



ICRC

ICRC IN THE PHILIPPINES 2014

APRIL 2015

In 2014, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued working to protect and assist people affected by decades of non-international armed conflict and other situations of violence. It also coordinated with authorities to prioritize the welfare of detainees and promote awareness of and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) among various stakeholders.

Many communities already beleaguered by cycles of armed conflict further suffered from the effects of successive natural disasters in 2013. Despite the immediate outpouring of aid, these communities needed continued support to be able to rebuild their lives. The ICRC, which had provided life-saving assistance in these situations, also sustained its response to cover the remaining needs of the people affected. Together with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), the ICRC implemented programs to help survivors recover their livelihoods, rebuild their houses and regain stable access to clean water and health care.

ARMED CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

Conflict and armed violence continued to affect certain parts of the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao, where improvised explosive devices and armed clashes caused deaths, injuries or displacement. Often these areas, also afflicted by poverty, were difficult to reach and had minimal or irregular access to basic services.

In 2014, the ICRC completed several projects to support livelihoods and improve access to clean water in these communities. Key hospitals and community health facilities enhanced their capacity to provide timely and adequate care to the weapon-wounded, thanks to continued support from the ICRC and local health authorities.



DJF Photo

An amputee gains a degree of self-reliance with a prosthesis from DJF.



360

weapon-wounded patients were treated in ICRC-supported hospitals

154

additional patients received individual support for their treatment across Mindanao



534

disabled people obtained physical rehabilitation services – enabling some to walk again – at the ICRC-supported Davao Jubilee Foundation (DJF)



4,000

people in rural communities of Negros Occidental and Surigao del Sur gained regular access to clean water via two new water-supply systems built with their involvement

OVER

38,000



people in Mindanao and the Visayas restored or reinforced their livelihoods, aided by veterinary support, seed, tools and equipment

OVER

14,000



people used cash grants to improve or launch their own income-generating activities, such as vegetable gardening



ALMOST

5,000

people augmented their household income through cash-for-training projects in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, and Loreto, Agusan del Sur

ZAMBOANGA CONFLICT RESPONSE



ICRC/Marco Albertini

Around 5,000 people gain access to water from installed tap stands and water tankers that can supply up to 50,000 liters per day.

The humanitarian needs in Zamboanga City lingered long after the hostilities ended in September 2013, as hundreds of families struggled with prolonged displacement in evacuation centers and transition sites. In response, the ICRC continued to assist them by improving their access to water, sanitation and hygiene, addressing the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable groups, and providing opportunities to earn short-term income through cash-for-work activities.

OVER 12,000 people in 5 evacuation centers had a steady supply of potable water trucked in by the PRC/ICRC



Displaced people in **2 transition sites**, and the host community, benefited from increased water supply, through projects coordinated with the Zamboanga City Water District

Construction of

102 latrines enhancements to drainage systems, and hygiene-promotion sessions improved sanitation conditions and curbed the spread of diseases in evacuation centers and transition sites



19,000 consultations done at the Philippine Red Cross-operated basic health-care unit inside the Joaquin Enrriquez stadium, with support from the ICRC and the City Health Office (CHO)

ALMOST 11,000

patients benefited from the repair of the Rio Hondo barangay health station and 2 new multipurpose halls (hosting health activities at the Tulungatung and Taluksangay sites), all of which received medical supplies and equipment

The CHO also received similar support with **7 barangay health stations** and the Zamboanga City Medical Center was provided with material support and medicines

PRC/ICRC health staff supported CHO mobile teams in conducting weekly primary health-care activities in Mampang site (Masepla)

DETENTION

2014 was an intensive year for the ICRC's vast work with Philippine authorities to improve detainees' living conditions, through mechanisms aimed at reducing prison overcrowding, improving health information systems and the management of tuberculosis (TB), and enhancing essential services and infrastructure in places of detention.

Repeated visits were also conducted by the ICRC to people detained in relation to armed conflict and other situations of violence in order to assess their treatment and living conditions and to ensure that internationally recognized detention standards were respected. Detainees were able to maintain links with loved ones through family visits facilitated by the PRC and the ICRC.

- **321** visits to **70,701** detainees, of whom **928** were visited and monitored individually
- **1,273** pending cases were submitted to different courts by the ICRC-supported Task Force *Katarungan at Kalayaan* (Justice and Freedom), comprising several government agencies led by the Supreme Court, leading to the release or sentencing of more than **350** detainees
- **400** Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) paralegals participated in workshops to ensure that inmates receive ample support concerning the status of their cases
- **10,000** inmates in 7 Metro Manila jails were given health cards to strengthen the health information systems, through cooperation with the BJMP and Department of Health



ICRC/Brecht Goris

In selected places of detention, inmates are visited to assess their treatment and living conditions.

571 moderately malnourished children under five years old and pregnant or lactating women improved their nutrition through a supplemental feeding program; out of them, 289 received additional food packages

OVER 3,000 displaced families (almost 16,000 people) received essential household and hygiene items

AROUND 2,800 vulnerable families (almost 14,000 people) received food packages as a preventive measure to reduce the risk of malnourishment

ALMOST 40,000 displaced persons improved their food consumption, started small businesses or rebuilt their homes using unconditional cash grants

OVER 6,000 heads of displaced households (nearly 35,000 people) earned short-term income through cash-for-work activities, such as garbage disposal

- Around **30,000** inmates in two detention facilities benefited from TB advocacy, communication and social mobilization
- Almost **15,500** inmates were screened for TB in these two detention facilities
- Over **690** including **99** with drug-resistant TB, were diagnosed with the disease and provided proper care
- **50,000** inmates improved their access to health care through mobilization of detaining and health authorities, while 30 detention places received health-monitoring visits
- **136** increased bed capacity for the infirmary of the Davao Penal Colony
- **3,000** inmates in **11** jails saw improvements in their living conditions following the renovation of water/sanitation systems, outdoor areas and other facilities
- Over **12,000** inmates in **16** facilities were given hygiene and/or recreational items

TYPHOON HAIYAN RESPONSE

Although the path to recovery was predictably long and arduous in communities in Central Philippines that suffered utter devastation from Typhoon Haiyan (local name: Yolanda) in November 2013, many survivors successfully transitioned from reliance on relief to self-sufficiency.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement delivered aid to the most affected communities in Cebu, Leyte, Palawan, Panay and Samar. The ICRC, together with the Philippine Red Cross, focused its response on Samar island – also partly affected by armed violence – where it had been supporting communities for years.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS Survivors restored contact with relatives via Red Cross messages, phone calls and the ICRC's family links website (familylinks.icrc.org)



4,461 families in eight municipalities were given new storm-resilient houses built with the help of community members, including more than 1,000 carpenters who received training on good construction principles

79 health facilities received medical supplies/equipment

OVER 72,500 individuals benefited from consultations, surgeries and deliveries in field hospitals, basic health-care units and mobile clinics set up in Basey and Balangiga during the emergency response

2 district hospitals
6 rural health units
7 barangay health centers were rehabilitated

AROUND 2,600 children under five years old received various vaccines

500 people were given mental-health/psychosocial support



75,000 people – including **33,000** people in Guiuan – regained access to water through rehabilitated water-supply systems and the installation of hand pumps and slow sand filters

ALMOST

236,500

people sustained themselves through distributions of food rations or food-for-work projects



OVER

227,000

of them started vegetable gardens using ICRC-donated seed

ALMOST

226,000

people received essential household and hygiene items

AROUND

147,500

people received unconditional cash grants to cover basic expenditures

OVER

10,000

breadwinners supported their families (more than 54,000 people) with wages earned in exchange for clearing debris or participating in shelter-construction projects



OVER

71,000

people received cash grants with which they pursued fishing, agricultural, livestock and other business ventures

HUMANITARIAN LAW



ICRC/ Chiara de Leon

Activities to promote awareness of IHL, or the law of armed conflict, continued in 2014 for various stakeholders – from weapon bearers, members of the judiciary, to members of the academic community.

In the field, the ICRC conducted IHL dissemination sessions and meetings with armed groups, influential circles and communities affected by armed conflict, to help enhance respect for the law and ensure that civilians were protected.

- 1,455 members of the military and police increased their understanding of IHL and/or human rights laws applicable to their duties
- 300 members of armed groups, influential religious leaders and scholars enhanced their awareness of IHL
- 14 law schools participated in the annual moot court competition on IHL, organized with the PRC and the Court of Appeals
- 28 political science professors in Mindanao were trained on IHL

WORKING WITH THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS

The ICRC continued working closely with its main operational partner in the country, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), while supporting its capacity to respond to emergencies, including natural or man-made disasters.

In 2014, the ICRC helped build the capacity of 24 PRC chapters prone to man-made or natural calamities, by training their Red Cross Action Teams and providing them with equipment and supplies.

The ICRC also supported the deployment of volunteers in ICRC-PRC emergency operations.



ICRC/ Laryn Dela Cruz

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