



Municipal Protection Profiles conducted in Lanao del Norte

Poona Piagapo



Municipality of Poona Piagapo

Province of Lanao del Norte | Region X: Northern Mindanao

Overview

Risk rating: **Medium**

Quick facts

The municipality of Poona Piagapo was created by the Presidential Decree No. 916 in March 1976. The 26 barangays that comprise Poona Piagapo were carved out of the adjacent municipalities of Pantao-Ragat (12 barangays) and Matungao (18 barangays). The municipality has an aggregated land area of 26,007 hectares with farming and business as the major sources of income and livelihood. It is an agricultural community with corn and coconut plantations as the main products.

Poona Piagapo is located in the eastern part of Lanao del Norte's second district, bound by the municipalities of Kauswagan to the north, Matungao to the east, Pantao Ragat to the south and Bacolod to the west. It is about thirty-two (32) kilometers from Iligan City via Kauswagan.

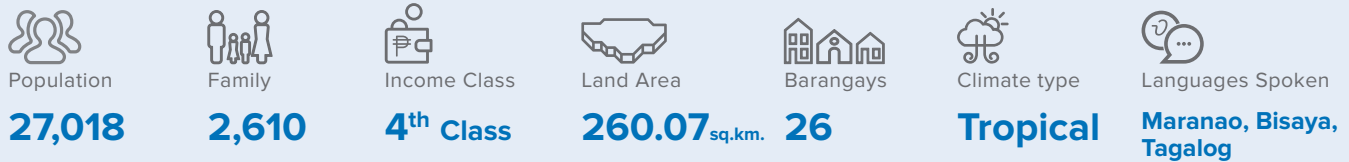
Poona Piagapo receives an annual Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of around Php 105,328,000 from the National Government. The municipality is mainly occupied by Meranaos, with Islam



as the predominant religion. The Meranao language is the most commonly spoken dialect, while Cebuano is the second language, followed by Tagalog and Binukid.

Existing basic social services include the Municipal Hall, Rural Health Unit (RHU), Philippine National Police, Primary and Secondary Schools.

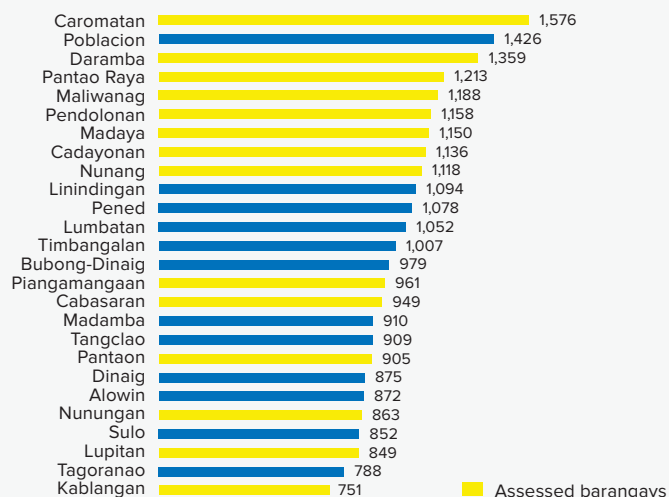
A physician, a midwife and nursing staff comprise the team of the Rural Health Unit (RHU) constructed in 2015. The facility has a lying-in clinic to cater to pregnant women. However, only minor illnesses can be treated in the RHU. Major illnesses are usually referred to tertiary hospitals in Kauswagan and Iligan City.



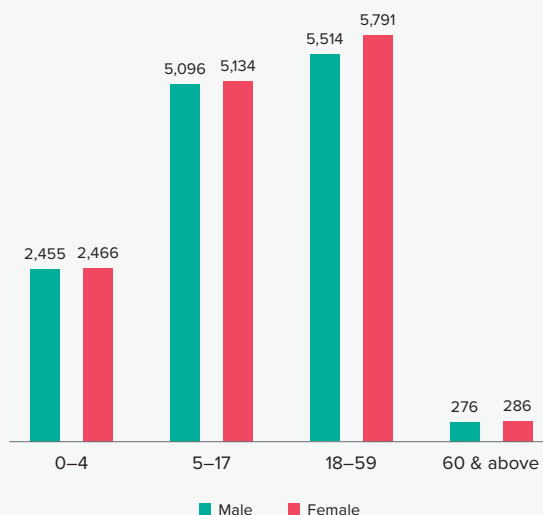
Assessed barangays

Assessed barangays in Poona Piagapo are: Pantao Raya, Cadayonan, Cabasaran, Daramba, Lupitan, Madaya, Maliwanag, Nunang, Pendolonan, Caromatan, Kablangan, Pantao, Nunungan, Piyangamangaan.

Population¹ by barangay









Population¹ by sex and age group



¹ 2015 Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Protection profile summary




The protection risk analysis in the Municipality of Poona Piagapo is **MEDIUM** due to the following considerations:

 <p>The municipality is located in the rural part of Lanao del Norte province, where residents experience limited transportation and traversing rough roads. The accessibility problems hinder livelihood trade and access to basic social services.</p>	 <p>Poona Piagapo is in close proximity to Camp Bilal, a major military camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has a standing peace agreement with the Government of the Philippines.</p>	 <p>Within Poona Piagapo is a satellite camp of the MILF. However, it is not certain if the satellite camp is among those recognized by the MILF and Philippine Government's Joint Peace and Security Committee.</p>
 <p>The municipality became a staging area for the Philippine military during the 2003 armed conflict against the MILF, wherein a permanent Philippine military camp located in Barangay Solo was established after a ceasefire agreement was signed.</p>	 <p>In 2017, the MILF, in cooperation with the current administration's intensified campaign against illegal drug dealers and users, launched Law Enforcement Operations in the area. This resulted in displacement of residents.</p>	 <p>The limited capacity of the Local Government of Poona Piagapo in delivering basic social services, especially to communities located in remote parts of the municipality, results in the unequal delivery of assistance.</p>

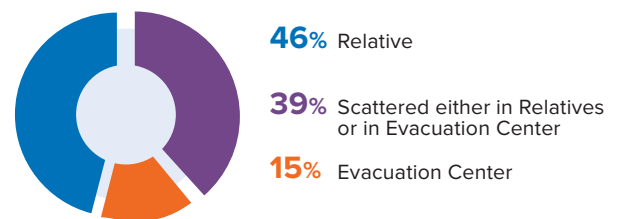
Protection analysis data

Displacement

There are three reasons of displacement

	Displacement due to armed conflict
	Displacement due to clan feud (rido)
	Law enforcement operations

Where do the IDPs usually go for refuge?



Protection services



Three of the barangays assessed have Desks addressing Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), and four have Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). None of the barangays has reported VAWC or child protection cases. The active counseling support offered by traditional leaders also significantly balance the work of the VAWC and BCPC Desks in handling minor issues concerning women and children.



Women are generally respected in the communities. Women hold leadership positions both in the barangay government and traditional sectors (Bai a Labi, Potre Maamor etc) that ensure they participate in the decision-making process. Despite having not undergone orientation or training related to the protection of women and children, women are basically aware of the rights of women and children under Islam and *adat* (attitudes and etiquette).



Respondents in the eight (8) out of the 14 assessed barangays shared that they have cases of children given to the care of other adults. This is due to parents having to work outside the municipality or abroad to sustain the needs of the children. There are cases of parents separating, resulting in one parent taking care of their children.

People with special needs

Immediate needs of the Persons with Special Needs (PWSN):

	Elderly Assistive devices, beddings, vitamins
	Single Elderly-headed Household Livelihood training, food and cash assistance and hygiene kits
	Elderly-headed Household Vitamins and medicines, food, clothing, school supplies for their children
	PWD Assistive devices and cash assistance
	Single Parent/Solo Parent Livelihood training and hygiene kits
	Child Headed Household Livelihood training, food assistance, farm equipment, livestock,
	Pregnant and Lactating Mothers Vitamins, clothing, cash and food assistance
	Orphans Food, financial assistance and school supplies
	Chronically ill Medicine medicines, cash assistance, Hospitalization Care and Beddings

Long term needs of PWSNs:

	Elderly Pension, farm inputs
	Single Elderly Livelihood and food assistance
	Elderly Headed Household Pension, 4Ps inclusion and food assistance
	Female Headed Household Livelihood
	PWD Livelihood, assistive devices and medicine

	Single Parent/Solo Parent Livelihood, cash assistance, farming inputs
	Orphan Madrasah for Arabic education, livelihood, financial support, food assistance and clothing
	Child headed Household Livelihood and training and food assistance,
	Pregnant and Lactating Mothers Medicines and vitamins, facilities for pre- and post-natal checkups (Barangay Health Stations), clothing for children, financial assistance
	Chronically ill Medical support, medicines and maintenance

For PWSN IDPs, the immediate and long term needs are as follows:

	Elderly Food and shelter, clothes, hygiene kits, pension inclusion and education
	Elderly-headed Household Food, kitchen utensils, shelter, cash assistance and pension
	PWDs Assistive devices, livelihood training, beddings, and shelter
	Single Parent/Solo Parent Food, clothing for children, hygiene kits, kitchen utensils and shelter
	Child-headed Household Shelter, food, hygiene kits, clothing, educational supplies
	Pregnant and Lactating Mothers Vitamins and cash assistance
	Orphans Shelter and food, educational supplies , kitchen utensils, clothing
	Chronically ill Medicine and medical care

Available services for PWSNs






 <p>Elderly 72% or 955 persons of the total elderly people in Poona Piagapo have availed the Regular Social Pension, while 28% or 375 elderly persons have yet to be served or allocated this assistance.</p>	 <p>Children 11 out of the 14 assessed barangays have Day Care Centers that cater to five (5) year-old or preschool-aged children.</p>
 <p>PWD One (Brgy. Daramba) out of the 14 assessed barangays have confirmed that PWDs are among the beneficiaries of livelihood training and production equipment provided by DTI for the production of traditional pastries and weaving traditional fabrics (inaul)</p>	 <p>Pregnant and Lactating women (PLW) Basic health services are provided in the Rural Health Unit, which include pre-natal checkup and counselling, provision of vitamins, health education, and medical outreach to rural barangays, newborn screening for lying-in patients.</p>

Respondents and the Municipal Social and Welfare and Development Office mentioned that there are still a number of senior citizen and households that have not yet been served. However, there are services were provided to some of the rural barangays initiated by DTI and those projects are in support to livelihood (specifically, mat weaving or locally known as “karara” or “Ka-awol”). Adding to this, the LGU has limited services that it offers to the community due to limited resources.

Access to basic services





Lacking Basic Social Services

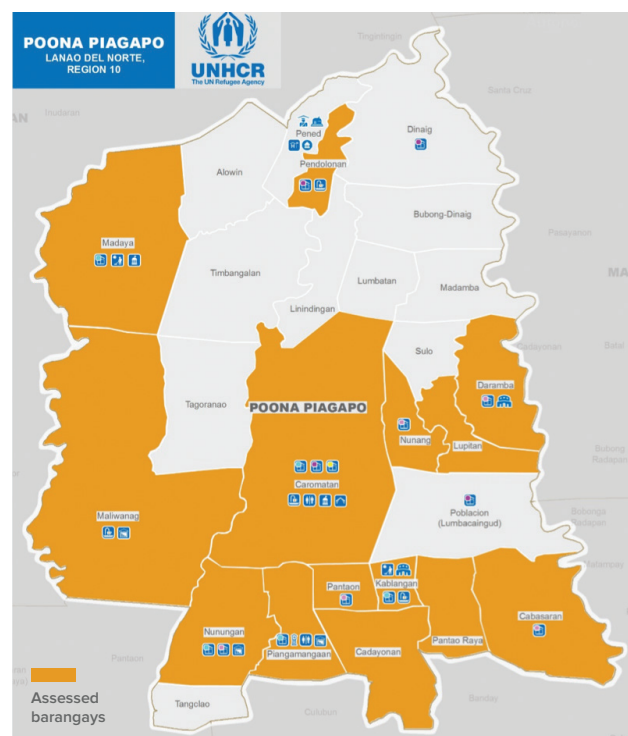
Education

	Five (5) primary schools, located near the boundaries of each barangays
	Five (5) elementary schools, Poona Piagapo Central Elementary School is located in the Poblacion, which is about six (6) kilometers from the Municipal Hall.
	One (1) High School located in Barangay Pened
	14 day care centers in the assessed barangays
	26 barangays have Madrasah or Arabic Schools





There are barangays that do not have school facilities, such as Barangay Maliwanag, wherein the nearest school is located five (5) kms from it in Barangay Pened. Barangay Sulo, is three kilometers to the nearest primary school in Barangay Pantaoon. All elementary students in Barangay Maliwanag and Sulo are walking the distance just to attend their classes. These schools are known to have high dropout rates.

Health



	One (1) Rural Health Unit, located in Barangay Pened, which is 10 kilometers from Barangays Sulo and Piyangamangaan, the farthest barangays in the municipality. Four (4) barangay health centers are strategically located in different barangays that make them accessible by residents in surrounding barangays. The farthest barangays are visited by the RHU Midwife once or twice a month.
	Four (4) Level I Water Systems in Barangays Maliwanag, Pendolonan, Pantao Raya and Lumbatan. The rest of the residents in the barangays source their water needs from springs, open dug wells and privately-owned hand pumps.
	Six (6) water systems in Barangay Cabasalan
	Two (2) public toilets in Barangays Poblacion and Bubong Denaig.






Social Protection

	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) (2000++ 4Ps beneficiaries)
	PhilHealth (Social pensions and 4Ps beneficiaries are automatically enrolled as Philhealth members)
	Social Security System (995 current beneficiaries and 375 are awaiting approval)
	Free Birth Registration (2017 LGU provided free registration, Source: MSWO)

Other functional basic services provided through the following government infrastructures:

-  Municipal hall located at Barangay Pened (Poblacion) about 10 kilometers from the farthest area in barangay Solo and Piyangamangaan and Tangclao.
-  Day Care Centers in 14 assessed barangays
-  Fourteen (14) newly built barangay halls in 2018
-  One (1) training center is located at the Municipal Hall
-  Three (3) warehouses, which is only accessible to residents of Barangays Maliwanag and Nunungan
-  Three (3) solar dryers, which only serve Barangays Tangclao and Nunungan and soon, Barangay Pendolonan.
-  Multi-purpose covered court used for various sports and social activities located in Barangay Pened near the Municipal hall.
-  18 barangay roads. However, there are rural barangays that have not been reached by MPP due to poor road condition.
-  Tire path roads in 8 of the assessed barangays
-  One (1) Police Station located in Barangay Pened
-  BPAT outposts in each barangay, as mandated
-  Additional security support provided by the Military detachment located in Brgy. Pened and Brgy. Tangclao
-  One (1) gymnasium located in Barangay Pened
-  Drainage canals in 3 of the assessed barangays
-  Supply of electricity is one of the important services that is lacking in the municipality. Assessment result showed that 947 households or 36% of the total 2,610 households in the assessed barangays have no electricity.
-  1,261 HH or 48% of the total households have no access to safe drinking water.
-  2,231 or 85% of the total households do not have toilet facilities.
-  Rice, corn, coconut and abaca farmers in 14 barangays shared that the absence of post-harvest facilities affects the viability of their production.

Factors affecting the immediate response of the LGU to address the urgent needs of the population, are as follows:

-  Lack of financial resources at the barangay level
-  Difficulty in reaching far-flung areas due to poor road condition and intermittent cellphone signal
-  Conflict or misunderstanding among beneficiaries

From the information gathered, it was assessed that the most affected population in relation to lack of access to protection and social services are the elderly, PWD, women, and children.






Civil Documentation

Of the total 15,942 population in the 14 assessed barangays, 11% do not have birth registration; while 10% of the total married population do not have marriage registration. In 2017, LGU Poona Piagapo made efforts to assist the residents without civil documentation by offering free civil documentation at the local civil registry level.

The reasons for not being able to secure civil documentation are as follows:

-  Some children were not born in Poona Piagapo, but parents are residents of the municipality (13)
-  Lack of knowledge about the importance of Birth and Marriage Registration (13)
-  Prefer not to have identification for security reasons – parents may have been involved in criminal acts and are in hiding (3)
-  Difficulty in completing the required documents in securing civil documents. Some parents just gave up and no longer bothered to acquire civil documents (13)
-  Lack of financial resources for transportation and fees required in acquiring civil documents (13)
-  Illiteracy on basic reading and writing (12)
-  Accessibility, transportation, and distance, especially those in the far-flung areas (10)
-  Does not know how to get one (9)
-  Never needed one (13)

The disadvantages of not having the civil documentation are as follows:

-  May encounter problems when traveling if stopped at Police or Military Checkpoints (14)
-  Difficulty in enrollment in schools (14)
-  May encounter problems if civil document is required in applying for work (14)
-  Will not be able to enroll in government social service (13)
-  May not be able to register as voter (but some residents mentioned that they were able to register without being required of their birth certificate) (11)


In the absence of the civil documentation, residents acquire Community Tax Certificate (cedula) issued at the Municipal Registry or Barangay Certificates as alternative identification papers. However, these are not accepted as proof of identification.

Safety and Security

For the past 18 years, the primary cause of insecurity in the municipality have been caused by the armed conflict involving the Philippine Military and MILF. Seconded are the incidents instigated by *rido* or clan conflicts. Lastly, by natural hazards caused by landslides and flooding, which occurred in low lying barangays.

In all the assessed barangays, only the residents in Barangay Maliwanag have expressed insecurity due to the presence of a Military Camp in their barangay (which is located at the boundary of Kauswagan and Poona Piagapo), which is proximate to the MILF Camp. Previously, armed encounters between the MILF and the military have resulted to displacement and to the presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in the area. The residents fear the occurrence of armed encounter between the two parties due to miscommunication or failure of the peace agreement between the Government and the MILF.

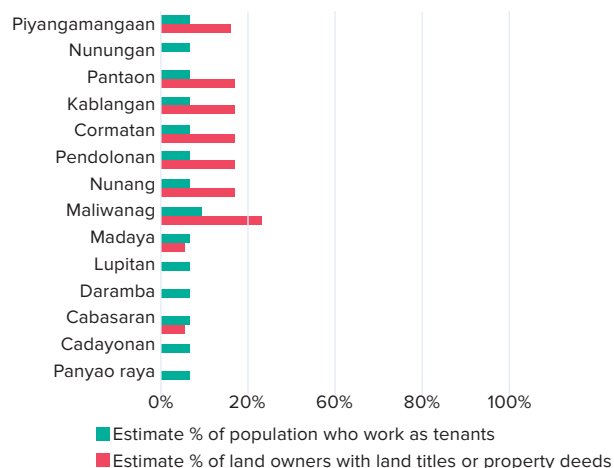
The respondents identified the following common ways to settle disputes and other security concerns:

-  Municipal and barangay authorities through the Local Peace and Order Committee formed, who are responsible for maintaining peace and order, are working in partnership with Municipal Police and the Executive Office as over-all lead.
-  Municipal and barangay officials regularly meet every week to provide updates and to discuss issues in the community.
-  Equivalent to the Local Peace and Order Committee and most trusted by the community are traditional leaders' way of settling disputes through the *Ijma* and *Taritib* system.
-  The 161-member Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) is active in maintaining peace and order in the community.
-  Respondents have recognized the authority of the MILF Shari'ah Courts, which is significantly helpful in settling disputes in Muslim populated communities.

Listed below are the identified solutions to address security issues in every barangay. The actions are participated in by both the Barangay Local Government and community members.

-  Community members report suspicious-looking newcomers in the barangay to BLGU officials and military posted in the area.
-  "Mashuwara" or Community Meeting when there are security issues to be discussed and to be resolved.
-  Orientation on the prevention and mitigation of security concerns provided by the BLGU and the local DILG

Housing, Land and Property



The identified ways of acquiring or coming into possession of the properties are as follows:

-  Inheritance
-  Purchase
-  Dowry
-  Ancestral claim
-  Right to use
-  Rented

There were HLP problems that occurred in the previous years. During the All-Out War, houses were destroyed. Respondents in Cormatan and Maliwanag mentioned problems between civilians related to housing. Cases are related to boundary and/or ownership disputes involving family members (share in inheritance), new buyers and competing claimants. Reported *rido* cases such as those in 2011 and 2014 involved land claims of each family.

Information

Eight barangays enjoy full coverage of cellphone signal of mobile network providers Smart and Globe (Barangays of Pantao Raya, Cadayonan, Cabasaran, Madaya, Maliwanag, Nunang, Pendolonan and Caromatan). However, Barangays Daramba, Lupitan, Kablangan, Pantaon, Nunungan and Piyangamangaan do not have cellphone signals due to its remote location and the mountainous terrain. The usual mode of communication in areas without cellphone signal is through two-way radio.

The municipal and barangay local government regularly sends announcements related to the following:

	Barangay's programs (4Ps) (14)		New barangay ordinances/policies (14)
	Barangay events and social activities (12)		Security alerts (12)
	Community awareness/trainings (11)		National Government Programs (11)
	Disaster alerts (10)		

Barangay Captains usually send communication on the above to Barangay staff with internet signal and through two-way radio to those with no signal. Other announcements are relayed during Jumu'ah or Friday congregational prayers in Mosques. The LGU also holds regular meeting every Wednesday to announce any information to barangay officials.

Peace Process

Majority of the FGD respondents are informed and updated about the status of the peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the MILF concerning the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL). The residents in the assessed barangays have mixed views. Others are supportive of the BOL, while other residents believe that the law will have negative effects to their communities

Community Protection Strategies

Although the Municipal and Barangay Local Governments are experiencing challenges in addressing the general needs of their constituents, the communities have shown resiliency in every hardship they experience. Maximizing the available resources is one of their positive attributes. Following the formula of cooperation, participation, and cultural tradition or "Adat", they were able to remain stable. Aside from the positive attributes, the strong conviction they have in their Muslim faith is one of the factors that made them stand stronger. The respondents said that they were able to link their needs to the humanitarian agencies that are present in their area. In times when humanitarian assistance dwindles, the community provides free use of land to the IDPs for farming.

On the safety and security, the residents participate in the community assemblies, in the meeting "Mashuwaras", in the conflict settlement through the Datus and Sultans, as well as the local executive office.

Protection Capability, Intent and Compliance Aptitude

Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) admitted that they face great difficulties in addressing the needs of their constituent due to limited financial resources. Most often the Barangay Captains use their personal money to provide the needs of the people. BLGUs were observed to be effective in resolving issues related to domestic quarrels or conflicts. The LGU is very accommodating to partner with NGOs and INGOs operating in the municipality. Despite of their limited budget, the LGU is finding ways by linking with non-government organizations to implement development projects. The previous emergency response related to the Marawi siege, in which the Municipality of Poona Piagapo openly accepted and hosted IDPs coming from Marawi City is an evidence of the municipality's willingness to help despite limited resources. Further enhancement of the capacities of first responders at the municipal is needed, especially on information management and the protection of IDPs during emergencies. The current LGU level of coordination with the barangays is an effective strategy to monitor issues and concern in the barangay level.

However, many of the respondents have said that although they receive assistance from LGU and from different stakeholders this is still insufficient to fully address their concerns.

Recommendations

If protection risks are not minimized, it will result to hardship for disadvantaged communities in the municipality. Based on the results of the profiling and field experience during the conduct of focus group discussions and key informant interviews, the following are recommended:

1 For the government (LGU/BLGU and other line agencies)

- Promote a clearer understanding of the roles, functions and powers of each member of the barangay officials;
- Provide a barangay hall in every barangay to have a conducive environment in legislating barangay ordinances and for the community to have access to services at the barangay level;
- Mobilize the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) to do regular monitoring and patrolling in their respective barangays;
- Strengthen the information dissemination mechanisms in order to regularly inform the communities about programmes that will benefit the residents;
- Ensure participation of communities in the development of safety and security strategies and development-related interventions;
- Install streetlamps in dark areas to ensure safety and security of the residents, especially people with special needs, women and children;
- Construct additional public toilets, especially in barangays that have a high percentage of households with no toilets, such as Brgy. Kablangan, Cabasaran and Lupitan;
- Strengthen campaign on Violence Against Women and Children Law in every barangay;
- Integrate projects and programmes for people with special needs, women, and children in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) or the Comprehensive Development Plan-Executive and Legislative Agenda (CDP-ELA);
- Strengthen and sustain communication and coordination between the local government unit/ barangay local government unit (LGU/BLGU) and the MILF;
- Mainstream protection in the barangay level and institutionalize the protection in the local government unit as part of the prevention and mitigation response for any emergency response;
- Establish systematic approach in information-sharing from the barangay to the municipal level and vice versa;
- Establish a mechanism to coordinate and manage external support, such as humanitarian aid and development to promote effective information sharing and minimize duplication of efforts;
- Construct post-harvest facilities in barangays, with priority given to rice, corn, coconut and abaca producing barangays;
- LGU to encourage and facilitate the registration of land titles and if possible, subdivision of mother titles, as a way of preventing land ownership disputes; and
- LGU to set meeting with all concerned departments to consolidate resources, identify gaps, and conduct complementation activities.

2 For NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and other humanitarian agencies

- Assist the LGU in developing a contingency plan in the disaster cycle for both natural disaster and conflict; and
- Provide training to enhance effective conflict resolution and leadership skills to both traditional leaders, LGU and BLGU.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



Beyond Marawi City's most affected area is an abundance of greenery where many Maranao families have sought refuge from the siege. This is Radapan Proper, a community that hosts 29 internally displaced families. With the help of UNHCR Philippines, water pipes were constructed from the reservoir to the barangay, bringing the village a sustainable source of water.

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