



## HIGHLIGHTS

**8,756**

Persons of Indonesian Descent in 9 municipalities reached through registration and confirmation project in Mindanao since 2014

**20,658**

Displaced persons reached in Maguindanao through distributions of relief items

**6,594**

Displaced persons in Zamboanga reached through aid distributions

**316**

At-risk refugees benefitted from emergency transit mechanism since 2009

### Population of concern

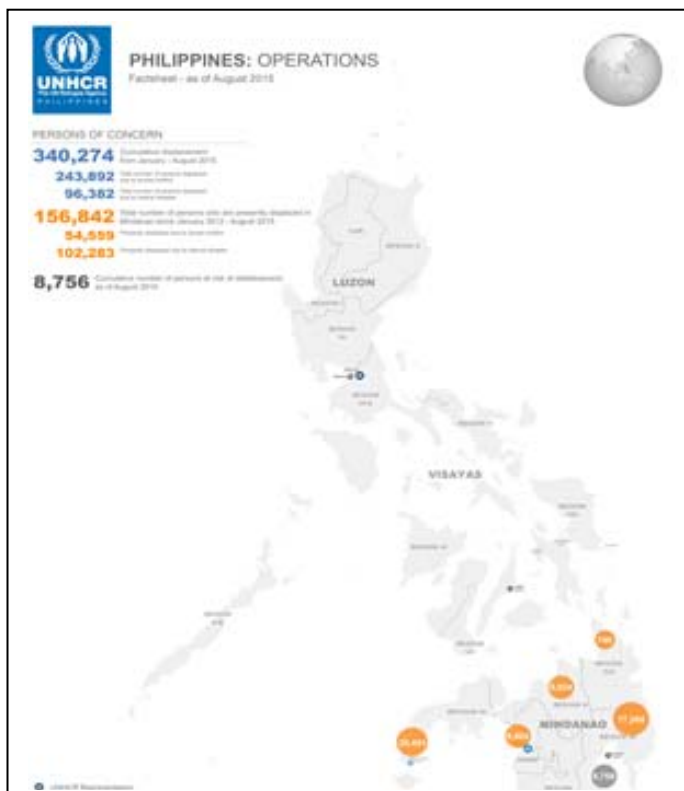
Population	Total PoC
Refugees	253
Stateless	8,756*
Asylum-Seekers	107
IDPs in Mindanao	156,842**
<b>*reached # of persons at risk of statelessness</b>	<b>**As of August 2015</b>

### Funding

**USD 5.5 million** requested

**USD 452,367** contributions

**8%** funded



### UNHCR Presence

#### Staff:

141 national staff  
40 international staff

#### Offices:

5 offices located in:  
Hpa-An, Maungdaw, Myiktyina, Sittwe, Yangon

#### 6 field units in:

Bhamo, Buthidaung, Dawei, Hakha (liaison office),  
Loikaw, Mawlamyine

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR continued building strong operational and project partnerships with both government and non-government organizations including the Government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, municipal local government units and local government line agencies, Commission on Human Rights, ARMM Regional Human Rights Commission, Department of Justice, Bureau of Immigration, Public Attorney's Office, Department of Foreign Affairs, Balay Rehabilitation Center, Bangsamoro Development Agency, Community and Family Services International, United Youth of the Philippines-Women, SILDAP, PASALI, Ateneo Human Rights Center, and San Beda College of Law.

## ACTIVITIES

### Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- The Philippine Government provides a favourable protection environment for refugees. Functioning national systems for registration and refugee status determination processes are in place, with the Department of Justice as the state agency responsible for the adjudication of asylum claims, and coordinating policy to implement refugee rights. Though UNHCR continues to provide assistance through a local partner for selective material assistance as well as counselling support to urban refugees and asylum seekers.
- Facilitation on the engagement between the Government and Faith-based Organizations in the Philippines to establish complementary mechanism to improve access of refugees to essential services.
- An emergency transit mechanism (ETM) operates for at-risk refugees who are unable to remain in their country of first asylum but are awaiting resettlement. Since 2009, 316 at-risk refugees have benefited from the ETM in the Philippines.

### Stateless Persons and those at risk of statelessness

- Supporting the Government of the Philippines in the conduct of registration exercises and follow through actions as part of the implementation of 2014-2016 Action Plan formulated during the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation in 2014 to resolve legal issues on the citizenship of Persons of Indonesian Descent residing in Mindanao.
- Facilitation of the Inter-Agency Forum on the Development of a National Action Plan to End Statelessness and follow through actions

### Internally Displaced Persons in Mindanao

- UNHCR's protection presence for the Zamboanga conflict IDP situation continues to focus on advocacy efforts to ensure the minority population is included in durable solutions. Specific activities conducted are; IDP Protection Profiling, co-lead Protection Cluster activities and reporting and regular participation in city-lead cluster activities to ensure return and relocation is made according to Philippine and international standards, regular joint protection monitoring in evacuation centers and transition sites, capacity building of government agencies and police on protection and information management .
- Monitoring Missions to the communities of indigenous people affected by conflict in Eastern Mindanao highlighted the underreported human rights violations and lack of protection afforded to these highly vulnerable populations. Conduct of Workshops/training on protection to enhance response mechanisms of local government units and the capacity of community volunteers will continue to be supported.
- Support to local structures engaged in protection monitoring and response will continue to be pursued. Efforts of the Commission on Human Rights in the integration of IDP protection in its regular operation and advocacies towards the passage of the IDP Protection Law are continuously being supported.
- Initiatives to promote a sense of security and stability in conflict affect communities in Central Mindanao to establish favorable environment for durable solutions will be advocated among local actors in Mindanao, in cooperation with NGO and government partners and the other UN agencies.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unrestricted and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

[Private Donors](#) | [Indonesia](#) | [United States of America](#) | [UN Peace Building Fund](#) |

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