



Protection ALERT

Armed confrontations and displacement in Marawi City

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Incident Summary

Firefights broke out in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur on the afternoon of 23 May 2017, following the ambush of a military vehicle by members of the Maute Group, a local armed group that has engaged in armed clashes with government troops since early 2016, and which has reportedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. As of 25 May, clashes have continued, with the Armed Forces of the Philippines launching surgical air strikes in the barangays of Basak Malutlut, Gadungan, and Bangon.

Initial Assessment

Protection partners on the ground reported observing exchange of fire on 23 May in at least four barangays (villages) within the city, as well as a hostage-taking situation in a local hospital resulting in at least two civilian casualties. Electricity was later shut down throughout the city; and the city jail, a church, and a local college were reported to be on fire. Reports of occupation of civilian structures, including schools, and other serious protection concerns have yet to be verified. Several major roads were reportedly blocked overnight, preventing exit/evacuation from the city. By the late night of 23 May, President Duterte issued a declaration of martial law, covering the whole of Mindanao and lasting for 60 days.

Displacement Updates

Civilian movement has been confirmed and reported by local protection actors since the afternoon of 23 May and is still ongoing in Marawi City. An estimated 25,000 residents have evacuated mainly towards Iligan City, Ganasi, and other areas in the adjacent province of Lanao del Norte, as well as towards Maguindanao province, but the total number of people affected is still unverified. Heavy rains in the area have limited the movement of some IDPs, while other civilians (including in Saguwaran municipality, Lanao del Sur and Pantar, Lanao del Norte) have been stranded due to impassable roads. Local government actors have provided some initial numbers of IDPs in at least twelve (12) identified evacuation centers:

- Lanao del Sur Provincial Capitol, Marawi City – 800 families;
- Marawi City Hall;
- municipal hall of Saguwaran, Lanao del Sur – 1,416 families;
- Sitio Bliss, Barangay Bubong in Saguwaran – 256 families;
- Ditsaan Ramain municipal hall, Lanao del Sur;
- Iligan City National High School, Iligan City, Lanao del Norte;
- gymnasium of the School of Fisheries in Buru-un, Iligan City;
- Sgt. Manuel Canoy, Buru-un, Iligan City;
- the Mindanao State University campus in Iligan (MSU-IIT), which hosts fluctuating numbers of students who evacuated from the MSU campus in Marawi City;
- Gomampong D. Ali Cultural Complex in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte – 320 families;
- Kalahi Evacuation Center, Barangay Pacalundo Balo-i (Barangays Basagad and Mamanun in Balo-i are also reportedly hosting an unverified number of IDPs); and
- Poblacion, Pantar municipality, Lanao del Norte – 1,070 families.

Based on interviews conducted by protection partners with IDPs currently staying in the evacuation centers in Balo-i, the immediate needs identified were for food, medicines, and non-food items such as blankets and *malong*.

As of 26 May, some IDPs could no longer be accommodated in evacuation centers and have been lodged in hotels, inns, and lodging houses in Iligan City, according to the Office of Civil Defense in Region 10.

Government Response

As of 26 May, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao – Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (ARMM-HEART), has dispatched a monitoring team to Marawi together with the ARMM Rescue Team (ART) to conduct an initial assessment of the humanitarian needs. ARMM-HEART is preparing 21,000 family food packs in addition to the already prepositioned 10,000 bottles of water and 4,000 family food packs for distribution, with transportation support from the Department of Public Works and Highways. The Department of Social Welfare and Development of ARMM has also prepositioned 20,000 family food packs for distribution in Marawi as of this report. The ARMM Department of Health has readied cadaver bags to ensure proper management of human remains, as well as other needs.

After activation of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) Operation Center in Cotabato City and the Crisis Management Committee, the government's Response Cluster has established reception areas in Iligan City and in the municipality of Malabang in Lanao del Sur to receive the influx of evacuees from Marawi. The Inter-agency Regional Peace and Order Council has likewise readied response measures and is closely coordinating with provincial authorities in Lanao del Sur and the security actors in the province.

Emergency response actors in the respective local government units have also implemented responses to address emergency needs, including by conducting rescue operations to aid stranded IDPs. The provincial local government of Lanao del Norte has confirmed that Iligan City and other municipalities are prepared to host IDPs and meet assessed needs.



IDP MOVEMENT: Armed confrontations and displacement in Marawi City

Date Issue: 26 May 2017



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

 **201,785** persons
(2015 census)
Total population of Marawi City



 **12** Identified evacuation centers

LANAO DEL SUR

Marawi City

-  Lanao del Sur Provincial Capitol
-  Marawi City Hall

Saguiaran Municipality





-  Saguiaran municipal hall
-  Sitio Bliss, Barangay Bubong

Ditsaan Ramin Municipality



-  Ditsaan Ramin municipal hall

LANAO DEL NORTE

Iligan City

-  Iligan City National High School
-  School of Fisheries Gym, Buru-un
-  Sgt. Manuel Canoy, Buru-un
-  MSU-IIT

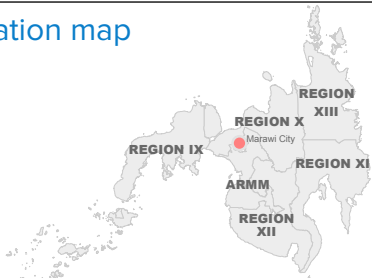
Baloi Municipality

-  Gomampong D. Ali Cultural Complex
-  Kalahi Evacuation Center, Brgy Pacalundo

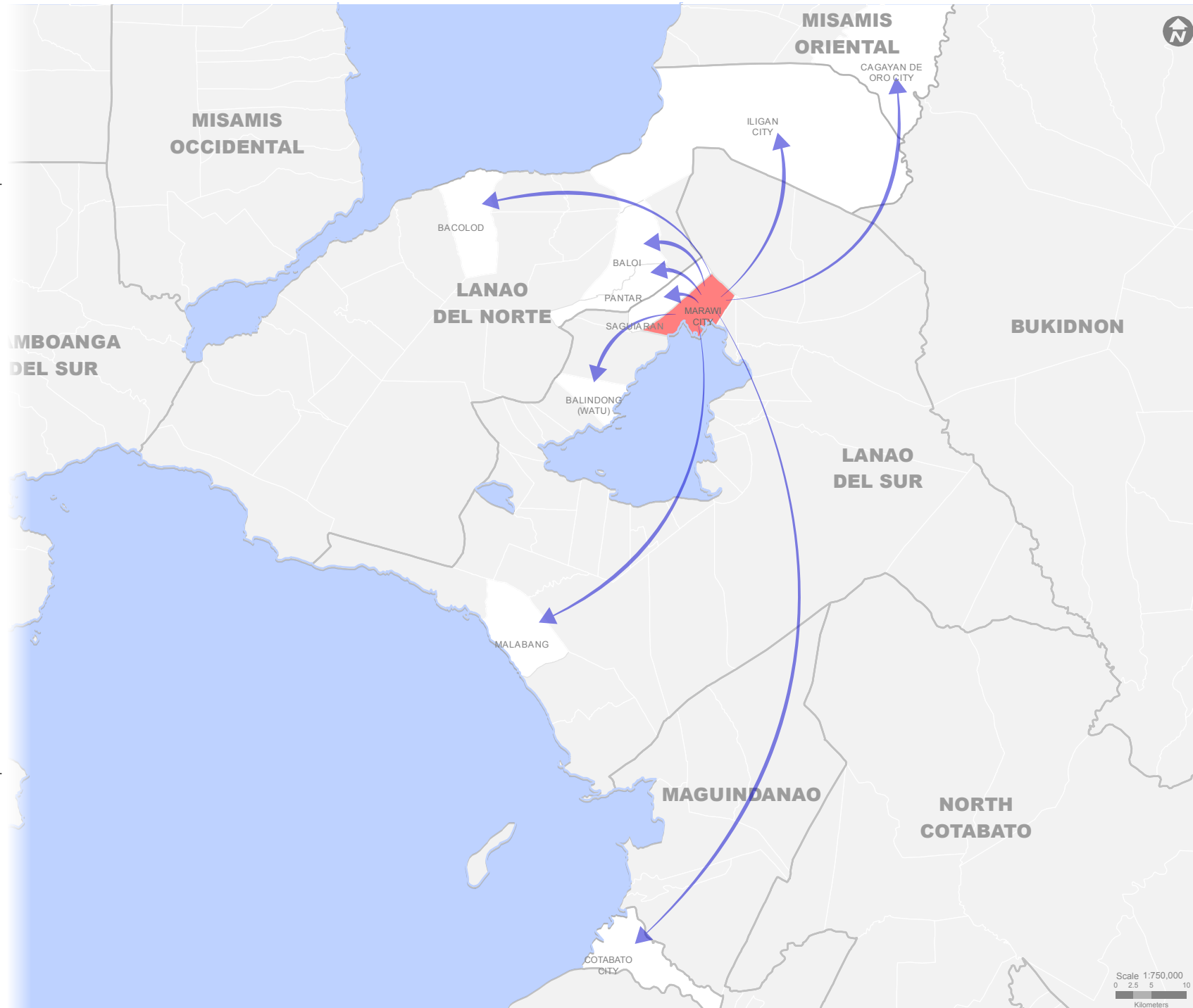
Pantar Municipality

-  Poblacion

Location map



Sources: ARMM HEART, RDRRMO-LDS, PSWDO-LDS, PDRRMO-LDS, MSWDO-LDS, MDRRMO-LDS, CFSI



Scale 1:750,000
0 2.5 5 10
Kilometers