



Philippines

January to June 2026



Sustaining our principled humanitarian action

The number of armed conflicts all over the world continues to climb. There were about **130 conflicts in 2025**, more than twice the number recorded in 2009.

In the Philippines, sporadic clashes still occur, although hostilities have generally decreased in Mindanao. As a result, remote communities are displaced or cut off from their farms and other sources of livelihoods. They lose access to reliable and safe water and sanitary facilities, as well as other essential services due to their displacement.

But even when fighting has ended, such as in the 2017 Marawi conflict, humanitarian consequences linger. Around 300 families are still searching for their missing relatives, and struggling with systemic socioeconomic challenges.

Meanwhile, the country's jails and prisons remain overcrowded despite the authorities' efforts to improve conditions of detention and vulnerability to natural hazards. Prisoners are often losing contact with loved ones.

The situation in the Philippines demonstrates that even when fighting becomes intermittent, it still leaves a significant impact on vulnerable communities.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) remains committed to its humanitarian mission in the Philippines, where we have been present since World War II. Although the response capacities of aid organizations

globally are shrinking, we strive to deliver on our mandate by urging all sides to abide by international humanitarian law (IHL) or the rules of war. We also advocate for the humane treatment of detainees.

We focus on areas where we are most needed so affected communities could improve their access to potable water, sanitation and healthcare. We support farmers and fishermen to rebuild their livelihoods and increase their resilience.

We stand firmly beside families as they seek to determine the fate and whereabouts of their missing kin. An interagency group formed in Lanao del Sur is working on a plan to implement the respectful recovery, exhumation and identification of human remains in Maqbara cemetery, while the Bangsamoro Darul-Ifta gave religious dispensation for this humanitarian action. We have shared recommendations with national agencies that could address systemic concerns such as the formal recognition of a missing person's status. Indeed, when leaders, community members and organizations work together, we can find solutions to the multifaceted challenges faced by survivors of conflict.

With our partner the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and guided by principled humanitarian action, we remain steadfast in our mission to preserve human dignity and relieve suffering caused by war and armed violence.



Medics and other members of the Moro National Liberation Front enhanced their first-aid and trauma management skills using readily available tools and equipment during a training session organized by the ICRC at Camp Imam Ampatuan in Maguindanao del Sur

Advocating for affected people



Confidential and bilateral discussions

with arms bearers to encourage them to respect IHL and ensure the protection of affected people

- **14 representations** with arms bearers to remind them of their responsibilities under IHL
- **40 people** from different government agencies participated in a roundtable addressing issues faced by Marawi's families of the missing in which the ICRC presented recommendations
- Provided **technical advice** to the implementing rules and regulations of the Law on Muslim Burial to ensure accordance with IHL
- Gave **technical input** to the establishment of the National Forensic Institute and the Philippine National Forensic Authority, to ensure that their work is in accordance with IHL and humanitarian principles

Contributed to the development of the government's Marawi Exhumation and Examination Plan of Action

Detention

- **39 detention visits** conducted in facilities managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP) as well as provincial jails managed by local government units, to have confidential discussions on treatment and conditions of detention
- **84 Red Cross messages** facilitated by ICRC and PRC, helping detainees and their families maintain contact
- **41 family visits** facilitated, reconnecting 41 detainees with 42 family members
- **30 BJMP staff** participated in the review of the Facility Development Process and Minimum Standards for Jails, to improve the design, operation and maintenance of detention facilities
- Multi-year partnership agreement signed with the BJMP to strengthen climate resilience in jails through the **Prisoners of Climate Change program**
- **Medical equipment and supplies** donated to New Bilibid Prison, Davao Prison and Penal Farm and Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm to support authorities in providing basic healthcare to detainees
- Completed a **wastewater treatment feasibility study** for Negros Occidental District Jail
- Resources provided for the repair of **cold storage units** at New Bilibid Prison, ensuring the dignified treatment of the bodies of deceased detainees



560 detainees

benefitted from the Butuan City Jail Male Dormitory's upgraded water supply system

Essential services and livelihood support

21,050
people

gained access to clean water through the improved supply system of the Marawi City Water District, which ICRC supports to ensure consistent service

1,780
residents

in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato benefitted from the construction of a gravity-fed water-supply system, enabling safe access to clean water

1,000
people

in Datu Saudi Ampatuan market site evacuation center benefitted from an improved and reliable water supply system

3,620
people

received training on agriculture and advance practices including the required tools, conditional cash grants, and/or seeds to improve their livelihoods

3,150
people

received cash grants to pay for essential needs and recover or diversify livelihoods to build resilience

1,270
people

in Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat and Basilan received conditional cash grants and/or fishing gears to support their livelihoods



11 health facilities in Mindanao received medical supplies and equipment, to enable them to provide healthcare to conflict-affected residents

190
residents

in Basilan received cash to repair their homes

160
people

from Luzon and Mindanao participated in training sessions to enhance their delivery of healthcare during armed conflicts

Developed the
technical design

of the water distribution system of the Sulu Provincial Hospital



30 police and armed forces representatives from 10 Asia-Pacific countries attended the Regional Workshop on Law Enforcement in Armed Conflict where they discussed the various challenges that they face during armed conflicts

IHL and humanitarian action

- **450 officers** from the National Police College attended IHL sessions, which were integrated into the school's newly institutionalized curriculum
- **200 senior officers** from the AFP and other armed forces participated in the Command and Staff Operations Law Course in which they learned about IHL, new technologies of warfare and humanitarian considerations at sea
- **200 military officers and enlisted personnel** from Samar, South Cotabato and Maguindanao attended IHL orientation sessions
- **140 people** from the Department of Foreign Affairs, AFP, Department of National Defense, Office of Civil Defense, Philippine Coast Guard and other government agencies attended workshops on IHL and the protection of people during international armed conflicts
- **100 officers and staff** from the Judge Advocate General Service, Philippine Military Academy, and Philippine Air Force Strike Wing took specialized IHL courses
- **40 people** from the PNP-Salaam Center, National Commission for Muslim Filipinos, Salaam Police Advocacy Group, and religious leaders were oriented about IHL and Islamic law related to armed conflict (Siyar)
- **43 journalists** from South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental were oriented about IHL, how it protects journalists, and relevant domestic laws



340 people

from Mindanao attended sessions on IHL and the protection of healthcare during conflicts

Launch of first institutional partnership between ICRC and Asian Development Bank to coordinate programmes; promote innovation through knowledge exchange on emerging challenges; and share best practices



370 staff and volunteers

from 20 chapters enhanced their skills in communicating about the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and PRC services

Partnering with the PRC

- **100 participants** of the PRC National Blood Summit and 20 trainers of the Southeast Asia Red Cross Red Crescent First Aid Network Meeting gained a better understanding of the importance of protecting healthcare during armed conflicts
- **110 deployments** of **62 volunteers** from **10 PRC chapters** supported 37 activities across various ICRC assistance programs
- **110 people** from **10 chapters** trained on the proper management of the dead during emergencies



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