



ICRC

ZAMBOANGA: ICRC OPERATIONAL UPDATE

JULY 2014

Ten months after an armed conflict broke out between a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government troops, over 40,000 people remain displaced from their homes and struggle with difficult conditions in Zamboanga City, living in evacuation centers and transitional sites or hosted by families, and still dependent on humanitarian assistance.

More than 10,000 structures, many of them houses, were damaged or burned down, adversely affecting the livelihoods of many displaced people who were trapped in poverty even before the clashes in September 2013 left them bereft of their homes and without the few assets they had possessed. They strive to make ends meet, not knowing when they will be able to resume their normal lives under a roof of their own.

While progress has been made by the authorities in relocating the displaced to transitional sites, efforts should continue to ensure that services such as water supply and sanitation are provided before moving people to these transitional sites.

The ICRC, together with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), has been assisting thousands of displaced families since the emergency. It is committed to help the displaced restart their lives, rebuild their communities, and restore their hope and dignity.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

- Provided hot meals to 146,000 displaced persons; one-month food rations, household items and hygiene kits to over 82,500 people

SUPPORTING EMERGENCY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Coordinated and facilitated 146 medical evacuations with the PRC and donated a war-wounded kit, medical equipment and medicines for up to 50 weapon-wounded people to the emergency hospital set up at Western Mindanao State University, Zamboanga City
- Supported the Basic Health Care Unit, operated by the PRC at the Joaquin Enriquez stadium, where about 7,000 consultations were carried out in the first month. Nearly 18,000 patients received general health care since



Thousands of evacuees have remained at the Joaquin Enriquez stadium since the conflict last year.

ICRC/MR Hasan

ICRC VISITS TO DETAINEES AND RESTORING LINKS WITH FAMILIES

The ICRC, in accordance with its international humanitarian mandate, visited people detained in relation to the conflict to monitor their conditions of detention and treatment. It has given first aid, clothes and hygiene items in some cases.

The ICRC continues to conduct follow-up visits to the detainees. To ensure families of those detained in Manila can maintain their family links, the ICRC provides them with a travel allowance and facilitates the visits. As of July 2014, over 100 family members have been able to visit their detained relatives.



A detainee's family being briefed for their first visit

ICRC/MR Hasan

ENHANCING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- Supplied clean water to 78,000 people through 11 water bladders in 8 evacuation centers. Today, it continues to supply potable water through PRC bladders in six evacuation and transitional sites, for up to 21,000 people
- Installed 72 latrines at the Joaquin Enriquez stadium and Rio Hondo evacuation center, with an additional 36 latrines to be set up at the stadium
- Improving the drainage system for wastewater at the Joaquin Enriquez stadium and Taluksangay transitional site
- Conducting hygiene and sanitation promotion sessions in evacuation and transitional sites
- Coordinating with the Zamboanga City Water District to increase water supply and storage in Taluksangay, Tulungatung and Masepla transitional sites for IDPs and the host community



ICRC/M R Hasan

A child being examined for the nutrition program

IMPROVING NUTRITION AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Running a feeding program for 225 moderately acute malnourished children under five years and 32 pregnant and lactating women since May 2014, to help improve nutrition rates
- Distributing food, household items and hygiene kits to around 2,100 of the most vulnerable families in order to reduce the risk of malnourishment
- Providing financial, material support and medicines to the City Health Office to ensure the primary health care to IDPs in the Joaquin Enriquez stadium, and emergency stabilisation and referrals during evenings and holidays. Material support has benefited 7 barangay health stations
- Supporting a PRC-CHO mobile health team with medical items and equipment to do primary health care activities in Mampang Bunkhouses (Masepla) starting mid-July
- Providing material support and medicines to the Zamboanga City Medical Center. The displaced (outpatients and hospitalized) benefit from free medicines and blood units when necessary

- Constructing halls in 3 sites to be used for hygiene campaign, nutrition and health activities for the displaced and local community
- Rehabilitated and equipped the Rio Hondo barangay health station in April 2014, benefiting 820 displaced people and roughly 200 residents. CHO resumed health activities by July

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF DISPLACED

- Set up emergency cash-for-work activities in basic sanitation and installation of communal tents and the PRC Basic Health Care Unit, providing income to around 8,000 workers from Sept. 2013 to June 2014
- Provided 40,000 displaced persons, including those sheltered by families, with unconditional cash grants organised in three rounds between Dec. 2013 and April 2014. This financial assistance was used by the displaced beneficiaries to improve their food consumption, start small businesses, or rebuild their shelters



ICRC/M R Hasan

Beneficiaries keep the Joaquin Enriquez stadium clean and earn money at the same time.

ABOUT THE ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

It has been present in the Philippines for over 60 years, providing much-needed aid to people affected by cycles of internal armed conflicts in the country. The ICRC has been permanently present in Mindanao since 1986, with the establishment of a sub-delegation in Davao City and offices in Zamboanga and Cotabato.

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