

Briefing Note – 01 June 2017

PHILIPPINES

Displacement in Marawi city, Lanao del Sur



| | Not required | Low | Moderate | Significant | Major |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----|----------|-------------|-------|
| Need for international assistance | | X | | | |
| Expected impact | Very low | Low | Moderate | Significant | Major |

Crisis overview

Since 23 May, fighting has erupted in Marawi city, Lanao del Sur on Mindanao island, between armed forces of Philippines and Maute fighters, allegedly supported by elements of the Abu Sayyaf and Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

As of 1 June, over 100,000 IDPs have been registered by the regional authorities since 23 May but up to 90% of the 201,000 residents of Marawi are estimated to have fled. According to the authorities, at least 177 people have been killed, including 19 civilians, 120 Maute and allied group members, and 38 security forces personnel. Use of airstrikes by military forces, along enforcement of martial law increase protection concerns.

See map on P6.

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale

Fighting will continue for several days before all Maute-controlled areas will be cleared and allow first returns. More than 150,000 people will be in need of assistance - mainly food and water.

Protection is a concern as there have been reports of sectarian violence and hostages being taken, along with the use of airstrikes in areas where civilians are trapped.

Shelter needs are still unknown, but scope of damage to shelter will likely increase due to heavy fighting in Marawi city.

Key priorities

- **Food:** Lack of food in evacuation centres, and for those trapped in Marawi city.
- **Water:** Lack of water in evacuation centres.
- **Protection:** Sectarian violence, hostages being taken, airstrikes in areas where civilians are trapped.

Humanitarian constraints

Access to some areas of displacement has reduced due to security reasons as security forces are deploying and erecting check-points.

Access to Maute militants-controlled areas is difficult as snipers prevent crossing to central parts of the city, where Maute elements holed up.

Limitations

Fighting situation is evolving quickly making the tracking of IDPs difficult.

Extent of damage in Marawi city is unknown.

Lack of information on IDPs in host communities.

Crisis impact

As of 1 June, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, over 100,000 people have been displaced due to the ongoing fighting in Marawi. Most of them – 86,300 people – are staying with relatives or friends, mostly in the vicinity of Marawi city. Nearly 14,000 people sought refuge in 24 evacuation centres located in Lanao del Norte and Misamis Oriental provinces, Northern Mindanao-Region X and in Lanao del Sur province, in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) (DSWD 01/06/2017).

Displacement per province as of 1 June

| | IDPs in Evacuation Centres | IDPs with relatives or friends | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Region X – Lanao del Norte | 5,337 | 24,844 | 30,181 |
| Region X – Misamis Oriental | 0 | 131 | 131 |
| ARMM – Lanao del Sur | 8,660 | 61,320 | 69,980 |
| Total | 13,997 | 86,295 | 100,292 |

However, displacement figures are likely underestimated as it was reported that up to 90% of the 201,000 residents of Marawi have fled. The number is therefore likely much higher than 100,000 as people are still being registered (The Guardian 30/05/2017). There are reports of between 1,000-3,700 people trapped in Maute-controlled areas. They fear being caught in crossfire and may be used as human shields by Maute elements (Al Jazeera 29/05/2017, Gov. of the Philippines 01/06/2017, ICRC 31/05/2017)

Food: Trapped residents have increasingly limited access to food as fighting continues (ABS CBN News 30/05/2017, ICRC 29/05/2017). Displaced people are in need of food assistance (ICRC 29/05/2017).

WASH: Trapped residents have limited access to water, with reports of poor hygiene practices such as use of toilet water for drinking water (ABS CBN News 30/05/2017, ICRC 29/05/2017).

In some evacuation centres, access to water and sanitation facilities is limited, as centres cannot meet demands. In an evacuation centre in Balo-I, Lanao del Norte, there are only two toilets for nearly 1,000 IDPs (ICRC 29/05/2017).

Health: There were conflicting reports of Maute presence in one of Marawi's hospitals in the early stages of fighting and of subsequent potential damage to the facility (Inquirer 28/05/2017, Reuters 30/05/2017). The Filipino-Libyan Friendship Hospital was also reportedly burnt down but this has not been confirmed (Inquirer 26/05/2017). Lack of medicine has been reported in evacuation centres (ABS CBN News 31/05/2017).

Shelter and NFIs: Damage to houses have been reported due to heavy fighting between warring parties but also due to use of airstrikes and rockets by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) (Reuters 29/05/2017). Basak Matulut, Baggolo, and Mindanao State University commercial centre areas are particularly affected (ICRC 31/05/2017). In Marawi, some abandoned houses were looted by Maute members (PhilStar 29/05/2017). Electricity was shut down in the first hours of fighting (UNHCR 26/05/2017).

Nutrition: Lack of powdered milk in relief packages was reported (ABS CBN News 31/05/2017).

Protection: At least 19 civilians were killed since the beginning of the fighting on 23 May, eight of whom appear to be summary executions (IRIN 29/05/2017). According to the military, several children have been enrolled by Maute (GMA News Online 27/05/2017, UNICEF 31/05/2017). At least 53 people are missing, including police officers, and several people have been abducted. Sectarian-driven violence has been reported with the abduction of one priest, church goers and the killing of several civilians for non-being Muslim (Rappler 30/05/2017, PhilStar 29/05/2017, Reuters 30/05/2017). Since 23 May, martial law was enforced on Mindanao island, increasing concerns of potential abuses by security forces (Reuters 23/05/2017). Use of airstrikes by military raises concerns as civilians are trapped in areas targeted by airstrikes.

Education: One school was torched by Maute elements (ICRC 29/05/2017, Reuters 30/05/2017). Unconfirmed reports indicate that two other schools have been damaged by AFP airstrikes (UNICEF 31/05/2017). At least 36,000 children will miss the beginning of the new school year on 5 June. Classes in Marawi and eight other districts in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and Iligan will not resume before two weeks at most (ABS CBN News 30/05/2017, UNICEF 31/05/2017).

Livelihood: Several business have reportedly been closed since 23 May (GMA News Online, 28/05/2017).

Vulnerable groups affected

Between 50,000-70,000 children have reportedly been affected by the conflict in Marawi city. In evacuation centres, a disproportionate number of women has also been reported (UNICEF 31/05/2017).

Poor host communities struggle to meet their own needs with the influx of the IDPs and their needs. (UNICEF 31/05/2017).

Humanitarian constraints

Presence of snipers prevents security forces from crossing bridges to Maute-controlled areas in central Marawi (Reuters 31/05/2017).

Access to some areas of displacement has reduced due to security concerns as security forces are deploying, erecting check-points, and implementing overnight curfews to prevent Maute elements from escaping (ECHO 29/05/2017, The Guardian 30/05/2017).

Contextual information

Drivers of the current conflict

On 23 May, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) attempted to capture Isnilon Hapilon – one of the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf group, who was reported living in Marawi city, Lanao del Sur. The unsuccessful operation resulted in heavy fighting as Abu Sayyaf quickly received support from allied Maute elements present in Marawi city, which is their stronghold.

As of 1 May, fighting was still occurring between Maute elements and the AFP, with Maute showing fierce resistance despite losing control of two key bridges leading to Marawi city centre (Reuters 31/05/2017, ABS CBN News 31/05/2017). As of 30 May, 85% of Marawi city was under AFP control, and Maute elements were reportedly still controlling 9 of the city's 96 districts (Reuters 30/05/2017). Fighting is expected to continue for at least one more week as Maute elements are hiding in more urban areas. They also looted guns and ammunition during the first hours of the fighting when the AFP ran away, and freed jailed Islamic fighters from the local prison who may support the Maute group (Reuters 31/05/2017).

Where Maute militants are present ● Attacked on May 23



Source: Reuters 31/05/2017

Relevant stakeholders

The **Maute group**, founded in 2013, is mostly made of former Moro Islamic Liberation Front fighters, but has recently received support from 40 elements from Indonesia and Malaysia ((International Crisis Group 05/07/2017, Reuters 30/05/2017). Since 2016, Maute elements have been active in ARMM and Davao regions with two attacks on Butig, Lanao del Sur in February and November 2016, and a bombing in Davao, Davao region in August 2016. The bombing was claimed by the Abu Sayyaf group showing the first links between the groups. As of 2016, reports said that Maute has around 200-270 fighters (International Crisis Group 05/07/2017, Inquirer 26/05/2017).

The **Abu Sayyaf group** was founded in 1989, demanding an independent Islamic state. It has been weakened due to an offensive by the Government since 2006, and lost its main funding channel with the death of Qadhafi in 2011. Since 2015, it has become more active with kidnappings and bombings, mostly in Sulu and Basilian provinces. In April, it clashed with AFP for the very first time in Bohol, Visayas region in April, far from areas where it usually operates (International Crisis Group 05/07/2017, PhilStar 12/04/2017).

Abu-Sayaf-Hapilon faction. Isnilon Hapilon – one of Abu Sayaf’s leaders declared allegiance to IS in 2014 (United Nations Security Council 05/04/2017). His faction has reportedly recently allied with Maute and moved to Lanao del Sur from Sulu and Basilian provinces, its former strongholds (Rappler 24/05/2017, United Nations Security Council 05/04/2017).

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) is a splinter group from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which fought for the independence of Bangsamoro, an area across Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilian and Sulu provinces (International Crisis Group 05/12/2016). In 2010, a split occurred when MILF engaged in peace talks with the government of the Philippines (United Nations Security Council 05/04/2017). In 2014, BIFF declared its allegiance to IS (International Crisis Group 05/07/2016). Although mostly active in Maguindanao over the last months, they were reports of attacks carried out by BIFF in Lanao del Norte in order to divert AFP’s presence from Marawi (Inquirer 30/05/2017).

Past displacement

On 21 April, encounters between AFP and Maute displaced around 3,400 people from Piagapo and Balindong municipalities. As of 1 May, they have all returned (DSWD 01/05/2017). IDPs expressed concerns about food relief packs as they reportedly only lasted two days (UNHCR 04/05/2017).

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

Regional response capacities are under strain due to the sudden influx of IDPs. There are reports of limited staff. The west and east side of Lake Lanao have not received aid (ICRC 31/05/2017).

Food packs, essential items, hygiene items, and water have been provided by ICRC and the local Filipino Red Cross for 1,500-2,000 families (ICRC 31/05/2017, UNICEF 31/05/2017).

Department of Social Welfare and Development has been providing food, NFIs including mosquito nets and blankets, water, and hygiene and nutrition kits (DSWD 31/05/2017).

The Government of the Philippines hasn’t requested international assistance (OCHA 29/05/2017)

International response capacity

UNICEF is supporting local partners in providing goods for children, including tents, recreation items, and education assistance, and has planned to set up temporary learning centres (UNICEF 31/05/2017).

Information gaps and needs

- In areas currently affected by conflict, lack of access limit assessments of humanitarian needs (UNICEF 31/05/2017).
- No assessment has yet been undertaken in host communities (UNICEF 31/05/2017).
- Number of families benefiting from Department of Social Welfare and Development relief.

Lessons learned

During a similar crisis in 2013 in Zamboanga, when armed insurgents stormed the city, there was a delay in providing electricity and water in evacuation centres (OCHA 14/01/15). Schools were used as evacuation centres, preventing classes from resuming (Rappler 16/12/2013).

As most of the displaced are Muslims, there is a need to incorporate prayer rooms in evacuation centres, especially during the ongoing Ramadan period. Food assistance also needs to fit with Islam requirements (DSWD 31/05/2017, DSWD 29/05/2017).

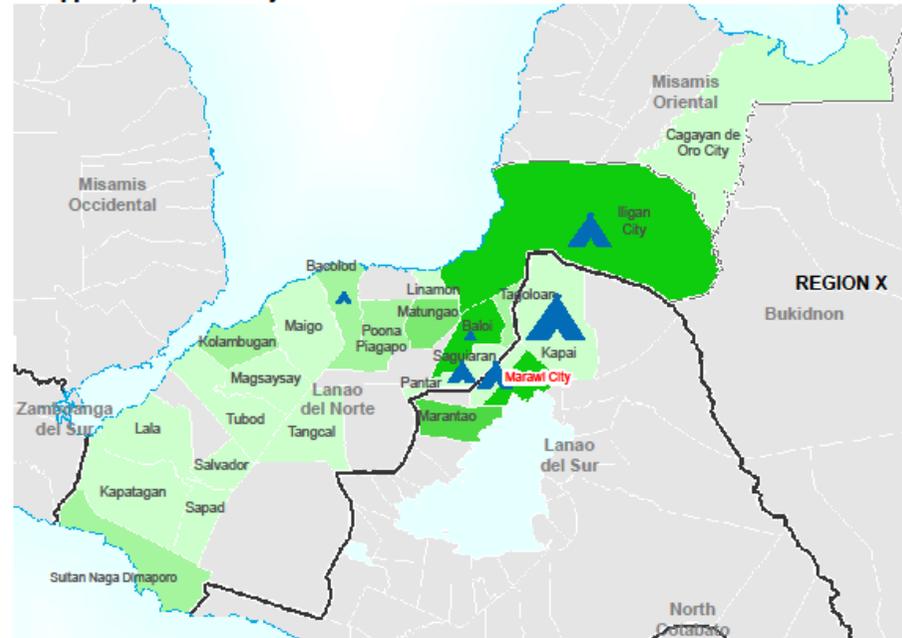
Key characteristics of host population and area

| Key indicators | Lanao del Sur, ARMM region | Lanao del Norte, Northern Mindanao region | Misamis Oriental, Northern Mindanao region |
|---|---|---|--|
| Total population | 1,045,400 | 1,019,000 | 1,564,500 |
| % population in rural areas | | | |
| Gender and age distribution of population | M: 49.75%; W: 50.25% | M: 50.9%; W: 49.1% | M: 50.9%; W: 49.1% |
| | 0-14: 39.4% | 0-14: 32.6% | 0-14: 32.6% |
| | 15-24: 22.4% | 15-24: 20.2% | 15-24: 20.2% |
| | 25-64: 36.2% | 25-64: 42.7% | 25-64: 42.7% |
| | 65+: 1.9% | 65+: 4.4% | 65+: 4.4% |
| State capital (% region total population) | Marawi City 201,800 (19.3%) | Tubod 47,200 (4.6%) | Cagayan del Oro 676,000 (43.2%) |
| Lighting and cooking sources (2013, in the Philippines) | Cooking with wood: 44.8%; 22.4 in urban areas, 65.5% in rural areas Cooking with gas: 36.1%; 55.9% in urban areas, 17.8 % in rural areas Access to electricity: 87.5%; 94.1% in urban areas, 81.5% in rural areas | | |
| WASH figures | | | |
| Water sealed toilets | 35% | 59% | 74% |
| Tap water | 37% | 44% | 59% |
| Health figures (2013) | ARMM region | Northern Mindanao region | |
| Infant mortality | 32/1,000 live births | 25/1,000 | |
| Under-five mortality | 55/1,000 live births | 49/1,000 | |
| Nutrition levels (2013) | ARMM | Northern Mindanao region | |
| Severely wasted (0-5 years) | 3.3% | 2.3% | |
| Moderately wasted (0-5 years) | 5.2% | 4.7% | |

Sources: OCHA 2017; DHS 2013; FNRI-DOST 2013

Conflict-induced displacement from Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Philippines as of 31 May

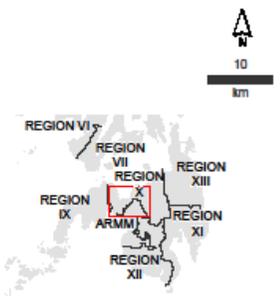
Conflict-induced displacement from Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Philippines, as of 31 May  



Over 100,000 IDPs since 23 May
 14,000 in Evacuation Centres
 86,000 with relatives or friends



Data Sources: DSWD Dromic Report #16, PSA, Reuters, UNHCR. Map created by MapAction (31 May 2017)



Source: MapAction