



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

CHR X Region

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **DR. RENANTE A. BASAS, M.D.**  
Director IV, HRCMO

**ATTY. KRISSI SHAFINA TYWLA A. RUBIN**  
OIC- CGEWHRC

THRU : **ATTY. JACQUELINE ANN C. DE GUIA**  
Executive Director

FROM : **ATTY. JEANNE IVY F. ABRINA**  
Regional Director

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION GAD SITUATION REPORT (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020)**

DATE : **13 JANUARY 2021**

Respectfully submitting the GAD Situation Report (covering October-December 2020).

Documents submitted consists of the following, to wit:

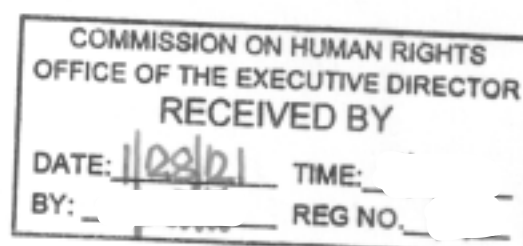
- 1) GAD 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report.

Prepared by:

**ATTY. PILIPINAS C. PALMA**  
Gender Focal

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**ATTY. JEANNE IVY F. ABRINA**  
Regional Director



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT SITUATION REPORT**

CHR-X  
4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 SitRep

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

With the new normal the regional office has implemented its plans, programs and projects that follows strict compliance of social distancing and other health protocols.

This report shall consist of program implementation and/or activities for the month of October-December 2020, including preparatory and/or leg work prior to the conduct of the planned activities. Hence, this report.

## **II. REGULAR PROMOTION PROGRAM**

### **A. GENDER-RELATED PPAs**

In line with the strategic role of the CHR as Gender Ombud and more importantly institutionalizing Gender and Development in the conduct of Promotion and Protection Program and Policy Related Program, was able to implement the PPAs remotely (online) and select engagements with community and partners where internet and/or mobile data are slow or none at all. Under the Promotion and Policy Services the region has provided the following activities but not limited to the following, to wit; Awareness Raising Activities, Inter-Agency Collaborations and Gender-Related Trainings. Here are the some of the activities that we conducted in partnership with Local Government Units and /or Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from in and outside the Region, to wit;

#### **1) Promotion Services**

The regional office has facilitated trainings and/or webinars for students on child and gender-related laws. In celebration of the 2020 ENDVAW Campaign (November 25 to December 12, 2020), region X has facilitated the following discussions on:

- i. EndVAW and CHR as Gender Ombud (with ZONTA);
- ii. Safe Space Act (with TESDA-X on VAW Free Workplace, DENR-EMB and Public-School Teachers);
- iii. Series of online : VAWC lectures with students, LGUs and NGAs in the region;
- iv. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Lecture to Teaching Personnel of USTP Batch 5
- v. Webinar on the Situation of Women with Disabilities During the Pandemic and Learning Session for Women with Disabilities in Northern Mindanao";
- vi. FGD on Gender-Based Violence Referral Mechanism during the COVID-19 and the

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- New Normal in the Municipality of Opol, Misamis Oriental (Community Women and LGUs/Other Stakeholders);
- vii. Regional Gender-Based Violence Summit;
  - viii. FGD on Women Fisherfolk and Girls-At-Risk of Trafficking and other GBV during the COVID-19 and the New Normal (Fisherfolk Women and LGUs/other Stakeholders);

In this quarter, the office was invited as resource persons on the following thematic discussions with women, Persons with Disabilities (PWD) specifically Women with Disabilities, Civil Society Organizations, academe, children and youth;

- i. Kabataan Karapatan Caravan (KKC);
- ii. Goal Setting (with Ateneo Good Governance and Leadership Academy);
- iii. Commitment and Passion (Tabang Sikad: Youth Led Program); and,
- iv. Online Community-Based Dialogue (CBD) on Anti-Terrorism Law (ATL).

***Trainings and/or Webinars Attended:***

- i. Kwentohan Series sa CHR – 4<sup>th</sup> webinar on women in the economy;
- ii. Online Rally Against GBV; and,
- iii. Adhika Forensic Reports Evaluation: Forensic Medicine Reports.

***Staff Development (Capacity Building for CHR-X Employees):***

- i. Capacity Building for CHR X Employees as Gender Ombud; and,
- ii. Capacity Building on HRBA for CHR X Employees.

Regional staffs have attended series of 'Webinars' related to responding to emergencies 'COVID-19' vis-à-vis gender-based violence (GBV) cases. Here are the lists of Webinars that we have participated in;

- a) DAKILA (DAta Knowledge, and Information LAuncher) on 'Gender Responsive Psycho-Social Support for Frontliners in Times of Disaster'(CGEWHR/UPCWGS);
- b) DAKILA (DAta Knowledge, and Information LAuncher) on 'Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) Module for CHR Employees;
- c) Adhika Forensic Manual Development for Lawyers and Investigators (Protection/CHR);

***B. THEMATIC AREA OF CONCERN/MONITORING FUNCTION AS GENDER OMBUD***

***1. FGD on GBV Referral Mechanism during COVID-19 and the New Normal***

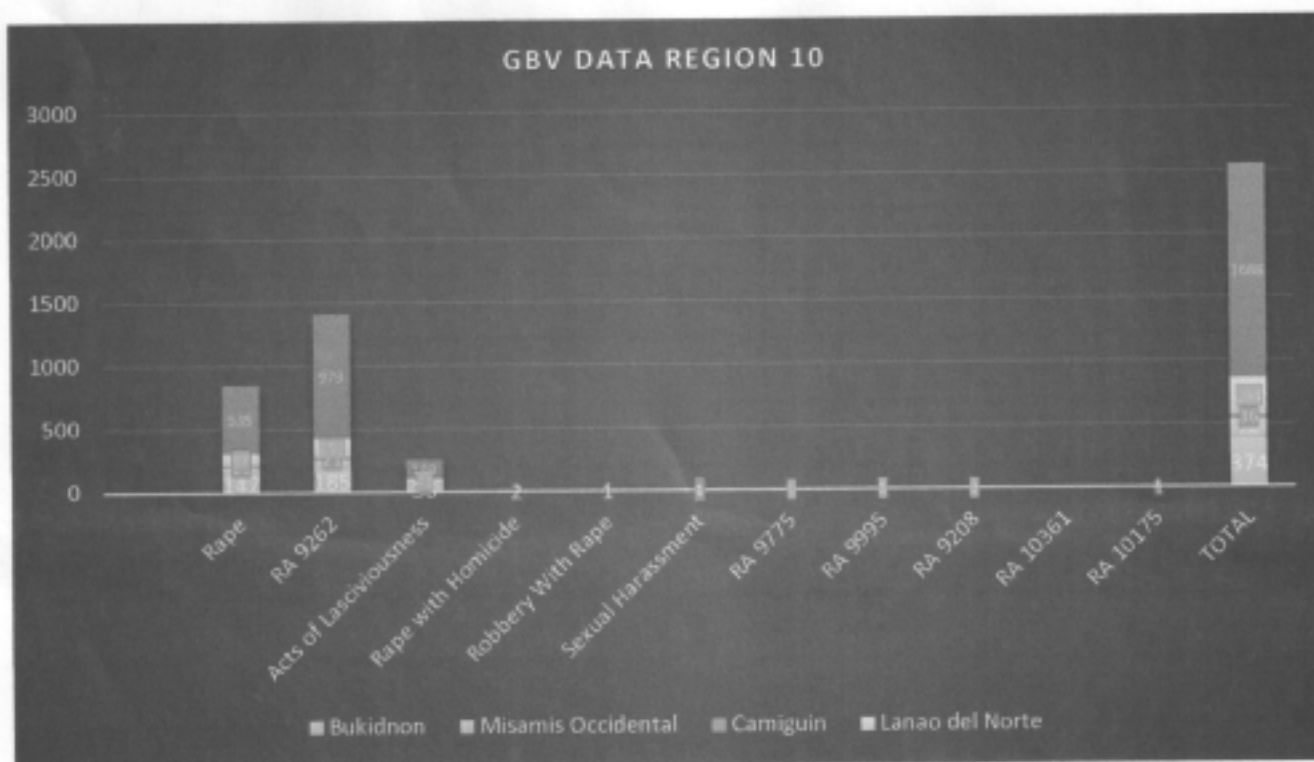
As for the report from the Regional Philippine National Police (Regional Focal on Women and Children's Desk), was able to provide us with data on the GBV cases during

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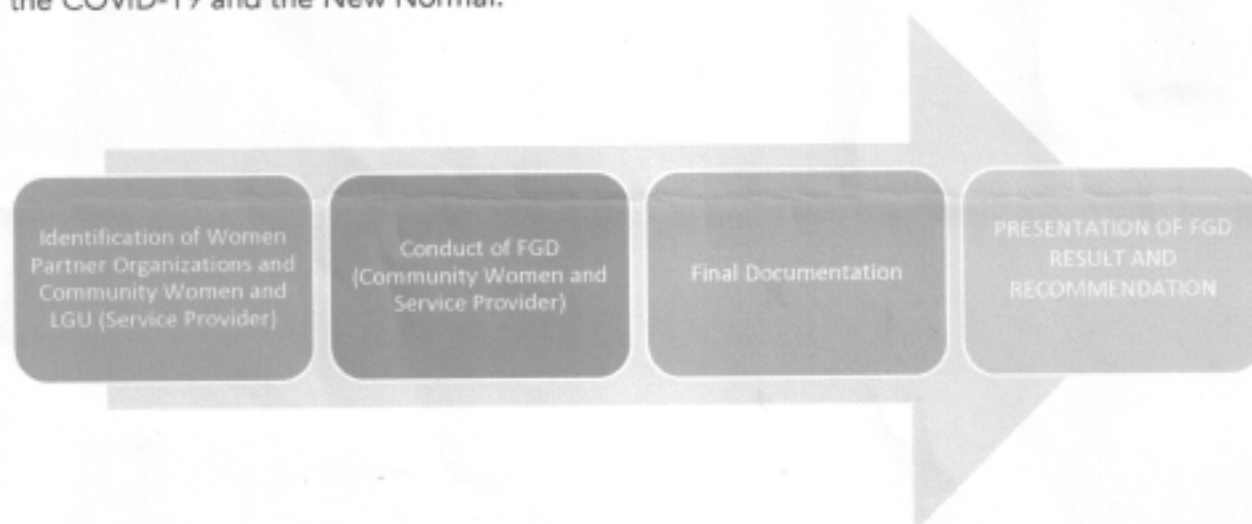
the height of COVID-19 in the Region covering the period March 15-April 20, 2020.  
Data is shown below:

BUKIDNON (15)	
Baungon	3
Don Carlos	1
Kalilangan	1
Libona	1
Malaybalay City	2
Quezon	4
San Fernando	1
Sumilao	1
Valencia City	1
MISAMIS ORIENTAL (20)	
Cagayan de Oro City	19
Naawan	1
CAMIGUIN (1)	
Guinsiliban	1
LANAO DEL NORTE (7)	
Iligan City	4
Bacolod	1
Baloi	2
MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL (5)	
Jimenez	1
Ozamis City	3
Panaon	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

Based on the data provided in 2019, Misamis Oriental got the highest number of reported GBV cases with a total of 828 cases, Bukidnon came in second with 374 reported cases, Lanao del Norte 294, Misamis Occidental 156, and Camiguin with only 36 reported cases. (PNP-REGIONAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION) Below is the table showing GBV Incidence in the region for 2019.



Below is the timeline of events in the conduct of the FGD on GBV Referral Mechanism during the COVID-19 and the New Normal.

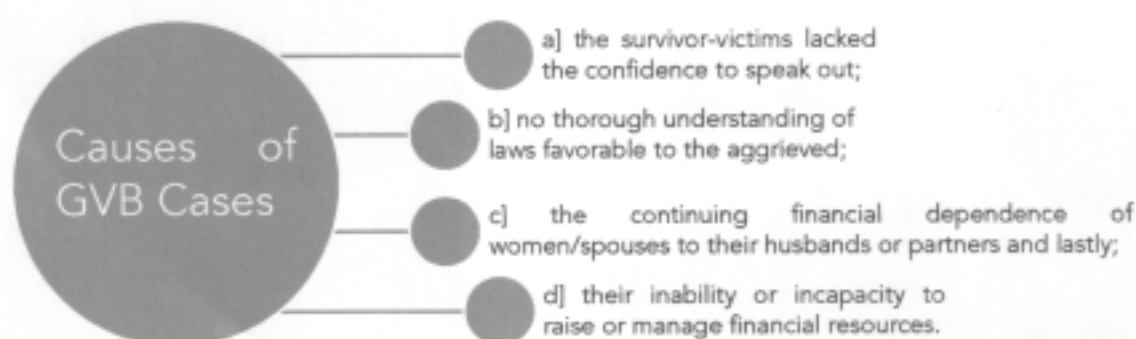


The Municipality of Opol, Misamis Oriental based on the GBV regional data, is one among the Municipalities with high incidence of reported GBV cases in the Province of Misamis Oriental in 2019. Said municipality was selected on the basis of a) GBV report, b) positive response from the LGU concerned and, 3) accessibility for regional staff, partner women organization as well as FGD Coordinator. During the program implementation, series of lockdowns are being implemented in the whole of Region X hence the consideration of conducting the FGD in said AOR.

On 23 and 26 of October 2020, the FGD with Community Women and with LGUs/other Stakeholders, respectively. The FGD has yield a positive result in promoting the Commission's agency mandate and as Gender Ombud

When the health crisis of COVID 19 emerged and stringent protocols were imposed starting from March 2020, residents speculated that the number of GBV cases may increase. But trends showed otherwise. The reports and data received thru the commission's e-reporting portal, the PNP's and DOH's Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU) showed that GBV cases have reduced significantly for the very first time since the lockdown. Whether the women have become empowered or the referral systems have become dysfunctional have yet to be seen. Thus, the CHR decided to pursue in a proactive manner, the documentation of trends, issues, gaps, challenges and best practices if any, on GBV-related agenda involving both the duty bearers and the women in communities and partner-service providers in this time of the pandemic.

Prior to COVID-19 pandemic :



#### CAUSES (INCREASED) AND NATURE GVB CASES DURING PANDEMIC

- Domestic violence (battered women and children) were observed due to joblessness, loss of income and disruptive mobility;
- Conflicts and tensions between spouses and other siblings became more frequent;
- Quarantine Policies (stayed at Home); and,
- Reports of elderly persons being abandoned by families have also increased.

#### GBV RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION (Community Women and CSOs)

Key Findings	Recommendations
Knowledge, data and updates on protection of women against all forms of abuses were not thoroughly filtered or cascaded down to the level of the zones/household	<p>Massive and regular education, information dissemination should be conducted both center-based and at the neighborhood level</p> <p>A blend of structured learning approaches should be utilized for a safer, more open and trust-building "sharing-learning-daring" environment.</p>



Key Findings	Recommendations
There are undocumented cases of GBV that have been deliberately kept within the family and are thus unaddressed by concerned legal referral systems established primarily because of the pandemic-related response priorities.	For inter-agency mechanisms to prioritize home visits, neighborhood or zone-level discussions on GBV  Explore creative approaches to hold discussions even during the time of the pandemic.  GBV cases should receive attention as COVID-19 responses.
Cases were rescinded or withdrawn from being filed due to financial and other medical requirements, which the victims find so cumbersome, costly and complicated.	Those with limited economic opportunities should have support for them to avail legal mechanisms or remedies
Unavailability of services of facilities, i.e., psychological and psycho-social tests, medico-legal, livelihood, and others	Visibility and easy accessibility to GBV-related services and facilities – making this closer and readily available to the communities
Far-flung areas need to be closely monitored	Regularity of IEC and home visits by inter-agency mechanism members.  Social distance remains a barrier among different groups in the society. This practice needs to be demystified.

#### On gender equality situation in the municipality

During the first months of COVID-19 (March and April) coming from the PNP Regional Office records that only 48 cases were reported. It was noted that there was a significant decrease in the GBV report. Was there a breakdown in the GBV legal referral mechanisms? The PNP countered by saying that in Opol members of the PNP Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) proactively made house-to-house visits prior to and during COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, a campaign on Adolescent Sexuality on Reproductive Health was launched but consequently discontinued due to the current limitations. Case conferences were sustained with 4Ps children-beneficiaries to uplift their interests and boost their confidence in their studies. These activities have become irregular because of the pandemic. The Inter-agency Committee headed by the PNP, used to conduct school visitations at least two times a month. An interesting experience happened in a school after the session on Rights of Children. One teenager cried her heart out to a friend. They soon found out that she was raped by her father right after she had a bath to prepare for school. The incident was relayed to the teacher-adviser and eventually to the Principal. The PNP arrested the father and case was filed. The teenager was brought

to the DSWD shelter in Cagayan de Oro for support. Unfortunately, the mother ignored the case since she did not believe her daughter's story.

#### On GBV cases

VAWC and rape were the common cases reported or filed. There is significant reduction in this time of the pandemic due to the rigorous protocols. In spite of the health crisis, the Inter-agency Committee continues to reach out to those in need of help.

Common challenges under the COVID-19 pandemic include disruptive mobility and the women's view that case filing and seeking legal assistance may only be troublesome and cause additional burden to the family. On the other hand, the front-liners expressed a great deal of insecurity about contracting the virus due to the nature of their jobs and the risk of exposure to different persons at this time.

The municipality have reported that they had no facility for immediate psycho-social service support. According to the PNP, they are compelled to seek help from the Provincial Hospital (NMMC) in CDO when the need arises.

#### On flow of case management

The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) has now emerged as front-liner in addressing GBV in the municipality. From BPAT, any complaint goes to the PNP Office, then to the DSWD. It is with regards to the cost of transportation, acquiring medico-legal certificates and other pre-litigation requirements that force women to rescind filing of their cases.

### **GBV OVER-ALL RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION (with Service Provider)**

- 1) Increase the allocation for the annual GAD budget;
  - GBV monitoring
  - material support
  - support for psychological
  - other significant expense.
- 2) Provide sustainable livelihoods support for women as one of the reasons for conflict at home is financial instability/financial dependency of women;
- 3) Enhance the understanding of, and capacities of service providers in handling mental health issues and psycho-social interventions. Boost their confidence in addressing GBV; and,
- 4) Face-to-face and digital information on GBV.

**For the CHR:**





- 5) Enhance collaboration with the LGUs Deeper understanding of CHR role as Gender Ombud on GBV; and,
- 6) Plan and implement capacity-building activities to increase the effectiveness of inter-agency members in handling deliverables and for better integration and coordination of programs.

## ***2.2 Kamustahan with Women with Disabilities in the Province of Bukidnon (Malaybalay City and Valencia City)***

With the funding from the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Office- Central, the regional office identified Women with Disabilities (WWDs) in the Province of Bukidnon (Malaybalay City and Valencia City) as recipients of 'Care Package'. These WWDs participated in the conduct of Peer Monitoring of WWDs during the height of COVID-19 pandemic.

On 22 October 2020, during the Kamustahan, women representatives shared that in the community lockdowns their husbands/partners no longer have work and as such they experience difficulty in accessing services from the government as well as receiving assistance on health (especially for those with mental health problems) and other necessities. Inaccessibility of livelihood has caused these WWD's to find domestic work just to make ends meet, not to mention the hardship they encountered in planting crops (such as corn) just to feed their family.

## ***2.3 FGD on Women Fisherfolk and Girls-At-Risk of Trafficking and other GBV during the COVID-19 and the New Normal***

For the implementation of said FGD, a coastal area of Misamis Oriental in particular the City of Alubijid has been identified. And also with access due to imposition of community lockdowns, responsive LGU and, accessibility for regional staff, partner women organization as well as FGD Coordinator.

During the conduct of the FGD with services provider (17 December 2020), except for the representative from the Department of Agriculture, most of them if not all are not familiar who are women fisherfolks. The FGD yielded a positive result since the LGU of Alubijid has express through its Administrator for a future partnership and discussion on gender advocacy program in the City.

In a separate FGD with women fisherfolk (23 December 2020), most of the participants are members of the fish vendor organization in the City. Livelihood assistance, programs and projects have been very well established in the City (through its City Agriculture Office and City Social Welfare Development Office) for the fish vendor association in the City. The FGD yielded a positive result, as the women fisherfolk has express their enthusiasm in a future partnership on women and gender advocacy program for their organization.

## 2.4 CHR-X in the Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal

### i. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

- Legal assistance – E-lawyering / Online Legal Clinic Caravans- Case Referral
- Investigation of rights violations; E-Report sa Gender Ombud
- Online Jail Visitation (Detention Centers and Lock-Up Cells)

### ii. HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND PROMOTION

- IECs on Human Rights during COVID
- Webinars on Children's Rights;
- Conduct of WWD's Monitoring;
- FGD on GBV Referral Mechanis;;
- Kamustahan with Women with Disabilities in Bukidnon (Distribution of Care Package), Webinar on WWD in the New Normal; and,
- Posting of social media cards.

### iii. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ADVISORY WORK

- Advisories to government agencies on Human Rights in relation to COVID;
- HR Bulletin on Curfew in the Time of Covid; and,
- OK cards for commendable HR practices.

## 1. INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Concerned Region Focal persons have continuously attended online meetings and/or consultations with regional bodies whose main program for collaboration and adjusting to the need and in-line with their mandate.

### **On RIT-RPRH-X**

RIT-RPRH-X provided updates on the result of the FGD on GBV Referral Mechanism during the COVID-19 and the New Normal. The RIT-RPRH is keen on the implementation and/or updates of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Module in the region by the DepEd-X.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting, PopCom-X provided updates on the Family Planning implementation and the Potential Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Sexual and Reproductive Health in Region X, thus,

Based on a Study conducted by UP Population Institute (UPPI) and UNFPA revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted family planning and maternal and newborn health services globally, and in the Philippines to these indirect effects may significantly increase the annual maternal deaths and unintended pregnancies for 2020 compared with the pre-

COVID years, a study by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) revealed.

Said study also revealed that, if community quarantine continues until end of 2020, we can expect the following:

- ❑ Additional 52, 639 women age 15-49 have unmet need for FP (78, 567 without quarantine)
- ❑ Additional 38, 761 unintended pregnancies (92, 289 without quarantine)
- ❑ Additional 12, 100 women to experience **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**
- ❑ Additional 14 maternal deaths (52 without quarantine)

### **On Regional Gender and Development Council (RGAD-C)-X**

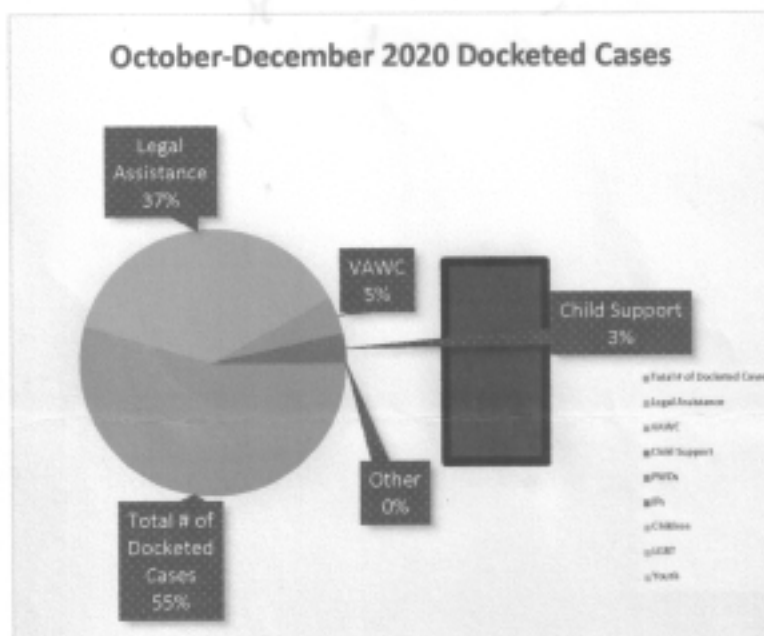
This quarter the RGADC required its member agencies to submit the regional agency Gender Focal Point System (GFPS) (in the Philippine Commission on Women-PCW website) as well as the Training Needs and Assessment (TNA). The region through its focal person, have completed the submission based on the agency GFPS suggested/submitted organizational structure.

Most, if not all inter-agency and community-based engagements have been affected with the COVID-19 pandemic with region 10 placing in the top with rising numbers of COVID-19 cases.

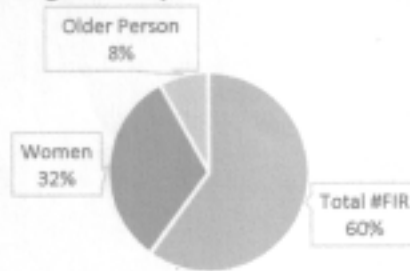
## **III. REGULAR PROTECTION PROGRAM**

### **1. Gender-Related Cases (Legal Assistance/Counseling and Referral) – Client Focused**

As of October to December 2020, based on data from manual counting as we cannot generate data from both MAREIS and ICMS yet, the Region through its protection section were able to assist a total of two hundred nine 48 complaints/clients; 37% of the cases are legal assistance with, RA 9262 at 5%, child support other child-related cases at 3%.



# Final Investigation Report October-December 2020



= Total #FIR   = Children   = IPs   = Women  
 = Older Person   = Youth   = LGBT

The Regional Office has recorded a total of fifteen (15) Final Investigation Report (FIR), 10 of the complainants are from women and older person. No reported data involving IPs, Youth and LGBTQI within the last quarter of 2020.

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