



► Rapid Assessment

9 February 2022

Typhoon Rai (Odette) and employment in the Philippines: A rapid impact assessment, 2nd edition

► Background

On 16 December 2021, Typhoon Rai (locally named Odette) made initial landfall in Siargao Island, province of Surigao del Norte in Caraga (Region XIII) in the Philippines. It carried gusts up to 270 kilometres per hour, making it the strongest storm to make landfall in the Philippines this year.¹ Areas along the Typhoon's path in the Visayas and Mindanao Islands experienced intense rains, strong winds, rain-induced landslides, and severe flooding.

Typhoon Odette devastated millions of lives and is weighing down the socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. As of 9 February 2022, 409 fatalities had been recorded and nearly 10.6 million people had been affected by the Typhoon across ten regions.² Around 111,000 currently displaced persons were reported in six regions, and around 1.9 million houses had been damaged, with more than 432,000 completely destroyed.³

In this crisis context, this brief presents an updated rapid assessment of the impact of Typhoon Odette on employment in the Philippines, covering all 10 affected

regions.⁴ In addition to providing preliminary estimates of the total workers affected, the brief also assesses the impact on women and young workers, and those in more vulnerable forms of employment, namely own-account workers and contributing family workers. An analysis of affected workers by key economic sector is also highlighted for the six most severely affected regions.

The rapid assessment extends on established ILO methodologies used previously to support post-disaster recovery efforts, including the Typhoon Haiyan response in 2013.⁵ The assessment is based on information published daily by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on families and persons affected by Typhoon Odette, baseline data from the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) 2020 Population Census and recent quarterly national labour force surveys. It aims to provide insights into the impact of Typhoon Odette on workers and supplements the ongoing, post-disaster assessments that are currently being conducted in the field.

¹ UNOCHA.

² DSWD DROMIC, *Report #78 on Typhoon "ODETTE"*, as of 9 Feb. 2022, 6PM; UNOCHA, *Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Snapshot*, as of 27 Jan. 2022.

³ Ibid.

⁴ This brief is an updated version of the [ILO rapid impact assessment](#) dated 29 December 2021.

⁵ For further references, see: ILO and UN, *Disaster impact on employment and livelihoods: Guidance for employment and livelihoods assessment in the framework of a post-disaster needs assessment*; ILO, *2011 Thailand flooding post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA): Livelihoods and employment*; and ILO, *Preliminary estimates of the livelihood loss due to the Pakistan floods*, 31 Aug. 2010.

► Nearly 4.4 million workers affected, with seven in ten in Western and Central Visayas

As of 9 February 2022, almost 4.4 million workers are estimated to have been directly impacted by Typhoon Odette across ten regions (see Figure 1, Panel A). Region VI (Western Visayas) and Region VII (Central Visayas) account respectively for 1.1 million and 1.9 million affected workers. Other prominent regions include Region VIII (Eastern Visayas) and Region XIII (Caraga), where the estimated number of affected workers correspondingly total 481,000 and 615,000.

When looking at the number of affected workers as a share of the pre-Typhoon employment level, more than one-half of the region’s entire workforce in Caraga (53 per cent) and Central Visayas (56 per cent) were impacted (see Figure 1, Panel B). By comparison, Typhoon Odette has directly affected around one-third of all workers in each of

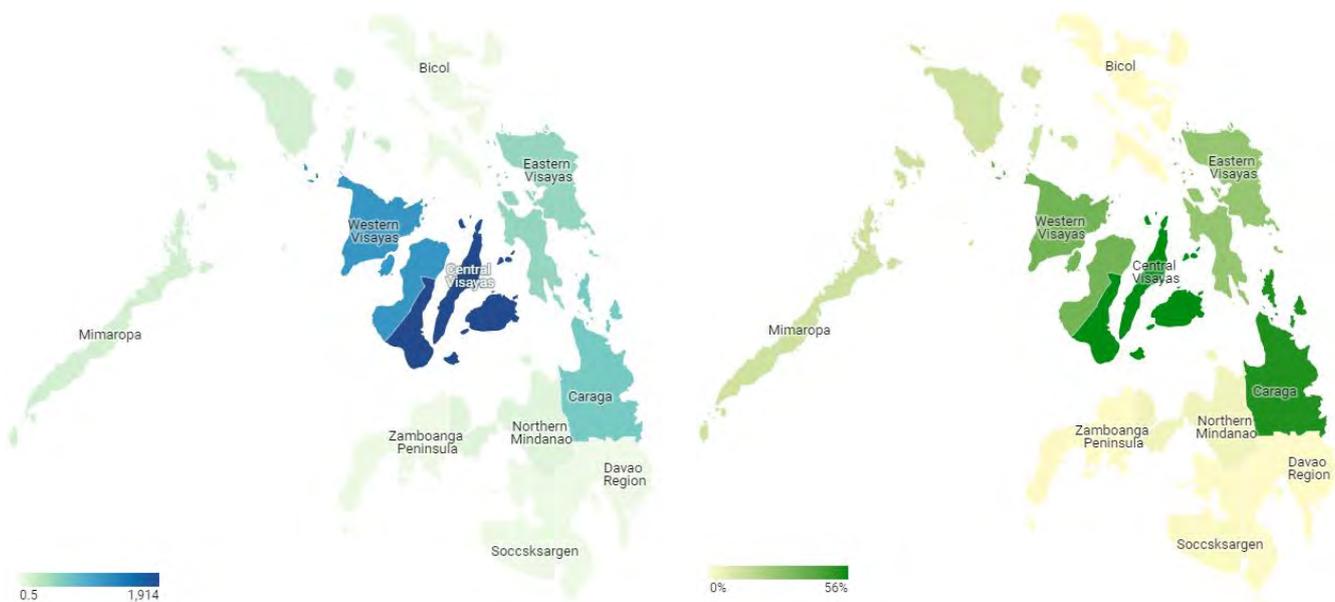
the other two most impacted regions: Eastern Visayas (27 per cent) and Western Visayas (36 per cent).

The devastation of Typhoon Odette risks exacerbating pre-existing labour market challenges for various vulnerable groups. For example, of the total affected workers, nearly 1.7 million (39 per cent) are women. Before the destruction of Typhoon Odette, around three in five of these impacted women workers were employed in agriculture, wholesale and retail trade or domestic work – sectors where jobs typically are lower paid and less productive. Likewise, young people and older workers, both of whom face distinct age-related employment challenges, account for an estimated 585,000 and 742,000, respectively, of the total impacted workers.⁶

Figure 1. Workers affected by Typhoon Odette by region, as of 9 February 2022

Panel A. Workers affected (thousands)

Panel B. Workers affected as a share of pre-Typhoon employment (per cent)



Source: ILO estimates based on DSWD DROMIC, *Report #78 on Typhoon “ODETTE”*, as of 9 Feb. 2022; PSA, *2020 Population Census*; PSA, *Labour Force Surveys*.

⁶ Young and older workers are defined respectively as ages 15-24 years and 55 years and above.

Even before the disaster caused by Typhoon Odette, many of the affected workers were self-employed with limited income security and access to social protection, leaving them highly vulnerable in circumstances of a negative shock. The destruction of Typhoon Odette on jobs and livelihoods underscores this vulnerability. An estimated 1.7 million (38 per cent) of the affected workers are

self-employed as an own-account worker or contributing family worker. In both Caraga and Eastern Visayas, the estimated share of own-account and contributing family workers among the employed women and men impacted by the disaster is considerably higher at 48 per cent and 47 per cent, respectively.

► Workers in key sectors have been impacted

Although Typhoon Odette ravaged parts of ten different regions, the impact on employment has varied by economic sector, reflecting in part the unique structure of each regional economy.

In MIMAROPA, almost two-fifths of the 143,000 affected workers are in the agriculture sector, followed by one-fifth in trade and one-tenth in construction (see Table 1). In Western Visayas, a sizeable portion (34 per cent) of the 1.1 million affected workers are estimated to be employed in agriculture with an additional 18 per cent and 7.3 per cent concentrated in trade and transportation, respectively. By comparison, in Central Visayas, a significantly lower proportion of the affected workers is

employed in agriculture (24.8 per cent), although manufacturing (8.3 per cent) and accommodation and food services (3.2 per cent) account for a relatively greater share.

In Caraga, agriculture employs a high percentage (35.9 per cent) of the 615,000 affected workers, but a comparatively lower share is employed in construction (7.7 per cent) and administrative and support services (1.3 per cent). In Eastern Visayas and Northern Mindanao, women and men working in trade and construction comprise nearly one-third of the 481,000 and 73,000 affected workers, respectively.

► **Table 1. Distribution of workers affected by Typhoon Odette by economic sector and region, as of 9 February 2022 (per cent)**

Sectors	Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	Region VI (Western Visayas)	Region VII (Central Visayas)	Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	Region X (Northern Mindanao)	Region XIII (Caraga)
Affected workers (thousands)	143	1,143	1,914	481	73	615
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	37.7	34.0	24.8	35.5	36.5	35.9
Manufacturing	4.1	4.5	8.3	4.3	4.4	6.1
Construction	9.0	8.3	8.8	9.9	9.1	7.7
Other industry sectors (mining and quarrying; electricity; and water supply)	0.6	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.5	1.5
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	18.3	18.0	19.1	19.9	19.3	19.0
Transportation and storage	4.9	7.3	6.3	4.6	6.6	5.2
Accommodation and food service activities	2.3	2.2	3.2	1.6	1.6	1.9

Sectors	Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	Region VI (Western Visayas)	Region VII (Central Visayas)	Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	Region X (Northern Mindanao)	Region XIII (Caraga)
Administrative and support service activities	2.6	3.0	6.1	1.8	2.3	1.3
Public administrative and defence; compulsory social security	7.6	6.6	5.7	9.0	7.0	9.0
Education	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	3.6	3.9
Human health and social work activities	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.2
Activities of private households as employers and undifferentiated goods and services and producing activities of households for own use	4.3	5.1	6.2	3.5	3.3	3.7
Other services sectors (information and communication; financial services; real estate services; professional services; arts and entertainment; activities of extraterritorial organizations; and other services activities)	3.3	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.7	3.6

Note: in cases where the unweighted observations from the Labour Force Surveys are less than 30, sectors are aggregated together.

Source: ILO estimates based on DSWD DROMIC, *Report #78 on Typhoon “ODETTE”*, as of 9 Feb. 2022; PSA, *2020 Population Census*; PSA, *Labour Force Surveys*.

Contact details

ILO Country Office for Philippines

19th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
 RCBC Plaza
 6819 Ayala Avenue
 1200 Makati City, Philippines

T: +63 2 580 9900
 E: MANILA@ilo.org
 W: www.ilo.org/manila