

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.



## Marawi Siege Displacement and Response

Amid a final push to neutralize pro-IS militants in Marawi, the humanitarian situation has worsened for most IDPs across Lanao provinces and surrounding areas. The number of displaced persons has been pegged since 26 July 26 by government sources at 78,466 families (359,680 individuals). This is a 33.4 percent reduction from the 117,875 families (534,127 individuals) reported prior to the data cleansing initiated by the DSWD based on the encoded data from the Disaster Assistance Family Access Cards (DAFAC).

Four months since the conflict started, a growing frustration is being felt among the displaced population, who continue to face protection-related issues. A number of IDPs, especially those who are staying with host families or in congested evacuation centres, have been moving from one location to another. Others have returned to some villages in Marawi that have been cleared by the military, although

the authorities have not given any advice on which areas are safe for return. A key reason for movement is that diminishing and/or delayed government assistance (food and non-food items) has caused some of these families to look for other means to secure basic services.

The displaced population, particularly those who are in host communities, continue to face persistent protection concerns. The major protection issues that have been documented and reported are the following: (1) Voluntary and spontaneous return of IDPs to unaffected portions of Marawi City, with no coordination with or support from the relevant authorities; (2) Inequitable access to humanitarian assistance and a sense of perceived neglect continue to be monitored; a number of home-based and community-based IDPs have reportedly not received any form of assistance for one month at least and two months at most; (3) Sector-specific programming for persons with specific needs remains limited; and (4) Since the closure of registration for Disaster Assistance Family Access Cards (DAFAC), no



## Armed Conflict and Protracted Displacement in Maguindanao (AFP and MILF vs JMWA)

A possible pattern of increasing radicalization of conflict, coupled with expanding reach and influence of extremist groups has been observed in Maguindanao, particularly within and around the area known as the "SPMS Box." The Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) security force, the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces of the (BIAF) has launched a pursuit operation since April this year against members of the Jamaatul Muhajirin Wal Ansar (JMWA).

This has caused the displacement of families originating from the area known as the SPMS (Barangay. Salbu, Datu Saudi Ampatuan - Barangay. Pagatin, Datu Salibu - Mamasapano - Shariff Aguak) Box in the province of Maguindanao, and has escalated to different municipalities of Maguindanao and North Cotabato. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has since augmented the forces of the MILF with aerial strikes and ground assaults. Five months into the conflict, the clashes has displaced a total of 6,964 families (estimated 34,673 persons).

The JMWA is a splinter group of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), formed under the leadership of Sheikh Esmail Abdumalik, aka "Abu Turaifie." The group publicly pledged allegiance to

the Islamic State movement in April 2017, and has reportedly been recruiting new members in the towns of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Salibu, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Mamasapano, and Datu Piang in Maguindanao province.

A more recent displacement occurred on 26 September when more than 100 families (estimated 500 persons) were displaced from Barangay Muslim and nearby villages in Guindulungan, Maguindanao when the AFP, supported by the MILF, launched pre-emptive artillery strikes against suspected members of the Islamic State (IS)-inspired group who were reportedly seen amassing in the area. Three days later, joint forces of the AFP and MILF captured the camp of the pro-IS faction of the BIFF in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibu, Maguindanao.

Authorities have restricted residents of some of the affected areas, most of whom are fisherfolks and farmers, from returning to their habitual residences due to security concerns. This has had a significant impact on their livelihood, resulting in food insecurity. The affected populations have reportedly not received any food support or other forms of humanitarian assistance.



## Armed Conflict in Magpet, North Cotabato (AFP vs NPA)

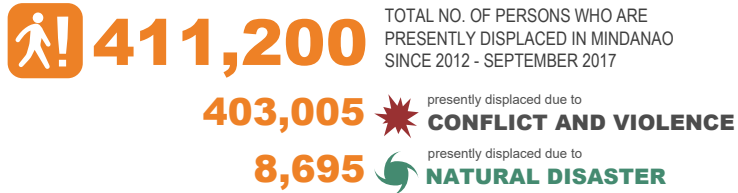
The 39th Infantry Battalion of the AFP figured in armed clashes with the New Peoples' Army (NPA) in the hinterland barangay of Balite in the municipality of Magpet, North Cotabato province after receiving report of the latter amassing in the area. The firefight resulted in the displacement of around 100 families (estimated 500 persons) from Sitio Kanampang and surrounding villages. The human rights group, Karapatan, sent quick response teams in the area to conduct fact-finding investigation. As of this report, all IDPs have returned to their places of origin.



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 April 2017, there are still an estimated 8,695 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

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

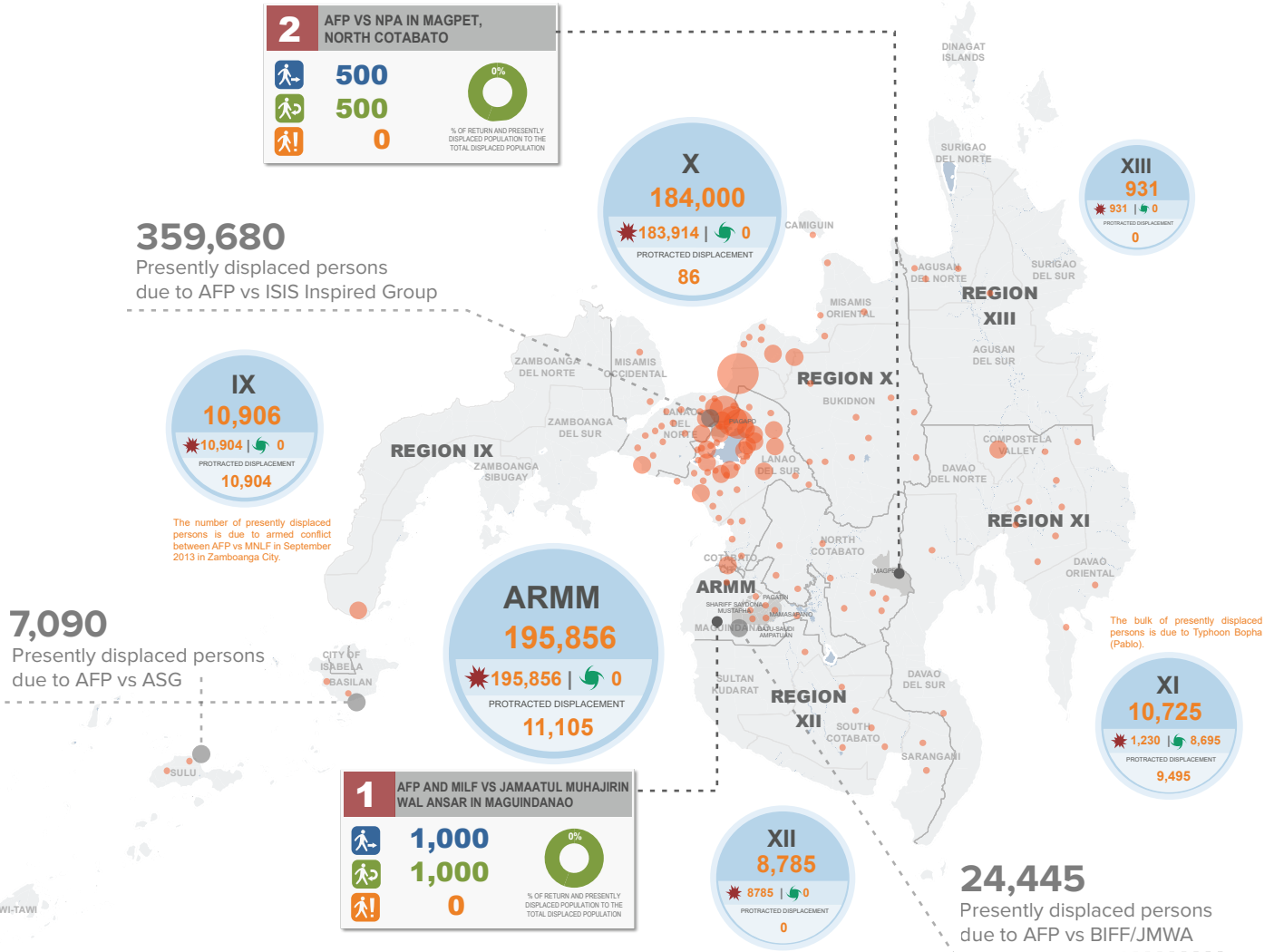
	TOTAL IN SEPTEMBER 2017		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2017	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE</b> incidents with displacement	<b>2</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>470,790</b>
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>401,390</b>

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN SEPTEMBER 2017



Note: The figures appearing in this document are not comprehensive. The data pertain to those collected by Protection Cluster Partners and collated by UNHCR since 2012.

## LEGEND



Note: 997 persons displaced went outside Mindanao

