

# PHILIPPINES

## Figure Analysis – Displacement Related to Conflict and Violence

### CONTEXT

Most internal displacement in the Philippines took place in the southern provinces of the Mindanao region in 2018. The region has a history of armed conflict, tensions and political unrest, and is the base of a long-standing Muslim separatist movement, currently represented by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the Abu Sayyaf group. Additionally, there was some displacement triggered by violence in the south, linked to clan feuds and civil unrest over land disputes.

The most significant displacement event was a series of air strikes launched against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) by the Philippine Air Force (PAF) in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato, in June 2018. It triggered the displacement of more than 32,000 people. President Rodrigo Duterte signed the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) on 26 July, creating the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as a home for Muslims who have been fighting for self-determination in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines.<sup>i</sup>

The BOL is the result of decades of peace negotiations between the Philippine government and Mindanao rebel groups, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.<sup>ii</sup> A plebiscite held on 21 January 2019 saw a majority of residents in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Cotabato City vote in favour of the law creating the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The BOL was ratified on 25 January 2019.<sup>iii</sup>

New displacements	Total number of IDPs	Partial or unverified solutions	
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution	Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified
188,000	301,000 (Year figure was last updated: 2018)	200 (1 January – 31 December 2018)	No data available
<i>This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement having occurred in 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2018.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial due to the conditions in which these IDPs are living.</i>	<i>This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 but for whom there is no available evidence corroborating progress toward durable solutions.</i>

## NEW DISPLACEMENTS

*This corresponds to the estimated number of internal displacement movements to have taken place during the year.*

### **Sources and methodologies**

The Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) works through its offices in the field to collect detailed information about displaced people in evacuation shelters and those staying with family and friends. It reports on conflict events and issues regular updates, sometimes on a daily basis, if conflict triggers particularly large displacements. These reports include cumulative figures of IDPs as well as information their locations. The Protection Cluster also provides IDP data and works with its members and UNHCR field monitors to provide more comprehensive data about displacement in Mindanao. It issues monthly reports with information about clan feuds and smaller conflict-related displacement events that are not captured in DROMIC reports.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

Data from the DROMIC and Protection Cluster reports was last updated on 30 November 2018. Some data is available on the nature of the displacement, such as those staying in evacuation shelters or with friends and family, but this information is inconsistent. When available, DROMIC data is used as a primary source for conflict events. Information on displacement events from the Protection Cluster are included when they are not covered by DROMIC. The challenge is that DROMIC typically reports on large conflicts, while the Cluster covers smaller events, but in the Mindanao region only.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC estimates there were more than 188,000 new displacements in 2018. We have logged new displacements with event-based monitoring since 2017, capturing the temporal, geographic and nature of individual conflicts. This is to ensure we can cross-check figures between the Protection Cluster, DROMIC and media reports.

### **Significant changes from last year**

No single major event comparable in scope to the urban conflict in Marawi in 2017, took place in 2018, but tensions and conflict continue in the Mindanao region. The region was under martial law since the 2017 Marawi conflict and this situation will continue through to the end of 2019. The military presence there has led to minor skirmishes. In addition, smaller displacements occurred, triggered by land disputes, clan feuds, and localised civil unrest.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

*This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement at the end of 2018.*

### **Sources and methodologies**

IDMC's sources for new displacement data are the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) and the Protection Cluster. Their methodologies are as described in the above section.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

As for the new displacements figure, the data from the DROMIC and Protection Cluster reports was last updated on 30 November 2018. IDMC uses an event-based monitoring approach (identification of individual events that generate displacement through monitoring of sources such as media reports or alerts) for conflicts in the Philippines since 2017 and therefore differs from that reported by the Protection Cluster. The difference is likely due to the fact that the Cluster only monitors the Mindanao region while IDMC's data also includes displacement due to conflict in other areas of the country.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC estimates that there are around 301,000 people displaced in the Philippines. IDMC used event-based monitoring to categorise and assess changes to the total number of IDPs figure for events logged in our database from 2014 to 2018, because of conflicts going on particularly in the southern region of the country, since 2017. DROMIC and the Protection Cluster reports disaggregated displacement figures by new displacement, total number of IDPs and returns. When available, IDMC uses the total number of IDPs that is reported. If a total number of IDPs is not reported, IDMC estimates it based on the difference between the new displacements and return figures.

### **Significant changes from last year**

There was no significant change to methodology, but the figure decreased compared to 2017. This is the result of a decrease in the number of displacement-generating events in 2018 and more of people making partial progress towards durable solutions, including people who were displaced in 2017 by the Marawi conflict.

## **NUMBER OF IDPS WHO HAVE MADE PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A DURABLE SOLUTION**

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2018 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial due to the conditions in which these IDPs are living.*

### **Sources and methodologies**

As is the case with its total number of IDPs and new displacements figures, the main data sources for IDMC's partial solutions estimate are the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) and the Protection Cluster. Their methodologies are detailed in the previous sections of this document.

### **Main caveats and monitoring challenges**

The data from DROMIC and the Protection Cluster was last updated on 30 November 2018. Typically, attempted returns are less monitored and reported on than displacements. As a result of this, there is less information about people who have made partial progress towards durable solutions.

### **IDMC figure and rationale**

IDMC estimates that there were more than 65,000 people who have made partial progress towards durable solutions based on reports by DROMIC and the Protection Cluster. Most conflicts are usually short-lived, and people reportedly return to their habitual place of residence. However, IDMC cannot assess the sustainability of these returns and therefore has accounted for them as having only reached partial solutions.

### **Significant changes from last year**

There was no significant change in methodology. There is a smaller number of people who have reached partial solutions reported in 2018 compared to 2017, because there was a significant number of returns following the end of the Marawi conflict in 2017. Some partial solutions reported for 2018 relate to people who returned following conflict events that took place prior to 2018. IDMC considers returnees to have only achieved partial solutions, based on reports and assessments provided by partners.

## CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

*The Confidence Assessment provides an at-a-glance overview of the comprehensiveness of the data available regarding displacement associated with conflict for each country. It describes the methodologies used, frequency of reporting, data disaggregation and geographical coverage. Here two key metrics are analysed: the new displacements and the total number of IDPs.*

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People	People
	Households	
Methodology	Registration	Registration
	Key informants	Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Geographical coverage	Partial coverage	Partial coverage
Frequency of reporting	Every month	Every month
Disaggregation on sex	No	No
Disaggregation on age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	No
Data on returns	Yes	Partial
Data on local integration	Partial	No
Data on cross border movements	No	No
Data on deaths	No	No
Data on births	No	No

For any additional questions please email: [data@idmc.ch](mailto:data@idmc.ch)

For the full country profile on the Philippines please visit:  
<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/philippines>

<sup>i</sup> Al Jazeera, [Bangsamoro Organic Law can be Duterte's greatest legacy](#), 1 August 2018

<sup>ii</sup> CNN Philippines, [The Bangsamoro Organic Law: Everything you need to know](#), 24 July 2018

<sup>iii</sup> Rappler, [Now that Bangsamoro law is ratified, what comes next?](#) 31 January 2019