

## Lived Experiences of First Batch of Returned IDPs in Marawi City: A Post-Conflict Scenario

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### ABSTRACT

*This study focused on the experiences of the first group of returned internally displaced people to be sheltered in Sagonsongan Temporary Shelters two years prior. Triangulation approach were employed to obtain data using a cross-sectional survey and simple random sampling. 221 important informants participated in the study. The objective of this study was to assess IDPs' situation on the ground. In general, this study discovered three major issues that IDPs consistently faced: health and nutrition, livelihood, and sanitation. It was revealed that IDPs infrequently received dietary and health-related support and asserted confidently that they only received generic and 'not' healthy food products such as sardines, low-quality rice, and low-cost beans. Also, the shelter lacked adequate medical facilities and personnel to address the medical needs of IDPs, especially during emergencies. The drainage system was a potential source of dengue, leptospirosis, and other pathogens that pose a risk to human health due to its inadequate design, which inhibits precipitation from draining. Moreover, it was revealed that there was a lack of and insufficient livelihood support in the shelter. Capacity building was also a mismatch because there was no technical job available following the training. Hence, the relocation area is not conducive to sustaining a livelihood. In addition, it was determined that the level of sanitation in the shelter differs from one area to the next. Nevertheless, garbage disposal management in the area is often inadequate. As a result of inefficient waste management and an unhealthy environment, cockroaches, flies, and mosquitoes thrive*

### KEYWORDS

*IDP; shelter; health and nutrition; livelihood; sanitation*

### INTRODUCTION

The risk of terrorist attacks and acts of violence is one of the challenges that the Philippines has been attempting to address. The crisis that occurred in Marawi in May 2017 forced hundreds of people to flee their homes, and the city itself turned into a battlefield. Because of this disaster, hundreds of thousands of people were forced to relocate to other places, where they sought for temporary shelters that was also secure.

According to UNCHR (1998), IDPs are individuals who have been compelled to leave their place of habitual residence but, unlike refugees, have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. Contrary to refugees, IDPs enjoy no special status nor does any specific legally binding instrument guarantee them protection and assistance.

IDPs evacuate their homes out of fear for their lives, giving up their possessions as well as their social and family ties. The vast majority of internally displaced people (IDPs)

relocate from rural to urban settings, a shift that has significant implications across humanitarian, economic, and social domains. (Carillo, 2009).

ReliefWeb (2017) reported that around 340,000 individuals from Marawi and the neighboring towns have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict. This includes more than 72,000 families. A major cause of food insecurity, according to Baro and Deubel (2006), is war and displacement, which restricts a population's ability to consume nutrients and access food markets in high-risk locations, resulting in a scarcity of food and the adoption of unhealthy coping mechanisms. For this reason, the government and other assistance organizations act quickly to restore livelihoods lost or destroyed by a disaster (Mannakkara et al., 2014).

Furthermore, essential humanitarian aid, including water, food, and consumable non-food goods, has reportedly decreased for both IDPs living at home and in evacuation centers. Families also received food kits, although there are still complaints about their quality and quantity. People complain, for instance, that the food packages only last two days due to the number of family members who consume them simultaneously, and that they contain only spoiled rice, allegedly expired canned goods, and insufficient nutritional foods. In contrast to refugees, who get assistance from international organizations, IDPs are considered the responsibility of the affected country's government (Cantor et al., 2021).

Additionally, the TFBM and the National Housing Authority (NHA) built temporary shelters on a designated 9.27-hectare plot of land in Marawi City's Barangay Sagonsongan, which currently houses approximately 1,170 households. These temporary shelters were designed with sensitivity to the cultural needs of the displaced population, which was primarily Meranaw (ReliefWeb, 2017).

This study aims to shed light on key indicators for those who have been displaced due to conflict and violence in order to better understand the factors that contribute to their resettlement. This is the first study to look at the experiences of IDPs in temporary shelters two years after Marawi City's massive displacement.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

In this study, a combination of approaches, known collectively as triangulation, was used. In qualitative research, "triangulation" refers to the practice of developing a full understanding of phenomena through the utilization of different research methods or sources of data (Patton, 1999). This methodology may involve interviews, observations, and field notes.

In order to comprehend and assess the lived experiences of IDPs, this study employed a cross-sectional survey and Likert scale. Using this strategy, the researcher had the opportunity to assist respondents with questions that were difficult for them to understand. Random sampling was utilized. Everyone has an equal and independent probability of getting chosen. If the sample is large, this is the best technique to get population-representative samples. Everyone's chances are equal.

Research protocols and ethics were also adhered to, particularly with regard to participant data confidentiality. The data collecting was given the go signal by the administrator of Sagonsongan Temporary Shelters.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of this study came to the conclusion that internally displaced people (IDPs) have experienced the following three main issues throughout their stay in the shelter over the past two years: *health and nutrition, livelihood, and sanitation*.

Based on the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) (2022), IDPs face multiple health issues and vulnerabilities, and they are frequently exposed to new health risks. The findings of this study indicated, according to the data, that respondents were satisfied with the ventilation in the shelters, which is beneficial to one's health. However, it was discovered that the area lacked regular medical facilities and personnel, such as a doctor, nurse, and dietitian, who are only available during certain hours.

In addition, respondents believed they were prone to dengue or leptospirosis when it rained. Due to congestion, transferable illnesses are very prevalent among IDP families. The survey also revealed that the government is no longer providing food items, particularly nutrient-dense meals. This is due to the fact that they have never been given nutrient-dense diets; instead, they have only been given inexpensive beans such as "monggos" or green beans. Quintero and Culler (2009) said coordinating health services for IDPs is difficult owing to financial, human, and government concerns.

According to Cernea (1997) and Patel et al (2015), multiple research have revealed that induced displacements are commonly accompanied by losses of livelihood resources, which results in the impoverishment of the persons who were displaced. Similarly, the government's assistance and capacity building are deemed ineffective because no technical jobs were available following the training. Also, the relocation area is unsuitable for a sustainable livelihood. As a result of being forced to evacuate their homes, displaced populations face a variety of vulnerabilities and instabilities, as stated by Guiam (2013). This is due to the fact that their previously established social protection structures, such as their sources of livelihood, have been destroyed or disrupted.

## CONCLUSION

This study examined global evidence to inform future research and programming. Despite the complexity of IDP populations, circumstances, and other specific requirements, this study generally found that the government and other humanitarian players failed to provide a long-term solution to the perceived problems of the IDPs in their two years of stay in Sagonsongan Temporary Shelter. In particular, internally displaced people have limited access to necessary health care, insufficient intervention to improve their livelihoods, and an unhealthy environment caused by improper management of waste. Therefore, enhancing these services is necessary throughout the phase of resettlement.

The complexity of IDPs' lives, which encompasses the conditions of their economic, health, and sanitary lives, puts them at heightened risk for new dangers and heightens their vulnerability to existing threats. This study also suggests that humanitarian actors should continue to work with displaced individuals for an extended period of time after a disaster.

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