

# Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Sultan Kudarat

Palimbang





# Municipality of Palimbang

Province of Sultan Kudarat | SOCCSKSARGEN

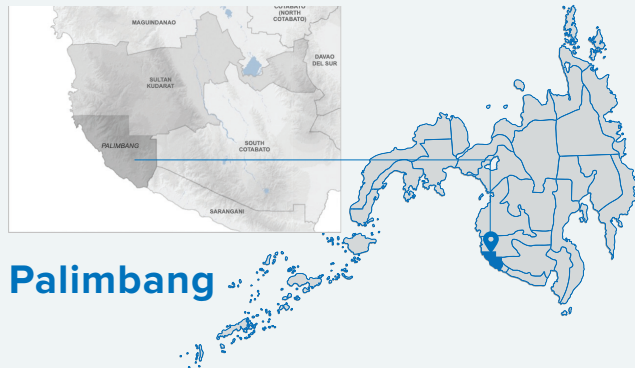
## Overview

Risk rating: **Medium**

### Quick facts

The Municipality of Palimbang is a second-class coastal municipality in the province of Sultan Kudarat. It faces Celebes Sea in the south and south-west, Kalamansig to the west, Senator Ninoy Aquino to the north and Sarangani to the east.

The municipality has a land area of 484.85 square kilometers or 187.20 square miles which constitutes 9.15 percent of Sultan Kudarat's total area. Its population as determined by the 2015 Census was 90,424. This represented 11.13 percent of the total population of Sultan Kudarat province. The population density is computed at 186 inhabitants per square kilometer (Philatlas).



## Palimbang

Palimbang has 40 barangays. According to the Bureau of Local Government Finance, the annual regular revenue of Palimbang for the fiscal year of 2016 was ₱194,262,638.89. According to the 2015 Census, the age group with the highest population in Palimbang is 5 to 9, with 11,897 individuals. Conversely, the age group with the lowest population is 80 and over, with 212 individuals.



Population

**90,424**



Families

**18,085**



Income Class

**2<sup>nd</sup> Class**



Land Area

**484.85**sq.km.



Barangays

**40**



Climate type

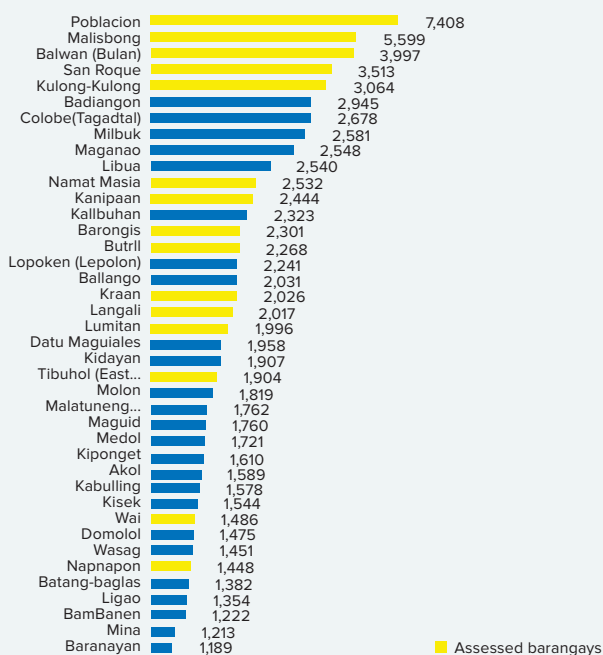
**Tropical**



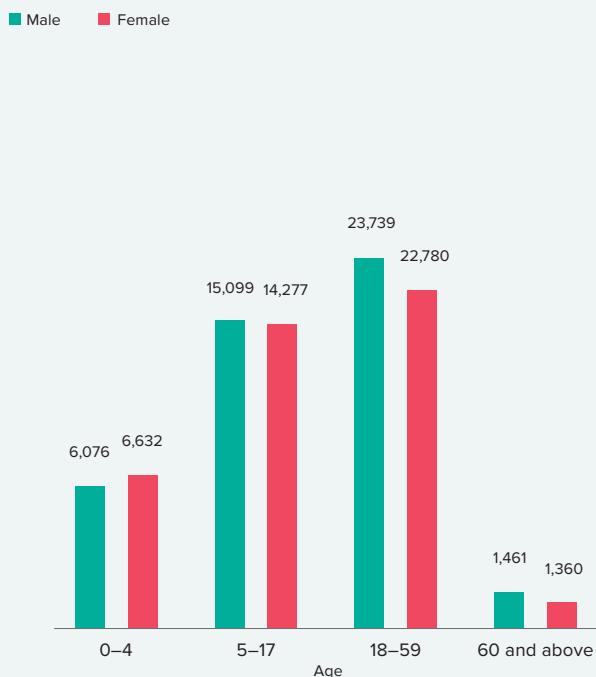
Languages spoken

**Hiligaynon, Maguindanao, Cotabato Manobo, Tagalog**

### 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 Palimbang 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
Balwan (Bulan)	1,214	2,023	6,069	2,974	3,095	2,610	3,113	346
Barongis	438	533	2,665	1,306	1,359	1,145	1,369	151
Butril	561	400	2,806	979	1,827	1,207	1,571	28
Kanipaan	600	622	4,105	1,400	2,705	2,129	1,708	268
Kraan	466	514	2,328	1,141	1,187	1,001	1,194	133
Kulong-kulong	530	693	3,465	1,698	1,767	1,490	1,777	198
Langali	409	429	2,146	1,052	1,094	922	1,102	122
Lumitan	180	285	900	441	459	387	462	51
Malisbong	1,118	1,243	6,217	3,100	3,117	3,188	2,673	356
Namat Masla	746	746	3,730	1,828	1,902	1,604	1,914	212
Napnapon	500	528	1,448	800	648	500	500	448
Poblacion	1,482	1,576	7,408	3,630	3,778	3,186	3,800	422
San Roque	1,008	1,086	3,573	1,749	1,824	1,179	593	1,801
Tibuhol (East Badiangon)	373	373	1,863	913	950	801	956	106
Wal	360	400	3,800	1,862	1,938	1,634	1,949	217
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,985</b>	<b>11,451</b>	<b>52,523</b>	<b>24,873</b>	<b>27,650</b>	<b>22,983</b>	<b>24,681</b>	<b>4,859</b>

### Protection Profile Summary

The municipal protection profiling was done in 15 communities such as Malisbong, Kanipaan, Balwan, Butril, Napnapon, San Roque, Poblacion, Langali, Namat Masla, Tibuhol, Kraan, Kulong-Kulong, Lamitan, Barongis and Wal.

The protection risk is from medium to high, particularly in 13 barangays due to the presence of non-state armed groups, family feuds and natural disasters.

The recurring conflicts and displacements put the communities at risk. The weak protection mechanisms make people more vulnerable to protection issues. The community Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has poor early warning system. The capacities of the BCPC and VAWC desk require attention and support to ensure that these groups will be able to respond to protection issues, especially by the vulnerable groups, such as the persons with specific needs (PWSNs), women and children.

People's access to basic social services such as electrification, safe drinking water and safe sanitation facilities requires support. There are issues of civil registration, which are manifested by high number of individuals having no birth certificates and marriage contracts.

With the existing context, there is a need to support the communities to ensure that the protection structures are able to perform and function in protecting the rights and safety of the civilians. Capacity building, awareness raising and allocation of budget and resources are essential in ensuring that communities will be able to prevent, mitigate and



respond to threats.

Enhancing the capacity, resources of the duty bearers in dealing with conflicts, displacement and protection issues will reduce the impacts of recurring conflicts and displacements. Additionally, strengthening the local peace initiatives will also prevent the occurrence of violent conflicts.

Peace dialogues among different parties and actors must be initiated and sustained as well as enhancing the capacities of the different protection mechanisms in the local communities. This will help strengthen the protection mechanisms especially for the most vulnerable groups, such as the persons with specific needs.

## Protection analysis

Across the 15 communities under this assessment, there are 11,451 families (52,523 individuals). The adult population comprises 47 percent with 44 percent are children and 7 percent are older than 65. The male population is 53 percent while female is 47 percent.

During the profiling, 140 people have actively participated in the focus group discussions composed of 45 community leaders, 57 male community representatives, 27 female community representatives, 13 elderly representatives, and one child.

### Displacement

#### Nature of Violations and Threats

Of 15 communities profiled, 13 have experienced displacements caused by armed conflict, natural disaster and crime and violence. The members of the communities said that since the birth of Moro revolutionary groups, communities have been experiencing conflicts and displacements. The conflicts and displacement have intensified during the all-out war campaigns of the Government in 2000 and 2003.

Respondents disclosed that recently, they have been affected by the conflicts between government forces and armed groups such as MILF, MNLF, NPA and AKP. Clan disputes and flooding also caused displacements of the local population.

During displacements, a majority of the affected population usually move to their relatives in adjacent communities within and outside the locality other than the evacuation center within the barangay and adjacent communities in the municipality. The most vulnerable groups during displacement include women, children, elderly, and persons with specific needs.

Eight of the 15 communities disclosed that the usual duration of displacement is less than 30 days. Six communities said that the duration of their displacement last from 30 days up to 60 days. Only Barangay Malisbong disclosed that they have experienced up to 90 days in the evacuation site.

During displacement, 13 of the 15 communities disclosed that the common problems they have encountered include lack of access to assistance, lack of temporary shelter, family separation and discrimination.

Respondents from 13 communities disclosed that while they have been affected by displacement in their communities, they also have hosted groups of IDPs from adjacent communities due to conflict, natural calamities, crime and violence.

Aside from sharing shelter with their relatives, other IDPs utilize the public structures like schools, madrasah and multipurpose buildings.

#### Impact and Effects of Violations

Communities affected and displaced by conflicts, crimes, violence and natural calamities expressed that during displacements, they become more vulnerable. Some community members become casualties. Livelihood activities are interrupted. Livelihood assets, properties and

houses are damaged. School activities are disrupted and to some extent, some children leave school. Others got sick in the evacuation centers.

The unresolved family feuds, the presence of armed groups, and the presence of criminals and violence are seen as current threats for the civilian population.

During displacement, the immediate protection needs of the affected population are food, shelter, non-food items (hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils), emergency livelihood, water and sanitation psychosocial support-related activities.

The long-term protection needs are support upon return to the places of origin. This includes return package, livelihood assistance, basic social services, and safety and security.

The communities expressed that there are budget constraints to address the needs of the IDPs during displacement and to support local protection mechanisms.

Nine communities have disclosed that they are still hosting IDPs. Many of these IDPs have been going back and forth to their places of origin and have decided to settle down in the host communities. The reasons of re-settling in the host communities is mainly security and lack of economic opportunities in their places of origin.

Seven communities said that possibility of new displacement is high due to the prevalence of the threats such as the presence of armed groups and unresolved family feuds.

#### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Although there are issues of IDPs in relation to their access to relief assistance (lacking), 12 out of 15 communities disclosed that they are able to raise their protection issues and needs to the local government units and relevant offices.

When humanitarian support, especially the distribution of relief items, is not enough, the common coping mechanisms of the IDPs include asking support from friends, relatives and host communities. Some IDPs look for opportunities to have access to income such as engaging in paid work as household assistants and laborers, selling of firewood, and any other available paid work.

A majority of these communities (13 out of 15) said that they know their rights and they are open to share information.

During displacement, IDP leaders and duty leaders do joint assessment and the results are shared to the MLGU and other relevant offices for support and humanitarian intervention.

Communities and local authorities have established feedback mechanisms through community meeting to ensure that all issues encountered by the IDPs are well taken and considered, thus they come together to explore possible solution to address the problems and needs of the IDPs.

#### Recommendations

Considering the context presented above by the communities, the points below are recommended to strengthen further the protection work.

**BLGU must review its capacity including the existence of the protection mechanisms and propose for actions to strengthen these structures.**

**Barangay Councils and other relevant structures in the community must undergo capacity building on disaster management and contingency planning.**

**Each community must include in their contingency plans clear guidance on evacuation sites including the requirement activities to better accommodate and respond to the needs of the displaced families.**

**Community leaders, members and leaders of different community groups must be aware of the early warning signs for hazards and must be aware of the reporting procedure.**

**Sustain the awareness raising on the rights of the IDPs**

## Protection of women and children

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Thirteen of the 15 communities disclosed that women and children feel safe in their communities because of the functional local governance and the presence of BPAT, VAWC Desk and BCPC, which are providing protection service to women.

Twelve communities informed that they received training on women and child protection. However, three communities have reported cases of separated and unaccompanied children. The common causes of these cases are family separation, result of emergency and association with armed groups.

Fourteen communities revealed that women have access to security services and are provided space to hear their voices in terms of community decision making and family affairs. For example, there are women elected as community legislator as well as members of the different barangay structures.

### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Fourteen of the 15 communities revealed that they are aware of violence against women and children law. Thirteen of these communities disclosed that parents and children are aware of child rights such as right to education, right to be protected from different forms of abuse and exploitation.

The IDPs are working with the local leaders to address protection issues through establishment of feedback mechanisms other than strengthening the VAWC desk and BCPC and passage of resolution/ordinance to protection women and children. Thus, women and children are willing to share information related to women and children protection cases.

The usual practice during emergency is to bring women and children to the safe areas. Local community structures led by the barangay council give orientation on the women and children rights.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

A total of eight communities have referral mechanisms with the VAWC and BCPC for cases of women and child abuse. The VAWC desk and BCPC forward the cases to the municipal level if they cannot manage locally up to the provincial level when necessary.

Community awareness is among the leading measure in-placed in the promotion of women and children rights followed by formation of local committees, training of local monitors including distribution of IEC materials and posting of hot lines.

Eleven of the 15 communities disclosed that they do not have facilities for the survivors of GBV cases. However, in the four communities with GBV facilities, only two are functional.

The available and existing protective services are VAWC desk, BCPC other than the GAD council. Although these services are available. It requires further capacity building to ensure that their existing skills and capacities in handling women and children protection cases are enhanced.

### Recommendations

To better serve the women and children for protection of their rights, the points below are recommended based on the context above.

**Strengthen protection mechanisms (Barangay VAWC Desk, BCPC as well as GAD council)**

**Train protection mechanism members on handling VAWC cases/gender responsive case management training including data protection, reporting and referral**

**Conduct continuously community information session on women and children protection**

**Develop IEC materials for community distribution**

**Mobilize resources for the establishment of GBV facilities**

**Allocate 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 include people with disabilities (2,496), single parents (1,352), pregnant and lactating mothers (853), the single elderly (358), elderly headed-households (199), unaccompanied children (58) and people with chronic illnesses.

Only 8 of the 15 communities have budget allocation for persons with specific needs (PWSNs). Seven communities have representation for indigenous people. Women are provided with spaces and their voices are heard in decision making in 14 communities.

The common reported immediate protection needs of PWSNs include devices for people with disabilities, care

mechanisms for children and older people, humanitarian assistance, medical care for persons with chronic illness and medical care for survivor of sexual violence. Fourteen communities revealed that there are no reported cases of discrimination against PWSNs.

Impact and Effects of Violations

During emergencies such as displacements/evacuation caused by armed conflicts and natural disasters, the most vulnerable ones such as elderly, PWDs and children are left behind.


The PWSNs are usually neglected in terms of participation in community activities, thus they feel dissatisfied about services and affairs of the government.

They also experienced discrimination in terms of access to different services and assistance because of their situation in life (people with disabilities, elderly, children). There are reported damages and losses of PWSN properties including loss of civil registration.

The immediate protection needs of PWSNs include social services, health and protection services. The long-term protection needs are strengthening of local protection mechanism, local allocation of funds for GBV and child protection and sustainable livelihood programs including skills training.

The common immediate protection needs of IDPs who belong to PWSNs are access to shelter and non-food items, access to food and livelihood, access to health services including WASH and education interventions. The long-term protection needs are access to civil documentation, compensation to loss and/or damaged properties and livelihoods and safety and security during displacement and upon return.

Recommendations



- Develop a program to support PWSNs based on the assessment of needs
- Improve capacity building of the duty bearers to improve their capacity in responding to the needs of the PWSNs
- Orient the communities, their leaders and the PWSNs on the early warning signs for threats and the reporting system

**Basic social services**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Communities disclosed that there are basic social services issues such as lack of electricity, potable water system and sanitation facilities. A total of 4,259 individuals have no access to electricity.

There are 6,707 individuals in need of safe drinking water. There are 5,507 individuals who do not have latrines. The common structure present in profiled communities are schools and health centers.


The common identified problems in delivering humanitarian and development interventions are fighting among beneficiaries, insufficient assistance, unfair distribution of assistance, distribution is of an attack during distribution,

difficult access to delivery site is difficult, and limited access on distribution details. The groups who have affected by inaccessibility of the development and humanitarian assistance include elderly, PWSNs, ethnic, women, men, girls, and boys.

The identified common government programs are 4Ps, PhilHealth and free birth registration.

Thus, communities and local officials disclosed that the capacity of duty bearers in providing basic social services requires improvement to ensure that the needs of the affected population are supported.

Recommendations



Include the electrification, improvement and provision of safe drinking water and improving safe sanitation practices

**Safety and security**

Nature of Violations and Threats

Twelve out of 15 communities are conflict-affected areas. These conflicts are armed skirmishes between government forces and non-state actors, rebel group and another rebel group, and armed civilians with another group of armed civilians. Other causes of conflicts are due to land disputes, political rivalries.

The common threats that are present in the profiled communities include armed encounter, bombings, shelling, kidnapping/abduction, illegal detention, torture of civilians, killing of civilians, clan feud and crime and violence. These threats are commonly caused by non-state armed actors present in the locality, such as MILF, MNLF, NPA, BIFF, ASG and AKP. Therefore, continuous presence of these state and non-state armed actors in the locality jeopardize the safety and security of the local population.

Other identified hazards that are threat to the safety and security of the local population include natural disasters, such as earthquake, tsunami and floods.

Impact and Effects of Violations

Eight of the 15 communities feel safe in their barangays. On the contrary, five communities disclosed that they do not feel safe in their communities due to the threats caused by armed clashes, extra judicial killing, clan disputes, destruction of civilian properties, torture and natural disasters.

The common groups affected by these threats are elderly, PWSNs, children, women, and men.

Twelve communities expressed that they can move freely in and out of their barangay but during tensions, their movement is restricted. Activities of armed actors, general violence or crime, no means of transportation in particular to upland areas, inaccessible road and financial resources are pointed out as the causes of movement restriction among the local population.

The direct effects and impact of safety and security-related issues are disruption of community social affairs, economic activities, freedom of movement and limited access to social services. The indirect effects are perpetuated

extreme poverty and vulnerabilities, hampered community access to basic social services, thus local migration is taking place that sometimes lead to gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse among the vulnerable group including women, girls, and children.

#### Coping Mechanisms of Affected Population

Communities revealed that among the available coping mechanisms to minimize the negative consequences of the conflicts and natural hazard is the formation of early warning systems to closely monitor the situation on the ground in preparation of pre-emptive evacuation. When conflicts erupt, community members rush to the next barangay to seek refuge and to where they can access humanitarian assistance.

To avoid victims of any violence and safety and security issues, communities listen to the local authorities' security briefings and abide with the precautionary measures implemented by the local authorities. Other communities' coping mechanisms include influencing local leaders to facilitate dialogue between the conflict actors/parties to explore best options and solutions to the problems.

#### Recommendations


	Strengthening of barangay disaster risk reduction and management council with emphasis on early warning system and reporting mechanism
	Training the local officials on conflict management and resolution as well as dialogue facilitation
	Strengthening the operation of joint ceasefire monitoring posts composed of government and MILF forces established in the area
	Supporting local peace initiatives that directly or indirectly support the wider peace initiative that aiming for ending the decade conflict in Mindanao

## Documentation

#### Nature of Violations and Threats

There are 10,650 people from across the profiled communities who have no birth certificates and 9,473 people without marriage certificate. The common reasons of having no birth certificate include the lack of awareness on its importance, lack of understanding of its application processes, illiteracy, and financial constraints. The lack of birth certificates often results to difficulties in enrollment of children, accessing 4Ps program, claiming pension, and securing employment.

#### Recommendations

	BLGU and LCR to work together to raise awareness on the importance of civil registration plus the procedures and requirements for civil registration.
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## Housing, land and property (HLP)

#### Nature of Violations and Threats

A total of 984 landowners across the 15 communities have their land titles or property deeds. They acquired the property through inheritance, ancestral claim, purchase, right to use, dowry and rental.


There are 1,152 individuals as tenants. A total of 4,277 individuals are renters and 824 are sharers.

Three communities disclosed that they have issues related to housing. There are burnt houses without due compensation caused by the conflict are among the pending housing related problem encountered by the communities. Another issue is the restrictions and lack of land to build new houses in the places of origin.

Eight communities disclosed that they have problems related to land and properties. These include secondary occupant of land, competing claims over land, owned and grabbing and land title issues.

Communities raised the information that there were many human rights violations committed against the civilians during the Martial Law from the 70s onwards without compensations.

#### Recommendations

	Authorities and community members should work together to solve the land dispute to avoid recurring conflict and displacement. Thus, establishment of a land dispute mechanism is a priority needs of the communities facing land conflict-related issues.
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## Information

#### Nature of Violations and Threats

Communities disclosed that the common protection-related information received by the community are barangay ordinances, policies and programs, security and disaster alerts, social events, and community awareness. Communities preferred to be informed of protection-related information through community meetings, purok leaders, women and religious leaders, through SMS and social media including bulletin board.

Fourteen of communities profiled are updated on the peace process between the government and the MILF. There were peace advocacies conducted by the government and Moro front to provide updates on the progress of the peace process but following the signing and passage of the BOL, local population have faced limited access to impartial information on the status of BARMM and the normalization process.

#### Recommendations

	Local authorities to coordinate with relevant information to set up feedback mechanisms where people can give suggestions at the same team get updated information on peace process and the BARMM.
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## SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



Quick Impact Project (QIP) turnover in Brgy. Napnapon, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat Province. © UNHCR/PJ.Tanghal