



PHILIPPINES

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

14 December 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS



104

National Society branches



2,221

National Society staff



300,888

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Ongoing emergency operations



485,000

Climate and environment



10,000

Disasters and crises



13,000

Health and wellbeing



278,000

Values, power and inclusion



278,000

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements	28.1M
	Income	99.5M
IFRC	Emergency Operations	
	Funding requirements	20.3M
	Income	2.3M
	Longer-term	
	Funding requirements	3.1M
	Income	3.0M
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements	2.2M
	Income	41.0M
Host National Society other funding sources	Funding requirements	2.5M
	Income	16.7M

Appeal numbers **MAAPH001, MDRPH045**

[Click here for more financial information](#)

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRPH045 / Philippines / *Typhoon Rai (Odette)*

People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	485,000
People (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period	278,000
People reached with restoring family links (RFL) services	149
National Society has domestic advocacy strategies developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
National Society has established a Movement Coordination mechanism in-country	Yes
National Society is adopting national community engagement/accountability strategies, policies or frameworks	Yes
# National Societies implement environmental, or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change	Applicable data not available

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	10,000
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	10,000
	People reached with heatwave risk reduction, preparedness or response	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Yes

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (CON.)

	People reached with shelter support	13,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	9,000
Disasters and crises	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	9,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	1%
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	Applicable data not available
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	278,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	14,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	14,000
Health and wellbeing	People trained in first aid	Applicable data not available
	People reached with immunization services	Applicable data not available
	People donating blood	Applicable data not available
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes	2
Migration and displacement	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	1
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Applicable data not available
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	278,000
	People reached by National Society educational programmes	1
Values, power and inclusion	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	Applicable data not available
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	Applicable data not available
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and	

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination

Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC network is part of 1

Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of 1

All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation Yes

One National Society Development plan is in place Yes

National Society Development

Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented Yes

Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place Yes

Humanitarian diplomacy

Domestic advocacy strategies are developed, aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies Yes

National Society is participating in IFRC-led communication campaigns Yes

Accountability and agility

National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy Yes

National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions Yes

National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms Yes

PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●	●		●	●	●	
Australian Red Cross	●						
Austrian Red Cross	●						
British Red Cross	●						
Canadian Red Cross Society	●				●	●	●
Croatian Red Cross	●						
Finnish Red Cross	●	●				●	
French Red Cross	●						
German Red Cross			●	●	●	●	
Italian Red Cross	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Netherlands Red Cross		●		●	●		●
Norwegian Red Cross	●						
Red Cross of Monaco	●						
Red Cross Society of China	●						
Spanish Red Cross		●	●		●	●	
Swedish Red Cross	●						

Planned
 Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Implementation of the 2023 unified plan has been progressing well.

Significant achievements have been made in the **Flood Resilience Alliance Project**. Several programmes have been successfully completed, including training of volunteers and staff members. The Philippine Red Cross Society has been trained in the utilization of the Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) tool, as well as integrating the FRMC process into its comprehensive community-based disaster risk reduction programme. The Philippine Red Cross has successfully conducted urban community studies, completing the FRMC assessment in different areas. Additionally, communities have begun implementing interventions such as community-based disaster risk reduction and management trainings, first aid trainings, environmental management awareness seminars, tree planting activities and community-based health and first aid trainings.

From January to June 2023, the accomplishments have extended to six communities in Pasig and Pateros. These communities have successfully formulated a community-based early warning system plan, with facilitation from the Philippine Red Cross' Disaster Management Service. The achievement marks a significant step towards enhancing the preparedness and resilience of these communities in the face of flood-related hazards. A Memorandum of Agreement between local government units and chapters was signed to ensure that flood resilience activities will be adapted by the local government units for strengthening resilience programming and replication.

Under the **Greening Disaster Risk Reduction Project**, three communities participated in a peer-to-peer learning visit during which the best practices and challenges of a model community were presented. The learnings were integrated into the implementation plan for three communities in Bohol Chapter. These include maintenance of nurseries, formulation of a monitoring tool, and a coordination mechanism.

In the area of **health**, the Philippine Red Cross has renewed its partnership with the Philippine Medical Association and has engaged in activities with Philippine Nurses Association and the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society Foundation Inc., to ensure they can be mobilized as part of Philippine Red Cross health volunteers during large-scale disasters or epidemics.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) supported the Philippine Red Cross, in coordination and collaboration with other health partners (WHO, UNICEF and other local and international agencies), to promote the works of the National Society in public health emergencies. In addition, IFRC supported the Philippine Red Cross in the mobilization of health volunteers during vaccination campaigns organized by the Department of Health and other community-based health programmes particularly during COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization programmes.

Philippine Red Cross has enabled health volunteers to become vaccination champions and influencers to support the government on increasing vaccination compliance and trust in high risks communities.

Other important activities that took place include, health information drives, vaccination services through the operationalization of vaccination centers, deployment of vaccination buses and mobilization of vaccination teams for COVID-19 and routine immunization. The number of doses administered by the Philippine Red Cross, and the number of vaccinated individuals will be determined and reflected in the next reporting period. Philippine Red Cross conducted 158 community 'health caravans' providing communities with medical services such as medical consultations, provision of medicines, basic health screening, and health promotion activities. From January to June 2023, the health caravans reached 37,701 individuals in 160 communities.

A total of 14,032 people, including children, received psychosocial support under the Emergency Appeal (MDROH045 Typhoon Rai) from the Philippine Red Cross, supported by IFRC.

The National Society provided 3,249,732 litres of safe and potable **water** to communities affected by disasters such as floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and fires. The deployment of water tankers, water bladders and setting up of water collection points was supported by IFRC, American Red Cross, and other local partners of the National Society. Enhancement of the National Society's chapter capacity on asset inventory, deployment simulation, repair and maintenance of water treatment units were carried out for 10 water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) hubs in Luzon

to ensure a fast and effective WASH response. The replenishment of water distribution accessories and deployment kits was also conducted.

Philippine Red Cross successfully installed, constructed and rehabilitated 27 **sanitation** facilities in schools, public spaces and hospitals in Batangas, Davao, Pampanga, Quezon City, Manila, Cebu, Cagayan De Oro, Pangasinan, and Surigao Del Norte. These facilities include hand washing and latrines that are supported by IFRC, Netherlands Red Cross, and private organizations such as the Automotive Association of the Philippines. The National Society also ensured that shelter projects in Cebu and Bohol for Typhoon Odette recovery have appropriate WASH facilities.

Philippine Red Cross has an ongoing initiative on construction of material **recovery** facilities in Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga City, Manila, and Navotas supported by Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.

With the support of Canadian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and German Red Cross, the Philippine Red Cross conducted a series of **capacity building** activities. These included training of trainers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, as well as Children Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, under which 65 facilitators were successfully trained nationwide. The community-based WASH programmes of Philippine Red Cross were able to reach 229 communities during the first half of 2023.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency appeal	Philippines Typhoon Rai (Odette)
Appeal number	MDRPH045
Duration	24 months (13 December 2021 to 31 December 2023)
Target areas	Philippines
Funding requirement	Through IFRC Emergency Appeal: 20 million Swiss francs Federation-wide: 26 million Swiss francs
Link to appeal	Philippines Typhoon Rai Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Philippines Typhoon Rai Operational Strategy
Latest operations update	Typhoon Rai (Odette) – Operations Update (18 Month)

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Objective: *Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions*

Essential household items

In the 18-month operations update on the Typhoon Rai operation, the number of households provided with essential household items, such as tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, and mosquito nets reached

5,000 households or 100 per cent of targeted affected people. This accomplishment represents the fulfilment of the strategic plan as outlined in the IFRC Emergency Appeal. A total of 5,000 affected families were provided with essential household items. Details of essential household items distribution were reported in the [12-month operations update](#).

Emergency shelter assistance

IFRC contributed to the Philippine Red Cross response plan and, using funds raised through the Emergency Appeal, prioritized supporting families with corrugated iron sheets, plain sheets and shelter tool kits. The National Society provided emergency shelter assistance to 13,132 households with shelter tool kits and 11,657 households with plain sheets and corrugated galvanized iron sheets. Builders were also given guidance on incorporating Build Back Safer techniques into their repairs/construction. The actual number of families reached through the emergency shelter assistance is summarized in the [12-month operations update](#).

Full shelter assistance

The Philippine Red Cross aims to provide full shelter assistance to affected families. As part of this plan, the National Society aims to reach 140 families. This includes 70 families who receive support through the IFRC Emergency Appeal, and an additional 70 families supported by the Korean Embassy. The primary focus of this assistance is to target families whose homes have been destroyed by the typhoon. By specifically identifying and reaching out to these families, the Philippine Red Cross aims to ensure that those who are most vulnerable and in urgent need of support receive the assistance they require.

During the first half of the year, 70 households affected by the typhoon have been selected as beneficiaries of the full shelter assistance programme. The construction of their houses is underway, in part because of the extra care that is being taken in the process. Initially the programme was scheduled to be completed between July and August. However, during the initial land survey, big rock boulders presented a challenge as the heavy equipment being used was not suitable for the individual lots. The project team needed to take time to re-evaluate the situation and find ways round it and this inevitably led to delays. The weather has also played its part and some further delays have been incurred as a result. The new full shelter assistance programme timeline was estimated to be completed by end of October 2023.

Through the implementation of this programme, the Philippine Red Cross aims to provide these affected families with more than just basic shelter. Recognizing that shelter alone is not sufficient, the programme helps these families to complement their shelters with additional facilities such as latrines and handwashing facilities. This holistic approach to assistance takes into consideration the various necessities required for a safe and healthy living environment. This approach also contributes to the physical, mental, and emotional recovery of people in the aftermath of Typhoon Rai. It is expected that construction will be completed soon and the handover of the houses should take place by the end of September 2023.



Livelihoods

Objective: *Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods*

Through IFRC's support, 88,016 meals were provided and 2,592 food packs were distributed to the population in disaster affected areas. These food items were locally procured by the respective chapters.

Household livelihood assistance

Philippine Red Cross prioritized household livelihood assistance through a conditional cash grant aimed at re-establishing livelihoods, replacing lost assets, re-starting livelihood activities and diversifying livelihood opportunities. A total of 952 households have already been provided with household livelihood assistance under the first instalment of the programme. This support aims to empower individuals and families who have been greatly affected by the typhoon, enabling them to generate a sustainable income and to regain their economic stability. The Philippine Red Cross, through the support of IFRC, remains committed to prioritizing the needs of these recipients and will continue to work diligently to ensure their successful transition towards self-sufficiency.

Community managed livelihood project

Philippine Red Cross has started to identify areas and groups/associations to be supported through this intervention, including the distribution of inputs (seeds, tools, etc.). In December 2022, the needs assessment in Barangays division was started. The activities cover nine months, with project assistance completed by end of September 2023.

During the first half of 2023, the Philippine Red Cross created the chapter-level community savings group and Community Management Livelihood Programme. The chapter introduced these to communities and secured the required permits and approval from the local government.



Multi-purpose Cash

Objective: *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs*

The Philippine Red Cross, with the support of IFRC, helped 7,714 families (approximately 38,570 individuals), with the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance. This assistance was specifically designed to address their basic needs during the difficult time. The number of families reached accounted for approximately 77 per cent of the total 10,000 families that were targeted under the plan for this activity.

The provision of this assistance helped families meet their essential needs and alleviate some of the hardship they were facing during this difficult period. It provided them with the crucial support for their daily needs, including food, health care and other essential items. The initial amount provided was based on a minimum expenditure basket of 3,500 Philippine Peso (56 Swiss Francs).



Health and Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Objective: *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening*

There have been significant achievements in the health and care sector, notably, 15 ambulances were put into operation and a total of 4,621 affected families were provided with hygiene items. Psychosocial support has been provided to 12,240 individuals, and this corresponds to 61 per cent of the target.

Based on the funding raised through the Emergency Appeal, the IFRC supported action in mental health and psychosocial support for the volunteers and the affected population. Safe spaces for women and children and counselling services were also provided. Community health activities took place in 15 communities as did the provision of medical services.

Medical services, which include first aid training services, strategic pre-positioning of first aid kits, deployment of ambulances, emergency medical services and mobile health teams, were provided during the immediate relief phase.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Objective: *Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions*

Philippine Red Cross provided WASH assistance in terms of safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness support to the communities during the relief and recovery phases of the emergency operation. The National Society, with IFRC support, has distributed over 10 million litres of safe drinking water to the population in

the worst affected communities, exceeding the initial target of the Emergency Appeal. Water was distributed through the deployment of water tankers and establishing water treatment units.

A total of 5,000 families were provided with jerry cans and hygiene kits, as a part of the essential household items. Furthermore, 278,368 people were reached through hygiene promotion, exceeding the number of people targeted in the Emergency Appeal. The hygiene promotion sessions were conducted through three series of community sessions by trained chapter-based hygiene promoters and WASH response teams. The first session was focused on key messaging on general personal hygiene, followed by menstrual hygiene, and a discussion on the specific challenges in the area such as environmental sanitation, water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Health and hygiene promotion sessions were also conducted during health caravans (mobile health team activities). Philippine Red Cross also distributed various information, education and communication (IEC) materials such as flipcharts, posters, and COVID-19 brochures to the emphasize the messages.

The number of people reached with hygiene promotion activities not only includes those who attended the sessions but also the households in 15 communities who got support through the mobile health caravans, IEC materials such as flipcharts, posters and COVID-19 brochures.

The construction of latrines will be done simultaneously with shelter construction. There are total of five houses with five latrines that are now under construction. Philippine Red Cross will also conduct sessions to improve sanitation practices, provide cleaning kits, and on the facilities' operation and maintenance.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Objective: *Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs*

The operation has supported the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups through the establishment of child friendly spaces. Through IFRC support, the operation has reached 3,384 children through its child-friendly spaces and 3,384 children received 3,384 school kits. IFRC supported the activities of the Philippine Red Cross welfare desks, including psychosocial support, critical incident stress management, guidance and counselling, and referral pathways. Sectoral teams supported and ensured the inclusion of different groups throughout all operations. Child-friendly spaces were set up and provided with essential services, such as reception facilities. Restoring family links; and access to education, health, shelter, and legal services, were provided to unaccompanied and separated children and other children on their own. School kits were provided to students whose school materials were destroyed by the typhoon and schools were supported in replacing damaged equipment (e.g., computers, printers, teaching materials).

As part of IFRC support to the activities of the Philippine Red Cross welfare desk, including psychosocial support and stress management, Philippine Red Cross volunteers conducted play therapy with children in the municipalities of Talibon and Ubay in Bohol province. The approach of integrating child-centred play therapy was to support children who were recovering from the impacts of a disasters. Child friendly spaces were set up to provide essential services and play therapy was provided to help children cope with anxiety and uncertainty which helps their cognitive development.

Philippine Red Cross ensures that its emergency operations are aligned with the IFRC's guidelines on gender and diversity. All targeted individuals are selected based on an assessment of their needs and the risks they are facing. Furthermore, Philippine Red Cross places emphasis on aiding women/child-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, as well as men, women and children who have been made vulnerable by disasters.

Particular attention is given to families with people with disabilities and elderly people, family members suffering from chronic illnesses, families with children under five years of age, families who received insufficient assistance from the government or other organizations, socially marginalized families, and those lacking resources to meet basic humanitarian needs on their own.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective: *Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

Community Engagement and Accountability and informal, non-structured feedback mechanisms have been integrated into the Philippine Red Cross operation. The operation also complies with COVID-19 protection measures.

Based on the findings of the post distribution monitoring, it was observed that 39 per cent of the interviewed beneficiaries were aware of how to contact the Philippine Red Cross through their provided numbers. Additionally, 13 percent of the beneficiaries reported utilizing the feedback mechanism by the National Society and 99 percent of the respondents were pleased with the entire process, including distribution, monitoring and feedback.

In addition, 99 per cent expressed satisfaction with the information provided to them, highlighting their contentment with both the content and delivery of the information.



Migration

Objective: *Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)*

Through the support from IFRC, the Philippine Red Cross was able to provide the restoring family links services in the affected areas. A total of 149 welfare desks were set up and provided services to 176 individuals, which was almost 100 per cent of the target.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

Objective: *Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

Following the training of facilitators from various chapters on “Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness”, the trained facilitators will give this training to communities through a training of trainers. Chapters aim to actively involve the communities in assessing their vulnerabilities and capacities, thus empowering them actively to participate in disaster risk reduction efforts. Trained facilitators will guide the communities to understand their vulnerability to different hazards as well as their capacity to cope and adapt.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action and adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises

Philippine Red Cross chapters were trained on the uses of the Flood Resilience Measurement of Communities (FRMC) tool and in integrating the FRMC process into the overall community-based disaster risk reduction programme of the Philippine Red Cross. A total of 28 FRMC urban community studies from four barangays (administrative units) in Pasig City and three barangays in Pateros were carried out. The results of these studies will contribute to the development of community intervention plans to increase the resilience of communities to flood risks.

Four communities in Mangatarem started implementing their approved community interventions including community-based disaster risk reduction trainings, community-based health and first aid trainings, environmental management awareness seminar and tree growing activities.

Two communities in Mangatarem participated in an intervention planning workshop to outline a community plan of action to address the challenges identified in the FRMC baseline study. These plans were presented in a stakeholder meeting attended by different department heads of the local government of Mangatarem (including the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Municipal Engineering Office, Municipal Health Office, Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office), the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and the PAGASA Flood Forecasting and Warning Services.

Under the Greening Disaster Risk Reduction Project, five Philippine Red Cross staff completed the training on Nature Navigator, and 21 National Society staff and volunteers completed Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA) training for facilitators integrating the R2R Framework and Nature Navigator.

Three communities participated in a peer-to-peer learning visit during which the best practices and challenges of a model community were presented. These learnings were integrated into the implementation plan for the three communities of Bohol. These include maintenance of nurseries, formulation of a monitoring tool, coordination mechanism, and coalition building.

Philippine Red Cross has developed a toolkit on climate-smart disaster laws and policies for staff, with support from Risk-Informed Early Action Partnerships. The development of this toolkit was a result of a study conducted within Philippine Red Cross and external stakeholders such as the Climate Change Commission and selected local government units.



Disasters and crises

Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards

IFRC supported Philippine Red Cross through the training of facilitators who went on to play a crucial role in implementing training to communities on Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA), through the training of facilitators.

Based on market assessment, cash and voucher assistance were employed in these operations, providing people with cash assistance to support them prioritize their immediate needs following the disaster. Philippine Red Cross uses 'Philpost' as the financial service provider for cash transfers through a framework agreement. To promote cash readiness, Philippine Red Cross is in the process of identifying more financial service providers for mobile cash.

Logistics support to Philippine Red Cross is being provided by the IFRC's country delegation logistics team as part of its ongoing support to the National Society's work in the mobilization and pre-positioning of disaster relief stocks. Logistics activities aim to manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and in accordance with the IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

IFRC's country delegation supports Philippine Red Cross to ensure that its response and programmes are aligned with its own as well as with IFRC's commitment to 'build back better', including community engagement and accountability, gender and diversity, PASSA and the green response to recovery plan.

National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized

In the aftermath of the Typhoon Rai operation, 11 surge staff supported the operation either remotely or deployed in-country. These included the following profiles; Shelter Coordinator, Shelter Cluster Coordinator, Shelter Cluster Information Management, Surge Information Management Support (SIMS) coordinator, IM Coordinator, Communication Coordinator, Livelihood Coordinator, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting (PMER) Coordinator, Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Operations Manager, and Supply Chain Coordinator.

Philippine Red Cross, through the Rizal chapter, supported sub-national coordination and collaboration through an agreement signed between the National Society's Pangasinan chapter and the local government unit of Mangatarem, Pangasinan for the sustainability of flood resilience activities in six barangays. This is to ensure that flood resilience activities will be adapted by the local government units to strengthen resilience programming and replication.

Six intervention planning workshops and stakeholder consultations were carried out in the communities of Pasig and Pateros. This created an opportunity for the communities to design their interventions based on the Flood Resilience Measurement of Communities results and present them to the national government agencies and local government units. The National Government Agencies and the Local Government Unit also shared their technical expertise to validate and finalize the intervention plans.

Requests for funding from Emergency Appeals and IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) were launched upon request to support the National Society's humanitarian response operations to needs arising through crises and disasters.



Health and wellbeing

National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms

Philippine Red Cross has renewed its partnership with Philippine Medical Association and has engaged activities with Philippine Nurses Association and Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society Foundation Inc. for public health emergency preparedness and response activities. IFRC supported the National Society in coordination and collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and other local and international agencies to promote and recognize the works of Philippine Red Cross in public health emergencies.

The IFRC and Philippine Red Cross attended the health coordination meeting organized by the Department of Health and UNICEF.

IFRC supported Philippine Red Cross in the mobilization of health volunteers during vaccination campaigns organized by the Department of Health and other community-based health programmes, particularly during the COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization programmes. IFRC also supported the National Society in supplementary immunization activities.

IFRC supported Philippine Red Cross in helping health volunteers to become vaccination champions and influencers to support the government on increasing vaccination compliance and trust in high-risk communities.

Awareness campaigns and community-based activities were conducted in target areas to empower communities to promote better health and prevent diseases through community-based health and first aid approaches.

IFRC supported the Philippine Red Cross in standardizing first aid standards in accordance with the international first aid guidelines and worked with the National Society to promote their blood services.

IFRC and Philippine Red Cross continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to advocate for the National Society's work in public health emergencies and community-based developmental health programmes.

The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course

Health information drives, vaccination services through vaccination centers, deployment of vaccination buses and mobilization of vaccination teams for COVID-19 and routine immunization were carried out. The number of Philippine Red Cross administered doses, and vaccinated individuals will be reflected in the next reporting period.

Philippine Red Cross conducted 158 community 'health caravans' providing communities with medical services such as medical consultations, provision of medicines, basic health screening, and health promotion activities. From January to June 2023, the 'health caravans' reached 37,701 individuals in 160 communities.

Philippine Red Cross' Dolores Community Clinic located in Eastern Samar is operating as a primary health care facility, laboratory, and birthing clinic.

On vaccination, Philippine Red Cross and IFRC supported the implementation of vaccination against COVID-19 for children. The National Society continued in its relentless efforts to protect children from measles, rubella, and polio through the *Chikitang Ligtas* vaccination campaign.

A total of 14,032 people and children were reached with psychosocial support through emergency operations (DREF and Emergency Appeal). IFRC supported Philippine Red Cross' psychosocial activities in psychological first aid and child friendly spaces under the following operations: Typhoon Rai (Emergency Appeal), a total of 12,240 people were reached through psychosocial support and 3,384 children with child-friendly activities. Typhoon Karding (DREF), a total of 846 people were reached with psychosocial support and 946 children attended child-friendly activities.

Philippine Red Cross contributed to World Blood Donation Day on 14 June 2023 and celebrated the National Blood Donor Month in July 2023. Philippine Red Cross reported that 79,634 patients were served with blood products from January to May 2023.

Support was given to Philippine Red Cross in developing a strategy for dengue prevention and control, especially in Visayas and Metro Manila.

Psychosocial support activities were carried out under Typhoon Rai, including psychological first aid for staff and volunteers, psychoeducation and safe spaces in communities and schools and peer support sessions to staff and volunteers mobilized in the affected communities.

Philippine Red Cross used the Minimum Standard Commitments as a guide to support sectoral teams to include measures to mitigate the risk of sexual and gender-based violence and included messages on preventing and responding to this in all community outreach activities.

IFRC supported the National Society in providing essential services (including reception facilities, restoring family links, and access health, shelter, and legal services) based on the standard operating procedures and referral pathway guideline.

Communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services

Philippine Red Cross provided 3,249,732 litres of potable water to communities affected by disasters. The deployment of water tankers, water bladders and setting up of water collection points was supported by IFRC, American Red Cross, and other local partners of the National Society.

A total of 10 WASH hubs were set up in Luzon to ensure fast and effective WASH response. Chapter capacity on asset inventory, deployment simulation, repair and maintenance of water treatment units was enhanced. The replenishment of water distribution accessories and deployment kits was also conducted.

Philippine Red Cross successfully installed/constructed/rehabilitated 27 sanitation facilities in schools, public spaces, hospitals, etc. in Batangas, Davao, Pampanga, Quezon City, Manila, Cebu, Cagayan De Oro, Pangasinan, and Surigao Del Norte. These facilities include hand washing facilities and latrines that is supported by IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross and private organizations such as the Automotive Association of the Philippines.

Aside from WASH facilities, Philippine Red Cross has also an ongoing initiative to construct Material Recovery Facilities in Cagayan De Oro, Zamboanga City, Manila, and Navotas supported by the Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.

Philippine Red Cross also made sure that shelter projects in Cebu and Bohol for Typhoon Odette Recovery have appropriate WASH facilities.

Through the support of Canadian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and German Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross conducted series of capacity building activities such as training of trainers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation and Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, of which 65 facilitators were successfully trained nationwide.

Around 14,000 individuals were reached by hygiene promotion and water distribution during emergencies. The National Society's community-based WASH programmes reached 229 communities during the first half of the year. Philippine Red Cross also conducted activities during World Water Day and Menstrual Hygiene Day.



Migration and displacement

Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate

In the first half of the year, following a feasibility study, it was decided to continue the assistance to migrants and returnees, through the existing welfare desks provided by the chapters. However, due to the smaller number of returnees and repatriated Filipinos, than was initially expected, humanitarian service points have not been continued beyond this time.

IFRC supported the Philippine Red Cross in the information flow to migrants and overseas Filipino workers by improving the virtual volunteer.org portal. The challenges that the National Society encountered in defining its own plan of action for migration, has been reflected in the delay of moving this ahead. A virtual volunteers' portal is currently providing general information, but it is not regularly updated, and the creation of a new way to disseminate information is under discussion.

In April and May, IFRC's country office hired a consultant for the national assessment on migration and displacement. Due to some bureaucratic delays, the consultant will now start their work in August.

IFRC continues to support the Philippine Red Cross activities for people internally displaced due to disasters, e.g., people affected in typhoons, volcano eruption and earthquakes, and conflicts.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) country delegation has had ongoing cooperation with National Society headquarters and field offices, to provide a comprehensive and unified intervention as the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

National Societies are able to engage with migrants, displaced persons and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and respond to their priority needs

IFRC's country office and Asia Pacific Regional Office have supported the Philippine Red Cross with guidance, training, discussion panels and conferences in the field of migration and displacement.

Philippine Red Cross is the co-chair of the Asia Pacific Migration Network network and in this role, has contributed to several documents and guidelines revisions.



Values, power and inclusion

National Societies and the IFRC Secretariat adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across operations and programmes

Philippine Red Cross incorporated the IFRC's Minimum Standards on protection, gender, and inclusion in emergency programming throughout the response and sectoral plans to ensure sensitivity to the needs of at-risk individuals and groups. Under Typhoon Rai, Philippine Red Cross established child-friendly spaces in evacuation centers to provide a safe and supportive environment where children can engage in age-appropriate activities, receive psychosocial support, and regain a sense of normalcy amidst the chaos.

The National Society's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) team underscored the importance of ensuring data collection with sex, age and disability disaggregated data with its chapters. Disaggregated data is important for both reporting on the Federation wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS) and to make informed operational decision making of programmes.

Other activities achieved during this period were:

- Establishment of priority lanes for persons with disabilities and the elderly, to accommodate their specific needs
- Incorporation of the IFRC Child Safeguarding Policy into programmes to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect in all IFRC programmes

- The Philippine Red Cross' implementation guideline has been printed and is now ready for dissemination. This guideline will be cascaded further down to all chapters to ensure mainstream implementation across different programmes and operations

Under the Typhoon Rai operation, Philippine Red Cross ensured that women were part of the Barangay Recovery Committee. This committee oversees the beneficiary selection process and ensures transparency and accountability throughout the process.

IFRC provided technical support to Philippine Red Cross to develop communication materials in different local dialects.

The National Society is part of the IFRC Network Building Trust Project, supported by the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. This project aims to keep people safe before, during and after public health emergencies by building people's trust in the responses, health measures and responders trying to keep them safe using Community Engagement and Accountability approaches.

The setup of the feedback mechanism in the Philippines is being mainstreamed into disaster management as well as into the branches working on the Building Trust project. As the Philippines are one of the most disaster-prone countries in the Asia Pacific region, integration into disaster management will contribute to ensuring that the feedback systems setup during the project will be continued beyond the implementation period.

The piloting of the feedback KoBo form highlighted several key changes that will be further analysed and addressed at the regional level, to be mainstreamed to other countries for more learning opportunities. It was also observed that integrating the project with other ongoing operations, such as the Typhoon Karding operation, would make the project likely to be more sustainable and increase its reach.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

External coordination

The main external coordination structure in the Philippines for humanitarian purposes is the Humanitarian Country Team, supported by the country cluster system. IFRC holds a key role in this, which includes Shelter Cluster coordination, as per the Inter Agency Standing Committee agreement. IFRC has been proactively involved and was invited twice to participate in the UN Country Team discussions.

The UN is leading a new initiative called "Transforming the Humanitarian System," which derives from the World Humanitarian Summit and introduces a bottom-up approach in the development of a new humanitarian response paradigm. This initiative will be piloted over the next three years in four countries: Philippines, Niger, South Sudan, and Colombia.

As humanitarian needs continue to grow, more effort must be placed on prevention, strengthening community engagement and resilience building to better address current and future shocks. Colombia, Niger, South Sudan, and the Philippines will develop and test innovative, context-specific approaches for collective coordination and response that put people and their priorities, needs, rights and capacities at the centre. Such solutions would be supported by more predictable and unearmarked multi-year funding and greater use of pooled funds. Iterative, dedicated evaluations will allow for real-time feedback loops to enable collective learning across all contexts.

IFRC has been developing collaboration with embassies and the team has been actively involved in several initiatives:

- European Union (EU) delegation: Strengthening the collaboration with ECHO and DEVCO and positioning the IFRC network towards the multi-annual implementation plan. This is a seven-year budgeting programme from the EU, where the Philippines is a pilot country. A consultation process is planned in 2024, therefore, positioning the Movement in 2023 is essential.
- Embassy of the United Kingdom (UK): This embassy has been especially active in supporting and coordinating with IFRC, being one of the main donors to the Emergency Appeal. In March 2023, the Regional Humanitarian Adviser from the UK government met with the Philippine Red Cross and IFRC and a field visit to several locations under the Typhoon Rai Appeal was organized.
- Embassy of Japan: There has been active coordination with the Embassy of Japan which is keen to learn more about how to best support the IFRC.
- Other Embassies: IFRC has been especially active in coordinating and liaising with embassies of France, Sweden, Spain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Brunei, Australia and New Zealand.

Externally, the IFRC has been supporting global initiatives, such as the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Secretary General of the Philippine Red Cross discussed the importance of early warning systems at the local level, and shared details on best practices and enablers on people-centred, inclusive, and end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems.

Regarding the private sector, IFRC has been actively engaged with a number of different initiatives. With the Nordic Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (NordCham Philippines), alongside the Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC, several discussions have taken place to support those affected by Super Typhoon Rai (Odette), and several donations were made to Philippine Red Cross' local bank account. Discussions were held with the French shipping and logistics company, CGM-CMA, from which Philippine Red Cross received a donation of solar panels.

In 2023, IFRC has been working closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to strengthen the collaboration and cooperation following the framework agreement signed in May 2022, which refers to emergency operations and response.

Philippine Red Cross in Manila and local chapters coordinate closely with national, provincial and local disaster risk reduction and management councils, namely the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, as well as other government institutions such as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the departments of health, education and energy, as well as the armed forces of the Philippines.

In 2023, IFRC has been supporting Philippine Red Cross' work in cooperation with the governmental entities in different domains, especially in health programming, including on the roll-out of the department of health's vaccination programme (discussions held with the Center of Disease Control), and the Japanese Government for pandemic preparedness. Both programmes are expected to be rolled-out during this current year.

The IFRC Philippine country delegation has also renewed its partnership with the Zurich Foundation in 2023, moving the collaboration from the Flood Resilience Alliance to the Flood Climate Alliance, with the intention of continuing to integrate the programmes into community-based disaster risk reduction and management projects of the Philippine Red Cross.

Regarding the 'Red Ready' programme, through the American Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross and IFRC are discussing the extension of the collaboration with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance to continue supporting the capacity, readiness, and resilience of Philippine Red Cross to respond to local disasters through strengthening their organizational and response. Additionally, IFRC country delegation has been coordinating with the International Organization for Migration, providing assistance to the people deported from Saba to Zamboanga.

Membership coordination

There were monthly meetings with Philippine Red Cross about the One Philippine Red Cross Plan, the unified planning process and Movement coordination and cooperation.

IFRC has been regularly coordinating with the Participating National Societies in the Philippines and monthly meetings have been held to discuss key thematic issues and propose ways to share information, data and analysis. On humanitarian diplomacy, IFRC participates in a number of coordination platforms to discuss ways of amplifying the voices of the Philippine Red Cross and Participating National Societies (through participation in the Humanitarian

Country Team, meetings with donors and diplomatic community, and where IFRC been a speaker on behalf of the membership organizations. Liaising with the donor community, IFRC is engaged in strengthening the fundraising capacities of Philippine Red Cross, and that of the Participating National Societies. IFRC aims to diversify the sources of funding through regular communications with the main Red Cross Red Crescent donors (EU delegation and ECHO, GIZ, AECID, USAID and the Canadian Embassy). Work has taken place with the Canadian Red Cross to advance the 'localization' agenda.

IFRC has been supporting Philippine Red Cross to strengthen partnerships, maximize resources and upgrade training packages to sustain its programmes. Asia Pacific Fundraisers Network has been headquartered in Manila with a consultant engaged part-time working from Philippine Red Cross headquarters and providing technical assistance and support to the National Society.

IFRC and the Philippine Red Cross have been collaborating on the "One Philippine Red Cross" as well as on strengthening programmatic collaboration with Participating National Societies in different fields, for example, Early Action Protocol with the German Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, National Society Development and Greening DRR with the American Red Cross, circular economy-livelihood programmes with the Spanish Red Cross, and WASH programmes with the Canadian Red Cross.

Movement coordination

The Philippines Movement Cooperation Agreement ended in December 2020 and discussions for a new agreement were held with ICRC, the Philippines Red Cross and the Participating National Societies. Seville 2.0 proposed a considerable number of modifications (taxonomy, concepts, and roles) and a draft legal document is now in the process of finalization. The finalization of this Agreement is quite urgent, given that the Philippines is now in the next typhoon season.

IFRC has been strengthening the collaboration and cooperation with the ICRC, especially on issues related to humanitarian assistance and response, protection, population movement and migration, and health support, along with on the Movement Cooperation Agreement.

Resource mobilization

Regarding donor relations, IFRC has been engaged with two new actors: ADB and the World Bank. Formalities commenced to include IFRC in the international organizations category and options are being explored to invite a senior ADB representative to IFRC Asia Pacific Conference in November. Preparation began for IFRC's participation in the ADB 57th annual meeting in Georgia in 2024. During the visit from Canadian Red Cross President in February 2023, meetings were held with the World Bank together with the Asia-Pacific Regional Director, the Philippine Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC.

Discussions with Asian Development Bank (ADB):

IFRC has been working hard to re-engage with ADB. The approach taken was as follows:

- At the institutional level, to strengthen the existing network of contacts.
- Developing formal and informal exchanges and participation in key events.
- As the relationship develops, pursue more opportunities to connect at the leadership level of the organization and work with other ADB departments, sectors, and thematic teams.
- At a sector level, build on opportunities for technical collaboration at regional as well at country-level. For example, IFRC has been invited to participate in several events including the ADB 56th annual meeting in Incheon, South Korea which led to strengthened cooperation between the institutions.

With the support of the IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office Partnerships and Resource Development unit, a mapping of IFRC regional programmes is being carried out for the health, climate change, social protection sectors.

Discussions with the World Bank:

On 20 March 2023, a series of meetings started with the World Bank for Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia. The World Bank has increased its budget from 650 million to 2.1 billion in the last three years, and their plan is to reinforce their presence in the countries covered.

The priority areas are education (formal), food security and rural development (special intention to reducing countries external dependence on food and developing in-country capacities/markets), disaster risk management/disaster risk

reduction (this is an area of increasing interest), and climate change/adaptation. IFRC country delegation has been working on a mapping of the Red Cross Red Crescent programmes in disaster risk management-disaster risk reduction to explore possible areas of collaboration.

Discussions with the EU:

Meetings have been held with the EU permanent delegation in the Philippines to ensure that the Movement is consulted during the revision of the multi-annual implementation plan, which is expected to take place in 2024. Following the discussions with the EU Office in Brussels and the General Directorate for Partnerships, the goal is to engage with the EU delegations in the field to influence the programme side of their development funding instruments.

There are funding windows in the EU for Asia and the Pacific for the "5 Ps": People: good governance, eradication of poverty, fight against inequalities, migration, forced displacements and mobility; Planet: environment and climate change; Prosperity: inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent employment; Peace: peace, stability and peace conflict prevention; Partnership.

Shelter Cluster coordination

Since April 2022, the Shelter Cluster has a fully time permanent Shelter Cluster Coordinator supported by IFRC country delegation. IFRC, following the Inter Agency Standing Committee agreement, is convenor and co-chair of the Shelter Cluster, in cooperation with government lead, the departments of human settlement and urban development.

During 2023, the shelter cluster coordinator has focused on:

- Formalization of humanitarian shelter coordination mechanisms through development and revision of Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures embedded within national disaster risk management arrangements
- Establishment of local shelter cluster co-leads
- Delivery of coordination and technical trainings and workshops for national coordination teams and first responders, and supporting access to higher education opportunities such as the masters-level short courses in Humanitarian Shelter Coordination, and Shelter and Settlements in Emergencies offered by Oxford Brookes University
- Supporting the government's capacity development activities, the rollout of the Philippine Post Disasters Recovery Framework and Department of Social Welfare Development – Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development Transition Plan through technical trainings and workshops
- Participation in inter-cluster and delivery of sector-specific contingency planning exercises
- Active contributor to the discussion for the Emergency Relief Coordinator Flagships Initiative
- Revision of key cluster tools and resources such as assessments and technical guidelines
- Development, consolidation, and dissemination of safe-shelter awareness and build back safer information, education, and communication materials in various languages.
- Development and dissemination of key guidance materials on protection and cross-cutting issues of protection, gender and diversity, inclusion of people with disabilities, environment and sustainability in shelter programming, and dissemination through the Shelter Cluster website and other platforms
- Facilitation of good practice & lessons learned workshops after each response, and incorporation of prioritized activities into national cluster workplans
- Developing a country environmental profile for the Philippines



National Society development

In October 2022, Philippine Red Cross launched the idea of drafting a 'One Philippine Red Cross Plan', with the intention of creating a stronger Philippine Red Cross, that is future focused, relevant, pragmatic, agile and more accountable. The guiding principles remain the same, namely, to put the volunteers, information technology, and logistics at the core of the work and to continue to be an organization that is 'always first, always ready and always there for people in need'.

This vision document provides an outlook of the plan at a strategic level and combines thought leadership and philosophy with a new way of working across different tiers of the Philippines Red Cross. During 2023, IFRC has been supporting this process through technical advice and assistance to the Office of the Secretary General and by supporting the discussion with the Philippine Red Cross.

In particular, IFRC has been supporting Philippine Red Cross in key areas:

- Financial management and the possibility of Philippine Red Cross getting into an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system
- IFRC arranged an introductory demo on an ERP system called 'Odoo' to Philippine Red Cross finance staff to show them how it can enhance the entire workflow and interface with different departments. Discussions were also held on the upgrading of the 'NAVISION' planning system.
- Human resources management
- IFRC has been supporting the drafting of job descriptions, recruitment processes, and is currently organizing a mission of the Regional Human Resources Manager from IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office to provide strategic guidance on human resource rules, regulations and processes.
- Financial sustainability
- A fundraising strategy will be developed following the visit to the Philippines and support provided by the Vice-President of American Red Cross in August 2023.
- Chapter development
- This includes capacity building for Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers, on communications, community engagement and accountability, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, etc.
- Youth and volunteerism
- On request from the Fiji Red Cross, one participant was sent to the Fiji Youth Forum between 7–9 June 2023. The meeting was attended by youth representatives from the different regions including Asia Pacific, Americas, Africa, Middle East and North Africa and Europe and is guided by the IFRC's Youth Commission. The Philippine Red Cross and IFRC have been helping to organize the 10th anniversary of the Youth Engagement Strategy from 2013.

IFRC supports the Asia Pacific Fundraisers Network (APFN). It has been helping in resource mobilization and by encouraging fundraising practitioners (headquarters and branches) to be engaged with APFN initiatives for learning and sharing such as through peer-to-peer exchanges, webinars, etc. An online seminar was organized in April 2023 on the topic of scaling up donor acquisition strategies through face-to-face fundraising.

IFRC is strongly committed to building in National Society Development in all its DREF and Emergency Appeal operations and to monitor the impact of that investment.

IFRC has been providing information and support on the best ways to prepare and draft proposals for National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the Empress Shōken Fund.



Humanitarian diplomacy

During the first semester of 2023, IFRC has been working with supporting the Philippine Red Cross focal point for Humanitarian Diplomacy to draft a position paper on the review of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act.

The Philippine Red Cross Secretary General attended the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and highlighted the importance of preparing and strengthening community resilience through a multi-hazard approach to disasters, scaling up the use of early warning and early action systems, saving lives, reduce humanitarian impacts, and protecting livelihoods when disasters.

In February 2023, IFRC conducted a professional media training for Philippine Red Cross spokespersons and Participating National Societies to help them enhance their communication skills and become more familiar with the current media practices.

The IFRC country delegation launched a new initiative with the Philippine Red Cross communications team aimed at more proactively engaging with national and international media. The purpose was to explore possibilities of collaboration, improve media coverage of Red Cross Red Crescent activities and improve visibility including in social media.

A meeting was held the first week of June 2023 with the President of Radio Stations of the Philippines, followed by another meeting with television reporters and producers during the month of July. The IFRC country delegation will continue this year to support Philippine Red Cross' ambitions for digitalization in coordination with IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office and other National Society partners.

IFRC has been exercising its leadership in inter-agency forums, mainly in the Philippines Shelter Cluster System, where it held discussions with key governmental entities such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and more recently was involved in conducting a country environmental profile for shelter response.

Philippine Red Cross will continue to play a key role in promoting the roll out of development and humanitarian frameworks, such as the Grand Bargain and the agenda for localization, climate change and climate adaptation following COP 26 Resolutions (including new discussions related to COP 27), and the global compact for migration (in particular, regarding new initiatives that supports migrant in the Philippines and sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons).

IFRC has been strengthening country and regional Civil Military Cooperation, which has resulted in the establishment of National Society focal points and the development of common guidance and training (following the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Relations Roadmap 2021 to 2023). There has also been greater interest from institutions such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management and the Centre for Excellence.

A disaster management and humanitarian assistance initiative to benchmark the Movement's principles, best practices and experience in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and a regional civil-military relations network has been established.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

IFRC has supported Philippine Red Cross to develop a protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy translated into local dialect. There are also interactive video clips in English and Tagalog, which can be used for information dissemination in Philippine Red Cross headquarters.

The IFRC country delegation has ensured that all IFRC staff are informed about safeguarding policies through multiple sessions organized with the support of IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office. These sessions, which included the participation of IFRC's thematic lead for principles, gender and inclusion and the Office of Internal Audit and Investigations, covered topics such as sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, gender-based violence, systems in place for prevention and response to harm, reporting mechanisms, and whistleblower protection.

IFRC has been actively involved in discussions related to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) with the UN and promoting coordination and communication among agencies. By nominating a focal point to the inter-agency PSEA task force, IFRC has contributed to updating the Humanitarian Country Team's PSEA strategic framework and organized high-level meetings to discuss reporting mechanisms for PSEA cases.

IFRC conducted a capacity review assessment of Philippine Red Cross in June 2023. Following the release of the report with recommendations, a pilot testing with one or two projects was planned to enhance accountability, efficiency, and financial sustainability.

IFRC has prioritized the development and promotion of a risk management culture in the Philippines to ensure the duty of care for staff and volunteers. The aim is also to build confidence Participating National Societies, donors, governments, and stakeholders. Measures include supporting guidelines and policies on fraud and corruption, PSEA, non-discrimination, harassment, and child safeguarding. The regular review of business continuity plans and security planning is also emphasized.

As far as innovation is concerned, IFRC has developed new initiatives such as “greening” the office, reducing carbon dioxide consumption, improving fleet use to reduce contamination, redefining the coordination structures to make a better use of time and better monitoring of staff.

Regarding the Legal Status Agreement and the objective of achieving international organization status in the Philippines, progress has been limited. The Legal Status Agreement would ensure IFRC’s full compliance with local laws and regulations, such as taxes and labour laws, as well as facilitate the country delegations role in international procurement, equipment importation, and surge deployments. Discussions with the National Society are ongoing, as this is a high priority area for IFRC and an unmet recommendation from auditors.

IFRC will continue supporting Philippine Red Cross digital systems for key humanitarian processes (operations centre, finance software, etc.), and will promote, in coordination with the Asia Pacific Regional Office, digital skills and digital culture experiment with a wider range of emerging technology that can drive greater efficiency and impact in the workplace.

IFRC organized a visit of the Regional Security Coordinator in March 2023, to provide security support to the IFRC country delegation in the Philippines, as well as to provide advice to the Philippine Red Cross on security matters. The mission had the following primary objectives:

- Assess security and business continuity taking into account the political and security developments in the South China Sea
- Run a joint awareness session for staff of IFRC and Participating National Societies
- Connect with external security partners especially with United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Following this mission, IFRC agreed to support the preparation of Philippine Red Cross minimum security requirements and to be part of any recruitment process for a Philippine Red Cross security advisor.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)

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