

Briefing Note – 23 June 2017

PHILIPPINES

Displacement from Marawi City, Lanao del Sur



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

Crisis overview

Since fighting broke out on 23 May in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, displacement has occurred from Marawi City and the neighbouring Marantao municipality. As of 22 June, more than 294,000 people were still displaced, around 16,000 of whom were hosted in evacuation centres (ECs). Ongoing conflict in Marawi City prevents the return of displaced people and has left between 300-500 people trapped in areas controlled by IS-affiliated groups. The government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) asked for international assistance on 29 May, including from non-governmental partners.

Displacement per provinces, as of 22 June (DSWD 22/06/2017):

Province	IDPS in evacuation centres	IDPS with friends and relatives	Total
Bukidnon, Region X	0	1,700	1,700
South Cotabato, Region XII	0	4,130	4,130
Misamis Oriental, Region X	10	14,110	14,110
Lanao del Norte, Region X	10,800	89,940	100,740
Lanao del Sur, ARMM	5,130	164,600	169,730
Other provinces	0	3,800	3,800
Total	15,930	278,280	294,210

Key findings

Anticipated scope and scale

IDPs will likely remain displaced for several more weeks as Islamic State (IS) affiliated fighters strongly resist the Armed forces of Philippines (AFP) in Marawi City. Severe damage to buildings in Marawi city centre will also prevent IDPs from returning. Prolonged stays with relatives and friends and in ECs will increase their vulnerability and their needs, especially health, WASH, and shelter.

The presence of IS-affiliated groups has been reported around Iligan City, Lanao del Norte and near Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, increasing the risk of more fighting and further displacement.

Key priorities

- **Health:** In overcrowded ECs, health assistance is urgently required as the risk of outbreaks is rising. An increase of fever, upper respiratory infection, and hypertension cases has been reported, mostly in ECs.
- **WASH:** Lack of sanitation and drinking water has been reported in many ECs, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. A high number of diarrhoea cases has already been reported.
- **Shelter:** Living conditions in ECs are poor, further aggravating WASH and health issues.

Humanitarian constraints

Access to Marawi City is impossible due to ongoing fighting. Rains hinder access to areas where IDPs are located.

Previous Briefing notes

For more information on the initial stages of the Marawi clashes, see the ACAPS Briefing Note published on 01/06/17, available [here](#).

Limitations

Lack of information on needs for IDPs hosted with families and relatives.
Lack of information for needs outside of Iligan City.

Crisis impact

As of 22 June, more than 294,000 people have been displaced following fighting that started in Marawi City on 23 May. Around 278,300 people are hosted by relatives and friends while around 16,000 people are in 83 ECs. They are mostly displaced in Lanao del Sur province (170,000 IDPs), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and in Lanao del Norte province (100,000 IDPs), Region X –Northern Mindanao (DSWD 22/06/2017). There are reports of residents trapped in Marawi's conflict-affected areas, ranging from 300 to 500 people as of 15 June (ICRC 15/06/2017).

Fighting has entered the fifth week, and IS-affiliated fighters still control parts of Marawi city centre, preventing IDPs from returning. No timeline has been provided to indicate when the city will be fully liberated by the AFP. Long-term displacement will increase the needs of IDPs (ARMM-info 07/06/2017). Overall, ECs are overcrowded, and are not provided with equipment to address IDPs' needs. Some IDPs have resorted to joining unofficial centres, despite the risk of not receiving assistance from authorities (UNICEF 08/06/2017). Most of the displaced people are hosted with friends and relatives. Large-scale needs assessments among those IDPs have not been carried out.

Health: As of 8 June, an increase of diarrhoea, upper respiratory infection, hypertension, and fever cases has been reported among IDPs, mostly those hosted in ECs (ICRC 08/06/2017). 300 cases of diarrhoea have been reported among IDPs as of 17 June (ABS CBN 17/06/2017). At least two people have died of it, and tests are being conducted to verify one reported case of cholera (News Inquirer 20/06/2017). In crowded ECs, heat aggravates respiratory conditions (Channel News Asia 17/06/2017). IDPs in host communities have not received health check-ups since they have been displaced (Channel News Asia 17/06/2017).

WASH: Lack of sanitation facilities combined with limited space in ECs increase the risk of waterborne diseases (ICRC 08/06/2017). In Balo-I, Lanao del Norte, drinking water is needed in some ECs (Channel News Asia 17/06/2017). In Balo-I, Lanao del Norte province, 1,000 IDPs share one toilet in one EC and open defecation has been reported along with a lack of basins (ABS CBN 17/06/2017). As of 16 June, in Iligan City's 5 ECs in Lanao del Norte, none met the standard of one latrine for 20 IDPs. Over 3,900 people are affected and a lack of drainage systems and safe drinking water were also reported (IOM Philippines CCCM Program 16/06/2017). Use of unsafe water is leading to disease outbreaks. 300 cases of diarrhoea have been reported among IDPs in ECs as of 17 June (ABS CBN 17/06/2017). ECs in Malabang and Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur have also reported a lack of sanitation

facilities (ARMM 18/06/2017). Several people have also reportedly died of health complications, sometimes due to dehydration (IRIN 19/06/2017).

Shelter and NFIs: Overall, overcrowding is a major concern in ECs, despite the government opening up new centres. In Iligan City's 5 ECs, Lanao del Norte, which are all overcrowded, there are no privacy partitions for over 3,900 IDPs (IOM Philippines CCCM Program 16/06/2017). Aerial footage of Marawi City showed heavy destruction of residential buildings, increasing the risk of long-term displacement and need for shelter assistance (News Inquirer 11/06/2017, ICRC 15/06/2017).

Nutrition: Food relief does not adequately meet nutrition needs. There is a risk of an increase in malnutrition cases among IDPs in ECs (News Inquirer 20/06/2017). Lack of powdered milk, needed for babies, in relief packages was reported (ABS CBN News 31/05/2017). A survey among more than 600 children in ECs has shown severe malnutrition in six children and moderate malnutrition in 20 (ABS CBN 17/06/2017).

Food: Trapped residents in Marawi City are reportedly eating leaves, blankets, and cardboard. Limited freedom of movement within Marawi City prevents them from accessing food. There are concerns that trapped residents may die of starvation (ABS CBN 15/06/2017, Reuters 22/06/2017).

Education: The school year was expected to resume early June, but at least 86,000 children have not been able to return to school (UNICEF 08/06/2017). At least seven schools have been partially or fully damaged by the fighting in Marawi City (ARMM-info 07/06/2017). Many schools have been turned into ECs, further delaying the school year's resumption (Philstar 01/06/2017). In Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, some ECs have no temporary learning spaces and insecurity prevents parents from sending their children back to school (IOM Philippines CCCM Program 16/06/2017). Hundreds of teachers have been displaced, further limiting classes from resuming (ABS CBN 21/06/2017).

Protection: In Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, IDPs hosted with friends and relatives have complained about uneven distribution of relief goods compared to IDPs hosted in ECs (IOM Philippines CCCM Program 16/06/2017). There are reports of unaccompanied children (UNICEF 08/06/2017). Use of airstrikes by the Philippines army raises concerns about civilian casualties. Although only 26 civilian deaths have officially been reported in Marawi City

due to fighting, hundreds of bodies have been seen in non-reachable areas, many of whom are thought to be civilians (Reuters 15/05/2017).

Livelihoods: Looting in Marawi City has been reported, which will further increase the needs of IDPs when they return to their homes (ABS CBN 21/06/2017).

Vulnerable groups affected

Children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly are particularly at risk of communicable diseases and deterioration of their health due to dire living conditions in overcrowded ECs.

Needs are not always met for IDPs living in unofficial ECs and with host communities, especially in poorer municipalities (UNICEF 08/06/2017).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Overall, access to displaced people is difficult with the exception of Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, as most of them are home-based (ABS CBN 22/06/2017). Due to continued fighting since 23 May, access to areas surrounding Marawi City is almost impossible. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to carry out needs assessments (UNICEF 08/06/2017). As of 6 June, access to the west and east side of Lake Lanao (south of Marawi City) was difficult, limiting delivery of assistance to IDPs hosted in these areas (ICRC 06/06/2017).

Aggravating factors

Rainy season

As the rainy season started in late May, heavy rains have hindered access to affected areas and people's movement to safe areas (UNICEF 08/06/2017, ICRC 08/06/2017). Over 302,000 people have been affected in Maguindanao province, south of Lanao del Sur province since May 2017, as heavy rains and localised thunderstorms have caused rivers to overflow (OCHA 15/06/2017).

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, their stronghold. Both groups have recently pledged allegiance to the IS.

As of 21 June, fighting was still occurring, with IS-affiliated fighters showing strong resistance. They still control parts of the city centre, hiding and using snipers to prevent AFP from advancing on their positions (Reuters 16/06/2017). Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, another Islamic group, is also diverting military response in Marawi City by attacking areas around North-Cotabato, ARMM (Reuters 21/06/2017).

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 groups from Indonesia and Malaysia ((International Crisis Group 05/07/2017, Reuters 30/05/2017). Since 2016, Maute groups 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 first time in Bohol, Visayas region, far from where it usually operates (International Crisis Group 05/07/2017, PhilStar 12/04/2017).

Abu-Sayyaf-Hapilon faction: Isnilon Hapilon – one of Abu Sayyaf's leaders declared allegiance to IS in 2014 (United Nations Security Council 05/04/2017). His faction has 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, there were reports of attacks carried out by BIFF in Lanao del Norte in order to divert AFP's presence from Marawi City (Inquirer 30/05/2017).

Past displacement

On 4 June, clashes between AFP and unknown armed men, likely BIFF members, resulted in the displacement of 36,000 people in Maguindanao (OCHA 15/06/2017).

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

International and neighbouring countries' relationship to the conflict

The United States has sided with the AFP, providing mainly logistical assistance (Reuters 14/06/2017). Indonesia and Malaysia are patrolling with the Philippines marine in the area north of Borneo islands, where the presence of IS-affiliated groups is growing (Reuters 19/06/2017).

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

Regional authorities are coordinating the response, providing assistance to IDPs on a regular basis (ARMM-info 11/06/2017). In three ECs, in Saquiarian and Malabang, WASH response is planned by regional authorities, with construction of toilets, showers, and provision of water tanks (ARMM-info 18/06/2017). In Iligan City, WASH assessment has been completed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and NGOs and response is planned (UNICEF 08/06/2017). Cholera and measles vaccination campaigns have been implemented by the Department of Health (OCHA 15/06/2017).

International response capacity

ARMM government asked for international assistance on 29 May, including from non-governmental partners (UNICEF 08/06/2017). ICRC, through its local federation, is providing medicines and medical supplies to hospitals and health facilities in several towns of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte (ICRC 08/06/2017). Australia's foreign ministry

announced on 20 June that they will provide USD 920,000 of assistance for food, WASH and NFIs, through World Food Program and ICRC channels (Gov. of Australia 20/06/2017).

Information gaps and needs

- Lack of information on needs for IDPs in host communities.
- Lack of information per EC.
- Lack of information on the situation in Marawi City.

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 to ECs (OCHA 14/01/15). Schools were used as ECs, preventing classes from resuming (Rappler 16/12/2013).

Key characteristics

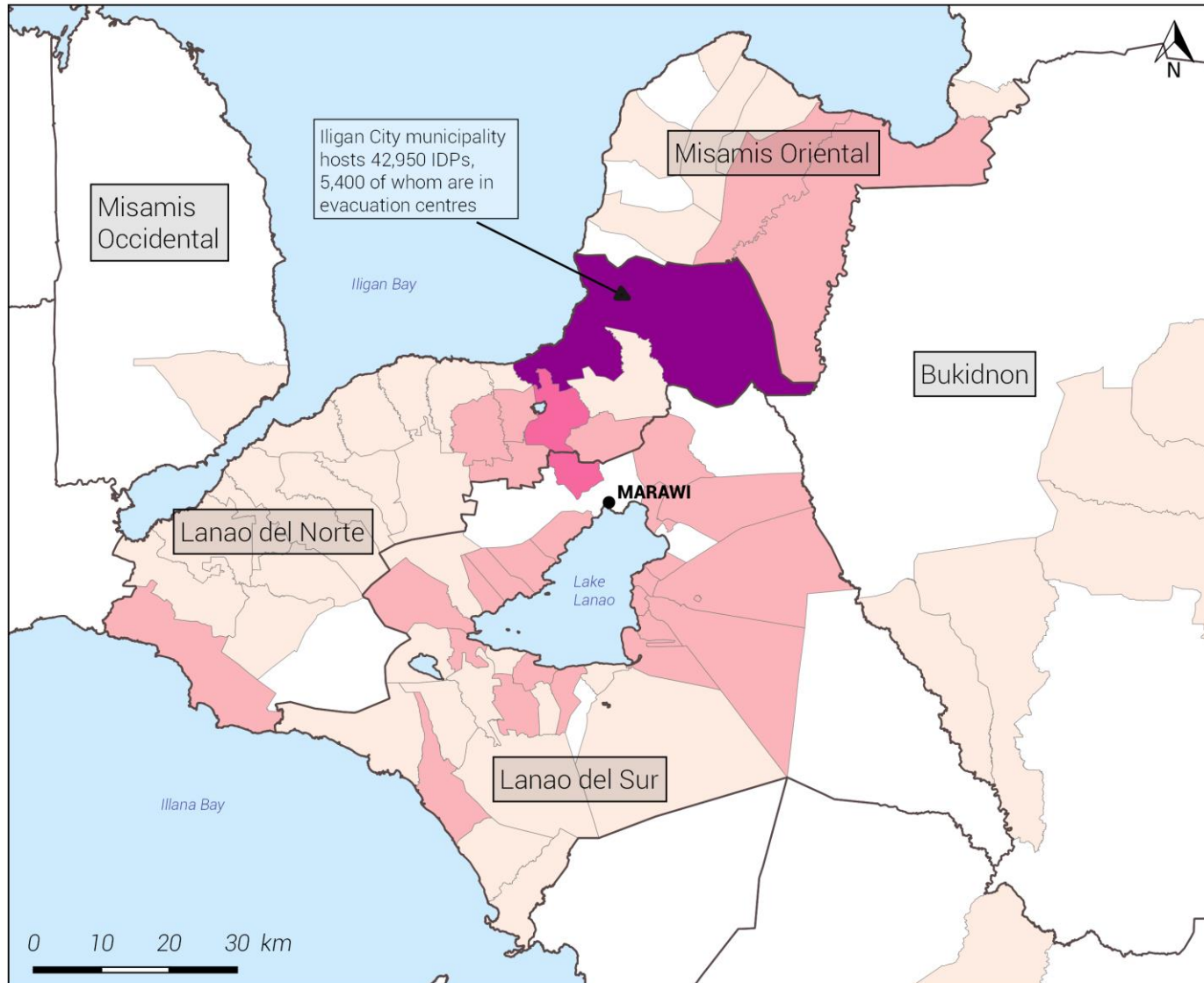
Key indicators	Lanao del Sur, ARMM	Lanao del Norte, Region X – Northern Mindanao
Total population		1,045,400
		1,019,000
% population in rural areas		
Gender and age distribution of population	Male: 49.75%; Female: 50.25%	Male: 50.9%; Female: 49.1%
	0-14: 39.4%	0-14: 32.6%
	15-24: 22.4%	15-24: 20.2%
	25-64: 36.2%	25-64: 42.7%
	65+: 1.9%	65+: 4.4%
State capital (% region total population)	Marawi City 201,800 (19.3%)	Tubod 47,200 (4.6%)
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%
Tap water		59%
		37%
		44%
Health figures (2013)	ARMM	Region X - Northern Mindanao
Infant mortality	32/1,000 live births	49/1,000
Under-five mortality	55/1,000 live births	25/1,000
Nutrition levels (2013)	ARMM	Region X - Northern Mindanao
Severely wasted (0-5 years)		3.3%
Moderately wasted (0-5 years)		4.7%
		5.2%
		2.3%

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

Philippines: Displacement from Marawi City, Lanao del Sur



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22 June 2017**



Displaced people

- < 3,000 IDPs
- 3,000 - <15,000 IDPs
- 15,000 - < 27,000 IDPs
- 27,000 - < 39,000 IDPs
- > 39,000 IDPs

Bukidnon Province

As of 22 June, more than 294,00 people have been displaced

- 278,300 IDPs are hosted with friends and relatives
- 16,000 IDPs are in evacuation centres

Data: DSWD Dromic, 22/06/2017
Creation date: 23/06/2017