



► Rapid Assessment

29 December 2021

Typhoon Rai (Odette) and employment in the Philippines: A rapid impact assessment

► 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 29 December, 389 fatalities had been recorded and nearly 5.4 million people had been affected by the Typhoon across ten regions.² Around 577,000 displaced persons were reported in six regions, and around 539,000 houses had been damaged, with more than 175,000 completely destroyed.

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

regions. In addition to providing initial 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 four 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 2013.³ 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 preliminary insights into the impact of Typhoon Odette on workers and will supplement post-disaster, field-level assessments that will be conducted in the coming weeks.

¹ UNOCHA.

² DSWD DROMIC, *Report #28 on Typhoon "ODETTE"*, as of 29 Dec. 2021, 6AM; UNOCHA, *Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Snapshot*, as of 27 Dec. 2021.

³ 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 2.2 million workers affected, with three in five in Western and Central Visayas

As of 29 December 2021, almost 2.2 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 672,000 and 643,000 affected workers. Other prominent regions include Region VIII (Eastern Visayas) and Region XIII (Caraga), where the estimated number of affected workers correspondingly total 343,000 and 363,000.

When looking at the number of affected workers as a share of the pre-Typhoon employment level, in Caraga nearly one-third of the region's entire workforce was impacted (see Figure 1, Panel B). By comparison, Typhoon Odette has directly affected around one-fifth of all workers in each of the other three most impacted regions:

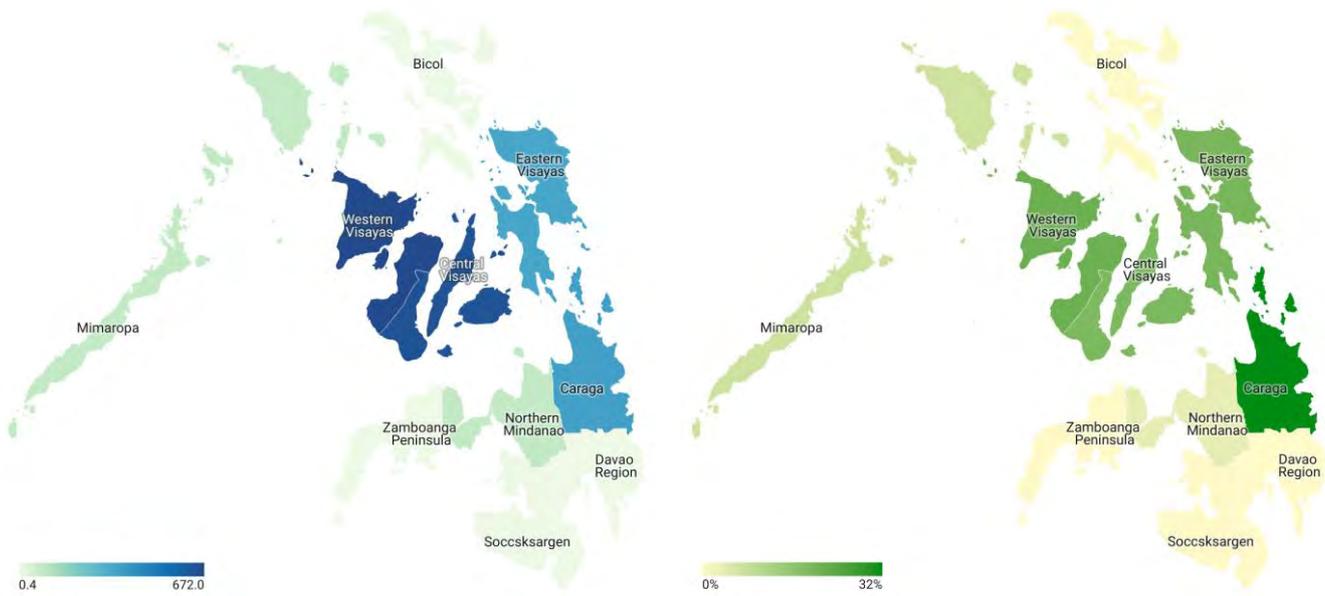
Western Visayas (21 per cent), Eastern Visayas (19.3 per cent) and Central Visayas (18.8 per cent).

The devastation of Typhoon Odette risks exacerbating pre-existing labour market challenges for various vulnerable groups. For example, of the total affected workers, nearly 839,000 (38 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 297,000 and 378,000, respectively, of the total impacted workers.⁴

Figure 1. Workers affected by Typhoon Odette by region, as of 29 December 2021

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 #28 on Typhoon "ODETTE"*, as of 29 Dec. 2021; PSA, *2020 Population Census*; PSA, *Labour Force Surveys*.

⁴ 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 863,000 (39 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 Western Visayas, a sizeable portion (34 per cent) of the 672,000 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 (see Table 1). 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 other

market services (12.5 per cent) account for a relatively greater share.

In Caraga, agriculture employs a high percentage (35.9 per cent) of the 363,000 affected workers, but a comparatively lower share is employed in construction (7.7 per cent) and other market services (5 per cent). In Eastern Visayas, women and men working in trade and construction comprise nearly one-third of the 343,000 affected workers.

► **Table 1. Distribution of workers affected by Typhoon Odette by region and economic sector, as of 29 December 2021 (per cent)**

	Affected workers (thousands)	Agriculture	Manu- facturing	Construc- tion	Wholesale and retail trade	Transport- ation	Other market services	Other industry and non-market services
Region VI (Western Visayas)	672.0	34.0	4.5	8.3	18.0	7.3	7.9	19.9
Region VII (Central Visayas)	643.0	24.8	8.3	8.8	19.1	6.3	12.5	20.3
Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	342.9	35.5	4.3	9.9	19.9	4.6	5.7	20.1
Region XIII (Caraga)	363.3	35.9	6.1	7.7	19.0	5.2	5.0	21.1
Other regions	174.2	37.2	4.3	9.0	18.8	5.8	6.6	18.3

Note: Other market services include accommodation and food services and business and administrative services. Other industry and non-market services include mining, utilities, public administration and community and social services.

Source: ILO estimates based on DSWD DROMIC, *Report #28 on Typhoon “ODETTE”*, as of 29 Dec. 2021; PSA, *2020 Population Census*; PSA, *Labour Force Surveys*.

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