

BY THE NUMBERS

500+

People killed

353,000

Displaced individuals

70,600

Displaced families

335,350

Displaced people living with host families

About 18,300

Displaced people in evacuation centers

300

Civilians trapped within the conflict zones

22,000

Children unable to attend school

295

People reported missing

Source: Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao-Humanitarian Emergency Response Action Team (ARMM-HEART)

CURRENT NEEDS

- 1) A halt to the conflict.
- 2) Clean water and income-generating opportunities for food, health care and essential sanitation and hygiene items.
- 3) Analysis on how this latest development might shift the longer-term strategy for addressing the root causes of the various terror and extremist movements in Mindanao.

SITUATION REPORT

CONFLICT IN THE PHILIPPINES: MARAWI SIEGE

July 10, 2017 | No. 4

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since May 23, 2017 the Philippines army has been fighting Islamist militants in the southern city of Marawi on the island of Mindanao. Displaced families are seeking refuge in evacuation centers managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, or are seeking shelter with their relatives and friends in adjacent areas. It is expected that displaced families will be unable to return home for at least the next three months due to the destruction inside Marawi City and surrounding areas. According to government authorities, the number of displaced people is expected to increase as the conflict and resulting economic fallout continues. Marawi City is currently inaccessible to humanitarian organizations and there is a gap in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to remote municipalities in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

The government of the Philippines declared a ceasefire on June 25 during the national holiday Eid al-Fitr to facilitate the rescue of trapped civilians. Military operations continued the following day to dislodge the remaining Islamic State-inspired terrorists in Marawi City.

LWR Philippines is receiving regular updates on the situation and the conditions in Marawi from our local partner and from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) through the Philippine International NGO Network (PINGON). Our partner carried out a rapid needs and market assessment in Iligan City – where many families have found refuge and markets are operating normally – and found that families are most in need of clean water and cash for food, health care and essential sanitation and hygiene items.

According to our partner, very few agencies are providing assistance and the support from the government is still very limited. Ninety percent of water samples taken from the evacuation centers have tested positive for E. coli. Families affected by the conflict have received food packs, though there have been complaints that the food packs are of poor quantity and quality. Displaced families were also reported to be selling the relief goods they received in order to get cash to buy other foods not included in the food packs and other household essentials.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE EFFORTS

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries-ARMM has requested assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on a livelihood program to address the needs of affected farmers in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao for the coming cropping season. The government of the Philippines has pledged over \$200 million for the reconstruction of Marawi City.

LWR – ACTIONS TAKEN AND NEXT STEPS

In coordination with our local partner, LWR is providing cash transfers to 1,038 displaced families who have taken refuge either with host families or in evacuation centers in Iligan City. This response is set to expand, thanks to funding provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to reach a minimum of 2,050 families (12,300 people) over the next six months. We will also provide water filtration units so displaced families have access to clean drinking water at evacuation centers.

We are planning for a longer-term intervention that includes livelihood support for displaced people. Families will receive cash assistance to procure seeds and fertilizer, re-establish vending businesses or support job hunting. These cash transfers will be implemented when families have returned to their homes. The Philippines Department of Public Works and Highways has completed the site development for transitional shelters. There is no criteria yet for the distribution of transitional shelters to returning families displaced by the situation.

We are continuing to communicate and coordinate with ACT Forum members and other humanitarian organizations through the Philippines INGO Network (PINGON).

With increased funding, LWR can provide immediate support to about 30,000 people living in Iligan City and surrounding municipalities through direct implementation and in partnership with local organizations. These areas are accessible, though there is a presence of military personnel. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable families, which includes farmers, small-scale vendors, women-headed households, families who have members with disabilities, and families that have an irregular or seasonal source of income.

LWR IN THE COUNTRY

With nearly 75 years of demonstrated expertise helping to transform some of the hardest-to-reach places in the developing world, LWR is an innovative, trusted international nongovernmental organization committed to those otherwise cut off from basic human services and opportunities.

LWR helps communities living in extreme poverty adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being, and we respond to emergencies with a long-term view. When a disaster hits — whether it's a drought, tsunami or civil war — we work alongside communities over months and years to help them recover and adjust to new realities, ensuring that they are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. Regardless of whether these challenges are chronic or acute LWR invests in communities to enable those living in extreme poverty to build the resilience they need to thrive.

LWR has been working in the Philippines since the 1960s. In partnership with local organizations, LWR's programs in Mindanao focus on agriculture and food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, peacebuilding, and emergency response. Current programming supports communities in Region XI, Region XII, CARAGA and ARMM.

From 2010-2012 LWR implemented programming to promote community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, and establish community-led groups in 10 barangays of Maguindanao to initiate peace and development projects. In 2015 LWR responded to the needs of 2,600 families displaced by conflict in Mamasapano municipality, through the provision of food, water and hygiene kits, as well as helping displaced people return and reactivate their farm-based livelihoods.

For additional information about LWR's response to this situation and other emergencies around the world, please visit lwr.org. You can also join the conversation about how LWR is responding to emergencies with a long-term view at facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief or twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief.



The information in this document may be copied, distributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes. Lutheran World Relief should always be cited as the author.