In 2016, the Philippine Consortium for Social Protection composed of three development organizations – Plan International, the International Center on Innovation, Transformation, and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), and the Eastern Visayas Network of NGOs and POs (EVNet) – gathered to work on a program that aims to strengthen the social protection services in the Philippines. The Consortium’s intervention is anchored on the inclusion of the marginalized sectors through citizen participation in governance and strategic advocacy. With the support from the European Union, the Consortium aims to contribute in improving the country’s social protection system transforming it into a more responsive, inclusive, effective, and efficient social protection policy measures to serve various sectors and groups in the margin.

**What is social protection?**

It is composed of policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income and improving people’s capacity to manage risks.  
(NEDA- Social Development Committee (SDC) Resolution No. 1, Series of 2007: Adopting a Philippine Definition of Social Protection)

The Social Protection Framework and Strategy of the Philippines has four core components: 1) Social insurance, e.g. Philhealth, SSS and GSIS; 2) Social welfare, e.g the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP); 3) social safety nets; and 4) labor market programs/interventions.

**What is the project’s objective?**

The project is committed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations representing marginalized groups to constructively engage in inclusive social protection policymaking, effective program implementation and accountability of duty bearers.

When talking about marginalized groups, the project is specifically referring to the following sectors: senior citizens, persons with disability (PWD), women, LGBTQI+, farmers, fisherfolks and children/young people.

**What is CSO-led participatory monitoring?**

Monitoring is regarded as the process of assessment and measurement of progress in implementing development interventions (European Commission, 2007). Thus, information collected in the monitoring process should inform decisions around planning and changing practices to improve performance. Monitoring is different from evaluation, which focuses on measuring outcomes, results, effects and impacts (European Commission, 2007).

For this project, the monitoring was done by the Community-Based Advocacy and Monitoring Group (CBAMG), a group of civil society organizations’ representatives tasked to gather data through various methodologies and tools.
What programs were monitored by the project?
The project monitored the implementation of the following programs and services provided by the government:

- Social pension
- 20% discount on basic goods
- Utilization of 1% IRA budget for senior citizens and PWDs
- Accessibility Law
- Provision of livelihood programs
- Magna Carta of Women
- Solo Parents Welfare Act
- Utilization of 5% IRA budget for Gender and Development (GAD)
- Crop Insurance
- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
- Sustainable Livelihood Program
- Philhealth

What are the project’s areas of implementation?
The project rolled out in 20 municipalities across the Provinces of Masbate, Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar. Four barangays were monitored from each municipality.

What methodologies and tools were used?
The monitoring used Community Scorecard (CSC), a methodology that brings together the CSOs, program beneficiaries, and government to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery (social protection programs). The last part of the CSC was the conduct of an Interface Meeting where issues, evidence, recommendations and further actions were discussed.

For the sectors of senior citizens and PWDs, the monitoring underwent two tracks: adult CBAMG-led and children-led monitoring. This model allowed Junior CBAMGs (aged 13 to 17 years old) to deepen the initial results gathered by the Adult CBAMGs.

This figure above illustrates the entire monitoring process that the project undertook, from input tracking and data gathering to the city/municipal interface.

How were the policy briefs crafted?
The content of the policy briefs for the senior citizens, PWD, women, farmers and fisherfolks sectors were based primarily on the results of the monitoring activity conducted in the project’s areas of implementation. Recommendations on national policies were based on the outcomes of Policy Analysis Workshops held in Masbate, Samar and Eastern Samar with local CSOs and PLGU/MLGUs in 2017.

Meanwhile, a local roundtable discussion was also conducted with the members of the LGBTQI++ community from Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar in January 2019 so as to have an understanding of their issues in relation to social protection. The insights from the roundtable discussion, as well as the monitoring results for the sectors of farmers, fisherfolks and women, were presented in a National Sectoral Consultation attended by representatives of the sectors and various government stakeholders.

The inputs from all of these discussions have been compiled, summarized and incorporated in the subsequent policy briefs.