



ICRC

PHILIPPINES

FULFILLING OUR HUMANITARIAN MISSION



Long-running armed conflicts in the Philippines leave a heavy toll on communities that are already facing high levels of poverty. While clashes are sporadic, they nevertheless burden families whose livelihoods are disrupted. Humanitarian concerns around the protection of civilians and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) by parties to the armed conflict also remain. Meanwhile, those who are looking for loved ones who disappeared in the 2017 Marawi conflict still hope to get answers.

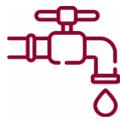
Striving to ensure the protection of people affected by armed conflicts and providing them with assistance lies at the heart of the International Committee of the Red Cross' (ICRC) mission. We promote respect for the rules of war through bilateral and confidential dialogue with weapon bearers; and by enhancing awareness among academics, community and religious leaders, government officials, and the media. When there are gaps in the response, we provide the most vulnerable families with food, healthcare, and other forms of assistance in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and in coordination

with local authorities. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we supported the country's vaccination program to reach isolated and disadvantaged areas and places of detention.

We cooperate with the detaining authorities on operational and strategic levels to ensure that all persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) benefit from humane treatment and conditions of detention as per domestic norms and international standards. Visiting places of detention and PDLs are at the core of this effort. We communicate bilaterally our findings and recommendations to the authorities concerned. When necessary, our multidisciplinary capacity allows us to support detaining authorities to address the needs of individual PDLs and the systemic issues that affect all detainees.

Guided by our principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence, we will continue to protect and assist people affected by conflicts, working often with Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to increase our humanitarian footprint.

ASSISTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES



28,250 residents

of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur benefited from the replacement of a 2-kilometer water pipeline and the upgrading of three pumping stations of the Marawi City Water District



1,700 people

benefited from 3 spring-fed, gravity-piped water systems, built by the ICRC and the community in the remote village of Kalilangan, Iligan City



645 families

from Mindanao received essential household items



2,323 people

received cash grants to cover their basic needs, start, or maintain a business



103 farmers

trained in vermicomposting and 74 people trained in organic vegetable production in Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur

“ I always fear displacement. I wish everyone who has been displaced can find stability, provide for their families and live with dignity. If we pray wholeheartedly and our deeds are good, we will get through it. ”

Parida, a farmer from Maguindanao who fled from her home due to conflict and was given financial support for her business by ICRC





Senior police officers from 13 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the 2nd Regional Police Colloquium in 2022.

ENHANCING IHL AWARENESS AND RESPECT



50 police officers

from 13 countries attended the Second Asia-Pacific Police Colloquium titled “Early Stages of Detention and Humanitarian Considerations” where they learned about how mutual understanding and cooperation can mitigate humanitarian risks



980 personnel

from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) attended 25 sessions on IHL



25 religious leaders, government officials, members of non-state armed groups

completed a certificate course on Islamic law and IHL offered in collaboration with the Institute of Islamic Studies of the University of the Philippines



Organized a **panel discussion and exhibit on “War in Cities”** in Intramuros, Manila, to highlight the devastating effects of armed conflict in urban areas



Supported the Philippine government in endorsing the **Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences that can arise from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas**



Supported the Philippines in joining the call for a **legally binding protocol on Autonomous Weapons Systems**



A PDL in New Bilibid Prison (NBP) uses a laptop donated by the ICRC to contact his loved ones.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF DETAINEES



114 visits to 85 places of detention

made to monitor treatment and living conditions of PDLs and engage authorities on constructive and bilateral dialogues, to address operational and systemic needs



60,000 PDLs in 27 detention facilities

benefited from improved living conditions and healthcare services through 15 ICRC-led or supported projects. This includes the construction and/or rehabilitation of water supply systems, lodging, sanitation, and healthcare facilities as well as the distribution of essential hygiene, medical and recreational items



1,000,000 video and phone calls

made by PDLs to their families and lawyers using 338 ICRC-donated equipment and internet service in 140 detention facilities



43 family visits and 30 PDLs reunited with their families

living in remote areas through the ICRC's support



181 Red Cross messages exchanged

between PDLs and their loved ones thanks to ICRC's facilitation



144 individual PDLs

provided with specific health diagnosis and medications thanks to the ICRC's support



10 senior management and healthcare professionals

from BJMP, Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and Department of Health attended international and regional conferences organized or supported by the ICRC, such as the International Corrections and Prison Association Conference and Health in Detention World Conference, etc.



140 jail wardens

from BJMP Regions III, IV-A and the National Capital Region, and 28 Philippine National Police (PNP) officers from eight regions trained on Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, commonly known as the Nelson Mandela Rules



25 senior officials

from the PNP, BJMP, BuCor and AFP attended a comprehensive Healthcare in Detention course



60 BJMP healthcare professionals

from all over the country trained in healthcare in detention, Nelson Mandela Rules and managing disease outbreaks



45 engineers

from BJMP national headquarters and 17 regional offices attended 20 strategic workshops and technical trainings focusing on efficient jail design



80 officers

from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) participated in the Annual Paralegal and Legal Conference, a venue for discussions on ensuring respect for judicial guarantees (fair trial) rights



“I’m looking forward to see that what is stipulated in the references or in the books would be employed here in the Philippines to ensure that the inherent dignity as human beings of our PDLs is upheld.”

CTSO4 Hasmin Sescar,
Chief Nurse of the New Bilibid Prison, after attending one of the healthcare in detention workshops organized by the ICRC

PROVIDING HEALTHCARE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS



10 health facilities

received regular donations of medical items and consumables



7 health offices in Mindanao

(Caraga region, Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Cotabato City and Sulu) given material, technical and financial assistance for their COVID-19 vaccination campaign targeted at reaching conflict-affected people in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas



800 people

received mental health and psychosocial support services



510 people

attended 23 first-aid training sessions that were directly supported by the ICRC



5 hospitals

received medical and non-medical donations that improved their Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs). Two of these, Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital in Butuan City and Adela Sierra Ty Memorial Medical Center in Tandag, Surigao del Sur, had their WCPUs completely renovated by the ICRC



1,700 displaced families

in Cotabato and Zamboanga received healthcare support and medicines through the local government unit



1,500 residents

in Barangay Kasapa II, in La Paz, Agusan del Sur benefited from a new health station built by the ICRC



301 people with disabilities

received direct physical rehabilitation support



2 hospitals

(Tamparan District Hospital and Tamparan Medical Foundation Hospital) in Lanao del Sur benefited from constructed water supply systems so patients and healthcare workers have access to clean, filtered water



Fully upgraded Sulu Provincial Hospital's electrical system, including the overhaul of existing generators

PROTECTING FAMILY LINKS IN ARMED CONFLICTS



222 relatives of missing persons

from the Marawi conflict received psychosocial support while **76 families of missing persons** were provided with economic assistance



2 rounds

of Biological Reference Sample (BRS) and Missing Persons Data collected from Iligan and Cotabato, where ICRC provided technical support to the authorities



62 BRS from families of missing persons

collected by PNP Scene of the Crime Operatives following information sessions organized by ICRC about BRS collection and Forensic Human Identification



380 body bags and 100 sets of PPEs

donated to different body handlers for the safe and dignified management of the deceased



26 community outreach sessions

held which included discussions about **Restoring Family Links**, an initiative that helps people remain in contact with missing family members



Delivered **material assistance** to the PNP Forensic Unit-BARMM and PNP Lanao del Sur Provincial Forensic Unit



Continued to support initiatives aimed at **clarifying the fate and whereabouts of missing persons** in armed conflicts



“Not a day goes by when I do not think about him.”

Hadiyah, an entrepreneur whose son went missing during the Marawi conflict and was provided financial support for her business by ICRC

PARTNERING WITH THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



13 chapters in Mindanao

received assistance in their COVID-19 vaccination support for local government units, through operations of Bakuna Centers, deployment of Bakuna Teams or through the Bakuna Bus



5 blood banks

received medical and non-medical equipment



170 participants from eight chapters

trained on safely responding to humanitarian needs in unsafe environments



6 chapters

received equipment and consumables for their emergency water treatment units following Typhoon Odette (Typhoon Rai)



50 participants from 27 chapters

learned how they can assist people who were separated from their families or went missing due to conflicts or natural disasters



180 staff and volunteers

from 12 chapters in Mindanao and Visayas enhanced their external communication skills in trainings organized by the ICRC



11 academic institutions participated

in 16th National Moot Court Competition on IHL organized by the PRC and ICRC

We have made it easier for people affected by armed conflict to contact us!



Call the **ICRC Community Contact Center (CCC)** at 1800-1888-4272 (*free for Smart, Talk N Text, Sun and PLDT subscribers*) or text us at 0917-5437313 (*Globe*) and 0998-9600114 (*Smart*). Open from Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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