

PHILIPPINES

COMMITTED TO SERVE HUMANITY

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In rural areas of the Philippines, armed conflicts and violent incidents have been decreasing in recent years. However, the humanitarian impacts of conflicts are felt even after the fighting has ended. Many families are still looking for their missing loved ones, displaced people remain in temporary facilities with limited basic services, while others struggle with livelihood opportunities. Severe weather events add another burden to communities already affected by conflict. While there has been some progress in addressing these issues, much still needs to be done.

Since World War II, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has strived to protect and assist those who have been affected by armed conflicts in the country, especially in geographically isolated areas where needs persist. A neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization, we work with our operational partner the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) to seek lasting solutions to problems faced by the affected people. As the guardian of international humanitarian law (IHL) or the rules of war, we are at the forefront of reminding all parties to the conflict to respect IHL and to strengthen their ability to

comply with their obligations. We also remind them that abiding by the law during war could make the transition to peace easier and sustainable.

We remain steadfast in our humanitarian mission despite the increasing challenges in the global aid and development landscape. Eight years after the Marawi conflict, we continue to accompany families of the missing, serving as their bridge to the authorities in their quest to know the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones.

We have supported affected communities in hard-to-reach villages by improving their access to clean water, sanitation and healthcare. Based on needs described by the communities, we have provided them with tools and resources so they could start or resume livelihood-sustaining activities.

Guided by our commitment to humanity and our passion for service, we will continue to work hard to fulfill the mandate bestowed on us in the Geneva Conventions. Through your unwavering support, we will strive to protect and assist people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



HEALTHCARE

- **100 health workers** participated in basic trauma and first aid training and basic emergency course sessions in Butuan and Zamboanga to improve their preparedness for disasters, conflicts and other critical incidents
- **10 health facilities** in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao received medical supplies and other materials
- **70 patients** supported through the Davao Jubilee Foundation via the reimbursement of prostheses, mobility aids and other relevant needs
- **Women and Child Protection Units** constructed in Maguindanao Provincial Hospital and Basilan General Hospital to improve access to services for victims of sexual violence
- **250 healthcare workers and emergency responders** reinforced their knowledge to strengthen the protection of healthcare staff, facilities and patients during conflicts



HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS

- Met with the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the PRC on the need for capacity-building trainings on management of the dead (MotD), human identification and trauma analysis
- Conducted meetings with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police (PNP) Forensic Group on the importance of a robust medico-legal system, efficient forensic services, humanitarian forensic action, and respect for IHL obligations in connection to MotD



IHL AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

- **400 senior officers** of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and foreign militaries attended capacity building sessions on IHL
- **35 representatives** from relevant government agencies attended a workshop on IHL compliance during large scale conflicts
- **52 members** of the PCG and the Philippine Navy attended a co-organized roundtable discussion on humanitarian considerations in maritime law enforcement
- **25 personnel** from the Marine Environment Protection Command of the PCG attended a workshop on IHL
- **90 participants** from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, religious sector and academe attended sessions on the convergences of IHL and Islamic law
- **25 prosecutors** joined the Department of Justice-National Prosecution Service training on IHL, which was conducted by trainers supported by the ICRC
- **20 journalists** from Iligan and Marawi attended an orientation on IHL principles and domestic laws
- **1 IHL handbook** produced in cooperation with the PNP Human Rights Affairs Office, to educate its personnel on the rules of war
- **85 PNP officers** attended IHL dissemination sessions of the Police Human Rights Officers Course organized by the PNP Human Rights Affairs Office
- A book about the intersections between IHL and Islamic jurisprudence published by the ICRC and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos. The book was translated from its original version in Arabic into Tagalog.
- Provided technical support in the drafting and finalization of the Philippine government's Implementing Guidelines for the Inter-Agency Committee on IHL

Participants from the Philippine Air Force attend a three-day training on IHL. Topics discussed included ensuring that frameworks and mechanisms are in place for compliance with IHL and protection of human dignity during large-scale conflicts.





Scabies mass treatment across many BJMP jails in Metro Manila were conducted starting September 2024. The ICRC supported the response by providing logistical supplies and technical guidance to BJMP authorities throughout the meticulous planning, and implementation adapted to the unique setting of each jail.



PROTECTING AND ASSISTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- **315 families of missing people** attended 20 Right to Know sessions where they were informed of their rights under the law and the process of search and identification
- **220 community members** in Visayas and Mindanao attended orientations focusing on IHL and protection-related topics
- **6 bilateral and confidential discussions** with parties to the conflict to address potential IHL violations
- **19,950 Marawi residents**, including 500 displaced people in the Sagonsongan transitional shelter, benefitted from the provision of chlorine to the Marawi City Water District. The chlorine was used for water treatment, making it possible to provide clean water to the city.
- **1,980 residents** of Zamboanga del Norte and Bukidnon benefitted from the rehabilitation of the water supply systems in their villages
- **145 residents** in Bukidnon received shelter kits and ceramic water filters
- **9,280 people** from different areas in Visayas and Mindanao received various forms of assistance such as cash grants and farming equipment
- **100 messages** addressed by the ICRC's Community Contact Center, including from affected people seeking protection or assistance



DETENTION

- **13,330 persons deprived of liberty** in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa benefitted from the rehabilitation of the water supply system
- **6,360 detainees** received treatment for scabies in 10 jails in Metro Manila
- **30 visits** made to detention facilities managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections, AFP, PNP and local government units to discuss treatment and conditions of detention
- **15 BJMP staff** received training on the use of environment and climate risk assessment methodology, to help improve the design of detention facilities
- **270 detainees** in San Jose City District Jail in Nueva Ecija and Libmanan District Jail in Camarines Sur benefitted from climate resiliency rehabilitation projects
- **50 family visits** facilitated for 50 detainees and 80 family members
- **35 Red Cross messages** delivered by the ICRC and the PRC to reconnect families with their loved ones in detention
- **110 detainees** in Quezon City Police Station 6 and PNP Camp Crame benefitted from donated water dispensers and recreational materials
- **3,850 detainees** in Quezon City Jail benefitted from 12 tablets donated for e-dalaw (electronic visitation)



Together with PRC volunteers, the ICRC distributed farming tools and vegetable seeds to 92 conflict-affected households in a village in Las Navas, Northern Samar.



PARTNERING WITH THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS

- **830 staff and volunteers** from 40 PRC chapters attended a two-day Safer Access Learning Session, where various matters related to safety and conduct were discussed
- **120 volunteer mobilizations** facilitated, involving 70 unique volunteers from 13 PRC chapters to support various field activities of the ICRC
- **900 first aid kits** provided to 90 PRC chapters and the national headquarters in preparation for their response in the 2025 national elections
- **30 PRC staff and volunteers** from 18 chapters and the national headquarters attended a course to enhance their capacities to externally communicate about the PRC's services, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its fundamental principles, and basics of IHL
- **74 PRC staff and volunteers** from 19 chapters across Mindanao completed the First Aid Instructors' Training Course, enhancing their capacity to organize and deliver trainings in their respective areas
- **80 residents** in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, participated in the PRC's hygiene promotion trainings

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on the ICRC to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. The organization's experience and expertise enables it to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.