

PHILIPPINES



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	3,374
Assistance	9,967
Prevention	2,033
Cooperation with National Societies	856
General	-

► **16,230**

of which: Overheads 991

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	124%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	31
National staff (daily workers not included)	169

KEY POINTS

In 2012, the ICRC:

- ▶ alone or with the Philippine Red Cross, facilitated, as a priority, the economic recovery of more than 96,000 people, including nearly 10,000 IDPs in Mindanao and the Visayas through productive inputs and livelihood training
- ▶ with the Philippine Red Cross, helped around 25,000 conflict-affected people and 226,000 victims of Typhoon Bopha cope with their situation by providing them with emergency food and/or household items
- ▶ in partnership with the local authorities and community members in central Mindanao, completed the construction of a water supply system benefiting nearly 16,000 people
- ▶ with the prison authorities, rehabilitated and equipped the 60-bed TB infirmary and microscopy laboratory in Quezon City Jail, thereby improving TB detection rates and reducing the risk of infection among inmates
- ▶ built and equipped a polypropylene workshop at the physical rehabilitation centre in Davao, enabling 207 amputees to receive better-quality services
- ▶ welcomed the ratification of Additional Protocol I by the Philippine government

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has worked since 1982, the delegation assists and seeks to protect civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern islands of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in humanitarian matters. It visits security detainees and, with the authorities, aims to improve conditions in prisons, through direct interventions and prison reform. It also works with the Philippine Red Cross to assist displaced people and vulnerable communities and promote compliance with IHL.

CONTEXT

The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) worked towards a peace deal following the conclusion of a framework agreement in mid-October 2012. Negotiations with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) continued with the aim of reaching a final settlement enabling implementation of the 1996 peace agreement. In some parts of Mindanao, clashes occasionally occurred between government troops and armed groups and among powerful clans (*ridos*).

Clashes continued between the New People's Army (NPA) – the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) – and the armed forces, particularly in Mindanao, southern Luzon and the Visayas. In December, a 15-day truce between the Philippine government and the CPP signalled the possible resumption of peace talks. The truce enabled the provision of humanitarian assistance to the victims of Typhoon Bopha, which, after making landfall in early December, caused widespread devastation in eastern Mindanao and some parts of the Visayas. According to official figures, more than 1,800 people perished or remained unaccounted for and over 6 million people were affected.

Territorial disputes over parts of the South China Sea remained a source of tension in the region.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC worked to promote protection of and respect for people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in the Philippines. It did so through dialogue with the parties to the conflicts, sharing, where relevant, reports of alleged IHL violations, and through the dissemination of IHL and humanitarian principles among weapon bearers and the civilian population. Improved dialogue with the stakeholders concerned, particularly in central and eastern Mindanao and eastern and western Visayas, enabled the ICRC to gain access to and provide further assistance to affected communities in those areas.

The ICRC continued to visit people deprived of their freedom, paying particular attention to those detained in relation to conflict and other situations of violence. The authorities and key government agencies at central and local levels pursued efforts to improve prison facilities and health care and tackle overcrowding within the framework of the ICRC-supported "Call for Action" process. A new taskforce, established under a Supreme Court mandate, met each month to make recommendations on expediting the cases of inmates held in Manila City Jail. With prison officials, the ICRC

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)				
RCMs collected		2	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs distributed		2		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		6	Women	Minors
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		10		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		1		
Documents				
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		1		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits				
Detainees visited		90,485	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually		790	40	6
Detainees newly registered		165	15	5
Number of visits carried out		402		
Number of places of detention visited		175		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		1		
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		348		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

rehabilitated and equipped a 60-bed infirmary in Quezon City Jail and provided guidance and expertise in improving the quality of care for inmates suffering from TB. More broadly, prison authorities from the region shared experiences in addressing the causes and consequences of overcrowding at a seminar on correctional management held in Manila.

The Philippine Red Cross remained the ICRC's primary partner in delivering assistance, enhancing the ICRC's ability to meet the needs of violence-affected people, while strengthening its own emergency response capacities through ICRC technical and material support. Following Typhoon Bopha, the ICRC and the National Society launched a large-scale relief operation in eastern Mindanao.

The ICRC focused its assistance activities on helping vulnerable residents and former IDPs in areas affected by conflict and violence restore some means of livelihood through the provision of agricultural and fishing inputs. To improve living conditions and general health, the local authorities and community members worked with the ICRC to construct water supply systems. Training in proper infrastructure management enabled beneficiaries to take ownership of the projects and ensure their sustainability. People who had fled armed confrontations or other violence in Mindanao received emergency relief goods.

Key hospitals in Mindanao and the Visayas continued to receive material support to ensure the availability of emergency medical supplies for the care of weapon-wounded patients and victims of natural disasters. People injured during clashes in Mindanao had the cost of their treatment covered by the ICRC. To bolster emergency response capacities, health providers and National Society volunteers benefited from training and technical support. The Jubilee Foundation physical rehabilitation centre in Davao started producing lighter and more durable polypropylene prostheses at a new workshop built and equipped by the ICRC.

The Philippine government pursued efforts to implement IHL, ratifying Additional Protocol I in March. The armed and police forces also took steps to integrate IHL into their training and operations. During dissemination and training sessions, members of government forces and armed groups were reminded of the need to respect IHL and other relevant international standards.

Civil society stakeholders, primarily in violence-affected areas, also learnt about IHL and the work of the ICRC, increasing their awareness of the relevance of the organization's neutral, humanitarian role in the Philippines.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with Movement partners and other humanitarian agencies in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Civilians continued to suffer the consequences of the various armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the Philippines. Wherever fighting took place, they faced casualties, loss of livelihood and short-term displacement in regions often lacking infrastructure, essential services and income-generating opportunities.

The presence of the ICRC in violence-affected areas and its dialogue with the stakeholders concerned – weapon bearers, armed and security forces, local authorities and religious and other community leaders – helped promote respect for the civilian population. Whenever possible, the relevant parties were made aware of documented allegations of IHL violations and other concerns, such as the plight of civilians caught between fighting forces, so that corrective action could be taken.

Emergency assistance to conflict- and disaster-affected communities

In central and eastern Mindanao and Calabarzon, southern Luzon, to help people affected by clashes cope with their situation, 4,969 IDPs (935 households) benefited from essential household items and 23,274 residents and IDPs (3,879 households) received food rations from the National Society/ICRC. They included people who benefited from bags of rice for their work in completing the community-based water-supply system in Pikit, North Cotabato, thus enabling 15,700 people to gain access to safe drinking water and to deal with the effects of possible future outbreaks of violence in the area. Community leaders drafted their own policies for the use and maintenance of the system with advice from the local authorities and the ICRC. In Marcelo, Negros Occidental, in preparation for the management of a similar, ongoing water-supply project, 2,276 people learnt how to improve practices in water storage, use of sanitation facilities and personal hygiene with

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	214,938	27%	46%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	11,637		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	238,194	24%	45%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	11,902		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	96,842	32%	45%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	9,873		
Cash	Beneficiaries	1		
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	3,980	40%	40%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	45,876	17%	67%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	17,400		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	22,276		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	6,176		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	21		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	16		
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC	Patients	69		
Admissions	Patients	240,438	113,160	78,794
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	1,398	174	122
	<i>(including by mines or explosive remnants of war)</i>	163		
	<i>of whom other surgical cases</i>	36,644		
	<i>of whom medical cases</i>	127,183		
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	75,213		
Operations performed		56,366		
Outpatient consultations	Patients	539,428		
	<i>of which surgical</i>	128,542		
	<i>of which medical</i>	297,637		
	<i>of which gynaecological/obstetric</i>	113,249		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	82		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	207	24	64
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	36	5	
Prostheses delivered	Units	75	9	8
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	9		8
Orthoses delivered	Units	8		8
Number of patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	142	12	48
Crutches delivered	Units	60		
Wheelchairs delivered	Units	6		

the help of the local authorities and ICRC-trained Philippine Red Cross volunteers. Owing to Typhoon Bopha, technical training for local water engineers did not go ahead.

A total of 225,924 victims (37,654 families) of Typhoon Bopha in Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and Surigao del Sur benefited from National Society/ICRC emergency assistance consisting of one-off distributions of essential household items, of which 191,658 people (31,943 households) also received food. In Baganga and Cateel, Davao Oriental, some 19,000 people accessed potable water from distribution points and trucking services, while an additional 6,500 benefited from the repair of existing water systems. A district hospital and a rural health unit in Compostela Valley rehabilitated damaged water pipelines with donated materials, while material assistance to five health facilities in the three affected provinces enabled them to continue providing services to the population.

Post-emergency, vulnerable families recover a means of livelihood

In central and eastern Mindanao and the Visayas, 90,290 residents and 6,552 resettled IDPs (16,064 families) restored or boosted their means of livelihood with productive inputs provided by the ICRC in coordination with local agricultural authorities.

Beneficiaries included 10,378 farming families (62,268 people) in Negros Oriental and Northern Samar, who received seed, water buffalo (*carabaos*), hand tractors and rice threshers to increase planting and harvesting efficiency. In Palawan, 620 households (3,720 people) formerly linked to an armed group received rice seed for planting. Some 3,012 IDPs in Mindanao who no longer had access to agricultural land took up fishing activities thanks to the provision of paddle boats, nets and other equipment. A total of 3,980 also underwent training to improve the management and sustainability of their livelihoods.

Conditions for migrants in transit enhanced

In Zamboanga, 6,965 migrants transiting through a processing centre and minors housed at an institution for trafficked children following deportation from Malaysia received hygiene kits from the ICRC.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

After receiving allegations of conflict- and violence-related arrests from families or learning of them from media reports, the ICRC requested immediate access to those arrested in order to ensure they were being treated with full respect for their dignity, according to internationally recognized standards. With the authorities

concerned, the ICRC confirmed 72 allegations of arrest, while continuing to follow up closely any remaining cases.

Over 90,400 people deprived of their freedom in 175 places of detention under the responsibility of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the Bureau of Corrections, provincial authorities, the armed forces and the police received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Particular attention was paid to vulnerable detainees, such as minors, women, the elderly and the mentally ill. Following such visits, findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the authorities orally and in writing.

A total of 348 detainees received ICRC-funded visits from relatives, facilitated by the National Society.

Detainees' living conditions improve as a result of "Call for Action"

The authorities and key government agencies at central and local level continued to pursue efforts to improve prison facilities and health care services and tackle overcrowding within the framework of the ICRC-supported "Call for Action" process. Three working groups continued to address the management of TB in places of detention, problems related to prison infrastructure and shortcomings in the criminal justice system, particularly procedural delays, one of the major causes of overcrowding. In support of these efforts, the ICRC Asia-Pacific Seminar on Correctional Management held in Manila enabled the prison authorities from the Philippines and elsewhere in the region to share best practices on mitigating the causes and effects of overcrowding.

A special taskforce, established under a Supreme Court mandate and chaired by judges, bringing together prosecutors, public attorneys, and representatives of the BJMP and the ICRC, met on a monthly basis to review the cases of inmates of Manila City Jail who had been awaiting trial for excessive periods of time. The taskforce, known as "Katarungan at Kalayaan", submitted recommendations to regional or metropolitan trial court judges to speed up the resolution of 249 cases. As a result, 67 inmates were released and 95 were sentenced, 40 of whom were transferred to a prison to serve their sentences. In addition, with the ICRC's help, the taskforce drafted recommendations for procedural changes or improvements, for submission to the Supreme Court's Committee on Decongestion. To facilitate the updating of inmates' records, the BJMP developed a national electronic database with ICRC technical support.

Better access to health care in detention

As part of the "Call for Action" process, the national authorities strengthened TB management in prisons. The BJMP and the Bureau of Corrections participated in an ICRC-facilitated workshop aimed at drawing up a five-year TB-control strategy focusing on the expansion of activities and quality of care. Subsequently, the BJMP organized training in TB management for prison health staff and wardens, Health Ministry officials and local authorities in Calabarzon. In Quezon City Jail, the TB detection rate almost doubled from 2011 to 2012 thanks to ICRC-supported measures, including: the renovation and furnishing of a 60-bed TB infirmary with proper segregation and infection control; the full equipment of a TB microscopy laboratory; and regular guidance for medical staff from TB experts. Planned financial assistance to transferred or released TB patients, however, did not take place.

More than 47,000 detainees in 31 jails and prisons benefited from ICRC monitoring of their general health and access to medical care. The ICRC shared its findings with the Health Ministry and the BJMP, which began working together on the creation of a health information system aimed at improving detainee health care. Eight jails received basic medical equipment and supplies, while detainees' received hygiene kits and recreational items to ease their living conditions. In Metro Manila District Jail, 370 detainees diversified their daily food intake following the start of a gardening project.

Prison infrastructure upgraded

The BJMP and the ICRC continued to work together to upgrade infrastructure in 12 places of detention as a way of addressing the consequences of overcrowding. Five provincial jails benefited from similar projects. Over 6,100 detainees thus enjoyed better living conditions, in particular water and sanitation, ventilation, cooking facilities, and sleeping and outdoor areas. In one prison, energy costs were significantly reduced and inmates' working conditions in kitchens improved following the installation of a solar water heater for cooking. The Montevista District Jail in Compostela Valley received construction materials to repair damage caused by Typhoon Bopha.

A total of 49 BJMP and Bureau of Corrections engineers, construction supervisors and technical staff improved their knowledge during training sessions on construction project management.

WOUNDED AND SICK

More than 1,300 weapon-wounded patients received improved emergency care at 21 hospitals in Mindanao and the Visayas thanks to the ICRC's donation of medical supplies. A total of 69 civilians injured during clashes or other acts of violence in Mindanao benefited from direct financial assistance to cover their medical costs. The provision of additional pharmaceutical and surgical equipment helped boost three ICRC-supported hospitals' medical services for the victims of Typhoon Bopha in Mindanao, while dressing materials and water donated to a hospital in Negros, the Visayas, helped address the immediate needs of people injured by a 6.9 earthquake that hit the area in February.

To further enhance emergency response during conflict situations and natural disasters, some 30 nurses working in emergency departments in hospitals throughout the country participated in a trauma surgery course facilitated by the ICRC in partnership with the National Association for Traumatology. The Philippine Red Cross, with the help of ICRC health experts, developed and updated its first-aid training and instructor's manuals, while some local chapters received first-aid materials.

The Jubilee Foundation physical rehabilitation centre in Davao upgraded its services following the opening of the first polypropylene workshop in the country, built and equipped by the ICRC. The construction of a physiotherapy unit was also under way. On-the-spot training and methodological support from ICRC physical rehabilitation experts for the centre's medical staff enhanced the quality of patient care, while sponsorship of a technician to attend the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics boosted the centre's capacity and sustainability. More than 200 patients enjoyed these improved services, including 75 who received prostheses produced by the new workshop.

AUTHORITIES

The Philippine government ratified Additional Protocol I, while the Congress passed a bill on protecting the Movement's emblems. The Senate was still reviewing the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and the Convention on Cluster Munitions and bills on IDPs and landmines. The Congress continued to receive ICRC technical assistance in the drafting of IHL- and detention-related bills.

To enhance local capacities to implement the national IHL law (Republic Act 9851), some 50 judges and 47 prosecutors from areas affected by armed conflict underwent IHL training, conducted together with the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Department of Justice respectively. Support to the creation of an interministerial IHL body was ongoing.

Regular contacts with national and local authorities helped garner support for efforts to address humanitarian issues and for the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During 47 field dissemination sessions, members of the armed forces, police and armed groups were reminded of the need to respect civilians and medical staff and facilities and to ensure that humanitarian workers had safe and unhindered access to victims, in accordance with IHL and other relevant international standards. Members of the MILF took part in a special session on Islam and IHL.

Under a pilot scheme, the armed forces' Human Rights Office set up mobile teams to provide IHL and human rights training in the field for military auxiliary services in tension-prone provinces. Twenty-eight personnel from the eastern Mindanao command participated in the programme and shared what they had learnt with field units.

The police also launched a pilot training programme wherein 60 officers of Special Action Forces and Public Safety Battalions in conflict-affected areas in Luzon and Mindanao learnt more about the national IHL law and the ICRC's mandate. Police officers throughout the country received pocket cards in national and local languages featuring the basic rules of law enforcement and anti-torture warnings.

To further encourage the integration of IHL into the doctrine and operations of both the armed and police forces, key officers attended international seminars (see *Kuala Lumpur*), while 17 armed forces operations officers participated in an ICRC workshop on humanitarian norms.

Some 200 peacekeepers departing on missions overseas attended ICRC briefings.

CIVIL SOCIETY

National and local stakeholders such as the media, NGOs, think-tanks and religious and community leaders enhanced their knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and work through continued dialogue and interaction with the organization. They had access to a wide range of materials such as a new IHL film translated into Tagalog, social media, online publications and newsletters, some of which included updates on the Movement's Typhoon Bopha response. These, coupled with dissemination sessions held by ICRC-trained National Society volunteers, helped reinforce awareness of the relevance of the Movement's neutral, humanitarian role in the Philippines.

About 35 journalists from the conflict-affected Caraga region bolstered their understanding of IHL and accurate conflict reporting at an ICRC workshop. The second edition of the Red Cross Award for Humanitarian Reporting was launched in partnership with the National Society and media-related NGOs. Some 50 religious leaders and academics in violence-affected areas of Mindanao gained greater insight into IHL and the work of the ICRC at presentations on the relationship between IHL and Islamic law.

University students tested their skills at national and regional IHL moot court competitions. Lecturers and students further enhanced their knowledge of IHL developments and humanitarian issues through ICRC-delivered lectures and a social media page jointly managed by the National Society and the ICRC. To help promote IHL and ICRC activities in Mindanao, a university professor participated in a regional training session (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Philippine Red Cross remained a key operational partner of the ICRC. Cooperation between the two organizations enhanced both the ICRC's ability to meet the needs of violence-affected people and the capacity of the National Society to respond to emergencies (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*).

With ICRC support, the National Society strengthened its response capacity through training in first aid, restoring family links, the Safer Access approach and disaster management. Some 200 Red Cross Action Team (emergency response) volunteers from 10 priority chapters attended such training and shared what they had learnt with their respective chapters. The National Society also received support in lobbying for the passage of the emblem bill (see *Authorities*).

Regular Movement meetings continued to take place to ensure coordination of activities, especially regarding security in project areas, response to emergencies and large-scale disasters, and capacity building.