

PHILIPPINES

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

HELPING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AMIDST THE PANDEMIC

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) accelerated its activities in conflict-affected areas of the country, which were slowed down in the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICRC closely monitored the situation in Mindanao and provided assistance, often with the support of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), to the most vulnerable communities affected by armed conflict and by the economic impact of the pandemic.

The ICRC and the PRC signed a five-year Partnership Framework Agreement, renewing their mutual commitment to work together in providing an effective and principled humanitarian response to those affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.



Manila



UP Institute of Islamic Studies Dean Macrina Hannah Dugasan Adjero and ICRC Head of Delegation Boris Michel signed a memorandum of agreement for a research project on IHL and Islam.



1,000 community members of Barangay Saad in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur, benefited from a water-supply project built by 215 fellow residents who received income through cash-for-work.

Zamboanga City

Iligan City



189 people with disabilities benefiting from the services of Davao Jubilee Foundation, a physical rehabilitation center supported by ICRC, received multipurpose cash grants to support their household needs during the pandemic. This support reached nearly 1,000 family members.

Davao City



5,160 displaced people and members of host families from Datu Hoffer and Ampatuan, Maguindanao, received multipurpose cash grants to meet their basic needs.

Cotabato City



Completed the rehabilitation of the Marawi City Water District (MCWD) office, which was damaged by the 2017 conflict. The water produced by MCWD, which are distributed through water trucking by PRC and other agencies, supplies residents of Marawi City as well as displaced people in surrounding settlements.





AIDING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

- **19** families with missing persons from the Marawi siege received food rations
- **4,960** people (992 families) displaced in Pikit, North Cotabato, as a result of clashes linked to rido (clan feuds) were supported with food items through a donation to the PRC Pikit chapter
- **460** people (115 families) in Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, received in-kind food support through a donation to the Misamis PRC chapter.



SUPPORTING LIVELIHOODS

- **1,100** people benefited from the repair of a corn mill in Lianga, Surigao del Sur
- **116** families with missing persons from the Marawi siege received multipurpose cash grants to support their household needs during the pandemic, benefiting nearly 700 family members.
- **9** heads of households (benefiting 55 family members) with missing persons from Marawi received microeconomic initiatives grant to start business (e.g. sari-sari stores, livestock raising, small businesses)



INFO-AS-AID AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- Encouraged members of conflict-affected communities to share their feedback through SMS. As a result, the ICRC was able to respond to communities' queries about ICRC services and requests for assistance
- Messages to help the public to avoid contracting COVID-19, promote mental health, and discourage discrimination against healthcare workers were shared on Facebook. The ICRC also shared hotlines for families looking for missing relatives.
- Developed informational posters in four languages to help foreign detainees to understand COVID-19 and promote good health and hygiene. This was done in partnership with the Bureau of Immigration and Translations without Borders.



PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMANITARIAN LAW

- **3** academic institutions (UP IIS, King Faisal in MSU-Marawi and Jamiat Cotabato) signed agreements with ICRC for research projects and publications on correlations between Islamic law and IHL.
- **11** prosecutors joined an intensive, online training of trainers on IHL, held upon the request of the Special Projects Division of the National Prosecution Service. The aim is to train key prosecutors who would cascade their IHL knowledge to other prosecutors alongside the development of a training module for internal use of the Department of Justice.
- **26** operational police officers from mobile battalions, Special Action Forces and police stations in Butuan, Agusan del Norte, participated in two IHL sessions while 106 investigators joined a session on international laws applicable to armed conflict



OTHER HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES

- Supported Davao Jubilee Foundation (DJF), which provides rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, in establishing its operational protocol for reopening services to ensure staff and clients remain safe and healthy after it ceased its operations during the start of the pandemic. The ICRC also gave technical support and coaching online for challenging or complex prosthetic and orthotic cases.
- Conducted 20 synchronous sessions of the "Introduction to Safer Access Framework" module to 25 Mindanao chapters of the Philippine Red Cross, with a total of 218 participants.

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