



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Maguindanao

Ampatuan

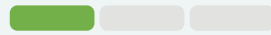


Municipality of Ampatuan

Province of Maguindanao | Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

Overview

Risk rating: **Low**

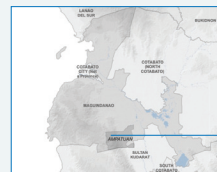


Quick facts

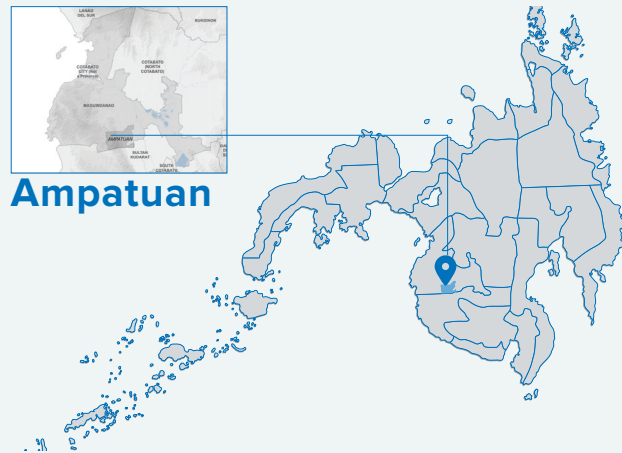
The Municipality of Ampatuan was originally created by virtue of Republic Act No. 2509 dated August 8, 1959 with 32 barangays. However, when barangay Esperanza became a separate municipality on December 3, 1974, only 20 barangays remained in the mother municipality.

The name Ampatuan is said to be derived from the name of an old man, Shariff Ampatuan, who was a descendant from an upper-class Muslim tribe from the holy land of Saudi Arabia. According to local tradition, this man came to the Philippines to participate in the dissemination of the Islamic faith. So, in memory of his achievement in the expansion of Islam, and because the people of the community loved him very much, they named the place Ampatuan.

By virtue of Muslim Mindanao Autonomous Act No. 153 dated January 3, 2004, the municipality of Ampatuan was further divided, and a new municipality named Ampatuan



Ampatuan



was created again out of the former municipality, with 10 barangays.

Today, the municipality has 11 barangays and belongs to the 2nd congressional district of the province of Maguindanao. (Source: Annual Audit Report on the Municipality of Ampatuan, Province of Maguindanao for the year ended 31 December 2017)



Population

24,801



Families

4,960



Income Class

4th Class



Land Area

255.40 sq.km.



Barangays

11



Climate type

Tropical



Languages Spoken

Maguindanao, Tagalog

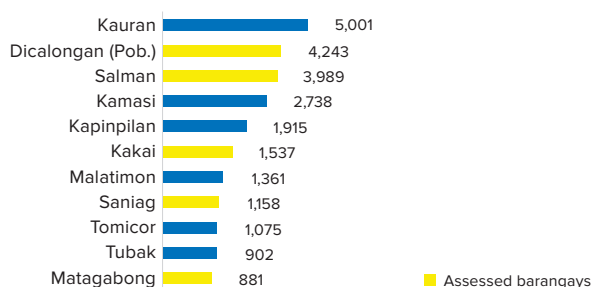
Geographical Location

Ampatuan is bounded on the North by the Municipality of Shariff Aguak; on the South by Municipality of Datu Abdullah Sangki; on the Northeast by Municipality of Sultan sa Barongis; on the West by the Municipality of South Upi, all of Maguindanao Province and Municipality of Lebak of the Province of Sultan Kudarat. The municipality has an approximate total area of 38,315.10 hectares, which is traversed by the Cotabato-General Santos National Highway. It is composed of 11 barangays, of which the biggest in terms of land area is Barangay Tubak with a total land area of 14,277.34 hectares, while the smallest is Barangay Población Dicalongan containing an area of 157.07 hectares.

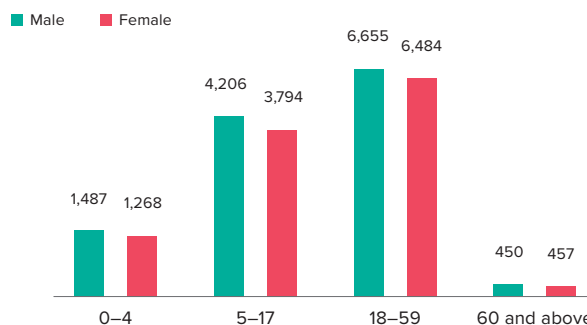
Language/s Spoken and Religious Affiliation

According to the 2015 national census by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Maguindanao language is spoken by at least 30.11 percent of the households in the municipality. Other languages spoken include: Ilonggo at 12.16 percent; T'duray at 5.79 percent; Ilocano at 2.19 percent; Manobo at 2.13 percent; and others at 0.09 percent. On religious affiliation, 65 percent of the population are Muslims (follower of Islam), while 22 percent are Christians (follower of Christianity). Other religions and sects are also practiced such as Iglesia ni Kristo (2 percent), Protestant (4 percent) and Indigenous (7 percent).

Population¹ by barangay



Population¹ by age breakdown and sex



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

Assessed Barangays

The table below shows the population of barangays in Tangcal 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
Dicalongan (Pop.)	576	681	3,596	1,438	2,158	540	1,798	1,258
Kakal	169	207	1,053	422	631	368	526	159
Matagabong	111	116	2,739	1,358	1,381	412	1,369	958
Salman	1,137	2,734	5,399	2,602	2,797	3,239	1,620	540
Saniag	162	202	1,008	404	604	419	488	101
TOTAL	2,155	3,940	13,795	6,224	7,571	4,978	5,801	3,016

Protection Profile Summary

In the municipality of Ampatuan, although the area is vulnerable to displacement, this risk is mitigated by the strong protection capability and compliance of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs of IDPs and protecting their rights, as jointly perceived by both the IDPs and duty-bearers during the conduct of the assessment. To illustrate, there are existing and functional protection services available in the municipality, such as the Philippines National Police (PNP), the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (MDRRMO), and the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT). In addition, the municipality, being part of the territory covered by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)'s Camp Omar, receives shared protection services from the MILF Bangsamoro Islamic Armed forces (BIAF), which, following the culmination of the peace process, now works in cooperation with the government security forces to address threats in the area of Central Mindanao.

With these existing and functional protection services, the protection risk in the Municipality of Ampatuan is LOW. However, it is likely to become MEDIUM due to the presence of armed groups who seek sanctuary in the interior parts of the municipality. Barangays Salman and Saniag, in particular, are alleged to be target hideouts of



the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the local Islamic State-inspired armed group, according to the participants during the assessment. In fact, in early 2019 alone, the population from Sitios Sulket and Talpok, in Barangay Salman experienced armed skirmishes between the AFP and BIFF. The military launched Law Enforcement Operations (LEO) against armed groups who were believed to be mobilizing forces in the areas.

Protection analysis data

Displacement

Nature of Violations and Threats

The population from the four barangays assessed has experienced numerous displacements due to armed conflict between government forces and MILF and between government forces and BIFF, flood and landslide, crime and violence perpetrated by unidentified private armed group, and rido/family dispute between private parties (a former barangay chair and an MILF field commander).

Tracking the displacement from ten years back up to present, most of the repeated displacements that occurred in the municipality have been caused by armed conflict, followed by natural disaster and crime and violence. Rido or family feud has also caused displacement of the population. The recurring armed conflict has affected the people of four out of the five barangays assessed. While Barangay Población Dicalongan is yet to experience displacement, it serves as a host community to the displaced populations from other barangays.

Natural calamities like flooding also triggered displacement especially in the lowland areas that are prone to flooding based on the quantum Geographic Information System (GIS). The respondents confirmed that seasonal flooding was among the causes of displacement. This perennial problem usually occurs in the months of July to September. Out of the 11 barangays of the municipality, 5 are the most prone to seasonal flooding, namely: Kapinpilan, Matagabong, and Kauran, while Kakal and Malatimon were also adversely affected by flooding due to overflowing of Ala River during rainy season.

Rido or family feud also caused displacement, particularly in Barangay Kakal. This family feud lasted for several years and ended through a peace covenant facilitated/ spearheaded by the local government unit (LGU) sometime in year 2017.

In the barangays assessed, displacement has occurred either from or to the barangay.

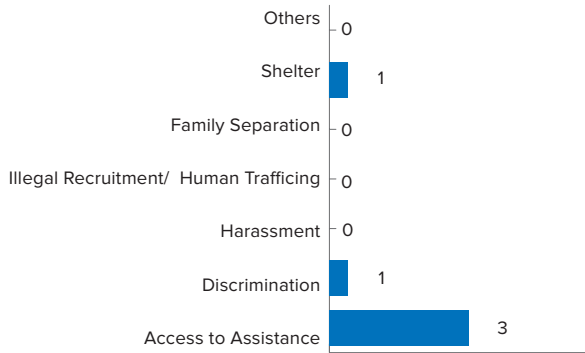
Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The coping mechanism commonly adopted by the community during displacement was to organize and task individuals who can articulate the issues and concerns of the IDPs. As usually practiced, the traditional leaders, the lupon (local council), and other influential individuals from the community were authorized to act as primary duty bearers to address issues and concerns of IDPs.

Other IDPs adopted new ways and means in finding livelihood and generating income while still displaced. For instance, some housewives accepted laundry tasks for pay, women went abroad to work, and others who were accustomed to being farmers adapted their livelihood strategies and engaged in construction works.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Problems encountered during displacement



Most of the displacements experienced were short, usually from 30-60 days or less than 30 days. The longest displacement experienced by the community was more than one year.

Other effects of displacement expressed by the respondents during the assessment are as follows:

- Livelihood activities were obstructed, if not completely stopped. The host community had to stretch out available resources, both financial and in-kind, in order to support the IDPs.
- Educational activities were also among the worst affected during displacement. Usually, school buildings/campuses were used as evacuation centers.
- Common illness like cold, flu and diarrhea were among the apparent effects of the displacement especially among children and elders.
- Housing and properties were damaged or destroyed either intentionally or as “collateral damage” during conflict-related incidents.

As of the assessment period in April 2019, 2 out of 5 barangays assessed said that there were still IDPs in their respective barangays, while the remaining 3 barangays said IDPs had already returned.


Among the reasons why IDPs were still displaced are the following:

- Fear of going back to their place of origin
- Destroyed sources of livelihood, houses and properties in the places of origin
- Decision not to return to their place of origin.

There were also displacements foreseen in the future due to the prevalent sightings of different non-state armed groups in the interior parts of the municipality.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, CFSI makes the following recommendations:



- Promote peaceful co-existence between host families and IDPs through regular dialogue, small-scale projects, and peacebuilding and institutional strengthening efforts;
- Strengthen provision of assistance in relation to displacement and increase community participation in the management of the relief assistance; and
- Institutionalize disaster preparedness and mitigation in the LGU's development plan.

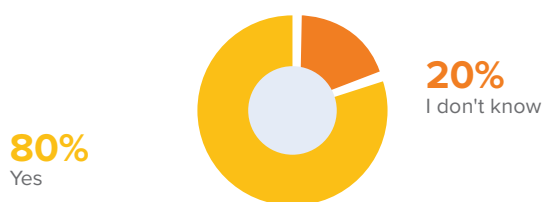
Protection of women and children

Impact and Effects of Violations

During the assessment, women and parents disclosed that although there were relatively few cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse, they are concerned about the effects of such violations. In particular, they mentioned that these might result in separation/break-up of families and low morale or loss of self-confidence on the part of the survivors, and eventually might also lead to an increased number of out-of-school children/youth and cases of child labor, as well as mental health problems. Worse, women and children survivors may choose to leave their home to escape from shame, and this may get them trapped into illegal recruitment or human trafficking.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Community's Familiarity on VAWC



Women's Awareness on their Rights




Protective Capability and Compliance

Both the IDPs and the duty-bearers perceived that the capacity of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women and children is good. Eighty percent of the IDPs cited that the capacity of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women and children is good as compared to only 20 percent who said that the capacity of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting

the rights of women and children needs improvement. Likewise, 100 percent of the duty-bearers cited that their capacity in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women and children is good.

Recommendations

Based on the above findings, CFSI makes the following recommendations:



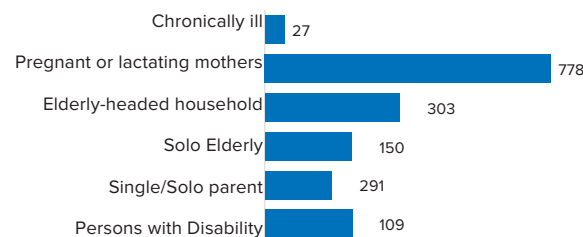
- Strengthen the referral and reporting pathways/mechanisms for women and children and set up facilities for GBV survivors and child protection. Ensure that the community is aware of these mechanisms and know how to report their issues and concerns related to protection of women and children. Provide basic orientation to local officials on referring survivors to core services/assistance: health care, psychosocial support, social services, and access to justice.
- Strengthen capacities of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and VAWC desk officials and focal persons through capacity building, including training on system-building approach on child protection, the survivor-centered approach to assisting survivors of gender-based violence, journey of life and life skills, and effective case management.
- Carry out parental counselling seminars and psychosocial sessions for the survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Persons with specific needs

Nature of Violations and Threats

The table below shows the total number of PWSN that are present in the community.

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



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

More than half of the participants and interviewees – 60 percent – said that while there was no budget allocated by the government for PWSN's needs and no projects exclusive for PWSN and IPs, PWSN still have access to humanitarian assistance, have knowledge about and are able to assert their rights, and are willing to share information about their concerns.

The table below shows the number of Persons with Specific Needs (PWSN) per barangay assessed.

Barangay	PWD	Single/Solo Parent	Single/ Solo Elderly	Elderly heads of household	Unaccompanied child	Separated child	Pregnant or lactating mothers	Chronically Ill
Matagabong	36	87		140			200	
Dicalongan	10	50	30	35			29	2
Saniag	48	89	60	60			520	20
Kakal	12	40	30	48				
Salman	3	25	30	20			29	5

Impact and Effects of Violations

Repeated displacement has impacted the lives and well-being of the PWSN, especially those extremely vulnerable. Respondents cited that the topmost immediate needs of the PWSN and IPs are humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable, care mechanisms for older persons and assistance devices for PWDs followed by care mechanisms for children. Psychosocial treatment and medical care for persons with chronic illness rank third, and medical treatment for survivors of sexual violence rank fourth.

Protective Capability and Compliance


While the community expressed that there were no budget allocated by the government and no projects for PWSN, 60 percent or more than half of the community and 100 percent of the duty-bearers perceived that the capacity of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the PWSN is still good. Only 40 percent of the community said the capacity of the duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the PWSN needs improvement.


Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population


Respondents cited that the community always demonstrated a great sense of support for the PWSN, especially during crisis and emergency. The community always considered the PWSN in their disaster preparedness and early warning system and prioritized the needs of the most vulnerable groups during emergency and displacement.


Recommendations

Based from the above findings, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

- 

Enhance protection of the PWSN by allocating a specific budget for projects and services meant to assist them, including from the local calamity fund.
- 

Increase humanitarian assistance, care mechanisms, medical services, and assistive devices for the most vulnerable groups.
- 

Implement programs and projects that respond to the immediate and long-term needs of the PWSN.
- 

Support and enhance long-term local capacity in disaster preparedness and mitigation and ensure mainstreaming of PWSN in the LGU's annual investment plans and policy development.

Basic social services

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



Barangays	Electricity	Safe water	Toilets
Matagabong	2,739	125	112
Dicalongan	90	90	85
Saniag	75	250	50
Kakal	98	75	92
Salman	75	250	50
Total	3,077	790	389

With regard to the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance, the community cited that the common problems encountered were insufficient assistance, followed by lack of information on the distribution and fighting among beneficiaries. PWSN and older persons rank first as the group that is most affected by the inaccessibility of the humanitarian and development assistance. Women and girls rank second. Boys rank third, while men and other groups (IPs from the T'duray tribe) rank last. Eighty percent of the respondents perceived that the capacity of duty-bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the community is good as compared to only 20 percent that said it needs further improvement.

Protective Capability and Compliance

Eighty percent of the community respondents in the KII and FGD perceived the capacity of the duty-bearers in providing the basic social services was good as compared to only 20 percent that perceived it needed improvement. Meanwhile, 100 percent of the duty-bearer respondents perceived the capacity of the duty-bearers to provide the basic social services was good.

Recommendations

Enhance and increase the LGU's interventions on electricity, safe water, toilets, free birth registration, marriage certificates, and other basic services.

Safety and security

Nature of Violations and Threats

All the five communities assessed are conflict-affected areas. Fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups, political disputes, land disputes, and crime and violence are among the major causes of conflict in the municipality. The conflicts occurred in the communities because of the presence of many types of non-state armed groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), as well as paramilitary troops. Aside from the conflict, the communities are also prone to natural disaster such as seasonal flooding and landslides. Despite this, however, 60 percent of the participants and interviewees expressed that they still feel safe in their respective communities because of the presence of security forces such as PNP, military, and Barangay Tanods/BPAT.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Of the groups in the community, the most affected by the armed conflict are women, children (both boys and girls), older persons and PWSN. In general, the direct effects and impacts of the safety and security-related issues include, but are not limited to, lack of security, loss of properties and livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure and properties, disruption of education and economic activities, and restriction in the movement of the residents especially during military operations and armed clashes.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The communities identified coping mechanisms, self-protection initiatives, and community protection strategies as follows.

1. The community has established mechanisms on early security and emergency alert and advisory in the whole community through announcement in mosques and text brigade, as well as timely reporting of safety and security-related issues and concerns through texts and calls.
2. The communities and duty-bearers are working together in securing their areas against possible security threats using their own initiative and resources.
3. Barangay officials along with BPAT are regularly patrolling the community at night to ensure security and safety of the residents.
4. The community organized a "lupon" (council) of leaders who take responsibility for working with the BPAT, military and PNP in case there are foreseen security threats.

Further, the community identified the following ways to settle disputes and other security concerns:


1. Through barangay council
2. Through religious leaders – e.g., Alim, Ustadz, Imam etc.
3. Through traditional leaders – e.g., Datu, MILF commanders
4. Through women leaders
5. Through the Shari’ah courts

Protective Capability and Compliance

Eighty percent of the participants and interviewees said that local authorities are effective in maintaining peace and order in the community, while 100 percent of them were familiar with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Regional Commission on Human Rights (RHRC). In terms of capacity of duty bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the community, 60 percent of the community perceived it as good, while 40 percent says that it needs further improvement.




Recommendations

Based on the above findings, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

	Strengthen the protective services to include interior parts as well as far-flung areas of the municipality.
	Strengthen the early warning system and prioritize the vulnerable groups in times of crisis and emergency.
	Strengthen coordination among security actors to include BIAF and MILF political committees.



Documentation

On the access to documentation, the table below shows the estimated number of individuals without birth certificates and number of individuals without marriage contract.

 Barangay	 No. of Individuals without Birth Certificates	 No. of Individuals without Marriage Contracts
Matagabong	821	547
Dicalongan	29	25
Saniag	140	1,500
Kakal	526	356
Salman	540	1,800
Total	2,056	4,228

Most commonly, the reasons for not having the birth certificate are lack of awareness of the importance of the birth certificate, lack of knowledge on how to apply for the birth certificate, no perceived need to secure a birth certificate, and lack of financial resources. The difficulties encountered by the residents who have no birth certificates include obstacles to freedom of movement, access to education, access to assistance, access to 4Ps and other government programs, pension claims, and access to employment.

Recommendations


 	Increase awareness of residents on the importance of birth certificates and marriage contracts and facilitate access to civil documentation and HLP-related interventions.
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Housing, Land and Property (HLP)


Nature of Violations and Threats

Barangay	No. of Landowners	No. of Land Tenants
Matagabong	98	96
Dicalongan	20	30
Saniag	20	70
Kakal	52	81
Salman	20	90
Total	210	367

Recommendations



Provide support for access to HLP for those barangays with high number of individuals/families who are land tenants, as well as those who are temporarily occupying lands of other owners.




Strengthen capacities of the communities on legal means of acquiring land and properties and dealing with issues related to HLP.

Information


Nature of Violations and Threats

In terms of access to information, the types of protection information that the community received include updates on barangay programs, security alerts, barangay events/ social events, barangay ordinances/policies, community awareness/trainings, disaster alerts, and information related to early warnings for possible military operations. The protection-related information was received by the community through community meetings, through purok/ barangay leaders, through religious leaders, through women leaders, through social media and SMS, through TV/radio, through two-way radio, and through *usatdz* and *imam* (religious leaders) and *muhadhara* (symposia) and *khutbah* (lecture in mosques), as well as through siren signals.

Recommendations




Ensure that the LGU, as well as the BLGU, will hold regular and more frequent meetings to discuss and announce protection relevant information and ensure these are being transmitted to every barangay including those living in far-flung areas within the municipality.



Devise a mechanism to include protection-related information in the early warning system to persons with disabilities and other extremely vulnerable members of the community.

Peace processes

Recommendations



The LGU should devise ways to inform communities regarding the status of the peace process and importance of achieving lasting peace in Mindanao, especially but not exclusively within the areas of the Bangsamoro.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



HAND WASHING

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

UNHCR
Humanitarian Agency

CFSI
Rebuilding Lives

DOVER CE

WATER, SANITATION AND
...CK IMPACT PROJECT

of Three (3) ...
(2) Units Elec...
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35
Years of Service

For forcibly displaced communities in Ampatuan, Maguindanao, 3 hand-washing stations, 2 electric water pumps and 2 latrines were constructed to ease access to vital services amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
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