



**Data-driven CVE and Counter-State Initiatives
in the Philippines
01 July 2019**

What is impl. project?

- “impl.” is shorthand for implementation
- 501c3 organization
- Data-driven implementation
 - Focuses on local microdata
 - Establishes data ecosystems to assess, monitor and evaluate social health, cohesion
- Cross-sectoral programming
 - Addresses underlying systemic causes of instability
- Best practices
 - Combines latest reporting, analysis, and visualization technologies with proven, **real-time** field best practices



Triangulating Vulnerability Through Diverse Data Sources



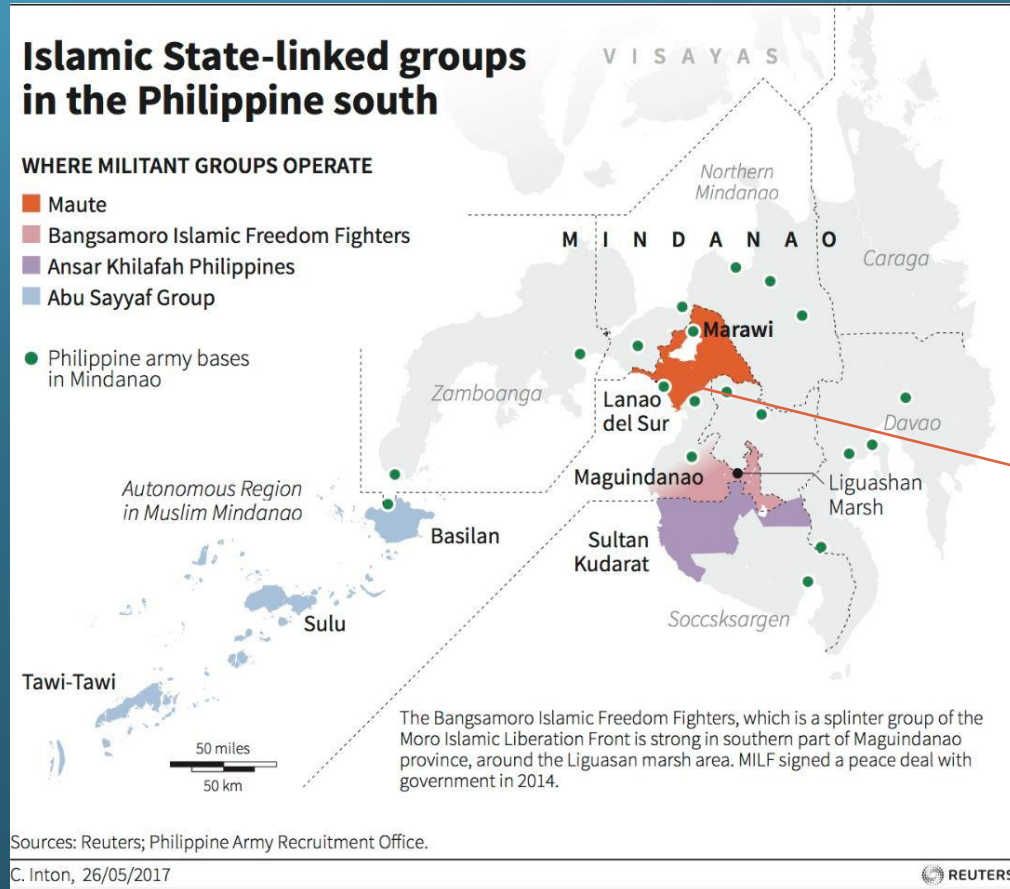
Community
perception
surveys

Vet systemic
causes

Establish
baselines

Implementation

Why Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur?



Airstrikes, clashes between military, ISIS-Maute group in Lanao del Sur towns

(3rd UPDATE) According to Colonel Romeo Brawner, current reports indicate 5 members of the Maute-ISIS group led by Abu Dar, have been killed. The military is still verifying these reports.

Bobby Lagsa

Published 8:33 AM, June 18, 2018
Updated 8:16 PM, June 18, 2018

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Reddit

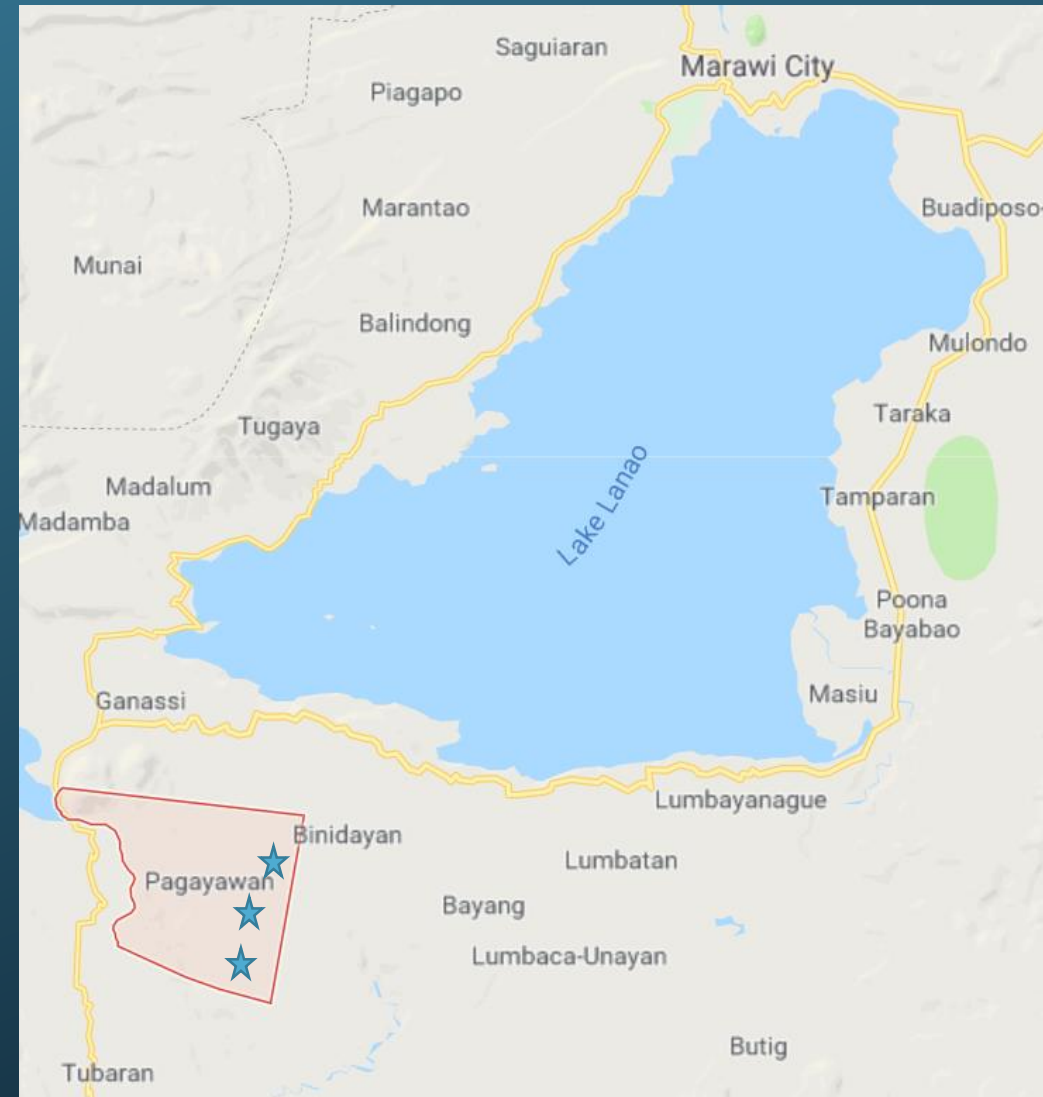


- After the Islamic State's defeat in Marawi, Lanao del Sur, remnants of the group have taken up safe haven in rural Pagayawan and Butig municipalities

Youth dynamics in eastern Pagayawan

Overview of Pagayawan youth data collection

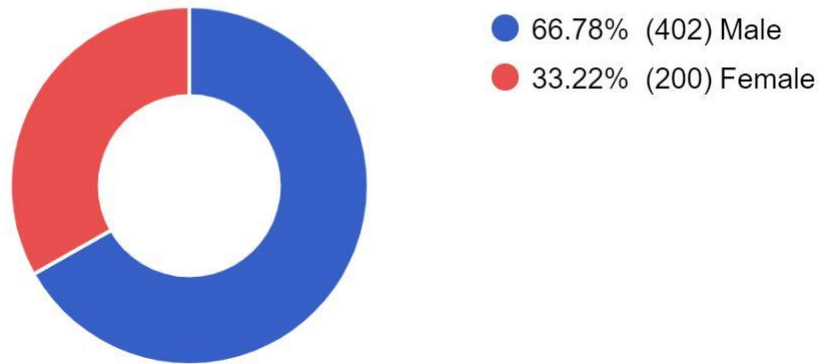
| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Purpose of Review: | Understand dynamics of youth in unstable barangays of Pagayawan (Padas, Rangiran, and Guiarong), Lanao del Sur as one of the remaining IS-Ranao safe havens after the Marawi Siege |
| Survey Approach: | Face-to-face, geo-tagged interviews in Maranao and Tagalog |
| Survey Details: | 602 surveys completed in November, 2018 |



Youth demographics

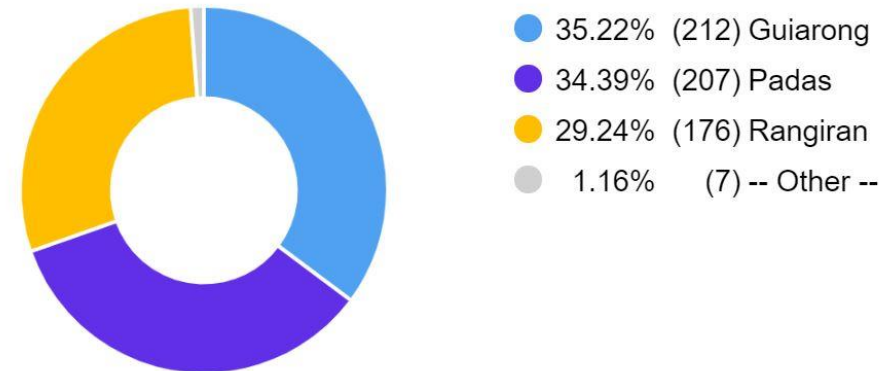
2. What is your gender?

Results based on 602 responses to this question



8. Barangay

Results based on 602 responses to this question



Grievances: Education, Livelihoods, and Infra Dominate

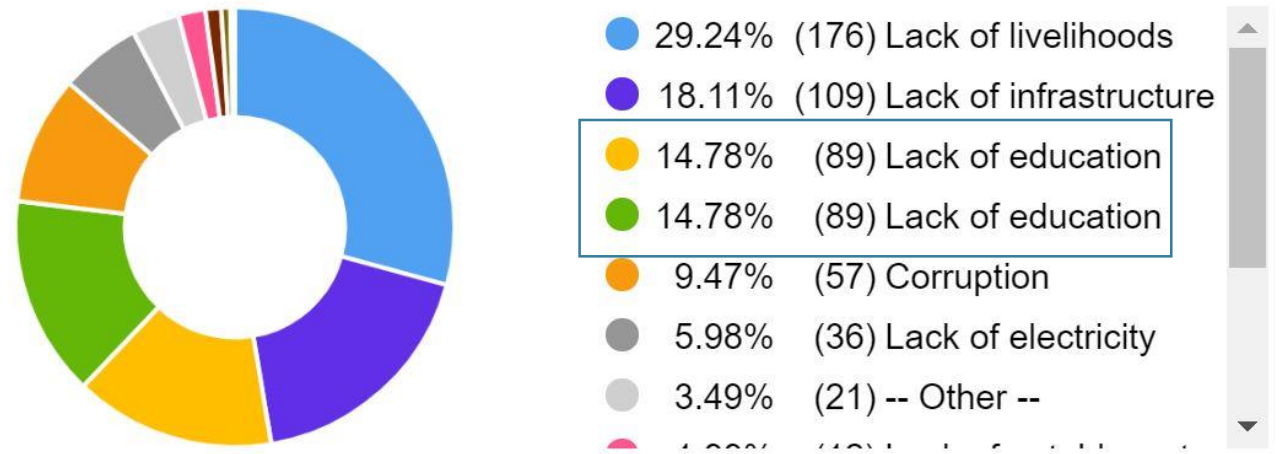
Among youth (ages 12-29) in Pagayawan:

1. "Lack of education" is the primary grievance at 30%
2. "Lack of livelihoods" is a close second at 29%
3. "Lack of infrastructure" rounds out the top 3 grievances at 18%

- Contrasted with adults' answers from May (see slide 5), youth grievances vary significantly, even within the same municipality
- A "one-size-fits-all" resilience strategy cannot be applied to such complex environments

9. What's the biggest problem facing your community?

Results based on 602 responses to this question



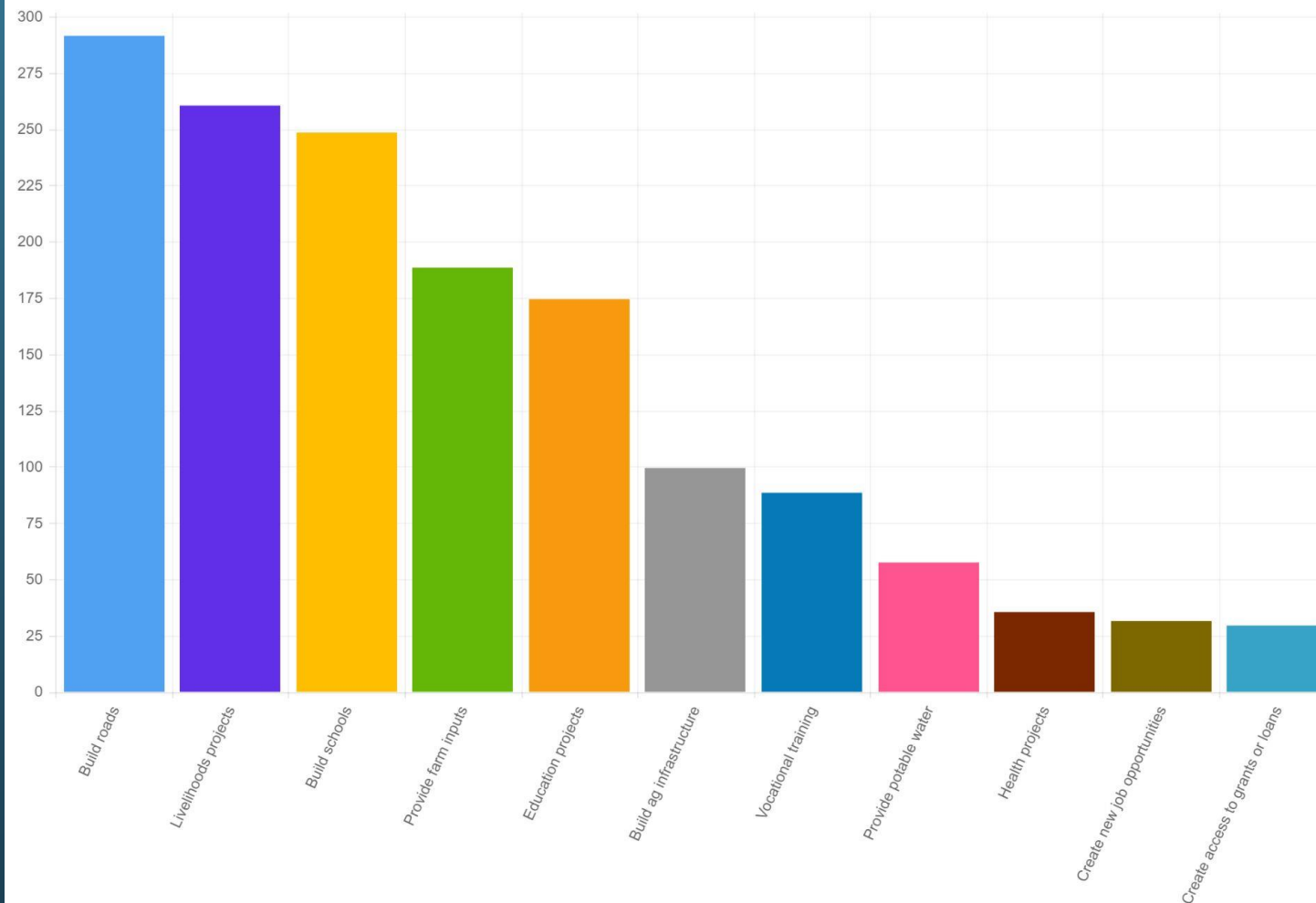
*coding glitch split the "lack of education" responses in two halves.

Local solutions

- The three barangays covered in this data set comprise the most remote and inaccessible areas of Pagayawan, a key determinate for IS-Ranao's selection as a safe haven
- Infrastructure linking this barangay to schools and markets comprise the first and third top solutions, respectively
- Livelihoods projects, specifically access to farming necessities (seeds, fertilizer, and ag infrastructure) round out the top six solutions
- Three more livelihoods solutions are requested by Pagayawan youth:
 - Vocational training
 - Creating new job opportunities (beyond the ag sector)
 - Creating access to capital

10. What would you do to solve the problem?

Results based on 602 responses to this question

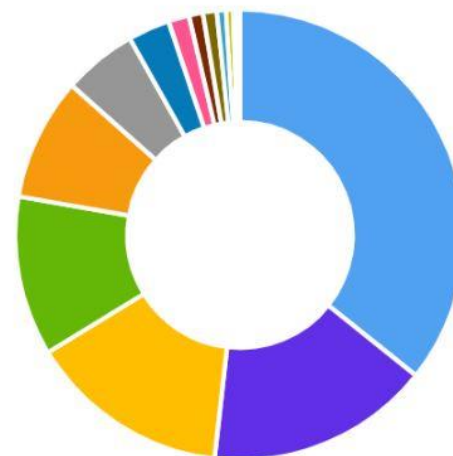


Rural Pagayawan lacks government reach

- Adults in Pagayawan's more accessible barangays favor local government officials (64%, slide 7) for solving community problems
- Youth in Pagayawan's most inaccessible districts, having been let down by various government levels, say that they trust NGOs to solve their problems
- This divergent trust dynamic is likely because of the lack of service delivery and reach by the local government
- *The absence of government is precisely the vacuum IS-Ranao is seeking to fill, which is why good actors must take and occupy that vacuum instead*

11. Who do you believe can solve your problems?

Results based on 602 responses to this question

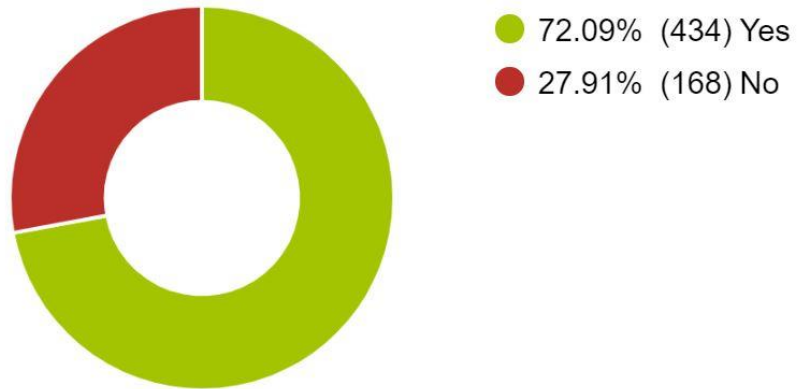


| | | |
|--------|-------|----------------------|
| 35.71% | (215) | NGOs |
| 16.11% | (97) | National government |
| 14.45% | (87) | Barangay captain |
| 11.46% | (69) | Municipal government |
| 8.80% | (53) | Local leader |
| 5.32% | (32) | Religious leader |
| 2.99% | (18) | Provincial |

How vulnerable are Pagayawan youth to IS-Ranao

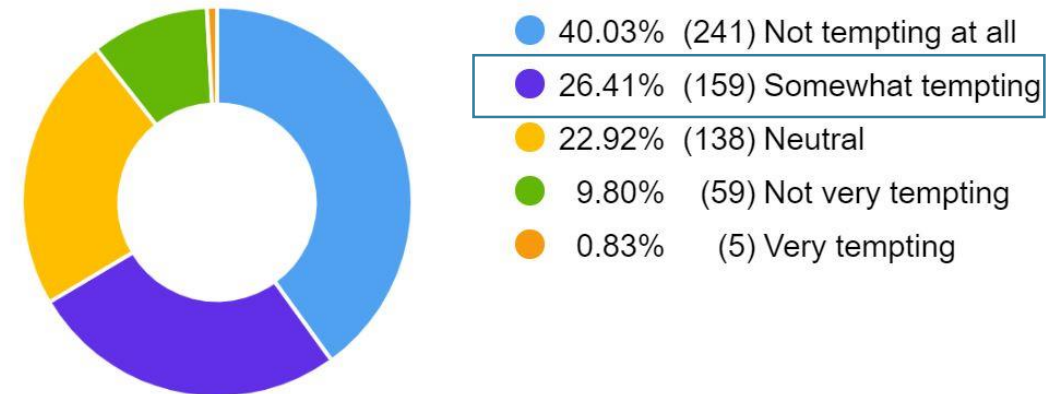
17. Are you aware of violent groups operating in this area?

Results based on 602 responses to this question



18. How tempting is it to join a rebel group?

Results based on 602 responses to this question



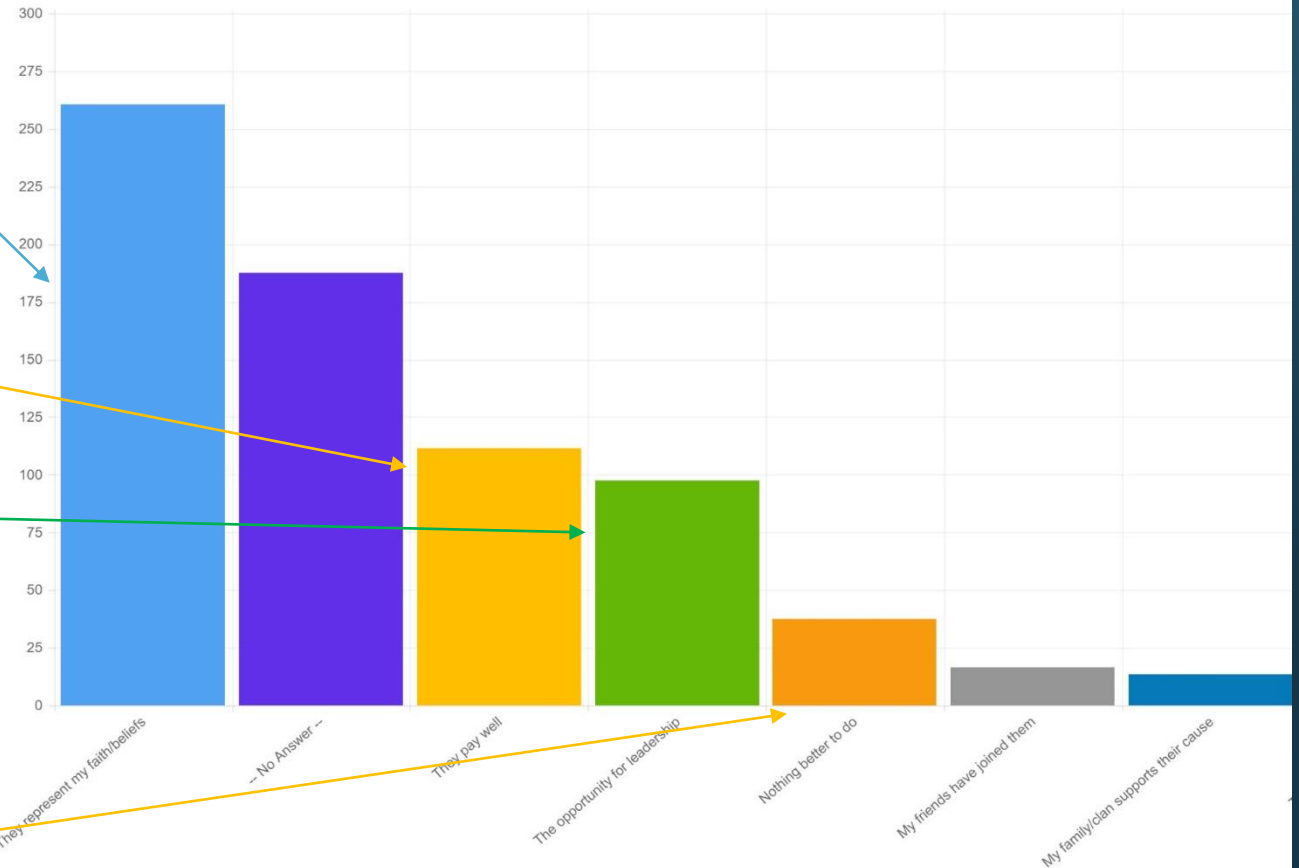
- 73% of youth in Pagayawan validate a rebel group operating (remnants of IS-Ranao) in their area
- 28% of youth in Pagayawan (or 164 respondents) say that rebel groups somewhat or very tempting
- Another 23% remained neutral, either fence sitting or not comfortable giving an honest answers
- Were IS-Ranao to leverage the vulnerabilities of these youth, it could double its numbers and solidify its hold on this safe haven

Why do rural youth find IS-Ranao tempting?

1. "They represent my faith/beliefs"
answered by 40% of youth
 - Messaging of moderate Islam and democracy is losing to the message of extremism
2. "They pay well"
 - Economic desperation and the lack of job opportunities allow IS-Ranao's illicit funding sources to attract recruits
3. "The opportunity for leadership"
 - Again, empowering opportunities for out-of-school youths (OSYs) make IS-Ranao attractive
4. "Nothing better to do"
 - Boredom and hopelessness undergird IS-Ranao's strategy to recruit rural youth

19. If joining a rebel group is tempting, why do you say that?

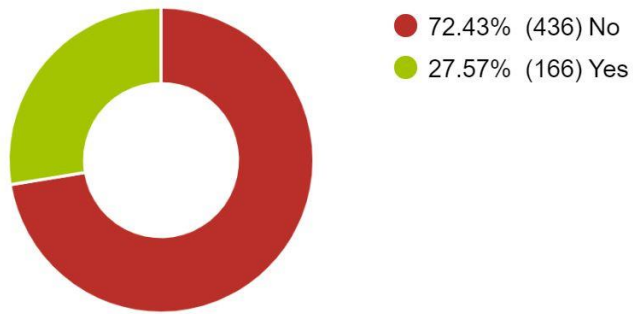
Results based on 602 responses to this question



How severe is the Out-of-school youth (OSY) issue

13. Are you currently attending school, or did you graduate high school?

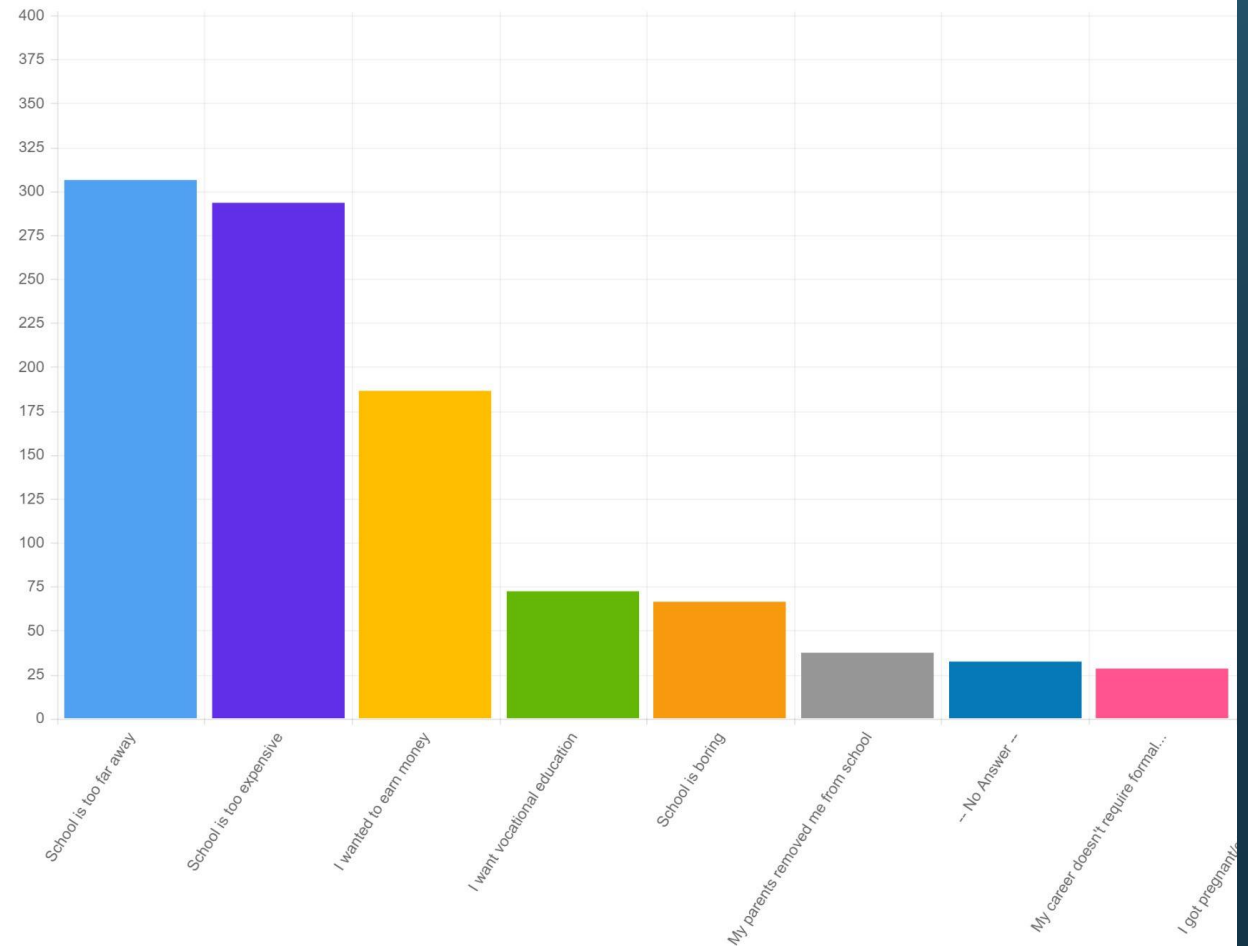
Results based on 602 responses to this question



- 72% of respondents either were not currently enrolled in school, or had not graduated high school in rural Pagayawan
- The inaccessibility (distance, transportation, and expense) of formal education are the primary sources of OSY
- For some, vocational training and viable trade skills are more attractive and useful

14. If you are OSY, what are the reasons you stopped your education?

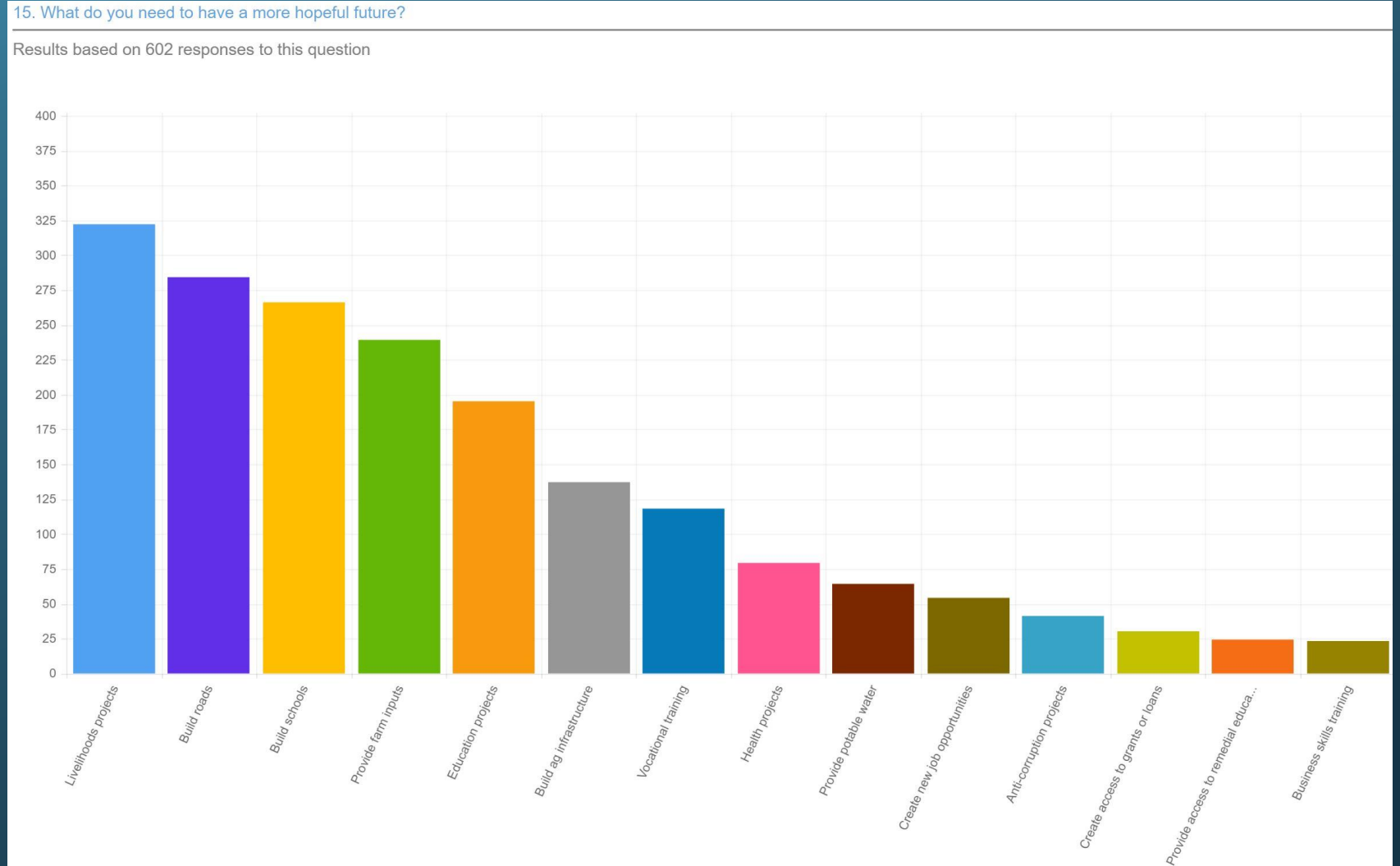
Results based on 602 responses to this question



How should we engage out-of-school youth

Pagayawan OSYs seek the basics:

1. Livelihoods support for a better future
 - Ag inputs
 - Ag infrastructure
 - Vocational training
 - Access to capital
2. Basic infrastructure and government services
 - Connectivity to the outside world
 - Formal education
 - Health services
 - Clean water projects
3. *These projects must reach the most vulnerable, inaccessible barangays to maximize impact*



Significant events in Pagayawan

Projects to build resiliency, address drivers



- Nov 5th, 2018 – Youth vulnerability data mapping: 602 respondents from Khilafa areas: Padas, Rangirang, and Guiarong barangays
- Mar 23, 2019 – Humanitarian distro for IDPs from AFP counter-ISIS operations
- April 11, 2019 – Establish inclusive, multi-purpose cooperative; water council established (NYTimes, Apr 28, 2019)
- April 14, 2019 – Water project (CMSE) turnover

Next steps: Pagawayan Resiliency Cooperative

Objective: To build resiliency and community cohesion within Pagawayan and decrease local support to IS-Philippines by,

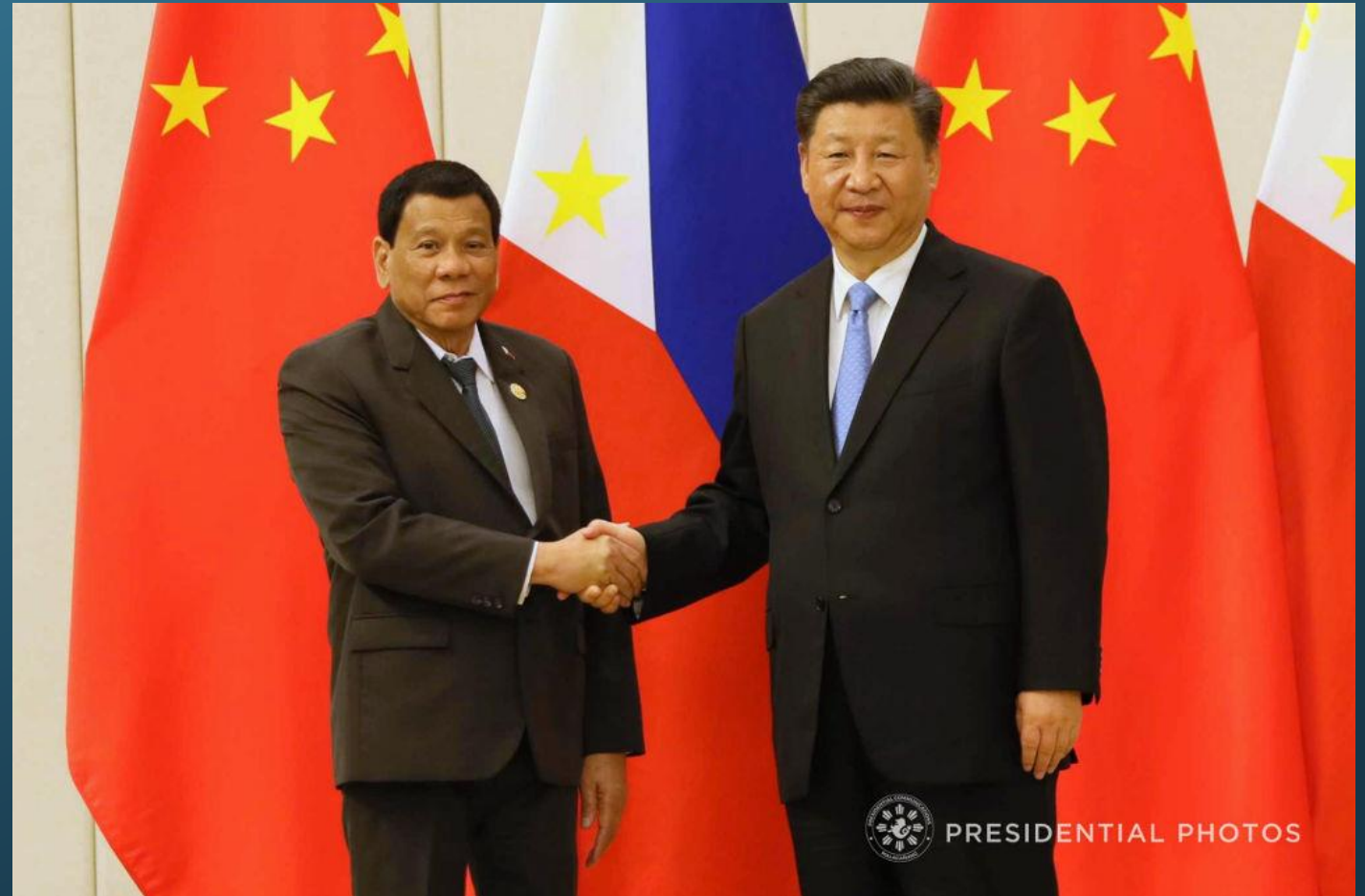
- Organizing community cooperatives through which to conduct activities and consistently engage the population, especially OSYs;
- Incentivize locals to work together to solve their land, water, and agricultural issues by having a community body to discuss them;
- Build small-scale agricultural infrastructure to support livelihoods;
- Subsidize seeds and fertilizer, and provide training on best practices;
- Support the cooperative in making fair rules by which to share common resources like land, water, and infrastructure.



Counter-state Influence

Counter-state influence (PRC)

- Why has PHL pivoted to China?
- How bad is it?
- What is PRC's strategy in PHL, SE Asia?
- What are we doing to respond?



PRC in the South China Sea

PRC's military installations on disputed islands



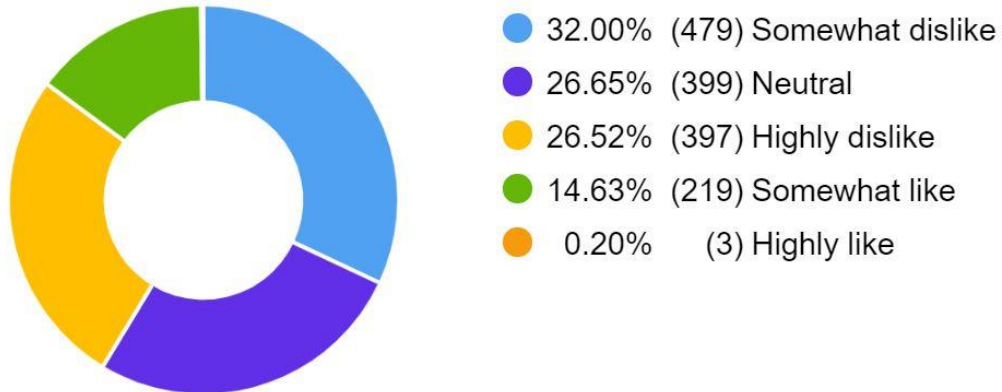
Commercial Chinese fishing fleet in Philippine sovereign waters



Impl's Current C-PRC Pilot

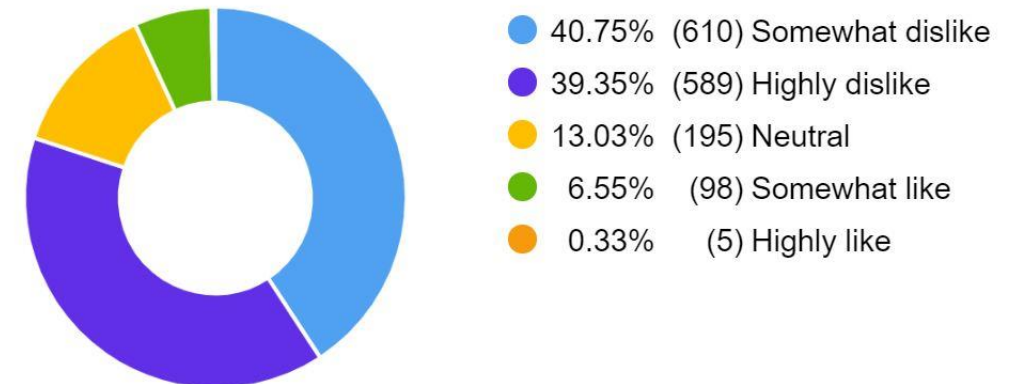
15. How favorably do you view the People's Republic of China (PRC)?

Results based on 1497 responses to this question



32. Having seen China's influence in the Philippines, how do you now feel about the People's Republic of China?

Results based on 1497 responses to this question



- Impl project tested 4 key issues with nearly 1500 respondents in Marawi to see which messages influenced perceptions the most
- Negative perceptions of PRC increased from 58% to 80% after exposing respondents to open source, Tagalog-language news articles discussing the respective issues

Impl's Current C-PRC Pilot

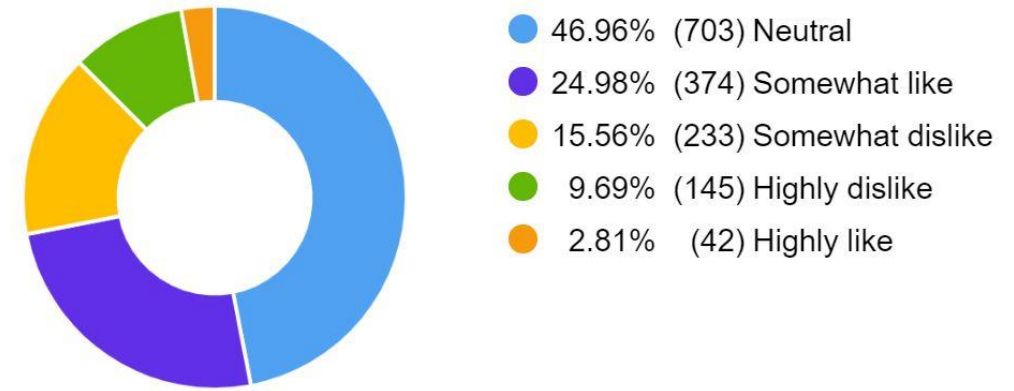
30. Which issue angers you most about China's interference in the Philippines?

Results based on 1497 responses to this question

| RANKING | CHINESE AGGRESSION AGAINST ITS MUSLIM CITIZENS | CHINA BUILDING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ON PHILIPPINE ISLANDS | CHINA'S LACK OF PROGRESS IN REBUILDING MARAWI | OTHER |
|---------|--|---|---|-------|
| 1 | 749 | 168 | 440 | 140 |
| 2 | 328 | 551 | 502 | 116 |
| 3 | 275 | 658 | 516 | 48 |
| 4 | 145 | 120 | 39 | 1193 |

33. How favorably do you view the United States?

Results based on 1497 responses to this question



- Understanding each Philippine region's demography and history is key to countering PRC influence throughout the Philippines
 - Muslim communities are more concerned with the discrimination and ethnic cleaning of Uighurs than territorial dispute
 - Fishing communities are threatened by China's commercial fishing and fishery exploitation
- PRC's combined efforts at large infra loans, deep investment into political candidates, and purchasing influence with political leadership is far outstripping current US efforts at maintaining the US-PHL strategic relationship
- USG should approach influence from a bottom-up strategy in key communities, using popular outrage and interests to offset the large but exclusive investments by PRC in the Philippines
- The Filipinos in this sample were largely ambivalent on the US because the US has become a tepid ally; "what have you done for me lately?"



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