

The Mindanao Displacement Dashboard is a monthly publication of the Protection Cluster in Mindanao, Philippines which is co-led by UNHCR with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This publication aims to provide an overview of the protection environment of displacement incidents in Mindanao for each month. Displacement incidents were collected with the support of Protection Cluster members in Mindanao.



Pata, Sulu Displacement due to Political Rivalry

Approximately 300 families (estimated 1,500 persons) were displaced from Sitio Poblacion of Barangay Saimbangan, Pata municipality, Sulu province when two politicians engaged in a firefight on 02 January. Villagers fled their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire. Reportedly, 5 civilians were wounded as a result of the firefight. In the last protection

monitoring mission conducted by local NGO, UnyPhil-Women, only ten (10) families remained in the village. As of this report, the IDPs who are now in Barangay Tuyang of Talipao municipality in the same province have received no humanitarian assistance as of this report. The Philippine National Police has been deployed in the area.



Pikit, North Cotabato Clan Feud between MILF members

On 08 January, infighting between two command forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) sent some 909 families (estimated 4,545 persons) from their homes in barangays Talitay, Rajamuda, and Bulod, all in Pikit, North Cotabato and the barangays Kudal, Bagoenged and Inug-ug, all in Pagalungan, Maguindanao. Two civilians were reportedly killed and another two were injured. The IDPs

remain displaced in host communities with some occupying open fields and sleeping on the ground. Outstanding protection concerns remain such as access to education, shelter, water and sanitation, while specific needs of pregnant women, lactating mothers and their babies, young girls and boys and elderly are not addressed.



Pigkawayan, North Cotabato Clan Feud

On 08 January 2016, around 70 families (estimated 350 persons) from two villages of Pigkawayan municipality in the province of North Cotabato pre-emptively evacuated to an adjacent barangay due to fear of an armed conflict after a Commander of the MILF was shot and killed by unknown individuals. The killing trails a series of rido-related incidents in November, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom

Fighters (BIFF) attacks in December 2015 as well as the most recent killings and movement of armed groups in the area.

These incidents have caused fear amongst civilians and severely affected the education of school children and livelihoods of communities. Despite the local authorities' efforts to resolve the *rido*, the situation remains tense.



Maguindanao AFP Law Enforcement Operations against BIFF

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has continued its Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) and pursuit operation against members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) after the latter staged simultaneous attacks last year on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The operation has so far resulted in the combined displacement of 5,151 families (estimated 25,755 persons) in Maguindanao. The numbers of IDPs are increasing as the LEO continues.

16,330 persons) fled to Barangay Dugengen for safety while others find refuge with relatives. On 08 January, another 1,885 families (9,425 persons) from five barangays in Shariff Aguak and Shariff Saydona Mustapha have pre-emptively evacuated to safer grounds with the increased presence of AFP forces in the area.

Humanitarian actors are concerned with the health of children in evacuation camps as they are reported to suffer from diarrhea, fever and coughs. Food insufficiency is also reported in the camps as families are afraid to return to their farms and face difficulties going to work. There has been no camp management structure in place as of this report while some families have built makeshift shelters along the roads.

On 01 January, the AFP's 34th Infantry Battalion encountered the BIFF in Barangay Timbangan in Shariff Aguak municipality and started mortar shelling that affected the neighboring barangays of Datu Kilay, Datu Bakal, Lapok and Bialong. Around 3,266 families (estimated

Mindanao Peace Process

In the days leading to the Congress' last session before it adjourns for the elections, it was already apparent that the passage of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law will not come to fruition. There was little prospect of passing the proposed measure as most legislators support amended version of the BBL while the government peace panel, the MILF, and civil society groups continued to voice their support for the passage of the original draft. While the Office of the President has acknowledged the fate of the proposed measure, President Aquino has instructed the peace panel to propose an action plan that will continue to oversee measures in strengthening existing peace bodies such as the joint security mechanisms beyond his term.



Magpet, North Cotabato NPA vs Paramilitary Armed Conflict

More than 151 families (estimated 755 persons) left their homes in the sitios of Apod Apog, Kasimbit and Pantaron in Barangay Manobo of Magpet municipality, North Cotabato province as a result of an armed confrontation between the New Peoples' Army (NPA) and forces from the para-military group known as Bagani on 10 January. Local authorities reported that the firefight started when members of the Bagani group allegedly attacked a nearby command post of the NPA. According to the barangay officials, this is the second time that the presence of the Bagani was observed in the area. All the IDPs have already returned home but with limited access to their farmlands due to continued fear of possible armed attacks.



IDPs in Matalam, North Cotabato remain displaced and in need of protection. © UNHCR/K. Bollsay



Malaybalay, Bukidnon Indigenous People (IP) Displacement

Reported threats, harassment, and displacement of indigenous communities have persisted in Bukidnon. On 20 January, around 45 families (estimated 200 persons) were driven from their communities after fresh killings and harassment of IP members were allegedly perpetrated by the para-military group called

Alamara, which is joined by other Magahat groups operating in the boundaries of Bukidnon and Agusan del Sur. The IP families remain displaced in Malaybalay City capitol grounds and are afraid to return due to continued insecurity in their places of origin.



Patikul, Sulu AFP vs ASG Armed Conflict

The AFP's continued Focused Military Operation against the lawless elements and members of the Abu Sayaff Group in the municipality of Patikul in Sulu province has resulted in the displacement of more than 91 families (estimated 455 persons) on 22 January. The

recent operation has intensified after the Joint Task Force of Sulu recovered the headless body of a Malaysian kidnap victim in December 2015. The displaced families remain with their relatives and friends in neighboring barangays.



The displacement of indigenous people in Mindanao continues in 2016. These displaced *Jumads* in Surigao del Sur are among those who want to be recognized and be given adequate protection. © UNHCR/K. Bolisay



Talaingod, Davao del Norte IP Displacement

While yet to recover from the forcible displacement they suffered last year, an estimated 72 families (estimated 300 persons) from two sitios of barangay Palma Gil, Talaingod, Davao Del Norte sought refuge once more in the compound of United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) Haran in Davao City on 25 Janu-

ary. The evacuation was triggered by the continued harassment of armed men in the area and the alleged killing of a 15-year-old boy from sitio Laslakan. These armed men are members of organized IP para-military group or Alamara opposing NPA and their alleged sympathizers.



South Upi, Maguindanao IP Displacement

Fighting between opposing leaders in Barangay San Jose, South Upi municipality in the province of Maguindanao has flared up again on 27 January. The conflict, which has been ongoing for several years, resulted in the displacement of 254 families (estimated 1,072 individuals) from three affected sub-villages of Bugoy, Manitoy, and Sonal. The recent firefight is believed to have emanated from contending land control between a Commander of the MILF and a

Manobo tribal leader. Presently, displaced families are staying in Sitio Kalumuno and have received limited assistance from State authorities. The displaced people are comprised of Dulangan-Manobo, Lambangian, Teduray IPs, together with few settler's tribes. International NGO Non-violent Peaceforce (NP) reported IDP's priority needs in informal evacuation centers as tents, water containers and food.

Zamboanga City Protracted Displacement

Over 3,000 families (estimated 17,000 IDPs) continue to live in substandard humanitarian conditions in Zamboanga City. Protection concerns regarding access to livelihood, provision of adequate water and sanitation facilities (WASH), housing, land, and property issues, and safety and security persist affecting particularly the most vulnerable of the displaced.

The National Housing Authority (NHA) reported a 35.97% completion rate in the construction of houses under the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction (Z3R). The figure translates to 2,338 houses – both on land and on stilts – out of the total 6,500 units targeted for construction under the Z3R. Of the total completed houses, 869 have been awarded to beneficiaries while 2,971 units are ongoing. In this regard, it is essential to continue advocating for the implementation of the Code of Beneficiaries agreement and the activation of the grievance committee.

The installation of sanitation units has stalled the transfer of people from transitory sites to Kasanyangan and Mariki permanent sites. City authorities will only transfer IDPs from transitory sites to permanent shelters once the target 500 sanitation units are installed. Water delivery has also become a serious concern with the effects El Nino being felt in western Mindanao as the authorities have proclaimed a state of calamity in Zamboanga City. If not addressed, such shortage may contribute to the deterioration of the living condition of IDPs and increases the risk of disease outbreak in the camps.

Concerns are also being raised for the safety and security of IDPs in transitory sites due to unconfirmed reports of prostitution in Mampang and issues on illegal drugs in Tulungatung, which may cause further concerns like robbery and theft to IDP children and minors who are vulnerable.

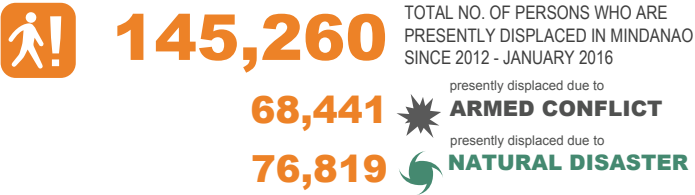
Protection actors have been advocating for the inclusion of home-based IDPs in recovery and rehabilitation programmes. The profiled and verified 1,224 families (estimated 7,638 persons) can now be used as initial and official reference for any government rehabilitation assistance. However, further assessment is needed to update and report the status of the remaining 3,148 families (in the HB IDPs masterlist) that the profiling has not been able to cover.



The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* note that “internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”

Durable Solutions - UNHCR with Protection Cluster members continue to identify communities that are subjected to protracted displacement over the course of the year to ensure all IDPs are identified and the appropriate attention and resources can be obtained to support finding a durable solution to their displacement.

CURRENT NUMBER OF IDPS IN NEED OF DURABLE SOLUTION



CLARIFICATIONS

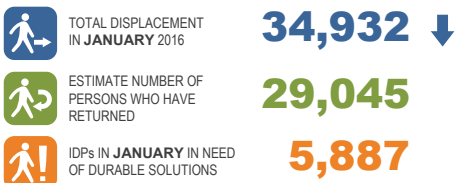
Typhoon Pablo displacement - A large number of IDPs remain displaced from Typhoon Pablo in December 2012 in Eastern Mindanao, Region XI who are still in need of a durable solution. Many of these families remain in temporary shelters where local authorities have been slowly obtaining access to land and constructing permanent housing for these IDPs. As of October 2015, there are still an estimated 76,379 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

Forced Returns from Sabah - Filipino nationals continue to be forcibly returned from Sabah, Malaysia to the Island province, Tawi-Tawi and to Zamboanga City. After the standoff between the Royal Army of Sulu and the Malaysian Security Forces in March 2013, a large number of Filipinos living and working in Sabah are arrested, detained and forcibly returned to the Philippines. Reports obtained from the ARMM DSWD describe that each week hundreds of individuals, many separated from their families living in Sabah, are forced to depart Sabah by boat and arrive in Tawi-Tawi or Zamboanga. While there are no exact figures of the number of persons arriving at this time, it is estimated that over 50,000 persons have been forcibly returned to the Philippines since March 2013. According to the DSWD, many of these individuals are vulnerable and are in need of assistance and many more immediately return to Sabah where their families reside and where they have found employment.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT IN 2016

| | TOTAL IN JANUARY 2016 | | TOTAL SINCE JAN 2016 | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | INCIDENTS | DISPLACEMENT (persons) | INCIDENTS | DISPLACEMENT (persons) |
| ARMED CONFLICT incidents with displacement | 9 | 34,932 | 9 | 34,932 |
| NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN JANUARY 2016 (see details in boxes)



LEGEND

