

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.



## Clan Feud in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat

On 01 March, a firefight between two families in Barangay Langali, Palimbang municipality, Sultan Kudarat province displaced 35 families (approximately 175 persons). The parties are reportedly engaged in a longstanding clan feud rooted in a land dispute. On 03 March, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployed troops to the area to pacify the situation.

The local government provided relief assistance; however, IDPs reported that they still have difficulty in meeting their families' needs. Efforts to reach a settlement between the parties are ongoing. As of this report, the displaced families are staying in Langali Integrated School.



## AFP vs. ASG in Sulu

On 08 March, 1,290 families (approximately 6,450 persons) were displaced due to continuing military operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu province. These comprise 297 families (around 1,485 persons) who were displaced from Parang municipality to nearby coastal barangays, and 993 families (approximately 4,965 persons) who were displaced in Indanan municipality. As of this report, IDPs from Parang have returned to their places of origin, while those coming from Indanan remain displaced.

To date, more than 4,000 families (19,734 persons) displaced by armed encounters between military troops and the ASG in August 2016 have returned to their habitual residences. However, based on field monitoring by protection partners, the return may not be sustainable due to ongoing military offensives.



## Floods in Lamitan City, Basilan

On 09 March, at least 2,779 families (approximately 13,895 persons) were displaced due to flooding in 11 barangays of Lamitan City, Basilan province. Displaced families sought refuge in Datu Dizal Convention Center, Sengal Covered Court, Colonia National High School, and Barangay Balobo. According to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, there was an abrupt increase in water level (from 4 to 10) in 10 barangays, while the water level in Barangay Kulay Bato reached 20 meters. This resulted in some residents getting trapped by the water surge, and prompted the city government to declare a state of calamity. As of this report, all displaced families have returned to their habitual residences.



## AFP vs. NPA in Mabini, Compostela Valley

A firefight between the AFP and the New People's Army (NPA) on 11 March displaced 155 families (approximately 775 persons) in Mabini municipality, Compostela Valley province. According to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the evacuation was triggered by airstrikes and bombing following the armed encounter. Majority of the families displaced from the sitios (sub-villages) of

Magpalusong, Maglangit, Patawon and Bonglas in Barangay Cabuyoan, Mabini municipality sought refuge in Cabuyoan Elementary School, while others took shelter with relatives. An improvised explosive device was also reportedly detonated in the area. As of 13 March, the local government unit and the AFP declared the area safe for return of the displaced families. To date, all IDPs have returned to their places of origin.



## AFP vs. BIFF in Maguindanao and North Cotabato

The increased presence of military troops in the area of Maguindanao known as the SPMS (Salbu, Pagatin, Mamasapano and Shariff Aguak) Box forced 1,218 families (approximately 6,090 persons) to evacuate and move to safer locations. On 13 March, the AFP launched airstrikes against alleged members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). Affected families remain displaced in several locations for fear of renewed fighting.



## AFP vs. NPA in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte

At least 91 families (approximately 357 persons) were displaced when suspected NPA members attacked a military camp in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte on 15 March, leading to an armed encounter. The incident forced families to seek refuge in the municipal gym of Barangay Crossing. As of this report, all IDPs have returned to their places of origin.



## Clan feud in Sultan sa Barungis, Maguindanao

On 18 March, a firefight erupted between two groups who are both allegedly affiliated with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Sitio Damabago, Barangay Barurao, Sultan sa Barungis municipality in Maguindanao province. This triggered the displacement of approximately 200 families (estimated 1,000 persons), who sought refuge with host families. A civilian was also reportedly hit by a stray bullet during the incident. On 21 March, the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and religious leaders facilitated a ceasefire agreement between the parties involved in the dispute. However, the IDPs remain hesitant to return because of fear that fighting could flare up again at any time. To date, there is no verified information yet regarding their return.



## AFP vs. NPA in Antipas, North Cotabato

On 23 March, around 200 families (approximately 1,000) were displaced in Antipas, North Cotabato due to alleged NPA presence and recruitment activities. They stayed in evacuation centers in Barangays Camutan and Datu Agod in the same municipality. On 24 March, the municipal government declared the affected areas safe for return after the police and military had "cleared" these locations. However, IDPs are reportedly reluctant to return for fear of the NPA. To date, there is no verified information regarding their return.

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## AFP vs. NPA in Marilog, Davao City

On 25 March, 160 families (approximately 800 persons) were displaced due to an armed encounter between the AFP and NPA in Barangay Suawan, Marilog, Davao City. The IDPs sought refuge in a covered basketball court within the barangay. The Davao City Social Welfare and Development Office provided them with food packs. As of 27 March, the IDPs have returned to their habitual residences.



## Clan feud in Guindulungan, Maguindanao

On 25 March 2017, 86 families (approximately 430 persons) were forcibly displaced in Barrio Muslim, Guindulungan municipality, Maguindanao province, due to firefights between two conflicting families. Reportedly, an increased presence of government troops and alleged military occupation of parts of Barrio Muslim were observed by residents prior to the incident.

This follows earlier incidents within the same municipality, including displacement in the same barangay on 05 March. All IDPs were reportedly staying with host families and have not received government assistance. They expressed concern about possible destruction of or damage to their agricultural assets.

Another firefight had reportedly occurred in Barangay Kalumamis, also in Guindulungan, on 04 March between the same parties. Approximately 1,750 persons (350 families) were displaced and sought refuge in Sitio Sampao, Barangay Tambunan 2 in Guindulungan. Around 14 houses were reportedly burned in connection with the incident.

As of this report, displaced families in Barangay Tambunan 2 have returned to their habitual residences while those in Barrio Muslim remain displaced.



## Clan feud in Carmen, North Cotabato

On 25 March, 20 families (approximately 100 persons) fled their homes after a firefight erupted in Gen. Luna, Carmen municipality, North Cotabato province, between two rival families who are believed to be affiliated with different armed groups (MILF and Moro National Liberation Front, respectively). Displaced families fled to safer ground and put up shanties along the highway. By 28 March, the IDPs had returned to their habitual residences. As of this report, resolution of the dispute is under way, while government forces have put up a military detachment in the area until the conflict is fully settled.



## AFP vs. NPA in Mati City, Davao Oriental

On 30 March, 809 families (approximately 4,045 persons) were displaced in Mati City, Davao Oriental province due to a firefight between the AFP and NPA in Barangay Tagbinunga, Mati City. A total of 1,297 families were affected in four barangays (Buso, Don Martin Marundan, Don Salvador Lopez and Tagbinonga), including those who were forced to leave their habitual residences and sought refuge in evacuation centers. The local government has provided relief assistance to the displaced families. As of this report, 479 families (approximately 2,345 persons) in Barangays Buso, Don Martin Marundan and Tagbinonga have already returned to their places of origin. However, IDPs from Barangay Don Salvador Lopez refuse to return to their habitual residences due to fear and continuing threat of armed encounters.

