

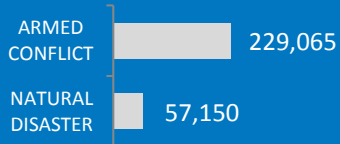


KEY FIGURES

286,215

persons have been displaced between January to June 2015

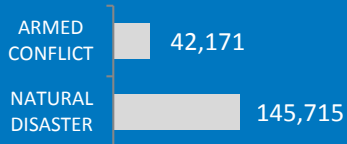
Breakdown by cause



187,886

Presently displaced population since January 2012

Breakdown by cause



266

Protection Monitoring events conducted by Protection Cluster in 2015

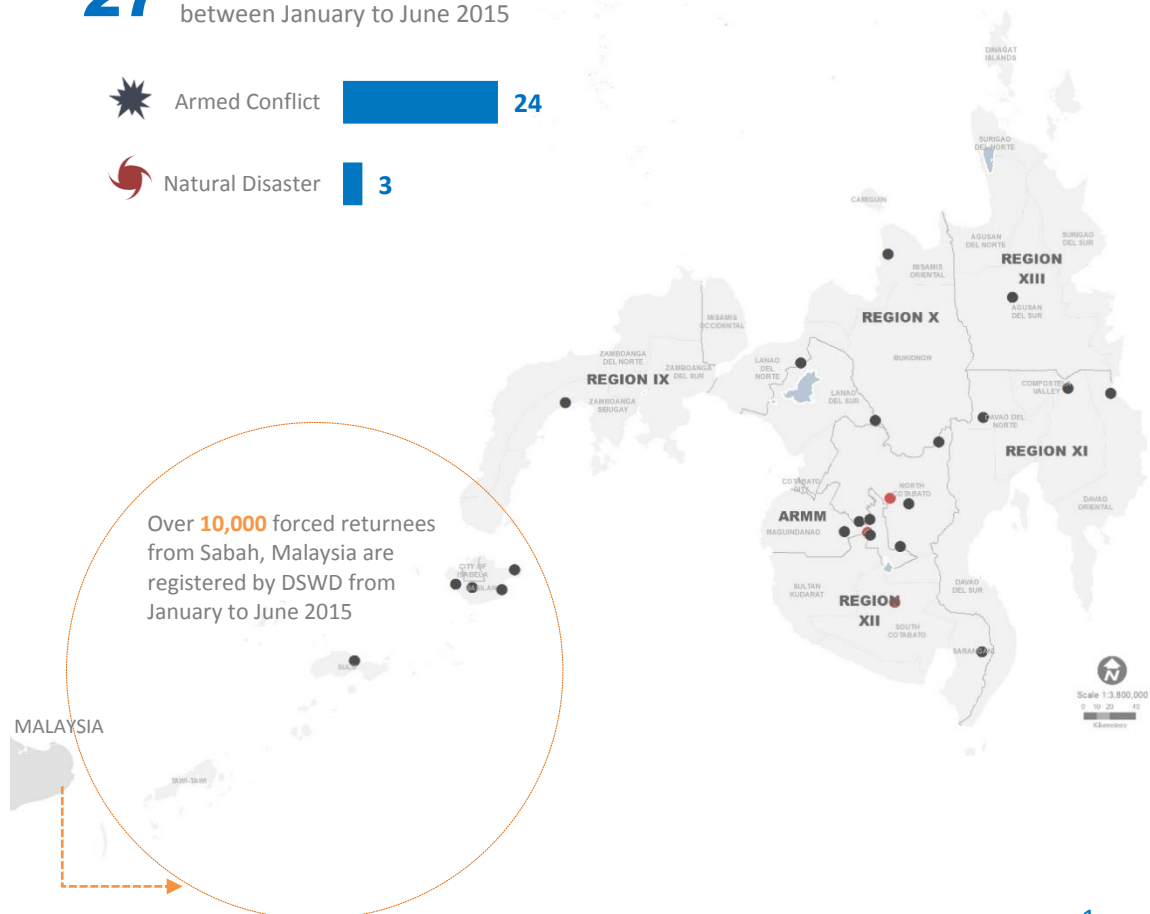
2015 MID-YEAR: DISPLACEMENT DASHBOARD

The Mindanao Displacement Dashboard is a monthly publication of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Mindanao, Philippines. 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.

SUMMARY

- The largest displacement incident since 2008 took place in February 2015 after the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declared an All-Out Offensive and Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) that lasted until 30 March 2015. Over 201,974 were displaced from this and other related encounters where persons fled from the area to avoid being caught up in the gunfire, aerial-bombing, shelling and mortar fire.
- Approaching two years since the end of the conflict in Zamboanga, slow progress is being made towards return and durable solutions. As of 30 June 2015, over 2,400 families provided with housing materials and permanent houses; and according to the housing authority, 36% of the projected permanent housing is completed. As of 30 June 2015, around 5,052 families (estimated 28,000) remain displaced.
- In addition to conflict in Maguindanao, many of the same areas that experienced fighting and evacuations have also been affected by the yearly flooding from storms and monsoon rains. This further impacted on the fragile communities, many that had recently returned from being displaced over the previous three to four months. Their shelters and livelihoods have been further severely affected. Each year, in the same areas of Maguindanao and surrounding areas, about 100,000 persons are temporarily displaced by flooding.

27 Incidents which caused displacement between January to June 2015



MINDANAO

Armed Conflict Displacement in Central Mindanao

The first half of 2015 saw the largest displacement since the rejection of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain or MOA-AD in February 2008. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) declared an All-Out Offensive and Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) on 25 February that lasted until 30 March 2015. Over **201,974** were displaced from this and other related encounters where persons fled from the area to avoid being caught up in the gunfire, aerial-bombing, shelling and mortar fire.

A series of armed clashes between the AFP and BIFF stemmed from the 25 January incident in the municipality of Mamasapano when 44 members of the Special Action Forces (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were killed along with 18 MILF and 6 civilians. This resulted in 1,324 families (estimated **6,620** persons) displaced from six (6) barangays in Mamasapano. In the weeks that followed, three more incidents of displacement were recorded related to the “Mamasapano incident” in what was observed a spill-over effect in the nearby province of North Cotabato. On 04 February, 1,004 families (estimated **4,099** persons) left their homes in Pikit, North Cotabato for fear that an encounter with the AFP would follow after noticing a build-up of BIFF troops in Barangay Kabasalan. A firefight between MILF and BIFF erupted in the neighboring municipality of Pagalungan on 09 February which caused more displacement. According to reports, the dispute was due to opposing claims and control over areas where both armed groups are present.

The fighting escalated when members of the opposing groups were killed during a firefight and when the MILF refused the entry of BIFF forces in MILF-controlled areas of Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao. Another conflict incident between the MILF and BIFF flared in Sultan sa Barongis municipality displacing at least 6,383 families (estimated **34,925** persons) from the municipalities of Pagalungan, Datu Montawal, and Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao province and from the municipality of Pikit, North Cotabato province.

The AFP offensive against the BIFF covered areas within the so-called “SPMS box” (Datu Salibo, Pagatin, Mamasapano, and Shariff Aguak) or areas known to be the stronghold of both the MILF and BIFF. After the termination of the offensive, the AFP continued the Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) in pursuit of a known terrorist Basit Usman who the BIFF were believed to be protecting. The continuing LEO resulted in further displacement across a wide swath of Maguindanao. A total of **148,755** persons were forcibly displaced from fifteen (15) affected municipalities during the height of the operations and LEO between February and May. By the end of June 2015, most IDPs returned to their places of origin. However, UNHCR and partners continue to identify IDPs in evacuation sites and those



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hosted by relatives who are afraid to return because of the ongoing LEO for armed members of the BIFF.

Earlier in January, villagers from Barangay Midpandacan in the municipality of Gen. S.K. Pendatun, Maguindanao province fled their homes from an armed encounter between the AFP and the BIFF. The fighting displaced 1,056 families (estimated **5,775** persons) from seven (7) sub-villages in Pendatun. According to local sources, the fighting included mortar shelling that damaged houses and boats. Out of fear, about 100 families (approximately **500** persons) left their homes in the adjacent barangay of Langgapanan in Sultan sa Barongis municipality. Days after the AFP withdrew from the area, around 50 houses were burned down by unidentified men in two sub-villages where the encounter took place.

The ARMM authorities announced that all displaced families affected by LEO of the AFP against BIFF have returned to their communities of origin. However, Protection Cluster partners continue to identify IDPs in evacuation centers (ECs) and those living with host families. The most recent estimate of IDPs is 2,102 families (estimated **10,399** persons). There are outstanding protection concerns that continue to plague IDPs in ECs and the home-based IDPs and in return locations.

Many IDPs displaced by the LEO have been displaced again by flooding, increasing their vulnerability. Access to food, water and shelters remain a serious problem with few evacuation sites with services provided. At this time, no assistance or support for rehabilitation in return locations has been provided by authorities. Without a peace agreement, the continuing LEOs and the same security approach in place to root out armed

actors, the civilian population remains fearful of the next encounter that will cause them to flee.

In June, there has been an increase in shootings and planting of explosive devices targeting PNP/police and AFP bases and patrols allegedly by the BIFF. This has been cited by some IDPs as reasons they fear to return. Only one incident of armed

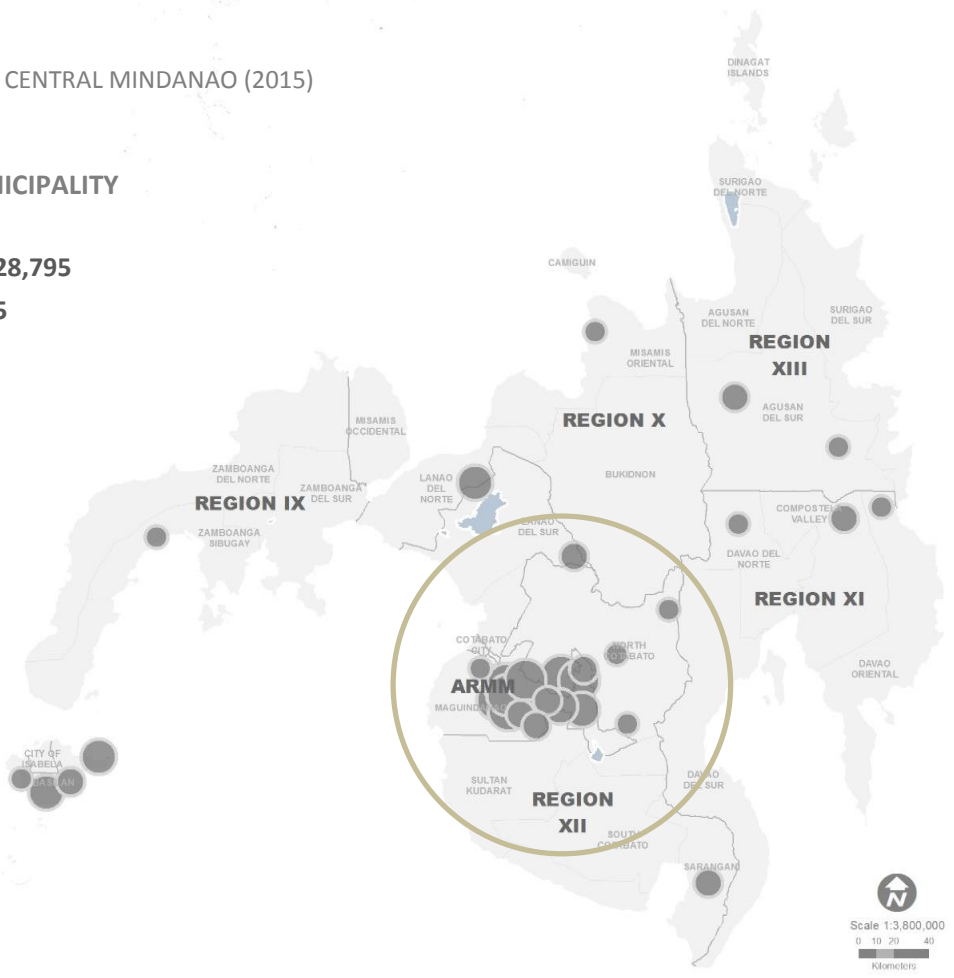
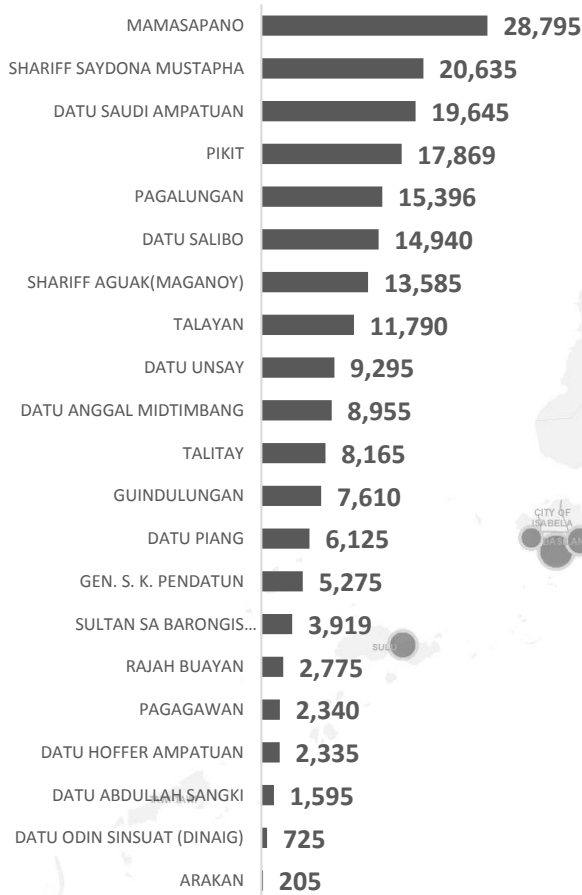
conflict was reported in June in Datu Hoffer municipality when an armed encounter took place between the AFP and BIFF which resulted to the displacement of 350 families (estimated **1,595** persons) from the municipalities of Datu Hoffer and neighboring town of Datu Unsay. About 50 families of these families had not yet returned to their places of origin as of end of June.

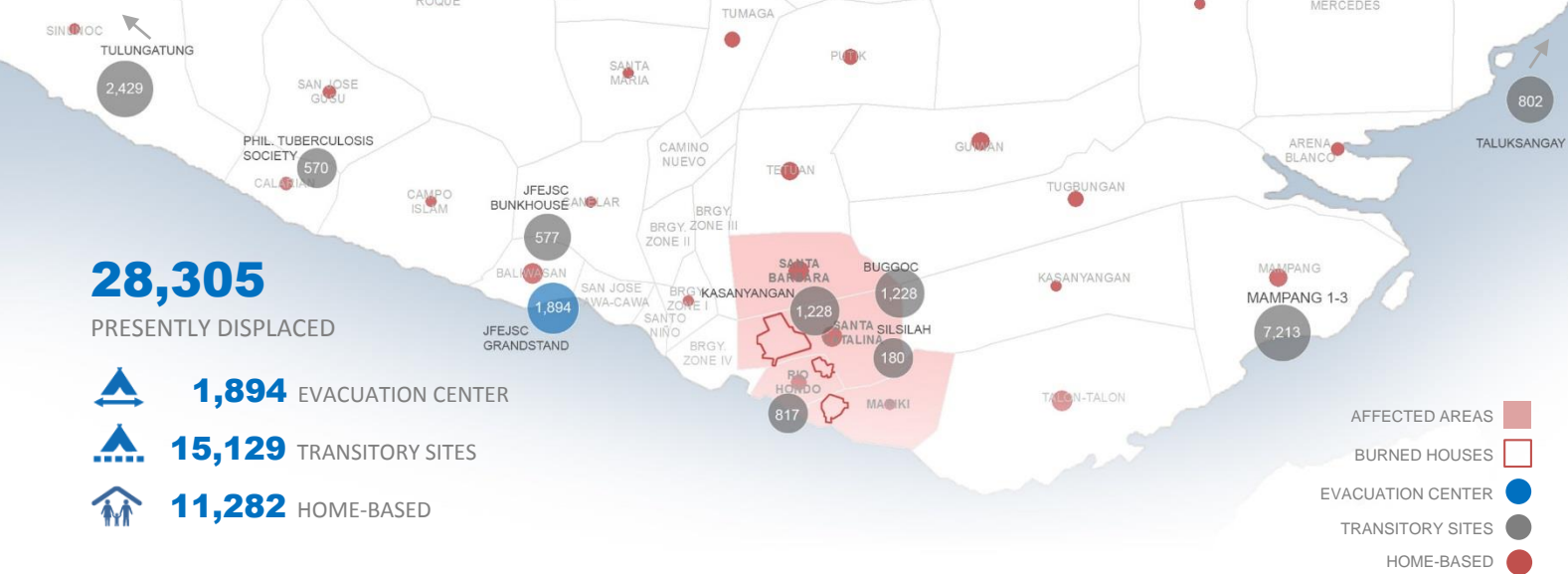
Key outstanding protection issues are: **(1)** Return of IDPs to their communities has been ongoing with little monitoring and support; **(2)** Periodic presence and patrol of the AFP in return areas continues to cause fear and insecurity; **(3)** UXOs remain not cleared in communities that experienced shelling and firefights; **(4)** families with damaged and destroyed houses are in need of shelter and community structures have not been repaired; **(5)** slow implementation of government’s planned rehabilitation program including livelihood support; **(6)** Lack of sustained psychosocial support activities; and **(7)** Human rights violations previously reported have not been followed up with the individuals of concern.

201,974

DISPLACED POPULATION DUE TO CONFLICT IN CENTRAL MINDANAO (2015)

NO. OF DISPLACED POPULATION BY MUNICIPALITY





Zamboanga Conflict IDPs

Approaching two years since the end of the conflict in Zamboanga, slow progress is being made towards durable solutions. As of 30 June 2015, 1,050 families provided with housing materials and 1,421 permanent houses were completed, of these, 581 were turned over to displaced families; with 36% of projected permanent housing being completed.

As of 30 June 2015, around 5,052 families (estimated **28,000**) remain displaced. This includes the 411 families in the Grandstand Evacuation Centre, 2,619 families in transit sites, and some 2,022 families in home-based settings. The DSWD set a deadline on 16 July for IDPs to move out of the Grandstand.

Protection actors continue to advocate against forced or involuntary relocation of IDPs from the Grandstand, as city officials have made assurances they will comply with international law regarding treatment of IDPs.

Conditions remain difficult for many of the families in transit sites, particularly in Mampang site, constructed with international support. There are continuing problems with water, electricity, security, and lack of access to livelihoods. With the onset of rains in June, flooding is a problem in areas near the sea, and water trucks struggle to make their daily delivery of water to some transit sites, particularly Mampang. For over a year the Mayor and the Local Inter-Agency Committee (LIAC) continues to press for solutions to water and electricity, and to find immediate solutions to the road access in Mampang, and yet progress remains slow.

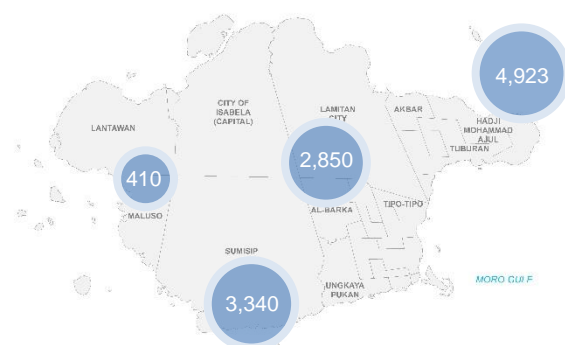
Progress in Kasanyangan, the largest permanent housing site with a planned 2,500 housing units, is also slow. There are delays in obtaining the needed type of lumber. The city is moving forward to expropriate the access road for the site, after completing the necessary survey, but more time will be needed before secured road access will be available for construction and services.

On 26 May 2015, the City Council of Zamboanga passed the Code of Beneficiary Policies and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the awarding of permanent Z3R houses to internally displaced families. The documents include a grievance mechanism that IDPs can use to complain about awards/non-awarding of housing. Throughout the month of June, the Communications Working Group ran information caravans about the Code/IRR in the transit sites and for home-based IDPs.

In June 2015, the City officially transitioned to Early Recovery Structures from the Cluster system, with the government taking leadership of all six sectors: Health, Education and Social Services, Governance and Rule of Law, Livelihoods and Food Security, Temporary Shelter and logistics and security, and the Infrastructure and Environment Sector).

Island Province Conflict Displacement, Basilan and Sulu

In the island provinces of ARMM, another Law Enforcement Operation conducted by the AFP to flush out members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) continues to cause displacement of the civilian population. Four (4) incidents of armed confrontations between the AFP and the ASG in response to reported “terror attacks” has caused the displacement of **11,523** persons in the province of Basilan so far in 2015. Presently, reports suggest that about a third of these people remain displaced in need of protection and have not received humanitarian assistance. Most of these families are staying with host families as there is no identified formal evacuation site where assistance and protection is provided. In Sulu a gun battle between two families caused the displacement of 500 families (see Clan Feud description).





Indigenous people displacement in Bukidnon, Eastern and Northern Mindanao from AFP/NPA conflict

From January to June, eight (8) reported incidents of displacement in Regions IX (Zamboanga), X (Northern Mindanao), XI (Davao), XII (SOCCSKSARGEN), and XIII (Caraga). Approximately 1,270 families (estimated **6,263** persons), for the most part if not all, they are members of an indigenous peoples' group.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Bukidnon and Caraga, and meetings with IP members and religious volunteers working with IP communities have identified the following issues affecting IPs that trigger forced displacement; (1) economic interests of National and Multi-national companies (Agro-industrial and Mining), including influential local landlords and businessmen seeking access to the mineral-rich soil of IP's ancestral lands; (2) NPA and paramilitary groups and counter-insurgency activities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines that commit extra-judicial killings (EJKs), cause conflict, displacement, and divides amongst IP groups; (3) Aside from armed conflicts between the NPA and the AFP, difficulty in obtaining Ancestral Domain titles are among the most prominent challenges affecting the Indigenous Peoples. CHR affirmed that overlapping laws complicate land claims of IPs. (4) IP representatives and CHR officers have also raised concerns on the capacity and effectiveness of the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The entanglement of IPs with the NPA and the AFP backed security forces is highlighted in the recent alleged harassment by the AFP of Manobo students and teachers in Talaingod and Kapalong in Davao del Norte. This harassment has been reported over the past few years. The Manobos this year had been caught in NPA/AFP crossfire and even accused of being rebel sympathizers using schools supported by the NPA. From recent reports, students from these communities fled to Davao City and temporarily erected makeshift shelters in a school ground. The police have alleged that IP leaders forced the students to go to Davao.

Clan feud/Rido/Settlers and Moro Displacement

Protection Cluster partners monitored six (6) incidents of 'horizontal' displacement including long term disputes between the Moro population and Christian settlers and fighting between clans and families. So far this year, 1,944 families (estimated **9,520** persons) have been displaced by fighting between members of the same clan or community. During March and April, in Tulunan and Matalam, North Cotabato, 310 families (estimated **1,550** persons) were displaced as a result of land-boundary conflict with a firefight in Tulunan erupting twice in just two months.

In the municipality of Wao in Lanao del Sur tensions and division between the Moro community and Christian settlers are growing as a Christian organization has called for Wao to be excluded from the proposed Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Several incidents, including a rape and killings in 2015 have caused fear in both the Christian and Moro communities.



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The recent displacement in Wao was triggered by an attack that killed four and wounded seven persons in a Moro community in Sitio Magampong, Barangay Park Area. More than 400 families (approximately **1,800** persons) fled, making their way to an evacuation centre in Sitio Proper of Barangay Manila Group. Other IDPs went to their relatives in Kalilangan municipality in Bukidnon. The majority of families displaced have returned except for a few Muslim families and most displaced from the Christian community have also returned however some decided to stay with their relatives in Maramag.

Wao can be considered a microcosm of Mindanao where there has been a gradual reduction of Moro controlled land. Unless there is a locally negotiated and enforced agreement on land and boundaries of the new Bangsamoro region, a likely scenario is that MILF commanders will confront armed civilian groups and the AFP, resulting in more death and displacement.

In Lanao del Norte, political rivalries between two prominent Maranao families in Pantar municipality, resulted in a conflict that displaced 734 families (estimated **3,670** persons). Another conflict between two feuding political families resulted in a gun battle in the island province of Sulu (ARMM) displacing 500 families (estimated **2,500** persons). According to local partners in both above incidents all have returned.

Natural Disaster displacement

During the first half of 2015, displacement from natural disasters have uprooted 11,430 families (estimated **57,150** persons) seeking safety during two separate incidents of flooding.

A large displacement of 5,769 families (estimated **28,845** persons) was recorded in January due to continuous heavy rains that caused flooding in 14 barangays in Kabacan, North Cotabato. The IDPs returned to their villages five (5) days later. Another strong typhoon just before midyear caused flooding and some displacement in two regions in Mindanao: on 24 June, 5,606 families (estimated **28,030** persons) were displaced from the provinces of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Region XII. The following day, only 55 families (estimated **275** persons) sought shelter in evacuation centers in the municipality of Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao province in ARMM. Most persons returned within a week however their livelihoods were severely affected. Many of the families affected by the flooding in Sultan sa Barongis were also recently displaced from the Law Enforcement Operation by the AFP in Maguindanao.

As mentioned above, conflict-affected communities have been faced with heavy rains in the region, forcing recent returnees from the AFP/BIFF LEO to once again leave their homes. As of 30 June, the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) offices of the ARMM have estimated 15,967 families (estimated **79,835** persons) were affected due to flooding from ten (10) affected municipalities in the Mindanao province of Maguindanao. The respective Municipal Disaster Risk-Reduction Management Councils (MDRRMCs) are conducting damage assessment and monitoring the affected families. Each year these same barangays are affected by flooding, forcing hundreds if not thousands of families from their homes.

Peace Process Update

The proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) is now at the plenary of the House of Representatives after the Congress ad hoc committee approved it on 20 May 2015. Some provisions of the draft have been questioned, including the areas of jurisdiction of the proposed Bangsamoro government. Other article of the BBL questioned are the appropriations and disbursements authority and the implication on tax collection and remittance. But the major concern to date remains the constitutionality of the proposed bill. Minority leaders compared it to the MOA-AD in 2008 when all efforts had been made by Congress but the proposed law failed when the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional. The 'opt-in provision' of the bill that allows the expansion of the Bangsamoro area have not been positively considered by the committee to be included.

October 2015 is the new deadline being set for the passage of the bill into law. Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. who is supported by other senators is putting forward a substitute law at the end of July that he claims to be more in line with the Constitution. Amendments in security provisions are among the components of the substitute bill.

The Presidential Palace maintains that the best course of action and practical solution to finding peace in Mindanao is the passage of the BBL. Similarly, the MILF has repeatedly expressed publically that it will not take up arms should the BBL fail to pass in Congress but maintains its request to both houses to retain the original version of the bill. During strong debate about the approval of BBL, the MILF turned over 75 high – powered firearms on 16 June. The MILF leadership expressed in several meetings and publically that this handover of weapons was to show their sincere efforts to continue the path towards peace. Despite the slowness and scepticism of congressional processes, aspects of the Normalization Agreement are moving forward. Training and planning for deployment of Joint Peace and Security Teams (JPSTs) is underway. The government and MILF has created a task force to lead the development programs for decommissioned combatants and their communities. The Bangsamoro Development Plan continues to be discussed with all stakeholders, including national, local, including ARMM authorities and international donors.

As a show of anti-BBL, a group of congressmen filed petitions at the Supreme Court against the FAB and CAB. The petitions have been dismissed as premature as the BBL has not yet been passed into law by Congress. Civil society groups continue to strongly voice their support for the passage of the BBL.

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Links: www.unhcr.ph



MINDANAO: MID-YEAR SITUATION DASHBOARD

As of 30 June 2015

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."

BACKGROUND

UNHCR is working with the Government of Philippines (GoP), the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) and all security actors in support of the peace process in Mindanao. In coordination with other UN agencies, efforts are being made for capacity building of communities and local authorities to ensure a human rights-based approach is applied with the aim to prevent displacement, improve stability of communities and support return of displaced persons.

Conflict IDPs - are persons displaced by armed conflict, mainly incidents that involve law enforcement operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) pursuing armed groups associated with Abu Sayyaf (ASG), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the New Peoples' Army (NPA), and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). Apart from an incident in January 2015 when special auxiliary police forces (SAF) entered a Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) controlled area without using the agreed coordination mechanism of the peace process that resulted in the death of 44 SAF, 18 MILF and 6 civilians; since 2012 there has been no significant conflict incident between the MILF and the AFP. A strict legal distinction of armed conflict and crime and violence is not always possible to report for many incidents.

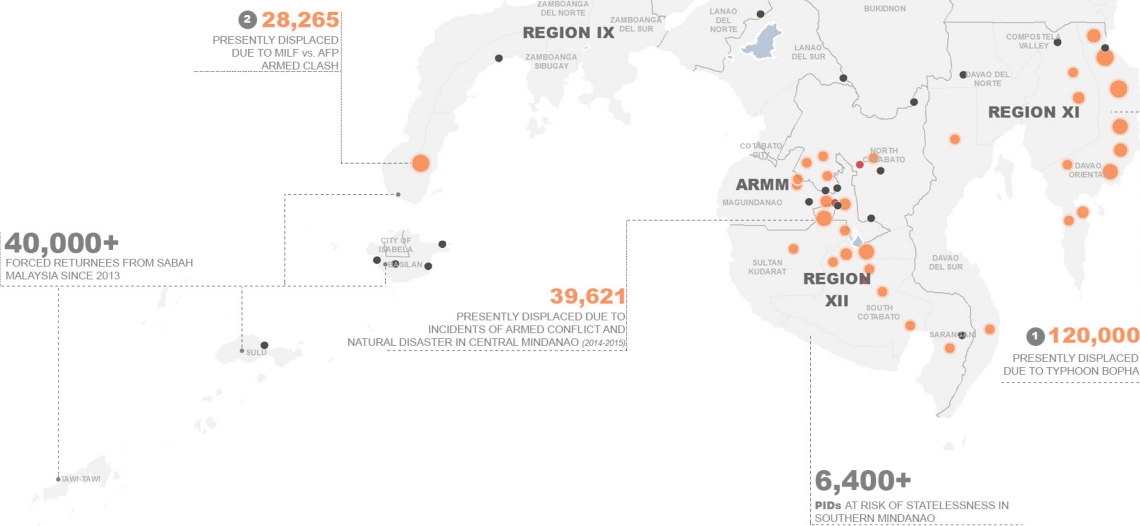
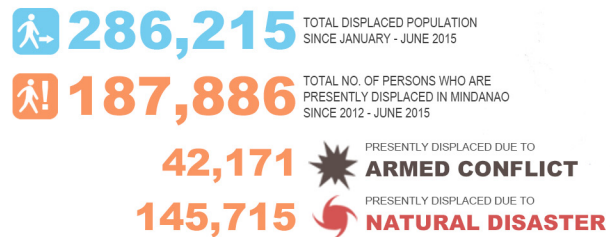
Potentially Stateless individuals - Other persons of concern to UNHCR are the significant number of persons of Indonesian descent (PIDs) mainly located in South Eastern Mindanao and persons from the Sama tribes mainly located in the Island provinces and on the Zamboanga peninsula. Many individuals from these groups do not have documents that determine their nationality therefore they could be at risk of being stateless. In 2014 over 6,400 PIDs were identified. The number of Sama of concern has yet to be assessed.

Forced returns from Sabah - There are a large number of persons from the Philippines who have travelled to Malaysia for various reasons; many for work, family ties, fear of persecution and victims of trafficking. Since 2013, each week hundreds of people are forcibly returned to the Philippines. UNHCR is assisting the GoP to monitor this movement to help determine the appropriate support for these individuals. Since 2013 over 40,000 have been identified by the RHRC and DSWD offices in Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga. Not all these forced returnees are recorded.

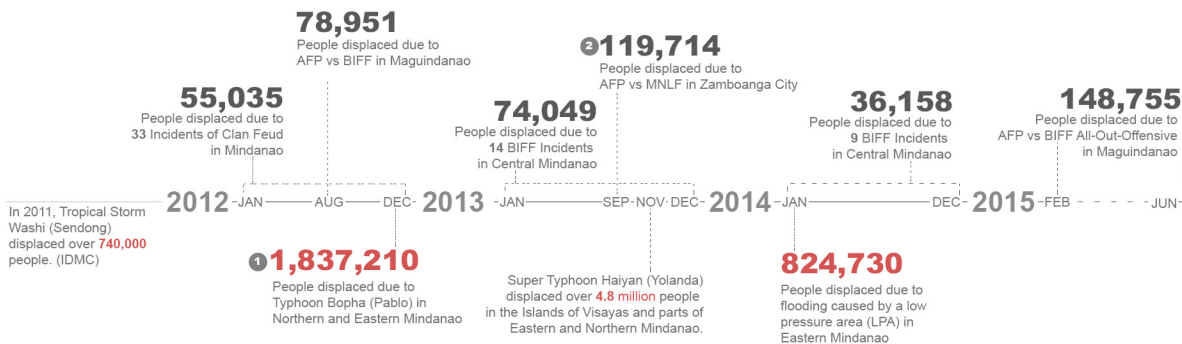
Durable Solutions - UNHCR with Protection Cluster members continue to identify communities that are subjected to protracted displacement over the course of the year to ensure all IDPs are identified and the appropriate attention and resources can be obtained to support finding a durable solution to their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

LEGEND

- CUMULATIVE DISPLACEMENT
- PRESENTLY DISPLACED PERSONS
- ARMED CONFLICT INCIDENT
- NATURAL DISASTER INCIDENT



DISPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS (SINCE 2012- JUNE 2015)



KEY FIGURES (SINCE 2012- JUNE 2015)

ARMED CONFLICT NATURAL DISASTER

CUMULATIVE INCIDENTS

299 TOTAL INCIDENTS THAT CAUSED DISPLACEMENT SINCE 2012

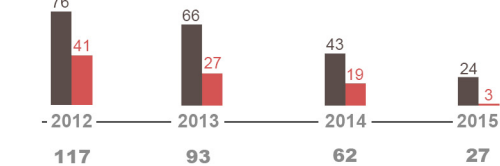
% OF INCIDENTS PER CAUSE



INCIDENTS PER REGION



INCIDENTS PER YEAR



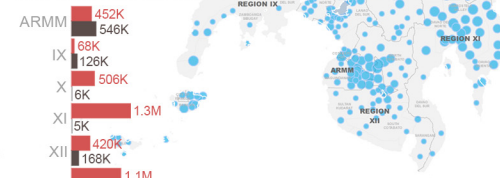
CUMULATIVE DISPLACEMENT

4,708,388 TOTAL DISPLACED POPULATION SINCE 2012

% OF DISPLACEMENT PER CAUSE



DISPLACEMENT PER REGION



DISPLACEMENT PER YEAR

