

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.



Flash floods in Kalamansig and Lebak, Sultan Kudarat

Due to flooding following heavy rain, 98 families (around 490 persons) evacuated from their homes in the coastal municipality of Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat province, on 06 November. At least six barangays in Kalamansig were affected, as well as two barangays in the adjacent municipality of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat province.

At least 23 houses were reportedly destroyed or damaged, and power supply in some of the affected areas was temporarily disrupted. Although no casualties were reported in Sultan Kudarat, three people, including an infant, reportedly died of drowning in the adjoining province of Maguindanao, which was also affected by the floods. As of this report, all displaced families have returned to their habitual residences.



Land dispute in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao

Around 200 families (1,000 persons) in Sitio Damabago, Barangay Barurao, fled their homes in the municipality of Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao, following a firefight on 09 November. The clash resulted from a land dispute between two parties, who are also reportedly affiliated with an armed group.

Some of the IDPs were hosted in nearby school buildings, while others sought refuge with relatives. Two persons were reportedly killed in the firefight. As of this report, no information had yet been received as to whether the displaced families had returned to their homes.



Firefight in Balindong, Lanao del Sur

On 11 November, 437 families (2,175 persons) in the barangays of Barit and Bualan, in Balindong municipality, Lanao del Sur, fled for their safety due to heightened tensions between members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and alleged members of local militia units. These escalated to an armed encounter between the said parties on 12 November, also affecting Barangay Dibarusan, in the same municipality.

According to information from Protection partners, the incident resulted in the deaths of two persons and partial damage to three houses and two educational facilities. Persistent local conflict resolution efforts have been successful in pacifying the tension. By the end of November, most of the displaced families had returned home, leaving only 116 families (576 persons) displaced.



AFP vs. Maute Group in Butig, Lanao del Sur

On 24-25 November, residents of Barangays Coloyan, Poktan, Ragayan, Sandab, and Sundig in the municipality of Butig, Lanao del Sur pre-emptively evacuated upon receiving information regarding impending military operations in the area. A firefight erupted between Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) troops and members of the Maute Group on 26 November. Aerial bombardments and mortar shelling were reported.

As a result of the conflict, at least 2,218 families (11,090 persons) have been displaced from the five barangays mentioned and from Barangay Poblacion-Bayabao. Of these, approximately 3,135 persons (627 families) took shelter in community structures and educational facilities located in various barangays within Butig. Others sought refuge with their relatives in the municipalities of Butig and Lumbayanague, as well as in Marawi City. As of this report, validation of displaced communities is still ongoing. Many of the IDPs had only recently returned to their homes after having been previously displaced as a result of previous encounters between the same parties in February and May 2016.

Military presence and occurrence of firefights in close proximity to the designated evacuation sites have triggered fear and concern among the IDPs. Congested conditions in these sites and the presence of vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children, and elderly persons, pose increased health risks. Some of the evacuation sites lack proper sanitation facilities, particularly in Mipantao Elementary School, where open defecation was observed due to lack of latrines, and in Sitio Bantog, Bayabao, where IDPs had to resort to a river, which is located near areas with ongoing fighting, for their hygiene needs. IDPs raise concerns regarding damage to farms, leading to the disruption of livelihoods, as well as the need for psychosocial support, especially for traumatized children. Some express concern regarding possible food shortage should their displacement become protracted, as well as about their lack of access to kitchen utensils and other basic household items in the evacuation sites. The incident led to the suspension of classes up to the secondary level in all schools in Butig. As of the end of November, Protection partners on the ground had yet to confirm that classes had resumed. There are reports that educational facilities were occupied by the parties during the hostilities, and that some schools sustained heavy damage as a result of fighting.

The provincial and municipal local government units and the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Butig conducted assessments in some locations to validate the number of displaced families and identify the IDPs' current needs. The Integrated Provincial Health Office of Lanao del Sur has conducted a medical mission to address some of the IDPs' immediate health needs. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's Humanitarian Emergency Action and Response Team (ARMM-HEART) also distributed food packs and other relief items, while the Office of Civil Defense-ARMM provided jerrycans for water storage. As of this report, the affected families remain displaced. While significant humanitarian needs and protection risks remain outstanding, the security situation in the affected areas poses major constraints to the delivery of assistance.



Clan Feud in Datu Piang, Maguindanao and North Cotabato

A series of firefights that erupted on 13 November in Barangay Duaminanga, Datu Piang, Maguindanao, between two parties engaged in a rido (clan feud) led to the displacement of 1,184 families (approximately 5,920 persons). The IDPs evacuated from their homes in Barangays Ambadao, Balong, and Montay and sought shelter with relatives, including some who reportedly stayed in Barangay Maitong, in the adjacent municipality of Kabuntalan.

The fighting reportedly spread to some areas in Midsayap municipality, North Cotabato and Northern Kabuntalan municipality in Maguindanao. According to reports from partners from the Protection Cluster, two minors were injured by stray bullets. As of the end of November, the affected families remained displaced out of fear of renewed clashes.



Law enforcement operations in Talitay, Maguindanao

On 18 November, the presence of military troops and reported aerial attacks triggered the evacuation of 170 families (an estimated 850 individuals) from interior barangays in the municipality of Talitay, Maguindanao. The military activities in the area were reportedly in connection with a joint Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – Philippine National Police (PNP) operation linked to a law enforcement operation.

The IDPs sought safety in various locations in Talitay and Talayan municipalities. The nearby municipality of Datu Anggal Midtimbang was also reportedly affected by displacement. As of the end of November, all of the displaced families had returned to their homes.



Clan feud in Pikit, North Cotabato

In Barangay Talitay, Pikit, Cotabato province, a firefight that broke out on 20 November between two parties involved in a long-standing rido (clan feud) triggered the displacement of 369 families (estimated 1,845 individuals). The affected families evacuated from the barangays of Talitay, Inug-ug, and Rajah Muda. Most sought shelter in community structures or madrasah, while others took refuge in relatives' homes.

The local government unit, through the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), has extended assistance as of 23 November. The IDPs remain displaced as of this report.



Shooting incident in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao

On 27 November, an estimated 50 families were displaced following the fatal shooting of the Vice Mayor of Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality in Maguindanao province. The displaced families returned to their homes soon after their displacement. However, tension in the area remains high and families from several barangays in the area, including Elian and Madia, are observed to have readied their belongings to evacuate at any time.

UPDATE: IPs in Lianga, Surigao del Sur receive assistance following their return from displacement

Following their return from a year of displacement, the lumad (indigenous peoples) community in Barangay Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur have started to rebuild their homes and livelihoods, with support from government agencies and humanitarian actors.

The IPs returned to their communities in September 2016 after being displaced for a year in Tandag, Surigao del Sur due to killings of their leaders and harassment by paramilitary groups.

To facilitate the repair of damaged/destroyed houses, the Caraga regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided cash grants in the amount of 10,000 pesos each to 475 returnee families. In line with agreements regarding the provision of food support, which were included in an inter-agency action plan that was drafted in preparation for the IDPs' return, the DSWD also carried out a cash-for-work distribution among the returnees.

The Department of Agriculture has provided vegetable seeds and livestock to some of the returnee families. Humanitarian organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development, Inc. (ACCORD) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are also providing additional support to the returnee communities, with rice and vegetable seeds as well as farm tools, to assist in livelihood recovery and food security.



IPs who recently returned to Barangay Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur, attend a cash-for-work distribution by the DSWD – Caraga Region on 16 November 2016.

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DISCLAIMER

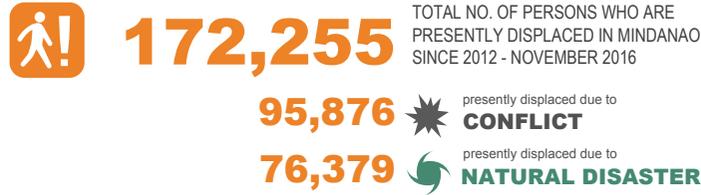
The Monthly Mindanao Displacement Dashboard aims to provide a starting point for information and analysis that can help protection agencies, policy makers and other stakeholders concerning instances of forced displacement or solutions (repatriation, resettlement, integration). The number of people displaced / 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 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 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 NOVEMBER 2016		TOTAL SINCE JAN 2016	
	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)	INCIDENTS	DISPLACEMENT (persons)
CONFLICT incidents with displacement	7	23,130	70	272,433
NATURAL DISASTER incidents with displacement	1	490	3	3,160

DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN NOVEMBER 2016 (see details in boxes)



LEGEND

