

INCIDENT BACKGROUND

Around 944 families (4,720 persons) were forcibly displaced on 7 June due to armed clashes in Sitio Malinan of Brgy. Patadon West in Matalam, North Cotabato. The displaced families were from Barangays Marbel, Patadon West, and Kidama. Currently, they are temporarily sheltered in various locations within these barangays and in Poblacion, Matalam.

During the height of the firefight, 16 houses were allegedly torched by one of the warring parties.

The recurring firefight was reportedly due to a long-standing land dispute. The two groups – allegedly led by commanders from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), respectively – are both claiming a parcel of land with an area of approximately 72 hectares, located in Brgy. Kidama, Matalam. Their presence in the villages reportedly started the recurring displacement of the community.

Discussions with IDPs and community leaders indicated that the situation appears to be getting worse. Efforts at conflict resolution have been made, but were not recognized by the parties.

As the security situation in their area remains uncertain, the displaced families face difficulties in finding sources of livelihood, as well as health issues, especially in the case of children. Some have reportedly requested that military detachments be established in their village, which they believe would help ensure their safety and thus facilitate their return.

In addition, 120 families (estimated 600 persons) who were displaced during a firefight involving the same parties on 31 December 2015 remain displaced for more than five months now.

CURRENT SITUATION

Presently, the IDPs have sought refuge in evacuation camps in Brgy. Poblacion, Kidama, and Marbel. They are still uncertain of the security situation in their area. They are having a hard time finding sources of livelihood, since they left their farm animals back in their villages. Their precarious situation also jeopardizes their health, especially in the case of children.

PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSE

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
Threat to life, safety, and security		
The security condition remains volatile because of the presence of armed men in the area. A firefight may erupt anytime, according to the villagers. During the height of the fights, 16 houses were burned, allegedly as a form of retaliation for the burning of 13 houses on 31 December 2015.		Advocate with the LGU and other partners to provide immediate responses to the protection needs of the IDPs, in the event that they are unable to, or opt not to return for a longer period due to persistent concerns about their safety.
Access to food aid and nutrition		
IDPs expressed their concerns about lack of food supply. They said that they have received several food packs from MLGU-DSWD and PLGU, but these were not sufficient.	Food packs from MLGU and PLGU have been distributed.	Follow-up planned food distribution by ARMM HEART.

Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene

<p>The evacuation center in Barangay Kidama has no bathing area and has only one (1) functional toilet. Water is also insufficient.</p>		<p>UNHCR continues to advocate with barangay officials, MSWD, and MDRRM officers for measures to address the lack of adequate water and sanitation, should there be a need for the IDPs to stay in the evacuation camps for a longer period.</p>
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Access to shelter

<p>There is no privacy in the evacuation camps. IDPs are living in congested conditions, with no protection from heat and rain. Some IDPs do not have available tarpaulins and cannot put up temporary shelters. Instead, they have placed mats and empty cardboard boxes on the open ground, which serves as their sleeping area.</p>		<p>Referral to LGU and request for possible distribution of NFIs such as tarps and blankets.</p>
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Access to education

<p>Classes are about to open, and according to the IDPs, most of the children from sitios recently affected by the firefight may not be able to go to school during this school year.</p>		<p>UNHCR and Protection partners to conduct follow-up mission/s and visit/s to the affected communities and IDP sites to check on the postponement of classes.</p>
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Protection of persons with specific needs

<p>There are vulnerable individuals such as elderly persons, newborn babies and their mothers, and young girls and boys among the IDPs, but their specific protection needs are not targeted. There are reports of deaths of three children, one of whom was newly born. Also, one elderly man died in the evacuation camp, reportedly due to respiratory arrest.</p>		<p>UNHCR continues to advocate with barangay officials, MSWD, and MDRRM officers for continued assistance, such as sustained food support, should there be a need for the IDPs to stay in the evacuation camps for a longer period.</p>
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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
35		175		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	POBLACION		Kalye Putol
169		845		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		Barangay Hall
19		95		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	POBLACION		Back of Municipal High School
30		150		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	POBLACION		Engr. Alilaya Compound
8		40		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	PATADON WEST		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	PATADON WEST		Sitio Mateo
41		205		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	MARBEL		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	POBLACION		Estillore Compound
572		2,860		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	MARBEL		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	MARBEL		Brgy. Hall
64		320		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	MARBEL		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	MARBEL		Sitio Rambutan
6		30		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	PATADON WEST		NORTH COTABATO	MATALAM	KIDAMA		Home-based

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

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

SOURCES:

Matalam Local Government Unit (MLGU)

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 (repatriation, 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). The cluster approach is part of a global response aimed at providing more timely and consistent help to the internally displaced and other affected people in complex emergencies and disasters. The Protection Cluster in Mindanao meets in Cotabato, Iligan, Davao and other cities on a regular basis. Currently there are over 100 participating agencies including from the Government, State, Civil Society, national and international NGOs and agencies, as well as the United Nations. For more information, please visit the Protection Cluster website <http://www.protectioncluster.org/philippines/> or e-mail us at PHICOPRC@unhcr.org



KIDAMA, MATALAM DISPLACEMENT MAP

as of 07 JUNE 2016

SUMMARY

4,720 EST. TOTAL PERSONS DISPLACED (944 FAMILIES)

0 TOTAL PERSONS RETURNED (0 FAMILIES)

4,720 EST. TOTAL PERSONS REMAIN DISPLACED (944 FAMILIES)

1% Estimated persons staying outside evacuation center

99% Estimated persons staying inside evacuation center

LOCATION MAP



LEGEND

- Conflict
- Presently displaced
- Returned families
- Total displaced families
- Municipal boundary
- Barangay boundary
- Provincial boundary
- Evacuation Center
- Home-based
- Burned houses
- Roads

