

Migration Data Management in the Philippines

Climate Mobility Context

In 2023, 2.6 million people were internally displaced in the Philippines due to disasters, placing it among the most disaster-prone countries globally. Climate change has far reaching effects on the region that influence human mobility. As extreme weather events, sea level rise, and other climate-related events impact communities, people may choose to migrate within their own municipality or even across borders. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable, with 60% located in coastal areas. It is projected that by 2050 many of these areas will be impacted by sea-level rise and inundation, possibly displacing up to 8.6 million people. At the same time, The Philippines is urbanizing and socio-economic inequalities between rural and urban areas are becoming more prominent.

The relationship between migration and development – internal migration is a main driver of rapid urbanization in the country – is driving the need for the digitalization of the migration registry. Migration has environmental, economic, and social implications. Understanding migration patterns and the drivers behind them is essential for effective planning, policy-making, and resource allocation.

Objectives of the Approach

The RBIM is a local database system that tracks both residents and migrants at the barangay level. It...

- **...digitalizes** census data owned and managed at the community (Barangay) level
- **...collects** disaggregated data on migration and other socio-economic factors across the Philippines
- **...trains** Barangay officials on responsible data collection and database management
- **...accelerates** data collection, analysis, and inform urban planning, decision-making, and allocate resources effectively

Project Summary

Status: All Barangays (smallest administrative division in the Philippines) in Tanay Municipality have completed the Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM) process, which includes data gathering and encoding.

Duration:

- 2017 beginning of first phase
- 2021 development of online RBIM
- 2023 completion of online training
- 2024 institutionalization of RBIM in all regions, currently moving towards digitalization

Partners: Philippines Commission on Population and Development (CPD); technical assistance by GIZ HMCCC programme

Funding: GIZ's HMCCC Programme supports the enhancement of the digital RBIM in two pilot municipalities (Tanay and Buenavista)

TANAY,
PHILIPPINES





Approach

The RBIM serves as a digital government tool developed by the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), enhanced with support from GIZ, and applied across various regions in the Philippines. The RBIM serves as a local demographic database that captures essential information on individuals and households within a barangay, both inhabitants and migrants. This includes data on age, sex, education, employment, health status, migration history, housing conditions, and more. The system facilitates the tracking of internal migration patterns, migrants' demographic profiles, skills and training needs, among others, and supports evidence-based development planning and policy formulation across all levels of government.

Data is currently aggregated (consolidated and analyzed) at the municipal level for better planning; however, once the development of digital infrastructure at the Barangay level is sufficiently upgraded, data ownership will be assumed by Barangays. The system has proven beneficial in facilitating the issuance of clearances, verifying documents, and maintaining updated population counts, thereby improving service delivery and disaster response efforts.

The digital transformation...

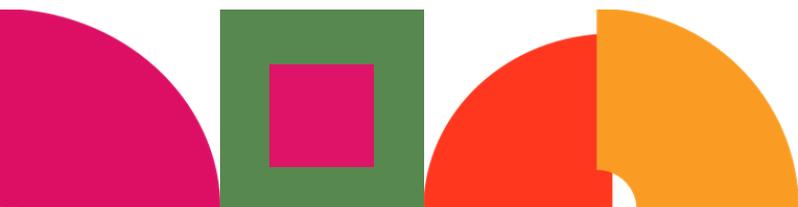
- **...streamlines** data collection, review and analysis
- **...maintains** privacy and ensures quality
- **...safeguards** local data ownership
- **...provides** aggregated data for better decision-making

Impact to Date

Establishment of the Municipal Migration Information Center (MMIC) to:

- Serve as central unit for the collection, management, and analysis of data collected from the RBIM Survey, including information on migrants, internal migration patterns, and demographic profiles;
- Ensure the maintenance and regular updating of the Barangay Registry of Inhabitants (BRI) in all Barangays within the municipality;
- Collaborate with Barangays in ensuring the accuracy and completeness of their respective registries;
- Facilitate the use of RBIM data in municipal development planning, including the formation of social services programs, infrastructure, and migration management policies;
- Provide technical support and capacity-building initiatives for Barangay officials and personnel in demographic data gathering and registry updating; and
- Coordinate with CPD for the implementation and proper use of the RBIM Survey as an effective data tool for migration and population statistics, and other relevant agencies to ensure data accuracy and alignment with national development planning standards.

The RBIM Survey Tool, developed by CPD, shall be adopted as an official data collection mechanism for tracking migration patterns and updating barangay registries.





We really appreciate this training now that the RBIM beta [testing] is being introduced. There's a big improvement from using paper and pencil to using the system... and considering that even without internet, you can still collect data and it will just sync once you have [internet] – that's a big thing. This is faster compared to paper and pencil. It's very beneficial for us in data collection.



Barangay Treasurer, Baguio

The data collected through the RBIM Survey shall be integrated into the municipality's development planning and decision-making processes, particularly in:

- Identifying migration trends and its impact on local resources and services.
- Designing and implementing programmes that address the needs of migrants, displaced populations, and their families.
- Targeting social and economic development initiatives to areas with significant migration flows and populations.
- Informing local policies on health, education, housing, and employment opportunities.
- Ensuring that the needs of migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are addressed in municipal development plans.

The MMIC shall oversee the proper encoding, storage, and utilization of collected data in accordance with data privacy and security policies. In order to improve decision making, Tanay Municipality is currently working to integrate RBIM data into its Local Climate Adaptation Plan (LCCAP) and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (LDRRMP), as well as take the data into account in annual financial planning. Once the RBIM is rolled out across the Philippines, the data can serve to inform future iterations of the country's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).

Learnings

Tool clarity – multiple agencies collect data at same time and using different formats, so Tanay residents may have had survey fatigue. Barangays still need to understand which tool/survey to apply when so that a high survey response rate is maintained.

Climate-migration awareness – Historically, links between climate change and internal migration have not been well documented. However, the recent occurrence of typhoons and storms during the rollout of RBIM has alerted the government to the significant impact climate change has on migration.

In-migration & budgeting – Tanay is a receiving city for migrants, which has budgetary consequences. It's important for the national government to understand population growth so that it can allocate its annual budget and infrastructure plans accordingly. Tanay has a Memorandum of Agreement with Pasak City, which provides subsidies to Tanay based on the number of people who migrate from Pasak to Tanay.

Data-to-action gap – even when data exists, it is often not translated into actionable projects at barangay level. There is a need to enhance capacities to analyze and use RBIM data for adaptation planning, relocation strategies and land use planning.

For More Information

Please contact mia.simpao@giz.de for specific questions and further inquiry. Find the whole study "Cities on the Move: Responding to Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change" here on AC.net: [Cities on the Move: Responding to Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change \(Adaptation Community\)](#).

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