

PHILIPPINES



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office/presence

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ People affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence met their immediate needs through material and infrastructural support from the Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC.
- ▶ Detaining authorities pursued their efforts to improve detainees' living conditions, and to address prison overcrowding and its consequences, with ICRC support. ICRC-backed taskforces continued to help expedite some inmates' cases.
- ▶ Farming households generated income through agricultural activities using ICRC-supplied seed, tools and equipment; some of them received cash grants for food, which helped them avoid consuming seed meant for planting.
- ▶ Weapon-wounded people received good-quality care, including physical rehabilitation services, at ICRC-supported facilities in Mindanao. Community members and health staff in conflict-affected rural areas learnt first aid.
- ▶ Weapon bearers learnt more about their responsibilities under IHL and other applicable norms at dissemination sessions. Sustained contact with them, the authorities and members of civil society facilitated humanitarian access.
- ▶ The National Society – particularly through its community-based Red Cross Action Teams – reinforced its capacity, with ICRC support, to provide family-links services, first aid and other assistance for conflict-affected people.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,895
Assistance	8,526
Prevention	2,501
Cooperation with National Societies	1,159
General	225
Total	16,305
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>995</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
---------------------------	-----

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	33
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	188

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has worked since 1982, the delegation seeks to protect and assist civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes and other situations of violence. It reminds all actors with bearing on humanitarian matters of their obligations under IHL or other humanitarian norms. It visits people deprived of their freedom, particularly security detainees, and, with the authorities, aims to improve conditions in prisons through direct interventions and support for prison reform. It works with the Philippine Red Cross to assist displaced people and vulnerable communities and promotes national IHL compliance and implementation.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	HIGH
--	-------------

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	9
RCMs distributed	14
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	132
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	86,911
Detainees visited and monitored individually	919
Number of visits carried out	187
Number of places of detention visited	118
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	4
RCMs distributed	2

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 50,000	108,799
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 150,000	80,014
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 25,000	65,605
Cash	Beneficiaries 12,500	39,553
Services and training	Beneficiaries	45
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 33,000	61,525
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures 6	27
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects 1	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	424

CONTEXT

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front, present in Mindanao, maintained their dialogue with the government on peace and development. The New People's Army, present throughout the country, restarted similar talks with the government.

Fighting continued, however, between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters; the Abu Sayyaf Group killed several hostages after its demands for ransom were not met. Clashes between government forces and other non-State armed groups – such as the Maute Group (also known as Islamic State-Ranao) – and among local clans also took place. These clashes led to casualties and displacement and affected communities' livelihoods. A few thousand people displaced by past clashes remained in State-run evacuation centres, where they had limited access to essential services and livelihood opportunities. Natural disasters exacerbated the difficulties of communities affected by armed conflict or other violence.

The new administration, in office since July 2016, took a strong public stance against drug-related crimes. Overcrowding in places of detention remained a pressing concern.

Filipino migrants continued to be deported from Malaysia. Regional tensions over disputed areas in the South China Sea remained.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC, together with the Philippine Red Cross, continued to help communities affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence and/or natural disasters. IDPs and residents of host communities maintained their living conditions with the help of food and household essentials – or cash to buy them – from the National Society and the ICRC. Migrants returning from Malaysia and passing through State-run processing centres received hygiene kits from the ICRC. In two evacuation centres in Mindanao, the ICRC provided the authorities with therapeutic food, which they distributed to malnourished children. Improvements to various water and sanitation facilities at other evacuation centres provided longer-term benefits to IDPs and residents. Economically vulnerable farming households used seed, and tools and other equipment, to pursue or restart their livelihoods; some of them received cash grants for food to tide them over the lean season. Others participated in cash-for-work projects or received financial assistance for vocational training.

The ICRC helped forensic authorities prepare for emergencies by helping them revise national guidelines concerning missing persons and the management of human remains.

Health staff, community members, and weapon bearers received first-aid training from the ICRC, often with the National Society's help, which increased their capacity to provide prompt, life-saving care to people injured during clashes; they also learnt key points of the Health Care in Danger project. In Mindanao, people obtained primary- and secondary-health-care services at hospitals and other health facilities supported – regularly or on an ad hoc basis – by the ICRC. Disabled people obtained physical rehabilitation services at the Davao Jubilee Foundation, which continued to receive ICRC financial, infrastructural and technical support.

The ICRC visited detainees in accordance with its standard procedures, paying particular attention to security detainees and

other vulnerable people. Afterwards, it discussed its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities concerned. It maintained its dialogue with detaining authorities and other parties concerned, and continued to support decongestion initiatives, health programmes and projects to improve, for example, prison infrastructure and management. In two places of detention, TB-control programmes – run by the authorities with ICRC support – enabled timely diagnosis and treatment of detainees; as planned, at the end of the year, the ICRC withdrew its support for this programme in one prison. An ICRC-backed taskforce continued to mobilize courts and prosecutors to expedite the cases of inmates whose length of pre-trial detention had exceeded the legal limit; four other taskforces in Manila and one committee in Cebu did similar work, with ICRC technical support.

The ICRC maintained contact with the authorities, military and police forces and other weapon bearers, civil society figures and community members. Dissemination sessions and other events organized for them helped to broaden acceptance for humanitarian principles and IHL, and to secure safe access to people affected by conflict and other violence. Local media professionals learnt more about their role in raising awareness of humanitarian concerns, and prosecutors and judges strengthened their grasp of IHL and of its pertinence to the ongoing conflicts in the country. The ICRC's dialogue with senior military officers, on the protection of civilians, was enriched by the establishment of a joint working group. Key military and police personnel participated in workshops that promoted the incorporation of IHL and international policing standards, respectively, in their operations and training.

ICRC financial, material and technical support helped the National Society bolster its capacity to assist people in need. All Movement partners maintained close coordination among themselves and with the authorities and other humanitarian actors.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC monitored the humanitarian situation in areas affected by armed conflict or other violence. Dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers focused on the need to protect civilians; representations to the parties concerned drew their attention to alleged IHL violations, with a view to preventing their recurrence. When necessary, victims of IHL violations and/or their families (40 families/204 people) received ICRC assistance, which helped mitigate the consequences of the violation and cover their needs.

Community members learnt of the assistance available to them through sustained contact with the ICRC. Some beneficiaries expressed their needs and priorities through specific means, enabling the ICRC to adjust its response accordingly.

People separated from their families during natural disasters, such as typhoons, reconnected with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services. Others filed tracing requests for missing relatives; the fate and whereabouts of 132 people were ascertained and relayed to their families.

People affected by armed conflict meet their immediate needs

IDPs and residents of host communities in areas affected by armed conflict or other violence and/or natural disasters coped with help from the National Society and the ICRC. Some 108,800 people (about 21,500 households) received food that helped them meet their nutritional requirements; over 75,500 of them (some 13,600 households) also received household essentials. Around

70 households (some 350 people) used ICRC-provided cash to buy essential household items.

In two evacuation centres in Mindanao – in Tandag and Zamboanga – almost 1,100 malnourished children under the age of five were able to recover their health through a feeding programme conducted by the authorities, using ICRC-supplied therapeutic food.

Some 61,500 people regained access to potable water and/or had better living conditions after the ICRC repaired infrastructure. At 13 evacuation centres in Mindanao – in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao – some 55,000 IDPs and residents had access to clean water and/or were able to maintain sanitary living conditions after the ICRC built water and sanitation facilities; they also benefited from the authorities taking charge of disposing waste, with ICRC support. At another site, around 2,000 people – displaced since 2015 by clashes between government forces and an armed group – had a daily supply of drinking water after repairs to their water-distribution facilities. Some 4,500 residents of a conflict-affected town in Northern Samar, in the Visayas, regained access to clean water following the ICRC's construction of a water pipeline.

Over 9,300 migrants returning from Malaysia and passing through State-run processing centres received hygiene kits from the ICRC, which were distributed by the National Society or made available at migrants' centres.

People in areas affected by armed conflict and natural disasters improve their livelihoods

Local authorities, the National Society and the ICRC focused on increasing livelihood opportunities for economically vulnerable people, such as IDPs and members of conflict-affected communities also dealing with the effects of the El Niño natural phenomenon and natural disasters. In southern Luzon, Northern Samar and Mindanao, some 13,100 households generated income (benefiting about 65,600 people) through agricultural activities using ICRC-provided vegetable seed, tools and equipment; some of them also received cash grants for food, which helped them avoid consuming seed meant for planting. Roughly 960 households (over 5,200 people) – including some displaced since 2013 in Zamboanga – received cash, which they used for vocational training or to buy supplies and equipment; 3,300 heads of households (benefiting over 16,800 people) took part in cash-for-work projects. Such assistance helped them strengthen their resilience and improve their living conditions.

Authorities strengthen their capacity to manage human remains during emergencies

To prepare for emergencies, forensic authorities revised national guidelines concerning missing persons and the management of human remains, with ICRC technical advice. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) continued, with National Society and ICRC support, to work on a field manual to help local authorities strengthen their ability to handle missing-persons cases and manage human remains after natural disasters. Some of these local authorities, together with National Society staff and volunteers, participated in ICRC-organized courses on the management of human remains during emergencies, within the country and abroad (see *Pakistan*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits in accordance with standard ICRC procedures were made to detainees held in 118 facilities run by various actors, including the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP, under the

DILG), the Bureau of Corrections (under the Department of Justice), and military and police forces. Particular attention was paid to vulnerable inmates, such as security detainees. After these visits, the ICRC discussed its findings and recommendations with the authorities concerned, to help them improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

Over 400 security detainees received family visits facilitated by the National Society and the ICRC. The ICRC was given information on the whereabouts of 16 people held by non-State actors; in three of the cases, ICRC delegates were able to talk privately to the detained people before their release. The remains of one detainee were handed over to his family; the ICRC provided financial assistance for his burial.

Some detainees' cases are expedited thanks to the work of ICRC-backed taskforces

The ICRC-backed Taskforce Katarungan at Kalayaan (Justice and Freedom) pursued its efforts to ensure that judicial guarantees for detainees in the Manila City Jail were respected. It reviewed cases of inmates whose length of pre-trial detention had exceeded the legal limit, and mobilized courts and prosecutors to take appropriate action; this led to certain cases being expedited and some detainees being sentenced or released. By the end of the year, only 146 out of the 1,036 detainees whose cases the taskforce had taken on – starting in 2014 – remained in jail awaiting trial. ICRC support – for data management, among other things – enabled four other taskforces in Manila and one committee in Cebu to do similar work.

The ICRC undertook other initiatives to help expedite the cases of inmates in prolonged pre-trial detention. These included joint jail visits by the BJMP and the ICRC, during which BJMP paralegals were encouraged to maximize their assistance to detainees.

Detention authorities build their capacities to address detainees' needs more effectively

The BJMP, with ICRC support, worked to address issues concerning detainees' judicial guarantees, health and living conditions, and the status of various projects. It drew on the ICRC's assistance to upgrade the web-based tool used to monitor infrastructure and services in all the jails under its authority. It also sought the ICRC's help for developing an e-learning project to train paralegals, and a mobile application that, based on real-time data, identified jails at risk of any emergency and, thus, in need of the BJMP's immediate attention.

Some detaining authorities learnt more about good prison-management practices during an ICRC-organized course; others compared best practices with their peers, and explored solutions to overcrowding, at conferences abroad (see *Beijing* and *Sri Lanka*). Because of an increase in the budget for building new detention facilities and expanding existing ones, the ICRC facilitated detaining authorities' participation in workshops and other events, some abroad, where they learnt more about prison design.

Detainees with TB receive adequate care

At the request of detaining authorities, the ICRC carried out emergency activities in places of detention to restore detainees' access to health care and clean water, and improve their living conditions.

Some 13,100 detainees in 17 prisons in Mindanao met their dietary needs with ICRC-provided food rations. In six prisons, over 4,800 detainees received hygiene items. About 530 inmates in two jails

had better living conditions after the ICRC upgraded cooking, water-supply and sanitation and other facilities. The installation of energy-efficient gas stoves in some BJMP-run prisons in early 2016 helped reduce fuel expenses; installation of these stoves in other detention facilities was put on hold while a new energy policy awaited the national authorities' approval. Detainees had more opportunities for physical exercise after repairs were made to outdoor recreational areas.

Detainees in selected prisons had better access to health services as the ICRC conducted health-monitoring visits and provided material and technical assistance to the detention authorities and other parties concerned. Regular meetings and events such as those held to mark World TB Day (24 March) helped the prison and health authorities and the ICRC to strengthen their dialogue on ensuring the sustainability of detainees' access to health services.

Inmates at the New Bilibid Prison and the Quezon City Jail benefited from TB-control programmes run by the Bureau of Corrections and the BJMP, respectively, with decreased support from the ICRC. Routine TB screening of all detainees enabled the timely diagnosis of 999 patients, including 114 with multi-drug-resistant TB, who began treatment. As planned, by the end of the reporting period, the ICRC had withdrawn its support to the BJMP in implementing this programme. During a workshop, 65 representatives from these two bureaus and from the health department improved their ability to detect TB cases in places of detention.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Weapon-wounded people receive life-saving care

Weapon bearers, local authorities and National Society staff and volunteers learnt key points of the Health Care in Danger project during ICRC-organized events. Roughly 780 primary-health-care centre staff and 520 community members in conflict-affected parts of Mindanao and Masbate learnt first aid at training sessions organized by local authorities, the National Society and the ICRC; this equipped them to provide prompt, life-saving care to people injured during clashes. Fifty-four weapon bearers received similar training from the ICRC. During the national elections, National Society volunteers, equipped with ICRC-supplied first-aid kits, provided basic assistance to people; they transported 24 people to health facilities for further treatment.

Some 1,000 weapon-wounded people obtained good-quality care at ICRC-supported hospitals in Mindanao; around 90 of them received ICRC financial assistance, 41 were given blood transfusions from the National Society's blood bank, and others were referred to physical rehabilitation services (see below). Seven hospitals received medical supplies regularly; 20 other hospitals – and other health facilities, including 67 first-aid posts and rural health units – were given ad hoc support to cope with influxes of patients. In Basilan, Lanao del Sur and Sulu, medical supplies were also provided, on an ad hoc basis, to the benefit of some 7,000 IDPs.

Two surgeons participated in a war-surgery seminar abroad, with ICRC sponsorship, where they increased their capacity to treat weapon-wounded people. Fourteen National Society medical volunteers, seeking to complete the requirements for deployment to field hospitals during emergencies, attended a course organized by a local school and the ICRC, with support from Movement components. Hospital nurses and midwives – 27 people in all – gained accreditation, with ICRC support, allowing them to administer IV fluids and give blood transfusions.

Disabled people receive physical rehabilitation services

Over 420 disabled people availed themselves of physical rehabilitation services at the ICRC-supported Davao Jubilee Foundation. Almost 60 of them, most of whom were weapon-wounded patients, had their treatment covered by the ICRC. The centre improved the quality of its services with ICRC support, which included payment of key staff's salaries, construction of a new dormitory and technical advice for the centre's managers.

Three amputees participated in vocational training, and two disabled children received financial support for their education, which facilitated their socio-economic integration.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC maintained contact with the authorities, military and security forces and other weapon bearers, civil society figures and community members, to secure respect for IHL and safe access to conflict-affected people.

The armed forces and the ICRC deepen their dialogue through a joint working group

Through dissemination sessions, over 2,700 weapon bearers learnt more about the applicability of IHL and other norms in armed conflict, and about the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Regular dialogue with high-ranking officers of the armed forces was enriched by the establishment of a working group consisting of military personnel and the ICRC; at their quarterly meetings, they discussed the protection of civilians, the conduct of hostilities in populated areas, and other matters of humanitarian concern.

At ICRC-organized workshops, senior police officials learnt more about international policing standards, and key military officers furthered their understanding of IHL; both groups were encouraged to incorporate these standards and norms in their training and operations.

Journalists and academics learn more about humanitarian issues

Contact with influential religious leaders, first-aid training (see *Wounded and sick*) and information sessions for community members helped broaden understanding of and acceptance for IHL and the ICRC, and facilitated humanitarian activities in areas affected by conflict and other violence. Whenever possible, similarities between IHL and Islamic law were also discussed.

The ICRC used its expanded network of media contacts and online presence, and distributed communication materials to journalists, to stimulate coverage of humanitarian issues. At various meetings, 50 media professionals from various parts of Mindanao learnt more about their role in raising public awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL; they also familiarized themselves with the Movement and the ICRC.

Students tested their knowledge of IHL at national and regional moot-court competitions (see *Beijing*) and other ICRC-organized activities. Diplomats and government officials added to their knowledge of IHL through ICRC-organized IHL workshops and lectures.

Prosecutors and judges attended ICRC workshops where they strengthened their grasp of IHL and of its pertinence to the ongoing conflicts in the Philippines.

The implementing procedures for the law ensuring respect for, and regulating the use of, the emblems protected under IHL – finalized by government officials and by the National Society’s IHL office in 2015 with the ICRC’s support – remained pending the relevant departments’ approval at the end of the reporting period. Other IHL-related legislation remained under consideration.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Philippine Red Cross carried out activities, with the ICRC and other Movement partners, for communities affected by armed conflict or other violence and/or natural disasters (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*). National Society personnel, particularly the community-based Red Cross Action Teams, reinforced their capacity – with ICRC financial, material and technical support – to respond to emergencies, administer first aid, restore family links, manage human remains, and promote humanitarian principles and the Movement (see *Actors of influence*) – all in line with the Safer Access Framework.

Movement partners in the country met regularly to coordinate their activities and address security-related matters.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		9			
RCMs distributed		14			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		132	14		3
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		1			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		132			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		1			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		6			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		86,911	4,355	63	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		919	53		9
Detainees newly registered		131	18		9
Number of visits carried out		187			
Number of places of detention visited		118			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		4			
RCMs distributed		2			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		408			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	108,799	32,316	44,169
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	37,800	11,015	15,770
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	80,014	23,999	27,487
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	39,330	11,802	15,726
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	65,605	19,686	26,233
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	600	180	240
Cash	Beneficiaries	39,553	11,872	15,812
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	7,732	2,319	3,094
Services and training	Beneficiaries	45	14	17
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	61,525	30,763	24,610
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	13,132	842	
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	4,815	96	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	532	11	
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		34		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	26		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	11		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	27		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	12		
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC		100	13	11
Admissions	Patients	74,046	31,595	20,604
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	1,016	66	27
	<i>(including by mines or explosive remnants of war)</i>	180	55	9
	<i>of whom surgical cases</i>	10,238	3,495	1,706
	<i>of whom internal medicine and paediatric cases</i>	50,831	16,308	18,636
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	11,961	11,726	235
Operations performed		14,543		
Outpatient consultations	Patients	135,293	55,275	37,448
	<i>of whom surgical cases</i>	24,500	7,442	6,538
	<i>of whom internal medicine and paediatric cases</i>	95,615	34,167	29,398
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	15,178	13,666	1,512
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	67		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	4		
Wounded persons treated	Patients	302		1
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	424	80	116
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	80	14	8
Prostheses delivered	Units	120	23	17
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	3	1	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	13	2	8
Orthoses delivered	Units	17	3	12
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	315	55	99
Walking aids delivered	Units	84	7	1
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	17	4	8