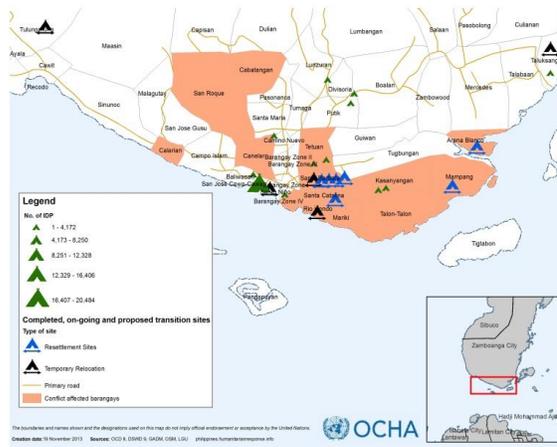




This report is produced by OCHA Philippines in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 5 to 18 November 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 2 December.

Highlights

- Over 70,000 people are still displaced in Zamboanga City with roughly 33,000 in 14 evacuation centres.
- Decongestion of two large evacuation centres and transfer from 11 schools to transitory sites remain key challenges in Zamboanga City.
- Construction of bunkhouses has been completed at three transitory sites with two additional sites being prepared and seven new resettlement sites proposed.



81,396 Estimated affected people in Zamboanga city and Basilan Province	71,620 Estimated displaced people inside and outside evacuation centres	9,776 Estimated affected people due to conflict in Basilan
---	---	--

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Report No. 111; Protection Cluster Assessment Report No. 23

Situation Overview

According to the latest figures of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on 18 November, 71,260 of the initial 137,000 people affected by the conflict in Zamboanga City and Basilan Province, remain displaced in Zamboanga. Just under half of these people (33,558) are in 14 evacuation centres (ECs), with 39,763 people staying with friends and family. From 5 to 18 November, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) decreased by 4,411 and four ECs were closed. The school-based IDP population is 7,130 people in 11 schools.

In Basilan, the Protection Cluster reported that 9,776 affected people in five of the affected barangays (village-level administrative units) are home-based IDPs.

Decongestion of the two biggest ECs in Zamboanga City and transfer of IDP families to transitory sites remains a major challenge. Other key needs at the two ECs include: treatment of increased malnutrition cases, more sanitation facilities, desludging and waste management as well as water purification (WASH) and basic shelter improvement. For the 11 EC schools, the key challenge is the transfer of IDP families to transitory or temporary relocation sites.

In response to the need for relocation of IDPs, 12 sites are being considered: five transitory sites and seven permanent relocation sites. Bunkhouses have been constructed at three transitory sites (Tulungatung, Taluksangay and the Sports Complex) with an accommodation capacity of 740 families. The required water and sanitation facilities are being constructed at the Sports Complex and have also started at Tulungatung. Seven new resettlement sites have been proposed in the barangays Sta. Barbara, Arena Blanco, Mampang and Sta. Catalina, with land acquisition for most sites being prepared by the National Housing Agency.

Return is still not possible for families in the informal settlement of Rio Hondo and Mariki, where houses were burned, as well as in Bajaos, where houses are built above water. Planned relocation of IDP

families to the two transitory sites of Talungsagay and Tulungatung, both about 15 km from the city centre, remains an issue for many IDPs whose income was generated in the city centre before the conflict. Healing, reconciliation and social cohesion have been identified as key early recovery challenges to address political, cultural and religious dimensions related to the return and resettlement of IDPs in Zamboanga City.

Funding

As of 22 November, US\$3.6 million has been contributed to the revised Zamboanga Action Plan, according to the Financial Tracking System. The Plan seeks \$24.4 million in humanitarian aid to respond to the life-saving needs of 128,000 affected people.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- Decongestion of the biggest camps is needed to improve living conditions at ECs.
- Construction of WASH facilities at transitory sites is required.
- Communication of information, especially on relocation and future assistance, is needed.
- There is a need for continued capacity building of new camp managers.
- IDP movements and returns from ECs need to be tracked.
- IDPs in ECs need to be listed in the database.

191
camp managers
trained

Response:

- CCCM training for second batch of 94 stationary camp managers for three months.
- Management team in place for each camp consisting of IDP leaders and committees.
- Strategic planning for camp managers with particular focus on decongestion and merging of small sites.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The identification of families for return, relocation and resettlement has yet to be carried out.
- There is no complete database of affected people at transitory sites.



Shelter

Needs:

- Additional and alternative sites for transitory shelter, with attention to livelihood opportunities, need to be selected and approved.
- Available structures for alternative transitional shelter need to be selected.
- Land needs to be acquired for both transitory relocation and resettlement.

5
identified transitory
sites

Response:

- Bunkhouses at three transitory sites (Taluksangay, Tulungatong and Sports complex) for 740 families to be constructed.
- Site validation has been done for transitory relocation and resettlement sites.
- The design of bunkhouses and communal facilities has been finalized.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Building work cannot proceed until approval is received from the Crisis Management Committee.
- There are construction delays due to logistical constraints.


Education
Needs:

- IDPs need to be transferred from ECs which were schools to transitory sites. Of the 14 remaining ECs, 11 are schools where 7,130 IDPs continue to use 311 classrooms (36.7 per cent of the total 837 classrooms), affecting some 2,000 schoolchildren who are being temporarily absorbed in host schools.
- There is a need for immediate rehabilitation and reconstruction of four schools in the conflict zone.
- Chairs and tables are needed for all temporary learning spaces.
- Water supply is needed for child friendly spaces.

7,130
people in 11 schools
used as evacuation
centers

Response:

- Displaced children are receiving education and support at the Sports Complex.
- WASH facilities were completed in three out of six child-friendly spaces.
- 21 boxes of DoE learning materials have been delivered to affected schools.
- A feeding programme has started targeting around 10,000 students in four schools.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a lack of water and drainage at WASH facilities in child-friendly spaces and temporary learning spaces.
- The lack of tables and chairs in temporary learning spaces is hampering education delivery.


Food Security
Needs:

- Over 33,000 people in ECs and almost 60,000 outside ECs (with family and friends) are in need of food assistance.

Response:

- Ongoing supplementary feeding, with 0.566 tons dispatched to 117 children with moderate acute malnutrition in Cawa-Cawa and Grandstand ECs, and in the barangays of Talon-Talon and Taluksangay.
- Emergency school feeding has begun for 3,746 children in the DGEMS elementary school in Barangay Sta. Catalina.
- Group feeding is continuing for 100 elderly-headed households.
- Four tons of rice was provided to 80 trained nutrition volunteers engaged in nutrition monitoring.
- Registration and community orientation of 7,700 Food for Work participants is continuing.

3,746
schoolchildren
targeted through
emergency schooling

Gaps & Constraints:

www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

- There is a lack of cooking utensils, NFIs and food items.
- Not all schoolchildren have been tracked for school feeding.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Additional resources needed for health inputs (vitamin A, deworming tablets, zinc tablets, F100, ferrous sulfate) for evacuees.
- Micronutrient supplementation is needed.
- Mobilization of community health workers/volunteers is needed.

239
cases of acute
malnutrition in ongoing
treatment

Response:

- CMAM services have been established for 145 moderate and 94 severe acute malnutrition cases in Sports Complex, Cawa-Cawa and Taluksangay ECs.
- Micronutrient supplementation (Vitamin A, Iron-Folic Acid, Zinc), de-worming services and supplemental feeding is ongoing.
- 80 health workers from the Zamboanga City Health Office have been trained on Philippines Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (PIMAM).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Resources (funding and logistics) are lacking for a coordinated response.
- Lack of volunteers for CMAM services.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- There is a need to bring WASH facilities in congested ECs up to cluster standards.
- Government capacity to manage the humanitarian response needs to be improved.

254
functional latrines
inside the sports
complex EC

Response:

- 2,136 hygiene kits and 5,366 water kits have been distributed.
- WASH marshals have been mobilized for the operation and maintenance of latrines.
- Regular cleaning of latrines in ECs is being carried out.
- Additional latrines have been built for the Sports Complex EC (there are now 254).
- Desludging systems are in place for all evacuation camps.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a lack of clear articulation on processes relating to the transition to resettlement areas.
- There are inadequate latrines and bathing facilities in some evacuation and temporary relocation sites.
- Poor roads around Grandstand EC are causing delays in water delivery.

**Needs:**

- 3,873 children under 5 need accessible health services.
- Rehabilitation of four barangay health stations needs to be carried out.
- Targeted Reproduction Health is needed for 847 pregnant and 565 lactating women.
- A greater focus on preventing the deaths from diarrhoea of children under five is needed.
- Improved laboratory surveillance is needed for the DoH regional office to detect disease outbreaks.

1,412
pregnant and/or
lactating women need
reproductive health
services

Response:

- Essential health care services (medication, maternity advice, immunizations and maternal and child health) have been provided at three city health posts.
- 985 dignity kits have been provided for Zamboanga City, and 200 hygiene kits for Basilan, since the start of the reproductive health medical missions (covering 15 ECs and one host community in Zamboanga City).
- Specialized services have been provided to 510 pregnant women and 475 lactating mothers. An additional 254 dignity kits were provided for women of reproductive age.
- STI/HIV counselling and testing has been completed for 116 IDPs in the Sports Complex EC in response to reported transactional sex.
- Efforts have been made to improve the system for issuing death certificates.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insufficient medical doctors to provide 24-hour coverage for the Philippines Red Cross at the Sports Complex ECs.
- Insufficient psychiatric drugs for referred patients.

**Needs:**

- More attention needs to be focused on informal sectors (e.g. street vendors).
- Need for stronger initiatives to draw in the private sector to support employment generation and livelihood development.

Response:

- Work has been carried out to prepare community assets and infrastructure for reconstruction/rehabilitation, targeting schools used as ECs.
- Further training sessions have been held on entrepreneurship and small-scale contracting skills.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funding for emergency employment and Cash for Work programmes, with need for donors to support emergency employment and livelihood development.
- No systematic method for consolidating livelihood development plans among cluster members and other local key players.
- Lack of credit facilities for small businesses.



Protection

Needs:

- Families in informal and Muslim settlements whose houses were burned have not been allowed to return and reconstruct their houses.
- Response to, and prevention of, GBV, including 48 reported cases.
- There is a need to protect children involved in violent gambling games, where there have been instances of punching/boxing by male adults.
- The deaths of children aged six months to one year in Grandstand due to dehydration need to be prevented.
- Communication strategy needed to ease tension among EC residents when security information is circulated.
- Response to, and prevention of, misconduct by men in uniform towards young girls and women inside ECs.

Response:

- 36 survivors have been transferred to the Women Crisis Center.
- Support has been provided to develop criteria for the selection of affected people for relocation sites, including attention to vulnerable people with specific needs.
- 34 barangay local peacekeeping personnel have been identified as protection volunteers in Grandstand and nearby ECs to support the city police.
- Mine risk education sessions have been held at eight ECs, reaching 1,680 IDPs (321 men, 518 women, 370 boys, and 471 girls).
- Training has been carried out on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the referral pathway for 80 new camp managers and volunteers, 34 local peacekeepers, and 13 WASH marshals.
- Regular surveillance by the sea-based Anti-Trafficking Task Force to prevent and address transactional sex/prostitution and trafficking links.
- A “peer/group session” has been held with 11 women involved in sex work.
- Regular case conferences have been held to respond to child protection and GBV issues.
- GBV training of 41 women has been held on Women-Friendly Space Management in Grandstand.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health workers, social workers and local NGOs have insufficient experience in providing community-based and school-based psychosocial support services for children.
- There is a lack of child-friendly spaces in the ECs and transitory sites.
- Lost legal documents, such as birth certificates and school records, are hampering registration.



Logistics

Needs:

- Support to 119,000 affected individuals in Zamboanga with nutrition and food items (high energy biscuits, rice, plumpy sup, oil, beans).

Response:

- 31 trucks to be dispatched with 360 tons of food and NFIs by the end of November, in addition to the earlier delivery of 186 tons of mixed commodities.
- An additional mobile storage unit has been put in place for the Department of Public Works and Highways compound, bringing the total number to three.

186

tons of mixed food items moved to date

General Coordination

The Zamboanga City authorities continue to assume coordination functions for the different clusters. The city inter-cluster coordination meeting (every two weeks), chaired by the City Health Office, discusses challenges and solutions, and makes recommendations to the CMC for guidance. DSWD Region XI (Zamboanga) chairs various clusters, including CCCM, shelter, food and protection. Other clusters under health continue to be chaired by DoH. OCHA chairs weekly cluster co-leads' meetings, with an emphasis on supporting regional and city government cluster leads to ensure the rights and protection of IDPs are respected and addressed.

Background on the crisis

On 9 September, fighting broke out in coastal villages of Zamboanga city between a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Armed Forces of the Philippines which spread to the nearby island province of Basilan. The clashes displaced more than 120,000 people during the height of the conflict in the most affected barangays of Kasanyangan, Mariki, Rio Hondo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Catalina in Zamboanga. From 6 to 10 October, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and the Cluster Heads of Agencies held a mission in Zamboanga to gain first-hand observation of the conflict-affected areas and have direct contact with the affected people, the local authorities and humanitarian actors. The mission findings revealed congested conditions inside the evacuation centres and prolonged displacement are increasing the risk of health and protection issues. An inter-agency common working space was established on 10 October in Zamboanga as humanitarian partners further scaled up the response. Flooding in early October also worsened the living conditions inside the evacuation centres. Due to persistent insecurity and lack of humanitarian access, information on approximate needs of displaced people in Basilan remains a significant gap.

For further information, please contact:

David Carden, Head of Office, carden@un.org, Tel: +63 2 901 0265, Cell: +63 917 513 9924

Muktar Farah, Head of Sub-Office Mindanao, muktar@un.org, Tel: +63 64 421 7932, Cell: +63 917 587 8179

Wouter De Cuyper, OIC Zamboanga Office, decuyper@un.org, Tel: +63 62 955 3979, Cell: +63 917 529 6691

Romano Lasker, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, lasker@un.org

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int <http://philippines.humanitarianresponse.info>

To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: addawe@un.org

www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives