

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

In early December, the Government security sector has granted access to the return areas and to some parts of Marawi City, the twenty four (24) most affected areas/ barangays are still inaccessible to residents and humanitarian actors due to security concerns. The Office of Civil Defense has been given a 'go' signal by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resume its post conflict needs assessment (PCNA) in the remaining barangays in Marawi. However, the return exercises have been temporarily halted when the Lanao areas were hit by Severe Tropical Storm Vinta on 22 December and due to the ongoing barangay profiling and certification of return requirements. IDPs reported that evacuation centres have been

damaged. Rapid assessments by protection partners are ongoing in ECs and host communities. Home-based IDPs who remain displaced, as well as those who have recently returned to Marawi City and are still re-establishing their homes and livelihood, are also in an increasingly vulnerable situation due to the successive impacts of armed conflict and natural disaster.

More than 500 shelters were turned over last 27 December to Marawi IDPs from 24 barangays hardest hit by armed conflict. Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council secretary Eduardo del Rosario, who also heads Task Force Bangon Marawi explained that the government aims to have all 1,170 units in Sagonsongan

occupied by the end of February. Del Rosario also said that the occupants will continue receiving food assistance and have their electricity bills waived within the first six months of occupancy.

As at end December 2017, 75.33 percent (266,615 individuals) of the 353,921 displaced at the height of the Marawi conflict remain displaced while 24.67 percent of this number or 87,306 individuals have returned to Marawi City, although Protection Cluster members have reported that some IDPs who returned recently to Marawi City had to move back to displacement sites either due to safety and security reasons or the absence of basic facilities in their place of origin.



AFP vs NPA in Alabel, Sarangani

On 01 December, around 20 families (approximately 100 persons) were displaced when a firefight ensued between the members of the 73rd Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in Sitio Balataan, Barangay Pag-asa in the municipality of Alabel, Sarangani Province. The encounter happened when a civilian reported of the non-state armed group's alleged extortion activities and intimidation of residents in the area. Two members of the NPA were killed in the said encounter, whom the military identified as members of the NPA's guerilla front 71. This is a part of the on-going operations of the AFP against the NPA after President Duterte ended the peace talks between the Government and the Communist Party of the Philippines—New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CCP-NPA-NDF).



AFP vs NPA in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

On 03 December, around 181 families (estimated 905 individuals) were displaced due to a firefight between Government troops and alleged members of the NPA in Barangay Ned, municipality of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato province. Eight (8) people were reportedly killed in the firefight while six (6) T'boli—Dulangan lumads (indigenous peoples) were reported missing. The military claimed that what happened was a legitimate operation and those killed are all NPA members. Members of a human rights group based in South Cotabato did not dispute the Army's claim of a clash with NPA rebels, however, they asserted that those killed were civilians who were opposed to coal mining and coffee plantation ventures in their area. According to the municipal local government unit of Lake Sebu, there had been strafing incidents reported after the clashes, which caused fear among the residents preventing them from returning to their places of origin.



Displacement from Severe Tropical Storm Vinta (International name Tembin)

Severe Tropical Storm Vinta (Tembin) made landfall in Cateel, Davao Oriental on 22 December. Vinta reached a peak strength, carrying maximum winds of 90 km/h and gustiness of up to 125 km/h. Storm alerts were raised by PAGASA in most of the provinces in Mindanao and in the southern half of Visayas. Large scale civilian displacement and substantial damage to life and property occurred as Vinta dumped a massive amount of rainfall on Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, resulting in flash floods and mudslides in many locations. The number of displaced persons reached 98,604 families (448,734 individuals) at the height of the movements and pre-emptive evacuations, based on figures released by the Government's Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC). Of this total, 27,305 families (136,414 individuals) are living with relatives and friends, while 71,009 families (310,875 individuals) living in evacuation centers. Displaced figures for Mindanao is currently at 95,654 families or 435,864 persons.



Clan feud in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao

A clan feud-related (rido) conflict between the leaders of 105th and 118th base commands of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has resulted in a series of firefights in Barangay Elian, Datu Saudi

Ampatuan municipality on 2 December. Around 531 families (estimated 2,655 persons) were forcibly displaced in parts of the villages of Elian, Gawang, Dapiawan and Madia, all in Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality. The rido between the parties was triggered when the late Mayor Samsudin

Dimaukom was killed in a police shootout in North Cotabato province. A few months later, unidentified armed men killed then-acting Mayor, the late Vice-Mayor Anuar Sindatuk. Both are blood relatives of the warring parties. The conflict between the parties involved has continued in spite of efforts made to settle the rido.

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AFP offensives against IS-inspired BIFF faction in Maguindanao

Armed encounters are ongoing between the AFP and the IS-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) faction at the boundary of Datu Unsay, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, and Datu Hoffer municipalities. By 23 December, around 61 families (estimated 305 persons) from Sitio Makun of Barangay Limpongo, in Datu Hoffer, were pre-emptively evacuated due to the presence of BIFF elements. Military operations started on 25 December, when the BIFF tried to overrun an Army command post in Mt. Firis, a sacred ground for Teduray lumads (indigenous peoples) that

the BIFF wanted to occupy. Three (3) civilian houses were set on fire. Another 451 families (estimated 2,255 persons) were forcibly displaced as a result.

Several improvised explosive device (IEDs) were planted and detonated, which killed a Teduray tribal leader while another one was wounded in Barangay Maitumaig, Datu Unsay on 27 December. A roadside bomb in Datu Hoffer killed one (1) and wounded seven (7), all Government forces in two separate incidents, while 12 houses were torched by the rebel group on 29 December

as well. On 30 December, four (4) Teduray farmers were held captive and two (2) were reportedly killed, which triggered the displacement of 449 families (estimated 2,245 persons). As of this report, firefights continue in the affected municipalities and a cumulative total of 1,088 families (estimated 5,440 persons) are reportedly displaced. Protection partners have assessed some of the evacuation sites in Datu Unsay, identifying urgent needs such as food assistance, tarpaulins, potable water, and hygiene kits.



Clan feud in Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao

On 03 December, 165 families (estimated 825 persons) were displaced from Sitio Tagatak, Barangay Resa in Datu Blah Sinsuat due to a rido. Two men were wounded in an ambush in the said area, which caused civilians to flee. The rido is thought to involve a land dispute between warring clans who have affiliations with different recognized Moro armed groups.



AFP vs BIFF in Carmen, North Cotabato

After their return in the first week of December, around 268 families (approximately 2,372 individuals) were displaced again from Carmen, North Cotabato on 24 December. The AFP launched aerial strikes against the members of an IS-inspired faction of the BIFF – Abu Torayfe group, which was sighted in the forested borders of Aleosan and Carmen, North Cotabato.



Clan feud in Pagalungan, Maguindanao

On 3 December, around 1,871 families (approximately 9,355 individuals) were forcibly displaced when clashes erupted in Sitio Panonggo, Barangay Bagoing in Datu Montawal, Maguindanao due to a longstanding dispute between Commander Bhutto Mantol and Commander Mukamad Andoy. Food packs from the municipal government have been distributed among the displaced families. Presently, families are still staying with their relatives despite being informed by the local authorities that they can now return. But due to fear that tensions might arise again between the parties, families opted to stay with their relatives while accessing their houses during day time.



AFP vs NPA in Tarragona, Davao Oriental

On 28 December, an armed encounter between the Philippine Army and suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) led some 725 families (estimated 3,625 persons) from the villages of Tubaon and Tomoang in the municipality of Tarragona province of Davao Oriental from their houses to avoid being caught in the crossfire. The displaced families returned to their communities on 09 January after staying for 12 days in evacuation centers in Barangays Central, Maganda, Tomoang, and a school in Maitum upon confirmation from the AFP of a safe return.



Military presence in San Luis, Agusan del Sur

Some 21 families (estimated 139 persons) who belong to the indigenous tribe of Banwaan were uprooted from the villages of San Pedro, Binicalan, and Mahagsay in the municipality of San Luis, Agusan del Sur province on 04 December due to the presence of military troops in the said areas. The IDPs reported that since the second week of November 2017, they were already experiencing a series of threats and harassment from the elements of the 26th Infantry Battalion of the AFP. The incident caused closure of the alternative learning center of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP) and hampered the education of 58 IP (indigenous peoples) children. The IDPs sought refuge in the municipality's town hall and reported of food blockade as the military allegedly denied entry of supplies from a number of people's organizations.



Alleged NPA harassment in Tago, Surigao del Sur

On 4 December, around 20 families (estimated 100 persons) of Manobo indigenous people (IP) descent fled their homes in Sitio Lagangan, Barangay Caras-an, Tago municipality, in the province of Surigao del Sur after the New People's Army (NPA) were allegedly imposing revolutionary tax in their community in exchange for supposed protection. The information reached the command center of the AFP when the IDPs evacuated in Barangay Caras-an Proper and ordered the deployment of troops in the village. No encounter was documented. The IDPs temporarily stayed with their relatives (homebased) and returned to their habitual residences the following day.

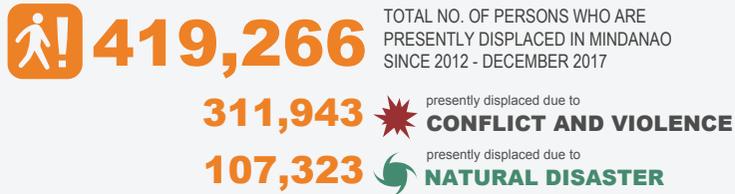




The *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* note that “internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, 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)

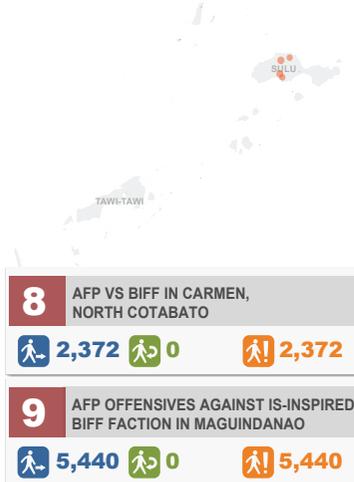
	TOTAL IN DECEMBER 2017		TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2017	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE incidents with displacement	10	25,516	85	543,008
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	1	436,484	9	866,788

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN DECEMBER 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: 1,291 Marawi IDPs went outside Mindanao
3,648 Marawi IDPs still in validation

