



PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM:

a public-private collaboration model for local health systems strengthening towards Universal Health Coverage in the Philippines

Authors: Catherine A. Chung^{1*}, Fiona Rose A. Norada¹, Anthony Rosendo Faraon¹, Arianna Maeвер Loreche^{2,3}, Veincent Christian F. Pepito², Manuel M. Dayrit²

Affiliations:

¹ Zuellig Family Foundation, Parañaque City

² Center for Research and Innovation, School of Medicine and Public Health, Ateneo de Manila University

³ National Clinical Trials and Translation Center, National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila

Speaker and presenting author:

Dr. Catherine A. Chung, Zuellig Family Foundation



In Photo: Representatives of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Department of Health – Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD), the Governor of Aklan, Hon. Jose Enrique Miraflores and their UHC team, and the Zuellig Family Foundation.

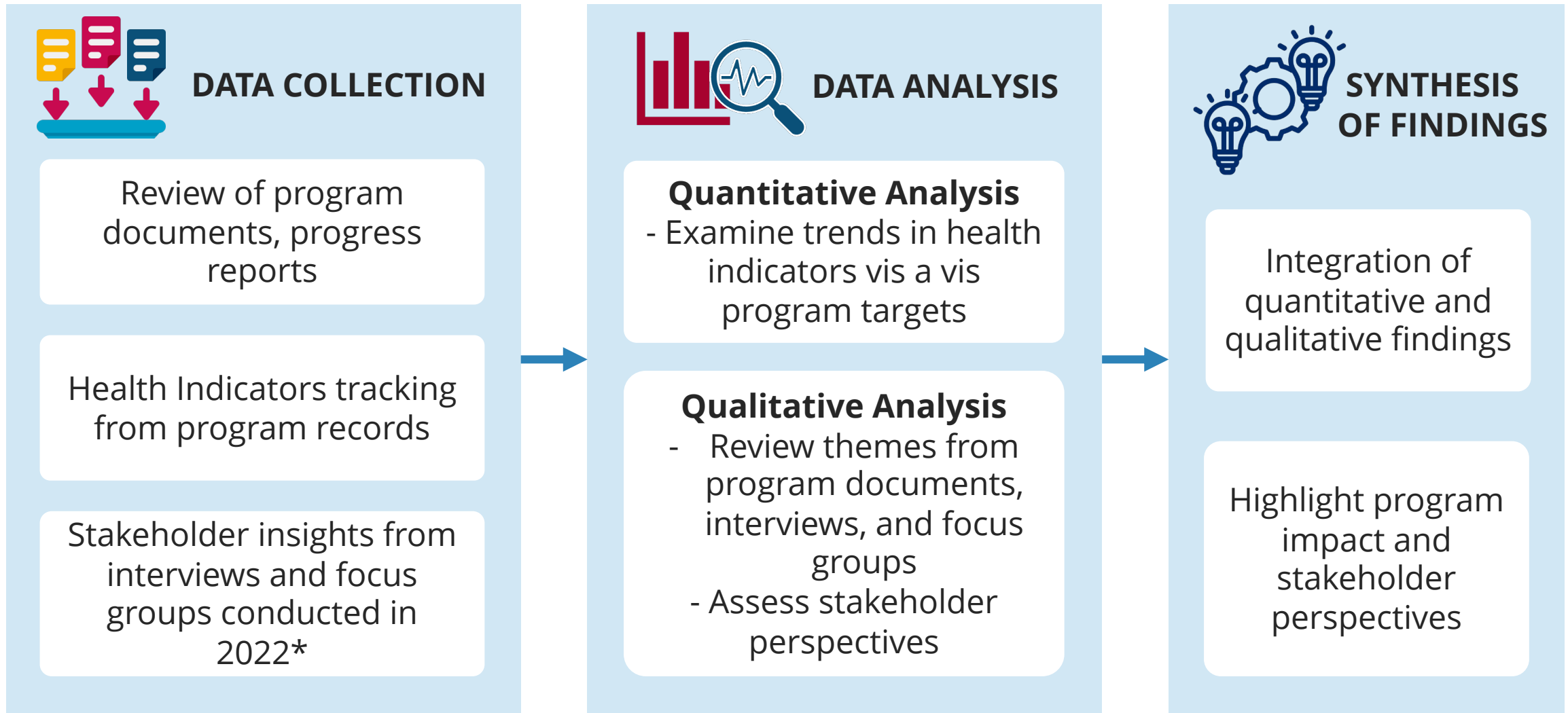
STUDY OBJECTIVES

This paper aimed to provide a **comprehensive documentation of the design and implementation** of the recently concluded Provincial Leadership and Governance Program Cycle 3 (PLGP-3), **track the health outcomes** of its participating provinces, and **explore perceptions of different stakeholders** towards the program.

SIGNIFICANCE

The government cannot achieve success alone in implementing UHC. To mobilize resources, expertise, and innovative solutions to address gaps and effectively meet UHC goals, **collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and other key stakeholders is essential.**

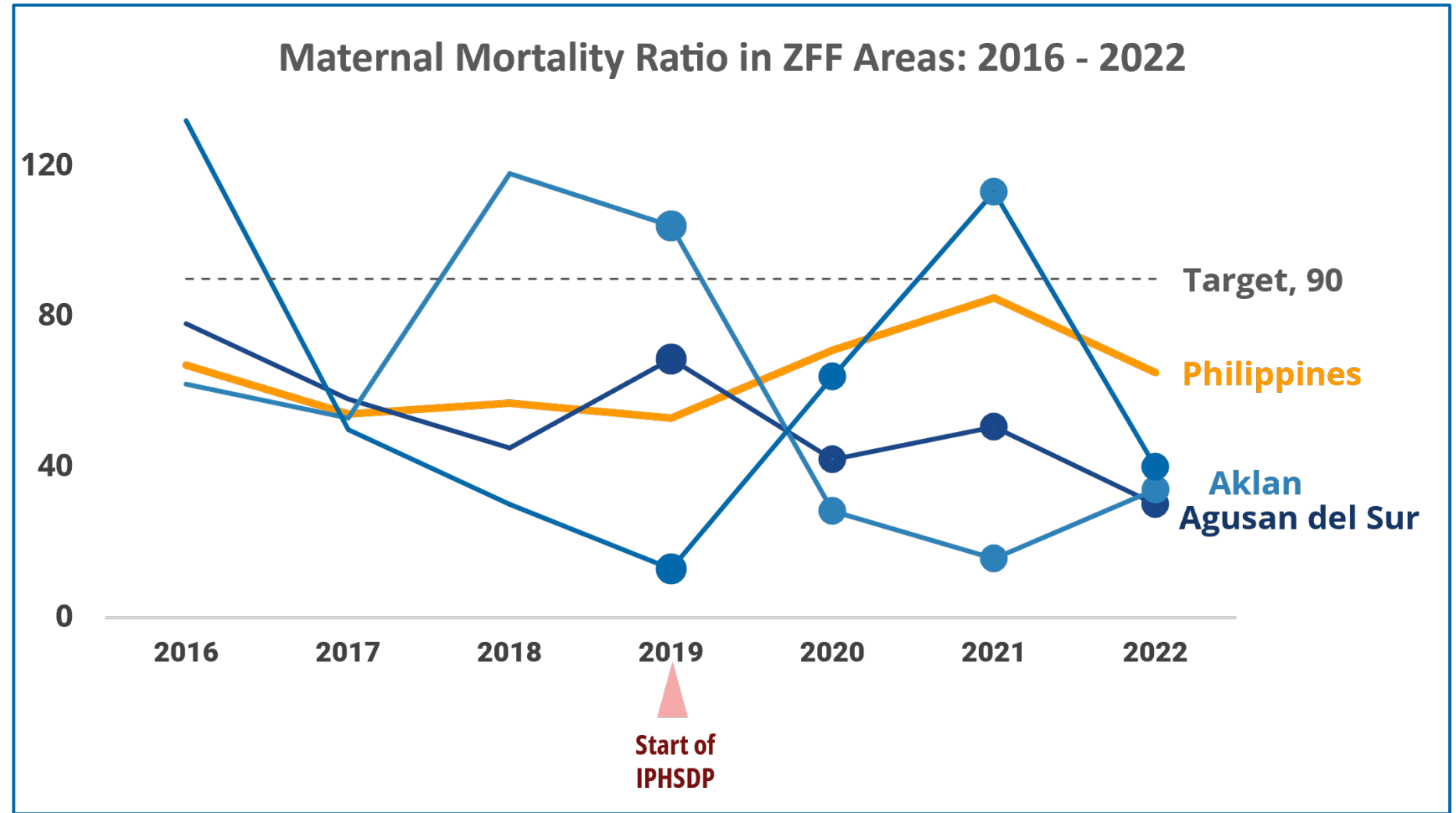
METHODS



*processed data from the interviews and focus group discussions conducted in 2022 (Del Pilar - Labarda et al., 2022)

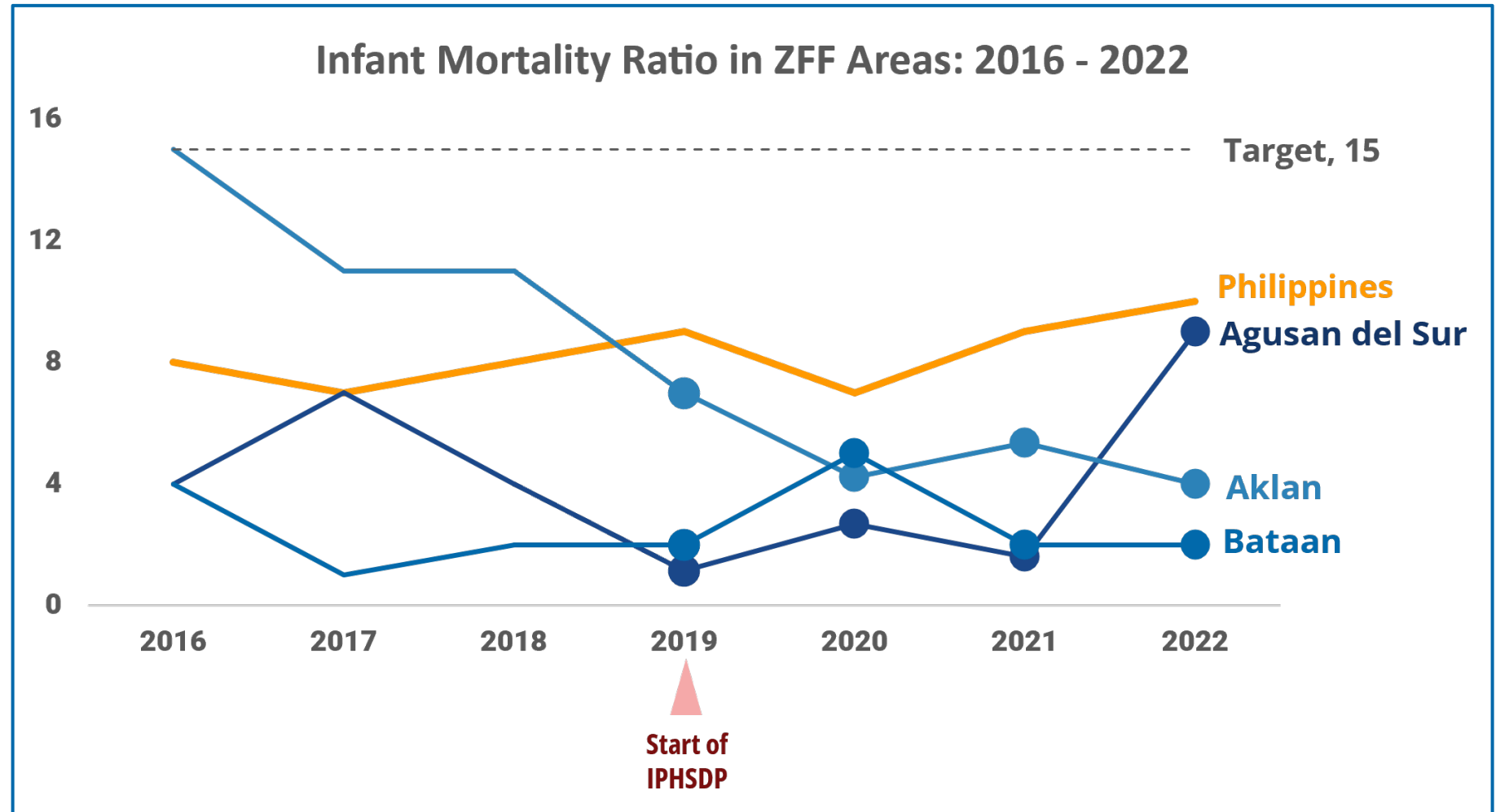
MAJOR FINDINGS

Decrease in the Maternal Mortality Ratio for the three provinces and below the DOH target of 90 per 100,000 population.



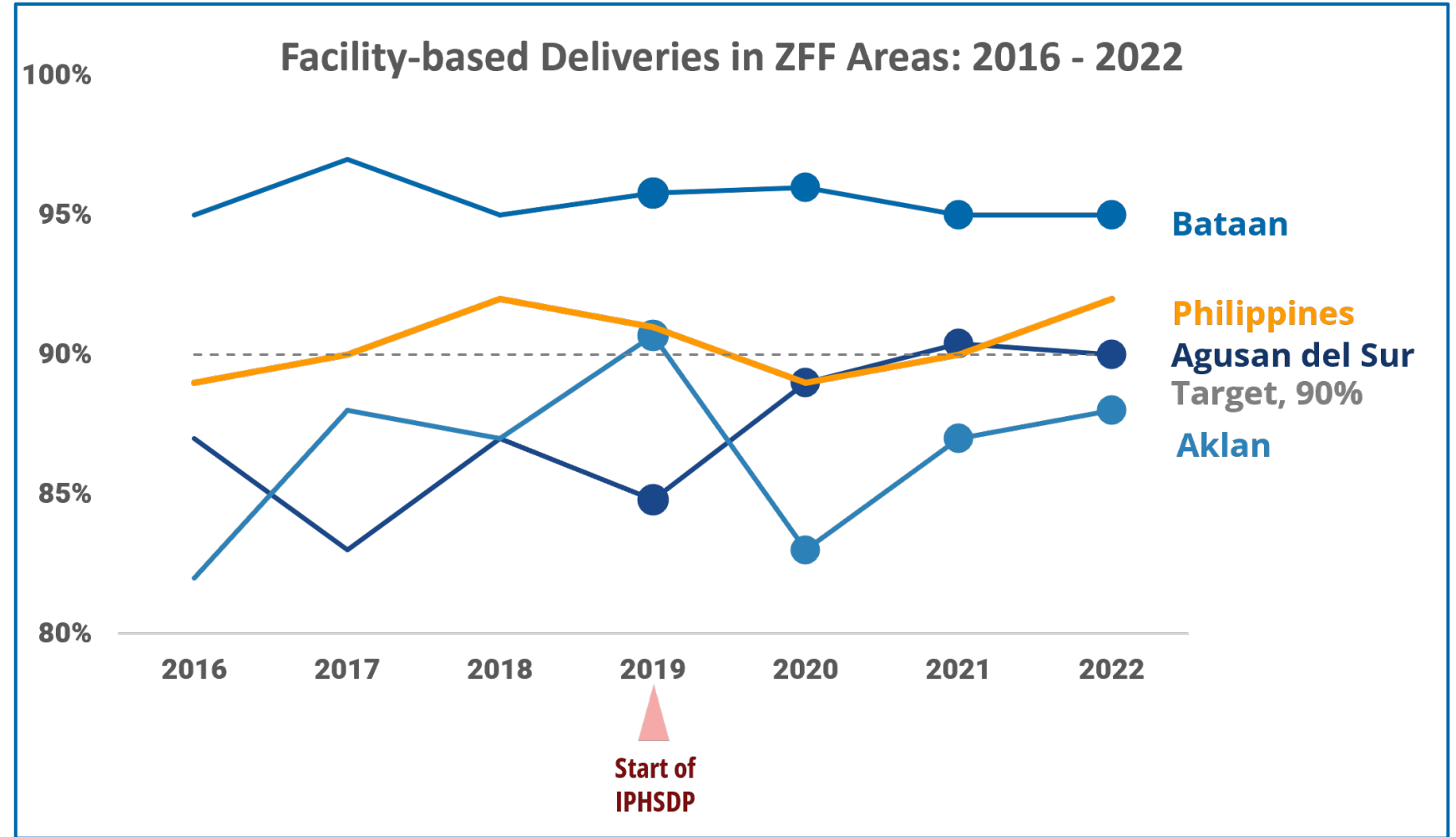
MAJOR FINDINGS

Consistently low Infant Mortality Ratio and below the DOH target of 15 per 1,000 population.



MAJOR FINDINGS

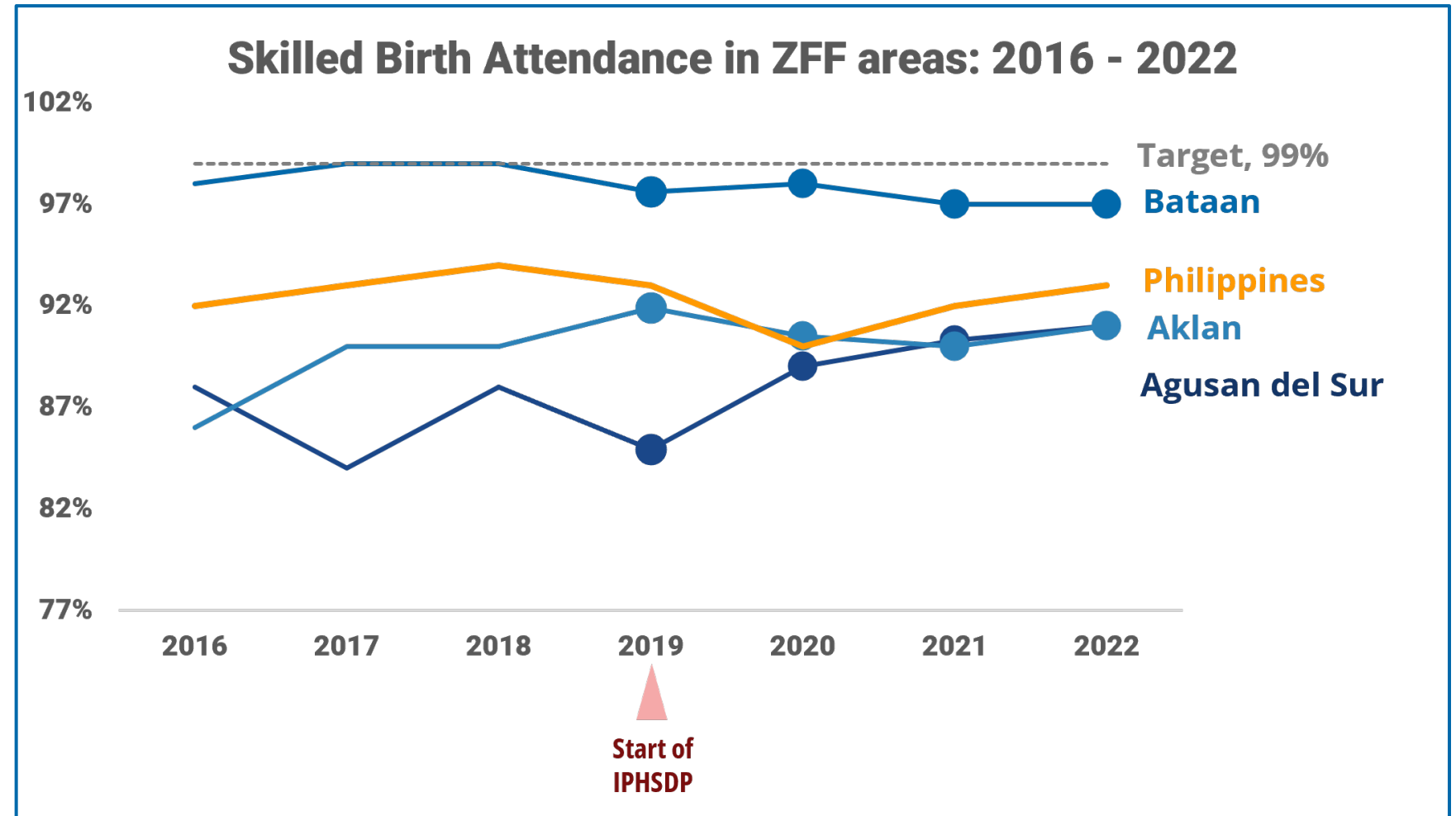
Aklan and Agusan del Sur have seen **marked improvements for Facility Based Delivery** throughout the **program but failed to reach the target FBD of 90%** before the end of the program



MAJOR FINDINGS

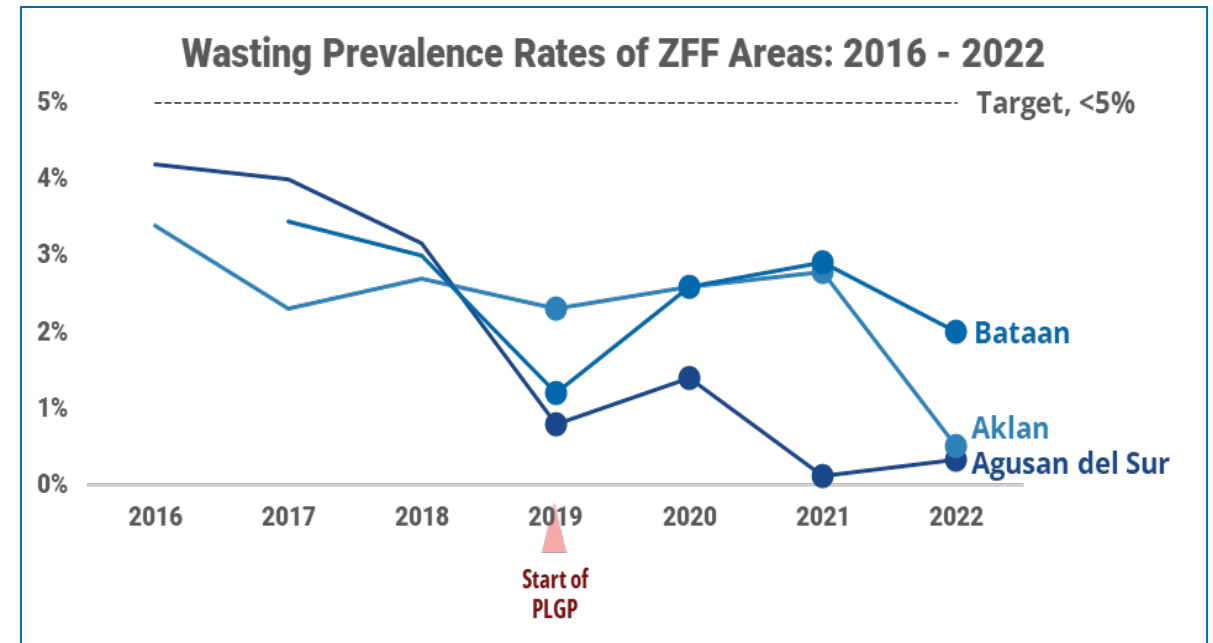
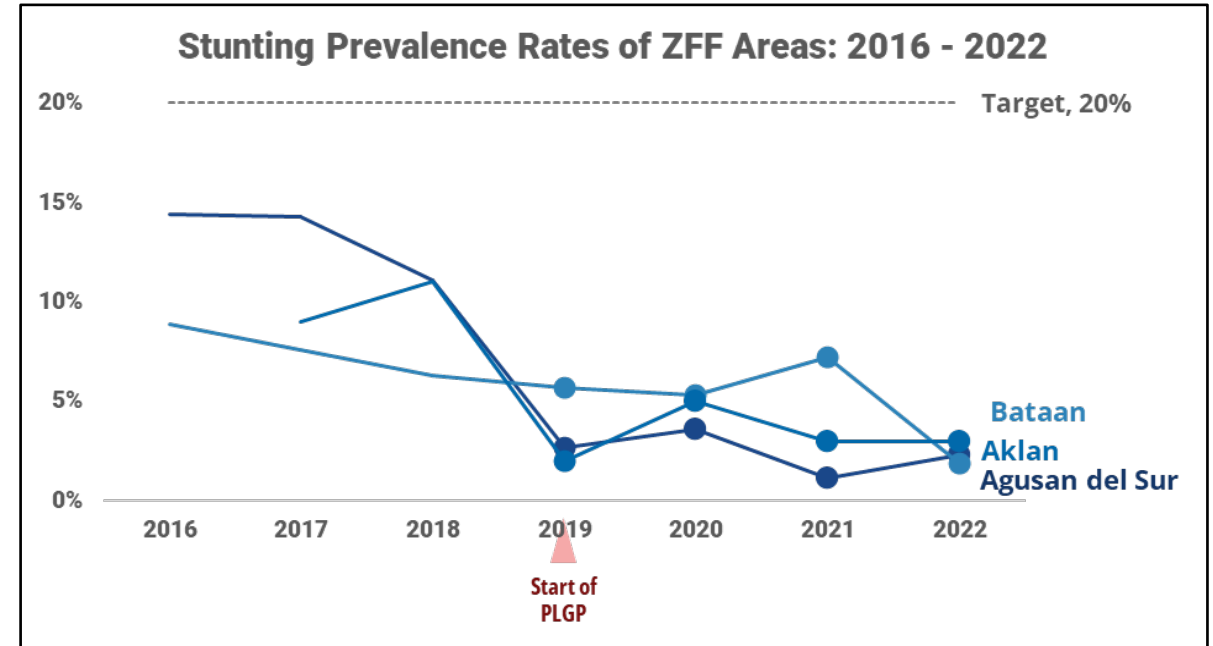
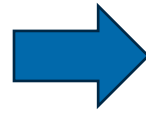
Marked **increases in Skilled Birth Attendance** since the start of the project for **Agusan del Sur and Aklan**, while it has **plateaued for Bataan**.

None of the provinces reached the target SBA of 99%.



MAJOR FINDINGS

The prevalence of wasting and stunting for all participating provinces have **decreased**, with all sites keeping within the targets of 20% prevalence for stunting and <5% prevalence for wasting.



MAJOR FINDINGS: PERCEIVED IMPACT OF PLGP

“

With the realization from the deep dive, I think it is needed to strengthen the municipal health system as well. (...) I strengthened the municipal health system because that is the first line of defense.

- Local Chief Executive

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In photo: former Governor of the province of Bataan, Hon. Albert Garcia and constituents

(Source: Del Pilar - Labarda *et al.*, 2022)

MAJOR FINDINGS: PERCEIVED IMPACT OF PLGP



In photo: The site of the molecular laboratory before construction (top), and the completed facility fully operational with the dedicated health workforce (bottom).

“Our molecular laboratory was established because of the coaching program. (..) They have a very large influence because they say ‘think out of the box so that the result (of the COVID-19 test) will reach the people in 24 hours’. So we thought, how?’. They won’t teach you to do this, to do that. (It’s) more of they will throw at you a powerful question.” At first, we do not have our own molecular laboratory. We discussed over several days how we address the challenge of testing (for COVID-19)”

- Health Officer



MAJOR FINDINGS: PERCEIVED IMPACT OF PLGP

““

“There are newer (services). Before they were not able to measure (blood) sugar. Now, they can measure it. They are also able to measure creatinine, uric acid and blood typing.”

- Community Member

“Patients that they cannot handle here [facility], they bring to the hospital escorted by a nurse, sometimes the midwife. The (patients) are being escorted by the employees here.”

- Community Member

(Source: Del Pilar - Labarda *et al.*, 2022)

CONCLUSION

1. The **private sector has played a critical role in supporting and enhancing local health governance** (Go, 2023).
2. **Strengthened local health governance** ensures policies, structures, and environments are in place **for effective frontline health service delivery to be felt by communities.**
3. The alignment of private sector strategies, like ZFF's, with the public health agenda shows **potential for productive cross-sector collaboration.**
4. Investing in programs like the PLGP is essential to **equip newly elected local chief executives with skills to improve health governance,** ensuring health remains a priority amidst administrative changes.



In Photo: Former governor of the province of Aklan, Hon Florencio Miraflores (left), provincial health officer, Leslie Ann Lucas-Sedillo with constituents



In Photo: Governor of the province of Agusan del Sur, Hon Santiago Cane and constituent

IMPLICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS



To support local governments in improving health outcomes, **adopt a comprehensive model** that **combines training sessions, mentoring and coaching, technical assistance, knowledge management, and robust monitoring and evaluation.**



In light of ongoing disruptions, such as fiscal shocks and reforms like the Mandanas-Garcia ruling, scaling up interventions similar to **PLGP-3 is crucial to maintain and enhance local health system performance.**



Investigating pandemic preparedness initiatives provides an **opportunity to strengthen partnerships between the private sector and local governments**, ensuring effective health service delivery and meaningful impact on communities.

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