

An ICRC delegate conducts a visit to detainees at Fort McKinley (now Fort Bonifacio) in 1962. ICRC activities in the Philippines began with detention visits but have expanded to cover many other areas over the years.

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NEWSLETTER

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50 YEARS OF THE ICRC IN THE PHILIPPINES

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By Jean-Daniel Tauxe,
Head of Delegation

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been working permanently in the Philippines since 1982. Nevertheless, as early as 1959, an ICRC delegate to the Philippines was already visiting detained persons identified with the clandestine Hukbalahap (Hukbo Laban sa Hapon) military wing of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP or the Philippine Communist Party) in Fort McKinley prison (now Fort Bonifacio). Relief supplies were delivered during such visits and ICRC reports were later sent to the detaining authorities.

From this historical perspective, ICRC has been visiting for more than 50 years people detained in connection with internal conflicts or other situations of violence in the Philippines, in order to monitor their conditions of detention and treatment. The ICRC shares its findings bilaterally with the Filipino authorities through confidential dialogue to ensure that the inmates are treated humanely and their conditions of detention meet acceptable standards.

ICRC's action in the Philippines has been evolving over the years, from sizeable activities in Negros, Northern Luzon and Mindanao during the period of the Martial Law to smaller scale operations in the 90s. Overall, the Philippine delegation is now known and recognized for its humanitarian activities comprising both protection and assistance programmes for the vulnerable sectors of the population; i.e., civilians displaced by armed conflicts, women and children, the injured or wounded by war or situations of violence, detained persons. As a recent example, since 2008 the ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) have been working together to distribute food rations and household essentials to displaced families in evacuation centres in Central Mindanao. The ICRC has also improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation for displaced and resident communities, as well as supported several hospitals and primary health care centres.

As the Philippines is prone to natural disasters, in an acute emergency, the ICRC extends its support to the PRC. Such was the case of the recent devastating tropical storm Ondoy, when ICRC supported the relief efforts of the PRC through a cash donation and worked together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent to ensure access to water and sanitation facilities evacuation centres.

In a sense, the ICRC has gone a long way from where it has started 50 years ago; however, detention visits remain the backbone of its operations in the country. Through its "Call for Action" initiative, the organization is working with national authorities to address the causes of jail congestion and its consequences on health and living conditions of all detainees. Particular emphasis is given to improving conditions of detention, facilitating the National Tuberculosis programme in jails and prisons, as well as addressing underlying legal issues leading to overcrowding. The results of these initiatives on various aspects of jail congestion and the plans ahead will be discussed during a national conference due to take place in Manila in March 2010.



ICRC

Humanity in War

- frontline photography since 1860



A wounded combatant from the 1861-1865 American Civil War

Since the second half of the 19th century, photography has played a fundamental role in opening the world's eyes to the horrors of war. During the same period, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has worked to alleviate the suffering of victims of armed conflict around the world. *Humanity in War* traces the history of war and its humanitarian consequences from the American Civil War to modern-day conflicts.

This exposition is a moving and inspiring collection of 40 photographs from the ICRC archives dating back to the 1860s. Taken by renowned photojournalists including James Nachtwey, Sebastian Salgado, Ron Haviv, Franco Pagetti, Nick Danziger, as well as by ICRC staff, each photo has been reproduced to the highest quality with many seen for the first time.

It's been said that one picture is worth a thousand words. For a photographer, the saying can be reversed: one word is sometimes worth a thousand pictures. "Genocide", "famine", "war", "epidemic": words like these have brought about the

"A simple reminder that people can be cruel to one another... At the same time there are those who remain caring and compassionate."

creation of the ICRC and dozens of other humanitarian organizations, have inspired photographers to take risks and endure hardships.

– James Nachtwey, war photographer

In 2009, the *Humanity in War* photo exhibit was presented in the campus of the Mindanao State University in General Santos City, in Cotabato City Peoples Palace, and during Davao del Sur Red Cross Youths' camping activity.

For young viewers like Mickey and Ludivina, who are up-to-date with the latest blogs and status updates in their Facebook and Friendster account in the Internet, the images on display are astonishing.

"I realized that I was fortunate enough not to experience those things in the past and made me value life more in the present," says Mickey.



Students view the Humanity in War photo exhibit at the Cotabato City People's Palace. The exhibit is set to travel around the country.

"The exhibit awakes us and convinces Filipino youth to relate and help the victims of war."

"I am made aware of the horrors of war and the uselessness of conflict; I realized the important role of the ICRC and IHL in helping humanity alleviate the pain brought about by war," says Ludivina.

Often disturbing and at times heart-rending, these remarkable photographs show courage, dignity and hope amid chaos, destruction and deprivation.

In war time people suffer and people die—including those who work to bring assistance. But even in war, there is room for compassion, and this is reflected in some of the images.

– Jacob Kellenberger, ICRC president

As the exhibition travels to other destinations in Mindanao and other parts of the country, the photographs will continue to remind us about the suffering brought by war; but also teach compassion and help build a more humane future.



Fighting in Stalingrad (now Volgograd) in Russia in 1942 during the Second World War.

Richard Cubita

Ateneo takes top prize in 2009 Moot Court Competition on IHL

After two days of heated debates among 16 law schools, the team from Ateneo de Manila School of Law won the Fifth National Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), held in November 2009.

"Besides learning more about IHL and argumentation techniques, being in the company of fellow students from other universities is really fulfilling," says Micah Stefan Dagaerag from Silliman University. "You can't get that kind of experience in your classroom."

A moot court aims to simulate a court hearing, with the case based on a situation of an armed conflict. All participants receive information ahead of time and must then prepare to advocate for both sides of the case. The competition, an annual event, aims to provide another venue for the discussion and development of IHL. In a country such as the Philippines, which has had its share of conflict throughout its history, discussion of IHL can be of vital importance. The competition also provides a valuable testing ground for argumentation skill among the country's future lawyers, as well as exposure to one of several facets of international law, IHL.

"Na-impress ako nung kanilang performance kanina. Given na limited time pa rin, and yet, they're able to make a very, very good case presentation on different jurisprudence, na hindi lang sa Pilipinas. That includes

also the special tribunals, for example, in Rwanda, the ongoing International Criminal Court. *Napakalaking bagay (ito) para sa mga participants* (I was impressed with their performance. Given there was limited time, and yet, they're able to make a very, very good case presentation on different jurisprudence, not only on the Philippines. That includes also the special tribunals, for example, in Rwanda, the ongoing International Criminal Court. This is a very big thing for the participants)," says Dr. Mario Aguja, moot court judge.

The elimination rounds took place at the Philippine Christian University, while the finalists---teams from the University of San Carlos in Cebu and the Ateneo de Manila University---had to defend their positions before a panel of judges led by no less than Supreme Court Justice Roberto Abad.

The Supreme Court of the Philippines has been actively supporting the promotion and understanding of international humanitarian law and to date, the National Moot Court Competition is the only competition allowed to hold its final round at the Supreme Court En Banc Session Hall.



A participant of the competition looks on at a photograph of a young woman from Liberia. An exhibition of photographs from eight countries affected by conflicts was held at the Philippine Christian University and the Supreme Court during the competition.

Of the competition, Justice Abad said, "I'm quite impressed with the way (the competition was) organized and with the participation of such capable students. And I gain greater confidence that our law education is not really crumbling but rather growing."

If anything, this year's competition has shown that Filipino law students are growing not just in skill but in knowledge of such areas as international humanitarian law. This can only bode well for the thousands of people not or no longer fighting in armed conflict, who require the protection that this law offers to them, and people who are willing to use it in their favour.

The winning team will represent the country at the Regional Moot Court Competition, due to take place in Hong Kong in March 2010.

Ajeet Panemanglor



A mooter presenting before the judges during the final round at the Supreme Court's En Banc Session Hall. This is the third year that the finals have been held here.



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Albertini addresses officials and guests during the turnover ceremony for the Tacloban City Jail infirmary.

Water and habitat projects in detention: Much accomplished, more still left to do

Marco Albertini has been a coordinator of water and habitat projects in the Philippines for almost three years now. The projects under his supervision range from overseeing water-pump installation in remote mountain barangays in the Visayas, to setting up temporary water facilities in Mindanao during the outbreak of hostilities there in August 2008. A major part of his activities was devoted to improving conditions of detention.

What are the main challenges when it comes to detention conditions in the Philippines?

In the Philippines, as in many other parts of the world, overcrowding poses a major problem. Existing infrastructures can't cope with prison populations. Everyone has a fundamental right to use proper facilities, wash regularly, eat healthy food, drink safe water and breathe clean air, including people behind bars.

The ICRC works with the authorities in charge of detention centres to encourage and support improvements to the living situation of detainees. Over the past two and a half years, the workload has been continuously increasing. In 2009, more than 11,000 detainees in 22 jails benefited from our projects, both in BJMP and provincial jails. This is not just numbers; we are talking about 11,000 people whose quality of life in prison has significantly changed.

For us, sanitation, water, health and protection issues are all linked together. That is why we look at the situation as a whole, and help prison authorities in finding appropriate, sustainable and innovative solutions. Since 2007, we have been working with the key national authorities in the Philippines to address the causes of jail congestion, as well as its consequences on health and living conditions of detainees.

Does it mean that the ICRC is increasingly involved in providing material assistance to detainees?

Detaining authorities have the main responsibility for the overall wellbeing of the detainees and their material conditions of detention. In order to generate systemic improvements, we work in partnership with the BJMP. In the past, following a detention visit we would focus on technical ad-hoc intervention. Today, we actively involve the whole prison hierarchy from headquarters to the wardens in finding appropriate solutions.

In 2009, we have trained 61 engineers and staff from BJMP on internationally

recognized standards on living conditions regarding water, sanitation, hygiene and habitat in jails. Before, our engineers used to follow projects directly. Now the process is much more in the hands of BJMP, even if we continue to provide technical support and coaching.

We also work with provincial authorities to address problems in provincial jails, which often face serious budget constraints. These projects may take more time; however, we can find ways of successful collaboration, offering our expertise and advice.



© ICRC/MACHTWEY/James

An inmate at the Manila City Jail, one of a number of jails where the ICRC conducts visits to monitor conditions of detention and treatment

Are there any particular projects your team has implemented that stand out in your memory?

I believe many important projects have been completed over the past few years. When I arrived in the Philippines, there were four of us; now we are 14 working in Mindanao, Visayas and National Capital Region. We have implemented a project in Sorsogon Provincial Jail, as well as in Quezon Provincial Jail, which was difficult at first, but in the end, we did a big project on sanitation and ventilation.

Among BJMP jails, important work was done in city jails in Antipolo, Cagayan de Oro, Tacloban, Panobo, Butuan, Surigao and many others. It is a young partnership. We have done a lot, but there is a long road ahead.

ICRC and BJMP inaugurate infirmaries in Antipolo, Tacloban City Jails

The ICRC, along with various officials including BJMP chief Rosendo Dial and Mayor Danilo Leyble of Antipolo City, inaugurated a new infirmary at the Antipolo City Jail last October 23, 2009. The infirmary aims at addressing and treating TB in jail within the framework of the National TB programme. The project also included the construction of additional facilities with four new cells furnished with 42 bunk beds.

Just one week later, on October 30, 2009, the ICRC and BJMP and city officials inaugurated a new infirmary at the Tacloban City Jail. The infirmary was also provided with medical equipment. Construction was carried out with the involvement of the inmates under the supervision of a BJMP engineer, while the ICRC provided construction materials and technical support. The ICRC also provided the jail with a new kitchen and access to safe water, set to benefit some 700 inmates.

Clean hands, proper hygiene and better health

For almost five decades, Bembo Alamasa has lived with her husband and six children along the riverbanks of the Pulangi River in the province of Maguindanao. The rich marsh surrounding the small village provided livelihood for everyone.

This simple but serene life came to an abrupt end in August 2008, when the once picturesque marshlands were turned into a battlefield. Fearing for their lives, Bembo and her family fled to an evacuation centre near Libungan Toretta. As days wore on, thousands of displaced people sought refuge in the small community; its population rapidly increased fivefold, reaching more than 5,000 people.

"I remember how we arrived at the evacuation centre," recalls Bembo. "In a matter of days, it turned into a tent city. Different agencies and NGOs distributed relief goods, but there was not enough safe drinking water. Also, there was no proper waste disposal, and garbage mounted everywhere," she adds. "Above all, one had to rely on the river for all hygiene needs, such as washing, tooth brushing; and even as a CR (comfort room)."

Such poor hygiene practices are less of a problem in small communities, because the environment can absorb all the waste. However, in overcrowded settings, human waste accumulates and poses a significant health threat to everyone.

In July 2009, experienced staff and volunteers from the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), in cooperation with the ICRC, started to visit evacuation centres in five different municipalities in Maguindanao to promote safe hygiene practices. The project developed as a result of a survey, which indicated the need for improvement in health and sanitation.

The topics discussed during the teaching sessions were simple yet vital for good health: How to preserve safe and clean water even if resources are limited? How to dispose of waste without affecting the environment and people's health? How to maintain personal hygiene and avoid diarrhoea and other diseases? Eighty-two barangay health workers and camp leaders were trained to further enhance



Children learn proper handwashing techniques while supervised by volunteers. Simple activities such as this will prevent the spread of disease in evacuation camps.

the knowledge and safe practices among displaced people, focusing on young mothers. Since July 2009, over 5,377 people across 18 camps for internally displaced persons have benefited from hygiene promotion campaign.

"It was so fulfilling to observe changes in the people's way of life and see how they had developed a positive attitude toward health and hygiene. Those who were trained in the past few months will pass their knowledge on to their children and neighbours," says Rose Agengo, ICRC health delegate in charge of the program. "We have run similar projects in Sudan, Uganda and many other places. We teach vital skills for displaced people, which they can bring back to their communities and improve their life," she adds.

Bembo now tries to maintain a normal daily routine by cultivating a small vegetable garden and running a small retail ("sari-sari") store. Thanks to the campaign, she has added to this routine simple activities

“ It was so fulfilling to observe changes in the people's way of life and see how they had developed a positive attitude toward health and hygiene. ”



Trained volunteers stage a skit to demonstrate various methods of maintaining cleanliness in daily activities.

such as teaching her children to keep their surroundings clean, wash their hands frequently, and observe simple but essential cleanliness practices.

Albert Madrazo

ICRC in the Philippines: **FACTS AND FIGURES 2009**



Detainees at the Manila City Jail waiting to be taken to a court hearing. The ICRC works with national authorities to address legal concerns that delay the processing of cases and add to jail congestion.

Responding to humanitarian problems in detention places, the ICRC is testing an innovative approach in order to achieve structural improvements benefiting all detainees. The organization has been working with national authorities to address the causes of jail congestion and its consequences on health and living conditions of inmates.

Protecting life and dignity in detention places

"Detention visits are the backbone of our operations in the Philippines, a country which has experienced decades of internal armed conflicts," said Jean-Daniel Tauxe, the ICRC's head of delegation in Manila. "We have seen that the overcrowding of jails and prisons has serious consequences on detainees' living conditions and health. Our usual practice of recommending improvements and providing technical support to the detaining authorities was not enough, so we developed a new, complementary strategy. In partnership with government officials and national agencies, we are planning and implementing changes for the benefit of all detainees."

Throughout 2009, the ICRC carried out 234 visits to over 66,000 detainees held in 139 places of detention. Together with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), the ICRC facilitated family visits for 312 inmates held far away from home.

Access to safe water, sanitation, healthcare and acceptable living conditions is a major problem in overcrowded detention facilities. In one year, the ICRC:

- carried out rehabilitation projects in 22 jails benefiting more than 11,000 inmates;
- provided seven prison infirmaries with medical items and equipment and supported over 120 detainees needing immediate access to healthcare;
- trained 61 specialists on internationally recognized standards on living conditions regarding water, sanitation, hygiene and habitat in jails;
- assisted almost 2,000 detainees in four prisons affected by flooding in the aftermath of devastating tropical storm Ondoy.

Another serious concern in overcrowded detention facilities is the spread of tuberculosis (TB). "Worldwide, tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of illness and death among inmates, and this is particularly true in countries with a high TB prevalence," said Dr Robert Paterson, an ICRC health coordinator. Overcrowding, an unhealthy manner of living and insufficient ventilation are among the factors that spread the disease among inmates. "You cannot keep TB behind bars: it readily escapes to affect the wider community, so controlling TB in jails is fundamental to protecting the general population against the illness."

Concerns about the spread of TB have prompted the ICRC to help implement the national tuberculosis programme, involving 30,000 inmates in seven pilot jails and prisons, in cooperation with the national agencies concerned and the World Health Organization.

Legal and procedural problems, which delay the processing of cases, are the root cause of overcrowding. Bringing together those who can address these issues is essential to finding durable solutions. A pilot project guided by this principle took place in Manila City Jail at the end of 2009. Representatives of the various agencies involved in processing inmates' files reviewed the most urgent cases, identified hurdles within the criminal justice system and provided means of overcoming them. As a result, a backlog of 250 cases was cleared. The strategy will expand to other jails in 2010.

The results of several initiatives addressing various aspects of jail congestion as well as suggestions for the future will be discussed at a national conference due to take place in Manila in March. Representatives of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, the Bureau of Corrections, the Supreme Court, the Department of Health and other national agencies will be attending.

Promoting international humanitarian law (IHL)

Seen as a major breakthrough in implementing international humanitarian law, the Philippine government signed into law in December 2009 Republic Act No. 9851, or the "Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity."

The fifth Moot Court competition, meanwhile, attracted 16 teams from leading law schools in the Philippines. The winner will represent the country at a regional IHL competition in Hong Kong in March 2010.

Continuous dialogue with the Armed Forces and the police has also allowed the ICRC to organize workshops on IHL and law enforcement, as well as various dissemination sessions to military and police units.

In particular, representatives of military training institutions from South East Asia expanded their knowledge of IHL by joining a regional workshop, hosted in December by the Philippine Military Academy, which brought together 26 senior military officials representing military academies in Australia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand. Col. Onesimo Banyaga, head of the AFP's Human Rights Office, believes that the workshop "helped in setting a baseline standard from which countries who participated in the program will pattern their own programs."

For many military officers, the foundation of their careers begins during their military academy training. For some of them, this is where they will first encounter IHL. "It is a great opportunity to develop a network of defence academies who share a common interest in promoting IHL and becoming 'Centres of Excellence' for their respective armed forces," says Jean-Daniel Tauxe.



Officials listen to a talk given by a member of the ICRC during a workshop for senior PNP officers. The ICRC conducts various activities with members of the police and military to raise awareness on international humanitarian law and those protected by it.

ICRC in the Philippines: **FACTS AND FIGURES 2009**

Through its regular presence in conflict-affected areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the ICRC reminds all parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law. Particular emphasis is given to the promotion of respect for the civilian population.

Humanitarian situation

Active hostilities have been suspended since July 2009 in Central Mindanao, where about 100,000 people who fled their homes in August 2008 nevertheless remain displaced and still rely on aid provided on a regular basis by various agencies, including the ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross. The ICRC welcomes peace talks and other initiatives that may enable civilians to resume their normal lives. The prospects remain unclear, however.

Campaigning for presidential polls, set for May 2010, gathered momentum against a backdrop of political instability. Election-related violence, culminating with the horrendous killing of 57 people including journalists in Central Mindanao, triggered massive outcry of protest among Filipinos and international community. The ICRC is supporting the PRC, its major operational partner, in building its capacity to respond to emergencies.

Acts of banditry and frequent cases of kidnapping for ransom affect the security situation in the southern Philippines. In Sulu, which remains off-limits to ICRC staff for security reasons, the ICRC assists people displaced because of armed violence through the PRC.

Frequent armed clashes between the government forces and the New People's Army in conflict-affected areas of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, affect the livelihoods of civilian population, and often limit access to basic services.

"Our teams regularly visit conflict-affected areas all over the Philippines, trying to reach remote barangays, where problems are often acute," says Valerie Houetz, ICRC's protection coordinator. "We seek to have dialogue with all parties to conflicts, reminding them that civilians and those no longer fighting are protected under international humanitarian law, and should be respected."

The risk of typhoons and other natural disasters is high in the Philippines; therefore, the ICRC is supporting the PRC through building capacity in disaster response. This enabled the PRC to deploy trained volunteers, and together with the ICRC provide safe drinking water and proper sanitation to over 18,000 people affected by tropical storm Ondoy.

In addition to that, the ICRC donates vehicles, first-aid kits and other equipment to selected chapters to strengthen their capacity in responding to conflict-related incidents. It also organizes training on first-aid, emergency response, and assessment and planning.

Helping displaced and resident communities

In 2009, the ICRC:

- together with the PRC, distributed, among other items, 4,590 metric tons of rice and 1.1 million litres of oil. Over 8,000 essential household items, such as tarpaulins,

blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits were provided to displaced families, including those affected by armed violence in Sulu and tropical storm Ondoy.

- improved access to water and sanitation in six major evacuation areas, benefiting 30,000 internally displaced people and residents in Central Mindanao. The ICRC built 14 wells and four small-scale distribution networks, installed 23 hand pumps and constructed 180 toilets with septic tanks in six major evacuation areas. In the Visayas, the ICRC has improved access to water and sanitation for 5,000 people living in remote areas of Negros and Samar. All water and sanitation projects have been implemented in coordination with local authorities and with the participation of the beneficiaries' communities.
- rehabilitated and supplied with regular donations of drugs and medical consumables six primary health care centres in Central Mindanao, where over 30,000 people received consultations. The ICRC also provided adapted assistance in the form of medicines, surgical materials and other essential items to ten hospitals throughout Mindanao. In particularly vulnerable cases, the ICRC offered individual support to over 220 patients, to ensure access to adequate care for the wounded and sick.
- carried out a Hygiene Promotion campaign in 18 evacuation centres, in cooperation with the PRC, to change people's behaviour by adopting safe hygiene practices.



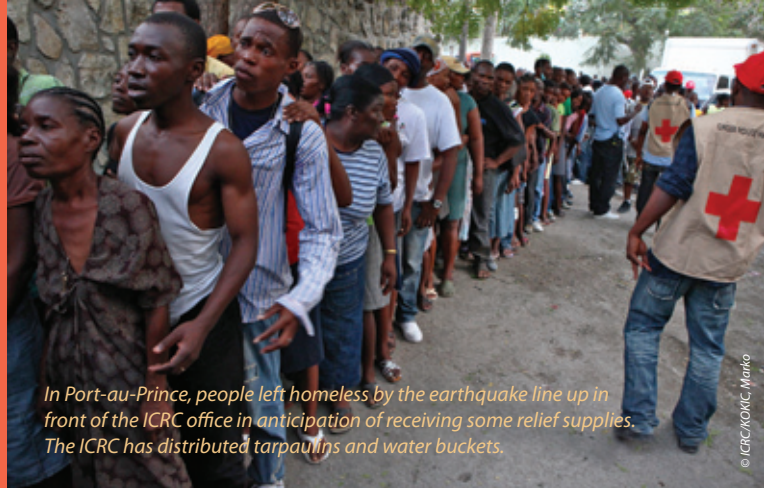
A child, one of thousands forced to flee floods brought by tropical storm Ondoy, benefits from clean drinking water supplied by ICRC and PRC engineers to evacuation sites in Marikina City.



A woman and her children in an evacuation camp in Central Mindanao. The ICRC works to protect civilians who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict.

Red Cross assists victims of earthquake in Haiti

After a devastating earthquake hit Haiti on 12 January 2010, the ICRC focused on bringing emergency assistance to victims of this unprecedented catastrophe. The ICRC worked in close cooperation with its partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, particularly the Haitian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



In Port-au-Prince, people left homeless by the earthquake line up in front of the ICRC office in anticipation of receiving some relief supplies. The ICRC has distributed tarpaulins and water buckets.

© ICRC/NOIC Marko

Helping survivors

In the days following the disaster, ICRC staff members already in the country distributed medical items to hospitals, as two ICRC-chartered aircrafts with specialists and much-needed supplies were sent from Geneva to Port-au-Prince.

Though no accurate figures were available at the time of publication, over 100,000 were feared dead while scores more were injured. About 3 million people appear to have been affected by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

Hundreds of thousands of people became homeless, staying out in the open amid aftershocks. In some areas, the ICRC and Haitian Red Cross volunteers distributed blankets, soap and jerrycans for storing drinking water. Families were given plastic sheeting so they could set up temporary shelters and regain some privacy in a crowded camp.

The ICRC provided water on a regular basis for over 12,000 people living in three camps, where it also sponsored trash collection.

Health posts

Over 20,000 people in Bel-Air, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince, received medical care from two health posts. Because the neighbourhood has long been plagued by street violence and is perceived to be unsafe, few humanitarian organizations were active there. "We never worked in that specific neighbourhood before the earthquake, but we did know many of the key people in the community," says Roberto Forin, an ICRC delegate who knows the area well. "By talking to them before bringing aid, we ensure that we are accepted and are able to provide a service that makes sense for the people we are trying to reach."

One of the posts is located next to a destroyed hospice for some 75 elderly people, who are now living in the open alongside homeless families.

"For the first few days, people didn't know what had hit them. The camps were a sort of refuge. Now, they're realizing that this is where they're living," says Coriolain, a volunteer first-

aider of the Haitian Red Cross and himself a survivor.

"Everyone around me is living a day at a time. There isn't enough aid, but what we're doing here is a first step. Right now, our biggest challenge is providing medical care. The rest will follow," the 31-year-old volunteer says.

Restoring family links

Phone calls between relatives were made possible by the ICRC and Haitian Red Cross mobile tracing teams. The ICRC informed the population of its tracing service through radio spots and street broadcasts.

The family links site (www.icrc.org/familylinks) for Haiti currently lists over 25,200 names. Nearly 2,800 of the postings are from people reporting that they are alive and safe.

The ICRC also ensured the proper identification of the remains by conducting its first-ever training course on proper management and documentation of the dead for Port-au-Prince mortuary personnel.

International Committee of the Red Cross in the Philippines

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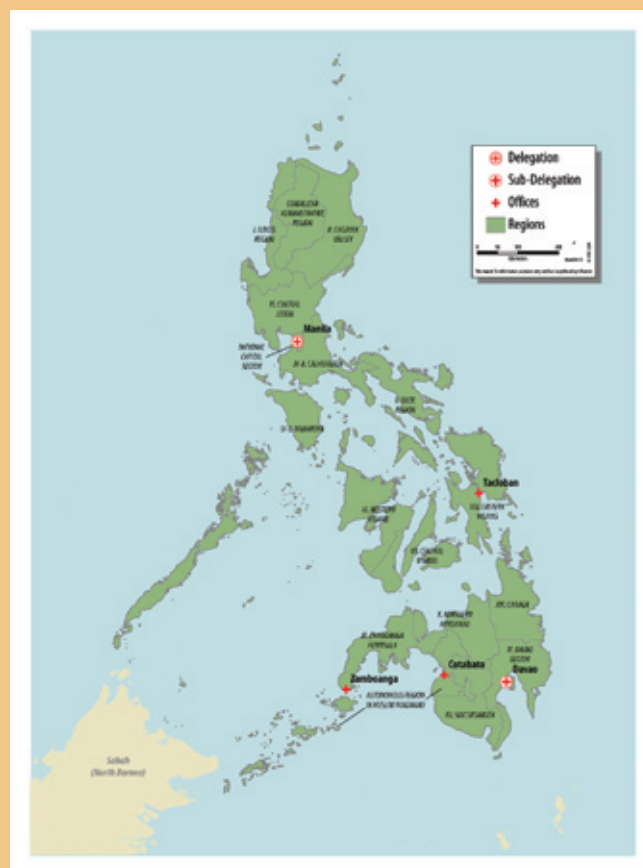
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