



# Municipal Protection Profiles conducted in Lanao del Sur

Poona Bayabao



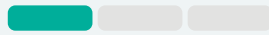


# Municipality of Poona Bayabao

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

## Overview

Risk rating: Low

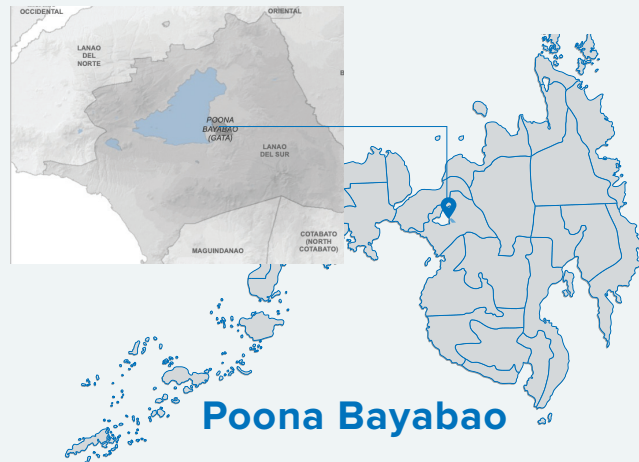


### Quick facts

Poona Bayabao, formerly known as Gata, is a 4th class municipality in the province of Lanao del Sur. The annual regular revenue of the municipality for the fiscal year 2016 was P83,248,723 according to the Bureau of Local Government Finance. It shares borders with the municipalities of Masiu and Tamparan. The municipal center of Poona Bayabao is situated at approximately 7°51'N 124°21'E. Elevation at these coordinates is estimated at 705.8 meters or 2,315.0 feet above mean sea level.

It is politically subdivided into 25 barangays.

The municipality has a total land area of 242.34 square kilometers miles which constitutes 1.8 percent of Lanao del Sur's total area. On the 2015 census conducted by Philippine Statistics Agency (PSA), Poona Bayabao has a population of 22,227. The population density is computed at 92 inhabitants per square kilometer. The young dependent population aged 14 years old and below comprises 44.95 percent or 9,992 individuals. The 15 to 64 age group, who are roughly the economically active population and actual or potential members of the workforce, constitute a total of 53.50 percent (11,892). The elderly dependent population consisting of those aged



65 and over totals 1.54 percent (343) in all. Out of the 343 elderly are 42 individuals aged 80 years old and above.

The people of Poona Bayabao are Maranao. Islam is the dominant religion in the municipality. Maranao, the native language of the inhabitants, is the most spoken. Members of the community also speak and understand Cebuano and Tagalog.

Its economy is agriculture-based. Other sources of livelihood include fishing, trading, timber/logging, handicrafts, rice, corn, animal raising, home-based industry, and quarrying.



Population

22,227



Families

4,445



Income Class

4<sup>th</sup> Class



Land Area

242.34sq.km.



Barangays

25



Climate type

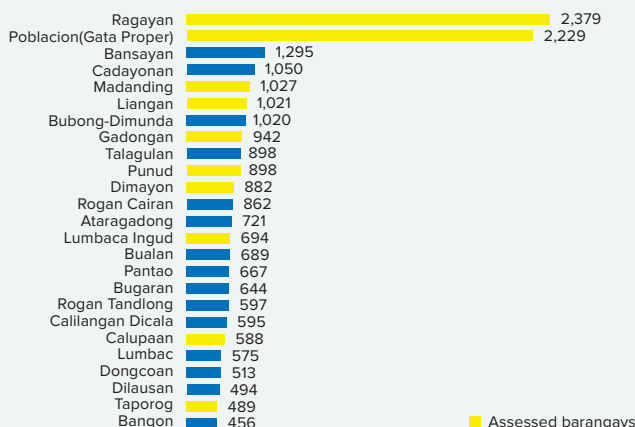
Tropical



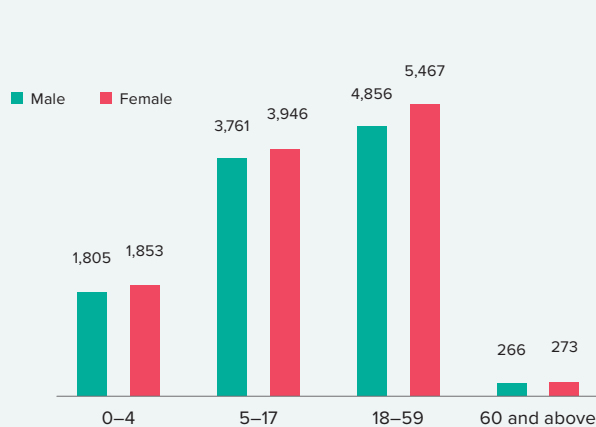
Languages spoken

Maranao

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



### Population by sex and age group



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

## Assessed barangays

The table below shows the population of barangays in Poona Bayabao 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
Calupaan	117	117	588	288	300	253	302	33
Gadongan	188	188	942	283	659	405	483	54
Liangan	202	203	1,017	498	519	437	522	58
Lumbaca Ingud	150	150	750	343	407	322	385	43
Madanding	335	335	1,675	728	947	720	859	96
Poblacion (Gata Proper)	460	460	2,300	1,127	1,173	989	1,180	131
Punud	178	178	892	285	607	384	457	51
Ragayan	518	518	2,588	1,268	1,320	1,113	1,328	147
Rogan Tandiong Dimayon	119	119	597	293	304	257	306	34
Taporog	113	113	565	277	288	243	290	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>11,914</b>	<b>5,390</b>	<b>6,524</b>	<b>5,123</b>	<b>6,112</b>	<b>679</b>

There are 2,381 families (11,914 people) with 2,380 households living in the 10 profiled communities. Across the 10 communities, the female population comprises 55 percent and the male is 45 percent. Population by age group shows that 51 percent are adults, 43 percent are children and the remaining 6 percent are elders.

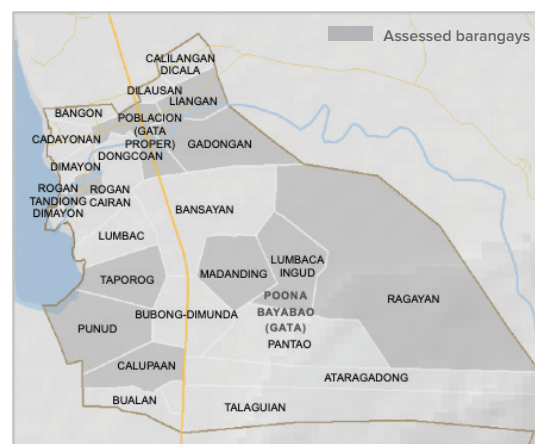
Data above is generated through clustered focus group discussion and interviews. A total of 177 participants attended the FGDs, composed of 39 community leaders, 67 men, 51 women, 12 older people and 8 children representing barangays Calupaan, Gadongan, Liangan, Lumbaca Ingud, Madanding, Poblacion or Proper Gata, Punud, Ragayan, Tandiang Dimayon, and Taporong.

### Protection Profile Summary

The protection risk rating of the municipality is low to medium. Poona Bayabao has experienced displacement due to *rido*. *Rido* is mostly resolved by appropriate individuals and groups. There are barangays that are prone to natural hazards. However, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management is capacitated to respond.

The municipality had hosted displaced population due to varying incidence and the most recent are those from the Marawi siege in 2017. The local government was able to provide assistance and other humanitarian organizations also extended help. The local governments have connections with humanitarian organizations including international non-government organizations.

There are protection services in the barangay like Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management (BDRRM) Council, Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Desk, Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC), Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT), and Gender and Development (GAD) Council, though they need further strengthening. At the time of displacement, IDPs can access these services. The BDRRM committees have poor early warning system. The capacities of the members of BCPC and VAWC desk and other local protection mechanisms need support and improvement to better respond to protection issues especially to the most vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with



disabilities, women, and children. There are security actors like Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who can immediately respond in an emergency.

The municipality has an electricity supply which can lessen security issues, especially at night. Elementary schools can cater to resident and displaced children. There is a lack of or limited access to basic social services because of insufficient or inadequate resources and capacities. Additionally, there is a need for good collaboration with higher authorities, and resource mobilization must be taken into account to augment local government resources.

# Protection analysis

## Displacement

### Nature of Violations and Threats

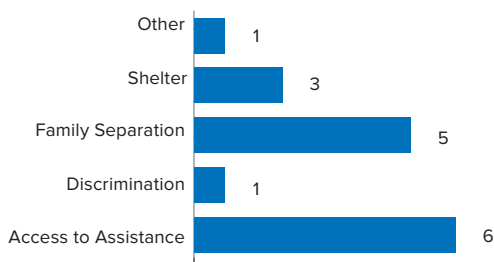
As shared by the respondents, the main cause of displacement in the municipality is due to armed conflicts between the government forces and armed groups. In Barangay Calupaan, some were displaced in 2013 due to *rido*. It was estimated that they were displaced between 61 and 90 days and had issues with accessing assistance.

In Barangays Punud and Ragaya, some residents were displaced due to the 2017 siege in Marawi. Displaced residents in these two barangays had sought refuge with their relatives outside the municipalities for between 31 and 60 days.

The municipality was one of the host municipalities of IDPs during the 2017 Marawi Siege. Thousands of IDPs fled to the municipality, and the local government established two evacuation centers in barangays Cadayonan and Gata. At the time of profiling, there were 26 families in Cadayonan Evacuation Center and three families in Gata who were occupying tents. Around 40 families occupying emergency shelters were spread out across the municipality. Many of the displaced families stayed with their relatives.

At the time of profiling, there were seven barangays still hosting IDPs from Marawi City, namely: Calupaan, Gadongan, Madanding, Poblacion (Gata Proper), Punud, Ragayan, and Taporog. Displaced families cannot return to their places of origin which were located in the most affected areas (MAA) in Marawi and were not yet open for occupancy. Displaced families found out during the Kambisita (Visit) Program to MAA by the government that their houses were totally destroyed. Further, displaced families have lost their source of livelihood, restricting their ability to return home.

### Problems encountered during displacement



Note: Values represent the number of assessed barangays responding as applicable.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Conflicts and displacement affected the municipality in many forms. As shared by respondents from the assessed barangays, there was an increase in population which lessened the capacity of local resources. IDPs became largely dependent upon humanitarian support coming from different groups, assistance from the local governments, and financial support from their relatives.

During displacement, IDPs need immediate assistance such as food, blankets, clothes, financial support, hygiene kits, livelihood activities, medicine, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and shelter. Moreover, care mechanisms for children and older people, and assistive devices for people with disabilities are also needed. IDPs also have long-term needs, which are more related to social and economic aspects of their being such as recovery and rehabilitation of houses, infrastructure and repair of water facilities, psychosocial interventions, and livelihood supports. At the barangay level, assessments, analyses, and reports were provided to MSWO and MDRRMO for their actions. Issues were also reported to the municipal mayor.


### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Coping mechanisms vary among barangays, IDPs, and other affected populations. Affected populations, including IDPs, were able to express or raise their issues and concerns to the local authorities either through community meetings and by personally approaching and talking to barangay and municipal officials about their concerns as well as through community meetings. IDPs and affected populations, are open to sharing information including the issues or needs they are facing.


Local authorities are active in responding to the needs and protection of PWSNs. These efforts were part of barangays' strategies to support PWSNs to cope with their difficult situation. These efforts include but are not limited to the provision of humanitarian assistance and other basic social services to PWSNs (e.g., prenatal and health services to pregnant women and ill people, free check-ups). Meetings with IDPs and local authorities were also conducted, as were community awareness sessions. IDPs were involved in planning and decision-making, especially in matters that concern them.

Barangays also revealed that local authorities activated the BPATs and were supported by the Citizen Armed Forces of the Geographical Unit (CAFGU) to protect IDPs during displacement. They tasked the BPATs to provide regular patrolling during the night to ensure that all IDPs are protected from different forms of abuse and violations.


**Recommendations**




Establish/strengthen protection mechanisms such as Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC), VAWC Desk, BCPC, and BHRAC.




Strengthen the operation of BDRRMC, particularly by establishing a community-based early warning system to facilitate the exchange of real-time information between the barangays and local authorities, thus preventing or minimizing the effects of conflict to the affected population.




Local authorities should have a disaster response and preparedness plan that reflects the resource requirements and evacuation plan if displacement happened in their respective barangay (this includes establishment or assignment of evacuation centers).



Conduct enhancement training to enhance their knowledge on IDP rights and protection, both the community and local officials need to be trained and oriented on protection and IDP rights, with emphasis on United Nations guiding principles on internal displacement to facilitate awareness and empowerment among IDPs.



Officers and members of the protection mechanism such as BCPC, VAWC Desk and BDRRMC must be trained in handling women and children protection cases in emergency situations, as well as gender-based violence prevention and response in emergencies. To ensure effective actions, it is also recommended that vulnerable sectors, especially women and children, be trained and oriented in existing protocols or mechanisms in case they experience certain abuses in the community, particularly in times of displacement.



Strengthen local peace initiatives and dialogues for resolving local disputes by involving traditional leaders, religious leaders, and other relevant local stakeholders.

**Protection of women and children**

The barangays expressed that women have access to security services in the community. All barangays shared that women were provided with avenues to be heard in the decision-making processes in the community. Women are invited and encouraged in participating in community or barangay meetings or assemblies.

**Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population**

There are initiatives in the community led by the local authorities to raise awareness on the rights and protection of women and children. This is part of the local initiative of empowering women and girls by promoting their rights and protection, especially for those living in vulnerable barangays with poor protection mechanisms. All respondent barangays revealed that women are aware of their rights and parents are aware of the rights of their children. Such rights include women’s right to access

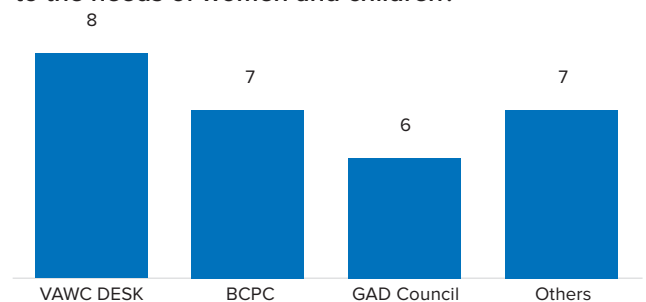
basis services, right to be heard, right against social discrimination, and right to security against violence & threats. All the barangays shared that women are aware of the law on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC Law).

BPATs have been activated to help in the regular patrol and monitoring of the situation in the community. There are also efforts to conduct informal family counseling and awareness sessions. Community members, women, and children were also engaged and encouraged in participating in community activities such as meetings and assemblies.

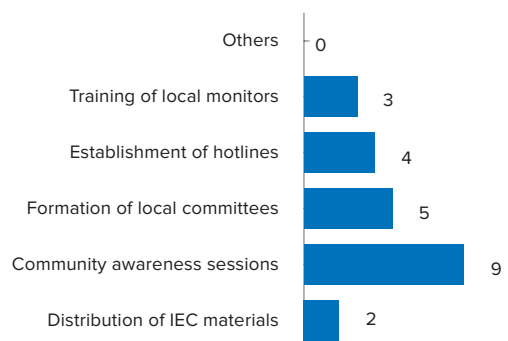
There were several undertakings on the part of the local authorities to help the survivors cope with their difficult situations and or protect vulnerable people like women and children from further harm and violence. Barangays disclosed that local authorities are conducting regular monitoring in the community. There are barangay ordinances related to the protection of the community, especially women and children, to including establishing curfew hours and hotlines.

**Protective Capability and Compliance**

**What protective services are existing and are available in the assessed barangay that responds to the needs of women and children?**



**What measures are in place to prevent the abuse of women and children?**



Note: Values represent the number of assessed barangays responding as applicable.








Eight out of the 10 of the barangays perceived their duty bearers as “good” at protecting women and children. The other two barangays said that duty bearers need improvement in performing their duties. Despite the good perception expressed toward the capacity of duty bearers to respond to the needs and protection of women and children, barangay leaders cited the insufficient provision of assistance and poor protective mechanisms. Because of this, there is a need to enhance or improve the capacity of

duty bearers to respond and protect women and children in the community.

Duty bearers admitted their limited knowledge or awareness of the rights and protection of women and children, as well as lack of skills to respond to cases or violations. Barangays identified that the main reasons for inadequate services to women and children were mainly because of insufficient financial resources or budget on the part of local authorities to carry out their duties and responsibilities and implement programs and services for women and children.

**Recommendations**

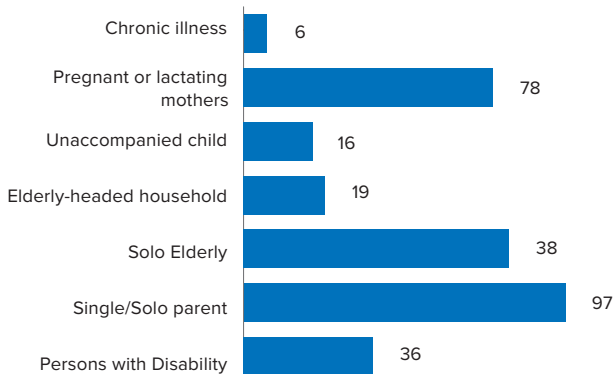
To provide better protection services to women and children in the community, the points below are recommended.

-  Institutionalize and strengthen protection mechanisms (Barangay VAWC Desk, BCPC, LCPC, MCAT-VAWC), including establishment of GBV and child protection facilities.
-  Train protection mechanism members on handling VAWC cases and/or gender-responsive case management training including data protection.
-  Conduct trainings on establishing safe spaces for children and women especially in times of emergencies, reporting and referral mechanisms.
-  Continuously conduct community information sessions on women's and children's protection, including but not limited to GBV, GCRVs, as well as women's and children's rights, and trafficking.
-  Culturally sensitive and responsive relief distribution.
-  Mobilize resources to improve support and services to women and children (such as designated areas for lactating women and playgrounds for children).
-  Allocate funds for immediate needs of GBV/VAWC survivors (can be allocated from gender and development budget)

**Persons with specific needs**

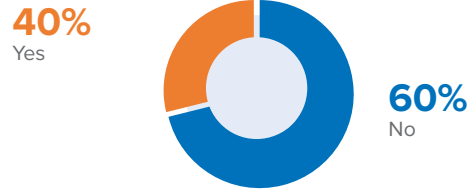
Nature of Violations and Threats

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

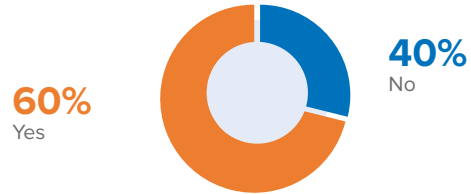


Note: Values represent combined no. of cases reported in the assessed barangays.

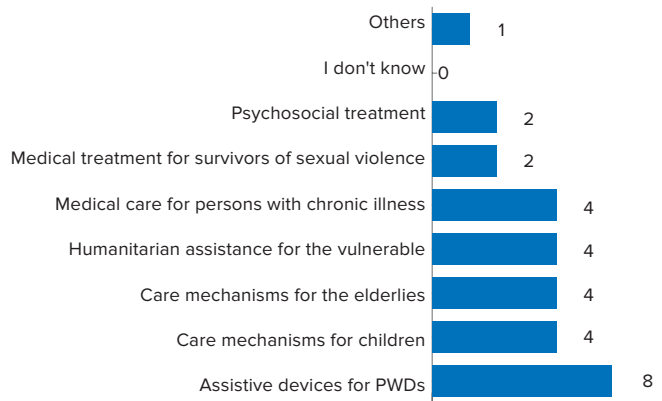
Do you have projects for persons with specific needs?



Is there a budget allocated by the government for persons with specific needs?






What are the immediate needs of persons with specific needs?



Note: Values represent the number of assessed barangays responding as applicable.

**Recommendations**

-  Assess and profile the community in terms of PWSNs.
-  Design projects based on assessments and vulnerabilities of PWSNs looking at not only their immediate needs but also long-term development needs.
-  Community awareness sessions must be done to reach wider community members of their rights as well as government services to support PWSNs.

## Basic social services

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Estimated number of households without the following services:



Civil registry for birth certificates, Social Security System (SSS), Pangtawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps and Philippine Health Insurance (PhilHealth) were accessible in the municipality. However, only four of the barangays were able to access free birth registration.

Respondents said that there are some problems on the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance such as insufficient assistance, unfair distribution of assistance, fighting among beneficiaries, and a lack of information on the distribution schedule. In most cases, the elderly and other PWSNs are highly affected by the inaccessibility of development or humanitarian assistance.

## Safety and security

### Nature of Violations and Threats

What are the types of non-state armed groups?



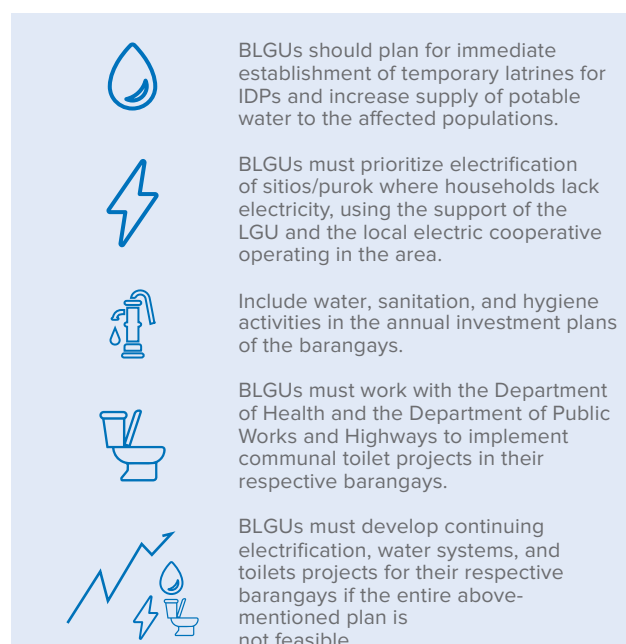
In the barangays, the BPATs act as local police to patrol and monitor the area. During emergencies, BPATs also mobilize to secure the site. Army, CAFGU, and PNP are present in the municipality. PNP has a municipal station in the municipality. There is MILF and MNLF presence in the municipality. However, this is not seen as a security threat as the Bangsamoro Organic Law has been positively progressing.

Also, sometime in July of 2019, when the AFP and New People's Army had armed encounters in the mountainous areas of Lumba-Bayabao and Maguing, AFP artillery was located in Poona Bayabao. This had not caused internal displacement in the municipality.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

Nine barangays perceived that the capacity of local authorities is good in terms of providing basic social services. This shows a strong discrepancy with duty bearers, of which 7 out of 12 respondent barangays admit that there is a need to improve their capacity in providing basic social services to the affected populations. This is despite the fact that local authorities have been doing their best to help and provide for the need of affected populations.

### Recommendations



### Impact and Effects of Violations


Generally, in all assessed barangays, people feel safe and can move freely. However, fear due to uncertainties around the security situation is not easily dispelled. Respondents fear that if armed conflict or displacement happens, people will lose their sources of livelihood, and properties will be destroyed.

### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The available coping mechanisms to minimize the negative consequences of conflicts and or issues of safety and security lie mainly on the activities and services of the local authorities. There is a genuine effort on the part of the local authorities to ensure the safety and security of the people. This includes but is not limited to periodic community gatherings on security concerns, formulating and implementing ordinances, making BDRMC and BPATs functional and active, establishing local monitors and conducting regular monitoring and patrolling, and establishing and enforcing curfew and emergency hotlines.

Community leaders (traditional, religious, and government officials) are helpful in settling local disputes. At times, the municipal mayor is tapped to resolve *rido*. In some instances, conflicting parties go to shariah courts for resolution.

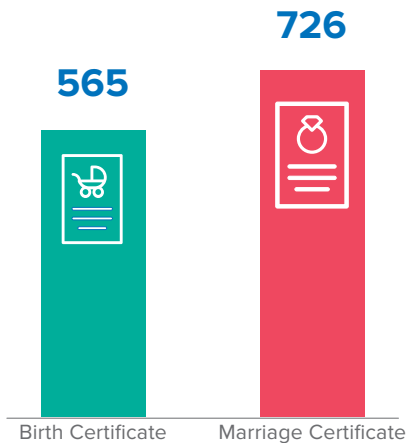
**Recommendations**

   	<p>Strengthen local authorities and mechanisms such as BDRRMC, with emphasis on an early warning system, Barangay Peace and Order Council (BPOC), and BPATs.</p> <p>Train local officials on conflict management and resolution as well as dialogue facilitation.</p> <p>Strengthen the operation of joint ceasefire monitoring posts composed of government and MILF forces established in the area.</p> <p>Endorse community peace advocacy to support local peace initiatives that directly or indirectly support the wider peace initiative aimed at ending the decade-long conflict in Mindanao.</p>	   	<p>Hold capacity-building exercises for the community related to safety and security in times of emergency, including but not limited to reporting and referral of security issues.</p> <p>Conduct peace advocacies to inform barangays on the progress of the peace processes.</p> <p>Hold an information awareness session on safety and security engaging barangays and local authorities, train members of local protective mechanisms, ensuring availability of material supply or kits, facilities or devices necessary for response or rescue.</p> <p>Increase local budget coordinate closely with higher authorities so local officials may carry out their duties and functions effectively.</p>
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**Documentation**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Estimated number of individuals in the assessed barangays without:



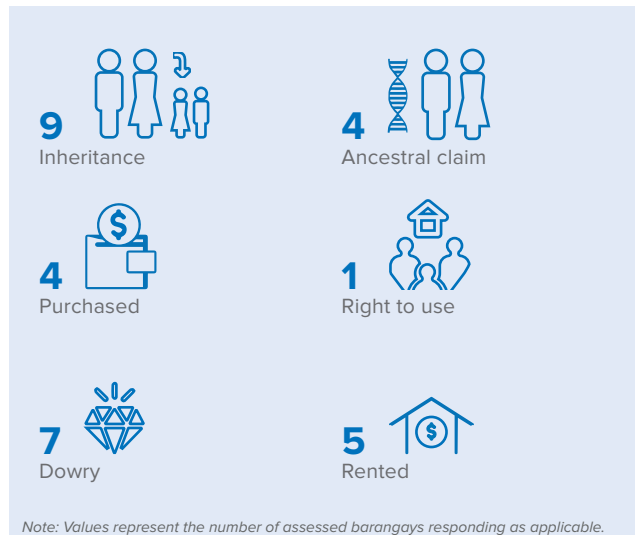
**Recommendations**



Raise awareness and support for vulnerable families on civil registration.

**Housing, land and property (HLP)**

**How were the lands/properties acquired?**



**Information**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Profiled barangays shared that the common protection information received by the local population are local ordinances/policies, barangay development programs, social events and security alerts, including community awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation as well as disaster alerts. This information is shared or received at community meetings through barangay leaders and religious leaders. Information may also be received through SMS, TV, or radio.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Barangays rely on local media updates about the peace process but have very limited details. Some rely on friends and relatives who have better access to information.



## Recommendations

	Strengthening of local peace dialogues as well as other initiatives to ensure that people will be updated in the peace process and can participate in the decision-making of the community especially concerning safety and security of the affected or vulnerable sectors of the community.
	Awareness raising and support to vulnerable families on civil registration.
	Inclusion of the water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in the annual investment plans of the barangays.
	Strengthening of local initiatives for dialogues related to resolving local conflicts to actively involve the barangay council, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and women leaders.

## SOURCES / REFERENCES:

Focus Group Discussions (FGD)

Key Informant Interviews (KII)

Secondary Data Review

## Peace processes

### Nature of Violations and Threats

The 10 barangays affirmed that they are informed and are updated about progress in the peace process. The community expressed their positive perception of the peace process between the MILF and GPH. They are both optimistic and apprehensive about the implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) and the establishment of the new Bangsamoro government.

Barangays are optimistic in terms of governance and improving the economic conditions, sustainable peace and development efforts, and improving the lives of the people in general. Barangays likewise believe that the new BARMM will be able to resolve the recurring conflict and address the problems of IDPs. On the other hand, barangays are apprehensive that failure to implement the BOL may result in more massive armed conflict and displacements in the region.



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