



Map of the latest displacement overview in Central Mindanao © IOM 2015

CURRENT SITUATION

On 7 March, the Philippine Army, the Philippine Marines and the Philippine National Police launched a joint law enforcement operation against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the town of Datu Unsay, Maguindanao. Nearly ten days later, the joint law enforcement operation has spanned across 15 towns in Maguindanao, affecting 24,714 families or 123,537 persons and displacing 21,881 families or 109,372 persons, as per map above. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Regional Government is spending approximately 13 million PHP (USD 290,000) weekly to address the needs, mainly on food assistance for the internally displaced persons (IDPs).



Families are forced to leave their homes after Armed Forces of the Philippines launched an all-out offensive against the BIFF. Shown here are evacuation sites visited by IOM Cotabato: picture on the left Sitio Dam, Tambunan 2 Evacuation Center, Guindulungan and picture on the right an IDP woman consuming the food items that were distributed by the ARMM Regional Government © IOM 2015

IOM ACTION

As part of an assessment mission with the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO), IOM Cotabato visited evacuation sites in the towns of Guindulungan, Talayan, Shariff Aguak, Shariff Saydona, Datu Salibo and Datu Saudi Ampatuan (see table below for profiles of the evacuation sites) on 12 and 13 March 2015.

Municipality	Name of Evacuation Centers	Place/s of Origin (Barangay)	Number of Affected	
			Families	Individuals
Guindulungan	Sitio Dam, Tambunan 2	Kalumamis, Kitapok	497	2,485
Talayan	Poblacion Resettlement Site	Linamunan	61	305
Shariff Aguak	Timbangan Evacuation Center	Bialong, Takipan, Lapok, Malingao, Kuloy	1,169	5,845
Shariff Saydona Mustapha	Nabundas Elementary School Evacuation Center	Datu Kilay	295	1,495
Datu Salibo	Pagatin Elementary School Evacuation Center	Penditen	603	3,015
Datu Saudi Ampatuan	Madia Elementary School Evacuation Center		267	1335
Total Assessed Families/Individuals			2,892	14,480

SUMMARY OF THE IOM - ECHO ASSESSMENT MISSION

- ◆ Majority of the families need lifesaving non-food items (NFIs), emergency shelters such as tarpaulins, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items/facilities such as potable drinking water, toilets/ latrines.
- ◆ Food supplies from government agencies will run out in less than 20 days and IDPs need sufficient food packs in the evacuation centres.
- ◆ Approximately 70% of the displaced families need a safer haven as their temporary evacuation centres are mostly tent-based. IDPs are being exposed to various hazards and risks. Their tents are open and installed under trees, (see picture above) along the roads and nearby military sites, often with artillery installations.
- ◆ School classes have been disrupted as most of the affected schools have been used as evacuation centres.
- ◆ Difficulties in tracking IDPs due to complex and often quick and multiple movements from one evacuation centres to another, while others are being hosted by their relatives, friends and host communities.
- ◆ Most evacuations centres are not well organized. They do not have camp committees to facilitate the sectorial needs of IDPs such as, shelter, NFIs, food, protection, education, health and nutrition.
- ◆ There is a need for establishing referral pathways throughout evacuation sites to prevent and address protection issues, such as gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking in persons and child protection.
- ◆ There is a need to disaggregate age, sex, persons with disabilities, people with special needs and other vulnerable groups, to address immediate needs and gaps per sector or group.

References: Maguindanao Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office | ARMM HEART

IOM IN COTABATO

Since the opening of the 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 more information, please contact:

Mr. Besim Ajeti, IOM Cotabato Head of Office

Telephone: +63644211366 | Email: bajeti@iom.int Internet: www.philippineresponse.iom.int



DSWD
Department of Social Welfare and Development