



# Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Province of North Cotabato

Pigcawayan



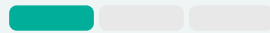
# Municipality of Pigcawayan

Province of North Cotabato | SOCCSKSARGEN



## Overview

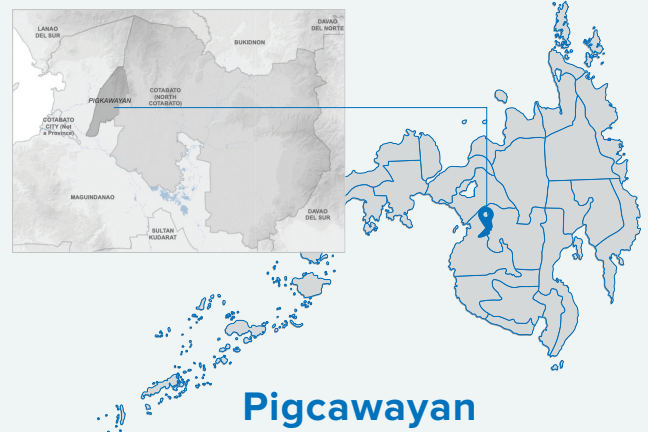
Risk rating: **Low**



### Quick facts

Pigcawayan is a 1st class municipality in the Province of North Cotabato. It is located on the boundary of Maguindanao and Cotabato.

Pigcawayan is politically subdivided into 40 barangays: Anick, Balacayon, Balogo, Banucagon, Buluan, Bulucaon, Buricain, Cabpangi, Capayuran, Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Datu Mantil, Kadingilan, Kimarayag, Libungan Torreta, Lower Baguer, Lower Pangangkalan, Malagakit,



Pigcawayan



Population

**66,796**



Families

**13,359**



Income Class

**1<sup>st</sup> Class**



Land Area

**340.11**sq.km.



Barangays

**40**



Climate type

**Tropical**



Languages spoken

**Maguindanao, Hiligaynon, Cebuano, Iranun, Tagalog**

Maluao, Matilac, Midpapan I, Midpapan II, Mulok, New Culasi, New Igbaras, New Panay, New Manuangan, Patot, Payong-payong, Poblacion I, Poblacion II, Poblacion III, Presbitero, Renibon, Simsiman, South Manuangan, Tigbawan, Tubon, Upper Baguer, and Upper Pangangkalan.

The municipality has a land area of 340.11 square kilometers or 131.32 square miles which constitutes 3.78 percent of Cotabato's total area. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 66,796. This represented 4.84 percent of the total population of Cotabato province. The population density is computed at 196 inhabitants per square kilometer or 509 inhabitants per square mile (Philatlas).

According to the 2015 Census, the age group with the highest population in Pigcawayan is 5 to 9 years old, with 7,728 individuals. Conversely, the age group with the lowest population is 80 years old and over, with 483 individuals. Those aged 14 and below make up an aggregate of 33.52 percent (22,390). Those aged 15 up to 64, roughly the economically active population and actual or potential members of the work force, constitute a total of 61.96 percent (41,386). Finally, the elderly dependent population consisting of those aged 65 and over constitutes 4.52 percent (3,020) of the total population.

Based on the computation of mean age dependency ratios, there are 54 youth dependents to every 100 of the working age population; there are 7 aged/senior citizens to every 100 of the working population; and overall, there

are 61 dependents (young and old-age) to every 100 of the working population. The median age of 24 indicates that half of the entire population of Pigcawayan are aged less than 24 and the other half are over the age of 24 (Philatlas).

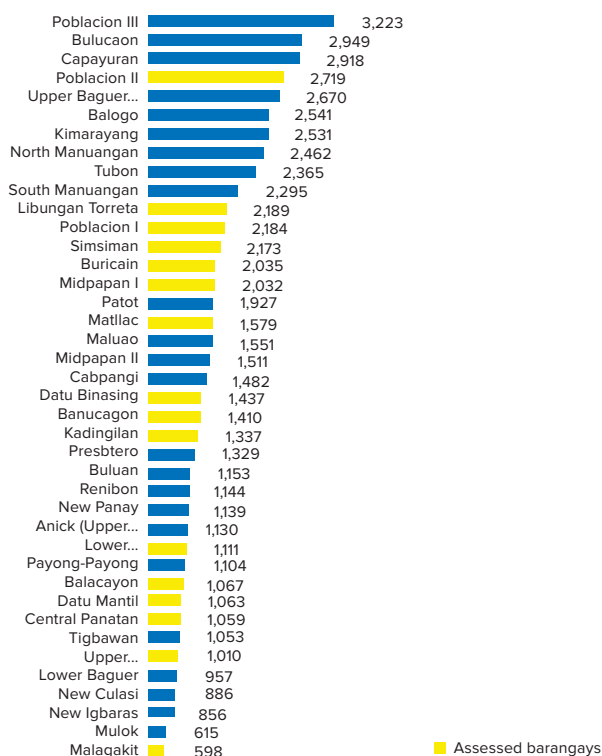
According to the Bureau of Local Government Finance, the annual regular revenue of Pigcawayan for the fiscal year of 2016 was ₱159,829,607.94.

Rainfall is more or less evenly distributed throughout the year round. April is recorded the driest month, while the wettest are observed from the months of June to August. The frequency of tropical cyclone is rare enough to consider with only 1 percent throughout the whole year round. The municipality is situated safer enough outside of the typhoon belt.

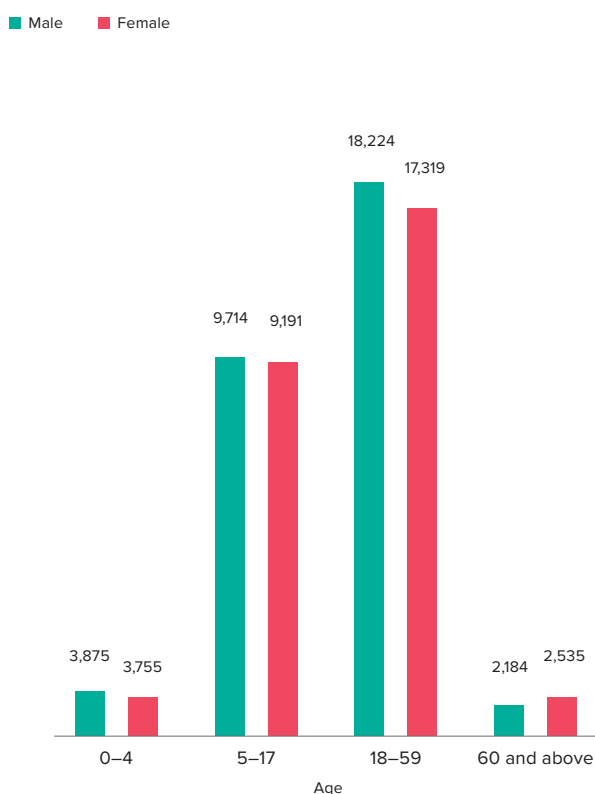
The main source of income of the population is mainly on the farming and fishing. Mostly are engaged on rice and corn farming; some are root crops, vegetables, banana and coconut. Some are also employed both in the government and non-government organizations. Some are also engaged in small-scale enterprise, such as groceries and sari-sari stores.

During the assessment exercises, five barangays have been hosting internally displaced persons due to armed conflict and natural disaster.

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



### Population<sup>1</sup> 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 Pigcawayan 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
Balacayon	313	200	1,067	571	496	469	491	107
Banucagon	246	289	1,228	537	691	418	635	175
Buricain	546	540	2,730	1,338	1,392	1,174	1,401	155
Central Panatan	319	290	1,592	981	611	705	721	166
Datu Binasing	400	320	2,000	1,000	1,000	700	700	600
Datu Mantil	210	231	1,050	420	630	525	263	262
Kadingilan	594	594	2,970	1,510	1,460	1,500	1,030	440
Libungan Torreta	565	571	2,824	1,024	1,800	1,175	1,500	149
Lower Pangangkalan	359	254	1,800	980	820	970	520	310
Malagakit	144	205	716	388	328	356	287	73
Matilac	179	358	896	500	396	200	600	96
Midpapan I	444	646	2,220	888	1,332	1,095	1,023	102
Poblacion I	740	925	3,700	1,800	1,900	700	1,550	1,450
Poblacion II	700	1,600	3,500	1,500	2,000	1,500	1,500	500
Simsiman	444	200	2,220	1,000	1,220	588	1,500	132
Upper Pangangkalan	292	320	1,460	692	768	854	520	86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,495</b>	<b>7,543</b>	<b>31,973</b>	<b>15,129</b>	<b>16,844</b>	<b>12,929</b>	<b>14,241</b>	<b>4,803</b>

## Protection Profile Summary

There are 16 out of the 40 barangays that formed part of this municipal protection profiling in Pigcawayan such as Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Buricain, Poblacion 1, Libungan Torreta, Kadingilan, Datu Mantil, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagakit, Midpapan 1, Poblacion 2, Matilac, Banucagon, Balacayon.

A total of 7,543 families (31,973 individuals) with 6,495 households are living in the 16 barangays of Pigcawayan.

The six barangays (Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagakit, Matilac, Banucagon, and Balacayon) identified armed conflict between the armed forces of the Philippines and non-state armed group as major threat to the life of the civilians in the said communities.

Barangay Libungan Torreta, Lower Pangangkalan, Datu Mantil, Matilac, and Banucagon said that natural disaster is the main cause of their displacement while crime and violence are the main threats to the life of the people in Simsiman and Buricain.

The recurring conflicts, the natural calamities and local criminal activities and violence put communities more at risk. The local protection mechanisms are not that strong. There are community-level Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) Desk, Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) and the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC), which require capacity building and resources to be able to respond effectively and timely to the needs of the affected population during calamities.

There are significant numbers of households across the 16 barangays which are poor and others do not have access to electrification, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

## Protection analysis

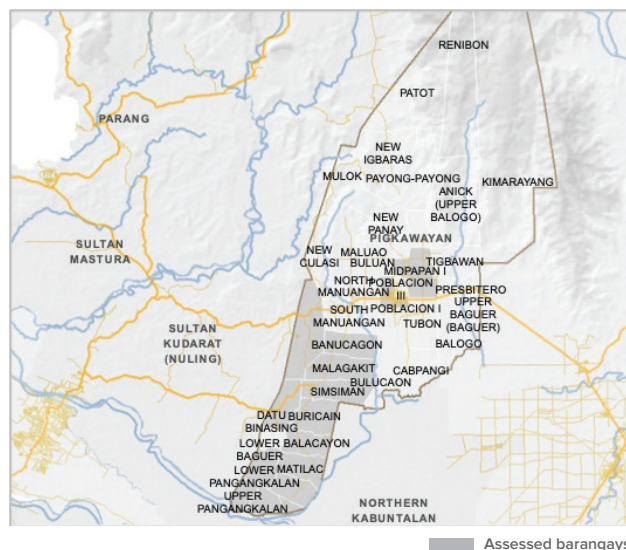
There are 7,543 families (31,973 individuals) with 6,495 households across the 16 barangays of Pigcawayan.

With this population, 53 percent are female and 47 percent are male. The age group distribution includes adults with 45 percent, children with 40 percent while elders comprise 15 percent.

The data and information in this document were generated from the municipal protection profiling through the key interview and cluster focus group discussion.

Communities were represented during the assessment process. A total of 219 individuals participated, composed mainly of 87 community leaders, 63 male community representatives, 41 female community representatives, 26 elders and 2 children.

The 16 barangays included in the profiling are Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Buricain, Poblacion 1, Libungan Torreta, Kadingilan, Datu Mantil, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagakit, Midpapan 1, Poblacion 2, Matilac, Banucagon, Balacayon.



There are issues of civil registration as indicated by big number of individuals with no birth certificates.

People have access to information regarding the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). People have positive views regarding the Bangsamoro Organic Law. They expressed that the BOL will put an end to the recurring conflicts in Mindanao.

Strengthening peace initiatives and building the capacities of the community structures including the barangay councils, formulation of the BDRRMC will help facilitate in reducing the risks and impacts of disasters.

## Displacement

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Across the 16 barangays, the main causes of displacements are the armed conflicts between the government forces and armed groups, natural disasters, crime and violence.

Communities such as Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagakit, Matilac, Banucagon, and Balacayon identified armed conflict between the state and the non-state actors are the main threat to the safety and security of the local population.

Libungan Torreta, Lower Pangangkalan, Datu Mantil, Matilac, and Banucagon expressed that natural disasters such as flood are the main cause of displacement. Simsiman and Buricain disclosed that crimes and violence are more common in their areas, which put people at risk of displacement.

The residents of the communities of Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Buricain, Lower Pangangkalan, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagakit, Banucagon, and Balacayon usually flee either to the evacuation centers within their

communities, or to the next communities, or to the Poblacion and shelter themselves in their relatives, schools and madrasah.

The duration of displacement in Central Panatan, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Buricain, Libungan Torreta, Datu Mantil, Malagakit is on average less than 30 days, while 3 barangays average 31 to 60 days for displacement. Barangay Matilac reported an average of 61 to 90 days.

Libungan Torreta, Kadingilan, Matilac, Banucagon and Balacayon have been hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs). Many families decided not to go back to their places for multiple reasons, such as fear of the armed groups, destroyed houses, and limited livelihood opportunities.

During displacements, IDPs have faced various challenges. Ten respondent barangays said that they have experienced difficulty accessing assistance and family separation. Seven barangays shared problems on family separation. Three communities disclosed the need for shelter and experienced harassment. Communities also informed that there are issues of congestion in evacuation centers.

With the current context and situation, four barangays perceived the possibility of another displacements, five said that they are confident that there will be no more displacements while seven barangays said that they are uncertain and undecided about the possibilities of displacements in their communities.

As disclosed by the respondent communities, there were limited supplies of food, potable water, sanitation and hygiene items and facilities, medicine, shelter as well as alternative livelihood.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Displacements greatly affect the communities, especially the vulnerable sectors such as the persons with specific needs, women, children, and elderly. Displacements affect them physically, socially, and psychologically.

Stress and anxiety, sickness, loss of properties, disruption of livelihood activities, financial burden and scarcity of foods and resources are among the direct effects of the violence and threats. Some children lost their interest to study.

The expressed immediate protection needs of the vulnerable groups include the basic humanitarian assistance such as food and non-food items (blankets, kitchen utensils, clothing, etc.), shelter materials, safe drinking water, medicines, hygiene kits and sanitation facilities, livelihood activities and financial support.

The long-term protection needs mostly related to the social and economic aspects. These needs include recovery and rehabilitation of houses, infrastructures, resettlements, psychosocial interventions, livelihood support and financial assistance.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

During tensions and conflicts, Datu Binasing, Simsiman, Buricain, Lower Pangangkalan, Upper Pangangkalan, Malagit, Midpapan 1, Banucagon, and Balacayon evacuate to the designated evacuation camps within and in other areas. Some of them seek refuge in their relatives and stay with them.

Some of the coping mechanisms of the IDPs while in displacement include borrowing of money from relatives and friends and selling livestock especially when humanitarian assistance is not available or not enough. Family members do look for opportunities in the host communities to access income.

Local authorities give priority to people with specific needs during the distribution of relief assistance. They also lead in the assessment and monitoring of the situation in the host communities. They coordinate the needs of the IDPs with LGU, relevant government offices and NGOs.

Local authorities also activate the BPAT in times of displacement to provide regular patrol especially at night to ensure that IDPs are safe.

Recommendations

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

	Establish/strengthen protection mechanisms of the communities such as BDRRMC, VAWC Desk, BCPC, and BHRAC
	Strengthen the operation of Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC) particularly establishing of community-based early warning system to facilitate exchange of real-time information between the communities and local authorities, thus prevent or minimize the effects of conflict to the affected population
	Ensure that local authorities have updated barangay profiles reflecting the detailed physical, social and demographic data to facilitate emergency program design and planning
	Conduct training targeting duty bearers, key community structures, opinion leaders and community representatives on protection and 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 must be trained on handling women and children protection and GBV cases.
	The BDRRMC must strengthen their relationship with MDRRMC to ensure complementary support in terms of resources and capacity in responding to the needs and protection of the rights of IDPs.

## Protection of women and children

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Communities said that women have access to safety and security services and are given opportunity to be heard in decision-making in their respective communities. They can share their concern and issues because women are members of the community organization. Some members of the barangay structures are women.

Twelve barangays shared that communities are aware or familiar with Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Law. Fourteen communities revealed that women are aware of their rights and are able to exercise these rights. Fourteen communities disclosed that parents and children are aware of their right and able to exercise these rights.

However, despite what communities have disclosed about women and children being safe, there are cases of violations such as child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence against women, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

All the communities except Balacayon shared that women and children know their rights and they can exercise these rights. Women can share and raise their issues and concerns especially that there are women who are members of community structures such as the barangay council.

Communities shared that empowering women and girls by making them aware and promoting their rights can make a difference in their life especially for those living in the vulnerable communities with poor protection mechanism.

There were efforts in the communities in strengthening protection mechanisms as well as the capacity of communities in terms of responding the needs and protection of IDPs, women and children.

Communities disclosed that local authorities were able to provide immediate response to the issues and concerns of women and children in terms of their protection. They conduct counselling and initiate community meetings and awareness sessions. They collaborate with concerned agencies and refer cases to appropriate authorities.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

Twelve of the 16 communities informed that they have referral pathways for the needs of the women and children affected by protection issues. Local duty bearers document and refer cases to the appropriate authorities for intervention.

Half of the communities said that they do not have facilities for women survivors of GBV cases. Only 6 communities confirmed that they have facilities for child survivors of violence.

Both the community and duty bearers gave a “good” rating to the duty bearers on their capacity to respond to protection issues of women and children.

### Recommendations

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



Institutionalize and strengthen protection mechanisms (Barangay VAWC Desk, BCPC, LCPC, MCAT-VAWC), including establishment and improving of GBV and child protection facilities



Train members of the protection mechanism on handling VAWC cases and/or gender responsive case management, including data protection



Training on the establishment of safe spaces for children and women especially in times of emergencies, reporting and referral mechanisms



Continuous conduct of community information session on women and child protection to include but not limited to GBV, GCRVs, as well as women and child's rights, and trafficking



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

Communities disclosed that the common types of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) present across the 16 communities include persons with disabilities, single elderly, indigenous people, pregnant or lactating woman and girls at risk, single parents, elderly-headed households, and unaccompanied and separated children, indigenous peoples and persons with specific legal and physical chronic illness.

IDPs who are PWSNs generally need immediate humanitarian assistance and better access to basic social services as well as safety and security. Common immediate needs include basic humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items), medicine, shelter, clothing, water sanitation and hygiene facilities including toilets or latrines, supplies for persons with special needs (i.g. wheelchair and other devices for people with disabilities), medical treatment, prenatal services to pregnant women and food supplements to lactating mothers. Communities also expressed that financial support and livelihood activities are needed to help sustain the needs of the family.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

The community suggested to enhance services and facilities for PWSNs; to prioritize PWSN in the delivery of assistance; to raise awareness among PWSN and train them; to engage and encourage participation of PWSNs in community activities and meetings, especially in matters concerning them.

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 points below are recommended.

- Develop social protection plans as well as programs and services for PWSNs in close collaboration with local government unit through the office of social welfare and development office.
- Establish necessary facilities for PWSNs
- The BLGU must design and implement sustainable livelihood program to ensure food security of the persons with special needs.
- Community awareness sessions must be done to reach wider community members of their rights as well as government services available to support the needs of persons with special needs.

**Basic social services**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Of the 6,495 households across the 16 communities, there are 3,843 households that do not have access to electricity with almost half coming from Libungan Torreta (1,900).

There are 4,504 households that do not have access to safe drinking water. Poblacion 1 has the largest number of households without safe drinking water, with 1,050 households.

There are 2,958 households that do not have access to toilets. Libungan Torreta registered 1,400 families with no toilets.

Community shared that during the provision of humanitarian assistance, the common issues they encountered include, fighting among beneficiaries, insufficient supplies, unfair distribution of the assistance, lack of information during distribution and difficulty in accessing the distribution site.

Majority of the affected individuals during the provision or accessing of development or humanitarian assistance are the elderly, women, men, boy, girls, and person with specific needs.

Communities affirmed that they have access 4Ps and PhilHealth while only Central Panatan has the access to SSS and Barangay Pidpapan 1 has access to free birth registration.

Poblacion 1, Datu Mantil, Midpapan 1 do not have specific programs for IDPs from other communities but they support protection mechanisms and assist in the distribution of assistance. The assistance that host communities facilitate with IDPs include distribution of relief goods, periodic patrolling and monitoring by the BPAT and PNP to ensure security of the IDPs, temporary shelter, identification of the ECs and help facilitate the assistance of the other agencies.

Recommendations

Improve community access to electricity, safe water sources and safe sanitation facilities, such as toilets

**Safety and security**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Past history of conflicts and displacements, continuing presence of and sporadic armed conflicts between government security and forces and non-state armed actors, crimes and violence as well as natural disasters are among the threats that 16 communities are facing.

The sectors mostly affected by the threats are men, women, girls, boys, elderly, and persons with specific needs.

Despite their experiences of conflict and displacements, issues on safety, security, the communities except for 1 barangay (Banucagon) shared that residents are safe in the communities and can freely move in and out of the barangays.

The nature and experience of conflict is complex. Challenges on safety and security have been expressed by the communities which should be given attention and addressed.

All these threats are expected to continue should conflicts not be prevented or minimized as the root causes remains unresolved, thus bring fears, insecurity and dangers to the life, properties and livelihoods of affected population.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Conflict, displacement and the associated threats are affecting the communities economically, socially and psychologically.

Fears and insecurity are common among the affected population. Economically, people have less access to food and income opportunities. During disasters, their livelihoods are affected, economic assets are damaged, properties are lost and their financial burden is high, which lead to further poverty, hunger and illnesses. Education is disrupted and some of the children stop going to school until they lose interest.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

For local disputes and tensions, communities said that among the strategies include initiating a dialogue between parties to prevent further escalation and violence. The BPAT close monitors the security situation in the community. The PNP and BPAT conduct *ronda* or patrolling to prevent security incidences. They also conduct information drive aimed at maintaining peace and order in the communities. They conduct sessions with the youth and community representatives.

**Recommendations**

To provide better services and responding to issues on safety and security, the following actions are recommended:



	Strengthen local authorities and mechanisms such as barangay disaster risk reduction and management council (BDRRMC) with emphasis on early warning system, Barangay Peace and Order Council (BPOC), Barangay Protection Action Team (BPATs)
	Train local officials on conflict management and resolution as well as dialogue facilitation.
	Strengthen the operation of joint ceasefire monitoring posts composed of government and MILF forces established in the area.
	Conduct community peace advocacy to support local peace initiatives that directly or indirectly support the wider peace initiatives aimed at ending local conflicts
	Hold capacity building exercises targeting the vulnerable sectors in the community and relevant community structures on the early warning signs, reporting and referring and security protocols

**Documentation**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Across the 16 communities, there are 6,993 individuals with no birth certificate. Illiteracy and a lack of awareness are among the reasons why many individuals have no access to civil registration. They said that with the absence of birth certificates there are issues arising in the enrolment of children to school and in seeking employment.

Recommendations

	Hold an information drive on the importance of civil registration and provide access to civil registration especially for the far-flung areas
	Expand the capabilities of the LCR to reach out to communities

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

Nature of Violations and Threats

There are 1,174 individuals who are landowners across the 16 barangays and 1,255 tenants.

The common ways of acquiring land are through inheritance, ancestral claim, purchase, renting, right to use, and dowry.

There is no housing project in any of the 16 barangays.

Only four barangays affirmed that there are land issues, which include land ownership grievances, squatting or people occupying land that they do not own.

**Information**

Nature of Violations and Threats


Communities shared that they receive protection information like security alerts, disaster alerts, barangay ordinance, barangay program, barangay event/social activities, and community awareness or training.

They further shared that they wanted to be informed and updated on protection information through community meetings, purok and barangay leaders, women leaders, religious leaders, SMS, social media, TV/radio and bulletin boards.

The 16 barangays informed that they have the information about the Peace Process between the GHP-MILF. They have a good perception about the peace process. They believe that there will be lasting peace, displacement will be minimized, corruption will be eradicated and more development will happen.

**Peace processes**

Recommendations

	Support peace initiatives and dialogues to increase community cohesion. LGUs must facilitate peaceful settlements of local disputes with the participation of relevant community structures such as traditional leaders and religious groups.
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**SOURCES / REFERENCES:**

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





Displaced families in North Cotabato affected by armed conflict received core relief items. © UNHCR/PJ.Tanghal