

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.



### Post-Marawi Siege Displacement and Durable Solutions

By the end of February, 59,495 families (305,642 persons) remain displaced as a result of the armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and IS-inspired groups in Marawi City. Of this total, 2,841 families (14,221 individuals) are staying in 62 evacuation centres across Lanao del Sur, while 56,654 families (291,421 individuals) are home-based<sup>1</sup>.

A total of 31,835 families are expected to return to 40 barangays, of which 23,939 families have been reported to have returned while 7,896 families have not yet returned due to various reasons, such as ongoing schooling of children near their current dwellings. As of this report, 13 more barangays have been cleared for return, bringing the total cleared barangays to 53 of the 72.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development's Disaster Response Operations Management and Information Center (DSWD-DROMIC) reported that 77,170 families (353,921 persons) were displaced, based on registered Disaster Assistance Family Access Cards (DAFAC) cards.

While IDP returns to cleared areas in Marawi City continue, the majority of IDPs from the "most affected area" (MAA) of



### AFP vs NPA Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte

On 02 February, combat manoeuvring troops of the 29th Infantry Battalion of the AFP captured a New People's Army (NPA) encampment after a fierce gun battle with the latter, killing three (3) NPA members and wounding several others in Sitio Taiwan, Barangay Bangayan, in the Kitcharao municipality of Agusan del Norte province according to military report. The firefight also resulted in the evacuation of 41 settlers and 59 Mamanwa indigenous families (estimated 278 individuals) to the center of Zapanta Valley and Barangay Bangayan. Since 02 February, 400 troops of the 29th Infantry Battalion along with other troops under the 4th Infantry Division from Cagayan de Oro, were reported patrolling the mountain area of Ansili and Zapanta Valley in Kitcharao. According to local sources, this area is believed to be where FirstGen Hydropower Corporation is constructing a hydropower plant and local authorities shared that some IDPs are being offered temporary employment by the power plant while they are still displaced. The area is also being eyed for mining by Timberwolves Resources Inc. and Empire Asia Coal Mining.

Marawi City are still awaiting information when or if they can return. Since many of these areas are still inaccessible at this time due to security restrictions, IDPs have expressed that they should be prioritized for inclusion in the awarding of transitional shelters in Barangay Sagongsongan. This was recorded and reported during discussions with civil society actors working on the ground. However, most of them do not have information on the criteria being used by the local authorities for prioritization and/or the whereabouts of their respective barangay chairpersons from whom they could get further information. The IDPs also expressed that relocation to new evacuation centres would be their last option, considering that provision of assistance, especially access to basic services, has already dwindled over the last few months.



### Flash flood Polomolok, South Cotabato

A total of 52 families (approximately 260 persons) were displaced as a result of flash flooding in Barangay Poblacion, municipality of Polomolok in South Cotabato province on 03 February. The local authorities were assisted by the regional office of the DSWD in supporting the displaced. The IDPs returned days after.



### Unusual military presence Maragusan, Compostela Valley

About 200 families (estimated 1,000 residents) of Barangay Langgawisan in Maragusan municipality, Compostela Valley fled their homes after members of the NPA reportedly entered their community on 06 February. The displaced families from Sitios Lumad, Maapdo, and Caloyapi are currently staying in a covered court and a school in Barangay Coronobe, also in Maragusan. This incident is seen as part of the repercussions of the issuance of Presidential Proclamation 360 terminating peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which triggered a renewal of the "all-out war" between the AFP and NPA.



### Land dispute, Pikit, North Cotabato

Renewed clashes between families involved in a land dispute in Barangay Bulol, in the municipality of Pikit, North Cotabato province have caused the displacement of 60 families (estimated 300 persons) on 10 February. A woman was reportedly hit by a stray bullet during the fighting. As of this report, the local government of Pikit and leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have settled the dispute with mediation.

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### Unusual military presence Butuan City, Agusan del Norte

With the current security climate in Mindanao, further reinforcements from the AFP have been deployed throughout the island. In the province of Agusan del Norte, around a hundred troops from the 29th IBPA are currently operating against the NPA in the mountainous area of Barangay Anticala, Butuan City. This military presence prompted 115 farmers and indigenous people to flee from Sitio Patagon to Sitio Dugyaman on 05 February. In an interview with the IDPs, it was noted that Sahi Coal Mining is planning to put up its mining operation in the area.



### AFP vs ASG, Old Panamao, Sulu

On 15 February, a military operation was launched by the AFP against members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) who allegedly abducted a Government employee. No civilian casualties were reported as most of the residents had left prior to the incident. Due to the aerial strikes launched by the AFP, some 96 families (estimated 480 persons) were displaced and fled to their relatives in the neighbouring barangays.

The IDPs are the same individuals that were uprooted from their homes late last year due to AFP operations in one of the villages in Panamao, Sulu and who had recently returned last 11 February. This renewed displacement was confirmed by the local authorities at the Municipal Peace and Order Council meeting held last 19 February 2018. During interviews with Protection partners, IDPs shared that, while they have returned after the clearing operation conducted by the AFP, they also expressed lingering fears of potential displacement due to the continued presence of the ASG in the neighboring villages. There are no indications yet that the military operation against the ASG will end soon.



### Durable solutions: IDP resettlement in Zamboanga City

The 300 families (estimated 1,500 persons) displaced by the firefight between the AFP and the ASG in Mohammad Ajul, Basilan province last August 2017 have opted to resettle in one of the villages in Zamboanga City as of 19 February. These families fled due to their fear of being persecuted by the local authorities because of being suspected as relatives of members of the ASG.



### NPA Threat, Kibawe, Bukidnon

Twenty-six families (estimated 77 individuals) fled from their homes in Barangay Cagawasan, municipality of Kibawe, Bukidnon province and sought shelter in the town's municipal hall compound on 10 February amid reported threats from the NPA. Barangay officials claimed that the NPA started threatening them and the other villagers when they decided to withdraw their support for the rebel group.



### Displacement caused by Tropical Storm Basyang

On 13 February, Tropical Storm Basyang (International name Sanba) made landfall in the municipality of Cortes, Surigao del Sur province packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour with gusts of up to 75 kph according to the state's weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). The weather disturbance triggered flashfloods and landslides in Caraga region and caused displacement. In the wake of its landfall, around 8,747 families (approximately 39,326 persons) from the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur evacuated for safety. Of this number, 333 families (1,405 persons) moved to three (3) evacuation centres while 8,414 families (37,921 persons) took shelter with their family and friends.



Japanese clothing brand Uniqlo, distributed 2,500 pieces of donated clothing to the survivors of the Marawi siege in Moneerah Evacuation Center (Iligan City), Ceanuri (Iligan City), and Pacalundo Evacuation Center (Balo-I) on 08 February. © UNHCR / A. Gonzales

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**Land dispute**  
**Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao**

On 16 February, a firefight occurred in Sitio Kalandagan, Barangay Kaya-kaya and in Barangay Old Maganoy, all in Datu Abdullah Sangki municipality in Maguindanao province. The fighting was triggered by a land conflict between two commanders who are alleged members of the 106th Base Command of the MILF and are reportedly being reinforced by other armed groups.

The faction of one commander is supported by the private army of an influential family while the faction of the other commander is supported by some members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

Some 958 families (approximately 4,790 persons) were forcibly displaced in Barangays Kaya-kaya, Old Maganoy, Dimampao and Tukanalugong, all in Datu Abdullah Sangki Municipality in the province of Maguindanao. A two-year old IDP died from a stray bullet that came from the warring parties. The LGUs hosting IDPs have extended food assistance to affected populations and financial assistance to the family of the deceased two-year old boy. The land dispute between the warring parties is linked to the controversies involving the Delinanas Banana Plantation. It is alleged that the company has failed to pay rent to the landowners and has shut down its operations.



**AFP vs NPA, Lanuza, Surigao del Sur**

On 23 February, around 209 families (approximately 867 persons) were displaced from two hinterland indigenous people's communities after a clash between alleged NPA rebels and Government forces broke out near the villages in the town of Lanuza, Surigao Del Sur province. The IDPs are temporarily staying in a gymnasium and have been provided with emergency food packs by the local social welfare office. One IDP mentioned that numerous children were separated during evacuation, but were later reunited with their families upon arrival in the evacuation centre.



**AFP vs NPA, Santiago, Agusan Del Norte**

On 20 February, 30 families (estimated 150 individuals) who are members of an indigenous peoples (IP) community were displaced due to a firefight between the AFP and the NPA in the municipality of Santiago, Agusan Del Norte province. The IDPs returned the morning after.



**Clan feud**  
**Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao**

On 21 February, renewed fighting was reported in Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality, Maguindanao province, due to a pre-existing clan feud between two commanders belonging to the same non-state armed group. The incident was allegedly triggered when a supporter of one of the private parties killed a local official, who is a relative of the other party. The incident resulted in the displacement of 2,403 families (approximately 12,015 persons) from Barangays Dapiawan, Madia, Elian and Gawang who fled to nearby villages. Seven (7) civilians from Barangay Madia were also reportedly hit by stray bullets, of which one (1) fatally, and two houses were reportedly burned down during the clashes.

On 26 February, the main road connecting the municipalities of Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Datu Piang was also temporarily shut down at the height of the firefight but later was reopened when Government forces gained control over it. The affected population has requested the authorities to settle the dispute and to provide the necessary assistance. As of this report, intense fighting continues.



**Clan feud**  
**Midsayap, North Cotabato**

On 18 February, another firefight erupted in Barangay Lumupog, Midsayap municipality in North Cotabato province between two parties engaged in a rido (clan feud). Around 164 families (estimated 820 persons) temporarily fled during the firefight.



**Land dispute, Matalam, North Cotabato**

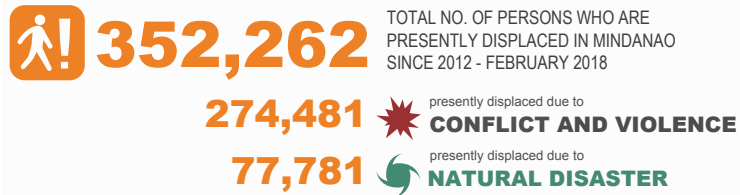
On 23 February, firefights flared up between local commanders of two Moro fronts (who had been engaged in a longstanding dispute) in Sitio Kisupit, Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato province (formerly North Cotabato). A total of 597 families (estimated 2,988 persons) fled to safety to adjacent barangays. The conflict reportedly began in May 2013 and re-erupted in June and July of the same year, triggering displacement that lasted for almost four (4) months, with IDPs receiving very limited support from the local authorities. Following the most recent incident, the displaced population has appealed to the leaders of the two Moro fronts to intervene and pacify the situation in order to prevent further escalation.



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



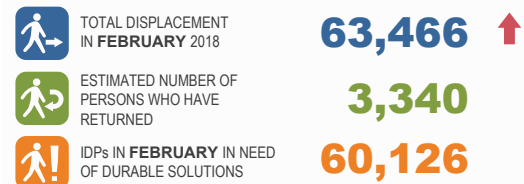
## CLARIFICATIONS

**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)

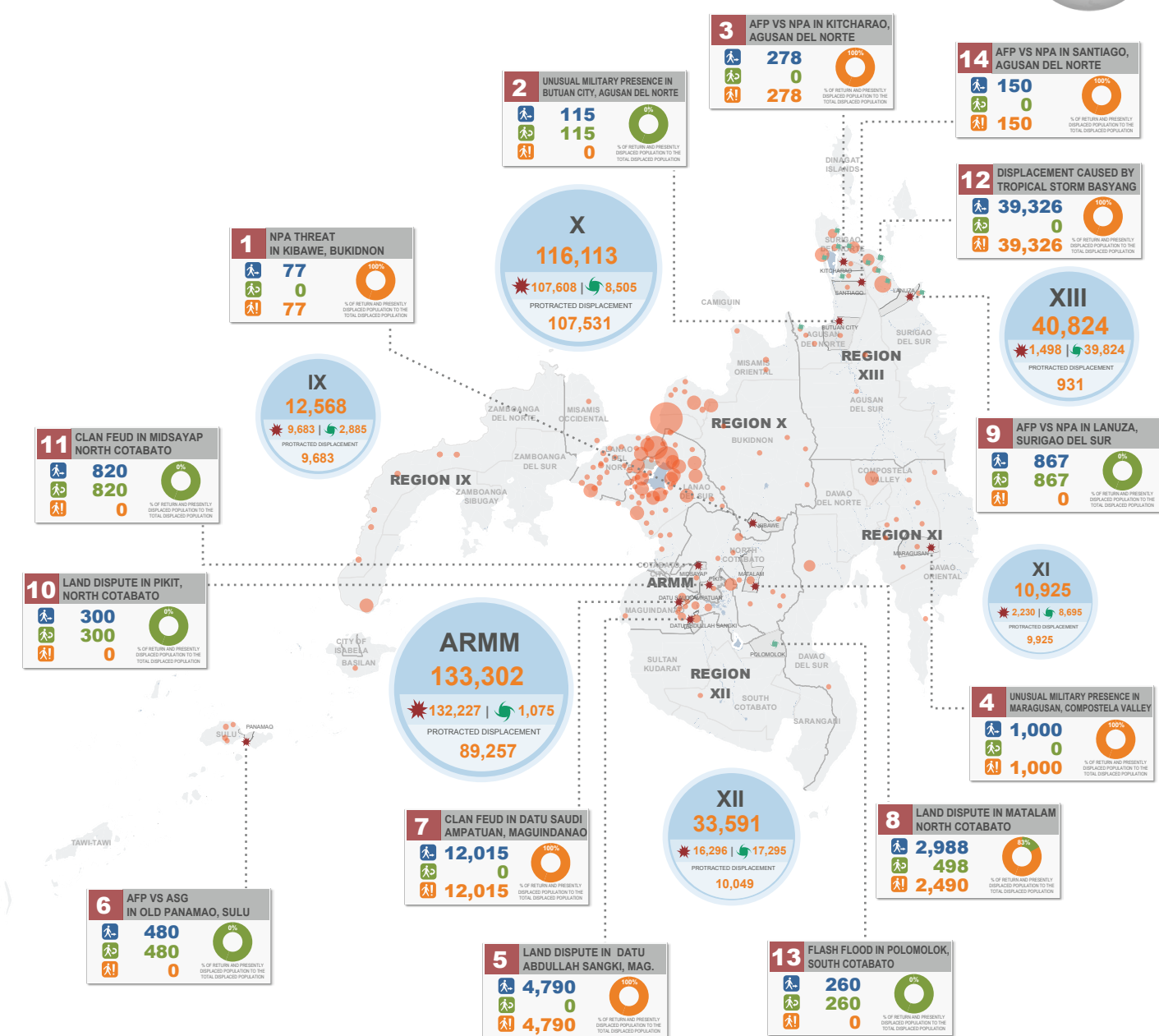
	TOTAL IN FEBRUARY 2018		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2018	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE</b> incidents with displacement	12	23,880	21	38,628
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	2	39,586	2	39,586

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN FEBRUARY 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



Note: 1,291 Marawi IDPs went outside Mindanao  
3,648 Marawi IDPs still in validation