GCERF
Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT
PHILIPPINES
OCTOBER 2026

BACKGROUND

For years, the Philippines has struggled with violent extremist and separatist groups in the south of the country. A long-running movement for independence led to the formation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) following peace talks and negotiations between the central government and separatist groups. While this is a step forward for peace, violent extremist (VE) groups, including local groups inspired by ISIS, continue to operate and recruit members. The current investment of USD 2.71 million is supporting the active involvement of civil society organisations in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism - Philippines (NAP P/CVE-Philippines). It focuses on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of former combatants and their families, as well as on psychosocial support.

COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISM (CSM)

In the Philippines, the CSM is chaired by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and brings together relevant government agencies, civil society organisations, and donor representatives to provide strategic direction for the programmes, ensure results, and progressively inherit ownership of funding community-level efforts to prevent violent extremism.

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Support community-based rehabilitation for returnees and for the victims of VE groups and their families, including access to mental health support services.

Increase access to economic opportunities for people from vulnerable or marginalised communities.

Enhance access to credible and transparent transitional justice mechanisms.

2018
The Philippines became a GCERF partner country in 2018

USD 10.1 M
GCERF's total investment in the Philippines to date

USD 2.71 M
Active grants value

14
Current civil society partners

5
Active Grants

DRIVERS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

- Identity-based conflict and political rivalry
- Climate-induced displacement and fragility
- Youth marginalisation and radical influences
- Governance gaps and fragile institutions
- Historical grievances and perceived injustice

GCERF FOCUS AREAS AND POPULATION GROUPS IN THE PHILIPPINES



LOCATIONS

1 Lanao del Norte
2 Lanao del Sur
3 Maguindanao del Norte
4 Maguindanao del Sur
5 North Cotabato
6 South Cotabato
7 Sarangani
8 Sulu

POPULATION GROUPS

Returnees, former fighters and their families (male and female)

Children outside or at risk of dropping out of school including IDPs (14-18 years old)

Unemployed or underemployed youth including Internally displaced person (IDPs) (19-35 years old)

Religious, Indigenous and Community Leaders (male and female)

Governance Actors (Local Authorities, Security and Justice Actors, male and female)

KEY RESULTS*

83,000+

Community members, religious leaders, teachers, government authorities, children and youth trained in conflict resolution, social cohesion, peacebuilding, PVE and good governance

16,000+

Youth, community members, SMEs, madrasahs, CBOs, supported through vocational skills training, entrepreneurship development, employment and livelihood opportunities, and economic and material assistance

6,000+

Out of school youth, returnees, indigenous people, moro people,christians engaged throughcommunity dialogues and conversations to seek just and acceptable solutions for peaceful resolution

2,000+

Marawi IDPs and community members were engaged in legal awareness, dispute resolution, and dialogues to strengthen their access to justice, support claims processes, and promote peaceful conflict resolution at the community level

Cumulative figures from 2019 until June 2026

> Displaced and with our properties destroyed, we hoped for compensation to help us recover what we lost in the Marawi siege. But I was more overwhelmed to the point of demotivated to file for compensation. After attending the Legal Clinic sessions, I became more aware of my rights as a claimant and as an IDP, and was prepared to navigate the complex process of filing my claims application. I encouraged and assisted my fellow IDPs with their applications for compensation as well.
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> -An IDP leader from Barangay Sagonsongan in Marawi City and a participant in the Legal Clinics