

2021



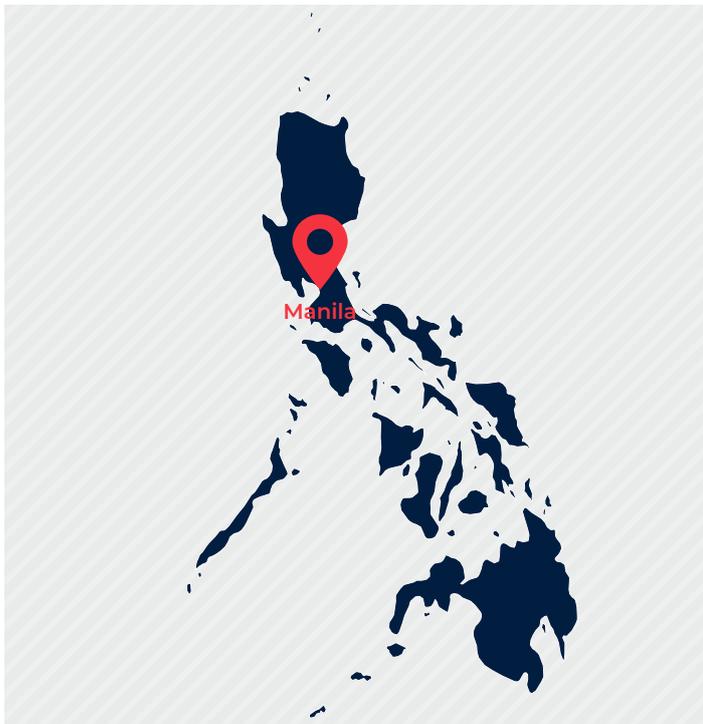
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PHILIPPINES

IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number
MAAPH001

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
4.38 million



Branches

104



Staff

3,000



Volunteers

15,000



People to be reached

350,000

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

109.6 million

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

106

Vulnerabilities



Volcanic activity



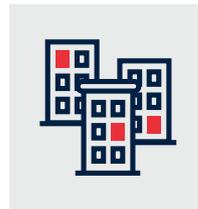
Migration & displacement



Extreme weather



Disease outbreak



Rapid urbanisation

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with a wide range of hazards including typhoons, annual monsoon-related flooding, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

In 2018, the Philippines ranked second among countries most affected by extreme weather events. Sixty per cent of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, and 74 per cent of people are susceptible to their impact.

Changing lifestyles and the increasing prevalence of risk factors related to diet, tobacco smoke, cancer and diabetes, are increasingly compromising the health of people in the Philippines. Many people suffer from diseases, for which effective interventions are available.

The Philippines has the highest recorded COVID-19 caseload in Southeast Asia, surpassing 300,000 confirmed cases by September 2020. The rapid escalation of the pandemic has compromised the health and education sectors, resulted in mass unemployment and resulted in the displacement of a significant number of people.

Poverty has always been a critical social problem in the Philippines and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this concern. Food insecure households increased significantly from 53.9 per cent in 2018 to 64.1 per cent in 2019. Nearly half of all deaths in children under five years old are attributable to malnutrition which puts them at greater risk of dying from common infections.

Forced displacement due to conflict is severely affecting marginalised and vulnerable communities. A combination of displacement and population growth has made the Philippines the fastest urbanising country in Southeast Asia, with more than 65 per cent of people living in urban areas.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1947

Collaboration

Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Nature Conservancy, Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) Replica

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) serves as an auxiliary to the Government to provide relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable people in the Philippines.

The National Society adopts a holistic approach to its humanitarian and development work offering a wide array of services in partnership with non-governmental organisations and the private sector to network effectively and successfully run its services.

The National Society's core programmes include blood services, disaster management and relief services, dissemination of international humanitarian law, health services, safety services, social services, volunteer and youth support. Launched in 2009, its ambitious volunteer programme, 'Red Cross 143', will train 1.8 million volunteers nationwide in community-based disaster preparation and response programmes, as well as in first aid.

The National Society is a significant body in the fight against COVID-19 in the Philippines. Its introduction of molecular laboratories has provided critical additional testing capacity within the country. As of December 2020, it had conducted more than 1 million COVID-19 tests – 26 per cent of the total tests conducted in the country. The National Society is a partner to the Government in its immunisation work and will continue to be in the coming years.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Membership coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
America Red Cross	✓	✓				✓		✓
Canadian Red Cross		✓	✓	✓				✓
Finnish Red Cross		✓				✓		
German Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
Japanese Red Cross		✓	✓					✓
The Netherlands Red Cross		✓				✓		✓
Spanish Red Cross	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
Qatar Red Crescent			✓					

The National Society is in close coordination with in-country National Society partners. In 2021, the IFRC will prioritize membership services and support the National Society with the coordination of membership. In-country partners and their priority programmes are as follows:

- **The American Red Cross:** the Red Ready project to increase readiness and resilience to respond to local disasters; and integration of digital technology into National Society operations.
- **The Canadian Red Cross:** capacity development in disaster management, health, protection, gender and inclusion.
- **The Finnish Red Cross:** forecast-based financing projects led by the German Red Cross and disaster management learning partnership with the Philippines National Society.
- **The German Red Cross:** disaster law, forecast-based financing, and health programmes.
- **The Japanese Red Cross Society:** disaster management, health programmes and the development of the National Society.
- **The Netherlands Red Cross:** forecast-based financing and integration of digital technology into National Society operations.
- **The Spanish Red Cross:** climate-conscious livelihoods for indigenous people and cash and voucher assistance in emergencies.
- **The Qatar Red Crescent Society:** integrated water, sanitation and health programming; and child development programming.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1,150,000

People to be reached
39,100



The World Bank recognises the Philippines as the third most vulnerable country in the world to weather-related extreme events, earthquakes, and sea-level rise.

In 2019, the Philippine Climate Change Commission adopted the National Climate Risk Management Framework to address the intensifying adverse impacts of climate change in the country. This framework outlines the conduct of multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder activities of the Government, the academic and scientific community, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.

The effects of climate change include rising temperatures, varying rainfall, extreme weather, droughts and ocean acidification linked to increasing carbon dioxide levels. These severely impact the Philippines' agriculture sector, water resources, energy, coastal ecosystem, urban infrastructure and services (such as transport, water, sanitation and waste disposal), and people's health.

Sea levels around the Philippines are rising at a rate almost three times the global average. One study estimates that over 167,000 hectares of coastland in low-lying communities will go underwater by end of this century.

The National Society's Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities tool, which piloted in 2019 in partnership with Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, will be extended to flood-prone areas in Metro Manila. The plan is to support effective community flood resilience programs at scale and contribute to the flood resilience agenda of policymakers and donors. The aims of the Alliance are to influence a change in the global approach to community flood resilience using practical experiences and to support communities and businesses to flourish, despite increasing frequency and severity of floods and the impacts of climate change. The Flood Resilience project has been extended to focus on Metro Manila communities.

To ensure that staff and volunteers have the knowledge and capacity to generate action to address the climate and environmental crises, the IFRC will support the National Society to create a climate policy and run climate advocacy and awareness campaigns in partner communities, and pursue new, innovative partnerships. These activities will form part of a climate-smart disaster risk reduction programme that will build the capacity of the National Society to implement green response and nature-based solutions.

60%
land area exposed to hazards

74%
people susceptible to the impact of hazards

20
Typhoons enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility every year

ACTIVITIES

- Develop a climate policy to be adopted across all programmes and services.
- Extend Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities tool to flood prone areas in Metro Manila



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

210,000

People to be reached

40,000

According to the EM-DAT The International Disaster Database, the Philippines was affected by 565 disaster events from 1990 to 2019, which caused an estimated 20.4 billion Swiss francs in damages. Approximately 85.2 per cent of the country's economic resources are susceptible to disasters.

Agriculture is the dominant livelihood for the rural poor. The production of staple crops, such as rice and corn, will be negatively impacted by the changing climate. The typhoon season costs two per cent of the country's yearly GDP on average, and recovery activities consume another two per cent. Extreme weather events such as typhoons are expected to occur more frequently and to result in an increase in potential losses.

Urban areas are ill-prepared for disaster. People have limited access to essential services such as water, sanitation, solid waste management and inadequate health care. Often shelter is inadequate and houses are built on unsafe land. In urban areas, 5 million people live in informal settings, of which only 2.2 million people are receiving government services.

Conflict and instability in the southern island group of Mindanao have left thousands of people displaced for decades and it continues to drive new displacement.

To address these issues, the IFRC and the National Society are committed to climate change adaptation and to prepare communities for disaster. The IFRC will support the National Society to expand its capacity for response, recovery and improve its long-term ability to address people's needs around shelter and settlements.

To prepare communities for prompt response and recovery to crises, the National Society will undertake contingency planning and evacuation drills. It will also prepare relief items for people affected by crises where markets and services are disrupted.

IFRC Disaster law advisers will support the National Society to strengthen its knowledge of domestic and international disaster laws. The IFRC will support the National Society to provide evidence-based policy recommendations through in-depth country-level research guided by disaster law tools.

ACTIVITIES

- Support the National Society's disaster management emergency responses through an Emergency Appeal and the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.
- Develop a guide to strengthen the recognition of the National Society's auxiliary role through case studies and dialogue with government and humanitarian partners.
- Strengthen disaster management strategic documents, including shelter and livelihood guidelines.
- Deliver early action and response to vulnerable people using disaster risk financing.
- Strengthen capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance through cash and voucher assistance.
- Develop and maintain dialogue with the military for preparation and response to a disaster.



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
740,000

People to be reached
225,0000



People living in the Philippines bear a triple burden of disease. Firstly, there is the increasing health impact of globalisation and escalating climate change. Secondly, changes in lifestyle and the growing prevalence of risk factors related to diet, tobacco smoke and high blood pressure contribute to a rising incidence of non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. Thirdly, despite advances in managing and treating infectious diseases, many people suffer from diseases for which effective interventions are available. These include HIV, tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio and diphtheria.

In 2019, the Government reported outbreaks of measles and polio due to low immunisation coverage. Before the outbreaks, the percentage of children fully immunised against measles had decreased from 91 per cent to less than 40 per cent between 2014 and 2018.

Despite improvements in the past decade, the Philippines continues to face public health challenges due to resource and capacity limitations. The World Health Organization recommends five hospitals per 1,000 people. In urban areas in the Philippines there is only one hospital bed and an average of 1.3 physicians per 1,000 people. While the country has a primary care system of health centres and community health workers, they are generally ill-equipped and poorly resourced. The limited resources and capacity make it difficult to respond to public health emergencies, such as COVID-19 adequately.

The IFRC will support the National Society to help communities identify and reduce health risks through targeted community engagement, for example, reaching people with messages regarding vaccine-preventable diseases, and maternal and child health. The IFRC will also support the National Society to provide safe water to affected people in emergency operations and conduct sessions on safe household water storage.

In the context of emergency health, the IFRC and the National Society will regularly attend health coordination meetings organised by the Government and UNICEF.

ACTIVITIES

- Raise awareness of the effects of climate change on health to prompt action for public health.
- Train volunteers in mental health support services.
- Provide emergency health services through mobile health units.
- Include messages on preventing and responding to sexual- and gender-based violence in all community outreach activities.
- Develop and update epidemic and pandemic preparedness plans.
- Train 43 community health volunteers to use Epidemic Control for Volunteers Toolkit and to circulate life-saving messages on epidemic prevention.
- Provide one first aider in every home, workplace and community.



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

70,000

People to be reached

20,000



The Philippines has one of the largest diasporas in the world. An estimated ten per cent of the population, or 10 million Filipino people live abroad. Filipino migrants face several challenges and threats, including cultural conflict, physical, verbal or sexual abuse, illegal recruitment, trafficking and deportation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, reports document rising levels of discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and in some cases, food insecurity, layoffs, worsening working conditions and inadequate living conditions. They can also face increased restrictions on movements and forced returns.

As of 17 September 2020, the total number of Filipino people sent back to the Philippines reached 181,118, many of whom were overseas workers who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

In the Philippines, human trafficking and illegal recruitment are a significant issue of concern.

The IFRC will support the National Society to promote the Virtual Volunteer web-based application as a source of trustworthy and up-to-date information for migrants and their communities. It will also support the National Society to run awareness campaigns to promote critical messaging to migrants' communities.

With support from the Movement, the National Society will work on migration and displacement issues by promoting the rights, safety and protection of overseas foreign workers or by working with people displaced due to conflict, natural disasters or climate change. The National Society will also advocate for local government engagement and response to migrant needs.



1.4 million
People displaced due
to Typhoon Kammuri in
December 2019

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Build the National Society's capacity in Batangas, General Santos and Palawan.
- Ensure migrants have rights and protection, particularly overseas Filipino workers.
- Train and organise community volunteers through the Red Cross 143 programme.
- Build staff and volunteers' capacity on the Movement's principles and approach to migration.



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

50,000

People to be reached

25,000



Despite ranking in the top eight for gender equality, gender-based violence is common in the Philippines. Women and girls have a higher vulnerability to gender-based violence than the global average. One in five women aged 15–49 years in the Philippines has experienced violence at least once in their lifetime.

Poverty and behaviours that are seen as socially acceptable increase not only the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) but also perpetuate gender inequality. An intervention that gives women and girls access to more assets and credit could increase the potential risk of violence. However, when combining economic empowerment with gender training and prevention activities, the evidence for reducing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is stronger.

A recent study by the National Society found that risks of SGBV in the Philippines increased during and after 2013's Typhoon Haiyan. As part of this study, 30 per cent of the 805 respondents reported women and girls felt distressed by the rise in the number of child marriages after disasters.

In response, the IFRC supported the National Society to launch an SGBV project and a follow-up in 2021 will strengthen the project by adding on a livelihood component, which gives communities the chance to form proposals for livelihood projects. The project also includes a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) component to provide people affected by disaster with low-risk loans to rebuild their livelihoods.



20%

Percent of women volunteers aged 15-49 that have been the victims of violence

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Apply protection, gender and inclusion minimum standards to all programmes and operations.
- Collect and analyse sex-age and disability-disaggregated data to ensure women and other vulnerable groups are being reached and duly represented in the activities.
- Circulate guidelines on SGBV prevention.
- Build the National Society's capacity for Guidance on Violence Prevention and Response and Guidance on Reproductive Health.
- Organise a community committee for day-to-day operations of a women-friendly space.
- Collaborate with UNICEF on Disaster Law and Child Protection initiative.



ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

160,000

The National Society will develop its brand and widen its visibility as a priority in 2021. The IFRC will support the National Society to meet its objective of being the preferred partner of choice and a lifeline for people in the Philippines. The IFRC will also support the National Society to develop a communications strategy, define messages in programmes and services, and create advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy materials.

The IFRC convenes the shelter cluster in the Philippines in cooperation with the Government. As co-chair of the shelter cluster, the IFRC will ensure sufficient capacity to provide shelter coordination services to agencies in the country responding to the shelter needs of affected people.

The IFRC will support the National Society to scale up commercial first aid to improve its financial sustainability and recovery from the 2020 pandemic-driven slowdown. This is intended to support the National Society to develop a contemporary business model that delivers more accessible, quality services and is self-sustaining. This model will also position the National Society as the first-choice for first aid training in the Philippines.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its partnerships, maximise resources and update training packages. It will also align the membership's support of the National Society's objectives by creating a common plan and measures of success.

The IFRC will support the National Society's goal of establishing an accredited, self-sustaining academy by 2025 that is recognised in the country for its specialist training in emergency and disaster-related courses. In addition, the IFRC will support the National Society to adopt digital technology to transform its operations.

ACTIVITIES

- Identify opportunities for collaboration with civil society, including with city-wide coalitions and local level actors.
- Ensure strategic priorities drive service delivery.
- Roll out National Society mobile apps: Hazards App, First Aid App, Virtual Volunteer and Atlas.



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,200,000

The IFRC will develop the talents of its staff by promoting e-learning courses, and it will ensure professional development opportunities align with an individual's skills and aspirations. It will enhance accountability through a membership satisfaction survey and other means that enhance information sharing, common planning and shared measures of success among National Societies in the Philippines.

The IFRC has a strong culture on gender, diversity and inclusion. It will offer guidance to the National Society to measure and report on gender, diversity and inclusion in its human resources practices and emergency operations plans.

To ensure that financial resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, the IFRC will confirm that all activities comply with its financial management procedures and will provide information to management on any known or suspected deviations from standard practice.

The IFRC will explore and cultivate opportunities for diversified funding to support the National Society to develop a new financing model that will increase its financial resources. The IFRC will also increase engagement in consortia that align with the National Society's programmes and priorities.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 interrupted the traditional fundraising approaches of the National Society, which has resulted in unanticipated pressure and has highlighted the need to consider more diverse fundraising alternatives. The IFRC, in coordination with its members, will support the National Society to secure new resources and invest in localised capacities and systems.

The IFRC will also support the National Society to develop further and strengthen its financial, logistical, human resource, data management, and security systems. The IFRC will contribute towards standardised policies, procedures, and tools for the National Society to implement.

ACTIVITIES

- Include risk management as a recurring agenda item in all staff meetings.
- Explore and identify domestic fundraising models to adapt and apply.
- Regularly review business continuity plans to confirm they are fit for purpose.
- Periodically review, update and reinforce security planning.



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ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

800,000

Plans and actions to develop the National Society will promote an integrated and holistic approach to strengthen its capacity and enable it to extend its connection and service to communities. Through this approach, the IFRC will support coordination among membership with the intent of developing Federation-wide plans and activities and help the National Society to reinforce systems and procedures that support its emergency and disaster response and contribute to community resilience through its services and operations. These processes will also help the National Society to become financially sustainable.

Championing the ongoing development of the National Society's volunteer base is intrinsic to meeting these aims. The IFRC will therefore support the National Society to extend its volunteer base to reflect the diverse people in the Philippines.

The IFRC, along with National Society partners, will coordinate resources and approaches to meet the National Society's strategic priorities. The IFRC will also support the National Society to lead membership coordination through defining a coordination strategy, sharing information and aligning programmes.

The National Society will strengthen its disaster management capacity and roll out regional hubs that will improve its ability to respond to localised disasters. The core functions of the regional hubs will include disaster preparation, response and the securing of new resources. Staff and volunteers will be trained in emergency relief, health and WASH. The IFRC network will support the National Society in this venture by participating in a working group for the regional hubs project and exploring resource options and opportunities.

The IFRC will support the National Society to develop or review policies to prevent, manage and address any potential integrity and reputational risks. It will also support the National Society to create white papers and run discussion groups to educate staff, volunteers and policymakers on risk management. These activities will position the IFRC and its membership as leaders that protect others against sexual exploitation and abuse.

ACTIVITIES

- Install an individual giving programme.
- Arrange five fully operational regional hubs by 2025 and ensure a further five hubs are in the testing phase.
- Develop and enhance ways to engage with young people, including media, that enable and encourage feedback and dialogue.
- Create and implement a membership coordination strategy to enhance strategic and operational plans.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 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.

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