



Municipal Protection Profile conducted in Sulu

Panamao



Municipality of Panamao

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

Overview

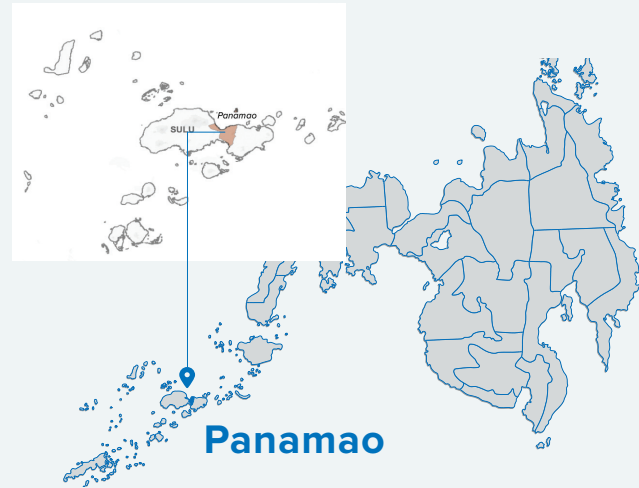
Risk rating: **Medium**

Quick facts

The municipality of Panamao is one of the oldest and original municipalities in the province of Sulu. It is classified as rural in terms of development status, with Barangay Seit Lake as an urban barangay (Poblacion).

Panao is bounded on the North by the municipality of Patikul, to the West by Panglima Estino, to the South by Kalingalan Caluang, to the Southwest by the Luuk, and to the East by open sea connecting other islands and islets.

The population of the municipality predominantly practices Islam as their religion, with majority of people from the Tausog tribe, which comprises about 97.43 percent of the population. The other remaining 2.57 percent is from the Samal tribe and other ethnic minority groups.



Existing structures and institutions providing basic social services include the Municipal Hall, Rural Health Unit (RHU), Philippine National Police and primary and secondary schools.



Population

40,998



Families

7,581



Income Class

4th Class



Land Area

51.1sq.m.



Barangays

31



Climate type

Tropical

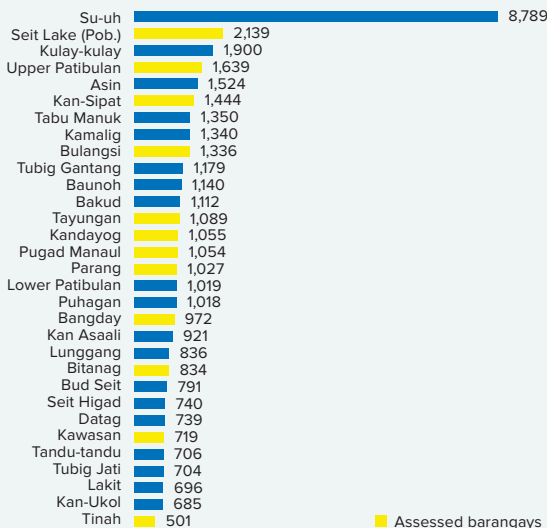


Languages spoken

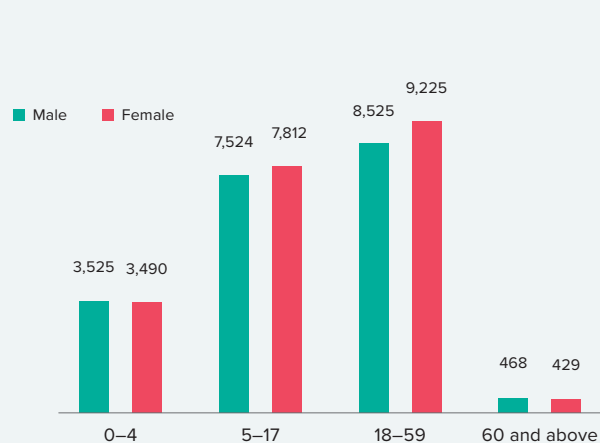
**Tausug
Tagalog
Bajau**

Assessed barangays

Population¹ by barangay



Population¹ by sex and age group



¹ 2015 Census of Population, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Protection profile summary

The protection risk analysis in the Municipality of Panamao is **MEDIUM** due to the following considerations:



Panamao is strategically an exit point for members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Ajang-Ajang organized crime group from the adjacent municipalities of Patikul, Panglima Estino, Luuk and Kalingalan Caluang.



Panamao is covered under a recognized satellite camp Siet Higad 117th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the Province of Sulu.



There is widespread presence and activities of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as well as threats posed by ASG in some areas of Panamao. People do not feel safe because of the frequent armed encounters between AFP and ASG and sometimes, between AFP and the MNLF breakaway group in nearby areas.



The LGU of Panamao has limited capacity in delivering basic social services, especially to communities located in remote parts of the municipality, resulting in unequal delivery of assistance.

Possible consequences, if protection risks are not mitigated, shall result in continued struggle of disadvantaged communities.

Recommendations include the following:



Strengthening of coordination mechanisms among government law enforcement agencies, LGU, and MILF;



Mainstreaming and institutionalizing the protection mechanisms in the Barangay and Municipal Level LGUs

Protection analysis data

Displacement

Most of the barangays assessed experienced displacement due to military operations against ASG. Thus, internally displaced persons sought refuge in their nearby relatives or stayed in the barangay hall vicinity in order to avoid possible armed encounters.

In times of displacement, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) conducts listings and relief operations, and regularly serves as first responder. Also, the barangay local government units (BLGUs) support their constituents to ensure they are safe in evacuation sites.

Displacement is also due to crime and violence. Recent displacement was experienced in barangay Tayungan, where people sought refuge with their relatives within the same barangay. The conflict occurred in barangay Bandy, which also hosted internally displaced persons from other barangays.

8



Number of barangays affected by displacement: 8

0



Number of barangays with present displaced population: None

360



Number of displaced families: 360

360



Total IDP families returned: 360

0



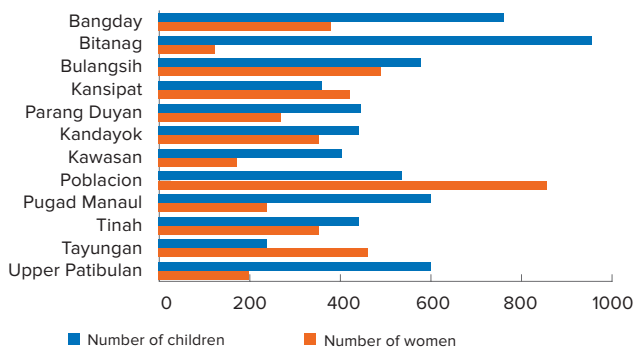
Number of barangays presently hosting IDPs: None

Protection of Women and Children

Women and children in the community feel safe in the barangays as well as in the municipality. Based on the data-gathering conducted, women and children have freedom to move and act freely in the vicinity. Despite this, there were a few repeated violations of women and children's rights that are related to marital/domestic abuse and child abuse in family settings. However, these were not officially reported to authorities as these were amicably settled at family level.

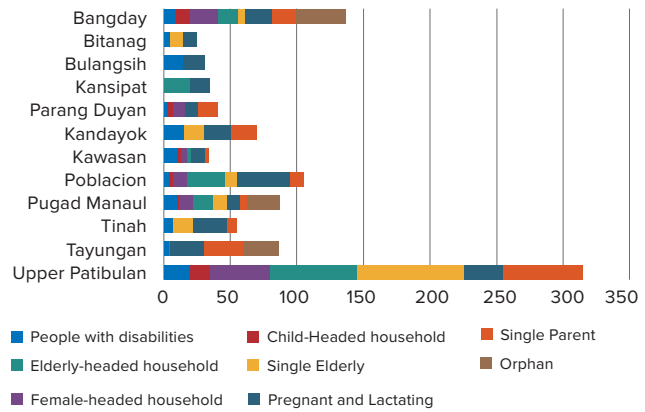
Violations of women and children's rights are usually addressed through family settlement, through barangay desk, and through traditional leaders.

Presence of women and children in the assessed barangays in Panamao Municipality

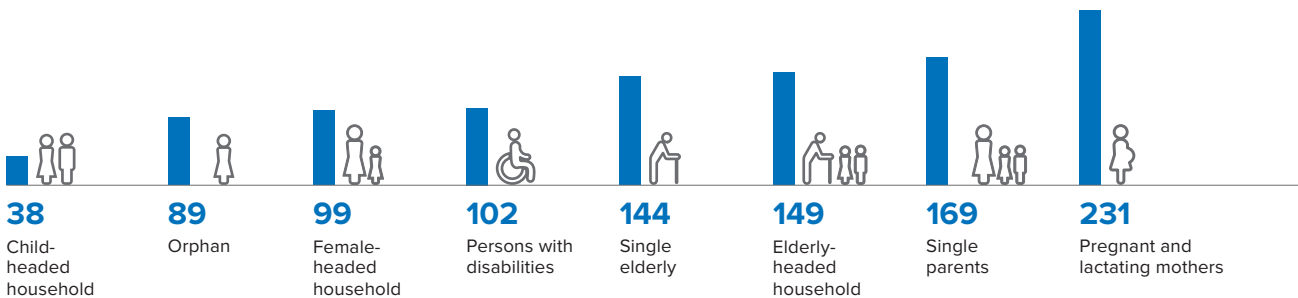


People with special needs

Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.



Generally, pressing needs include assistive devices, care mechanisms for both children and the elderly, including support for, provision of and access to medicines, cash assistance and hospitalization for chronic illnesses.



Note: Values only cover the assessed barangays.

Access to basic services





The following are basic services available in the municipality:

Education





- Five (5) elementary schools
- One (1) national senior high school in Barangay Poblacion
- Three (3) Madrasah or Arabic schools
- Eight (8) day-care centres located in and near the boundaries of each barangay

Note: There are barangays that do not have school facilities, including Barangay Maliwanag, Barangay Solo. All elementary students in Barangays Maliwanag and Solo are walking significant distances just to attend their classes. These areas have high drop-out rates and low completion rates.

Health

-  Six (6) barangay health centres are strategically located in different barangays, while the other remote barangays are reached through medical missions and outreach activities, upon request or every quarter.
-  One (1) hospital is located in Barangay Poblacion, which is more or less ten (10) kilometres away from Barangays Tinah and Bulangsih, the farthest barangays in the municipality.
-  The majority of water systems in the area depends on open dug wells or rainfall.
-  Open pit toilets are visible in some areas.

Social Protection

-  Provision of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
-  PhilHealth services (social pensions and 4Ps beneficiaries are automatically enrolled as Philhealth members)
-  Social Security System services: 995 current beneficiaries and 375 are awaiting approval at the time of writing of this report
-  Free Birth Registration for newborns to months-old infants. A small fee is required for delayed registration at the municipal hall.

From the results of the assessment, it was observed that the most affected population in relation to lack of access to protection and social services are the elderly, people with disabilities, women and children.

Safety and security

For the past years, the main causes of displacement in the municipality are armed encounters between the Philippine military and Abu Sayyaf Group from other municipalities. Panamao is strategically an exit point of armed groups from the municipality of Patikul, where military operations are often conducted.









Housing, Land and Property

ways of acquiring the properties are as follows:



-  Inheritance
-  Ancestral claim
-  Right to use

There were HLP problems caused by double occupancy with the same parcel of land. Thus, lack of documents is frequently related to ownership/rights disputes involving family members.

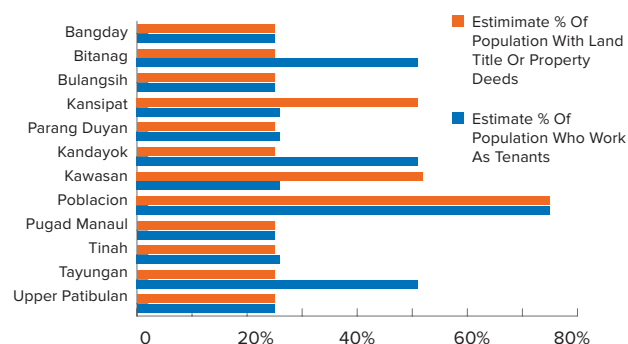
Other functional basic services

-  One (1) Municipal Hall, located in Barangay Poblacion
-  Temporary structured Barangay Halls in some barangays
-  Three (3) warehouses, which are only accessible to Barangays Piyangamangaan and Nunungan
-  Three (3) Solar Dryers in Barangay Kansipat
-  One (1) police station inside the Municipal Hall compound located in Barangay Poblacion
-  One (1) fire station located in Barangay Poblacion
-  Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) outposts are provided in each barangay as mandated
-  Learning centre and covered court in Barangay Poblacion

Lacking Basic Social Services







-  Supply of electricity depends on solar light.
 - Results of this profiling showed that 3,040 households rely on street solar lights.
 - One (1) barangay was supported by Community and Family Services International (CFSI) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with seventeen (17) units of street solar light
-  3,547 Households used dug wells for water supply

Percentage number of persons with land titles in Panamao Municipality








Civil documentation

Of the total population of 15,942 in the assessed barangays, 11% do not have birth registration, while 10% of the total population does not have marriage registration. The reasons for not being able to secure civil documentation include the following:

-  Lack of knowledge about the importance of birth and marriage registration.
-  Difficulty in completing the required documents in securing civil documents. Some parents just submit the requirements but do not acquire civil documents.
-  Lack of financial resources for transportation and fees required to acquire civil documents.
-  Illiteracy/lack of proficiency in basic reading and writing.
-  Lack of access to relevant government agencies, transportation issues and proximity concerns, especially those living in remote areas.
-  Personal preference for not having identification for security reasons.

Disadvantages of not having the civil documentation are as follows:

-  Inability to travel both domestically and internationally
-  Hindrance in enrolling in schools
-  Non-registration as a voter
-  Non-enrolment in government social services
-  Difficulty in securing private or government work

In the absence of civil documentation, residents acquire barangay certification as an alternative identification paper and/or medical records within the barangay.

Information

Fluctuation of cellphone signal is experienced throughout the municipality. Thus, municipal and barangay local governments regularly send announcements related to the following:

-  Security alerts
-  Barangay programs (4Ps)
-  Community awareness/trainings
-  New barangay ordinances/policies
-  Barangay events and social activities
-  National Government Programs

Information is also disseminated through friends and relatives who have communication with local government personnel. Some IDPs acquire information when they have the chance to visit Jolo, the capital town of Sulu province.

The LGU also holds a regular MPOC (Municipal Peace and Order Committee), which is attended by all barangay chairpersons and presided over by the municipal mayor. Relevant announcements can also be relayed through this platform.

Peace Process

At the time of the conduct of profiling (in 2018, prior to passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and establishment of the BARMM), majority of the respondents are informed and updated about the status of the peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the MILF concerning the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). Some interviewees, however, expressed concerns about whether the law would be approved, and what would be its positive and negative impacts at community level.

Community protection strategies

Although the Municipal and Barangay Local Governments are experiencing difficulty in addressing the general needs of their constituents, the communities have shown resiliency toward every challenge they experience and are seeking to maximize the available resources. They have also been able to advocate with humanitarian agencies present in the area for additional support/assistance for their needs.

Following the formula of cooperation, participation, and cultural tradition or the so-called local “Adat”, the communities profiled generally managed to remain stable. Respondents in the focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) identified their strong religious faith as one of the factors that contribute to their

coping capacities.

To enhance their safety and security, residents participate in community assemblies and other municipal activities to ensure that they receive up-to-date information and enhance their coping strategies.

Protection capability, intent and compliance aptitude

Collaboration of LGU with other line agencies can be strengthened in order to conduct massive information drives throughout the municipality (e.g., monthly information caravans and FGDs with leaders for internally displaced people). Information to be disseminated can be shared and officials. Through the participation of all BLGU heads, the necessary information can be more effectively shared by the barangay officials to the community level.

Although many of the respondents confirmed that they have received assistance from different stakeholders, as well as from LGU, some felt that the assistance is still not sufficient to fully address their concerns.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the profiling and field-based data gathering through conducting of FGDs/KIIs, the following actions are recommended:

1

For the government (LGU/BLGU and other line agencies)

- Promote a clear definition and identification of governance roles, functions, and powers at each LGU level.
- Strengthen the reporting/information-sharing mechanisms in order to regularly inform the communities about programs that will benefit the residents.
- Install additional streetlights in dark areas to ensure safety and security of the residents especially PWSN, women, and children.
- Strengthen the implementation of awareness campaigns on the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Law in every barangay.
- Integrate projects and programs for PWSN, women, and children in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP) or the CDP-ELA.
- Strengthen and sustain communication and coordination between the LGU/BLGU and the community.

2

For NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and other humanitarian agencies

- Assist the LGU in developing contingency plans for both natural disaster and conflict situations.
- Provide training or enhance effective conflict resolution and leadership skills among traditional leaders, LGU and BLGU.

SOURCES / REFERENCES:

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



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