

Displacement due to AFP vs. ASG armed conflict in Patikul, Sulu

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INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On May 26, 2019, around 26 families from Barangay Igasan, Patikul municipality in Sulu province were displaced due to firefight between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Abu Sayaff Group (ASG). According to the local authorities, the conflict sparked when the armed group allegedly harassed the AFP while conducting a community dialogue related to the implementation of a government-led project on livelihood and infrastructure for the ASG returnees. The firefight resulted in the wounding of two (2) civilians and death of two (2) minors who were caught in the crossfire. The IDPs sought temporary shelter with their relatives and in the municipal hall.

CURRENT SITUATION

According to the local authorities, the displaced families had also returned to their habitual residences on the day after the armed clashes. The Municipal Local Government Unit provided “return packs” as relief assistance to the affected families. UNHCR and its local partner are still monitoring the condition of the families who have reportedly returned.

PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSES

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
Threat to life, safety and security		
The armed fighting has put civilians at great risk. Some civilians were reportedly caught in the crossfire, causing injuries and two deaths.	Protection partners have 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.
Grave, Child Rights Violations (GCRV)		
Two (2) minors, aged one (1) year old and twelve (12) years old, reportedly died after being caught in the crossfire.	Protection partner IRDT conducted protection monitoring to assess the condition of the IDPs. The issues has also been referred to the local authorities and other Protection partners for further verification.	Refer to the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC) for further verification and investigation of the incident.

PERSONS OF CONCERN

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)			Location (Current)			
				Province	Mun	Barangay	Province	Mun	Barangay	Exact Location
26		130	+/-	Sulu	Patikul	Igasan	Sulu	Patikul	Igasan	Municipal hall and home-based

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Displaced)			Location (Current)			Type (Please select one)		
				Province	Municipality	Barangay	Province	Municipality	Barangay	Return	Relocation	Local Integration
26		130	+/-	Sulu	Patikul	Igasan	Sulu	Patikul	Igasan	-/		

SOURCES:

Municipal Local Government Unit (Patikul)

Barangay Local Government Unit (Igasan)

Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People Inc. (IRDT)

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 B ARMM 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

26 Families

130 Individuals

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

2 Injured

2 Dead

LEGEND

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

LOCATION MAP

