



# SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND COVID-19

ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, JANUARY-JULY 2021



ICRC

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose major challenges to the Philippines. Despite the vaccination rollout, there were case surges due to new variant threats.

To help overwhelmed health systems, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ensured protective equipment for health workers in COVID-19 referral hospitals in Mindanao, and in isolation centers for detainees. It also quickly assisted the Philippine Red Cross' (PRC) COVID-19 response in support of government efforts to address the surge.

Meanwhile, armed conflicts displaced thousands of people in Maguindanao, Caraga, Northern Mindanao and Zamboanga regions; while many others still bear the long-term consequences of the 2017 Marawi conflict. The ICRC, often in partnership with the PRC, provided relief items and clean water for displaced families; and distributed cash grants and micro-economic initiatives to revive livelihoods.

It recently launched the ICRC Community Contact Center to allow community members to systematically reach out to the ICRC about

its services and get feedback, illustrating its commitment to be accountable to affected people.

The ICRC also resumed its operational visits in the Visayas, aimed at addressing the consequences of conflict on civilians in Samar and Negros islands.

In the most congested detention facilities, efforts to enhance detainees' overall access to clean water, sanitation and healthcare—particularly for those with tuberculosis or were undernourished—were reinvigorated by support to and dialogue with detention authorities.

High-level and field operational dialogue with state forces (and some non-state armed groups) intensified through technical working groups aimed at preventing or raising concerns regarding potential international humanitarian law (IHL) violations. This is alongside endeavors to promote better understanding and appreciation of the rules of war, domestic laws, and relevance with Islamic law, among the judiciary, academe, and religious leaders.

## HELPING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT



### CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**Over 6,000 residents in 3 evacuation centers** in Maguindanao received potable water through the installation of water-storage tanks filled daily through water trucking



**2,900 displaced people** in remote villages of Agusan del Sur and Bukidnon received materials to improve their makeshift shelters, with 900 of them receiving solar lights



**Over 600 displaced people** in Bito evacuation center in Marawi gained 24/7 water supply through improvements made on existing shallow wells; while over 2,600 residents benefit from water-trucking by PRC with ICRC support in Sagonsongan transitory site



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



**111 detainees assisted individually for medical care** for the first time and 131 detainees revisited for medical follow-up.



**29 tablet devices with SIM cards and load** distributed to 13 places of detention, for use in family contact and access to court hearing via video conference during the pandemic



**Conducted 55 prison visits** to monitor health services in 12 places of detention



### MISSING PERSONS, MENTAL HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS



**180 participants** including BARMM social welfare, education and development staff completed sensitization sessions on mental health for victims of violence



**249 sturdy grave markers** containing crucial information of unidentified human remains, installed in Maqbara cemetery in Marawi



**100 body bags and PPE** donated to the PNP and DoH for management of the dead in COVID-19 and disaster preparedness



### PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



**83 unique volunteers from the PRC chapters** supported 28 ICRC activities in Mindanao, contributing to 726 volunteer man-hours



**8 Mindanao chapters** attended the first session of a Safer Access Framework (SAF) External Communication training, aimed at strengthening their capacity in effective communication to support operations and fundraising



**21 PRC participants from 4 Mindanao chapters** attended the SAF Context and Risk Assessment (CRA) Tools training in preparation for the pilot CRA exercise with ICRC



### RESPECT FOR HUMANITARIAN LAW



**4,600 members** of the community, state forces and non-state armed groups, judicial authorities, PRC, and the general public were provided with messages on ICRC mandate and principles and basics of IHL



**18 Supreme Court attorneys** attended a training on IHL and relevant domestic laws, conducted with the Philippine Judicial Academy



**29 staff of members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority** attended the first IHL orientation in Cotabato City



**IHL integration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines through an MoU**

A project management team has been organized and it is expected to oversee the integration process through the various working groups



**5-year formal cooperation with the Philippine National Police established**

for capacity-building efforts on IHL and international policing standards, and visits to lockups



**3 IHL in Islam sessions conducted**

for directors of various madrasah in Maguindanao and Zamboanga City to enhance the respect for IHL among Islamic academicians



### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**Community Contact Center established** so community members can reach out to ICRC about their humanitarian situation, grievances, inquiries and feedback about ICRC services



**Over 100,000 persons** reached with information on COVID-19, mental health, sexual violence, and other info-as-aid messages through Facebook



**Over 44,000 people reached** with information on coping with mental health issues through a block time radio program in Cotabato



### RELIEF AND LIVELIHOOD



**10,700 people** displaced in Maguindanao, Bukidnon and Zamboanga peninsula received essential household items



**5,000 people** displaced in Maguindanao, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon and Zamboanga peninsula received food items



**385 people** whose loved ones, usually breadwinners, went missing in the Marawi siege received substantial funds for micro-economic initiatives to expand or start small businesses.

## SUPPORTING THE COVID-19 RESPONSE



### IN PLACES OF DETENTION



**Supported the NBP Site Harry Ligtas COVID-19 Center** by installing tents to serve as additional isolation areas; and donating 50 beds to support the COVID-19 surge at the time, increasing their capacity to isolate new cases



**Donated PPE and disinfectants** to the BJMP NCR COVID-19 isolation center, and supported the siphoning of septic tanks. PPEs and disinfectants were also donated to BJMP-BARMM for the Cotabato City Provincial Jail; while hygiene kits were distributed to Dasmarias City Jail, Cavite City District Jail, Balagtas and Guiguinto Municipal Jails in Luzon



### PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



**Provided separate financial assistance to the PRC:**

- 1) to set up isolation facilities and expand the bed capacity of government hospitals in NCR;
- 2) to establish a molecular laboratory for COVID-19 testing in Cotabato City; and
- 3) to support the government's COVID-19 national vaccination campaign in Mindanao



### IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES IN MINDANAO



**Donated PPEs to COVID-19 referral hospitals** such as the Southern Philippines Medical Center and Davao Regional Medical Center; Amai Pakpak Medical Center in Marawi City; and Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro City. PPEs and disinfectants were also donated to Basilan General Hospital, Sulu Provincial Hospital, and Zamboanga City Medical Center



**Supported Davao Jubilee Foundation (DJF)** with PPEs and disinfectants following COVID-19 cases in April in the physical rehabilitation center



**Built an ER extension-holding area in the Cotabato Regional Medical Center**

It includes the set-up of three tents for patients and health staff; shower, toilet and handwashing stations

