



PROTECTION BRIEF

Maguindanao Ongoing Displacement Concern

REPORT AS OF 03 JULY 2015, PAGE 1

BACKGROUND

The ARMM authorities have publicly stated that all displaced families (Mindanao Cross, 27 June 2015, pg 10) affected by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) conflict have returned to their communities of origin. However, UNHCR and partners continue to identify IDPs in evacuation centers and those hosted by relatives. UNHCR's most recent estimate of IDPs is around 10,800 persons.

Protection concerns remain and continue to plague IDPs both in places of displacement, including informal ECs and the home-based IDPs. In some locations protection problems are exacerbated with the onset of the rainy season. The lack of continuous tracking of remaining IDPs after a large displacement is a serious protection concern as often, this population includes some of the most vulnerable IDPs unable to fend for themselves or make a decision about returning to their community of origin.

At this time, and except for the launching of the new Mosque and construction of the

bridge in Barangay Tukanalipao, Mamasapano, there has been minimal assistance provided or support for rehabilitation in communities of origin by the authorities. Apart from some NGO activities, there has been no systematic returnee monitoring in the communities of origin to identify protection concerns.

As mentioned, many of the same conflict affected communities are confronted with heavy rains in the region that have forced recent returnees to leave their homes again. As of 0400am 1 July, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has estimated 17,040 families or 85,200 persons displaced due to flooding from 68 barangays eleven (11) affected municipalities in the province of Maguindanao. Each year these same barangays are affected by flooding forcing hundreds of families from their homes. Four (4) out of the 11 municipalities are also part of the 15 municipalities affected by the recent conflict.

PROTECTION ISSUES

- Return process of IDPs to their places of origin have been perilous, as most of them have to do it on their own. They carry back their belongings to return and start anew to weeks and months of untended farms and houses.
- Periodic presence and patrol of military forces in their communities causes fear for the safety and security of the IDPs and returnees. The joint AFP-MILF ceasefire monitoring posts as agreed have not been established.
- Adequate conduct of mine-clearing operations have not been conducted especially in areas where artillery and fighting occurred.
- Damaged houses, and community structures such as water and sanitation systems, schools, day care centers, health stations and Madras is have not been repaired.
- Lack of clarity on government's rehabilitation program to support livelihoods, including farm implementations for returnees.
- The lack of sustained activities such as psychosocial support for IDPs and returnees, particularly women and children, are left to deal with the invisible effects of displacement on their own.
- Human rights violations previously reported have not been addressed.

UNGPID, Principle 18

All IDPs have the right to an adequate standard of living with access to food, water, medical services and sanitation.

UNGPID, Principle 28

Competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow internally displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled internally displaced persons.

UNGPID, Principle 29

Competent authorities have the duty and responsibility to assist returned and/or resettled internally displaced persons to recover, to the extent possible, their property and possessions which they left behind or were dispossessed of upon their displacement. When recovery of such property and possessions is not possible, competent authorities shall provide or assist these persons in obtaining appropriate compensation or another form of just reparation.

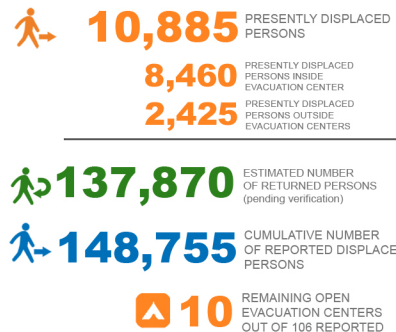
Conflict-affected persons in Maguindanao remain displaced and still in need of support. Security concerns continue to cause fear.



UNHCR MINDANAO: MAGUINDANAO DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN MAP

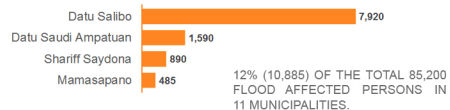
AS OF 01 JULY 2015

SUMMARY

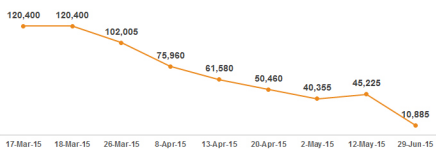


BREAKDOWN OF MUNICIPALITY

AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND FLOOD



BREAKDOWN OF PRESENTLY DISPLACED BY CONFLICT PER DATE OF REPORT (DSWD/UNHCR)



LEGEND

- CONFLICT AREA
- RETURNED LOCATION
- APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF IDP'S IN SPONTANEOUS CAMPS
- ROADS
- PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY
- MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- FLOOD AFFECTED AREA

