

PHILIPPINES

REACHING OUT TO CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

JANUARY - JUNE 2022

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) strives to protect and assist people who are affected by armed conflict. We promote respect for universal humanitarian principles and humanitarian law—also known as the rules of war—among state security forces and nonstate armed groups, authorities, and religious leaders. We aim to ensure that parties to the conflict fulfill their obligations to preserve the lives, security, physical and moral integrity, and dignity of affected people. We strive to prevent or put a stop to actual or potential violations of IHL and other relevant bodies of law or norms that protect human beings.

We provide conflict-affected communities with resources so they could meet their basic needs or rebuild their lives, and we accompany those searching for family members who have gone missing during armed conflict.

We support our partner, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), in providing COVID-19 vaccines to persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), residents of far-flung, conflict-affected communities, and places of armed conflict. We assist detention authorities in improving the health and living conditions of PDLs while giving them the means to communicate with their families and attend judicial proceedings.



88 families of missing persons participated in the second cycle of the Accompaniment Program Sessions. The majority of the families were also given financial assistance through the Micro-Economic Initiative.



Two hospitals' Women and Children Protection Units were renovated by the ICRC. These were the Agusan del Norte Provincial Hospital in Butuan City and Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center in Tandag, Surigao del Sur.



139 families living in Ganta, Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Pandi, Datu Salibo, and Mahad Luga, Lower Salbu, Datu Saudi Ampatuan in Maguindanao received shelter kits from the ICRC. The families' living conditions also improved when the ICRC delivered latrine kits and constructed hand pumps in their villages.



193 persons with disabilities benefitted from the services of Davao Jubilee Foundation, an organization supported by the ICRC. Aside from receiving mobility devices, selected beneficiaries were also given grants to establish or continue their business ventures.



Manila



The ICRC-supported expansion of the Batangas Medical Center's Tuberculosis Lab is expected to ramp up the detection of the disease and the treatment of PDLs in Region IV-A (Calabarzon).

Visayas



In Visayas, dissemination of ICRC's work to ensure civilians are protected during conflicts was made with the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Southern Luzon Command, Visayas Command, three infantry divisions, six brigades, and four infantry battalions.



The PRC Bakuna Bus, an initiative supported by the ICRC, vaccinated hundreds of factory workers and community members in Zamboanga City. Meanwhile, the PRC Zamboanga COVID-19 vaccination center has administered more than **49,000** doses as of June 2022.

Zamboanga City



Cotabato City



Davao City



Iligan City



Butuan City





PROTECTING AND ASSISTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

- **19** forensic service officers in two Mindanao regions trained in forensic identification and missing person data collection
- **319** people in Mindanao were given conditional cash grants, enabling them to start small businesses or continue existing ones. Among them, **71** families of missing persons.
- **139** people were given unconditional cash grants, enabling them to cover their essential needs.
- **240** community members in Kalilangan received temporary employment through cash for work for a water rehabilitation project
- **96** families living in Saniag, Ampatuan, Maguindanao displaced by conflict received essential household items, which improved their living conditions and their dignity
- **37** families in Brgy. Mandahican in Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, joined a cash for work program that improved their living conditions through the repair and construction of water facilities and latrines



ENHANCING THE DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE

- **10** medical facilities given quarterly assistance with medical items and consumables. At least **230** wounded people indirectly benefitted from this donation.
- **19** key personnel from security forces and the health sector participated in the Workshop on Protection of Health Care in Maguindanao
- **174** people underwent first aid training, **47** social workers were trained on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and **19** key health staff were trained on protection of health care



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PHILIPPINE RED CROSS

- **2** PRC blood service facilities in Mindanao received **Php 1.4 million** worth of blood bank equipment from the ICRC
- **131,300** COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered by PRC teams from **13** chapters in Mindanao, with the support of the ICRC
- **99** volunteers from six chapters in Mindanao trained in external communication



PROMOTING AWARENESS AND RESPECT FOR IHL

- The Philippine government, supported by the ICRC, **ratified the Arms Trade Treaty**, which sets international standards for the transfer of conventional arms and ammunition, with the intention of minimizing civilian suffering
- The Philippine government also **ratified Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons**, a move supported by the ICRC
- Engaged the Armed Forces of the Philippines on humanitarian and IHL issues, including the support relationships among allies, partners, and proxies, all aimed at reducing the cost of war
- Two sensitization sessions on IHL and Islamic law related to armed conflict were organized for combatants from various non-state armed groups in the Philippines
- **5** Iftar events were organized in Mindanao and Manila during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan for beneficiaries, communities, religious leaders, academia, state, and non-state actors
- Organized a workshop with the Philippine National Police focusing on international rules governing police operations and other dialogue aimed at integrating international legal framework into police training and education



IMPROVING DETAINEES' HEALTH AND LIVING CONDITIONS

- **56** visits made to **49** places of detention that house nearly **52,000** PDLs, in an effort to ensure humane living conditions and treatment
- **430** detainees in the BJMP Cabanatuan District Jail benefited from the construction of a new water supply system
- **10,243** PDLs screened for tuberculosis and scabies in places of detention
- **129** PDLs given additional support for laboratory procedures and medications
- To support the government's E-dalaw and E-hearing programs, **57** tablets and **1,500** phone cards were distributed to BJMP jails
- **30** PDLs given one-time financial assistance for transportation after their release from prison
- **133** Red Cross Messages containing family news sent by PDLs to their loved ones