

# Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Agusan del Norte

Kitcharao



# Municipality of Kitcharao

Province of Agusan del Norte | Region XIII: Caraga

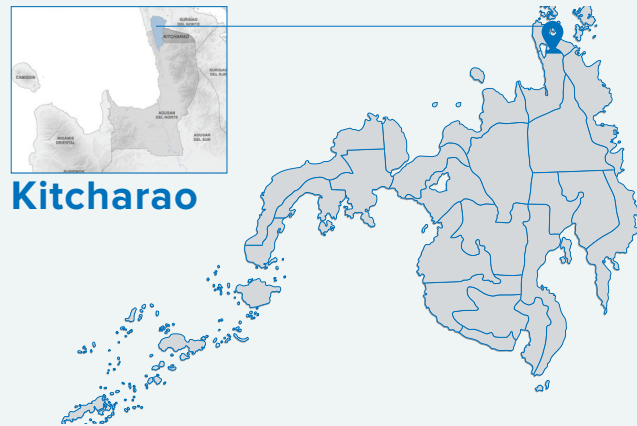
## Overview

Risk rating: High

### Quick facts

The Municipality of Kitcharao is a fourth-class municipality which is home to 18,659 inhabitants as per the Philippine Statistics Authority as of 2015. The municipality used to be part of Jabonga, but was separated in 1963 to constitute a new municipality created by Republic Act No. 3842. It is a landlocked municipality in the coastal province of Agusan del Norte. The municipality is subdivided into 11 barangays and has a total land area of 21,240 hectares, of which 3,182 are alienable and disposable and 18,057 are timberland. Kitcharao has three urban barangays and the rest are rural. It has 19 creeks and rivers, all of which drain to Lake Mainit (PSA, 2015).

Based on PSA data, the ratio of women and men is at 1:1. Government sources, however, place the number of women at 9,021 and men at 8,890. Of the total population, 55 percent are adult, 15 percent are older persons, and 30 percent constitutes the children age groups. The municipality is home to at least two indigenous people's tribes, namely Mamanwa and Manobo, and as well as settlers from various regions in Luzon and Visayas. Per



the municipality's Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) records, the average family size is 6.

A majority of economic activities in the municipality are farming and fishing. Kitcharao is rich in coconut and banana farms; hence, agriculture is one of the main livelihoods of the population. Part of Lake Mainit is also under the jurisdiction of the municipality, which is utilized as fishing grounds and has potential for ecotourism. Other economic activities include marble and hydrated lime processing, commerce, and trade.



Population

**18,659**



Families

**3,732**



Income Class

**4<sup>th</sup> Class**



Land Area

**171.92**sq.km.



Barangays

**11**



Climate type

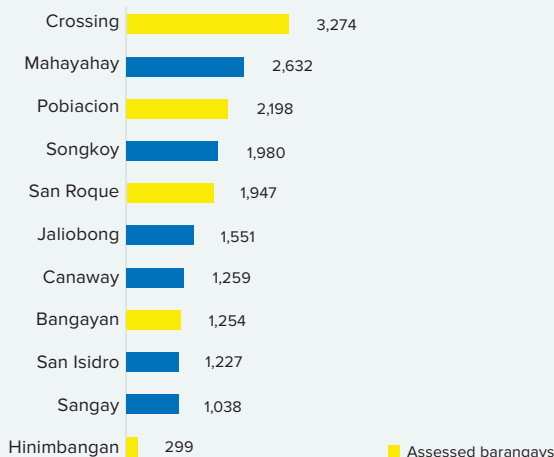
**Tropical**



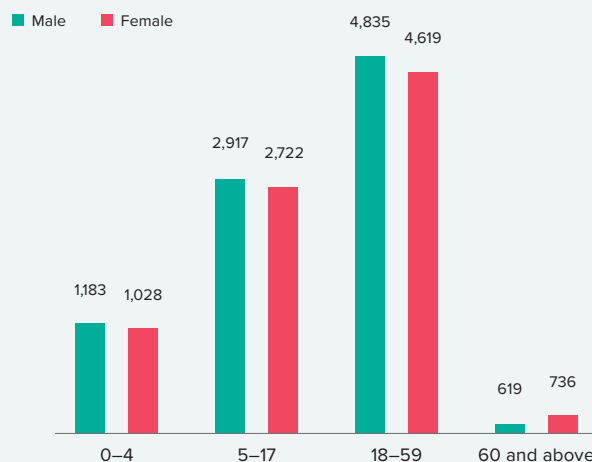
Languages Spoken

**Agusan, Butuanon, Cebuano, Higaonon, Mamanwa, Tagalog**

### Population<sup>1</sup> by barangay



### Population<sup>1</sup> by age breakdown and sex



<sup>1</sup> 2015 Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

## Assessed Barangays

The table below shows the population of barangays in Kitcharao that were assessed for the MPP.

Barangay	No. of HH	No. of Families	No. of People	No. of Male	No. of Female	No. of Children	No. of Adults	No. of Elders
Bangayan	339	344	1,622	860	762	260	1,182	180
Crossing	746	907	3,635	1,822	1,813	1,160	2,325	150
Hinimbangan	92	119	698	328	370	252	182	264
Poblacion	519	652	2,251	1,143	1,108	531	1,468	252
San Roque	485	700	2,870	1,372	1,498	784	1,459	627
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>11,076</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>5,551</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>6,616</b>	<b>1,473</b>

## Protection Profile Summary

The Municipality of Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte has a ‘high’ risk rating in terms of protection risks due to the recurrent and protracted nature of conflict in the municipality, and occurrence of natural hazards such as flashfloods and landslides that affects the locality. Displacements brought about by violent incidents arising from the conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and New Peoples’ Army (NPA) have caused significant impact to the lives and livelihood of vulnerable population and indigenous people. Hinterland communities in the municipality have experienced conflict-related displacements in the last three years. This includes multiple armed encounters in March 2017, which displaced more than 300 individuals from Barangay Hinimbangan, in August 2017, and in June 2018 when 531 persons were affected by armed conflict in Barangay Bangayan.

Flooding events are also common in the municipality. Hazard maps from Mines and Geosciences Bureau, as well as disaster events monitored and reported, show that the municipality has high risk to floods, flashfloods, and landslides. In 2011, portion of the municipality was submerged in flood waters which rose to almost 6 feet, which is one of the highest in the history of the municipality. Lakeshore barangays are particularly susceptible to disaster events and consequently, displacements.



While most displacements are short-term, IDPs are mostly living on the edge of subsistence, which means their vulnerabilities are multiplied many times over because of the ongoing protracted conflict between the AFP and NPA and the occurrence of natural hazards. As a fourth-class municipality with a poverty incidence double the national average, the communities and local government assistance to displaced population is usually short-term and inadequate. IDPs are pushed into the cycle of poverty as long-term vulnerabilities are also not addressed because of the violence and conflict. The lumad tribes in Kitcharao, particularly the Mamawa, are caught in between two warring parties and are particularly exposed to these violence and threats.

# Protection analysis data

## Displacement

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Disasters and displacements are common in the municipality. Participants of the study reported that displacements are mostly caused by natural disasters. In particular, 60 percent said that natural disasters are the main causes of displacements while 36 percent reported that armed conflict triggers the displacements of the population.

According to hazard maps produced by Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Kitcharao has high to very high susceptibility to floods and landslides, particularly in areas close to Lake Mainit such as Songkoy, Crossing, Canaway, and San Roque. This means that barangays are likely to experience floods with heights greater than two meters and durations of more than three days. These areas are immediately flooded during heavy rains of several hours; include landforms of topographic lows such as active river channels, abandoned river channels and areas along river banks; and are prone to flashfloods. Nearly every year from December to February when monsoon rains and typhoons bring significant amount of rainfall, Lake Mainit overflows, and its swelling triggers flooding and displacements. The worst flooding events recorded are the following:

- In 2011, one week of heavy downpour resulted to flashfloods and submerged lakeshore barangays under 6 feet of flood waters. This is one of the most devastating disasters in the municipality.
- In 2018, 979 persons or 218 families in 5 Barangays were affected Typhoon Basyang according to DSWD DROMIC report. Rescue operations were also conducted due to the flashfloods.

Armed conflict in the municipality is due to the protracted conflict between the state security forces of the AFP and the NPA rebel group. Pursuit of the communist armed group by the military has caused several displacements in the municipality. Residents reported that there have been at least 16 incidents of displacements due to armed conflict from year 2000 up to the present. On February 2018, a firefight between the AFP and NPA in Sitio Taiwan, Barangay Bangayan resulted to forcible displacement of some 100 families (around 278 individuals), 59 of which were Mamanwa indigenous families. In another DSWD DROMIC report on June 2018, 126 families composed of 521 individuals were displaced due to armed conflict. The emergence of development projects is also a cause of concern. It threatens the displacement of indigenous people living in areas eyed for mining and power plants.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Displacements as a result of armed conflict greatly affect the daily lives and well-being of the IDPs, hampering their access to safe and dignified shelters, livelihoods, education, and other basic needs.

Most of the displaced families evacuate to nearby evacuation centers within the barangay or municipality. Evacuations are relatively short-term, with duration lasting less than 30 days. There were also incidents of displacements that have lasted for more than 30 days and even more than a year.

During displacements, issues encountered by IDPs relate to shelter, discrimination, and access to assistance. In particular for shelter, IDPs reported that evacuation centers do not have privacy partitions which affect security and protection of women and children. Facilities inside designated evacuation centers are also not enough to accommodate and provide basic services to the IDPs. They also experience psychosocial trauma due to fear and anxiety from flashfloods and firefights. Often, the need for post-disaster psychosocial support are not addressed. Education is also disrupted because of damages to school buildings and facilities. Residents also reported the limited support they receive from duty-bearers in terms of provision of humanitarian aid. One participant reported that during their evacuation in a conflict-related displacement in 2013, one family member died as a result of hunger and malnutrition.

Livelihood is another important aspect that is significantly affected by displacements. Aside from difficulties IDPs experience inside the evacuation centers, their source of livelihoods such as their farms and livestock are left behind. This results in hunger and food insecurity among the IDPs. Respondents reported resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as reducing food intake in order to tide over the next day. While the local government provides food relief, support tends to be short-term due to the limited response funds they can access.

Currently, the municipality has IDPs from Barangay Hinimbangan affected by repeated armed conflict. Residents evacuated from the mountainous areas where they reside to lowland areas which are relatively safer for them. These IDPs are not able to return to their original sites because of the ongoing conflict.

Respondents were also asked if they think there is a possibility of another displacement, 84 percent said yes and the rest do not know. In terms of armed conflict, indigenous peoples and farmers tend to be displaced the most because of their location in the hinterlands. Furthermore, some IDPs are alleged as either members of the NPA or are supporters, which put them in a more precarious situation. Most are affected by these displacements, however, women, children, persons with disability, and older persons have limited mobility and coping capacities. In terms of flooding, residents living in high-risk areas near Lake Mainit are most at risk to the damages brought by flashfloods and flooding. Fisherfolks are most affected by these natural disasters.



### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Most of the displaced families evacuate to nearby evacuation centers within the barangay or municipality. Because of threats and actual firefights, some farmers risk going to their farms to be able to eat and have access to livelihoods.

### Recommendations

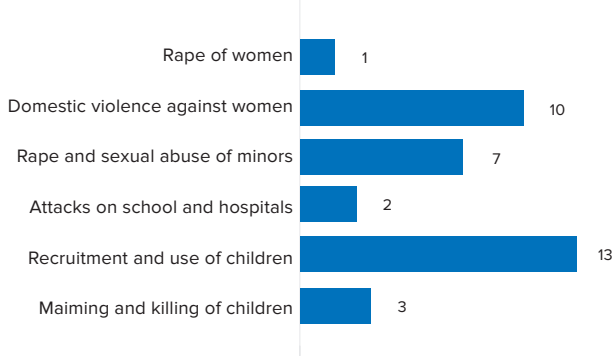
 <p>Adequate and dignified evacuation centers or temporary shelters with sufficient facilities are recommended to be prepared before disasters happen to ensure that IDPs have dignified living conditions and are not exposed to further protection and health risks during disasters. This includes provision of privacy partitions especially for women and children, and accessibility for persons with disability and older persons. Moreover, spaces and facilities for WASH, cooking, and areas of livelihood assets should be allocated, adhering to Sphere standards and memorandum on evacuation center management. Temporary shelters should be risk-proofed, i.e., located in flood-free areas. Latrines should have separate facilities for men and women.</p>	 <p>As communities in the municipality of Kitcharao are repeatedly displaced, evacuation and preparedness plans should be developed, disseminated, and implemented to help communities be prepared for emergency scenarios – this should include inventory and assignment of temporary shelters, warning systems, and transportation arrangements. Community awareness of these preparedness plans should also be done through IEC activities and community drills.</p>
 <p>Aside from the provision of food, relief operations should include a comprehensive package of humanitarian assistance in order to address interrelated issues such as on sanitation, health, and nutrition.</p>	 <p>Capacity building activities and intensive trainings on disaster risk reduction and management, protection and security are also recommended by the respondents of the survey.</p>
 <p>Even prior to disasters, capacity development of sustainable livelihood can help communities that are repeatedly displaced or whose livelihoods are repeatedly damaged by floods and other hazards. Protection and diversification of livelihood sources and income streams will help ensure that basic needs of IDPs are met even after experiencing flashfloods, landslides, and firefights. Persons with special needs should also be provided with livelihood opportunities.</p>	 <p>Utilization of the local DRRM fund can be further reviewed and improved to allocate budget for improvement of health facilities and prepositioning of medicine, water, and food.</p>
 <p>Assessment of protection services and structures is recommended to identify capacity building and resource needs and gaps, to help facilitate IDPs, access to basic and protection services.</p>	 <p>Mapping and securing partnership with local establishments and businesses that can provide immediate food, medicine, hygiene kits, and other non-food items during and after emergencies can help the LGU ensure sufficient and timely assistance to IDPs. Local businesses can also provide immediate transportation and alternative shelter spaces for IDPs during evacuation. Partnership with civil society and non-government organizations is also beneficial for LGUs to maximize resources and ensure that no vulnerable households are excluded from humanitarian aid.</p>
 <p>While the calamity fund cannot be increased, development fund, regular budget, and other LGU sources should be maximized to reduce the vulnerabilities and disaster risk of communities that are repeatedly displaced. This could be in the form of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and protection in the medium- to longer-term plans of the LGU such as the Comprehensive Development Plan and the Local DRRM plan.</p>	 <p>Encourage participation of IDPs in preparedness and response planning workshops by including them as part of committees during displacements and orient them on their roles and responsibilities as IDPs.</p>
	 <p>For government advocacy, allocation of response funds that can be accessed by municipalities and barangays with high vulnerability to natural and human-induced disasters is highly recommended to sustain support to population repeatedly affected by disasters such as flood and conflict. Long-term and durable solutions to resolve underlying causes of these disasters should also be discussed and addressed, linking with development plans of the municipality, as well as external interventions.</p>

## Protection of women and children

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Incidents of violation and threats against women and children come in the form of domestic violence, recruitment of children, rape, and sexual abuse, and maiming and killing of children. Women and children generally feel safe, however, presence of armed groups and constant threat of firefight puts women and children at risk. Moreover, the possibility of killing and recruitment of children is eminent because of the presence of armed groups from both sides.

### Community-reported violations and abuses against women and children



Note: Values represent combined no. of responses from KII informants.

### Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

IDPs give priority to persons with special needs, such as children, women, and older persons during displacements. For instance, the safety of these vulnerable groups is given importance during evacuation operations. Family preparedness is also an important aspect, as families have initiatives on moving to safer grounds.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

The local government establishes policies and structures that help protect women and children. During disasters and displacements, women and children are prioritized in terms of provision of assistance by the government. Local governments have “tanods” and councils that have schedule in monitoring incidents and cases of abuse of women and children. Curfew is also in place at 10 PM to prevent incidents at night.

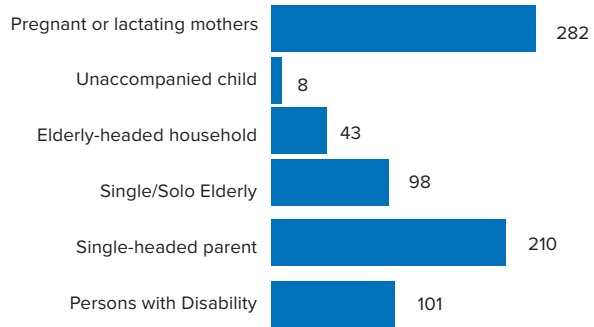
In terms of reporting information on incidents of violation against the rights of women and children, 94 percent said that women and children are willing to report, while 6 percent either do not know, or reported that women and children are not willing to report incidents. While 87 percent said that there are reporting or referral mechanisms in place to address cases of violence and threats on women and children, some 14 percent said there is none. Of those who said that there are mechanisms in place, 93 percent said that these mechanisms are functional. Reporting and referral mechanisms include reporting to VAWC, DSWD, and PNP.

According to the respondents, community awareness sessions and training of protection monitors are being conducted. Local committees that monitor and address protection issues of women and children are also in place to prevent the occurrence of cases of violence against women and children. A majority of respondents also said that there is no facility to cater for survivors of gender-based violence. Facilities for child protection are not present in the municipality.

## Persons with specific needs

### Nature of Violations and Threats

### Which of the following vulnerable groups are present in the community?



Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.

### Recommendations



Provide separate WASH facilities, e.g., latrines, for men and women to uphold protection of women and children.



Ensure immediate and systematic designation of evacuation centers and areas to avoid separation of families during emergencies.



Provide more economic opportunities for women. With or without evacuation, respondents mentioned that women should be given opportunities for livelihoods for economic empowerment and financial stability.



Give attention and address psychosocial needs of women and children. Prior to disasters and emergencies, community leaders and members can be organized and trained to provide community-based psychosocial support.



Ensure continuity of education during disaster events must be ensured to help students reduce psychosocial trauma from experiencing disasters.



Conduct capacity building activities on protection and human rights to further hone the capacities of duty bearers in upholding the rights of vulnerable IDPs. Seminars on VAWC can also be maximized to familiarize government officials and staff on their roles and functions in protection women and children and addressing protection issues they face. Referral pathways should be established.

### Immediate Protection Needs of IDPs that are PWSNs

For persons with special needs (PWSNs), the identified immediate needs include assistive devices of persons with disability, medical care for persons with chronic illnesses, care mechanisms for older persons, psychosocial support, and medical treatment for survivors of gender-based violence.

IDPs who are PWSNs are also affected by disasters and displacements differently, hence they have varying protection needs. They need to be prioritized during disasters and displacements and be given basic needs such as food, medicine, and livelihood options. PWSNs need to be provided with accessible facilities in evacuation center, including shelters and WASH facilities that can be accessed by persons with disability and older persons, as well as partitions for the privacy and protection of household members. Identified as long-term protection need of PWSNs is livelihood that is sustainable and work opportunities.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) takes the front line in providing services to persons with specific needs and other disadvantaged sectors. Among these services include the provision of limited financial assistance to indigent populations needing support to procure medicines and other essentials, referral for hospitalization, availing of PhilHealth, attending to cases of women and children who are victims of violence in their households and illegal recruitment, and securing IDs for senior citizens.

### Recommendations

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Mainstream inclusion in the local development planning and programming of the local government to ensure that programs and policies of the local government are inclusive, as mandated by the law. Along with this, develop policies, amend non-inclusive policies, and promote policies, programs, plans, and activities that are accessible to everyone, including the PWSNs (e.g., inclusive disaster risk reduction, inclusive education). Ensure inclusion and meaningful participation of PWSNs in planning processes and developing programs and allocating budgets for their sector.
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Provide inclusive, appropriate, and safe spaces that address the specific needs of most vulnerable IDPs, including pregnant and lactating women, children, older persons, and persons with disability.
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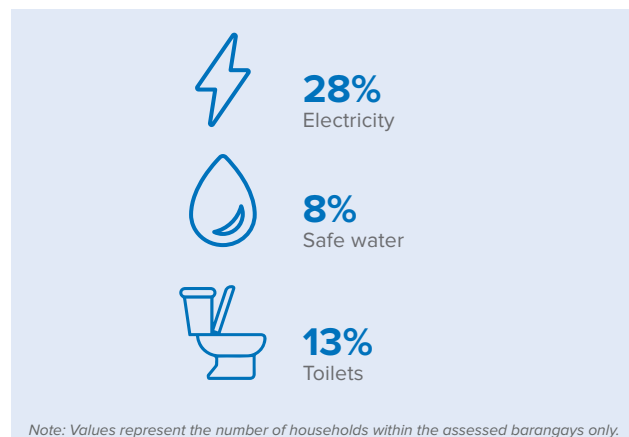
Strengthen public awareness activities on inclusion, including the rights of persons with disability and older persons.
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Integrate inclusion in learning sessions/ capacity building activities for Camp Coordination and Camp Management.
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Provide ample support to long-term needs of PWSNs, including access to sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities.

### Basic social services

What is the estimated number of households without the following services :



### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Respondents reported that they have access to government services, specifically 4Ps, Philhealth and free birth registration. Other government services include free education, free marriage, and benefits for senior citizens. Fifty-eight percent of the respondents say that the local government do not have programs and services to assist the displaced population, while 26 percent say that there are programs. These programs for IDPs are relief operations and health missions.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

Nineteen percent of the participants from the community mentioned that they are satisfied with the services, however, 81 percent said that the duty bearers need improvement on the delivery of basic services. Community members mentioned insufficiency of service/goods provided by duty-bearers as one point for improvement. This means not only providing food for IDPs but also focusing on other basic necessities such as provision of electricity and facilities for shelter and WASH.

### Recommendations

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To avoid issues on delivery of basic services such as fighting or friction among communities, insufficiency and unfair distribution despite limited budget of local government, selection processes should be participatory, transparent, and focus on the most vulnerable members of the community. Feedback mechanisms should also be established.
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Harness external support from private institutions and organizations for the provision of other basic services such as electricity and latrines.
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Implement organized monitoring and distribution of aid during actual emergencies.
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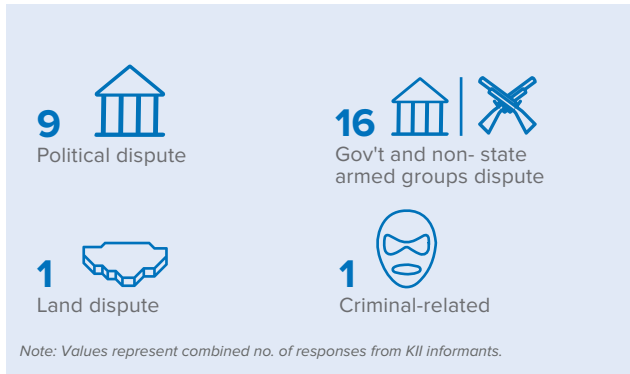
Prioritize sustainable livelihood, as well as adequate facilities and support during evacuation. Duty-bearers share the same perspective in terms of their need to improve their services, however, they believe the reasons behind this is the limited barangay funds.

## Safety and security

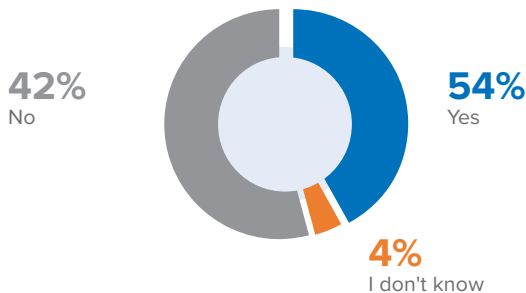
### What is the nature of conflicts?



### What are the causes of these conflicts?



### Do residents feel safe?



### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

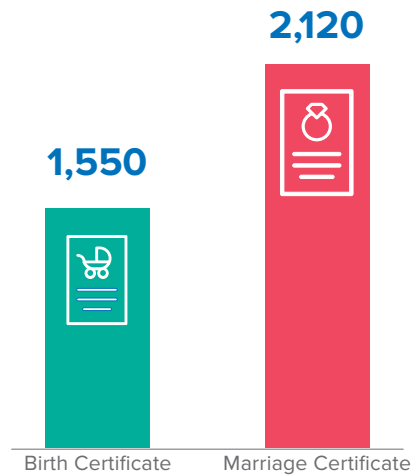
As a coping mechanism, residents report observed activities of both armed groups, which potentially will lead to firefights if the two forces collide. Officials also conduct regular monitoring of activities and implement curfew to ensure the safety of the residents. Barangay tanods also have shifting schedules on roving and providing security services to the communities. Local authorities report incidents to higher authorities for support and concrete action. On the other hand, civilian disputes are settled by barangay councils. Barangay tanod, police, CAFGU, and BPAT army are security service providers identified by respondents of the survey. Local disputes between civilians are settled through barangay councils, municipal authorities, and IP leaders for lumad communities.

### Recommendations

- Strengthen the capacity building program for the LGU at the municipal and barangay level, as well as the communities, such as conducting intensive trainings on disaster risk reduction and management and safety and security.
- Provide ample allocation to boost financial support that will strengthen local security services, such as wage for barangay tanod.

### Documentation

#### What is the estimated number of individuals in the assessed barangays without:



### Impact and Effects of Violations


Those who do not have birth certificates are experiencing difficulties in mobility, enrolling in formal schools, accessing other government services, such as inclusion in 4Ps and claiming pension.

### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Lack of financial resources is identified as a primary reason for the lack of civil documents despite earlier mentioning that these services are provided for free by the government. Others are also not aware of the importance of these documents especially in accessing other government services. Due to limited mobility and high security risk especially those living in the hinterlands, IPs have difficulty in availing these documents. The local chief registrar is also located far from their community and will take resources such as transportation in order to access the LCR's services. Some have difficulty producing and completing the requirements for these documents.



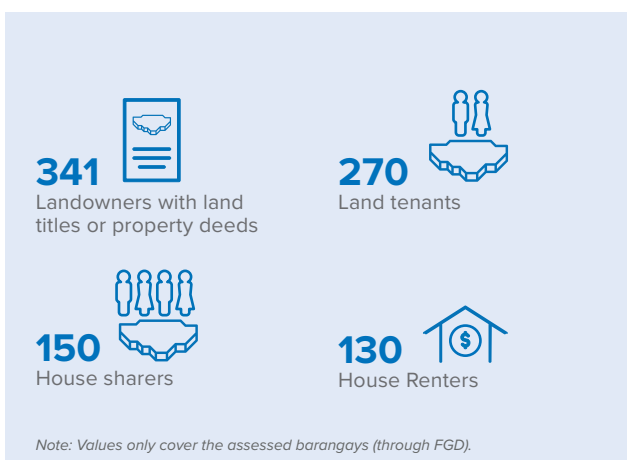
### Recommendations




Mobile or onsite civil documentation services can be launched to reach far-flung and lumad communities. Requirements should not be too restrictive for them to avail these documents which in turn will help them access other government services such as enrolment in formal schools, accessing other government services such as inclusion in 4Ps and pension. This also serves as their protection and identification from those accusing them as members of NPA.

### Housing, land and property (HLP)

#### Estimated number of land owners, land tenants, and house sharers and renters



#### Recommendation



Revisit and address land title issues, especially on overlapping scopes and unclear boundaries, and issues on ancestral domain.

### Information

#### Preferred means of the community to receive protection-related information




#### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Information is commonly shared and received through community meetings and gatherings. Community leaders are considered the most reliable sources of information. For those who have access to mobile phones and data signal, the social media and SMS are also used as platform for sharing and receiving information.


#### Protective Capability and Compliance

Vital and life-saving information such as disaster alerts, security alerts, barangay ordinances and policies, are received by those who are in remote areas through their leaders and barangay officials who have direct access to the municipal LGU. For disaster alerts, the Local DRRMO shares this information.

#### Recommendations



Strengthen communication services to improve the delivery of vital information to remote barangays in the municipality.



Establish and disseminate communication protocol for evacuation. Communication equipment should also be installed or strengthened to reach even the farthest sitios/villages.

### Peace processes

#### Recommendations



Support the calls for the resumption of peace negotiations and peace process in achieving durable solutions to the conflict between the state and the rebel armed group.

## SOURCES / REFERENCES:

- Focus Group Discussions (FGD)
- Key Informant Interviews (KII)
- Secondary Data Review



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Implement  
Project  
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**MUN PROJ**  
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