

HIGHLIGHTS

- Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front agree on framework towards a new Bangsamoro political entity.
- 367,000 people still displaced by monsoon floods in Luzon.
- New United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Philippines assumes post.

FIGURES

Washi Response

Total number of IDPs in Northern Mindanao (incl. CDO and Iligan)	275,400
IDPs in Cagayan de Oro (CDO)	156,600
IDPs in Iligan	53,600

Source: DSWD Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC)

FUNDING

Humanitarian Action Plan 2012
Mid-Year Review

51 million
requested (US\$)

66% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service



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Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro

Government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front agree on new political entity

On 7 October, the 32nd round of Exploratory Talks between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ended with the announcement of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro according to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. President Benigno Aquino III announced that under the Framework, a new political entity called the Bangsamoro will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). A Transition Commission will draft an organic act creating the new political entity and will be enacted by the Philippine Congress and effective through a plebiscite. The 40-year armed conflict between the Government and Moro secessionist groups in Mindanao have claimed the lives of over 100,000 people.

BIFF-AFP conflict IDPs returning home

7,900 people displaced in August still in evacuation centres

The conflict situation in central Mindanao involving the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remained stable with no reported incidents since 29 August. Most of the people affected during the height of the fighting, which displaced over 30,000 people, have returned or are returning home with 7,885 internally displaced persons (IDPs) still remaining inside 22 evacuation centres as of 10 September according to Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-ARMM. Humanitarian agencies are planning to conduct field visits in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato to further validate the number of remaining IDPs and to assess their immediate needs.

Armed Conflict in Central Mindanao (BIFF vs AFP): Status of IDPs as of 10 September 2012

Region	Province	Municipality	No. of Affected Population	No. of evacuation centres	No. of people inside evacuation centres
TOTAL			33,185	22	7,885
ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Unsay	5,220	1	1,825
		Datu Saudi			
		Ampatuan	5,595	6	1,340
		Shariff Aguak	7,855	6	1,285
		Guindulungan	2,725	0	0
		Ampatuan	5,520	5	885
		Datu Hoffer	6,270	4	2,550

Source: DSWD – ARMM

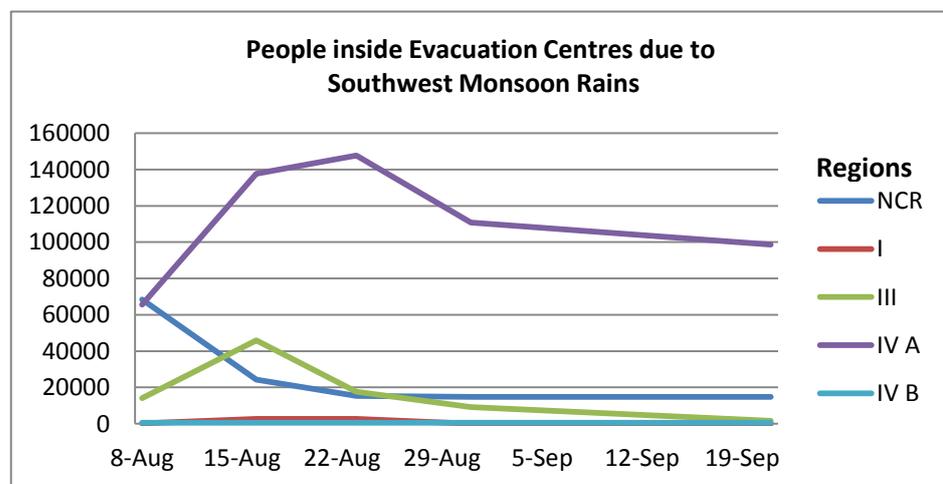
367,000 people displaced from monsoon flooding still in evacuation centres.

Monsoon rains continue to cause flooding

367,000 people still displaced from monsoon floods since August

According to DSWD, about 367,000 people remain displaced (116,000 living inside 372 evacuation centres; 251,000 outside evacuation centres) as of 21 September out of the 1.3 million forced to leave their homes at the height of severe flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains in northern and central Luzon in August. Laguna Lake coastal *barangays* (the smallest government administrative unit in the Philippines) in the provinces of Laguna and Rizal are most affected with 99,000 people still being accommodated in 343 evacuation centres.

Local government units continue to provide assistance to displaced families with augmentation support from DSWD national, and the Department of Health (DOH) supported municipal health offices on disease surveillance. The World Health Organization augmented DOH health emergency staff and other humanitarian partners provided non-food items and logistical support for relief distributions.



Source: DSWD DROMIC

New tropical cyclones cause more flooding in Zamboanga Peninsula

In September, tropical cyclones Sanba and Jelawat (*known locally as Karen and Lawin*) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). On 23 September, monsoon rains enhanced by Jelawat caused flooding in 43 *barangays* in the provinces of Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay affecting more than 7,600 people (at least 3,000 families) according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Zamboanga City declared a state of calamity on 24 September. The local government, DSWD, and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) provided relief assistance to the affected communities. The 400 displaced families have since returned home. Typhoon Jelawat is the 12th tropical cyclone which entered the PAR this year.

Improved shelter conditions and livelihood support for Tropical Storm Washi IDPs

Most displaced families now living in better transitory shelters in Iligan City

About 5,500 IDPs (950 families) remain in 15 transitory shelter sites in Iligan as of 1 October according to DSWD. With all families transferred from school buildings to transitory sites by the end of July and with the ongoing Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster efforts to transfer the remaining 1,180 people (262 families) still in two remaining tent sites and one covered court, the majority of IDP families are now living in better transitory shelters such as bunkhouses, traditional *amakan* houses, and rehabilitated buildings. The CCCM cluster partners are continuing their efforts to find better shelter solutions for those still remaining in tent sites.

Washi IDPs in Iligan provided with improved transitory shelters.

With regards to permanent shelter, out of the total estimated need for 7,900 houses, 5,800 are currently being planned in 8 relocation sites. An additional 18 hectares of land is required to fill the gap and build the 2,000 houses still needed.



Photo credit: CCCM/IOM
Barangay Pala-o, Iligan City (4 October 2012) – New transitory site with Amakan traditional houses hosting 113 IDP families

Status of Permanent Shelter in Iligan City as of 4 October 2012

	Needing Permanent Shelter	Transferred to Permanent Shelter	Transferred to bunkhouses	Gap
No. of Families	7,911	970	695	6,246
	Planned construction	Completed	On-going	Gap
No. of Houses	5,778	1,091	640	4,047

Note: Gap- No. of families needing permanent shelter/No. of remaining houses to be constructed
Source: Iligan City Housing and Resettlement Office

Recovery through livelihood programmes for Washi affected communities

Cash-for-work programmes have been a significant component of livelihood support for Washi-affected IDP families in Iligan. The emergency employment programme for draining, cleaning and declogging (including debris clearing) by the Department of Labour and Employment supported by the International Labour Organization and the Livelihood cluster was completed in mid-September benefitting 400 people and affected communities. Cash-for-work programmes have also been instrumental for beneficiaries to gain longer term skills development and training. In partnership with the CCCM and Education clusters, the Livelihood cluster has been supporting cash for work in the construction of transitory shelters and the repair of school buildings.

Cash grants have also provided assistance to small IDP business projects by DSWD; these programmes are being expanded not only to cover transitory sites but also to IDPs living with relatives or friends and relocation areas. As part of future livelihood activities, the Livelihood cluster in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) plans to focus on livestock support to hinterland *barangays*, agricultural land development through cash for work, and continued assistance to local small businesses in affected communities.

WASH concerns remain in Iligan and CDO

Water system in Iligan transitory sites not fully functional

The Iligan City Health Office and the Iligan City Waterworks System (ICWS) with the support of the PRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and International NGO Consortium partners have completed water, and sanitation activities including waste management, construction of latrines, bathing and hand washing facilities in new transitory sites with hygiene promotion and sanitation

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maintenance ongoing. Remaining challenges to the WASH cluster are the water supply and water distribution to the transitory sites and affected *barangays*. To date, there is still heavy reliance on water trucking. A disruption of trucking services may significantly affect the water supply of IDPs in transitory sites in the coming months.

Deep well project provides water to CDO temporary shelters

For six months after Tropical Storm Washi devastated Cagayan de Oro City (CDO), humanitarian agencies rationed water to *barangays* Calaanan 5 and 6 until the city government took over and began water distribution services to the IDPs. The high cost of water trucking, however, makes water distribution unsustainable. The WASH cluster in collaboration with CCCM partners began a project to construct a deep well to serve 300 IDP families and the host community in Calaanan. The IDPs themselves were engaged in the construction planning and each household agreed to contribute on a monthly basis to maintain the well. The WASH cluster initiative has been vital to the community and as one IDP commented, “Lipay jud me kay naa me tubig nga limpyo ug permanente (*we are very glad that we already have a steady supply of clean water*).”

In Brief

Mindanao Humanitarian Action Plan 2013 Workshop

The Philippines (Mindanao) Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) has been the main tool for humanitarian strategic planning in the Philippines since 2010. On 18 September, the Government and the humanitarian community participated in the HAP 2013 workshop in Cotabato City to develop the overall strategy for humanitarian action in Mindanao for 2013. The overall strategic objectives in the HAP are aimed at supporting the Government in responding to assessed humanitarian and protection needs of affected communities and related capacity building efforts as well as supporting recovery initiatives for affected people whether they have returned, relocated or remain displaced. The HAP 2013 workshop report is available at:

[http://ph.one.un.org/response/general/latest/HAP2013 Workshop Report.pdf](http://ph.one.un.org/response/general/latest/HAP2013%20Workshop%20Report.pdf)

The new United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the Philippines

On 15 September, Luiza Carvalho of Brazil assumed her post as the United Nations (UN) Humanitarian Coordinator for the Philippines. Ms. Carvalho also serves as the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) and Resident Representative (RR) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She succeeds Jacqueline Carol Badcock of the United Kingdom.

“I must commend the Government’s effort in responding to disasters. Along with all United Nations agencies, I am committed to work closely with the Government, NGOs, civil society and development partners to ensure collective support to preparedness, bringing humanitarian and development efforts as one agenda,” said Ms. Carvalho.



Ms. Carvalho brings to this position years of development and leadership experience. She previously served as the RC and RR in Costa Rica, and as Deputy RR to Programme and Operations for UNDP Venezuela from 2005 to 2008. Earlier in her career, Ms. Carvalho worked for the Government of Brazil, Government of the Federal District, and the University of Norte Fluminense in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Ms. Carvalho holds a doctorate degree in sociology from the University of Essex.

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