



# Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Sulu

Jolo



# Municipality of Jolo

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



## Overview

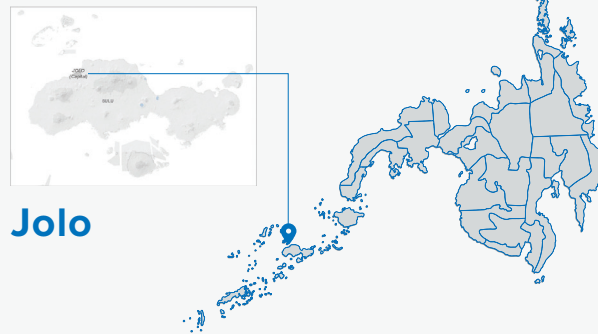
Risk rating: **Medium**

### Quick facts

Jolo is a 1st class municipality in the Province of Sulu. It has a population of 125,564 with a total land area of 12,640 hectares and has 8 barangays. The literacy rate is 82.15% (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015 Census). Residents speak Bahasa Sug, English, Sama, Tagalog, Chavacano, Maranao, Visaya, Ilonggo and Chinese.

The Municipality of Jolo is considered the capital of the province of Sulu, which bears the same name as the island itself. The municipality lies Northeast of the island between 6° 2' and 6° 4' North latitude and between 120° 59' and 121° 1' East longitude. It is bounded by the Municipalities of Patikul and Indanan situated on the east and southeast and on the west and southeast, respectively.

Jolo is a plain area within mountain ranges. An approximate of 31.88% comprising about 215.98 hectares of its total land area has a slope distribution of 0.30° of which 461.49 hectares (68.13% of the total area of the barangay) has a slope range from 0-5° conducive and suitable for urban development such as residential, commercial, institutional as well as industrial uses (in a minimal scale). Based from the unofficial survey conducted in 1980 by the Municipal Development staff, Jolo has a dry



Jolo

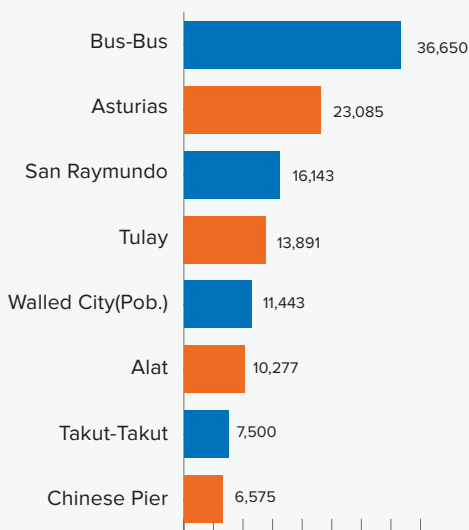
land area of 596 hectares.

The town of Jolo occasionally experiences disasters caused by natural hazards. Likewise, the Anuling Lake of Patikul, Sulu which is adjacent is the source of Asturias river down to barangays Alat and Tulay continuously posed as threats to the town's infrastructures and investments.

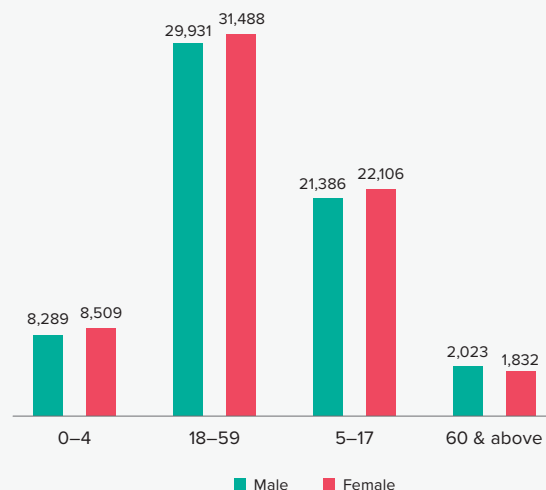
The three major hazards that threaten Jolo are floods, fire and sea surge. The eastern part of Jolo is prone to flood because of its geographical location, while western part which is coastal area is prone to sea surge. Considering Jolo is affected by the influx of migrants from nearby municipalities, the density of its area became congested and moreover the houses are made of light materials which were prone to fire.

Population	Family	Income Class	Land Area	Barangays	Climate type	Languages spoken
<b>125,564</b>	<b>25,113</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class</b>	<b>500.43 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Tropical</b>	<b>Tausug, Sama, Yakan, Sabah Malay</b>

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



### Population<sup>1</sup> by sex and age group



<sup>1</sup> 2015 Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

## Assessed Barangays



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
Asturias	3,324	3,879	23,274	10,513	12,761	7,359	14,835	1,080
Bus-Bus	5,140	6,109	36,654	16,500	20,154	17,621	13,697	5,336
Walled City (Pob.)	1,997	2,045	12,275	5,767	6,508	2,453	5,609	4,213
Chinese Pier	1,235	1,580	6,575	3,742	2,833	2,430	3,283	862
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,696</b>	<b>13,613</b>	<b>78,778</b>	<b>36,522</b>	<b>42,256</b>	<b>29,863</b>	<b>37,424</b>	<b>11,491</b>

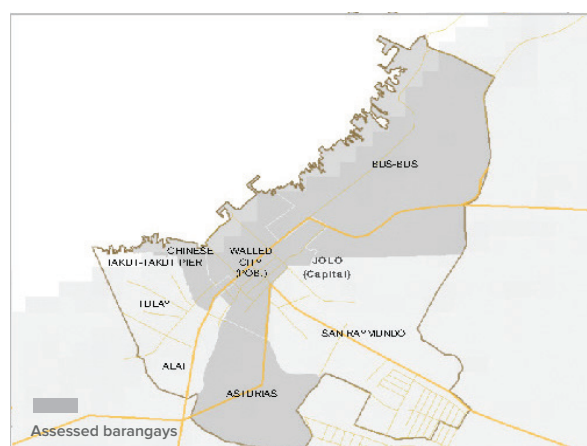
## Protection profile summary

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informants Interview (KII) were done positively in four out of eight barangays in the municipality of Jolo. The three barangays Bus-Bus, Walled City and Chinese Pier are adjacent and coastal areas, while Barangay Asturias is near the center of Jolo. There were 15 respondents per FGD and 10 key informant interviews, comprising of 25 respondents per barangay and a total of 100 representatives for the 4 barangays of Jolo.

The data shows that the 4 communities are high-risk areas and considered vulnerable to hazards (geological, weather-related and man-made such as acts of terrorism). 80 percent of the risk comes from natural calamities, as most of the barangays are situated in coastal and low-lying areas prone to storm surge and floods. 16 percent is brought by the armed-conflict related happenings while 4 percent are due to crimes and other violence - where protections are at risk due to massive displacement. Jolo is also affected by the influx of migrants coming from the nearby municipalities due to military operations. Thus, the density of population in each area has increased and became congested. Moreover, the barangays are prone to fire because most of the houses are made of light materials.

The increased population of Jolo is the result of massive displacement from the nearby municipalities and are economically and socially threatening to the city. Many informal settlers are residing near the river banks and creeks, making them susceptible to rising water and floods. Likewise, bombings and other acts of terrorism cause public anxiety, loss of lives, destruction of property and socio-economic instability.

Jolo is highly exposed to hazards due to its geographical location. The frequency, intensity and variability of natural and human-induced hazards coupled with high poverty incidence and other vulnerabilities have heightened the need for the municipality to adopt Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and climate change adaptation.



The frequent natural hazards in the municipality have risks the affected populations, thus facing different protection risks challenging the Barangay Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Desk, Barangay Children Protection Center (BCPC) and Barangay Disaster Risk, Reduction and Management Council (BDRRMC). The Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in the concerned barangays are actively performing their duties but have limited resources and capacities to manage the effects of the incidents, thus reporting systems are at stake.

The capacities of the BCPC and VAWC desk require attention to ensure that all the protection issues of vulnerable groups will be catered to, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, women and child protection cases.

The project needs to support and enhance the capacities of BDRRMC, VAWC and BCPC protection mechanisms through trainings and be rolled-out at the community level to ensure participation and strengthen protection mechanism operation. Because of this, reporting system mechanisms must be installed accordingly.

# Protection analysis data

## Displacement

### Nature of Violations and Threats

More than 50 percent of the population had to be displaced for more than a month or two due to a series of fires, flash floods and storm surges.

These incidents affected the lives not only of the displaced individuals, but also other community residents economically, socially, physically, emotionally and psychologically. This is especially true for vulnerable groups like persons with special needs (PWSN) - despite the assistance and support given from the Government and non-government organizations.

Common problems encountered during displacement were the lack of access to assistance, food, shelter, medicine, water and sanitation, toilets and clothing, aside from livelihood and financial uncertainty.

Moreover, 63 percent of the total respondents of the four barangays answered that the communities were hosting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Access to assistance was the most common problem encountered by IDPs.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Twenty-nine percent of respondents affirmed that there are still IDPs in the community. Data gathered also showed that the most affected individuals aside from community residents are indigenous people, particularly children. Based on the responses from informants, forty five percent of the community are children; 30 percent are women; 15 percent are senior citizens; and 10 percent of the population are belonging to the PWSNs.

67 percent of the respondents considered government agencies good at responding to the needs and protection of rights of the IDPs. However, 64 percent of them also expressed that there should be improvements in terms of equipment, facilities and other direct provision services.

### Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

Internally displaced persons said the immediate assistance and protection from the government and non-government organizations served as a coping mechanism, helping them feel valued and protected.

### Recommendations

	Strengthen the operation of BDRRMC, particularly in establishing a community-based early warning system to facilitate exchange of real-time information between the communities and local authorities, preventing or minimizing the effects of conflict		Train officers and members of the protection mechanism such as BCPC, VAWC Desk and BDRRMC on handling women and children protection cases in emergency situations or gender-based violence prevention and response in emergencies.
	Traing or orient both the community and local officials on protection and IDP rights with emphasis on United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.		Strengthen the relationship of BDRRMC with MDRRMC to ensure complementary support in terms of resources and capacity in responding the needs and protection of the rights of IDPs. A reporting system must be fully implemented since it was a concern of both BLGUs and LGUs.

## Protection of women and children

### Nature of Violations and Threats

The members of the community emphasized that their community as of now has a zero crime rate. They also said that women and children are feeling safe and secured in their area but still there were noted common violation of rights for women particularly marital and domestic problems. But the duty bearers had immediately taken actions on the reported issues for settlement.

Around half of the respondents (49%) reported that the cases of violations and threats to women and children were primarily domestic violence against women; while more than a fifth (16%) reported cases on child abuse and exploitations.

Cases like rape and sexual abuse of minors, trafficking, domestic violence against women and prostitution were very rarely reported to the local authorities because of the visibility of police and other security personnel in the area, as well as the imposition of curfew. Furthermore, a majority of the community has received information and related training on the protection and basic rights of women and children.

### Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

Communities shared that educational and awareness campaigns, parental guidance, advocacy on women’s and children’s rights and processes, skill trainings and livelihood rehabilitation were among the coping mechanisms.





Community awareness, distribution of IEC materials, formation of local committees, mobilization and training on monitoring as well as establishment of hotlines were part of their initiatives to prevent violations of women’s and children’s rights.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

Communities revealed that communities and duty bearers work hand-in-hand in monitoring and securing the protection rights of women and children. Proper communication, coordination and cooperation were among the protection strategies. They also said that there must be an improvement of services from the duty bearer’s side, likewise, with the community.

Trainings for the VAWC staff are needed to establish the protection mechanism. Availability of resources, funds and facilities challenge everyone in the profiled communities.

### Recommendations

	<p>Institutionalization and strengthening of protection mechanism (Barangay VAWC Desk, BCPC, LCPC, MCAT-VAWC)</p>		<p>Development of IEC materials for community distribution</p> <p>Mobilize resources for the establishment of GBV facilities (temporary shelter)</p>
	<p>Training of protection mechanism members on handling VAWC cases/ gender responsive case management training</p>		
	<p>Continuous conduct of community information session on women and child protection</p>		

## Persons with specific needs

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Commonly, persons with specific needs include persons with disabilities (PWD), the single elderly, indigenous persons, pregnant and lactating mothers, solo parents, female-headed households, and elderly-headed households. The specific needs of IDPs who are also PWSNs include disability assistance devices, care mechanisms for children, humanitarian assistance (food, shelter, potable water, clothing and medicine) and psychosocial treatment. They also revealed that some of the PWSNs experienced discrimination by being under-prioritized for assistance or passed over for jobs.

### Recommendations

	<p>The comprehensive social protection programs for PWSNs must be developed and implemented in close collaboration with local government units through the Office of Social Welfare and Development.</p>
	<p>The BLGU must design and implement sustainable livelihood programs to ensure food security of the PWSNs.</p>

## Basic social services



### Nature of Violations and Threats

Access to water and sanitation are common issues encountered by the residents of all barangays in the municipality, because the local water system is non-operational. The lack of waterwork maintenance is due to its incapacity to generate income, and a lack of funds from the local government.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Absence of water results in the added burden of women and girls fetching water far from home. Lack of potable water and household toilets tends to increase the risks faced by these vulnerable groups in terms of hygiene and sanitation. In this way, it also affects the health condition of community residents.

### Recommendations

	<p>The LGU must allocate funds and initiate programs to support the water infrastructure in Jolo.</p>
	<p>BLGUs must work with the Department of the Interior and Local Government units to develop and implement a water system project under SALINTUBIG program.</p>

## Safety and Security

### Nature of Violations and Threats

All profiled barangays are vulnerable to fire incidents due to housing congestion and flammable building materials. The number of fire incidents noted from 2010 to the present resulted in massive displacement.

The latest bombing incident in the town of Jolo affected the livelihood and income of most residents, and most of the affected population did not feel safe and secure within the municipality.

The common manifestation of safety and security issues are cases of man-made calamity (bombing, killing civilians, RIDO or family feud, kidnapping, extra judicial killings and extortion) and the threats are expected to continue if the LGU does not address the root causes of the problem.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Financial problems, health issues, and even fear among community residents are among the reported impact and effects of violations. As the source of income is normally affected, it becomes difficult to provide the immediate necessities of the family.

The reported protection issues have always been a big challenge to the community, especially to the PWSNs. Also, because of these protections issues, some commercial establishments and public roads had to be closed. Children were also not able to attend classes due to the risks at hand.

### Coping Mechanism of Affected Population

Communities revealed that the coping mechanisms were community awareness, cooperation in responding and monitoring security issues in the community.

The barangay hotline and as well as the early warning system must be installed and the presence of the 24/7 patrollers from the barangay securities must be felt so that the community will feel that they are protected.

### Recommendations

-  Strengthening of barangay disaster risk reduction and management council with emphasis on early warning system
-  Providing training on conflict management and resolution as well as dialogue facilitation for local officials
-  Organizing community and develop skills in negotiating, mediating and in assisting during disaster

## Documentation


### Nature of Violations and Threats

The challenge of accessing birth certificates has led to a myriad of other issues such as difficulty in accessing social services, education, and formal jobs. Out of the total population of 125,564, an estimated 7.2 percent do not have birth registration; while 22.9 percent do not have marriage registration based on the responses of informants.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

During the profiling, respondents disclosed that 7.2 percent of the assessed barangays have no birth certificate.

### Recommendations


-  Strengthen the barangay-based awareness campaign and conduct massive birth registration to extend free birth registration to the vulnerable sectors in collaboration with the Municipal Local Civil Registrar.

## Housing, land and property (HLP)

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Due to migrants coming from the different municipalities, the four barangays of Asturias, Chinese Pier, Bus-Bus and Walled City are considered the most populated barangays in the municipality of Jolo. In the 4 barangays, an estimated 2.94 percent or 3,700 individuals are landowners with land titles, while 3.07 percent or 3,859 are land tenants acquired through inheritance, ancestral claim, purchased and others.

### Recommendations

-  The community suggested that every barangay must have a designated evacuation center to ensure security and safety of the community during unexpected incidents like fire.

## Information

### Nature of Violations and Threats

Communities revealed that majority of the profiled barangays have access to information through barangay programs, ordinance and disaster alerts. However, there were cases where the community was affected by fake news or misinformation. This is a common problem encountered by the community residents which has resulted in quarreling and fighting.

The communities want to be informed through the following venues: community meetings, purok or barangay leaders, religious leaders, TV and radio, social media, bulletin board, SMS and house visits.

### Impact and Effects of Violations

Miscommunication or misinformation result in misunderstandings, friction, frustration, confusion and a tense environment wherein people tend to create conflict.

### Protective Capability and Compliance

Communities revealed that they want to get the information through the regular platforms being utilized in the barangay, such as from their purok/barangay leaders, community meetings, through their women leaders, SMS/ text messaging, TV or radio. But sometimes they also need to validate the information gathered through counter-checking with the concerned individual or group. Through this way, misunderstandings can be avoided.

### Recommendations



Based on the result from the communities, they suggested that the barangay officials should prioritize the installation of information desk at the barangay hall, designate a well-trained and liable focal person to handle the position and to strengthen the operation of BDRRMC particularly establishing of community-based early warning system for the 3 profiled barangays to facilitate exchange of real-time information between the communities and local authorities.

## Peace processes

### Recommendations



The desire of the communities is that information of the peace process must reach far-flung communities down to the purok or sitio level, and barangay officials must establish collaboration with authority to conduct community assemblies and share the updates of the peace process. The BLGU must have a good relationship with security sectors and work as a team to address the peace and security in the community.

## SOURCES / REFERENCES:

- Focus Group Discussions (FGD)
- Key Informant Interviews (KII)
- Secondary Data Review
- Population Commission
- Municipal/Barangay Local Government Units
- Barangay Development Plans



22 Nov 2020 – UNHCR Philippines, with the support of the Australian Government and in partnership with IRDT, distributed Core Relief Items consisting of tarpaulins, mats, solar lamps and mosquito nets to 211 returning families to Bryg Kabbon Takas, Patikul, Sulu. ©IRDT