

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 Recovery and Rehabilitation

Towards the end of March, a total of 42,823 families are still displaced, the majority across Lanao provinces with 1,648 families housed in evacuation centers (ECs). As of 20 March, a total of 34,076 families had returned to 67 barangays in Marawi City through the *Kambalingan* (return exercises) conducted from 29 October 2017 to 26 March 2018. Returning families were provided a “kambalingan package” consisting of food assistance, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, and financial assistance. Meanwhile, renters and sharers in Marawi who were affected by the crisis were included in the “Balik Probinsya” program facilitated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). As a result of these return and resettlement initiatives, a total of 83 evacuation centers are already closed as of 20 March.

Protection actors have underscored the need to reconcile figures based on the number of Disaster Assistance Family Access Cards (DAFAC) distributed by DSWD and those from the lists of IDPs intending to return as submitted by barangay officials. Currently, the city government’s policy only covers registered voters from Marawi City, including in the prioritization for transfer to temporary shelters in Sagonsongan. On the other hand, the DAFAC list reflects all those who registered for government assistance, not all of whom may be registered as voters in Marawi; at present, the return list submitted to Task Force Bangon Marawi already exceeds the total number of IDPs reflected in the official DAFAC list.

Assistance for the remaining IDPs, especially in home-based settings, has already dwindled, underscoring the need for more diversified and sustainable forms of support. Conditions of IDPs both in evacuation centers and home-based settings remain a concern due to problems on desludging of latrines and general maintenance, lack of

access to health assistance and medicine, shortage of food relief, and pressure from local governments of host communities for IDPs to vacate the evacuation centers and return to their place of origin or transfer to Marawi relocation sites. An increasing number of IDPs express concerns as to the lack of information and consultation on the government’s rehabilitation plans for Marawi, especially for the most affected areas (MAA).

In Sagonsongan transitory site in Marawi City, 885 units out of the planned 1,052 units are substantially completed with 601 already awarded to IDPs. However, the IDPs in the area face limited access to basic services such as scarce water supply, lack of sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, as well as limited transportation and livelihood opportunities. For those who have returned to their residence in villages outside the MAA, repair of damaged houses still remains the foremost need. Meanwhile, in Bahay Pag-asa 2 Barangay Mipagapa in Marawi City, 60 temporary shelters have been completed with access to water and electricity. Beneficiaries to receive the units are from the MAA, to be identified by the Association of Barangay Captains of Marawi.

Among the major protection concerns monitored by the Protection Cluster is the issue of some IDPs from Marawi having bought housing units in Bayanihan Village, Iligan City from former IDPs affected by tropical storm Sendong (international code name: Washi). The latter had received those units as Government assistance following their displacement due to typhoon Sendong several years prior. Since beneficiaries of housing assistance projects are prohibited from selling shelter units awarded to them, the IDPs who are now newly occupying the said units are at risk of eviction. It was clarified that prohibited sale of awarded houses has been ongoing for some time, but only came to the attention of the city government after the Marawi displacement.



Update: Durable solutions for Basilan IDPs

In Basilan province, more than 50 families that have been repeatedly displaced by armed conflict between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) since 2014 have permanently resettled to Akbar municipality. The Municipal Local Government Units have provided 50 permanent housing units, under the Bangsamoro Regional Inclusive Development for Growth and Empowerment program of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM-BRIDGE), for their resettlement.



Return and Protracted Displacement Al-Barka, Basilan

More than 70 families have returned to their places of origin in the municipality of Al-Barka, Basilan province, while 85 families are temporarily staying in a madrasah and an improvised structure in Barangay Upper Cabengbeng, Sumisip, Basilan. All of these families were displaced by a firefight between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in November 2017. The Municipal Social Welfare Officer and the Barangay Local Government Units have confirmed that return is not yet possible for the remaining IDPs due to the continued presence of the armed group in their area.

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AFP Law Enforcement Operation against BIFF Maguindanao Province

Three displacement incidents were monitored during March 2018 in connection with ongoing Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) operations against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the area of Maguindanao known as the SPMS Box (Barangay Salbo [Datu Saudi Ampatuan] – Barangay Pagatin [border of Datu Salibo and Shariff Saydona Mustapha municipalities] – Mamasapano – Shariff Aguak):

1. Around 4,290 persons (858 families) were displaced in the municipalities of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Shariff Aguak, and Shariff Saydona Mustapha when a firefight erupted between government security forces and the BIFF in Barangay Lower Salbo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality, Maguindanao province on 07 March. The main road connecting the towns of Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Datu Salibo was temporarily closed, and three (3) civilians – two women and a seven-year-old child, all residents of Barangay Bagong Upam, Datu Unsay – sustained injuries. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Maguindanao has extended financial assistance for the victims'



NPA presence Kapalong, Davao del Norte

On 09 March 2018, some 262 families (estimated 1,261 persons) from three remote indigenous peoples' communities in Kapalong municipality, in the province of Davao Del Norte, fled their homes, reportedly due to the presence of the New People's Army (NPA). The NPA allegedly planned to kill three tribal leaders, but were thwarted when some community members outnumbered and disarmed them. This triggered evacuation of the villagers to avoid retaliatory attacks. The incident aggravates the conflict dynamics among tribal communities in these areas, which are directly and indirectly affected by the broader conflict between the military and the NPA. The ongoing conflict is connected with other displacement incidents that have occurred within the same communities in previous years.



Land dispute, Pikit, North Cotabato

On 2 March, a firefight erupted between two conflicting families in Pikit municipality, North Cotabato Province. It started in Sitio Galila, Barangay Buliok where the two families are claiming the same parcel of land. Around 113 families (approximately 565 persons) were displaced as a result of the skirmishes, and returned eight days after.

medical expenses. A house in Sitio Kuta, Barangay Lapok, Shariff Aguak was reportedly burned down when hit in an airstrike.

2. On 12 March, the military launched airstrikes and mortar shelling in the border areas of Barangay Tugal, Sultan sa Barongis and Barangay Midpandacan, Gen. SK Pendatun against the BIFF faction under the leadership of Abu Toraifie. Approximately 750 persons were displaced and have sought refuge in neighboring areas, including those displaced by a related incident in Pagalungan municipality on the next day (see below). Reportedly, five (5) civilians were killed during the incident, including a child, an elderly person, and a woman.
3. A related incident was reported in the area of Barangay Dalgan, Pagalungan Municipality on 13 March. Those who fled their homes in this area are included in the total number of IDPs reported for the 12 March incident (see above). A woman and two minors, all from Sitio Tukananes, Barangay Dalgan, Pagalungan Municipality, were wounded in the incident. Another firefight between the same parties was reported in Barangay Matagabon, Ampatuan Municipality on 16 March.



AFP-NPA armed encounter Aloran, Misamis Occidental

An encounter between the AFP and suspected NPA members transpired in Aloran municipality in Misamis Occidental on 19 March. The incident led to the evacuation of at least 69 families (estimated 258 individuals). There were 4 barangays affected by the incident: San Pedro, Macubon, Manamong, and Roxas. The local government unit (LGU) of Aloran, Philippine Red Cross (PRC), the DSWD, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) of Region X, and the Department of Health (DOH) have responded by providing assistance to those displaced. It was also reported that there were two (2) persons still being held in captivity by the NPA.



Earthquake Talakag, Bukidnon

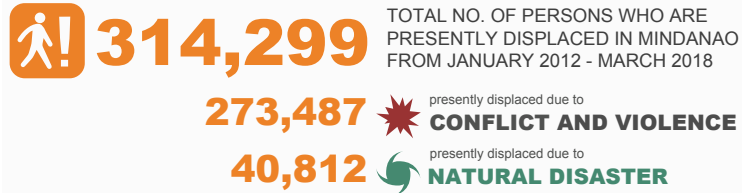
The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported that a magnitude 5 earthquake, tectonic in origin, jolted the municipality of Talakag in Bukidnon on 15 March. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) also reported that a total of 22 families (estimated 147 persons) were affected and displaced in Barangays Indulang, San Rafael and Tikalaan, all of whom were hosted by their friends and relatives.



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 MARCH 2018		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2018	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE incidents with displacement	6	8,146	27	46,774
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	1	147	3	93,314

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN MARCH 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

