

## INCIDENT BACKGROUND

On 12 February 2017, an armed encounter between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and New People's Army (NPA) occurred in the remote areas of Barangay Langtud, Laak municipality, Compostela Valley province. The firefight lasted for almost three hours. Around 1,532 families were affected in Barangays Bollucan, Langtud, Macopa and Poblacion. According to interviews with some IDPs, one house was destroyed during the incident and an undetermined number of other houses were partly damaged by explosions.

As of 15 February 2017, at least 135 families (approximately 550 individuals) are displaced and are staying in Laak National High School and Tuk-an Elementary School, both in Barangay Poblacion. Some of them return to their farms at daytime but sleep in the evacuation centers at night. Other displaced families are staying with relatives or friends, but there is no verified data on their number. Movement of the displaced families is highly unpredictable due to the mounting tension between the AFP and NPA, following the withdrawal of their respective ceasefire declarations and suspension of peace negotiations.

## CURRENT SITUATION

Despite security threats, displaced families attempt to return to their villages at daytime in order to save any undamaged properties, farm supplies, and animals. Fearing that the situation may not normalize soon and they would be forced to support themselves while staying in the evacuation centers, some families sold their farm animals at very low prices.

The IDPs, including those staying with relatives or friends, received assistance from the local government unit (LGU) to meet their immediate needs for food, water, kitchen utensils, and medical services. Stress debriefing was also provided to those affected and traumatized by the incident.

On 13 February 2017, the AFP declared some of the affected areas cleared, except those in the interior and remote sitios. There were also families who decided to go back to their farms despite safety risks. Tensions between the AFP and NPA persist following the declaration of an 'all-out-war' by the government. Curfews were enforced due to the on-going operations of the AFP against NPA.

## PROTECTION ISSUES AND RESPONSE

ISSUES	RESPONSES	WAYS FORWARD
<b>Threat to life, safety, and security</b>		
Heightened tensions and high probability of recurring armed encounters pose continuing threats to the safety of affected families.	The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council activated an Incident Command Post for emergency response.	Continue protection monitoring and coordination with the municipal government and security actors.
Scattered explosions continue in affected barangays.		
<b>Threat to liberty and freedom of movement</b>		
Displaced families were unable to access their farms. Curfew hours were also imposed to ensure the safety of civilians because of the ongoing military operation.	The AFP declared some of the affected areas cleared, although some families living in remote or interior communities are still unable to access their farms.	Continue monitoring the situation and identifying protection needs and concerns.
<b>Access to food aid and nutrition</b>		
Displaced families need food assistance.	The LGU distributed food packs, including to home-based IDPs, and kitchen utensils. A community kitchen was also established to serve hot meals to the IDPs.	
<b>Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene</b>		
The water supply is not sufficient. Displaced families had to fetch water from a source located some 50-100 meters away from the evacuation centers.	The LGU provided water to displaced families.	
<b>Access to shelter</b>		
Residents of affected barangays had to leave their homes in a hurry, without any prior information or warning.	Displaced families were provided temporary shelter in two schools. The LGU provided orientation about 'do's and don'ts' inside evacuation centers.	Coordinate and advocate with the local government regarding the situation and needs of both home-based IDPs and those in evacuation sites.
Although some are staying with relatives or friends, home-based IDPs are not counted or verified.		

One house was totally damaged, and an unverified number of houses partially damaged.		Follow-ups/referrals for possible shelter assistance
<b>Access to health</b>		
Families who lost or were forced to sell their agricultural assets may face difficulty in meeting basic health needs.	The LGU provided medical services and medicines to displaced families.	
Some IDPs expressed fear of explosions, describing them as very traumatic.	The LGU conducted a series of debriefing sessions among the affected families.	
<b>Access to education</b>		
Displaced families are currently occupying two schools that are designated as evacuation centres.	Classes resumed on 13 February, after the AFP declared the affected areas cleared.	
<b>Access to livelihoods</b>		
Some affected/displaced families are still unable to return to their farms for security reasons.		
Farm animals and properties were left unattended. Displaced families expressed concern for the safety of their properties, including their farm animals. Others were forced to sell their assets at low prices, to prepare to support their needs during displacement.		If obstacles to return/durable solutions persist or displacement recurs, identify possible referral channels for livelihood support.
<b>Protection of persons with specific needs</b>		
Women and children dominate the number of persons currently staying in evacuation centres because the men are trying to find opportunities to return to their farms.		Follow up on targeted responses to women's and children's needs and on identified gaps in targeted assistance, if any.
<b>GBV and child protection</b>		
Displaced families are concerned about the welfare of their children as a result of the incident.		

## PERSONS OF CONCERN

No. of Fam	+/-	No. of Persons	+/-	Location (Origin)				Location (Current)				
				Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Province	Mun	Barangay	Sitio	Exact Location
19	+/-	92	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		ElemSchool
14	+/-	58	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Langtud		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		National HS
2	+/-	3	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Bollucan		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		National HS
20	+/-	86	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Langtud (Linumbaan)		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		National HS
29	+/-	120	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Macopa		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		National HS
51	+/-	191	+/-	Compostela Valley	Laak	Langtud (Kibaguio)		Compostela Valley	Laak	Poblacion		National HS

## 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

## SOURCES:

Silangang Dapit Inc. (SILDAP-SE)  
Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (Municipality of Laak)  
Interviews with some IDPs (SILDAP Protection Monitoring)

### 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



# AFP vs NPA Armed Conflict in Laak, Compostela Valley

as of 17 February 2017



**7,660**  
TOTAL PERSONS AFFECTED  
1,532 FAMILIES



**550**  
TOTAL PERSONS DISPLACED  
135 FAMILIES



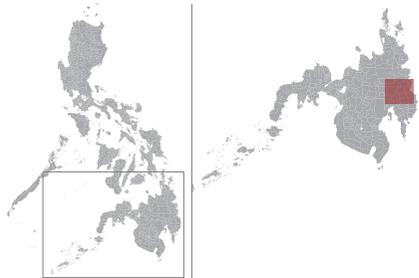
**0**  
ESTIMATED NO. OF PERSONS  
WHO HAVE RETURNED  
0 FAMILIES



**550**  
NUMBER OF PRESENTLY  
DISPLACED PERSONS  
135 FAMILIES

Note: No verified data on the number of home-based IDPs.

## MAP LOCATION



## LEGEND

- Provincial boundary
- Municipal boundary
- Barangay boundary
- Road
- Displaced persons
- Returned persons
- Presently displaced persons
- Conflict
- Presence of armed group

