



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in North Cotabato

Aleosan



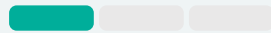


Municipality of Aleosan

Province of North Cotabato Province | Region XII

Overview

Risk rating: **Low**



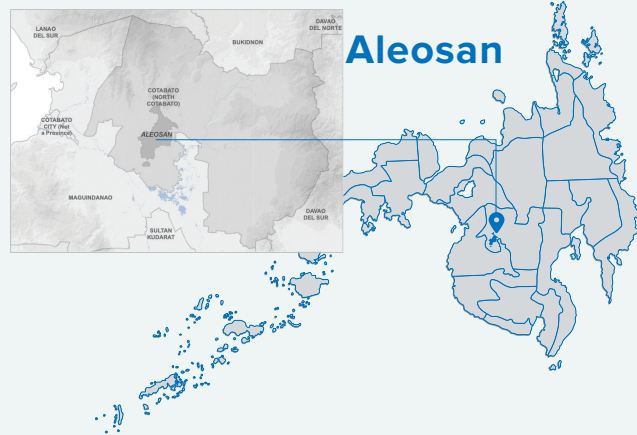
Quick facts

Aleosan is a 3rd class municipality in the Cotabato Province characterized by varied topography of hills, mountains, valleys and flood plains with good mixture of tri-people such as Lumad, Muslims and Christians.

Aleosan is politically subdivided into 19 barangays: Bagolibas, Cawilhan, Dualing, Dungan, Katalicanan, Lawili, Lower Mingading, Luanan, Malapang, New Leon, New Panay, Pagangan, Palacat, Pentil, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Tapodoc, Tomado, and Upper Mingading.

The municipality has a land area of 225.44 square kilometers or 87.04 square miles which constitutes 2.50 per cent of Cotabato's total area. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 39,405. The population density is computed at 175 inhabitants per square kilometer or 453 inhabitants per square mile.

According to the 2015 Census, the age group with the highest population in Aleosan is 10 to 14, with 4,693 individuals. Conversely, the age group with the lowest population is 80 and over, with 317 individuals. Combining age groups together, those aged 14 and below, consisting of the young dependent population which include infants/babies, children and young adolescents/teenagers, make up an aggregate of 36.03 per cent (14,198). The economically active population and actual or potential members of the workforce age 15 up to 64 constitute



59.64 percent of the total population. The senior citizens age 65 and over comprise 4.33 percent of the total population.

According to the Bureau of Local Government Finance, the annual regular revenue of Aleosan for the fiscal year of 2016 was ₱103,442,936.77.

Rainfall is more or less evenly distributed throughout the year round. April is recorded as the driest month, while the wettest are observed from the months of June to August. The frequency of tropical cyclones is rare. The municipality is situated outside of the typhoon belt.

Aleosan's economy is largely agriculture-based. The main agricultural products include coconut, banana, rice, coffee, rubber and mango. Aleosan also produces livestock such as cattle, goat and swine.



Population

39,405



Families

7,881



Income Class

3rd Class



Land Area

225.44sq.km.



Barangays

19



Climate type

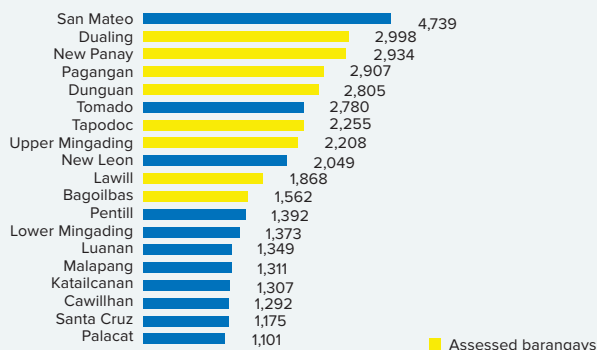
Tropical



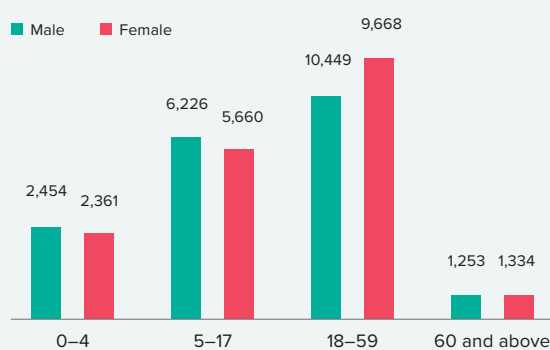
Languages spoken

Hiligaynon, Cebuano, Maguindanao, Ilianen, Tagalog

Population¹ by 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 Aleosan 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
Bagolibas	359	457	1,797	899	898	453	898	446
Dualing	634	883	3,170	1,598	1,572	1,698	1,163	309
Dunguan	580	700	3,500	1,715	1,785	1,504	1,795	201
Lawili	375	420	2,100	1,029	1,071	832	1,176	92
New Panay	840	609	3,047	1,462	1,585	609	2,133	305
Pagangan	660	920	3,300	1,600	1,700	1,200	1,100	1,000
Tapodoc	347	510	1,256	615	641	540	644	72
Upper Mingading	496	683	2,480	1,354	1,126	1,287	1,058	135

Protection Profile Summary

The communities in Aleosan have been experiencing protracted armed conflict in seven of the eight profiled barangays. Adjacent barangays (and in some instances, affected barangays) have been the usual hosts for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The main cause of displacement for these seven communities is armed clashes between the government forces and armed groups. There are also accounts of displacement due to conflict among civilians, caused by land disputes, as well as displacement due to natural disasters such as flashflood, landslides, soil erosion and drought.

Among the eight barangays, only Upper Mingading was not displaced, and has hosted IDPs from other barangays affected by the conflicts.

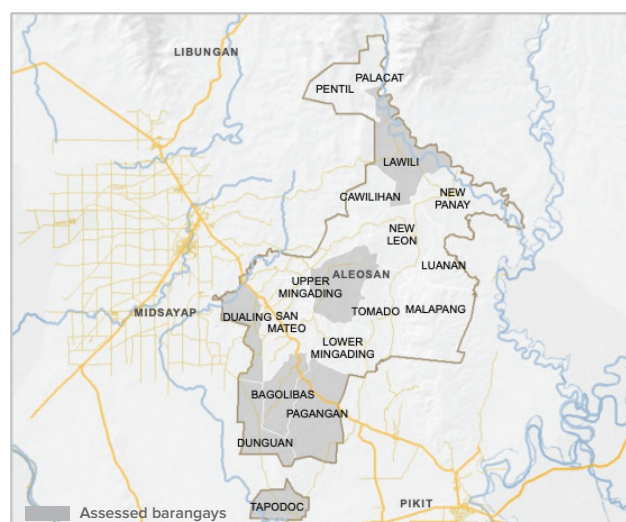
The common types of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) include 116 persons with disabilities, 173 single elderly, 122 pregnant or lactating women, 196 single parents, 5 elderly-headed households, 7 unaccompanied children, 113 indigenous people, and 7 individuals with physical chronic illness.

Five of the eight barangays revealed that the government has the budget allocation for the PWSNs. However, five of the eight communities disclosed that there is no project specific to the PWSNs. Indigenous populations are present in three barangays, and these three communities have specific projects for them.

A total of 4,031 households are recorded from the 8 profiled barangays (approximately 19,350 individuals). From this figure, 32 percent of the households do not have access to electricity, coming from New Panay with 462 households and Dunguan with 300 families.

Additionally, a total of 11,495 households do not have access to safe drinking water, mostly from New Panay (504 households) and Upper Mingading (347 households). There are 1,061 households that do not have household toilets, mostly from New Panay and Tapodoc.

From this number, there are 1,297 household who do not



have access to electricity. Most are in Barangay New Panay, with 462 households, and Barangay Dunguan with 300 households.

There are 1,495 households that do not have safe and potable water. Most are from Barangay New Panay with a total household of 504, while Barangay Upper Mingading has 347 households without safe water.

Data revealed that in terms of toilets, there are 1,016 households who do not have sanitary facilities. These are mostly from the barangays of New Panay and Tapodoc.

Based on the collated information from the eight barangays, there is a need of establishing and/or strengthening the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC) and other protection mechanisms to ensure that local communities will be able to prepare, mitigate, prevent and respond to local crises, such as armed conflicts resulting in displacement.

Protection analysis

A total of 6,102 families (22,650 individuals) or 4,691 households are currently living in the eight barangays that have undergone protection profiling. Female population is slightly more than half of the whole population at 51 percent while 49 percent are male. The population age group revealed that 48 percent are adults, 40 percent are children and 12 percent are elderly.

A total of 126 individuals participated in the FGDs, composed of 43 community leaders, 34 women, 31 men, 15 elders and 3 children representing the communities of Dualing, Upper Mingading, Bagolibas, New Panay, Dunguan, Tapodoc, Lawili and Pagangan.

Displacement

Nature of Violations and Threats

Frequent displacements have been experienced in seven of the eight barangays. The main cause of these displacements is the armed conflict between the state and the non-state actors. There are also instances of displacements caused by the conflicts between armed individuals and families due to land disputes. Natural disasters such as flashfloods, landslides, soil erosion and drought also affect the communities, sending affected families to flee. Only Upper Mingading out of the eight profiled barangays has not experienced displacements, and has hosted IDPs several times from other barangays.

During displacements, the affected families usually take refuge at safe grounds both within and outside their communities such as schools and madrasah. Others prefer to stay with their relatives. The length of displacement varies from 30 days to more than a year.

During displacement, communities disclosed that the common problems they usually encounter include limited access to assistance, lack of shelter, harassment, discrimination and family separation.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

All the profiled barangays revealed that they are able to share their concerns through their purok/sitio leaders and barangay council members, which are coordinated to relevant government agencies and also the humanitarian organization.









The communities shared that the common practice of the affected population is to flee to safer places as soon as possible. Most rely on their relatives for safe shelter.

If the humanitarian assistance is not enough, many families resort to borrowing money from their relatives and friends. Others sell their farm animals or other property.

Another coping strategy of the community is the collaboration of the duty bearers in providing feedback and information. Community leadership also engages in local-level preparation and coordination with municipal-level agencies.

Recommendations

For better protection of IDP rights and to enhance mechanisms in responding and providing assistance to affected populations and communities during displacements and crises, the points listed below are recommended.

	Establish and strengthen protection mechanisms of the communities such as BDRRMC, VAWC Desk, BCPC and BHRAC
	Strengthen the operation of BDRRMC, particularly in establishing the community-based early warning system to facilitate exchange of real-time information between the communities and local authorities, thus preventing or minimizing the effects of conflict on the affected population
	Ensure that local authorities should have a disaster response and preparedness plan that reflects the resource requirements and evacuation plan if disaster erupts in their respective barangay (this includes establishment or assignment of evacuation centers).
	Ensure that local authorities have updated barangay profiles reflecting the detailed physical, social and demographic data and capacitate the BLGUs to facilitate emergency program design and planning.
	Improve capacity building of duty bearers for providing IDP rights, with emphasis on United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to facilitate awareness and empowerment among IDPs.
	Train officers and members of the protection mechanism such as BCPC, VAWC Desk and BDRRMC on handling women and children protection cases in emergency situation and gender-based violence prevention and response in emergencies. To ensure effective actions, it is also recommended that vulnerable sectors, especially women and children, must also be trained and oriented on the existing protocols or mechanisms in case they may experience certain abuses in the community - particularly in times of displacement.
	Strengthen the relationship of BDRRMC with MDRRMC to ensure complementary support in terms of resources and capacity in responding to the needs and protection of the rights of IDPs.
	Instill reciprocal duty and collaboration to both the duty bearers and the community to promote common good and safety of the IDPs, especially the vulnerable sectors.

Protection of women and children

Nature of Violations and Threats

The common violations and threats that communities disclosed include domestic violence against women, child abuse and exploitation, rape and sexual abuse of minors and women, abduction of children, and maiming and killing of children. The data revealed that there are also cases of unaccompanied children during the displacement.

All communities related that they are aware of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Law and women, parents and children are aware of their rights and are able to exercise them. However, there are cases reported by the profiled barangays about unaccompanied children due to family separation and moving to safer areas in times of displacement.

Responses from women and children respondents from all eight communities revealed that they are willing to report information. Five barangays agreed of having existing and functional reporting and referral mechanisms in place for women and children. Furthermore, five communities are having functional facility for GBV survivors, and child protection facility.

Communities suggested that a continuing community awareness session on women and child's rights and protection must be conducted to inform communities of the basic rights of women and children, thus help prevent future violations. Likewise establishing and strengthening preventive measures and protection mechanisms and services must be given attention and these must be supported to better respond the needs and protection of women and children in the community.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Among the strategies employed by the communities include conducting awareness educational campaigns on R.A. 9262 (VAWC Law), seminars and symposiums, and community leaders assisting the BCPC and VAWC in their roles and responsibilities. Additionally, the communities provide feedback and information and coordinate with the duty bearers to protect women and children from any form of violations.

Protective Capability and Compliance

Five respondent barangays such as Dualing, Upper Mingading, Bagolibas, New Panay and Pagangan have existing and functional reporting and referral mechanisms in place for women and children. There are four communities, namely Dualing, Upper Mingading, Bagolibas and New Panay, that have functional facility for GBV survivors. The communities that have functional child protection facility include Dualing, Upper Mingading, Bagolibas, Dungan, Tapodoc and Pagangan.

The measures in place to prevent the abuse of women and children include the distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, community awareness sessions, formation of local committees, establishment of hotlines, and training of local monitors.

Six of the eight barangays perceived that duty bearers are performing well in terms of responding the needs and protecting the rights of women and children in the

community. However, communities suggested that there must be more capacity building, trainings and awareness raising for both the duty bearers and the communities to have better services and protection of women and children. Duty bearers also identified necessary support from higher authorities or municipal government to sustain efforts in terms of providing protection to women and children in their communities.

Good perceptions of the community were based mainly on the efforts of the local authorities in performing their duties and responsibilities as duty bearers. Communities shared that local authorities are doing their best in performing their duties and making all possible efforts to respond the needs of the community and keep women and children safe and protected.

Eight communities also shared that they have existing and functional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC). There are seven communities that have existing and functional Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) Desk. Six communities have existing and functional Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). Five communities have existing and functional Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC).

The communities disclosed that in order to better protect women and children in the community, factors and issues mentioned above must be given attention and should be addressed by the authorities.

Recommendations

To provide better protection services to women and children in the community, the following recommendations were identified and recommended:

	Institutionalize and strengthen protection mechanisms such as the Barangay VAWC Desk, BCPC, LCPC and MCAT-VAWC including the establishment of GBV and child protection facilities
	Train protection mechanism members on handling VAWC cases and /or gender responsive case management
	Train establishment of safe spaces for children and women especially in times of emergencies, reporting and referral mechanisms
	Train the community and make them aware on monitoring, reporting and referral mechanism including data protection of protection issues for women and children
	Continuously conduct community information sessions on women and child protection to include but not limited to GBV, GCRVs, as well as Women and Child's Rights, and Trafficking
	Develop culturally sensitive and responsive IEC materials for community distribution
	Mobilize resources to improve supports and services to women and children
	Establish stand-by 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

The common types of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) as identified by the communities include 116 persons with disabilities, 173 single elderly, 122 pregnant or lactating women, 196 single parents, 5 elderly-headed households, 7 unaccompanied children, 113 indigenous people, and 7 individuals with physical chronic illness.

Five of the eight communities revealed that the government has budget allocated for people with specific needs. Indigenous people are present in three barangays (Dualing, Upper Mingading and Lawili), and all except Lawili have specific projects for IPs.

Seven out of eight participated barangays revealed that in terms of decision making, women are provided avenues to be heard in their communities.

The reported pressing needs of PWSNs include provision of devices for persons with disabilities, humanitarian assistance for vulnerable persons, care mechanism for children and older persons, psychosocial intervention, medical care for persons with chronic illnesses, and medical and psychosocial treatment for survivors of sexual violence.

Communities identified the long-term protection needs such as shelter, sustainable economic program or livelihood activities, livelihood skills training, continued necessary medical treatment, psychosocial support, counselling, as well as financial support or cash for capital.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Although communities said that there is budget allocation for the PWSNs but they have limited project concerning to the PWSNs. Therefore, during emergency, PWSNs still face huge challenges.

They have physical and emotional issues, depression and anxiety. They lose their interest to participate in community activities. Children in many instances leave their schools. People with mobility problems are often discriminated and bullied.

All the participating communities admitted that they have access to assistance during emergency. The identified immediate protection needs of PWNs are food, shelter, medical, hygiene, water, cash, humanitarian assistance, devices for PWSNs and safety.

The long-term protection needs of PWSNs are sustainable livelihood, secure and safe communities, and appropriate assistance (based on needs assessment) from the government.

Communities suggested that PWSNs must be given proper attention during emergencies, and be responded to accordingly. They should be prioritized and be given assistance which is sensitive and responsive to their needs and conditions. There must be programs and services particularly for PWSNs to include establishment of facilities for them. Communities further suggested building the capacity of PWSNs based on their skills and provide sustainable livelihood assistance. PWSNs should also be included in economic programs or activities of the local authorities and be given an opportunity to participate and contribute to the economic growth of the community.

Recommendations

To improve the capacity of duty bearers and enhance services in order to provide better protection to persons with specific needs in the community, the enumerated points below are recommended.



Develop and implement a comprehensive social protection plans as well as programs and services for PWSNs in close collaboration with local government units through the office of social welfare and development. Additionally, to include establishment of necessary facilities for PWSNs.



Ensure that the BLGU will design and implement sustainable livelihood program to ensure food security of the persons with special needs.



Conduct community awareness sessions to reach wider community members of their rights as well as government services available to support the needs of persons with special needs.



Provide skills training to PWSNs based on needs assessment

Basic social services

Nature of Violations and Threats

There are 4,031 households from the 8 profiled barangay (approximately 19,350 individuals) of which 256 households do not have access to electricity, mostly from New Panay with 93 households and Dungan with 60 households.

A total of 299 households do not have access to safe drinking water, mostly from Barangay New Panay with 101 households and Upper Mingading with 69 households.

The total number of households that does not have toilet facilities is 203 household, mostly from New Panay with 64 households and Tapodoc with 62 households.

The common identified problems encountered by the IDPs from six communities during provision of humanitarian assistance are fighting among beneficiaries, insufficient assistance, unfair distribution of the assistance, lack of information during distribution and access to delivery site is difficult due to poor road network.

The groups that have encountered challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance are elderly, women, men, boy, girls, and person with specific needs and these are common to all eight profiled barangays.

All eight communities affirmed that they have access to 4Ps or the Pangtawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program while seven barangays have access to Medicare/PhilHealth.




Only Dualing has access to SSS, while Barangay Bagolibas has access to Free Birth Registration.

All eight barangays have schools and health facilities (rural health stations).

Six of the eight barangays confirmed that they have programs and services to assist displaced persons.

The IDPs hosted in other communities expressed that they are able to receive humanitarian aid, which includes distribution of vegetable seeds and garden tools, as well as basic needs which include shelter, food, health and sanitation, relief goods and security. Taporoc said that they have an evacuation center in their barangay.

Recommendations

	Extend the rural electrification of the government to cover remote communities without electricity
	Assess water facilities and conduct appropriate interventions to improve safe access to drinking water
	Enact Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) program to target remote areas with open defecation practices

Safety and security

Nature of Violations and Threats

Six of the eight profiled barangays are affected by conflict.

The common identified threats are conflict between the AFP and the non-state armed groups, conflicts between rebel groups and civilians, and rido among families. Affected civilians are at risk of being killed, and having their property destroyed.

Communities identified the non-state armed groups, which include NPA, MNLF, MILF and BIFF. Communities have established security forces to oversee safety of the civilians, such as Barangay Tanod or BPAT, Army/CAFGU, and Police.

Five of the eight barangays reported that they are affected by natural disaster, such as landslides, flooding, flashflood, soil erosion and drought.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Five of the eight barangays affirmed that they feel safe while 3 barangays disclosed that they do not feel safe because of the activities of the armed groups in the area.

The mostly affected people during the conflict and displacement are the older women, girls, boys, men, and including the person with specific needs.

Four barangays revealed that they do not have restrictions on movement and the other four informed that they have restriction movements due to financial reason for transport, because of the curfew hour, inaccessible roads, no available transport facility and because of the unpredictable activities of the armed groups.

The communities that experience frequent displacements are adversely affected socially and psychologically. Affected individuals said that they feel afraid, unsafe, and insecure. Further, communities shared that this situation seriously affects the economic condition of the people, which leads to lack of employment opportunity, loss of livelihood, damage or loss of properties and more financial burden. There is an increase incidence of poverty, hunger and illnesses. Children are forced to leave schools.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

As disclosed by the communities, among the coping strategies of the communities is dialogue to local leaders with the armed groups are parties to the conflict. Another strategy is the strengthening of the PNP and BPAT. The barangay council also activated the BDOC and BDRMC. The council also monitored the situation in the community, there is also the conduct of the community meeting, where the safety and security of the people to avoid escalation of problems and to have safety and secured evacuation center that provide assistance to the IDPs.

Communities shared that in solving local conflict disputes, they have mechanism in place like they engage the traditional leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, through sharia court, through the help of municipal authorities and the active involvement of the barangay council.

The assessed barangays affirmed that local officials are active in maintaining the peace and order in the community.

Recommendations

To provide better services in responding to issues on safety and security in the respective communities, the articulated points below are recommended.



	Strengthen local authorities and mechanisms such as BDRRMC with emphasis on the early warning system, BPOC, and BPATs to ensure the safety and security of the people
	Strengthen the existing local mechanisms of community to ensure that local authorities including the communities will be able to mitigate, prevent and respond to safety and security threats appropriately
	Provide equipment to improve communications and relaying of information such as VHF radio to the duty bearers

Documentation

Nature of Violations and Threats

A total of 1,757 people in the 8 communities have no birth certificates. The common reasons include the lack of awareness on the importance of this document, distance to the Local Civil Registry, security issue, financial constraint, not aware of the process of registration and some cannot read nor write. Those who do not have the birth certificate are facing challenges in the enrolment of their children, registration to the 4Ps program and other government projects and access to employment opportunities.

Recommendations

	Provide free civil registration and paralegal services to ensure that people have access for birth certificates, marriage contracts, land titling, etc.
	Provide support to families to ensure that communities have access to PhilHealth services

Housing, land and property (HLP)

Nature of Violations and Threats

Out of 22,650 individuals in the 8 barangays, 564 persons are landowners, mostly from New Panay and Lawili. There are 512 individuals who are tenants.

The common reasons in acquiring the land include inheritance, ancestral claim, purchasing, rental and right to use the land.

Dualing has the issue on housing because the site for a housing project has no deed of donation. This worries the families that are living in the housing project. A total of 1,396 individuals are renters and there are 3,250 who are sharing with others/owners.

Six communities disclosed that they do not have any land problem while 2 communities said they have issues on land ownership such as land disputes, squatting, untitled land and boundary issue.

Information

Nature of Violations and Threats


The eight communities affirmed that they receive protection information like security alerts, disaster alert, barangay ordinance, barangay program, barangay event/social activities, and community awareness or training.

All eight communities articulated that they want to be informed of any protection information through community meetings, through purok/barangay leaders, through women leaders, through religious, leaders through SMS through, social media, through TV/radio and through bulletin board.

Except for New Panay and Pagangan, the rest of the communities have been informed about the peace process. New Panay said that they do not have clear information about the latest updates and details of the peace process.

The general perception of the profiled communities about the peace process is that it will pave a way for a longer-lasting peace process in the BARMM Region. They also believe that it is inclusive, there is improvement of the peace process, it is good for everyone, good for the progress of the Mindanao, a solution of the problem of the community and if there is peace and in community there is a progress and development as a whole.

Recommendations

	Support free access to public information on the peace process and updates for the BARMM-included barangays
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SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



Affected by conflict, a mother prepares food at an evacuation site in North Cotabato © UNHCR/R.Abdula