

OUR WORLD. VIEWS FROM THE FIELD.

THE PHILIPPINES

OPINION SURVEY AND IN-DEPTH RESEARCH, 2009



Our world is in a mess.
It's time to make your move.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This research was undertaken in eight countries that were experiencing or had experienced armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. These were: Afghanistan; Colombia; Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); Georgia; Haiti; Lebanon; Liberia and the Philippines.¹ The aim was to develop a better understanding of people's needs and expectations, to gather views and opinions, and to give a voice to those who had been adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of armed violence.

This research was commissioned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within the framework of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign. Launched in 2009, the campaign's goal was to draw public attention to the vulnerability and ongoing suffering of people around the world. The intention was to emphasize the importance of humanitarian action and to convince individuals that they had the ability to make a difference and reduce suffering.

2009 was an important year for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, with three significant anniversaries (the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions).

In 1999, the ICRC had undertaken a similar survey entitled *People on War*, which served as a basis for comparison and as a means of highlighting trends in opinions 10 years on.

OPINION SURVEY

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Forms of violence/suffering and their consequences

Around one in eight of the people surveyed in the Philippines have been affected in some way by armed conflict there. Those with direct personal experience make up 7% of the population interviewed, and others also report suffering a range of serious hardships. In total 12% have been affected in some way – either personally or owing to the wider consequences of armed conflict.

For those who do have such experience, it usually dates back to events that occurred over 10 years ago. Among those with such experience, at least half (52%) have been displaced. At least one person in 10 has lost contact with a close relative, been wounded in the fighting, or had their property damaged. The poor state of the economy is among the 'other' effects of armed conflict that were mentioned without prompting.

People's fears include economic hardship (32%), civilians being caught in the crossfire (23%) or otherwise affected (24%), loss/damage to property (23%), kidnapping (17%), displacement (11%), injury (15%), limited access to basic necessities (12%) and losing a loved one (11%).

Needs and assistance

In periods of armed conflict, people's needs centre on 'the basics' – food, shelter and health care – but dignity is also viewed as an important need, and it is essential that families stay together. Which groups or organizations should meet these needs?

Assistance comes both from within the country (government, religious entities, the national Red Cross organization (the Philippine National Red Cross) and NGOs, local communities – and of course parents/families) and from elsewhere (the ICRC, UN, and in some cases the military).

¹ Respondents in seven of the eight countries were asked about 'armed conflict'. Please note that respondents in Haiti were asked about 'armed violence'.

Generally, those ‘closest to home’ – local communities and families – are most often called on for support, but most organizations do play some part in providing humanitarian assistance. In total, around 8% recall receiving help from either the ICRC or the Philippine National Red Cross.

Obstacles to receiving help

If help or support fails to reach people, it is usually blamed on corruption (85%), geographical inaccessibility (61%), black markets (35%) and social status/discrimination (41%).

Some people are unaware that help is available (37%), while others decline it for fear of social rejection (15%). Only 4% say that support is declined because it is not needed.

Reducing suffering

To ‘reduce suffering during armed conflict’, people initially look both within their own communities (e.g. to religious leaders – 17%) and beyond, e.g. to the Philippine National Red Cross (11%), to the ICRC (7% – giving 18% for these two groups in total), or to the UN (7%).

They also look to the media/journalists (14%), and to government authorities (13%) – but less often to NGOs. It is notable that community leaders are generally not among those most mentioned as a source of assistance aiming to relieve suffering.

The international community

People in the Philippines are not reluctant to call on direct international involvement. Half (56%) see bringing in peacekeepers as a desirable course of action, and a similar number (52%) call for emergency aid. However, far fewer (23%) advocate military intervention.

The international community can also give financial support to humanitarian organizations (38%), organize peace talks (36%), and raise awareness of civilians’ plight (29%).

People living outside the conflict zones (i.e. citizens in other countries) also have a role. Many in the Philippines believe such people should donate money or goods, or become volunteers. Above all, they want to see support for relevant organizations.

Behaviour during Armed Conflict

Acceptable behaviour

Everyone surveyed in the Philippines identifies some behaviour that should be forbidden in armed conflict. Without prompting, most often people oppose the killing of civilians, attacks on civilian areas, or kidnapping.

Almost all (99%) say civilians should be avoided in armed conflict – either in all circumstances (80%) or ‘as much as possible’ (19%).

Some attitudes have changed since the *People on War* results were obtained in 1999.

Almost all (92%) now view it as ‘not OK’ for combatants to ‘attack civilians who voluntarily transport ammunition for the enemy’ (up from 65% in 1999). Almost all (96%) oppose ‘civilians being deprived of food, medicine or water’ (up from 50% in 1999). 99% oppose ‘attacks on religious and historical monuments’ (up from 63% in 1999).

Furthermore, everyone surveyed is against the taking of civilian hostages, or the planting of landmines where they may harm civilians (in 1999, 71% and 86% respectively did so).

Health workers, ambulances and the right to health care

A resounding 99% of respondents say that health workers and ambulances are never acceptable targets, and most people (91%) feel that health workers should treat wounded civilians from all sides in a conflict. Virtually all (98%) agree that 'everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care'.

The Geneva Conventions

Only one person in five (19%) has heard of the Geneva Conventions. Views are mixed on the Geneva Conventions' effectiveness in limiting civilian suffering in war (around 42% say they are effective, 50% say they are not).

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

This research was only conducted in Central Mindanao, therefore the findings are not reflective of the Philippines as a whole.

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Respondents feel they are living in a divided society. Most, but not all, appear to feel a strong affiliation to a particular group. They hope for an end to the armed conflict.

Despite these clear divides in the community, there is a common feeling that the price paid by civilians as a result of the armed conflict is unacceptably high.

Respondents describe their experiences of the fighting as characterized by unpredictability and confusion. This means that whilst people have escaped from one area, they are now afraid about where the armed conflict might break out next.

They want some normality to be restored to their lives, to be able to earn a living and for their children to go to school.

Personal experience of armed conflict

Armed conflict has many practical, social and emotional effects on civilians' lives. These include feelings of exhaustion from living with the constant threat of attack, the lack of basic necessities such as food and clean water, loss of livelihood and lack of access to education.

First responders share the same fears as other groups but are focused on their task of helping victims. They report feeling inadequate in the face of the challenge of helping so many displaced individuals.

Civilians' needs

Civilians talk about their main priorities during armed conflict as being: shelter, food/water, access to medicines/hygiene, clothing/bedding and money. Employment is seen as the key to providing for all these things, but conflict interrupts and destroys working lives.

Those who have been displaced would like to have some chance of supporting themselves through access to livelihood programmes or by returning to their original communities.

Civilians caught up in the conflict also have psychological needs that are neglected in the struggle for survival.

Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance plays a vital role in keeping civilians alive in the aftermath of the fighting by providing essentials, such as food and shelter.

Respondents from Central Mindanao value immensely the help they have received from organizations such as the ICRC, be it medical care, getting in touch with a detained family member, or assistance when they are displaced from their homes.

The Philippine National Red Cross is well known and appreciated by respondents because of the consistency and quality of help it provides to those affected by armed conflict.

First responders have practical needs they would like met such as being provided with more suitable medical equipment. They also believe that psychological support would be hugely beneficial for civilians.

Humanitarian gestures

Respondents report a wide variety of humanitarian acts occurring in the midst of the armed conflict, such as civilians helping each other escape from attack and finding food and shelter.

Emotional support and reassurance are also viewed as important to improve the quality of life for many.

Behaviour during Armed Conflict

Rules of conflict

There is a belief that parties to armed conflict should take great care to spare civilians.

There is acknowledgement, particularly amongst first responders, that it is difficult to differentiate between civilians and weapon bearers in the Philippines because some do not wear a uniform.

Right to health care

Most believe that everyone should have the right to health care, whether civilians or weapon bearers.

However, there were a number of people who felt so aggrieved by their experiences in the armed conflict that they thought weapon bearers from the opposing side should not receive health care.

All believe that health-care workers should be spared from attack and left to do their job. They also feel that medical vehicles should be protected.

Some first responders believe there is a lack of awareness about what they do and about their neutrality.

The Geneva Conventions

Although those affected by armed conflict tend to know little or nothing about the Geneva Conventions themselves, they instinctively support the concept of a system of rules for how weapon bearers are supposed to behave towards civilians in armed conflict.

First responders know more about the Geneva Conventions. However, they feel that these rules are hard to apply in the Philippines because not all weapon bearers are in uniform and because there has been a breakdown of normal moral standards amongst some individuals.

Conclusions: priority actions

The people of the Philippines interviewed as part of this research would like to see the following changes:

- a greater degree of tolerance towards minorities, particularly in terms of access to employment;
- more capacity-building in poor communities in terms of skills and education, particularly amongst previously displaced people who want to re-establish their livelihoods;
- a more transparent and swifter legal system.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Solferinos of today

To raise awareness of the impact of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence on civilians, the ICRC decided to launch a vast research programme. This research focused on some of the most troubled places in the world – the Solferinos of today – which are either experiencing situations of armed conflict or armed violence or suffering their aftermath:

- Afghanistan
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Georgia
- Haiti
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- The Philippines (covered in this report)

Research

The ICRC commissioned Ipsos, an international research agency, to conduct an opinion survey (statistical, quantitative research) and to design and analyse in-depth (qualitative) research in eight countries.

For the **opinion survey**, a broadly representative sample of the adult general public was interviewed, either in person or by telephone, in each country. Fieldwork was conducted by Ipsos and its international partners. The specific sampling methods and any groups/areas excluded are described in the Appendices. The questionnaire was designed to determine whether the respondents had personal experience of armed conflict/violence and, if so, the specific impact it had on them. Questions also explored respondents' views on what conduct was acceptable for combatants, the effectiveness of various groups and organizations in helping to reduce suffering during armed conflict or armed violence, the actions expected of the international community, awareness of the Geneva Conventions, and the role of health workers during armed conflict or armed violence.

The **in-depth research** was conducted through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews in each country. Ipsos designed, analysed and reported on the findings, with ICRC staff conducting the qualitative fieldwork. The discussion guide was designed to complement the opinion survey and to enable the ICRC to deepen its understanding of the values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who have been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. These included people separated from their families, internally displaced persons, first responders and others directly affected by armed conflict or armed violence.

Further details of the coverage and scope of the research in the Philippines are given in the section on 'Research Methodology'. The questionnaire used in the opinion survey (marked-up with overall results) and the discussion guide used in the in-depth research are included in the Appendices.

In 1999, ICRC carried out broadly similar opinion research as part of its *People on War* project. The programme covered some of the countries reported on in 2009 – including the Philippines

– and several of the 1999 questions have therefore been revisited in order to provide trendlines. These are highlighted in the report where applicable.

Background and objectives

The year 2009 had great significance for the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ('the Movement'), as two major anniversaries in the history of humanitarian work took place:

- The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino. On 24 June 1859, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, happened to witness the aftermath of one of the most brutal battles of the 19th century – at Solferino, in what is now northern Italy – and the carnage left on the battlefield. The suffering he saw there prompted him to take the first steps towards the creation of the Movement. His book *A Memory of Solferino* led to the founding of the ICRC in 1863. In recognition of his work, Dunant was the joint first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1901.
- The 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions (12 August 1949). The four Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of international humanitarian law. They protect, respectively, wounded and sick members of armed forces on the battlefield; wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea; prisoners of war; and civilians in time of war.

To mark these anniversaries, as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Movement launched a campaign – **Our world. Your move.** – to remind everyone of their individual responsibility to relieve human suffering.

The campaign was based on the premise that **Our world** faces unprecedented challenges, from armed conflict and mass displacement to climate change and migration; and it contends that **Your move** reminds us of our collective responsibility to make the world a better place. Like Henry Dunant, we can all make a difference, even through the simplest of gestures.

Throughout 2009, the ICRC undertook various activities to mark these historic milestones by highlighting the ongoing plight of people – particularly the most vulnerable – caught up in armed conflict or armed violence around the world.

The Philippines – research methodology

OPINION SURVEY

A total of 500 people aged 18 or over were interviewed in person (face-to-face) between March and April 2009. Random probability sampling was used to ensure that the final sample would be broadly representative of the equivalent Philippines population (aged 18 or over).

Due to internal conflicts – especially in the south of the country – the survey was limited to certain areas only (with the ICRC's agreement). This restriction could have an impact on the results. The areas covered in the survey were as follows:

- Metro Manila (150 interviews);
- Paganisan (75);
- Batangas (75);
- Cebu (100);
- Davao (100).

The results have been statistically 'weighted' by population numbers.

According to 2009 estimates, the total population of the Philippines was around 98,000,000. It was heavily skewed towards younger people (the median age was just 23 years, and those aged 14 or below made up one-third of the population (35%). By contrast, those aged 65 or over made up just 4% of the population. Life expectancy was 68 years for men, 74 for women.

The population of the areas covered by this survey was around 18,500,000. On this basis, the survey of people aged 18 or over was representative of approximately 10,500,000 people.

Because a sample was interviewed – not the whole population – the results are subject to 'sampling tolerances'. These show how accurately a result from the sample reflects the result that would have been obtained from the whole population had it been interviewed.

Please see the Appendices for details on sampling tolerances.

On the charts, a '**' sign refers to a percentage of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero.

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

The purpose of the research in each country was to understand the deeper values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who had been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. The research was carried out through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews, carried out by ICRC staff. The combination of these qualitative research methods was used to allow both interactive debate and personal narrative to emerge from the conversations.

The sample was organized according to a number of groups who were particularly affected in times of armed conflict or armed violence, namely:

- **Internally displaced persons.** At the time of writing, it was estimated that more than 26 million people around the globe were displaced within their own countries owing to armed conflict, violence and persecution. The internally displaced make up what has been described as the single largest group of vulnerable people in the world. Internal displacement is one of the most serious consequences of armed conflict; people are forced from their homes and suffer extreme hardship.
- **Members of separated families.** War, disasters and migration lead to many thousands of families being separated. The suffering created by such situations is not always visible to others. This global problem is mostly a silent tragedy. Needing to know what happened to a loved one is as great a humanitarian need as food, water or shelter. Too many victims of armed conflict and armed violence around the world remain without news of missing family members.
- **First responders.** A 'first responder' is most often considered as the first health worker to arrive at the scene of an emergency. However, a first responder is much more – it is anyone who provides a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on.

These groups were used to recruit participants in seven of the eight contexts to be able to draw some comparisons on a global level. In Haiti these groups were first responders and victims of violence, including sexual violence.

In the Philippines, the research was conducted in Central Mindanao.

In addition, a specific group was selected for each country to cover an issue particular to that country. In the Philippines, the research focused on respondents from Central Mindanao. Two groups of **internally displaced persons** were interviewed to ensure **both Muslim and Christian viewpoints** were covered.

It should be noted that:

- All respondents were civilians (i.e. not combatants) and were selected based on the ICRC's on-the-ground knowledge of the areas most affected by the conflict in the Philippines.
- Respondents' comments, in their own words, have been included throughout the in-depth research chapters of this report, accompanied by a brief indication of their backgrounds. In order to protect identities, the names used in this report have been changed, but other facts about individuals are real. Respondents' ages are sometimes omitted when they could not be verified, but have generally been provided. These respondents' comments were selected by Ipsos and do not reflect the opinions of the ICRC.
- Respondents were often affected in multiple ways by the armed conflict. As such, for example, someone who was invited to share their experiences of being an internally displaced person may also have commented on their experiences of having been a cluster munitions victim.
- Likewise, the division between first responders and other types of civilian is not always easy to define. First responders included: ordinary civilians thrust into giving humanitarian assistance because of the conflict affecting their town, community or family; health workers; and members of humanitarian organizations, including the ICRC. Comments in this report sometimes reflect this range of experiences by individual respondents.
- Interviews were conducted and group discussions moderated by ICRC staff in the Philippines. Although the interviewers were trained in qualitative research, the fact that they were from the ICRC introduced the possibility of bias in what respondents were prepared to share and how they expressed it. However, interviewers were working to an interview guide designed by Ipsos and the analysis was also undertaken by Ipsos.

In the Philippines, four group discussions were carried out, lasting around 90 minutes each, one with each of the following groups:

- **Internally displaced persons (Christian) in Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte.** This group comprised six individuals (four women, two men), all in their forties apart from one woman who was 77. All had been re-housed after their homes had been burned during an attack in 2008.
- **Internally displaced persons (Muslim) in Cotabato, Mindanao.** This group comprised five individuals (two men and three women) ranging in age from 20 to 43. Four were living in an evacuation centre after fleeing the violence in 2008. One had been able to return home.
- **Relatives of detained persons in Zamboanga, Mindanao.** This group included five women and one man ranging in age from 23 to 68. All had a son, husband or father in prison. They were all recipients of help from the Family Visit Programme administered by the ICRC, apart from one woman who was still awaiting confirmation that she would be included.
- **First responders in Cotabato, Mindanao.** This group comprised four women and three men ranging in age from 24 to 40. They included Philippine National Red Cross staff and volunteers and local government health workers. A range of roles was represented in the group, including a driver, a nurse, a blood service official and a midwife.

In addition, 13 in-depth qualitative interviews were carried out, lasting 45 minutes to one hour each:

- 3 with Christian internally displaced persons: two women and one man ranging in age from 19 to 29. All of them had become displaced following attacks on their homes;

- 3 with Muslim internally displaced persons: two women and one man ranging in age from 21 to 28. At the time of the research all were living in evacuation centres following displacement in 2008;
- 3 with relatives of incarcerated individuals: two women in their thirties, both with husbands in prison and one 22-year-old male whose father was also in prison;
- 4 with first responders comprising two women and two men, all Philippine National Red Cross volunteers or staff.

Report structure

An Executive Summary with the key findings is followed by the main body of the report, covering each broad subject area in turn. The results of the opinion survey among the general public are reported on first, followed by the findings of the in-depth research among victims of armed conflict/armed violence.

The Appendices contain the sample profile and full questionnaire used in the opinion survey, marked-up with the overall country results (including the 1999 trend comparisons where applicable) and the discussion guide used in the in-depth research.

Please note that no country comparisons are made in this report. These can be found in the separate Summary Report covering all eight countries.

The Philippines in context

For more than 20 years previous to the time of writing, the Philippines had been the site of localized armed conflicts, which had affected some areas of the country while leaving most of its territory almost untouched. On the southern island of Mindanao, Muslim groups had battled to establish an independent Islamic government. In Mindanao and in other parts of the country the conflict was between the communist guerrillas of the New People's Army (NPA) and government security forces.

During the presidency of President Ferdinand Marcos (elected in 1965), localized conflicts in the Philippines flared up against a background of economic inequality and corruption. The concerns of Filipino Muslims (Moros) about Christian settlers occupying their land spurred the formation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1968, which launched a rebellion that at its height brought two-thirds of the Filipino army to Mindanao. Unable to quell the MNLF, President Marcos was forced to grant a degree of autonomy to the region in 1977 and invite Muslim leaders to occupy positions of authority in the regional government. Later, splits among Muslim nationalists led to the formation of dissident groups, who continued to demand full independence for the region.

In the same period, the country became increasingly destabilized by violence and corruption, and there was an escalation of the armed struggle by communist forces. The NPA – the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines – was formed and established a base on the island of Mindanao. In 1986, a popular uprising resulted in the overthrow of the Marcos regime and the democratic election of Corazon Aquino as President. Government-initiated talks with the NPA in 1995 led to a preliminary peace agreement. In February 2004 a peace process was revived, with representatives of the NPA meeting government officials in the Norwegian capital Oslo. The two sides agreed a series of measures to move towards a formal peace deal.

In Mindanao, a peace agreement was signed with the Moro National Liberation Front in 1996. Despite a 2004 ceasefire, violence erupted in August 2008 between Philippine government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, forcing over 600,000 civilians to flee their homes. While active hostilities had been suspended since July 2009, more than 200,000 civilians remained displaced.

Abu Sayyaf, an armed group in the southern Philippines, had claimed responsibility for a series of bomb attacks. Abu Sayyaf's stated goal was an independent Islamic state in Mindanao and the Sulu islands, but the government refused to hold any talks with them.

The ICRC in the Philippines

At the time of writing, the ICRC had been working in the Philippines since 1959, with a permanent presence since 1982. It assisted and protected civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It served as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in humanitarian matters, visited security detainees and worked with the Philippine National Red Cross, through its network of regional chapters, local branches and volunteers, to assist displaced people and promote compliance with international humanitarian law.

The ICRC monitored the treatment and conditions of detention of people detained in connection with armed conflict and violence in the Philippines. It visited more than 80 places of detention all over the country. The ICRC also worked with the national authorities to address the causes of jail congestion and its consequences for the health and living conditions of all detainees. While taking care not to take over the authorities' responsibility to provide suitable conditions of detention for detainees, the ICRC carried out small-scale assistance and renovation projects in order to address the most urgent needs observed in places of detention. These projects involved improving water, sanitation and access to health care in detention facilities, support for training of jail engineers and staff on technical standards for living conditions, and distributing hygiene articles and recreational items.

To address the needs of the victims of armed conflict, the ICRC monitored the situation of civilians in conflict-affected areas and, where necessary, made oral and written representations to the parties to the conflict to remind them of their obligation under international humanitarian law to protect civilians. In Central Mindanao, in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross, the ICRC provided food and essential household items for conflict victims and access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for displaced people and the resident population. In addition, it assisted several health centres and provided specialized training in surgery for civilian and military medical professionals.

The ICRC maintained a confidential dialogue with the parties to the armed conflict about the way they conduct hostilities, as part of a long-term strategy to prevent violations of international humanitarian law. The ICRC organized sessions and workshops for members of the security forces and the various armed groups to inform them of its mandate and activities and of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The Philippine National Red Cross's extensive network and its intimate knowledge of local conditions are essential to the planning and conduct of ICRC operations. The ICRC implemented its programmes for assistance and promotion of international humanitarian law in cooperation with the National Society. The ICRC provided financial assistance and expertise in support of Philippine National Red Cross capacity building in the field of disaster preparedness and restoring family links.

OPINION SURVEY

OPINION SURVEY

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Personal experience of armed conflict

Around one in eight (12%) of respondents in the Philippines have been affected in some way by armed conflict there – either through direct personal experience (7%) or due to the wider consequences which are felt beyond those who have been immediately affected. Half of those with direct personal experience have had to leave their homes and live elsewhere (52%).

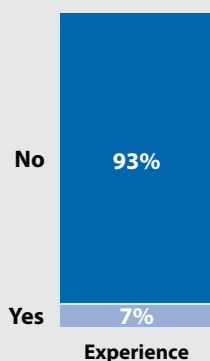
Some people with personal experience of conflict report having lost contact with a close relative (14%) or suffering serious damage to their property (11%). One person in six (18%) says their local area came under enemy control – and as many as one in 10 (11%) were wounded in the fighting.

Limited access to water and electricity has been a reality for one person in five (19%) – and restricted access to health care for one in seven (14%).

Older people have greater personal experience of armed conflict, with 14% of those aged 45 years or over having such experience (often, though, the experience occurred many years before – see below).

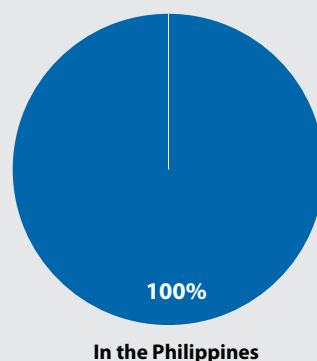
Personal experience of armed conflict

Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?



Base: All respondents (500)

Q2. Was this in the Philippines or was it somewhere else



Base: All experiencing armed conflict (41)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Personal impact of armed conflict

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in the Philippines. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in the Philippines. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.



Base: All who have experienced armed conflict (41)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Most people (65%) say their most recent experience with armed conflict was at least 10 years ago – but 15% say 'within the last year'.

Recent experiences

Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in the Philippines?



Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way (59)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

People's greatest fears

Economic fears relating to armed conflict are greater even than the fear of death, injury, bereavement or displacement.

In the Philippines:

- 32% of respondents cite the fear of losing the ability to earn a living – the issue mentioned more than any other (particularly among men);
- 24% fear that civilians will be affected by the conflict – or similarly that they themselves will be caught in crossfire (23%);
- 23% say 'loss/destruction of the house or property' – more than those mentioning their fear of displacement, or even of losing a loved one (11% in each case);
- the fear of kidnapping – although an extreme situation – is mentioned by almost one person in five (17%);
- lack of access to water/electricity or education facilities also features to some extent (12% and 8% respectively). Lack of access to health care is mentioned very rarely (by less than 1% of all respondents).

When asked a completely open question, where respondents were unprompted and free to say whatever came to mind, psychological impact – being 'humiliated' or 'living with uncertainty' – was frequently mentioned as a fear.

On prompting, very few people dwell on fears about the actual outcome of the conflict (just 2%).

People's greatest fears

Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in the Philippines?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Feelings as a consequence of armed conflict

How has armed conflict changed people's state of mind in the Philippines?

It has bred distrust (for 40%), anxiety (32%) and disillusionment (18%) – but it has also increased optimism about the future (38%), appreciation of every day (36%), and empathy for others (32%).

Overall, the results are reasonably encouraging – no doubt in part because, for most respondents, personal memories of the conflict are fading.

Two-fifths (38%) of respondents are more optimistic about the future (11% are less so). Similarly, people are on balance more appreciative of every day (36%; 11% are less so).

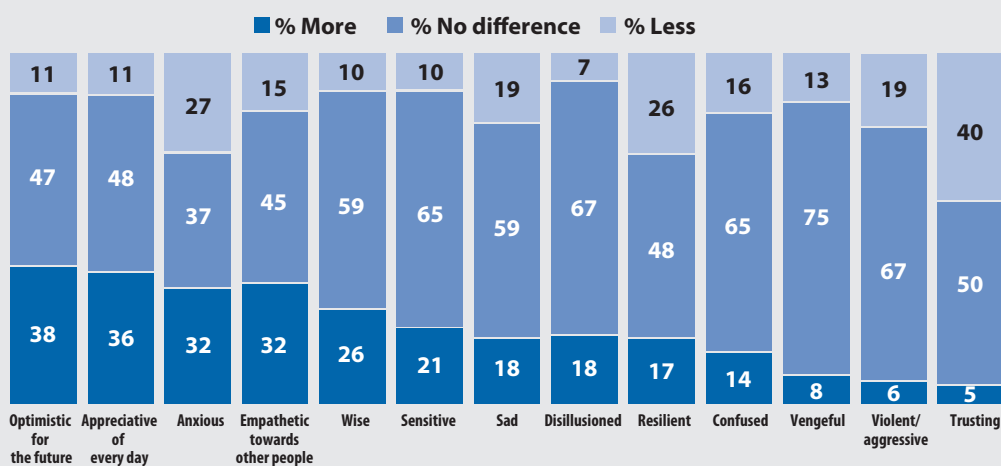
There is more empathy for others (32% 'more' vs. 15% 'less').

But there are more negative aspects. In particular, trust is in far shorter supply as a result of armed conflict. 40% say they feel this way, against just 5% who feel more trusting.

On balance, people also report feeling slightly more anxious, less resilient, more sensitive, and more disillusioned.

Feelings as a consequence of armed conflict

Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [...], would you say it has made you more [...], less [...], or has it done neither?



Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way (59)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Civilians' needs in armed conflict

First and foremost, people need 'the basics'. The vast majority refer to food as the greatest need (86%), while half see shelter (51%) as a key priority.

Filipinos consider the following to be the main needs of civilians living in conflict areas:

- food (86% chose this from a list as one of the main needs of civilians living in conflict areas);
- shelter (51%);
- medical treatment/health care (34%).

35% say that 'keeping family members together' is an important need – as many as say health care is.

Security/protection is mentioned by a quarter of respondents (24%) – as is the need for respect/dignity.

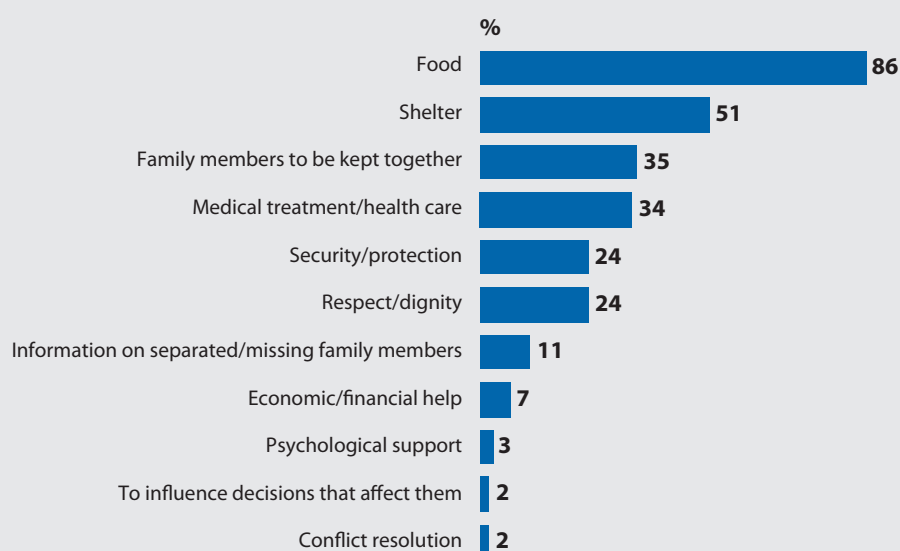
Economic help is mentioned less often as a basic need for civilians – despite loss of livelihood being the greatest fear in times of armed conflict.

Nor are people especially focused on decisions that affect them – or even on conflict resolution. Again, it is essentials that are 'here and now' that come to the fore.

The results are consistent across the various sub-groups.

Civilians' needs

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most?
Please select the three most important to you.



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Help and support from entities/institutions

Where do people turn for help during armed conflict?

Help comes primarily from their parents and families (42%) or immediate communities (22%). These are also the groups that appear to best understand people's needs.

However, people with some experience of armed conflict also report a range of help from 'official' entities – government (18%), the military/army/combatants (15%) and even religious groups (13%).

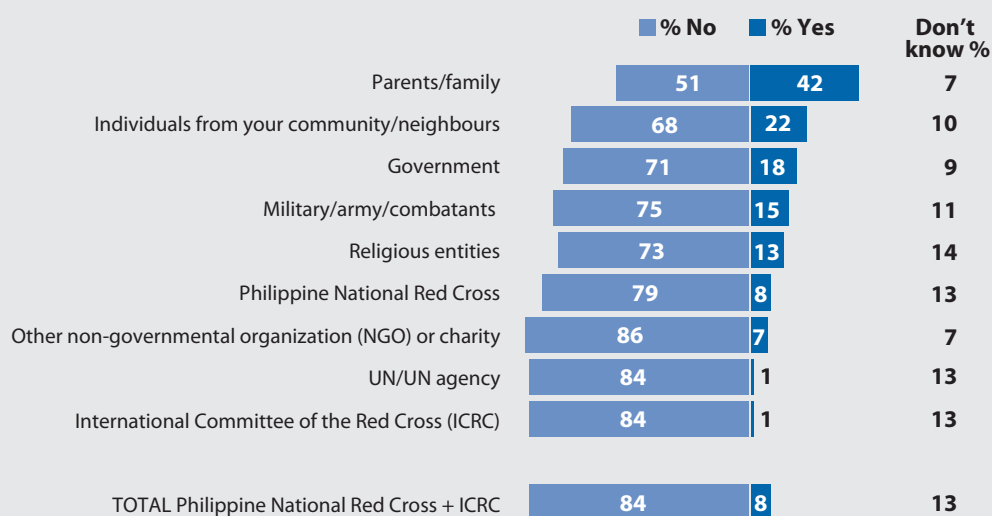
The contribution of the Philippine National Red Cross – although smaller – is also evident: 8% report having received support from it. (The figure for the ICRC is just 1%, and it tends to be cited by the same people, therefore the combined percentage for the Philippine National Red Cross and the ICRC is also 8%.)

Similarly, just 1% report receiving help from the UN or a UN agency – and 7% say they have been helped by NGOs (whether local or international).

Because relatively few people have received help from these various groups, it cannot be said with any certainty which of them best understand people's needs.

Help and support

Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following?



Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way (59)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Barriers to receiving help

Where people do not receive support during periods of armed conflict, it is most commonly perceived to be due to corruption (cited by 85%).

There is a strong sense that factors such as corruption (85%), discrimination/social status (41%), and the black market (35%) are the key barriers to receiving help, as well as lack of physical access (61%) lack of awareness (37%) or failure to meet criteria for assistance (15%).

Men and women place very similar emphasis on these various factors – except that women are more likely than men to say that lack of awareness hinders the situation.

Even when people ‘choose’ not to receive help, their decision is usually to some extent forced on them (whether for fear of social rejection (15%) or of being seen as aligned with the wrong side (32%)). ‘Pride/dignity’ also plays a part (17%), as does a reluctance to accept help ‘because of who is offering it’ (20%).

Only in very few cases do people appear to feel they have an entirely free hand to decline support (either because it is not needed (4%) or not wanted (8%)).

Barriers to receiving help

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in the Philippines receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of “don't know” responses

Reducing suffering

People look to their own communities and beyond to reduce suffering in armed conflict. 54% say that Red Cross organizations (the Philippine National Red Cross and the ICRC) play the biggest role – they are mentioned first by 18% of respondents. This is followed by the media (42%), government authorities (39%), and religious leaders (34%).

As noted, a range of groups and organizations – some formal, some informal – provide support to people in times of armed conflict.

In terms of reducing suffering in these situations, two groups are perceived as most important:

- religious leaders come to mind first for 17%;
- the Red Cross (primarily the Philippine National Red Cross, but also the ICRC) is mentioned first by 18%.

This mix of local/national and international groups suggests the diversity of entities that can play a part.

Journalists/news media and government authorities are also mentioned (by 14% and 13% respectively), as are international humanitarian organizations, NGOs, overseas government agencies, the military/combatants, and people's own community leaders – showing that those groups 'closest to home' are not always the first that people look to in times of armed conflict.

Reducing suffering

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organizations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict.



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

The role of external actors

People in the Philippines are not reluctant to call on the international community to intervene – but the emphasis is on providing peacekeepers (56%) and emergency aid (52%) rather than military action (23%).

Most people suggest the following as suitable actions ‘the international community’ can take to help civilians living in conflict areas:

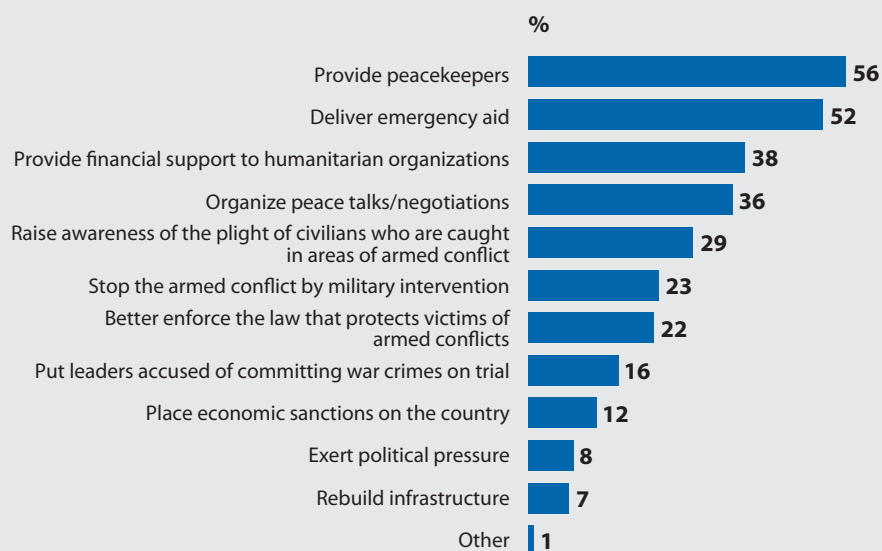
- providing peacekeepers (56%);
- delivering emergency aid (52% – 61% among 18-24-year-olds);
- providing financial support to humanitarian organizations (38%);
- ‘military intervention’ (23%).

36% say that ‘organizing peace talks/negotiations’ is appropriate and 29% mention the raising of awareness of civilians’ plight.

Less popular here, though, is the notion of charging leaders with crimes and bringing them to trial (16%), applying economic sanctions (12%; with slightly more support among older people), or rebuilding infrastructure (7%).

The role of external actors

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of “don’t know” responses

And what should be the role of people living outside the conflict zone in helping victims of armed conflict?

The respondents are quite eager to suggest that people should become involved.

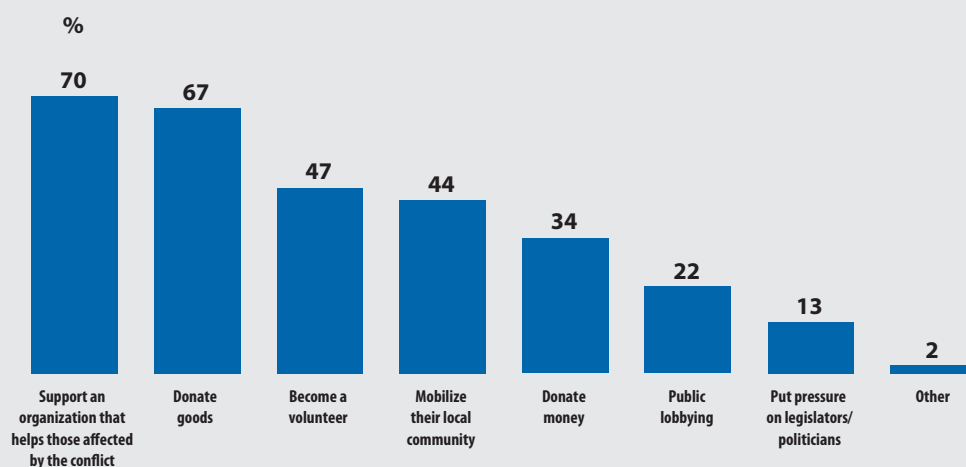
There are two basic aspects to this:

- direct involvement: (mobilizing the local community generally (44%) – though more by ‘public lobbying’ (22%) than by applying ‘pressure on legislators/politicians’ (13%);
- other practical support: donating money (34%) or goods (67%), supporting an aid organization (70%), or becoming a volunteer – potentially the most direct form of support, which is advocated by almost half (47%).

Men and women have slightly different priorities here. Men emphasize the need to mobilize local communities (50%), while women favour more donations of goods (71%) and money (41%).

Support from the wider world

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in the Philippines? Please select the three you feel are most important.



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of “don’t know” responses

Behaviour during Armed Conflict

Limits to behaviour

Virtually everyone in the Philippines (99%) – regardless of sex or age – feels there should be limits to what combatants are allowed to do in the course of fighting their enemy.

Among those interviewed the killing of civilians (51%) and other acts of violence and oppression such as kidnapping, theft, assault and torture (37%) were considered to be unacceptable in armed conflicts.

When asked a completely open question, where respondents were unprompted and free to say whatever came to mind, almost all (99%) identified some actions which they feel should be unacceptable. Half (51%) say killing civilians should not be allowed, while over a third (37%) refer to kidnapping/theft/assault/torture. Almost as many (31%) mention attacking civilian areas and homes.

Almost nobody feels ‘there is nothing that combatants should not be allowed to do’.

What do respondents mention as the basis for imposing limits?

Among those who advocate some limits to behaviour, 70% say the limits should be set on human rights grounds.

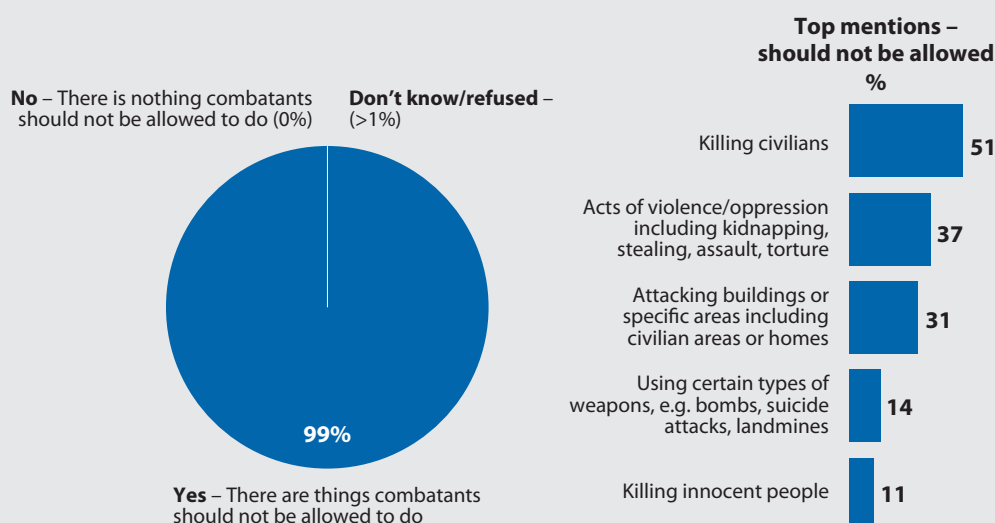
Half of the respondents (53%-57% of men) say that actions should be forbidden on the basis of the law.

Personal codes or ethics are mentioned by 32% of respondents (only 15% of 45-59-year-olds), religion by 29% and cultural acceptability by 23%.

Some people feel that certain kinds of behaviour are unacceptable on the basis of the harm they cause. For example, because certain behaviour produces too much destruction (50% say this is a suitable yardstick for actions deemed to be unacceptable), or because it produces too much hate and division (41%).

Limits to behaviour

Q12. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Threats to civilians

Virtually all of the respondents (99%) in the Philippines believe that there should be a distinction between civilians and combatants. 80% believe that civilians should be left entirely alone and 19% believe that they should be left alone at least as much as possible.

People were asked about combatants attacking civilians in order 'to weaken the enemy'. Nobody feels that civilians and combatants are equally acceptable targets.

A large majority (80%) now say simply that civilians should be left alone and only enemy combatants attacked (in 1999, the figure was only 29%). Nineteen per cent of respondents believe that civilians should be spared 'as much as possible' (65% in 1999).

The change of attitude towards civilians was also seen when people were asked (as in 1999) about the acceptability of specific behaviour by combatants when fighting an enemy:

- 96% say it is 'not OK' to 'deprive civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy'. Just 4% now say it is 'OK' (41% in 1999);
- 99% say it is 'not OK' to 'attack religious and historical monuments'. Just 1% now say it is 'OK' (34% in 1999);
- 92% say it is 'not OK' to 'attack civilians who voluntarily transport ammunition for the enemy'. Just 7% (14% of 18-24-year-olds) now say it is 'OK' (32% in 1999).

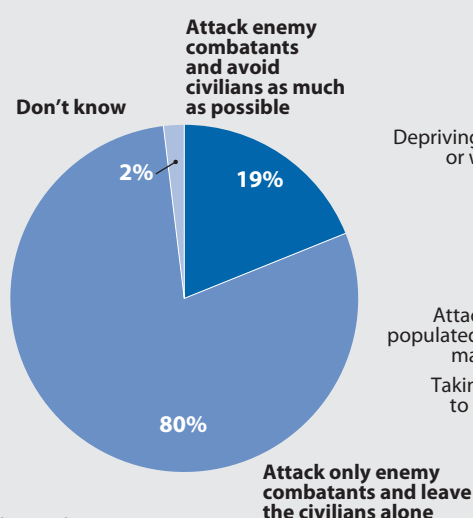
This pattern is evident across all the behaviours tested – and indeed everyone (100%) now feels:

- it is not acceptable to 'take civilian hostages in order to get something in return';
- it is not acceptable to 'plant landmines, even though civilians may step on them'.

In 1999, 26% and 10% respectively thought these behaviours were acceptable.

Threats to civilians

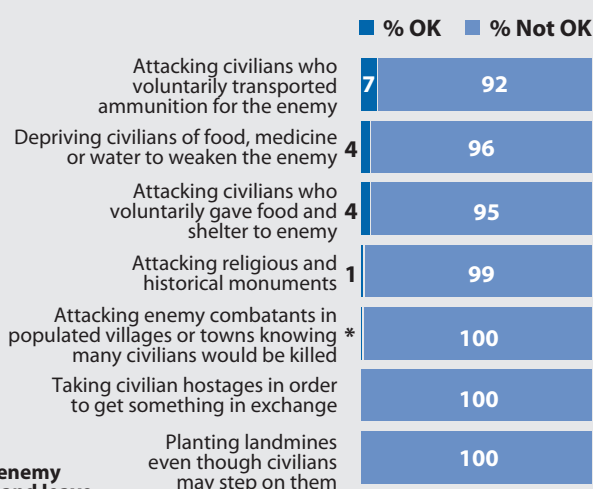
Q14. Now I would like to ask you some general questions about how, in your view, combatants should behave in times of armed conflict. When combatants attack to weaken the enemy, should they:



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Q15. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? For each one, please indicate whether it is OK or not OK to do that in fighting their enemy.



Base: All respondents (500)

Health workers and ambulances

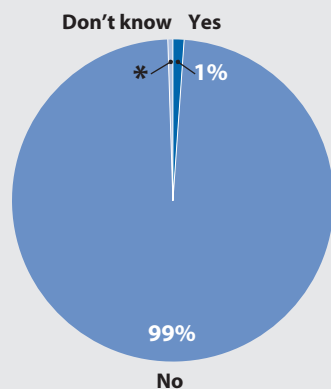
Health workers and ambulances, like civilians, are almost always seen as unacceptable targets in times of armed conflict. Ninety-nine per cent of respondents express this view about targeting health workers and 98% about targeting ambulances.

Almost no one says that there are circumstances in which it is acceptable to target health workers or ambulances.

The numbers of people holding this view are so low that it is hard to say reliably in what circumstances they think attacks are justified.

Targeting health workers

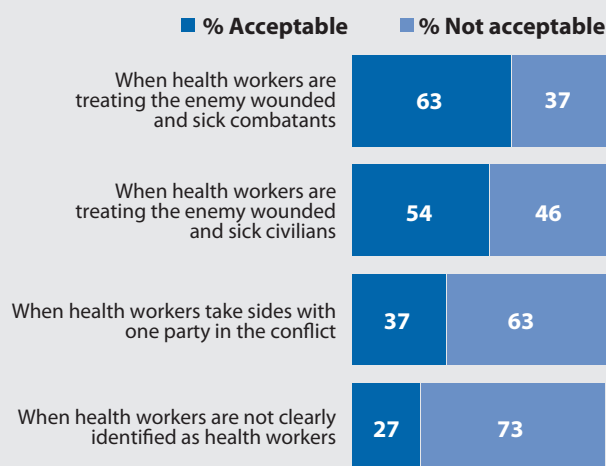
Q16. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target health workers?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

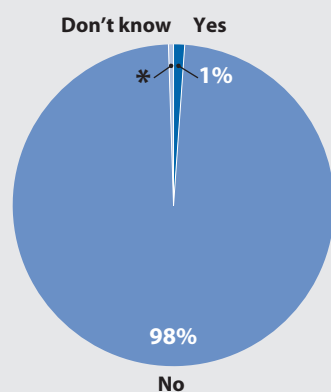
Q17. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?



Base: All who think that some circumstances are acceptable to target health workers (9**) **be cautious: very low base

Targeting ambulances

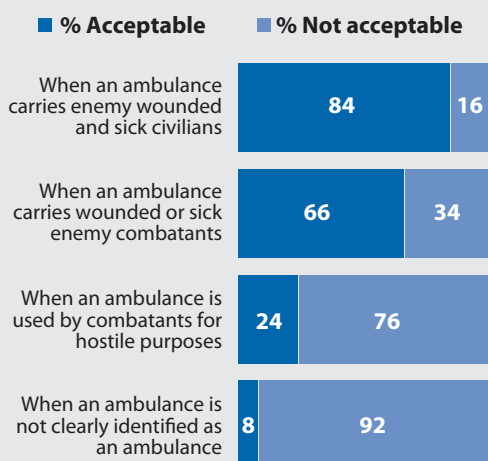
Q18. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target ambulances?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Q19. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?



Base: All who think that some circumstances are acceptable to target ambulances (8**) **be cautious: very low base

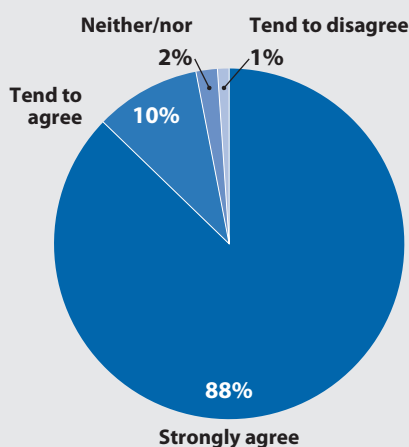
Health workers and services: the right to health care

Eighty-eight per cent of respondents strongly agree that 'everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care'. A further 10% tend to agree.

The view that health workers should take care of the sick and wounded from all sides is held by 91% of respondents. Just 4% expressly disagree, and 4% are undecided.

The right to health care

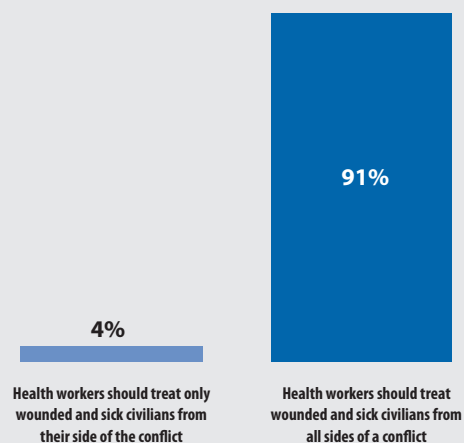
Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care'



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Q26. In the context of an armed conflict, what best describes your personal views?



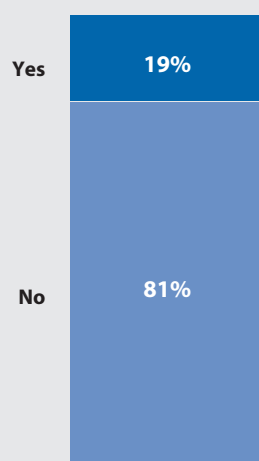
Base: All respondents (601)

The Geneva Conventions

Just one in five people (19%) have heard of the Geneva Conventions – and those who have are split on whether the Geneva Conventions are effective in limiting civilians' suffering in time of war.

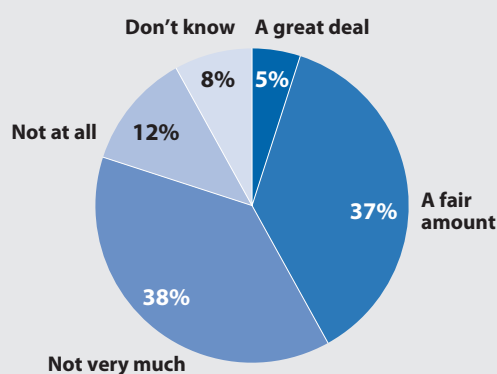
Awareness of the Geneva Conventions

Q23. Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions?



Base: All respondents (500)

Q24. To what extent do you think the existence of the Geneva Conventions limits the suffering of civilians in war time?



Base: All who have heard of the Geneva Conventions (81)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Very few people (5%) feel the Geneva Conventions limit suffering 'a great deal'. A further 37% say they limit suffering 'a fair amount'.

Awareness of the Geneva Conventions is only slightly higher among older than among younger people (25% of those aged 45 and over have heard of the Geneva Conventions) – but considerably higher among men (27%) than women (11%).

It would appear that groups with greater awareness of the Geneva Conventions generally have more favourable views of them – though the small numbers prevent any firm conclusions from being drawn.

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Respondents feel they are living in a divided society, in terms of religious and political beliefs and economic circumstances. They see the conflict as confusing and unpredictable, not knowing where fighting may break out next. They yearn for some normality to be restored to their lives, so they can focus on earning a living and sending their children back to school.

Respondents from Central Mindanao feel that the bitterness from the armed conflict is feeding religious division and economic divergences between rural and urban residents. Most, but not all, of those interviewed appear to feel a strong affiliation to a particular group and hope for a resolution on beneficial terms for them.

I really don't know why this is happening... All I want is peace. (Kaharudin, 68, father of prisoner)

Despite these clear divides in the community, there is a common feeling that the conflict is being conducted in a way that is unacceptable because it involves civilians. First responder, Edgar, believed that much more violence occurs than is actually reported.

If you are one of those victims in the area, you are afraid to say anything to anybody because you do not know the person you are talking to ... it's better to keep your mouth shut. (Edgar, 34, first responder)

Respondents say their experience of the fighting is characterized by unpredictability and confusion. Some areas have been greatly affected by the fighting whereas other areas have been completely untouched. This means that whilst people may have escaped from one area, they now fear where the violence might break out next.

We are afraid of the war because we do not really know the plans of each side – we don't even know where the clashes will happen. (Mark, 23, first responder)

Overall, respondents want some normality to be restored to their lives so that they are able to earn a living and their children are able to go to school.

Personal experience of armed conflict

Becoming a victim of bombings or violence is the primary fear people have for themselves and their loved ones.

They are also deeply worried about losing their livelihoods and their belongings, and about the lack of access to education.

Threats of attack

The threat of attack takes its toll on civilians over time. Internally displaced persons are most likely to have direct experience of armed conflict and to talk about their memory of their trauma and their fear of it happening again. One woman whose village has been bombarded in an aerial attack is suffering intense flashbacks, and is very bitter about the way the attacks have been conducted.

My feelings overflow whenever I hear war or even when I see army men. When I see them, I feel my whole body weaken because we were then crouching underneath the tall grasses when the planes bombed us. (Sharifa, 28, internally displaced person)

Several people who have been displaced in the past describe how they feel constantly on alert for possible attack and keep their bags permanently packed so that they would at least have some belongings if they are forced to flee again.

Our things are always packed. We don't unpack them so that we can leave at a moment's notice whenever they attack us again. (Joséfina, 29, internally displaced person)

Lack of basic necessities

Many people, and especially those who have either lost a family member or who have a family member in prison, became impoverished as a result of the conflict. For them, food is the highest priority. Several people say the high price of rice is compounding their problems.

Other people become entirely dependent on aid because they are displaced from their homes and means of livelihood. For some displaced people, the amount of food allocated to them in aid is not enough to sustain all the members of their families. This is particularly the case for individuals who used to gather food in the mountains but no longer feel safe enough to do so.

Food was a major concern. Where are we going to get meals for the day? If we go to the mountains to find food, we might be shot at. (Jenefer, 77, internally displaced person)

Another recurring issue for people who have become displaced is access to hygiene items, clothes and household goods. Many receive some aid of this nature from the Philippine National Red Cross, and international aid organizations.

Negative effect on livelihoods

The impact on people's ability to support themselves is seen as a particularly difficult consequence of armed conflict.

Sadness touches me every time I interact with the internally displaced persons ... in their place of origin, they could support themselves at a basic level, even if they were just farming. (Lucie, 30, first responder)

For others still able to work, the armed conflict has made their working lives more difficult because of transport problems and disrupted electricity and water supplies.

Lack of education

Several of the relatives of men in prison say they are no longer able to send their children to school because of financial difficulties. For example, Laila whose husband has been imprisoned for eight years can no longer afford to send her children to school. This is a great regret for her.

If only they could study. That's my only wish ... the children are the ones who are really affected if there is conflict. (Laila, 40, wife of prisoner)

People believe that lack of access to education now will deprive the Philippines of valuable skills in the future. One female respondent, Wedada, would have qualified as a nurse had it not been for the fighting.

I'm a nurse, I studied but I stopped because of the conflict and financial problems. I volunteer in relief goods distribution, but I really need to study. (Wedada, 20, internally displaced person)

Although young people express regret that their studies had been interrupted, one volunteer points out the valuable skills she was learning through volunteering.

These are exceptional experiences where you really learn a lot: not just about values, but how to interact with others. (Pablita, 22, first responder)

Fear of losing family and friends

For all respondents, there is a real concern over the potential loss of life of their loved ones as well as their own deaths, as the armed conflict continues. This fear is compounded by the uncertainty of not knowing where the next attack will come from.

I always think of my family because I hear some news that our municipality might be affected by the war. (Nhor, 51, mother of prisoner)

We are afraid of the war because we do not really know the plan of each party, we don't even know where the encounters will happen. It is possible that our area will be harassed. (Udzag, 43, first responder)

Civilians' needs in armed conflict

Civilians' immediate physical needs during armed conflict are for shelter, food/water, access to medicine, clothing and bedding as well as money for basic necessities.

Employment is seen by the respondents as key to providing these, but the conflict interrupts and destroys working lives. Most just want to rebuild their livelihoods.

When expressing their needs, those affected by armed conflict most often mention the lack of a means to earn a living and their inability to support themselves with dignity. Internally displaced persons have lost their livelihoods as well as their homes. While they are exceptionally grateful to the Red Cross for the assistance they receive, it can be too little for large families and they prefer not to be in need of it at all.

Some people think that specific livelihood programmes, for example with internally displaced persons or relatives of prisoners, would help improve the lives of those affected by armed conflict and help reduce the inequalities caused by the conflict.

Respondents say that transportation links such as roads need to be built and maintained in remote regions. With roads, there is the possibility that people can find work, have their children attend school and ensure the supply of food and water to their area. One woman, Gloria, describes how her six children have to live with relatives in order to attend school. Her neighbours also want to see a properly paved road to their homes to help with gathering provisions and getting to work.

If we had a good road, motorcycle transport could serve this area. Otherwise, we will have to carry on foot our heavy load. And it's really far. (Ekis, 48, internally displaced person)

The key desire for all respondents is for their children to attend school, with the possibility of more options for them in the future.

What's in my heart is that I would really be thankful for the help that would be given for the studies of my children. In my heart I don't want conflict anymore. (Noraisa, 45, wife of prisoner)

First responders are very clear that they want better equipment and facilities in order to do their job. Some health centres have been provided with basic equipment, but there is still a shortage of refrigeration for vaccines.

We have no Health Centre. I also find it difficult to stock vaccines because there is no refrigerator ... If there is no electricity, I cannot buy ice so all the other medicines become damaged. (Ruhaina, 39, first responder)

Humanitarian assistance

All respondents in this research receive humanitarian assistance from aid organizations.

The ICRC and the Philippine National Red Cross are the most frequently mentioned humanitarian organizations and there is much gratitude for the Family Visit Programme and for providing basic necessities.

The importance of assistance

Many of the respondents have had their lives saved by humanitarian assistance during armed conflict. Typical examples include being helped during evacuation, and being provided with food, water and shelter by local, national or international humanitarian organizations.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Red Cross and the wealthy individuals in our community who pitied us provided us with assistance. They made sure that we had enough to eat. Though our houses were burned, what is important is we are alive today. (Jenefer, 77, internally displaced person)

People value life-saving medical assistance and the provision of necessities very highly. As well as providing the necessities to sustain life, respondents state that making people feel welcome when they had been displaced can help them overcome the psychological trauma of their experiences.

Humanitarian assistance from organizations

Of more organized sources of humanitarian assistance, the ICRC and the Philippine National Red Cross are by far the most commonly mentioned organizations when people talk about the help they have received. They are associated with providing food as well as with longer-term reconstructive help and the Family Visit Programme.

Other organizations mentioned are perceived to specialize in particular types of assistance and include:

- World Food Programme for food distribution in evacuation centres;
- UNICEF for medicine, rice and providing children's education;
- UNFPA and MSF for medical facilities;
- Oxfam for hygiene kits and sanitation products;
- Karapatan for services to relatives of prisoners.

Local government agencies are also mentioned as providing relief at times of crisis. Religious groups and wealthy private individuals are reported to have given aid to displaced people.

Internally displaced persons living in evacuation centres are most likely to talk about help they have received from these sources. However, they do not want to become permanently dependent on aid and talk about the need for reconstruction work and livelihood programmes.

I think it would be better if they put up a project in this area, say a factory for making slippers, so that all of us here can work. (Allan, 27, internally displaced person)

For a number of the respondents, it is only through the help of the Family Visit Programme that individuals have been able to visit their loved ones in detention. In addition, those in receipt of the Restoring Family Links programme have been surprised and grateful for the consistent help.

I am really grateful to the Red Cross [ICRC and PNRC] ... they offered assistance so that we can go to Manila and visit. (Nhor, 51, mother of prisoner)

I thank Ma'am Marie she is so kind, she gave us budget for our fare every time we go there. She was very concerned with our situation and did not ignore us even once. (Kaharudin, 68, father of prisoner)

Desired improvements to assistance

All those interviewed are very grateful for the assistance they received from humanitarian organizations. The main improvement they would make to assistance is the means to create their own livelihood programmes and means of survival.

I ask to be given some livelihood assistance for me to earn a living. It is very difficult to make money depending on the bounty of nature because there are bad people hiding in the mountains. (Bon, 43, internally displaced person)

Some form of psychological support for those who have been displaced as a result of the conflict would be welcome. First responders identify 'talking therapies' as a way individuals can relieve the pressure of what they have seen, tell their story and feel stronger as a result.

When we go to the evacuation centres, we talk to them and this eases their pain. (Junie, 24, first responder)

Let them be able to express everything that they are thinking of. (Edgar, 34, first responder)

Humanitarian gestures

Respondents recount many acts of courage and generosity carried out by fellow citizens and humanitarian workers. They include helping them to be evacuated from areas under attack, offering homes for shelter and providing necessities for displaced people.

People report receiving a wide variety of humanitarian gestures, as well as initiating such gestures themselves. These include helping people flee from the fighting, providing food and shelter to those who have been displaced and providing emotional support and reassurance to people who have been through trauma.

In my case, there was a couple and the woman was pregnant. They were from Kabuntalan. It was raining that night and the couple had no house to stay in. Since we had a big tent, I said they could stay with us. (Aladin, 23, internally displaced person)

Those with the most traumatic stories tend to be those who have been displaced. For example, 27-year-old Allan saw the weapon bearers approaching his village whilst on his way to fish for the day and was able to evade capture and rescue his neighbour by crawling in the undergrowth.

Simply providing emotional support and reassurance can go a long way towards easing the discomfort of others. One woman who had been forced to flee her home said the concern and help from the Red Cross had helped her come to terms with what had happened and she started rebuilding her life.

For me, it made me happy to know that others cared. They took a great interest in what we had gone through, especially that we lost everything. (Toni, 46, internally displaced person)

All civilians are united in the understanding of what it means to be in desperate need and then receive some kind of humanitarian gesture. For this reason, they are eager to be able to offer the same to another at some time. Unfortunately, many do not feel in a position to do much for someone else, as their own situation is difficult.

If somebody asks me for help, I will help if I can. If not, how can I help? What can I give if I have nothing to give? (Juaning, 37, internally displaced person)

Now that I have been helped, I find it difficult not to help others also. When people ask for help, we should not ignore them. (Pina, 30, first responder)

Sharing assistance is one of the more common ways in which people have found to help others.

I was able to help people who were not at the evacuation centre. I shared with them foodstuffs like noodles, canned goods, rice and many others. (Inday, 45, internally displaced person)

Behaviour during Armed Conflict

Rules of conflict

There is a belief that parties to armed conflict should take great care to spare civilians. There is acknowledgement that it is difficult to differentiate between civilians and fighters in the Philippines because some weapon bearers do not wear uniform.

Within the sample of people interviewed, there are deep divisions about the justness of the war and its origins. Some people are very confused about the conflict altogether and what the aims of different groups are.

The reason of the fighting is they are hunting [a particular individual], so they just name anybody as this person to create skirmishes and destroy our community. It's all I can say. (Musaw, 31, internally displaced person)

But equally there is bitterness about the actions of some armed groups and their victims often do not accept the way they have behaved:

The group that attacked us was not a cohesive group. Older members even reprimanded the younger members who were less principled. (Bon, 43, internally displaced person)

There is universal agreement amongst respondents that violence for violence's sake is wrong. People say that those who fight in the armed conflict include both those who are doing so as a matter of principle and therefore try to minimize the effects on civilians, and those who are using the conflict as an excuse to commit unnecessary violence or other crimes such as robbery. Two neighbours, whose homes had been destroyed in a violent attack, describe how some of the weapon bearers were shouting instructions that the civilians should not be harmed.

There were even arguments within the group. Some wanted to kill but others prevented them by saying, 'no, do not harm them'. (Joy, 46, internally displaced person)

There is some disagreement as to what is acceptable in terms of fighting taking place where civilians will be affected. Some feel strongly that weapon bearers should stay away from civilian areas:

I hope they will not fight when there are civilians, they should go to place where there are no civilians. (Wedada, 20, internally displaced person)

But other civilians feel protected when the weapon bearers are stationed close by:

We need the soldiers to stay in the area. If they leave, chances are we will be attacked again. (Joséfina, 29, internally displaced person)

Many respondents point out that it is very difficult to distinguish between civilians and weapon bearers involved in the conflict because many people wear military attire and/or carry weapons in areas of conflict. In these circumstances it is more likely that fighters will attack civilians because they wrongly believe they are the enemy.

In addition, civilians are implicated in sheltering weapon bearers and ensuring supplies to them, either willingly or as a result of force. Joy, a 46-year-old woman whose house had been ransacked, believes that the fact that some fighters are cut off from supply lines means that some degree of robbery from civilians is inevitable.

The rebels must have experienced so much hunger in the mountains. And to provide for their needs, they attacked us and took our belongings. (Joy, 46, internally displaced person)

There is also a perception that attacks by some weapon bearers were not designed to achieve military advantage but instead to instil fear in civilians and draw attention to political demands through attacks and kidnappings. Some people feel this is a moral outrage whereas others feel it is an inevitable part of warfare. Most of the respondents believe that the use of human shields is unacceptable in any circumstances.

They attacked the civilians and ransacked houses and establishments ... We civilians should have been spared from all this. (Eki, 48, internally displaced person.)

Some people believe that civilians should always be entirely separate from the fighting whereas others feel that it is natural for civilians to try to help the side they are affiliated with in whatever way they can.

Right to health care and protecting health workers

Most, but not all, respondents believe that everyone should have a right to health care, whether they are civilians or weapon bearers.

Right to health care

The majority of respondents from a range of different backgrounds agreed that health care must be available to all, regardless of religion or politics.

Yes. We must help them. For me, even if they are Muslims; we must help them because we are all Filipinos. (Christina, 46, internally displaced person)

In my opinion everyone should be assisted during armed conflict. If they need to be brought to the doctor they should be taken. (Winifreda, 48, first responder)

Some respondents who had been displaced and had witnessed violence first hand feel less goodwill. One young woman who had been forced out of her home with her infant son angrily stated that wounded weapon bearers should not be given aid – however, she revised her opinion later in the conversation saying:

I was confused and angry. I remember what they did to us. But God eventually reminds us that they are also human beings and it is not good to deprive them of that. (Joséfina, 22, internally displaced person)

Protecting health workers

There is strong agreement that health workers should be allowed to do their job and that they should be spared violence. This is regardless of religion, race and affiliation. There is a belief that most of the time the red cross emblem protects humanitarian workers and allows them to go about their work.

The medical workers should not be harmed. They should have a logo as an identifying mark on their uniforms. (Gloria, 44, internally displaced person)

Because their assistance to the civilians cannot be given if they are harmed, they should be respected. (Maisara, 30, internally displaced person)

However, it was stated that there are various examples of humanitarian workers experiencing difficult situations in carrying out their work. First responders are often stopped at checkpoints. Mostly they pass without incident. However, sometimes they are stopped and have to answer questions.

When we went to Libutan, the military asked us to open our windows and back door to check if we are bringing weapons. (Pina, 30, first responder)

Some Red Cross first responders believe there is a lack of awareness about what they do and, importantly, about their neutrality.

Protection must be given to the health workers and volunteers. That is what they need in the field. How can you serve if you are not protected? If you are not safe? Without the protection of our security, we cannot help because we will be at risk. (Bai Sinsuat, 54, first responder)

Information dissemination still is the most important. People don't really know what the Red Cross is and what we stand for. (Junie, 24, first responder)

The Geneva Conventions

Although those affected by armed conflict tend to know little or nothing about the Geneva Conventions themselves, they instinctively support the concept of a system of rules for how combatants are supposed to behave towards civilians in conflicts.

There is a hope that all weapon bearers should adhere to the Geneva Conventions or a sort of moral code, but the reality feels quite different. Respondents believe that there is a lack of respect for the Geneva Conventions.

Awareness of the Geneva Conventions is quite low, though it is higher amongst first responders. Often the Geneva Conventions and the ICRC are inextricably linked in people's minds.

Most respondents feel that weapon bearers should behave in a moral and decent way in armed conflict, even if they are unaware of the Geneva Conventions.

The reality, many respondents believe, is that one side or the other does not adhere to the Geneva Conventions.

There are people who have a different mindset. No amount of teaching will change their minds. But if everybody observes them, the Geneva Conventions can help a lot. (Ekis, 48, internally displaced person)

There is a belief that the Geneva Conventions are not being adhered to because they are too difficult to apply in the Philippines for a number of reasons. Firstly, because it is hard to distinguish between civilians and weapon bearers.

I find it really hard to see how the military could fight without the risk of breaching humanitarian rules, because they are up against teenagers, women, old people and even civilians – because these armed groups are not in uniform. (Edgar, 34, first responder)

Secondly, it is suggested that some weapon bearers operate out of remote areas where it is not realistic to provide proper medical or other facilities for the wounded or captured enemies.

Since they are hiding, they can't bring them to hospital, they have their medics. It is too dangerous if they are brought to hospital. (Wedada, 20, internally displaced person)

Conclusions: priority actions

The main priorities that people identify that could make a difference to their lives are:

- a greater degree of tolerance towards minorities, particularly in terms of access to employment;
- more capacity-building in poor communities in terms of skills and education, particularly amongst previously displaced people who want to re-establish their livelihoods;
- a better implemented and swifter legal system.

Respondents have three main messages they would like to communicate to the rest of the world:

- The need for greater equality of treatment for all groups. Religious tolerance is seen by many as the key to bringing an end to the conflict for civilians. This was a prominent theme in conversations with first responders, including Maisara, aged 30:

We should talk to all people, we should forget about our religion, tribes, etc. – we should talk about peace as human beings, not as Muslims or Christians but as Filipinos. (Maisara, 30, internally displaced person)

- The need for more capacity-building in poor communities. The problem of poverty in the Philippines is a widespread one, especially in remote rural areas. Resentment over perceived or real discrimination is seen as contributing to the conflict.

I think if we can get any form of volunteer or paid talent or whatever it is that could go back to these specific communities and help them build these communities back to progress, then I think that would solve not only the problem in the area but also conflict in the long run. (Edgar, 34, first responder)

Internally displaced persons also often request access to long-term livelihood and reconstruction programmes because they do not want to become dependent on aid.

- The need for a better implemented and rapid legal system. According to respondents, trials for those in detention are not taking place swiftly enough. Coupled with this, families are often not told where their loved ones are being held.

My husband has been there for almost eight years. His hearing isn't finished yet...What I'm hoping from the government is that they give attention to those imprisoned...that they speed the administration on these cases. (Laila, 40, wife of prisoner)

Specific trends for different groups

Internally displaced persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Becoming displaced is a common experience in Central Mindanao and there is a lot of overlap between displaced persons and other groups (relatives of missing or incarcerated persons and first responders). Many have been displaced multiple times as the situation changed and they tried to reunite with relatives and friends. Often it is displaced persons who feel the effects of humanitarian gestures the most. Many people describe helping others escape the danger or giving supplies to those in need. One young woman, Juana, was able to carry another woman's child to escape when fighting started in her village. Some of the respondents were still living in an evacuation centre at the time of the research and desperately wanted to return to their homes as soon as possible, but were unable to do so because of the presence of fighters.
Members of separated families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who have benefited from the Family Visit Programme report that the one who has been imprisoned tends to be the main breadwinner of the household. This leaves the family without a source of income to live on and often means that the children are unable to go to school because they need to stay at home to help their families. For many, the situation drags on for longer than hoped or expected. <i>It has been postponed and postponed until he has been in there for eight years and the hearing isn't done yet. (Laila, 40, wife of prisoner)</i> Another respondent, Sharifa, told us how her husband is sick and she tries to visit him as often as she can to provide him with additional medicines and food. She is worried about how thin he has become but is reassured by being able to visit him. <i>I feel relief every time I visited my husband, especially if I can offer him a little food and his other necessities like medicine. I am happy. (Sharifa, 39, wife of prisoner)</i> Relatives can face disapproval from others for supporting their loved ones in detention. One wife of a prisoner describes how her sister stopped sending her money because she disapproved of her visiting her jailed husband.
First responders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First responders are at the sharp end of the conflict as they are present whilst the situation is still very dangerous. They report feeling shock at what they see. They can feel unprepared, but their weakest moments are when they question whether they will be able to manage to respond to a situation either psychologically or with enough provisions. The hardest element for the first responders to cope with is seeing children being so badly affected. <i>When I saw the children in the evacuation centre, my heart melted. They were malnourished, though their parents were doing their best to feed them. (Violeta, 24, first responder)</i> Distributors of aid say that their work is rewarding but it is also fraught with difficulties. Some individuals try to deceive aid workers and get more than their fair share of aid. Another problem is trying to refuse gifts from some recipients who feel they should give up something of their own in exchange for aid.

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

OPINION SURVEY

Sample profile

The Philippines (Weighted profile)		
	Number	%
Total	500	100
Gender		
Male	250	50
Female	250	50
Age		
18-24	131	26
25-29	62	12
30-34	73	15
35-39	61	12
40-44	46	9
45-49	42	8
50-64	78	16
65 or over	7	1
Religion		
Christian	485	97
Muslim	4	1
Iglesia Ni Cristo	7	1
Jehova's Witness	2	*
Mormons	3	1

The Philippines (Weighted profile)		
	Number	%
Area		
Urban	387	77
Rural	113	23
Region		
Metro Manila	274	55
Pangasinan	63	13
Batangas	53	11
Cebu	58	12
Davao	52	10
Education		
No formal education	2	*
Some elementary	11	2
Completed elementary	34	7
Some high school	43	9
Completed high school	152	30
Some vocational	10	2
Completed vocational	36	7
Some college	95	19
Completed college	115	23
Post-graduate	2	*

Sampling details

Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in the full sample of 500 give a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points plus or minus (i.e. between 46% and 54%) from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the entire population (using the same procedures).

Some examples of the tolerances that may apply in this report are given in the table below.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)			
Unweighted base (500)	10% or 90% ±	30% or 70% ±	50% ±
Size of sample on which survey result is based (unweighted)			
500 (All respondents)	3	4	4
28 (Men affected by armed conflict)	11	17	19
53 (Christians affected by armed conflict)	8	13	14

Source: Ipsos

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements (sub-groups) of the sample – and between the 1999 and 2009 results. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The table below shows the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons of sub-groups and between the 1999 and 2009 research.

Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages			
Unweighted base (500)	10% or 90% ±	30% or 70% ±	50% ±
Size of 2009 sub-groups and 1999 vs. 2009 samples involved in this survey (unweighted)			
28 (Men affected by armed conflict) vs. 31 (Women affected by armed conflict)	16	24	26
1,100 (1999 full sample) vs. 500 (2009 full sample)	3	5	5

Source: Ipsos

Marked-up questionnaire

Questionnaire	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interviews with 500 people ● Aged 18+ ● Conducted face-to-face, from 11 February to 3 March 2009 ● Results are weighted ● 'POW' indicates a question also asked in 1999 ● An asterisk (*) indicates a result of less than 1% (but not zero) ● A 'n/a' denotes 'not asked' ● Base for each question is all (500), unless shown otherwise
INTRODUCTION	
	Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am from Ipsos, an independent social research agency. We are conducting interviews in this area and would like your help with this. The interview will last around 15 minutes and is about your experiences of and opinions on the armed conflict in the Philippines.
AA) ON CONFLICT IN GENERAL	
ASK ALL ↴	Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?
	Yes
	No
	Don't know
ASK IF 'YES' AT Q1 ↴	Refused
	Q2. Was this in the Philippines, or was it somewhere else?
	Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1-41*
	In the Philippines
	Somewhere else (specify)
	Both
	Don't know
* Low base	

ASK IF 'YES' AT Q1 ↴

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in the Philippines. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in the Philippines. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.

<i>Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1-41*</i>	Happened	Did not happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	52	48	0	0
Imprisoned	0	100	0	0
Kidnapped or taken as a hostage	0	100	0	0
Tortured	0	100	0	0
Been humiliated	5	95	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	14	86	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	6	94	0	0
Serious damage to your property	11	89	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	11	89	0	0
Combatants took food away	8	92	0	0
Had your home looted	9	91	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	0	100	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	19	81	0	0
No or very limited access to health care	14	86	0	0
Lost all my belongings	11	89	0	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	15	85	0	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	18	82	0	0

* Low base

ASK IF NOT 'YES' AT Q1 ↴

Q3B. I'm going to ask you about how you yourself have been affected by the armed conflict in the Philippines. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in the Philippines. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.

Base: All not experiencing armed conflict at Q1-459	Happened	Did not happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	*	99	*	0
Imprisoned	0	100	*	0
Kidnapped or taken as a hostage	0	100	0	0
Tortured	0	100	0	0
Been humiliated	0	100	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	0	100	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	*	100	0	0
Serious damage to your property	0	100	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	0	100	0	0
Combatants took food away	0	100	0	0
Had your home looted	0	100	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	0	100	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	0	100	*	0
No or very limited access to health care	0	100	*	0
Lost all my belongings	0	100	*	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	0	100	*	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	0	100	*	0

ALL RESPONDENTS ↴

Q3A/Q3B. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in the Philippines. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in the Philippines. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

<i>Base: All respondents</i>	Happened		Did not happen	Don't know	Refused
	1999	2009	2009	2009	2009
	%	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	13	4	96	*	0
Imprisoned	2	0	100	*	0
Kidnapped or taken as a hostage	2	0	100	0	0
Tortured	4	0	100	0	0
Been humiliated (<i>'Felt humiliated' in 1999</i>)	14	*	100	0	0
Lost contact with a close relative	9	1	99	0	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	7	1	99	0	0
Serious damage to your property	9	1	99	0	0
Wounded by the fighting	4	1	99	0	0
Combatants took food away	6	1	99	0	0
Had your home looted	7	1	99	0	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence (<i>'...raped by combatants' in 1999</i>)	3	0	100	0	0
ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS					
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	<i>n/a</i>	1	98	*	0
No or very limited access to health care	<i>n/a</i>	1	99	*	0
Lost all my belongings	<i>n/a</i>	1	99	*	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	<i>n/a</i>	1	99	*	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	<i>n/a</i>	1	99	*	0

ASK ALL ↴	Q4. And have you been affected by armed conflict in the Philippines in any other ways? What ways were those?	
	SINGLE CODE	
		%
	Yes – specify	6
	No	94
	Don't know	0
	Refused	*
	YES – SPECIFY: TOP MENTIONS (> 5% of respondents)	YES
	<i>Base: All who have been affected by armed conflict in any other ways at Q4-37*</i>	
		%
	TOTAL MENTIONS – DETERIORATION IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING	57
	Poor economy/high prices	25
	Fear	22
	No job/couldn't work	13
	No power/no electricity	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – PERSONAL SUFFERING	31
	I couldn't continue my education	9
	I was psychologically hurt/suffered psychological problems	8
	Was accused of being a rebel	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF VIOLENCE/ATTACKS	28
	Caught in the crossfire	25
	Kidnapping	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – PEOPLE ARE KILLED/INJURED	26
	Relatives are killed/injured	15
	Civilians killed/injured	6
	People are killed/injured (unspecified)	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – FREEDOM RESTRICTION	16
	Couldn't go out/felt trapped inside	10
	Movement was restricted/couldn't freely move	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – MISCELLANEOUS	14
	Forced to leave the country	8
	Thieves/looting	6
	TOTAL MENTIONS – INTERNAL FIGHTING	6
	Fighting between Filipinos	6
	* Low base	
ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – 'YES' AT Q1 AND 'YES' AT Q2/ CODE 1 (IN THE PHILIPPINES) OR ANY 'HAPPENED' RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY 'YES' RESPONSE AT Q4 ↴	Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in the Philippines?	
	SINGLE CODE	
	<i>Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above-59*</i>	%
	Now/currently experiencing	0
	Within the last month	0
	More than one month ago, but less than six months	1
	Six months ago to within the last year	14
	1-2 years	6
	3-4 years	1
	5-9 years	6
	10-19 years	14
	20 years +	51
	Don't know	7
	Refused	0
	* Low base	

ASK ALL ↴

Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in the Philippines?

DO NOT READ OUT. INTERVIEWER TO CODE A MAXIMUM OF THREE RESPONSES

	%
Inability to earn a living/personal or family economic instability	32
Losing a loved one	11
Being separated from loved ones	7
Losing/destruction of the house/losing of personal belongings	23
Living with uncertainty	3
Having to leave their home/becoming displaced/a refugee	11
Imprisonment	*
Surviving the conflict	15
Suffering injury	15
Sexual violence	2
Not being able to get an education/going to school	8
Fear of being rejected by your community	*
Having to take up arms/fight	1
Being humiliated	*
Limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	12
Limited access to health care (drugs, hospital)	*
Outcome of the conflict	2
Children affected	5
Innocent people affected	8
Civilians affected	24
Relatives affected	9
People die	2
Kidnapped	17
Bombs	7
Gunshots	8
Spray bullets	3
Getting caught in the crossfire	23
Harassed/oppressed	*
Used as a human shield	1
Getting caught in the middle of the conflict	7
Farms affected	*
Civilian areas affected	2
Filipinos fighting each other	1
Psychologically affected	3
Accused of being a rebel	2
Worry about the security situation	1
Fearful/frightened	2
Poverty/worsening economic situation	4
No peace	2
Lack of food/hunger	5
Fearful about going out	2
No transportation/roads disrupted	1
Restrictions on free movement	1
Fear of conflict may spread into new areas	5
Thieves/robbers	3
Fear that many will die/large scale death	8
Nothing	1
Don't know	1

ASK ALL ↴	Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most? Please select the three most important to you.					
	ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENTS TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. REPEAT THE LIST IF NECESSARY. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK THE RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER. REPEAT AGAIN.					
						%
	Food					86
	Shelter					51
	Medical treatment/health care					34
	Family members to be kept together					35
	Information on separated/missing family members					11
	Security/protection					24
	Respect/dignity					24
	Psychological support					3
	To influence decisions that affect them					2
	Conflict resolution					2
	Economic/financial help					7
	Other (specify)					10
	Don't know					0
Refused					0	
ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – ‘YES’ AT Q1 AND ‘YES’ AT Q2/ CODE 1 (IN THE PHILIPPINES) OR ANY ‘HAPPENED’ RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY ‘YES’ RESPONSE AT Q4. ROTATE ORDER ↴	Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [...], would you say it has made you more [...], less [...], or has it done neither?					
	Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above-59*	More	Less	No real difference	Don't know	Refused
		%	%	%	%	%
	Vengeful	8	13	75	5	0
	Trusting	5	40	50	5	0
	Resilient	17	26	48	9	0
	Anxious	32	27	37	5	0
	Appreciative of every day	36	11	48	5	0
	Confused	14	16	65	5	0
	Sad	18	19	59	5	0
	Sensitive	21	10	65	5	0
	Disillusioned	18	7	67	8	0
	Optimistic for the future	38	11	47	5	0
	Wise	26	10	59	6	0
	Empathetic towards other people	32	15	45	8	0
	Violent/aggressive	6	19	67	8	0
* Low base						

BB) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE/NEEDS						
ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – ‘YES’ AT Q1 AND YES’ AT Q2/ CODE 1 (IN THE PHILIPPINES) OR ANY ‘HAPPENED’ RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY ‘YES’ RESPONSE AT Q4 ↓	Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following? READ OUT.					
	<i>Base: All who have experienced/been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above-59*</i>					
		Yes	No	Don't know	Can't remember	
		%	%	%	%	
	UN/UN agency	1	84	13	1	
	Philippine National Red Cross	8	79	13	0	
	ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)	1	84	13	1	
	Other non-governmental organization (NGO) or charity (local or international)	7	86	7	0	
	Government	18	71	9	1	
	Individuals from your community/neighbours	22	68	10	0	
	Religious entities	13	73	14	0	
	Military/army/combatants	15	75	11	0	
	Parents/family	42	51	7	0	
	Other (specify)	0	10	90	0	
Combination: Philippine National Red Cross/ICRC	8	84	13	0		
* Low base						
ASK IF ‘YES’ AT Q9 ↓	Q10. For each of the types of organizations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]...do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all? SINGLE CODE FOR EACH SOURCE OF SUPPORT MENTIONED AT Q9					
	<i>Base: All who did receive support/help from each organization at Q9</i>					
		Completely	Partially	Not at all	Don't know	Refused
		%	%	%	%	%
	UN/UN agency (Base = 1**)	100	0	0	0	0
	Philippine National Red Cross (5**)	73	27	0	0	0
	ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) (1**)	100	0	0	0	0
	Other non-governmental organization (NGO) or charity (local or international) (7**)	59	41	0	0	0
	Government (15**)	53	47	0	0	0
	Individuals from your community/neighbours (13**)	69	31	0	0	0
	Religious entities (7**)	37	63	0	0	0
	Military/army/combatants (11**)	54	46	0	0	0
	Parents/family (25**)	84	16	0	0	0
	Combination: Philippine National Red Cross/ICRC (5**)	73	27	0	0	0
** Very low base						

ASK ALL ↴	Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in the Philippines receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?	
	READ OUT LIST. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK	
		YES
		%
	Corruption	85
	Black market	35
	Discrimination/social status	41
	Location access – not able to reach the location	61
	Unaware that it was available	37
	Fear of being rejected by my community	15
	Fear of being perceived to be aligned with wrong side	32
	Pride/dignity	17
	Did not meet criteria	15
	Did not want to receive any support	8
	Did not need to receive any support	4
	Did not want to accept support because of who was offering it	20
	Other (specify)	4
	Nothing	1
	Don't know	1
	Refused	*
CC) WARFARE/COMBATANTS		
ASK ALL ↴	Q12. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy?	
	And what else?	
	OPEN-ENDED QUESTION. DO NOT PROMPT – BUT PROBE FULLY.	
	TOP MENTIONS (> 5% of respondents)	YES
		%
	TOTAL MENTIONS – KILLING/TARGETING CERTAIN KINDS OF PEOPLE	63
	Kill civilians	51
	Kill the innocent (unspecified)	11
	TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF VIOLENCE/OPPRESSION	37
	Stop kidnapping/hostage taking	19
	Don't have civilians caught in crossfire	10
	Killing (unspecified)	9
	TOTAL MENTIONS – ATTACK BUILDINGS/DESTROY SPECIFIC AREAS	31
	Attack civilian areas	23
	Attack heavily populated areas	5
	TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF WEAPONS	14
	Shooting/guns	6
	Use bombs	5
		%
	There is nothing they should not be allowed to do	0
	(Any answer indicating that some action/s should be allowed)	99
	Don't know	*
	Refused	0

ASK ALL WHO ANSWER SOMETHING AT QUESTION 12 ↴	Q13. And why do you think that combatants should not be allowed to do this? Is that because it...?						
	READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK						
	Base: All who identify some action/s that combatants should not be allowed to do-499	%					
	Is against your religion	29					
	Is against your personal code/ethics	32					
	Is against the law	53					
	Is against your culture	23					
	Is against human rights	70					
	Produces too much hate and division	41					
	Produces too much destruction	50					
	Other (specify)	1					
	Don't know	7					
	Refused	0					
ASK ALL ↴	Q14. Now I would like to ask you some general questions about how, in your view, combatants should behave in times of armed conflict. When combatants attack to weaken the enemy, should they (POW):						
	READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY.						
		1999	2009				
		%	%				
	Attack enemy combatants and civilians	1	0				
	Attack enemy combatants and avoid civilians as much as possible	65	19				
	Attack only enemy combatants and leave the civilians alone	29	80				
	Don't know	5	2				
Refused	0						
ASK ALL ↴	Q15. Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? For each one, please indicate whether is it OK or not OK to do that in fighting their enemy (POW).						
	READ OUT. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT						
		OK		Not OK		Don't know	Refused
		1999	2009	1999	2009	2009	2009
		%	%	%	%	%	%
	Depriving civilians of food, medicine or water to weaken the enemy	41	4	50	96	*	0
	Attacking religious and historical monuments	34	1	63	99	1	0
	Attacking civilians who voluntarily transported ammunition for the enemy	32	7	65	92	1	*
	Attacking enemy combatants in populated villages or towns knowing many civilians would be killed	31	*	67	100	0	0
	Taking civilian hostages in order to get something in exchange	26	0	71	100	0	0
	Attacking civilians who voluntarily gave food and shelter to enemy	14	4	82	95	*	*
	Planting landmines even though civilians may step on them	10	0	86	100	0	0
	ASK ALL ↴	Q16. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target health workers?					
		SINGLE CODE ONLY					
			%				
Yes		1					
No		99					
Don't know		*					
Refused	0						

ASK IF 'YES' AT Q16 ↴	Q17. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?					
	READ OUT EACH STATEMENT. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT					
	Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target health workers-9**	Yes, acceptable	No, not acceptable	Don't know	Refused	
		%	%	%	%	
	When health workers are treating the enemy wounded and sick civilians	54	46	0	0	
	When health workers are treating the enemy wounded and sick combatants	63	37	0	0	
	When health workers are not clearly identified as health workers	27	73	0	0	
ASK ALL ↴	When health workers take sides with one party in the conflict	37	63	0	0	
	** Very low base					
	Q18. In a situation of armed conflict, are there any circumstances in which you think it is acceptable for combatants to target ambulances?					
	SINGLE CODE ONLY					
						%
	Yes					1
	No					98
Don't know					*	
Refused					0	
ASK IF 'YES' AT Q18 ↴	Q19. In which, if any, of the following circumstances do you think this is acceptable?					
	READ OUT EACH STATEMENT. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE EACH STATEMENT					
	Base: All who think it is sometimes acceptable to target ambulances-8**	Yes, acceptable	No, not acceptable	Don't know	Refused	
		%	%	%	%	
	When an ambulance is used by combatants for hostile purposes	24	76	0	0	
	When an ambulance carries wounded or sick enemy combatants	66	34	0	0	
	When an ambulance carries enemy wounded and sick civilians	84	16	0	0	
When an ambulance is not clearly identified as an ambulance	8	92	0	0		
** Very low base						

DD) HUMANITARIAN GESTURES

ASK ALL ↴

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organizations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict.

READ OUT LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ LIST AGAIN AND ASK RESPONDENT FOR TWO MORE ANSWERS. REPEAT IF NECESSARY.

	First mention	Other mentions	TOTAL
	%	%	%
The military and combatants/armed groups	8	6	14
Religious leaders	17	17	34
International humanitarian organizations	12	15	27
Journalists and the news media	14	27	42
The United Nations	7	17	24
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	7	20	27
Philippine National Red Cross	11	23	35
Government authorities	13	26	39
Government organizations from other countries	1	10	12
International criminal court	1	8	9
Local/international NGOs/charities	4	18	22
Community leaders	3	12	14
Other (specify)	*	*	1
None of these	0	0	0
Don't know	*	*	*
Combination: Philippine National Red Cross/ICRC	18	40	54

ASK ALL ↴

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S).

REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

	%
Stop the armed conflict by military intervention	23
Exert political pressure	8
Deliver emergency aid	52
Provide peacekeepers	56
Provide financial support to humanitarian organizations	38
Put leaders accused of committing war crimes on trial	16
Place economic sanctions on the country	12
Raise awareness of the plight of civilians who are caught in areas of armed conflict	29
Rebuild infrastructure	7
Organize peace talks/negotiations	36
Better enforce the law that protects victims of armed conflicts	22
Other (specify)	1
Nothing	*
Don't know	*
Refused	0

ASK ALL ↴	Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in the Philippines? Please select the three you feel are most important.	
	ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.	
		%
	Put pressure on legislators/politicians	13
	Public lobbying	22
	Become a volunteer	47
	Donate money	34
	Support an organization that helps those affected by the conflict	70
	Mobilize their local community	44
	Donate goods	67
	Other (specify)	2
	Nothing	*
	Don't know	*
	Refused	0
EE) GENEVA CONVENTIONS		
ASK ALL ↴	Q23. Have you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions?	
	SINGLE CODE ONLY	
		%
	Yes	19
	No	81
ASK IF 'YES' AT Q23 ↴	Don't know	*
	Refused	0
	Q24. To what extent do you think the existence of the Geneva Conventions limits the suffering of civilians in war time?	
	SINGLE CODE ONLY	
	Base: All who have heard of the Geneva Conventions-81*	%
	A great deal	5
	A fair amount	37
	Not very much	38
	Not at all	12
	Don't know	8
	Refused	0
FF) MEDICAL MISSION		
ASK ALL ↴	Q25. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?	
	READ OUT STATEMENT. SINGLE CODE ONLY	
	Everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict should have the right to health care	
		%
	Strongly agree	88
	Tend to agree	10
	Neither agree nor disagree	2
	Tend to disagree	1
	Strongly disagree	0
	Don't know	0
	Refused	0

ASK ALL ↴	Q26. In the context of an armed conflict, what best describes your personal views?	
	READ OUT STATEMENTS. ROTATE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY.	
		%
	Health workers should treat only wounded and sick civilians from their side of the conflict	4
	Health workers should treat wounded and sick civilians from all sides of a conflict	91
	Don't know	4
	Refused	0
Demographics		
ASK ALL ↴	Respondent's gender	
		%
	Male	50
	Female	50
ASK ALL ↴	Respondent's age	
		%
	18-24	26
	25-29	12
	30-34	15
	35-39	12
	40-44	9
	45-49	8
	50-64	16
	65 or over	1
ASK ALL ↴	Education level	
		%
	No formal education	*
	Some elementary	2
	Completed elementary	7
	Some high school	9
	Completed high school	30
	Some vocational	2
	Completed vocational	7
	Some college	19
	Completed college	23
	Post-graduate	*
ASK ALL ↴	Province	
		%
	Metro Manila	55
	Pangasinan	13
	Batangas	11
	Cebu	12
	Davao	10
ASK ALL ↴	Area	
		%
	Urban	77
	Rural	23
ASK ALL ↴	Religion	
		%
	Christian	97
	Muslim	1
	Iglesia Ni Cristo	1
	Jehova's Witness	*
	Mormon	1

IN-DEPTH RESEARCH

Discussion guide

This guide was used for the group discussions. A very similar guide was used for in-depth interviews.

Introduction	
1. Your own experience of armed conflict/violence (armed violence, urban violence if necessary)	• What experiences have you had of armed conflict/violence?
	– When was it?
	– Where?
	– What happened?
	• How you were/are – personally – affected? Your family/friends?
	• What were/are your feelings and thoughts about this armed conflict/violence?
	– How much did you understand about the armed conflict/violence? Why did it happen the way it did?
	• How do you feel (now) about what happened? How are you affected today, if at all?
	– What, if anything, has changed about you as a result of the armed conflict/violence?
2. On armed conflict/violence in general	• We've talked about armed conflict/violence – can we go further into that. So when we say armed conflict/violence... can you describe to me in detail what you mean by this.
	• Associations: what words come to your mind when I say 'armed conflict/violence'... Which words best describe armed conflict/violence for you?
	• During times of armed conflict/violence what would you say are/were your greatest concerns? (E.g. losing a loved one, your own security, surviving the conflict/violence, etc.)
	• Do your concerns change over time? (E.g. are some concerns immediate and others only occurring later on? Are some concerns short term, and others longer term for the future?) How would you divide these concerns we talked about up into immediate concerns and longer-term ones? Persistent ones and ones which fade or are resolved?
	• So when you/others are confronted with these situations what do you feel are the things you/they need the most help for/with. Why do you say that?
	• If you could, what would you like to communicate to the world?
	– What would you like to tell people about your needs? What is most important?
	– And what would you like to tell people about the way you feel?
	– And to help prioritize these messages in the minds of others, which are the most important issues in terms of your needs? Are there some things you can deal with on your own during these times? And are there some things you just cannot manage on your own without help?
3. On international community/humanitarian support	• During these times – when you have faced these kinds of situations – have you received any support?
	– Have you ever received any support from any international organizations?
	• IF YES – RECEIVED HELP FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DATE: What kind (s) of help did you receive? How did they help you? Were they able to address any of your key areas of concern in any ways – which ones?
	• IF NO – NOT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DATE: Do you have any views on why you may not have received any support from international organizations to date?
	• Who played the biggest role (amongst different kinds of people and organizations) to help reduce your suffering (e.g. religious leaders, UN, local NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent, ICRC, other international NGOs, neighbours, etc.)?
	– Why would you say their role (s) were biggest?
	– Who else played biggest roles?
	• What do you think the international community should do to help victims?
	• If there is something that an international humanitarian organization could do better, what would it be?

4. On humanitarian actions/gestures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And what is a ‘humanitarian action’, for you? Can you give me some examples? • Thinking of the armed conflict/violence you witnessed, can you recall any gestures or acts of kindness/humanity that made a difference in yours or others lives? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Could you tell me about them? – What difference (s) did this (these) make? – Who was responsible for this (these) act (s)? • Were you, yourself, able to help someone? If so, how? • If you could have done something to help what would it have been? Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do you think you could have made a difference in someone else’s life? If so how? – Thinking back, would you have done anything differently? What could others have done differently? • More generally, what, if anything, do you think individuals can do to help other people (civilians) who are living in areas of armed conflict/violence?
5. On warfare/combatants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to ask you what you think the rules of conflict should be, ideally, to control what combatants can do in war: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is there anything that combatants should not be allowed to do in fighting their enemy? What and why? – Is it ever OK for combatants to involve civilians in conflicts? In what circumstances?
6. On Geneva Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before now, had you ever heard of the Geneva Conventions? • Could you tell me what your understanding is of what the Geneva Conventions are about? • Do you believe the Geneva Conventions do adequately protect persons in war time? Why?
7. On health/medical mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think that ambulances operating in situation of armed conflict/violence should always be spared? Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How do you identify an ambulance in a situation of armed conflict/violence? – How do you identify a health/medical worker in a situation of armed conflict/violence? • Do you think everyone wounded or sick during an armed conflict/violence should have the right to health/medical care? Both civilians and combatants? Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do you think there is anyone in particular who should not have access to health/medical care? Why? • Do you think that in a situation of armed conflict/violence health/medical workers should be protected in all circumstances? In what way... Why? Why not?
8. Wrapping up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your experiences of living in armed conflict/violence? • What would have been useful for you to know in order to alleviate your suffering/improve your situation during armed conflict? Do you think stronger laws would have helped? • What are the main things which helped/would have helped alleviate suffering/improving your situation? • To sum up: what does your experience tell you about the value of humanitarian work in conflict situations? • What are the main messages you would like us to spread in order to try to make this world a safer place for civilians living in situations of armed conflicts/violence?

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

ABOUT IPSOS

Ipsos is a leading international research agency, with offices in over 60 countries worldwide and global reach.

Established in 1975, it conducts qualitative and quantitative research with the private, public and voluntary sectors. One of its key areas of specialization is in social and opinion research. This includes extensive work with a wide range of national and international NGOs, charities and aid organizations.

This study was coordinated by Ipsos Switzerland, with fieldwork on the opinion survey in the Philippines conducted by Ipsos Philippines.

