

PHILIPPINES

Displacement associated with Conflict and Violence

Figure Analysis - GRID 2020

CONTEXT

Mindanao was the most volatile region in the Philippines with respect to displacement associated with conflict in 2019. The region has a history of armed conflict, tension 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. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was replaced by the [Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao \(BARMM\)](#) in 2019. The creation of this new autonomous region marks the culmination of [22 years of negotiations](#) between the Philippine government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Peace, however, remains elusive. Some reports indicate that while the territory in Iraq and Syria of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has shrivelled after four years of American-backed bombing and ground combat, [the movement has sprouted elsewhere, including in the Mindanao region](#). This is highlighted by the fact that in 2019 most conflict displacement occurred again in the region. One incident in November involved conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) that sympathizes with ISIL. Almost 58,000 people were displaced. Smaller pockets of displacement also took place in the south, as well as other parts of the Philippines, as a result of violence linked to clan feuds and civil unrest.

New displacements that occurred in 2019	Total number of IDPs as of 31 December 2019 <i>(Year figure was last updated: 2019)</i>	Partial Solutions and Unverified Conditions		
		Number of IDPs who have made partial progress towards a durable solution*		Number of IDPs whose progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified**
		Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>	Stock	Flows <i>(1 January – 31 December 2019)</i>
183,000	182,000	115,000	-	8,300

*This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

**This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements having taken place in 2019 (flows) rather than a total number of people (stock).

NEW DISPLACEMENTS THAT OCCURRED IN 2019

This corresponds to new instances of internal displacement that occurred in 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC estimates there were more than 183,000 new displacements in 2019. This is based on figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in the Mindanao region, as well as reports outside of the region by the Philippines' Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC).

Sources and methodologies

UNHCR publishes monthly figures of new displacements in Mindanao in collaboration with its Protection Cluster partners there. The Protection Cluster is inactive, according to UNHCR, but the organization continues to coordinate the monitoring of disaster and conflict displacement. In their monthly reports, UNHCR also provides information on localized clan feuds and other smaller conflict displacement events not captured in DROMIC reports. DROMIC works through its offices in the field to collect detailed information about displaced people in evacuation shelters and 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 for IDPs as well as information on their locations.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

DROMIC's monitoring of conflict outside of Mindanao is less detailed and may not include all small-scale displacement. Some DROMIC reports also provide data on people staying in evacuation shelters or with friends and family, but additional information on the nature or cause of their displacement is limited. UNHCR data comes from their detailed monthly reports which provide information on new displacements during each month of reporting. UNHCR changed its reporting structure in mid-2019. As a result, it provides a more detailed analysis of new displacement, including cause, impact and returns, if any.

Significant changes from last year

There were no significant changes in new displacement figures between 2018 and 2019.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IDPS

This corresponds to the total number of individuals living in internal displacement as of 31 December 2019.

IDMC figure and rationale

IDMC estimates that there are about 182,000 people displaced in the Philippines as of 31 December 2019.

Sources and methodologies

IDMC used event-based monitoring to categorise and assess changes in new displacement, stock (the number of individuals living in internal displacement at a given point in time) and returns for conflicts that triggered displacement. For Mindanao, UNHCR's monthly report provides an update of people displaced in the region between 2012 and 2019. Working with its partners on the ground, UNHCR updates these figures with each report to reflect changes in stock. For displacements that occur outside of Mindanao, stock displacement estimates are based on events logged in the IDMC database. The data comes mainly from reports by DROMIC, which works through its field offices to provide updated information. IDMC uses the total number of IDPs reported when this is available. If there is no total reported, IDMC makes an estimate based on the difference between the new displacements and return figures.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

UNHCR data most likely provides an accurate figure of IDPs in Mindanao, but this data only reflects displacements that took place between 2012 and 2019. There is limited information regarding conflict displacement outside of Mindanao other than that reported by DROMIC.

Significant changes from last year

There was a decrease in the stock figure of IDPs between 2018 and 2019. This is in part a result of a change in methodology and sourcing of the stock figure from UNHCR and DROMIC reports. This decrease can also be attributed, however, to returns by some IDPs from the 2017 Marawi conflict as well as other small conflicts.

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 2019 and for whom the evidence obtained by IDMC suggests that progress toward durable solutions is only partial given their living conditions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people.

IDMC figure and rationale

Based on reports by UNHCR, IDMC estimates that there are more than 115,000 people who have made partial progress towards durable solutions. Most conflicts are short-lived, and people usually return to their habitual place of residence. IDMC cannot assess the sustainability of these returns, however, and has accounted for them as having only reached partial solutions.

Sources and methodologies

The main data source for IDMC's partial solutions estimate is from UNHCR, which works with partners on protection issues to assess the state of IDPs and their returns following conflicts.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Data from UNHCR provides some indication of returns to partial solutions, but the timing of these returns is not well documented. Attempted returns are typically less monitored and reported on than displacements. As a result, there is less information about people who have made partial progress towards durable solutions.

Significant changes from last year

Returns were reported in 2018 based on information from the Protection Cluster and DROMIC. Taking into account the implementation of partial and unverified solutions, we consider returns reported by UNHCR in 2019 to be partial progress towards durable solutions.

NUMBER OF IDPS WHOSE PROGRESS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS CANNOT BE VERIFIED

This corresponds to the number of IDPs whom our data providers have identified as having returned, resettled or locally integrated in 2019 but for whom there is no available evidence to corroborate progress toward durable solutions. In a few instances, this number may refer to movements that occurred in 2019 rather than a total number of people

IDMC figure and rationale

Based on reports by DROMIC, IDMC estimates that there are more than 8,300 people whose reported progress towards durable solutions cannot be verified. IDMC cannot assess the sustainability of reported returns, particularly when variations in published figures are unexplained.

Sources and methodologies

DROMIC's latest reports typically indicate the current number of people displaced inside or outside shelters. When a report shows no explanation for variations, IDMC considers this an unverified situation.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Data from DROMIC provides some indication of people returning or not displaced in shelters. Information on when these returns took place or if IDPs returned to a durable solution, however, is not well documented. Returns are typically less monitored and reported on than displacements.

Significant changes from last year

No unverified returns were reported in 2018 for the Philippines.

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: new displacements and the total number of IDPs.

Displacement metric	New displacements	Total number of IDPs
Reporting units	People, Households	People, Households
Methodology	Registration, Key informants	Registration, Key informants
Geographical disaggregation	Admin 2 or more	Admin 2 or more
Frequency of reporting	Every month	Every month
Disaggregation by sex	No	No
Disaggregation by age	No	No
Data triangulation	Some local triangulation	Some local triangulation
Data on settlement elsewhere	Partial	No
Data on returns	Partial	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

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