

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

As of 22 August 2018, a total of **64,364 families** have already returned, while **12,608 families** are still displaced, according to the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) Regional Subcommittee on Health and Social Welfare. Of these, **1,674 families are inside evacuation centers** and **10,934 families are home-based IDPs**. Twenty-three (23) evacuation centers are still open, of which eight (8) are in Lanao Del Norte and fifteen (15) are in Lanao Del Sur.

On 15 August, UNHCR presented results of the IDP Profiling project to representatives of government agencies and members of the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT). UNHCR will share with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) details regarding the recorded Unaccompanied/Separated Children among the population profiled, for validation and review. The Health Sector co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) will also explore the possibility of fielding a survey through UNHCR's Infocast. Meanwhile, coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) for the upcoming second wave of ID issuance to IDPs is ongoing. For the IDs to go beyond the purpose of identification and actually extend health insurance benefits to the holder, members must pay premiums that run up to Php2,400/USD50. UNHCR broached the possibility of PhilHealth waiving the payment, which UNHCR is unable to cover given constraints in the budget. Though PhilHealth remains committed to the project, it expressed that it cannot commit to the payment of premiums.

During the MHT meeting in Iligan City on August 24, MHT members shared updates on their responses to various humanitarian/protection issues. The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) cluster will work with the Armed Forces to provide water in Sagonsongan transitory site. The members also recommended that advocacy be conducted with the Marawi local government unit (LGU) to include the MHT clusters during planning of permanent housing. The Cash Working Group recently conducted a training on market assessment. The Livelihood cluster is working with local government to address IDPs' current needs related to economic security. Mental health issues being monitored could be referred to the Health cluster.

### Marawi durable solutions updates

The City government of Marawi is currently developing two new transitory sites in Boganga and Mipaga for 1,000 families. By end of September, the local government will allocate these two sites for IDPs currently staying in the remaining eight evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte.

The Department of Finance earlier said it was targeting to raise some P40 billion through the issuance of bonds for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the city. Results of a

government survey showed that 40 percent of Marawi residents believed President Rodrigo Duterte was not concerned with the situation in Marawi City. Following this, Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) issued a statement acknowledging the sentiments of Marawi residents and reiterating that the rehabilitation will be finished by December 2021.

The Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Plan and budget have already been approved, but PHP10 billion in allocated funds have not been released yet, pending compliance with new requirements from the Office of the President. Separate development plans have been drafted for the most affected areas (24 barangays or "ground zero"), and negotiations are on-going with developers. Only government facilities will be rebuilt; private properties will not be involved. The government is targeting the closure of 23 evacuation centers within the year. Construction of temporary and permanent shelters is also ongoing. TFBM is currently focusing on livelihood projects, through convergence with organizations/agencies with projects/interventions and proper beneficiary identification. Meanwhile, concerns from IDPs still persist. Consultations in many forms have been conducted, and TFBM is hopeful that the establishment of the Management Information System and the ongoing IDP profiling will help address some of these concerns.



## AFP vs ASG Basilan

Following a bombing incident in Lamitan City, Basilan on 31 July, a military operation was launched against suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). This resulted in the displacement of over **300 families (approximately 1500 individuals)** from the municipality of Hadji Mohammad Ajul to Lamitan City and neighbouring municipalities in Basilan province. Most of those who were displaced sought refuge in their relatives' homes.

By end of August, the total number of IDPs had increased to more than **700 families**. The provincial government has disbursed calamity funds for the provision of relief assistance. However, local authorities faced challenges in tracking and registering the IDPs, most of whom are home-based. Thus, assistance is mostly focused on the smaller number of IDPs who have taken shelter in schools, municipal gymnasiums, and other public structures.



## AFP vs BIFF Maguindanao

On 12 August, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched a law enforcement support operation (LESO) against members of an Islamic State-sympathizing faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in the interior barangays of the "SPMS box" (Barangay Salbo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality – Barangay Pagatin, Datu Salibo municipality – Mamasapano municipality –

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Shariff Aguak municipality) area in Maguindanao province. This triggered the displacement of an estimated **700 families (approximately 3,500 individuals)**. The same communities were also affected by displacement in the previous month, due to prior armed encounters between the same parties. IDPs had just returned to their habitual residences only two weeks before this new incident.

Further displacement occurred on 20 August, when a firefight erupted between the same parties at Sitio Kabasalan, Barangay Darampua, Sultan sa Barongis municipality. The fighting also triggered pre-emptive evacuation in the adjacent barangays. Some of the displaced families stayed at the barangay hall and at a market area in Barangay Darampua. Others sought refuge with relatives and friends in the same barangay and in other barangays.

Following these two incidents, the total number of IDPs in Maguindanao increased to **2,300 families (more than 11,500 individuals)**, according to Government reports.

The IDPs from Sitio Kabasalan remained displaced as of end of August. They had not yet received any assistance, including food, potable water, or basic medicines. Lacking means of livelihood, many risk their lives to tend to their farms and livestock at daytime but return to the displacement sites by night. An undetermined number of houses, as well as a mosque, had been heavily damaged during the fighting. Shelter assistance from the local government to the affected families is still pending. By 31 August, their number had reached **266 families (1,330 individuals)**. Urgent protection issues have been documented, including alleged recruitment by the armed group, including of minors, and reported risk of injuries from unexploded ordnance.

In addition to those from Sitio Kabasalan, **186 families (930 individuals)** from Barangay Pikeg, in Shariff Saydona Mustapha, also remained displaced as of 31 August. Most of them took shelter with their relatives in nearby barangays when the hostilities started. These IDPs could not yet return due to the volatile security situation in their area. Barangay Pikeg is known as the stronghold of the BIFF faction, and is a frequent target of military airstrikes.

The rest of the IDPs in Maguindanao who were displaced during August 2018 were able to return to their places of origin when the LESO ended on 26 August. This information was confirmed by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers (MSWDOs) of the host municipalities.



### Displacement due to *rido* Cotabato City

On 15 August, personal disputes between two private individuals triggered a firefight within the tri-boundary areas of Cotabato City and the adjacent municipalities of Sultan Kudarat and Sultan

Mastura, in Maguindanao province. The parties involved also both happened to be commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The incident forced some 110 families (550 individuals) from Sitio Linao, Brgy. Kalanganan I in Cotabato City to move to safer areas. The IDPs were still displaced as of end-August.



### IP Displacement due to Military Presence Agusan del Norte

Intensified military presence in an indigenous peoples (IP) community forced some **38 families (approximately 173 individuals)** to pre-emptively evacuate on 28 August. They took shelter at the barangay multipurpose hall of Olave, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. The IDPs belong to the indigenous Higaonon tribe, from Sitio Bulak in the same barangay. The IP community feared for their safety when Philippine Army personnel encamped within the community and reportedly conducted random house searches as well as interrogations. They left behind their belongings and livelihood for fear of being caught in the crossfire in case of armed encounters between the military and armed groups in the area.



### Update: Displaced IPs return to Lianga Surigao del Sur

On 8 August, **328 displaced families (approximately 1,607 persons)** from Barangay Diatagon, municipality of Lianga, Surigao del Sur returned to their habitual residences after 23 days of displacement. The IDPs, who belong to IP communities in this remote barangay, had evacuated on 16 July due to military presence in their ancestral domain. They took shelter in the Barangay Diatagon gymnasium and later moved to San Agustin, Surigao del Sur.

The return was facilitated through a multi-stakeholder dialogue process. On the first week of August 2018, Governor Vicente Pimentel convened the Provincial Crisis Management Committee and called for a meeting at San Agustin Municipal Hall. Representatives of the military and police, the Vice-governor, church groups, and community/IDP representatives attended this discussion. A Memorandum of Agreement was then signed by the members of the Crisis Management Committee (except the Armed Forces), IDPs and groups/organizations supporting the IDPs.

Among the key points agreed upon were the withdrawal of military troops from Kilometer 9 in Barangay Diatagon. It was also decided that the provincial and local government units, accompanied by IDP representatives and support groups, would conduct a fact-finding mission and ocular visits in the area, in preparation for the IDPs' safe return.

UNHCR's Protection team is set to conduct a follow-up mission to monitor conditions following their return. The same communities had previously been affected by protracted displacement following the killing of a tribal leader, allegedly by members of a paramilitary

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group in September 2015. They had returned to their places of origin in 2016 after a year in displacement. These IP communities, who have consistently opposed military presence and mining projects in their ancestral lands, remain vulnerable to displacement.



### Updates on protracted displacements Davao Region & North Cotabato

Since February 2018, over **60 families (approximately 330 persons)** have been displaced from remote indigenous communities in the municipality of Talaingod, Davao del Norte. As of this report, they are still taking temporary shelter at a banana plantation in Barangay San Isidro, Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

Meanwhile, around **90 (approximately 425 persons)** displaced IP families from the municipality of Kapalong, Davao del Norte and remote barangays in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato also remain displaced. As of this report, these IDPs are in Haran compound in Davao City, where they have been staying since February 2018.

Both of these displacements, which were triggered by alleged activities of paramilitary groups in the communities, were not reported in official government data. The IDPs have not yet received any assistance from the government, although urgent needs for food, medicine, and shelter support have been reported by Protection partners.



### UPDATES: BOL

The Organic Law on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (OLBARM), which was signed into law by President Duterte on 26 July 2018, is now set to be ratified through a plebiscite on 21 January 2019. Upon such ratification, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) would be formally established, replacing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which would then be deemed abolished. Among the major features of the Bangsamoro Organic Law are:

**1. Territorial jurisdiction** – The BARMM is proposed to cover the former ARMM area (provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao), as well as an additional 6 towns in Lanao del Norte and 39 barangays in North Cotabato. Inclusion of these 6 towns and 39 Barangays in the BARMM would depend on the majority vote in the plebiscite.

**2. Powers of government and responsibilities of leaders** – The grouping of Government powers according to exclusive (to the Bangsamoro), shared (between National and Bangsamoro Governments) and reserved powers (National Government only) has been discarded. Instead, the law simply listed the powers granted to the Bangsamoro government.

**3. Intergovernmental Mechanism** – This consists of various coordinative bodies, as follows: Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro

Parliament Forum; Fiscal Policy Board; Joint Body for Zones of Joint Cooperation; Infrastructure Development Board; Energy Board; and Sustainable Development Board.

**4. Bangsamoro Government** – The highest organ of government would be the Bangsamoro Parliament, headed by a Chief Minister elected by 80 members or representatives, of which at least half (or 40) are party representatives. The other half shall be divided into district representatives and sectoral representatives. Seats are also reserved for members of the Non-Muslim indigenous peoples.

**5. Fiscal autonomy** – Sharing of national taxes collected in the Bangsamoro territorial jurisdiction has been set at 75% to the BARMM and 25% to the national Government. A block grant consisting of 5% of the net national internal revenue tax collection from the third fiscal year immediately preceding the current fiscal year shall be appropriated and released immediately.

**6. Rehabilitation and development** – A 10-year Special Development Fund of P50 billion shall be provided by the National government for conflict-affected communities. P5 Billion shall be released annually, for 10 years, starting upon ratification of the BOL.

**7. Bangsamoro Transition Authority** – The BTA shall be composed of 80 members appointed by the President. The elected officials of the BARMM Regional Government shall be part of the BTA. Non-Moro indigenous communities, youth, women, settler communities, traditional leaders, and other sectors shall also have representatives in the BTA.

The signed BOL was presented to officials of the ARMM regional government, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and civil society groups in Cotabato City on 8 August. OPAPP then conducted a separate consultation with members of the Lumad (indigenous peoples or IPs) community and assured them of the national government's continued support. OPAPP has established a five-member IP peace panel to engage and listen to the concerns and recommendations of IPs and present them to the peace negotiating table.



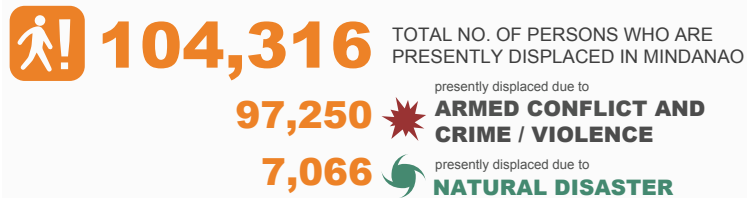
IDPs in Barangay Angkamayat, Sultan sa Barongis municipality, Maguindanao province during a protection assessment. This area surrounding the Liguasan Marsh is prone to recurrent displacement. ©UNHCR/SJ Tulon



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.”

A durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have outstanding protection or other humanitarian needs arising from their displacement. Durable solutions can be in the form of: (a) return, (b) local integration or (c) resettlement (to another area). The exercise of any of these options must be (1) voluntary in (2) safety and (3) dignity for a durable solution to be attained.

## CURRENT NUMBER OF IDPS IN NEED OF A DURABLE SOLUTION



## CLARIFICATIONS

Zamboanga Siege displacement - IDPs remain displaced 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. In December 2016 UNHCR profiled 1,135 home-based IDP families.

Marawi Siege displacement - 248 families (approximately 1,046 individuals) left Mindanao and 867 families (approximately 3,648 individuals) IDPs are to be validated by DSWD.

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

	TOTAL IN AUGUST 2018		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2018	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>ARMED CONFLICT AND CRIME / VIOLENCE</b> incidents with displacement	5	19,498	66	132,390
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	0	0	3	93,314

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN AUGUST 2018



## LEGEND



Note: 1. The figures appearing in this document are not comprehensive. The data pertains to those collected by Protection Cluster Partners and collated by UNHCR since 2012.  
2. Protracted IDPs are IDPs who have been displaced for more than 180 days and are still displaced.

