

PHILIPPINES

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 27.4M**

Appeal number **MAAPH001**

In support of the Philippine Red Cross



104

National Society branches



2,221

National Society staff



300,888

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



400,000

Ongoing
emergency
operations



380,000

Climate and
environment



380,000

Disasters
and crises



100,000

Health and
wellbeing



35,000

Migration and
displacement



370,000

Values, power
and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- Typhoon Rai recovery

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

Population **111M**

INFORM severity rating **high**

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank **2**

Human Development Index rank **107**

Population below poverty level **16.7%**

Hazards



Cyclones



Floods



Earthquakes



Population movement



Poverty



Conflict

Funding requirements

Total 27.4M CHF

Through the IFRC

22.6M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

2.2M CHF

Host National Society

2.5M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

20.3M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

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

780,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRPH045

Typhoon Rai
cyclone

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross

Australian Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Red Cross Society of China*

Finnish Red Cross

French Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Norwegian Red Cross*

The Republic of Korea National
Red Cross*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross

Spanish Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Philippine Red Cross 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.

As the country's largest humanitarian organization, the Philippine Red Cross has 104 chapters that cover all administrative districts and major cities. The Philippine Red Cross's core programmes and services focus on health (including blood services, and mental health and psychosocial support), disaster management and relief, safety and social services, youth support and volunteering, and the dissemination of international humanitarian law. Through its Red Cross 143 volunteer programme, launched in 2009, the National Society trains and equips volunteers at the community (barangay) level – expanding its capacity to respond to disasters and crises. The National Society aims to train and equip 1.8 million volunteers nationwide in first aid and community-based disaster preparedness and response.

The Philippine Red Cross is a key partner to the Department of Health in the fight against COVID-19 in the Philippines. Its response has been an exercise in programme innovation and volunteer engagement, and the IFRC will continue to support its testing and immunization work.

The National Society's Strategy 2021–2025 highlights three significant and intersecting concerns: climate and environmental crises, health and wellbeing (including COVID-19), and conflict and migration. The strategy's aim is to achieve the following goals:

- To empower the most vulnerable and marginalized community members through sustainable, innovative, needs-based services that enable resilience and promote human dignity and wellbeing
- To strengthen the National Society's financial resilience through intensified resource mobilization, strategic partnerships and well-placed systems that enhance trust, accountability, transparency, efficiency and standards compliance
- To enhance the organizational capacity for the welfare of National Society staff and volunteers through a human-centred approach, supported by stronger administrative systems and procedures

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

The Philippines is prone to natural hazards due to its geographical location and tectonic conditions. It ranks 11th in the world in terms of susceptibility to disasters, [according to the 2023 INFORM risk index](#). At least 60 per cent of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, putting 74 per cent of the population at risk. With more than 111 million people, the Philippines is the 13th-most populous nation in the world. It is expected that the population will increase to more than 153 million by 2030. Approximately 85.2 per cent of the sources of production in the Philippines 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 that have

occurred in the last 50 years. The country's infrastructure is of low quality, and it is rapidly expanding despite the high risk of disasters. Some relocations have been planned, to reduce disaster risks, but this can lead to new risks and vulnerabilities – for example, when relocation sites are in environmentally sensitive areas or have inadequate livelihood opportunities.

The Philippines is strongly affected by climate change. Temperatures and sea levels are rising, while heavy rainfall and extreme weather events are increasing. Climate change has a negative impact on the country's rich natural and marine resources that support livelihoods; it damages health infrastructure, exacerbates ongoing water shortages and increases poverty.

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 Filipinos 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.

Since the first case of COVID-19 was recorded in the Philippines in February 2020, the pandemic has become a major humanitarian challenge. Its rapid escalation compromised the economy and the health and education sectors, giving rise to mass unemployment and widespread movement of people.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the number of people living below the poverty line in 2021 increased to nearly 20 million, 18.1 per cent of the population, compared with 16.7 per cent in 2018. This is significantly higher than the Government's target of 15.5 to 17.5 per cent. The Philippines is ranked at 107 of the 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Report and it has a Human Development Index value of 0.718. This is average in terms of the key dimensions of human development – Filipinos can expect a long and healthy life, a reasonable education and a decent standard of living. However, there are significant challenges to urban infrastructure, including inadequate disaster preparedness, limited access to basic services such as water, sanitation and solid waste management, a lack of health care, and inadequate shelter and housing on safe land.

Rising inflation presents a major challenge to the economy in the Philippines. The annual rate of inflation rose from 6.1 per cent in June 2022 to 6.4 per cent in July, compared with 3.7 per cent in June 2021. This is the highest it has been since October 2018. Three major events have severely affected the economic and financial situation in the Philippines in 2022: the conflict in Ukraine (which started in February), the crisis between China and Taiwan (which started in August, following the visit of the US Congress President to Taipei), and the COVID-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected the economy and health care system. There were signs of a post-pandemic recovery at the beginning of 2022, but since then, world events have made recovery more difficult.

From a political perspective, there have been some developments in the resolution of the conflict in Mindanao. On 28 October 2021, Rodrigo Duterte, who was then President of the Philippines, signed a three-year extension of the transition period of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. The region's first parliamentary election is scheduled for May 2025, alongside the national election. In 2021, the Mindanao Peoples Caucus actively campaigned for an extension to the transition period, to allow more time for the Bangsamoro Transition Authority and the Philippine Government to fully implement and deliver the commitments they had made in the 2014 peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The agreement grants greater political autonomy to the southern Mindanao region. After decades of war and endemic poverty, there are high expectations about what peace will deliver in terms of infrastructure and political reforms, security, and socio-economic and education improvements. The Bangsamoro Transition Authority will need to manage people's expectations, if it is to maintain popular support for the peace process.

A smooth transition of power occurred after the presidential election on 9 May 2022. Former President Rodrigo Duterte stepped down on 30 June, making way for President Marcos and Vice President Duterte-Carpio. The Duterte administration's development and peace agenda was geared towards attaining a just and lasting peace in the Philippines, and this underpinned the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022: *Malasakit, Pagbabago and Patuloy na Pag-unlad* (which means compassion, change and continuous development).

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Philippines](#)

- Appeal number: MDRPH045 Typhoon Rai
- Appeal launch date: 18 December 2021
- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- People affected: 15.9 million
- People to be assisted: 400,000

Typhoon Rai, known locally as Odette, was one of the strongest typhoons of 2021. It made landfall in the Philippines on 16 December 2021, causing major devastation on the islands of Visayas, northern Mindanao and Palawan. The most affected areas included the Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Bohol, Cebu, Palawan, Southern Leyte, Lapu Lapu, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental. Typhoon-force winds and heavy

rainfall caused severe flooding and storm surges, while landslides resulted in widespread damage to houses, livelihoods, agriculture, infrastructure, health facilities and schools. Vital infrastructure including power lines, water supply and communications networks was also extensively damaged and has not been fully restored.

The typhoon maintained its intensity as it tracked across the Philippine archipelago, damaging more than two million homes. The storm created several public health concerns that still persist, such as water-borne and food-related diseases, particularly in Surigao del Norte and the Dinagat Islands. A serious surge in new COVID-19 cases further compounded the deteriorating health situation during 2022. It has been challenging to respond to and monitor the health risks in the affected areas, because so many health facilities were destroyed.

The typhoon also severely affected livelihoods in communities that depend on agriculture and fisheries. The poverty rate where the typhoon did most of its damage was already above the national average, and now nearly half the population in the six most affected provinces are living below the poverty line. Many of the affected areas depend on tourism, such as Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte where Typhoon Rai initially made landfall, with winds peaking at 195 kilometres per hour.

Typhoon Rai had a serious impact on many islands and mountainous areas that are difficult to reach. It is essential for humanitarian service providers to reach these areas, to ensure that relief assessments are up to date and affected populations receive assistance in a timely manner. There is a risk that similar weather events will again strike the areas affected by Typhoon Rai during the winter months. People who have not yet been able to rebuild safe and durable shelter could again be affected by high winds and heavy rains, leaving them vulnerable to further loss of property and increased health risks.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operation aims to assist 400,000 people (80,000 families) affected by Typhoon Rai to meet their essential needs in a safe and dignified manner, recover from the crisis and sustainably strengthen their resilience to shocks.

The Philippine Red Cross has identified two geographical areas that most need assistance because of damage to vital infrastructure, shelter and livelihoods:

- Surigao Del Norte, Bohol, Cebu, Palawan, Lapu-Lapu, Southern Leyte, the Dinagat Islands and Siargao Island
- Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental and Hilongos

In 2023, the final year of the Emergency Appeal, the operation will focus on the following areas:

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene, mental health and psychosocial support, community health and medical services

The Philippine Red Cross will continue working closely with affected communities to assess their most prominent health needs and address them through a combination of community-based health and first aid and epidemic control volunteer approaches.

There will also be continued engagement with communities to promote and build confidence in vaccines – for routine immunization as well as COVID-19 – especially in areas with low vaccination rates.

The National Society will work on hygiene promotion, to ensure proper and safe use of water and prevent hand, foot and mouth diseases as well as water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea. In the long-term, the National Society will continue this work, building water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and providing cleaning support for houses, roads and schools.

Integrated assistance, including livelihoods, multi-purpose cash, shelter, housing and settlements

The most important sector in this operation is shelter, housing and settlements, because most of the housing and shelter in the typhoon-affected areas was destroyed. Longer-term action will focus on shelter repair assistance, in the form of in-kind materials and cash assistance. This will be done in accordance with minimum shelter guidelines for safety, adequacy and access.

In order to re-establish livelihoods, the household livelihood assistance programme will offer conditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable households. Recipients who have been targeted for assistance will also receive seeds, to help complement their livelihoods.

Beyond the emergency and recovery phase, the Philippine Red Cross will initiate a community-managed livelihood project for the most vulnerable communities that need support in this area. The National Society will provide items such as seeds and tools, along with initial funds for communities to design, set up and manage their own livelihood projects.

Protection and prevention, including risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, protection, gender and inclusion, migration and environmental sustainability

Each sector will adhere to minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion, as a cross-cutting approach, and ensure the activities and interventions within this operation will not have a negative impact on the environment.

The operation will ensure the integration of community engagement and accountability by involving communities in needs assessments, programme planning, implementation and evaluation. This includes keeping people informed of operational plans and progress, and providing opportunities to make suggestions. The IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross with setting up community feedback mechanisms, and provide staff and volunteers with community engagement and accountability orientation and training.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Due to its geographical location, the Philippines is more greatly affected by tropical cyclones than any other country in the world. Of all the countries that make an annual loss because of tropical cyclones, the Philippines is in the top 10. Flooding and storm surges are among the greatest threats to the population.¹

Projections show that an increase in global warming will increase the number and intensity of Category 4 and 5 tropical cyclones in the Philippines, and this in turn will increase the magnitude and impact of storm surges and flooding.

The metropolitan area of Manila is ranked as one of the most vulnerable cities in the world. Studies suggest that a 10 per cent increase in the height of wave surges would increase the number of people who are vulnerable to flooding by 3.4 million. Other cities would also be affected, and between 80,000 and 230,000 more people would be vulnerable in the urban areas of Taguig, Caloocan, Davao, Malabon and others.

In the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the region of Asia is the most exposed to sea level rise caused by climate change. More than 60 per cent of the Filipino population live in coastal areas and will be forced to relocate if sea levels rise by one metre – it is expected that 60 million people will have to move by 2100.

Other expected consequences of climate change are as follows:

- Increased El Niño and La Niña events in the Pacific will lead to more intense droughts and an increase in precipitation and severe flooding respectively

- Extensive droughts will damage agricultural crops and reduce water supply, threatening both food and water security
- More frequent and bigger forest fires will affect large areas of forest and biodiversity
- The oceans absorb 91 per cent of the excess heat caused by greenhouse gas emissions, and rising sea temperatures will lead to low oxygen levels and ocean acidification. The decline of about nine per cent of fishery GDP and coral bleaching in the Philippines has been attributed to rising ocean temperatures.
- Tidal flooding will affect the livelihoods of coastal communities throughout the Philippines archipelago
- Sea level rise will accelerate coastal erosion, shoreline retreat, wetland flooding, saltwater intrusion and a loss of habitats for fish, birds and plants
- Severe heatwaves will affect urban areas, as will heavy precipitation, runoff and flooding
- Climate change will directly affect human health, as extreme heat, polluted air and severe weather events will cause heat strokes, increased water- and vector-borne diseases, respiratory illnesses and malnutrition

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support the Philippine Red Cross to strengthen its knowledge, capacity and resources to address climate and environmental issues.

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

¹ Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

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.

The IFRC will support the Greening Disaster Risk Reduction Project, together with American Red Cross. It will also provide technical support through webinars and learning exchange sessions on nature-based solutions.

Through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, the IFRC will continue to support the Philippine Red Cross with building its capacity to develop urban community resilience, and interventions to address environmental issues. The project has expanded its coverage into Metro Manila, to reach more people and communities. It is also targeting national-level advocacy programmes to influence policies and investments that promote flood resilience in communities. The National Society will also contribute to food security through the Green Food Production project.

Statistics

Hydrometeorological hazards including **typhoons, storm surges and flooding** accounted for 80 per cent of non-manmade disasters in the Philippines over the last half a century

Disasters and crises

The Philippines 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.

Approximately 21 tropical cyclones enter the Philippines each year, and about 35 per cent of them cause significant damage. Among the islands, the northern Luzon and eastern Visayas are the most affected. The Philippines is also at constant risk of strong and destructive earthquakes. Seismic activity is common throughout most of the country, and between five and 20 earthquakes occur every day.

Because of climate change, the Philippines is experiencing an increase in extreme weather events. According to the Global Climate Risk Index of 2021, the Philippines ranked fourth between 2000 and 2019. The indicator is based on fatalities, economic losses and the number of climate events. The country was affected by 317 weather-related events over the 20-year period, the highest number among the most affected countries.

In 2022, the UN World Food Programme reported that the Philippines has the largest number of food insecure people in Southeast Asia. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 64 million Filipinos are affected by severe food insecurity. The Philippines ranked 68th out of 116 countries in the 2021 Global Hunger Index with a score of 16.8, which means there is a moderate level of hunger.

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.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross by continuing to mobilize global response tools for emergencies, so it can support people affected by disasters. Between 2017 and mid-2022, there were at least 78 emergencies in the Philippines (cyclones, earthquakes and epidemics) resulting in 16 Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operations and seven Emergency Appeals.

In 2023, the National Society will focus on enhancing its capacities to deliver humanitarian services in disasters and emergencies. It is at the assessment phase of the IFRC's continuous and flexible Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. This enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze its strengths and the gaps in its preparedness and response mechanisms, and ultimately take steps to improve them.

Furthermore, the Philippine Red Cross will continue to focus on community-based disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction programming to build more resilient communities.

In 2023, the IFRC network will support the National Society with:

- Providing hot meals and sourcing food supplies through donations, food baskets, Ramadan packages and relief assistance in emergencies
- Providing livelihood assistance to the most vulnerable households through Household Livelihood Assistance and the Community-Managed Livelihood Project, along with raising awareness and training on strengthening and protecting livelihoods
- Developing more inclusive, sustainable, risk-informed shelter and settlement programmes
- Developing a cash readiness plan and updating standard operating procedures and guidelines for cash programming
- Pilot testing the Red Rose data management platform during emergency operations
- Training National Society staff and volunteers in disaster management and annual disaster-related drills, and updating chapter contingency plans
- Developing strategic frameworks and carrying out activities in the area of disaster risk reduction
- Developing sustainable and institutionalized forecast-based financing models, and extending forecasts to drought and conflict scenarios
- Strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role through continuous engagement and collaboration with public authorities, from the national Government to local governmental bodies
- Developing and maintaining dialogue with the military in accordance with the Red Cross Red Crescent Asia Pacific Operational Guidelines for Civil Military Relations in Disaster Preparedness and Response

The IFRC will give technical support and training in several areas, and provide leadership and expertise in inter-agency forums. This includes the Philippines Shelter Cluster, where the IFRC has supported the shelter strategy in emergency contexts.

The **Finnish Red Cross** will support the ongoing work of the Philippine Red Cross and the German Red Cross on forecast-based financing development. Collectively, they will reactivate their partnership in building joint disaster management and surge capacities. The Finnish Red Cross will also work on developing mechanisms for joint international deployment in disaster management.

The **German Red Cross** will continue to support the Philippine Red Cross in the implementation of forecast-based financing and disaster risk reduction.

The Netherlands Red Cross will support the Philippine Red Cross disaster risk reduction activities in Tacloban, Cagayan de Oro and other areas of Mindanao.

Spanish Red Cross programmes with the Philippine Red Cross will support local communities with becoming more resilient to natural disasters, armed conflict and environmental crises, focusing on livelihoods and the mitigation of evolving hazards and risks.

Statistics

At least 60 per cent of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, which puts **74 per cent of the population at risk**

Approximately **21 tropical cyclones** enter the Philippines each year, and about 35 per cent of them cause significant damage

Health and wellbeing

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the Philippines. More than 3.86 million COVID-19 cases and 61,000 deaths have been recorded. The pandemic disrupted the socio-economic gains the Philippines had been making in recent years, and strained the country's health and welfare systems. The number of food insecure households has increased and, according to UNICEF, nearly half of all deaths in children under five are caused by malnourishment. Other health and well-being concerns include inadequate community mental health services and a high incidence of road traffic injuries and fatalities.

Health is becoming an increasingly important issue in the Philippines, where people bear a triple burden of disease. 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 heart disease 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. This includes HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio and diphtheria.

In 2019, the Department of Health reported outbreaks of measles and polio, caused by poor immunization coverage. In 2018, it was estimated that 3.7 million children under the age of five were at risk of measles because of its highly contagious nature and a low vaccination rate. The risks are especially high in poor, densely populated urban environments where people refuse to vaccinate their children.

The changing climate is likely to have an impact on the country's health. Cases of heat-related illnesses like heat stroke, cramps and exhaustion are expected to increase. People in the Philippines are vulnerable to vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, and these will increase as the temperature rises. Flooding creates stagnant water that becomes a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. Cardiorespiratory diseases are also likely to increase as people experience higher exposure to air pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels. According to WHO, 91 per cent of the world's 9.2 million premature deaths relating to outdoor air pollution occur in Southeast Asia.

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. There are only 2,223 intensive care beds nationwide. 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, they are generally 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 Philippines does have a disease surveillance system, but this is unevenly spread across the country. There are disaster preparedness plans in place at the local government level, but these are geared more to typhoons and floods than disease epidemics. It is therefore extremely difficult to respond adequately to public health emergencies such as COVID-19.

Main actions and areas of support

The Philippine Red Cross is one of the leading organizations addressing health-related challenges. Its activities include first aid, mental health and psychosocial support (including in emergencies), public health emergencies

(including but not limited to COVID 19), immunization and the treatment of disease. The National Society also focuses on expanding the scale and scope of its blood services. It aims to reach one per cent of the population, in order to provide 85 per cent of national blood and blood component needs, to be collected and processed by its blood banks and centres. Another flagship priority for the National Society is to increase and improve its dialysis centres.

The Philippine Red Cross plans to increase the uptake of vaccination against disease, particularly among children and young adults, in support of the Government. It will focus on areas and people that are hard to reach, including those who have been affected by disasters and conflicts.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) also remains a priority area of intervention, including in emergencies. The Philippine Red Cross's dedicated WASH service will establish and strengthen WASH hubs in targeted areas across the country. The National Society will continue to improve water production, treatment, storage and distribution. It will provide WASH services in evacuation centres and in the community, while promoting good hygiene practices (including menstrual hygiene) in all settings. It will promote the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation and Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training models wherever possible, especially in the recovery phase of emergency operations.

The National Society plans to build its capacity and level of preparedness in all aspects of health, WASH, safety and welfare. It will develop its logistics and warehouse management practices, digitalize its systems, and become better prepared for epidemics and pandemics. It will act quickly with its ready-to-deploy emergency medical units, ambulances, isolation facilities and tailor-made temporary wards. This will enable the National Society to support the Government at the national and provincial level, whenever the public health system gets overwhelmed.

The IFRC network will support the Philippine Red Cross with strengthening its capacities and level of preparedness on all aspects of health care and WASH, by:

- Giving technical support to volunteers and staff as they deliver quality and sustainable health services in emergencies, including mental health and psychosocial support, community-based health, maternal and child health promotion and WASH interventions

- Providing guidance on care, support and referral services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in disasters and other emergencies, including: adhering to minimum standards for mitigating the risk of sexual and gender-based violence; developing messages on prevention and response in all community outreach activities; providing essential services (including reception facilities, access to health, shelter and legal services) based on standard operating procedures and referral pathway guidelines
- Raising funds for immunization activities, providing technical guidance and quality assurance, and mobilizing health volunteers during vaccination campaigns organized by the Department of Health and other community-based health programmes (particularly during the COVID-19 vaccination programme)
- Promoting community engagement to reach people with messages on COVID-19
- Supporting vector-borne disease interventions, and developing a strategy for dengue prevention and control (especially in Visayas and Metro Manila)
- Promoting the National Society's blood service
- Developing first aid standards in accordance with international guidelines, and developing a commercial first aid model in partnership with the IFRC Global First Aid Reference Centre
- Engaging relevant stakeholders, advocating for health and WASH interventions, and fostering collaboration with health partners such as WHO, UNICEF and other local and international agencies
- Promoting the work of the National Society in public health emergencies as well as community-based developmental health programmes

Some participating National Societies and the ICRC have committed to providing technical and financial resources to the Philippine Red Cross for its work on health and wellbeing. The ICRC is a strong partner in this sector and focuses on the Mindanao area in particular.

The Canadian Red Cross Society supports community-based health, and increasing the capacity and corporate infrastructure for the promotion of health and wellbeing. It supports the Philippine Red Cross's WASH readiness project, which aims to reduce WASH-related diseases in the provinces of Biliran,

Negros Occidental and Cebu, where many people were affected by Typhoon Haiyan. To achieve this, the Canadian Red Cross Society supports the Philippine Red Cross WASH training for staff and volunteers. It also plans to support the Philippine Red Cross to improve existing WASH hubs in the Visayas regions through rehabilitation, construction and equipment, to build WASH facilities in schools and communities, and implement hygiene promotion activities in four provinces.

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

Although it does not have a presence in the country, the **Japanese Red Cross** provides remote assistance on health, while the **Finnish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross** and **Swedish Red Cross** also help the Philippine Red Cross to achieve its health and wellbeing strategic objectives through IFRC Emergency Appeals.

Migration and displacement

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, the repatriation of irregular migrants, natural hazards and conflicts.²

The Philippines is primarily a country of emigration. There are about 10.2 million people in the global Filipino diaspora, of which 1.7 million are overseas Filipino workers who left to seek better employment and education opportunities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when businesses closed down because of worldwide travel restrictions, many overseas Filipino workers found themselves stranded, unemployed and at risk of COVID-19. The tourism industry was particularly affected, and many cruise lines were forced to suspend their operations. In 2020, the Philippines saw the repatriation of 792,000 Filipinos returning from overseas – an unprecedented number. However, this trend did not continue. According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency, more than 675,000 people emigrated between January and November 2021, and unofficial figures show that emigration is quickly returning to pre-COVID levels. A significant number of Filipino migrant workers who have emigrated are at risk of becoming victims of sex or labour trafficking, human trafficking and illegal

² Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab: <https://www.redcross.org.au/globalmigrationlab/>

recruitment, particularly in the Middle East and Asia. These activities are often controlled by organized crime networks.

Internal voluntary migration is usually driven by economic factors – people are moving 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.

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

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Philippines had approximately 226,000 migrants in mid-2020. Most were from Asia, particularly China, and more recently from the Republic of Korea. Migrants are traditionally skilled workers and face few restrictions; they have access to state-funded social security and are usually able to find employment in the private sector. By the end of 2021, there were 801 refugees and 586 asylum seekers in the Philippines, according to UNHCR, mostly from Turkey, Syria, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Somalia and Yemen.

Although the Rule on Facilitated Naturalization of Refugees and Stateless Persons was approved in an

attempt to resolve the issue of stateless people, the problem persists because of internal armed conflict. According to UNHCR, there are 7,318 stateless people in the country. This includes unregistered children, foundlings, children of Filipino descent in migration situations (for example in the Middle East and the Malaysian state of Sabah), people of Indonesian descent living in Southern Mindanao, and the Sama population – an indigenous and nomadic ethnic minority living mostly on the sea in Mindanao.

The Philippines has ratified all the major international instruments relating to refugees, statelessness, trafficking, people smuggling and labour migration. The Philippines is the first country in the world to have approved a judiciary-led way of simplifying and reducing the legal and procedural hurdles involved in the naturalization process for refugees and stateless persons. They now have an improved level of access to durable solutions to their displaced status or lack of nationality. The Philippines has been a staunch advocate of the protection of migrants' rights and welfare, and is a 'champion country' of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). During the 2022 International Migration Review Forum, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs noted that the Philippines has incorporated the GCM into its development plan, and enacted a law creating a Department of Migrant Workers to combine all government programmes on labour migration.

At the regional level, the Philippines is part of the Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia, and the [Bali Process](#) on people smuggling, trafficking in persons, and other related cross-border crimes.

Main actions and areas of support

The Philippine Red Cross, with IFRC support, is committed to giving every individual the information they need for their own protection. This includes advocacy work through the web-based portal www.virtualvolunteer.org. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society with promoting the Virtual Volunteer platform as a source of trustworthy and up-to-date information for migrants and their communities. It will consider using more up-to-date and efficient tools in the future.

In 2023, the IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross with the following activities:

- Providing safe, credible information through awareness-raising activities, making referrals, and providing access to services to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and overseas Filipino workers

- Undertaking a migration assessment and integrating identified needs into existing services and programmes
- Undertaking humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy with national and local government authorities, on the humanitarian needs of migrants and the role and responsibilities of the National Society in responding to those needs

In addition, the IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross with ensuring that migrants have access to existing services, and establishing dedicated programming where necessary. For example, when addressing migration flows to and from Malaysia, the National Society plans to support livelihood and employment activities for returning Filipinos. 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.

In order to achieve these goals, the IFRC will support the National Society with establishing two humanitarian service points in Zamboanga City and the Tawi-Tawi province, for migrants travelling to and returning from Sabah in Malaysia. The Spanish Red Cross has expressed an interest in providing technical support, as it has expertise in this sector and in the targeted geographical areas.

The IFRC will help build the capacity of the Philippine Red Cross staff and volunteers at the chapter level, ensuring they can assess and respond 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. For people displaced because of conflicts, the IFRC and the Philippine Red Cross will coordinate with the ICRC and participating National Societies to guarantee a safe continuity of activities, and provide comprehensive and unified interventions.

The IFRC will also support the National Society with its national migration and displacement needs assessment and ongoing humanitarian diplomacy, in accordance with the IFRC Global Strategy on Migration 2018–2022. This approach would recognize the humanitarian needs of all people, and would not separate migrants and displaced people into a different category.

Statistics

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**

In 2020, the Philippines saw an unprecedented number of repatriations when **792,000 Filipinos returned** from abroad

Values, power and inclusion

As a society, the Philippines has strong values based on family, education, resilience and generosity.

The importance of education is reflected in the actions of the Government, which takes an inclusive approach to education – ensuring access to all children, with support from school staff, students, parents and the wider community. It supports special educational needs, schools for indigenous communities, madrasa schools, alternative learning systems and alternative delivery methods. Despite the national policies of a middle-income country with sufficient resources to support children's education, many Filipino children miss out on opportunities to learn. According to UNICEF, there are real concerns over the number of children accessing education, the quality of education they receive and the condition of their learning environments.

Inequalities in access to resources and opportunities exist not only in the education sector. The World Economic Forum ranked the Philippines 19th out of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, although its rating is now slightly worse than in 2021. In terms of educational attainment, a higher proportion of boys were enrolled in primary education than girls.

There are still disparities in labour force participation, wage equality and political empowerment. In the Economic Participation and Opportunity subindex of 2022, the number of women participating in the workforce was still 24.5 per cent lower than men. There is general gender parity in the legislature and for senior officers, managers, professional and technical workers.

The population of the Philippines is the most youthful it has ever been, with approximately half the population under the age of 25. While this group represents great potential for the country's general outlook, young people face a particular set of risks. A national baseline study in 2015 found that 80 per cent of children had experienced violence in their lives. Insecurity related to conflict in the southern regions continues to pose

protection concerns for civilians in the affected areas. In the Philippines, women and girls face a heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence, more so than the global average. Data from the National Statistics Office shows that one in four women aged 15 to 49 has experienced violence at least once in their life, with the most common perpetrator being a current or recent partner.

Poverty and social norms not only increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, but they also perpetuate gender inequality. A National Society study entitled 'The Responsibility to Prevent and Respond to Sexual and Gender-based Violence during Disasters and Crisis' shows that the risk of sexual and gender-based violence increased during and after Typhoon Haiyan. Within this study, 30 per cent of respondents said that women and girls felt distressed about the rise in child marriage after disasters. Moreover, 15 per cent of respondents had heard about a community member sustaining injuries from domestic violence after the disaster.

The National Disability Prevalence Survey showed that about 12 per cent of Filipinos aged 15 and over have a severe disability. Nearly half (47 per cent) have a moderate disability, while 23 per cent of people have a mild disability. Only about a fifth of the population experience no disability at all. Compared with the global average, these rates are high.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the accessibility of health care for people living with disabilities. People who needed sign language interpreters, braille translation and other disability services were affected. People living with medical disabilities needed to be extra cautious not to endanger themselves by contracting COVID-19. In many cases, living with a disability in the Philippines is related to poverty. People living with disabilities face a higher likelihood of poverty and lower rates of education, health and employment. Those with a secure job may also be paid less than people with no disabilities, despite the higher cost of living for people with a disability. Nevertheless, legislation has supported people living with disabilities in the Philippines for many years. They are given discounted rates in shops and public services, and have access to all levels of education in the form of scholarships, aid packages and other materials. People who are unable to work or study because of a disability have the right to social services support.

Main actions and areas of support

Over last three years, the Philippine Red Cross has had support from the IFRC, the Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross Society

with promoting the minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion. It has placed particular emphasis on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in operations and across the organization as a whole. The National Society has worked closely with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other local government agencies to familiarize volunteers and staff across all levels of the organization with protection, gender and inclusion concepts. The National Society focuses on building capacities in the identification, management and referral of sexual and gender-based violence cases, to enable staff and volunteers to respond in a survivor-centred way.

In addition, the National Society has prioritized livelihood activities and created cooperatives and collectives of women and adolescent girls, to improve decision-making and reduce violence. There is evidence that increased access to resources and the collectivization of women can reduce domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence, especially during emergencies.

The Philippine Red Cross will continue to engage in youth-led education and action. It will empower young people to take action to adapt to the changing climate in their communities, through Youth Adapt, youth engagement strategy facilitator training, and the National Youth Congress. The IFRC will support linkages to youth networks of other National Societies to promote peer exchanges and participation in global initiatives.

The IFRC network will also support the National Society with mainstreaming protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability approaches, in its work. This includes the rollout of a policy and guidelines on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, which was developed with support from the Finnish Red Cross in 2021. The IFRC will put these issues on meeting agendas with staff and the National Society leadership, and support the National Society to develop a white paper that can be presented to the Government for ongoing policy reform and action. The American Red Cross will facilitate the inclusion of women and other minority groups in the Barangay disaster risk reduction management council in 20 communities.

The IFRC network will support 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.

It promotes community engagement and accountability, and addresses vaccine hesitancy. The project also focuses on building capacity at its headquarters and in chapters, and mandating community engagement and

accountability in all settings. The American Red Cross will offer support in the institutionalization of a community engagement and accountability mechanism.

Enabling local actors

Under the Philippine Red Cross's Strategic framework for 2021–2025, its organizational development ambitions include enhancing the visibility of the organization and enabling excellence in programme and service delivery through strong systems, including digital technologies. The National Society also seeks to influence decision-makers on policy development through evidence-based practices and transformative tools. Its organizational development ambitions include systems that promote trust, accountability, transparency, efficiency and compliance with standards.

The National Society recognizes that it needs to enhance its organizational capacity through a human-centred approach, supported by strengthened administrative systems and procedures. It seeks 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.

Engaged

In 2023–2025, the IFRC will continue to support the Philippine Red Cross's digitalization ambitions in coordination with participating National Societies.

The IFRC will continue supporting the National Society with promoting humanitarian diplomacy and influencing policy-makers 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.

The IFRC will continue to exercise its leadership and expertise in inter-agency forums, mainly in the Philippines Shelter Cluster, where it has supported the overall country strategy in emergency contexts. The National Society will continue playing a key role in promoting a solid rollout of key development and

humanitarian frameworks, such as the Grand Bargain and the agenda for localization, climate change and climate adaptation (according to COP26 resolutions), and the Global Compact for Migration. The IFRC will search for new initiatives that support migrants in the Philippines, mainly in relation to sustainable solutions for internally displaced persons. Furthermore, the IFRC will support the National Society in developing initiatives related to civil-military relations and the disaster law programme.

The IFRC will support the regional and global engagement of the Philippine Red Cross in migration and displacement fora (including the Asia Pacific Migration Network, IFRC Global Migration Task Force and Bali Process) through participation and coordination on relevant initiatives. It will also support peer-to-peer exchange and the sharing of lessons learned while engaging with migrants.

The IFRC will continue supporting digital systems for key humanitarian processes, such as the National Society operations centre, finance software and cash programming. The IFRC will also promote digital skills and digital culture experiments with a wider range of emerging technologies that drive greater efficiency and impact. The **Spanish Red Cross** will also support the Philippine Red Cross's digital transformation, while the **Netherlands Red Cross** has provided support through its [510](#) initiative.

Accountable

The IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross's leadership with pursuing quality in the delivery of services and focusing 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.

There is an opportunity to constantly improve the work of the Philippine Red Cross, and to take stronger actions on safeguarding assets and managing financial resources effectively and efficiently. Using the Working with Project Partners mechanism, the IFRC will support the National Society to pilot test several projects, while

enhancing accountability and efficiency in programme implementation and financial sustainability. 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.

Similarly, the IFRC will work closely with Movement actors in ensuring the safety and security of staff and volunteers.

Trusted

The IFRC network will put special emphasis on strengthening the capacity and systems of the Philippine Red Cross to realize its development goals. It will promote localization by taking leadership and decision-making to the local level and placing local communities at the centre of change.

The IFRC will support the National Society's financial sustainability initiatives, including through the [Asia Pacific Fundraisers Network initiative](#). It will mainstream

new ways of improving access to funds, to enable a better quality of services for communities, and identify and secure sustainable incomes to maintain regular services and operations.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will engage in regional hub development in line with the Philippine Red Cross's strategic framework. It will facilitate a market analysis to support the National Society with financial management modelling. The **Canadian Red Cross Society** will support capacity building in volunteerism. The **American Red Cross** will support the institutionalization of a community engagement and accountability mechanism.

The IFRC will also focus on strengthened membership coordination and mutually respectful cooperation and coordination within the Movement. The IFRC will support the Philippine Red Cross with developing and implementing a membership coordination strategy, One Movement Plan, and making a membership contribution to the results matrix. This will enhance strategic and operational planning, implementation, reporting and resource mobilization.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has had a presence in the Philippines for many years, and supports the Philippine Red Cross with strategic and operational coordination activities. This includes multiple Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#). In 2022, the National Society used IFRC funding and mobilization mechanisms (DREF and Emergency Appeals) to respond to emergencies on four occasions. The IFRC also provides technical and programmatic support for longer-term work, and supports humanitarian diplomacy and National Society development in the Philippines.

























The National Society is included in IFRC programmes implemented as part of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, and this has been strengthening its community-based disaster risk reduction and management capabilities since 2018. 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.

The Philippine Red Cross is also part of the Red Ready programme, which receives support from the **American Red Cross**. Through this programme, the National Society and the IFRC collaborate with USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, to increase the National Society's readiness and resilience to respond to local disasters by strengthening its organizational and response capacities.

Membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common 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 in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross	CHF 0.70M								
Canadian Red Cross	CHF 1.40M								
Finnish Red Cross	CHF 0.12M								
German Red Cross									
Netherlands Red Cross									
Spanish Red Cross									
Total									
2.21M									

The Philippine Red Cross operates in close coordination with National Society partners in the Philippines, by 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), German Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.

Please add PNS table here – or within the Membership Coordination section

The **American Red Cross** mainly supports the Philippine Red Cross with addressing climate and environment-related issues in communities, greening disaster risk reduction and increasing community resilience through nature-based solutions. It works in the areas of increasing community and institutional preparedness, and intends to formulate an inclusive plan for disaster risk management and form a recognized committee.

The American Red Cross supports the Philippine Red Cross in establishing a community, engagement and accountability mechanism, and it will organize peer-to-peer learning visits and the sharing of lessons learned and good practices. In the area of National Society development, it plans to develop a performance quality assessment on planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting, and on internal coordination mechanisms and communications.

The **Canadian Red Cross** supports the Philippine Red Cross with a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) readiness project that aims to reduce diseases in the Haiyan-affected provinces of Biliran, Negros Occidental and Cebu. It supports activities on WASH training for staff and volunteers, and works on improving existing WASH hubs in the Visayas regions through rehabilitation, construction and equipment. The Canadian Red Cross plans to support the Philippine Red Cross to construct WASH facilities in schools and communities, while implementing hygiene promotion activities in four provinces. It is also working on a concept note for activities supporting the capacity building of volunteers at chapter level.

The **Finnish Red Cross** works with the Philippine Red Cross in the area of institutional disaster preparedness, through funding emergency operations and human resources. It supports the ongoing forecast-based financing development work led by the Philippine Red Cross and German Red Cross, and will reactivate the joint disaster management and learning partnership aimed at building joint disaster management and surge capacities, and the development of mechanisms for a joint international deployment in disaster management.

The German Red Cross's support to the Philippine Red Cross focuses on the four key priority areas of disaster risk reduction, forecast-based financing, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy. It will define specific activities in its operational plan for 2023.

The Netherlands Red Cross supports the Philippine Red Cross in the areas of disaster risk reduction, water, sanitation and hygiene, and community engagement and accountability. In terms of the enablers, it will support the National Society in regional hub initiatives. In terms of security, and in coordination with the ICRC, the Netherlands Red Cross will work on training, and the development and updating of standard operating procedures. It also supports the National Society's digital transformation through its [510](#) initiative.

The **Spanish Red Cross** programmes with the Philippine Red Cross support the efforts of local communities to become more resilient to disasters, armed conflict and environmental crises, and they focus on livelihoods and the mitigation of evolving hazards and risks. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross supports the Philippine Red

Cross emergency aid to the communities and individuals affected by natural and geophysical hazards. Its livelihoods initiatives are geared towards direct relief, income generation and employability, and target both rural and urban communities.

The Spanish Red Cross intends to work with the National Society to strengthen links between livelihoods and migration programming, and between livelihoods and conflict mitigation – while focusing on organizational and technological innovation and enhancing stakeholder participation and engagement. It prioritizes digital transformation and the improvement of information management within its programmes, and supports youth and volunteering. The funding for these programmes has not yet been confirmed.

Movement coordination

In 2016–17, the Philippines was one of five pilot countries to apply the Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Collaboration (SMCC) Plan of Action, with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Initiatives have been put in place for a more coordinated International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement response, including measures to ensure preparedness and improvements to operational coordination. New approaches and tools are being piloted to support these initiatives.

A Movement Cooperation Agreement (which was in place until December 2020) consolidated coordination practices and mechanisms, to enable Movement partners to achieve complementarity between their mandates, capacities and expertise. It ensured that the coordinated efforts of Movement partners improved the Philippine Red Cross's capabilities in preparedness, relief and recovery, in line with its strategic plan. In November 2021, the IFRC began consultations with the Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC on a revision of the Movement Cooperation Agreement, but the

process was delayed by the emergency response to Typhoon Rai. Currently, the agreement for 2022–2025 is in its final revision stage. This is carried out in line with the SMCC principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC has had a permanent presence in the Philippines since 1982. 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 reminds all actors with bearing on humanitarian matters of their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL) or other relevant norms. It visits people deprived of their freedom, particularly security detainees, and, with the authorities, helps to improve conditions in prisons through direct interventions and support for prison reform. The ICRC works with the Philippine Red Cross to assist displaced people and vulnerable communities and promotes national IHL implementation.

Coordination with other actors

As an auxiliary to the authorities, the Philippine Red Cross collaborates closely with various governmental bodies. The National Society's headquarters in Manila and its local chapters coordinate with national, provincial and local disaster risk reduction and management councils. The National Society also works with other government institutions such as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the Departments of Health, Education and Energy, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In its health programming, including the rollout of the Department of Health's vaccination programme, the National Society also cooperates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN bodies such as UNICEF.

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.

Over the last decade, the IFRC and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have engaged in productive and expanding partnerships, which align with the ASEAN Consolidated Strategic Action Plan 2016–2025 and the IFRC Strategy 2030, mainly within the ASEAN socio-cultural community. Their common agenda focuses on disaster risk management and climate change. They use their collective influence to build resilient communities in Southeast Asia, by strengthening and increasing cooperation and collaboration on strategic priorities in the region. Both the IFRC and the Philippine Red Cross benefit from this partnership, the scope of which is defined in a Memorandum of Understanding.

The IFRC will engage with the Asian Development Bank in 2023, as part of its strategy to engage in dialogues with multilateral development banks. The two parties signed a letter of intent in 2008, confirming their willingness to develop opportunities for collaboration. The IFRC intends to broaden its spectrum of joint opportunities and collaborations between 2023 and 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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



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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