mothers. It also provides, newborn clothes, milk, and other newborn essentials. Free newborn	The program directly supports vulnerable mothers and newborns and contributes to health outcomes.

<sup>40</sup> Shown alphabetically

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	screening and P2,000 cash for food is also given.	
Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay	<p><i>Monthly Cabinet Meeting:</i> Led by the LCE, this meeting regularly convenes all departments to report accomplishments in the past month. Issues and challenges encountered are also discussed openly and decisions are made collectively. Also during this meeting, plans and targets for the succeeding month are presented.</p> <p><i>“Serbisyong Buug, Serbisyong Tinud-anay”:</i> The LGU provides basic services from womb to tomb without exclusion and discrimination.</p>	<p>This practice promotes transparency, accountability and strategic coordination – making governance more efficient, inclusive, and results-driven.</p> <p>This ensures inclusive, lifelong service delivery, making governance people-centered and responsive.</p>
Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay	<i>Participatory governance:</i> The LGU ensures that CSOs are part of the entire process of project management – from project identification, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The LGU allocates budget for CSO projects and honorarium. This results to responsive government projects.	This practice fosters citizen engagement, ensures transparency and accountability, and leads to more responsive and community-driven government projects.
Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur	<i>Community-driven development (CDD) approach:</i> The LGU institutionalized <sup>41</sup> the CDD approach in the identification, prioritization, resources allocation of locally funded programs and projects. It also adopted the Community Empowerment Activity Cycle (CEAC) as the strategy in pursuing and attaining development goals in the municipality.	This approach empowers citizens to shape local development, ensures resources are directed towards real needs, and leads to more effective projects with fewer complaints, making governance more inclusive, accountable, and results-oriented.
Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur	<i>Kaabag sa Kahimsog:</i> The LGU implements this program that aims to address malnutrition and improve health and sanitation. LGU officials and employees	This program tackles malnutrition and improve health conditions through collective action, showing innovative leadership and community solidarity.

<sup>41</sup> Municipal Ordinance no. 11-16-2024

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	voluntarily share monetary contribution for this program.	
Gutalac, Zamboanga del Norte	<i>Excellent, Just, and Quality (EJQ) Service:</i> The LGU is united towards one goal: development. Slowly but surely, they improve delivery of services for the people's general welfare. The LGU listens to feedback and seeks advise in order to promote good governance and make sure that projects are responsive to the needs of the people.	This initiative promotes unified, citizen-responsive governance by continuous service improvement, valuing public feedback, and ensuring projects directly address community needs.
Isabela City Basilan, Zamboanga Sibugay	<p><i>Good Governance Isabela Caravan (GoGo Isabela):</i> The LGU implemented this as part of its Information Revolution program designed to combat misinformation and fake news while enhancing awareness on governance. The learning sessions include topics on roles and responsibilities of citizens, understanding good leadership, the budget cycle, the Isabela City budget and its utilization, Freedom of Information, and ways to demand accountability from the government.</p> <p><i>Barangay Information Officers Network (BION):</i> The LGU founded BION to empower information officers across 45 barangays to effectively share accurate, timely, and relevant information. BION members serve as communication multipliers, as providers of realtime information during disasters, as community volunteers, and as health advocacy promoters.</p> <p><i>IsaTV Channel:</i> The LGU's IsaTV is the first and only LGU-led digital media platform of its kind in the Philippines, setting a new benchmark for digital governance.</p>	<p>The GoGo Isabela is the first and only campaign for good governance of its kind in the Philippines. It was initiated by the LGU, proudly conceived, organized, and implemented by the people themselves who were called as GoGo Volunteers. As of February 2025, GoGo Isabela has completed 90 sessions across 45 barangays directly engaging 8,657 marginalized individuals. Citizens now have clearer understanding of how government processes work, how public funds are allocated and utilized, and how they can contribute to good governance.</p> <p>This initiative strengthens grassroots communication, enhances disaster response and public awareness, and promotes participatory governance through empowered, community-based network.</p> <p>IsaTV had a tremendous impact on both governance landscape and the social fabric of Isabela City. Starting with an audience of 44,000 in its first year, it has</p>

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	<p>It employs multimedia platform approach – including television, social media, online streaming, and public LED displays – to maximize reach and accessibility across diverse audiences.</p> <p><i>People’s Budget Consultation and Freedom of Information<sup>42</sup></i>: The LGU institutionalized public access to information, including budget proposal development. This program ensures that citizens, civil society, and vulnerable communities can review draft budgets, raise questions, and meaningfully participate in annual budget formulation.</p>	<p>reach over 1 million viewers by 2024, amplifying civic awareness far beyond the city’s population of 130,000. It produces 33 unique shows and over 1,000 episodes annually - highlighting local stories, social issues and public services. This has reshaped public perception of Isabela City – from one previously associated with conflict to arising symbol of resilience, progress, and tourism. Residents now feel more connected and involved in governance.</p> <p>This program is innovative because of its seamless integration with a local FOI ordinance that collectively transforms participatory budgeting from a symbolic process into a living practice of accountability. It institutionalized public access to fiscal data, including fund releases and socio-economic activity summaries. These information are also displayed on public monitors across key sites in the city.</p>
Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur	<p><i>Program for Senior Citizens</i>: The LGU recognizes senior citizens for raising families and building communities. They support 2,521 senior citizens with cash incentives, basic needs, healthcare and wellness services.</p> <p><i>READ ALERT 2.0</i>: The LGU implements this community-based reading program to improve literacy outcomes. In addition to enrolled students, this program includes out-of-school youth, parents, and informal learners. The elected officials and department</p>	<p>This program honors lifelong contributions of senior citizens and ensures their welfare through direct support. It exemplifies an inclusive, compassionate and socially responsive governance.</p> <p>This program fosters inclusive education, empowers lifelong learners, and demonstrates leadership accountability.</p>

<sup>42</sup> City Ordinance No. 25-808 also known as People’s Empowerment Ordinance



LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	<p>heads shoulder out-of-pocket expenses.</p> <p><i>Moral Recovery Program:</i> The LGU formed the Kumalarang Ministerial Group (KMG) which aims to (re)educate citizens about good morals and right conduct. One KMG member is assigned per department/office, one for each barangay, one in the national highs school, and one in the elementary school.</p>	<p>This promotes values-based leadership and civic responsibility by embedding ethical guidance. It makes governance more principled, community-rooted, and culturally responsive.</p>
Labason, Zamboanga del Norte	<p><i>Job Empowerment for Farmers Livelihood and Development (JED) Program:</i> The LGU created this program with the goal of enhancing the socio-economic resilience of farmers by empowering them with skills, resources, and opportunities needed to increase income, reduce poverty, and ensure food security. Key components include: capacity building and training, job creation and agri-business development, access to finance and inputs, market access and cooperative strengthening, and monitoring, evaluation and learning.</p> <p><i>911 Tabang Center:</i> The LGU established 911 Tabang Center which efficiently address, provide linkages, and facilitate requests for financial, emergency, and medical assistance, trainings, and employment opportunities submitted by the public to the LGU of Labason.</p>	<p>The JED Program serves as a transformative model for rural development by aligning agricultural productivity with economic empowerment. By investing in people, systems, and innovations, the program lays a solid foundation for self-sufficiency and long-term prosperity for farming communities.</p> <p>This initiatives streamlines citizen access to urgent services and opportunities, promotes responsive and coordinated governance, and builds public trust through fast, inclusive, and needs-based support.</p>
Liloy, Zamboanga del Norte	<p><i>Partnership in Local Governance between the Local Government and the People of Liloy:</i> The LGU institutionalized<sup>43</sup> its declaration of openness to partner with duly accredited Liloy-based people's organizations and non-government</p>	<p>This initiative institutionalizes citizen participation in all stages of governance, empowers civil society to co-create policies, and ensures transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making. It makes</p>

<sup>43</sup> Municipal Ordinance No. 038-2021 series of 2021

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	<p>organizations in the conception, implementation and evaluation of all government activities and functions. With this partnership, the LGU urges the Liloy People's Council to observe, vote, and participate in the deliberation, conceptualization, implementation, and evaluation of projects, activities, and programs of the municipal government. The Liloy People's Council is also empowered to propose legislations, to participate and vote at the committee level of the Sangguniang Bayan, and/or act as people's representatives in the exercise of their constitutional rights to information or matters of public concern, and of access to official records and documents.</p> <p><i>Support for CSOs:</i> The LGU concretely demonstrates its support for CSOs in various ways. Firstly, it provided a policy environment to institutionalize partnership with CSOs. Moreover, it designated a full-time CSO Desk Officer<sup>44</sup> who shall facilitate, mobilize, coordinate, and provide necessary support for citizens and CSO formations. The LGU provided a CSO Office, furnished with necessary equipment, supplies, and internet access. Moreover, the LGU annually allocates budget for CSOs – for operational expenses of the Liloy People's Council and for projects of partner CSOs.</p>	<p>governance more democratic, and responsive by exemplifying genuine partnership. The LGU has been identified as one of DILG IX' SKILL Center, with focus on Citizen Participation which includes the establishment of the People's Council.</p> <p>This initiative exemplifies genuine CSO engagement through dedicated staffing, provision of resources and budget support. It ensures sustained citizen participation, inclusive policy making, and stronger community-driven governance.</p>
Mabuhay, Zamboanga Sibugay	<i>Hamugaway Mabuhay:</i> The LGU's clear vision unifies the citizens and local government. With the LCE's political will and participatory leadership, the LGU integrates citizens and local CSOs in the local governance processes and structures. By simplifying and ensuring citizens participation in	This program unifies leadership and citizens under a shared vision, institutionalizes participatory planning and budgeting, and results in more efficient operations and public services that truly respond to community needs.

<sup>44</sup> Now a regular LGU employee

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	<p>the planning and budgeting, the LGU operates more effectively and delivers more responsive public services.</p> <p><i>Ecosystem Management and Restoration:</i> The LGU institutionalized the Plant a Tree for Mother Earth Program<sup>45</sup> which requires all couples to plant a mangrove or native tree as a requisite for securing a marriage license. The LGU also institutionalized the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened wildlife species to foster a culture of environmental stewardship and compliance among the local community. The municipality recognizes the importance of protecting wildlife for the wellbeing of future generations, as well as the need for comprehensive conservation efforts involving all sectors of society.</p>	<p>These initiatives embed environmental responsibility into civic life, promotes intergenerational stewardship, and mobilizes community-wide action. This exemplifies governance that is sustainability-centered, innovative and long-term oriented.</p>
Molave, Zamboanga del Sur	<p><i>Digitalization and Online Presence - LGU Website (molave.gov.ph), Online Legislative Tracking System (sbmolave.net), and LGU Online Portal for E-Services:</i> The website of LGU Molave is comprehensive and contains significant information. It publishes local legislations and fiscal data, including budget appropriation with exact figures, enabling public scrutiny of LGU spending. It contains downloadable data. It is also links to the LGU Molave Online Portal for E-Services<sup>46</sup> which allows citizens to transact with the local government, such as online application for business permit; online payment for water bill, business tax, real property tax; online appointment for access to</p>	<p>The LGU's online presence exemplifies digital innovation in governance by making executive, legislative, and fiscal data publicly accessible. It enables public scrutiny of government spending and simplifying citizen transactions. Through its website, legislative tracking system, and e-services portal, the LGU promotes transparency, accountability and service efficiency. These tools reduce bureaucratic barriers and foster a culture of openness and responsiveness in public service delivery.</p> <p>As a result of their digitalization initiatives, their local income increased from P84M in 2022 to</p>

<sup>45</sup> Municipal Ordinance No. 01-230-2025

<sup>46</sup> <https://sites.google.com/view/lgu-molave/home?fbclid=IwAR3jpKKeCvpaPO3rJb2Oc-y1Uy4LIBSj3-vWDLyYaCgzBPSSTH6kwfqxi-g>

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	basic services in various LGU Molave Offices, Feedback and Complaint Mechanism, and Latest Citizen's Charter.	P107M in 2023, and P109M in 2024. The income increased by 5-8% annually due to intensified tax mapping and implementation of E-BOSS.
Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay	<p><i>LGU Support for CSOs:</i> Since 2023, the LGU provides P25,000.00 to ten (10) civil society organizations per year. The fund may be utilized for community projects. It is used for livelihood and community enterprises.</p> <p><i>Serbisyong Payaonon:</i> This flagship governance initiative of the LGU emphasizes direct engagement with barangays and constituents, ensuring that local needs and feedback shape municipal priorities. This program brings frontline services such as health, civil registration, and social welfare closer to remote communities through mobile outreach and barangay-based activities.</p>	<p>This program empowers civil society to lead local development, promotes inclusive governance, and ensures public funds directly support livelihood and community-driven initiatives.</p> <p>This program brings essential services directly to remote communities and ensures citizen feedback shapes the LGU's priorities. It strengthens responsive and people-centered governance through proactive outreach.</p>
Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur	<p><i>Serbisyo Caravan and Mayor's Visibility at the Barangay:</i> The LGU regularly conducts barangay consultations and inquires about community needs. Essential services, such as health, civil registration, and wellness, are also provided during the visits to the barangay. They also give lectures and information and education materials. The LCE personally visits all 18 barangays. The Mayor's visibility also improved peace and order situation in the municipality.</p>	<p>This initiative strengthens grassroots engagement, ensures services reach underserved areas, and builds trust through direct leadership visibility.</p>
Vincenzo A. Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur	<p><i>Business Center and Digitalization of business services:</i> The LGU established its Business Center which serves as a one-stop-shop for business permit processing. It also implements digitalization of its</p>	<p>This initiative streamlines service delivery, reduces red tape, and enhances accessibility by simplifying business transactions and digitizing civil registration. This promotes efficient and citizen-friendly governance.</p>

LGU <sup>40</sup>	Showcase Initiatives	Importance, Innovation, Impact
	<p>business services<sup>47</sup>, so business owners and entrepreneurs can apply for business permits online. Moreover, civil registration documents such as birth certificate, marriage contract, death certificate, etc. may be requested remotely through online or text message.</p> <p><i>Ugnayan ng Munisipyo at Simbahan (UMAS)</i>: The LGU created the UMAS as a strategic partnership with various religious sectors to promote morally-grounded governance. This contributes to peace and order in the municipality and prevents trafficking.</p> <p><i>Quarterly Barangay Assembly</i>: All 14 barangays convene assemblies four times annually to ensure regular community engagement. During the assembly, CSOs present project proposals to be integrated into the LGU's local plans, programs, and activities.</p> <p><i>Vincenzo Sagun Order of United Organizations (VSOUO)</i>: The LGU established the VSOUO as its local people's council. It is composed of both accredited and recognized CSOs in the municipality which promotes inclusivity. As of 2024, approximately 300 organizations are present in the municipality. A CSO Forum is held every year which is attended by all CSOs. The forum provides an opportunity for the CSOs to share updates, raise concerns affecting their sector, and gather information about government programs and services.</p>	<p>This partnership fosters morally-grounded governance through faith-based collaboration and strengthens community values. Ultimately, it enhances peace and order and social protection.</p> <p>This program ensures consistent citizen engagement, empowers CSOs to shape local priorities, and promotes participatory governance through regular grassroots consultation.</p> <p>This initiative promotes inclusive and participatory governance, marked by inclusivity and collective dialogue. It ensures sectoral representation and active engagement in local planning and decision-making.</p>

<sup>47</sup> <https://bpbcs5.ibpls.com/vincenzoasagunzamboangadelsur/>

## Summary

Considering the presence, details and results of OGP practices/initiatives, LGU Isabela City stands out as the overall top implementer with 34 out of 35 initiatives being practiced across all three OGP values – transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. Molave (32), Kumalarang (31), and Vincenzo A. Sagun (31) follow closely, likewise demonstrating strong governance practices. LGUs implementing 29-30 initiatives – Buug, Mabuhay, Diplahan, and Payao – also show consistent implementation across all 3 OGP values. LGUs like Liloy and Gutalac show balanced scores across all categories, even if not top-ranked, which reflects a well-rounded approach to OGP principles.

Among the three OGP values, Accountability is the strongest pillar overall, with many LGUs scoring 11 or 12 out of 12. Participation shows high engagement, with several LGUs implementing all OGP initiatives. Transparency varies more widely, suggesting room for improvement in public access to information.

The following are the most commonly practiced initiatives:

- On Transparency, with all 14-16 LGUs implementing these initiatives –
  - Posting of proposed programs
  - Conduct of Budget Forum
  - Display budget allocation charts publicly
  - Posting of Appropriation Ordinances
  - Post procurement documents
- On Accountability, with all 16 LGUs (100%) implementing these initiatives –
  - Functioning fiscal management review committees
  - Hold mandatory hearings for new legislation
  - Make legislative sessions open to the public and media
  - Require post-enactment reviews of legislation
  - Invite CSOs as observers in voting to authorize the annual budget
  - Conduct regular performance assessments for officials
  - Creation of social media account/tri-media platforms
- On Participation, with all 16 LGUs (100%) implementing these initiatives –
  - Organize consultations, public fora and workshops to gather inputs
  - Participation of citizens and CSOs in budget hearings
  - Invite CSOs as observers in the procurement process
  - Conduct capacity building for CSOs and other stakeholders

On the other hand, the following are not commonly practiced by the LGUs:

- On Transparency –
  - Livestreaming of budget planning sessions
  - Online legislative tracking system
  - Local Freedom of Information (FOI) ordinance
- On Accountability –
  - Implement real-time online budget reporting
  - Form ethics committees with investigative powers
  - Establish clear performance metrics for programs
- On Participation –
  - Use of digital tools for remote participation in planning and budgeting
  - Creation of Local People's Council
  - Form citizen advisory boards

## Recommendations and Conclusion

Considering the results of this OGP Documentation, MINCODE humbly submits the following recommendations for DILG and other relevant institutions. These recommendations aim to build on existing strengths, address implementation gaps, and foster a more transparent, accountable, and participatory local governance.

### On Transparency:

- Promote peer learning from high-performing LGUs to improve adoption of transparency practices.
- Invest in digital infrastructure to enable livestreaming of budget planning sessions and online legislative tracking systems.
- Provide technical support and equipment to LGUs facing connectivity and capacity challenges.
- Encourage FOI institutionalization by advocating for the passage of a national law, supporting the development of local ordinances even in the absence of a national legislation, and facilitate capacity building activities.
- Encourage the use of charts and infographics in presenting and posting the LGU budget and fund utilization on the Full Disclosure Boards and Full Disclosure Policy Portal.
- Urge LGUs to make public documents, such as CDP, CLUP, and LGU profile and sectoral status, more accessible online.

### On Accountability:

- Support LGUs in adopting real-time online budget reporting through training, digital tools, and policy support.
- Encourage formation of ethics committees and conflict of interest policies to strengthen internal checks and integrity mechanisms.
- Develop clear performance metrics for LGU plans to ensure that local programs have measureable success indicators.
- Develop performance assessments for elected officials to enhance public trust.
- Revisit policy and practice on formulation and adoption of long-term development plans to ensure that it is aligned with the term of office of elected officials.

### On Participation:

- Expand digital literacy and access to promote remote participation in planning and budgeting.
- Support creation of Local People's Councils and citizen advisory boards to institutionalize inclusive decision-making.
- Sustain capacity building programs for CSOs to ensure meaningful engagement in planning, budgeting, and procurement.
- Facilitate annual CSO forums and inter-LGU exchanges to share best practices and strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration.



Throughout the implementation of the OGP Documentation Process, the MINCODE Documentation Team observed a strong and sincere commitment among LGUs and CSOs across the 16 participating localities to improve service delivery and uphold the principles of good governance. Despite this encouraging momentum, bureaucratic constraints continue to pose challenges to the adoption of innovative practices at the local level.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Localization Program offers a vital platform for local leaders to explore diverse approaches and learn from exemplary governance models. To build on the progress already achieved, it is recommended that the program be sustained and formally institutionalized nationwide. By facilitating regional learning exchanges and promoting peer-to-peer engagement with high-performing LGUs, the program can foster a culture of collaboration and inspire replication of successful practices. It is fervently hoped that in the development and implementation of OGP initiatives, collaboration between government and CSOs will be sustained. OGP partners, key stakeholders, and advocates are encouraged to view OGP initiatives as opportunities to build trust, empower citizens, and strengthen public institutions in ways that foster equity and social justice.

