

Displacement due to election-related violence in Talitay, Maguindanao

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## INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On 14 May 2019, violent skirmishes erupted in Talitay municipality, Maguindanao province, between supporters of opposing candidates for municipal elective positions during the local election that was concluded on the previous day. This resulted in the displacement of a total number of 464 families (approximately 2,320 individuals).

Similar incidents have been reported in the same municipality during the national elections in 2013 and 2016. This recurring pattern of politically motivated violence has already caused a number of forcible displacements of residents of the affected communities.

Following deployment of government security forces to the area, armed clashes ceased on the following day, 15 May.

## CURRENT SITUATION

A total of 464 families (approximately 2,320 individuals) coming from Barangays Kilalan, Poblacion and Menggay, all in Talitay Municipality, have been displaced. The IDPs are currently hosted at Barangays Bongued and Kakar, all in Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality, Maguindanao province. Some of the IDPs are sharing dwellings with their relatives, while others have set up tents on open ground.

The security situation in the affected communities remains unpredictable. The number of IDPs is still expected to increase because the tensions have spread to neighboring villages. Despite the risks to their safety, some IDPs have tried to return to their homes and farms in order to harvest crops.

## PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSE

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
Threat to life, safety, and security		
<p>While the government security forces remain in the affected areas, IDPs are hesitant to return since the conflict remains unresolved. According to the IDPs, the presence of government troops does not deter the re-eruption of conflict. It may in fact trigger further complications of the situation, because of the presence of other armed groups within the same areas.</p> <p>Some of the displaced families returned to their habitual residences a week after their displacement, but were forced to flee again because of reported firing of guns and mortar shelling in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government security forces have been deployed to help stabilize the security situation.</li> <li>▪ Host barangays are providing assistance to the affected population, such as spaces for their temporary shelter.</li> </ul>	<p>UNHCR with Protection partners will continue to conduct protection monitoring missions to provide intervention needed for displaced families.</p>
Food aid and nutrition		
<p>The IDPs expressed concerns about the lack of food supplies, and are seeking assistance from authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The officials of host barangays have submitted the list of IDPs to the Municipal Social Welfare Officer and requested food assistance for the IDPs.</li> </ul>	<p>Advocate with the Ministry of Social Services (MSS) for the distribution of regular food rations to IDPs, because the food</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Host barangays have also provided food assistance. However, the amount of food provided is only enough for one cooked meal. This is because of restrictions on the disbursement of government funds before and after elections.</li> <li>▪ The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao – Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (BARMM-HEART) distributed food packs to the IDPs on 27 May. Each food pack consists of 5 kilos of rice, 1 tray of eggs, canned goods, coffee and sugar.</li> </ul>	assistance they are currently receiving is insufficient for their needs and their livelihood activities have also been disrupted.
<b>Water and sanitation</b>		
Access to clean water is one of the concerns of the IDPs that need attention. A hand-powered pump currently serves as their source of water for drinking, cooking, and bathing. However, the water produced appears contaminated (yellow or brown in colour) and may not be safe for drinking. Residents of the host barangays are buying water from a refilling station or through water trucks, but most of the IDPs are financially incapable of buying their own water.	UNHCR has referred the issue to ICRC and Save the Children (which carry out some WASH activities in these areas) for possible support.	Advocate with the Municipal LGU for possible assistance on access to safe drinking water.
<b>Health</b>		
There are reported cases of common illnesses such as flu, cough, and fever affecting children due to the current weather conditions.		Follow up with the Municipal Health Unit regarding the need for medicines to address common illnesses.
<b>Livelihoods</b>		
IDPs' means of livelihood (farming and fishing) have been disrupted because of the security situation in the area. The security forces have prohibited the IDPs from conducting fishing activities, because of safety risks due to the unresolved tensions. However, some still try to access their farmlands despite these risks. Some working animals were also reportedly hit by bullets during the firefights.		UNHCR and partners will conduct continuous protection monitoring and coordinate with the host local government units to follow up on the IDPs' situation.
<b>Non-food items</b>		
Some of the IDPs are occupying open spaces where they put up tents using shelter materials provided to them by the host communities. However, temporary shelters are not equipped to resist heat and rain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The officials of host barangays have lobbied for possible support for the NFI needs of the IDPs.</li> <li>▪ A Protection partner NGO, ACTED, has also provided non-</li> </ul>	UNHCR and Magungaya Mindanao, Inc. (MMI) will distribute additional core relief items to the IDPs such as tarpaulins, fleece blankets and mats.

Others are sharing dwellings with their relatives. In some cases, four to six families are being hosted in a small house.  The IDPs have expressed the need for non-food items (NFIs) such as kitchen utensils, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, hygiene and sanitation items.	food items to the IDPs such as hygiene kits and shelter materials.	
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## PERSONS OF CONCERN

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)				Location (Current)				
				Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Exact Location
190	+/-	950	+/-	Maguindanao	Talitay	Kilalan		Maguindanao	Datu Odin Sinsuat	Bungued	Gantong	Home-based
130	+/-	650	+/-	Maguindanao	Talitay	Kilalan		Maguindanao	Datu Odin Sinsuat	Bungued	Lebulen	Home-based
75	+/-	375	+/-	Maguindanao	Talitay	Kilalan		Maguindanao	Datu Odin Sinsuat	Bungued	Suyok	Home-based
69	+/-	345	+/-	Maguindanao	Talitay	Kilalan		Maguindanao	Datu Odin Sinsuat	Kakar	Proper Kakar	Home-based

## DURABLE SOLUTIONS (No returns yet)

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Displaced)			Location (Current)			Type (Please select one)		
				Province	Municipality	Barangay	Province	Municipality	Barangay	Return	Relocation	Local Integration

## SOURCES:

Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office – Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipality  
 Barangay Local Government Unit – Barangay Bungued, Datu Odin Sinsuat Municipality  
 Magungaya Mindanao Incorporated (MMI)  
 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 (return, 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). Given the fact that Mindanao did not witness major emergencies since Marawi siege, the protection cluster was not convened since mid-2017. Instead a protection working group was established in April 2019 to attend to protection needs of displaced families in BARMM

### Protection Working Group for Bangsamoro Autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

In April 2019, PWG for BARMM was established under the leadership of Ministry of Social Services, co-led by UNHCR. The Protection Working Group (PWG), based in Cotabato City, is being convened to support the provision of protection interventions and services to these disaster- and conflict-affected communities. The main objectives of BARMM PWG is to strengthen coordination among relevant actors with a protection role (from regional down to municipal and community level) in order to: (a) ensure timely prevention of and response to protection issues in the BARMM region; and (b) facilitate timely information-sharing among these actors, in support of effective planning and implementation. The PWG meets every 2 months with members of Government agencies with protection roles, Relevant LGUs, UN agencies, Local and international NGOs & CSOs.

For more information, please visit the Protection Cluster website <http://www.protectionclusterphilippines.org/> or e-mail us at PHICOPRC@unhcr.org

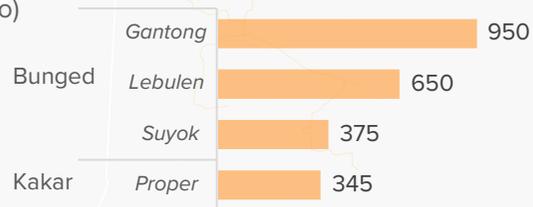


## KEY FIGURES

Total number of displaced population



Displaced individuals by location of displacement (Sitio)



## LEGEND

- Conflict
- Provincial boundary
- Municipal boundary
- Road
- Displaced individuals
- Returned individuals
- Presently displaced individuals
- Evacuation center

## LOCATION MAP

