

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

PHILIPPINES

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



PHILIPPINES - Contextual Update

Stock:	445,000
New Displacements:	645,000
Returns:	287,000
Provisional Solutions:	0

Confidence
Assessment
(from Helix)

Internal displacement in 2017 continued to be focused in the southern provinces of the Mindanao region. Ongoing tensions and armed conflict in the region is part of a history of political unrest and a long-standing Muslim separatist movement currently linked to the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the Abu Sayyaf group. Other conflict-related displacement also took place mainly in the south related to clan feuds, criminal violence and civil unrest.

The most significant displacement event in 2017 was the battle of Marawi city that started on 23 May 2017 between the Philippines armed forces and fighters from the Maute group, also known as the Islamic State of Lanao, allegedly supported by elements of Abu Sayyaf and BIFF. More than 350,000 people were displaced in the city and surrounding region. Despite the conflict officially ending in October, tens of thousands remain displaced and martial law continues to be in place giving the military widespread powers, including the ability to carry out warrantless arrests and set up roadblocks and checkpoints.

PHILIPPINES - Map of major displacement events in 2017



About 350,000 people were displaced due to fighting between the Philippines armed forces and fighters from the Maute group, also known as the Islamic State of Lanao, allegedly supported by elements of Abu Sayyaf and BIFF.
Location: Marawi City and surrounding region
Dates: May - October 2017
Source: DROMIC

In addition to the conflict in Marawi, some 290,000 people were displaced as a result of ongoing tensions, violence, armed conflict and civil unrest in the Mindanao, amid long-standing political unrest and separatist conflict.
Location: Mindanao region
Source: DROMIC, Protection Cluster, media

Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

PHILIPPINES - Stock: 445,000 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of individuals in a situation of internal displacement at the end of 2017



Sources and methodologies

IDMC uses two primary sources for stock displacement in the Philippines. The first is the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), a division of the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines which works through its sub offices in the field to collect detailed information on people in evacuation shelters as well as IDPs staying with family and friends. The other is the Protection Cluster in the Philippines, co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which compiles reports of displacement incidents with the support of protection cluster members in the region.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

Both DROMIC and the Protection Cluster issues reports by conflict events and at times provide differing figures for the same event. When both sources issue a displacement figure for the same event, the DROMIC data is used as the primary source. At the same time, the Protection Cluster also tracks smaller displacement events and these are included when not covered by DROMIC. The Protection Cluster does not track conflicts outside of Mindanao while DROMIC tracks conflicts around the country but does not cover all conflicts covered by the Protection Cluster.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

The stock figure is a calculation based on aggregating and cross-checking events tracked by the sources, which involves calculating the difference between returns identified in source reports and adding stock figures prior to 2017 with new displacements in 2017.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

The significant increase in the stock compared to the estimate for 2016 is due to the Marawi conflict, as only around 25% of the more than 350,000 people displaced had returned home at the end of 2017, and the compilation of IDPs identified by both DROMIC and the Protection Cluster.

PHILIPPINES - New Displacements: 645,000

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



Sources and methodologies

IDMC uses two primary sources for new displacement in the Philippines. The first is the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), a division of the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines which works through its sub offices in the field to collect detailed information on people in evacuation shelters as well as IDPs staying with family and friends. The other is the Protection Cluster in the Philippines, co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which compiles reports of displacement incidents with the support of Protection Cluster members in the region. Other sources include media reports.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

Both DROMIC and the Protection Cluster issues reports by conflict events and may provide differing figures for the same event. When both sources issue a displacement figure for the same event, the DROMIC data is used as the primary source. At the same time, the Protection Cluster also tracks smaller displacement events and these are included when not covered by DROMIC. The Protection Cluster does not track conflicts outside of Mindanao while DROMIC tracks conflicts around the country but does not cover all conflicts covered by the Protection Cluster. New displacements are likely an underestimate as the Protection Cluster did not issue any updates between May to September due to the escalation of the Marawi conflict.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

IDMC's new displacement figure is based on aggregating and cross-checking events tracked by the sources.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

Significant changes in new displacement is the result of the scale of displacement from the Marawi conflict, as well as the inclusion of conflict-related reports by DROMIC. Last year's new displacement for the Philippines only used the year-end figure issued by the Protection Cluster.

PHILIPPINES - Returns: 287,000



This corresponds to the number of individuals for which sufficient evidence exists to indicate a return to the habitual place of residence

Sources and methodologies

IDMC uses two primary sources for returns in the Philippines. The first is the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), a division of the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau (DREAMB) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines which works through its sub offices in the field to collect detailed information on people in evacuation shelters as well as IDPs staying with family and friends. The other is the Protection Cluster in the Philippines, co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, which compiles reports of displacement incidents with the support of Protection Cluster members in the region. Where available, DROMIC provides data on the status of IDPs in evacuation shelters or those staying with friends and family, while the Protection Cluster provides information on returns of IDPs per event.

Main caveats and specific monitoring challenges

When available, DROMIC issues final reports per conflict event that normally indicate that IDPs have returned home. However, some events do not include a final report; in other cases the final report does not indicate that IDPs have returned home. The Protection Cluster did not issue any updates on returns between May to September due to the Marawi conflict. As a result, the returns figure is likely an underestimate.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

IDMC's returns figure is based on the aggregation of those by DROMIC and the Protection Cluster in their respective reports.

Significant changes from last year: methodological and contextual changes

Significant increase in returns is the result of compiling individual DROMIC and Protection Cluster reports that include return information. Last year, IDMC did not report on any returns in the country.

PHILIPPINES - Provisional Solutions: 0

This corresponds to cases of individuals who IDMC considers to not have achieved a durable solution



IDMC has not identified or obtained relevant data in relation to this category.