

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

Amidst ongoing 'clearing' operations in Marawi City by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Government pushed through with declaring nine (9) barangays in Marawi City as open for the return of displaced residents. First returns commenced last 29 October. A second batch or 'cluster' composed of fourteen (14) barangays in Marawi City was declared 'cleared' the week after. This was later withdrawn for four (4) of the 14 barangays close to the battleground where return could not proceed due to safety and security concerns.

Twenty four (24) of the most affected areas/barangays are still inaccessible to residents and humanitarian actors due to security concerns. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) has been given a 'go' signal by the AFP to resume its post conflict needs assessment (PCNA) in the remaining barangays in Marawi. An additional forty-seven (47) barangays will undergo the damage and loss assessment (DALA) in addition to the first 49 barangays. After the completion of the assessment a workshop will follow to determine the rehabilitation cost for Marawi.



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

Three security incidents have been monitored and reported by members of the Protection Cluster related to the ongoing military operations in Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces against a pro-IS faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which have triggered civilian displacement since April this year.

On 8 November, around 164 families (estimated 820 persons) were displaced and temporarily stayed in Barangay Liwali in the municipality of Aleosan after the AFP launched aerial strikes on two remote villages of Carmen municipality, North Cotabato province when the Jamaatul Muhajeerin Wal Ansar (JMWA), a breakaway faction of the BIFF and IS-inspired group led by Esmael Abdulmalik (alias Commander Abu Turaife) was sighted amassing in the area. Turaife was sighted with his men in the forested borders of Barangay Tonganon and Bentangan – boundary barangays between the municipalities of Carmen and Aleosan. On 11 and 18 November, the number of families displaced by the fighting in Aleosan and Carmen has increased to 268 (estimated 2,372 individuals) as the AFP continuously conducted the aerial strikes against the armed group in the same area. As of this

report, around 26 families remain displaced in Aleosan.

On 14 November 2017, approximately 429 families (estimated 2,145 persons) were forcibly displaced when the 40th Infantry Brigade (IB) of the AFP launched an attack against the JMWA. The AFP carried out the bombardments with 105 mm M101A1 howitzers and helicopter gunships at Sitio Lab, Barangay Bagong Upam, Shariff Aguak. The families returned on 17 November to their homes when the security situation stabilized according to non-government organization, ACTED.

An armed encounter between the AFP and alleged BIFF members on 15 November in Barangay Meta, municipality of Datu Unsay, Maguindanao province resulted in the displacement of an undetermined number of residents from the villages of Lower Meta, Kuloy, Bagong Upam and Malangog.

To date, no information has been verified on the return of IDPs from the affected areas.

As of end November, displacement from this armed conflict has now reached a cumulative total of 11,933 families or 60,710 persons in Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces.

SECURITY ANALYSIS: REMAINING THREAT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN MINDANAO

The IS-inspired Maute Group's capacity to launch another major attack has been significantly weakened in the wake of the liberation of Marawi city by Government forces, and it would take a while for its members to regroup and reorganize. However, several security actors believe that other pro-IS groups are gathering support in the country, and might soon follow in the footsteps of Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Khayam Maute, the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Maute Group respectively, who were killed during the army offensive in Marawi. In particular, communities in parts of Central Mindanao such as Cotabato and Maguindanao are reportedly apprehensive of further armed encounters involving groups sympathetic to IS, such as the JMWA and other factions of the BIFF and the Ansarul Khilafah Philippines (AKP). While these groups currently do not have the capacity to launch attacks on a scale similar to what the Maute Group did in Marawi, they remain a significant security threat. Several factors contribute to increased affiliation with extremist groups:

- concerns that the enactment of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), if delayed or set aside, will create frustrations and feelings of hopelessness and thus provide opportunities for recruitment by radical groups;
- pre-existing frustrations with the leadership of the Moro revolutionary groups, with the peace process, and with ineffective governance and economic management in the Bangsamoro areas;
- persistent grievances borne out of marginalization of Muslims in Mindanao, unaddressed human rights violations and historical injustices feeding a desire for retaliation, growing anti-Muslim bias and a sense of persecution;
- military operations perceived as willfully targeting Muslim communities;
- the emotional appeal of the IS ideology due to its use of religious doctrine and sentiment to attract adherents, and the apparent sense of "purpose" that it offers, especially to the youth.

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Armed Conflict, Sumisip, Basilan (AFP vs ASG)

On 8 November, a firefight between the AFP and the Abu Sayyaf Group erupted in Barangay Upper Cabengbeng in the municipality of Sumisip, Basilan province that resulted in the displacement of 32 families (estimated 160 persons) from Upper Cabengbeng and some 123 families (estimated 615 persons) from the adjacent municipality of Al Barka, according to a recent monitoring conducted by local NGO Community and Family Services International (CFSI). After the four-hour exchange of fire, six (6) AFP soldiers were killed, another four soldiers (4) were wounded.

According to a representative of the IDPs interviewed by the CFSI, they expressed immediate need for food as they do not have access to their farms and livelihood. Other needs expressed are non-food items such as kitchen utensils, mosquito nets, mats and blankets. The IDPs have not yet been allowed to return, pending clearance from security officials.



Clan Feud, Matalam, North Cotabato (MILF vs MNLF)

Members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) figured in an armed clashes in Barangay Marbel, municipality of Matalam in North Cotabato province on 12 November. The three-hour firefight resulted in the displacement of 110 families (estimated 550 persons) from Sitio Kisupit and their subsequent evacuation in the village's Barangay hall.

The simmering clan feud flared up again when a member of the 108th base command of the MILF was shot dead by a member of the 15th council of the MNLF during a heated argument while they were in the Barangay center, according to police reports. The latter sought refuge in an MNLF camp but was pursued by the former's clan members. Four (4) people, two from each party, were wounded. Both commanders of the two local Moro fronts intervened and declared a ceasefire thereafter.



Military Ambuscade, Iligan City (AFP vs NPA)

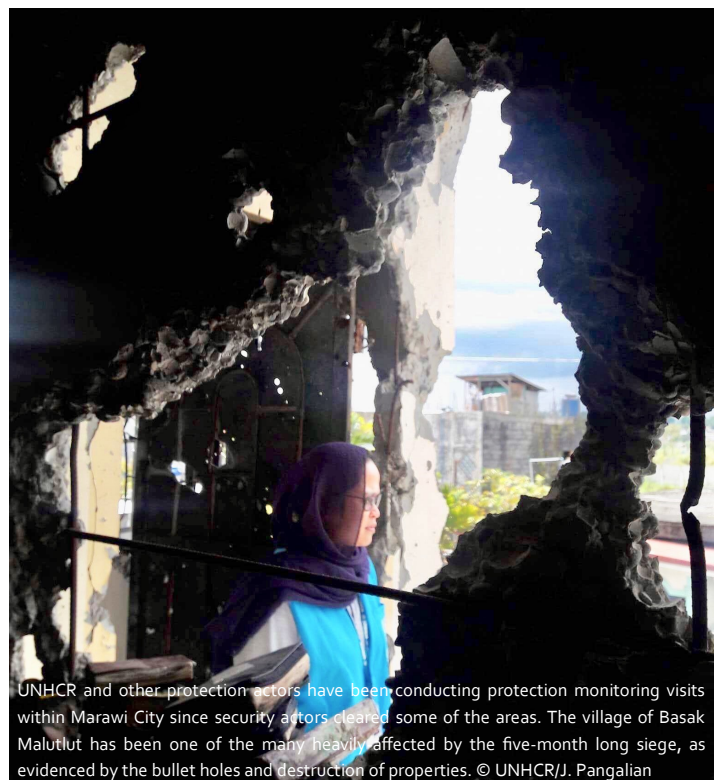
About 200 families (estimated 1,000 persons) belonging to the Higaonon indigenous tribe were displaced on 12 November following an attack allegedly perpetrated by an undetermined numbers of heavily armed men, believed to be members of the New People's Army (NPA), against patrolling soldiers in Barangay Rogonon, Iligan City. The displaced families evacuated to a gymnasium in Barangay Poblacion to seek shelter from the armed encounter. Local city officials together with the Committee on Peace and Order, the City Social Welfare and Development Office, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development extended immediate assistance that included food items and sleeping materials. A military commander was killed while a corporal officer was wounded following the armed encounter.



Military Operation, Surigao del Sur (AFP vs NPA)

On 26 November, military operations against the New People's Army (NPA) led around 300 families (1,101 individuals) from twelve (12) indigenous peoples' (IP) communities in Barangay Diatagon (municipality of Lianga) and Barangay Buhisan (San Agustin municipality), both in the province of Surigao del Sur, to move to safer ground. A total of 60 teachers and 538 students from alternative learning schools in these areas were also affected. The pre-emptive evacuation was reportedly prompted by sightings of soldiers and Army vehicles in the area, as well as the setting up of a checkpoint by government troops. Previous reported incidents of displacement in 2015 and early 2017 involved killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests, and intimidation of members of these communities who were suspected to be NPA sympathizers. The past experiences triggered fear among the civilian population that similar mistreatment would re-occur once military presence returns to their ancestral areas.

As of this report, some NGOs and faith-based organizations have sought to access the IDPs' current location to deliver emergency assistance, but the military is currently limiting access to the area. Currently, all humanitarian interventions are being coursed through the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Lianga, in accordance with a resolution of the Municipal Peace and Order Council (MPOC) that all assistance would be handed over to the said office for distribution. Humanitarian organizations are thus unable to directly conduct protection monitoring to assess the IDPs' needs, raising concerns about the lack of means to identify and address any possible gaps in the government response.



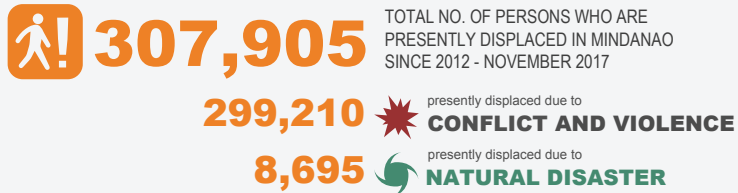
UNHCR and other protection actors have been conducting protection monitoring visits within Marawi City since security actors cleared some of the areas. The village of Basak Malutlut has been one of the many heavily affected by the five-month long siege, as evidenced by the bullet holes and destruction of properties. © UNHCR/J. Pangalian



The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* note that “internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been compelled 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 durable solutions. 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 durable solutions in this region.

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT (see details in boxes)

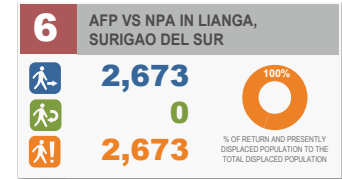
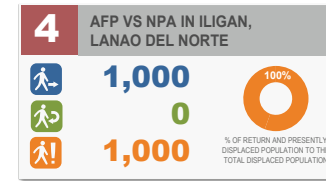
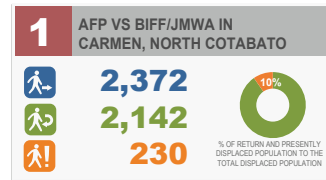
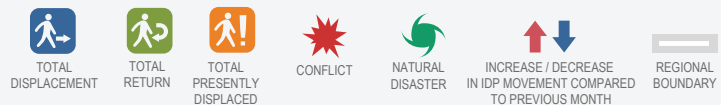
	TOTAL IN NOVEMBER 2017		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2017	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE incidents with displacement	6	9,515	53	489,340
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	0	0	7	420,984

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER 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

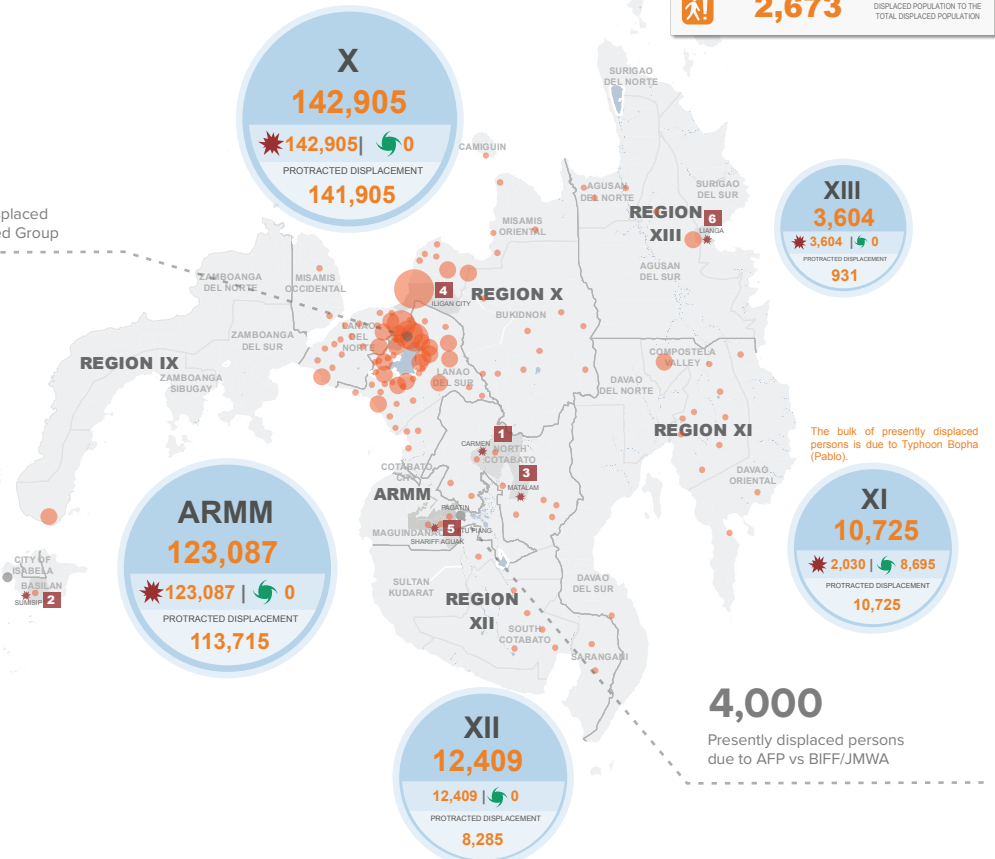


266,615
Estimated number of presently displaced persons due to AFP vs ISIS Inspired Group

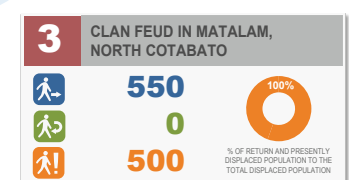
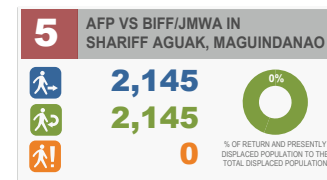
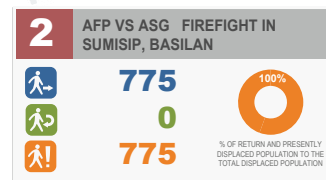


The bulk of presently displaced persons is due to armed conflict between AFP vs MNL in September 2013 in Zamboanga City.

11,082
Presently displaced persons due to AFP vs ASG



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



Note: 1,291 persons displaced went outside Mindanao
3,648 Marawi IDPs still in validation