MAINSTREAMING MIGRATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
The Naga City and Bicol experience

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CITY MAYOR
NAGA CITY
84.48 sq. kms. in size
377 kms. SE of Manila
   Around 201,000 (2015 est.) 48.9 % Male;
   51.1% Female. Daytime population
   of around 300 - 400,000
Population Density: 2,100/km²
2012 STOCK ESTIMATE

10.4 MILLION
OVERSEAS FILIPINOS
in 200+ countries and territories
as of December 2012

PERMANENT
4.9M
Immigrants, dual citizens, legal permanent residents abroad, stay does not depend on contract

IRREGULAR
1.3M
Not properly documented, without valid residence or work permits or are overstaying in a foreign country

TEMPORARY
4.2M
Employment-related, overseas Filipino workers, students, trainees, entrepreneurs, businessmen, staying abroad for six months or more and their dependents, etc.

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MILESTONES

- **August 24, 2010:** A project dissemination forum conducted by Scalabrini Migration Center in Naga highlighted need for greater local government role in migration
  - City Planning department promised to incorporate migration issues in Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) it is preparing
  - **Capacity gap** constrained local planning office. Existing data mostly limited to National Statistics Office (NSO) surveys focused on internal migration
February 2011: International Organization for Migration (IOM) selected Naga to pilot mainstreaming of migration issues in local development planning.

Main objective is to localize good M&D planning practices at the national level.
Between **February and November 2011**, the IOM project supported four broad steps that developed local capacity:

- Organization of a Technical Working Group
- Sectoral consultations
- Project prioritization
- National stakeholders consultation
PROCESS SNAPSHOT

Sectoral consultations

National stakeholders consultation

Project prioritization

PRIORITY THEMES FOR LOCAL ACTION

1. Social Protection
2. Remittances
3. Migrant Services
4. Investment Promotion
5. Data on Migrants
6. Partnership with OFs
MILESTONES

• **April 2, 2012:** City government converts TWG into City Advisory Committee on Overseas Filipinos (CACOF), creating institutional home for the initiative when IOM project ended

• **November 6, 2012:** City Council approves the M&D-enhanced CDP

• **December 2012 to October 2013:** Naga City Government works with Commission for Filipinos Overseas (CFO), a national agency, to help Pangasinan scale up Naga’s experience at the provincial level

• **April 2014 to January 2016:** JMDI 2 grant helps scale up the Naga project among 15 local governments in Bicol (7 cities, 5 provinces, 3 towns)
Organized migrant families into *Pamilyang Migrante kan Naga* (PAMANA), given legal status under the auspices of the Naga City People’s Council, now represents OFs in local governance processes of the city.
On December 19, the Naga’s Migrants Resource Center (MRC) will formally open, PAMANA and Metro PESO (city public employment office) will jointly operate the center. National migration agencies (OWWA, POEA, NRCO, etc.) will have presence in the MRC.
INSIGHTS

• Migration is **both a national and local issue**
• For locals, it is a ‘**big elephant in the room.**’
  **Limited local capacity** to mainstream M&D a key constraint
• **Local champions can accelerate** the process. They can be developed
• Successful local M&D mainstreaming **can provide template, guidelines** for national policies to scale them up
• **Empowered, enlightened local governments can facilitate greater coordination** among local actors. Probably better than among departments at national level