

**Notes on the Mindanao Displacement
due to the January 2003 Armed Conflict between the GRP and MILF**
As of October 2003

The series of armed confrontations between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the military forces of the Government of the Philippines in the first quarter of 2003 resulted to an astounding 415,233 persons or 82,012 families affected¹, as accounted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in its status report dated October 9, 2003. Of this figure, 636 persons or 132 families are from the Southern Mindanao Region; 12,875 persons or 2,479 families come from Western Mindanao Region, 36,420 persons or 6,970 families from the Northern Mindanao Region, 143,654 persons or 28,520 families are from the Central Mindanao Region, while the largest affected population is from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, with 221,648 persons or 43,893 families affected.

At the height of the war, armed conflicts spread into more than 367 Barangays or communities in 83 municipalities and cities in 12 provinces in the south. Among the number of affected and displaced people, almost 200,00 persons sought refuge in 275 official government evacuation center while more than this number (243,571) sought refuge from other places like friends' or relatives' houses. Still, many others remain undocumented.

Table 1. Cumulative² Summary of Affected in the Series of Armed Conflict in Mindanao in the 2003

Regions	Date of occurrence	Affected		
		Persons	Families	Barangays
ARMM	Feb 09, 2003	221,648	43,893	172
IX	May 4,16,24, 2003; June 28, 2003	12,875	2,497	27
X	Jan 21; Feb 28; Apr 24 & 30; May 6, 2003	36,420	6,970	70
XI	Mar 03, 2003	636	132	2
XII	Feb 08, 2003	143,654	28,520	96
Total		415,233	82,012	367

Table 2. No. of Evacuation Centers per Affected Region

Region	Number of Evacuation Centers	
	Current/Existing	Cumulative
ARMM	28	126
IX	0	5
X	9	57
XI	0	1
XII	0	86
Total	37	275

¹ The term "affected" refers to those persons who have lost their homes and livelihood, displaced, fallen as casualties to the war (killed, etc.), or other persons directly affected in any other way, as defined by the DSWD.

² From the onset of the armed conflict to the writing of the report.

According to the DSWD, as of October 9, 2003, there was a total of 422 civilian or non-combatant casualties of the armed conflict documented since the onset of the disaster in January 2003. Of this figure, 238 are dead, and 184 injured. Alongside this, 7,108 properties and houses were damaged of which 5,846 are totally damaged and 1,262 are partially damaged.

Table 3. Damages of the War

Region	Damaged Houses		Casualties		
	Totally	Partially	Dead	Injured	Missing
ARMM	4,145	674	55	6	0
IX	12	0	33	38	0
X	706	152	33	33	0
XI	0	0	0	0	0
XII	983	416	117	107	0
Total	5,846	1,242	238	184	0

As of the moment, there is no available complete report from the authorities on how many displaced people have already returned home. While there are official evacuation centers being closed, it is not assured that the families return to their place of origin.

In December 14, 2003, however, after the proclamation of bilateral ceasefire in July, another armed confrontation between the GRP and the MILF took place in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao affecting 21 Barangays. In this new disaster, 21,235 persons or 4,247 families were affected, which is highly possible are the same people affected during the first quarter conflict who may have returned home after the declaration of ceasefire.

Table 4: No. of affected in the December 14, 2003 Armed conflict in ARMM

Barangay	Cumulative		Current (as of Jan 06, 2004)	
	Families	Persons	Families	Persons
21	4,247	21,235	1,884	9,420
21	4247	21235	1884	9420

Of this number of affected, 14,465 persons were reported to have sought refuge in 17 government evacuation centers while 5,740 persons were reported to have gone to their friends or relatives' houses in other municipalities to avoid being caught in the armed conflict in their villages.

Table 5. No. of Displaced People in the December 14, 2003 Armed Conflict

Staying in Evacuation Centers				Staying outside Evacuation Centers			
Current		Cumulative		Current		Cumulative	
Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons
1,015	5,075	2,893	14,465	869	4,345	1,148	5,740
1,015	5,075	2,893	14,465	869	4,345	1,148	5,740

As of the January 6, 2004, the DSWD reported that the number of people affected by the December 14 armed conflict has gone down to 9,420 persons or 1,884 families. Likewise, those staying in evacuation

centers have gone down to 5,075 persons or 1,015 families resulting to the closure of six evacuation centers. However, there is still no definite report if all the families who have left the evacuation centers have returned home.

Reference:

Department of Social Welfare and Development Status Report. October 9,2003.

Department of Social Welfare and Development Status Report. January 06, 2004.

Prepared By:

Balay Rehabilitation Center
Advocacy Program