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.

GPH/MILF PEACE PROCESS UPDATES

The proposed plenary debates of the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BARA) did not push through as scheduled in August because of the lack of an extension of the period for the submission of reports to the House of Congress of the Philippines. The delay in the extension has caused a further widening of the gap between the government and MILF aspirations. The proposed plenary debates of the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (BARA) did not push through as scheduled in August because of the lack of an extension of the period for the submission of reports to the House of Congress of the Philippines. The delay in the extension has caused a further widening of the gap between the government and MILF aspirations.

Infighting between two command groups of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on 14 August in Palimbang municipality of Sultan Kudarat province sent 550 families (estimated 2750 persons) fleeing from the villages of Napnapan and Canapao. Local authorities confirmed that the clash that raged until the morning of 17 August was a conflict involving members of the MILF who were engaged in an internal clan conflict. Members of the MILF’s 104th base command stormed the location of the 105th base command to avenge the death of a member who was shot dead a week earlier. Eight persons were killed in the fighting, four from both sides including an eight-year-old boy hit by a stray bullet. The Sultanate of Maguindanao sent mediators to both sides to prevent the fighting from escalating. On 18 August both warring groups returned to their respective communities. As of this report, the displaced families still refuse to return home.

CLAN WAR BETWEEN MILF GROUPS

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Niuzabu, Lanao del Norte

Clan War between MILF Groups

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On Aleosan municipality of North Cotabato province, two armed groups reportedly affiliated with the MILF were caught in retaliatory attacks that displaced a total of 15 families (estimated 75 persons) on 27 August. The clash was said to be an offshoot of a clan conflict from two months ago when two persons from one clan were ambushed and killed. The IDPs returned to their places of origin after two days.

FAMILY FEUD IN LANAÓ DEL NORTE

A simmering conflict between two political families in Pantar, Lanao del Norte which started in April this year flared up again resulting in a firefight on 26 August. The fighting caused the displacement of 1,410 families (estimated 7,750 persons) from eight barangays and reportedly injured four persons. The IDPs sought refuge in the Pantar Covered Court and the Pantar National High School. A ceasefire was reached between the warring families by dusk. According to a field mission by NGO Nonviolent Peaceforce, the present humanitarian situation in evacuation centers is dismal. Secular gaps were highlighted: inadequate latrines and lack of potable water, and lack of food. The evacuation sites lack coordination. Persons identified with specific needs require medical attention, and school classes have temporarily been suspended. The municipal and provincial Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has responded through efforts are made to verify the data, the Mindanao Displacement Dashboard does not necessarily reflect the views of UNHCR or any individual member of the Protection Cluster.
**ZAMBOANGA DISPLACEMENT SITUATION**

One month before the two year anniversary of the conflict in Zamboanga, the number of persons who remain displaced is still around 28,000 (23% of the total population that was displaced). Almost all of the remaining IDPs are Moros and extremely vulnerable; mainly from the Sama-Badjo and Tausug tribes. There homes were completely destroyed during the conflict. The Grandstand was closed after IDPs were forced to immediately leave one month ago. After almost two years, they have been allowed to return to the communities they were living in before the conflict; in Rio Hondo and Lupa Lupa. IDPs are thankful to be back in their place of origin but no preparation for their return was made. IDPs are making in makeshift shelters, without adequate water and other services in these communities.

The situation of 146 IDP families in Lupa Lupa and in 83 families in Mariki Elementary School who were relocated from the Grandstand remain without adequate support. Some IDPs continue to stay in congested makeshift dwellings and tents occupied by at least 4-5 families while others resort to take refuge in partially damaged houses. WASH facilities are do not exist and families are buying water in Buggoc transported by boat to Mariki. A Joint Site Assessment report made in July (24, 2015) which the local authorities participated in, has identified actions required to improve conditions. As of the end of August, no interventions have been made.

Over 4,000 families continued to live in transitory sites or with host families waiting to be transferred to permanent dwellings. As of August, only 22% (1,480 units) out of the 6,638 target permanent housing units have been completed, and still many of these locations do not have water and electricity. There is progress being made as more and more IDPs are being allowed to return to their communities of origin such as Rio Hondo, Mariki, and sitio Hongkong and construction slowly continues to relocate families to areas such as Kasanyangan where IDPs can access their livelihoods. But construction in these areas continues to be held up for various administrative reasons, lack of permits, contracts, funds and materials to construct.

**MAGUINDANAO AFP VS BIFF ARMED CONFLICT UPDATES**

Six months after the start of the Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) an estimated 1,000 internally displaced persons remain in informal settlements or living with host families in Maguindanao. Consultations with communities reveal that IDPs are still reluctant to return because of insecurity in their places of origin with the ongoing LEOs and with no agreement on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) there is fear of potential conflict that keeps the region in an armed stand off. AFP law enforcement operations continue in Maguindanao. The likelihood of armed encounters between the AFP and the BIFF remains high. According to a recent AFP security briefing, about 350-500 BIFF members are still present in the so-called SPMS Box (the area within a 10-square-kilometers of intersecting highways connecting the municipalities of Datu Salibo, Pagatian, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak). This BIFF presence is significantly higher than previously reported.

**DISPLACEMENT FROM NATURAL HAZARDS**

The Southwest Monsoon affecting Mindanao in the first week of August which was enhanced by Typhoon Hanna (international name: Soudelor) caused disruption in the lives of 7,982 families (estimated 38,819 persons) when they were forced to flee their homes in northern and central Mindanao.

On 03 August a flashflood incident was experienced at Purok 4 Lalawan, Barangay Linabo, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon due to heavy rains brought by an Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and the southwest monsoon. A total of 15 families (estimated 52 persons) evacuated in Barangay Linabo covered court. The City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO) personnel composed of two teams instantly proceeded to the area and conducted an immediate evacuation. The IDPs returned to their respective homes the following day.

Pre-emptive evacuation was carried out on 04 August in Sitio Panamukan, San Jose, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon due to heavy rains caused by the ITCZ affecting northern Mindanao. A total of 200 families (estimated 300 persons) were evacuated to the San Jose Elementary School through the assistance of the CDRRMO while the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWD) distributed relief packs. On the same day, another pre-emptive evacuation was carried out in Barangay Poblacion, Valencia City with 157 families (528 persons) moving to the city gymnasium. One (1) person was injured after initially being hit by a flying coconut (75 persons) were also evacuated to the San Jose Elementary School. A total of 412 persons in Barangay Poblacion were evacuated. The city authorities declared a state of calamity. In Kapatagan municipality of Lanao del Norte province, the same weather disturbance displaced 36 families (estimated 160 persons) from Barangay Concepcion and another 130 families (estimated 559 persons) from Barangay Lapining. Some 44 families (estimated 220 persons) from Barangay Poblacion of Sapad municipality in the same province evacuated to barangay day care center. All displaced families returned to their places of origin.

On 07 August, continuous heavy rains in Pikit municipality of North Cotabato province triggered flooding and the evacuation of some 7,400 families (estimated 37,000 persons) from the villages of Bago Inged, Bulok, Barungs, Kabasanal, Macasandeg and Punul. At least 70 percent of the population of the villages of Inug-og, Tallay, Rajamuda, Kalibat, Katilacan, Nabundas and Lumayong left their homes. The villagers fled to informal settlements and barangay halls as their communities were inundated with flood waters. The current number of IDPs that are still displaced has yet to be verified.

Despite the lack of shelter and services existing for families in sitio Lupa Lupa in Rio Hondo who were forced to leave the Grandstand EC, many people expressed gratitude that they have been allowed to return to their place of origin. Rio Hondo is one of the ‘ground zero’ areas which was initially declared a ‘no build zone’. The local government allowed some IDP families to return to their place of origin while waiting for the completion of permanent shelters in Kasanyangan. This situation has created severe protection conditions for these “returnees”.

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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

156,842 TOTAL NO. OF PERSONS WHO ARE PRESENTLY DISPLACED IN MINDANAO SINCE 2012 - AUGUST 2015

54,559 presently displaced due to ARMED CONFLICT

102,283 presently displaced due to NATURAL DISASTER

CLARIFICATIONS

Typhoon Pablo displacement - A large number of IDPs remain displaced from Typhoon Pablo in December 2012 in Eastern Mindanao, Region IX. Some 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 March 2015, there are still an estimated 76,568 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 to 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 deport 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

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<tr>
<th>INCIDENTS IN AUGUST 2015</th>
<th>TOTAL SINCE JAN 2015</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURAL DISASTER</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
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DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN AUGUST 2015 (see details in boxes)

TOTAL DISPLACEMENT IN AUGUST 2015 51,803

ESTIMATE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RETURNED 40,554

IDPS IN AUGUST IN NEED OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS 11,249

LEGEND

TOTAL DISPLACEMENT

TOTAL RETURN

TOTAL PRESENTLY DISPLACED

ARMED CONFLICT

NATURAL DISASTER

INCREASE / DECREASE IN DP MOVEMENT

REGIONAL BOUNDARY

SOURCES: Protection Cluster Mindanao
CREATION DATE: 28 June 2015
FEEDBACK: phiupo@unhcr.org
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