

**Maguindanao, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Philippines**  
**Community Resilience Assessment (CRA) Case Study**  
*August 2015*



**Practice Area:** Livelihoods, Out of School Youth (OSY), Community Resilience, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

**Donor/Client:** IMPL. PROJECT

**Partner:** N/A

**Location:** Maguindanao

**Enumerators:** 1-3

**Surveys:** Approximately 200

**Budget:** \$25,000 USD

**Project Objectives:**

During the conflict in the Southern Philippines in the early 2000s, the main camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the surrounding area of Maguindanao were rife with discontent. Many young males were out of school, petty crimes were on a sharp uptick and the threat of terrorist attacks loomed large. At the time, it was unknown what variables were responsible for the instability in the region.

- **Project Objective 1:** Determine the drivers of instability in Camp Abu Bakr S., the main base camp for the MILF.
- **Project Objective 2:** Develop methodology and procedures for gathering and analyzing data in such a way that allows for the team to discern the drivers of instability.

### **Key Findings**

After a key engagement with the Principal of the camp school, it was learned that after 3rd grade, the amount of boys in class would dwindle until 7th grade, when there were half as many boys than girls in class. Due to the economic hardship associated with the conflict, the majority of young males were pulled out of class to assist on family farms. While out of school, these young men would also get involved in petty crime, as well as being recruited into drug gangs. While running afoul of the law, these out of school youths (OSYs) would also spark “blood feuds,” or deadly conflicts between families, further adding to direness of the situation.

As a result of the surveys and qualitative engagements, it became apparent that economic hardship, and not terrorism, was the main driver of instability in the region.

### **Methodology**

Using a small team of enumerators, the team collected “man on the street” style interviews using Quicktap surveying software, and then running the raw data through analytical programs in order to make informed decisions regarding programming recommendations.

### **Programming Recommendations**

Based on the findings that economic hardships were the true driver of instability in the area, the team interviewed local farmers to determine how to best implement programming to address the vulnerability. The farmers indicated that they were losing up to 30% of their crop yields to rot, and that a solar dryer (a concrete pad where crops are laid out to dry in the sun) and a storehouse would allow them to save the majority of their yields. After completing the dryer and storehouse, a chain reaction occurred which saw profits up, children back in school and security issues down 30%

- AUG 2015, Maguindanao,
- approx. 200 surveys, conducted by JR and Yoyong
- Used quicktap survey
- Camp Abu Bakr S, MILF basecamp during 2000-2002 conflict, MILF was the primary partner, not AFP
- Grievances, symptoms, causes
- Camp School, the principal was the main contact and her husband was the MILF BN CO. After 3rd grade, the amount of young boys in class dwindled, until 7th grade when there were twice as many female students. Many of the young boys were taken out of school to work on the farm, while being OSYs they would attempt petty crime until being recruited by drug gangs. The OSYs were causing issues, not terrorism. Blood feuds are a cultural aspect in the area that were being sparked during the crime committed by the OSYs.
- Was the first pilot for the IMPL. Methodology
- Identify root of vulnerabilities and address them. What was thought to be terrorism as a root cause was actually economic desperation
- Understanding that handouts will not solve the economic issues, the team decided to start agricultural coops. Farmers were losing up to 30% of crop yield to rot. When asked how to solve this, the farmers said that a solar dryer (concrete pad) would help.
- local NGOs paved the way for this initial survey.

- Solar dryer was poured, also doubled as a sports place. Due to the dryer, the farmers could afford to diversify into other crops (cacao, papaya).
- Farmers then indicated a cooperative-ran storehouse would also be very helpful, cost 25K.
- As a result, security issues decreased 30%, OSYs decreased and household income also went up.

#### Key components of CVE pilot in western Mindanao:

1. Composition of fighters for MILF and BIFF
2. Identification of locations where rebel fighters come from
3. What are the local dynamics of those locations
4. Where did the AFP operations take place
5. How did the communities feel about these operations
6. What outcomes did the AFP operations achieve, good and bad, kinetic and non-kinetic
7. Beyond security operations, what did the RP, US, or civil society do in relation to the clearing operations
8. What makes some communities resilient against radicalization

#### Key assessments:

1. Drivers of radicalization
2. Sources of resiliency
3. Functionality cogs