

HUMANITARIAN WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

JANUARY–DECEMBER 2021



Communities in remote areas of the Philippines are still unable to return home following outbreaks of armed conflict in Maguindanao, parts of Caraga, Zamboanga Peninsula, Negros and Samar Islands. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), has helped those affected by the violence, particularly those affected by the 2017 Marawi siege. We have worked closely with the authorities to meet people's basic needs and to visit people detained as result of the conflict. We are striving to improve the health and living conditions of detainees in the most overcrowded prisons. We are also working with all parties to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and to ensure compliance with IHL, which includes integrating IHL in domestic legal frameworks.

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

HELPING CONFLICT-AFFECTED PEOPLE

- **10,800** people displaced in Maguindanao, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon and Zamboanga Peninsula received food items
- **16,400** people displaced in Maguindanao, Bukidnon and Zamboanga Peninsula received essential household items
- **8,800** people supported through cash grants, and microeconomic and cash-for-work programmes to cover their basic needs or to start or expand small businesses
- **16,000** internally displaced people (IDP) and host community members benefited from water supply, sanitation and shelter projects
- Provided technical and material assistance to Marawi City Water District, which supplies water to over **21,000** residents and IDPs
- **280** grave markers installed in Maqbara cemetery to facilitate future identification of human remains from Marawi siege
- **ICRC Community Contact Centre** established to encourage feedback from people affected by armed conflict or other violence
- Provided livelihoods support and mental health and psychosocial support to the families of missing people through the ICRC's accompaniment programme. Some children of missing people received cash grants and tablets for their education
- With the ICRC's support and technical advice, the Philippine National Police (PNP) collected **70** DNA samples from the families of people who went missing during the Marawi siege to facilitate the identification of human remains



Basic Trauma First-Aid Training is being conducted for a community in Iligan that hosted IDPs from neighboring municipalities affected by armed clashes.

J. Pagaling/ICRC

ENHANCING HEALTHCARE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

- **10** referral hospitals in Mindanao supported quarterly with medicines, medical supplies and equipment
- **90** health facilities received support for their response to COVID-19 or armed conflict
- **12** hospital units dedicated to helping women and children in Mindanao received support to build their capacities and improve their facilities
- **43** people wounded in conflict received financial aid for surgical care
- **220** people with disabilities provided support to access physical rehabilitation services at Davao Jubilee Foundation
- **500** health-care workers, weapon bearers and community members given first-aid training
- **1,100** people, including families of missing people, received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services
- **160** MHPSS practitioners, health-care workers and social workers trained in basic or advanced psychological care
- **2** PRC blood banks provided with new medical equipment and **78** units of blood provided for wounded people
- **80** religious leaders, death-care workers and members of National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) received orientation in the safe and dignified burial of COVID-19 victims

PARTNERING WITH THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



Provided **1,000** parcels of two-week food rations, **33,000** litres of potable water and **800** household items to support PRC's response to the people affected by Typhoon Odette in Surigao del Norte



4 National Society chapters in Mindanao carried out risk assessments to better understand their operational context and to improve their security when responding



Supported PRC's COVID-19 vaccination efforts by helping to set up **4** vaccination centres and mobilizing vaccination teams in **15** local government units



136 volunteers from **8** PRC chapters mobilized to support **49** ICRC activities in Mindanao

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



11,000 people, including authorities, religious leaders and community members, briefed about the ICRC's mandate and IHL principles



Started work on IHL integration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)



115 members of the judiciary, including judges, prosecutors, attorneys, chiefs of staff and legal officers of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, trained in IHL



400 AFP and PNP officers participated in IHL-related workshops and meetings



180 weapon bearers and madrasah teachers introduced to IHL and its commonalities with Islamic law



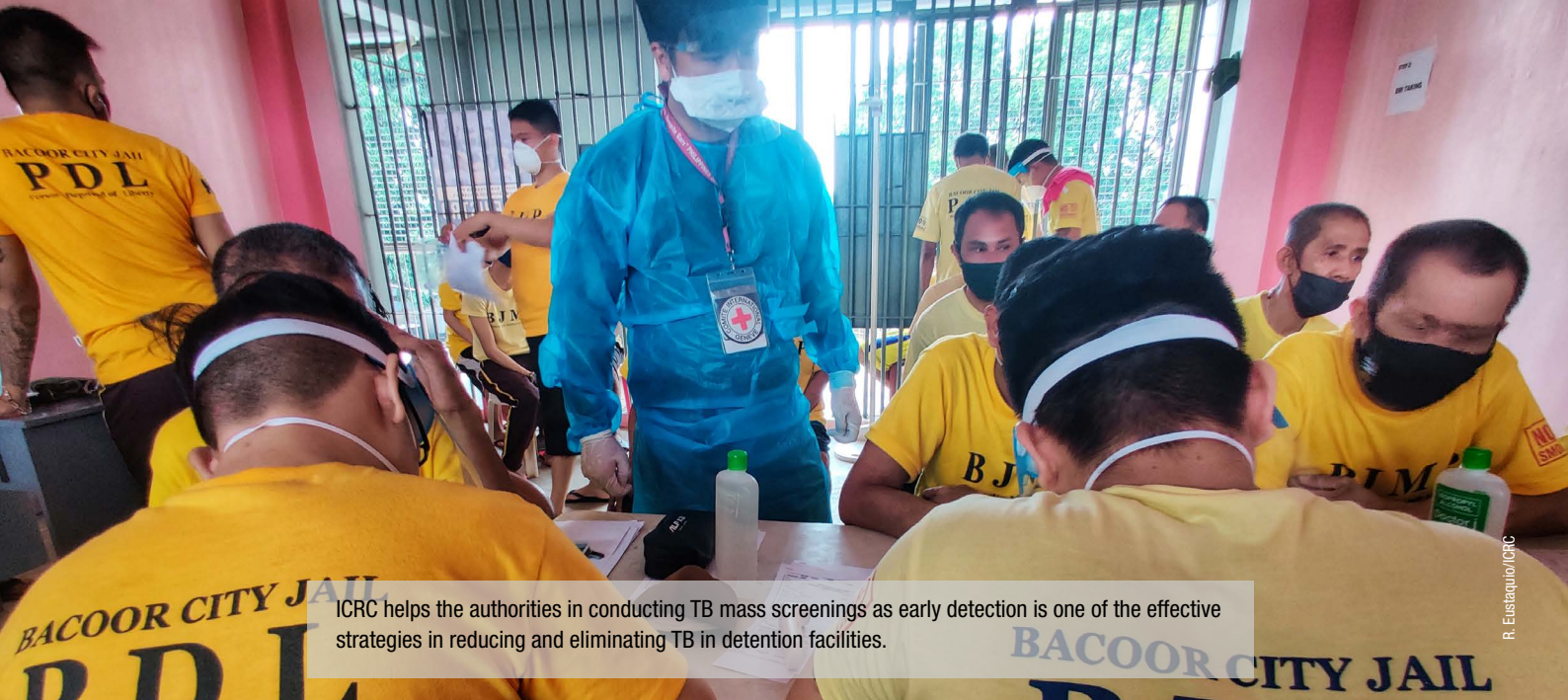
Supported the publication and launch of the second edition of the *Asia Pacific Journal of IHL*



2 Arabic publications on Islamic law and IHL translated into Meranao and Maguindanao in collaboration with Jamiat Cotabato and Institute of Technology and Mindanao State University, Marawi



Rasid Paca, DPA, executive vice president of Mindanao State University (MSU) - Marawi (left) and Boris Michel, ICRC head of delegation, lead the book launch of the Meranao version of the “Articles on Islam and IHL” publication.



ICRC helps the authorities in conducting TB mass screenings as early detection is one of the effective strategies in reducing and eliminating TB in detention facilities.

R. Eustaquio/ICRC

IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF DETAINEES



Renovated the relocated tuberculosis laboratory in New Bilibid Prison (NBP), the country's largest detention facility



220 visits conducted to monitor health services in **56** places of detention



14 detention facilities received medical equipment



215 detainees received individual medical care through **83** follow-up visits



5,800 detainees provided better living conditions through improved ventilation, access to water supply, improved power supply and bunkbeds



700 detainees benefited from scabies-control campaign



500,000 calls made by detainees to their families using devices donated by the ICRC



Facilitated family visits for **11** detainees in NBP



2 vaccine refrigerators provided along with technical support to NBP



Supported the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in developing an HR strategic plan to improve staff management that ultimately improves conditions for detainees



85 visits conducted to ensure proper treatment of detainees in **59** places of detention



3 seminars on the Nelson Mandela Rules held for jail wardens and nurses in **75** places of detention



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