Highlights
The Government of the Philippines launched a military and law enforcement operation in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur province, on 23 May 2017 against the Maute Group, a local non-state armed group that has claimed allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh). Within hours of the conflict outbreak, President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law for the entire Mindanao region in the Philippines.

Mass evacuations took place as local residents left and sought refuge in identified safe areas in Marawi City and in the adjacent areas of Lanao del Sur (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao/ARMM) and Lanao del Norte, including Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City (Region X). As of 1 June 2017, 221,275 individuals, half assumed to be children, are staying in local government-run evacuation centers or are being hosted by relatives and friends in surrounding areas. Approximately 58,160 individuals are in recognized evacuation centers, and the majority of individuals (163,115) are in host community arrangements (ARMM HEART SITREP 06-01A). By all indications, the numbers of those displaced should have plateaued, but evacuation centers are overcrowded and ill-equipped to address the residents’ existing needs. On-going rain in some areas have further compounded overcrowding because of flooding in and around the evacuation centers. Unofficial evacuation centers have been established to house additional individuals but there is a possibility that they will not receive support because of their ‘unofficial’ status. No current information disaggregates numbers by gender or age, but a disproportionate number of those in evacuation centers are reported to be women and children.

Currently, Marawi City is under the control of the Government, with some areas on the outskirts still subject to armed clashes. Assessments in areas surrounding Marawi City and in evacuation centers have been initiated. Access to areas affected by the conflict is extremely limited. As a consequence, humanitarian needs there are mostly unknown. While peace corridors have been negotiated, they have not stayed open for long before the resumption of fighting. There are still unconfirmed numbers of civilians, possibly in the thousands, trapped within the city. It is assumed that food stocks and water supplies in these areas may be limited. Children left behind and separated from caregivers and family members in these communities have been identified as especially vulnerable.

UNICEF’s response with partners
Child protection
- There is concern for the well-being of children and their families inside and outside Marawi City who cannot be currently reached. A number of these children are thought to be separated or unaccompanied. UNICEF is working with existing government structures in Region X and ARMM as well as NGOs to follow-up and activate family tracing, if necessary.
There are risks to children from ongoing armed clashes, including air strikes, in civilian residential areas in Marawi City. In a 30 May 2017 statement, UNICEF has called for careful military action to minimize civilian injuries and deaths, and that children should not be engaged as combatants, camp accessories, informants or as human shields against government forces.

There are concerns about the risk of injuries/deaths from unexploded ordinances (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) when displaced families return to Marawi City and in adjacent areas after the cessation of armed hostilities, considering reports of improvised explosive devices, booby traps and ERW being used. As such, Mine Risk Education (MRE) for families/children in displacement locations before their return to Marawi City and for a period after their return is required. With the assistance of a local child protection partner, this support is to be initiated in temporary learning spaces (TLS) and child-friendly spaces (CFS) within the coming days.

There are unconfirmed reports of the recruitment and use of children by the non-state group and attacks on schools and hospitals by the conflict parties. The monitoring, verification and response to reported cases of Grave Child Rights Violations has been scaled up. A current UNICEF partner is leading this on the ground.

Negative psychosocial impacts of armed conflict and displacement on children are expected. Psychosocial recovery actions for children in evacuation centers, schools and for parents are underway through various partners including CFSI and RHM. This is expected to be scaled up over the coming week, linked to ‘Back to School’ initiative and to continue for 60 days.

UNICEF is providing essential supplies for CFSs and psychosocial recovery for young children in 5 evacuation centers and 15 host barangays (villages) in Iligan City and Lanao del Norte. These supplies include tents, recreation and early childhood development (ECD) kits, and related items to meet the needs of approximately 7,000 children. Thirty (30) CFS volunteers have been equipped to deliver basic CFS activities and psychosocial support to children.

UNICEF is actively participating in protection forum meetings held twice per week and the Child Protection Working Group meetings. The National Child Protection Working Group is scheduled to meet on 16 June 2017.

**Education**

- The Department of Education has delayed indefinitely the opening of schools in communities affected by the conflict. An estimated 86,000 children from public and private schools are affected.
- No education assessment has been done in Marawi City because it is currently inaccessible. However, there are unconfirmed reports of two elementary schools severely damaged/destroyed by aerial bombing by Government forces. UNICEF will work with the Department of Education and partners to provide support to these and other damaged schools in Marawi to ensure that children are able to continue their education upon their return to the city. This is most likely to include the provision of tents and school supplies.
- To support ‘back to school’ efforts, 16 emergency school tents and 12 ECD kits for temporary classrooms and CFSs have been delivered to the Department of Education (Region X) in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte. These TLSs will also offer psychosocial support and MRE activities for displaced children, complementing the support of other humanitarian actors. Currently, UNICEF supplies are scheduled to be used in municipalities in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and in Iligan City. UNICEF continues to coordinate with the Department of Education (Region X), the Department of Education (ARMM), and other education partners for the ‘Back to School’ initiative.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

- Rapid assessments of the situation in Government-run evacuation centers in Iligan City have been completed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and NGOs. A lack of adequate water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene are being reported. Several agencies have committed support for the response in Iligan City.
- Assessments by UNICEF and two WASH partners have started in communities in the 5 municipalities hosting the largest number of displaced families, albeit with delay due to limited access and ongoing security concerns. Responding to a request by the Lanao del Sur Integrated Provincial Health Office through the Mindanao Humanitarian Team, UNICEF has provided water storage bladders, jerry cans and water purification tablets to ensure adequate clean water for drinking and general household use; family hygiene kits; and items for setting up emergency toilets. To date, UNICEF has provided 438 families with hygiene and water kits, including hygiene promotion sessions, in the municipalities of Pantao Ragat, Balo-I in Lanao del Norte and Saguiraran in Lanao del Sur. Support for displaced families in other municipalities will be done in the coming days after the assessment of beneficiaries.
- As the WASH lead agency, UNICEF is currently supporting ARMM to lead WASH coordination in Iligan City, and supporting coordination between Department of Health in Region X and ARMM.

**Nutrition**

- In response to reports of powdered milk formula being distributed, UNICEF, through the National Nutrition Council, advocated for a formal letter to be issued by the Department of Health to prevent the solicitation or supply of infant formula in evacuation centers, and a press release to protect and promote breastfeeding. UNICEF also delivered 100 breastfeeding kits to the Department of Health (ARMM) and breastfeeding flip charts to promote positive infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in evacuation centers in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Iligan City. To date 1,500 caregivers have been sensitized, with 709 infants aged 0-6 months benefitting from these efforts.
- Scales and mid-upper arm circumference measuring tapes to screen children for acute malnutrition have been provided. At least 20 health workers were provided with anthropometric equipment and tools for IYCF counselling. This is to aid in the identification and referral of severe cases of malnutrition to medical facilities. To date, 6,381 children aged 6-59 months have been screened.
There is no information yet on the situation in Marawi City but there are concerns that food stocks may be low/inadequate if markets have not been functioning properly and families are confined to their homes pending the cessation of armed clashes in the city.

The nutrition situation of young children in the poorest families may be affected in the medium term as a result of the loss of livelihood and agriculture opportunities due to the conflict. This will necessitate follow-up nutrition surveillance and may require additional supplementary feeding for the poorest families after their return to Marawi City.

### Humanitarian leadership and coordination

National and regional authorities have set up the Regional Coordination and Operations Center in Iligan City to provide support to the affected provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. This body is chaired by the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) Region X, OCD ARMM, and the ARMM Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and will serve as the main sub-national coordination hub until further notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected area / populations</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Coordination lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iligan City and adjacent affected municipalities</td>
<td>Lanao del Norte (not in ARMM)</td>
<td>OCD Region X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marawi City and adjacent municipalities</td>
<td>Lanao del Sur (ARMM)</td>
<td>ARMM HEART Operations Center (including OCD ARMM and ARMM Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily Government-led overall inter-cluster coordination involving both Region X and ARMM is taking place. UNICEF is supporting Government-led coordination in Iligan City for both Region X and ARMM agencies. At the national level, the Health Quad Cluster and the Education Cluster have met. The Child Protection Working Group will meet on 26 June. UNICEF will provide support to each cluster and in particular in the Health Quad Cluster to WASH and Nutrition.

The Humanitarian Country Team in Manila and the Mindanao Humanitarian Team are meeting regularly to discuss the conflict and humanitarian response. On 29 May, the ARMM Government transmitted an official request for the augmentation of humanitarian assistance to international and non-Government actors through the Mindanao Humanitarian Team.

### Summary analysis of programme response and funding

The table below identifies potential UNICEF key interventions and estimated costs. We currently have available contingency ORE funds in hand as part of our preparedness plans for 2017, but if the crisis escalates or becomes protracted additional resources will need to be mobilized. To date we have raised approximately US$5,000 in direct donations from individual donors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Budget in US$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>▪ Provision of psychosocial support</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ IEC distribution and awareness-raising on UXO/ERW</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Monitoring and reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Family tracing and reunification</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>▪ Procurement of tents and back-to-school items</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>▪ Provision of essential WASH items including hygiene kits, water bladders, jerry cans etc.</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>▪ Support to outreach activities and the dissemination of IEC materials on breastfeeding/infant feeding</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>▪ On-site photographer and writer</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>▪ Ongoing monitoring support (including repeat field visits, assessment missions and engagement with the affected population. This includes missions to gather feedback from affected families/children/young people and may also include support to an ‘after action’ review)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Subtotal cost 480,000
Operations @10% of total cost 48,000
Total cost 528,000.00

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