



Municipal Protection Profiles conducted in Lanao del Sur

Masiu



Municipality of Masiu

Province of Lanao del Sur | Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Overview

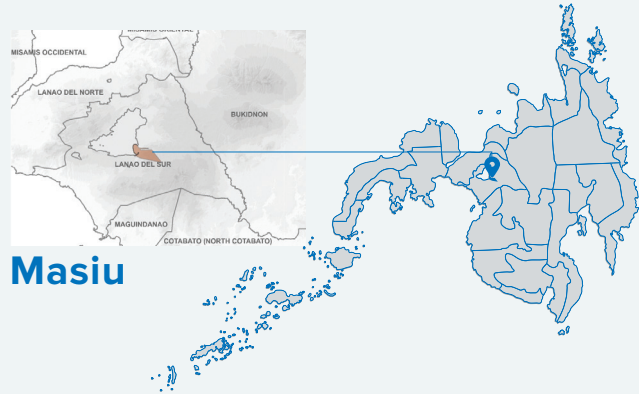
Risk rating: **Medium**

Quick facts

Masiu is located on the eastern side of Lake Lanao and bounded on the north by Poona Bayabao, on the south by Butig, on the east by the Poona Bayabao, and on the west by Lake Lanao. Masiu is about 37 km from the Islamic city of Marawi and 71 km from Iligan City.

The municipality was established as part of the province of Lanao del Sur by Republic Act No. 2228, passed into law on 22 May 1959. Almost all (99%) of the total population is Maranaw.

Most of Masiu is flat with rolling hills. The eastern portion includes the 13.5 meter-high Gatong Waterfall. If developed, the waterfall has the potential to generate hydroelectric power to supply energy to the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Cotabato.



The majority of the land is agricultural with a cultivated area of 1,999 hectares, of which only 600 hectares are irrigated and the remaining is rain-fed. Residents in 14 lakeshore barangays are engaged in fishing as a source of livelihood.



Population

29,179



Families

5,835



Income Class

5th Class



Land Area

170sq.m.



Barangays

35



Climate type

Tropical

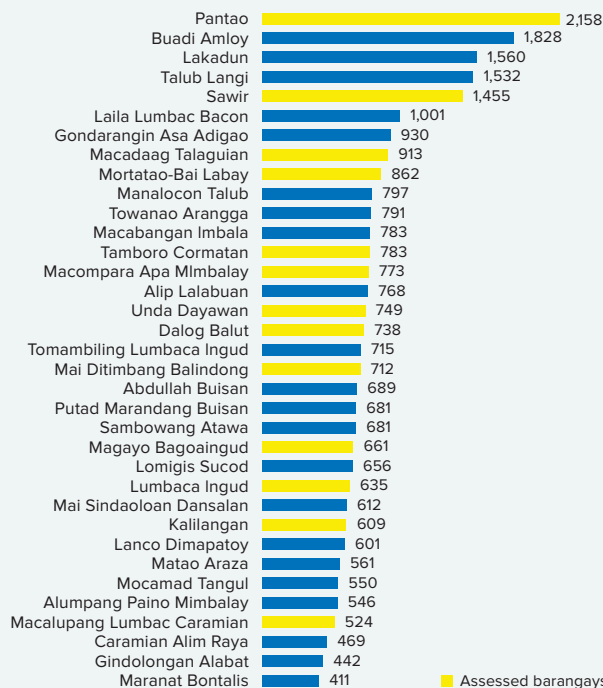


Language Spoken

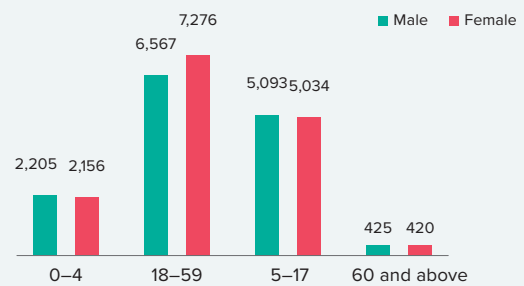
Maranao

Assessed barangays

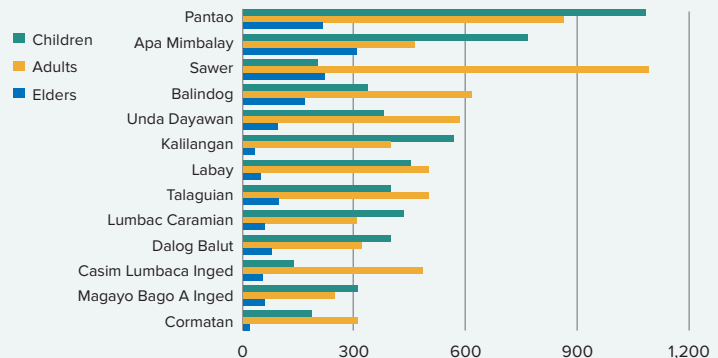
Population¹ by barangay with highlighting of selected barangays (13) for assessment



Population¹ of all barangay by sex and age group

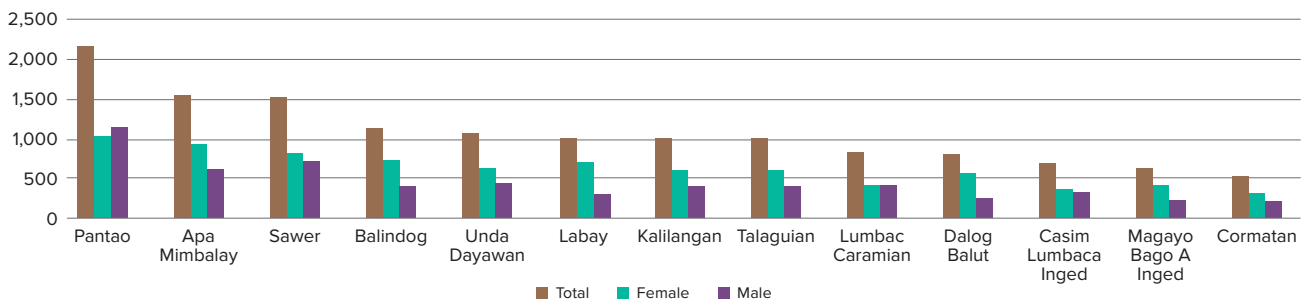


Age breakdown per barangay



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

Population of the 13 barangays, 2015 census



13 barangays were assessed in Masiu for protection profiling: Amai Ditimbang Balindog, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Dalog Balut, Kalilangan, Labay Moriatao-Bai, Macadaag Talaguian, Macalupang Lumbac Caramian, Magayo Bago A Inged, Magompara Apa Mimbalay, Mimbantas Sawer, Pantao, Tamboro Cormatan, and Unda Dayawan.

Protection profile summary

Protection risk in the Municipality of Masiu is **MEDIUM** with the probability of being raised to **HIGH** due to the reported observed presence of ISIS-inspired group members hiding in the remote parts of the municipality.

The municipality is adjacent to the Municipality of Butig, the birthplace and stronghold of the ISIS-inspired Dawlah Islamiyah terrorist group founded by Abdullah and Omar Maute. Should the Philippine military continue its neutralization operations against the group, internally displaced people will seek refuge in nearby municipalities such as Masiu.

However, residents of Masiu may be displaced due to the same military pursuit operations if the members of the IS-inspired group flee towards the municipality.

The 13 assessed barangays are exposed to the risk of displacement due to armed conflict, crime and violence, and natural disasters. The municipality forms part of Camp Bushra, a major camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which makes it a distinct area that the Philippine military cannot enter without coordination and permission in compliance with the standing ceasefire agreement between the Philippine Government and MILF. The presence of MILF members is widespread and many members of the Maute Group are reportedly hiding in remote areas of the Municipality.

The majority of the respondents expressed concern about the presence of the ISIS-inspired group members, who are

believed to be in the campaign to recruit new members. Should the ISIS-inspired group gain strength, they could launch retaliatory attacks, which can result in massive displacement of civilians.

Protective services from the government are very limited due to the lack of financial resources and the need to improve the capability to deliver services. The lack of basic infrastructure facilities, such as concrete roads, electricity, health centers, and communication and information sharing, hamper residents' access to government social services.

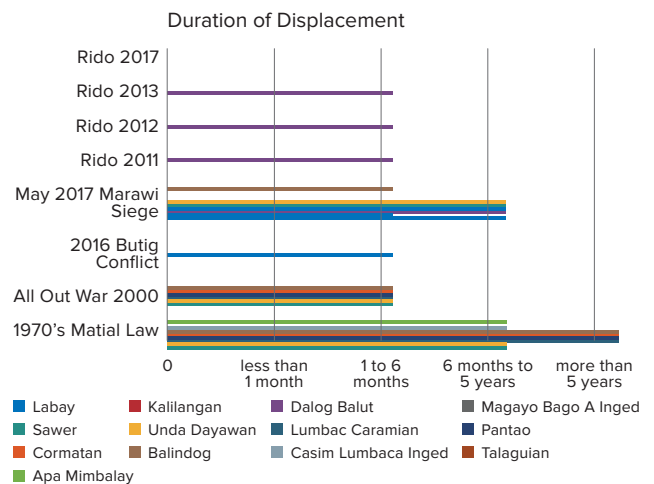
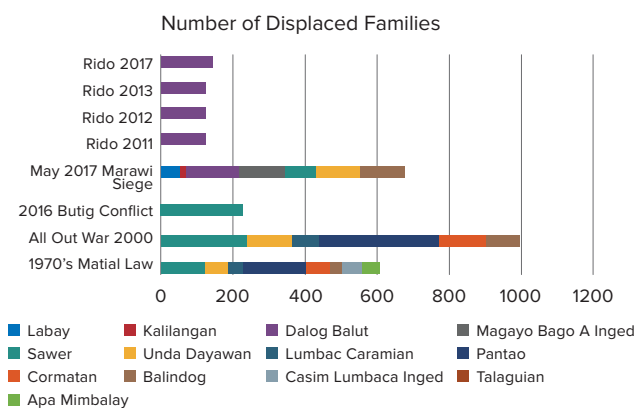
The local government unit (LGU) of Masiu remains weak in managing the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC). No activities, such as training on disaster preparedness, have been undertaken to capacitate the population.

The low capacity of the LGU to deliver basic social services, especially to communities in remote parts of the municipality, results in unequal delivery of assistance.




Respondents reported that when residents were displaced to other barangays, they encountered problems such as denied access to assistance, discrimination, restriction of their movement, threats from the host community, fear, anxiety, and bullying between children. Displaced residents are in need of immediate assistance like food, medicines, core relief items, financial assistance, and long-term needs like shelter and livelihood. Ten of the assessed barangays are prone to natural disasters, causing displacement to families.

Protection analysis data






Displacement








What are the challenges for the RETURN of IDPs?

 Livelihood Labay, Kalilangan	 Stolen and damaged properties Sawer, Unda Dayawan, Casim Lumbaca Inged	 (no/lack) supply of electricity Pantao	 (no/lack) supply of electricity, food Balindog
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What are the challenges for the RESETTLEMENT of IDPs?

 Livelihood Labay, Kalilangan, Dalog Balt	 food, other supplies Magayo Bago A Inged	 threats to security and safety Unda Dayawan	 finances Lumbac Caramian	 finances, discomfort Casim Lumbaca Inged
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What are the challenges for the REINTEGRATION of IDPs?

 Livelihood Labay, Kalilangan, Talaguian, Apa Mimbalay	 shelter, clothes, food Dalog Balt	 shelter, livelihood Magayo Bago A Inged, Lumbac Caramian, Balindog	 stay with relatives Sawer, Unda Dayawan	 livelihood, lack of supplies Casim Lumbaca Inged
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Protection services

Protective services for the IDPs and residents are available in some barangays such as:

 BDRRMC (Barangay Risk Reduction and Management Council) in Sawer, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Talaguia and Apa Mimbalay	 VAWC (Violence against Women and their Children) Desks in Pantao, Balindog, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Talaguian and Apa Mimbalay	 BCPC (Barangay Council for the Protection of Children): Sawer, Lumbac Caramian, Pantao, Cormatan, Balindog, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Talaguian And Apa Mimbalay	 BHRAO (Barangay Human Rights Action Office): Labay, Dalog Balt, Magayo Bago A Inged, Sawer, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Talaguian and Apa Mimbalay	 There are other facilities like barangay hall, BADAC (Brgy. Anti-Drug Abuse Council) in Barangay Sawer and barangay nutrition scholars in Casim Lumbaca Inged, Talaguian and Apa Mimbalay
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Protection of Women and Children

In terms of safety and security, women and children feel safe and secure. There are no reports of violation committed against women and children except minor cases of domestic violence in barangays of Sawer, Unda Dayawan, and Casim Lumbac Inged. There is an established reporting and referral mechanism in 10 of the assessed barangays. As an example, all reported cases on women and children are settled by a committee of elders at the community level. If the cases are unresolved, these will be referred to the barangay local government. If the cases are still unresolved at the BLGU level, then these will be referred to the municipal level.

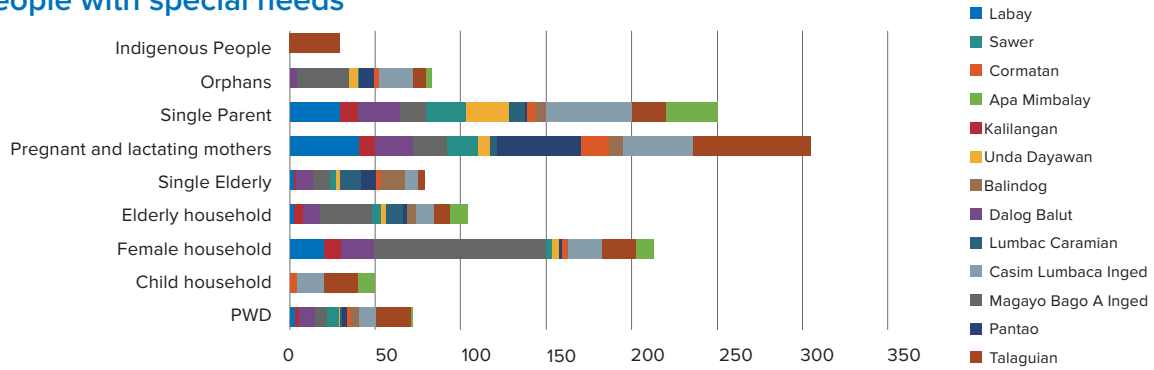
The majority of women and children are said to have access to information related to security services and protection, except for those located in communities where such services are not available, like Barangay Apa Mimbalay, Casim Lumbaca Inged, Kalilangan, Labay, and Talaguian. In addition, they are given the opportunity to speak and be heard in meetings and gatherings, and most importantly they have opportunities to lead in their communities.

Services and information on protecting women and children are known to some barangays. For example, barangays Sawer, Unda

Dayawan, Lumbac Caramian, Pantao, Cormatan and Balindog reported that they received information or training related to women and children protection. Some of the rights mentioned by respondents which are known to women are: the right to be provided with protective and basic services from the government, right to be provided with livelihood, right to be protected by husband, right to basic and social services, right to be heard, right for sustenance, and right for safety. Some of the children’s rights known to parents are the right to education, the right to be provided with food and clothing, the right to life, the right to access basic social services, the right to religion, and the right to have a family. For those with no training, the main reason cited is that they have not received an invitation from any training provider.

Also, majority of the assessed barangays are aware of the VAWC law except for barangays Casim Lumbaca Inged, Sawer, and Unda Dayawan. There are barangays with protective services like VAWC Desk, BCPC, and Gender and Development (GAD) Council. But there are no available GBV facilities in all the 13 barangays.

People with special needs



Identified immediate and long-term needs:

Assistive devices for PWDs

Care mechanisms for children and older persons

Medical treatment for survivors of sexual abuse

Psychosocial treatment

Humanitarian assistance for vulnerable persons

Medical care for persons with chronic illness

Livelihood

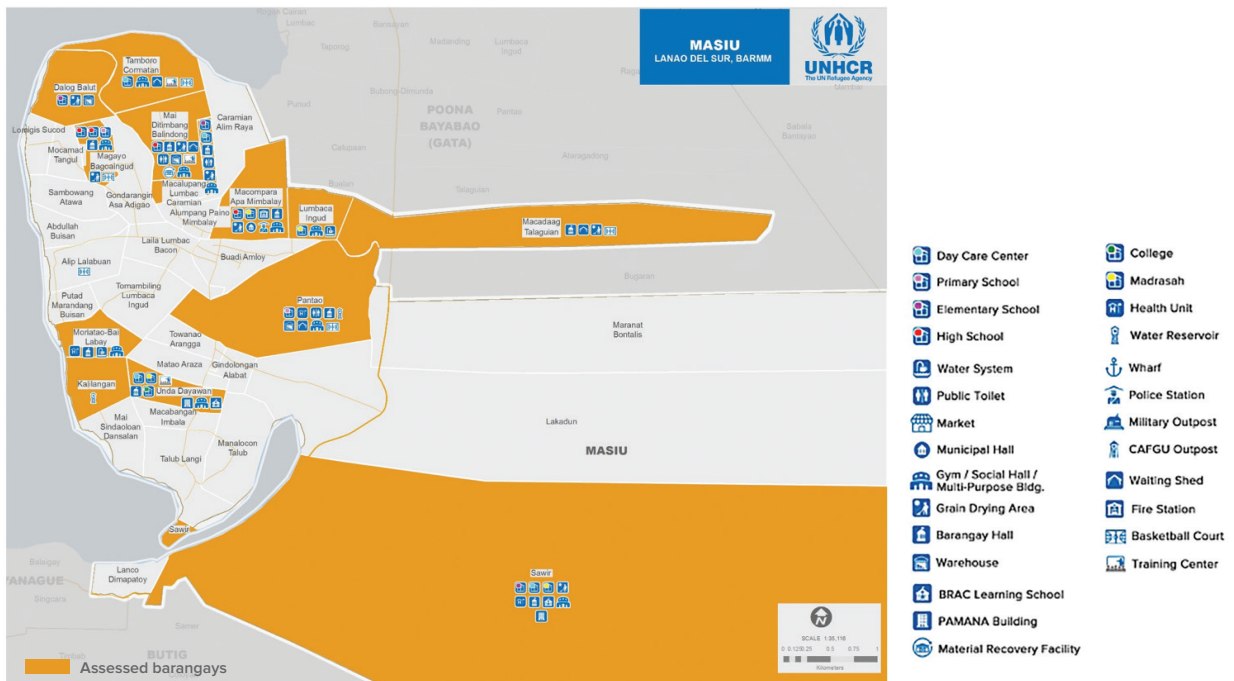
Health center

Educational facilities

Scholarships, especially for orphans

Vitamins and medicines, especially for lactating women and chronically ill

Access to basic services



Lacking Basic Social Services

89

Households without electricity

1,065

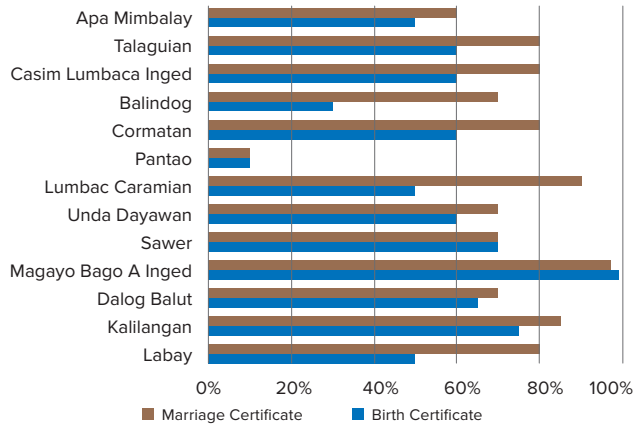
Households without safe water

Note: Values represent the number of households within the assessed barangays only.

While there are existing and functional structures listed above, many respondents expressed these are insufficient to provide the needs of the population, and they believe that there is a need to improve the capacity of the local leaders to respond to the needs of the constituents particularly in remote and far-flung areas.

Civil documentation

Estimated percentage of people with NO Marriage and Birth Certificates



- Inability to claim 4Ps
- They can't perform pilgrimage (Hajj)
- Inability to work (but others claim that some can work even without birth certificate)
- Cannot apply to government programs
- Inability to vote (but some say they were able to register without them being required of their birth certificate)

Safety and Security

Safety and security concerns:

- 57%** Population without birth certificates
- 66%** Population without marriage certificates

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

- They never needed one
- Cannot write, read, and apply
- Place of birth is different from current municipality of residence
- Prefer not to have identification for security purposes
- Cannot afford one
- They do not know about it
- Cannot secure all the supporting documents
- They do not know how to get one
- Difficult access to civil registrar's office

Residents acknowledge the adverse effects of not having the civil documentation

- Inability to travel
- Inability to go to school
- Inability to claim pension or government support
- Inability to access other social protection assistance

- Armed conflict
- Crime and violence
- Rido or clan conflicts
- Imposition of Martial Law
- Natural disaster, such as flooding and landslide
- Destruction of civilian properties
- Widespread presence of non-state actors such as MILF, MNLF and ISIS- inspired members

Among the assessed barangays, Dalog Balt, Magayo Bago A Inged and Unda Dayawan are not conflict-affected areas as reported by respondents.

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

- Military
- Women leaders
- Sharia courts, if necessary
- Religious leaders
- 161 Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT)
- 25 PNP personnel assigned in the Municipality
- Municipal and barangay authorities

There is no presence of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as claimed by the respondents. But only barangays of Dalog Balt, Kalilangan, and Magaro Bago Inged are not familiar with CHR.


The local authorities respond to the insecurities by reporting the incidents to the concerned group, referring the issues to municipal authorities, locally arresting the perpetrators, conducting search operations, and engaging in a firefight. But some are afraid to report the incident and do not engage in time of conflict.

While the majority of the population in every barangay feel they are safe, others expressed their concerns and fear on possible armed fighting since there are reports that the ISIS-inspired Group is mobilizing and planning to launch new attacks.

Housing, Land and Property

26-50% 

of the population have acquired their certificate of land titles and/or their land property are assessed by the Municipal Assessors Office

33% 

are farm tenants

10-20% 

are farmers who are cultivating public lands and yet to be declared as alienable and disposable lands

The identified ways of acquiring the properties are as follows:

 Inheritance	 Purchase	 Dowry
 Ancestral claim	 Right to use	 Rented

There were HLP-related problems that occurred in some of the covered areas. According to respondents, one case of forced eviction involving civilians happened 2 years ago and another about 5 to 10 years ago in Dalog Balt and Magayo Bago a Ingud, respectively. Another is 2 cases of destruction of civilian property and housing, which happened 3 and 5 years ago in Labay and Sawyer, respectively.

The topmost HLP problem that is present in all of the barangays is related to land conflict, which leads families to rido/family feud. This eventually affects the livelihood not only of these families but also their relatives. Hence, some of these families and relatives have chosen to leave their places of habitual residence in order to stay safe and away from the conflict.

Information

All the respondents said that all barangays have access to mobile networks like Globe, Smart, TNT, and TM, but these networks differ in terms of strength of the signal connection. The same is true for the internet connection in different areas. Two-way radios and cellphones are the common use equipment of the LGU/BLGU.

As to information received, many respondents said that types of protection information received by the community include the following:

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

Other ways considered to be best in informing people on protection-related information are:



While many of the respondents expressed that they regularly receive updates and information, others who come from far-flung areas expressed concerns about the lack of communication and information that they receive. As shared by respondents the lack of communication can lead to a feeling of being neglected and excluded, anger, emotional stress, discouragement, tensions, and other problems.

Peace Process

The general perspectives common to many of the respondents include possible passage and approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), this law will be successful and effective if approved, there will be a development in the community and resources of ARMM will be utilized. Some respondents did not provide any comments.

The issues about the peace process raised by the respondents include a) most of the community are not fully aware of the provision of the BOL, b) system of government and lack of knowledge and c) complete provision in the BOL should be implemented.

Community Protection Strategies

The communities have learned the strategies of advocacy and networking, considering the difficult circumstances that they have repeatedly experienced. Communities were already involved in joint protection activities with local institutions, other LGUs, NGOs, and INGOs, in order to survive the effects of displacement which they have a long history of. For instance, communities have had joint communal projects with the LGU/BLGU and local NGOs, such as developing community assets that in return provided them with additional income, protection, and livelihood. This included activities like bio-intensive gardening, construction of protection dikes, cleaning of drainage and canals, and rehabilitation of roads.

As observed, however, despite the difficult circumstances in which they repeatedly find themselves, communities display strong internal coping mechanisms in order to recover. These are strongly influenced, in most cases, by their deep spiritual belief and faith in Islam. Many of the respondents said that as Muslims, accepting whatever God has already destined for them forms part of their Islamic faith. Besides, they are happy and relieved that in addition to the assistance they receive, their relatives from less affected areas come to provide assistance in many ways including physical and emotional support. Maranao communities greatly emphasize the value of helping one another especially during difficult times, and this forms part of their “maratabat” (dignity), which is common among Maranao populations.

Protection Capability, Intent and Compliance Aptitude

The LGU, according to respondents, tries its best to effectively respond to the effects of armed conflict and displacement. Many, but certainly not all affected parts of the municipality are receiving support at the MLGU, the BLGU, and community levels. The municipality has been receiving support from local and international organizations, some of which are ongoing. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has provided various relief goods containing ready-to-eat food and non-food items. Quick Impact Projects are being provided by CFSI and UNHCR to the displaced families. The World Bank through the Mindanao Trust Fund in partnership with Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) is supporting the Reconstruction and Development Project (RDP) in the conflict-affected areas within the Municipality being part of the MILF Camp Bushra.

The LGU believes that its staff has done an excellent job in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the displaced families because they have exerted all efforts in providing help to the displaced families despite the limitation in finances. The LGU has exerted efforts to assess the needs of the IDPs and respond to their needs by providing available resources, such as food, medicines, and financial assistance. This is augmented by food, medicines, financial assistance, livelihood, temporary shelter, and Core Relief Items provided by other local NGOs

However, while various assistance have been received and existing government mechanisms are already in place, such as functional BDRRMC, VAWC desk, BCPC, and BPAT, many of the respondents believe these are insufficient to address both their immediate and long-term needs and there is a need to improve further the capability of the LGU to cope with the nature of the violations of their rights and the level of impact of those violations. Despite the remarkable level of resilience by the communities, they can be weighed down by the continuing difficult circumstances, in which they find themselves for a long time.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the profiling and field experience during the conduct of FGDs/KIIs, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

1

For the Government (LGU/BLGU and other line agencies)

- Strengthen security-risk monitoring and identification of mitigation measures. Round-the-clock patrolling should be conducted by the security forces (military, PNP, BPAT) assigned in the municipality;
- Strengthen capacities of the Municipal and Barangay Peace and Order Councils;
- Continue conducting BPAT regular monitoring and patrolling in their respective barangays;
- Ensure that effective, functional, and operational reporting mechanisms are in place and communities are aware of these mechanisms;
- Ensure participation of communities in the development of safety and security strategies;
- Enhance capacities of local actors who are responsible for protection monitoring and conflict management;
- Install streetlamps to dark areas to ensure the safety and security of the residents especially people with special needs, women, and children;
- Prioritize remote barangays in the construction of roads to ensure access of these communities to basic services;
- Ensure access to safe water;
- Provide public toilets and continue to encourage all households to have their own toilets;
- Strengthen campaign on Violation Against Women and Children (VAWC) Law in every barangay;
- Integrate projects and programs for people with special needs (especially livelihood programs), women, and children in the Annual Investment Plan or the CDP-ELA;
- Strengthen and sustain communication and coordination between the LGU/BLGU and the MILF; and
- Explore the use of social media, such as Facebook and other cellphone messaging applications, for real-time information dissemination and resource mobilization.

2

For NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, and other Humanitarian Agencies

- Assist the LGU in identifying, analyzing, and managing risks in all humanitarian and development programming;
- Continue ensuring transparency and accountability in mobilizing and in the distribution of relief, as well as early recovery, reconstruction and development;
- Foster inter-agency cooperation and minimize duplication of effort through timely information sharing and where practical, joint action;
- Monitor measures for return, integration, or settlement of internally displaced people, focusing on protection and human rights; and
- Assist the LGU in developing contingency plans for both natural disasters and conflict.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



Water brings life to Hasmin and her daughter Caramina. The community in Brgy. Bacawayan, Marantao hosts internally displaced families from Marawi City since the siege in May 2017. They now have a sustainable source of water for sustenance and basic hygiene. © UNHCR/Lyka Gonzalez