



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Sarangani

Maasim

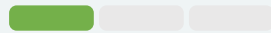


Municipality of Maasim

Province of Sarangani | SOCCSKSARGEN

Overview

Risk rating: **Low**



Quick facts

Maasim is a coastal municipality in the province of Sarangani. The municipality has a land area of 500.43 square kilometers or 193.22 square miles which constitutes 13.90 percent of Sarangani's total area. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 59,468. This represented 10.93 percent of the total population of Sarangani province. Based on these figures, the population density is computed at 119 inhabitants per square kilometer (PhilAtlas).

Maasim has a mixed population composed of indigenous people known as Lumad, Christians, and Muslims. However, a majority of the population are of Moro and Lumad origins. The major dialects (languages) include Cebuano, Maguindanaon, B'laan and Tagalog.

It is bordered on the west by the municipality of Kiamba, on the east by the Sarangani Bay, on the north by South Cotabato and on the south by the Celebes Sea.



Maasim's economy is largely agriculture-based with coconut as a major product. Animal husbandry is another major industry and cattle is the major livestock raised. Other products include corn, sugarcane, banana, pineapple, mango, dairy products, and fish.



Population

59,468



Families

11,894



Income Class

1st Class



Land Area

500.43sq.km.



Barangays

16



Climate type

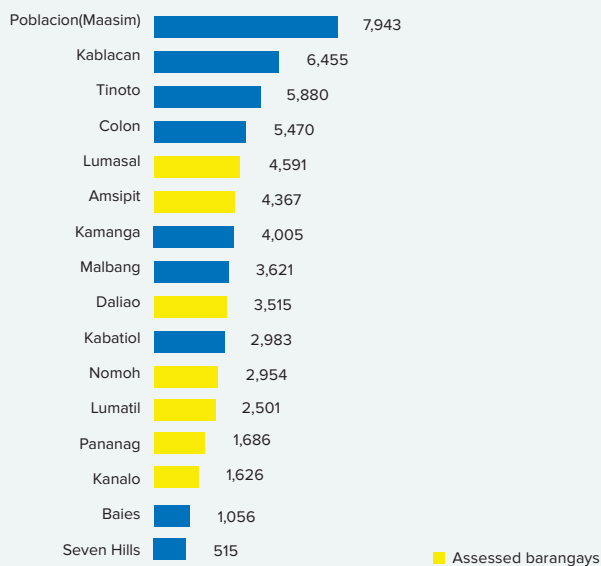
Tropical



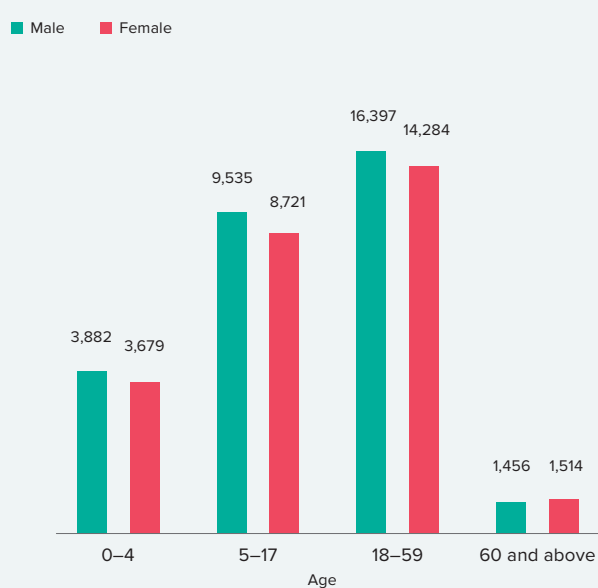
Languages spoken

Cebuano, Tboli, Maguindanao, B'laan, 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 Maasim 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
Amsipit	1,180	1,300	5,900	3,400	2,500	1,600	3,800	500
Daliao	826	826	4,130	2,164	1,966	1,775	2,063	292
Kanalo	418	418	1,687	850	837	725	866	96
Lumasal	1,009	1,009	5,046	2,473	2,573	2,169	2,589	288
Lumatil	569	569	2,700	1,323	1,377	1,161	1,386	153
Nomoh	487	488	2,439	1,195	1,244	1,049	1,251	139
Pananag	460	460	2,300	1,127	1,173	989	1,180	131
TOTAL	4,949	5,070	24,202	12,532	11,670	9,468	13,135	1,599

Protection Profile Summary

Maasim has a long history of displacements from the Martial Law era in the 1970s but more frequent from 2000 to 2008 during the high points of the armed struggles in the southern Philippines.

The main cause of displacement is the armed conflict between the government forces and non-state actors. Other key causes of displacement include clan disputes and natural hazards such as drought, floods, and tidal waves.

The presence of different non-state and state armed actors puts the local population at high risk of recurring conflicts and displacements that may cause vulnerability, poverty and hunger, loss or damage to livelihood and properties including health and education related issues.

The common violation against women and children are rape and sexual abuse of minors, domestic violence, child abuse and exploitation, rape of women and women trafficking and prostitution. Thus, both women and children need support in terms of mental and health-related services, protection and legal services including livelihood support.

Four of the seven communities disclosed that the government has limited and/or no budget and projects for persons with specific needs (PWSNs). The common immediate needs of persons with specific needs are assistance for devices for people with disabilities, care mechanisms for children and older persons, humanitarian assistance for the vulnerable persons, medical care for persons with chronic illness.

A total of 946 households from the profiled communities have no access to safe drinking water, electricity and toilets. Around 1,438 people have no birth certificate that requires immediate attention to avoid consequences of no civil documentation.



Of the 5,070 families (24,202 individuals), only 282 have their land title or property deeds across the profiled communities while a majority are tenants. Five communities disclosed that they have problems related to land and property.

Communities disclosed that they are updated on the peace process and perceived that it will lead into lasting peace and development in the locality.

To ensure that the vulnerable communities are protected, there is an urgent need to strengthen the community-based disaster risk reduction and management council (BDRRMC) and all protection-related mechanisms through capacity building as an entry point.

Protection analysis

A total of 5,070 families (24,202 people) or 4,949 households are currently living in the 7 communities formed part of the municipal protection profiling. Men comprise 52 percent of the population while 48 percent are women. Population by age group shows that 54 percent are adults and the remaining 39 percent and 7 percent are children and elders, respectively.

Data above is generated through clustered focus group discussion and interviews. A total of 88 participants attended the FGDs composed of 39 community leaders, 25 men, 19 women and 5 older people from 7 communities: Amsipit, Daliao, Kanalo, Lumasal, Lumati, Nomohl and Pananag.

Displacement

Nature of Violations and Threats

The seven communities of Maasim have experienced displacements since year 1970s but more frequent from 2000 to 2008.

The main cause of these displacements is armed conflict between the state and non-state actors. Other key drivers of displacements are clan feuds and natural disasters such as drought, flooding, and tidal waves.

Four communities are affected by the conflict between government security forces and the MILF while the remaining three communities are affected by the conflict between the government security forces with New People's Army.

During displacement, a majority of the affected population flee to local evacuation centers within the barangays while others go to the evacuation site and their relatives in the adjacent barangays within the municipality. A majority of the displacements last for less than 30 days except for Lumasal and Kanalo which usually last for 1 to 2 months and two to three months respectively.

Communities disclosed that the common problems they encountered during displacement include the lack of access to assistance, family separation, discrimination, not enough temporary shelter, and limited food assistance.

While all the barangays have experienced displacement, three of the profiled communities revealed that they are also hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) from adjacent vulnerable communities. These IDPs usually stay in the evacuation center, Arabic school (madrasah) and to their relatives. The common duration of their displacement is 2 to 3 months.

Impact and Effects of Violations

The conflicts and displacements affect the communities adversely, which include damaged and loss of properties and economic assets, livelihoods and farm animals. Restriction of movement due to security and safety reasons is also a common experience among the communities, which limits their opportunities for livelihood activities.

While staying in the evacuation center and/or in the host families, they experienced many illnesses

due to overcrowding in the center, limited access to water, hygiene and sanitation facilities. Children have experienced post-traumatic stress caused by conflict and displacement and their school activities are hampered while other stop going to school.

The immediate protection needs of the affected population are food, water, shelter, medicine, facilities related to water, sanitation and hygiene, and livelihood support while in the evacuation center and even when returning to their places of origin.

The long-term protection needs in their places of origin include safety and security, support for basic social services and livelihood assistance.

The local government units are proactively responding to the needs of the displaced and affected population, the duration and extent of the displacement requires more support from the provincial government, government line agencies and from humanitarian actors.

Five communities disclosed that they are still hosting re-settled IDPs, who are afraid to return to their places of origin because of security risk and they have nothing to return to after their houses were burnt and livelihoods damaged.

The communities of Daliao and Pananag revealed that the conflict has high chances of happening again in these areas due to the presence of armed groups.

The recurring displacements are highly affecting the persons with specific needs such as pregnant and lactating mothers, children, older people and persons with disability due to their specific needs.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

The communities revealed that they are able to raise their concern through the local officials, local government agencies and humanitarian organizations.







The affected population disclosed that they know how to save food and non-food items to sustain their needs while in the evacuation center or host families. Among the coping mechanisms include engage in daily paid work to earn income instantly other than collecting firewood and sell to the market to buy food for the family. They also ask for help from relatives aside from relying on humanitarian assistance.

All the communities disclosed that they know their rights as IDPs such as the right to be assisted during the displacement and have the right to raise their issues and concerns during displacement and upon return to their places of origin.

IDPs and local officials work together to address issues inside the evacuation center through regular meeting and updating of IDP situation in the evacuation camp. The IDPs are open for sharing information on matters related to their issues and concerns.

Recommendations

The assessed communities are vulnerable to disasters and displacement. The recommendations below will help mitigate, prevent and reduce the impacts of disasters.

	Strengthen B/MDRRMC through capacity building and updating of the B/MDRRM Plan
	Increase the budget allocation for the LDRRMC
	Require all the barangays of Maasim to have their BDRRM Plan based on the local context considering the prevailing threats specific to the local communities
	Establish a community-based early warning system to prevent and mitigate the negative impact of conflict and displacement to the affected population
	Engage actively the local population on disaster preparedness to be more resilient in the face of the disasters
	Ensure that LGU and BLGU institutionalize protection mechanisms mandated by the law at the municipal down to the community level to ensure appropriate protection of the affected population during disasters and displacements.

Protection of women and children

Nature of Violations and Threats

The most common violations against women and children disclosed by the seven communities as reported are rape and sexual abuse of minors, domestic violence, child abuse and exploitation, rape of women and women trafficking and prostitution.

Additionally, women and children do not feel safe in two profiled communities (Lumasal and Lumatil) due to pending prevailing cases that require further actions and intervention.

While communities have access to information and training on women and child protection, there are still cases of separated and unaccompanied children in at least two communities caused by family separation, child trafficking and when people evacuated during the emergencies.

The women and children have access to security services as well as their voices heard in the decision-making process, for example, women became local official and/or IDP leaders and represent voices at the local governance. However, these services need to improve during the first month of the emergency. There is also an issue of sustainability to the protection services due to many constraints, such as lack of budget and poor capacity building support.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Part of the protection strategies is the institutionalization of the VAWC desk, BCPC and GAD council in the communities. Community-based monitors are mobilized by the barangay council to support activities related to the prevention of violence against women and children.

There are also reporting and referral systems observed in the communities. There is also distribution of IEC materials and mobilization of local committee to raise awareness on the rights of women and children including the reporting of the violations of these rights.

One of seven communities profiled disclosed that they are not aware of the women-related laws as well as not aware of women's rights, thus there is a need to strengthen community awareness on women's and children's rights-related laws to be able to exercise their rights.

Protective Capability and Compliance

All the communities profiled disclosed that reporting and referral mechanism for women and children protection issues are in place and it works through the institutionalization of local protection mechanism mandated by the law like Barangay VAWC desk and BCPC as well as community-based protection monitors mobilized by protection actors and communities in support for the local government protection effort.

The community measures to prevent abuse of women and children include securing IEC materials from different local government agencies with a protection mandate, community awareness-raising, formation of the local committee and mobilization and training of protection monitors at the community level.

Four communities disclosed that they have no temporary facilities for the gender-based violence survivors. Only two barangays have no functional and temporary facility for child protection cases.

All the seven communities have existing and functional Barangay VAWC desk. Five communities have functional BCPC and six communities have functional GAD council, which are looking into the welfare and protection of women and children in their respective community.

Recommendations

	Strengthen the existing protection mechanisms through capacity building and provision of material support to better monitor protection issues faced by women and children
	Require support for barangays with no existing VAWC, BCPC and GAD to ensure that these protection mechanisms are institutionalized.
	Conduct a wider community awareness on women and child rights as form part of the proactive intervention to prevent women and children protection cases
	Allot appropriate budget for the activities related to the protection of women and children including support to the survivors

Persons with specific needs

Nature of Violations and Threats

The common persons with specific needs (PWSNs) in the profiled communities include people with disability (PWDs), with 107 people; single/solo parent, 91; single/solo elderly, 9; unaccompanied child, 10; separated child, 50; pregnant or lactating mothers, 182; indigenous people, 1,265; older persons and child at risk, 26.

Four communities disclosed that the government has no budget and projects for PWSNs. On the other hand, IPs have representation at the local governance, consequently four communities have projects for IPs.

Protective Capability and Compliance

Five out of seven communities rated the duty bearers as “good” on the capacity of the latter in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the PWSNs. They are also active in information dissemination. Duty bearer responding not only for the PWSNs but also to the community members who are affected by the disaster. Two communities rated the services of the duty bearers as “needs improvement” with suggested activities related to the needs of PWSNs like additional cash assistance, devices, livelihood and supplies of basic needs.

For the side of the duty bearers, five of the seven communities rated themselves good on how they perceive their capacity in responding to the needs and protecting the rights of the PWSNs. The mechanism in protecting PWSNs in the barangay were established like Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). The duty bearers of two communities rated themselves with “need improvement” due to limited financial resources allocated for PWSNs.

Recommendations

- The duty bearers must allocate enough budget to respond to the needs of the PWSNs.
- The MLGU needs to ensure that the allocation of services to PWSNs is equitable to all communities.
- The duty bearers must have the regular comprehensive plan that supports the PWSNs not only during crisis.
- The MLGU needs to do the mapping of the barangays in terms of protection mechanisms to ensure that every barangay institutionalizes these protection mechanisms (e.g., VAWC, BCPC, GAD Council, etc.)

Basic social services

Nature of Violations and Threats

Of the 4,949 households from the 7 assessed communities, 360 households have no access to safe water. A majority of them are in barangays Amsipit, Daliao and Pananag.

There are 236 households with no access to electricity mostly from Daliao, Amsipit, Pananag, Lumasal, Lumatil, and Kanalo.

There are 350 households with no toilets in their respective homes and a majority are from Amsipit. The common structures present in the profiled communities are health centers and schools, which are all functional.

The common problems encountered when delivering humanitarian and development assistance are insufficient supplies disclosed by the six communities. Three communities revealed that distribution of assistance was not fair. Other key issues on services include fighting among beneficiaries, difficult access to delivery site and lack of information on schedule of distribution.

During the profiling, communities disclosed that the

groups affected by inaccessibility of development and humanitarian assistance are persons with specific needs which is common to seven profiled communities, such as older persons, women, men, boys and girls.

Communities disclosed that 4Ps program is common to all barangays while PhilHealth has reached six communities. Free birth registration is common to four profiled communities and SSS has reached two communities only.

Three communities disclosed that they have program to assist displaced population while two communities said that they have experienced issues in the implementation of these services. For 4Ps program, the common issues are delayed payment and lack of information on the payment schedules.

Recommendations

- Assess further the quality of drinking water and support to communities to access safe drinking water.
- Encourage wider coverage of the ZOD Program to reduce public health risks due to unsafe sanitation practices
- Support communities on electrification

Safety and security

Nature of Violations and Threats

The assessment result revealed that the profiled communities have been affected by the conflicts between the state and non-state actors. Other common threats to the communities include armed encounters, mortar shelling, bombing, destruction of civilian properties, kidnapping/abduction, illegal detention, torture and killing of civilians, extortion and clan disputes.

The common non-state armed actors present in the communities include MILF, NPA, MNLF and AKP-ISIS inspired group. The barangays have established security such as Tanod/BPAT, ARMY/CAFGU and police.

Five of the seven communities are prone to natural disasters. However, six of the seven barangays expressed that they feel safe in their respective community. The common natural hazards are flooding, drought and landslide as well as earthquakes and tsunamis. Barangay Nomoh do not feel safe due to the possible armed skirmishes between the government forces and armed groups.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Conflicts causing displacements (armed encounters, land disputes, family feuds) and natural hazards are threats to communities. The most affected groups during conflict and displacement are women, girls, men, boys and older persons including persons with specific needs.

Two communities divulged that their movement is restricted during conflict due to the presence of armed groups. They are also at high risk of being caught in crossfire because they do not have means of transportation.

Other common effects of insecurities in the communities

are more related to economic activities. Their livelihood activities are hampered during tensions and conflicts. Their properties are being damaged by the conflicts.

The PWSNs are having higher risks to food insecurity, health and education related issues especially women and children. Post - traumatic stress is also common to the displaced population.

They shared indirect effects and impacts of it on the community are poverty and hunger, insecurities and expected criminal activities.

Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Among the most common coping strategies by the communities include activating the barangay tanod, establishing the BPAT outposts, regulating the selling of liquor, passing of ordinance related to the imposition of curfew hours and night patrolling and surveillance of the BPAT. The activation of the community early warning system through BDRRMC is also highlighted protection strategy.

There are also dialogues, meetings and regular monitoring of both duty bearers and communities to ensure the safety and security of their local population. Suspicious individuals (new faces) are reported to the authority. The authority searches and investigates the concern and report security incidences to the municipal and higher authorities.

The mechanism in place to resolve disputes is coursed through the council, traditional and religious leaders. In instances that the barangay council and traditional/religious leaders do not respond, the case is brought up to the municipal authorities. For domestic/family-related issues, the municipal shariah court is the proper authority for the Muslim communities.

Six of the seven communities profiled articulated that the local officials are effective in maintaining peace and order in their respective community.

Recommendations



- The duty bearers must strengthen their BDRRMC.
- The community protection mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure that people at risk of protection threats are protected.
- There is a need to improve further the coordination mechanism to resolve local disputes and avoid delays to prevent escalation that may trigger conflicts and displacement.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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


Documentation

Nature of Violations and Threats

The 7 communities have 1,438 people with no birth certificate, mostly from Daliao, Lumatil and Kanalo. The reasons include not having information on how to apply, not being able to read and write, having financial constraints, being unaware of the importance of registration, and having difficulty in accessing the local civil registrar.

A total of 889 couples have no marriage certificates, mostly from Daliao, Amsipit and Lumatil.

Recommendations



Civil registration especially for birth and marriage

Housing, land and property (HLP)


Nature of Violations and Threats

A total of 282 individuals have land titles or property deeds across profiled communities. There is no reported person to have land titles or property deeds of the people living in Nomoh and only 1 person has the land title from Amsipit. A total of 440 people reported to be tenants.

The common way of acquiring land and properties is inheritance as shared by six profiled communities. Ancestral claim and purchase as well as right to use are common to four communities. Dowry is another common way of acquiring land and properties.

Five communities disclosed that they have problems related to land and property, which include land-related conflicts, lack of documentation, land grabbing, boundary issues that trigger dispute, and destruction/theft/fraud of land records.

Recommendations



Strengthen the conflict resolution mechanisms due to the reported disputes over land acquisition, boundaries and grabbing

Information

Nature of Violations and Threats

The seven communities expressed their willingness to receive protection related information through purok/ barangay leaders, community meetings, religious and women leaders, SMS, radio/TV, social media and bulletin boards.

They also disclosed that they are updated on the on-going peace process. They believed that peace process will lead to lasting peace and development especially in the conflict affected areas.



The indigenous people welcomed UNHCR by performing a traditional dance during the distribution of core relief items in their community. © UNHCR/J.Porras