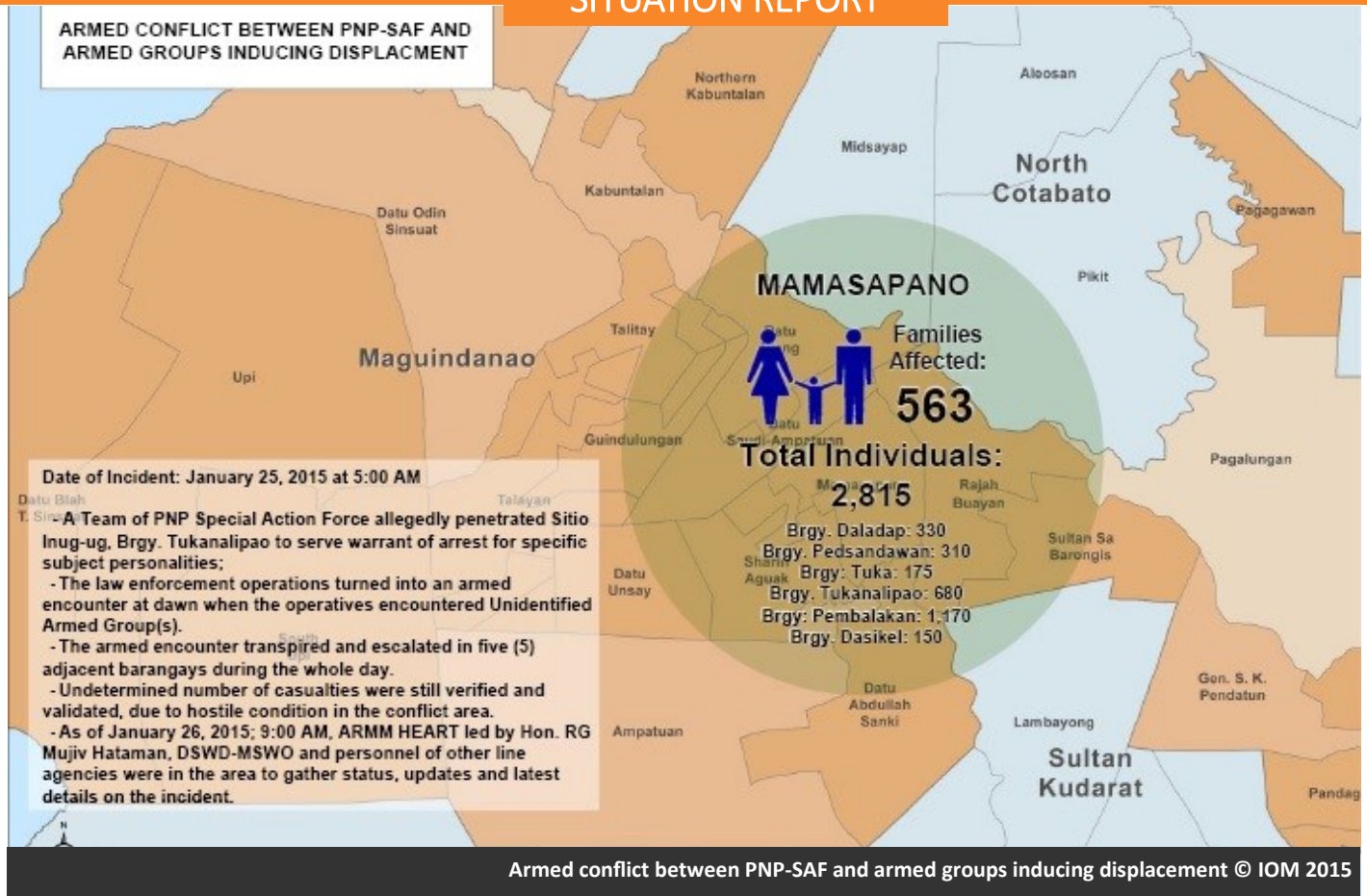


SITUATION REPORT



ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN PNP-SAF AND ARMED GROUPS ERUPTS IN MAMASAPANO, MAGUINDANAO

OVERVIEW

On Sunday, 25 January, at least 44 police officers from the elite Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force (SAF) were killed during the 11-hour firefight with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Barangay Tukanalipao in the town of Mamasapano, Maguindanao. The PNP-SAF reportedly launched the operation in order to serve an arrest warrant against Jemaah Islamiyah leader Zulkifli bin Hir also known as Commander Marwan and whose presence had been confirmed in the area.

Marwan is one of the most wanted JI leaders operating in Southeast Asia. He was believed to be involved in several bombing and terror attacks in Mindanao involving the JI-assisted Abu Sayyaf group. The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has recently offered a USD 5 million bounty for his capture. Meanwhile, foreign-trained bomb maker Abdul Bassit Usman is a Filipino rebel with the Abu Sayyaf group. He is also believed to have links with JI and the Islamic extremist group, al-Qaeda. The US FBI has offered a USD 1 million bounty for his capture.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (ARMM HEART) reported displaced 563 families, who are now staying in an evacuation centre in Barangay Dalidap or with their relatives in nearby villages. ARMM HEART furnished IOM Cotabato with the following data¹ on the extent of displacement brought about by this latest armed conflict.

IOM in Cotabato

Since opening Cotabato Office in 2008, IOM has become one of the biggest humanitarian actors – leading emergency response for affected populations – in Mindanao. IOM Cotabato is currently implementing peace building and gender mainstreaming activities in partnership with Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), INGOs, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

For information, contact:

Besim Ajeti, IOM Cotabato Head of Office
 Telephone: +63644211366 | Email: bajeti@iom.int
 Internet: www.philippineresponse.iom.int

¹ As of 25 January, 09:00 am

TOWN OF KABACAN, COTABATO PLACED UNDER STATE OF CALAMITY DUE TO FLOOD

OVERVIEW

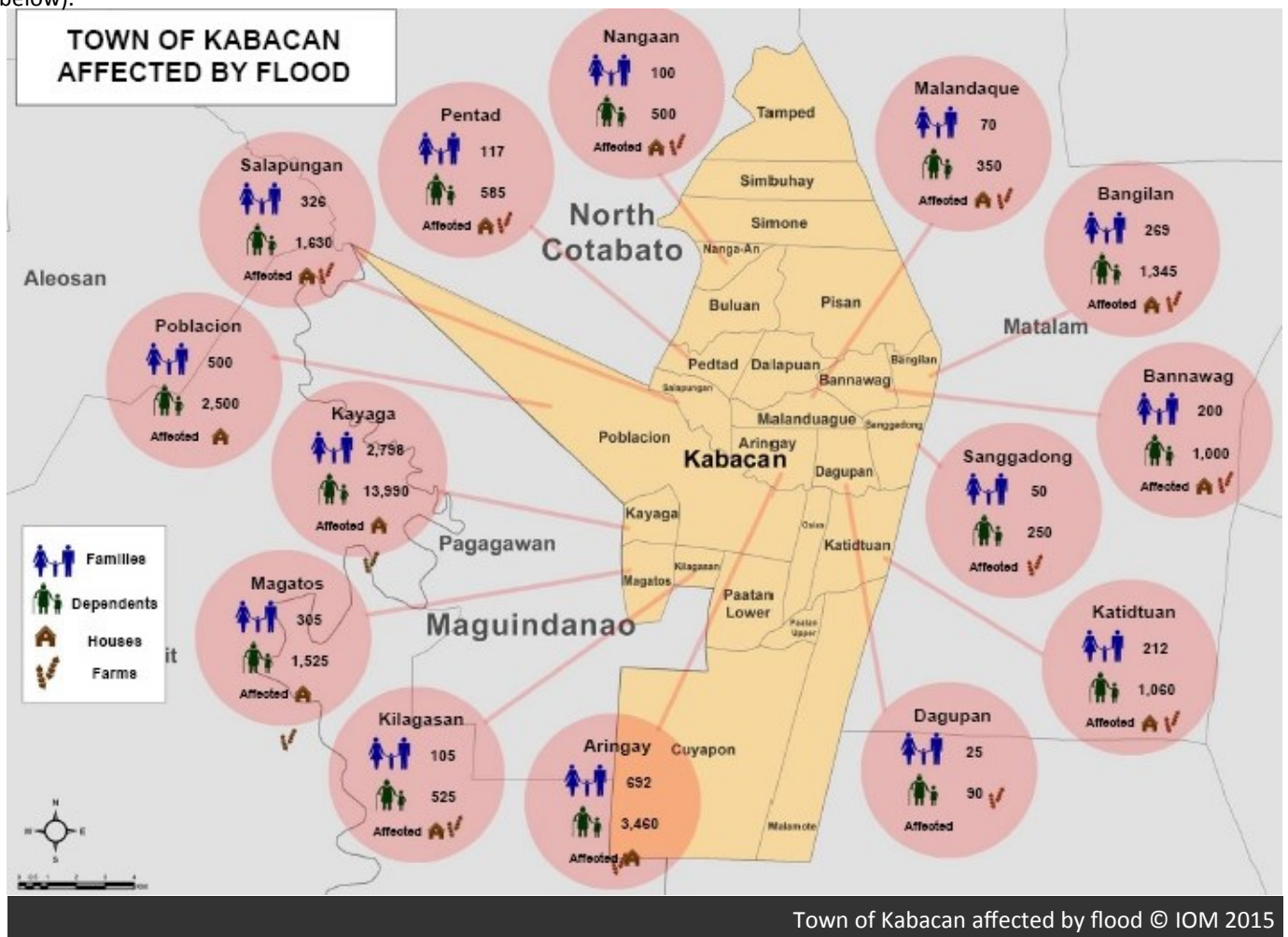
On Friday 23 January, the town of Kabacan was placed under a state of calamity due to the extent of damage brought by flash floods that submerged low-lying villages and displaced thousands of residents. The Mayor of Kabacan town acted on the recommendation of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) to put the town under a state of calamity to utilize the town's quick response funds.

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Kabacan provided IOM with this recent figures on the extent of displacement brought by the flood (see map below).



Picture source: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/photo/60886/rice-fields-flooded-in-kabacan-cotabato>



Reference:

GMA News Online. 26 January 2015. 'Kabacan, Cotabato placed under state of calamity due to flood damage'. <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/416801/news/regions/kabacan-cotabato-placed-under-state-of-calamity-due-to-flood-damage>



DSWD
Department of Social Welfare and Development