

A Community of Internally Displaced Persons and their Permanent Shelters: An Assessment of the Current Situation

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Abstract: This study sought to assess the permanent shelters in Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, awarded to qualified Marawi IDPs. This study involved 20 respondents, who are housing beneficiaries duly endorsed by the Local Government Unit of Marawi City to the Task Force Bangon Marawi. The instrument used in data gathering was a self-structured survey questionnaire consisting of the socio-demographic profile of the respondents as well as their perception of the respondents on the effectiveness of the permanent shelter. Simple statistical tools such as frequency counts, percentages, and mean were used to analyze and interpret the findings. Moreover, this study employed an Ex-post Facto research design, specifically a cross-sectional survey design to collect the data needed in the study at one point in time. This study aimed to shed light on the current status of IDPs, particularly on the effectiveness of the permanent shelters constructed at Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, Marawi City.

Keywords: Permanent shelter, Assessment, IDPs, Community, Displacement.

1. Introduction

A healthy and comfortable standard of living is guaranteed to all people by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, certain legal criteria and human rights protections under domestic law are provided by the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1997, the Magna Carta of Women of 2008, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, and the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act of 2015. To respect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs), which are non-discriminatory, the Philippine government is bound by human rights treaties and international standards established by the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. These rights include the freedom of movement and choice of residence, the right to an adequate standard of living, and access to essential food and potable water, as well as basic shelter. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," which is arguably the most poignant and beautiful statement made by all States in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is in and of itself a mighty achievement, discrediting the tyranny, discrimination, and disdain for human beings that have marked human history (United Nations, 1998). The military and an unknown number of men who subsequently identified themselves as the Maute group engaged in gunfire on May 23,

2017. With thousands of Meranaos evacuating to friends, family, or evacuation camps in neighboring areas, this five-month-long crisis—dubbed the "Marawi siege"—caused a significant displacement of the population. To aid in the recovery, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of the city of Marawi as well as other impacted areas, the Duterte government signed Administrative Order No. 3, which established Task Force Bangon Marawi, on June 28, 2017 (Official Gazette, 2017). The government vowed to give the eligible Marawi IDPs permanent accommodation, but are the housing projects being carried out correctly? This is a challenge to the relevant Task Force Bangon Marawi authorities to offer practical answers to the urgent concerns or challenges facing the Marawi IDPs. This study was conducted to address the problems of the IDPs residing in the permanent shelters in Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, Marawi City.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study were the following:

- To shed light on the current status of IDPs in the Permanent Shelters in Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, Marawi City.
- To assess the social services delivered to the IDPs.
- To identify challenges they currently experience.

3. Methodology

A. Research Design

The primary data for the study were gathered at a single point in time through the use of a cross-sectional survey design, which is a quantitative method of research using Ex Post-Facto research methodology. The responses of the IDP respondents in Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, Marawi City, were obtained through the use of a survey questionnaire. Additionally, it made use of fundamental statistical instruments including weighted mean, percentage distribution, and frequency count.

B. Research Locale

This study was conducted in the permanent shelter in Barangay Mipantao Gadongan, Marawi City. The locale was chosen due to its accessibility and ease of securing and

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classifying respondents for the study. It is significant to note that this was the first permanent shelter the government has built for the Marawi IDPs from the Most Affected Area (MAA). This barangay is one of the ninety-six barangays in the city of Marawi, in the province of Lanao del Sur. Its population as determined by the 2020 Census was 1,421. This represented 0.69% of the total population of Marawi. The household population of the said barangay in the 2015 Census was 1,412 broken down into 239 households or an average of 5.91 members per household. It is situated at approximately 8.0026, 124.3050, on the island of Mindanao. Elevation at these coordinates is estimated at 744.1 meters or 2,441.2 feet above mean sea level (philatlas.com, 2023).

C. Respondents of the Study

The respondents of this study were housing beneficiaries in permanent housing. All of them are Marawi IDPs from the Most Affected Area (MAA) who cannot return anymore. They are duly approved by the Beneficiary Selection Board, chaired by the Local Government Unit of Marawi City, for the selection of beneficiaries for permanent housing.

D. Sampling

In this study, the researcher utilized stratified random sampling in selecting the respondents. Moreover, Sloven's formula was also used to get the sample of the study or the population of the households per area in the permanent shelters.

E. Research Instrument

The researcher utilized a self-structured questionnaire that served as a main tool in data gathering. The survey questionnaire was divided into two components or parts: Part one deals with the socio-demographic profile of the respondents which includes age, sex, civil status, highest educational attainment, and livelihood. Meanwhile, part two talks about the effectiveness of the permanent shelters awarded to them.

F. Data Gathering

The researcher had a courtesy call with the National Housing Authority – Marawi Project Management Office, the entity overseeing the development of the permanent shelters. The latter approved the request of the former to conduct a survey at the said shelters, for educational purposes. Moreover, the researcher also reached out to the elected leaders of the IDPs at the permanent shelters and informed them of the very purpose of the conduct of data gathering.

Moreover, the researcher made sure that the survey questionnaire provided was simple and could be understood properly by the respondents. It was even translated into the “Meranao” dialect, for the majority of the IDPs living in the permanent shelters are Meranaos.

G. Ethical Considerations

The researcher obtained informed consent from the respondents before the collection of data, considering that it is the right of the respondents to be aware of the involved procedures as well as the possible potential risks in participating in the data gathering. The researcher also assured the

respondents that their voluntary participation matters the most in this endeavor and that they have the right to refuse or even withdraw from the study during the data gathering.

Moreover, the researcher provided a clear instruction on how to complete the survey questionnaire and assured the respondents that the data to be gathered would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

H. Data Analysis

The study utilized Slovin's formula to calculate the sample respondents from the total population of the study. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage analysis, mean, as well as computed weighted mean was applied to report the respondent's socio-demographic profiles and their perception of the effectiveness of the permanent shelters.

4. Results and Discussion

A. Socio-Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1
Frequency count and percentage distribution of respondents according to age

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
16-20	1	5
21-30	5	25
Above 30	14	70
Total	20	100.0

The table shows that of the 20 respondents, only 1 (5%) was 16-20 years old; 5 (25%) were around 21-30 years old and 14 (70%) were above 30 years old. The results imply that the majority of the respondents (14 or 70%) are adults.

Table 2
Frequency count and percentage distribution of respondents according to sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	7	35
Female	13	65
Total	20	100.0

As reflected in Table 2, the majority (13 or 65%) of the respondents are female while only 7 (35%) were male. The findings suggest that most of the males are not around during the conduct of the survey since the fathers, who act as household heads are usually out, working for a living to provide for the needs of their families.

Table 3
Frequency count and percentage distribution of respondents according to civil status

Civil Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	3	15
Married	11	55
Widow/Widower	5	25
Separated	1	5
Total	20	100.0

As shown in Table 3, the majority (11 or 55%) were married while only 5 (25%) were widows/widowers. The rest of the respondents were either single (3 or 15%) or separated (1 or 5%). The findings imply that there is an increasing number of widows/widowers in the area.

Table 5
Frequency count, percentage distribution, and mean score on the effectiveness of the permanent shelters

Statement Indicators	SA		A		D		SD		\bar{X}	VI
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Because they are constructed from high-quality, standard materials, the shelters are long-lasting.	12	60	7	35	1	5	0	0	3.5	SA
The house that was granted contains a well-constructed comfort room.	12	60	8	40	0	0	0	0	3.6	SA
The shelter offers convenience and comfort.	12	60	8	40	0	0	0	0	3.6	SA
A family of five can comfortably stay in the shelter.	11	55	9	45	0	0	0	0	3.55	SA
The shelter is livable and decent.	10	50	10	50	0	0	0	0	3.5	SA
Both privacy and space are ample in the shelter.	6	30	14	70	0	0	0	0	3.3	A
The shelter has good lighting and ventilation.	12	60	8	40					3.6	SA
Daily prayers are held in a hygienic and secure setting.	11	55	9	45	0	0	0	0	3.55	SA
Overall Mean Score									3.52	SA

Scaling/ Legend: 3.26-4.00 – “Strongly Agree” (SA), 2.51-3.25 – “Agree” (A), 1.76-2.5 – “Disagree” (SD), 1.00-1.74 – “Strongly Disagree” (SD), and VI – Verbal Interpretations

Table 4

Frequency count and percentage distribution of respondents according to livelihood/occupation

Livelihood	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	8	40
Other business	4	20
Sari-sari store owner	3	15
Tricycle Driver	1	5
Tailor	1	5
Farmer	1	5
Barangay Kagawad	1	5
Construction Worker	1	5
Total	20	100.0

As disclosed in Table 4, the majority (8 or 40%) of the respondents are unemployed and have no stable source of income. On the other hand, 4 (20%) have some businesses followed by sari-sari store owners (3 or 15%). These findings showed how the Marawi siege adversely affected the livelihood of the people of Marawi. During the conduct of the survey, the majority of the respondents who stated that they currently have no source of income were self-employed before the siege.

B. Effectiveness of the Permanent Shelter

The total mean score of the eight statement indicators, which indicates how effective the permanent shelters are, is 3.52, which can be orally understood as "Strongly Agree." According to the study's findings, the IDPs living in permanent shelters are happy and content with the shelters that the local government has granted them. What is unique in this housing program is that every unit has its comfort room where the IDPs have privacy, unlike what has been accustomed in transitory shelters wherein IDPs use community latrines, instead of individual comfort rooms. It implies that shelter is a priority on the respondent's list of life-sustaining necessities. The right to appropriate shelter is one component of everyone's right to a decent quality of living. This right was first acknowledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it has since

been incorporated into several international human rights treaties.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

This study aimed to assess the current situation of Internally Displaced Persons, particularly the effectiveness of their permanent shelters. The findings showed positive feedback from the respondents. It suggests that these shelters provided by the government are indeed long-lasting and convenient, as compared to the transitory shelters wherein the housing beneficiaries may occupy for a maximum of five years only. The respondents believe the shelters awarded to them are made from high-quality materials and therefore livable for a longer term.

In light of the research findings, the researcher recommends the continuation and timely completion of the construction of the permanent shelters since there are still some qualified housing beneficiaries who wish to avail themselves of the said assistance from the government. It has been said that the official beneficiaries will not only get a permanent housing unit but the lot as well, not to mention other assistance from different public and private agencies. Also, the researcher recommends a fair selection of beneficiaries since reports are saying that there are some unqualified who were able to avail of the housing assistance.

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