

Monthly Mindanao DISPLACEMENT Dashboard

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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.

GPH/MILF PEACE PROCESS UPDATE

Deliberation on the approval of a Basic Law for the Bangsamoro continues. Various groups continue to hope for the passage of the law however time is running out for the current administration to complete a peace agreement. With both chambers of congress running for election, and addressing budgetary issues, this has hindered obtaining a quorum. The government peace panel still hopes to pass the bill. The MILF has expressed its hope that the remaining period of amendments to the bill will restore the essential provisions of the original bill that were omitted in the substitute bills.

In October, the MILF together with one of the factions of the Moro National Liberation Front signed a unified declaration that called for the approval of the original BBL and rejection of any BBL that is not a prototype of the original BBL.

AL-BARKA, BASILAN DISPLACEMENT DUE TO CLAN FEUD

Armed encounter between two factions of lawless armed groups displaced 60 families (estimated 300 persons) on 6 October from Barangay Kuhon, Al-Barka municipality of Basilan province. Two civilians were killed after an hour of armed confrontation. Displaced families sought refuge with their relatives as there has been no government-established evacuation centers in the area. They returned to their places of origin after two days. However, according to NGO UNYPHIL-Women, people remain at risk as skirmishes between the two factions remain likely. Protection monitoring is difficult as PC partners and local authorities often do not have access to the area because of the prevailing insecure situation.

SULTAN SA BARONGIS, MAGUINDANAO DISPLACEMENT DUE TO SHOOTING INCIDENTS BETWEEN FAMILIES

Around 150 families (estimated 750 persons) were displaced from Barangay Langgapanan of Sultan sa Barongis municipality as a result of a series of shooting incidents between two families who reportedly are affiliated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (118th and 106th Base Commands of the MILF). Control over land is said to be the cause of the conflict. Tension between the two remains (as of this report), which prevents return of the displaced families who have been staying with their relatives in nearby barangays. Protection monitoring of this incident and the advocacy to support their safe return is ongoing.

MANAGA, BANSALAN DISPLACEMENT DUE TO AFP-NPA ARMED CONFLICT

A security alert was heightened in neighboring provinces after an armed encounter between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the New People's Army (NPA) took place on 29 October in Barangay Managa of Bansalan municipality of Davao del Sur province. There were reports that the NPA rebels retreated to neighboring provinces after an hour of fighting. Around 24 families (estimated 120 persons) were displaced from Sitio Pluto to Sitio Bagsak of the mentioned barangay due to fear that they would be caught in the crossfire. Monitoring of the protection situation of these IDPs continues.

SURIGAO DEL SUR DISPLACEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The number of displaced indigenous peoples belonging to Manobo tribe in Surigao del Sur province continued to increase in October. On 2 October, another 173 families (estimated 954 persons) were displaced from three sub-villages of Barangay Mahaba of Marihatag municipality and 28 families (estimated 106 persons) from Barangay Janipaan of San Agustin municipality. The IDPs expressed they fled due to fear of the presence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Magahat paramilitary forces led by a person who is allegedly involved in series of attacks on IPs and the killing of a teacher and IP leaders. According to the IP/IDPs, they were interrogated by members of the Magahat forces about their affiliations with the New People's Army (NPA). As of this report, around 3,000 indigenous people remain displaced in the municipal gymnasium receiving humanitarian assistance from the local government, the Red Cross and local NGOs. Protection monitoring by various Protection Cluster actors is taking place to assess the ability for the IDPs to return. The provincial government has formed the Task Force Bangkaw led by the Philippine National Police to pursue the suspects and disarm the Magahat group. The AFP and some tribal leaders have expressed that conflict between IPs have caused the deteriorating security in communities and displacement.



LA PAZ, AGUSAN DEL SUR DISPLACEMENT DUE TO NPA HARASSMENT

An attack allegedly perpetrated by members of the New People's Army (NPA) prompted a large evacuation of the indigenous peoples (IPs) belonging to the Talaandig tribe from La Paz municipality of Agusan del Sur to Cabanglasan, Bukidnon. Around 17 families (estimated 86 persons) fled after the NPA attacked members of their village and killed the tribal leader. The displaced families fled along mountain trails avoiding main roads for fear of being attacked. The military coordinated with the local government unit of Cabanglasan to provide humanitarian assistance to the displaced families.

DISCLAIMER

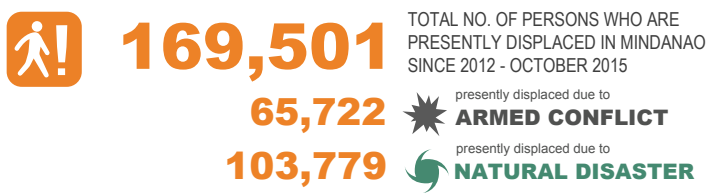
The Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard aims to provide a starting point for information and analysis that can help protection agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders concerning instances of forced displacement or solutions (repatriation, resettlement, integration). The number of people displaced / affected may differ from the number in need of humanitarian assistance. To the extent possible, the terminology used in the Dashboard reflects the *UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and other sources of international law and practice. The information reported in the Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard has been received from members of the Protection Cluster across Mindanao. Consequently, unreported cases of forced displacement and solutions are not reflected. Updates will be provided as and when more information is received from members. Although efforts are made to verify the data, the UNHCR Mindanao, Philippines takes no responsibility for the incompleteness or inaccuracy of the information. The information provided in this Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard does not necessarily reflect the views of UNHCR or any individual member of the Protection Cluster.



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 displacement - A large number of IDPs remain displaced from Typhoon Pablo in December 2012 in Eastern Mindanao, Region XI who 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. As of October 2015, there are still an estimated 76,379 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

Forced Returns from Sabah - Filipino nationals continue to be forcibly returned from Sabah, Malaysia to the Island province, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City. After the standoff between the Royal Army of Sulu and the Malaysian Security Forces in March 2013, a large number of Filipinos living and working in Sabah are arrested, detained and forcibly returned to the Philippines. Reports obtained from the ARMM DSWD describe that each week hundreds of individuals, many separated from their families living in Sabah, are forced to depart Sabah by boat and arrive in Tawi-Tawi or Zamboanga. While there are no exact figures of the number of persons arriving at this time, it is estimated that over 50,000 persons have been forcibly returned to the Philippines since March 2013. According to the DSWD, many of these individuals are vulnerable and are in need of assistance and many more immediately return to Sabah where their families reside and where they have found employment.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT IN 2015

	TOTAL IN OCTOBER 2015		TOTAL SINCE JAN 2015	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
ARMED CONFLICT incidents with displacement	6	2,316	52	267,312
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	0	0	14	100,946

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN OCTOBER 2015 (see details in boxes)



LEGEND

- TOTAL DISPLACEMENT
- TOTAL RETURN
- TOTAL PRESENTLY DISPLACED
- ARMED CONFLICT
- NATURAL DISASTER
- INCREASE / DECREASE IN IDP MOVEMENT COMPARED TO PREVIOUS MONTH
- REGIONAL BOUNDARY

