On September 09, 2013, a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) attacked Zamboanga City in Western Mindanao, Philippines. An estimated 100,000 individuals were affected by this recent armed conflict and the affected families are currently scattered in several evacuation centers set-up around the city. Upon invitation of the DSWD Sec Dinky Soliman on 3 October, the Heads of Agencies of the UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) visited Zamboanga City from 7-9 October 2013 to jumpstart the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support.

**Highlights & IOM Intervention**

- **10,160 houses destroyed**
- **125,400 IDPs in evacuation centers**
- **47 IDP sites for upgrading**
- **11 IOM field personnel deployed; 35 camp managers assigned**
- **IDP registration supported**
- **700 tents distributed**

- Temporary shelters for 1,000 families ongoing construction; 2,000 emergency shelters inside ECs ongoing construction
- **4,200 non-food items (NFI): family kits distributed**
- **2,000 charcoal stoves distributed**
- **1,500 solar lamps distributed**
- **Grants to IOM: CERF USD 1 million for CCCM; Japan emergency aid of USD 1 million**
IOM with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Dinky Soliman, Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar of Zamboanga City and Apl d' Ap of the Black Eyed Peas checking out the IOM scaled models of emergency row houses to be built inside the Grandstand, the biggest evacuation center in Zamboanga to address the flooding in the tent areas.

On October 5, 2013, DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman, together with Zamboanga City Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar visited the Joaquin Enriquez Sports Complex (aka Grandstand) Evacuation Center to check on the conditions of the IDPs. IOM Philippines Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator Conrad Navidad gave updates on the camp management and relief activities inside the evacuation center.

There are more than 5,000 conflict-affected families seeking shelter inside the Grandstand. There are currently 35 active evacuation centers in the city. IOM fielded 35 camp managers to help the
Philippine Government run these evacuation centers in Zamboanga City and protect the IDPs especially the most vulnerable sectors of children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs) or with special needs.

During the height of the armed conflict, many houses were burned and totally damaged leaving families without homes to return to. This situation makes the displacement longer and operations of evacuation centers prolonged until durable solutions are established.

IOM Mindanao is currently assisting the government in managing the migration crisis and in expediting the safe return of these affected families.

**Emergency Shelters**

*Shelter box tents assembled inside the Grandstand.*

Heavy rain caused flooding in many parts of the evacuation center making it unbearable for many individuals especially for the vulnerable sectors. Many individuals lack sleep because they do not have dry space for sleeping, and this is putting additional emotional and physical strain to many. The IDPs are still trying to cope with life inside camps, and the floods made living inside the camps tougher.

IOM, together with its partner DSWD, identified vulnerable persons inside the camp and gave them Shelter Box tents to ease a bit of their misery. These tents were strategically located on higher ground so that the families can get a break from floods inside the camp.

Shelter Box donated 380 tents for the use of the IDPs in Zamboanga City. Shelter Box requested IOM to assist in deploying the tents in the evacuation centers. Forced evacuation was ordered by the city government to prevent further loss in lives during the armed battles in several areas.
Since the rains are not expected to abate soon, IOM is also implementing plans to prevent future flooding inside the evacuation center like using portable gasoline powered pumps. These pumps can be deployed anywhere inside the evacuation center, especially in areas most affected by floodwater. IOM is currently assisting the improvements of the drainage system of the evacuation center.

IOM delivers Charcoal-Fueled Stoves for the IDPs in the Grandstand

IOM is distributing 2,000 units of charcoal fueled stoves to conflict affected IDPs of Zamboanga City. This will complement DSWD's plans on weaning the IDPs from ration cooked meals to receiving food packs and give them the freedom to cook their own meals.
IDPs are receiving cooked meals from several local caterers hired by the DSWD. Many affected families were not able to bring any belongings resulting to families leaving them with no ability to cook food. Due to the sheer number of affected families inside the evacuation centers, problems were encountered with the catered meals like long queues and late delivery.

IOM Mindanao in close partnership with the DSWD, is doing Camp Coordination and Camp Management for the evacuation centers in Zamboanga City. It is committed to improve the living conditions inside these evacuation centers while also assisting the government in planning the closure of these camps and facilitate the safe return of these families to their homes.

UN Flash Appeal for Zamboanga City and Basilan: USD 24 million
IOM appeal as cluster lead: USD 5 million for CCCM and USD 4.5 million for shelter

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