

## ADDRESSING NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

### Mindanao, Philippines

#### Rationale

The Marawi siege or the Marawi crisis was a five-month-long armed conflict in Marawi, Lanao del Sur, Philippines that started on 23 May 2017, between Philippine government security forces and militants. The battle also became the longest urban battle in the modern history of the Philippines.

The Battle for Marawi took a heavy toll on infrastructure, including health facilities and hospitals, and private property in the city quarter where the battle was concentrated. The armed conflict forced some 350,000 residents of Marawi and neighboring towns into a diaspora, as they sought refuge in evacuation centers or in relatives' houses in neighboring towns and cities, a number migrating to other parts of Mindanao, the Visayas and Luzon.

Living in tents and transitory shelters for two years, the displaced families suffer under the heat of the sun and when the rain pours down really hard.

All these stress and unfavorable conditions that they are facing cause them to be more vulnerable to certain noncommunicable diseases.

Up to 80% of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) focusing mainly on hypertension, obesity/overweight, and diabetes could be prevented by eliminating shared risk factors, mainly tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and other factors.

NCDs and the resulting complications of it pose a socio-economic burden to the patients, their families, their communities, and the government as well.

After the siege, many health facilities were destroyed and affected. It becomes a challenge to fully address the health needs of the displaced people. The project aims to support in NCD screening and management as well as in gathering data that will be useful for all stakeholders.

#### CARE-ABBOTT Partnership

In partnership with Abbott, CARE will be implementing "Addressing Noncommunicable Diseases in Humanitarian Settings", a 3-year project to support and facilitate the prevention, diagnosis and standard of care management of NCDs (diabetes, obesity & hypertension) within communities of internally displaced people and health systems in Marawi City & Lanao del Sur, Philippines.



#### PROJECT OBJECTIVE

**To support and facilitate the prevention and management of NCDs (diabetes, hypertension, obesity) within communities of internally displaced people and health systems affected by disasters, with a specific focus on mobilizing women in activities designed to increase awareness, management, and advocacy around NCDs in humanitarian settings.**

#### Key Activities

- Screen, diagnose, prevent and manage noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity in communities affected by the Marawi siege
- Train nurses and other healthcare providers to lead "NCD Club" groups to advance disease prevention and management by engaging IDPs in group exercise, lifestyle changes and compliance with ongoing treatment.
- Expand access to needed clinical care either within or outside the camps
- Raise awareness and educate on the prevention and control of NCDs from the community to the national government level.

