



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Maguindanao

Datu Unsay

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Municipality of Datu Unsay

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

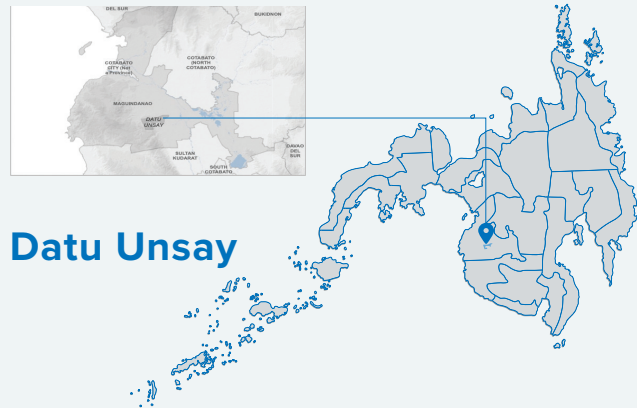
Overview

Risk rating: **Medium**

Quick facts

Datu Unsay is a 5th class municipality in the province of Maguindanao, BARMM, Philippines, which was created under Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 150 on 01 July 2003 and was carved out of the municipality of Shariff Aguak. The municipality comprises eight barangays of which seven are located inside the Salibu, Pagatin, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak (SPMS Box), a hot spot area of conflict in Central Maguindanao.

The municipality has a land area of 95.39 square kilometers or 36.83 square miles which constitutes 0.98 percent of Maguindanao's total area. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 11,813. This represented 1.01 percent of the total population of Maguindanao province, or 0.31 percent of the overall population of BARMM.



Datu Unsay

Population
11,813

Families
2,363

Income Class
5th Class

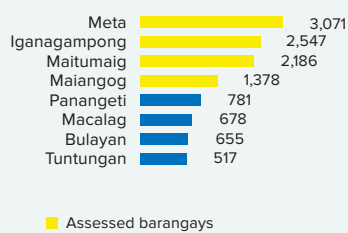
Land Area
95.39sq.km.

Barangays
8

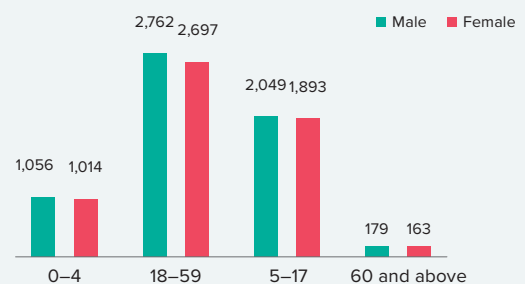
Climate type
Tropical

Language Spoken
**Maguindanao,
Tagalog**

Population¹ by barangay



Population¹ of all barangay by sex and age group



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

Municipality Quick Facts

According to the 2015 census, Datu Unsay Municipality has a population of 11,813 people. This table depicts the quick facts about the municipality.

Population	11,813 (2015 Census -1.06%)
Family	2,363
Household	2,363
Income Class	6th class
Land Area	95.39 km ² (36.83 sq mi)
No. of Barangays	8
Climate Type	Tropical climate
Native Dialect	Maguindanao language
No. of Barangays Assessed	4

Population per Barangay

According to the 2015 Census, the population per barangay is shown in the table below.

Barangay	Population % (2015)	Population (2015)
Bulayan	5.54	655
Iganagampong	21.56	2,547
Macalag	5.74	678
Maitumaig	18.51	2,186
Malangog	11.67	1,378
Meta	26.00	3,071
Panangeti	6.61	781
Tuntungan	4.38	517
Datu Unsay Total		11,813

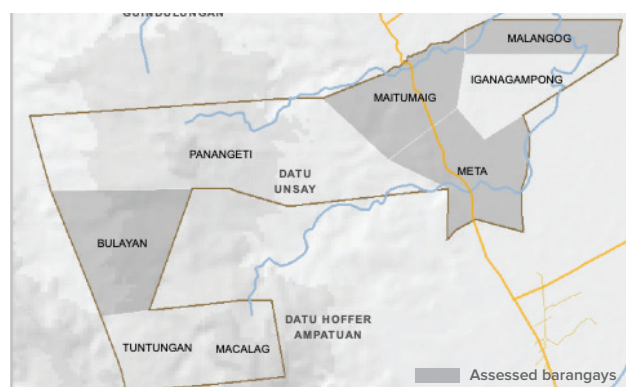
Assessed Barangays

The table below shows the population of barangays in Datu Unsay 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
Iganagampong	425	491	2,457	983	1,474	860	1,229	368
Maitumaig	364	437	2,185	1,311	874	765	1,202	218
Malangog	276	320	1,600	640	960	720	640	240
Meta	512	614	3,070	1,842	1,228	1,075	1,535	460
TOTAL	1,577	1,862	9,312	4,776	4,536	3,420	4,606	1,286

Protection profile summary

The general protection profile of the municipality is at MEDIUM RISK with high potential to become HIGH RISK. This can be manifested by the continuing volatile and unstable security situation in the municipality. Populations continue to experience repeated displacements because of recurring armed conflict and military operations against BIFF and local ISIS groups present in many communities in the municipality. The presence of these non-state armed groups and the ongoing military operations have exposed the community to repeated displacements and risks of future displacements. This situation has largely impacted on the well-being of affected populations, families and communities, especially the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderlies, persons with disabilities, and including Indigenous Peoples. The community and IDPs, for instance,



have cited concerns on violations of rights, restricted movement, profound psychological stress, anxiety, trauma, inaccessibility to humanitarian assistance, and lack of basic services provided by the government. Related to these concerns, both the community and duty-bearers have acknowledged that the government protective capability and compliance in addressing those concerns and responding to the needs of the affected populations need improvement.

Protection analysis data

Displacement

Nature of Violations and Threats

Since year 2000 to present, populations in the municipality have been experiencing displacement from their barangays to other areas and vice versa. The major cause of the displacement is armed conflict between government forces and MILF from 2000 to 2008 and between government forces and BIFF from 2012 to present. The longest displacement experienced by the community was more than 1 year, while the shortest is only 31-60 days.

Barangay Maitumaig was the battle ground for numerous ground firefights between the AFP and MILF during all-out war in 2000 and intense armed conflict in 2008, since it was the perimeter area of the MILF major Camp Omar. Eight major firefights between the military and BIFF occurred from 2012 up to the present. From 2012 to 2013, barangay Iganagampong became the battle ground between the military and BIFF for more than two weeks. The longest displacement experienced was more than 1 year, while the shortest was only 31-60 days.

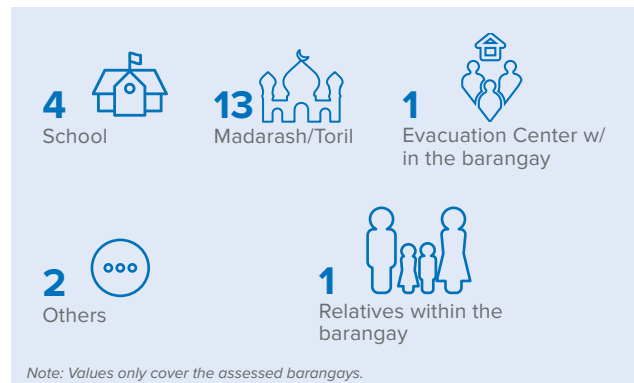
During the period of assessment, the four barangays assessed had been hosting IDPs from other areas in the nearby municipalities of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Shariff Aguak and Shariff Saydona Mustapha. The cause of the displacement was the ongoing military operations against BIFF and local ISIS militants in the SPMS Box. The table below shows the number of hosted families per barangay assessed. The 215 families in Barangay Meta received Core Relief Items from UNHCR and CFSI in March 2019.

Barangay	No. of IDP Families
Iganagampong	120
Malangog	100
Meta	215
Maitumaig	150
Total	585

During displacement, access to assistance seems to be the most common type of problem encountered, while shelter ranks second. All in all, there seems to be no problems encountered in relation to illegal recruitment, human trafficking, harassment and discrimination. Other problems encountered include no designated evacuation centers; lack of private partition; destroyed or burnt houses, farming and fishing facilities, and personal belongings; and destroyed crops or agricultural products, business enterprises and livestock.

The bar graph below shows the types of places where the displaced population usually go. It presents that most of the displaced population usually go to madrasah or toril, school, relatives, and evacuation centers outside their barangays; while a few usually go to relatives within their barangays and evacuation centers within the municipality.

Where the displaced population go?



Impact and Effects of Violations

During the period of assessment, there were still 7,173 IDPs, of whom a majority stayed in old schools and madrasahs, while some sought refuge with relatives and others chose to stay along a flood-control dike. The reasons they were still displaced were afraid to go back because of mortar shelling, ongoing military operations against BIFF and local ISIS militants, and some houses were destroyed.

The displacement affected the lives of the community and IDPs in many ways, particularly among the most vulnerable groups such as women, elderlies and children. For instance, crop damage and failure, lack of employment opportunity, price increase of basic commodities, and inaccessibility of markets are cited by IDPs as the main causes of food insecurity. Displaced people in evacuation centers rely primarily on relief for food, as they have no or limited access to jobs or other income sources.

Affected people are deeply concerned about the spread of diseases. Cases of cold, flu, fever, and a few other illnesses have been reported inside and outside evacuation centers, some of which are manageable and being addressed by existing resources. Reproductive health concerns have been expressed by the affected population, especially women. Parents have expressed concern for the protection of their children. For the duration of their stay in these evacuation centers, these children were not engaged in safe or structured activities and have been reported to wander and develop a profound psychological stress.





In Datu Unsay, there is a possibility that another displacement will happen because of the continuing military operations against BIFF in the SPMS box, which covered most part of the municipality. Population of barangays Malangog, Iganagampong and Meta are most likely to be affected by the displacement because of the presence of BIFF in these areas.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The affected communities have demonstrated resilience and are able to cope with their situation, while a few have sought direct interventions such as counseling and stress management activities. The IDPs are able to raise their concerns and protection needs through direct communication with barangay officials and other leaders in the community, as well as through SMS and calls with various agencies. Open and direct communication lines between IDPs and LGU line agencies, especially MSWDO and MDRRMO were also established. With this mechanism, IDPs and duty-bearers were able to work together to ensure that needs of displaced populations were responded to in a timely manner.

Recommendations

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

-  Increase relief assistance to address needs related to food, health, protection, WASH, education and livelihood opportunities;
-  Increase community participation in the management of the relief assistance;
-  Institutionalize disaster preparedness and mitigation in the LGU's development plan; and
-  Strengthen the functionality of various barangay-level protective services and increase community awareness on these services.

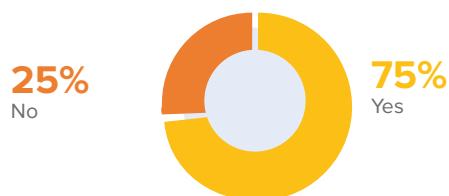
Protection of women and children

Nature of Violations and Threats

Generally, women expressed that they feel safe in their barangays. This is because they have access to security services, know and able to exercise their rights, and are provided with avenues to be heard in the community decision-making. In fact, some women have received information and/or training on the protection of women and children. Hence, they are willing to share information about violations of their rights. On the part of parents, they said they knew their children's rights. All in all, there seems to be improved protection of women in the municipality.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Community's Familiarity with VAWC



All in all, it seems that protection of women in the municipality is less problematic, since women have access to security services of the local government, know and are able to exercise their rights. In addition, all women are willing to report information related to their protection, while some were already oriented and trained on women protection. However, child protection as well as psychosocial interventions should be better supported for children, since there were reported cases of violations against children.




Protective Capability and Compliance

While there seems to be stronger coping mechanisms among women, the protective capability and compliance of the duty-bearers to respond to the needs and protect the rights of women as well as children still need improvement. This was jointly cited by respondents and duty-bearers during the assessment.

Seventy-five percent of the community cited there is no referral/ reporting mechanism set for women and children and no facility for GBV survivors and child protection are in place compared to 25 percent who said they did not know. In addition, only the VAWC desk is functional among the many protective services existing in the municipality.

Recommendations

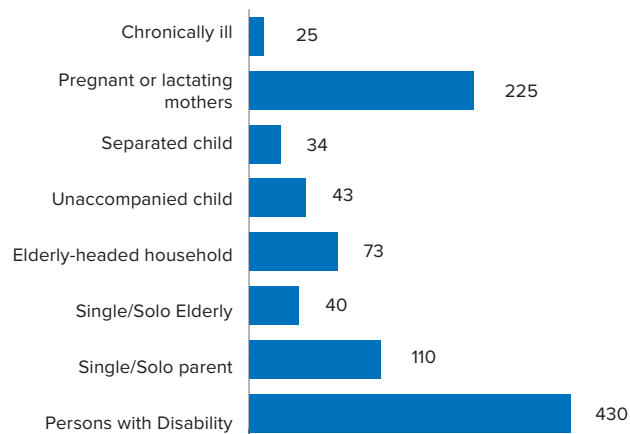
Based from the above findings, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

-  Establish a system-building approach on child protection e.g. strengthen the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC).
-  Carry out effective case management involving reunification of separated and unaccompanied children and implement psychosocial interventions for children.
-  Establish referral and reporting pathways/mechanisms for women and children and set up facilities for GBV survivors and child protection.

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.

Barangay	PWD	Single/Solo Parent	Single/Solo Elderly	Elderly-headed household	Unaccompanied child	Separated child	Pregnant or lactating mothers	Chronically Ill
Iganagampong	50	10	5	7	3	2	70	8
Malangog	175	30	7	8	15	11	30	8
Meta	180	30	8	8	15	11	100	8
Maitumaig	25	40	20	50	10	10	25	1

Half of the respondents said there were projects for the Persons With Specific Needs (PWSN). However, 75 percent of the respondents claimed that there was no budget allocated for the PWSN by the government. In addition to these vulnerable groups, there is a presence of Indigenous Peoples in the municipality. In fact, sizable number of Indigenous Peoples is present in two barangays -- Maitumaig and Bulayan. Though Indigenous Peoples are represented in the municipality, projects and other services for them are minimal, and they are usually overlooked in terms of humanitarian and development assistance.

Repeated displacement has impacted the lives and well-being of the PWSN, especially those extremely vulnerable. Respondents cited their concerns on responding to the pressing needs of the PWSN as follows:

1. Assistive devices for PWDs
2. Care mechanisms for children
3. Care mechanisms for older persons
4. Humanitarian assistance for the vulnerable persons
5. Medical care for persons with chronic illness
6. Psychosocial treatment
7. Family reunification for separated and unaccompanied children
8. Livelihood, financial and scholarship assistance

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population




Respondents cited that the community always demonstrated a great sense of cooperation with one another, especially during crisis and emergency. During displacement, relatives have extended supports to IDPs in terms of shelter, food, cash, utensils and other core relief items. Above all, the community always prioritized PWSN during displacement.

Protective Capability and Compliance

When it comes to responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the PWSN, both the IDPs and the duty-bearers acknowledged the need to improve the government protective capability and compliance. Government services seems to be lacking and addressing the pressing needs of the PWSN are still a gap. Currently, the LGU's programs are focused only on assistance for senior citizens and pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as vaccination and immunization for infants and children.

Recommendations

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

	Enhance protection of PWSN and consider availability of livelihood, employment, schools, hospitals, and other social services in determining the durable solutions
	Engage in programs and projects that responds 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

Nature of Violations and Threats

In relation to basic services, the following structures and programs are existing/functional and accessible in the municipality:

1. Four health centers (one per barangay)
2. Four schools (one per barangay)
3. 4Ps program
4. PhilHealth
5. Programs and services to assist the displaced populations through the DSWD e.g. food and non-food items

However, there seems to be minimal intervention on SSS, free birth registration and other services.

The table below depicts the estimated number of households without electricity, safe water and toilet services.

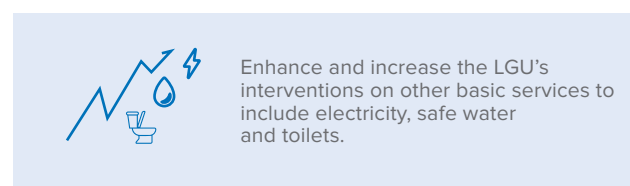
What is the estimated number of households without the following services :



Barangay	No. of HH without Electricity	No. of HH without Safe Water	No. of HH without Toilets
Iganagampong	60	90	70
Malangog	496	240	256
Meta	122	184	368
Maitumaig	44	262	306
Total	722	776	1,000

When delivering developmental and humanitarian assistance, the community cited that the common problems encountered were insufficient assistance, not fair distribution of assistance and lack of information on the distribution. Men and women, boys and girls, older persons, PWSN, and some IPs are groups usually affected by the inaccessibility of the developmental and humanitarian assistance. Both respondents and duty-bearers acknowledged that there should be more and better support for these groups from the government.

Recommendations



Safety and security

Nature of Violations and Threats

For the past years, the major threat on safety and security in the municipality has been armed conflict caused by the recurring military operations against BIFF and local ISIS groups operating in the municipality. Other threats to the community are mortar shelling, bombing, destruction of civilian properties, and rido. In addition to BIFF and local ISIS groups, there are other types of non-state armed groups present in the municipality such as MILF, MNLF and paramilitary troops. The municipality is located inside the SPMS Box where repeated displacements occurred almost every year.

While there is a presence of security forces in the community such as military, Barangay Tanod/BPAT and police, the community still feel unsafe. Sometimes, the presence of the security personnel makes the community prone to risks of armed encounters. For instance, barangays Meta and Maitumaig are prone to attack and harassment by the armed groups due to military detachment and checkpoint present along the national highway. In fact, BIFF has attacked and cordoned these areas many times since 2013.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Residents of the municipality do not feel safe because of the presence of many armed groups. They are threatened by the recurring armed encounters between the military and armed groups, mortar shelling, bombing, destruction of civilian properties and killing of civilians. Of the groups in the community, the most affected by the recurring armed conflict are women, boys and girls, elderly and PWDs. In barangay Malangog, barangay Iganagampong and part of barangay Meta, residents cannot move freely in and out of the barangay, especially during military operations because of the activities of the armed groups, presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and inaccessible roads/national highway closure.

Insecurities, loss of properties and livelihoods, destruction of infrastructures and properties, and restriction in the movement of the residents are among the cited direct effects and impacts of the safety and security-related issues to the community. Further, the community image is destroyed by the continuing insecurities. Residents have started to develop a feeling of being marginalized and inferior to other progressive communities in other areas.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The community and the LGU through the local peace and order committee are working in partnership with the military, the police and MILF commanders to ensure maintenance of peace and order as well as fight against lawless and criminal groups that threaten the safety and security of the population. The local authorities regularly report the security-related incidents to the municipal and higher authorities. The community also created an early warning mechanism and strengthened the communication measures among the leaders and head of the families in times of emergency.

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

1. Through local and municipal authorities
2. Through traditional and religious leaders e.g. Datu, MILF commanders, Alim, Ustads, Imam etc.
3. Through shariah courts
4. Through barangay council

Documentation


Nature of Violations and Threats

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


Barangay	No. of Individuals without Birth Certificates	No. of Individuals without Marriage Contracts
Iganagampong	80	90
Malangog	960	360
Meta	1,228	522
Maitumaig	874	327
Total	3,142	1,299

All in all, reasons for not having a birth certificate include being unaware of the importance of birth certificates, not knowing how to apply for the birth certificate, not feeling the need to secure a birth certificate, and lack of financial resources. Residents who have no birth certificates faced obstacles to freedom of movement, access to education, access to assistance, access to 4Ps and other government programs, claiming pension, and access to employment.


Recommendations



Enhance and increase the LGU's interventions on SSS and free birth registration.




Increase awareness of residents on the importance of birth certificates and marriage contracts.




Facilitate access to civil documentations.

Recommendations


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



Establish a coordination mechanism for both acute and non-acute emergencies involving different security actors and humanitarian agencies.



Strengthen the functionality of various protective services at barangay level and ensure that people are aware of these services.



Establish and implement early warning system.

Housing, land and property (HLP)

Nature of Violations and Threats

Barangay	No. of Landowners	No. of Land Tenants
Iganagampong	50	50
Malangog	32	50
Meta	61	70
Maitumaig	60	66
Total	203	236

Recommendations



Facilitate access to HLP-related interventions.

Information

Nature of Violations and Threats

In terms of information, the types of protection information the community received include security alerts, disaster alerts, barangay ordinances/policies, barangay programs, barangay events/social activities, community awareness/trainings, 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 women leaders, through usatz and imam (religious leaders), through social media and SMS, through TV/radio, through two-way radio icom, and through muhadhara (symposia) and khutbah (lecture in mosques).

Recommendations



Establish a security and disaster information sharing flow and ensure that security alerts are shared to communities in a timely manner.

Peace processes

Nature of Violations and Threats

On the peace process, the community is updated on the peace process between the government and the MILF. The updates were received through MILF political committee and through community assemblies and gatherings. They believe that through Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), armed firefights between the MILF groups are lessened and the people on the different barangay affected by the armed conflict are now safe. The general perception of the community on the peace process is that the ratified BOL would bring genuine and lasting peace in the community because they believe the situation will be normalized. The community expressed they are optimistic on the new BARMM and thankful to all Moro leaders and the government for coming up with the lasting solution to the decade-old armed fighting in the community.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



UNHCR and CFSI with the support of LGU continue to support displaced families in Maguindanao. © CFSI/Tahir