Recent fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Arakan Army in southern areas of Chin State has killed and injured civilians, forced thousands to flee their homes, and has disrupted transportation and supply routes, resulting in growing shortages of food supplies. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) managed to deliver emergency food supplies to over 3,700 people in Paletwa Township in Chin State on 2 May, after five trucks contracted by WFP came under fire on their way from Samee to Paletwa town earlier on 29 April. Three of the trucks were hit by gunfire, and one transporter was reportedly lightly injured. Earlier in April, WFP, with support from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Chin State Government, distributed food and kitchen utensils to a total of 2,600 newly displaced people in the Samee town of Paletwa, complementing efforts by an international organization who provided food assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in March. The Government reportedly delivered 2,000 rice bags, out of which 500 bags have been distributed to the displaced. According to humanitarian partners, over 7,500 people are currently hosted in 20 displacement sites in the area — more than a 50 per cent increase compared to figures reported in February.¹

7,500 people displaced

In the first quarter of 2020, 26,300 people (5,300 families) have been newly displaced across Mindanao mainly due to clan feuds, increasing the total number of internally displaced people in Mindanao to over 370,000 people. Amid the COVID-19 situation, new displacement is still taking place in Mindanao, subjecting IDPs to greater health risks as the pandemic evolves. Displaced people encounter challenges including access to livelihoods, health, and water and sanitation facilities. Displaced people living in overcrowded transitory sites and unable to practice physical distancing are most at risk to be infected with the novel coronavirus.²

26,300 people displaced

Heavy downpours in South Bandung in West Java Province on 30 April triggered the Citarum River to overflow, inundating over 21,800 houses. The Government of West Java reported that about 81,000 people were directly affected by the flooding. No deaths and injuries have been reported and the floodwaters receded within 2 days.

On 30 April, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake with a depth of 10 km struck in South Tapanuli District of North Sumatra Province, caused damages to 27 houses, two mosques and a school, but no casualties were reported.³

³Source: BPBD, media.


¹For the latest information related to COVID-19 please see: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen