



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. An investment of USD 5.3 million 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) ended in 2025.

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 9.78 M

GCERF's total investment in the Philippines to date

USD 2.32 M

Active grants value

14

Current civil society partners

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

THE PHILIPPINES



INDONESIA

KEY RESULTS*

14,000+

Community members, religious leaders, teachers, government authorities trained in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and local governance to address grievances before VE groups can exploit them

11,000+

Young people, small and medium enterprises, madrasah based organisations equipped with vocational skills and entrepreneurship support to strengthen their economic resilience against VE

6,000+

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

2,200+

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 December 2025

LOCATIONS

- 1 Lanao del Sur
- 2 Maguindanao
- 3 North Cotabato
- 4 South Cotabato
- 5 Sarangani
- 6 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)

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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.

-An IDP leader from Barangay Sagonsongan in Marawi City and a participant in the Legal Clinics

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www.gcerf.org/philippines/

