

Annex to the Profiling Reports on Internal Displacement and Sama Bajau as Population at Risk of Statelessness in the Island Provinces of BARMM

Report and Feedback from the Profiling Working Group during the Provincial Launching of the Profiling Reports



Presentation of the Key Findings and Major Recommendations in the province of Basilan with the Profiling Working Group composed of government agencies, civil society organizations, academe, and religious sector. © Salwa Wali/TKI

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Introduction and Background

In August 2019, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government, in close coordination with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other protection partners in the region and in support of Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), embarked on a profiling process to obtain reliable and comprehensive data on the living conditions and protection needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and population at risk of statelessness in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa).

As part of the profiling process, a series of focus group discussions and validation surveys were conducted in July 2020 to validate and confirm findings of the profiling exercise with the community representatives of both the Sama Bajau and displaced families, representatives from the local governments, and various sectors in the BaSulTa provinces. These discussions informed the finalization of the profiling reports and the drafting of key recommendations to support IDPs and Sama Bajaus in the future.

Since the finalization of the profiling reports in April 2021 and throughout the course of the profiling exercise, several the findings and recommendations have already been implemented and acted upon by both the provincial and municipal government units.

This report aims at consolidating and showcasing these initial steps, and providing insights into the discussions that emerged during the presentations of the findings and recommendations in the BaSulTa provinces on 13th, 14th and 19th of July 2021.

Consolidated Feedback from BaSulTa Stakeholders

Relevant government authorities and non-government agencies shared their respective feedback on the IDP and Sama Bajau Profiling results during the provincial launching of the profiling reports. The following are the feedback/responses from the stakeholders:

1. The Provincial Government of Basilan, through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (PSWDO), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer (PDRRMO), and the Provincial Administrator expressed their continued support to the profiling. The Provincial Administrator commented that in terms of birth registration, the Provincial Governor has issued a memorandum circular addressed to the Local Chief Executives directing them to support the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGU) in facilitating the registration of births and other civil documentation such as certificate of marriage, death

certificate, and other relevant documents. The profiling result will reinforce their advocacy to address the issue on the lack of documentation.

2. The PDRRMO-Basilan shared that Provincial Health Office, in collaboration with the Provincial Government, has been providing WASH facilities under the Clean and Green Program dubbed as “Paglissin Kawman” since 2017. A breakdown and analysis on the result will also aid in assessing the programs implemented.
 3. The OIC-Executive Director of Matawkasi Inc., a local non-government organization based in Sulu province, recommended to omit the word “card” and retain “access to vaccination” in the report. Based on his understanding, the purpose and context of the question was to draw out access to the vaccinations and not access to the vaccination card. He explained that having a vaccination card does not equate to the displaced families having access to vaccination. He cited that some of the beneficiaries have been immunized with polio vaccine, but they do not have vaccination cards.
- Along the course of this discussion, it was clarified that the focus of the survey on vaccination cards was suggested by the members of the Profiling Working Group (PWG) and the Technical Working Group (TWG), as documentations such as the Disaster Assistance Family Access Cards (DAFAC), vaccination cards, and other legal documents are some of the requirements to avail the government services. It was also clarified that the question was meant to inquire if the IDPs have vaccination cards. Though the result of the profiling revealed that 56-57% of the respondents do not have vaccination cards, this does not mean that the same percentage was not vaccinated, or that children were consequently not fully immunized and were not able to avail of any vaccination programs. Respondents who participated in the validation exercise said that there is a significant number of families who were immunized and vaccinated but did not have vaccination cards. When asked about the reason for the absence of vaccination cards, they stated that it is a social norm. Many of them lack awareness on importance of the vaccination cards, while others did not avail of the vaccines because of skepticism towards vaccines, stemming from the Dengvaxia vaccination incident¹. Further, the data from the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) and UNICEF showed that there were significant numbers of families from the island provinces who availed of the polio vaccine. The data showed that the respondents are aware of the vaccination program (except the dengue vaccine) and they value the

¹ Dengvaxia, a dengue vaccine which had been used in a widespread school vaccination programme, was linked to the deaths of children. For more information: <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/features/dangvaxia-philippines/>

importance of this intervention. Thus, the survey did not focus on asking how many families had been immunized.

4. The Barangay Chairperson of Barangay Latih in Patikul municipality (directly affected barangay) requested to reflect the breakdown of the population who availed of the vaccination program and provide analysis to support the claim that most IDP children were not vaccinated.
5. A member of the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council) commented that the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Bongao has been providing free birth registration to Sama Bajau in their locality. This was seconded by the Local Civil Registrar highlighting their programs for the Sama Bajaus and IDPs in collaboration with the barangay officials.
6. The focal person designated by the Tawi-Tawi Province for the profiling exercise recognized the need for the Local Civil Registrar's Office to coordinate with other agencies and the Municipal Social Welfare Office to validate the information. He acknowledged that possession of a birth certificate is one of the requirements in the Conditional Cash Transfer Program of the Philippine government and that this is an important document since it provides them with access to other services.
7. The PSWDO-Tawi-Tawi expressed her support in the provision and access to free birth registration to Sama Bajaus and IDPs in Bongao.

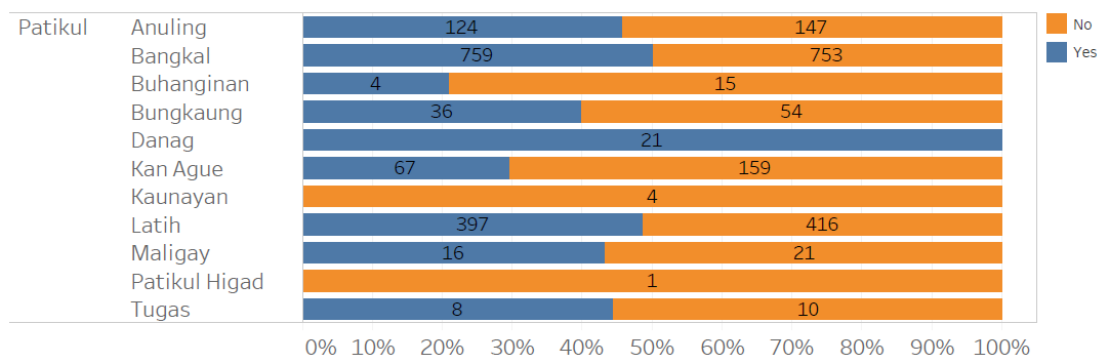
Requested Breakdown of Data

A. Access to Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) in Basilan Province

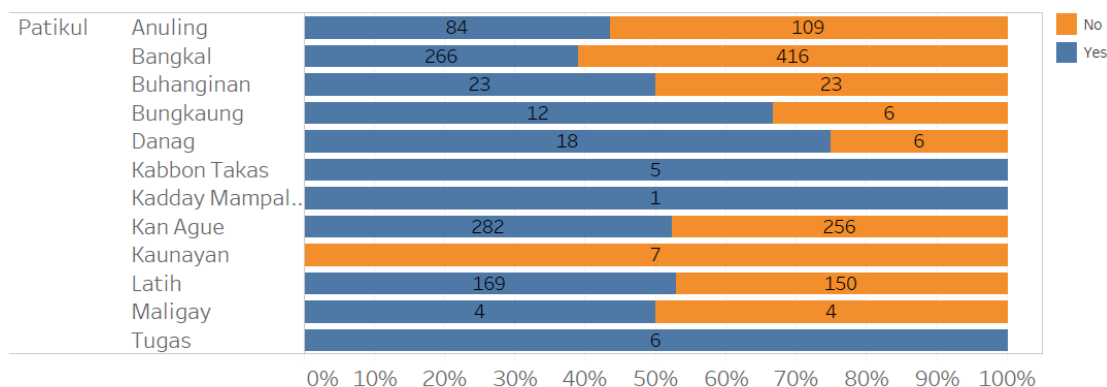
B3. Barangay	I05. What type of toilet facility do you use?	Number of Records	% of Total Number of Records along..
Baiwas	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	67	71%
	Closed pit	10	11%
	Open pit	18	19%
Benembengan Lower	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	1	100%
Benembengan Upper	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	97	48%
	Closed pit	55	27%
	Open pit	48	24%
	Water-sealed (flush or pour/flush), sewer/septic tank	3	1%
Cabengbeng Upper	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	2	50%
	Closed pit	1	25%
	Open pit	1	25%
Calang Canas	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	49	78%
	Closed pit	1	2%
	Open pit	12	19%
	Water-sealed (flush or pour/flush), sewer/septic tank	1	2%
Muslim Area	No toilet (wrap and throw, bedpan, bush, lake, creek, river)	1	7%
	Closed pit	10	67%
	Open pit	4	27%

Table 1: Access to toilet facilities of surveyed internally displaced households in Basilan (totals calculated by barangay in numbers and in %).

B. Access to Vaccination Cards for Vaccination Program in Barangay Latih, Patikul, Sulu



Access to child vaccination cards of home-based families in Sulu by municipality and barangay in percent (x-axis) and in totals (numbers indicated inside graph).



Access to child vaccination cards of families living in temporary shelters in Sulu by municipality and barangay in percent (x-axis) and in totals (numbers indicated inside graph).

C. Free Birth Registration

As part of the agreed ways forward during the presentation of profiling key findings and recommendations to the stakeholders of Tawi-Tawi Province, UNHCR met with the key officials of Bongao municipality to discuss one of the key findings, which is the high percentage of respondents who have yet to register their births. During the discussion, it was realized that while there are efforts from Bongao LGU to address the issue of non-registration of birth among Sama Bajaus and IDPs, there are still other issues that hinder their constituents to register their birth. Also, it was shared that multiple birth registration is one of the issues that the Local Civil Registrar (LCR) faces. As a way forward, the key officials of LGU Bongao and UNHCR agreed to

collaborate to address this issue. UNHCR also flagged with the key officials that UNICEF is also willing to provide technical support as the two UN agencies are currently implementing a Joint Strategy to End Childhood Statelessness. With this, three main activities were identified:

- a. Pilot birth registration of 200 Sama Bajaus in Barangay Lamion;
- b. Conduct of birth registration advocacy at the community level; and
- c. Support to digitization of the Local Civil Registrar.

As a follow up to this, a joint planning meeting was conducted on 20 August 2021. As an output, the agencies were able to lay out the plan for the birth registration and its related activities from end of August to December 2021, reflecting the timeline, resources needed, and the commitments from each of the agencies. The activity also served as an opportunity to identify other stakeholders who may be tapped to contribute to the initiative. This includes the Ministry of Social Welfare and Development (MSSD) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), local youth organizations, and non-government organizations. The initiative will also be advocated at the national level in line with the Philippine Government's implementation of its National Action Plan (NAP) to End Statelessness.