

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 Durable Solutions

As of 24 January, the Task Force Bangon Marawi reported that they have facilitated the return of more than 17,500 families. By end of January, a total of 38 barangays received returning IDPs – returns to Cluster 4 (4,365 families), Cluster 6 (2,230 families), all 20 barangays for Cluster 5 (no final list of returnees), and two (2) barangays for Cluster 2 (no final list of returnees) have been facilitated. Fourteen (14) more barangays have been cleared for returns.

During the first joint meeting between representatives of the Marawi City local government unit and the Inter-cluster Coordination Group on 26 January, it was agreed that simultaneous site visits would be conducted on 29 January in identified sites for return or (temporary) relocation of IDPs. The aim is to determine capacity of the sites to accommodate the planned number of IDP families for return/relocation, and to provide assessments on issues within the purview of each Cluster, as inputs to the Site Development Plan. This would be followed by a presentation of the results and a planning meeting with the Marawi City Mayor on 31 January. The agreement is to prioritize IDPs currently staying in Iligan City, which include families from the most affected areas of Marawi who could not yet return. Relocation to other evacuation sites within Marawi has been previously proposed as an interim solution for IDPs from areas that had not yet been cleared as safe for return.



The Protection Cluster in Mindanao continues to provide non-food items to the displaced population in Marawi City. © UNHCR / A. Ongcal

## Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) Update

In a statement on 19 January, President Duterte stressed the importance of the draft BBL as well as the proposed constitutional amendment to shift to a federal system of governance. Addressing public concerns and opposition from some sectors, Duterte said that these measures are necessary to correct the "historical injustices" suffered by the Moros and if neither would push through, it is certain that war will erupt anew in Mindanao. He further warned that the Islamic State ideology may be able to attract more adherents among Moros should the BBL not be passed.



## Clan Feud in Pikit, North Cotabato

On 01 January, around 20 families (estimated 100 individuals) were displaced due to firefights between two families who are both members of the 108th Base Command of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Barangay Poblacion in the municipality of Pikit, North Cotabato province. One party suffered two casualties. The encounter ceased when the leadership of MILF arrived and mediated, which helped the displaced families return back to their respective residences.



## AFP vs NPA, Pigkawayan, North Cotabato

On 11 January, a firefight, with reported use of mortars by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), erupted in Barangay Malagakit in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato province between the AFP and members of the BIFF-Bungos faction. Around 30 families (estimated 150 individuals) were displaced as a result. The firefight ensued when members of the BIFF attempted to "arrest" the barangay chairman of Malagakit for allegedly being a military informant. The displaced population returned on 25 January.



## MILF vs BIFF, Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao

On 08 January, a pre-emptive evacuation of 338 families (estimated 1,690 persons) was reported within the SPMS box (Salibu, Pagatin, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak) in Maguindanao as a result of military operations against the group of Abu Toraijie, an IS-inspired faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). The MILF Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF-BIAF) encamped in the affected areas were re-positioned in the boundary of Pagatin to Linantangan road. The displaced families returned to their homes on 10 January.

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### Land dispute, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao

A firefight between two armed groups reignited in Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality, Maguindanao province, on 23 January. Both groups are said to be affiliated with the MILF, but the clashes are believed to be rooted in a rido due to control of land between commanders that are affiliated with the MILF. Around 1,946 families (estimated 9,730 individuals) remain displaced since the start of the fighting last 20 January in Barangay Madia and Elian.

According to a report, the group of Commander Datu Adam of the 118th Base Command attacked the group of Commander Haon Sindatuk of the 105th Base Command in Barangay Madia, Datu Saudi Ampatuan. The Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) has intervened. The MILF-CCCH has established a blocking force in the area on 22 January to prevent the escalation of the tension.



### AFP vs NPA, Makilala, North Cotabato

In Makilala, Cotabato province, clashes erupted between Government troops and the New People's Army (NPA) on 15 January, when NPA members reportedly attacked a military detachment in Barangay Luayon. The military then launched airstrikes against the NPA, who fled to the mountains of Barangay Sto. Nino. The clashes forcibly displaced 50 families (estimated 250 persons). The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) and residents are expecting firefights between the parties. UNHCR field staff have been advised by the municipal government not to access the area for the time being due to the volatile security situation.

### GPH-CPP/NPA Peace Process Update

Resumption of the peace process between the Government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) is now seen to be very unlikely, unless the latter would commit to the Government's demands to stop their attacks and agree to a joint ceasefire. However, the CPP-NPA has taken a firm stance that they would not sign any ceasefire agreement without a comprehensive agreement on social, economic and political reforms (CASER) in place. The joint forces of the AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP) resumed nationwide combat operations against the NPA after the holiday ceasefire expired on 2 January 2018, while the CPP called for the launch of more tactical offensives against government troops.



### AFP vs BIFF Shariff Saydona Mustapha

On 26 January, a firefight erupted between members of the AFP and BIFF in the hinterlands of Shariff Saydona Mustapha municipality in Maguindanao. Around 210 families (estimated 1,050 individuals) from Barangay Ganta and its neighboring villages fled their homes and sought refuge to safer grounds. They remain displaced as of this report. There was an unverified report that three civilians were killed in said clashes.



### Military presence, Lianga, Surigao del Sur

In the province of Surigao del Sur, particularly in the Andap Valley Complex where five (5) coal mines (Benguet, Great Wall, Consolidated Ores, Abacus and PNOC Mining) are keen to start operations, almost 600 military troops under the 36th IBPA, 75th IBPA, 88th IBPA and the 16th Special Forces Battalion, 402nd IBde, 4ID of the Philippine Army are in 26 lumad and peasant communities in the Andap Valley Complex who are regularly patrolling the municipalities of San Miguel, Tago, San Agustin, Marihatag and Lianga. On 28 January, the presence of Government troops resulted in the evacuation of 345 families (estimated 1,628 individuals) from 14 communities. Historical precedence of military presence in indigenous people's communities almost always result in civilian displacement for fear of firefight and violence.



### Political rivalry, Tuburan, Basilan

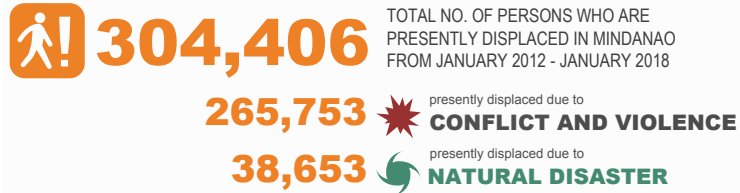
Protection monitoring by UNHCR partners confirmed that around 30 families (estimated 150 persons) from Barangay Lahi-Lahi, Tuburan municipality, Basilan province were displaced to Barangay Duga-a in the same municipality on 19 January due to a firefight between two rival political clans. In addition, some 40 families (estimated 200 persons) who were already being hosted in Barangay Lahi-Lahi following their displacement due to armed encounters between security forces and an armed group in November 2017 also evacuated to Barangay Duga-a. Local protection partners report that most of the IDPs returned after the hostilities ceased, except for the 40 families who were displaced for the second time, who opted to stay inside a mosque in the host barangay.



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 and Zamboanga Siege displacements** - A large number of IDPs remain displaced from Typhoon Pablo in December 2012 in Eastern Mindanao, Region XI and from the Zamboanga Siege of September 2013 in Western Mindanao, Region IX 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. Since April 2017, there are still an estimated 8,695 IDPs in Region XI who are in need of durable solutions. Since January 2018, there are still an estimated 9,978 IDPs in Region IX who are in need of durable solutions.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT (see details in boxes)

	TOTAL IN JANUARY 2018		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2018	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE</b> incidents with displacement	8	14,748	8	14,748
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	0	0	0	0

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN JANUARY 2018



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

