

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.



## Aleosan, North Cotabato Clan Feud

On 1 April, a fatal shooting incident related to a long-standing clan feud and the subsequent burning down of several houses belonging to the alleged perpetrator's relatives in retaliation resulted in the displacement of 261 families (estimated 1,305 persons) from Sitio Bulod Resingan, Barangay Dunguan in Aleosan, North Cotabato Province. The displaced families were hosted in the multi-purpose hall of a nearby barangay and supported with food packs by the Municipal Local Government Unit. By the end of April, most of the displaced had returned home, except for 20 families (estimated 100 persons) who are close relatives of the warring parties. They express intention to remain displaced until the dispute between the families is fully settled. Efforts by various local actors to reconcile the parties are ongoing.

### Update on Maguindanao Protracted Displacement: AFP's Law Enforcement Operation against BIFF

Effective 6 April, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ended its Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao Province and returned to its regular operations. The all-out offensive against BIFF had been ongoing since January 2016 and had displaced 7,768 families (estimated 38,840 persons) by the end of March.

With the end of the LEO, displaced populations started returning to their places of origin. By the end of April, all IDPs had returned home with the exception of 890 families (estimated 4,450 persons) originating from Barangays Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo, Barangay Madia in Datu Saudi Ampatuan and several barangays in Sharif Saidona Mustapha. Continued displacement of these IDPs is reported to be as a result of their fear that firefight might re-erupt due to ongoing presence of armed actors in their places of origin. Some IDPs, particularly those originating from Sharif Saidona Municipality, indicate that they are awaiting the go signal from the authorities for return. Also, some IDPs are unable to return because their houses have been fully or partially destroyed during armed conflict and they have not yet received any support for rehabilitation/reconstruction.

Both IDPs and returnees express frustration over their repeated displacement, disrupted freedom of movement, and their inability to sustainably access their properties and means of living due to armed conflict, which, coupled with the effects of drought in the region, increases their vulnerability.



Destruction of houses during conflict is a major obstacle to the return of some IDPs. © UNHCR/S. Tulon



## Ampatuan, Maguindanao Clan Feud

Skirmishes due to a land dispute reportedly involving members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), an auxiliary force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) erupted on 5 April in Barangay Tuayan, Datu Hoffer Municipality in Maguindanao Province. The skirmishes led to the displacement of 265 families (estimated 1,325 persons) comprising of Moros and indigenous groups of Manobo and Teduray from Barangays Salman, Ampatuan and Tuayan, Datu Hoffer. Unverified reports indicate that some civilian houses in Barangay Tuayan sustained damages due to stray bullets. At the time of reporting, 90 families (estimated 450 persons) had returned to their places of origin. The remaining 175 families (estimated 875 persons) go back to their habitual places during the day but prefer to spend the night in their in host barangays due to ongoing fear that the conflict between the parties might resume.



## Midsayap, North Cotabato Firefight

Two groups engaged in a firefight on 5 April in Barangay Nabalawag in Midsayap, North Cotabato Province, allegedly as a result of a political rivalry. In order to avoid getting caught in the crossfire, a total of 1,032 families (estimated 5,158 persons) from Barangays Nabalawag and Kadingilan fled their homes. There were reports of two civilian casualties (adult males) due to the firefight. At the onset of the displacement, the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) in Midsayap faced challenges in accessing the affected population due to the presence of other armed elements in the area, reportedly belonging to the Bangsamoro Freedom Fighters (BIFF). By the end of April, all IDPs had returned to their habitual residences.



## Al Barka and Tipo Tipo, Basilan AFP vs ASG Conflict

In April, the Armed Forces of Philippine (AFP) Focused Military Operation against the lawless element Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) continued in the island province of Basilan. On 9 April, the AFP engaged the ASG in Barangay Bohe Piang in Al-Barka Municipality. In the days following, the fighting further escalated to adjacent barangays in Tipo Tipo Municipality resulting in the displacement of civilians from two villages of the said municipality. The armed encounter between AFP and ASG on 9-11 April has displaced a total of 684 families (estimated 3,420 persons) from Al Barka and Tipo Tipo Municipalities.



## Guindulungan, Maguindanao Crime and Violence

A firefight took place between individuals reportedly belonging to the Civil Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Barangay Keteman, Guindulungan Municipality in Maguindanao Province on 13 April following an alleged incident of cattle theft. The firefight resulted in the displacement of 100 families (estimated 500 persons) who sought refuge with their relatives in nearby areas. All IDPs had returned to their habitual residences by the end of April.



## Talipao and Maimbung, Sulu AFP vs ASG Conflict

Following the execution of a Canadian national held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) on 25 April, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) intensified its military operation against the ASG in the island province of Sulu. On 25 April, the firefight between the AFP and ASG along the boundary of Talipao and Maimbung Municipalities in Sulu Province resulted in the displacement of 335 families (1,666 persons) from four barangays of these two municipalities. The displaced are being hosted by their relatives. According to the ARMM Office of Civil Defense, the displaced have received food assistance from the provincial authorities. According to some protection partners on the ground, Indanan and Patikul Municipalities were also indirectly affected by the conflict.



## Datu Hoffer Ampatuan, Maguindanao Strong Winds Destroy Homes

On 25 April, strong winds that hit Barangays Limpongo, Sayap, Tuayan and Talibadok in Datu Hoffer Municipality, Maguindanao Province destroyed approximately 45 houses, leading to the displacement of some 60 families (estimated 300 individuals) belonging to the Teduray indigenous community. Affected families have sought refuge in community structures such as the day care center, and some are in host families.



## Pagalungan, Maguindanao Clan Feud

On 27 April, around 90 families (estimated 450 persons) in Barangay Kilangan, Pagalungan in Maguindanao Province fled their homes due to armed clashes between two warring groups who support different mayoralty candidates. During the incident, one adult male was killed. By the end of April, the affected population continues to be displaced and are staying with their relatives.



## Talakag, Bukidnon Armed Encounter

On 27 April, approximately 100 families (estimated 450 persons) belonging to the Talaandig indigenous community fled their homes in Barangay Lirongan, Talakag Municipality to Barangay Basak, Lantapan Municipality in Bukidnon Province following the death of three civilians, one of whom is a 6 year old child, allegedly during an armed encounter between members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in the area. Some of the displaced families have returned to their homes following the de-escalation of tension in the area. At the time of reporting, assessments were ongoing to ascertain the exact number of IDPs remaining in Barangay Basak.

## Update on Butig, Lanao del Sur Displacement

Following the end of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) active military pursuit operation against the lawless element Maute Group in mid-March 2016, a return trend was being observed among internally displaced persons (IDPs) originating from Butig, which, as of 23 March, stood at 4,712 families (estimated 22,949 persons) according to Department of Social Welfare and Development of ARMM (DSWD-ARMM).

However, protection monitoring of IDP populations in Marawi City and Masiu Municipality in April indicates that the abduction of six men by the Maute group in Barangay Sandab in Butig town on 4 April, two of whom were executed on 12 April, has had a negative impact on returns as the incident led to an anticipation among communities that AFP could re-launch its pursuit operation against the Maute Group at any time.

In addition, Protection Cluster partners that were able to visit ground-zero barangays of Ragayan, Coloyan, Bayabao, Sandab and Poctan in Butig Municipality in mid to late April confirm that majority of the returnees, who primarily consist of men while women and children remain behind in places of displacement, re-evacuated their places of origin after the kidnapping incident, especially in Barangays Poctan and Ragayan. A few IDP men are reported to be visiting their homes during the day for farming activities and returning to safer locations at night. Protection partners also confirm that 16 houses were completely burned down during the conflict in February and a substantial number of houses were severely or partially destroyed as a result of shelling, arson and looting. Looting of other assets such as household belongings and livestock, as well as presence of unexploded ordinance, is also being reported from ground-zero areas.



## Maasim, Sarangani Province PNP vs AKP Armed Encounter

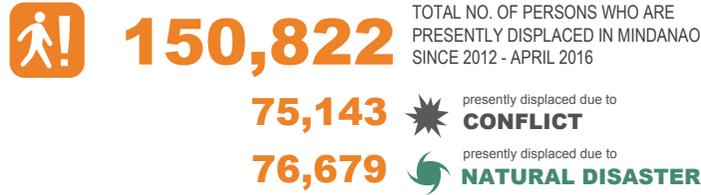
On 28 April, an armed encounter in Barangay Daliao, Maasim Municipality in Sarangani Province between the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force and the Ansar Al-Khalifa Philippines (AKP) resulted in the death of 2 AKP members and caused panic among the civilian population. Although initial reports referred to a higher number of displaced from the armed encounter site, as well as preparations for evacuation in surrounding areas, according to local sources, only 2 families (10 individuals) fled their homes in the upper part of Sitio Kananayan. They returned immediately after the conflict subsided.



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 who 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 October 2015, there are still an estimated 76,379 IDPs in need of a durable solution in this region.

## NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT IN 2016

	TOTAL IN APRIL 2016		TOTAL SINCE JAN 2016	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
 <b>CONFLICT</b> incidents with displacement	<b>9</b>	<b>14,434</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>142,854</b>
 <b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	<b>1</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>300</b>

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN APRIL 2016 (see details in boxes)



## LEGEND

