

# IDP PROTECTION ASSESSMENT REPORT



**Armed Confrontation in Davao del Norte**  
(Indigenous residents vs. New People's Army [NPA];  
linked to existing Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] vs NPA conflict)

Date: 09 March 2018

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## INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On March 9, Ata-Manobo tribes and residents of Sitio Mangkay, Barangay Gupitan, Kapitalong, Davao Del Norte, together with the teachers of the Silingang Dapit sa Southeastern Mindanao (SILDAP-SE) Community learning centre in the village, fled from their community due to presence of alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) in the area. According to the IDPs, four NPA members arrived in their community around 8:35 in the evening of March 9. The NPA members allegedly intended to assassinate three members of the tribe, but were thwarted when community members were able to disarm the outnumbered rebels. The sources added that gunshots were heard, causing panic among civilians. They believed shots were fired by other members of the armed group hiding near the community.

The incident triggered the evacuation of families from the adjacent sitio of Maguinomon in the same barangay for of fear of NPA retaliation. As of March 14, a field assessment by SILDAP documented a total of 262 families (approximately 1261 individuals) displaced due to the on-going tensions in barangay Gupitan. This includes 71 families (275 individuals) from Sitio Luno-Luno of the same barangay, who fled in January 2018 when alleged members of the NPA killed one local tribal leader of their community.

This incident is linked to the longstanding armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the NPA. It is the latest of a series of armed encounters all over Eastern Mindanao following the breakdown of the peace process the said parties in 2017.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Majority of the IDPs temporarily sought refuge in sitio Kapatagan, Gupitan, while others opted to stay with their relatives in sitio Mansalinao, Gupitan. Most of them are staying in an open space along the newly-opened road without adequate shelter.

The local government of Kapitalong immediately responded by providing food packs and five meters of tarpaulin to each of the displaced families.

The local Parents - Teachers Association (PTA), SILDAP and a Department of Education (Dep-Education) representative conducted a meeting and agreed to set up temporary classrooms in the displacement location to continue the schooling of the students.

The IDPs expressed concern that they could not continue tending their farms and conduct other livelihood activities while the tension remains.

## PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSE

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
<b>PHYSICAL SECURITY AND INTEGRITY</b>		
<b>Threat to life, safety, and security</b>		
The nature of conflict where IP communities are co-opted by different armed groups continues to put them at risk of retaliatory attacks.		
<b>BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE</b>		
<b>Access to food aid and nutrition</b>		
IDPs are in need of food aid. The food stock they brought during displacement may not suffice if their displacement is prolonged.	LGU Kapalong immediately provided emergency food aid to the IDPs.	Monitor the situation of the IDPs and check if food being provided is adequate and sustained based on their needs.  Lobby to Kapalong LGU about sustained provision of standard food assistance.
<b>Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene</b>		
Absence of latrines in the displacement sites may compel the IDPs to openly defecate, which may result in sanitation issues; IDPs are at risk of contracting air- and water-borne diseases due to sanitation problems.	IDPs committed to dig temporary comfort rooms with support from Sildap-SE	Monitor how temporary latrines are being set-up in line with WASH standards.
<b>Access to shelter</b>		
IDPs lack materials and resources to be used as temporary shelter.	Local government of Kapalong provided 5 meters tarps per family, which the IDPs have used to set up an improvised settlement in an open space.	Monitor the shelter condition of the IDPs, since only makeshift structures (not in line with standard shelter/CCCM guidelines) have been set up.
<b>Access to health</b>		
IDPs are prone to illnesses due to the condition of their ECs. (No WASH facilities, potable water is far from their location).	No intervention yet	For SILDAP to refer concern to Rural Health Unit of Kapalong.
<b>ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PROTECTION</b>		
<b>Access to education</b>		
Schooling of children was disrupted. They worry about the continuity of their studies given that the school year ends by March or April.	Most of the IDP children are beneficiaries of SILDAP Alternative Learning School. The Parents-Teacher Association (PTA) and Silingang Dapit - Southeastern Mindanao (SILDAP-SE) agreed to install a makeshift classroom to continue the schooling of children.	Discuss with the Kapalong Department of Education division office what they can provide to augment the initiatives of the community and SILDAP.



**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



## SUMMARY


**1,261** Total number of displaced persons (396 families)


**0** Estimated number of persons who have returned


**1,261** Presently displaced persons (396 families)


**1,186** Number of IDPs staying in spontaneous settlement sites (381 families)


**75** Number of IDPs staying with host families (15 families)

## LEGEND

-  Conflict area
-  Number of displaced persons
-  Number of returned persons
-  Presently displaced persons
-  Municipal boundary
-  Provincial boundary
-  Barangay boundary

## MAP LOCATION

