

Marawi Crisis 2017

Situation Report # 1 (18 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, as well as attacking the Marawi Cathedral and taking the parish priest as hostage. Evacuation of the city started.
- On 26 May, the AFP announced that foreign militants were among those found dead in the aftermath of gun battles. They concluded that these were those who heeded the call of the Islamic State (ISIS) to support the Maute group.

- 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. Seven more were injured.
- 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 in the city. However, the AFP refused to honor the ceasefire terms 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 seek refuge in the homes of relatives or other places are 60,029 families (293,069 individuals). IDPs have been noted in several provinces in Visayas and Mindanao.



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

Evacuation Center	Type	# of Families	Male	Female	Children	Elderly	PWD
Covered Court in Saguwaran, LDS	Registered	147	355	340	368	37	
Pawak, Saguwaran (home-based)	Not Registered	430					
Ma'Had Al-nor Al-Islamie, Tomas Cabili, Iligan City	Registered	68					
Amatunding Bldg (hospital under construction), Tubod, Iligan City	Not Registered	33					
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

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

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.



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

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.

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

II. From Private Sector

In June 14-15, an interfaith humanitarian mission 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 mission that was participated in by 400 volunteers. The Citizens' Disaster Response Network, represented by CDRC and regional center Panday Bulig, was part of the mission, which distributed 1,089 relief packs to IDPs in barangays in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Table 4. Intervention Given

Intervention	Location	Beneficiaries
Relief Packs (food + hygiene kits)	Bubong, Pindulanan & Pawak, Saguiaran, 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 of the IDPs left their homes carrying only the clothes on their back, there continues to be a need for more relief good. Table 2 lists what the CDRC and NHIM team noted as relief requests from the community.

Table 5. Needed Relief Items

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

Above 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 4. 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