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ONLINE LAUNCH

CHILDREN OF WAR

A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans
in Muslim Mindanao

*Thursday, June 30, 2020 9:00 am - 10:00 am EST,
9:00 pm—10:00 pm PHT*



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AGENDA

TIME	DETAILS	SPEAKER
9:00 AM – 9:05 AM	Opening Remarks	Sam Chittick , The Asia Foundation Philippines Country Representative
9:05 AM – 9:15 AM	Remarks from Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	Minister Raissa Herradura Jajurie , Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Ministry of Social Services and Development
9:15 AM – 9:35 AM	Presentation of Children of War Report	Maria Carmen (Ica) Fernandez , Lead Researcher
9:35 AM – 9:55 AM	Q&A	Hadzer Birowa , Provincial Researcher
9:55 AM – 10:00 AM	Closing Remarks	Sam Chittick , The Asia Foundation Philippines Country Representative

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LEAD RESEARCHER





CHILDREN OF WAR

**A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans
in Muslim Mindanao**

Mga Wata na
Kapembunwa:
Makempet a
kabpangengentaw
sa mga Ilo sa
Muslim Mindanao

Kaanakan sin
Pag-bunu':
Pagusihat ha kahalan
sin manga ilu ha
Muslim Mindanao

Manga Wata ko
Kiyatidawa:
Madilapet a
pamandapat ko
manga wata a ilo sa
Muslim Mindanao

Summary Presentation

30 July 2020

Full report at

www.asiafoundation.org



CHILDREN OF WAR

A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans
in Muslim Mindanao

ORPHAN

يتيم / **yatim** (Arabic)

الأيتام / **al-aytām** (Arabic)

i'lu (Sinug)

ilo (Bisaya, Mranaw, Maguindanaon)

ulila (Tagalog)

Orphans of war are children who have lost at least one parent, particularly the father, in the various conflicts in Southern Philippines. Some are children of *shaheed*, or martyrs of the Moro revolutionary fronts, but many others are sons and daughters of civilians caught in the crossfire.



1. Research Questions

What is the status of orphans and other affected children who have lost at least one parent from the recent wars in Mindanao, with particular focus on the last decade (2009-2019)?

Where are they, what are their needs, and what can be done to address their basic needs?

What are their particular vulnerabilities, including to recruitment by violent extremist groups?

2. Overall Policy Environment



International Treaties	National Laws	Peace Process Commitments
<p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protocol on Children in Armed Conflict</p> <p>CRC Article 20 goes on to identify that “Children who are deprived of their family must receive alternative care with due regard to the child’s ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.”</p>	<p>Sec. 3 Art. XV of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to defend the rights of children to assistance and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development</p> <p>12 National laws create the policy environment for orphans and widows no dedicated national programs for war orphans in the Philippines,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exception: RA No. 6963 s. 1990 mandates the provision of support for the families of soldiers or police personnel who are killed-in-action or wounded-in-action. 	<p>2014 CAB contains provisions guaranteeing support for children and widows, persons with disability, and other vulnerable groups. Recommendation 5d of the TJRC report pushes that:</p> <p>“the national and the future Bangsamoro authorities, the DSWD, the Department of Health (DOH), PCW, NCIP, and NCMF” issue “an internal directive for the provision of preferential free access to health and social services, as well as educational opportunities for widows and orphans of war.”</p>

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO

Signed 27 March 2014

2014 - 2017

2018

2019

2022

COMPONENT POLITICAL

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BANGSAMORO



PASSAGE OF THE BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW

PLEBISCITE

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY (BTA)

ELECTION OF BANGSAMORO OFFICIALS

NORMALIZATION

Alongside the road map toward the establishment of the Bangsamoro, a Normalization Process will be implemented by both the GPH and MILF.

CREATION OF BODIES & MECHANISMS

IDB

Independent Decommissioning Body

JNC

Joint Normalization Committee

JPSC

Joint Peace and Security Committee

JPSTs

Joint Peace and Security Teams

PHASE 1

Ceremonial turnover of weapons & FAs

JNC recommends criteria for AFP redeployment; Establishment of a National Agency Task Force for the disbandment of PAGs; JPSC/JPST work on disbandment of PAGs

PHASE 2

30% of MILF forces decommissioned

Start of implementation of AFP redeployment; deactivation of S/CAAs; actions against PAGs; FAs control & management.

PHASE 3

35% of MILF forces decommissioned

Continuing implementation of AFP redeployment; continuing actions against PAGs; FAs control & management.

PHASE 4

Remaining MILF forces decommissioned

Continuing implementation of AFP redeployment; continuing actions against PAGs; FAs control & management; Policing in the Bangsamoro is constituted

CEASEFIRE MECHANISMS (CCCH, IMT, AHJAG)*



TFDCC

Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities

IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS



JTFCTs

Joint Task Forces on Camps Transformation

TRANSFORMATION OF CAMPS



AMNESTY



EXIT AGREEMENT



SECURITY

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

Study Areas

Field research from
April to September
2019

273 respondents

- 77 orphans surveyed
- 36 KIIs
- 160 persons in purposive FGDs
- 34% male, 66% female

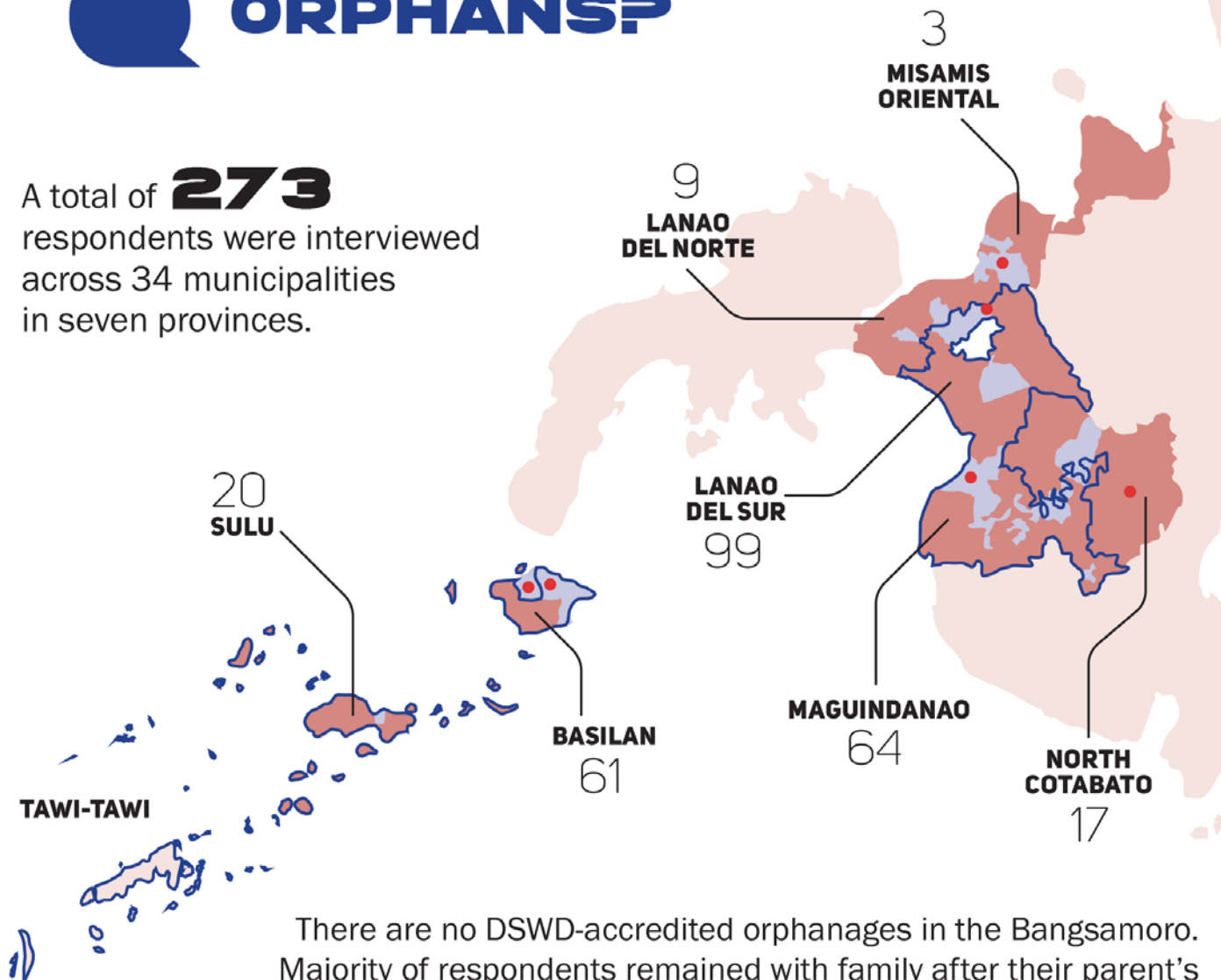
7 provinces

34 municipalities



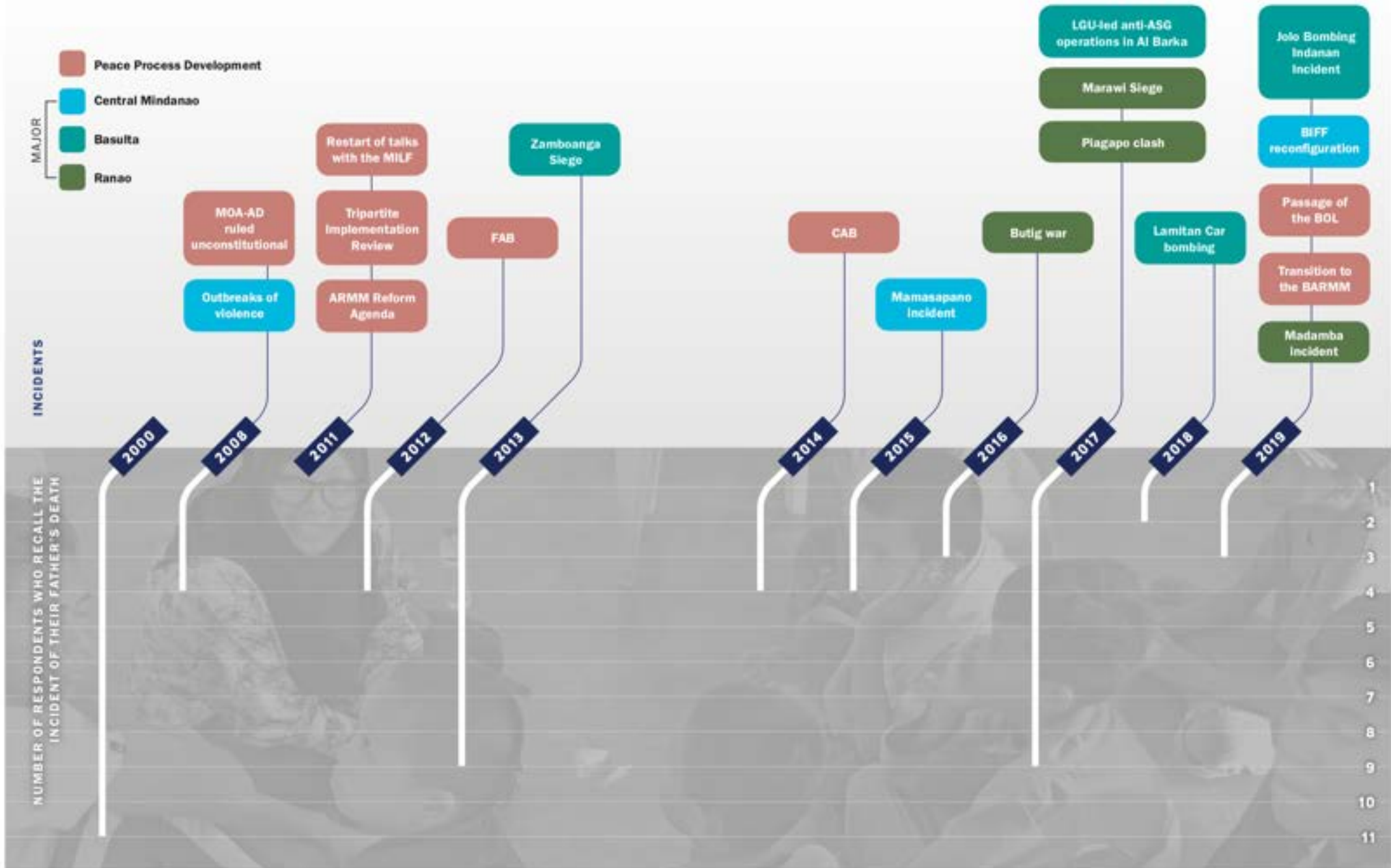
WHERE ARE THE ORPHANS?

A total of **273** respondents were interviewed across 34 municipalities in seven provinces.



There are no DSWD-accredited orphanages in the Bangsamoro. Majority of respondents remained with family after their parent's death. Despite general sentiment that raising orphans is a shared responsibility, all types of support generally decline after the first year.

Figure 1. Major Conflict Incidents in the Last Decade



Specific case stories



Case 1. The Children of Marawi's Missing and Disappeared

Case 2. Best Practice: Ugur Suleyman Soylemez Orphanage

Case 3. The MILF's Social Welfare Committee

Case 4. Support from the Catholic Church

Case 5. Support Packages for the Orphans of the SAF-44

Case 6. Coping Mechanisms: Four orphans of the All-Out-War

Case 7. The Widows of the Zamboanga Siege

Case 8. Acts of Vengeance

Case 9. The Orphans of the ASG

Case 10. Families left behind: widows and children of revolutionary leaders



HOW MANY ORPHANS ARE THERE?

There are no official figures on the number of orphans affected by the wars in Mindanao. This reflects the general lack of service facilities for abandoned, neglected, and orphaned children in the Philippines.

The MILF Social Welfare Committee (SWC) reportedly has a list of

8182

orphans as of April 2019.



The MILF Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) is working on a partial list with just over

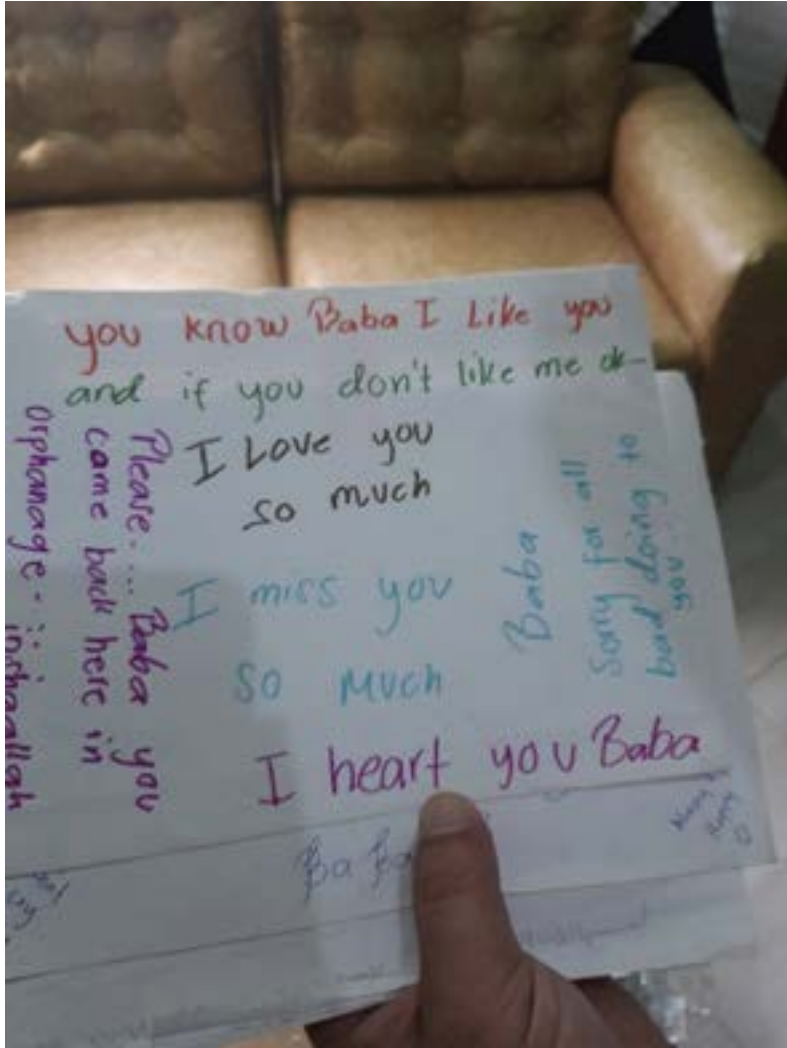
500

widows and a similar number of orphans as of January 2020.

Table 2. Working list of orphans and widows from the MILF-BIWAB

Base Command	Province	Municipality	No. of Widows	No. of Orphans	No. of Male Orphans	No. of Female Orphans
101st	Lanao Del Sur	Balindong (Watu)		2	2	
		City of Marawi (Capital)	5	0		
		Lumbayanague	1	2	1	1
		Madalum	1	0		
		Masiu	1	0		
		Tugaya	32	20	5	15
102nd	Lanao Del Norte	Munai	4	0		
	Lanao Del Sur	Marantao	1	3	3	
103rd	Lanao Del Norte	Tagoloan	1	5		5
	Lanao Del Sur	Tugaya	1	1		1
104th	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	1	0		
	Sarangani	Maitum	6	0		
		No information	1	0		
	Sultan Kudarat	Lebak	4	0		
		Palimbang	16	0		
	No information	No information	3	14		14
105th	Cotabato (North Cotabato)	Aleosan	5	9	6	3
		105th		5		5
		Pikit	2	9	3	6
		No information	3	6	5	1
	Maguindanao	City of Cotabato	2	0		
		Datu Odin Sinsuat (Dinaig)	14	0		
		Datu Piang	2	0		
		Kabuntalan	4	0		
		Mamasapano	14	20	8	12
		Rajah Buayan	1	0		
		Shariff Saydona Mustapha	17	14	2	12
		No information	1	0		
	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy) (Capital)	37	10	3	7	
	Zamboanga Del Sur	Labangan	13	15	10	5
		No information	No information		8	4

Central Mindanao



4. Community Concepts & Definitions

- Orphans based on type of parent
- Orphans based on age level
- Orphans based on dwelling
- Orphans based on type of incident

WHO ARE THE ORPHANS?



PARENT LOST

Of the 77 orphans directly surveyed, 88% lost their father, while the rest lost both parents.

AGE & GENDER

- In Sulu, when the father dies while the child is still in the womb or below the age of 5 years old, the child is called a *yatim*. If the child is above the age of 5, the orphan is called an *i'lu*.
- When a child reaches puberty and intellectual maturity, or the age of majority (18), the child is no longer an orphan
- Gender informs the orphans' experiences and needs

TYPE OF DWELLING

- Home-based orphans living with family
- Center-based orphans in formal or de facto orphanages, or *madrasahs*, *torils*, or *markadz*
- Displaced orphans

TYPE OF INCIDENT

Children of:

- *Mujahideen* who died as a *shaheed* (martyr) in combat against government
- *Mujahideen* who died as a result of death in combat due to other conflicts (with black flag groups)
- Civilians who died in crossfire or in situations of displacement
- Parents who disappeared or remain missing, as well as those who may have been interred in unmarked graves

5. Who are caring for the orphans?

1. **Family support**
 - a. **Mothers/widows (if surviving)**
 - b. **Other relatives**
2. **Community support**
 - a. **zakat/sadaqqah from politicians, local leaders, religious institutions, neighbours**
3. **Support institutions**
 - a. **Baitul yatim - In-house/center-based institutions**
 - b. **Service providers**

TYPES OF DWELLING



Home-based orphans



Center-based orphans



Displaced orphans

Figure 6. Types of support provided to orphans

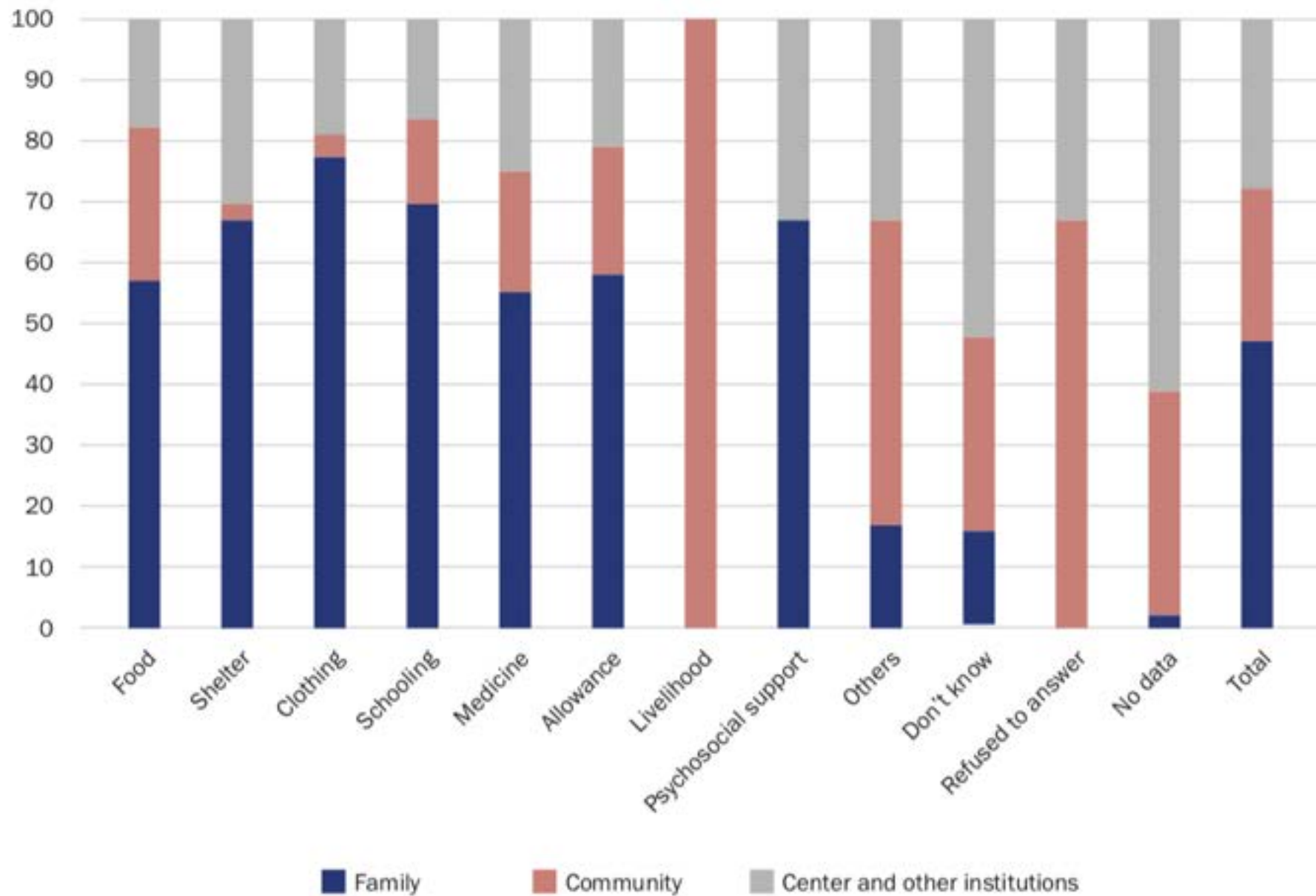
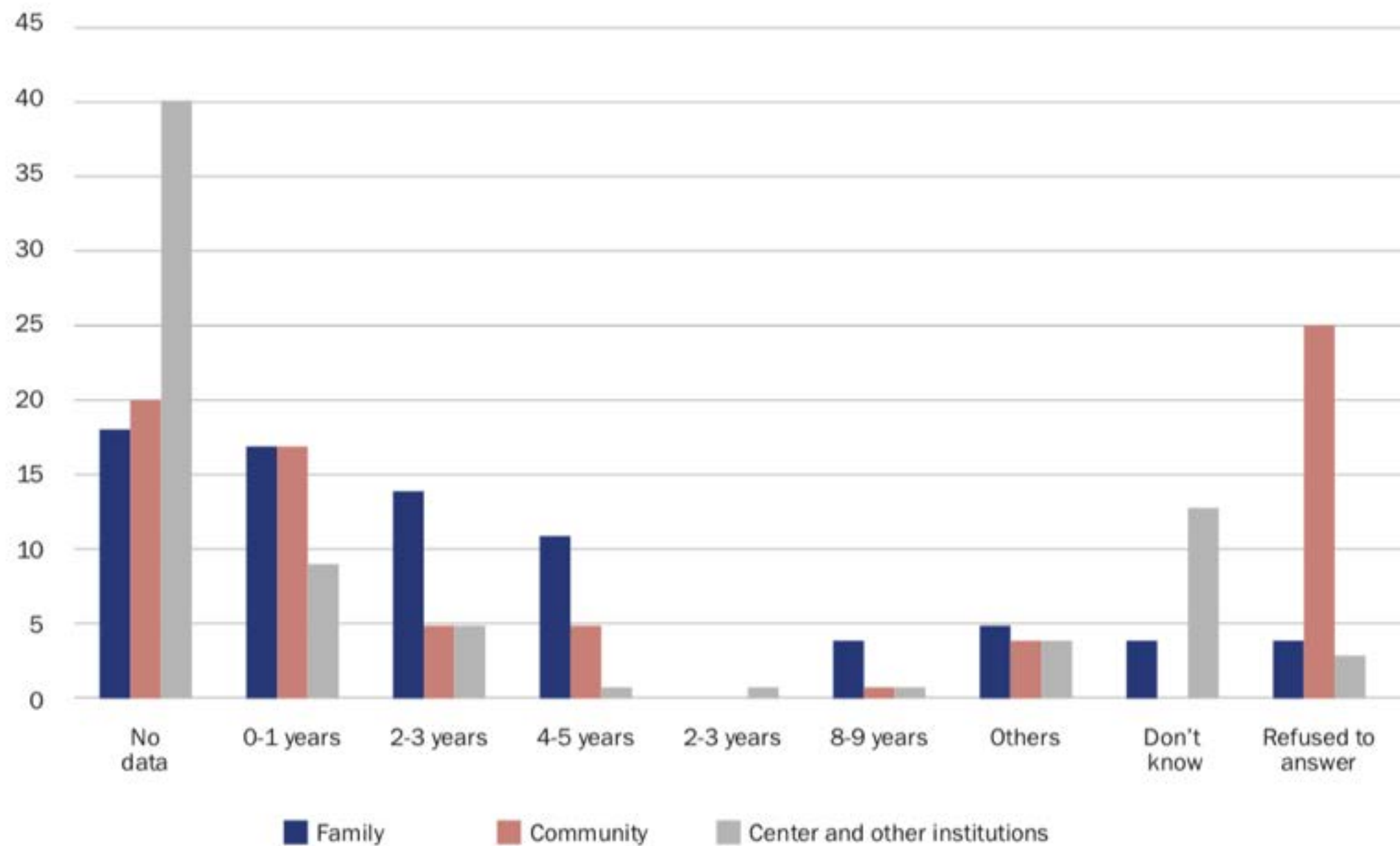


Figure 7. Duration of support provided to orphans





5.2 Community Support

In some areas, family support is sometimes supplemented by community support through sadaqqah (voluntary giving or charity) or zakat (tithing)

- more affluent community members
- politicians
- regional officials
- religious leaders

Forms include: some scholarships or gifts in cash and kind esp. during Ramadhan
Distribution of food - *qurban and adat aqiqah*

One (1) case of *kafala* (stewardship arrangement) in Lanao



5.3 Support institutions

5.3.1 Center-based institutions

- private *markaz* (centers of learning)
- *Madaris*
- *baitul yatim*
- *torils*
- Private institutions outside BARMM
- NGOs
- Religious organizations and civic groups



5.3 Support institutions



5.3.1 Center-based institutions

Some notable center-based or in-house support institutions, all in Central Mindanao and Lanao:

- Ugur Suleyman Soylemez Orphanage in Cotabato City, supported by the Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH) humanitarian foundation;
- Risale-i Nur's Dersane in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Marawi,
- Filipino - Turkish Humanitarian Aid Association (FITUHA), which runs an orphanage center for girls in Iligan City;
- United Islamic Cultural Centre of the Philippines (UNICEP)
- the Catholic Church, particularly in North Cotabato.
- SAKSI Orphanage Learning Center in Marawi City;
- Al-Abrar Institute for Learning Qur'an and Sunnah in Marawi City; and
- Darul Aitam Litahfidil Qur'an (Siyap ko mga Wata Ilo) at Purok 11, Tambacan, Iligan City

*No center-based, in-house institutions operating in the Basilan-Sulu-Tawi-Tawi area (Sulu Magbassa Kita centre after the 1996 FPA shut down after a year).



5.3 Support institutions



5.3.2 Service providers : Government programs

There are no official programs to cater specifically to orphans of war in the Bangsamoro region.

A major exception are the programs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for the families and children of fallen soldiers or wounded soldiers under Republic Act No. 6963 s. 1990

Increasingly, PCVE programs particularly in Basilan (Program against Violent Extremism or PAVE) are looking at responses for orphans who are former child soldiers, providing housing, livelihood and educational services, including study tours.



WHAT DO ORPHANS NEED?



Emotional and spiritual support



Access to balanced quality education



Access to jobs and livelihood



Physical safety and security especially for displaced communities



Access to justice



6. Effects of being orphaned

1. Physical safety and security

- 26% of respondents expressed feeling unsafe at time of father's death. More prevalent for displaced orphans
- Anecdotal reports of physical abuse, forced work, and bullying

2. Loss of household income and other economic effects

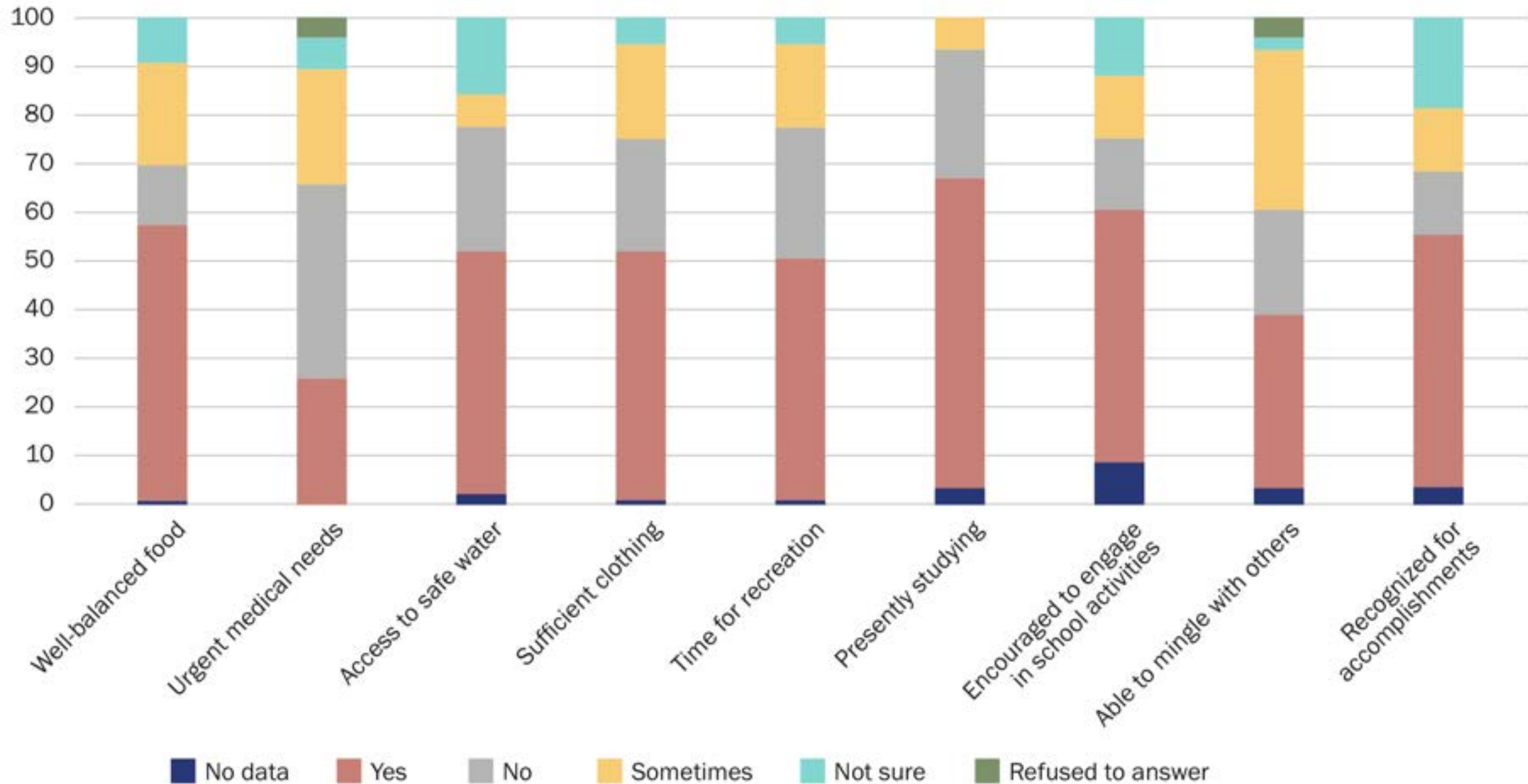
- Impacts on food and housing security
- Impacts on education
- Disproportionate effects on women and girls



6. Effects on women and girls

- Out of the survey of 77 orphans across the Bangsamoro, 75.32% lived with their mother for the first two years after the incident
- At present 64.94% of respondents are still with their mother.
- More than half (57.14%) of respondents said that their parent/mother did not remarry after the incident, while 36.36% remarried.
- Five respondents (6.49%) are now staying in orphanage centers, mostly in Maguindanao.
- Roughly 26% have some kind of employment, while 17% are now married, equally distributed amongst boys and girls.
- One orphan respondent is now a widow herself.

Figure 8. Orphans' access to basic physical and emotional needs





6.5 Access to justice

- **The desire for justice is common across all areas**, particularly for orphans or widows who may have personally witnessed the death of their father or felt that the circumstances of his death were unjust.
- **Those who sought vengeance were in the minority (16.88%) compared to 51% who said they did not want revenge.**
- There are multiple cases across all regions where at least one orphaned sibling in each family joins a revolutionary movement, particularly if their father was a shaheed.
- Over 18% of interviewed orphans admitted that the death of their father inspired them to join the MILF or MNLF, while 26% said that they had no desire to join a revolutionary group (or they had no need to because at least one sibling was already a member). **52% of respondents declined to answer**
- Of those who shared of their experiences, the desire to join has multiple reasons: (i) as a way to replace the rank of their father; (ii) to cope with grief; (iii) for social capital; and (iv) as a means of revenge.



6.5.1 Vulnerability to recruitment

- Respondents across the region noted that being unattended, ignored, and unloved leaves orphans vulnerable to radicalization and co-option by violent extremist groups.
- Without proper assessment and processing of their emotions, orphans may grow up believing resolving issues by violence is normal. If they are unable to trust those around them, it may make the situation worse. Exposure to broader environments may help children discern what is radical or extreme from what is not.

RECOMMENDED SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS & WIDOWS



Policy measures, including laws ensuring support for orphans and widows of war

Establishing baseline data on orphans, widows, and existing de-facto orphanages, centers, and other service providers



Design and delivery of comprehensive support packages, including the establishment of a DSWD-run and accredited orphanage in the Bangsamoro

Continuous consultations with and monitoring of orphans and widows across all interventions



8.1 Principles for design



1. Targeting	Programs should be geographically tailored but ‘status-neutral’ regardless of parents’ circumstances or rank
2. Tailoring	Localized and specific designs for each geographic region and type of orphan.
3. Safeguards	Do-No-Harm, conflict-sensitive, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate, consultative, avoids further trauma, and encourages play
4. Family Focus	Supporting family and community ability to support orphans
5. Funding	Earmarking of funds, use of shariah-compliant instruments

8.1 Principles for design - Funding



- Sustainable financing is key.
 - **Earmarking of funds** to ensure that certain percentage of resources (ex. Block Grant, Special Development Fund, Gender and Development fund) go towards programs for orphans and widows
 - Islamic instruments such as **creation of an endowment office (waqf)** to receive gifts and donations for orphans, similar to the AFP Educational Benefit System Office and HERO 'Help, Educate, and Rear Orphans' Foundation
 - **Partnerships with private sector** (including chambers of commerce etc) and civil society to deliver services

8.2. Recommended interventions



1. Establishing a baseline for supply and demand
2. Design, Financing, and Implementation of support packages
3. Policy measures at multiple levels and scales
 - a. National legislative measures
 - b. National executive measures
 - c. BARMM-level executive and legislative measures
 - d. Local government units
 - e. Normalization bodies – tied to the decommissioning of combatants and development of communities
 - f. Marawi rehabilitation
 - g. P/CVE
 - h. Communications, consultations with, and monitoring of orphans

8.2.1 Establishing a Baseline



Interventions	Description	Responsible Party
Profiling of orphans and widows	Building a comprehensive database of orphans and widows within the Bangsamoro that is transparent, and matching with existing service institutions.	Abovementioned parties, including MSS-BARMM Local government units Academe and civil society
Databasing of service institutions and providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Given limited time and resources, targeting should prioritise orphans who are still underage (ex. affected in the last decade)- However, the listing should work backwards to include all other affected individuals (for TJR/memory work purposes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Links to the IDB/JNC work under the normalization annex

CHILDREN OF WAR

A Rapid Needs Assessment of Orphans in Muslim Mindanao

ORPHAN

يتيم / yatim (Arabic)
 الأيتام / al-aytām (Arabic)
 l'lu (Sinug)
 ilo (Bisaya, Mranaw, Maguindanao)
 ulla (Tagalog)

Orphans of war are children who have lost at least one parent, particularly the father, in the various conflicts in Southern Philippines. Some are children of *shaheed*, or martyrs of the Moro revolutionary fronts, but many others are sons and daughters of civilians caught in the crossfire.



HOW MANY ORPHANS ARE THERE?

The MILF Social Welfare Committee (SWC) reportedly has a list of **8182** orphans as of April 2019.

The MILF Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) is working on a partial list with just over **500** widows and a similar number of orphans as of January 2020.

WHAT DO ORPHANS NEED?

- Emotional and spiritual support
- Access to balanced quality education
- Access to jobs and livelihood
- Physical safety and security especially for displaced communities
- Access to justice

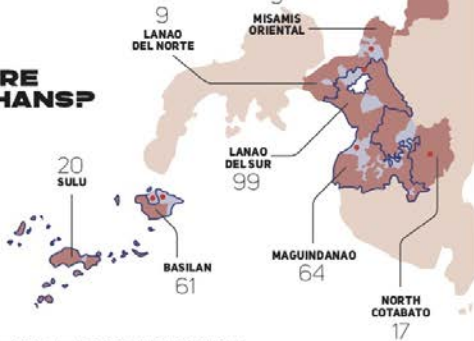
WHO ARE THE ORPHANS?

Orphans can be classified based on:



WHERE ARE THE ORPHANS?

A total of 273 respondents were interviewed across 34 municipalities in seven provinces.



RECOMMENDED SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS & WIDOWS

- Policy measures, including laws ensuring support for orphans and widows of war
- Establishing baseline data on orphans, widows, and existing de-facto orphanages, centers, and other service providers
- Design and delivery of comprehensive support packages, including the establishment of a DSWD-run and accredited orphanage in the Bangsamoro
- Continuous consultations with and monitoring of orphans and widows across all interventions

RECOMMENDED SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS & WIDOWS



Policy measures, including laws ensuring support for orphans and widows of war



Establishing baseline data on orphans, widows, and existing de-facto orphanages, centers, and other service providers

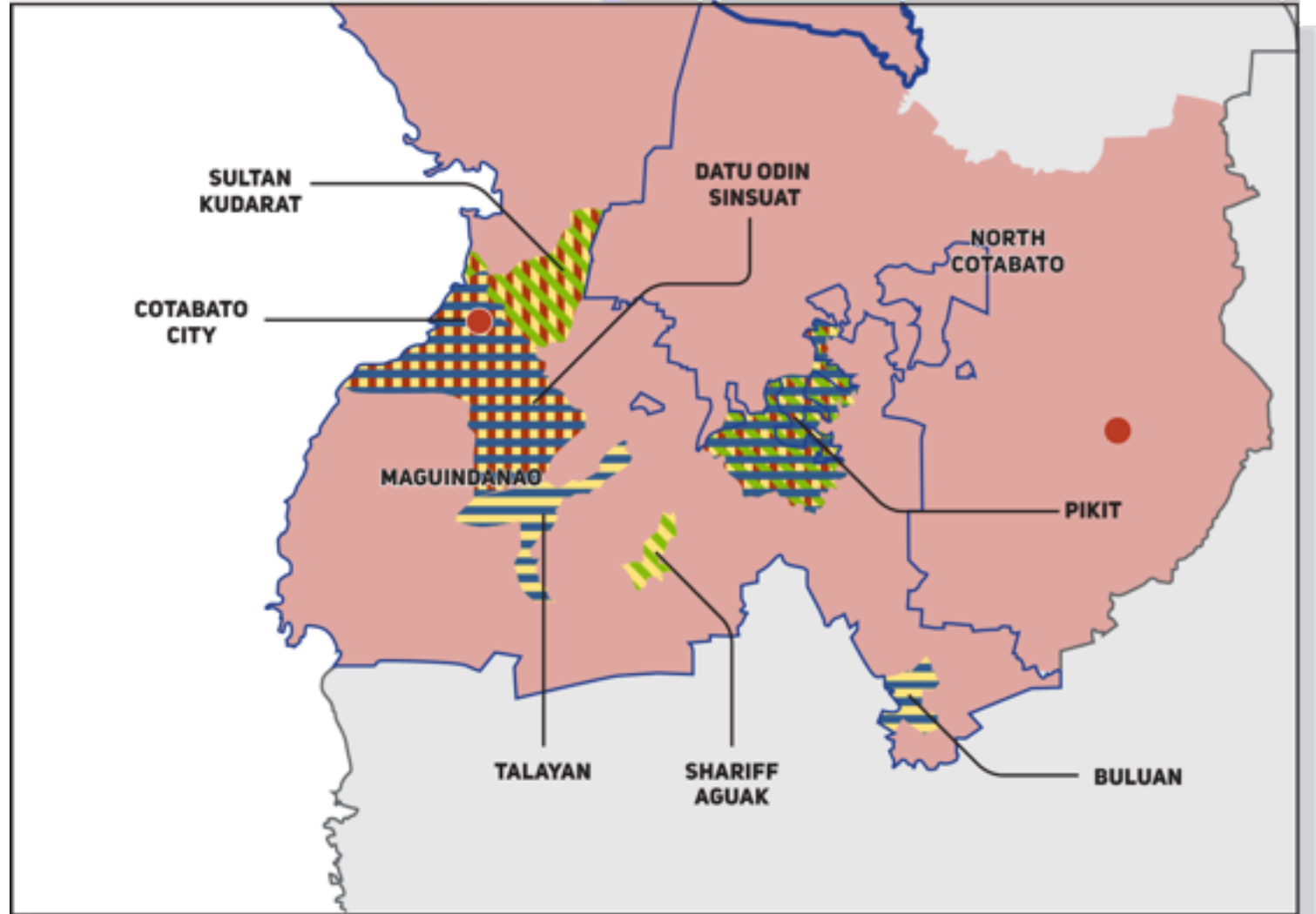
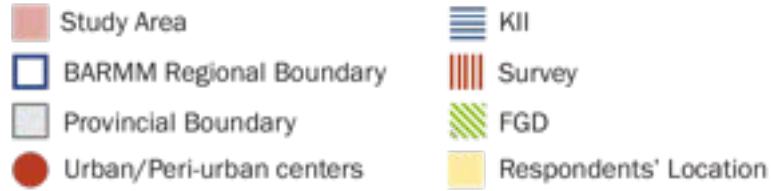


Design and delivery of comprehensive support packages, including the establishment of a DSWD-run and accredited orphanage in the Bangsamoro



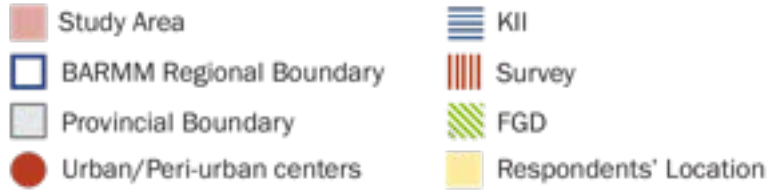
Continuous consultations with and monitoring of orphans and widows across all interventions

Central Mindanao

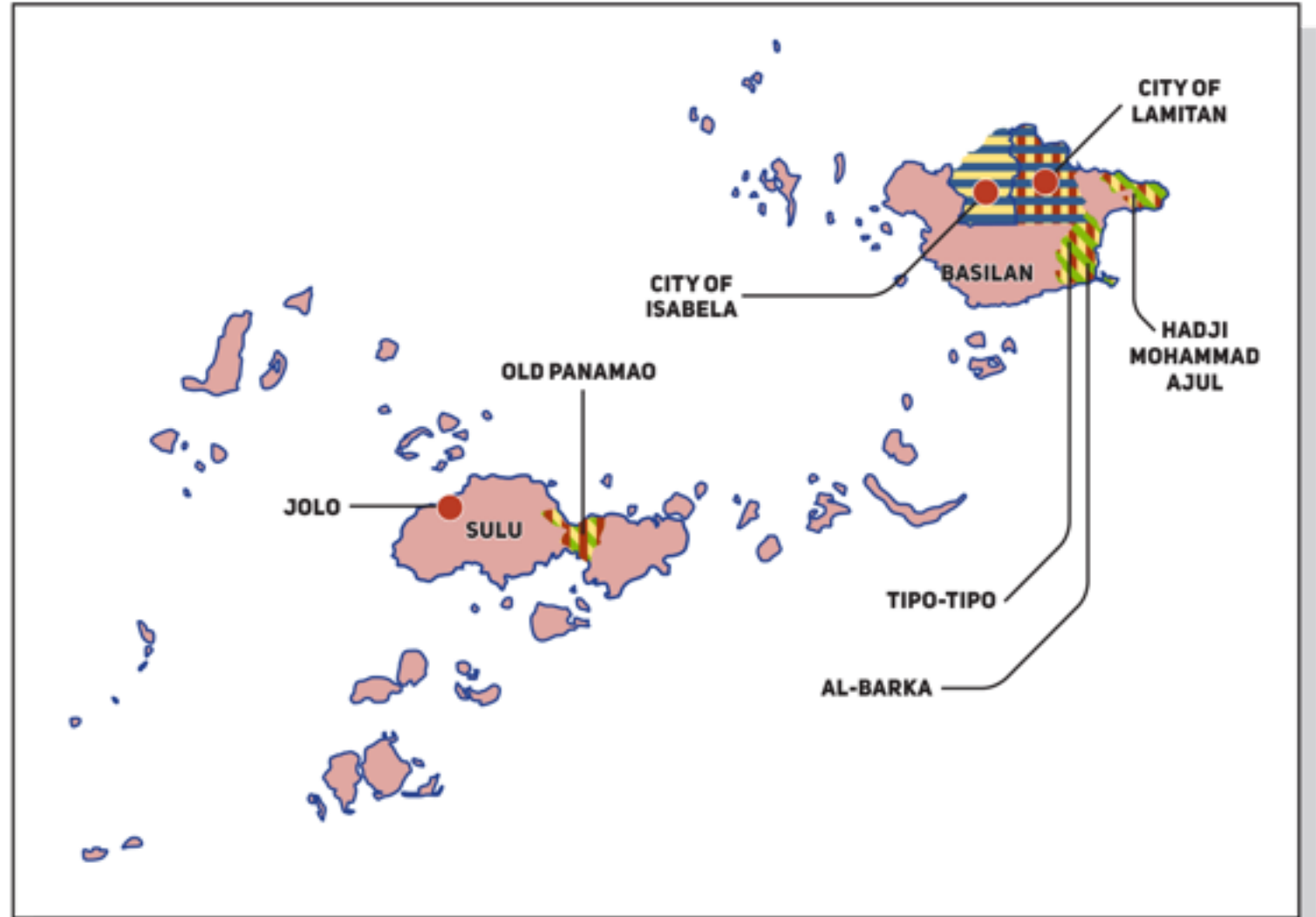


- Older orphans from the 2000 All-Out-War
- 2009 MOA-AD
- Sporadic skirmishes in the 2nd district of Maguindanao
- Communities hit by the 2015 Mamasapano incident
- Deaths in

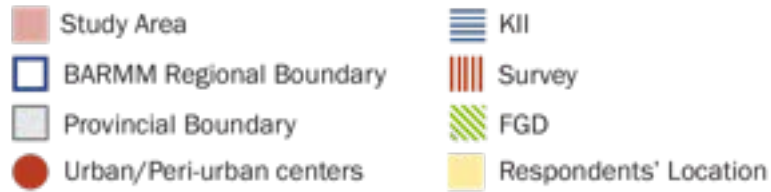
Basilan and Sulu



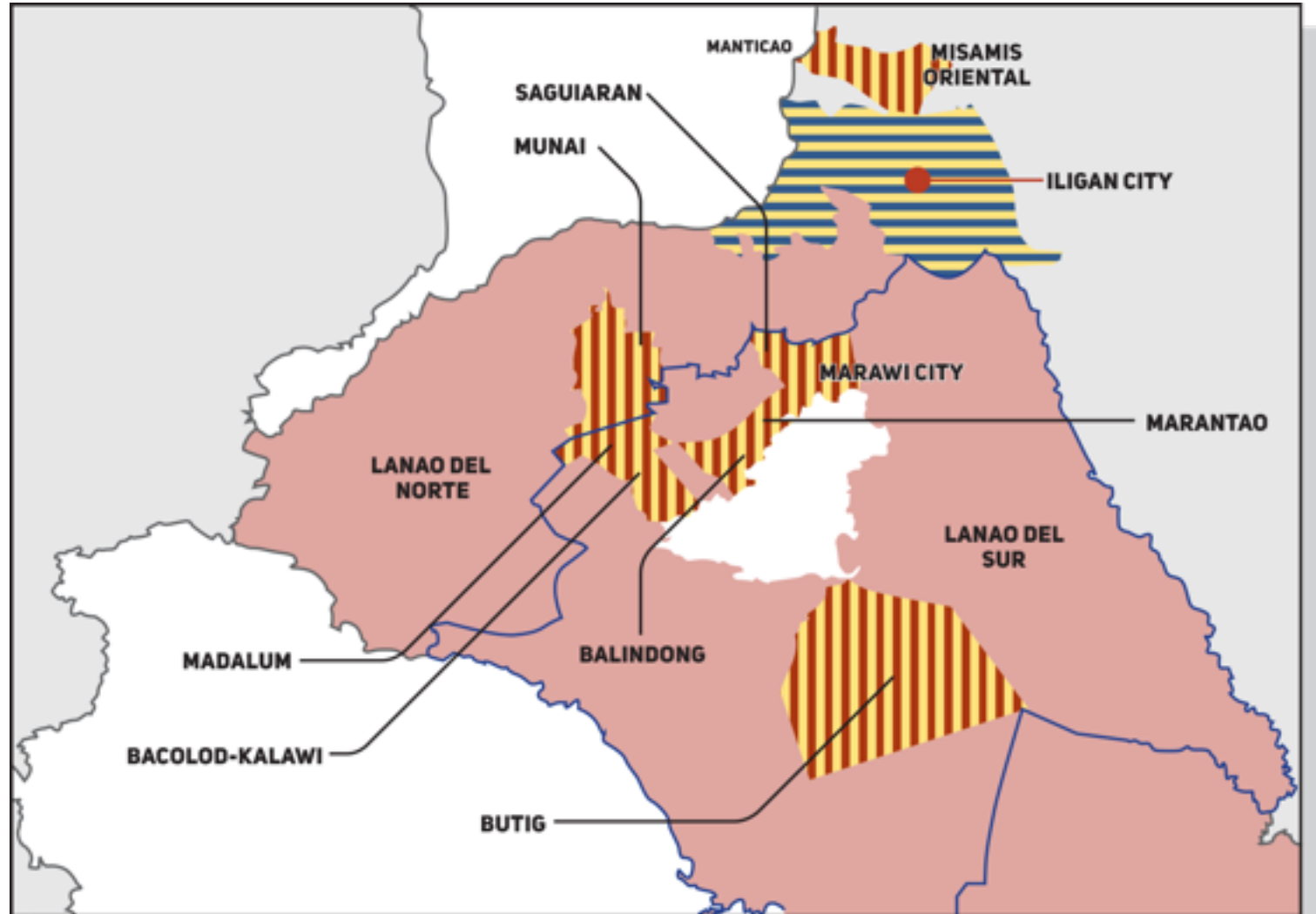
- MNLF widows from the 2013 Zamboanga Siege
- Orphans affected by operations with the ASG
- MILF orphans from Basilan



Ranao



- Butig and Piagapo
- 2017 Marawi Siege civilians, shaheed, and the missing/disappeared
- Martyred in MILF anti-drug operations
- Deaths in displacement
- Madamba incident





Case Study: The Orphans of the ASG

- Examples of orphans in these conditions include the sub-cells within the scattered factions of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu. They go by various names: The Lucky-9, Ajang-ajang, Anak I'lu, Group Latih and the newest name called Pulang Araw—all of which are mostly orphans of 'martyred' ASG, both commanders and rank-and-file.
- The Lucky-9 and Anak I'lu are orphans of ASG from Patikul, Sulu while the Ajang-ajang (whose former group was known as Latih Group) are a band of criminals who used to steal motorbikes and are mostly former drug users.
- Pulang Araw hails from Patikul. Their members mostly come from other ASG sub-cells who decided to consolidate their forces to fight against the Barangay officials of Taghlibi and Brgy. Panlayahan
- Their names are often anchored in popular culture.
 - 'Ajang Ajang' comes from a 2011 Hollywood animated comedy movie called *Rango*
 - 'Pulang Araw' comes from the popular soap opera 'Ang Probinsyano'

Case Study: Widows of the Zamboanga Siege



- Roughly two-thirds of married women in Barangay Bitanag, Old Panamao, Sulu lost their husbands during the 2013 Zamboanga Siege.
- All residents of the barangay are related and are directly or indirectly affiliated with the MNLF
- The widows recall how their husbands sought their permission to go to Zamboanga City by saying that they were asked by the MNLF leadership to participate in a peaceful rally.
- No support assistance was provided to the widows either by the MNLF or the Philippine government. Nevertheless, the community still supports Misuari.
- Because all the families in the entire neighborhood suffered the same fate, widows had to find individual ways to manage their emotions and tell their stories.





The Asia Foundation

Shukran.



HADZER BIROWA

PROVINCIAL RESEARCHER



A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered in a room, possibly for a meeting or discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent gradient. The text "Q&A AND DISCUSSION" is prominently displayed in the center.

Q&A AND DISCUSSION

THANK YOU!

Read the full report at www.asiafoundation.org

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