



## Performance Audit Report

PAO-2025-05

# SAGANA AT LIGTAS NA TUBIG SA LAHAT (SALINTUBIG) PROGRAM

*The SALINTUBIG Program Significantly Improved Access to Potable Water and Reduced the Number of Waterless Areas, with Gaps Affecting Its Effectiveness to Fully Provide Sustainable Water Services to Target Communities*



# Audit Highlights

February 2026

## SAGANA AT LIGTAS NA TUBIG SA LAHAT (SALINTUBIG) PROGRAM

The SALINTUBIG Program Significantly Improved Access to Potable Water and Reduced the Number of Waterless Areas, with Gaps Affecting Its Effectiveness to Fully Provide Sustainable Water Services to Target Communities

### Why COA Did This Study

In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that approximately one in 10 Filipinos still do not have access to improved water sources. This situation is worsened by factors like climate change, which causes drought and floods, and the high cost of infrastructure.

In 2012, the DILG implemented SALINTUBIG Program to increase access to clean water and improve water management expertise. Through grants and capacity building, it aims to equip waterless municipalities with sustainable water supply systems, boosting their water service coverage and reducing waterborne diseases.

Given its goals and significant resource allocation of ₱11.84 billion from FYs 2012 to 2020, a performance audit is vital to assess program effectiveness and its impact. Consequently, the SALINTUBIG program directly addresses Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation.

The audit focused on several critical aspects of the program implementation such as: (1) the attainment of the goals and targeted outcomes; (2) the extent the program implementers perform their individual roles and responsibilities in accordance with the program policy guidelines; and (3) the establishment of mechanism to monitor and evaluate the program's success. This audit adopted the Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA) approach.

Apart from reviewing relevant documents, COA also engaged with key stakeholders at various levels, including local government officials, community groups, and program beneficiaries. This multifaceted approach provided valuable insights into the program's implementation and effectiveness.

### What COA Recommends

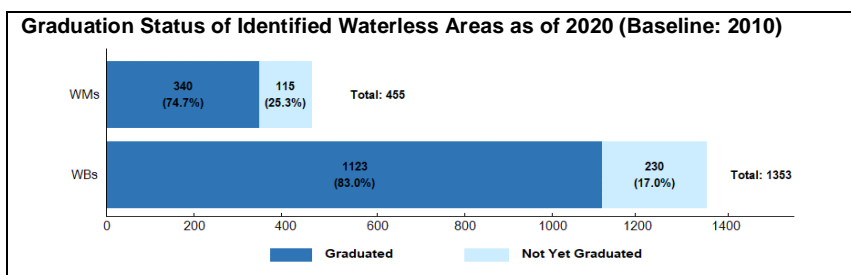
To enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of future or continuing water supply and sanitation projects, we recommend that the DILG, in coordination with concerned agencies, undertake the following: **(1) Strengthen beneficiary targeting and prioritization;** **(2) Enhance coordination and governance of water programs;** **(3) Improve sustainability of water supply systems;** **(4) Institutionalize results-based monitoring and evaluation;** and **(5) Strengthen capacity development interventions.** By implementing these recommendations, the DILG and concerned agencies may enhance the likelihood that investments in water supply and sanitation programs will result in sustained, equitable, and reliable access to safe water, thereby maximizing public funds and reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development. In addition, the continuation of the SALINTUBIG or program with similar objectives will contribute to the attainment of SDG 6.

### What COA Found

Since FY 2012, the SALINTUBIG Program has implemented a total of 2,821 sub-projects or water supply and sanitation (WSS) systems across the country of which 1,883 sub-projects were implemented within the target waterless municipalities (WMs) and waterless barangays (WBs) identified by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). In addition, various capacity development programs were also conducted throughout its implementation. The DILG has also established clear and measurable goals and objectives in its policy guidelines by setting specific quantifiable targets, defining outputs through specified service levels, and formulating 14 Key Performance Indicators which included final outcome and sustainability metrics.

However, the audit disclosed that gaps in planning, beneficiary targeting, implementation, monitoring, and sustainability mechanisms constrained the Program's ability to fully achieve its intended outcomes, particularly the provision of reliable and sustainable water services to the most waterless and disadvantaged communities.

The DILG reported that 340 WMs and 1,123 WBs are now tagged as "graduated" from the list of 455 WMs and 1,353 WBs identified by the NAPC. Hence, around 115 WMs and 230 WBs remain waterless as of 2020 data. No updated database showing similar information is available as of audit date. The established prioritization criteria of NAPC were based from the assessment of the population's access to potable water supply, prevalence of waterborne diseases, and poverty incidence per area. This target mechanism aimed to direct resources toward the most vulnerable and underserved communities.



Specifically, the absence of an updated and centralized database on waterless areas, coupled with weak coordination between the DILG and NAPC, resulted in the implementation of a substantial number of sub-projects outside the originally identified waterless municipalities and barangays. Further, inconsistencies in reported accomplishments and the lack of standardized reporting limited the reliability of performance information and weakened accountability over results achieved.

Further, despite high fund utilization rates, issues affecting sustainability persisted, as evidenced by non-operational water systems, incomplete infrastructure components, limited tariff collection, weak management of Barangay Water and Sanitation Associations (BWSAs), and inadequate technical capacity of some water service providers. The audit noted that 13 of the 45 inspected WSS systems were non-operational upon field inspections by the audit team. These conditions undermined the long-term functionality of completed WSS systems and diluted the intended benefits to beneficiary communities.

Moreover, while the DILG issued policies on monitoring and evaluation (M & E), the absence of a fully institutionalized and functional M & E system and the non-implementation of impact and outcome evaluations prevented management, oversight bodies, and other relevant stakeholders from determining the overall effectiveness and sustainability of the Program during its implementation period.

Nonetheless, the SALINTUBIG Program implementation was aligned with the "leave no one behind" principle of the Agenda 2030. It has contributed to the progress towards the achievement of SDG 6, on universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 and SDG 5 on gender equality. However, issues on the effective implementation and sustainability of the operations of the WSS systems, which could hamper the attainment of program's overall goal to provide reliable and sustainable water services to target communities, may impact on its contribution to SDG 6 taking into consideration also the stoppage of funding for the Program in 2021.

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## Acronyms

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4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIP	Annual Investment Plan
APIS	Annual Poverty Indicators Survey
BLGS	Bureau of Local Government Supervision
Brgy.	Barangay
BTr	Bureau of the Treasury
BuB	Bottom-up Budgeting
BWSA	Barangay Water and Sanitation Association
CNC	Certificate of Non-Coverage
CNO	Certificate of Non-Overlap
CO	Central Office
COA	Commission on Audit
CPA	Citizen Participatory Audit
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CY	Calendar Year
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DED	Detailed Engineering Design
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EO	Executive Order
FHSIS	Field Health Service Information System
FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
FY	Fiscal Year
GAA	General Appropriations Act
GAD	Gender and Development
HRBLWSG	Human Rights-Based Local Water and Sanitation Governance
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
ISSAI	International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions
iWASH	Integrated Safe Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMC	Joint Memoranda Circular
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LDC	Local Development Council
LDWQMC	Local Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee
LFPs	Locally Funded Projects
LGOO	Local Government Operations Officer

## Acronyms

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LGSF	Local Government Support Fund
LGU	Local Government Unit
LNOB	Leave no one behind
LWUA	Local Water Utilities Administration
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDC	Municipal Development Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MGB	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MLGOO	Municipal Local Government Operations Officer
MLGU	Municipal Local Government Unit
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPDC	Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MW4SP	Municipal Water Supply, Sewerage, and Sanitation Sector Plan
MWSSMP	Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan
NAPC	National Anti-Poverty Commission
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NEP	National Expenditure Program
NGAs	National Government Agencies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHTS-PR	National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction
NWRB	National Water Resources Board
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OPDS	Office of Project Development Services
P3W	President's Priority Program for Water Supply
PDMU	Project Development and Management Unit
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PFM	Public Financial Management
PMC	Project Monitoring Committee
PNSDW	Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water
PO	Provincial Office
POW	Program of Work
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PSC	Program Steering Committee
PSSR	Philippine Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap
PWD	Persons with Disability
PWSSR	Philippine Water Supply Sector Roadmap
RHubs	Regional Water and Sanitation Hubs
RO	Regional Office
RPMEs	Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System
RROW	Road Right-of-Way

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## Acronyms

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RSSA	Rapid Sub-project Sustainability Assessment
RWSA	Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Association
RWSP	Rural Water Supply Project
SDB	Support to Barangay Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFS	Simplified Feasibility Study
SGH	Seal of Good Housekeeping
SWA	Statement of Work Accomplished
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WBs	Waterless barangays
WDs	Water Districts
WHO	World Health Organization
WMs	Waterless municipalities
WSP	Water Service Provider
WSS	Water supply and sanitation
WSS-PMO	Water Supply and Sanitation Program Management Office



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**COMMISSION ON AUDIT**

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

February 19, 2026

**JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA**

Secretary

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

EDSA corner Quezon Avenue

Quezon City

Dear **Secretary Remulla**:

In line with the Commission on Audit's (COA's) vision of becoming an enabling partner of the government in ensuring a better life for every Filipino, we conduct a performance audit to assist government agencies in better performing their mandates and achieving program goals and objectives more economically, efficiently, and effectively.

For the COA Performance Audit Portfolio Calendar Years (CYs) 2024-2026, COA has identified the *Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat* (SALINTUBIG) Program of the DILG as one of the priority audit programs due to its significance and impact in addressing the Philippines' water security challenges. Given its goals and significant resource allocation of ₱11.84 billion from FYs 2012 to 2020, a performance audit is vital to assess program effectiveness and its impact. The SALINTUBIG program directly addresses SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; by providing potable water supply systems to waterless communities which ensures access to safe and readily available water for all.

The program tackles two essential needs: increased access to clean water and improved water management expertise. Through grants and capacity building, it aims to equip waterless municipalities with sustainable water supply systems, boosting their water service coverage and reducing waterborne diseases. Additionally, SALINTUBIG strengthens the skills of local government units (LGUs) and water service providers in planning, implementing, and managing these systems effectively, ensuring long-term access to this vital resource.

The SALINTUBIG program also thrives on a multi-layered partnership, led by the DILG in close collaboration with national agencies like the Department of Health (DOH), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA). The LGUs also play a crucial role alongside beneficiary communities, who actively participate in planning, implementing, and maintaining the water systems. This collaborative approach fosters ownership and ensures sustainable access to clean water for Filipinos in underserved areas.

Given the above considerations, the audit focused on several critical aspects of the program implementation such as: (1) the attainment of the goals and targeted outcomes; (2) the extent the program implementers performed their individual roles and responsibilities in accordance

with the program policy guidelines; and (3) the establishment of mechanism to monitor and evaluate the program's success.

Further, the audit was carried out from July 2024 to October 2025. During this period, our procedures included a review of significant program policies and guidelines, joint memoranda circulars, resolutions, accomplishment reports, and monitoring reports. To assess the extent of implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, as well as the roles of relevant national government agencies, we conducted interviews and surveys with key DILG personnel, LGU officials, and other program stakeholders.

Moreover, to ensure a comprehensive and participatory assessment, the audit adopted the COA's Citizen Participatory Audit (CPA) approach. Representatives from Civil Society Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations (CSOs/NGOs) were engaged in data collection activities, field validations, inspection of completed water systems, and discussions with implementing LGUs. This collaborative approach strengthened transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment in the conduct of the audit.

Finally, it is essential to note that the audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 3000 - Standard for Performance Auditing. We believe that the processes we executed during the audit provided sufficient and appropriate evidence to serve as a reasonable basis for our audit findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives.

## Background

1. Access to safe and reliable drinking water is essential to public health, poverty reduction, and inclusive economic growth. Lack of potable water heightens exposure to waterborne diseases, limits livelihood opportunities, and places disproportionate burdens on women and children who often spend hours collecting water instead of engaging in education or income-generating activities. Ensuring equitable access to clean water is therefore fundamental to achieving health, economic productivity, and social equity goals nationwide.

## Water Crisis in the Philippines

2. Despite progress in access to potable water supply over the years, the Philippines continues to face persistent water supply/security challenges. Results of the 2008 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS)<sup>1</sup> showed that 18.6% of the population, equivalent to almost 15.73 million Filipinos, relied on unsafe sources such as unprotected wells, undeveloped springs, rivers, ponds, rainwater, tanker trucks, or water peddlers.
3. In 2019 or more than a decade later, the problem remained unresolved, as the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that about one in ten Filipinos still lacked access to improved water sources. These gaps are compounded by climate change impacts, such as severe drought and floods, rising infrastructure costs, and geographic disparities that particularly affect rural and island communities.

## President's Priority Program for Water Supply (P3W) and Other Water Projects of the DILG

4. To address these gaps, the national government has implemented several water supply and sanitation initiatives aimed at expanding access to safe drinking water. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), NAPC and LGUs launched and implemented the P3W from 2005 to 2010, followed by the roll-out of the SALINTUBIG Program from 2011 which was implemented by the DOH, and from 2012 to 2020 by the DILG.
5. Other complementary programs that provided water services such as the Support to Barangay Development, Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB), and Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities further signaled the government's continued commitment to improving water service coverage, particularly for the disadvantaged and underserved LGUs.

## SALINTUBIG Program in 2011

6. Introduced in 2011, the SALINTUBIG program was conceptualized as a strategic and sustainable response to the country's persistent water supply/security challenges. True to its name "*salin*" meaning to transfer, the Program sought not only to provide physical water infrastructure but also to transfer the technical capacity and knowledge needed for local communities to operate and sustain water supply systems in the long run.

<sup>1</sup> The Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS) is a nationwide survey conducted by the PSA to gather data on non-income poverty indicators and the socio-economic conditions of households in the Philippines.

## SALINTUBIG Implementation from FYs 2012 to 2020

7. It was jointly undertaken by the DOH, the DILG, and the NAPC through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in December 2010 with the goal of increasing service coverage in waterless communities. These agencies comprise the SALINTUBIG Program Steering Committee, and their technical representatives comprise the Technical Working Group (TWG). The DOH, as the lead implementing agency, was allocated with a budget of ₱1.5 billion for FY 2011 for the implementation of the program.
8. The program was designed as a commitment of the National Government to contribute to the attainment of the targets in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016 and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target No. 7 until 2016, which prioritized LGUs with households achieving at least 50% access. This was later followed by the transition to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which set the target of 100% access for all by 2030. The program was also aligned with the Philippine Water Supply Sector Roadmap (PWSSR) and the Philippine Sustainable Sanitation Roadmap (PSSR).
9. The guidelines defined the levels of service of the water systems to be provided under the program, which determined the type of infrastructure suited to the area's population density and needs:
  - **Level I (Point Source):** A protected well or spring without a distribution system, suitable for thinly scattered rural areas.
  - **Level II (Communal Faucet System or Standpost):** A piped network of communal faucets with a reservoir, suitable for clustered rural and urban areas.
  - **Level III (Waterworks System or Individual House Connection):** A piped distribution network with individual house connections, suitable for densely populated areas.
10. The SALINTUBIG Program was designed to provide grant financing and capacity development programs to enhance capacities of LGUs and water service providers in planning, implementation, and operation and management of water supply facilities in a sustainable manner and for the implementation of water supply projects in the following: a) waterless municipalities; b) poorest barangays with high level of waterborne diseases; c) resettlement areas; and d) Rural Health Unit/birthing clinics without access to safe water.
11. The target communities include primarily the 455 municipalities and the 1,353 barangays identified by NAPC in 2011 as waterless, using the data from the 2010 National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) of the DSWD. It was assessed based on the following criteria (*see Figure 1*):
  - More than 50% of the population without access to water supply;
  - High waterborne diseases; and
  - High poverty incidence<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Implementing Guidelines of the "Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat" Program dated April 28, 2011, Chapter 3

**Figure 1: SALINTUBIG Program’s Criteria for Identifying Waterless Municipalities and Barangays**



Source: DILG and NAPC Data

12. This target mechanism aimed to direct resources toward the most vulnerable and underserved communities. In addition, the 2011 Implementing Guidelines provided that the program shall also apply to 50 resettlement sites. To illustrate, the distribution of target areas was defined across the country as shown in *Table 1*:

**Table 1: SALINTUBIG Program’s Total Number of Target Beneficiaries**

Area Coverage	No. of WMs	No. of WBs	Resettlement Sites
Luzon	129	432	43
Visayas	113	420	1
Mindanao	213	501	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>50</b>

Source: DILG data

13. Since 2012, the program has significantly improved the water supply access in the target waterless municipalities and barangays. As of 2023, the DILG reported that 340 out of the 455 WMs and 1,123 out of the 1,353 WBs have been provided with potable water supply facilities and “graduated”<sup>3</sup> from the waterless status. In addition to these accomplishments, the DILG also reported that all 50 target resettlement sites have been provided with a water system.
14. In the 2012 SALINTUBIG Program Guidelines issued by the DILG, 14 KPIs were identified to assess the system functionality, resource efficiency, and service effectiveness. These indicators (*Table 2*) covered both output (e.g., number of established connections, capacity utilization) and outcome indicators (e.g., reductions in waterborne diseases and improvements in public health), explicitly defining what success would look like.

## Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

<sup>3</sup> An LGU is considered to graduate from being tagged as waterless when more than 50% of its population already has access to potable and safe water supply.

**Table 2: SALINTUBIG Program's KPIs**

Area of Performance	Definition	Key Indicators
Functionality	Measures the quantity and the quality of water services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of connections established</li> <li>Number of communities, population or households serve</li> <li>Compliance with safe water and environmental standards</li> <li>Availability of water per day</li> <li>Increased system pressure</li> </ul>
Efficiency	Measures the extent to which resources are appropriately used and recovered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of connections/total cost</li> <li>Non-revenue water</li> <li>Systems losses</li> <li>Production capacity utilized</li> <li>Collection efficiency</li> <li>Operating ratio</li> </ul>
Effectiveness	Measures the degree to which services affect outcomes and impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of coverage area</li> <li>Decline in waterborne diseases</li> <li>Decline in morbidity or mortality rate</li> </ul>

Source: DILG data

## Funding Sources

15. Beginning FY 2012, the DILG became the lead implementing agency, with funding sourced from the annual GAA. With the shift to cash-based budgeting<sup>4</sup> from FYs 2018-2020, SALINTUBIG funding was transferred to the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), administered by the DBM. Funds were directly downloaded to the recipient LGUs through the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) subject to the compliance with the program requirements, as provided in the Special Provisions of the GAA.

**Table 3: DILG Appropriations for the SALINTUBIG Program (in million pesos)**

Funding Year	GAA No.	Project Proposal		
		Subsidy to LGUs	Support to Operations	Total
2012	RA 10155	770.00	30.00	800.00
2013	RA 10352	659.98	30.00	689.98
2014	RA 10633	517.73	60.00	577.73
2015	RA 10651	1,512.73	60.00	1572.73
2016	RA 10717	1726.73	280.42	2007.15
2017	RA 10924	1512.73	60.42	1573.15
2018	RA 10964	1385.76	42.49	1428.25
2019	RA 11260	1549.64	46.49	1596.13
2020	RA 11465	1,549.64	46.49	1596.13
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,184.94</b>	<b>656.31</b>	<b>11,841.25</b>

Source: DILG data

<sup>4</sup> A budget system that proposes cash-based appropriations, which "guarantees and authorizes payments for the items (goods and services) that are included in the budget over a limited period of time, generally corresponding to the fiscal year in consideration."

16. From FYs 2012 to 2020, the program received ₱11.84 billion under the GAA, broken down as: a) Project Operations/Capacity Development (Support to Operations) equivalent to ₱656.31 million; and b) Infrastructure Investment (Subsidy to LGUs) equivalent to ₱11.18 billion, as shown in *Table 3*. This annual allocation established a framework, linking financial resources to the number of supported LGUs and reflected the program's measurable and progressive targets to reduce the number of waterless municipalities and barangays. Starting FY 2021, no funds were appropriated for the program.

**Table 4: SALINTUBIG Funding – MOA-Based for FYs 2012 to 2017**

FUNDING YEAR	ALLOCATION	CANCELED	REVISED ALLOCATION	OBLIGATION	DISBURSEMENT
2012	770,000,000	-	770,000,000	770,000,000	770,000,000
2013	659,983,000	19,715,250	640,267,750	640,267,750	640,267,750
2014	517,730,000	21,000,000	496,730,000	496,730,000	496,716,395
2015	1,512,730,000	60,000,000	1,452,730,000	1,452,730,000	1,452,730,000
2016	1,726,730,000	178,000,000	1,548,730,000	1,548,730,000	1,531,504,792
2017	1,512,730,000	83,000,000	1,429,730,000	1,429,730,000	1,429,678,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>₱6,699,903,000</b>	<b>₱361,715,250</b>	<b>₱6,338,187,750</b>	<b>₱6,338,187,750</b>	<b>₱6,320,897,689</b>

Source: DILG data

17. *Table 4* and *Table 5* present the annual program funding and disbursements from FYs 2012 to 2020 transitioning from SALINTUBIG MOA-based to SALINTUBIG-LGSF.

**Table 5: SALINTUBIG Funding – LGSF-Based for FYs 2018 to 2020**

FUNDING YEAR	AMOUNT DISBURSED BY DBM	AMOUNT OBLIGATED BY LGU	%	AMOUNT DISBURSED BY LGU	BALANCE
2018	1,225,034,000	1,225,034,000	100	1,138,644,282	86,389,718
2019	1,474,641,000	1,474,616,036	100	1,327,312,137	147,303,899
2020	1,455,052,944	1,455,031,445	100	1,310,115,697	144,915,748
<b>Total</b>	<b>₱4,154,727,944</b>	<b>₱4,154,681,481</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>₱3,776,072,116</b>	<b>₱378,609,365</b>

Source: DILG data

18. The amount incurred for infrastructure investment for FYs 2012 to 2017 (MOA-based) was ₱6.34 billion, while for FYs 2018 to 2020 (LGSF-based) it was ₱4.15 billion. This brings a total of ₱10.49 billion or 96.67% overall utilization. As of February 4, 2026, the remaining 3.33% or ₱0.362 billion was reverted by the LGUs to the BTr due to, but not limited to: (1) project savings from undisbursed balances, and (2) non-compliance with project requirements.
19. The SALINTUBIG Program Guidelines clearly defined the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholders in the implementation of the program, as shown in *Table 6*:

## Implementing Agencies/Units

**Table 6: Roles and Responsibilities of SALINTUBIG Program Implementers**

Implementing Agency/Units	Roles and Responsibilities
1. <b>Project Steering Committee (PSC) and TWG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The PSC shall provide oversight advisory, policy direction and decision-making for the Program. It shall be composed of the Secretaries of DILG, NAPC, and chaired by the DOH. The PSC shall have regular meetings on quarterly basis and convene special meetings as needed. The NAPC shall serve as the Secretariat of the PSC.</li> <li>○ The PSC shall be supported by the TWG composed of senior staff of the Agencies. The TWG shall serve as the technical arm of PSC and shall be responsible for the identification and resolutions of technical issues and problems which require interagency action and approval. The TWG shall be chaired by the NAPC representative. The TWG shall have regular meetings on a monthly basis, and convene special meetings as necessary.</li> </ul>
2. <b>DILG</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main implementing agency from FYs 2012 to 2020.</li> <li>○ Provide financial subsidies through the DILG Regional Offices which executed MOA with the beneficiary LGUs for infrastructure development.</li> <li>○ Provide capacity development to LGUs and Water Service Providers.</li> <li>○ Monitor and evaluate the projects implemented by the LGUs.</li> </ul>
3. <b>NAPC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Be the lead coordinating agency in the implementation of the Program in the waterless municipalities and to ensure that priority be given to the barangays in the priority municipalities with the highest density of poor households.</li> <li>○ Monitor and evaluate the impact of the Program.</li> </ul>
4. <b>DOH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main implementing agency for FY 2011.</li> <li>○ Review and approve project proposal of LGUs and monitor the same during implementation (FY 2011)</li> <li>○ Provide the funding requirements and ensure timely release of funds for the implementation of the approved proposals (FY 2011)</li> <li>○ Provide the funding requirements of NAPC and DILG corresponding to the agreed responsibilities and tasks for purposes of monitoring the program (FY 2011)</li> <li>○ Assist the DILG RO in confirming the quality and quantity of water source.</li> <li>○ Provide technical assistance to DILG during capacity development specifically on sanitation concerns at the LGU level.</li> </ul>
5. <b>NWRB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provides water permits to qualified LGUs.</li> </ul>
6. <b>LGUs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implement the sub-projects in accordance with the approved project designs.</li> </ul>
7. <b>LWUA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-implementing agency responsible for providing Financial Subsidy to with Water Districts.</li> </ul>
8. <b>DBM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Issue a Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) to the Modified Disbursement System (MDS) - Authorized Government Servicing Bank (AGSB) and the Advice of NCA Issued (ANCAI) to the BTr upon endorsement of the compliant Cities/Municipalities by the DILG (FYs 2018-2020).</li> </ul>
9. <b>BTr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Download the fund directly to the Cities/Municipalities through the issuance of the ADA to the AGBS concerned (FYs 2018-2020).</li> <li>○ Furnish the DBM, DILG-OPDS, Regional Offices concerned and Local Auditors of copies of Notice of Authority to Debit Account Issued (NADAI) (FYs 2018-2020).</li> </ul>

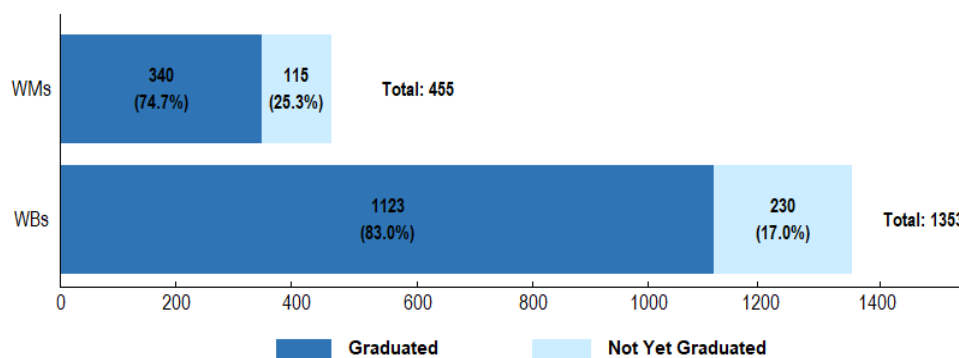
Source: SALINTUBIG Program Guidelines

20. This multi-stakeholder structure reflected the Program's aim to integrate technical, health, poverty reduction, and governance consideration in water service delivery.

**The SALINTUBIG Program implemented 2,821 water supply and sanitation (WSS) systems, contributing to universal access to potable water with notable practices in sample projects; however, gaps in planning and identification of beneficiaries hindered the full graduation of identified waterless communities**

21. **Reported Program Accomplishment.** The DILG reported that a total of 2,821 sub-projects were completed from FYs 2012 to 2020. In addition, 340 WMs and 1,123 WBs are now tagged as “graduated” from the list of 455 WMs and 1,353 WBs identified by NAPC based on established prioritization criteria. Despite these accomplishments, 115 WMs and 230 WBs remained waterless based on the latest available PSA water access data for 2020 (see Figure 2 below).

**Figure 2: Graduation Status of Identified Waterless Areas as of 2020 (Baseline: 2010)**



Source: DILG data

22. Analysis of the list of identified beneficiaries, the yearly program funding and program’s reported accomplishment revealed the following gaps:
- a) Out of the “graduated” 340 WMs, 28 have either ongoing, and canceled sub-projects, or not listed for funding; and

- b) 285 “graduated” WBs did not receive any funding allocation.
23. On the other hand, out of the 115 WMs “ungraduated” or which remain waterless, 98 received no allocation at all while the remaining 17 received allocation from ₱1 million to ₱15 million. Similarly, out of the 230 “ungraduated” WBs, 210 WBs did not receive any allocation, while 20 WBs received an allocation ranging from ₱1 million to ₱3 million.
  24. In determining whether an LGU has “graduated” from the program, the DILG relies on the 2015 and 2020 PSA data. These figures are used to assess the current water access of LGUs and serves as reference, due to the absence of updated data on the water supply access in WMs and WBs.
  25. According to the DILG, there have been no changes in the status of the “ungraduated” WMs and WBs, as the PSA has not yet released the latest (2025) data on water access. Furthermore, the DILG does not have available information or records on LGUs securing funding from other sources.
  26. The DILG pointed out that NAPC is the lead coordinating agency responsible for monitoring the status of waterless areas, hence, it should update the status of the identified waterless LGUs.
  27. Of the remaining “ungraduated” LGUs, it should also be noted that 88 WMs and 50 WBs are located in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which has separate available funding for water supply projects. The DILG plans to recommend to the DBM the inclusion of these “ungraduated” LGUs in the current and future water programs to be administered by the Department.
  28. The audit team would also like to highlight that several inspected WSS systems demonstrated effective practices and are still operational during our field validations. These are the following completed WSS systems that are able to generate income and sustain its operations:
  29. **Construction of Water Supply (Level II) in Brgy. Temporan and of Basak Water System (Level III), Municipality of Magpet, Province of Cotabato.** These LGUs received funding under FYs 2018 and 2020 respectively. LGU Magpet operates its own water utility, the Magpet Water Works Services (MWWS), which functions independently. MWWS manages the water systems of 28 out of 32 barangays and is supported by a workforce of 35 staff members with 12 permanent, 5 contractual, and the rest hired on a job-order basis. When a barangay is unable to manage its water system, it passes a resolution authorizing the turnover of management responsibility to the MWWS. The system also remains financially viable while charging only ₱10 per cubic meter with no minimum fee. Over time, MWWS has developed into a financially stable entity by generating about ₱13 million in income while spending roughly ₱7 million. It even contributes funds back to the LGU.

30. Operations are strengthened by weekly maintenance activities and accessible communication channels such as group chats and a radio program for information dissemination. Water safety is ensured through annual physical and chemical tests of all sources, and monthly bacteriological testing conducted by the University of Southern Mindanao. Consumer connections are also made accessible, with installation costs offered as a six-month loan, usually amounting to about ₱2,000. The billing system is computerized and real-time, and adjustments are provided for accidental leaks using a three-month average consumption. Nonpayment after two months results in water disconnection along with a 3% surcharge.
31. The MWWS also engages in knowledge-sharing and benchmarking with neighboring LGUs such as Makilala and Antipas. Expansion efforts are ongoing, including plans to integrate President Roxas under Magpet's management. Additionally, negotiations for bulk water supply continue with nearby communities like Kidapawan, Arakan, and Antipas, further strengthening regional water service cooperation.

**Figure 3: Constructed SALINTUBIG Water Systems in Magpet, Cotabato**

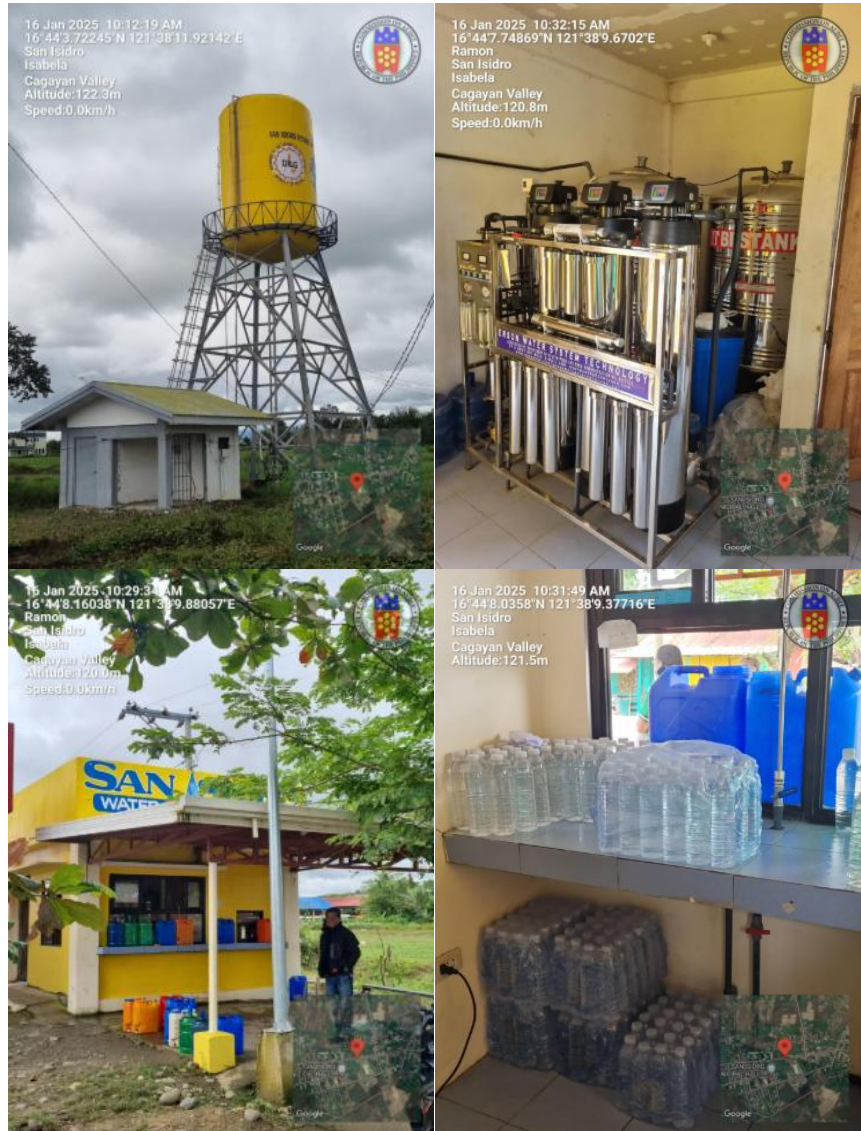


*Source: Photos taken by the Audit Team during Field Validation*

32. **Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez, Municipality of San Isidro, Province of Isabela.** San Isidro, a 5th class Municipality in the Province of Isabela, received ₱11 million under the FY 2020 SALINTUBIG Program. With the project completed in 2021, the San Isidro Potable Water System now serves 421 households across four barangays: Gomez, Camarag, Rizal East, and Rizal West.

33. Water tariff collections began in December 2023, following the approved tariff of ₱150 for the first 10 cubic meters and ₱20 per cubic meter for any consumption exceeding 10 cubic meters.
34. In addition, the San Isidro Water Refilling Station commenced operations in April 2024, offering potable water at ₱5 per gallon and ₱8 per 500 ml bottled water.

**Figure 4: Constructed SALINTUBIG Water System in San Isidro, Isabela**



*Source: Photos taken by the Audit Team during the Field Validation*

35. **Construction of Level II water system in Brgy. Dagup, Bagulin, La Union.** According to the key personnel of DILG RO-I, LGU Bagulin had been recognized for Zero Open Defecation after the implementation of SALINTUBIG. The SALINTUBIG-funded water system constructed in

Brgy. Dagup and completed in 2019, remains functional, operational, and sustainably maintained up to present.

36. The water system is currently servicing 170 households in four sitios (with plans for expansion). Survey among household beneficiaries indicated that 7 out of 7 respondents stated that they believe that their living conditions improved due to the construction of the SALINTUBIG water system.

**Figure 5: Constructed SALINTUBIG Water System in Bagulin, La Union**



*Source: Photos taken by the Audit Team during Field Validation*

37. The highlighted water systems demonstrate that with proper management and strong coordination with implementing partners, the SALINTUBIG facilities can be sustainably operated and provide long-term benefits to its community. These practices could be a benchmark to other LGUs in the implementation of their respective water supply and sanitation systems.
38. On the other hand, since the SALINTUBIG Program's expansion in FY 2012, through the construction of 2,821 WSS systems nationwide, several setbacks were also noted, such as:
- a) Gaps in identifying and prioritizing target beneficiaries;
  - b) Discrepancies in the accomplishments reported within the SubayBAYAN system; and
  - c) Limited financial resources that constrained DILG's ability to fully conduct all planned capacity development programs for community-based WSPs.

## Gaps in identifying and prioritizing target beneficiaries

39. Audit validation revealed that while the Program contributed in expanding access to potable water, significant issues in planning and targeting affected the Program's ability to fully assist the graduation of identified waterless communities.
40. Article 4, Section A of the DOH-DILG-NAPC Implementing Guidelines of the SALINTUBIG Program dated April 28, 2011, provides that project areas shall be selected using criteria such as access level, poverty incidence, prevalence of waterborne diseases, and population to ensure consistency with the rationalization of public resource utilization for the water supply and sanitation section.
41. Section II, Item 2a of DILG MC No. 2012-83 dated May 2, 2012 similarly provides that the Program shall cover the LGUs identified by the NAPC. This prioritization framework was reaffirmed under the LGSF approach. Section 6.1.1 of DILG MC No. 2018-47, dated April 5, 2018, maintained that the list of the program beneficiaries was based on waterless communities and areas identified by the NAPC using the same criteria
42. For FY 2019<sup>5</sup>, aside from the NAPC list of waterless municipalities and barangays, additional beneficiary LGUs were identified following the additional criteria:
  - a) The list of projects endorsed by the Regional Development Council (RDC) in compliance with National Budget Memorandum (NBM) 129 dated 03 January 2018 and DBM's Circular Letter (CL) 2018-5 dated 20 February 2018;
  - b) The list of passers of the DILG's Good Financial Housekeeping (GFH); and
  - c) The list of LGU's Project Performance and Absorptive Capacity.
43. The DILG acknowledges the importance of using the RDC-endorsed list as an additional criterion, noting that it ensures alignment with regional development priorities. The DILG further clarified that once the beneficiary LGUs are verified to be part of the NAPC's list of WMs and WBs, and have received RDC endorsement, their compliance with the DILG's Seal of GFH and their Project Performance and Absorptive Capacity shall then be checked.
44. The GFH requirement aims to prevent or minimize the occurrence of unresolved Audit Observation Memoranda and qualified and/or adverse audit opinions in the disbursement of funds. Meanwhile, the assessment of LGU Project Performance and Absorptive Capacity ensures that they have no pending SALINTUBIG projects from previous years.
45. For FY 2020, the availability of MWSSP was added as prioritization criterion, in addition to the low access to potable water supply, high poverty incidence, and high incidence of waterborne diseases.

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<sup>5</sup> Section 6.1.2 of DILG MC No. 2019-77 dated May 23, 2019

46. NAPC, as the agency responsible for identifying SALINTUBIG Program beneficiaries, explained that the selection process was initiated by prioritizing areas not previously covered by the P3W interventions. They added that the 1,353 WBs were identified based on the NHTS-PR by the DSWD. NAPC further emphasized that all criteria must be met for inclusion to be qualified as program beneficiary.
47. To validate this list, NAPC conducted spot checks, requested updates from LGUs on their current water situation after the implementation of the P3W, and reviewed their respective socio-economic profiles. The list was then endorsed to the PSC. However, NAPC later confirmed that the consolidated database used to develop this list could no longer be retrieved, as the staff responsible for maintaining it was no longer connected with the agency.
48. According to NAPC, the finalized lists comprising 455 WMs and 1353 WBs were completed in 2011 and released simultaneously for budget deliberations. They also confirmed that the lists have not been updated since 2011.
49. When DILG became the lead implementing agency, its prioritization approach evolved. DILG acknowledged that NAPC initially used a ranking system, but later prioritization strategies incorporated coverage-based criteria and adopted the “49ers” approach, which focused on the LGUs nearing graduation or those with about 49% water access. DILG maintained, however, that priority LGUs generally remained within the identified list by NAPC.
50. **Beneficiaries Not Included in the NAPC’s Identified List of WMs and WBs.** Since FY 2012, only 1,883 sub-projects were implemented within the target WMs and WBs from the 2,821 sub-projects or WSS systems implemented across the country. Audit validation showed that a substantial number of SALINTUBIG-funded projects, which are not included in the original NAPC list were implemented. This is primarily due to the shift in policy direction, such as commitment from MDG to SDG, and the inclusion of RDC-endorsed projects.
51. A comparison between the list of identified beneficiaries and the yearly program funding from 2012 to 2020 revealed 938 completed, two on-going and 65 canceled projects. The annual breakdown is shown in *Table 7*:

**Table 7: Sub-projects Under LGUs Which Were Not Included in the Original NAPC List of WMs and WBs**

Funding Year	Completed	Ongoing	Canceled
2012	92		-
2013	94		6
2014	43		1

Funding Year	Completed	Ongoing	Canceled
2015	106		14
2016	237	2	23
2017	62		5
2018	77		8
2019	146		6
2020	81		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>

Source: COA Analysis of DILG data

52. These 938 completed sub-projects, covering at least 1,106 barangays from 384 municipalities/cities, were allocated a total of ₱2.4 billion. In addition, the two on-going sub-projects covering 10 barangays in two municipalities/cities received a total allocation of ₱68.8 million. Meanwhile, 65 projects were canceled covering 70 barangays from 43 municipalities/cities. Overall, these figures account for a total of at least 1,186 barangays from 429 municipalities/cities.
53. From the same data on completed, ongoing and canceled SALINTUBIG sub-projects, 58 were selected and subjected to audit validation as listed in *Appendix II*. We noted that 18 sub-projects were neither part of the original 455 WMs nor the 1,353 WBs, as shown in *Appendix III*. According to these LGUs, they were notified as program beneficiaries by the DILG through official communication channels.
54. Many of these were classified by DILG as “expanded project beneficiaries,” arising from situations where: (a) MOA-based projects required alternative sites due to feasibility issues; (b) LGSF-based projects allowed expansion outside waterless areas; or (c) the 2019 SALINTUBIG Program included RDC-endorsed projects. DILG further clarified that the original NAPC criteria were no longer used in selecting these expanded project beneficiaries; instead, LGUs were assessed based on project feasibility.
55. **Beneficiary Reallocation and Fund Realignment.** Instances of realignment were also observed where the substitute LGUs were likewise not validated’ by the DILG whether they met the prioritization criteria. This is attributed to shifts in policy direction. In addition, program guidelines stipulate that a replacement in sub-project location is allowed before a MOA is executed but not for LGSF-based sub-projects.
56. We noted instances during field validations where the barangay locations of certain completed sub-projects were changed from those originally identified, moving to barangays that were not among the initial list of identified SALINTUBIG beneficiaries. This was observed in five completed sub-projects in Samar Province as shown in *Table 8*.

**Table 8: Sub-projects with Reallocated and Realigned Barangay Beneficiaries**

NO.	IMPLEMENTING UNITS	PROJECT DETAILS/ REVISED ALLOCATION	ORIGINAL BENEFICIARY BARANGAY AMONG THE IDENTIFIED BENEFICIARY	ACTUAL BARANGAY RECIPIENT (UNLISTED)	REASON/ CONCERNS
1	Basey, Samar	Cogon, 2017, Potable Water Supply ₱2,000,000	Brgy. Cogon	Brgy San Antonio	No sufficient source of water.
2	Basey, Samar	Old San Agustin, 2017, Potable Water Supply ₱3,000,000	Brgy. Old San Agustin	Brgy. Salvacion	
3	Hinabangan, Samar	Tabay, 2017, Potable Water Supply ₱2,000,000	Brgy. Tabay	Brgy. Osmeña	The allocation was not enough to cover the supposed project water system because the distance from water source to the community will take much more resources. Relatively, one challenge encountered by the LGU is the insufficient funding assistance from the national government to adequately address the situation in remote areas.
4	Paranas, Samar	Cawayan, 2017, Potable Water Supply ₱3,000,000,	Brgy. Cawayan	Brgy. Buray	Barangay was changed due to the lack of a feasible water source as confirmed by the DILG.  According to LGU Paranas, there is inadequate funding support from the national government. Despite this, it partnered with JE Hydro and Bio-Energy Corporation to develop a Level III Potable Water Supply Project for 38 barangays within the municipality.
5	Santa Rita, Samar	Tulay, 2017, Potable Water Supply, ₱3,000,000,	Brgy. Tulay	Brgy. Caticugan	Barangay was changed due to weak water source.  According to the LGU, the initial identification of the water source [in Brgy. Tulay] was done manually, relying on the locals' knowledge and without the involvement of an expert.  Challenges encountered by the LGU include: (a) limited resources and capacity of the LGU. They hope to engage with experts and utilize modern equipment to ensure proper identification of the water source and the effective establishment of water system; and (b) The funding support from the national government does not cover the costs associated with purchasing the lot where the water source is located nor does it include funding for hydraulic analysis, which is crucial for ensuring the system's long-term sustainability.

Source: COA Validation

57. Aside from Samar Province, instances of realignment were also observed in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte and proposed changes in the Municipality of Agoo, La Union. It must be noted that Laoag City was not included in the list of 455 WMs nor were its barangays among the 1,353 WBs.
58. The audit team validated a SALINTUBIG sub-project in 2016 for Barangay Vira, Laoag City which reportedly was allocated ₱2 million for the Construction/Upgrading of a Level III Water Supply System. However, it

was found that the barangay did not receive any SALINTUBIG funds, and no water system was implemented using that specific allocation for the barangay. As per the SubayBAYAN system, this sub-project was already completed.

59. According to LGU-Laoag City, they were informed by the DILG, through written communication, that the City had become a beneficiary of six separate sub-projects, namely: barangays Dibua North, Vira, Zamboanga, Talingaan, Balatong, and Salet Bulangon.
60. Citing insufficiency of these individual allocations to support full-scale water system construction for each barangay, the LGU proposed the realignment of the total ₱12 million allocation into a single sub-project covering 3 contiguous barangays: Dibua North, Dibua South and Madiladig.
61. The LGU justified this realignment by stating that the five excluded barangays, namely Vira, Zamboanga, Talingaan, Balatong, and Salet Bulangon were reportedly already served by the water system of Ilocos Norte Water District. On the other hand, the proposed two new barangays, Dibua South and Madiladig lacked water systems and were far from Laoag City's main water source (Padsan River).
62. The DILG also clarified that the fund was directly released to cities and municipalities, and not to barangays. Further, it was reported that Brgy. Vira was not included as a beneficiary due to absence of a water source.
63. As to the Municipality of Agoo, La Union, it had also requested sub-project realignment from originally listed WBs to Barangays that are not among NAPC's WBs. The LGU initially received a letter dated August 16, 2018 from the DILG, informing them that it is a beneficiary of five SALINTUBIG sub-projects, designated for Barangays Balawarte, Capas, Purok, San Nicolas West and San Roque West.
64. In a letter to the DILG dated October 2, 2018, the LGU requested for modification/realignment of two listed barangays, Balawarte and San Nicolas West, considering that their water supply projects had already been completed. The LGU proposed reallocating these sub-projects to Brgys. San Manuel Sur and Sta. Rita Norte.
65. A subsequent request of the LGU dated November 15, 2018, sought to reallocate the Brgy. Capas sub-project to San Julian East due to the issues over ownership of the proposed water source of the former.
66. However, DILG-Region I, in a letter dated January 28, 2019, denied all three reallocation requests from LGU-Agoo, La Union based on the following:

- a) The originally identified barangays were included in the list of priority projects endorsed by the RDC Region I, while the proposed replacement barangays were not;
  - b) Modification/transfer of location of project is not permitted under DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2018-47, a provision that also remains in the draft FY 2019 LGSF-SALINTUBIG Guidelines; and
  - c) The FY 2019 National Expenditure Program (NEP) for the LGSF specifically identifies the approved project locations, and any changes or modifications to these locations are not allowed.
67. The sub-projects for Brgys. Balawarte and San Nicolas West were implemented and completed. However, the sub-project for Brgy. Capas was eventually canceled after site inspections revealed limitations in the available water sources. As a result, the allocated funds were assessed to be insufficient to cover the cost of constructing a functional water system based on the drafted program of works.
68. In 2022, a separate water project was implemented in Brgy. Capas, funded by the DPWH amounting to ₱25 million. The project involved the construction of a deep well, which has since provided residents with access to water and remains operational to date. However, LGU-Agoon, La Union is uncertain about the exact number of households currently benefiting from the system and whether Brgy. Capas has officially been removed from the list of waterless communities.
69. DILG explained that for LGSF-funded projects, realignments are strictly prohibited, while MOA-based projects may be realigned only before MOA signing as the LGU has already certified the feasibility of the project.
70. When asked how displaced LGUs would be prioritized in future funding cycles, DILG stated that it regularly updates its master list and coordinates with Regional Offices for monitoring of their eligibility and readiness for implementation. However, audit validation found monitoring lapses, such as inconsistent reporting for sub-projects listed as completed in the SubayBAYAN system. The DILG Management commented that these data are currently being updated in the SubayBAYAN system.
71. The DILG stated that beneficiary reallocation and fund realignments cannot be avoided due to urgent needs and operational challenges encountered during project implementation. While these adjustments may have temporarily deferred the provision of water supply services to some originally targeted waterless communities, the DILG remains committed to ensuring that they are prioritized in subsequent funding cycles.
72. We also inquired about DILG's plans or strategies for updating the list to ensure it accurately reflects current water access situation in the country and to minimize realignments and reallocations, given the challenges

observed in beneficiary targeting and the instances of reallocation, and considering that the list of 455 WMs and 1,353 WBs has reportedly not been updated since 2011. However, this concern was still referred to NAPC.

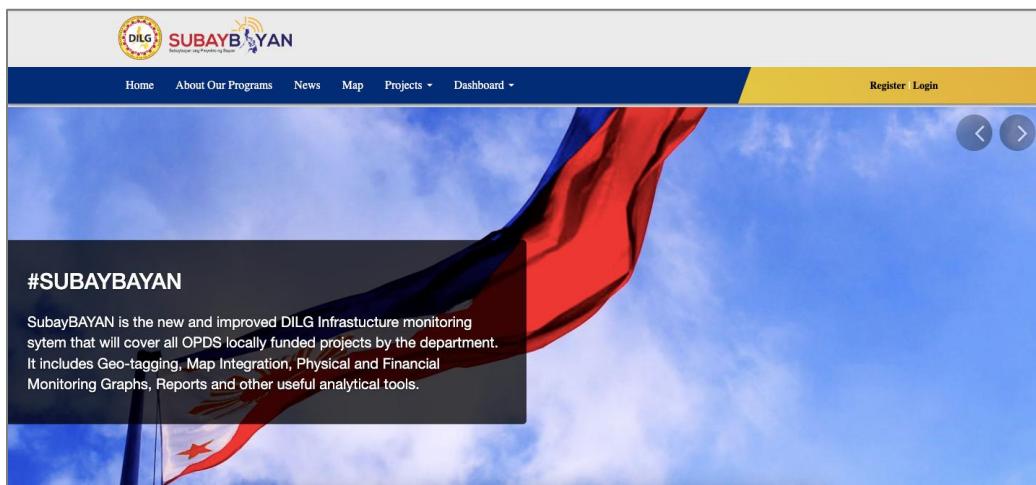
73. **For 2019 SALINTUBIG sub-projects.** The 2019 RDC-endorsed list showed a total of 1,749 SALINTUBIG sub-projects for 555 LGUs nationwide. Of these, 384 sub-projects were allocated a total of ₱1.5 billion, while the remaining 1,365 sub-projects did not receive funding.
74. Our review of the 2019 RDC list showed that a number of LGUs received funding even though they were not included in the NAPC list. This suggests that LGUs funded under SALINTUBIG were also drawn from the RDC-endorsed list, not just from the NAPC list, wherein the DILG clarified that LGUs included in the NAPC list are not automatically prioritized for funding over those in RDC-endorsed list.
75. The DILG also clarified that the total funding requirement for RDC-endorsed water supply projects amounted to P16.81 billion, but the budget allocation for the FY 2019 SALINTUBIG Program was only P1.5 billion. Thus, only 384 RDC-endorsed sub-projects were funded.
76. **For 2020 SALINTUBIG sub-projects.** The DILG also provided the list of LGUs compliant with “MWSSMP as of July 30, 2025”. A review of this list against the 2020 SALINTUBIG funding shows that LGUs funded in 2020 have complied with MWSSMP.
77. Overall, the absence of a central, updated, and reliable database on waterless areas, the lack of a systematic validation mechanism, and weak coordination between NAPC and DILG contributed to the implementation of projects in unvalidated LGUs. As a result, resources were not always directed to the waterless and most underserved communities.
78. Meanwhile, 115 WMs and 230 WBs that were originally identified as among the most in need remained ungraduated, delaying the delivery of intended benefits from the SALINTUBIG Program.
79. We therefore conclude that while expanding water access is a national demand, ensuring that the most disadvantaged communities are prioritized requires a regularly updated database, consistent beneficiary targeting process, and effective multi-stakeholder collaboration.
80. Nonetheless, the DILG stated that they are continuously gathering and updating the data on water access through field validation.
81. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**

- a) Strengthen the targeting and prioritization process by establishing a centralized and regularly updated database on the water system of all communities nationwide. This database should be developed in coordination with relevant agencies such as NAPC and LGUs to ensure data are responsive to the needs of the communities;
- b) Implement periodic validation and reassessment of beneficiary communities using relevant data to guide planning and ensure that funds are allocated to areas most in need; and
- c) Include in the funding priority the 115 WMs and 230 WBs, after verifying that these are still waterless areas.

### Discrepancies in the reported accomplishment within the SubayBAYAN system

82. In line with the identified 455 WMs and 1,353 WBs as program beneficiaries, the Program targeted areas where over 50% of the population lacked access to potable water, with the goal of enabling them to “graduate” once the threshold was surpassed.
83. By expanding physical access to water systems in its target areas, the DILG estimated that the SALINTUBIG program approximately reached 7.4 million individual beneficiaries or the equivalent of approximately 1.5 million households, through the completion of 2,821 water supply projects nationwide.
84. To support these figures, data on household beneficiaries and population served are uploaded by the respective LGUs into SubayBAYAN, DILG’s official platform in monitoring and reporting of the progress of implementation of all Locally-Funded Projects, including those under SALINTUBIG, administered by the OPDS.

**Figure 6: Screen capture of the DILG SubayBAYAN portal**



Source: SubayBAYAN portal

85. According to DILG, the procedures for data gathering, validation and updating are integrated within the SubayBAYAN system. It is the mechanism in place for LGUs to report target household beneficiaries to the DILG after the project completion. However, upon verification of the number of household beneficiaries in the SubayBAYAN system, it was noted that not all beneficiaries are recorded on a per-household basis, as some were recorded on an individual basis. As a result, the audit team could not determine the actual number of household beneficiaries using the SubayBAYAN system.
86. Audit also noted variations in the reported total number of SALINTUBIG water supply and sanitation (WSS) systems across different datasets. Based on the consolidated validation of project records covering FYs 2012 to 2020, the audit recognizes 2,821 completed SALINTUBIG WSS systems as the official total for purposes of assessing program accomplishments and outcomes. It is reported that the discrepancies in the number of sub-projects reflected in the SubayBAYAN system includes multiple entries encoded by the LGUs. This issue stemmed from system glitches encountered during the data migration process from the previous Project Physical Monitoring System (PPMS) to the new SubayBAYAN portal.
87. The observed discrepancies highlight the need for strengthened data validation, standardization of reporting metrics, and periodic reconciliation of monitoring databases to ensure the reliability of program performance information.
88. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to ensure strict compliance with the standard reporting methodology in uploading and updating data in the SubayBAYAN system as stipulated in the DILG MC. No. 2024-134.**
89. While the DILG implemented a wide range of capacity development interventions under the SALINTUBIG Program, not all LGUs and WSPs, particularly BWSAs, were able to attend or benefit from formal trainings on the operation and maintenance of water systems. Field validation revealed that there were BWSAs and barangay LGUs that lacked technical knowledge in system operation, water treatment, and basic maintenance.
90. To equip LGUs and WSPs, the DILG's WSS-PMO rolled out a comprehensive series of capacity building development interventions. These included formal training, one-on-one coaching and mentoring, as well as technical assistance. The strategy was organized across three critical phases:

Limited resources constrained DILG's ability to conduct all planned capacity development programs for community-based WSPs

## a) Pre-implementation:

- **Sector Assessment and Planning.** This is designed to strengthen the capacity of LGUs without Water Districts (WDs) and have water supply systems that are LGU-run, and to develop their water, sanitation, and hygiene investment plan which will be used in the prioritization of projects and investments.
- **Municipal Water Supply, Sewerage, and Sanitation Sector Plan (MW4SP) Preparation.** This is designed to assist participants in the creation of the MW4SP.
- **Water Source Development.** This is conducted to capacitate the LGUs and WSPs to develop their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the development of their water source, specifically on areas of Source Assessment, Well Drilling and Development, Pump Design and Selection, and Well and Pump Maintenance.
- **Community Organizing and Skills Enhancement using Rights-Based Approach.** This is conducted to train the participants in the organization of their BWSA and to strengthen their capacity in the management of their water supply system. The rights-based approach being applied in community organizing is anchored on the fundamental human rights giving all community members the opportunity to be heard, participate in decision-making for the design and maintenance of the system.
- **Feasibility Study Preparation.** This training is conducted to train and coach the Municipal WATSAN Councils in the preparation of a technical proposal and a work plan for the installation of water supply and sanitation project. This Feasibility Study determines the viability of the project proposal and covers the assessment of proposed water sources where their volume and quality are measured in dry months and checked against the standards for water supply.
- **Detailed Engineering Design (DED) Preparation.** This training aims to capacitate the project implementers in the LGUs in the preparation of their DED for water supply and sanitation projects. This covers site survey, pipe network design and analysis (hydraulic analysis), design of pumping machinery and accessories, tanks, transmission and distribution, water treatment facilities, and other system components.

## b) Implementation:

- **Construction Supervision and Fund Management.** This training enhances the skills of the participants in the supervision of the construction of water supply and sanitation projects and informs them of the financial aspect of project implementation.
- **Human Rights-Based Local Water and Sanitation Governance and Strategic Communications.** This advocacy training intends to orient and train LGUs on the human rights-

based approach, its concepts, framework and challenges as applied to local water and sanitation governance.

c) Sustainability:

- **Operations and Maintenance for LGU-Managed Water Supply Projects.** This develops the capacities of the Municipal WATSAN Councils and LGUs concerning the proper operations and management of their water supply systems, and to educate about tariff-setting, various management models, and other institutional, financial, and technical aspects.
- **Performance Benchmarking and Tariff-Setting of Water Utilities.** This is intended for the WSPs to benchmark or assess the performance of their water utilities, especially those managed by LGUs.
- **Ring-Fencing of Books of Accounts of LGUs on Water Systems and Strategic Business Planning for LGU-Run Water Utilities.** This is to orient the participants on the detailed systems and procedures of ring-fencing and business planning, such as understanding the principles and concepts of financial ring-fencing of water utility operations and know the activities involved in implementing the system, familiarizing them with business planning and performance contracting as governance and performance improvement tools, and guide them on the conduct of utility reform initiatives on the LGU-run water utilities.
- **Water Safety Plan Preparation.** This is to train those who manage the water supply systems to prevent or minimize the contamination of the water source, remove contamination through treatment, and prevent contamination during storage, distribution, and handling or drinking water.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies.** This is to provide basic knowledge and practical skills in the implementation of basic water, sanitation, and hygiene, the danger of diarrhea, cholera, and other diseases.

91. Through these efforts, a total of 1,373 LGUs and 842 WSPs received capacity development interventions covering a wide array of topics, from project planning to financial management.
92. Despite the comprehensive design and the high volume of trained participants, our fieldwork validation revealed a gap between the intended training coverage and its actual reach among the water system operators such as the BWSAs and barangay LGUs.
93. On the validation of 17 barangay WSPs operating completed SALINTUBIG systems, we noted that at least four were not provided with formal training. Similarly, three out of 11 BWSAs did not attend any SALINTUBIG capacity building program.

94. Interviews with WSP representatives provided further insights, as follows:
- The BWSA in Brgy. Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato reported being "instructed" only on how to operate the system by the construction team, thus, was not formally trained.
  - The BWSA in Brgy. Dagup, Bagulin, La Union, and the LGU in Brgy. Salvacion, Basey, Samar, both admitted that due to the lack of training and knowledge of treatment facilities the application of chlorine to the reservoir was just estimated, which is a high-risk practice.
  - The LGU of Brgy. Binanalán, Santa Rita, Samar, was completely unaware that trainings were even provided under the program.
  - In Brgy. Macabasa, Alamada, North Cotabato, a change in management from a private caretaker to the barangay LGU occurred in October 2024. The barangay was not able to attend any training, although the municipality expressed plans to provide seminars on operations and maintenance, including water meter reading and plumbing.
95. When inquired about the training of BWSAs, the DILG confirmed that training modules on operation, maintenance, financial management, and tariff setting are among the training courses. However, they cited financial constraints as the reason that only 51 BWSAs LGUs have been trained to date.
96. The lack of essential trainings has severe consequences, directly affecting the sustainability of the infrastructure investment:
- **System Functionality Failure.** Two of the three untrained BWSA WSPs are now non-operational because their pumps are damaged while the water system of one of the four untrained barangay LGUs (Brgy. Binanalán, Santa Rita, Samar) is also non-operational due to a broken pump and the inability to afford repair or replacement.
  - **Clamor for Knowledge.** Untrained BWSA WSPs and barangay officials overwhelmingly expressed a strong interest in crucial trainings like operations and maintenance, proper chlorination/filtration, bookkeeping, troubleshooting, and pump maintenance. The officials from Brgy. Colina-Dalag, Iloilo, resorted to asking other individuals for guidance on repairs, highlighting the immediate operational need.
97. The failure to adequately transfer critical O&M and financial management skills to the BWSAs and barangay LGUs has led to unsafe water treatment practices and the premature failure to sustain the water systems, directly contradicting the program's core principle of self-sustainability.
98. **Regional Water and Sanitation Hubs (RHubs).** On the other hand, the audit team also recognize the creation of the Regional Water and Sanitation Hubs (RHubs) in various regions across the country. These are composed

of higher educational institutions (universities/colleges), water districts, the private sector, and NGOs that assist the DILG in the capacity building of the LGUs.<sup>6</sup>

99. According to DILG, the key contributions of the RHubs to the SALINTUBIG Program are the provision of technical support and conduct of training to LGUs. This includes the following:
- Preparation of Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan (MWSSMP);
  - Preparation of Detailed Engineering Design (DED);
  - Operation and Maintenance for LGU-Managed Water Supply Project; and
  - Operation and Maintenance for BWSA-Managed Water Supply Project.
100. The table below presents sample trainings and seminars conducted by RHubs as provided by the DILG.

**Table 9: List of Trainings and Seminars conducted by RHubs**

Training/Seminar	Venue	Attendees	Date
<b>Integrated Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (iWash) Sector Planning</b>	Metro Vegan Inn, Vigan City Ilocos Sur	Municipalities within Ilocos Sur	September 6-7 2018
<b>iWash Assessment</b>	Region I	Pozorubbio, Pangasinan; Bacnotan, La Union; Bangar, La Union; San Juan, Ilocos Sur; Sarrat, Ilocos Norte; Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte	June 6-8, 2018 and June 19-22, 2018
<b>Sector Planning Workshop for Region I Batch 1</b>	El Cielito Inn, Baguio City	LGU Officials	November 2-6, 2020
<b>Sector Planning Workshop for Region I Batch 2</b>	Melsol's Hotel and Resort, Bantay Ilocos Sur	LGU Officials	November 9-13, 2020
<b>Orientation on BWASA Operation and Management</b>	Provinces of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato East Asia Royale Hotel, General Santos City; Cotabato Province Boylon Pensione Plaza, Kidapawan	Barangay Officials	November 09 to 10, 2021; November 11 to 12, 2021; November 18 to 19, 2021

<sup>6</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular 2019-77 dated May 23, 2019, page 5

Training/Seminar	Venue	Attendees	Date
	City; Sarangani Province		
<b>Formulation and Finalization of the MW4SP Preparation-iWASH Approach for the remaining LGUs</b>	Viajera Hotel, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato	LGU Officials	November 20-22, 2019
<b>Conduct of Orientation Workshop on Achieving the IWASH Governance thru the Organization of Integrity Monitors Group</b>	GF AVR, Municipal Building, Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat	CSOs, LGU and Barangay Officials	September 9-10, 2019
<b>A 2-day Orientation and Workshop on Achieving the IWASH Governance Approach thru the Organization of Integrity Monitors Group (IMG)</b>	ABC Function Hall, LGU Building, Malungon, Sarangani Province	CSOs, LGU and Barangay Officials	September 12-13, 2019

Source: DILG data

101. In addition, according to the OPDS 2019 Annual Report, 50 LGUs were coached and mentored by the RHubs in the preparation of Feasibility Study, DED, and in water source validation.
102. To support the RHubs, the DILG conducted a four-day training course in 2017 dubbed as "Sustainable Delivery iWaSH Programs, Systems and Facilities for SALINTUBIG and Provision of Potable Water Programs, "to strengthen the capacity of the Regional WATSAN Hubs in providing capacity building programs, services and knowledge products to waterless communities.<sup>7</sup>
103. Furthermore, based on the OPDS 2020 Annual Report, the DILG conducted training on Strengthening of RHubs to capacitate the Regional Wash Hubs on Sector Assessment and Planning, to cover more LGUs in providing various capacity interventions on water supply, sanitation and hygiene. The trained participants were added to the pool of speakers for

<sup>7</sup> DILG readies waterless LGUs to implement and maintain water and sanitation projects, *available at* <https://dilg.gov.ph/news/DILG-readies-waterless-LGUs-to-implement-and-maintain-water-and-sanitation-projects/NC-2017-1163> (last accessed Dec 17, 2025)

the eventual roll-out to the LGUs. It was done in four batches covering RHubs in 15 LGUs with 290 RHubs members attending the workshop.<sup>8</sup>

104. However, during field validation, two DILG Regional Offices stated that these RHubs are no longer functioning, thus, not successful.
105. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
  - a) **Ensure that the transfer of operational knowledge is not an optional activity but a requirement, before the water system is accepted and turned over, by providing trainings on O & M, troubleshooting, basic bookkeeping, and proper chlorination/water quality management mandatory for all BWSA members and barangay LGU personnel;**
  - b) **Continue to provide refresher and post-implementation training programs to address staff turnover and evolving operational challenges; and**
  - c) **Continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness and sustainability of capacity-building interventions.**

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<sup>8</sup> 2020 OPDS Annual Report

## Several gaps in the implementation of the SALINTUBIG program undermined the sustainability of the completed water supply and sanitation systems

106. The DILG, as the lead implementing agency, encountered several issues and challenges during its oversight of the SALINTUBIG program. These challenges were observed through document review and during the audit team's ocular inspections of completed water supply systems. A significant number of WSS systems were found to be non-operational or only partially operational, indicating issues on long-term sustainability and compliance with program standards. The key issues noted include:

- a) Instances of leniency in the implementation of eligibility assessments by the DILG-ROs;
- b) Non-compliance with SALINTUBIG Guidelines on pre-implementation requirements;
- c) Components prescribed in the SALINTUBIG Project Minimum Standards for efficient, safe and long-term functionality of the WSS systems were not all available and functioning;
- d) 32 out of 45 completed WSS systems were found non-operational upon inspection while 32 exhibited various operational issues;
- e) Issues on potability of water;
- f) Minimal to non-collection of water tariffs, undermining the financial viability and sustainability of operations;
- g) Ineffective management and oversight by BWSAs;
- h) Identified sanitation risks in two WSS systems, posing potential threats to water safety and public health;
- i) Limited coordination among key program stakeholders, resulting in gaps in planning, monitoring, and technical support; and
- j) Involvement of marginalized groups in program implementation.

Instances of leniency in the documentation of eligibility assessments by the DILG-ROs

107. The DILG ROs were able to conduct eligibility assessments on SALINTUBIG to LGUs. However, the Audit Team could not fully assess whether the implementing LGUs had the required capacity to implement the program due to incomplete data.

108. The SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines prescribe specific criteria for the eligibility assessment of LGUs or implementing partners from FYs 2012 to 2020 as presented in *Appendix IV*.

109. Further, the LGU that has jurisdiction over the proposed sub-project shall be the Implementing Partner, except in cases where such LGU is ineligible to implement the same, in which case, the DILG RO shall implement the sub-project or may recommend the Provincial Government or any other entity as the Implementing Partner, if eligible.
110. Section 6.3.2 of the DILG MC No. 2020-089 states that the latest data from the Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS) of the DILG regarding LDC Functionality and GFH shall serve as the basis of the OPDS, through its WSSPMO, in determining the compliance of the MLGUs with the required governance reforms, as well for the endorsement/s of the List of Eligible MLGUs to the DBM for fund release.
111. Moreover, Section 6.3.3 of the same MC states that the latest data of DBM on the Assessment of Public Financial Management (PFM) Systems shall be the basis of the OPDS, through its WSSPMO, in determining the compliance of the MLGUs endorsing of the List of Eligible MLGUs for fund release.
112. To verify compliance with these eligibility criteria, we conducted field validation of 58 sample sub-projects. Review and analysis of documents, database and interview results, revealed that the DILG RO has conducted eligibility assessment in accordance with the particular provisions of SALINTUBIG Guidelines from 2012 to 2020, such that:
  - A. 18 out of 58 projects were not among the NAPC List of WMs and WBs;
  - B. 58 projects were assessed properly by DILG ROs as to SGH/GFH requirements;
  - C. Absence of LGU Eligibility Assessment Guide (Annex B of SALINTUBIG Guidelines) to show that it was conducted by the DILG ROs; and
  - D. All sub-projects implemented by LGUs from 2015-2017 have been fully liquidated.
113. **Included in the NAPC List of WMs and WBs.** Out of the 58 sub-projects we validated, 18 were not included in the NAPC list of waterless areas. This is thoroughly discussed in the previous chapter on *pages 15 to 16*.
114. **SGH/GFH compliance.** We secured copies of and reviewed the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) or GFH compliance relative to year of project funding of the beneficiary LGUs, presented in *Appendix V*. Based on the presented table of the same *Appendix V*, LGUs that are SGH/GFH passers implemented their respective sub-projects. Meanwhile, projects from LGUs with failed SGH/GFH were assigned to the Provincial Government, except for 2018 to 2020 projects where failed LGUs were no longer eligible to implement. Review showed that the SGH/GFH requirements were assessed properly by the DILG ROs in the listed cases.

115. **On Capacity Assessment.** During various meetings with the DILG-OPDS, they cited various water programs and initiatives since 1978, including: 1) Barangay water program (1978-1990); 2) Rural Water Supply Project (RWSP) (1991-1995); 3) United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (1994-1997); 4) Rural Water Supply Project – Asian Development Bank (ADB) (1998-2003); 5) Phase 5 RWSP – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (2000-2007); and LGU urban initiatives. According to the DILG-OPDS, available data from these past programs provided the necessary tools for identifying LGU capacities, and therefore, assessments were not necessary.
116. In the absence of the 2012 and 2013 assessment, the DILG utilized the MDG-F 1919 (“Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services with Active Participation of the Poor”) that complements the SALINTUBIG Program. This became the basis of the capacity development interventions.
117. Further, the SALINTUBIG Guidelines require the conduct of eligibility assessments by the concerned DILG ROs to determine the capacity of implementing partners. The eligibility assessment documents for the sub-project implementation in 2015 and 2016 are expected to include the results of Capacity Assessments conducted by the DILG ROs. However, based on available records, such documents were not provided to confirm compliance, as shown in *Table 10*:

**Table 10: Requested documents from DILG ROs on Eligibility Assessment**

DILG RO	REQUESTED DOCUMENTS
Region I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-Laoag City (2016), as assessed by DILG-Region I</li> </ul>
Region VI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment Guide for LGU-Dueñas (2015), as assessed by DILG-Region VI</li> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-President Roxas (2016), as assessed by DILG-Region VI</li> </ul>
Region VIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment Guide for LGU-Burauen (2015), as assessed by DILG-Region VIII</li> </ul>
Region XII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-Alamada (2016), as assessed by DILG-Region XII</li> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment Guide for LGU-Matalam (2015), as assessed by DILG-Region XII</li> </ul>
Region XIII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-Basilisa (2016), as assessed by DILG-Region XIII</li> </ul>

*Source: COA Review of Documents*

118. DILG OPDS informed that the guidelines provide that the DILG ROs will conduct the eligibility assessment. These DILG ROs were not able to provide a copy of the accomplished eligibility assessment forms. It was claimed that these documents were already archived.
119. We also noted certain cases where capacity assessment documents were submitted but did not follow the prescribed format under the SALINTUBIG Program. For instance, the 2015 LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-Basilisa and the 2016 LGU Capacity Assessment for LGU-Libjo were submitted. However, the forms used were those intended for the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) approach, prepared by the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) and signed by the Municipal Mayor, instead of the prescribed LGU Capacity Assessment under the

SALINTUBIG Program, which should have been assessed by the DILG RO.

120. We inquired with the DILG regarding the use of the BUB Capacity Assessment Forms instead of the prescribed SALINTUBIG Program’s Capacity Assessment Guide. The DILG explained that the BUB Program, implemented from 2013 to 2016, utilized the same capacity assessment template (Annex B) as the SALINTUBIG Program. Upon review, the Annex B under the BUB Program Guidelines provided by DILG was found to be identical to that of the SALINTUBIG Program.
121. **Liquidation of SALINTUBIG Funds.** Another eligibility criterion requires “no unliquidated funds within six months after turnover of completed sub-projects for previous funded sub-projects”. Based on the DILG OPDS matrix on funding and the status of liquidation, 37 of the 58 sampled sub-projects were from 2015 to 2017. Our review showed that all SALINTUBIG Projects implemented by these Municipalities had been fully liquidated.
122. **2018 to 2020 Requirements.** Relative to the 2018 to 2020 implementation, we compiled the status of required submissions from the concerned LGUs/implementing partners, covering key documents for compliance with the release of funds. These include (a) results of the DILG LDC Functionality Assessment; (b) results of the Assessment of Public Financial Management (PFM) Systems and adoption of corresponding PFM improvement measures; (c) Notarized Certification prepared by the Municipal Engineer and Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, and signed by the LCE; and (d) the Project Implementation Schedule for each project prepared by the ME and approved by the LCE. As shown in *Table 11*, several of these documents remain unsubmitted.

**Table 11: Requested documents on concerned LGUs required for 2018 to 2020 SALINTUBIG Fund Release**

LGUs/ Implementing Partners	Project Details	Requested Documents (refer to paragraph 122)			
		a	b	c	d
Dueñas, Iloilo	2019 Sub-project for Brgy. Pader	✓	✓	✓	X
Matalom, Leyte	2019 Sub-project for Brgy. Caningag	✓	X	✓	✓
Alamada, North Cotabato	2018 Sub-project for Brgys. Mapurok-Pacao, Macabasa and Pigcawaran	✓	✓	✓	X
Magpet, North Cotabato	2020 Sub-project for Brgys. Basak and Temporán	✓	✓	X Basak ✓ Temporán	✓ Basak X Temporán
Sto. Nino, Cagayan	2020 Sub-project for Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur and Norte	✓	✓	✓	X
San Isidro, Isabela	2020 Sub-project for Brgy. Gomez	✓	✓	✓	X

Legend:  
 ✓ – Document or alternative document already provided.  
 X – Document not yet provided.

Source: COA Review of Documents

123. DILG OPDS said that the requested documents are the required documents for the release of fund and were submitted to DILG Regional Offices.
124. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Require DILG ROs to completely assess the capacity of LGUs or Implementing Partners to implement the program in accordance with the prescribed policy guidelines; and**
  - b) **Mandate centralized archiving of all eligibility assessments.**
125. Review of requested documents on the selected LGUs/Implementing Partners revealed that several sub-projects proceeded despite incomplete requirements. Missing documents included feasibility studies, water source validation reports, environmental compliance certificates, proofs of land ownership, and essential technical documents such as POWs and DEDs. This lack of documents raised questions on technical assurance at project completion.
126. For the sub-project preparation, review and approval in 2014 to 2017, documentary requirements are detailed in *Appendix VI*.
127. A detailed review of the DILG checklists of documentary requirements, as well as the documents submitted by the LGUs to DILG relative to the implementation of sub-projects revealed that the projects were implemented despite incomplete documents, as follows (see *Table 12 below*):

**Table 12: Lacking Documentary Requirements**

LGU/Implementing Partner	Project Details	Lacking documents
Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	2015, Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Melgar for ₱1 million, Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNO/FPIC from NCIP</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> </ul>
Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	2015, Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Roma for ₱1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNO/FPIC from NCIP</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> </ul>
Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	2015, Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Puerto Princesa for ₱1 million, Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for Water Permit</li> <li>• CNO/FPIC from NCIP</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> </ul>
Matalam, North Cotabato	2015, Construction of Potable Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subproject proposal or Simplified Feasibility Study (SFS)</li> <li>• Application for issuance of water permit</li> </ul>

Non-compliance with SALINTUBIG Guidelines on pre-implementation requirements

LGU/Implementing Partner	Project Details	Lacking documents
	Supply in Brgy. Marbel for ₱1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification from ME of no RROW issues</li> <li>• Water source validation</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> <li>• CNO/ FPIC from NCIP</li> <li>• Geohazard Certification</li> <li>• DED</li> </ul>
<b>New Nazareth, Basilisa</b>	2016, Construction of Potable WS Level III in Brgy. Nazareth for ₱3 million, Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Investment Plan (AIP)</li> <li>• Geohazard Certification</li> <li>• Application for Water Permit</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> <li>• CNO/FPIC from NCIP</li> </ul>
<b>Libjo, Dinagat Islands</b>	2016, Construction of Potable WS in Brgy. Kanihaan for ₱2 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subproject Proposal or Simplified Feasibility Study (SFS)</li> <li>• Executive order on the Creation of WATSAN Council and WATSAN Team</li> <li>• Bank Certification on Trust Account</li> <li>• Certificate of land ownership</li> <li>• Potability test/ Bacteriological test</li> <li>• Geo-resistivity test</li> <li>• Annual Investment Plan (AIP)</li> <li>• Geohazard Certification</li> <li>• Application for Water Permit</li> <li>• Proof of securing ECC/CNC from DENR</li> <li>• CNO/FPIC from NCIP</li> <li>• Source Validation Certificate / Certification from Municipal Engineering</li> </ul>
<b>Alamada, North Cotabato</b>	2016, Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area), Completed 2018 in Brgys. Bao, Rangayen & Pigcawaran for ₱12 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification from ME of no RROW issues</li> <li>• Certification from ME that source is adequate</li> <li>• DED</li> </ul>
<b>Bagulin, La Union</b>	2017, Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Dagup for ₱12 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• POW</li> <li>• DED</li> </ul>
<b>Pilar, Capiz</b>	2017, Construction of Level III Water Supply System (in Brgys Yating and Tabun-acan) for ₱12 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application for issuance of water permit</li> </ul>

Source: COA Review of Documents

- 128. It must also be noted that this discussion covers only lacking documentary requirements from 2015-2017. Documentary compliance prior to 2015 was not evaluated fully due to archiving concerns.
- 129. **On Good Practices During Pre-Implementation.** During the interview with DILG Regional Office VIII, we noted the establishment of the DED Clinic as an additional intervention under its capacity building initiatives. The DED Clinic was introduced to support LGUs experiencing difficulties in preparing DEDs.
- 130. In addition, Regional Office VIII implemented one-on-one coaching sessions to provide more targeted technical assistance. These sessions allowed the RO to guide directly the LGUs, particularly in addressing complex aspects of DED preparation. These initiatives demonstrate a proactive approach in addressing capacity gaps among LGUs.
- 131. The DILG-OPDS clarified that there were no guidelines pertaining to the conduct of the DED Clinic and one-on-one coaching to strengthen the documentation of this good practice. Such were initiatives of the Regional Office to fast track the preparation of technical documents.
- 132. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to implement the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
  - a) **Strengthen the enforcement of documentary compliance before project approval and fund release;**
  - b) **Institutionalize effective practices to address persistent LGU capacity gaps; and**
  - c) **Establish stronger accountability mechanisms for ROs and LGUs with recurring documentation deficiencies.**
- 133. Annex M of the 2020 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines prescribes that construction of a new water system must include all components necessary to supply potable water to target beneficiaries. *Table 13* presents the essential infrastructure and organizational components required for a functional Level II or Level III water supply system. It guides implementers in designing, constructing and managing systems in accordance with technical and operational standards.

Components prescribed in the SALINTUBIG Project Minimum Standards for efficient, safe and long-term functionality of the WSS systems were not all available and functioning

**Table 13: Components of a Functional Level II and III Potable Water Supply and Sanitation System**

Component	Description
<b>1. Water Source Development</b>	
• For the spring source	Intake box/es (which can also be the reservoir) with the capacity to contain the water being discharged by the spring.
• For a deep well water source	Deep well with desired yield and quality

Component	Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For a surface water source</li> </ul>	Intake structure with a concrete/permanent enclosure to withstand water pressure
<b>2. Pumphouse, Electro-Mechanical Pump</b> (if the elevation of the water source is lower than the target beneficiary)	A structure that will house the water pump with the required type/capacity to drive/force the water to a reservoir
<b>3. Reservoir</b> (if the water discharge is not sufficient to supply and/or the water source elevation is lower than the target beneficiaries)	A reinforced concrete or steel storage tank that may be elevated or ground-mounted to store water equivalent to 25% of the average daily demand of the target area.
<b>4. Pipelines and other Appurtenances</b>	Installed pipes and other accessories to distribute water from the source to target beneficiaries, which include transmission lines, distribution lines, and service pipes.
<b>5. Tapstand</b> (For Level II Water System)	Communal public faucet with a concrete platform and a proper drainage system for excess water.
<b>6. Household Connections</b> (For Level III Water System)	Water service connection directly to the household.
<b>7. Treatment Facility with Housing and Power Supply</b>	A treatment facility, such as but not limited to a hypochlorinator, to ensure that the water is potable.
<b>8. Organized Water Service Providers</b>	Entities that will manage and maintain the water supply system.

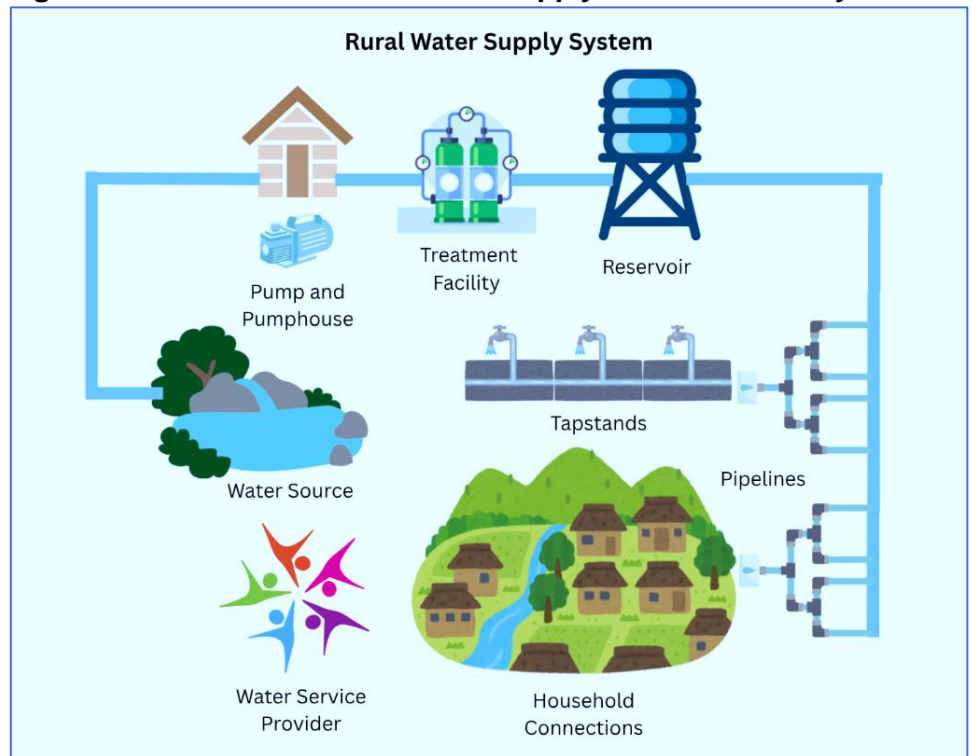
Source: Annex M of the FY 2020 SALINTUBIG Program Guidelines

134. According to the SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines, it is the LGUs' responsibility to ensure the quality of works in the implementation of projects in accordance with the approved designs, plans and specifications, consistent with the relevant provisions of applicable laws, circulars and issuances. Consequently, the LGUs are required to invite the DILG during major activities such as well drilling, source validation and/or pumping test, pipe laying, pressure and leakage testing, water sampling for potability and punch listing and final inspection. The DILG is also tasked to conduct inspection and validation of work accomplishments prior to fund release for MOA-based sub-projects.
135. According to the DILG, compliance with the national standards and use of appropriate materials and specifications, are regularly monitored throughout the project implementation. Inspections are conducted at various stages, while the Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (MLGOO), as the local counterpart of DILG, provides the majority of the technical assistance and carries out frequent site visits during project implementation.
136. We noted that the DILG and the implementing LGUs undertook measures to ensure that constructed water supply and sanitation systems generally conformed with the SALINTUBIG project minimum standards. These were primarily done through regular inspections and review of technical documents such as the DEDs, POWs, and Technical Drawings. Field validations confirmed that inspections were conducted at critical stages of

- construction while the LGU counterparts which are the MLGOOs provided continuous technical assistance.
137. Despite these efforts, several reported completed water systems were found to have incomplete, non-functional or missing critical components, thus, do not meet the operational requirements of Level II and Level III potable water supply systems. The absence of these essential components limited the systems' capacity to deliver adequate, safe and sustainable water to the intended beneficiaries.
  138. Meanwhile, the DILG ROs and POs had conducted inspections for sub-projects classified as high-risk or when requested by implementing LGUs. Inspection results were documented in an Aide Memoire, which contains a summary of findings, recommendations and agreements, or in a Post-Activity/Inspection Report.
  139. The DILG's strict adherence to its monitoring mandate helps ensure that construction works conform to technical standards and specifications, thereby improving the overall quality and reliability of the water systems. Regular inspections also facilitate early detection and correction of construction defects or deviations.
  140. The audit team requested copies of the planning documents such as DED, POWs and Technical Drawings for each project and reviewed the same to identify which components were included in the design of the water systems.
  141. Also, the audit team inspected the constructed water facilities using an Inspection Checklist Form based on project minimum standards. Inspections included geotagged photographs, validation of the existence of each component and assessment of the systems' operational condition. However, some components were not validated due to time constraints, distance and safety considerations.
  142. While 39 water projects were initially selected for validation based on the sampling plan, field inspections revealed that several implementers constructed multiple water systems under a single project, resulting in 45 water systems inspected (*see Appendix VII*).
  143. It was also noted that a number of originally selected barangay locations were also replaced due to several factors such as difficulty in water source identification and remote distance of the proposed location.
  144. To corroborate field data, the audit team also interviewed current water system providers and conducted surveys with household beneficiaries.

145. *Figure 7* illustrates how these components as shown in *Table 13* interconnect from water source to household distribution.

**Figure 7: Functional Potable Water Supply and Sanitation System**

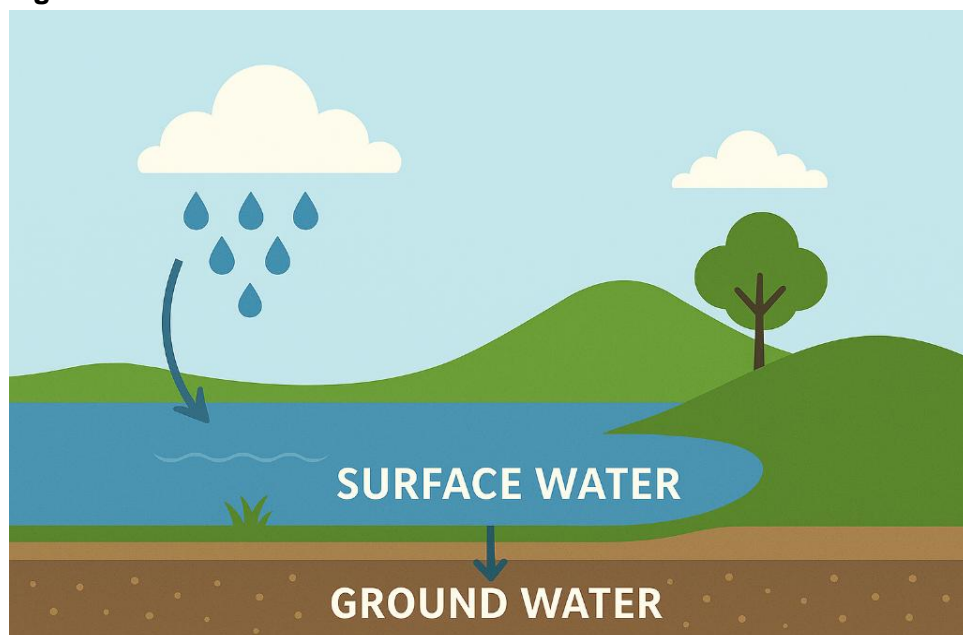


*Source: Prescribed SALINTUBIG Project Minimum Standards*

146. **Water Source:** Adequacy and reliability are the primary considerations in selecting a water source. Adequacy requires that the source can meet the projected water demand, while reliability is improved when sources are diversified and not reliant on a single supply point.
147. Water sources may be classified as rainwater, surface water or groundwater. Rainwater is a product of water vapor and accumulated in the atmosphere, which condenses and falls on the Earth's surface. Surface water is exposed to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff. It comes from rains, surface runoffs and groundwater, and includes rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, impounding reservoirs, seas and oceans. On the other hand, groundwater is that portion of water which has percolated beneath

the ground surface to form underground deposits called aquifers, which may be spring or a well.

**Figure 8: Classification of Water Sources**



*Source: Rural Water Supply Manual*

148. Surface water that is determined to need treatment is normally not a viable source because of the high cost of treatment and the general lack of expertise for the maintenance and operation of the appropriate treatment facilities. For these reasons, surface water is usually a last priority in selecting sources for rural water supply systems. Groundwater, by contrast, is generally better of quality, less costly to develop for use and usually provides more adequate supply in many areas in the country.
149. LGUs determine the appropriate water source following the established hierarchy (spring–well–surface water) and assess feasibility through discharge measurements. They are required to submit a Water Source Validation Report or a Certification from the Municipal Engineer on the technical feasibility of the proposed water source. In addition, a geo-resistivity study is required upon sub-project proposal for new construction with underground water source, which is a field survey that locates areas that have groundwater potential. Afterwards, a water quality test is conducted to assess the potability of the source.
150. Interviews with LGUs revealed water source issues in 28 of the inspected water facilities with validation photos presented in *Figures 9 and 10*. Specifically, 12 water sources were non-functional at the time of inspection, while the remaining 16, though functional, had insufficient or limited water supply. LGUs attributed these issues to various factors, including damages from natural calamities; over-extraction of water sources; and errors in


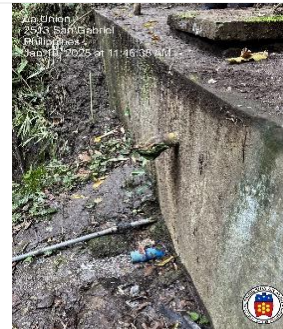


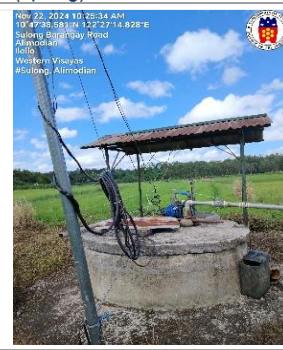




feasibility studies. These challenges forced the affected residents to seek alternative water sources for their daily needs, and in some cases, render the water systems non-operational. However, it should also be noted that not all selected water sources were inspected due to issues on terrain, distance and reported safety concerns.

**Figure 9: Non-Functional Water Sources Found During Field Validations**

<p>Dibuia North, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte (deep well)</p>	<p>Niug Sur, Sto. Nino, Cagayan (deep well)</p>	<p>Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo (deep well)</p>
<p>Awis, Leon, Iloilo (spring)</p>	<p>Caticugan, Santa Rita, Samar (spring)</p>	<p>Binanalán, Santa Rita, Samar (deep well)</p>
<p>Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato (deep well)</p>	<p>Roma, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands (surface)</p>	<p>Purok II, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands (deep well)</p>

Source: COA Inspection Photos

**Figure 10: Insufficient Water Sources Found During Field Validations**

		
<p>Dagup, Bagulin, La Union (spring)</p>	<p>Bucao, San Gabriel, La Union (spring)</p>	<p>Cullit, Camalaniugan, Cagayan (deep well)</p>
		
<p>Nabanaggan West, Lasam, Cagayan (deep well)</p>	<p>Sulong, Alimodian, Iloilo (dug well)</p>	<p>Angare, Duenas, Iloilo (dug well)</p>
		
<p>Paoy, Leon, Iloilo (deep well)</p>	<p>Osmena, Hinabangan, Samar (spring)</p>	<p>Purok I, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands (deep well)</p>

Source: COA Inspection Photos





151. These findings indicate that many water systems cannot provide adequate and reliable supply due to weaknesses in source assessment and planning. This compromised the sustainability and functionality of the water systems, underscoring the need for improved planning, source assessment and resilience measures in future project implementation.
152. **Electric Pumps:** Pumps are devices used to transfer water from one point to another with pressure to overcome the resistance along its path. This

component ensures water is pushed from the source to the reservoir, especially when elevation difference exist.

- 153. Out of the 45 inspected facilities, only 24 were designed with motor pumps, while the remaining 21 projects either rely on natural gravity or have been funded by other projects. Of these 24 sub-projects designed with pumps, six were found damaged at the time of inspection, and two were not powered by electricity, leading to service disruption (see Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Non-Functional/Damaged Pumps Found During Inspection**

Location	Photos
<p>Binanalan, Sta. Rita, Samar</p>	 <p>The motor pump was not working at the time of inspection; the operators cannot afford the expenses for its repair.</p>
<p>Capt. Fernando, Leon, Iloilo</p>	 <p>The submersible pump was found damaged at the time of inspection.</p>
<p>Paoy, Leon, Iloilo</p>	 <p>The submersible pump was damaged in November 2024.</p>



Location	Photos	
<p>Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato</p>	 <p>Functional for two years only.</p>	
<p>Melgar, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands</p>	 <p>Pump was already not functional even before being totally damaged by Typhoon Odette in December 2021.</p>	
<p>Purok II, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands</p>	 <p>The submersible pump was damaged by Typhoon Odette in December 2021 and was no longer operational upon inspection.</p>	
<p>Purok I, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands</p>	 <p>Due to irregular supply/purchase of diesel, there is intermittent water supply in the area.</p>	





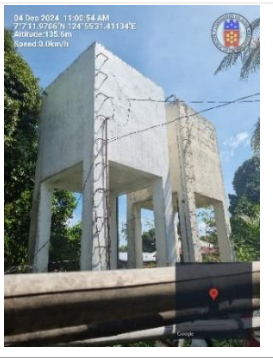
Location	Photos	
Rangayen, Alamada, North Cotabato		
<p>The pump is solar-powered, which was funded by the LGU. However, during the rainy season, the solar panels cannot sustain the required electricity for the pump.</p>		

Source: COA Inspection Photos

154. The functionality of the water supply systems that are dependent on pumps are adversely affected once the pumps are damaged. It led to service interruptions and halted operations for a period of time. These issues highlighted the importance of proper maintenance and reliable power supply to ensure continuous operation of water systems.
155. **Reservoirs:** Reservoirs are generally necessary in small distribution systems to balance supply and demand, maintain pressure, avoid total service interruption during pipeline repairs and allow uniform pump operation.
156. Out of the 45 inspected sub-projects, only 32 included reservoirs in their design, indicating that not all water systems were equipped with adequate storage facilities to regulate supply and demand. Among these, 12 reservoirs are found damaged or idle at the time of inspection, either due to natural calamities or because they were connected to non-operational water systems (see Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Non-Functional Reservoirs During Inspection**

Location	Photos	Location	Photos
Buciao, San Gabriel, La Union		San Antonio, Basey, Samar	

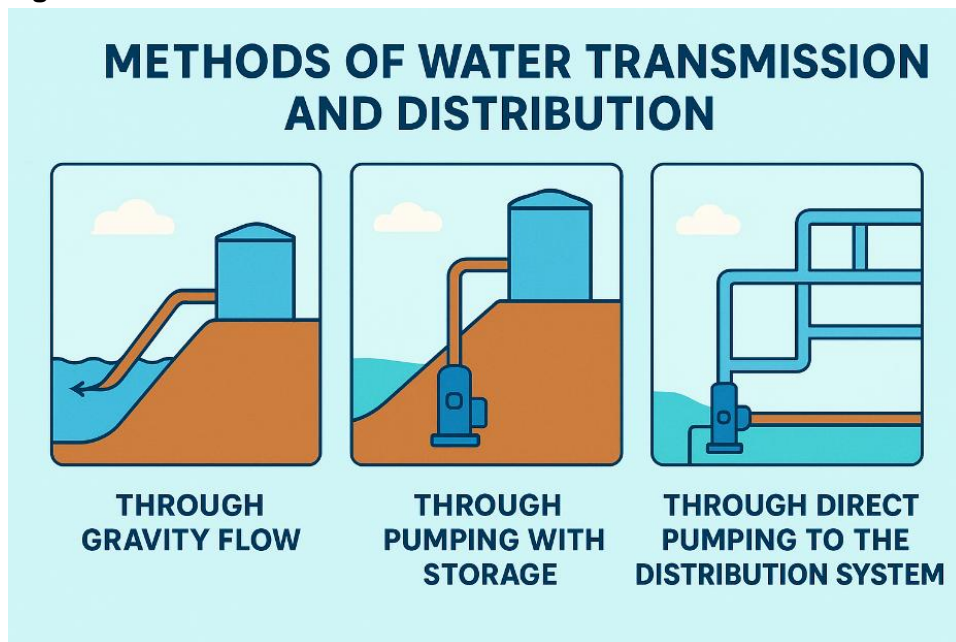
Location	Photos	Location	Photos
<p>Nabanaggan West, Lasam, Cagayan</p>		<p>Binanalán, Sta. Rita, Samar</p>	
<p>Ambulong, Leon, Iloilo</p>		<p>Rangayen, Alamada, North Cotabato</p>	 <p>The LGU upgraded the reservoir to steel tanks.</p>
<p>Awis, Leon, Iloilo</p>		<p>Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato</p>	
<p>Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo</p>		<p>Melgar, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands</p>	 <p>Damaged by Typhoon Odette in December 2021</p>

Location	Photos	Location	Photos
Taghuyan, Bureau, Leyte		Purok 2, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands	 Damaged by Typhoon Odette in December 2021.

Source: COA Inspection Photos

- 157. Non-functional reservoirs expose communities to water shortages and service disruptions. This emphasizes the need for improved design integration, regular maintenance and timely rehabilitation of reservoir facilities.
- 158. **Pipelines:** The transmission lines transport water from source to reservoir, if any, and to the distribution point, while the distribution lines deliver water from the reservoir to individual households. Transmission and distribution systems vary in size and complexity but they have the same basic purpose which is to deliver water from the source to the consumers.

Figure 13: Methods of Water Transmission and Distribution



Source: Rural Water Supply Manual

159. When the water source is significantly higher than the service area, gravity flow is ideal because it eliminates energy costs and reduces operational expenses, unlike systems requiring pumping (see *Figure 13 above*).
160. During inspection, it was noted that 14 of the evaluated water systems relied on gravity-flow for water transmission and distribution. These systems utilize natural elevation to move water from the source to storage tanks or directly to consumers without the need for pumping. As a result, the implementers were able to reduce the construction costs of the systems and the operating costs associated with these projects.
161. However, interview with LGUs revealed instances that caused damage to pipelines leading to temporary or prolonged service interruptions affecting households' access to safe and reliable water (see *Table 14*).

**Table 14: List of Damaged Pipelines Found During Inspection**

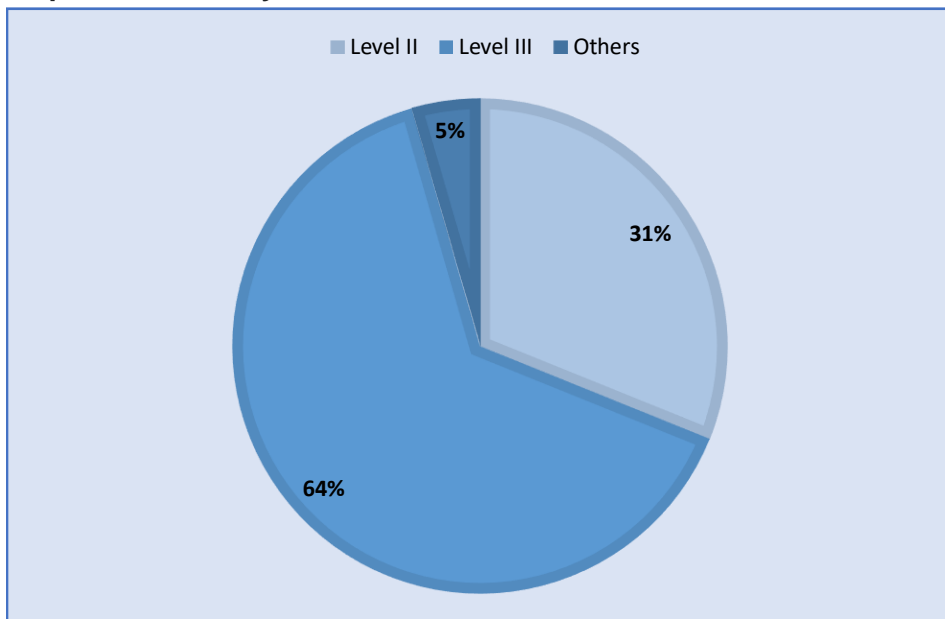
Location	Status during Inspection
Niug Sur, Sto. Niño , Cagayan	Distribution lines were damaged by the DPWH Road-Widening Project.
Fely and Eleonor, Maconacon, Isabela	Pipelines and tapstands were damaged by the DILG Road-Widening Project.
Mapurok, Alamada, North Cotabato	Pipelines are laid along the riverbank, which are damaged whenever heavy rains occur.

Source: COA Interview Notes

162. Upon inquiry with the LGUs concerned, the damaged distribution lines/pipelines have already been repaired, restoring normal water services in the Municipalities of Sto. Niño, Cagayan and Maconacon, Isabela.
163. While gravity-fed water systems offer significant advantages in terms of costing, their effectivity and reliability are heavily dependent on the integrity of their transmission and distribution pipelines. The reported damage to pipelines underscores the importance of proper pipeline design, strategic alignment with other infrastructure projects and the implementation of protective measures to ensure sustainability of gravity-fed water systems.
164. **Tapstands and Individual Service Connections:** In Level II water supply systems, water is distributed through tapstands strategically located within a cluster of households. These tapstands serve as shared water access points for communities that do not have individual household connections. On the other hand, Level III water systems offer a higher level of service by providing individual service connections directly to each household, enabling easier access to water for domestic use.
165. Most inspected systems were Level III, comprising 64%, while Level II accounted for 31%. The remaining 5% represented non-operational systems (see *Figure 14 below*). This reflects a general shift toward more advanced service levels.

166. Although there is progress toward higher service levels, the significant proportion of Level II systems (31%) indicates ongoing need for investment in upgrading water facilities, particularly in underserved areas.

**Figure 14: Percentage Distribution of Service Level Types of Inspected Water Systems**



Source: COA Inspection Report

167. In Paoy, Leon, Iloilo, only one functional tapstand served approximately 70 households, despite the Bill of Materials and Cost Estimates provided a budget for 40 household connections only (see Figure 15). As a result, residents continue to rely on nearby springs and wells, spending substantial time and effort to collect water, affecting time for education, livelihood and household activities.

**Figure 15: Communal Tapstand in Paoy, Leon, Iloilo**



Source: COA Inspection Photos

168. Moreover, a portion of the Level III water system in Bao, Alamada, North Cotabato, does not receive water supply due to higher elevation. As a result, residents constructed a communal faucet located on lower ground to access water, where they are charged five pesos per container (see Figure 16).

**Figure 16: Communal Faucet in Bao, Alamada, North Cotabato**



Source: COA Inspection Photos

169. These conditions show that some systems fail to deliver the intended level of service due to design gaps or implementation deficiencies, limiting access to safe and sufficient water.
170. **Treatment Facilities:** Water treatment is the process of removing undesirable chemicals, materials and biological contaminants from raw water. Its purpose is to ensure that the quality of the water to be supplied to the consumers is within the acceptable standards.
171. The water quality must comply with the minimum standards prescribed by the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW), covering chemical, physical and microbiological parameters, including the required testing. The audit team reviewed the compliance with policy requirements on potability testing and adherence to the PNSDW, covering all stages of implementation of the sub-projects.
172. Audit revealed that water quality monitoring was not consistently and adequately implemented across SALINTUBIG sub-projects. Several LGUs failed to conduct or submit the required potability test results from DOH-accredited laboratories, while others submitted incomplete test results that covered only microbiological or only physical-chemical parameters. In some cases, certifications were submitted in lieu of laboratory test results, contrary to established guidelines. These deficiencies had limited assurance that water systems delivered safe and potable water to intended beneficiaries.

- 173. A key observation from the inspection revealed that 30 water facilities lacked proper treatment facilities (see Appendix VIII), such as chlorinators. The absence of treatment facilities is attributed to funding limitations, which led to their exclusion from the project design and implementation.
- 174. It was also discovered that four operators reported to manually apply chlorine powder without formal training, contrary to the guidelines issued by the DOH that chlorination shall only be carried out by authorized personnel from the Municipal Health Office or the designated Rural Sanitary Inspector.
- 175. Furthermore, only 15 sub-projects had treatment facilities. Of these, three chlorinators were not found during the inspection, while two chlorinators were either non-functional or idle upon inspection (see Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Non-Functional Chlorinators During Inspection**



Source: COA Inspection Photos

- 176. Upon inquiry with the Municipality of Lasam, Cagayan, it was reported that the chlorinator was idle due to low water flow in the treatment line. Since it operates alongside the reservoir’s output, the reduced water supply rendered it non-functional during inspection and can only resume operation once the water source is restored. They also issued a formal commitment to ensure that the water supplied by the system is safe, clean, and potable, following the standards set by the DOH and the PNSDW. Likewise, the Municipality of Alimodian, Iloilo allocated funds for the operations and maintenance of the system to ensure that the chlorinator will remain functional.

177. The audit team also noted that there is limited potability testing after sub-project completion, reducing the ability of implementers to detect and address water quality issues during operations. Field inspections and survey to beneficiaries revealed instances of discolored water, inadequate treatment, and incidence of waterborne diseases, underscoring the implications of weak monitoring.
178. The absence or non-functionality of chlorinators, combined with the improper manual application of chlorine by untrained personnel, poses significant health risks and indicates lapses in compliance with PNSDW. These issues highlight the need to prioritize the installation, maintenance and proper operation of treatment facilities, and the need to ensure that only authorized personnel handle water treatment activities to safeguard public health and sustain water potability.
179. These shortcomings were primarily attributed to unclear and fragmented policy guidance on the timing, frequency, and responsibility for water quality testing, as well as limited enforcement by DILG ROs and field offices. Meanwhile, the DOH–DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 2022-002 dated June 21, 2022 requires the establishment of the Local Drinking Water Quality Surveillance (LDWQS) Programs in each LGU through the creation of their respective LDWQMC. The functions of the LDWQMC include, among others, the regular collection and analysis of water samples; evaluation of laboratory results as to their compliance with standards; conduct of regular or immediate sanitary survey during the existence of a potential cause of contamination; and institution of remedial measures to correct deficiencies of water systems. The same Administrative Order directs the DOH and DILG to develop a M & E system to track the progress of the LDWQS programs and the accomplishments of the LDWQMC.
180. According to the DILG OPDS, out of the 1,278<sup>9</sup> cities and municipalities that submitted reports to the DILG, 630 had reported the establishment of the LDWQMC and 648 have not yet constituted the same. However, the OPDS stated that the agency has not yet developed a M & E system for the accomplishments of the LDWQMC.
181. Overall, the absence of a consistently enforced and systematic water quality monitoring mechanism constrained the SALINTUBIG Program’s ability to ensure safe and potable water supply, thereby affecting its contribution to improved public health and sustainable access to water. This underscores the need to strengthen water quality monitoring systems, clarify institutional responsibilities, and ensure alignment of project design and operations with water quality standards.

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<sup>9</sup> Out of 1,517 cities and municipalities nationwide

182. **Organized Water Service Providers:** According to the 2011 SALINTUBIG Implementing Guidelines, a water service provider is a provider of water supply services, of varying levels of service (Level I, II or III) and with various types of management, which include the following:
- LGU–Managed System – a water system operated and maintained by LGUs;
  - BWSA/RWSA – a community-based organization established to run its water system;
  - Water Cooperative – Cooperative with potable water supply as one of their services to the public; and
  - Water District – a government-owned and controlled corporation mandated to provide commercial water supply to water users.
183. A water system may be managed by either one of the abovementioned water service providers. However, guidelines express preference for arrangements where facility ownership is eventually transferred to grassroots organizations such as BWSAs/RWSAs.
184. Also, Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6716 provides that “in order to ensure the proper use of the water facilities herein provided, a Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation Association, herein referred to as BWSA, shall be formed and organized for the purpose of maintaining the water facilities xxx.”
185. The audit team observed that only 11 out of the 45 water facilities inspected have organized water service providers or BWSA. Despite this, many sub-projects still depend heavily on the LGUs for system maintenance. Interviews with at least four existing BWSAs revealed that they lack adequate capacity development and require training in operations and maintenance of water systems such as filtration, chlorination, bookkeeping, and accounting.
186. According to the DILG, training courses on the BWSAs have been developed which include orientation and skills training on operation and management, including modules on operation and management, basic bookkeeping and tariff setting. However, due to financial constraints, only 51 BWSAs have been trained to date.
187. As a result, several BWSAs have become unsustainable and ceased operations, prompting LGUs to assume management responsibilities to prevent service interruptions.
188. Project deficiencies were primarily caused by inadequate funding, which led to the reduction of project scope and the omission of essential components such as chlorination facilities and storage tanks. As a result,

many water systems were incomplete or poorly equipped, causing service interruptions and limiting household access to water.

189. Although structural standards were generally met, the intended service delivery outcomes were not fully achieved, leading to inefficient use of government resources and depriving communities of safe, reliable and sustainable water supply. A fully functional system is necessary to ensure consistent and safe water delivery.
190. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Strengthen project planning and costing. LGUs should prepare a more accurate and comprehensive cost estimates to ensure all essential components are included within the approved budget;**
  - b) **Ensure that inspection and validation procedures are conducted and all required components are fully installed, tested and operational in accordance with Level II or III standards before project acceptance and project turnover;**
  - c) **Strengthen monitoring during implementation. Increase frequency MLGOO site visits to ensure early detection of missing or non-functional components; and**
  - d) **Enhance Capacity of LGUs and BWSAs. Provide targeted training on system operation and maintenance, especially for chlorination, preventive maintenance and troubleshooting. Require LGUs to submit sustainability plans detailing O&M responsibilities, budget allocations and risk mitigation measures.**
191. Out of the 45 completed water supply systems inspected, 13, or 29%, were found to be non-operational at the time of inspection. Consequently, the affected communities continue to experience limited or no access to safe and reliable water supply, thereby compromising the program's objective of sustaining water access to the intended beneficiaries.
192. The Rural Water Supply Design Manual identifies four key considerations essential for sustaining water supply systems. These are the following:
- I. Technical – the design and construction of the system should be done right
  - II. Financial – building and operating the system at the least possible cost but meets all standards
  - III. Social – engaging the population and gaining broad community support to initiate and carry out the public utility project

13 out of 45 completed WSS systems were found non-operational upon inspection while 32 exhibited various operational issues

- IV. Environmental – the system should not cause pollution of the environment or degradation of adjacent aquifers waterways and bodies of water
193. **Technical Consideration.** The design and construction requirements for water systems, as outlined under the Project Minimum Standards, were thoroughly discussed in the previous section. Despite these standards, there remains a need to clearly distinguish between a **functional** water system and an **operational** one. While functionality refers to the system's hardware components being able to perform their intended purpose, an operational system is one that not only functions as designed but also consistently supplies water to users and is properly maintained and managed.
194. Chapter 4, Article 5 of the Implementing Guidelines of the Salintubig Program dated April 28, 2011 outlined the intended outcome of achieving sustainable operation of all water supply and sanitation projects constructed, organized and supported by the Program by 80%.
195. However, according to the DILG, the program has not established performance indicators and targets related to the sustainability, but rather required the LGU to provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the water supply system to ensure its sustainability.
196. It is also noted that the subsequent policy guidelines provide specific provisions on the sustainability strategies following project completion. These provisions state that the LGUs are responsible for maintaining the water system, allocating funds for its maintenance or identifying a water service provider to operate, manage, and maintain the system.
197. The memorandum circulars, issued from 2011 to 2017 also stated the responsibility of DILG to conduct capacity development programs for the implementing partners and water service providers. These include trainings related to the sustainability phase of the program such as:
- i. Operations and Maintenance
  - ii. Ring-fencing and Business Planning for LGU-managed water supply system
  - iii. Performance Benchmarking and Tariff Setting
  - iv. Water Safety Plan Preparation
198. To determine whether the DILG had established adequate policies and monitoring mechanism to ensure the sustainability of the completed water systems, the audit team conducted interviews with officials and personnel of the DILG, including the OPDS, ROs, POs, and the MLGOOs. The discussions aimed to determine the presence of clear post-construction support strategies, capacity building initiatives and M & E mechanisms to

track the operational status and performance of the water systems after project completion.

199. As discussed in the preceding section, the audit team was able to inspect a total of 45 completed water systems across the country based on the sampling plan developed. Seven sub-projects previously reported by the DILG as non-operational were intentionally included to determine underlying causes of discontinued operations in accordance with the sampling methodology.
200. The audit team also conducted the following: a) interviews with the current water system providers and surveys with the household beneficiaries to corroborate the data gathered; b) surveys to 15 households in areas with operational water systems, and at least five households in areas where the projects were found to be non-operational.
201. Of the 45 water systems inspected, **32 were operational upon inspection**, but many exhibited issues such as inadequate water supply, defective components, and absence of treatment facilities, which hindered the program's objective of providing safe and reliable water.
202. Meanwhile, the remaining **13 water systems** or **29%** of the inspected sub-projects were non-operational due to effects of road widening projects and fortuitous events, insufficient water sources, damaged water pumps, power disconnections, illegal tapping of pipes and funding constraints. It was also noted that two of these sub-projects never operated since completion, two sub-projects operated only within the year of completion, eight sub-projects became non-operational after one to five years from completion date, and one became non-operational after more than five years from completion date, as shown in *Table 15*. This deprived the beneficiary communities with the benefits of the program.

**Table 15: List of Non-Operational Water Systems**

Province	Municipality	Barangay	Year Completed	Year Not Operational	Operator	Remarks
<b>Non-Operational since Completion</b>						
Capiz	President Roxas	8 Barangays	2019	2019	n/a	Funding constraints hindered the construction of water system facility
Samar	Pinabacdao	Poblacion I, II, Obayan, Dolores, Bangon and Botoc	2020	2020	n/a	Errors on the feasibility study and damage to the water source caused by an earthquake
<b>Non-Operational within One Year of Completion</b>						
Iloilo	Leon	Awis	2016	2016	Brgy.	Insufficient water supply from the source
Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Melgar	2019	2019	Brgy.	Insufficient water source; damaged water tank during the onslaught of Typhoon Odette

Province	Municipality	Barangay	Year Completed	Year Not Operational	Operator	Remarks
<b>Non-Operational after One to Five Years from Completion Date</b>						
Cagayan	Santo Niño (Faire)	Niug Sur, Niug Norte	2022	2023	LGU	Distribution lines along the Niug Sur project were damaged by the DPWH road-widening project
Iloilo	Leon	Ambulong	2016	2017	Brgy.	Landslide destroyed the water source
Samar	Basey	San Antonio	2020	2021	Brgy.	Illegal tapping of the pipes connected to the water source by the nearby residents in 2021
Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Purok 2 Kanihaan	2018	2021	Brgy.	Damaged submersible pump followed by the onslaught of Typhoon Odette
Samar	Santa Rita	Binanalán	2021	2023	Brgy.	Damaged motor pump
Samar	Santa Rita	Caticugan	2021	2023	BWSA	Lost water supply due to quarry operations near the water source; damaged motor pump
North Cotabato	Matalam	Marbel	2016	2018	Brgy.	Malfunctioning submersible pump and power disconnection caused by unpaid electricity bills
Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Roma	2019	2020	BWSA	Water source, pumphouse and pipelines were destroyed by Typhoon Odette
<b>Non-Operational after Five Years or More from Completion Date</b>						
Iloilo	Leon	Capt. Fernando	2016	2024	Brgy.	Damaged motor pump

Source: COA Inspection and Survey Results

203. The standard design life of the sub-project should be five to ten years based on the Rural Water Supply Design Manual (Volume 1). However, survey results and inspection of sub-projects showed that all of the 13 non-operational water systems ceased operating before reaching their 5-10 year design life, indicating early system failure and deficiencies in sustainability mechanisms. *Figure 18* depicts the condition of the non-operational water systems during inspection.


**Figure 18: Condition of Inspected Non-Operational Water Supply Systems**

LGU	Inspection Photos
<p><b>Niug Sur, Sto. Nino, Cagayan</b></p>	
<p><b>President Roxas, Capiz</b></p>	
<p><b>Ambulong, Leon, Iloilo</b></p>	

LGU	Inspection Photos
<p><b>Awis, Leon, Iloilo</b></p>	
<p><b>Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo</b></p>	

LGU	Inspection Photos
<p><b>San Antonio, Basey, Samar</b></p>	
<p><b>Pinabacdao, Samar</b></p>	
<p><b>Binanalán, Santa Rita, Samar</b></p>	

LGU	Inspection Photos
<p><b>Caticugan, Santa Rita, Samar</b></p>	
<p><b>Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato</b></p>	
<p><b>Roma, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands</b></p>	
<p><b>Melgar, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands</b></p>	

LGU	Inspection Photos
<p>Purok 2, Kanihaan, Libjo, Dinagat Islands</p>	

Source: COA Inspection and Survey Results

204. Upon inquiry with the LGUs concerned, it was reported that two water systems located in Niug Sur, Sto Nino, Cagayan and President Roxas, Capiz have already been operational since August and September of 2025, respectively. Meanwhile, eight water systems are scheduled to undergo repair/rehabilitation as stated in their Operation and Maintenance Plans.
205. Also, two water systems from Basilisa, Dinagat Islands will no longer be rehabilitated due to the construction of a new water system in their area. Lastly, the LGU of Matalam Cotabato, did not submit any plans regarding their non-operational water system.
206. To further validate the inspection findings, the audit team requested the results of DILG's Rapid Sub-Project Sustainability Assessment (RSSA). Under Section 2.2 of DILG MC No. 2021-123, all Locally-Funded Projects that were completed in CY 2017 onwards, including water supply systems, shall be subjected to RSSA. It is noteworthy that several LGUs have already undertaken RSSA for projects completed in 2016 and earlier years.
207. Of the completed sub-projects, **1,702 (60.25%)** underwent RSSA, and **305 (17.92%)** were found non-operational as shown in *Table 16*. The data suggest a notable rate of sustainability failures at the national level.

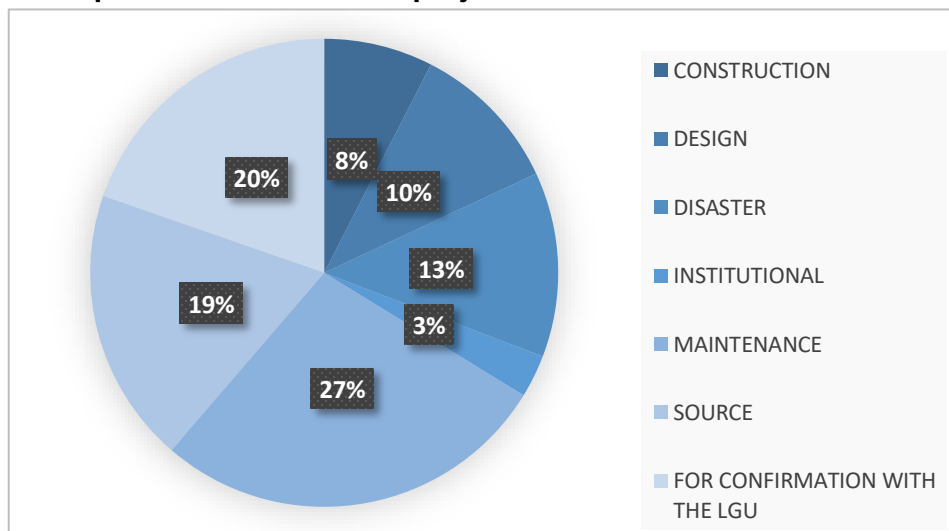
**Table 16: Summary of Conducted RSSA for SALINTUBIG Sub-Projects**

Year	Completed Sub-projects	Subjected to RSSA	Percentage of Sub-projects Subjected to RSSA	Non-Operational Sub-projects	Percentage of Non-Operational Sub-projects
2012	262	23	8.78	3	13.04
2013	181	18	9.94	3	16.67
2014	113	27	23.89	4	14.81
2015	625	271	43.36	67	24.72
2016	475	314	66.11	65	20.70
2017	286	236	82.52	38	16.10
2018	236	220	93.22	34	15.45
2019	429	400	93.24	63	15.75
2020	218	193	88.53	28	14.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,825</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>60.25</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>17.92</b>

Source: DILG data

208. As mentioned in the previous findings, the discrepancies in the reported number of completed sub-projects reflected in the SubayBAYAN system includes instances of multiple entries encoded by the LGUs. This issue stemmed from system glitches encountered during the data migration process from the previous PPMS to the new SubayBAYAN portal.
209. Furthermore, DILG categorized the causes of the 305 non-operational water projects into issues related to construction and design of the water systems, disasters, institutional weaknesses, maintenance deficiencies, and inadequacy of water sources which are consistent with the audit team's field observations (see Figure 19).

**Figure 19: Underlying Factors Causing Water Supply Systems to Be Non-Operational for 305 Sub-projects with RSSA**



Source: DILG data

210. We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:
- a) Strengthen post-construction support role by enhancing monitoring systems, ensuring full RSSA coverage, and conducting regular follow-up evaluations of long-term functionality;
  - b) Improve LGU capacity and accountability through systematic capacity-building, mandatory sustainability plans, and stricter enforcement of O&M and budget allocation requirements;
  - c) Address technical and design risks by improving feasibility study quality, requiring proper source assessment and site validation, integrating disaster risk reduction into system design; and
  - d) Facilitate actions/remedies to restore the operations of the water systems which are found non-operational, as practicable.

## Minimal to non-collection of water tariffs

211. **Financial Consideration.** Financial sustainability is a key factor in ensuring the continuous and reliable operation of the water systems. A system cannot remain functional without adequate financial planning and management.
212. Chapter 3 of the Implementing Guidelines stated that proposals to be considered for funding shall demonstrate financial sustainability and should therefore include setting and enforcing water tariffs adequate to cover operation and upkeep costs.
213. Similarly, Chapter 10 of the Rural Water Supply Manual, Volume 3, states that tariffs are the life blood of a small water utility business, and basically the only source of revenues to support its capital investments, operations and maintenance. The Manual further prescribes that appropriate tariff rates should: (a) be adequate to meet revenue requirements; (b) reflect the public service nature of water utilities; (c) ensure equitable cost distribution among users; (d) remain affordable to low-income households; (e) discourage wasteful water consumption; and (f) be fair, reasonable, and transparent.
214. Notwithstanding these policy provisions, the SALINTUBIG Program did not mandate water system operators to collect tariffs from consumers, leaving tariff imposition to the discretion of the LGUs. While the DILG encouraged the setting of water tariffs at a minimum to support operation and maintenance, the absence of a mandatory requirement resulted in varied implementation across LGUs.

215. During the interviews with water system operators, it was noted that eight water system operators do not collect water tariffs from the consumers while ten water system operators collect tariffs that are insufficient to cover operational and maintenance expenses (see Table 17). Consequently, these water systems rely heavily on financial support from their respective LGUs, which is often inadequate to fund major repairs and long-term maintenance, thereby compromising the sustainability of system operations. It must also be noted that 24 of the validated water systems have sufficient funding to continue its operations while there were no data collected on the 3 remaining water systems selected for validation.

**Table 17: Water Systems without Water Tariffs and with Tariffs but Insufficient for Operational Expenses**

Province	Municipality	Barangay	Level	Management	Remarks
<b>A. Without tariffs</b>					
Iloilo	Leon	Ambulong	2	Barangay	No tariff collection
Iloilo	Leon	Awis	3	Barangay	
Leyte	Burauen	Taghuyan	2	Barangay	
Leyte	Matalom	Caningag	2	Barangay	
Samar	Basey	Salvacion	2	Barangay	
Samar	Basey	San Antonio	2	Barangay	
Samar	Santa Rita	Binanalán	2	Barangay	
Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	New Nazareth	3	Barangay	
<b>B. With tariffs, but insufficient collections for Operational Expenses</b>					
La Union	Bagulin	Dagup	3	BWSA	Collects ₱70 per household monthly, plus proportional share
Iloilo	Alimodian	Coline-Dalag	3	Barangay	Collects ₱20 per cubic meter, without minimum charge
Iloilo	Duenas	Angare	3	LGU	Collects ₱15 per cubic meter, with minimum of ₱10 for 10 cubic meters
Iloilo	Duenas	Pader	3	LGU	Collects ₱15 per cubic meter, with minimum of ₱10 for 10 cubic meters
Iloilo	Leon	Capt. Fernando	3	Barangay	Collects ₱30 per cubic meter, without minimum charge
Iloilo	Leon	Paoy	2	Barangay	Collects ₱2 per container
Iloilo	Leon	Pepe	3	Barangay	Collects ₱15 per cum
North Cotabato	Alamada	Macabasa	3	Barangay	Collects ₱80, minimum of 10 cubic meters
Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Purok 1 Kanihaan	2	Barangay	Collects ₱50 per household monthly
Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Purok 2 Kanihaan	2	Barangay	Collects ₱50 per household monthly

Source: COA Interview Results

216. The lack of adequate and reliable revenue streams undermines the financial sustainability of water systems, increasing their dependence on

limited LGU funds. This constrains the ability of operators to promptly undertake repairs, replace damaged components, and maintain system efficiency, thereby heightening the risk of service interruptions and eventual non-operation.

217. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following, for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Strengthen financial sustainability measures by issuing clearer policy guidance on mandatory tariff-setting and cost-recovery mechanisms, consistent with affordability and equity principles; and**
  - b) **Require LGUs and water system operators to adopt tariff structures that will adequately cover operation and maintenance costs, complemented by capacity-building on financial management, tariff setting, and business planning to ensure long-term system sustainability.**

Need to improve management of the water systems by the Barangay Waterworks and Sanitation Associations (BWSAs)


218. **Social Consideration.** The sustainability of water supply systems is not solely dependent on technical adequacy but also on active community participation and effective local management.
219. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6716 provides that, to ensure the proper use and maintenance of water facilities, a BWSA shall be organized for the purpose of maintaining the water facilities.
220. The audit team observed that the inspected water facilities were managed either by the barangay, the LGU, or a Local Water District. Of the 45 water facilities inspected, only 11 had organized water service providers or BWSAs (see *Appendix IX*). Despite the existence of these associations, many sub-projects continue to rely heavily on LGUs for system maintenance. Interviews with at least three BWSAs revealed limited technical and managerial capacity, with identified needs for training in operations and maintenance, including filtration, chlorination, bookkeeping, accounting and tariff administration.
221. According to the DILG, training courses for BWSAs have been developed, including orientation and skills training on system operation and management, basic bookkeeping, and tariff setting. However, due to financial constraints, only 51 BWSAs nationwide had been trained as of the time of audit, limiting the effectiveness of these capacity development initiatives.
222. Consistent with Republic Act No. 6716, the 2011 SALINTUBIG Implementing Guidelines emphasized a management arrangement wherein ownership and operation of water facilities would eventually be

transferred from LGUs or the private sector to community-based organizations such as Rural Water Supply Associations (RWSAs) or BWSAs. This approach aimed to promote local ownership and long-term sustainability of water systems.<sup>10</sup>


223. Despite these institutional mechanisms, several LGUs reported difficulties in implementing and sustaining BWSAs. Identified challenges included politicians’ interference in the implementation of the program, inadequate managerial and technical capacity of operators, weak cooperation among members, and internal conflicts within management teams, which adversely affected system operations.

224. LGUs likewise reported instances of illegal tapping by residents, which disrupted water distribution and, in some cases, resulted in partial or complete cessation of water system operations (see Table 18).

**Table 18: Water Systems with Instances of Illegal Tapping**

Project	Remarks	Status
San Antonio, Basey, Samar	<p>Occurrence of illegal tapping on the pipes connected to the water source by the nearby residents in 2021. This has disrupted the system, preventing the water from reaching the reservoir. Thus, the water cannot reach the intended users, although the water is continuously flowing</p> 	Not Operational

<sup>10</sup> Implementing Guidelines of the “Sagana at Ligas na Tubig sa Lahat” Program dated April 28, 2011, Annex 2, Item 6

Project	Remarks	Status
Mapurok-Pacao, Alamada, North Cotabato	Mapurok and Pacao share the same water source, but residents in Mapurok have been manipulating the pipes, preventing the water from reaching Pacao. Also, when there is no supply of water, Mapurok residents allegedly damage the pipes. 	Operational for Mapurok, but not operational for Pacao
Macabasa, Alamada, North Cotabato	The pipes are intentionally left exposed in the canal susceptible for illegal connections.	Operational
Pigcawaran, Alamada, North Cotabato	There are illegal connections with some residents diverting water for fishponds' use. Other offenders had removed the illegal connections.	Operational

Source: COA Inspection and Interview Results

225. Additional challenges were observed in the management of Level II water systems, which rely on communal tapstands. Interviews with LGUs revealed recurring issues such as irresponsible water usage, conflicts among residents, damage to facilities, and difficulties in collection of fees (see Table 19). These challenges often resulted in excessive water wastage, strained community relations, and eventual turnover of system management from BWSAs back to LGUs.

**Table 19: Level II Water Systems with Challenges on BWSA Management**

Region	Province	Municipality	Testimonials from LGUs
II	Cagayan	Lasam	Initially, all projects are designed for Level II, but due to improper usage, the installation of meters was implemented. When it was still communal, the supply was abundant, but it was used for irrigating the rice fields, eventually depleting the water supply.
VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	There are occurrences of disputes regarding the leadership of the BWSA.
VIII	Samar	Hinabangan	Conflicts arise among residents, leading to damaged faucets and pipes, making repairs difficult.
VIII	Samar	Paranas	BWSAs function effectively only at the start, but conflicts among officials lead to neglect of the water system. Non-functional systems are eventually turned over to the LGU. No BWSA has succeeded in Paranas, partly due to political issues. When they can no longer manage the system, they turn it over to the LGU.
VIII	Leyte	Burauen	Without the water meter, there are lots of water wastage; some people don't turn off the water. The LGU suggested installing water meters and will propose this to prevent water wastage.
VIII	Leyte	Matalom	Initially, there was a BWSA, but it did not last because they were afraid of the system's maintenance cost.

Region	Province	Municipality	Testimonials from LGUs
XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	The operations of the water system is not successful when managed by BWSA, as it is not properly maintained, and they get disconnected from electricity and the LGU bears the cost.
XII	North Cotabato	Magpet	Initially, BWSAs are allowed to operate, but based on experience, it struggled due to limited capacity. The LGU has been assisting them, but the system could not sustain itself for more than two years. They faced difficulties in collection, especially with Level II systems. Sometimes, consumers leave the tapstands open 24/7 due to minimal rates.
XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	There were barangays which had BWSAs before, but were eventually dissolved and the management had been turned over to the barangays.

Source: COA Interview Results

226. To address these issues, the DILG has encouraged LGUs to install water meters to better regulate and monitor water consumption, designate tapstand leaders to oversee proper usage and maintenance, and develop and disseminate information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to promote responsible water use among communities.
227. Weak community-based management and limited institutional capacity undermine the effective operation and sustainability of water systems. These conditions lead to poor maintenance practices, water wastage, conflicts among users, illegal connections, and increased dependence on LGUs for system operation. Consequently, some systems experienced service interruptions or became non-operational, limiting access to safe and reliable water and diminishing the long-term benefit of the program.
228. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Strengthen the institutional sustainability of water systems by expanding and prioritizing capacity development programs for BWSAs and other community-based operators, particularly in technical operation, financial management, and governance; and**
  - b) **Guide and monitor LGUs to ensure the timely organization and sustained functionality of BWSAs, enforcement of rules against illegal tapping, and adoption of demand management measures such as water metering, designation of tapstand leaders, and sustained IEC campaigns to promote responsible water use.**
229. **Environmental Consideration.** Protecting natural water sources and surrounding ecosystems ensures the long-term availability and quality of water for communities. Environmental considerations focus on preventing pollution, managing waste properly, and avoiding practices that could degrade the aquifers and other bodies of water.

Identified sanitation risks in two water supply systems

- 230. In accordance with the Project Minimum Standards, proposed sites for the construction of reservoirs, pumphouses, and treatment facilities must be stable, free from geohazards based on the latest vulnerability assessments and geohazard maps of the MGB of the DENR, and must not be located within designated non-build zones.
- 231. The audit team assessed the environmental compliance of sampled SALINTUBIG water systems to determine whether site selection and environmental safeguards were observed. Verification of LGU certifications and use of the DENR–MGB Hazard Hunter tool indicated that the inspected facilities generally complied with requirements on site stability and avoidance of hazard-prone or non-build zones.
- 232. However, isolated sanitation risks were identified during field inspection. In particular, a poultry farm was found adjacent to water systems in Nabannagan West, Lasam, Cagayan, and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) was found near the water system in Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo (see *Figure 20*). These conditions pose contamination risks and are inconsistent with the Water Supply Sanitation Code of the Philippines, which prohibits the construction of wells within 25 meters of pollution sources.

**Figure 20: Water Supply System with Sanitation Risks**

Location	Photos
<p>Nabannagan West, Lasam, Cagayan</p> <p>The photo on the left is a poultry farm which is around five meters from the water system (right side photo)</p>	 <p>The left photo shows a poultry farm with several chickens in a fenced area. The right photo shows a water system with blue pipes and a red basket, with a sign that reads 'Salintubig Program Nabannagan West, Lasam, Cagayan'.</p>
<p>Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo</p> <p>The photo on the left is an MRF which is about two meters from the water system (photo on the right)</p>	 <p>The left photo shows an MRF with a large pile of plastic waste and other debris. The right photo shows a water system with blue pipes and a red basket, with a sign that reads 'Salintubig Program Captain Fernando, Leon, Iloilo'.</p>

Source: COA Inspection Photos

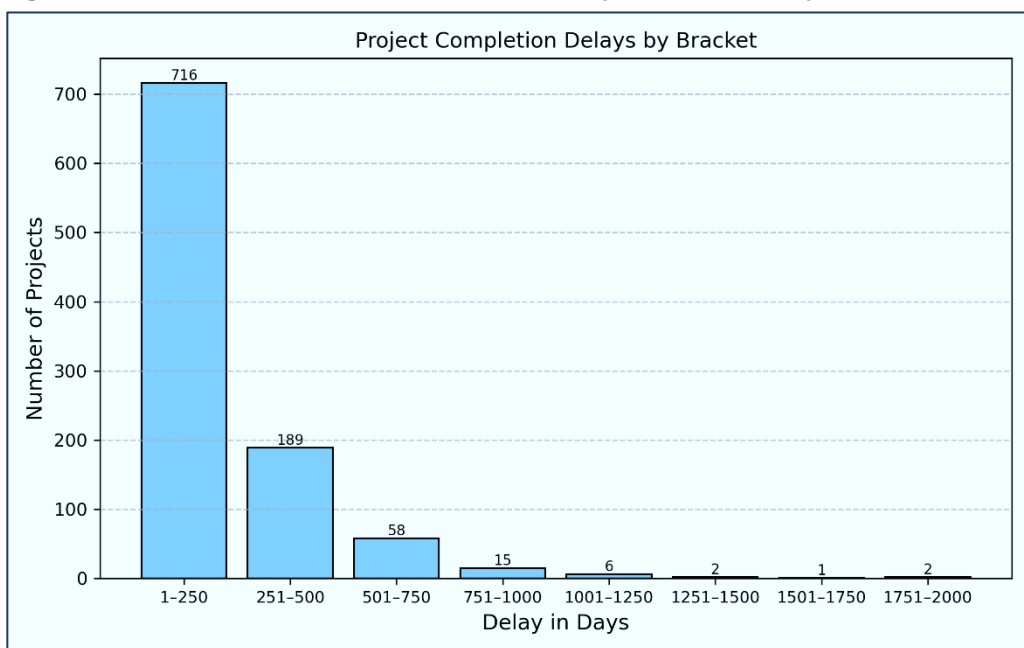
Limited coordination among SALINTUBIG implementing partners resulting in gaps in project implementation

233. While environmental standards and project minimum requirements were established, post-construction monitoring were insufficient to ensure continued compliance with sanitation requirements. Coordination among LGUs, operators, and relevant regulatory agencies in managing nearby pollution sources was limited, allowing potentially hazardous activities to persist near water facilities.
234. The presence of nearby pollution sources increases the risk of water contamination, potentially compromising water quality and public health. If left unaddressed, these sanitation risks may undermine community confidence in the safety of the water supply and threaten the long-term sustainability and reliability of the water systems.
235. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following:**
- a) **Require the relocation, mitigation, or strict management of pollution sources located within prohibited distances from water systems; and**
  - b) **Require the LGUs to strengthen regular monitoring and enforcement of sanitation and environmental protection measures for future and continuing water supply sanitation programs and ensure sustained compliance and safeguard water quality.**
236. The implementation of the SALINTUBIG Program was affected by limited and inconsistent coordination among National Government Agencies (NGAs) involved in water supply and sanitation. This resulted in unclear reporting arrangements and delays in project completion.
237. The specific roles of each stakeholders in the implementation of the SALINTUBIG Program is discussed in the Background section on *Table 6*. Although the Implementing Guidelines outline the roles of each stakeholder, the expected collaboration was not consistently carried out.
238. Coordination between DILG, NAPC, and DOH weakened over time, partly due to leadership changes, resulting in stalled reporting processes and reduced inter-agency engagement. While the DILG conducted joint training activities with DOH, NAPC, and LWUA for LGU water and sanitation, the overall reporting and program oversight mechanisms remained unclear and insufficiently institutionalized.
239. The NWRB plays a critical role in the SALINTUBIG Program as the agency responsible for issuing water permits to LGUs. Interviews with DILG-OPDS and LGUs indicated persistent difficulties in securing water permits,

notwithstanding the recent shift to online processing. These challenges contributed to project delays, prompting the DILG to allow project implementation to proceed based only on proof of application for water permits rather than approved permits.

240. Our review of the SubayBAYAN data disclosed 989 subprojects with delayed construction. The delays ranged from 1 to 1,806 calendar days, reckoned from the contract expiration date to the project completion date. These delays indicate systemic coordination and implementation issues affecting project timeliness. *Figure 21* provides a visual representation of this analysis.

**Figure 21: Number of SALINTUBIG Sub-Projects with Delays**



Source: COA Analysis

241. Field validation also showed that some DILG Regional, Provincial, and Municipal Offices continued to coordinate with various agencies such as NEDA, LWUA, DENR, DPWH, EMB, NCIP, DepEd, and NWRB to support permit processing, technical assistance, capacity-building and document completeness. However, these efforts were inconsistent across regions and dependent on individual initiatives rather than a structured coordination framework.

242. These deficiencies are attributed to the frequent reshuffling of field officers, limiting institutional knowledge of prior coordination practices. DILG maintains that since the program funds were transferred to them beginning in 2012, they assumed full responsibility for SALINTUBIG implementation, particularly in areas without water districts, excluding BARMM. Their

responsibilities included monitoring, project review and approval, and ensuring compliance with approved plans and proper documentation.

243. As a result, the absence of a structured and sustained inter-agency coordination mechanism contributed to significant project delays, inefficiencies in implementation, and persistent gaps in monitoring and reporting.

244. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to establish a structured inter-agency coordination mechanism which includes formalized and updated agreements and clear performance metrics.**

DILG and LGUs promoted inclusive participation of marginalized groups in the implementation of the Program which aligns with the principle of “leaving no one behind” of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development

245. Audit revealed that women, the poor, and marginalized groups were generally involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of SALINTUBIG water supply systems. Their participation contributed to inclusive design, stronger community ownership, and more efficient project implementation.

246. The SALINTUBIG Implementing Guidelines explicitly require and encourage the participation of women, the poor, and marginalized groups. This policy framework guided LGUs and DILG field offices in promoting inclusive participation. Nevertheless, the extent and consistency of implementation depended largely on LGU practices, availability of active CSOs, and local leadership commitment. In some areas, limited documentation, logistical constraints, and project non-operational status hindered broader and sustained community engagement.

247. SALINTUBIG Program Implementing Guidelines on *Gender and Poor Sector Sensitive states: As findings from the field show that traditional project management approaches limit the voice and participation of women and the poor in the design and implementation of community’s water supply and sanitation system, particular care therefore shall be taken to listen to the voice of the poor and women, who are often the managers of the family’s water and hygiene requirements. The projects shall therefore help empower them and marginalized groups in the communities instead of being an additional burden to them.*

248. Item 6.3.1.5 of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-73 further mandates proponent LGUs to ensure the participation of women, children, and persons with disability (PWDs) in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It also encourages their consideration for employment in integrated water, sanitation, health, and hygiene projects.

249. Leave no one behind (LNOB) is a central principle of the Agenda 2030 on SDGs. It emphasizes the need of addressing all forms of inequality and

discrimination between different groups.<sup>11</sup> In addition, mainstreaming of gender lens in the implementation of program supports SDG 5.

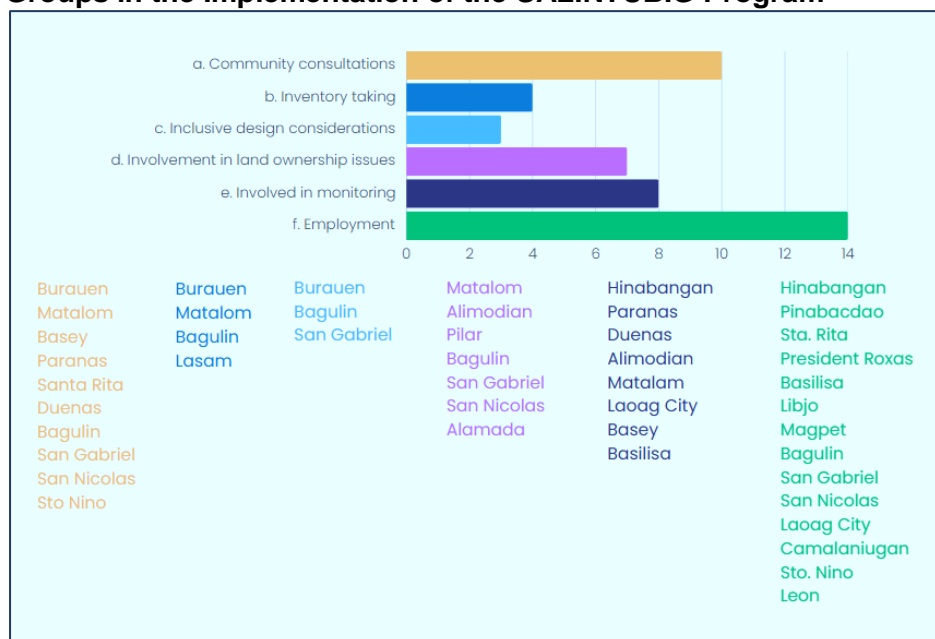
250. To assess the extent of participation of women, the poor and other marginalized groups to SALINTUBIG Program, the audit team conducted interviews with DILG's key officials. All six DILG ROs confirmed that community members were involved, particularly during consultations, with specific attention given to the needs of mothers, children, and PWDs to ensure user-friendly designs. Their participation was also observed during sector planning and feedback mechanisms.
251. Interviews with 10 DILG POs showed that seven offices confirmed community involvement during planning and public consultations facilitated through barangay committees, particularly in identifying water sources and pipeline routes. Six POs also reported that CSOs, including women's, senior citizens', and farmers' groups, participated in monitoring activities. In Cagayan, CSOs were represented in LDC, where they provided feedback prior to project approval. Community participation likewise extended to discussions on road right-of-way and land ownership issues.
252. With respect to employment, five of the six DILG ROs reported that contractors were encouraged to hire local laborers from the barangays. Three of the ten POs confirmed this practice, although one noted that actual hiring decisions were determined by the concerned LGUs and contractors.
253. The audit team also interviewed officials and personnel from the 25 sample LGUs/municipalities with completed sub-projects in which results are presented in *Figure 22*.
  - a) **Community consultations.** Community members were generally consulted through barangay assemblies, public hearings, and meetings with LGU officials. They were held to inform residents about the program and provide them an opportunity to express their intent to connect to the water system;
  - b) **Inventory taking.** Residents, including PWDs and women, actively participated in deciding the best locations for tapstands. Their input not only helped determine the best locations for tapstands but also identify the site for water sources, and pipes. Also, 4Ps beneficiaries, who often worked with the barangay, assisted the LGU in conducting an inventory of the community's actual water situation;
  - c) **Inclusive design considerations.** The design ensured accessibility for mothers, children and PWDs which contribute to the attainment of SDG 5;
  - d) **Involvement in land ownership issues.** Residents were involved in discussions about RROW and land ownership, with the residents donating land or allowing for the use of their lands for the project. In LGU Alamada, the source site is owned by an indigenous individual;

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<sup>11</sup> IDI SDGs Audit Manual 2024, Chapter 1, p. 8

- e) **Involved in monitoring.** CSOs, which included women, farmers, and senior citizen were involved during Municipal/City Development Council meeting, and during monitoring. To support the SALINTUBIG project monitoring, Executive Orders were signed which created PMC/Teams at the LGU and provincial levels, which included CSOs. Moreover, the Local PMC conducted evaluations and held meetings with beneficiaries; and
- f) **Employment:** During implementation, local residents, including 4Ps beneficiaries, were engaged in project-related labor. LGUs encouraged contractors to hire local laborers from barangays. Contractors complied by employing barangay residents, including Indigenous Peoples, and the poor for tasks like hauling materials, excavation, digging, and pipe- laying. In LGU Leon, Iloilo where the projects were implemented by Administration, the employment of *pakyaw* laborers were formally documented through a Contract of Labor Services.

**Figure 22: Involvement of Women, Poor, and other Marginalized Groups in the Implementation of the SALINTUBIG Program**



Source: COA interview notes

254. The DILG Central Office noted that Gender and Development considerations have been mainstreamed in the program, with women often forming part of BWSA membership. Out of the 11 completed subprojects managed by BWSA in the LGUs we visited, 7 remain operational and are still managed by BWSA. In addition, we also noted that in Brgy. Capt. Fernando, Leon, a woman was also assigned as the maintenance staff. *Figure 23* shows photos taken during the audit team’s field validation.

**Figure 23: Photos with BWSA Members Taken During Field Validation**



Sinamay, Alimodian

San Pablo, San Nicolas

Sulong, Alimodian

Dagup, Bagulin

Source: COA Field Validation

255. The LGUs acknowledged that community members, including women, poor and marginalized groups, contributed valuable insights during consultations, given their familiarity in the area and the water system. Their inputs include water system’s design, as they know the seasonal water availability and considering factors like runoff, erosion, and pipeline routes. Their local knowledge also made material hauling and pipe installation more efficient. Contractors appreciated their guidance in avoiding obstacles like canals and finding the best installation paths for piping.
256. Employment in project activities not only provided additional income to residents but also strengthened their sense of ownership and responsibility for the water systems, thereby supporting long-term sustainability.
257. Moreover, household beneficiary surveys confirmed that barangay residents of 19 of the 25 LGUs were consulted through barangay assemblies or public consultations and were asked for feedback after project completion, although some respondents, said otherwise.
258. Overall, the audit team commends the DILG and LGUs in ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized groups, women and poor are involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of the SALINTUBIG projects.

Inclusive participation contributed to user-responsive design, stronger community ownership, improved monitoring, and more efficient implementation, including smoother right-of-way arrangements, better pipeline routing, and enhanced protection of project assets. Employment of local residents also provided livelihood support and strengthened beneficiaries' sense of responsibility for system sustainability.

259. **To further enhance program outcomes, contribution to SDG 5 and alignment with the 2030 Agenda on LNOB, we recommend that the DILG ensure continued and consistent community involvement in future water supply projects, with particular emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized groups, to strengthen ownership, address local needs, and identify implementation challenges at an early stage.**

**The DILG's M & E policies were guided by a monitoring framework, however, it did not constitute a firmly established system, hindering the assessment of progress and overall program effectiveness.**

260. From 2012 to 2020, the DILG annually issued Policy Guidelines for the SALINTUBIG Program which outlined the monitoring and reportorial responsibilities of the DILG and LGUs as well as provisions for third-party monitoring involving non-state actors. In addition, separate guidelines on M & E were issued in 2018 and in succeeding years. During the implementation of the SALINTUBIG Program, the DILG Central Office, through the OPDS, generally was able to exercise its monitoring responsibilities such as the development and maintenance of database and/or system for monitoring and progress reporting; preparation, publication and submission of Program-level financial and physical accomplishment reports; and monitoring of big ticket and critical sub-projects. The DILG ROs and field offices and LGUs also utilized inspections as means of ensuring issues are identified and resolved in a timely manner.
261. Despite these efforts, several gaps were noted in the operationalization of the M & E policies for the SALINTUBIG Program, viz:
- a) Irregular submission of progress reports by LGUs/Implementing Partners;
  - b) Unutilized LGU websites/non-submission of reports to DBM & legislative bodies;
  - c) Incomplete conduct of RSSA validations;
  - d) Lack of established third-party monitoring process among LGUs;
  - e) No impact or outcome evaluation was developed or implemented for the Program; and
  - f) Alignment and contribution to the attainment of SDG 6 and its targets.

**Irregular submission of progress reports by the LGUs**

262. Weak monitoring and delayed reporting resulted to inconsistent progress data used by DILG POs, ROs, and the CO, including reports submitted to the DBM and Congress. The absence of timely and accurate information

constrained early detection of implementation delays and unresolved issues, limited the issuance of corrective measures such as catch-up plans and risk assessments, and weakened overall project oversight and accountability. These conditions increased the risk that project deficiencies would persist even after declared completion.

263. The MCs issued by the DILG for 2015 to 2018 required the LGUs, as the implementing partner, to submit financial and physical accomplishment reports to the DILG RO. In 2015 and 2016, submissions were required monthly, while in 2017 and 2018, reports were required twice a month. The 2015 to 2017 guidelines further required LGUs to submit a Statement of Work Accomplished (SWA) within five days after the end of each month.
264. In 2018 to 2020 the submission of SWA was still required, however, the frequency thereof was no longer indicated contrary to the required monthly reporting in the SubayBAYAN. DILG MC No. 2018-114 required monthly encoding of physical and financial accomplishments every 25th of the month. Initially, the City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (C/MLGOO) was responsible for encoding progress based on LGU submissions or inspections, but this responsibility was later transferred to LGUs under the 2020 SALINTUBIG Guidelines and reiterated in DILG MC No. 2021-040. These policies likewise assigned joint responsibility to the DILG ROs and POs to ensure the timely submission of reports.
265. Interviews with DILG personnel and LGU functionaries and document reviews on selected sub-projects with funding years of 2015 to 2017 disclosed that there were LGUs that only submitted financial and physical accomplishment reports and SWA upon billing and liquidation which may be one to four times during project implementation, including the final billing upon project completion. Among 39 sample sub-projects, only seven have documented substantial compliance with the respective progress reporting requirements.
266. Likewise, an examination of entries in SubayBAYAN (particularly in Accomplishment Statistics and Project Details sections) for sub-projects implemented from July 20, 2018<sup>12</sup> onwards showed that physical and financial accomplishments had not been encoded monthly as required. Of the 27 sample sub-projects that were required to use the SubayBAYAN for progress reporting, only three had regularly encoded the monthly reports or missed only one or two months (see *Appendix X*). In an interview in August 2024, the DILG OPDS acknowledged that there had been infrequent progress reporting in the SubayBAYAN and that the Office had issued reminders to the LGUs through the DILG ROs.
267. The aforesaid irregular and delayed submission of progress reports did not necessarily have a direct correlation to any delays in project

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<sup>12</sup> Per effectivity of DILG MC No. 2018-114, "Guidelines on the Implementation of SubayBAYAN"

implementation, however, it constrained the early detection of implementation delays and unresolved issues. Per inquiry with the DILG OPDS, the reports submitted by the ROs were the sole basis of the SALINTUBIG project reports submitted by the DILG CO to the DBM and Congress in 2017, while the information in SubayBAYAN, as supplemented by reports from the ROs, were the basis of the DILG CO reports from 2018 onwards.

268. Further, such delayed submission of progress reports did not provide sufficient basis for the assessment by the DILG POs, ROs and CO on whether the implementation of the sub-projects is still on track with the approved schedule and timelines and the subsequent issuance of warning letters and risk assessment reports. Per SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines, delays or slippages may only be identified by comparing progress reports against approved project timelines. In case of any identified delays or slippages, the DILG ROs were required to demand a catch-up plan or to issue warning letters. The issued warning letters were to be reported by the DILG PO and RO in a Risk Assessment Report<sup>13</sup>. The Risk Assessment Report should present the history of deviations of a project until said warning results in the correction of the deviation or termination of the project if the deviation continually remains uncorrected. Based on inquiry with selected DILG ROs and POs, no Risk Assessment Reports were prepared aside from the warning letters and advisories issued by the said offices to the LGUs with identified delays or with funds that are due for reversion by the end of the year. Based on inquiry with the DILG OPDS, on the other hand, risk assessment was performed at their level using SubayBAYAN data supplemented by reports from regional offices. Per interviews and review of documents, part of the risk management activities of the OPDS are field visits documented through Travel Reports and Aide Memoire.
269. Furthermore, proper and regular monitoring could have also addressed issues related to the functionality and operations of the water systems. Per analysis of inspection reports of DILG ROs and field offices and per inspections conducted by the Audit Team, among 39 selected SALINTUBIG projects at least 11 had issues left unresolved, despite being reported as 100% completed.
270. Based on interviews, during the implementation of SALINTUBIG Program the LGUs faced challenges in the staffing of their local engineering offices which posed difficulty in the preparation and timely submission of documentary requirements, including progress reports. Nonetheless, there are LGUs which said that their staffing situation had improved over the years and that they had been able to assign staff for monitoring using the SubayBAYAN platform.

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<sup>13</sup> required since 2018

271. Likewise, per interviews with Project Development and Management Units in DILG ROs and POs, they are concerned with the insufficiency of manpower, particularly engineers, to undertake the monitoring of projects under their jurisdictions, and the frequency of staff turnover.
272. The Audit Team also encountered difficulties in retrieving project documents due to the manpower concern, particularly, the contractual status of employment of engineers which results in high attrition rate. As verified with the DILG CO, such matter is dependent on the funding support from the GAA. Also, hiring of technical personnel in ROs began only in 2015 and not all POs were allocated the same. Based on data obtained from the DILG CO for 10 selected regions,<sup>14</sup> it was verified that while the attrition rate among engineers was generally offset by the recruitment rate as shown in the overall increase of number of staff from 2015 to 2020, 38% to 109% of the average number of engineers in years 2015 to 2020 were separated from the service either through transfer or resignation (excluding Region I which reported that only 1 personnel transferred during the said period). Of those who resigned, it is estimated that their length of stay ranged from 2 to 3.8 years.
273. It is acknowledged that the DILG MC No. 2024-134 dated September 12, 2024 on Omnibus Guidelines for the M & E of SubayBAYAN-enrolled Projects already provided the clarifications on the responsibilities in monitoring, its frequency and the required reports. It is commendable that the guidelines harmonize such monitoring responsibilities with the existing Regional Project M & E System (RPMES) of the NEDA.
274. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Ensure strict implementation of the Omnibus Guidelines for the M & E of SubayBAYAN-enrolled Projects as stipulated in the DILG MC. No. 2024-134.; and**
  - b) **Conduct a documented assessment of sufficiency of its field technical personnel tasked with the monitoring of projects and as necessary, formulate strategies to address any issues arising from such assessment.**
275. The Audit Team noted that LGUs did not utilize their official websites to disclose SALINTUBIG accomplishment reports nor submitted reports to the DBM and to the Legislature. This limited the public access to information and weakened accountability and transparency in the use of program funds.

Unutilized LGU websites/Non-submission of reports to DBM & legislative bodies

<sup>14</sup> Regions of CAR, I, II, IV-B, VI, NIR, VII, X, XI, and XIII

276. The GAAs from 2016 to 2020 required LGUs to submit quarterly reports on fund utilization and accomplishments to the DBM, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance, either in printed or electronic form, and to post these reports on their official websites. These requirements were reiterated in the corresponding SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines issued by the DILG through various Memorandum Circulars. Similarly, the 2015 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines required LGUs to submit reports on all implemented projects to the DBM and the Legislature.
277. However, inquiries with officials from the LGUs implementing 39 sampled SALINTUBIG sub-projects revealed that none had submitted accomplishment reports to the DBM or the Legislature, nor posted such reports on their official websites. LGUs cited that their websites were either recently established or not yet utilized. These LGUs relied on social media platforms, which were, however, not used for official reporting purposes. According to DILG, the LGUs are required to upload the status of the sub-projects in the Full Disclosure Policy Portal and post the same in three conspicuous places within the LGU.
278. The non-compliance with the reporting requirements indicated in the provisions of the GAAs and SALINTUBIG policy guidelines did not promote accountability and transparency in the progress of project implementation from the point of view of the DBM, the Legislature and the public. Accountability and transparency in progress reporting would have aided in decision making of oversight bodies and promoted the involvement of the citizens.
279. Contributing factors included limited technical capacity of LGUs to develop and maintain functional websites, and absence of technical guidance on the use of digital platforms for transparency and reporting.
280. The failure to publicly disclose financial and physical accomplishment reports weakened transparency and accountability in the implementation of SALINTUBIG projects. This restricted the ability of oversight bodies, including the DBM and the Legislature, as well as the general public, to assess fund utilization, monitor project progress, and participate meaningfully in governance and oversight of public expenditures.
281. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the audit acknowledged that LGUs were required to install community billboards to inform residents of ongoing projects. Under the 2018 to 2020 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines, LGUs were mandated to post project information on community billboards within municipal hall premises. Some LGUs included in the audit sample complied with this requirement.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Examples include but not limited to the LGUs of Dueñas (Iloilo), Camalaniugan (Cagayan), Agoon (La Union)

282. It is further acknowledged that DILG MC No. 2023-063 reiterated the requirement for implementing LGUs to develop or maintain functional and operational official websites. The Circular also encouraged LGUs to utilize official social media pages as supplementary platforms for disclosing reports and showcasing project implementation progress.

283. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**

- a) **Designate responsibility within the DILG CO or RO to monitor LGU's compliance with website development and public disclosure requirements;**
- b) **Provide technical assistance to the LGUs in establishing their official websites and collaborate with the appropriate agencies in this undertaking, as necessary; and**
- c) **Adopt recognized IT governance good practices, such as, but not limited to the COBIT 2019 Framework, to ensure that information disclosed is valid, complete, accurate, timely, and secure.**

### Incomplete conduct of RSSA validations

284. The audit disclosed that RSSA was not properly conducted for several SALINTUBIG sub-projects resulting in inaccurate, incomplete, or delayed information on the post-implementation condition of completed water systems.

285. The conduct of RSSA for each project under the programs of DILG has been required since the adoption of DILG MC No. 2018-104. The RSSA is an assessment of LFPs, including SALINTUBIG projects, one year upon completion. The RSSA for water supply systems seeks to determine the following information:

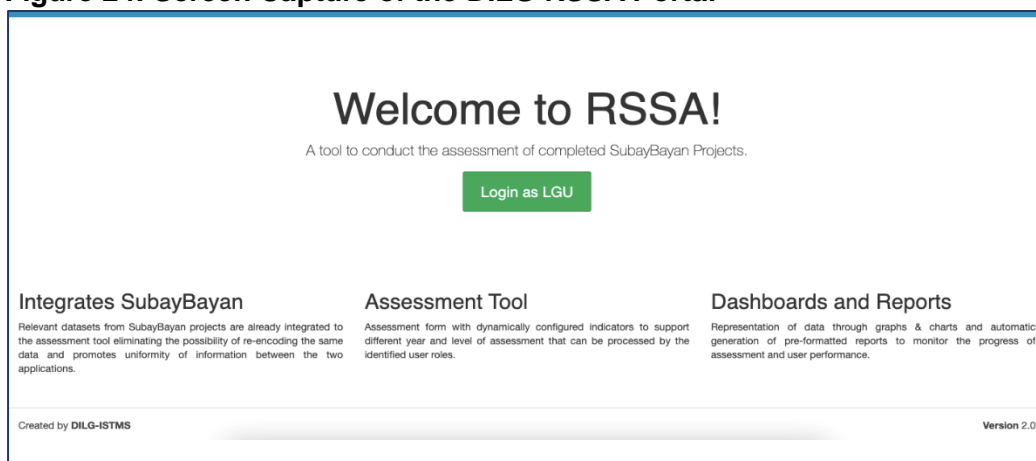
- Whether the project has been booked up as LGU asset (to compel LGUs to allocate funds for repairs and maintenance);
- Whether the project is insured;
- Whether the water system is still functional (the system is in good working condition and/or water is suitable for drinking), otherwise, reason for non-functionality (disaster, source, design, construction, maintenance, institutional);
- Whether the water system is still operational (system is being managed and/or there is sufficient supply of water);
- Improvements made on the water system, if any;
- The entity managing the facility (BWSA, LGU, Water District, or others);
- Whether the facility is regularly maintained and the amount of annual maintenance budget; and

- Needed interventions to make the water system functional/operational and estimated cost.

286. The aforesaid DILG MC designates the responsibility of conducting RSSA to the DILG POs and ROs, while the DILG CO was tasked to consolidate the RSSA results, recommend actions for non-functional projects, and conduct a site visit on non-functional projects identified through RSSA. Such responsibilities were reiterated in the 2019 and 2020 Policy Guidelines of the SALINTUBIG Program.

287. To support implementation, a web-based application for the RSSA (see *Figure 24*) was developed and as confirmed with DILG OPDS, the application was launched in 2021 through DILG MC No. 2021-123

**Figure 24: Screen Capture of the DILG RSSA Portal**



Source: [rssa.dilg.gov.ph](https://rssa.dilg.gov.ph)

288. In the RSSA User's Manual issued in 2020, the responsibilities relative to the conduct of RSSA were modified in which the task of performing the assessment was assigned to the LGU. In particular, the responsibilities of various offices are the following:

- OPDS – Evaluates, provides analysis and recommendations, and prepares overall narrative reports based on the overall consolidated results of the assessment from the PMOs. Submits report to higher management for guidance and further instruction.
- PMO – Views and monitors projects and assessments.
- DILG RO – Reviews and approves assessment; consolidates the data and submits to the next level user.
- DILG PO – Reviews and authenticates assessment; consolidates the data and submits to the next level user.
- C/MLGOO – Reviews and validates assessment; consolidates the data and submits to the next level user.

- LGU – conducts assessments of projects; submits assessment to City/Municipality and Provincial DILG field officers.
289. DILG MC No. 2021-123 also specifically indicates that the conduct of RSSA covers all LFPs that were completed since 2017.
290. Despite these policies, interviews with DILG personnel, document reviews, and field inspections revealed that RSSA was not properly conducted for several selected sub-projects, as follows:
- a) Sub-projects in President Roxas, Capiz (2016) and Pilar, Capiz (2017) were completed in 2017 and 2018 but are yet to undergo an RSSA as of May 2025.
  - b) The details of the sub-project in Laoag City (2016) (completed in February 2018) encoded in the RSSA database were based on an RSSA Form which was not properly accomplished. The RSSA Form dated July 14, 2023 retrieved by the DILG PO for this particular sub-project had invalid signatory names and had no signatures. A different RSSA Form was obtained from the LGU; however, it did not indicate the sub-project location, indicated a later date of assessment (June 30, 2023), and was not signed by the LGOO although signed by the Local Engineer and LCE. Both Forms indicated that the water system had been functional and operational four to five years after its completion in 2018; however, such status did not accurately reflect that the source developed under SALINTUBIG is no longer functional. Per inspection and household surveys conducted by the Audit Team, the water system had been turned over to the water district for operations and maintenance in 2021 while the source was rendered non-functional due to issues in water potability.
  - c) There are four sub-projects which are composed of multiple independent water systems but only a single RSSA was conducted for each, and were reported as functional and operational. However, inspection and interviews conducted by the Audit Team revealed that four of these were not functional and operational (see *Table 20*).

**Table 20: Sample SALINTUBIG sub-projects which are composed of multiple water systems**

SALINTUBIG Sub-project (Municipality of Location, Province, Year)	Barangay beneficiary	Project Status per Inspection and Interviews (January 2025)
Libjo, Dinagat Islands (2016)	Kanihaan (Purok 1)	Functional and operational
	Kanihaan, (Purok 2)	Not functional and not operational
Bagulin, La Union (2017)	Bucao	Not functional and not operational
	Amontoc	Functional and operational
	Bumbuneg	Not functional and not operational
Sto. Nino, Cagayan (2020)	Lubo-Lattac	Functional and operational
	Niug Sur, Niug Norte	Not functional and not operational

SALINTUBIG Sub-project (Municipality of Location, Province, Year)	Barangay beneficiary	Project Status per Inspection and Interviews (January 2025)
Alamada, North Cotabato (2018)	Mapurok-Pacao	Functional and operational
	Macabasa	Functional and operational
	Pigcawaran	Functional and operational

Source: COA Inspection and Interview Results

d) The RSSA Forms of the following sub-projects had no supporting photo documentation attached:

- Brgy. Dagup, Municipality of Bagulin, La Union (2017)
- Brgy. Angare, Municipality of Dueñas, Iloilo (2015)
- Brgy. Pader, Municipality of Dueñas, Iloilo (2019)
- Brgy. Kanihaan, Municipality of Libjo, Dinagat Islands (2016)

291. These deficiencies may be attributed to limitations in the RSSA system and governing policies, including the absence of a prescribed timeframe for conducting RSSA after project eligibility, lack of clear standards on the manner and extent of verification by DILG field offices, and system constraints that do not adequately capture changes in project scope, beneficiaries, or multiple water systems under a single sub-project. Detailed specific limitations are as follows:

- a) There is no prescribed period of conducting RSSA after it becomes eligible therefor (one year after completion date). Per DILG MC No. 2021-123, RSSA is conducted based on the proposed assessment schedules of the LGUs which should be documented in an Implementation Plan to be submitted by the LGU to the DILG Field Office. Neither the said DILG MC nor other policies require the RSSA to be conducted within a definite period of time.
- b) The manner and extent of verifying RSSA results are not well-defined. Review of policies relevant to the conduct of RSSA revealed that while the DILG City/Municipal Field Offices are required to verify the completeness of RSSA results, there had been no details on the required manner and extent of verification procedures, such as whether it should involve onsite inspection. Per field validation through interview with DILG personnel in ROs and POs, there are PO personnel who assist the LGU in conducting inspections to accomplish the RSSA while others only check the completeness of the supporting documents attached in the RSSA Form.
- c) The RSSA system does not accommodate changes in and peculiarities of sub-projects. There are sub-projects which have approved changes in barangay beneficiaries or composed of multiple independent water systems; however, the RSSA Form generated through the system automatically indicates the original sub-project profile. For instance, there was a case of six separate sub-projects within an LGU for six barangays which were consolidated into a single

sub-project with a different set of three barangay beneficiaries and a single water system; however, the RSSA system still has separate entries for the original six sub-projects. As confirmed through an interview with the DILG OPDS, the RSSA portal requires only one assessment per sub-project and multiple water systems can only be accounted for through the submission of individual forms through other channels.

292. It is acknowledged, nonetheless, that the DILG CO had issued memoranda in October 2022 to various DILG ROs requesting the latter's assistance in facilitating the conduct of RSSA by the LGUs in view of the number of projects in their respective regions which are due for assessment.
293. Without an accurate, validated and timely information, the RSSA would not be able to provide the LGUs and DILG a reliable means of obtaining post-completion information that will minimize incidences of non-functionality and failure of operations within the intended project lifespan and to identify and implement the necessary actions to address any issues. This is critical since according to the OPDS and as verified, the results of the RSSA are shared to the DILG Management and Regional Offices with recommendations to conduct appropriate interventions for non-functional projects.
294. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Enable the RSSA System to accurately reflect vital information about the sub-projects including actual project location and scope of the sub-project; and**
  - b) **Strengthen the review and verification procedures to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in the RSSA. While it may not be feasible for the DILG-CO, RO and field offices to personally inspect all LFPs, the DILG may employ a risk-based approach to prioritize projects according to factors such as amount involved, and history of deviations in quality, and feedback from project beneficiaries, among others.**

Lack of  
Established  
Third-Party  
Monitoring  
Process among  
LGUs

295. The audit noted that in several LGUs, third-party monitoring by CSOs, NGOs, people's organizations, or community members was not implemented during the execution of SALINTUBIG sub-projects, primarily due to the absence of clear and operational guidelines governing such engagement.

296. Paragraph 3 of Section II.6.b.6 of the 2012 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines requires the engagement of CSOs to monitor the execution of SALINTUBIG projects to ensure compliance with approved plans and specification.
297. The 2018 Policy Guidelines issued through MC No. 2018-89 dated June 11, 2018<sup>16</sup> also indicated the participation of CSOs and citizens, including third-party monitoring. However, these guidelines only cover the engagement of the CSOs by the DILG to jointly implement DILG programs and projects and there were no such guidelines issued immediately thereafter.
298. Likewise, DILG MC No. 2018-104 and DILG MC No. 2019-77 stated that a separate guideline shall be issued as reference for the participation of CSOs as External Monitors in the implementation of the SALINTUBIG Programs under the LGSF but the same did not provide guidance for external monitoring.
299. Moreover, Sections 6.6.3 and 6.6.4 of the 2018 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines issued through MC No. 2018-045 required the beneficiary LGUs to establish a Municipal Development Council (MDC) Project Monitoring Team/Unit<sup>17</sup>, which should monitor all projects within the City/Municipality funded under LGSF.
300. Similarly, Section 7.1.7 and Section 7.1.6 of the Policy Guidelines for CYs 2019 and 2020, respectively, required the reactivation of the PMC. According to DILG MC Nos. 2004-78<sup>18</sup> and 2019-188<sup>19</sup>, among the mandatory members of the PMC are two representatives from NGOs.
301. Review of documents and interviews with LGU officials and representatives of selected SALINTUBIG sub-projects implemented from 2018 onwards revealed that compliance with third-party monitoring requirements was limited.
302. Of the 29 sampled sub-projects required to engage CSOs in monitoring, only four LGUs were able to provide evidence of having established a PMT or PMC with CSO representation during project implementation. In five LGUs, CSOs were also invited to attend bidding conferences as observers, but they were not involved in project monitoring activities during implementation (*see Appendix XI*).

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<sup>16</sup> Guidelines on Engagements with Civil Society Organizations

<sup>17</sup> The PMT may be composed of 50% members from the LGU and 50% from CSOs

<sup>18</sup> Organization/Reactivation of Project Monitoring Committees (PMCs) in the Local Government Units

<sup>19</sup> Organization or Reconstitution of Sub-Regional Project Monitoring Committees (PMCs)

303. In relation to the PMC, its establishment at the provincial, city and municipal levels was required as early as the issuance of EO No. 376<sup>20</sup> on November 2, 1989 which was amended by EO No. 93 dated June 1, 1993. The provisions of EO No. 93 of 1993 on the mandatory members of the local PMCs were reiterated in DILG MC No. 2004-78 dated June 22, 2004 which required the organization/reactivation of PMCs in the LGUs. The establishment and composition of PMCs were also provided in the Operational Guidelines of the RPMEs issued by the NEDA in 2016. Such provisions of EO No. 93 of 1993, RPMEs Operational Guidelines, and DILG MC No. 2004-78, however, were not reiterated in the SALINTUBIG Guidelines until 2019.
304. It was only on November 14, 2019 that more detailed guidelines were issued through DILG MC No. 2019-188 on the “Organization or Reconstitution of Sub-Regional Project Monitoring Committees” which was cited in the 2020 SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines. This explicitly required that the PMC submit a monthly report to the MDC, copy furnished the DILG through the MLGOO.
305. On the other hand, for the years 2012 to 2017, the SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines only required LGUs to engage CSOs in project monitoring on general terms without defining the terms of their involvement.
306. It is nonetheless acknowledged that in the 2024 Omnibus Guidelines for the M & E of SubayBAYAN-enrolled projects issued by the DILG<sup>21</sup>, detailed guidelines have already been provided for third-party monitoring, including procedures, templates and suggested indicators. Although this guideline superseded the previously mentioned issuances, the previous issuance generally remains the governing rule for actions, transactions, or periods that occurred while it was in effect.
307. Although the SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines (2012, 2018, 2019, and 2020) required CSO participation and the establishment or reactivation of PMCs, the guidelines lacked clear, detailed, and timely instructions on the roles, responsibilities, scope, frequency, and outputs of third-party monitoring.
308. The absence of institutionalized third-party monitoring limited independent oversight, citizen participation, and transparency during the project implementation. Thus, potential implementation issues, deviations from plans, and emerging risks were not promptly identified and addressed, weakening accountability at the local level.

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<sup>20</sup> Establishing the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMEs), setting forth its objectives, defining its scope and coverage, requiring the formulation of a manual of operations and for other similar purposes

<sup>21</sup> MC No. 2024-134 dated September 12, 2024

No impact or outcome evaluation system was developed or implemented for the SALINTUBIG Program

309. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies that for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs ensure the establishment and functionality of PMCs by mandating the DILG ROs and POs through the MLGOOs to monitor the creation/reestablishment of local PMCs and their compliance with the reportorial requirements per the DILG and NEDA issuances.**
310. The 2014 to 2017 Policy Guidelines on the SALINTUBIG Program required data on specific social and economic indicators to be regularly collected in SALINTUBIG project sites to aid in outcome evaluation. The same guidelines also require the DILG CO and ROs to establish processes and mechanisms for the regular sharing of findings from evaluation initiatives; the CO to develop and implement M & E systems; and the ROs to provide support to the provincial and municipal offices in the M & E of sub-projects. On the other hand, the 2019 to 2020 Policy Guidelines require the DILG CO to ensure the implementation of the results-based M & E framework and system to determine the outcome of the project and the ROs to take the lead in the evaluation of projects. Such framework was introduced in DILG MC No. 2018-2014 dated July 5, 2018<sup>22</sup> which provided guidelines on the monitoring of various DILG Projects.
311. Though M & E often go hand-in-hand to support evidence-based policy making, evaluation is distinct from monitoring. *Monitoring* uses mostly administrative data to track financial disbursement and program performance against expected results and to analyze trends over time. *Evaluation*, on the other hand, is carried out at discrete points in time and often seeks an outside perspective from technical experts to answer specific questions related to design, implementation, and results. Such questions may relate to whether targets were accomplished or what difference the intervention had caused in outcomes. One particular type of evaluation is *impact evaluation* that seeks to answer a specific cause-and-effect question using quantitative data.<sup>23</sup>
312. Inquiry with the DILG CO-OPDS revealed that no impact or outcome evaluation system was developed or implemented for the SALINTUBIG Program. This limited the DILG Management, oversight bodies and the Legislature to be informed of the overall effectiveness of the Program during its implementation from 2012 to 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Policy Guidelines in Monitoring of the FY 2017 Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities, FY 2018 Assistance to Municipalities (AM), FY 2018 Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig Para sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG) Programs under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), and Thereafter

<sup>23</sup> Gertler, Paul J. et al. 2016. *Impact Evaluation in Practice, second edition*. Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-0779-4

313. According to the OPDS, the collection of data related to the monitoring of KPIs, as presented in *Table 2*, was only done for internal monitoring to track utility performance.
314. Such internal monitoring enabled the OPDS to identify LGUs which have relatively large gaps in access to water and the corresponding necessary interventions. Nonetheless, KPIs relating to program effectiveness such as "decline in waterborne diseases" and "decline in morbidity or mortality rate" were not monitored by the OPDS considering that the data relevant thereto are appropriately gathered by the DOH through its FHSIS. The DILG CO also had not conducted an evaluation based on any data gathered by the DOH.
315. According to DILG, the conduct of M & E for morbidity and mortality is primarily the responsibility of the DOH. However, review of the RBME framework for water supply developed by the OPDS revealed that morbidity and mortality data are included as indicators.
316. Likewise, in the case of the selected DILG ROs, no activities related to evaluation were led by the ROs. Based on inquiry, the ROs only performed post-implementation monitoring through the conduct of RSSA. Per review of pertinent policies and RSSA Forms, however, the RSSA is only limited to its objective of determining whether the sub-project remains functional or operational at least one year after its completion and therefore cannot be considered a form of evaluation where its effect to the beneficiaries is measured through social, economic or health indicators.
317. There were also no other agencies involved in the SALINTUBIG Program which performed evaluation thereof. Per inquiries with the DOH and review of pertinent documents, the agency did not perform an evaluation of the SALINTUBIG Program although it had conducted the following related activities:
- Periodic publication of reports on FHSIS consisting of health data including those related to waterborne diseases from all LGUs including the beneficiaries of SALINTUBIG Program;
  - Provision of technical assistance to LGUs on the establishment of LDWQMC whose function is to collect and analyze water samples, evaluate laboratory results to determine compliance with standards, and institute remedial measures to correct deficiencies of water systems, among others; and
  - Implementation of a monitoring system, together with the DILG, that collects data on the existence of an LDWQMC in all cities and municipalities in the Philippines.
318. The NAPC, likewise, had not performed an evaluation of the Program nor had issued evaluation reports. However, the agency commented that they conducted activities that they consider part of M & E, with monitoring

reports focused on the progress of the SALINTUBIG projects. Per interview with key personnel and review of requested documents, such activities include the following:

- Conduct of focus group discussions, key informant interviews and technical review in various areas where SALINTUBIG projects are completed from 2012 to 2016;
- Consolidation of the progress reports from the three implementing agencies;
- Preparation of an assessment report using the presentation reports of the implementing agencies, monitoring reports, minutes of meeting and documentation reports of assessment and planning workshop; and
- Conduct of multiple island-wide assessments through focus group discussions.

319. The DILG also informed that the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, although not included among the agencies involved in the SALINTUBIG Program, issued a Discussion Paper entitled “Results of the Process and Impact Evaluation for Selected Government Water Supply and Sanitation Programs” in 2016 which included a study on the implementation and accomplishments of the SALINTUBIG Program. However, the result of such study was not submitted to the agency, thus, no actions were taken by the DILG with respect to the findings or recommendations in the paper.

320. The lack of evaluation activities is likely due to the absence of clear policies and guidelines on the following:

- *Specific procedures.* No guidance was provided regarding the process of performing an impact or outcome evaluation at the sub-project or program level, such as the procedures in collecting and analyzing data.
- *Required outputs.* The required outputs at the level of the CO or RO from evaluation activities were not specified.
- *Responsibilities for the performance of specific procedures.* While CO was tasked to develop and implement the M & E system and the RO to take the lead in evaluation activities within their jurisdictions, it was not clarified who should conduct data collection and analysis.
- *Criteria for evaluation (i.e., indicators).* A set of indicators was provided only in the 2012 Guidelines while the 2014 to 2017 Guidelines only required the collection of data for social and economic indicators which were not yet defined.

321. Further, in certain years, reference to a separate set of guidelines for project evaluation was mentioned, particularly the “SALINTUBIG M & E Manual” and “SALINTUBIG Project Evaluation procedures;” however, such separate guidelines and procedures had not been issued in the succeeding

- years. The “DILG Simplified Results-Based Monitoring Guidebook” which should guide the Results-Based M & E was also mentioned in the DILG MC No. 2018-104 dated July 5, 2018<sup>24</sup> yet it was likewise not issued. It was only in 2024 when the DILG issued MC No. 2024-134 dated September 12, 2024<sup>25</sup> that guidelines were provided for evaluation activities, including the responsibilities and deliverables of LGUs, DILG CO, DILG ROs and third-party monitors/evaluators. From 2025 onwards, M & E already covered all LGSF projects through this issuance.
322. Nonetheless, procedures, templates and suggested indicators were only provided for the conduct of Third-Party Monitoring while the guidance on Third-Party Evaluation only indicated the possible approaches to be undertaken without other necessary details such as indicators to be used. Also, while there are responsibilities, procedures and deliverables on the project evaluation to be conducted by the LGUs, no indicators were provided to ensure that the evaluations conducted are meaningful in the context of program goals and objectives and are comparable across LGUs.
323. The responsibilities of the DOH and NAPC, as agencies which were also involved in the SALINTUBIG Program, were likewise not clarified with respect to evaluation. In the Tripartite MOA between the DOH, DILG and NAPC on their collaboration as executing agencies of the priority water and sanitation program of the then incumbent administration signed in January 2011, the NAPC was not assigned responsibilities related to evaluation apart from progress monitoring, while the DOH was tasked to monitor water quality and waterborne disease reduction as well as sanitation indicator and targets.
324. On the other hand, in the 2011 Implementing Guidelines of the SALINTUBIG Program, the NAPC was tasked with progress monitoring and reporting and evaluation with respect to performance indicators, while the responsibilities of the DOH remained consistent with those indicated in the Tripartite MOA. However, the policies issued by the DILG since 2012 no longer concurred with such as the functions of M & E appears to have already been assumed by the DILG.
325. The NAPC also stated in an interview that in other evaluation activities performed for other government programs, the agency had to avail of the technical services of other entities such as the Philippine Institute for Development Studies to undertake the said activities.
326. The lack of results from evaluation activities conducted did not enable the DILG, oversight bodies or the Legislature, to: a) identify early on, the issues

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<sup>24</sup> Policy Guidelines in Monitoring of the FY 2017 Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM), FY 2018 Assistance to Municipalities (AM), FY 2018 Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig para sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG) Programs under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), and Thereafter

<sup>25</sup> Omnibus Guidelines for the Monitoring and Evaluation of SubayBAYAN-enrolled Projects

encountered during implementation and provide resolution thereof; b) provide information on the utilization of funds in the context of the outcomes achieved; and c) provide recommendations to continue or discontinue the Program.

327. Despite the lack of formal evaluation procedures, it is acknowledged that the DILG ROs were able to revisit the program beneficiaries to obtain post-implementation information and testimonies for the following purposes:
- Preparation of annual reports in the form of coffee table books/magazines and audio-visual presentations of the RO and CO;
  - Recognition of good practices through the SubayBAYANI Awards; and
  - Assisting media in developing feature stories in local news channels.
328. It is further acknowledged that the issuance of DILG MC No. 2024-134 has since introduced requirements for the following:
- Conduct of project evaluation by the LGUs using RPMES Form No. 4 submitted every year to assess the utilization of project outputs, the resulting immediate project outcomes, and their contribution to broader development goals and objectives; and
  - Conduct of third-party M & E by accredited CSO.
329. **We recommend the DILG and other implementing agencies to undertake the following for future and continuing water supply and sanitation programs:**
- a) **Provide guidance material for Third-Party Evaluation prescribed under the DILG MC No. 2024-134 (similar to the Field Implementation Guide for the Third-Party Monitoring of LGSF Annex of the said MC);**
  - b) **Adopt a list of different sets of indicators for different infrastructure projects, including water projects, to be used by LGUs and third-party monitors in evaluation. The indicators for outcomes should correspond to program objectives while those for impact should correspond to the program goal. For water projects, the indicators in 2012 Policy Guidelines of SALINTUBIG may be used as reference; and**
  - c) **Consider forming partnerships with academic institutions with credible reputation and technical capacity in conducting impact evaluation to perform such evaluation of the water programs and other infrastructure projects of the DILG.**

SALINTUBIG Program’s alignment and contribution to the attainment of SDG 6 and its targets

330. SDG 6 aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” Overall, the SALINTUBIG Program aligns significantly with SDG 6.1, 6.a, and 6.b as it strongly supports access to water, capacity development, and community participation in its overall implementation (see Figure 25).

**Figure 25: SALINTUBIG Alignment with SDG 6 Targets**



Source: PSA SDG Matrix

331. SALINTUBIG Program directly prioritizes waterless municipalities and barangays wherein 2,821 WSS systems were constructed and implemented nationwide which contributed in improving physical access to safe water for approximately 7.4 million individuals. These accomplishments are aligned with SDG Target 6.1 on universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water. Graduation of waterless areas is also part of the program’s expected outcome and is consistent with SDG indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services. The outputs and outcomes of the program directly contribute to the progress towards the attainment of SDG 6.

332. Further, SALINTUBIG includes sanitation elements and capacity-building guidelines on sanitation. This is to some extent aligned with SDG Target 6.2: Access to sanitation and hygiene.

333. Moreover, the program emphasizes capacity building of community-managed water service providers such as BWSAs and LGU-managed water systems. It also requires community involvement in planning, site selection, operation and management of water systems. These are consistent with SDG Targets 6.a and 6.b which are to expand international

cooperation and capacity-building, and to strengthen participation of local communities, respectively.

334. Since the related SDG indicators and targets are being monitored by the Government through the PSA, the audit team reviewed the SDG Watch at the PSA website to determine the progress of this SDG. It was noted that SDG 6.1 has a target of achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all by 2030. Specifically, under SDG 6.1, p.1, the proportion of families with access to basic drinking water services has a baseline data of 90.8% in 2017 and has increased to 96.3% in 2022. However, the target of 100% by 2030 could not be achieved in the presence of waterless municipalities and barangays.
335. Although the program has significantly expanded water access, the Municipalities and Barangays whose WSS systems became non-functional due to gaps on implementation and issues on sustainability had negated the gains of the Program. With the stoppage of the funding for SALINTUBIG since 2021, the progress in the attainment of SDG 6.1 to have universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all by 2030 had been impacted.

**Overall Conclusion**

336. The audit concludes that the **Sagana at Ligas na Tubig sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG) Program** significantly contributed to improving access to potable water and reducing the number of waterless municipalities and barangays nationwide from 2012 to 2020. Through the implementation of 2,821 WSS systems and the provision of capacity-building interventions to LGUs and water service providers, the Program supported the national government's commitment to address water security challenges and advance the attainment of SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.
337. However, the audit disclosed that gaps in planning, beneficiary targeting, implementation, monitoring, and sustainability mechanisms constrained the Program's ability to fully achieve its intended outcomes, particularly the provision of reliable and sustainable water services to the most waterless and disadvantaged communities.
338. Specifically, the absence of an updated and centralized database on waterless areas, coupled with weak coordination between the DILG and NAPC, resulted in the implementation of a substantial number of sub-projects outside the originally identified waterless municipalities and barangays, while a significant number of priority areas remained ungraduated. In addition, gaps in reported accomplishments and the lack of standardized reporting limited the reliability of performance information and weakened accountability over results achieved.
339. Further, despite high fund utilization rates, issues affecting sustainability persisted, as evidenced by non-operational water systems, incomplete infrastructure components, limited tariff collection, weak management of BWSAs, and inadequate technical capacity of some water service providers. These conditions undermined the long-term functionality of completed WSS systems and diluted the intended benefits to beneficiary communities.
340. Moreover, while the DILG issued policies on M & E, such policies did not constitute a firmly established system. These were not fully implemented by all LGUs and did not result in timely M & E reports that could have informed the DILG Management, oversight bodies and the Legislature of the progress and overall effectiveness of the Program.
341. In summary, while the SALINTUBIG Program delivered substantial outputs and expanded physical access to water, systemic weaknesses in targeting, coordination, capacity development, sustainability planning, and results-based monitoring limited the Program's effectiveness and posed risks to the durability of its gains. Addressing these weaknesses is essential to ensure that future or successor water programs translate investments into sustained, equitable and universal access to safe water to all by 2030 in line with SDG 6.

## Summary of Recommendations

342. To enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of future or continuing water supply and sanitation initiatives, we recommend that the DILG, in coordination with concerned agencies, undertake the following:
- I. **Strengthen Beneficiary Targeting and Prioritization**
    - a) Establish and institutionalize a centralized, regularly updated, and validated national database on the water access status of municipalities and barangays, in coordination with the NAPC, PSA, DOH, and LGUs.
    - b) Conduct periodic reassessment of beneficiary eligibility to ensure that limited resources are directed to the most waterless and underserved communities.
    - c) Prioritize the verification and inclusion of the remaining ungraduated waterless municipalities and barangays in future water programs.
  - II. **Strengthen Capacity Development Interventions**
    - a) Ensure that all LGUs and community-based water service providers, particularly BWSAs, receive adequate and timely training on technical, financial, and institutional aspects of water system management.
    - b) Institutionalize refresher and post-implementation training programs to address staff turnover and evolving operational challenges.
  - III. **Enhance Coordination and Governance of Water Programs**
    - a) Institutionalize an inter-agency coordination mechanism through formal agreements clearly defining roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities among implementing agencies.
    - b) Strengthen coordination between national agencies and LGUs to minimize project realignments and ensure alignment with validated needs and development priorities.
  - IV. **Improve Sustainability of Water Supply Systems**
    - a) Require the completion of all critical infrastructure components prior to project acceptance to ensure full system functionality.
    - b) Strengthen support to LGUs and BWSAs on tariff setting, financial management, and operation and maintenance to promote cost recovery and long-term sustainability.
    - c) Conduct regular post-implementation assessments to identify and address technical, financial, and environmental risks affecting completed WSS systems.
  - V. **Strengthen Results-Based M & E**
    - a) Establish and operationalize a comprehensive M & E framework that includes outcome and impact indicators aligned with program objectives and SDG 6 targets.
    - b) Standardize reporting methodologies and enforce compliance in the use of monitoring systems to ensure accuracy, consistency, and reliability of performance data.

- c) Utilize evaluation results to inform policy decisions, program redesign, and future funding allocations.
343. By implementing these recommendations, the DILG and concerned agencies may enhance the likelihood that investments in water supply and sanitation programs will result in sustained, equitable, and reliable access to safe water, thereby maximizing utilization of public funds and reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive and sustainable development. Particularly for SDG 6, to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030, there is a need to have a program similar to the objectives of the SALINTUBIG Program.

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## Agency Comments

The DILG and NAPC Managements were provided with copies of the draft report. Comments submitted were duly considered and incorporated into the report, where appropriate.

Contact points for our Performance Audit Office may be found on the last page of this Report. In addition, significant contributors to this report are listed in Appendix XIII.

In addition, the Report will be available on the COA website, which can be found at <https://www.coa.gov.ph>



**MICHAEL L. RACELIS**  
Director IV  
Performance Audit Office  
Special Services Sector

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## Appendix I: Objectives, Scope and Methodology

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COA conducts performance audit to help government agencies better perform their mandate and achieve program goals and objectives more economically, efficiently, and effectively. We identified the SALINTUBIG Program of the DILG as one of the priority audit programs due to its significance and impact in addressing the Philippines' water security challenges. Consequently, the SALINTUBIG program directly addresses SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; by providing potable water supply systems to waterless communities which ensures access to safe and readily available water for all.

The SALINTUBIG Program was designed to provide grant financing and capacity development programs to enhance/improve capacities of LGUs and water service providers in planning, implementation, and operation and management of water supply facilities in a sustainable manner and for the implementation of water supply projects in the following: a) waterless municipalities; b) poorest barangays with high level of waterborne diseases; c) resettlement areas; and d) Rural Health Unit/birthing clinics without access to safe water.

The audit covered the implementation of the program from FYs 2012 to 2020. The audit also focused on several critical aspects of the program implementation such as: (1) the attainment of the goals and objectives; (2) the extent the program implementers perform their individual roles and responsibilities in accordance with the program policy guidelines; and (3) the establishment of mechanism to monitor and evaluate the program's success.

To ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the program, we reviewed significant program policies and plans, JMCs, resolutions, accomplishment reports, and the program's database. During field validation, we conducted interviews with selected DILG and LGU officials and personnel and other program stakeholders to assess the extent of implementation, coordination, and monitoring as well as the roles of partner agencies. We also surveyed a sample of beneficiaries to determine whether they: 1) observed significant improvements in their living conditions and health as a result of the program; and 2) have been involved in the design, implementation, M & E of the sub-projects.

Sampling procedure was applied in two stages: (1) selection of sub-projects for the conduct of interviews, document reviews and household survey, and (2) selection of households that will be included in the survey.

At the first stage, the audit team generally utilized a **non-statistical<sup>26</sup> and non-random<sup>27</sup> approach** in selecting the sub-projects included in the audit validation. The audit team selected sub-projects in three categories:

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<sup>26</sup> *Non-statistical sampling* is the selection of a test group that is based on the examiner's judgment, rather than a formal statistical method.

<sup>27</sup> *Non-random sampling* is a sampling technique where the sample selection is based on factors other than just random chance.

- Completed and operating as of July 2024 per the records of the DILG;
- Completed as of July 2024 per the records of the DILG but are reported as no longer operating; and
- Canceled.

At the second stage, the audit team selected households within the barangays covered by the selected completed projects (operating and not operating) using a **non-statistical and non-random approach**.

Moreover, to ensure a comprehensive and participatory assessment, the audit adopted the COA's CPA approach. This collaborative approach strengthened transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment in the conduct of the audit. Representatives from CSOs/NGOs were engaged in data collection activities, field validations, inspection of completed water systems, and discussions with implementing LGUs. These are the following CSOs/NGOs:

- Mother Ignacia Women's Association of Llorente, Eastern Samar, Region VIII – a community-based food manufacturer; and
- Kabataang Gabay sa Positibong Pamumuhay Inc. of Iloilo City, Region VI – an entrepreneurial non-profit community enterprise.

Finally, the audit was conducted from July 2024 to October 2025, following the Standard for Performance Auditing embodied in the ISSAI 3000. The standard requires that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

## Appendix II: List of the 58 SALINTUBIG Sub-projects Subjected to Validation (Completed and Canceled)

No.	IMPLEMENTING LGU	SUB-PROJECT DETAILS	Year
<b>Completed Sub-projects</b>			
1	Burauen, Leyte	Construction of Level II WSS in Brgy. Taghuyan for ₱2 million, Completed	2015
2	Matalom, Leyte	Provision fo WSS Level II in Brgy. Caningag for ₱513,533, Completed	2019
3	Basey, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Cogon (changed to Brgy. San Antonio) for ₱2 million, Completed	2017
4	Basey, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Old San Agustin (changed to Brgy. Salvacion) for ₱3 million, Completed	2017
5	Hinabangan, Samar	2017, Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tabay (changed to Brgy. Osmeña) for ₱2 million, Completed	2017
6	Paranas, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Cawayan (changed to Brgy. Buray) for ₱3 million, Completed	2017
7	Pinabacdao, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. II (Pob) for ₱3 million, Completed	2017
8	Santa Rita, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Binanalan for ₱3 million, Completed	2017
9	Santa Rita, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tulay (changed to Brgy. Caticugan) for ₱3 million, Completed	2017
10	Duenas, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water System (in Brgy. Angare) for ₱10 million, Completed	2015
11	Duenas, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Pader for ₱19 million, Completed	2019
12	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water Supply System in Brgy. Sinamay for ₱10 million, Completed	2017
13	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Sulong for ₱6,259,227, Completed	2020
14	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Coline-Dalag for ₱5 million, Completed	2020
15	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Paoy for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2012
16	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Awis for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2012
17	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Pepe for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2012
18	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Capitan Fernando for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2012
19	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Ambulong for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2012
20	President Roxas, Capiz	Provision of Potable Water Supply Level III for ₱11,978,878, Completed	2016
21	Pilar, Capiz	Construction of Level III Water Supply System (in Brgys Yating and Tabun-acan) for ₱12 million, Completed	2017
22	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Melgar for ₱1 million, Completed	2015
23	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Puerto Princesa for ₱1 million, Completed	2015
24	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Roma for ₱1 million	2015
25	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Potable WS Level III in Brgy. Nazareth for ₱3 million, Completed	2016
26	Libjo, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Potable WS in Brgy. Kanihaan for ₱2 million	2016
27	Matalam, North Cotabato	Construction of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Marbel for ₱1 million, Completed	2015
28	Alamada, North Cotabato	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area), Completed 2018 in Brgys. Bao, Rangayen & Pigcawaran for ₱12 million, Completed	2016
29	Alamada, North Cotabato	Construction of Potable Water System Level III-Phase II in Brgys Mapurok-Pacao, Macabasa and Pigcawaran for ₱12 million	2018
30	Magpet, North Cotabato	Construction of Water Supply (Level II) in Brgy. Temporan for ₱3 million, Completed	2018
31	Magpet, North Cotabato	Construction of Basak Water System Level III in Brgy. Basak for ₱12,749,322, Completed	2020
32	Bagulin, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Dagup for ₱12 million, Completed	2017
33	San Gabriel, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgys. Bucao, Amontoc, Bumbuneg for ₱12 million, Completed	2017
34	San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. San Pablo for ₱11,998,510.44, Completed	2017
35	City of Laoag, Ilocos Norte	Construction/Upgrading of Water Supply (Level III) in Brgy. Vira [changed from 6 Barangays, including Vira, to 3 Brgys. -- Dibua North, Dibua South, Madiladig-- for ₱12 million], Completed	2016
36	Camalaniugan, Cagayan	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Cullit for ₱11,294,077, Completed	2020
37	Lasam, Cagayan	Nabannagan Water System – Level II in Nappicu, Brgy. Nabannagan West for ₱11,563,551, Completed	2020
38	Sto. Nino, Cagayan	Construction of Malulani Water Supply Project Level III in Brgys. Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur, Niug Norte, San Roque for ₱11,563,551, Completed	2020
39	San Isidro, Isabela	Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez for ₱11,563,551	2020
<b>Canceled Sub-Projects</b>			
40	Maconacon, Isabela	Provision of Water Supply System Level II at Brgy. Eleanor, Reported as Canceled by the DILG but was completed by the LGU upon inquiry	2018
41	Villaba, Leyte	Expansion of Existing Water Works System in Brgy. Poblacion Del Norte, Canceled	2015
42	Villaba, Leyte	Expansion of Existing Level III Water System in Brgy. Tabunok, 2015, Canceled	2015
43	Villaba, Leyte	Water Supply System in Brgy. Cabungahan, Canceled	2016
44	Villaba, Leyte	Water Supply System in Brgy. Calbugos, Canceled	2016

No.	IMPLEMENTING LGU	SUB-PROJECT DETAILS	Year
45	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Gusa, Canceled	2019
46	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Hagbay, Canceled	2019
47	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Hibaca-An, Canceled	2019
48	Carles, Iloilo	Construction of Level II Water System Brgy. Punta, Canceled	2016
49	Carles, Iloilo	Source Development in Brgy. Bancal, Canceled	2016
50	Agoo, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Capas, Canceled	2019
51	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Aru-ay, Canceled	2016
52	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Bimmanga, Canceled	2016
53	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tangaoan, Canceled	2016
54	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tonoton, Canceled	2016
55	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Calambeg, Canceled	2016
56	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Maruaya, Canceled	2016
57	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Abucay, Canceled	2016
58	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Boyboy, Canceled	2016

## Appendix III: Validation of Sub-projects Not Listed Among the WMs or WBs

NO.	Implementing Units	Barangay	Project Details	Funding Year	Revised Allocation (in pesos)
<b>Completed Sub-projects</b>					
1	Burauen, Leyte	Taghuyan	Construction of Level II WSS	2015	2,000,000
2	Matalam, North Cotabato	Marbel	Construction of Potable Water Supply	2015	1,000,000
3	Magpet, North Cotabato	Temporan	Construction of Water Supply	2018	3,000,000
4	Magpet, North Cotabato	Basak	Construction of Basak Water System	2020	12,749,322
5	City of Laoag, Ilocos Norte	Vira	Construction/Upgrading of Water Supply (Level III)	2016	12,000,000
6	Camalaniugan, Cagayan	Cullit	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Cullit	2020	11,294,077
7	Lasam, Cagayan	Nabannagan West	Nabannagan Water System – Level II in Nappicu, Brgy. Nabannagan West	2020	11,563,551
8	San Isidro, Isabela	Gomez	Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez	2020	11,563,551
<b>Canceled Sub-projects</b>					
9	Maconacon, Isabela	Eleanor	Provision of Water Supply System Level II at Brgy. Eleanor	2018	-
10	Villaba, Leyte	Poblacion Del Norte	Expansion of Existing Water Works System	2015	-
11	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Aru-ay	Canceled	2016	-
12	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Bimmanga	Canceled	2016	-
13	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Tangaoan	Canceled	2016	-
14	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Tonoton	Canceled	2016	-
15	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Calambeg	Canceled	2016	-
16	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Maruaya	Canceled	2016	-
17	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Abucay	Canceled	2016	-
18	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Boyboy	Canceled	2016	-

## Appendix IV: Summary of Eligibility Assessment per SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines

Criteria	2012 <sup>[28]</sup>	2013 <sup>[29]</sup> [30]	2014 <sup>[31]</sup>	2015 <sup>[32]</sup>	2016 <sup>[33]</sup>	2017 <sup>[34]</sup>	2018 <sup>[35]</sup>	2019 <sup>[36]</sup>	2020 <sup>[37]</sup>
• Included in NAPC priority list	✓	✓	Section II, Item 2a of DILG Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2012-83 dated May 2, 2012 and Section 6.1.1 of DILG MC No. 2018-47, dated April 5, 2018						
• Recipient of Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) or compliance with GFH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Assessment of target LGUs' technical, financial, and institutional capacity by OPDS and DILG Regional Offices, through survey, interview/workshop with key functionaries. The result of assessment shall be the basis for modalities of implementation of water supply systems and the provision of capacity development interventions	✓	✓							
• DILG-RO's assessment on LGU's/ Implementing Partner's capacity to implement the project based on the following parameters. Annex B of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2015-74 dated July 14, 2015 provide for the "LGU Eligibility Assessment Guide" as approved by the DILG Regional Director.									
• Technical capabilities to implement subprojects				✓	✓				
• Availability of qualified personnel who can manage the subproject			✓	✓	✓				
• Availability of funds for administrative costs			✓	✓	✓				
• Previous experience in implementing similar subprojects			✓	✓	✓				
• Capacity to implement subproject through Competitive Bidding or by Administration			✓	✓	✓				
• Capacity to monitor and evaluate subproject implementation			✓	✓	✓				
• Absorptive capacity			✓	✓	✓				
• Capacity to operate and sustain (O&M fund)			✓						
• No unliquidated funds within six (6) months after turnover of completed subprojects for previous funded subprojects				✓	✓	✓			
• The release of funds under the SALINTUBIG Project shall be subject to the compliance by the concerned City/Municipality with the following conditions based on the latest assessment, in addition to the compliance with GFH:									
• Requirements of the DILG LDC Functionality Assessment							✓	✓	✓
• Public Financial Management (PFM) Systems and adoption of the corresponding PFM improvement measures							✓	✓	✓
• Submission of Notarized Certification							✓	✓	✓
• Project implementation schedule							✓	✓	✓

Source: COA Analysis (Summary on Eligibility Assessment Criteria)

<sup>28</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2012-83 dated May 02, 2012 Sections II.2 and II.3

<sup>29</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-066 dated January 25, 2013, Sections II.2 and II.3

<sup>30</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-143 dated December 10, 2013, Sections II.2 and II.3

<sup>31</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-96 dated August 12, 2014, Section VI.A.3

<sup>32</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2015-74 dated July 14, 2015, Section VII.B.1

<sup>33</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2016-49 dated April 6, 2016, Section 6.2

<sup>34</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-73 dated June 7, 2017, Section 6.2

<sup>35</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2018-47 dated April 5, 2018, Sections 6.3.1 and Section 6.3.2

<sup>36</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-77 dated May 23, 2019, Sections 6.3.1

<sup>37</sup> DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-089 dated May 21, 2020, Section 6.3.1

## Appendix V: LGUs/Implementing Partner's Compliance with GFH/SGH

No.	Funding Year	Implementing Units	Project Details	SGH / GFH (Passed/Failed)	Remarks
<b>Completed Sub-projects</b>					
1	2012	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Paoy for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2011 SGH Passed.	
2	2012	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Awis for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2011 SGH Passed.	
3	2012	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Pepe for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2011 SGH Passed.	
4	2012	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Capitan Fernando for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2011 SGH Passed.	
5	2012	Leon, Iloilo	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects) in Brgy. Ambulong for ₱466,666.67, Completed	2011 SGH Passed.	
6	2015	Burauen, Leyte	Construction of Level II WSS in Brgy. Taghuyan for ₱2 million, Completed	2014 GFH Passed	
7	2015	Duenas, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water System (in Brgy. Angare) for ₱10 million, Completed	2014 GFH Passed.	
8	2015	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Melgar for ₱1 million, Completed	2014 GFH Passed.	
9	2015	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Puerto Princesa for ₱1 million, Completed	2014 GFH Passed.	
10	2015	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Level II Water System in Brgy. Roma for ₱1 million	2014 GFH Passed.	
11	2015	Matalam, North Cotabato	Construction of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Marbel for ₱1 million, Completed	2014 GFH Passed.	
12	2016	President Roxas, Capiz	Provision of Potable Water Supply Level III for ₱11,978,878, Completed		• 2015 GFH was unavailable
13	2016	Basilisa, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Potable WS Level III in Brgy. Nazareth for ₱3 million, Completed		• 2015 GFH was unavailable
14	2016	Libjo, Dinagat Islands	Construction of Potable WS in Brgy. Kanihaan for ₱2 million		• 2015 GFH was unavailable
15	2016	Alamada, North Cotabato	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area), Completed 2018 in Brgys. Bao, Rangayen & Pigcawaran for ₱12 million, Completed		• 2015 GFH was unavailable
16	2016	City of Laoag, Ilocos Norte	Construction/Upgrading of Water Supply (Level III) in Brgy. Vira [changed from 6 Barangays, including Vira, to 3 Brgys.--Dibua North, Dibua South, Madiladig-- for ₱12 million], Completed		• 2015 GFH was unavailable
17	2017	Basey, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Cogon (changed to Brgy. San Antonio) for ₱2 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
18	2017	Basey, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Old San Agustin (changed to Brgy. Salvacion) for ₱3 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
19	2017	Hinabangan, Samar	2017, Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tabay (changed to Brgy. Osmeña) for ₱2 million, Completed	2016 GFH Failed. 2017 GFH Passed.	• LGU-Hinabangan failed the 2016 GFH, resulting in the Provincial Government of Samar being designated to implement the sub-project. However, since the project had not yet been implemented by the time the 2017 GFH was released, and LGU-Hinabangan had already passed, the Provincial Government requested a waiver of the previously issued tripartite MOA to release it from all obligations and responsibilities

No.	Funding Year	Implementing Units	Project Details	SGH / GFH (Passed/Failed)	Remarks
					related to the sub-project's implementation. Consequently, the Municipality has taken over the implementation of the proposed project.
20	2017	Paranas, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Cawayan (changed to Brgy. Buray) for ₱3 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
21	2017	Pinabacdao, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. II (Pob) for ₱3 million, Completed	2016 GFH Failed. 2017 GFH Passed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGU-Pinabacdao failed the 2016 GFH, resulting in the Provincial Government of Samar being designated to implement the sub-project. However, since the project had not yet been implemented by the time the 2017 GFH was released, and LGU-Pinabacdao had already passed, the Provincial Government requested a waiver of the previously issued tripartite MOA to release it from all obligations and responsibilities related to the sub-project's implementation. Consequently, the Municipality has taken over the implementation of the proposed project.</li> </ul>
22	2017	Santa Rita, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Binanalán for ₱3 million, Completed	2016 GFH Failed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented by Samar Provincial Government.</li> </ul>
23	2017	Santa Rita, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tulay (changed to Brgy. Caticugan) for ₱3 million, Completed	2016 GFH Failed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samar Provincial Government is a passer of 2016 GFH.</li> </ul>
24	2017	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water Supply System in Brgy. Sinamay for ₱10 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
25	2017	Pilar, Capiz	Construction of Level III Water Supply System (in Brgys Yating and Tabun-acan) for ₱12 million, Completed	2016 Passed.	
26	2017	Bagulin, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Dagup for ₱12 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
27	2017	San Gabriel, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgys. Bucao, Amontoc, Bumbuneg for ₱12 million, Completed	2016 GFH Passed.	
28	2017	San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. San Pablo for ₱11,998,510.44	2016 GFH Passed.	
29	2018	Alamada, North Cotabato	Construction of Potable Water System Level III-Phase II in Brgys Mapurok-Pacao, Macabasa and Pigcawaran for ₱12 million	2017 GFH Passed.	
30	2018	Magpet, North Cotabato	Construction of Water Supply (Level II) in Brgy. Temporan for ₱3 million, Completed	2017 GFH Passed	
31	2019	Matalom, Leyte	Provision fo WSS Level II in Brgy. Caningag for ₱513,533, Completed	2018 GFH Passed.	
32	2019	Duenas, Iloilo	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Pader for ₱19 million, Completed	2018 GFH Passed.	
33	2020	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Sulong for ₱6,259,227, Completed	2019 GFH Passed.	
34	2020	Alimodian, Iloilo	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Coline-Dalag for ₱5 million, Completed	2019 GFH Passed.	
35	2020	Magpet, North Cotabato	Construction of Basak Water System Level III in Brgy. Basak for ₱12,749,322, Completed	2019 GFH Passed	
36	2020	Camalaniugan, Cagayan	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Cullit for ₱11,294,077, Completed	2019 GFH Passed.	
37	2020	Lasam, Cagayan	Nabannagan Water System – Level II in Nappicu,Brgy. Nabannagan West for ₱11,563,551	2019 GFH Passed.	

No.	Funding Year	Implementing Units	Project Details	SGH / GFH (Passed/Failed)	Remarks
38	2020	Sto. Nino, Cagayan	Construction of Malulani Water Supply Project Level III in Brgys. Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur, Niug Norte, San Roque for ₱11,563,551, Completed	2019 GFH Passed.	
39	2020	San Isidro, Isabela	Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez for ₱11,563,551	2019 GFH Passed.	
<b>Canceled Sub-projects</b>					
40	2018	Maconacon, Isabela	Provision of Water Supply System Level II at Brgy. Eleanor, Reported as Canceled by the DILG but was completed by the LGU upon inquiry	2017 GFH Passed.	
41	2015	Villaba, Leyte	Expansion of Existing Water Works System in Brgy. Poblacion Del Norte, Canceled	2014 Failed. Reason for not passing: Full Disclosure Policy - Portal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implemented by the Provincial Government, but later canceled per the memo of the DILG due to slow and non-moving sub-projects.</li> <li>The Provincial Government of Leyte is a passer of 2014 GFH.</li> </ul>
42	2015	Villaba, Leyte	Expansion of Existing Level III Water System in Brgy. Tabunok, 2015, Canceled	2014 GFH Failed. Reason for not passing: Full Disclosure Policy - Portal.	
43	2016	Villaba, Leyte	Water Supply System in Brgy. Cabungahan, Canceled		
44	2016	Villaba, Leyte	Water Supply System in Brgy. Calbugos, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
45	2016	Carles, Iloilo	Construction of Level II Water System Brgy. Punta, Canceled		
46	2016	Carles, Iloilo	Source Development in Brgy. Bancal, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
47	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Aru-ay, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
48	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Bimmanga, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
49	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tangaoan, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
50	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Tonoton, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
51	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Calambeg, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
52	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Maruaya, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
53	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Abucay, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
54	2016	Piddig, Ilocos Norte	Provision of Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Boyboy, Canceled		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015 GFH was unavailable</li> </ul>
55	2019	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Gusa, Canceled	2018 GFH Failed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGU-San Jose De Buan stated that the reason for cancellation was due to a failed GFH.</li> </ul>
56	2019	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Hagbay, Canceled	2018 GFH Failed.	
57	2019	San Jose De Buan, Samar	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Hibaca-An, Canceled	2018 GFH Failed.	
58	2019	Agoo, La Union	Potable Water Supply in Brgy. Capas, Canceled	2018 GFH Passed.	

Source: COA review on DILG-issued SGH/GFH, relevant documents, and Performance Audit field validation

## Appendix VI: Documentary Requirements for Sub-Project Preparation, Review, and Approval in 2014 to 2017

Requirements	2014 <sup>[38]</sup>	2015 <sup>[39]</sup>	2016 <sup>[40]</sup>	2017 <sup>[41]</sup>
<b>I. List of Documentary Requirements for Submission of Program Brief/ Simplified Feasibility Study (SFS)</b>				
Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Plan	✓			
Appropriation Ordinance for LGU Counterpart to cover the total subproject cost, as necessary	✓			
Sustainability Plan (Operation and maintenance)	✓			
SFS or Copy of Subproject Proposal/Feasibility Study	✓	✓	✓	✓
Letter Request / Official Letter signed by LCE submitting the required documents and requesting for the approval of SFS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Budget or AIP if the total subproject cost is more than DILG Allocation		✓	✓	✓
Subproject Implementation Schedule showing duration, target start and finish of each milestone from DED preparation up to subproject completion		✓	✓	✓
Approved Work and Financial Plan/ Implementation Schedule	✓			
Certification from the Local Treasurer of existing Trust Account or Bank Certificate for new Trust Account, specifying the Branch Name and Branch and Account Name and Number	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geo-resistivity results for new construction or Results of pumping test with existing well within the vicinity of the proposed site and Certification from the LCE on non-availability of geo-resistivity results		✓	✓	✓
Certification from the Municipal Engineer that the source is adequate to serve the intended service area. The Proponent LGU may engage accredited technical service provider to conduct the source validation			✓	✓
Deed of Donation or Proof of Land Ownership				✓
Certification from the Municipal Engineer that the site of the project has no problem on Road Right-of-Way (RROW), if applicable				✓
Copy of the receipt issued by the water testing center/laboratory accredited by DOH as proof of conduct of water potability test			✓	✓
Certificate from the Zoning Officer that the subproject is located in a safe area based on the MGBMother hazard map	✓	✓		
Potability Test / Water Portability Test results	✓	✓		
Source Validation Report		✓		
<b>II. List of Additional Requirements for MOA Signing</b>				
Sangguniang Panlalawigan/Bayan Resolution authorizing the LCE to enter into MOA with DILG	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recommendation report on the subproject from reviewing body indicating whether the subproject is approved or disapproved			✓	✓
MOA already signed by the LCE and for RD's signature	✓	✓	✓	✓
Executive Order on the creation of WATSAN Council and WATSAN Team	✓	✓		
<b>III. List of Additional Requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> Tranche release and CAF</b>				
LGU Certification that the bidding documents for procurement of consultants for DED, Civil Works or procurement of Goods and Services, whichever is applicable, are complete and ready for issuance	✓			
Perfected MOA already signed by the LCE and RD	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>IV. List of Additional Requirements for Submission of Technical Specification</b>				
<b>Program of Works (POW)</b> signed by the Municipal Engineer and approved by the concerned LCE		✓	✓	✓
<b>Technical Drawings</b> signed by the approving authorities			✓	✓
<b>Bill of Quantities</b> including detailed computation (signed and sealed by the approving authorities)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Application for the issuance of <b>Water Permits</b> from deputized agencies of NWRB	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pursuant to RA 8371, for subproject areas with Indigenous People that will be affected, a certification that the area affected does not overlap with any ancestral domain needs to be secured from the NCIP		✓	✓	✓
<b>V. List of Additional Requirements for the Submission of Detailed Engineering Design (DED)</b>				
Proof that the Certificate of Land Ownership or any applicable legal instrument/s allowing the use of land or property for the subproject (where applicable) is being secured		✓		
Proof that CNC whichever is applicable, is being secured		✓		
Detailed Engineering Designs (DED), plans and drawings (signed and sealed by the approving authorities)	✓	✓	✓	✓

<sup>38</sup> Section VI.B, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-96 dated August 12, 2014

<sup>39</sup> Section VIII / Annex G, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2015-74 dated July 14, 2015

<sup>40</sup> Section 6.3 / Annexes E, F, K, J, L, M, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2016-49 dated April 6, 2016

<sup>41</sup> Section 6.3 to 6.7 / Annex E, F, J, K, L, M, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2017-73 dated June 7, 2017

Requirements	2014 <sup>[38]</sup>	2015 <sup>[39]</sup>	2016 <sup>[40]</sup>	2017 <sup>[41]</sup>
Detailed Design Report for Water Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water demand projection</li> <li>• Hydraulic analysis taking into account the network diagram report and, if necessary, geo-resistivity report</li> </ul>			✓	✓
Detailed Design Report (water demand projection, hydraulic analysis including network diagram, pump, structural, electrical design)	✓	✓		
Technical Specifications	✓	✓		
Geodetic Survey Report	✓	✓		
Geotechnical Report (geo-resistivity report, if necessary)	✓	✓		
Any other supporting documents as may be required, such as PERT-CM and S-Curve			✓	✓
<b>VI. List of Additional Requirements for the Submission of Detailed Engineering Design (DED) Approval</b>				
<b>Reviewed</b> Program of Works (POW) signed by the Municipal Engineer and approved by the concerned LCE			✓	✓
<b>Reviewed</b> DED, plans and drawings signed and sealed by the approving authorities <b>or</b> Technical Drawings signed by the approving authorities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reviewed Bill of Quantities including detailed computation (signed and sealed by the approving authorities)			✓	✓
Reviewed Detailed Design Report for Water Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water demand projection</li> <li>• Hydraulic analysis taking into account the network diagram report and, if necessary, geo-resistivity report</li> </ul>			✓	✓

Source: COA Summary of Relevant Provisions of SALINTUBIG Policy Guidelines

## Appendix VII: List of SALINTUBIG Completed Sub-projects Inspected by the Audit Team

Sub-project Year	Region	Province	Municipality	Barangay		Sub-project Description	Service Level		
				Original	Actual				
1	2017	I	Ilocos Norte	San Nicolas	San Pablo	1	San Pablo	Potable Water Supply	Level III
2	2016	I	Ilocos Norte	City of Laoag	Vira	2	Dibua North	Construction/Upgrading of water supply (Level III)	Level III
3	2017	I	La Union	Bagulin	Dagup	3	Dagup	Potable Water Supply	Level III
4	2017	I	La Union	San Gabriel	Bucao, Amontoc, Bumbuneg	4	Bucao	Potable Water Supply	Level III
5	2020	II	Cagayan	Camalaniugan	Cullit	5	Cullit	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Cullit	Level III
6	2020	II	Cagayan	Lasam	Nabannagan West	6	Nabannagan West	Nabannagan Water System – Level II in Nappicu, Brgy. Nabannagan West	Level II
7	2020	II	Cagayan	Sto. Niño	Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur, Niug Norte, San Roque	7	Lubo, Lattac	Construction of Malulani Water Supply Project Level III	Level III
						8	Niug Sur, Niug Norte		
8	2020	II	Isabela	San Isidro	Gomez	9	Gomez	Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez	Level II
9	2016	VI	Capiz	President Roxas		10	8 Barangays	Provision of Potable Water Supply - Level III	Level III
10	2017	VI	Capiz	Pilar		11	Yating	Construction of Level III Water Supply System	Level III
						12	Tabun-acan		
11	2015	VI	Iloilo	Dueñas		13	Angare	Construction of Level III water System	Level III
12	2019	VI	Iloilo	Dueñas	Pader	14	Pader	Construction of Level III Water System in Brgy. Pader	Level III
13	2017	VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	Sinamay	15	Sinamay	Construction of Level III Water Supply System in Brgy. Sinamay	Level III
14	2020	VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	Sulong	16	Sulong	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Sulong	Level III
15	2020	VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	Coline-Dalag	17	Coline-Dalag	Construction of Water Supply System Level III in Brgy. Coline-Dalag	Level III
16	2012	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Paoy	18	Paoy	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	Level II
17	2012	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Awis	19	Awis	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	Level II
18	2012	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Capt. Fernando	20	Capt. Fernando	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	Level II
19	2012	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Pepe	21	Pepe	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	Level II

Sub-project Year		Region	Province	Municipality	Barangay		Sub-project Description	Service Level	
					Original	Actual			
20	2012	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Ambulong	22	Ambulong	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	Level II
21	2015	VIII	Leyte	Burauen	Taghuyan	23	Taghuyan	Construction of Level II WSS	Level II
22	2019	VIII	Leyte	Matalom	Caningag	24	Caningag	Provision of Water Supply System Level II in Brgy. Caningag	Level II
23	2017	VIII	Samar	Basey	Cogon	25	San Antonio	Potable Water Supply	Level II
24	2017	VIII	Samar	Basey	Old San Agustin	26	Salvacion	Potable Water Supply	Level II
25	2017	VIII	Samar	Hinabangan	Tabay	27	Osmena	Potable Water Supply	Level II
26	2017	VIII	Samar	Paranas	Cawayan	28	Buray	Potable Water Supply	Level II
27	2017	VIII	Samar	Pinabacdao	II (Pob.)	29	Poblacion I, II, Obayan, Dolores, Bangon, Botoc	Potable Water Supply	Level II
28	2017	VIII	Samar	Santa Rita	Binanalán	30	Binanalán	Potable Water Supply	Level II
29	2017	VIII	Samar	Santa Rita	Tulay	31	Caticugan	Potable Water Supply	Level II
30	2015	XII	North Cotabato	Matalam	Marbel	32	Marbel	Construction of Potable Water Supply	Level II
31	2016	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Bao	33	Bao	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area)	Level II
						34	Rangayen		
32	2018	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Mapurok-Pacao, Macabasa and Pigcawaran	35	Mapurok, Pacao	Construction of Potable Water System Level III-Phase II	Level III
						36	Macabasa		
						37	Pigcawaran		
33	2018	XII	North Cotabato	Magpet	Temporan	38	Temporan	Construction of Water Supply	Level III
34	2020	XII	North Cotabato	Magpet	Basak	39	Basak	Construction of Basak Water System Level III Brgy. Basak	Level III
35	2015	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Melgar	40	Melgar	Construction of Level II Water System	Level II
36	2015	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	New Nazareth	41	New Nazareth	Construction of Potable Water System Level III	Level III
37	2015	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Puerto Princesa	42	Puerto Princesa	Construction of Level II Water System	Level II
38	2015	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Roma	43	Roma	Construction of Level II Water System	Level II
39	2016	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Kanihaan	44	Purok 1, Kanihaan	Construction of Potable Water System	Level II
	2016	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Libjo		45	Purok 2, Kanihaan		
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>45</b>		

## Appendix VIII: Inspected Water Systems Without Treatment Facilities

	Region	Province	City/Municipality	Barangay	Year	Project Title	Allocation (in pesos)
1	I	La Union	Bagulin	Dagup	2017	Potable Water Supply	12,000,000.00
2	I	La Union	San Gabriel	Bucao	2017	Potable Water Supply	12,000,000.00
3	II	Cagayan	Sto Nino	Niug Sur	2020	Construction Of Malulani Water Supply Project Level III At Brgy. Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur, Niug Norte, And San Roque	11,563,551.00
4	II	Isabela	San Isidro	Gomez	2020	Construction of Potable Water System in Brgy. Gomez	11,563,551
5	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Capt. Fernando	2012	Construction/ Improvement Of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
6	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Awis	2012	Construction/ Improvement Of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
7	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Paoy	2012	Construction/ Improvement Of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
8	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Pepe	2012	Construction/ Improvement Of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
9	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Ambulong	2012	Construction/ Improvement Of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
10	VIII	Leyte	Burauen	Taghuyan	2015	Construction of Level II WSS	2,000,000.00
11	VIII	Leyte	Matalom	Caningag	2019	Provision Of Water Supply System Level II In Brgy. Caningag	513,533.00
12	VIII	Samar	Basey	Salvacion	2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
13	VIII	Samar	Basey	San Antonio	2017	Potable Water Supply	2,000,000.00
14	VIII	Samar	Paranas		2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
15	VIII	Samar	Pinabacdao	5 Brgys.	2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
16	VIII	Samar	Santa Rita	Caticugan	2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
17	VIII	Samar	Santa Rita	Binanalán	2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
18	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Mapurok-Pacao	2018	Construction Of Potable Water System Level III-Phase II	12,000,000.00
19	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Bao	2016	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area)	12,000,000.00
20	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Rangayen	2016	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area)	12,000,000.00
21	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Pigcawaran	2016	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area)	12,000,000.00
22	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Macabasa	2018	Construction of Potable Water System Level III-Phase II	12,000,000
23	XII	North Cotabato	Magpet	Temporan	2018	Construction of Water Supply	3,000,000
24	XII	North Cotabato	Matalam	Marbel	2015	Construction Of Potable Water Supply	1,000,000.00
25	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	New Nazareth	2016	Construction of Potable Water System Level III	3,000,000.00
26	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Puerto Princesa	2015	Construction of Level II Water System	1,000,000.00
27	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Melgar	2015	Construction Of Level II Water System	1,000,000.00
28	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Roma	2015	Construction Of Level II Water System	1,000,000.00
29	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Kanihaan Purok 1	2016	Construction Of Potable Water System	2,000,000.00
30	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Libjo	Kanihaan Purok 2	2016	Construction Of Potable Water System	2,000,000.00

## Appendix IX: Inspected Water Systems Managed by BWSAs

	Region	Province	City/Municipality	Barangay	Year	Project Title	Allocation (in pesos)
1	I	Ilocos Norte	San Nicolas	San Pablo	2017	Potable Water Supply	12,000,000.00
2	I	La Union	Bagulin	Dagup	2017	Potable Water Supply	12,000,000.00
3	I	La Union	San Gabriel	Bucaco	2017	Potable Water Supply	12,000,000.00
4	VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	Sulong	2020	Construction of Water Supply System Level III In Brgy. Sulong	6,259,227.00
5	VI	Iloilo	Alimodian	Sinamay	2017	Construction of Level III Water Supply System In Brgy. Sinamay	10,000,000.00
6	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Paoy	2012	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
7	VI	Iloilo	Leon	Pepe	2012	Construction/ Improvement of Leon Water System (15 Sub-Projects)	466,666.67
8	VIII	Samar	Santa Rita	Caticugan	2017	Potable Water Supply	3,000,000.00
9	XII	North Cotabato	Alamada	Rangayen	2016	Construction of Kitub Potable Water System Level II (Kitub Area)	12,000,000.00
10	XII	North Cotabato	Matalam	Marbel	2015	Construction of Potable Water Supply	1,000,000.00
11	XIII	Dinagat Islands	Basilisa	Roma	2015	Construction of Level II Water System	1,000,000.00

## Appendix X: Compliance with the progress reporting requirements of sample LGUs

SALINTUBIG Subproject (Brgy./Municipality of Location, Province, Year)	Main Progress Reporting Requirement	Actual Compliance
Brgy. Taghuyan, Bureauen, Leyte (2015)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Nov 2018)
Brgy. Caningag, Matalom, Leyte (2019)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Dec 2020 and Feb 2021)
Brgy. Cogon/San Antonio, Basey, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Jun 2020)
Brgy. Old San Agustin/Salvacion, Basey, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Dec 2019)
Brgy. Tabay/Osmena, Hinabangan, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Jan 2019)
Brgy. Cawayan/Buray, Paranas, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Mar 2019)
Brgy. II (Pob)/Botoc, Pinabacdao, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Mar 2020)
Brgy. Binanalán, Santa Rita, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Jan 2021)
Brgy. Tulay, Santa Rita, Samar (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Jan 2021)
President Roxas, Capiz (2016)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	SWA for only one month (Aug 2017)
Pilar, Capiz (2017)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Unknown
Brgy. Angare, Duenas, Iloilo (2015)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Complete SWA
Brgy. Sinamay, Alimodian, Iloilo (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Jun and Nov 2019)
Brgy. Pader, Duenas, Iloilo (2019)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Dec 2020)
Brgy. Sulong, Alimodian, Iloilo (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only three months in SubayBAYAN (Jul, Oct and Dec 2021)
Brgy. Coline-Dalag, Alimodian, Iloilo (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only one month (Dec 2021)
Brgy. Paoy, Leon, Iloilo (2012)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Complete SWA
Brgy. Awis, Leon, Iloilo (2012)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Unknown
Brgy. Capt. Fernando, Leon, Iloilo (2012)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Complete SWA
Brgy. Pepe, Leon, Iloilo (2012)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Complete SWA
Brgy. Ambulong, Leon, Iloilo (2012)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Unknown
Brgy. Melgar, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands (2015)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Apr 2019)
Brgy. Puerto Princesa, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands (2015)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Sep 2018 and Apr 2019)
Brgy. Roma, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands (2015)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Sep 2018 and Apr 2019)
Brgy. New Nazareth, Basilisa, Dinagat Islands (2016)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Jun 2018 and Sep 2017)*
Brgy. Kanihaan, Libjo (2016)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	None
Brgy. San Pablo, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Mar and Apr 2019)^
Brgy. Vira/Dibua North, etc., City of Laoag, Ilocos Norte (2016), operational per sampling	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	None
Brgy. Dagup, Baguiling, La Union (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only four months in SubayBAYAN (Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug 2019)
Brgys. Bucao, Amontoc, and Bumbuneg, San Gabriel, La Union (2017)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Complete reports in SubayBAYAN (May to Dec 2019)
Brgy. Marbel, Matalam, North Cotabato (2015)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	Unknown
Brgy. Bao, Alamada, North Cotabato (2016)	Monthly Physical Accomplishment Report	SWA for only one month (May 2018)
Brgys. Mapurok-Pacao, Macabasa and Pigcawaran, Alamada, North Cotabato (2018)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (Dec 2019)
Brgy. Temporan, Magpet, North Cotabato (2018)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Report for only one month in SubayBAYAN (May 2019)
Brgy. Basak, Magpet, North Cotabato (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Reports for only two months in SubayBAYAN (Jan and May 2021)
Brgy. Cullit, Camalaniugan, Cagayan (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Complete reports in SubayBAYAN (Mar to Oct 2021) except for one month
Brgy. Nabannagan West, Lasam, Cagayan (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	No reports until 50%; reports for ten months in SubayBAYAN (Feb to Dec 2021 except Nov)
Brgys. Lubo, Lattac, Niug Sur, Niug Norte, and San Roque, Sto. Nino, Cagayan (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	Complete reports in SubayBAYAN (Apr 2021 to Feb 2022) except for two months
Brgy. Gomez, San Isidro, Isabela (2020)	Monthly Reporting in SubayBAYAN	No entries until 43%; reports for six months in SubayBAYAN (Jan to Jul 2021 except Mar)

\*Inconsistent dates are from SubayBAYAN; supporting document (Certificate of Completion) indicated completion in Sep 2017

^Inconsistent dates are from SubayBAYAN; supporting document (Certificate of Completion) indicated completion in Mar 2

## Appendix XI: Compliance of selected SALINTUBIG sub-projects with requirements for third-party monitoring or CSO involvement

SALINTUBIG Subproject (Municipality of Location, Province, Year)	Requirements for third-party monitoring/ CSO involvement*	Actual Compliance
Leon, Iloilo (2012) (5 subprojects)	Engagement of CSOs in monitoring of project execution	LGU had accredited CSOs but were only involved in bidding process
Burauen, Leyte (2015)	Establishment of a functional MDC Project Monitoring Team/Unit/Committee	The LGU had a Municipal Project Monitoring Team reconstituted in 2024
Hinabangan, Samar (2017)	Establishment of a functional MDC Project Monitoring Team/Unit/Committee	The LGU had a Local Project Inspection Team / Local PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Paranas, Samar (2017)		The LGU had a Local PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Pilar, Capiz (2017)		Unknown
Alimodian, Iloilo (2017)		Unknown
San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte (2017)		Participation of women, children, persons with disability in M & E
Bagulin, La Union (2017)	Establishment of a PMC	Unknown
San Gabriel, La Union (2017)		The LGU had a PMC
Basey, Samar (2017) (2 subprojects)		CSOs were part of project monitoring and inspection (no documentary evidence obtained)
Pinabacdao, Samar (2017)		The LGU had a Local PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Santa Rita, Samar (2017) (2 subprojects)	Participation of women, children, persons with disability in M & E	The LGU had a Local PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
	Establishment of a PMC; submission of monthly report to the MDC	
Alamada, North Cotabato (2018)	Establishment of a functional MDC Project Monitoring Team/Unit	The LGU had a PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Magpet, North Cotabato (2018)		The LGU had a PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Matalom, Leyte (2019)	Establishment of a PMC	CSOs were part of MDC meeting and were observers in bid opening (no documentary evidence obtained)
Dueñas, Iloilo (2019)	Establishment of a PMC; submission of monthly report to the MDC	No project monitoring team was formally constituted by the LGU
Alimodian, Iloilo (2020) (2 subprojects)		Unknown
Magpet, North Cotabato (2020)		The LGU had a PMC (no documentary evidence obtained)
Camalaniugan, Cagayan (2020)		Unknown
Lasam, Cagayan (2020)		Unknown
Sto. Niño, Cagayan (2020)		The LGU had a PMC
San Isidro, Isabela (2020)		The LGU had a PMC and submitted project completion report

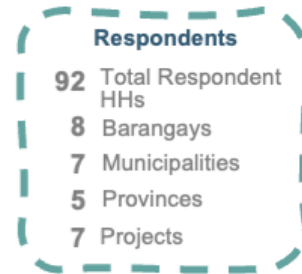
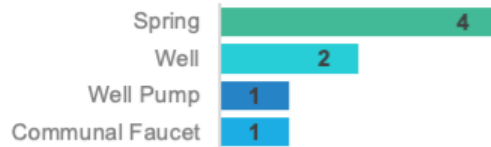
\*Variations in requirements among subprojects were due to different actual implementation periods

## Appendix XII: Survey Results

### Survey on SALINTUBIG HH Beneficiaries with Level II Connections

#### Water source prior to SALINTUBIG

Number of barangays based on majority of respondents



#### Estimated changes due to SALINTUBIG

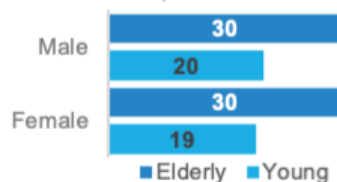
Mean of mean per barangay



Assuming consumption is constant

#### Who fetches water for the HH since SALINTUBIG

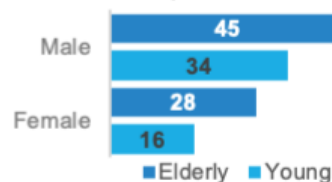
Number of individuals among total respondent HHs



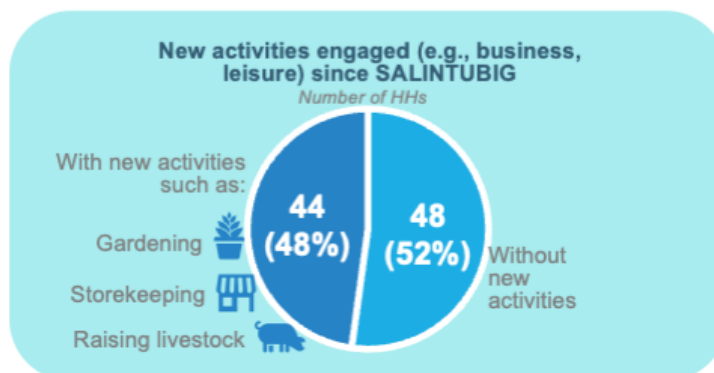
With 2 HHs aided by means of transporting water containers

#### Who fetches water for the HH prior to SALINTUBIG

Number of individuals among total respondent HHs

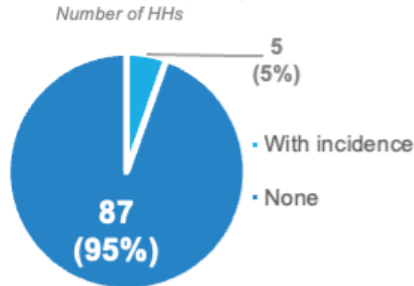


With 23 HHs aided by means of transporting water containers

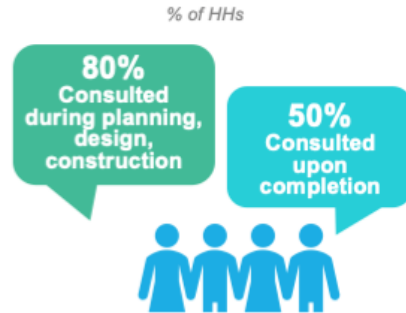


Survey on SALINTUBIG HH Beneficiaries  
with Level II Connections (continued)

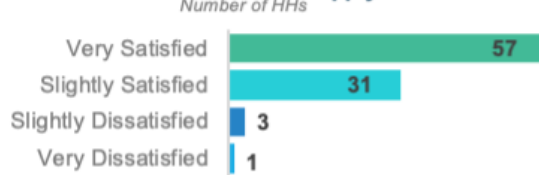
**Incidence of waterborne diseases in the HH within the past year**



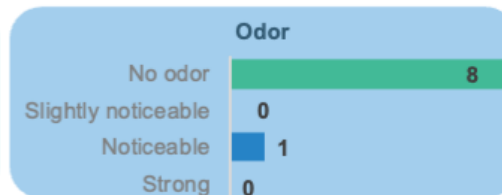
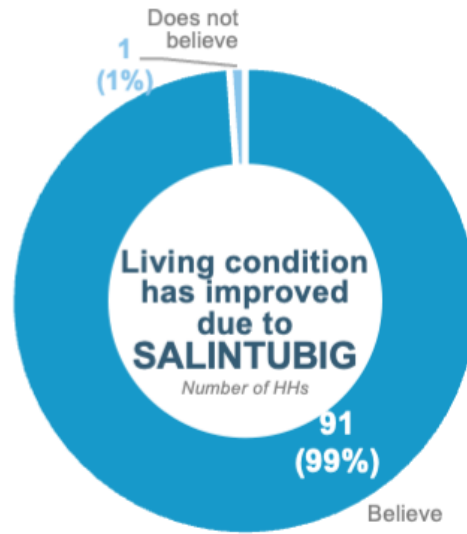
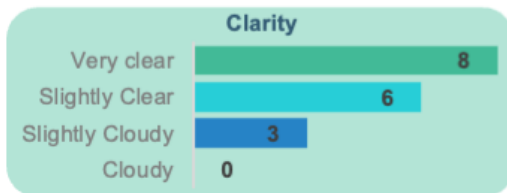
**Inclusivity of project management**



**Level of satisfaction with the water supply**



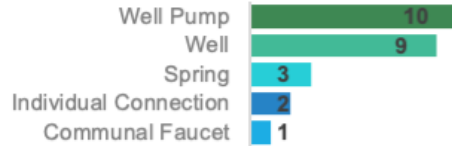
**Perception on water quality**  
Number of barangays with at least one affirmative answer



Survey on SALINTUBIG HH Beneficiaries  
with Level III Connections

**Water source prior to SALINTUBIG**

Number of barangays based on majority of respondents



**Estimated changes due to SALINTUBIG**

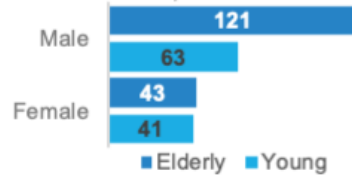
Mean of mean per barangay



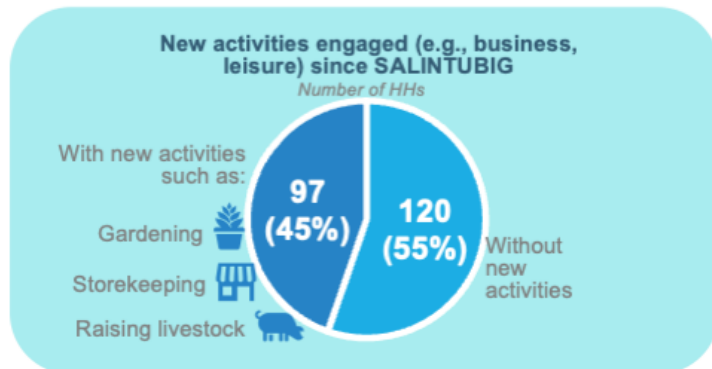
Assuming consumption is constant

**Who fetches water for the HH prior to SALINTUBIG**

Number of individuals among total respondent HHs

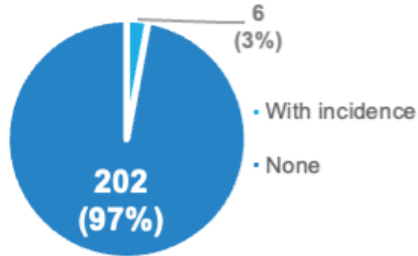


With 43 HHs aided by means of transporting water containers

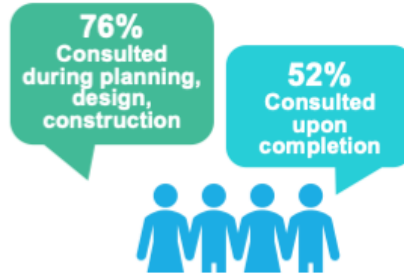


Survey on SALINTUBIG HH Beneficiaries  
with Level III Connections (continued)

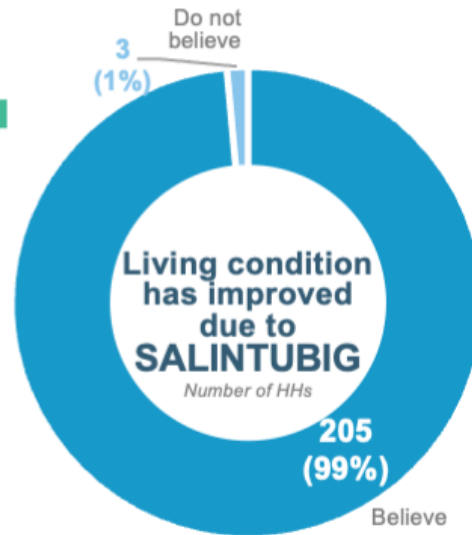
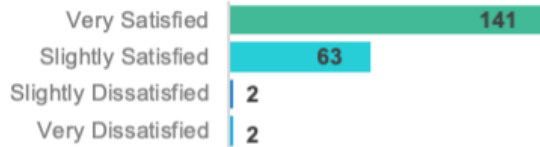
**Incidence of waterborne diseases in the HH within the past year**  
Number of HHs



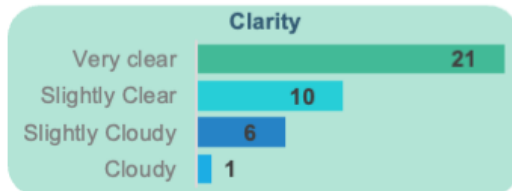
**Inclusivity of project management**  
% of HHs



**Level of satisfaction with the water supply**  
Number of HHs



**Perception on water quality**  
Number of barangays with at least one affirmative answer



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## Appendix XIII: COA Contact and Staff Acknowledgements

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### **COA Contact**

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(02) 8952-5700 local 2022 or [mlracelis@coa.gov.ph](mailto:mlracelis@coa.gov.ph); [pao@coa.gov.ph](mailto:pao@coa.gov.ph)

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Assistant Commissioner Bresilo R. Sabaldan provided invaluable input in finalizing the report.