

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On 01 May, around 211 families (approximately 1,055 persons) were forced to flee their homes in Barangays Kapinpilan and Tumbras, in the municipality of Midsayap, Cotabato province due to a firefight between two parties. The incident was rooted in a clan feud (rido) between these parties, both of which are allegedly led by commanders of armed groups. The displaced population took refuge in the center sitio (sub-village) of Barangay Tumbras. The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Midsayap distributed food packs to the IDPs during their stay at the evacuation site. The displaced families were able to return to their habitual residences after two or three days.

On 23 May, another firefight took place involving the same parties. This resulted in the displacement of around 273 families (approximately 1,365 persons) from the same barangays –Tumbras and Kapinpilan, in Midsayap municipality. They sought refuge in the center sitios of Barangay Tumbras and Barangay Kapinpilan. The incident also disrupted the observance of the Muslim holy month of Ramadhan, as the firefight erupted only a few minutes before the iftar meal (breaking of the daily fast during Ramadhan).

IDPs are temporarily sheltering in different locations: (1) Barangay hall of Tumbras, (2) Tumbras Covered Court, (3) Kapinpilan Covered Court, and (4) Kapinpilan Mosque.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) intervened immediately to help stabilize the situation. However, according to the local authorities, further negotiations between the parties are required in order to fully settle the issue and prevent further displacement.

CURRENT SITUATION

More than a week after the latest incident, most of the IDPs still opted to stay in the identified evacuation sites. Although the firefights have stopped, the security situation remains volatile in the absence of complete settlement between the parties.

The IDPs shared that they have not received assistance from the Local Government Unit (LGU) in the host area after this most recent displacement. This is due to the national policy restricting disbursement of government funds before and after elections.

The IDPs expressed the need for food assistance, as well as non-food items such as kitchen utensils, solar lantern, tarpaulins, blankets, and mats.

A number of children reportedly have fever and colds, while some elderly persons are experiencing attacks of high blood pressure. Available medical support from the host barangay and municipality is currently very limited.

While waiting for the authorities to declare their area of origin as safe for return, the IDPs appealed to the local authorities and humanitarian organizations for immediate and appropriate intervention, especially in response to the needs of vulnerable groups.

PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSES

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
Threat to life, safety and security		
Although the security situation remains unpredictable, some of the IDPs have tried to access their houses during daytime and return to safer places at night. They are afraid of being caught in the crossfire, as the parties to the clan feud are still in the area and firefights may erupt again anytime.	Protection partner NGO, Mangungaya Mindanao, Inc. (MMI), referred the issue to the municipal local government unit (MLGU) for further validation.	Follow up and monitor the situation of the IDPs who have reportedly returned to their habitual residences. Refer to the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC) for further verification and investigation of the incident.
Access to food aid and nutrition		
IDPs expressed their concerns about lack of food assistance. The LGU was not able to distribute enough food packs due to the election ban on disbursement of government funds.	MSWDO Midsayap submitted a request for support/relief assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (Region 12), but are still awaiting feedback.	Protection partners to follow-up with the MSWDO and DSWD Region 12, in coordination with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) of Cotabato.
Access to shelter and non-food items		
<p>There are no government or non-government agencies providing shelter support. This contributes to safety and privacy issues, particularly for women and children, as well as increased health risks.</p> <p>At present, the IDPs have created makeshift tents/structures with their meager belongings. These do not provide proper shelter particularly during the rainy season, and would be inadequate if displacement becomes protracted.</p> <p>Most of the IDPs were not able to bring basic household items when they fled. They are thus in need of kitchen utensils, tarpaulins, mats, and blanket. Most of them also have limited resources to pay for electrical connections, and are thus also in need of solar lanterns.</p>	MMI requested UNHCR to provide core relief items (CRIs); distribution is being planned.	Conduct distribution of CRIs in coordination with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Midsayap.
Access to Humanitarian Assistance		
Generally, IDPs are finding it more and more difficult to cope with their situation in the evacuation sites due to insufficiencies in food, WASH, health, and other relief assistance.		Continue advocacy with government and humanitarian agencies that can address other needs of the IDPs.
Access to Health		

<p>A number of children have fever and colds, while some elderly persons are experiencing attacks of high blood pressure. Available medical support from the host municipality and barangay is very limited.</p>	<p>The situation has already been referred to the Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Midsayap.</p>	<p>Follow-up if the RHU have already responded to the health needs of the IDPs.</p>
<p>Access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</p>		
<p>Safe drinking water remains scarce. Most of the IDPs are using a level 1 water system for drinking, while others have dug shallow wells and are using a hand pump.</p> <p>Because of the geographic location of these barangays in the marshy areas and rice fields of Midsayap, potable ground water sources are limited. Some IDPs buy drinking water from private suppliers at 5 pesos per gallon, but only a few can afford this. The usual solution is to boil water from the pump, but this is also not a feasible option because it incurs high costs for cooking fuel.</p>	<p>The issue of potable water supply has been raised with the barangay and municipal LGU.</p>	<p>Follow-up after 1 week if the LGU has already responded to the issue.</p> <p>Refer also to other organizations such as ICRC and UNICEF (as co-lead of the WASH sector) to discuss if they can help in conducting water testing and community orientation on ways to make water potable (such as filtering and water treatment).</p>
<p>Access to education</p>		
<p>As the school year for 2019-2020 is going to start, mothers raised concerns that the education of their children would be disrupted if they remain at the evacuation site. With the disruption in their livelihood activities, IDPs are also in need of support to cover expenses for enrolment, school supplies and other materials.</p>		<p>Lobby with the Department of Education to ensure that displaced children will be accommodated in available schools in host communities.</p> <p>Refer to UNICEF for further assistance through programs like child-friendly spaces in displacement sites and distribution of school supplies.</p>
<p>Access to livelihood</p>		
<p>Majority, if not all, the IDPs have no access to their livelihood or other source of incomes. They need livelihood support while in displacement, as well as upon return to their places of origin.</p>		
<p>Access to Information</p>		
<p>IDPs do not receive clear information on which areas are already safe for return. Because of lack of assistance at the evacuation sites, they are awaiting notification on when they can return and resume their livelihood activities (farming) in their places of origin.</p>		<p>Discuss further with the LGU to recommend an information dissemination activity in the host communities at least once a week. This will help IDPs share their concerns and hear answers to their questions.</p>

PERSONS OF CONCERN

No. of Families	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)				Location (Current)				
				Province	Municipality	Barangay	Sitio	Province	Municipality	Barangay	Sitio	Exact Location
34		170		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Tumbras	Purok Mangga	North Cotabato	Midsayap	Tumbras		Barangay Hall
100		500		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Tumbras	Purok Mangga	North Cotabato	Midsayap	Tumbras		Covered Court
39		195		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Kapinpilan		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Kapinpilan		Covered Court
100		500		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Kapinpilan		North Cotabato	Midsayap	Kapinpilan		Mosque

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

No. of Families	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)				Location (Current)				
				Province	Municipality	Barangay	Sitio	Province	Municipality	Barangay	Sitio	Exact Location

SOURCES:

Magungaya Mindanao, Inc. (MMI)
 Department of Social Welfare and Development – Region XII Report as of 29 May 2019
 Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Office (MDRRMO) Midsayap
 Barangay Local Government Units of Tumbras and Kapinpilan
 IDP leaders

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



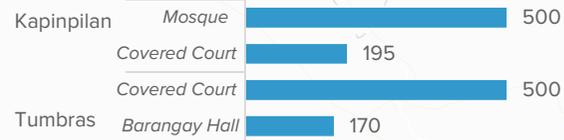
273 Families



1,365 Individuals

Displaced individuals by location of displacement

MIDSAYAP



LEGEND

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

LOCATION MAP

