

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.



Displacement of Indigenous Peoples in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur

On 04 August, 48 families (248 persons) fled their homes in Barangay Zilovia, in the municipality of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, reportedly due to increased military presence in their ancestral area. The displaced families belong to the Manobo community, an indigenous peoples' (IP) group. They sought refuge at a public gymnasium in the village proper of Zilovia, and returned to their respective residences on 27 August.



PNP vs. AKP in Maasim, Sarangani

Following an armed confrontation between the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police (PNP-SAF) and the Ansar Al-Khalifa Philippines (AKP) in Barangay Daliao, Maasim, Sarangani on 21 August, 315 families (approximately 1,575 persons) evacuated from their homes and sought refuge with relatives. They returned a few days later, upon receiving advice from the barangay local government unit that the area was safe for return. However, 10 families are still mobile due to fear of renewed fighting; they return to their residences in the daytime to attend to their farming activities, but stay in their places of displacement at night. A feud that reportedly arose between two families in relation to the incident led to the alleged burning of one house. As of this report, the feud is reported to have been settled.

Displaced IP families return to their homes in San Fernando, Bukidnon

A week after being displaced due to a shooting incident at Barangay Kawayan, San Fernando, Bukidnon on 30 July 2016 (see July 2016 Displacement Dashboard), 773 IDP families (2,593 persons) returned to their homes in Barangays Halapitan, Iglusad, Kawayan, and Mabuhay. The affected families are part of the Tigwahanon community, an indigenous peoples (IP) group.

Out of the 821 families (2,759 individuals) who had evacuated, however, 48 families (166 persons) from Sitio Tibugawan in Barangay Kawayan remain displaced on the grounds of the Provincial Capitol in Malaybalay, Bukidnon out of fear of further harassment from the paramilitary group involved in the incident. They continue their call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice to enable their safe return.

The families of the eight casualties (one pregnant woman killed and seven wounded, including five minors) reportedly received financial assistance for burial or medical expenses from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - Region X and the municipal government of San Fernando. The DSWD-Region X also distributed food and non-food assistance to the displaced families. Of those remaining on the premises of the Provincial Capitol, two children reportedly died of acute pneumonia. The Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) organized a medical mission on the last week of August to assist in the prevention of communicable diseases among the IDPs.

A month following armed clashes, IDPs in Maguindanao still seek durable solutions

Families affected by armed clashes in the province of Maguindanao in July 2016 (see previous Monthly Displacement Dashboard) continue to struggle with the impacts of their displacement. The affected families come from six municipalities of Maguindanao: Datu Salibo, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Mamasapano, Shariff Aguak, and Shariff Saydona Mustapha.

Based on the results of a multisectoral field assessment, conducted on 11-12 August with the participation of various government and humanitarian agencies, around 80% of the estimated 6,305 persons displaced have returned to their habitual residences. Because of fears for their safety, the remaining 20% stay in the displacement sites at night and return to their places of origin in the daytime to perform agricultural activities.

Furthermore, the IDPs who have returned continue to face challenges in rebuilding their livelihoods and repairing houses or other infrastructure that had been damaged or destroyed during the fighting.



AFP vs. ASG in Tuburan, Basilan

A firefight that erupted between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) on 24 August in Barangay Dugaa, in the municipality of Tuburan, Basilan, resulted in the displacement of 1,047 families (3,947 individuals). The fighting later spread to the adjacent municipalities of Sumisip and Hadji Mohammad Adjul. No civilian casualties as a result of fighting have yet been reported. The displaced families sought refuge in the homes of their relatives or friends within the three affected municipalities. As of this report, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office has recommended that the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Basilan extend assistance to the affected families to augment their own and their host communities' capacities to meet humanitarian needs during displacement. Due to security concerns, local authorities still face challenges in assessing and validating information regarding damage to infrastructure and impact on livelihood and education in the affected areas.



Tents of displaced Lumads (IPs) at the Provincial Capitol grounds of Malaybalay, Bukidnon (taken July 2016). © E. Monato | UNHCR Cotabato



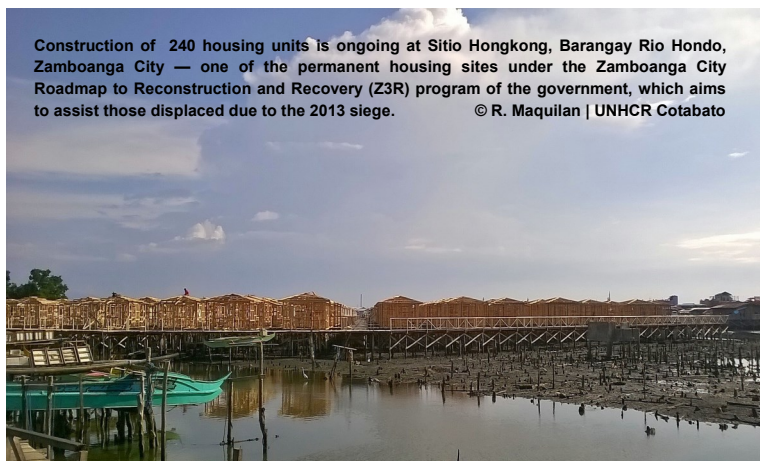
The Surigao del Sur Sports Center in Tandag has served as evacuation area for the displaced Lumads since September 2015. © E. Monato | UNHCR Cotabato



AFP vs. ASG in Patikul, Sulu

Ongoing military operations conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) at Barangay Bungkaun, Patikul, Sulu triggered the displacement of 1,102 families (4,521 individuals) on 26 August. These families evacuated from 11 barangays in the municipalities of Indanan, Maimbung, and Patikul to three designated evacuation sites in Patikul, while others stayed with relatives or friends in the same municipality. Classes were suspended in four elementary schools and one primary school in Patikul, disrupting access to education for 1,140 students.

The IDPs are reported to have received food assistance from the Barangay government in Latih (Patikul) and from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council of Sulu, as well as beddings and hygiene items from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The Integrated Provincial Health Office of Sulu conducted a medical assessment and provided check-ups to the affected families, in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross, which also provided tarpaulins to be used as temporary shelters. Local authorities are currently in the process of assessing and validating information on damage to property and infrastructure, as well as adverse impacts on livelihood sources. The humanitarian situation of the conflict-affected population is reported to be dire and humanitarian needs are expected to increase even further as fighting continues in the area.



Construction of 240 housing units is ongoing at Sitio Hongkong, Barangay Rio Hondo, Zamboanga City — one of the permanent housing sites under the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Reconstruction and Recovery (Z3R) program of the government, which aims to assist those displaced due to the 2013 siege. © R. Maquilan | UNHCR Cotabato

Activities for the planned return of displaced IP community in Tandag, Surigao del Sur under way

Final preparations for the planned return of approximately 3,000 displaced indigenous peoples (IPs) in Tandag, Surigao del Sur to their homes in various municipalities in Surigao del Sur in September are under way, ahead of the first anniversary of their displacement. Continuous advocacy by the IDPs and members of civil society regarding the minimum conditions required for safe and sustainable return, as well as the recent resumption of formal peace talks between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), have all been instrumental in enabling this development.

On 24 August, the provincial government of Surigao del Sur through the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Friends of the Lumad network in Caraga conducted a joint ocular visit to assess the current security situation and outstanding multi-sectoral gaps in the IDPs' places of origin in municipalities of Lianga and San Agustin, and to design appropriate support services to meet the IDPs' needs upon return. They were also joined by IDP communities and representatives of IP organizations, which helped to further ensure that the process fully respected international standards for facilitating voluntary returns in safety and dignity. Government agencies have committed to provide assistance based on the pressing needs identified, including livelihood support, shelter repair, food, water, repairs of educational facilities, health services, and psychosocial support.

IDPs in Zamboanga City remain in need of durable solutions as third anniversary of siege nears

Almost three years after the 09 September 2013 siege, government and humanitarian actors continue their efforts to assist displaced people in accessing durable solutions. As of 31 August, 2,439 families (13,768 persons) remain displaced in 11 transitory sites in Zamboanga City. In addition, others who were also displaced as a result of the siege are still staying with relatives or host families.

Of the planned 6,343 permanent housing units under the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Reconstruction and Recovery (Z3R), 2,273 are reported to have been fully constructed as of 26 August. Of these, 1,668 have been handed over to IDPs, while the rest are awaiting the installation of water and sanitation facilities.

Both home-based IDPs and those in transitory sites have also expressed the need for livelihood assistance, which the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Region IX are seeking to address through a skills training program in cooperation with the Our Lady of Triumph Institute in Ozamiz City. A second batch of 180 IDPs have finished the program, and to date, 236 individuals have found employment through this initiative.

Meanwhile, the initial results of a profiling activity conducted by the CSWDO with technical support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which was completed in August, are set to be presented to stakeholders in Zamboanga City in September. The profiling aims to obtain solid information on the current protection situation of home-based IDPs as well as to further support government efforts to provide durable solutions to IDPs in Zamboanga.

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DISCLAIMER

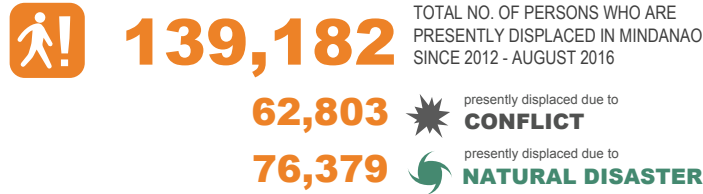
The Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard aims to provide a starting point for information and analysis that can help protection agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders concerning instances of forced displacement or solutions (repatriation, resettlement, integration). The number of people displaced / 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 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. As of October 2015, there are still an estimated 76,379 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

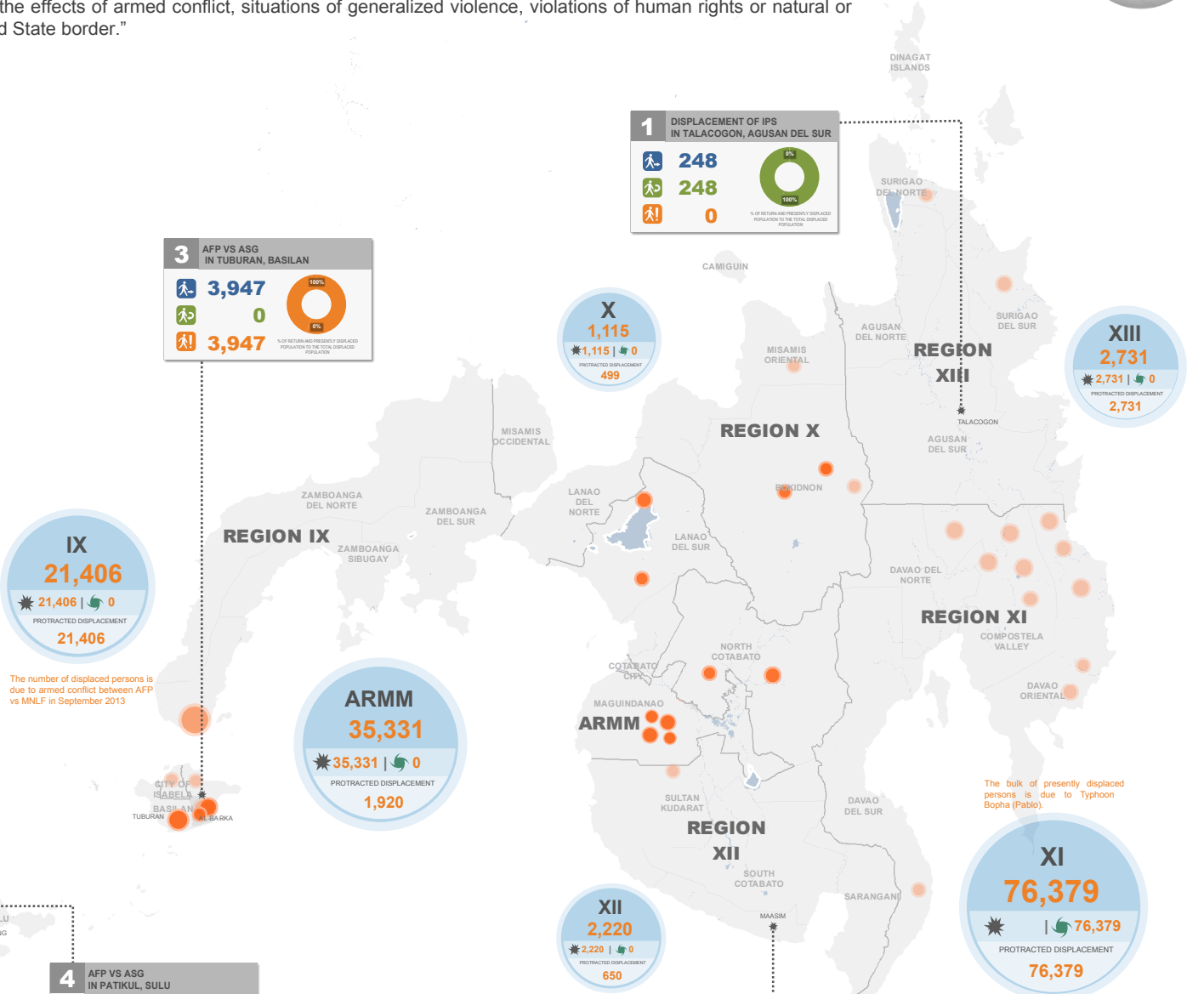
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT IN 2016

	TOTAL IN AUGUST 2016		TOTAL SINCE JAN 2016	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
CONFLICT incidents with displacement	4	10,291	54	219,503
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	0	0	1	300

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN AUGUST 2016 (see details in boxes)



LEGEND



The number of displaced persons is due to armed conflict between AFP vs MNLF in September 2013

The bulk of presently displaced persons is due to Typhoon Bopha (Pablo).

