Upon request of the government, UNHCR will ensure provision of core relief items to displaced families. UNHCR will maintain a role as advocate to ensure adherence to the protection principles, including non-discrimination in the provision of aid, and provision of support to displaced persons with specific needs, including women, children or families headed by elderly persons. All distributions will be carried out in coordination and partnership with the local government units, and with partner humanitarian NGOs where feasible.

### KEY POINTS

On 10 April 2020, UNHCR’s project partner Community and Family Services International (CFSI) provided blankets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, plastic sheets and solar lamps as life-saving assistance to 576 families of Guindulungan, Maguindanao. These families were displaced due to the Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) of state forces against the local ISIS-inspired militant group.

On 11 April 2020, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, plastic sheets and solar lamps were also provided to 141 families of Ampatuan, Maguindanao while 368 IDP families have been provided with blankets. These families were also displaced as a result of the Law Enforcement Operation against the same militant group.

Although the CRI distributions took place while the Enhance Community Quarantine (ECQ) was enforced, the activities were successfully completed with the support from the Local Government Unit Offices Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) and Municipal Social Services and Development Office (MSSDO) of the municipalities of Guindulungan and Ampatuan. CFSI and its contracted transporters have also been granted exemptions to the ECQ restrictions in order to carry out humanitarian missions.

### TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

4,720

This distribution of Core Relief Items (CRIs) to a total of 944 families is supported by the Australian Government and implemented by UNHCR Philippines and CFSI - Community and Family Services International. Forcibly displaced families from the municipalities of Ampatuan and Guindulungan received hygiene kits, blankets, plastic tarps, solar lamps, and mosquito nets.
PROTECTION WORKING GROUP FOR BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM)

In April 2019, PWG for BARMM was established under the leadership of Ministry of Social Services and Development, co-led by UNHCR. The Protection Working Group (PWG), based in Cotabato City, is being convened to support the provision of protection interventions and services to these disaster- and conflict-affected communities. The main objectives of BARMM PWG is to strengthen coordination among relevant actors with a protection role (from regional down to municipal and community level) in order to: (a) ensure timely prevention of and response to protection issues in the BARMM region; and (b) facilitate timely information-sharing among these actors, in support of effective planning and implementation. The PWG meets every 2 months with members of Government agencies with protection roles, Relevant LGUs, UN agencies, Local and International NGOs and CSOs.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UNHCR works in partnership with government entities, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs, and UN Agencies, and other organizations. Its primary role is to share information on protection risks and needs and to facilitate coordinated intervention among the various actors involved in IDP protection. UNHCR has project partnership with CFSI, CHR, ACCORD, MMI, KI, TKI, ACTED and IRDT covering Mindanao island including BARMM region. In addition to it’s project partnership, UNHCR works closely with local authorities and Mindanao Humanitarian Actors including: UNICEF I IOM I OCHA I UNDP I UNFPA I UNHABITAT I WFP I WHO I OXFAM I ACTION AGAINST HUNGER I CARE I UNWOMEN I ICRC I SAVE THE CHILDREN I KFPDI I PRC

For more information, please visit the Protection Cluster website http://www.protectioncluster.org/philippines/ or e-mail us at PHICOPRC@unhcr.org

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