

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.

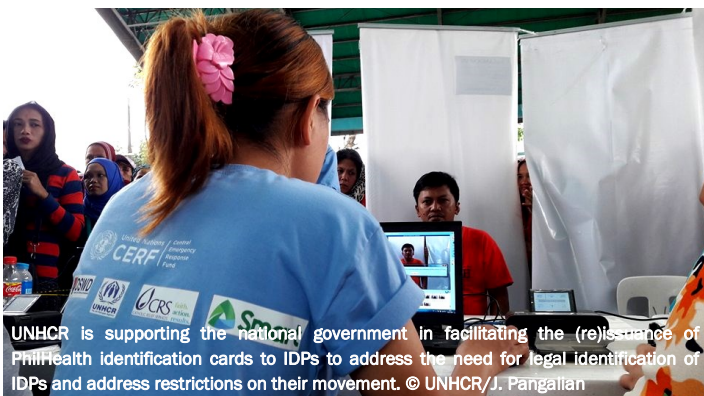


## Marawi Siege Displacement and Response

Following the confirmation by state security forces on 16 October that Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute, leaders of the Abu Sayyaf Group and Maute Group respectively, were killed in clashes with security forces in Marawi, President Duterte declared Marawi City “liberated” on 17 October, signaling an end to the conflict. The military consequently announced the end of combat operations and started withdrawing its forces from Marawi City. However, government troops will continue to secure Marawi from potential infiltration by pro-Islamic State forces to ensure the safety of its residents.

IDPs from nine barangays in Marawi City have begun returning to their habitual residences starting 29 October. The city government of Marawi and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have cleared the return, including the transport of IDPs. About 10,000 Marawi residents have been allowed to return so far, mostly those who lived near the Mindanao State University that was well outside the battle zone, according to local authorities. About 33,000 others, who were spared the worst of the conflict and whose homes are in so-called “controlled areas”, are set to follow in November.

On 27 October, President Rodrigo Duterte reorganized the composition of Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) by signing Administrative Order No. 9. This amended the earlier issued Administrative Order No. 3, which established TFBM as the body overall in charge of recovery and reconstruction efforts. Following the declaration of Marawi City’s “liberation” last 17 October, government-led efforts would now focus on rehabilitation. Task Force Bangon Marawi will now be headed by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) Chairman Eduardo del Rosario, while HUDCC Assistant Secretary Felix Castro has been appointed as TFBM’s Executive Director. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary Luzviminda Ilagan will lead the Sub-committee on Health and Social Services, while Secretary of National Defense and the Secretary of Public Works and Highways have been designated as Vice Chairpersons.



UNHCR is supporting the national government in facilitating the (re)issuance of PhilHealth identification cards to IDPs to address the need for legal identification of IDPs and address restrictions on their movement. © UNHCR/J. Pangalilan



## Armed Conflict and Protracted Displacement in Maguindanao (AFP and MILF vs JMWA)

Clashes continue unabated between the Jamaatul Muhajirin Wal Ansar (JMWA), on one side, and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front’s (MILF) Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), aided by local law enforcement groups and/or the AFP, on the other side, in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato. Six months into the conflict, the clashes have displaced a cumulative total of 11,018 families (estimated 55,103 persons).

In coordination with the MILF, the AFP launched military operations against both the JMWA and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the municipalities of Talitay, Talayan, Guindulungan, Datu Salibo and Rajah Buayan, all in Maguindanao, and in the municipality of Midsayap in North Cotabato on 10 October.

Following the recovery of high-powered firearms and improvised explosive device paraphernalia at the boundary of Talitay and Datu Anggal Midtimbang municipalities in Maguindanao province, another firefight took place between the AFP and the combined forces of the BIFF – Bungos Faction and the JMWA on 14 October in the interior village of Barangay Alonganen, Datu Piang municipality. This resulted in the displacement of around 35 families (estimated 175 persons) from said barangay, who sought refuge with their relatives in adjacent barangays of the same municipality, an increase from the 450 families initially displaced in August resulting from the same incident.

Pre-emptive evacuation of 216 families (estimated 1,080 persons) from the municipality of Pikit in North Cotabato province was also reported on 16 October following an operation conducted by the MILF-BIAF against the BIFF, which was allegedly sheltering members of a suspected IS-inspired group. The IDPs are currently staying with relatives or friends in nearby villages, while residents of adjacent municipalities have also started packing up their belongings for fear that the fighting would spread to their areas. Firefights between the elements of the AFP and the BIFF/ JMWA has also ensued in Barangay Meta, Datu Unsay on 19 October and air and artillery fire mission was launched by the AFP against the group, which resulted to the displacement of unaccounted number of civilians.

On 21 October, residents of some barangays in the municipalities of Datu Salibu and Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao province, pre-emptively evacuated following rumors that the JMWA will launch an attack against military units deployed in those areas. The IDPs reportedly returned to their homes a few hours after they evacuated.

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### Clan Feud, Gen. SK Pendatun, Maguindanao

On 11 October, around 217 families (estimated 1,085 persons) from Barangay Midkunding in General Salipada K. Pendatun municipality, Maguindanao province, were uprooted from their homes when a longstanding clan feud between two rival families erupted. The displaced families fled to Barangay Kaladturan and Barangay Ramcor in the same municipality and found shelter with their relatives and friends. The Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DSWD ARMM) provided food packs to the affected.



### Displacement due to natural disaster

Around 4,026 families (estimated 19,394 persons) from 20 barangays of Zamboanga City were displaced as a result of massive flooding due to heavy rains on 15 October. The City Council declared a State of Calamity as local authorities ramped up their emergency response and assessment. The City Social Welfare and Development Office and the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office have deployed their quick response teams to assist people in the affected areas, put up community kitchens, provide hot meals, and guide movements of affected families to designated evacuation centers in schools and barangay halls.

Meanwhile, as Typhoon Paolo intensified into a severe tropical storm on the week of 16-20 October, around 33 houses were destroyed by a storm surge in the coastal barangays of the municipalities of Malapatan, Maasim and Kiamba, in Sarangani province. Around 40 families (estimated 200 persons) were displaced as a result and sought shelter in the Municipal Gym of Malapatan. According to the residents, they have stayed along the coastline for many years but this is the first time that they have experienced a storm surge. The Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units (LGU) have extended support to the families whose houses were totally destroyed. An estimated 15 fishing boats were also lost/destroyed; thus, the affected population – whose primary income source is fishing – expressed concern about the disruption of their livelihood.



### Armed Encounter, Makilala, North Cotabato (AFP vs NPA)

On 13 October, around 20 families (estimated 100 persons) were displaced due to armed clashes between members of the AFP and the New Peoples' Army (NPA) in Barangay Batasan in the municipality of Makilala, a hinterland town in North Cotabato. Military troops also reportedly recovered roadside bombs during the encounter. According to barangay officials, the displaced families returned to their respective residences two days after the incident.



## CURRENT GOVERNMENT PEACE TALKS WITH SEPARATE REBEL GROUPS

### Bangsamoro Peace Process Update

On 29 October, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) announced the postponement of the Bangsamoro Assembly. The assembly is meant to showcase the support of the Bangsamoro people to the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) that was recently passed in Congress. President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to attend the assembly.

### Communist Party-GPH Peace Process

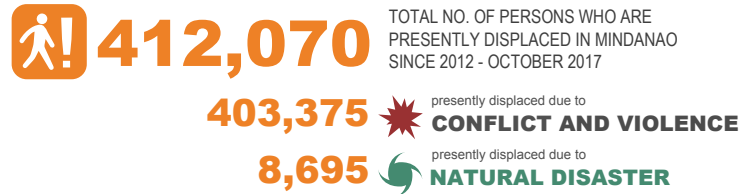
Violence involving the NPA, including alleged harassment, ambushes, abductions, shootings, extortion against private businesses, and use of IEDs, continues unabated leaving no window for a possible revival of the peace process with the government. In response, the military has intensified its counter-insurgency programs, recently announcing that 300 members of indigenous peoples (IP) groups will be recruited to undergo rigid military training. They will then be enlisted as AFP members and assigned to IP communities considered as core territories of the NPA.



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 and 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 April 2017, there are still an estimated 8,695 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

## NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT (see details in boxes)

	TOTAL IN OCTOBER 2017		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2017	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE</b> incidents with displacement	4	2,440	47	474,682
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	2	17,594	7	420,984

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER 2017



Note: The figures appearing in this document are not comprehensive. The data pertain to those collected by Protection Cluster Partners and collated by UNHCR since 2012.

## LEGEND

