

PHILIPPINES

UPHOLDING OUR HUMANITARIAN MANDATE



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was born out of a need to preserve the dignity of people whose lives have been altered by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. We stand up for people – whether civilians or combatants – to ensure that their rights and protections under the rules of war are upheld.

In around 100 countries including the Philippines, our goal is to protect vulnerable people while adhering to our fundamental principles—primarily that of humanity, but also neutrality, impartiality, independence—which we share with our Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

As we mark the **75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions** in 2024, the ICRC remains deeply committed to promote respect for international

humanitarian law (IHL) to protect all victims of armed conflicts, regardless of which side they're on. We do this through bilateral, confidential dialogue with state and non-state armed groups but also through awareness-raising activities with stakeholders.

We will continue to help authorities in improving the conditions of detention and restoring detainees' family ties. Finally, we will work toward sustainable humanitarian impact with partners such as the Philippine Red Cross, focusing on conflict-affected communities where our presence, proximity and expertise are meaningful.

Through compassion and a devotion to humanity, and with your continued support, we will strive to protect and assist people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICTS



Regularly engaged weapons bearers

in bilateral and confidential discussions to ensure respect for IHL during hostilities



2 meetings held

with the Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court to discuss concerns on lengthy pre-trial detention as well as the legal needs of families whose loved ones went missing in the 2017 Marawi conflict



320 families of people who went missing

in the 2017 Marawi conflict reached by the ICRC to follow up on their tracing cases

IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF DETENTION



75 jail visits conducted

to ensure that all persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) benefit from humane treatment and conditions of detention as per domestic norms and international standards. These jails are managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections, Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and local government units.



35 places of detention in Metro Manila

included in the Scabies Prevalence Survey, which was launched with the Department of Health (DoH), Philippine Dermatological Society and BJMP. The results of the survey are used to define DoH and BJMP policies on the control of scabies in jails.



All 426 jails of the BJMP

received logistic and technical assistance to implement a health information system, resulting to a national average of 92.10% data-quality accuracy upon monitoring, following onsite data quality check in 92 facilities. 900 jail nurses were also trained to provide credible data for decision-making and improve health service delivery to PDLs.



28,400 tele-hearings attended

by PDLs using the ICRC-donated tablets and mobile load cards



90 officials of the BJMP

attended workshops that harnessed their skills, helping them to build and design jails that meet Philippine standards



13,800 PDLs from 8 places of detention

are in better-designed and built facilities because of the financial and technical support given by ICRC to BJMP and BuCor

RESTORING AND MAINTAINING FAMILY LINKS



100 PDLs maintained contact with loved ones

through ICRC's family visit program



110 Red Cross messages

including 8 from ICRC delegations abroad, collected or distributed to facilitate communication between detainees and their families



405,000 calls made by detainees

to loved ones using 1,630 donated mobile/Internet load cards

DIGNIFIED MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD



Renovated the forensic facility and family attention center

at Maqbara cemetery in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, where unidentified human remains from the Marawi conflict are buried



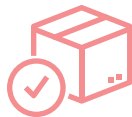
Supported the PNP Scene of the Crime Operatives

in collecting 40 missing persons data and 80 biological reference samples (BRS) in Marawi. Some 60 families of missing people were briefed during the collection process.



40 members of PNP Forensic Group (PNP FG) divisions

trained on recovery and identification of human remains, and on DNA analysis; while 20 AFP officers trained on safe and dignified management of the deceased



Over 2,000 body bags

donated to agencies such as AFP, PNP, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), etc., for safe and dignified management of the deceased



Shared internationally accepted standards

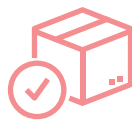
on DNA post-mortem sampling process to the National Bureau of Investigation and PNP FG for their reference during operations

ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES



830 people affected by hostilities

in Maguindanao del Sur and Agusan del Sur received food rations



210 essential household items

given to displaced families in Northern Samar, Agusan del Sur and Maguindanao del Sur



1 vermicomposting facility

was built by residents in Saniag, Maguindanao del Sur, through a cash-for-work program. It helped the community produce organic fertilizers called vermicompost, which is expected to improve soil fertility and help increase their crop yields.



21,800 residents of Marawi City

boosted their access to sustainable supply of potable water through technical and financial assistance extended by ICRC to Marawi City Water District



2,560 residents from 8 villages

in different areas in Mindanao, including some displaced, improved their water supply system, shelter and hygiene standards through ICRC assistance



110 families

in Agusan del Norte received crop seeds and tools and trained on intercropping and contouring techniques. A corn mill and corn sheller were donated to the farmer's association to improve the harvest-processing capacity of the entire community.

PARTNERING WITH THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS (PRC)



70 PRC volunteers mobilized

to support various ICRC assistance activities on economic security and water for affected populations



180 PRC staff and volunteers

attended orientations on improving acceptance and access to communities and providing a safer and more secure response



145 participants from various PRC chapters

attended courses that improved their public speaking skills to gain safer access during humanitarian operations

PROMOTING AND INTEGRATING IHL



20 newly recruited officers of the Judge Advocate General Service of the AFP

attended a three-week IHL course on providing operational legal advice to commanders during armed conflict



Published "Asia-Pacific Journal of IHL"

in cooperation with the University of the Philippines. The journal contains five articles that promote and interpret IHL in Asia.



25 high-ranking officers from the AFP, PNP and Philippine Coast Guard

participated in a senior-level seminar on IHL, including the law of naval warfare



220 cadets from the PNP Academy

attended an IHL capacity-building session



27 high-ranking officials

of Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament and MPs of the BARMM government attended a roundtable discussion to create a humanitarian handbook



46 participants

from community, religious, non-state actors from Mindanao briefed about the convergences of IHL and Islamic law in areas affected by conflict



40 representatives from 16 countries

of coast guards, maritime police, navies and policymakers attended the first Asia-Pacific Maritime Law Enforcement symposium and workshop. The event explored contemporary challenges to maritime law enforcement.



1 Arabic publication on "Introduction of IHL in Islam"

translated in Tausug in collaboration with Mindanao State University (MSU) in Sulu. 250 copies were donated to the MSU Sulu and Sulu Ulama Council while 2 IHL libraries/ corners were created in MSU Sulu and Marawi.



45 representatives

from academe, non-state armed groups, Islamic scholars, civil society, BARMM and security sectors, attended a course and/or a Siyar clinic on IHL and Islamic law, organized with partners such as the UP Institute of Islamic Studies, and the King Faisal Center for Islamic Arabic and Asian Studies of MSU Marawi

SUPPORTING HEALTH CARE



100 health facilities

that admit patients injured during conflicts received donations of medical equipment and supplies



250 civilians, medics and military personnel

trained on first aid, including 40 members of the PNP Special Action Forces in Batangas, on proper management of trauma injuries in conflict before their deployment to other areas



40 doctors and nurses

benefited from a Basic Emergency Care course intended to promote a systematic approach on the initial assessment and management of acute injuries where early interventions at pre-hospital level can save lives