

HELPING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND THE PANDEMIC

A SNAPSHOT OF ICRC RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES IN 2020



ICRC

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in major health and economic challenges for millions of Filipinos in the last year, but the effects were particularly burdensome to people displaced or affected by internal armed conflicts and situations of violence.

In response to these humanitarian concerns, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) immediately focused on supporting the COVID-19 response of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in Mindanao; and the Philippine government's efforts to reduce the virus' spread in congested detention facilities and in conflict zones. It provided trainings on infection prevention and control, management of the dead, and mental health, for frontliners. The ICRC also assisted those who were most

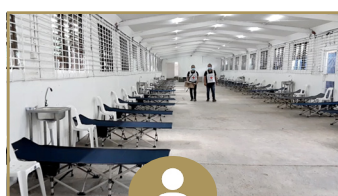
economically impacted on by the pandemic and conflict, such as displaced people, families of missing persons and persons with disabilities.

When field trips resumed after COVID-related movement restrictions were eased, the ICRC restarted projects to enhance water, sanitation and access to education for conflict-affected communities, as well as livelihood and cash-for-work programs, often in cooperation with PRC. Dialogue on respect for international humanitarian law, or the law of armed conflict, continued with national authorities and weapons bearers, including state and non-state forces.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE TO COVID-19



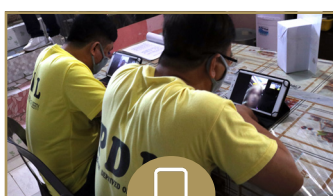
SUPPORT TO DETENTION AUTHORITIES' RESPONSE



9 COVID-19 isolation centers with 1,403 beds to cater to infected detainees in BJMP, BuCor and BI facilities, [established with technical and material support](#) from ICRC



400 health and non-health staff from 15 detention facilities [trained on infection prevention and control](#) and supplied with PPE



86 tablet devices with SIM card and load provided for detainees in 34 BJMP jails and COVID-19 isolation centers to allow them [to maintain contact with family members](#)



23 COVID-19 isolation centers for detainees and detention facilities received additional PPE and basic medical equipment



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE & MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



1 major hospital in Cotabato and 1 health facility in Marawi received technical and material support to [establish or expand](#) COVID-19 [quarantine facilities](#); 10 other hospitals received PPEs



300 healthcare workers and frontliners in Mindanao benefited from "Helping the Helpers" [online sessions](#) for self-care and MHPSS support to fellow frontliners



PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



38 PRC chapters in Mindanao, Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Negros benefited from ICRC financial assistance to support their local COVID-19 response including business continuity of its blood and ambulance services



5 PRC chapters in BARMM benefited from financial assistance to complement local health systems and authorities in their COVID-19 response to include PPEs, hygiene kits in community and hospital quarantine areas and a [molecular laboratory in Zamboanga City](#) for COVID-19 testing

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT



ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HEALTHCARE



1,000 residents in Saad village, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur benefited from the construction of a [water-supply project](#)



Supported the Marawi City Water District (MCWD) through the [renovation of their office](#), which was damaged by the 2017 conflict; and donations of chlorine disinfectant and fuel for their pumping station's generators



10 hospitals in Mindanao received quarterly support of medicines, medical supplies and equipment; 8 additional hospitals and 5 RHUs received ad hoc donations of essential medical supplies and equipment



230 weapon bearers, health personnel and community members in Mindanao received [first aid trainings](#)



RELIEF AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



9,120 people displaced by conflict or other violence in Mindanao [received food rations and/or household items](#)



12,200 people from Maguindanao, Lake Sebu and [Kalilangan](#) in Iligan, [received cash grants](#) to help [restore their livelihoods](#) while 755 others gained income through cash-for-work



1,600 vulnerable people such as [families of missing persons](#) and [persons with disabilities](#) received cash grants to improve their economic situation made worse by the pandemic



PROPER TREATMENT, HEALTH AND LIVING CONDITIONS, FAMILY LINKS FOR DETAINEES



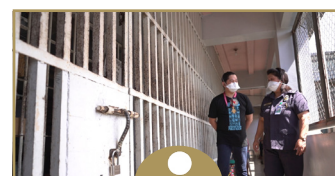
20,000 detainees in BJMP Region 4A jails benefited from ICRC-supported [TB mass screenings](#) conducted despite COVID-19



4,900 detainees in six BJMP jails in Luzon and Zamboanga City benefited from improvements to water supply, ventilation, kitchen and outdoor access, and bunk beds



Provided technical support to the BJMP to finalize a [5-year Human Resources Strategic Plan](#) aimed at enhancing their HR deployment and ultimately, addressing humanitarian needs in BJMP jails



87 visits done in 71 places of detention to assess the treatment and living conditions of persons deprived of liberty, including facilities in PNP, BI, BJMP, and provincial jails



RESPECT FOR HUMANITARIAN LAW



4 academic institutions in [Manila](#) and [Mindanao](#) engaged on the teaching of IHL and convergence with Islam



More than 20 prosecutors joined the first roll-out of the [IHL specialization course](#) developed by the National Prosecution Service in partnership with ICRC



1,300 members of the AFP and PNP were briefed on [IHL, ICRC mandate, and humanitarian principles](#); a [five-year MoU was signed with the PNP](#) for integration of the laws applicable to armed conflict and international standards of policing



300 BJMP personnel trained on management of the dead (MotD), as it is one of the principles of IHL; conducted a [webinar](#) on COVID-19 and Islamic burials for Asia-Pacific participants; assisted the Philippine Air Force in drafting their MotD policy in conflict and natural disasters