

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.



## POST-MARAWI SIEGE RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

As of 31 July 2018, a total of **64,364 families** have already returned, while **12,806 families** are still displaced, according to the Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM). Of these, **1,675 families are inside evacuation centers** and **11,031 families are home-based IDPs**. Twenty Three (23) evacuation centers are still open, of which eight (8) are in Lanao Del Norte and fifteen (15) are in Lanao Del Sur.

The recent spate of reported missing and attempted abductions of young women and children (mostly Maranaos) has resulted in deep security concerns among the IDPs and other members of the Maranao community. This issue was raised in the UNHCR-led Protection Forum meeting, and case profiles were shared by a local civil society organization with the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Working Group. As a response, UNHCR is working with stakeholders to find ways to fill the data gaps, as well as supporting efforts in raising awareness.

Meanwhile, IDP families displaced because of the Marawi conflict continue to raise issues on lack of access to information, diminished food assistance, and lack of livelihood, which make their living conditions harder.

On the IDP profiling project, UNHCR resumed activities in Lanao del Norte municipalities. Meanwhile, the military's Joint Task Force Ranaw has advised organizations implementing humanitarian projects in their area of operations to first request clearance from TFBM. UNHCR has approached Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) Field Office Manager and Assistant Housing Secretary Felix Castro on this concern.

## Marawi durable solutions updates

All IDPs displaced by the Marawi conflict will be either returned or admitted to the local government unit of Marawi City by September 10, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). UNHCR continues its projects in the area, including IDP profiling and civil registration. After being temporarily put on hold, UNHCR's IDP profiling activities will continue outside of Marawi City. UNHCR is also set to meet with the local government unit of Marawi City to present the partial IDP data already collected.



## AFP vs BIFF faction Maguindanao

On 1 July 2018, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) launched a Law Enforcement Operation (LEO) against an Islamic State-sympathizing faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) operating along the borders of Shariff Aguak and Shariff Saydona Mustapha municipalities, Maguindanao province. Around

**1,750 families (8,750 individuals)** were displaced from affected interior areas in the "SPMS box" (see below) in Maguindanao and fled to safer areas in adjacent communities.

The airstrike and mortar shelling launched by the government armed forces forced families to flee their homes for safety, leaving behind their belongings. Most of the IDPs didn't have time to bring with them basic items such as mats, kitchen utensils, blankets and other non-food as well as food items. The same communities had already been affected by displacement in June, triggered by fire-fights between the same parties, and IDPs had returned only a few weeks earlier.

For the past three years, recurring skirmishes between the government forces and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) inside the "SPMS box," referring to the adjoining areas of Barangay Salbo (Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality), Barangay Pagatin (Shariff Saydona Mustapha), Mamasapano, and Shariff Aguak have repeatedly displaced civilians. Assistance from the Local Government Units (LGUs) and government agencies have been minimal, while IDPs raised concerns regarding the immediate and long-term impact of displacement on their lives, property, health, and general well-being. Several adjacent municipalities were also affected by flooding in July, but no displacement was reported.

Meanwhile, IDPs displaced by earlier clashes between the same parties in June, concentrated in Maguindanao and also affecting surrounding areas near the Liguasan Marsh, have already returned to their habitual residences. This, however, excludes an undetermined number of families from Barangay Pikeg in Shariff Saydona Mustapha municipality, which is known to be the armed group's stronghold and a frequent target of airstrikes.



## Displacements due to Clan Feud (Rido) Maguindanao

Two separate rido-related incidents caused firefights in Maguindanao, which forced a total of 85 families (approximately 425 persons) to flee their homes.

The first incident was reported on 13 July in Barangay Masigay, Datu Piang, which displaced at least **35 families (approximately 175 persons)**. The fighting reportedly ceased after efforts of the traditional leaders to settle the dispute. However, a few days later, the fighting erupted again, wounding four (4) civilians.

On 17 July, a separate case of rido which resulted in a firefight was reported in Barangay Barurao, Sultan sa Barungis. At least **50 families (approximately 250 persons)** were reportedly displaced.

All the displaced families reportedly returned to their habitual residence a few days after the clashes.

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## IP Displacement Surigao del Sur

On 16 July, members of an indigenous community fled their homes from remote villages in Lianga municipality, province of Surigao del Sur and sought shelter at Brgy. Diatagon gym. The ongoing presence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the area alarmed the residents, who also cited alleged cases of human rights violations as the main reason for their evacuation. There were reports that a faith-based group was blocked from accessing the area to provide assistance to the IDPs. In 2015, this same IP community was displaced for over a year due to military activities and killings of tribal leaders allegedly perpetrated by a paramilitary group. This IP community is known to staunchly oppose resource-extraction projects and entry of big mining companies into their ancestral domain.

Basic food and health assistance were provided by the municipal local government, but based on UNHCR's field assessment, other needs particularly water and sanitation had yet to be addressed. Classes in eight IP alternative schools were also suspended following the incident, disrupting children's access to education.

As of the 19 July 2018 report of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of Lianga, the total number of IDPs is **269 families (1,408 individuals)**.



Dire situation of IP evacuees at Diatagon gym, Lianga, Surigao del Sur ©UNHCR/E. Monato



## Updates on Displacement in Lanao del Sur

Following clashes in June between government forces and alleged remnants of the Islamic State-inspired group that was behind the Marawi siege, some **3,426 families (15,491 persons)** were displaced from the municipalities of Tubaran and Pagayawan in Lanao del Sur. Of these, 2,633 families (12,808 individuals) evacuated to relatives' and friends' houses, while 791



## UPDATE: BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW (BOL) SIGNED

On 23 July, President Duterte delivered his 3rd State of the Nation Address (SONA), during which he reiterated the administration's support for the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) and assured that it will be signed within 48 hours although the House of Representatives failed to ratify the BOL before the SONA. President Duterte also called for the passing of the National Land Use Act to tackle the utilization and development of land and physical resources, and approved for immediate endorsement to Congress the passage of the law creating the Department of Disaster Resilience, which is seen to reduce the country's vulnerability to natural hazards and bolster resilience to the impact of natural disasters and climate change. The SONA was delayed for an hour due to a sudden change of leadership at the House of Representatives. Former president and now Pampanga 2nd District Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was sworn in as the new Speaker although incumbent Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez still presided over the joint session.

On 26 July 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed the Bangsamoro Organic Law, officially named the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Upon its ratification by the constituency via plebiscite (projected date for which is January 2019), the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) that was established in 1989 will be deemed abolished. This law is the result of decades-long peace talks which institutionalizes provisions of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) in 2014. The Bangsamoro Government will be parliamentary-democratic in form and will be headed by a Chief Minister and 80 parliament members. The new structure redefines the landscape of Government actors for UNHCR to interact with in addressing displacement in Mindanao.

families (3,143 individuals) took shelter in 14 evacuation centers, according to the report of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office as of 26 June.

The IDPs received food assistance and hygiene kits from the municipal and provincial local government units, and from the Department of Social Welfare and Development. They also expressed other needs, such as sleeping material, partitions for their temporary living quarters, water supply, and cooking utensils.

By the end of July, most of them had already returned, except for some IDPs from Barangays Guiarong and Padas in Pagayawan municipality, who had not yet returned due to fear caused by military presence. These IDPs were temporarily staying in other areas within Pagayawan.

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.”

A durable solution is achieved when IDPs no longer have outstanding protection or other humanitarian needs arising from their displacement. Durable solutions can be in the form of: (a) return, (b) local integration or (c) resettlement (to another area). The exercise of any of these options must be (1) voluntary in (2) safety and (3) dignity for a durable solution to be attained.

## CURRENT NUMBER OF IDPS IN NEED OF A DURABLE SOLUTION



## CLARIFICATIONS

Zamboanga Siege displacement - IDPs remain displaced from the Zamboanga Siege of September 2013 in Western Mindanao. Region IX 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. In December 2016 UNHCR profiled 1,135 home-based IDP families.

Marawi Siege displacement - 1,046 Marawi IDPs left Mindanao and 3,648 IDPs are to be validated by DSWD.

## NUMBER OF INCIDENTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT (see details in boxes)

|                                                                                                                            | TOTAL IN JULY 2018 |                        | TOTAL SINCE JANUARY 2018 |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                                                                                            | INCIDENTS          | DISPLACEMENT (persons) | INCIDENTS                | DISPLACEMENT (persons) |
|  <b>ARMED CONFLICT AND CRIME / VIOLENCE</b> | 4                  | 10,583                 | 61                       | 112,892                |
| incidents with displacement                                                                                                |                    |                        |                          |                        |
|  <b>NATURAL DISASTER</b>                    | 0                  | 0                      | 3                        | 93,314                 |
| incidents with displacement                                                                                                |                    |                        |                          |                        |

## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT IN JULY 2018



## LEGEND



Note: 1. The figures appearing in this document are not comprehensive. The data pertains to those collected by Protection Cluster Partners and collated by UNHCR since 2012.

2. Protracted IDPs are IDPs who have been displaced for more than 180 days and are still displaced.

SOURCES: Protection Cluster Mindanao

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DISCLAIMER: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Data presented by UNHCR is based on internal reporting and various official data sources (DSWD, NDRRC, etc.).

