



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Maguindanao

Sultan sa Barongis



Municipality of Sultan sa Barongis

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

Overview

Risk rating: High

Quick facts

History

The Municipality of Sultan Sa Barongis shares some historical and political experiences with the Municipality of Lambayong. Lambayong was originally founded by settler families in 1935, later naming the municipality after the violet (or lambayong in the Maguindanao language) flowers that grew in the area.

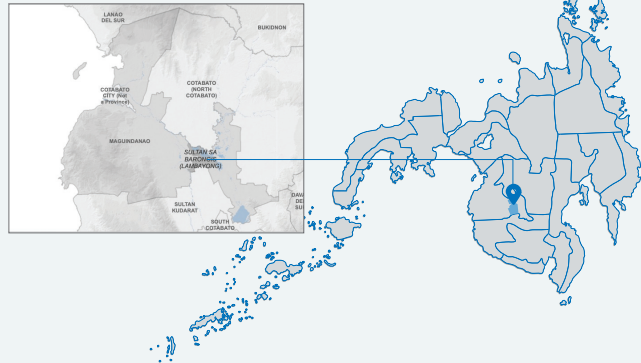
In 1959, Lambayong was renamed to Sultan Sa Barongis in honor and memory of the grandfather of late Congressman Salipada K. Pendatun.

On September 4, 2004, another municipality - Rajah Buayan was carved out of Sultan Sa Barongis composed of 11 barangays, with 12 remaining in the original municipality. This allowed for young figures to join politics as well as to resolve tight political rivalries.

Economic Development

The Municipal government of Sultan Sa Barongis, in partnership with government and non-government institutions, was able to improve. The general well-being of its constituents in terms of Economic development. There is an increased of average family income from Php36,000/annum in 2003 to an average of Php55, 000.00/annum 2018 per rapid appraisal conducted by the joint MAO of Department of Agriculture and The Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) of the local government unit of Sultan Sa Barongis although there is a consistent high poverty incidence in the municipality. The increased of average family income could be attributed to the

Sultan sa Barongis



increase of farm commodities (corn, rice, copra, fish and others) prices.

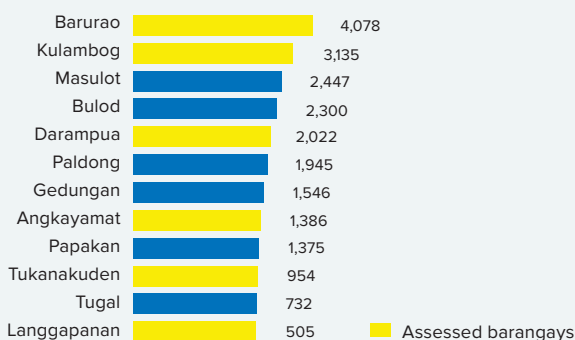
The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the other livelihood programs from DSWD, DA, LGU and other institutions, despite employment opportunities. The unemployment is still very high at 46 per cent of the total Population as of 2015 data from PSA. Other serious factors that threaten the company and other development intervention is the perennial flooding, deteriorating agricultural productivity due to the inadequacy of support to rice production, climate change infrastructure support facilities.

Municipality Quick Facts

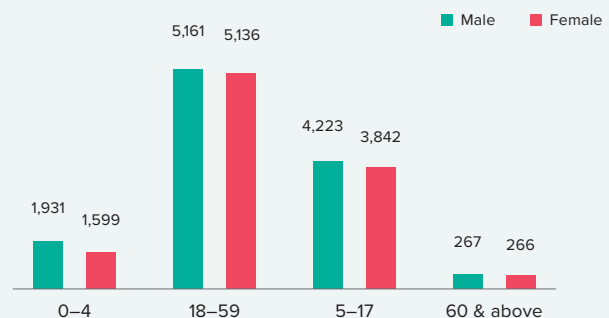
According to the 2015 census, Sultan sa Barongis Municipality has a population of 22,425 people. The table below depicts the quick facts about the municipality.

Population	Households	Income Class	Land Area	Barangays	Climate type	Language Spoken
22,425	4,485	2nd Class	291.30_{sq.km.}	12	Tropical	Maguindanao, Tagalog

Population¹ of assessed barangay



Population¹ 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 Sultan sa Barongis 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
Angkayamat	493	493	2,028	995	1,033	799	895	334
Barurao	767	784	5,120	2,100	3,020	1,814	2,336	970
Darampua	250	500	2,500	1,050	1,450	1,020	510	970
Kulambog	545	651	3,250	1,397	1,853	1,307	1,835	108
Langgapanan	380	380	3,000	1,654	1,346	2,000	920	80
Tukanakuden	291	291	1,890	860	1,030	520	920	450
TOTAL	2,726	3,099	17,788	8,056	9,732	7,460	7,416	2,912

Protection Profile Summary

In the municipality of Sultan sa Barongis, the level of protection risks and threats to safety and security is HIGH. To illustrate, the presence of several non-state armed groups in the municipality, such as Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), local ISIS-inspired group, and a private armed group (PAG) poses significant threats to the safety and security of civilian populations. Because of these groups, fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups, crime and violence including rido and fighting between persons associated with the armed groups have been rampant in the municipality.



This situation of recurring conflict has affected many individuals, families and communities in many ways, including repeated displacements, loss of lives and properties and disrupted livelihood and education activities. In addition, natural disaster in the form of seasonal flooding affected many communities, thus increasing the vulnerability of the civilian populations, especially, Persons with Special Needs (PWSNs) whose condition becomes worse in times of repeated displacements. While the government is trying to maximize efforts and resources to address the threats and reduce the vulnerability of the affected population, its capability and compliance especially in times of emergency still needs improvement. Protective services seem to be lacking in addressing the needs of affected population, especially most vulnerable and PWSNs are still a gap.

Protection analysis data

Displacement

Nature of Violations and Threats

Except Barangay Barurao, all the barangays profiled experienced repeated displacements from year 2000 to present. The main causes of these displacements were armed conflict, natural disaster, crime and violence, and rido.

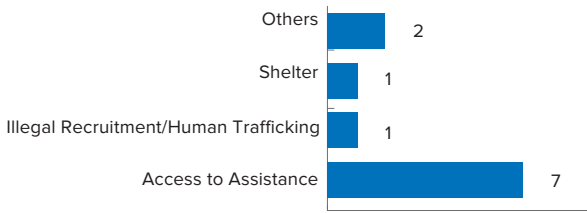
On the other hand, natural disasters, which usually affected barangays Tukanakuden, Langgapanan, Darampua, and Kulambog, is due to seasonal flooding, while the rido, which usually affected Barangay Kulambog, involved two feuding families who are related by blood

During the profiling, respondents cited that from January to April 2019, populations were displaced within barangays Tugal, Langgapanan, Darampua, and part of Masulot. These displacements were caused by family feuds and the AFP's law enforcement operation against the local ISIS-affiliated armed group believed to be hiding in the marshy area of the municipality, particularly along the Ligawasan Marsh.

Most of the displacements experienced were short, usually from 30-60 days or sometimes less than 30 days. The longest period of displacement was 91 days to one year.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Problems encountered during displacement



Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.

Other effects of displacement expressed in the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) are as follows:

- Livelihood and sources of income were hampered or stopped, which hindered IDPs to sustain their activities to address their pressing needs.
- The communities affected became crowded.
- Fishermen could no longer do fishing and farmers could not access their farm areas.
- Children’s educational activities were disrupted. Health and psychological well-being are likewise affected.
- Both host families and IDPs stretched their financial resources to support the IDPs.

As of the profiling period in April 2019, six of the barangays profiled (except Barangay Barurao) confirmed that there were still IDPs in their respective barangays.

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

- fear of going back to their place of origin,
- the family decided to permanently stay in their current location,
- no source of livelihood in the places of origin, and
- damage to houses.

Another possible displacement is possible in barangays Tukanakuden, Angkayamat, Darampua, and Kulambog due to prevalent sightings of BIFF troops and the local ISIS-affiliated group in the interior parts of the municipality, particularly in marshy areas.

Coping Mechanism of Affected Population


Respondents in the FGDs and KIIs expressed that IDPs and affected population knew and were able to raise their concerns and pressing needs to concerned agencies such as the BLGU, community leaders, the LGU, and to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). In fact, some IDPs had built access and links to NGOs and government agencies for humanitarian assistance, information related to their protection, and trainings. Further, 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 are responded in a timely manner.

IDPs cited that they have been receiving assistance from government, United Nations (UN) agencies, International Non-Government Organizations (INGOs), NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) especially during times of emergency. Types of assistance received includes food, health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), and education.

In addition, IDPs were already adapted to the usual displacement experienced in a long period of time, thus building their strong internal coping mechanisms and sense of resilience. Affected people always believe that what happened to them was part of their destiny designed by the Almighty. The IDPs’ faith in God strengthened their inner resilience and courage in facing obstacles and challenges in life.

Recommendations

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

	Negotiate the upholding of international humanitarian law with AFP and armed groups to ensure that rights of civilians are not violated.
	Increase access of the IDPs and affected population to humanitarian assistance in relation to their displacement and increase community participation in the management of the relief assistance.
	Institutionalize disaster preparedness and mitigation in the LGU’s development plan.

Protection of women and children

Nature of Violations and Threats

Violations against women seems very minimal. Of the six barangays profiled, only Barangay Kulambog had expressed a case pertaining to women trafficking, but it was already reported to and resolved by the LGU. Meanwhile, no cases of Grave Child Rights Violations (GCRVs), child abuses and domestic violence against women were reported. In addition, there were no cases of separated and unaccompanied children that were cited in the FGDs and KIIs.

All in all, women and children who participated in the FGDs expressed that they feel safe in the community and they have access to security services, know about and are able to exercise their rights, and are provided with avenues to be heard in the community. 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.

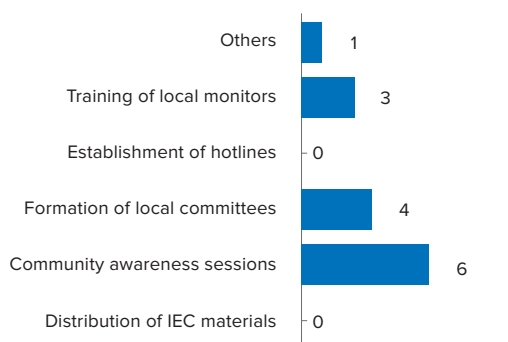
However, in terms of reporting and referral mechanism, only Barangay Barurao has a referral and reporting mechanism in place for women and children, and only Barangay Kulambog has a functional facility for child protection. All six barangays profiled have no existing facilities for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors.

Impact and Effects of Violations

The women trafficking case cited in the FGDs affected not only the survivor but also the family and the community in general. At the survivor’s level, psychological distress, trauma and anxiety were felt, while guilt and anger were felt by the family. On the other hand, the community’s awareness and precaution against trafficking were enhanced. These were the only effects cited by the respondents.

Community awareness on women and children’s rights is among the perceived activities that would help in the improvement of protection of women and children. The chart below shows that formation of local committee is also needed. This committee is envisaged to assist other existing protection services including VAWC Desk, GAD Council and BCPC.

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



Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.

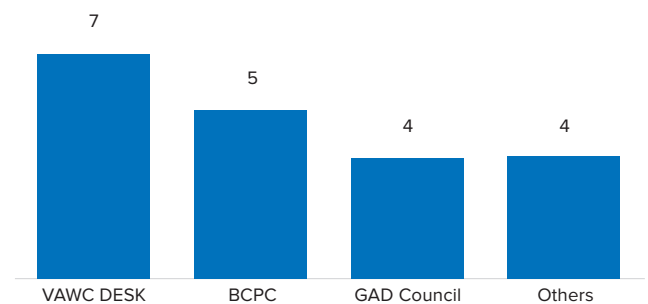
Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

The coping mechanism of the family and the community was anchored with their faith or religious belief. The community compromised with the rule of religion where protection of women and children are particularly significant, and their belief made them resilient in confronting issues concerning women and children.

Issues concerning women and children are usually resolved without need for recourse to formal structures like the police or the courts.

Protective Capability and Compliance

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






Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.

The BLGU officials said they were closely monitoring issues and needs of women and children through their BAPAT, BCPC, VAWC desk and other organizations in their areas, such as Community Monitors, People’s Organizations, women association, and religious organization. In addition, there were also instances when women committee held orientations about women and child rights through the MLGU special programs and program DSWD on Family development.

Recommendations

Based on the information gathered on the protection of women and children, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

The LGU should evaluate the functionality of the barangay-based women and children protection mechanisms, and to conduct capacity building activities to enhance knowledge, skills and attitude if deemed necessary.

The LGU should devise context-specific referral and reporting mechanism in each barangay, and ensure people and community including women and children are aware of the mechanisms.

Each barangay should have a tangible program for women and children and support the family development sessions conducted by the DSWD in every barangay.

Persons with specific needs

Nature of Violations and Threats

In the barangays profiled, there is a vulnerable group identified. The table below shows the number of Person with Special Needs (PWSN) per barangay profiled.

Barangay	PWD	Single/Solo Parent	Single/ Solo Elderly	Elderly-headed household	Pregnant or lactating	Chronic Illness
Langgapanan	21	25			20	
Tukanakuden	5	20			35	3
Angkayamat	15	20	9		7	
Darampua	20	50		10	55	5
Barurao	23	60			25	11
Kulambog	40	50	10		7	
TOTAL	124	225	19	10	149	19

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

Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

Despite PWSNs' increased vulnerability in the repeated disaster, they also have capacities, abilities and opportunities to help them overcome the challenges. In the FGDs and KIIs, respondents cited that PWSNs often knew better about their needs and needs of other PWSNs and can, therefore, help in planning effective actions.

Respondents further expressed that many PWSN, for instance older persons, pregnant and lactating women, PWDs, and single or solo-parents were resilient, empowered and skillful in finding ways and means to cope with their situations. Some women PWSN, for example, are skilled in mat weaving, dress making, food processing, etc., while elders and single or solo parents can do fishing, carpentry, farming, and small-scale business enterprises.

Recommendations

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



Assess further the vulnerability and capacity, as well as the needs of the PWSNs and identify the personal and environmental factors that make them vulnerable.



Implement specific/focus projects, programs and policies and ensure they will address both the immediate and long-term needs of PWSN.



Always consult and involve PWSN and their families to assure that their needs in emergency situations are met.



Raise awareness on PWSN-specific/ focus activities and interventions with authorities, NGOs/INGOs, UN agencies, and other private organizations.

Basic social services

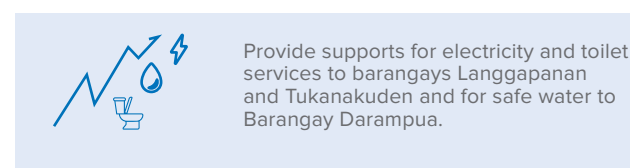
Nature of Violations and Threats

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
Langgapanan	3,000	10	60
Tukanakuden	279	291	150
Angkayamat	400	300	30
Darampua	500	450	0
Barurao	80	90	96
Kulambog	50	60	30
Total	4,309	1,201	366

Recommendations



Safety and Security

Nature of Violations and Threats

All the six barangays profiled are conflict-affected area. Fighting between government forces and non-state armed groups, and crime and violence including fighting between persons associated with armed groups are among the major causes of conflict in the municipality. Barangays Langgapanan, Tukanakuden, Angkayamat, Darampua, and Kulambog usually affected by cyclical conflict between AFP and rebel groups, such as BIFF and local ISIS-inspired group, while barangays Langgapanan, Tukanakuden, Angkayamat, and Barurao were regularly affected by fighting among rebel groups, particularly individuals/ groups associated to the MILF against MILF and/or BIFF associated individuals or groups. On the other hand, Barangay Barurao is recurrently affected by fighting between armed group against private persons, while barangays Tukanakuden, Barurao and Kulambog were repeatedly affected by rido between warring private individuals/ groups.

The presence of several non-state armed groups within the municipality, such as the MILF, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which are present in barangays Langgapanan, Tukanakuden and Darampua, the BIFF, local ISIS-inspired group, and a private armed group, which is present in Barangay Kulambog, poses threats to the safety and security of civilian populations. Other threats particularly to barangays Langgapanan and Angkayamat was related to bombardment and mortar shelling as well as destruction of civilian properties in Barangay Barurao. In addition to the conflict, many communities were also prone to seasonal flooding.

To address the safety and security threats to civilians, security mechanisms are presently in place in the barangays such as: Barangay Tanod/BPAT in all the barangays profiled; AFP/CAFGU in barangays Langgapanan, Barurao and Kulambog; PNP in barangay Barurao; BIAF in Barangay Angkayamat; and BADAC and Lupon in Barangay Kulambog. The residents who have security present in their barangays expressed they feel safe despite the threats, and they can move freely in and out of their barangays.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Loss of lives and properties, disruption of livelihood activities and education, lack of security, shortage of food and water supplies, and restriction in the movement of the residents especially during military operations and armed clashes were among the direct effects and impacts of the safety and security-related issues to the communities. In addition, affected people usually developed anxiety, psychological distress, trauma, and fear of their lives and families. Of the groups in the community, the most affected by the armed conflict are women, children (both boys and girls), and PWSN.

Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

Identified coping mechanisms and protection strategies of the communities include the following:

1. Community leaders, usually barangay officials and/or MILF political committee and Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) commanders not involved in the conflict, were identified to settle, address and report the safety and security-related issues and concerns of the people.
2. The means of the community to report and raise their concerns when there are security threats were through reporting to community leaders personally or via call and text.
3. Residents' houses were fenced using concrete materials or bamboo trunks as protection against personal attacks. Also, most of the houses especially in flooding prone areas were elevated off the ground to avoid submerging by flood.
4. Foreseeing the coming threats, communities learned about pre-emptive displacement and moving to safer places (evacuation centers, or relatives) ahead of time.

Further, the community identified the following council and leaders who would help settle disputes and other security concerns:

1. barangay councils,
2. religious leaders,
3. traditional leaders,
4. women leaders, and
5. Shari'ah courts.

Documentation

Nature of Violations and Threats

Barangay	No. of Individuals without Birth Certificates	No. of Individuals without Marriage Contracts
Langgapanan	770	1,350
Tukanakuden	945	1,323
Angkayamat	608	800
Darampua	580	1,800
Barurao	2,048	512
Kulambog	250	465
Total	5,201	6,250

As can be seen in the table, Barangay Barurao represents the greatest number of individuals without birth certificates, while Barangay Darampua has the greatest number of individuals without marriage contracts. On the other hand, Barangay Kulambog represents the least number of individuals without both birth certificates as well as marriage contracts.

The most common reasons for not having birth certificate include lack of awareness of its importance, 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.

Protective Capability and Compliance

Eighty-three percent of participants in the FGDs expressed that they found their local officials effective in maintaining peace and order in the community. While 100 percent of the respondents said they were familiar with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Regional Commission on Human Rights (RHRC), they claimed that these agencies are not present in their respective barangay. In terms of capacity of duty bearers in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the community, 67 per cent of the interviewees perceived it is good, while 37 percent perceived it needs further improvement.

Recommendations

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






The LGU and security actors including MILF-BIAF should conduct regular coordination meetings to address and mitigate the effects of the safety and security-related threats in every affected barangay.

The LGU-MDRRMC should conduct training-simulations of staff on disaster/emergency preparedness and response and conduct rollouts of these trainings in all barangays.

The LGU should develop a context-specific Early Warning System (EWS), and raise awareness on this EWS with the communities, authorities, and NGOs.

Recommendations



Increase awareness of residents on the importance of birth certificates and marriage contracts and facilitate access to civil documentation.

Housing, land and property (HLP)

Nature of Violations and Threats

Barangay	No. of Landowners	No. of Land Tenants
Langgapanan	90	95
Tukanakuden	95	90
Angkayamat	60	50
Darampua	40	95
Barurao	80	95
Kulambog	40	90
Total	405	515

The table illustrates that Barangay Tukanakuden has the largest number of landowners at 95, while barangays Langgapanan, Darampua and Barurao have greatest number of tenants 95 all. On the other hand, barangays Darampua and Kulambog have the least number of landowners at 40, while Barangay Angkayamat has the least number of tenants at 50. All in all, there are 405 landowners and 515 land tenants in the six barangays profiled.

The participants identified the following means of acquiring the lands and properties:

- inheritance,
- ancestral claim,
- purchase,
- right to use,
- dowry, and
- rental.

Recommendations



Facilitate access to HLP-related interventions.

Information

Nature of Violations and Threats

In terms of access to information, the types of protection information that the community received include the following:

- Security alerts/updates for barangays Angkayamat, Darampua, Barurao, and Kulambog
- Barangay ordinances/policies for barangays Langgapanan, Tukanakuden, Barurao, and Kulambog
- Barangay programs for barangays Langgapanan, Tukanakuden, Angkayamat, and Barurao
- Barangay events/social activities for barangays Tukanakuden, Angkayamat and Barurao

The community wants to be informed of the protection-related information through the following:

- community meetings,
- barangay and purok leaders,
- women leaders,
- religious leaders,
- TV or radio, and
- bulletin board.

Recommendations



Improve management of social assistance to avoid issues of fighting among beneficiaries, insufficient assistance, not fair distribution of assistance, access to the delivery site is impossible, and lack of information on the distribution site.

Peace processes

Recommendations



The LGU to also devise means to provide updates on the status of the peace process as well as needed information on the importance of achieving lasting peace in Mindanao, especially but not exclusively in areas of the Bangsamoro.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



Core Relief Items (CRI) distribution in Sultan Sa Barongis Municipality, Maguindanao Province. ©CFSI/Sittie Airah Pendi