

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.



## Pagalungan, Maguindanao Clan Feud

On 1 May, a firefight between political rivals that have a standing clan feud in Barangay Damalask, Pagalungan Municipality in Maguindanao Province resulted in the displacement of 360 families (estimated 1,800 persons) to Barangay Galakit. The firefight is believed to have erupted in connection to a shooting incident on 29 April 2016 in Barangay Kilanagan that led to the death of an individual known to be the relative of a politician running for a top position in Pagalungan. The displaced families were hosted in Galakit Elementary School and received food assistance by the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU). According to reports from protection partners and the MLGU, the displaced families had returned to their places of origin by the end of May.



## Marogong, Lanao del Sur Political Violence

Following a politically motivated shooting incident in Barangay Cabasaran, Marogong Municipality in Lanao del Sur Province on 10 May, an estimated 50 families (250 persons) fled their homes in Barangay Mantaloco, Marogong Municipality due to fear of retaliation. All displaced families returned to their homes shortly after the tension in the area diffused.



## South Upi, Maguindanao Political Violence

On 10 May, the fatal shooting of a barangay captain in Barangay Kigan, South Upi, Maguindanao Province and the subsequent sighting of increased number of armed men in the area led to the displacement of 518 families (2,588 persons) to nearby villages within Kigan, as well as to Barangay Pandan in the same Municipality. The displaced returned to their homes a few days after the incident.



## Talitay, Maguindanao Political Violence

A firefight between political rivals on 13 May forced 130 families (650 persons) to flee from Barangays Kiladap, Menggay, Makadayon, Gadong, Kuden and Poblacion in Talitay Municipality, Maguindanao Province to Mahad Aaon, also in Talitay Municipality. Following the incident, Task Force of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front – Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF-BIAF) was posted in the area to pacify the tension between the warring parties, which were advised to reposition away from civilian areas to enable displaced populations to return to their habitual residences. The joint Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has also intervened to help in the reconciliation of the parties. All displaced had returned to their places of origin within a week.



Butig Elementary School in Lanao del Sur severely damaged after an intense battle between government troops and Maute group in February 2016.  
© CFSI Mindanao



## Tipo-Tipo, Basilan AFP vs ASG Armed Encounter

On 16 May, only a few days after the displaced families from previous armed encounters had returned to their homes, there were reports of renewed clashes between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Abu Sayaff Group (ASG) members in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. As a result of these renewed clashes, 95 families (475 individuals) from Barangay Baguindan are reported to have evacuated to Tipo-Tipo proper and to Barangay Bohe-Piang in Al-Barka Municipality. An armed encounter has also been reported in Tipo-Tipo town on 23 May. By the end of the month, the conditions on the ground in Basilan remained fragile. Accessing up-to-date information on the protection situation of civilians affected by the conflict between AFP and members of the ASG remains a challenge due to limited communications network in the area.



## Talacogon, Agusan del Sur Displacement

Due to the ongoing presence of a paramilitary group in the boundary of Agusan del Sur and Bukidnon Provinces that severely impacts Lumad residents' freedom of movement and safe access to livelihoods, a total of 108 Talaandig families (468 persons) from four communities in Agusan del Sur left their homes on 16 May to seek sanctuary in Barangay Zellovia, Talacogon Municipality in Agusan del Sur Province. The displaced families have been provided with initial food assistance by the Local Government Units of Zellovia and Talacogon. However, protection partners on the ground report that the food assistance may not be sufficient to cover the needs of all the affected families, particularly if their displacement becomes protracted due to continued presence of the paramilitary group in their ancestral lands.



## Lanao del Sur Operations against the Maute Group

On 26 May, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) resumed its surgical military operation against the Maute Group in Butig Municipality, Lanao del Sur Province. Joint assessments conducted on 28-29 May by governmental and non-governmental Protection Cluster members based in Lanao del Sur indicate that renewed conflict has resulted in approximately 575 families (estimated 3,443 individuals) to flee their homes, primarily from Barangays Poctan, Ragayan, Bayabao Poblacion, Coloyan and Sandab. A significant majority of the displaced families are being hosted by their relatives in Marawi City, Masiu, Ditsaan, Ramin and Tamparan in Lanao del Sur province, while 37 families (207 persons) are being hosted in three identified evacuation centers in Barangays Malungun and Butig Proper. Relief distribution for the displaced community has been scheduled for 1 June by the regional and provincial authorities. As the month of May came to a close, the armed encounter between AFP and Maute Group was ongoing. There is limited verifiable information coming from ground zero areas regarding possible civilian casualties or other protection concerns. Displaced communities express particular worry regarding the start of the academic year on 13 June as scheduled, particularly in 5 schools in the densely populated Barangays of Sandab and Bayabao.



### Piagapo, Lanao del Sur Political Violence

An estimated 55 families (275 individuals) were displaced from Barangay Basak, Piagapo Municipality in Lanao del Sur Province following an armed confrontation between two opposing politicians on 24 May. The displaced families returned to their homes two days later after a Joint Task Force from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) pacified the incident.



### Midsayap, North Cotabato Clan Feud

Due to a clan feud, 120 families (estimated 600 individuals) were displaced from Purok 7 to Purok 6 in Barangay Damatulan, Midsayap Municipality in North Cotabato Province on 26 May. According to the Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU), the involved families are both claiming a parcel of land located in Barangay Damatulan. The day following the incident, conflict resolution efforts led by the BLGU with the support of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) resulted in a settlement between the conflicting parties. The displaced families consequently returned home.



### Pagalungan, Maguindanao Clan Feud

On 26 May, around 90 families (estimated 450 persons) fled their homes in Sitio Panunggo, Barangay Bagoenged, Pagalungan Municipality in Maguindanao Province due to a firefight between two long-standing warring parties in the area. The firefight is allegedly as a result of political rivalries. By the end of May, 50 families (estimated 250 individuals) had already returned to their homes. The remaining 40 families are being sheltered by their relatives in Sitio Dadas in Barangay Bagoenged. They report hesitation to return due to fear that another firefight might erupt between the warring parties. The displaced have received food packs from the municipal government.



### Shariff Saydona, Maguindanao Operations against the BIFF

On 26 May, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) detachment in Barangay Linantangan in Shariff Saydona Mustapha Municipality, Maguindanao Province was harassed by members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which the AFP reportedly responded with mortar shelling. The incident resulted in 20 families (estimated 100 persons) to flee their homes in fear for their safety. By the end of May, the displaced families had returned to their homes.

### Zamboanga Protracted Displacement

The search for durable solutions for those displaced during the 2013 Zamboanga siege continues. As of 30 May, 2,595 families (14, 479 persons) remain displaced in 12 transitory sites in Zamboanga, while there are 1,224 re-verified internally displaced families (estimated 7,638 individuals) who live among the host community. Moreover, there are some additional 3,866 families previously registered as home-based internally displaced persons (IDPs) who await re-verification. The re-verification and profiling of these remaining families is planned by the Zamboanga City Social Development and Welfare Office with support from UNHCR in May-August 2016. The finalization of the re-profiling of all home-based displaced families in Zamboanga will enable the City authorities to validate the relevance of existing government home-based IDP listings and to understand their current protection condition in order to better address their needs and prospects for durable solutions. The completion of the Zamboanga Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction (Z3R) housing project remains a challenge. As of 16 May, only 1,362 units have been awarded from the planned 6,500 units of permanent shelter. Meanwhile, to support the displaced communities in income-generation, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is in the process of undertaking a series of vocational trainings which will then be linked to existing training courses offered by accredited institutional service providers such as TESDA and matched with key employment generators at regional and national level.



Meeting of enumerators for the re-profiling of home-based Internally Displaced Persons in Zamboanga City. © R. Maquilan | UNHCR Cotabato

### Eastern Mindanao Displacement of Indigenous Peoples

More than 2,000 Indigenous Peoples (IPs) continue to be displaced in Eastern Mindanao as their options for durable solutions remain limited. Protection monitoring conducted in May 2016 in the Provincial Sports Center in Tandag, Surigao del Sur Province indicates that 455 families (approximately 1,900 persons) originating from Municipalities of Lianga, San Agustin, Marihatag, Tago and San Miguel remain displaced since September 2015. The internally displaced IPs express reluctance to return to their habitual residences unless the Magahat/Bagani paramilitary groups in their ancestral lands are disbanded and the outstanding arrest warrants are executed for the alleged perpetrators of IP leader killings. Meanwhile, protection monitoring conducted in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) Haran Compound in Davao City revealed that most of the IPs displaced in the first quarter of 2015 have returned to their places of origin in Talaingod and Kapalung Municipalities in Davao del Norte, leaving 87 displaced families (estimated 400 persons) to continue being hosted in the Haran Compound. IPs remaining in displacement in Haran Compound report that their relatives who have returned continue to face harassment from paramilitary groups and temporarily displace themselves to areas closer to their places of origin at times of heightened tension. For this reason, they believe that sustainable return in safety and dignity is currently not an option.

#### DISCLAIMER

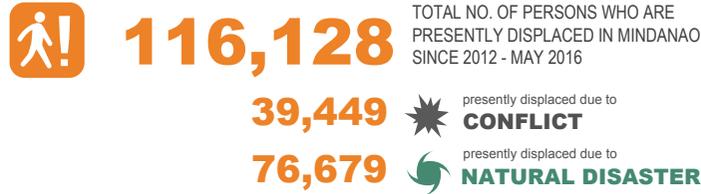
The Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard aims to provide a starting point for information and analysis that can help protection agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders concerning instances of forced displacement or solutions (repatriation, resettlement, integration). The number of people displaced / affected may differ from the number in need of humanitarian assistance. To the extent possible, the terminology used in the Dashboard reflects the *UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and other sources of international law and practice. The information reported in the Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard has been received from members of the Protection Cluster across Mindanao. Consequently, unreported cases of forced displacement and solutions are not reflected. Updates will be provided as and when more information is received from members. Although efforts are made to verify the data, the UNHCR Mindanao, Philippines takes no responsibility for the incompleteness or inaccuracy of the information. The information provided in this Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard does not necessarily reflect the views of UNHCR or any individual member of the Protection Cluster.



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 MAY 2016		TOTAL SINCE JAN 2016	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
<b>CONFLICT</b> incidents with displacement	11	11,099	41	157,106
<b>NATURAL DISASTER</b> incidents with displacement	0	0	1	300

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



## LEGEND

