

## Marawi Crisis 2017

### Situation Report # 2 (20 June 2017)



*Mother and Child in Gomampung Gym, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte. (photo credit: Delle Fano)*

#### CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- On 23 May 2017, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) conducted an armed offensive to capture Isnilon Hapilon, a leader of the Abu Sayyaff group, who was supposedly in Marawi to meet with the militant Maute group. Fighting erupted between state troops and the Maute.
- At 10:00 PM on the same day, President Rodrigo R. Duterte declared Martial Law to be in effect over the entire Mindanao island including Tawitawi, Sulu, and Basilan.
- Over the next few days, the Maute group retaliated by torching Dansalan College and St. Mary's Church and attacked the Marawi Cathedral. Evacuation of the city started.
- On 26 May, the AFP announced that foreign militants were among those found dead in Marawi. They were supposed to have heeded the call of the Islamic State (ISIS) to support the Maute.
- On 27 May, air strikes started towards what the military claimed as identified hideouts of the terrorists. By this time, nearly 90% of the residents have fled the city, mostly in nearby Iligan City.

- On 31 May, 11 soldiers were killed when they were hit by friendly fire during a military air strike.
- On 1 June, members of the Senate called for a thorough investigation of the incident.
- On 3 June, it was reported that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) under Nur Misuari was willing to enlist 2,000 of its fighters to fight the Maute. But this didn't push through.
- On 4 June, a ceasefire was brokered by Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to ensure evacuation of remaining civilians. However, the AFP refused the ceasefire and fighting resumed.
- On June 6 and 9 respectively, the patriarch and matriarch of the Maute family were arrested separately by the AFP.
- On 11 June, the AFP claimed to have killed 191 members of the Maute group.
- As of this writing, fighting is still ongoing and Martial Law is still in effect over the whole island.

## CURRENT SITUATION

The latest figures released by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) show that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has reached 68,512 families (334,304 individuals). They are sheltered in 83 registered evacuation centers. Meanwhile, those who opted to go to homes of relatives or other places are 60,029 families (293,069 individuals). IDPs have been noted in several provinces in Visayas and Mindanao. This preference for living with relatives can be attributed to the Moro norms, especially on the protection of their women and female children from sexual harassment. However, those who opted to take shelter in ECs have better chances of receiving aid from the government and international NGOs.



*Photo 1. IDPs in Lanao del Norte lie on plastic mats among their remaining belongings. (Photo by Delle Fano)*

CDRC and regional center Panday Bulig accompanied the National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission to conduct damage and needs assessment while distributing initial relief. Among the areas reached by the mission are the following, with the number of evacuees noted.

*Table 1. Evacuee Profiling*

<b>Evacuation Center</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b># of Families</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Elderly</b>	<b>PWD</b>
Covered Court in Saguwaran, LDS	Registered	147	355	340	368	37	
Pawak, Saguwaran (home-based)	Not Registered	430	2,150				
Ma'Had Al-nor Al-Islamie, Tomas Cabili, Iligan City	Registered	68					
Amatunding Bldg (hospital under construction), Tubod, Iligan City	Not Registered	33	110				
People's Plaza, Saguwaran, LDS	Registered	124					
Gomampung Gym, Baloi, LDN	Registered	198					
Toril Compound, Ubaldo Laya, Iligan	Not Registered	278					
Bayanihan Gym, Sta.	Registered	226	421	369	481	34	



Elena, Iligan City							
Pindolunan, Saguwaran (home-based)	Not Registered	276					
Mahad Abdul Hamid Al Islamie, Balo-I LDN	Registered	104					
Basagad, Balo-I LDN (home-based)	Not Registered	169					
Mahad Abdel Azis, Balo-I LDN	Registered	147					
Mahad Markazie, Balo-I LDN	Registered	152					
Alqairyah, Balo-I LDN	Not Registered	51					
Landa Balo-I LDN	Not Registered	109					
Pacalundo, Balo-I LDN	Not Registered	80					
Mohklis, Balo-I LDN	Not Registered	126					
Sarip Alawi, Balo-I LDN	Not Registered	63					

*Table 2. Total Number of IDPs in Areas Visited by PB + CDRC*

<b>Location</b>	<b># of IDPs</b>
Lanao del Sur	977 families
Lanao del Norte	1,199 families
Iligan City	605 families
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,781 families</b>

Data from the assessment that CDRC and regional center Panday Bulig include wide-spread medical issues among the IDPs in evacuation centers. See top ten medical issues reported below.

*Table 3. Medical Issues in Evacuation Centers*

Rank	Disease/Medical Condition
1	Upper Respiratory Tract Infections
2	Skin Diseases
3	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
4	Acute Gastroenteritis
5	Peptic Ulcers/Dyspepsia
6	Musculoskeletal Pain
7	Hypertension
8	Headaches
9	Pneumonia
10	Gynecological cases & Pregnancy

Lack of sanitation is noted to be a leading cause of the first two medical issues. There is a severe lack of water supplies in the evacuation centers. Contagious diseases like Tuberculosis and Pneumonia become more threatening in the congested spaces. Sick children often had a hard time recuperating because of exposure to the elements.



*Photo 2. Outside an evacuation center in Tomas Cabili, Iligan City, bags of unsegregated garbage pile up.*



*Photo 3. A sick child in Pawak, Saguilaran, Lanao del Sur.*

In Lomondot Compound, Tubod, Iligan City, many cases of diarrhea and skin rashes are being reported. This may be due to the drastic changes in temperature and exposure to the elements as well as lack of water for drinking and sanitation purposes.

The CDRN team also noted reports of mental health issues and behavioral changes, particularly in children and young people. Aside from the pressures of living in cramped evacuation centers, post-traumatic stress from witnessing the bombing and gun battles is almost certain. Sudden loud bangs or noises startle the children. Some even run to hide or seek comfort with their parents.

The adults on the other hand reported being anxious about not having homes or sources of income to return to in Marawi. Hostile behavior has been noted during the relief operations, with several adults drawing knives or holding up metal pipes to threaten volunteers if they aren't on the beneficiary lists. No psychosocial debriefing has been done for nearly all homebased evacuees.

Meanwhile, many children were not able to go back to school. Their parents were too pre-occupied with ensuring the family's daily survival to enroll them or buy them school supplies.



## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### I. From Government

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) along with the Office of Civil Defense has responded to the humanitarian crisis with relief delivery operations in Marawi and surrounding towns, including Iligan City.



*Photo 4. Registered evacuation centers such as this one in Tomas Cabili, Iligan City have received relief goods and assistance from DSWD and iNGOs.*

The Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the DSWD reports that 73 million pesos worth of food and non-food relief items has been purchased and distributed. Another 62 million pesos was released to its field offices in Regions 7, 10, 12, and Caraga.

### II. From Private Sector

In June 14-15, the National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission (NIHM) provided relief packs, psychosocial therapy and medical services to various communities and evacuation centers of Marawi IDPs. Key informant interviews were also conducted to gather sentiments on the impact of the continued fighting on the communities.

Several Mindanao-based organizations led the NIHM. Around 400 volunteers participated. The Citizens' Disaster Response Network, represented by CDRC and regional center Panday Bulig, was part of the mission, and distributed 1,089 relief packs to IDPs in barangays in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

*Table 4. Intervention Given by NIHM*

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Relief Packs (food + hygiene kits)	Bubong, Pindulanan & Pawak, Saguwaran, Lanao del Sur	1,089 families
Relief Packs (food + hygiene kits)	Poblacion, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte	
Hot Meals	Baraas, Iligan City	400 families
Psychosocial Therapy	Buruun, Baraas, & Ma. Christina, Iligan City	300 children and youth
Health services and medicines	Baraas, Iligan City	343 patients
Health services and medicines	Poblacion, Balo-i, Lanao del Norte	

## **RELIEF REQUESTED**

Because the IDPs left their homes carrying only the clothes on their backs, there continues to be a need for more relief goods. Also, since there is disruption in economic activities, the refugees have had no income since the onset of the crisis. They requested that they be assisted in procuring new legal IDs and documents so that they can apply for work in the places where they have taken refuge.

Table 2 lists what the relief requests of the community.

*Table 5. Needed Relief Items*

<b>Food Items</b>	<b>Non-food Items</b>
Fresh food (vegetables, etc.)	Cooking equipment
Rice	Clothing
Water	Sanitation facilities
Canned (ready to cook) food	Medicines & health services (including prenatal checkups)

Aside from the relief goods requested, the CDRN team who did the DNCA, along with other members of the National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission, received the lamentations of the IDPs



about the continuing aerial bombing and fighting. Contrary to reports of support for Martial Law, there was a unanimous sentiment among the refugees that Martial Law only worsened their fear and anxieties.



Photo 5. Messages to President Rodrigo Duterte are posted in this evacuation center in Lanao del Norte.

**Data Sources:**

1. DNCA by PB and CDRC
2. National Interfaith Humanitarian Mission (NIHM) data
3. DSWD DREAMB
4. LGU DRRMOs