

Piagapo & Marawi City, Mindanao, Philippines Marawi Siege Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Case Study

May 2017 - October 2017



Practice Area: Community Resilience, Livelihoods, Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

Donor/Client: Department of State, Manila Embassy Public Affairs Section

Partner: N/A

Location: Piagapo, Mindanao & Marawi City Mindanao, Philippines

Enumerators: 7-8

Surveys: 1,400+

Qualitative Engagements: 10-12

Budget: \$106,500 USD

Project Objectives

During the conflict with ISIS-affiliates in Marawi in 2017, many fled the fighting and sought refuge in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in nearby Pia Gapo. What caused so many locals to become radicalized and join the ranks of the Islamist fighters?

- **Project Objective 1:** Conduct surveys amongst the IDPs in the Pia Gapo camps to gain a better understanding of the causes of radicalization amongst the populace in the Marawi region.
- **Project Objective 2:** Continue to improve and refine data collection and analytical methods.

Key Findings

Much like the Team's initial datamapping in Maguindanao, it was discovered during surveying that out of school youths (OSYs), and thus economic hardship, was the root cause of instability in the region. OSYs

served as the perfect recruiting pool for terrorist groups, as they were already discontent and easily radicalized. In order to cut off ISIS recruitment, the Team needed to devise a way to limit their access to willing recruits.

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

In order to simultaneously reduce the OSY population, as well as provide economic and livelihood opportunities, the Team started a vocational school program operated by a local cooperative. The recruitment pool for ISIS began to dwindle, and many young men learned valuable trades that allowed them to find employment.

- APR 2017, the AFP captured an ISIS camp in Lanao Del Sur. Known terrorists from rival ethnic groups started working together. in MAY 2017, the Maute Group and the ISIS CO were in Marawi City and the siege began.
- Data mapping was done amongst the IDP camps that were formed in the wake of the siege.
- Pia Gapo, a town near Marawi, hosted the camps where the surveying was held.
- The methodology from the first data mapping was used again. As in that case, OSYs were a main recruiting pool for ISIS. To combat this, a vocational school program was set up, allowing the kids to escape poverty and find employment.
- (consider talking to Azri)
- When handed off to the LGU, they were unable to continue the program.
- Focus groups and KIIs were used as well.
- Public Affairs Section US EMB funded the coop, first main government contract for 100k