

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2017, at around 1:00 am, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched an operation against alleged members of the Maute Group. The firefight erupted at Brgy. Gacap, Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, a village that separates the municipalities of Balindong (formerly known as Wato) and Piagapo.

At around 9:00 am, the heavy firefight escalated, affecting four other barangays in Piagapo and another two barangays in Balindong municipality. Protection monitors on the ground reported that the AFP used a combination of aerial warfare and mortar shelling, targeting Barangays Gacap and Tapucan, where the Maute Group were believed to be located. Based on the records of the National Statistics Office as of 2015, the two villages have a combined population of 1,379 individuals.

The Sangguniang Bayan (municipal council) of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, through the joint endorsement and recommendation of the Local Chief Executive, Engr. Ali L. Sumandar, MPA, and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC), through its Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer (MDRRMO), Haron T. Manalocon, issued Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 11-2017, Series of 2017 on April 23, 2017, declaring nine barangays in Pata Panoroganan (Brgy. Gacap, Tambo, Tapocan, Pantaon, Bangco, Katumbacan, Radapan Poblacion, Radapan Proper and Olango), and one barangay in Sendigan, Brgy. Bansayan, under a State of Calamity.

As of reporting date, more than 3, 000 persons were reportedly displaced from their habitual residences and have sought temporary shelter in different evacuation centers within Piagapo, Balindong, and as far as Marawi City. The Municipal Social Welfare Officers and other line agencies are continuously monitoring and conducting validation on the ground.

CURRENT SITUATION

According to the latest monitoring conducted by Protection Cluster partners, and as confirmed by the Municipal Disasters Risk Reduction and Management Officer of Piagapo, the situation is relatively calm as the AFP operation ceased after the series of encounters and skirmishes in Piagapo and Balindong municipalities.

The Municipal Social Welfare Officers of the two municipalities confirmed that majority of the families displaced have already returned to their places of origin. However, civilians are still apprehensive of possible renewal of the skirmishes due to the on-going military “clearing operation” in some barangays of Piagapo. The Sangguniang Bayan Resolution declaring nine barangays under a state of calamity (see above) is yet to be lifted.

The Municipal local government units (LGUs) declared that approximately 308 hectares of farmland were partially damaged, and that fields planted with various crops such as vegetables, “sakurab” (scallions), corn, and rice were affected. While gradual return has occurred, some of the returning families who were interviewed expressed concern regarding the need for follow-up assistance upon their return, primarily to cope with the disruption of their livelihoods. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) were also reportedly found in Barangays Tapocan and Raya Tambo.

PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSE

| ISSUES | RESPONSES | WAYS FORWARD |
|---|---|--|
| Threats to life, safety, and security | | |
| Approximately 3,000 persons were forcibly displaced from four barangays of Piagapo and two barangays of Balindong. | The MLGU, MSWDO, and CFSI conducted an assessment to validate the numbers of displaced families and identify immediate needs and the protection risks faced by the IDPs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSWDO of respective municipalities to conduct tracking and validation of the IDPs. Referral of monitored/reported issues to concerned agencies for possible immediate intervention to minimize effects of the fighting. Refer to RHRC, ICRC, other appropriate agencies/actors Referral of the UXO cases to FSD for possible Mine Risk Awareness orientation. |
| Fear, panic and tension has been observed among the civilian population due to aerial warfare and mortar used by the AFP in the operation. Residents are also apprehensive of miscalculation in the targeted attacks, which might cause ammunition to hit civilian properties. | Pre-emptive evacuation in some of the barangays to their relatives' houses. Civilians went to safer areas (e.g. school, barangay hall) to seek refuge. | |
| During interviews conducted by protection monitors, some residents shared their observation that the direction of some mortar attacks targeted communities, and these were perceived to be not (officially) part of the operation. Civilians were in panic and experienced anxiety. | <p>BLGUs of Tambo, Gacap and Tapocan met and advocated to stop using aerial warfare and mortar.</p> <p>The AFP conducted military clearing operations in Brgy Gacap, Tapocan and Raya Tambo prior to the IDPs' return.</p> <p>Reported cases of UXOs in Brgys. Tapocan and Raya Tambo.</p> | |
| Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence | | |
| At least 30% of the IDPs are children at young ages. | Civilian families moved to safe areas, prioritizing their children. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct protection assessment in the ECs. Referral to concerned cluster/ humanitarian stakeholders and PLGUs. Activation of Ad Hoc Protection Working Group. |
| Cases of family separation | | |
| Access to food aid and nutrition | | |
| Anxiety over shortage of food has been observed among the affected population. According to one of the respondents, the relief packs provided by the Provincial local government will only last for 2 days. | <p>778 food packs released from LGU of Piagapo and Provincial local government unit. (Each food pack contains: 2 Gantang or approximately 5 kilos of rice, noodles, coffee, sugar and canned goods.)</p> <p>ARMM-HEART, Red Cross, DSWD Region 12, and CFSI provided a combination of food packs and non-food items such as mosquito nets and hygiene kits.</p> | <p>Lobby with LGU, ARMM-HEART, R12 and OCD for regular food assistance.</p> <p>Follow-up of the remaining food packs intended for Piagapo from ARMM-HEART.</p> |
| Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene | | |
| Lack of latrines in the evacuation sites in the old municipal hall, BRAC and in other areas identified as ECs. | DOH visited and conducted an assessment in the evacuation site. | Monitor the implementation of the action points with the Provincial Health Office. |
| Access to health | | |
| Undetermined numbers of elderly and PWSN in the ECs. IDPs observed that there are no pre-positioned medicines. | <p>DOH provided medical support (check-ups) to pregnant women and children.</p> <p>IPHO provided medicines and conducted feeding programs and psychosocial debriefings.</p> | Monitor the implementation of the action points with the Provincial Health Office. |

| Access to education | | |
|---|--|---|
| A volunteer teacher reported that the BRAC school in Brgy. Tapocan was hit by mortar shelling and destroyed. | Referred and reported to the LGU for documentation. | RHRC to conduct documentation of possible cases of human rights/IHL violations. |
| Access to Livelihood | | |
| No assessment yet as to extent of damage but majority of the population are farmers with corn and scallion as the major crops. | Livestock were moved individually by owners to the safest area. | |
| Majority of the IDPs have left their belongings and have brought few household materials. Some families were observed sharing kitchen utensils in one of the ECs located in Brgy Tambo. Mosquito nets are among the immediate needs expressed by the IDPs. | No NFIs yet distributed. | Referral to ARMM-HEART, R12, OCD and LGU as well as PLGU |
| Distributed NFIs do not correspond to needs of the IDPs or are not sensitive to their cultural preferences. NFIs thus end up unused. | | Utilization of Disaster Funds Declaration of state of emergency thru municipal resolution |
| Camp coordination and camp management | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congested rooms occupied by the IDPs as ECs. As observed, one room is occupied by 3-4 families. - Security risks in the evacuation camps. The location of one of the ECs is approximately 4 km away from the site of the firefight. - One house in Brgy. Tapocan was hit by an aerial strike and totally destroyed. | <p>BLGU of Tambo facilitated negotiations with the owners of houses in Tambo to be used as temporary evacuation sites of the IDPs.</p> <p>The totally damaged house was reported to the LGU.</p> | <p>Refer to LGU, CCCM cluster and other concerned agencies and RHRC-ARMM.</p> <p>RHRC to organize protection by presence.</p> |
| Access to Food | | |
| Food was expressed as the major need in the ECs. IDPs expressed anxiety regarding shortage of food. According to one of the respondents, the relief provided by the Provincial local government will only last for 2 days. | 778 food packs released by LGU of Piagapo and Provincial Local Government unit. (Each food pack contains: 2 Gantang or approximately 5 kilos of rice, noodles, coffee, sugar, and canned goods) | Lobby with LGU, ARMM-HEART, R12 and OCD for regular food assistance. |

PERSONS OF CONCERN

| No. of Families | No. of Persons | Location (Origin) | | | Location (Current) | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------------|
| | | Province | Municipality | Barangay | Province | Municipality | Barangay | Exact Location |
| | | | | | | | | |
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| No. of Fam | + / - | No. of Persons | + / - | Location (Displaced) | | | Location (Current) | | | Type (Please select one) | | |
|------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | | | | Province | Municipality | Barangay | Province | Municipality | Barangay | Return | Relocation | Local Integration |
| 245 | | 1,077 | | LDS | Piagapo | Tambo | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 54 | | 652 | | LDS | Piagapo | Tambo | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 11 | | 75 | | LDS | Piagapo | Radapan | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 55 | | 161 | | LDS | Piagapo | Pantaon | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 57 | | 202 | | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 20 | | 116 | | LDS | Piagapo | Tambo | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 15 | | 75 | | LDS | Piagapo | Katumbacan | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 14 | | 76 | | LDS | Piagapo | Mamaanun | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 19 | | 99 | | LDS | Piagapo | Tambo | LDS | Piagapo | Tambo | √ | | |
| 36 | | 179 | | LDS | Balindong | Dado Proper | LDS | Balindong | Dado | √ | | |
| 5 | | 19 | | LDS | Balindong | Lumbac a Lalan | LDS | Balindong | Dado Proper | √ | | |
| 28 | | 137 | | LDS | Balindong | Dado Proper | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 19 | | 103 | | LDS | Balindong | Pagayawan | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 22 | | 157 | | LDS | Balindong | Cadayonan | LDS | Piagapo | Gacap | √ | | |
| 3 | | 21 | | LDS | Balindong | Dado Proper | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 1 | | 4 | | LDS | Balindong | Tomarompong | LDS | Piagapo | Tapokan | √ | | |
| 604 | | 3 153 | | | | | | | | | | |

Contact Person (s)

| Name | Designation | Organization | Contact No. |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayor Ali Sumandar | Municipal Mayor | LGU-Piagapo | 09188755755 |
| Haron Manalocon | MDRRMO-Piagapo | LGU-Piagapo | 09999282440 |
| Kadija Miraato | MSWO-Piagapo | LGU-Piagapo | 0917-7108-008/0933-8567-319 |
| Noralyn Mamad | MPDC-Piagapo | LGU-Piagapo | 0927-7989-343 |
| Kalid RadiaSimban | Brgy. Chairman | BLGU-Tambo, Piagapo | 0910-7337-186 |
| Rohanida Ramos | MSWO-Wato Balindong | LGU-Wato Balindong | 0927-5328-371 |
| Buhary Macapanton | LSA IDP Focal Person | DSWD-ARMM LSA | 0917 9865 215 |
| Serad Saidamen | MDRRMO – Wato Balindong | LGU-Wato Balindong | 09153146587 |

SOURCES:

Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), Lanao del Sur
Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO), Balindong Municipality
Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO), Piagapo Municipality
Community and Family Services International (CFSI)
DSWD-ARMM LSA Emergency Relief Focal Person
Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP)

The IDP Protection Assessment Form (IDPPAR)

The IDP Protection Assessment Form aims to provide a starting point for information and analysis that can help humanitarian agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders concerning instances of forced displacement or solutions (repatriation, resettlement, integration). The number of people displaced/affected may differ from the number in need of humanitarian assistance. To the extent possible, the terminology used in the Dashboard reflects the *UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and other sources of international law and practice. The information reported in the IDP Protection Assessment Forms has been received from members of the Protection Cluster across Mindanao. Consequently, unreported cases of forced displacement and solutions are not reflected. Updates will be provided as and when more information is received from members. Although efforts are made to verify the data, the Protection Cluster takes no responsibility for the incompleteness or inaccuracy of the information. At the end of every month, this data is compiled and distributed through the '**Protection Dashboard**'. The information provided in this IDP Assessment Report does not necessarily reflect the views of UNHCR or any individual member of the Protection Cluster.

The Protection Cluster

In the Philippines, the protection cluster has been established by the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) Circular No 5 series of 10 May 2007 (Institutionalizing Cluster Approach in Philippine Disaster System). The cluster approach is part of a global response aimed at providing more timely and consistent help to the internally displaced and other affected people in complex emergencies and disasters. The Protection Cluster in Mindanao meets in Cotabato, Iligan, Davao and other cities on a regular basis. Currently there are over 100 participating agencies including from the Government, State, Civil Society, national and international NGOs and agencies, as well as the United Nations. For more information, please visit the Protection Cluster website <http://www.protectioncluster.org/philippines/> or e-mail us at PHICOPRC@unhcr.org



AFP vs Maute Group: Piagapo Displacement, Issue no. 2

as of 24 May 2017



3,153
TOTAL PERSONS DISPLACED
604 FAMILIES

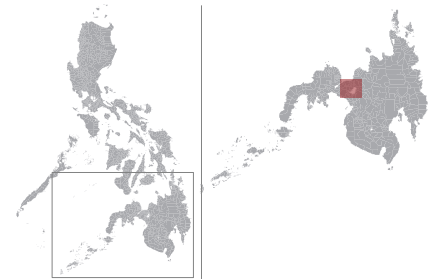


3,153
ESTIMATED NO. OF PERSONS WHO HAVE RETURNED
604 FAMILIES



0
NUMBER OF PRESENTLY DISPLACED PERSONS
0 FAMILIES

MAP LOCATION



LEGEND

- Provincial boundary
- Municipal boundary
- Barangay boundary
- Road
- Displaced persons
- Returned persons
- Presently displaced persons
- Conflict
- Presence of armed group

