



PHILIPPINES ICRC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in the Philippines, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) adjusted its ongoing programming and launched new initiatives to assist national authorities, the healthcare system, detention facilities and the Philippine Red Cross to respond to the pandemic. Our multi-disciplinary response focused on the populations most at risk from the spread of the virus.

They include detainees, displaced and vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, and frontline responders from the health sector, Red Cross and other ICRC-supported actors. This is a brief overview of the ongoing action, where distinct ICRC expertise, resources and relationships bolstered the overall response. The information in this document is up to date as of 30 April 2020.



INFECTION-CONTROL IN DETENTION FACILITIES

Given the high rates of congestion in detention facilities, the ICRC supports authorities to formulate policies and implement practical measures in order to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19 among detainees and detention staff.



Policy recommendations: High-level dialogue and engagement with authorities to ensure safeguards for vulnerable populations in detention, including recommendations for immediate decongestion measures such as early or temporary release of certain categories of detainees



Isolation centers: Support to authorities to set up 5 medical isolation centers for detainees, with a foreseen combined capacity of over 500 beds, including utilities (electricity, water, sanitation), furnishings, medical equipment, training and PPE for the staff (*see map*)



Technical advice: Supporting Department of Health (DOH) to develop technical guidelines on management of COVID-19 in places of detention



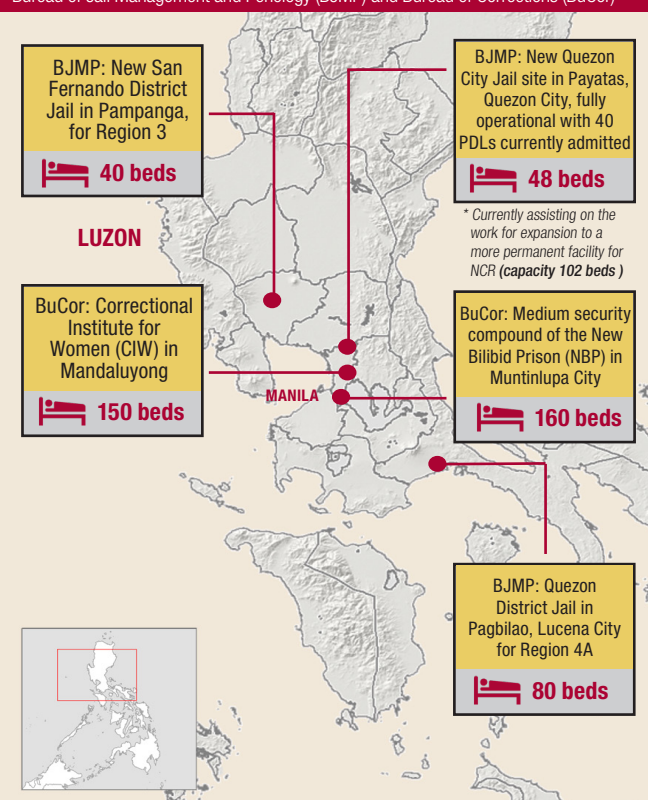
Maintaining hygiene: Assisting 3,000 arrested persons in 20 police lock-ups in the National Capital Region (NCR) with hygiene sets to keep personal hygiene and clean common areas



Raising awareness: Posters and audio recordings on COVID-19 produced and distributed among detainees in jails in NCR

ICRC-SUPPORTED MEDICAL ISOLATION CENTERS FOR COVID-19

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)





SUPPORT TO VITAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

To help address the emerging healthcare needs, the ICRC provides medical supplies and equipment in six priority hospitals in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao, also identified as COVID-19 centers. (see map)

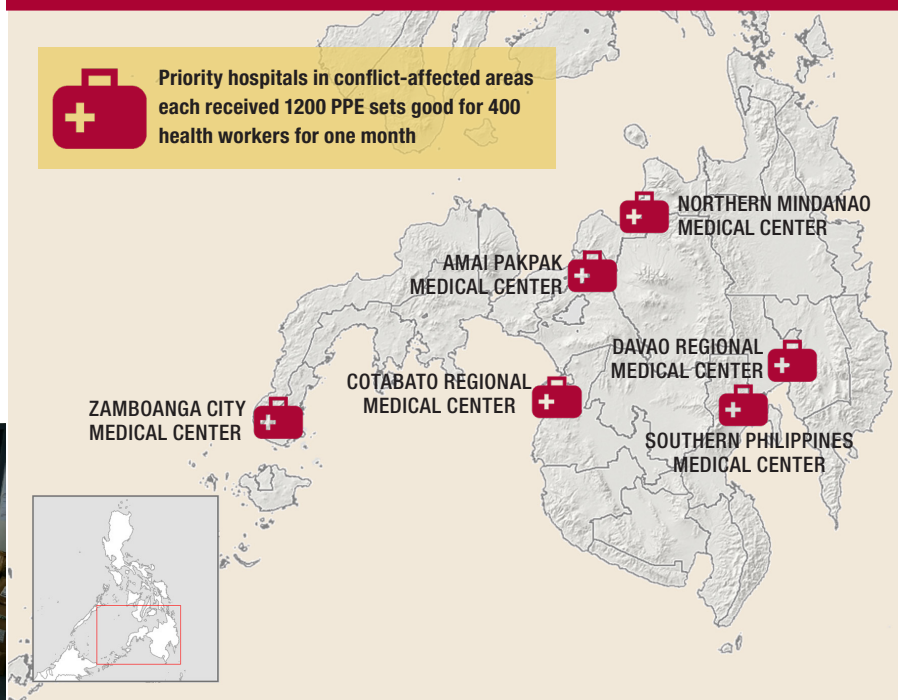
Additional supplies: Provided for basic equipment for the emergency room of the Cotabato Regional Medical Center, and mats and mattresses for temporary stay of Southern Philippines Medical Center's staff



ICRC-SUPPORTED HOSPITALS IN MINDANAO



Priority hospitals in conflict-affected areas each received 1200 PPE sets good for 400 health workers for one month



OTHER HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES / SUPPORT



Respect for humanitarian norms: Dialogue maintained with parties to the armed conflict on health situation and on relevant provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL) applicable during the COVID-19 crisis



Humanitarian forensics: Work with authorities on forensic policy and procedures for dignified management of human remains; support to religious community leaders on guidelines ensuring the safe and dignified funerary and burial customs for COVID-19 victims; donations of infection control body bags, PPE and hygiene kits to institutions responsible for the safe and dignified management of those who died of COVID-19



Access to clean water: 8,000 residents and 10,500 displaced people in shelters benefitted from two-month chlorine and fuel supply to Marawi City Water District



Restoring family links: 53 tablet devices and prepaid load distributed in 14 detention facilities to enable detainees to maintain family contact through video calls



Info-as-aid: Community engagement initiated with past and planned beneficiaries of food, household items and cash grants; text messages in 5 local languages and social media posts include basic awareness on COVID-19 and guidance on safe behavior



PARTNERING WITH THE MOVEMENT



Regular coordination with in-country members of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to ensure complementary response. Strong cooperation with the **Philippine Red Cross (PRC)**, our main partner in the country, focusing on the PRC's headquarters (NHQ) and chapters in Mindanao in ensuring delivery of community programs such as blood and ambulance services.



NHQ and 30 chapters in Mindanao were supported with surgical masks, disinfectants and funding to cover operations of frontline staff and volunteers; **25 blood centers** in NCR and Mindanao were given surgical masks, thermal scanners and disinfectants; **17 ambulance services** in Mindanao chapters were provided full sets of basic PPE



NHQ supplied **18 tents** for 2 ICRC-supported medical isolation centers in detention (tent area of 624 sqm)

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