

IDP PROTECTION ASSESSMENT REPORT



Armed Encounter in Mohammad Ajul, Basilan (AFP vs ASG)

Date: 21 December 2017

Issue No. 01

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On 19 August 2017, an estimated 1,000 families were forced to flee from the villages of Hadji Mohammad Ajul municipality, in Basilan province, due to operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). Based on protection monitoring by partner organizations, around 400 families found temporary shelter in Semut Elementary School, while some 600 families sought refuge with their relatives in Lamitan City and Akbar municipalities.

On 31 August 2017, a total of 982 families returned to their habitual residences in Mohammad Ajul: 382 families who were displaced in Akbar returned to Barangay Seronggon, along with 600 who returned from Lamitan to Barangay Buton. On the other hand, 18 families opted to relocate to Lamitan City.

CURRENT SITUATION

While it is confirmed that the displaced families have already returned to their places of origin, according to local government authorities, they remain vulnerable to further displacement due to the continued presence of the ASG in the area. Since March 2014, these communities have been affected by recurring armed confrontations.

IDPs receive limited assistance from government and other agencies. There are also unconfirmed reports that local out-of-school youth are being targeted for recruitment by extremist armed groups.

As of this report, 300 other families were forced to flee due to fear of being persecuted by the local authorities, reportedly because they are identified as relatives of alleged ASG members.

PERSONS OF CONCERN

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)				Location (Current)				
				Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Exact Location
300		1,500		Basilan	Muhammad Ajul	Languyan		No information yet.				

DURABLE SOLUTIONS (No returns yet)

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Displaced)			Location (Current)			Type (Please select one)		
				Province	Municipality	Barangay	Province	Municipality	Barangay	Return	Relocation	Local Integration
382		1,910		Basilan	Akbar	Semut	Basilan	Muhammad Ajur	Seronggon	✓		
18		90		Basilan	Lamitan	Bato	Basilan	Lamitan	Bato		✓	
600		3,000		Basilan	Lamitan		Basilan	Muhammad Ajur	Buton	✓		

SOURCES:

Office of the Municipal Vice Mayor, Mohammad Ajul
 United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD)
 Community and Family Services International (CFSI)

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



IDPPAR: AFP VS ASG IN MOHAMMAD AJUL, BASILAN

Issue no. 2

KEY FIGURES



LEGEND

- Conflict Area
- Displaced Persons
- Returned Persons
- Presently Displaced Persons
- Municipal Boundary
- Barangay Boundary

LOCATION MAP

