

# IDP PROTECTION ASSESSMENT REPORT



## Displacement in Butig, Lanao del Sur (AFP vs Maute Group)

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Issue No. 03

### INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On 27 May, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched another Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) against a local armed group known as the Maute Group, affecting six barangays in the municipality of Butig, Lanao del Sur, and leading to the displacement of residents of these barangays, some of whom had recently returned to their respective communities after being displaced in February due to an earlier LEO.

On 26 May 2016, at around 10:00 PM, residents of at least three barangays started pre-emptive evacuation of their places of origin due to mounting tension between the AFP and the Maute group. At around 4:00 AM on 27 May, a firefight erupted in Barangay Poktan. A few hours later, the skirmishes escalated in the barangays of Coloyan, Ragayan, and Sandab, resulting in the displacement of all the villagers. To ease the tension and minimize the effects of the armed confrontation, local government units attempted to negotiate with both parties, but were not successful in their efforts. At around 7:45 AM, the AFP operation intensified, including through the use of aerial attacks. The AFP suspended its operations in the area by 05 June in observance of Ramadhan.

At the height of the fighting, at least 1,592 families (approximately 8,710 persons) were displaced, primarily from the barangays of Bayabao-Poblacion, Coloyan, Poktan, Ragayan, Samer, and Sandab. They sought refuge mainly with host families in Marawi City and in the municipalities of Lumbayanague, Masiu, and Sultan Dumlondong, as well as in three identified evacuation centers in Barangay Malungon and in Butig proper. Other locations that reportedly hosted IDPs include the municipalities of Kapay and Tamparan in Lanao del Sur; Baloi in Lanao del Norte; some barangays in Marawi City, including Disumangcop, Lumber, Manao, Tampilong, and Timber; and neighboring barangays of Butig, such as Dilimbayan, Dulangan, and Sunding.

By 19 June, 1,164 families (some 6,570 persons) had reportedly returned to the barangays of Bayabao-Poblacion, Ragayan, Samer, and Sandab, while at least 428 families (estimated 2,140 persons) remain displaced. Based on field monitoring carried out by Protection Cluster members, other IDPs have likewise returned to the outer barangays of Butig, such as Pindolonan, Sundig, and Tiowi, where displacements were also earlier reported. As of this report, population movement remains fluid depending on the fluctuating security situation.

### CURRENT SITUATION

At the height of the clashes, classes were suspended in several schools in some of the affected barangays. The school buildings in Poktan and Ragayan are reported to be completely destroyed. Although the LEO ceased during Ramadhan, the possibility of renewed fighting poses a continuing risk to children's access to education.

Rights violations have been reported, including burning of at least 12 civilian houses and looting of civilian property, particularly in Butig-Poblacion, Coloyan, and Ragayan. There are also reports of civilian casualties, which are yet to be verified. Some permanent dwellings were fully or partially destroyed during the hostilities, especially in Poktan; this is one of the obstacles to return in safety and dignity for some IDPs.

The recurring firefights have disrupted the residents' livelihood activities. Fear regarding the possible presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinders farmers from cultivating their land. As the El Niño phenomenon had already affected their crop yield earlier this year, many of the displaced families could face serious food shortages in the coming period.

As of this report, tensions between the AFP and the Maute Group persist in Butig and surrounding areas, triggering fear among local populations of further armed engagements.

### PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSES

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
<b>Threats to life, safety, and security</b>		
<p>IDPs express concern about the uncertainty of the security situation in their area, including potential presence of UXO. Possible recurrence of fighting may lead to further displacements and other rights violations.</p> <p>As tensions spread beyond Butig, three civilians, including a young boy, were reportedly injured on 02 July by stray bullets following an ambush, allegedly by the members of the Maute Group, of a military vehicle in Barangay Basak in Marawi City.</p> <p>Some IDPs reportedly felt forced to return to their places of origin due to the lack of livelihood options and access to an adequate level of assistance in their places of displacement. Given the security environment, this puts them at risk of physical harm. For example, residents of Poktan and Sundig report the death of two farmers who had temporarily returned to till the land they left behind. They were reportedly killed in separate incidents of UXO explosions while working in their farms.</p>	<p>Protection Cluster and Inter-Cluster meetings were held in Iligan and Marawi for information sharing and to facilitate coordinated response to Butig displacement.</p> <p>Reports concerning injuries to civilians, including a minor, were referred to protection partners for follow-up of their medical assistance and other humanitarian needs.</p>	<p>Refer concerns regarding UXO to mine action partners for the provision of Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE) to the affected communities and possible assistance in strengthening the reporting and referral system in the area.</p> <p>Continue engagements with local authorities and humanitarian actors to emphasize the importance of voluntary returns in safety and dignity.</p>
<b>Access to education</b>		
<p>The elementary school buildings in Poktan and Ragayan were totally destroyed. An IDP from Poktan described that when he visited their barangay, Poktan elementary</p>	<p>Reported attacks on schools have been shared with the Philippine Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations (CTFMR) to</p>	<p>Follow up with the DepEd-ARMM regarding planned responses, especially concerning the damaged schools; refer to other agencies</p>

school was “nowhere to be found.”	support advocacy efforts.	that can provide alternative forms of assistance (e.g. psychosocial support, child friendly spaces).
Five schools in Barangay Sandab and two in Barangay Bayabao suspended classes right before the opening of the school year. Some elementary schools were reportedly damaged. In case of renewed fighting, children’s access to education would be further hindered.	The United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) supported the Department of Education (DepEd)- Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to establish temporary learning spaces for children in some of the affected schools in Lanao del Sur.	
<b>Access to food and non-food assistance</b>		
Despite the provision of food and non-food assistance to displaced and returning populations, affected communities report ongoing gaps.	The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC), in cooperation with the ARMM’s Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (ARMM-HEART), distributed 1,000 food packs (each containing 5 kilos of rice, coffee, nutritional drinks, and canned goods) to IDPs, with logistical support from the Office of Civil Defense – ARMM (OCD-ARMM).	With the continued engagement of civil society (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), continue to advocate for the review and harmonization of the monitoring, tracking, and coordination mechanisms of the three Provincial Social Welfare and Development (PSWD) clusters (A, B, and C) in Lanao del Sur, in order to ensure the timely provision of accurate and credible data on IDPs as basis for future humanitarian assistance activities, and continue advocacy for sustained support to affected populations.
IDPs, especially from Poktan and Ragayan, express concerns regarding food scarcity, particularly for families/households with large numbers of dependents. This may be heightened by the possible presence of UXO, general disruption of livelihood activities as a result of cyclical conflict, and the earlier effects of El Niño.	Following initial validation by their Lanao del Sur Branch B, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Region 12 provided another 1,000 food packs (each with 6 kilos of rice, coffee, nutritional drinks, and canned goods).	
IDPs also reiterated their need for kitchen utensils and facilities, sleeping mats, toiletries, water and containers. Some expressed the need for tarpaulins, which can be used to improve the condition of their partially damaged houses.	The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also distributed relief kits, each consisting of 25 kilos of rice, canned goods, basic food ingredients, essential household items, and hygiene items in Butig, Lumbayanague, and Marawi City.	
<b>Access to shelter</b>		
Destruction of and damage to civilian houses were reported, in some cases preventing the IDPs’ return. As of 19 June, at least 12 houses were reported to have been fully destroyed, some of which as a result of mortar shelling in Barangays Coloyan, Poktan, and Ragayan. There are also reports of a substantial number of houses in several barangays that were partially destroyed.		Advocate with ARMM-HEART, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) – Lanao del Sur for the proper registration and profiling of families whose houses were damaged or burned, to facilitate provision of shelter assistance and/or restitution.
<b>Access to water and sanitation</b>		
Field reports indicate that water and sanitation facilities, specifically in Barangay Poktan, sustained heavy damage.		Refer to WASH partners for possible support.
<b>Access to health services</b>		
Aside from the effects of displacement on the community members’ access to healthcare facilities, conditions during their temporary stay with relatives or in evacuation sites (e.g. overcrowding; sharing of utensils, toiletries, or beddings) also present health risks.	The Department of Health (DOH)-ARMM provided 10 boxes of basic medicines (“Campolas kits” comprising Cotrimoxazole, Amoxicillin, Mefenamic Acid, Paracetamol, Lagundi, Vitamin A, and skin ointment) for distribution through the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) of Lanao del Sur, with which they also conducted a rapid health assessment and medical mission in Butig. The IPHO activated their Emergency Health Response Team and established an Emergency Health Station in Barangay Bayabao.	

## PERSONS OF CONCERN – Displaced

\* While the data reflected in the tables below has been field-assessed and verified by Protection partners, figures may differ from those given in other sources due to the wide geographical distribution of conflict-affected populations and the fluid population movement. Some estimates put the total conflict-affected population as high as 12,500 individuals.

NO. OF FAM	NO. OF PERSONS	Location (Origin)			Location (Current)			
		PROVINCE	MUN	BARANGAY	PROVINCE	MUN	BARANGAY	EXACT LOCATION
86	430	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	RAGAYAN	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	SOUTH MADAYA PROPER	Home-Based
138	690	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	POKTAN	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	SOUTH MADAYA PROPER	Home-Based
103	515	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	BAYABAO POBLACION	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	SOUTH MADAYA PROPER	Home-Based
2	10	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	COLOYAN TAMBO	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	SAMER	Home-Based
43	215	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	COLOYAN TAMBO	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SAMER	
56	280	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SAMER	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SOUTH MADAYA PROPER	Crossing Samer

## PERSONS OF CONCERN - Returned

No. of Fam	No. of Persons	Location (Displaced)			Location (Current)			Return Type
		Province	Municipality	Barangay	Province	Municipality	Barangay	
30	150	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SAMER	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SANDAB MADAYA	Returned
170	850	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	SOUTH MADAYA PROPER	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	RAGAYAN	Returned
699	3,495	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	BANGGOLO POBLACION	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SANDAB MADAYA	Returned
115	1,325	LANAO DEL SUR	MARAWI CITY	BANGGOLO POBLACION	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	BAYABAO POBLACION	Returned
150	750	LANAO DEL SUR	MASIU	ABDULLAH BUISAN	LANAO DEL SUR	BUTIG	SAMER	Returned

### SOURCES:

OCD – ARMM

PDRPMC – Lanao del Sur

Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office – Butig

Regional Human Rights Commission - ARMM

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



# BUTIG, LANAO DEL SUR DISPLACEMENT MAP

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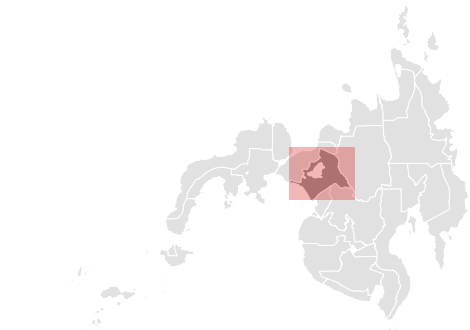
## SUMMARY

**8,710** EST. TOTAL PERSONS DISPLACED (1,592 FAMILIES)

**6,570** EST. TOTAL PERSONS RETURNED (1,164 FAMILIES)

**2,140** EST. TOTAL PERSONS REMAIN DISPLACED (428 FAMILIES)

## LOCATION MAP



## LEGEND

- Conflict
- Presently displaced
- Returned families
- Total displaced families
- Municipal boundary
- Barangay boundary
- Provincial boundary

