12 April 2024

Funding Requirement CHF 7.4M

In support of the Philippine Red Cross





National Society branches



National Society staff



National Society volunteers

People to be reached



400.000

Climate and environment



380.000

Disasters and crises



100,000

Health and wellbeing



Migration and displacement

Human Development Index rank



Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- · Climate change adaptation
- Anticipatory action in disaster management
- Health care Water, sanitation and hygiene
 - Migration

Capacity development

- Branch development
- Financial sustainability

Key country data

115.6M **Population** Medium **INFORM Severity rating** High **INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** 116

18.1% Population below poverty level

Hazards



Cyclones



Floods



Earthquakes



Population movement



Poverty



Conflict

Funding requirements

Total 7.4M CHF

Through the IFRC



- 2.5M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

4.9M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

360,000 CHF

Climate and environment

150,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

320,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

250,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

520,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

900,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

Croatian Red Cross*

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Red Cross Society of China*

Red Cross of Monaco*

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Netherlands Red Cross

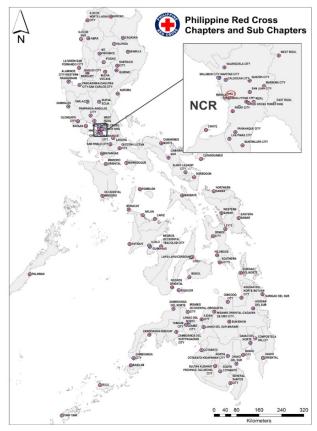
*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAAPH001

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE



Philippine Red Cross branches

The **Philippine Red Cross** was established in 1947 and was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1948. It operates within the Philippine Red Cross Act of 2009, which affirms the National Society's position as a voluntary, independent, and autonomous non-governmental body that is auxiliary to the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines in the humanitarian field. The National Society provides relief, health care and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable people. The National Society adopts a holistic approach to its humanitarian work and offers a wide array of services including preventive medicine, blood collection and distribution, therapeutic counselling and youth leadership.

The Philippine Red Cross is the nation's largest humanitarian organization, and it operates through its 102 chapters covering all administrative districts and major cities in the country. The National Society has 2,221 staff at national headquarters and chapter levels, and approximately 300,888 volunteers and supporters. The Red Cross 143, a volunteer programme of the Philippine Red Cross launched in 2009 at the chapter level, oversees the training and placing of volunteers at the community (barangay) level - enhancing the overall capacity of the National Society to prepare for and respond to disaster situations.

The National Society focuses on its core programmes and services which includes blood services, disaster management and relief services, dissemination of international humanitarian law, health services, safety services, social services and volunteer and youth initiatives. In 2022, the Philippines Red Cross reached more than 755,000 people through its long term services and development programmes and more than 2.9 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

The Philippine Red Cross Strategy 2021-2025 acknowledges three significant and intersecting concerns: climate and environmental crisis, health and well-being including COVID-19, and conflict and migration. The strategies are as follows:

- Empower the most vulnerable marginalized community members through sustainable, innovative, need-based services that sustain resilience and promote human dignity and well-being
- Strengthen the National Society's financial sustainability through intensified resource mobilization, strategic partnerships, and well-placed systems that enhance trust, accountability, transparency, efficiency, and standards compliance
- Enhance our organizational capacity for the welfare of our staff and volunteers through a human-centered approach, supported by strengthened administrative systems and procedures

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The Philippines rank 11th globally in disaster susceptibility according to the 2023 INFORM risk index. The country faces significant challenges due to its geographical location and tectonic conditions. Around 60 per cent of the total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, putting 74 per cent of the population at risk. The country, with more than 115 million people, expects its population to exceed 153 million by 2030. About 85.2 per cent of production sources are at risk from disasters.

Hydro-meteorological events such as storm surges, drought and floods account for more than 80 per cent of the natural hazards leading to disasters in the last 50 years. Despite the high risk, the country's infrastructure is expanding, with planned relocations posing potential new risks and vulnerabilities. The Philippines is strongly affected by climate change. Climate change has a negative impact on the country's rich natural and marine resources, health infrastructure, water, and poverty. Widespread migration and displacement, both internal and international, contribute to the country's challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic further strained Filipinos living overseas, exposing them to unprecedented challenges. Internal displacement is driven by disasters, conflicts, and violence, particularly in the southern region of Mindanao.

There is widespread migration and displacement within and from the Philippines. Many Filipinos migrate across international borders looking for work and educational opportunities. Personal remittances received in the Philippines accounted for a significant proportion of the country's GDP. The COVID-19 pandemic put living overseas in a precarious situation, facing unprecedented challenges and leaving many people extremely vulnerable. Within the country, internal displacement is driven

by disasters as well as conflict and violence. The southern region of Mindanao, in particular, is affected by disasters, conflict and instability, and thousands of people have been displaced for many decades as a result.

The Food Security Monitoring Report of the World Food Programme indicates that about one in ten Filipinos are food insecure, with the poorest regions having the highest percentage of food-insecure households. According to the report, households spend more than half of their incomes on food on average, with the biggest factor affecting food insecurity being the type of employment. Agricultural households were about twice as likely to be food insecure as non-agricultural households.

In terms of mortality in the country, ischemic heart diseases, neoplasms, and cerebrovascular diseases are the top three causes of death, with diabetes and hypertensive diseases also being significant contributors.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the poverty incidence in the first semester of 2021 was estimated at 23.7 per cent, with approximately 26.14 million Filipinos living below the poverty threshold. The country ranks 113th in the latest Human Development Report, facing challenges in urban infrastructure, disaster preparedness, basic services, healthcare, and shelter. According to the report, between 1990 and 2022, Philippines' life expectancy at birth changed by 6.3 years, expected years of schooling changed by 2.0 years and mean years of schooling changed by 1.8 years.

The economy in the Philippines faces a major challenge with rising inflation rates, attributed largely to local food supply constraints and global commodity price increases. Monetary policy measures and easing global commodity prices are expected to alleviate inflation in the second half of 2023 and throughout 2024.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



The Philippines is significantly affected by climate change, experiencing rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme events. The country faces some of the highest disaster risk levels in the world, ranking 32nd globally in the INFORM 2023 Risk Index. It is especially exposed to tropical cyclones and flooding, ranking second and first, respectively.

The Philippines is highly prone to disasters triggered by natural hazards. Approximately 60 per cent of its land area and 74 per cent of the population face exposure to various hazards, including floods, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, and landslides. Research underscores the Philippines' vulnerability to storm surges, with climate change-induced wave height increases. Sea-level rise poses a threat, potentially affecting one million people with flooding by 2070–2100.

Anticipated climate risks include heightened typhoon intensity, more frequent El Niño and La Niña events leading to intensified droughts and flooding, increased forest fires, rising sea surface temperatures impacting fisheries GDP, and urban areas facing severe heatwaves, precipitation, runoff, and flooding. The consequences extend to adverse impacts on human health, including heat-related illnesses, heightened water and vector-borne diseases, respiratory issues, and malnutrition due to extreme heat, air pollution, and severe weather events.

The Philippines has implemented several key policies, plans, and legal frameworks to address climate change and environmental issues: these include the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028 which outlines the country's agenda for adaptation and mitigation; the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028; and the Climate Change Act of 2009, among others. Governmental policies and plans are critical to reducing vulnerability to different hazards by strengthening early warning systems, improving infrastructure resilience, and promoting community-based disaster risk reduction strategies.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to lead an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least

supported and most marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Planned activities in 2024

- Work on community resilience building with climate change and changing patterns of hazards considerations
- Work on localized nature-based solutions with a focus on green blue and mixed models
- Work on evidence-based policy advocacy on better and more adaptation-sensitive climate and environment policies at national and local levels
- Pilot test Red Rose (Data Management) live platform during operation
- Develop the National Society's disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) strategic framework and plan
- Diversify hazard-based early action plan (EAP) for the anticipatory action programme
- Develop a housing, land, and property handbook

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society with the FRA Philippines Project through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance. The project's extension in Metro Manila expanded its coverage not just in terms of the number of communities and people reached, also scaled it up to target national-level advocacy programs to influence policies and investments to promote flood resilience in communities through the FRMC process and tool. The IFRC in collaboration with the Zurich Foundation will start the Climate Resilience Measurement in Communities (CRMC) project, which will now build community and systemic resilience on typhoon and heatwaves.

For 2024, IFRC's support to the Greening DRR Project will mainly focus on the integration of nature-based solutions and the nature navigator tool in different programme tools. Aside from this, the project will also be supported on learning and knowledge management. Additionally, the IFRC and its partners in the Philippines will support amplification and diversification of anticipatory action and build new partnerships to make anticipation and decision-making based on global data sources by using local analysis and inferences.

The **American Red Cross** supports the Philippine Red Cross in developing a climate action strategy, framework, and roadmap; climate change adaptation (CCA) guidelines; and a climate-smart toolkit aligned with the Government system.

The **Finnish Red Cross** is actively supporting the existing <u>Forecast-based Financing</u> (FbF) project, with a focus on SME relocation and training manuals for the Philippine Red Cross. The collaboration extends to conflict-sensitive EAP

development, engaging at national and regional levels for anticipatory action partnerships.

The **German Red Cross** is focusing on climate change adaptation in communities and capacitating local government units (LGUs) on climate actions. The focus also includes community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities in conflict areas with a conflict -sensitive approach, preparing communities for anticipatory action, and capacitating LGUs.



For real-time information on emergencies, visit <u>IFRC GO</u> <u>Philippines</u>.

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to a wide range of natural hazards, including frequent tropical cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other disasters. Such elevated risk is primarily attributed to its geographical location in the typhoon belt, an area within the western Pacific Ocean known for generating approximately one-third of the world's tropical cyclones. As per the 2022 World Risk Index, the Philippines ranks first globally in disaster risk hotspots.

Additionally, the <u>Philippines</u> is situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire and along the Pacific Typhoon Belt, which exposes the country to a wide range of disasters including typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, landslides and fires. The Philippines accounts for the presence of over 450 volcanoes and 90 per cent of the world's earthquakes due to constant plate movement. Extreme weather events incur an annual average cost of 3.2 billion US dollars, impacting 60 percent of the total land area and rendering 74 percent of the population susceptible to <u>hazards</u>, with 85.2 percent of production sources vulnerable.

The Philippines is also very susceptible to sea level rise along the coast, contributing to flood risks. Repeated flooding is a problem for the metro Manila area, which houses about 13 million people and contributes approximately 35 per cent to the national economy.

The Philippines is an archipelagic country of 7,100 islands, with a predominantly mountainous terrain, narrow coastal plains and interior valleys and plains. Although most Filipinos perceive natural hazards to be a threat, only a third of them prepare for disasters. Strengthening local institutional capacity is a priority in the area of disaster risk reduction. This involves understanding local government capacities and constraints, finding ways to conduct multi-sectoral risk assessments and overcoming funding constraints.

The <u>National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010</u> established a comprehensive disaster risk management system, complemented by the <u>Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2011-2028</u>. The plan addresses four thematic areas, namely: 1) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; 2) Disaster Preparedness; 3) Disaster Response; and 4) Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will focus on enhancing capacities to deliver services in a crisis/emergency response. Furthermore, the Philippines Red Cross will focus on climate change adaptation and community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction programming to build more resilient communities. These priorities are evident as these are part of the flagship programmes, such as <u>Preparedness for Effective Response</u>; Red Ready; Anticipatory Action (<u>Forecast Based Financing</u>); Greening Disaster Risk Reduction; and <u>Nature Based Solution</u>.

As part of this commitment, the unified operations plan will support disaster risk reduction activities in terms of capacity development, shelter and settlements development and community programming, aligning with the sustainable development goals (SDG), Manila Declaration, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

Planned activities in 2024

- Improve existing program guidelines and develop new ones such as reviewing and updating select disaster management training courses
- Enhance disaster recovery guidelines
- Update and gain approval for <u>cash</u> standard operation procedures (SOP) guidelines
- Formulate a cash readiness plan
- Provision of livelihood assistance to most vulnerable households through household livelihood assistance and community-managed livelihood project, including awareness raising or training on livelihoods strengthening and protection

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in the following areas:

- Preparedness and Response Readiness: Conducting disaster management (DM) training for NHQ and chapter-level staff and volunteers to enhance their skills and increase the pool of trained personnel ready for deployment during emergencies.
- Red Ready: Increase the capacity, readiness, and resilience of the National Society to respond to local disasters
- <u>Cash and Voucher Assistance</u>: Support the National Society in the development of its Cash Readiness Plan, updating and approval of the Cash SOP's and Guidelines,

- and pilot testing of Red Rose (Data Management) Live Platform during emergency operations
- Disaster Law: Support the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role in government Disaster Reduction and Risk Management (DRRM) policies and guidelines. A related effort is the development of a position paper on the review of the DRRM Act.
- Civil military relations: Continuing support to the Philippine Red Cross in developing and maintaining dialogue with the military in accordance with the Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent Operational Guidelines for Civil Military Relations in Disaster Preparedness and Response
- DRR activities: Continuing support to the Philippine Red Cross in developing relevant DRR strategic frameworks and an institutionalizing through regular programming. In addition, the National Society is included in IFRC programmes implemented as part of the <u>Zurich Flood</u> <u>Resilience Alliance</u>, and this has been strengthening its community-based disaster risk reduction and management capabilities since 2018.
- <u>Shelter</u>: Provide technical support for more inclusive, sustainable, risk informed shelter and settlements programming. Lead the Philippine Shelter Cluster in support of the government lead agency - Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD)

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2023, IFRC provided DREF allocations for an emergency in Philippines. The DREF allocation have been described below:

IFRC-DREF Philippines Mindanao Floods: the DREF allocation of CHF 483,174 in February 2024 supported the Philippine Red Cross to assist 12,600 people affected by floods that broke out in the areas of Region X (Northern Mindanao), Region XI (Davao Region), Region XII (Soccsksargen), Region XIII (Caraga). The National Society will support the targeted people over a six-month period with assistance such as the distribution of essential household items, provision of emergency shelter assistance, deployment of food trucks, mobilization of ambulances, deployment of health caravans, deployment of water tankers and water treatment units, among others.

The **American Red Cross** will update and finalize the Disaster Response and Recovery Operation Manual, focusing on enhancing Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) capacity for Anticipatory Action.

Health is becoming an increasingly important issue in the Philippines, where people bear a <u>triple burden of disease</u>. Firstly, globalization and climate change have an impact on health. Secondly, lifestyle changes and risk factors relating to diet, tobacco smoke and high blood pressure contribute to an increase in non-communicable diseases. National data indicates that <u>heart disease</u> and cancer are the top two causes of death in the Philippines, and these deaths are usually premature. Thirdly, many Filipinos continue to suffer from diseases for which treatment is available such as HIV/ AIDS, tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio and diphtheria.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are rising and contribute significantly to the overall disease burden. Mental health is an emerging concern, with increasing cases of depression and anxiety. The State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 was lifted in July 2023, but the country is still recovering, facing socio-economic challenges and strained health and welfare systems.

Periodic outbreaks of <u>communicable diseases</u>, such as measles and polio, are exacerbated by <u>poor immunization</u> coverage. Resource and capacity limitations pose challenges, with a shortage of hospital beds, physicians, and critical care facilities, especially in rural areas. The healthcare system's response to public health emergencies, like COVID-19, is hindered by these limitations.

Despite improvements being made over the last decade, the Philippines has severe resource and capacity limitations which will continue to cause public health challenges. The country has only one hospital bed (compared with the five recommended by WHO) and 1.3 physicians per 1,000 people. Health resources are concentrated in urban areas, and rural areas only have one physician for as many as 20,000 people. Although there is a system of primary health care centres and community health workers in the cities, provinces and municipalities are poorly equipped and under-resourced, with limited surge capacity. There is an inadequate capacity for laboratory testing, and not enough equipment, medical supplies or personal protective equipment for health workers in primary care units and hospitals. The percentage of food insecure households has increased and <u>UNICEF</u> observes that nearly half of deaths in children under five are due to malnutrition, raising the risk of common infections and delayed recovery.

The <u>Universal Health Care Bill</u> adopted in 2019 is a positive step to address inequalities. The Government provides universal health care through the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (<u>PhilHealth</u>), but a scarcity of healthcare workers, with a need for around 114,000 physicians and 127,000 nurses, poses a significant challenge to the health system.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society's focus under this strategic priority is encompassed in both the One PRC Plan and the Strategy 2021 – 2025. It mainly covers areas such as first aid, public health in emergencies (PHiE), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) including MHPSS in emergencies, public health emergencies (PHE) including but not limited to COVID 19, vaccine preventable diseases, vector borne, and water borne diseases. More so, the Philippine Red Cross put in significant focus on vaccination for disease outbreaks and immunization mostly to children and young adults to support the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) mandate of the Government with a clear focus on harder-to-reach areas and difficult to reach population, including people affected by natural hazard-linked disasters and conflicts. Partnerships with medical health professionals, and academic institutions are also a priority initiative of the Philippine Red Cross, to expand further medical corps volunteers who can be tapped and support the National Society in public health initiatives.

The Philippine Red Cross has put significant focus on expanding the scale and scope of blood services and made a vision statement of reaching out to 1 per cent of Philippines population with 70 per cent bloods and blood components, as collected and processed by the National Society blood banks and blood centers. This will also enhance the voluntary non remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) and promote the agenda of GAP secretariat and Pledge 25. Another flagship priority for the Philippine Red Cross is to enhance the scope and scale of dialysis centers, which will save more lives and provide diversified, and sustainable financial resources for the National Society.

Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct awareness campaigns and community-based activities in target areas to empower communities to promote better health and prevent diseases
- Engage with relevant stakeholders to advocate for the National Society's work in public health emergencies
- Provide psychosocial support in emergencies, including psychosocial first aid for staff and volunteers
- Continue to establish <u>WASH</u> facilities in disaster-affected
- Continue to establish and strengthen WASH hubs in critical and relevant areas across the country
- Promote participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) and children's hygiene and sanitation training (CHAST) models

Build the capacity of volunteers and staff members on different aspects of health, safety and welfare

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Philippine Red Cross in the following priority health and wellbeing areas:

Community-based health: IFRC provides technical and financial support to the National Society to implement community-based health initiatives by increasing capacities of staff/volunteers and empowering the communities to improve health behaviours and practices.

Public Health in Emergencies: IFRC supports the National Society in addressing health and wellbeing needs of the affected communities during disasters and emergencies through actively supporting public health response through the technical support, health logistics, conduct of health caravans, immunization activities, PPE distribution, and health promotion activities.

Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Response: Through the Back to Vaccine Project, the National Society with IFRC's support, will assist the Department of Health in strengthening the routine immunization programme and to increase vaccination coverage to selected priority areas. This will be done through capacity building, social mobilization, risk communication and community engagement, deployment of vaccination teams for actual vaccination, and provision of equipment and supplies. Another planned intervention is the Stockpile Project for Pandemic Preparedness funded by the Japanese Government/ASEF. These planned initiatives will be focusing on procuring, storing, and rapidly deploying critical medical supplies and vaccines necessary for public health emergencies.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: IFRC supports the National Society in improving and strengthening MHPSS programmes during normal times and during disaster response. IFRC is committed to continue providing technical support, capacity building, and funding MHPSS initiatives as it is a growing need during disasters and emergencies.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: IFRC supports the National Society in developmental sustainable WASH programs, and implementation of special WASH events and activities. In times of disaster and emergencies, WASH response is essentially supported by IFRC.

The Canadian Red Cross Society has been promoting community-based health and capacity and corporate infrastructure building for promotion of health and wellbeing for over a decade and despite their reduced focus in the Philippines, the Canadian Red Cross continues to support in this area. The Canadian Red Cross will also continue its WASH program in the Haiyan-affected provinces of Biliran, Negros Occidental, and Cebu, emphasizing on staff capacity development, improving WASH Hubs in the Visayas region, rehabilitating communal WASH facilities, and implementing hygiene promotion activities.

The Netherlands Red Cross provides financial support and technical capacity building support for improving data governance in the field.

The Japanese Red Cross Society continues to provide remote assistance on need and priority basis with a focus on health.

The Norwegian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, and Swedish Red Cross also provide earmarked support to achieve the objectives of this strategic priority, through emergency appeals.



The Philippines is a country of origin, transit and destination for international migration flows. Migration and displacement within, from, and to the Philippines is large-scale and happens for a variety of reasons, such as looking for better living conditions, repatriation of irregular migrants, natural hazards and conflicts.

Internal voluntary migration is usually driven by economic factors – people move from the countryside to urban areas seeking a better lifestyle. This is a global trend that also applies in the Philippines. The 2018 National Migration Survey found that approximately half of all adults in the Philippines were internal migrants. In step with rapid urbanization, people are increasingly moving from rural areas to urban centres such as Calabarzon, Metro Manila and Central Luzon. The main reasons for moving include job opportunities, marriage and access to education.

The Philippines regularly experiences large-scale internal displacement due to disasters and conflict. For the last four decades, what began largely as a separatist movement in Mindanao evolved into a violent conflict between government forces and armed groups. Inter-clan fighting and criminal gangs also contribute to violence and conflict. In 2022, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre estimated that 28.7 million people had been displaced by disasters occurring between 2015 and 2021. During the same period, 1.8 million had been newly displaced because of violence and conflict.

In 2021, there were nearly 5.7 million new displacements associated with disasters (mostly storms and floods), and an estimated 140,000 new displacements associated with conflict and violence, the majority in Mindanao.

The internal displacement of people is caused mainly by the conflict in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and disasters caused by natural hazards. The Philippines, which had 5.4 million internal displacements at the end of 2022, recorded one of the largest numbers globally. Storms caused 85 per cent of disaster displacements. The disasters that triggered displacement included volcanic eruptions, and flooding caused by monsoons and landslides.

The Filipino Diaspora counts a total of about 10.2 million people living abroad, of which 1.7 million are Overseas Filipino Workers, who left to seek better employment and education opportunities. Abroad, a significant number of Filipino migrant workers are at risk or becomes victim of sex or labour trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal recruitment particularly in the Middle East and Asia. These activities are often controlled by organized crime networks.

Within the country, forced labour and sex trafficking of men, women, and children remains a significant problem. Those from rural communities, conflict- and disaster-affected areas, and impoverished urban centres are particularly vulnerable to exploitation in sex trafficking, forced domestic work, forced begging, and other forms of exploitation.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Philippine Red Cross is committed to protecting, assisting, and advocating for individuals and communities affected by migration and displaced irrespective of their legal status. It will continue to collaborate, coordinate and share knowledge and experiences with other Participating National Societies in the Asia Pacific Migration Network (APMN). The Philippine Red Cross has been and continuously the co-chair, together with the Maldivian Red Crescent, of the APMN. The National Society is also committed to giving every individual the information they need for their protection. This includes advocacy work through the web-based portal.

Planned activities in 2024

- Provide safe, credible information through awarenessraising activities, making referrals, and providing access to services to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and overseas Filipino workers
- Undertake a migration assessment and integrate identified needs into existing services and programmes
- Undertake humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy with national and local government authorities, or the humanitarian needs of migrants and the role and responsibilities of the National Society in responding to those needs

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Philippines Red Cross in promoting the Virtual Volunteer platform as a source of trustworthy and upto-date information for migrants and their communities. It will consider suggesting more updated and efficient tools to keep providing the services. For people displaced due to conflicts, IFRC will coordinate with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) delegation present in the country, both at headquarters and sub-offices level and with Participating National Societies to ensure a safe continuation of operations in areas affected by internal conflicts. As for internally displaced population affected by natural disasters, IFRC intervention aligns with other strategic priorities, providing information and advocating for non-built zone, land property issues and other aspects connected with local regulations.

The IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross with ensuring that migrants have access to existing services and establishing dedicated programming where necessary. The aim is to create a network of reliable and long-term support in the region, strengthening existing information systems, providing livelihood opportunities for returnees, providing legal support and recognition to the stateless, and supplying education and vocational training. In the long-term, people will be able to make decisions based on reliable information.

The IFRC will also support the Philippine Red Cross in capacity building initiatives for staff and volunteers at the chapter level, ensuring assistance for their response to the needs of migrants and host communities at key points along migratory trails. In terms of internally displaced persons affected by natural hazards, the IFRC will provide information and advocate on the non-built zone, land property issues, and other situations where a knowledge of local regulations is required.

The Spanish Red Cross supports migration programmes of the Philippines Red Cross, with integration of livelihood activities.

The Philippine government supports an <u>inclusive education</u> approach. Despite the policy and being a middle-income country with sufficient resources to support children's education, many Filipino children miss out on opportunities to learn. The number of children accessing education, the quality of education they receive, and the condition of their learning environment are causes for <u>concern</u>.

Although the World Economic Forum has ranked the Philippines 19th out of 146 countries worldwide in the Global Gender Gap Index 2023, Philippines has experienced a slight general decline compared to 2021. In educational attainment, gender parity decreased at the level of enrolment in primary education with a larger share of boys than girls in enrolment numbers overall. Gaps are still noted in disparity in labour force participation, wage equality and political empowerment.

On the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex, in 2022 the share of women participating in the workforce was still 24.5 percentage points lower than the share of men. Gender parity for legislative, senior officers and managers, as well as for professional and technical workers, remains constant on a virtually perfect parity.

In the Philippines, women and girls face heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence, more so than the global average. The National Statistics Office data shows that one in four women aged 15-49 years has experienced violence at least once in their lifetime, with the most common perpetrator being a current or most recent partner.

Results of the National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS) showed that around 12 percent of the Filipinos aged 15 and older experienced severe disability. Almost one in every two (47 per cent) experienced moderate disability while 23 percent with mild disability. Only about one-fifth (19 per cent) experienced no disability.

Compared to the global average, these rates are high. In part, this is since developing countries are more likely to have a higher prevalence of disabilities. COVID-19 had a major impact on the accessibility of healthcare for the disabled. The pandemic placed limits on those who needed sign language interpreters, braille translation and other specialized services.

In many cases, poverty in the Philippines is related to disability. Persons with disabilities face a higher likelihood of poverty and lower rates of education, health, and employment. Those with a secure job may also receive less pay than non-disabled persons, despite the higher funds needed for living with a disability. The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons Act was passed in 2007, allowing all disabled citizens to receive a minimum 20% discount from stores and services including dental and medical care, hotels, theatre and travel.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Philippine Red Cross will continue to promote all elements of this strategic priority and focus on the commitments made in the Manila call for action for promotion of women leadership and making their programs and operations more inclusive, protective, and equitable for the most vulnerable people in the difficult-to-reach areas in the Philippines. The promotion of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) remains a significant focus for the Philippines Red Cross. The National Society has recently developed and implemented a CEA guideline and entered into a project agreement with the IFRC to promote Risk Communication, Community Engagement and Accountability (RCCEA) through a multiyear project called 'Building Trust Philippines'.

Planned activities in 2024

- Emphasise the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in operations and across the organization as a whole
- Familiarize volunteers and staff across all levels of the organization with protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) concepts
- Build the capacity of staff and volunteers around identification, management and referral of sexual and gender-based violence cases in a survivor-centred way
- Continue to engage in youth-led education and action to empower young people to take action in their communities

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society with mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability in all its work. This includes the rollout of a policy and guidelines on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The IFRC supports the Philippine Red Cross with implementing its newly launched guidelines for community engagement and accountability, including a multi-year project called Building Trust Philippines. The Philippines is one of the countries in the Asia Pacific region to be included in this global project.

Over the last three years, the **Australian Red Cross**, **British Red Cross**, and the **Canadian Red Cross Society** have been actively promoting <u>PGI minimum standards</u> and has focused on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence both in its operations and within the organization.

The **Spanish Red Cross** emphasizes livelihoods in its initiatives and plans to strengthen this capacity in future projects in Mindanao. Additionally, the Spanish Red Cross has developed

a proposal for Circular Economy, Gender Empowerment, and DRR in Zamboanga, supporting employment projects in Zamboanga and Manila.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Philippine Red Cross is committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the assessment phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of their preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take necessary actions to improve them.

To broaden collaboration with external partners and strengthen its preparedness for effective response, the National Society joined the IFRC-coordinated Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Programme, in partnership with the World Bank.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the National Society will increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address the main challenges faced by communities. It will establish a process of continuous linkage that allows for improved dialogue and participation for the National Society's development, international cooperation, and resource mobilization agendas. The National Society will also coordinate among members to improve efficiency and effectiveness in its humanitarian actions.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Philippine Red Cross to establish it as a trusted main actor within communities, owned, and supported by its membership. This involves a focus on strengthened membership coordination, mutually respectful cooperation within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement through the revised Movement Cooperation Agreement (MCA) and optimizing collaboration with external partners across humanitarian and development platforms.

In terms of membership coordination, the IFRC, in its Secretariat role, will strengthen coordination among its members to preserve resources, eliminate duplication and improve efficiencies for a greater impact. IFRC will keep exercising its leadership in the areas of expertise within inter-agency forums, particularly in the Philippines Shelter Cluster, contributing to the country's overall strategy in emergency contexts. IFRC will continue to play a vital role in facilitating the concrete roll out of key development and humanitarian frameworks, including the Grand Bargain, the agenda for localization, Climate change and climate adaptation (COP 26 Resolutions), and the global compact for migration. Additionally, efforts will be directed towards exploring new initiatives that support migrants in the Philippines, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Philippine Red Cross recognizes its needs to enhance its organizational capacity through a human-centred approach, supported by strengthened administrative systems and procedures. It aims to improve programmatic knowledge, promote peer-to-peer support, ensure the alignment of development needs and the appropriate quality of support, as well as developing new approaches and capturing learnings generated to inform more efficient and effective actions. The National Society development has five major priorities: human resource management and development, financial management and development, financial sustainability, chapter development, volunteers and Red Cross Youth (RCY) development.

The One PRC Plan places the Philippine Red Cross at the centre of planning and implementation. All projects, operations, programs, and activities in the Philippines should be coordinated with or closely aligned to the One PRC Plan, demonstrating a clear connection between project objectives and elements of the plan. The Philippine Red Cross will support partners and stakeholders in their planning and reporting processes, encouraging them to integrate One PRC Plan elements and follow a similar reporting approach, ensuring a cohesive and unified way of working. The plan will be attached to the Philippine Red Cross services plans, which will primarily focus on operational strategies and have a strong emphasis on National Society development (NSD) and flagship programming.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Philippine Red Cross in building a stronger and resilient National Society. It also promotes innovative approaches in identifying needs, providing services, supporting the National Society, fundraising, and deploying digital technologies to ultimately support the National Society to build its auxiliary role. In 2024, IFRC will continue to support the National Society's digitalization ambitions in coordination with IFRC APRO and partners that are also engaged in this communications development in the Philippines. Furthermore, IFRC will support the National Society in developing the initiatives related to civil-military relations and the <u>Disaster</u> Law Programme.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Philippine Red Cross will continue to build a strong foothold on humanitarian diplomacy, including advocacy, negotiation, communication, and formal agreements with relevant stakeholders and with the Philippine Government. The National Society will continue work in promoting humanitarian diplomacy and influencing policymakers at the domestic, regional, and global levels. This includes influencing stakeholders to adopt new or updated decisions, laws, policies and practices that promote the safety, well-being and resilience of vulnerable persons. This upholds a strong recognition of the National Society's auxiliary role to authorities and implies a clear recognition of its capacity for engagement with other influential partners such as the private sector and humanitarian coordination platforms.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society by influencing policies at various levels, and promoting safety, well-being, and resilience for vulnerable individuals. Emphasis will be placed on the National Society's auxiliary role, acknowledging its capacity to engage with authorities, the private sector, and humanitarian coordination platforms. In 2023, IFRC supported the National Society in developing a communications strategy programme and services messaging, followed by the developing advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy materials that were delivered through a range of media channels.

The IFRC emphasizes greater localization, focusing on branch development and relevant services to the end-user, strengthening the National Society's effectiveness and building trust locally. Collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be enhanced through programme development, networking, and building relationships in key areas such

as climate change, health, social protection, gender, protection-gender, and inclusion. IFRC intends to actively participate in the 57th ADB Annual Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia, as a benchmark for coordination and collaboration with the Asian Development Bank.

In the realm of the private sector, the IFRC will maintain active engagement through various initiatives: 1) Collaboration with the International Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines and their respective Embassies; 2) Holding discussions with specific companies for more targeted bilateral support aligned with Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.



Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Philippine Red Cross will continue to ensure quality in the delivery of services and focus on its core mandate. This means continuously prioritizing and mainstreaming policies, procedures, tools and guidelines across the organization, and ensuring implementation as a united and agile IFRC network. It aims to enhance agility, accountability, and transparency by minimizing bureaucracy and duplication. Priorities include achieving gender parity, diversity, zero tolerance for fraud and corruption, and adherence to the Code of Conduct. The National Society, in line with the Foresee project, will be adopting measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness, with a focus on quality services and core mandate.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society to pilot test several projects, while enhancing accountability and efficiency in programme implementation and financial sustainability. The IFRC also supports the Philippine Red Cross in further strengthening the procurement process and policies, review and update of finance manual; supporting the National Society in the implementation of an emergency response preparedness (ERP) system and also works closely with the Philippine Red Cross on development of fraud and corruption prevention policy and risk register both at headquarters and

at chapter level. The IFRC also supports and provides guidance on strengthening the National Society's human resources department at various level. The IFRC will also contribute to increased localization, with a strong focus on the National Society's branch development, while ensuring that relevant services remain available. These are key components of strengthening the effectiveness of the Philippine Red Cross and building trust at the local level.

The IFRC will support the Philippines Red Cross in pilot testing the Working with Project Partners (WWPP) mechanism, aiming for higher accountability, program efficiency, and greater financial sustainability. IFRC will continue working towards obtaining the Legal Status Agreement with the Government of the Philippines, providing immunities and privileges for compliance with local laws.

The IFRC will focus on strengthening the capacity and systems of the Philippine Red Cross through mainstreaming new ways to improve accessing funds for better quality services for communities and identifying and securing sustainable income to maintain regular services and operations. Additionally, the newly adopted Community Engagement and Accountability guidelines will enable the Philippine Red Cross' objective to ensure communities' participation and consultation in feedback response. Capacity building initiatives for disaster data management will also be supported by IFRC.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC delegation has been in continuous operation since 2004, initially serving as an operational delegation to support the Philippine Red Cross in disaster response operations. Over time, the delegation's scope expanded to include long-term capacity building and management/governance support. The current structure comprises six international

delegates backed up by a small team of national focal persons covering administration, finance, communications, reporting, logistics, programme and organizational development. The IFRC supports the National Society in managing emergency and recovery operations and in developing, implementing, and monitoring longer-term programmes outlined in the Strategic Plan.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs. It involves agreeing on common priorities, co-developing strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes incorporate clarity in their humanitarian efforts, development assistance, and efforts to reinforce the auxiliary role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Philippine Red Cross collaborates closely with National Society partners in the Philippines, regularly convening coordination meetings and providing operational updates. Six participating National Societies support the Philippine Red Cross: the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society (remotely), the German Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, and the Spanish Red Cross.

The American Red Cross supports the Philippine Red Cross in developing a climate action strategy, framework, and roadmap; climate change adaptation (CCA) guidelines; and a climate-smart toolkit aligned with the Government system. Additionally, efforts will be directed towards strengthening the National Society's relationship with the Government under CCA. The American Red Cross will also support the updating of the National Society's Disaster Response and Recovery Operation Manual, focusing on enhancing Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) capacity for Anticipatory Action. Examples of other planned support include assisting with strategic fundraising initiatives for financial sustainability, HR restructuring and updating of finance policies.

The Canadian Red Cross continues to support the WASH readiness project in the Haiyan-affected provinces of Biliran, Negros Occidental and Cebu from 2022 to 2024. In collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross, a concept note

is being developed to support various activities over the next few years, including an operation centre, warehouse system, Red Cross 143 volunteers, among others.

The Finnish Red Cross is actively supporting the National Society's existing Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project, with a focus on small and medium enterprise (SME) relocation and training manuals for the Philippine Red Cross. The collaboration extends to conflict-sensitive Early Action Protocol development, engaging at national and regional levels for anticipatory action partnerships.

The **German Red Cross** is focusing on supporting the National Society's climate change adaptation efforts in communities and capacitating local government units (LGUs) on climate action. The focus includes community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities in conflict areas with a conflict-sensitive approach, preparing communities for anticipatory action, and capacitating LGUs. Additionally, emphasis is laid on integrating an anticipatory approach in community contingency planning, developing a drought Early Action Plan (EAP), revising Typhoon and Flood EAPs, institutionalizing anticipatory action within the National Society, and promoting Disaster Law and Humanitarian Diplomacy.

The Netherlands Red Cross continues its long-term partnership with the Philippine Red Cross, collaborating on climate action, nature-based solutions, DRR, emergency response, response preparedness, and water management/ WASH. The programmes include designing the next phase of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management project in Tacloban, developing and testing prototypes of nature-based solutions in the Philippines, and strengthening the National Society's response capacities through the establishment of Regional Hubs in regions 7 and 13.

The Spanish Red Cross emphasizes its support to the National Society through livelihoods and plans to strengthen this capacity in Mindanao, in the future. Additionally, the Spanish Red Cross has developed a proposal in support of the National Society, on circular economy, gender empowerment, and DRR initiatives in Zamboanga, and employment projects in Zamboanga and Manila. WASH programming is integrated into the circular economy initiative, and migration programming is incorporated into livelihood initiatives, with potential funding for the capacity building of returnees. Additionally, the Spanish Red Cross will continue to support National Society development in alignment with the Philippine Red Cross One Plan, depending on available funding and resources.

Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
American Red Cross	2.4M	•					
Canadian Red Cross Society	957,000						
Finnish Red Cross	50,000	•					
German Red Cross	825,000					•	
Netherlands Red Cross	210,000	•	•			•	
Spanish Red Cross	530,000	•				•	

Total Funding requirement

4.9M



National Society volunteers providing first aid support in evacuation centres set up post Super Typhoon Goring in Philippines in September 2023. (Photo: Philippine Red Cross)

Movement coordination

Movement coordination among the Philippine Red Cross, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at country level will continue into 2024 and beyond. This coordination is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0. The Seville 2.0 principles are in practice in the Philippines, and it is evident in the initiation of the process to operationalize a One PRC Plan. The main principle of the One PRC Plan is to put the National Society in the driving seat and enable it to set the directions of the Movement, with careful and relevant co-convening by both ICRC and IFRC (as required, relevant and deemed appropriate) to ensure compliance with principles, values, governance, mandates and practices. This is often evident during medium to large emergency responses in the country. The Movement

Coordination mechanism is functional and although the National Society takes the lead in movement coordination, all in-country partners including IFRC and ICRC are periodically responsible for co-hosting the meetings, coordinating with the membership, and putting forward joint priorities and common agendas.

In the Philippines, the ICRC works in isolated areas that are suffering the consequences of long-running armed conflicts. It works to protect and assist civilians who are displaced or otherwise affected by armed conflicts and other violent situations, particularly in parts of central and western Mindanao. The ICRC ensures that all actors adhere to humanitarian matters as part of their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL) or other relevant norms.

Coordination with other actors

At the country level, the Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC serve as observers and participants in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) during both disasters and non-emergency periods. The National Society and IFRC actively engage in relevant government-led cluster information sharing, planning, and analysis at all levels. IFRC further supports Philippine Red Cross' coordination efforts through representation in other relevant clusters as required.

The IFRC leads the Philippines Shelter Cluster in support of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development. The Global Shelter Cluster is an inter-agency standing committee (IASC) coordination mechanism, and the IFRC has been leading it in disaster contexts since the cluster approach was established in 2005. With this critical mandate, the IFRC is one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. It leverages its leadership position in the Global Shelter Cluster to improve coordination, build stronger policies and standards across the sector, and better support affected people in their recovery from crises and disasters. The in-country shelter cluster coordinator provides coordination support and technical assistance to the lead government agency. Currently, there are more than 40 shelter cluster members, including UN agencies, national, local and international NGOs, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

As auxiliary to the Philippines government, the Philippine Red Cross maintains strong relationships and collaboration with government bodies. The National Society headquarters in Manila and local chapters closely coordinate with national,

provincial, and local disaster risk reduction and management councils, namely the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (PDRRMC), and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (LDRRMC). This collaboration extends to other government institutions such as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Energy (DOE), and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Additionally, the Philippine Red Cross collaborates UN bodies, including WHO and UNICEF, in health programming, particularly in supporting the Department of Health's vaccination programme.

The IFRC joined the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA) in 2018, integrating the programme into the Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM) project of the National Society. In 2019, to broaden the collaboration and strengthen preparedness for effective response, Philippine Red Cross and IFRC partnered with the World Bank in the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Programme, coordinated by IFRC regional and Geneva teams. Through the American Red cross, the National Society and IFRC are collaborating with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) for the Red Ready programme to increase capacity, readiness and resilience in response to local disasters.

Over the past decade, IFRC and ASEAN have engaged in productive partnerships formalized in the MoU signed in May 2022 in Jakarta. It aligns with both the ASEAN Consolidated Strategic Action Plan 2016-2025 and IFRC's

Strategy 2030. These partnerships mainly focus on disaster risk management and climate change within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). The collaboration aims to enhance collective influence in building resilient communities in Southeast Asia by strengthening existing cooperation and deepening and widening the collaboration across ASEAN strategic priorities, where the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) plays a recognized role.

IFRC will also focus on strengthening its engagement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2024 and beyond, as part of its new strategy towards multilateral development banks.



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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans
- Subscribe for updates
- Donor response on IFRC website
- <u>Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund</u> (DREF) data
- Operational information: <u>IFRC GO platform</u>
- National Society data: IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
- Evaluations database

This plan reflects the priorities of the National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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