



ICRC

PHILIPPINES: FOCUSING ON HUMANITARIAN ACTION

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024



Protracted armed conflicts between government forces and non-state armed groups in the Philippines continue to take a toll on communities, particularly in Mindanao. Despite the decline in the number of clashes in the past year, humanitarian consequences such as displacement, damage or destruction of civilian properties and disruption of livelihoods persist.

Many people living in areas affected by conflict are impoverished. Thousands of displaced people, especially in underserved or hard-to-reach areas, struggle with food insecurity and lack reliable access to essential services. Eight years on, many people displaced by the 2017 conflict in Marawi City remain in temporary shelters with inadequate water and sanitary facilities.

Since World War II, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Philippines has strived to fulfil its mandate of **protecting and assisting people** who have been affected by armed conflicts and other violence. As the **guardian of international humanitarian law** (IHL), we engage in dialogue with parties to the conflict to ensure that civilians and those who are no longer fighting are protected from harm.

Guided by our mandate, in 2024 we continued to promote IHL among weapons bearers, reminding them **through confidential and bilateral interactions** of their obligations to uphold the law that governs

wars. We also engaged with authorities, religious and academic groups and journalists to enhance their knowledge of IHL and principled humanitarian action.

Working in partnership with the **Philippine Red Cross (PRC)**, we reached people in remote areas to understand their needs and provide them with tools and other resources to recover from the effects of armed conflict. We donated medical supplies to health facilities and trained first responders to help them provide adequate aid during conflicts and other crises. We also helped communities improve their access to clean water and sanitary facilities to prevent diseases.

We have not forgotten those who remain in need of our support, such as the families of people who went missing during the Marawi conflict, whom we accompany in their journey of seeking answers from the authorities. We also assist detainees in congested facilities and urge the authorities to improve their treatment and living conditions following internationally recognized minimum standards.

Keeping people affected by conflict always at the centre of our humanitarian action, and standing by our **neutrality, impartiality and independence**, we will continue to work with partners and other influential parties to respond in a wholistic and effective way adapted to the growing climate risks in the Philippines.



125 FAMILY visits organized for 100 detainees and their 180 loved ones



335 FAMILY members of people who went missing because of the Marawi conflict contacted to follow up on their case



85 RED Cross messages (containing brief family news) collected from detainees, to help them keep in touch with their loved ones



240 FAMILY members of missing people received advice to help them access legal, financial, psychosocial and other forms of support



70 RED Cross messages distributed to detainees, children and civilians



30 PRC staff and volunteers from 32 chapters participated in the Restoring Family Links and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Training

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



25 PARTICIPANTS from the National Bureau of Investigation attended a course on forensic anthropology to be better equipped in managing and identifying the dead



220 BODY bags donated to the PRC and the Northern Samar Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office



2 SOLDIERS who went missing in Northern Samar in 2014 identified by the Philippine National Police (PNP) Forensic Group with the ICRC's technical support



150 PARTICIPANTS attended six training sessions on forensic anthropology, humanitarian forensic action, forensic examinations of victims of sexual violence and management of the dead

HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS



150 SOLDIERS and members of non-state armed groups attended first-aid training sessions in Mindanao so they could respond to medical needs during armed conflicts



660 PEOPLE in conflict-affected communities received support through access to medical supplies or subsidy for physical rehabilitation services



100 HEALTH facilities in Mindanao located near affected communities received various medical supplies to better respond to people's needs during conflicts and other crises



240 PATIENTS and 60 watchers reimbursed for costs incurred from their prostheses/orthoses, mobility aids and physiotherapy; and provided with support on costs related to the patient's rehabilitation at Davao Jubilee Foundation



240 WOUNDED and sick people from conflict-affected areas in Mindanao benefited from assistance in medical facilities or were referred to specialists for treatment

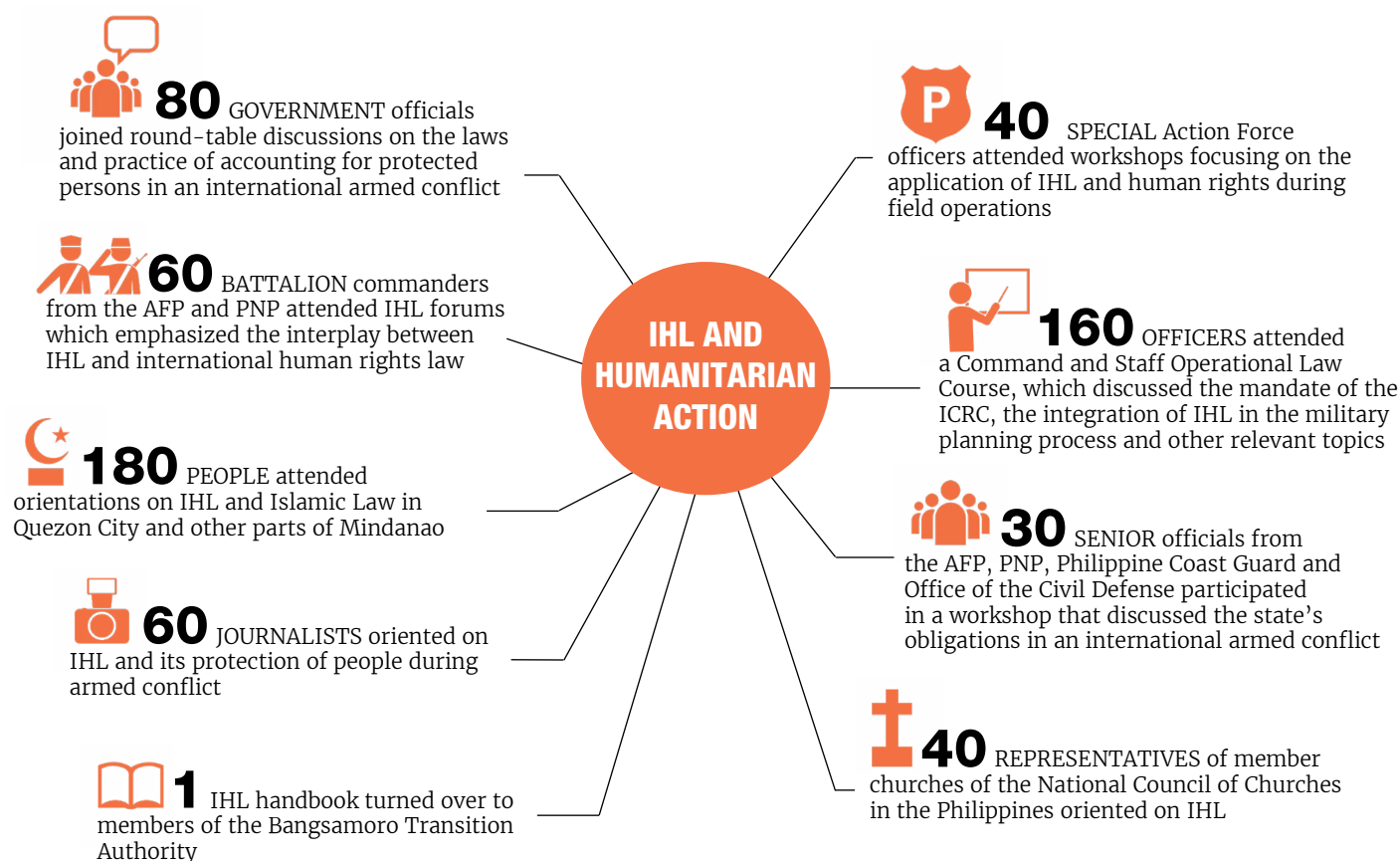
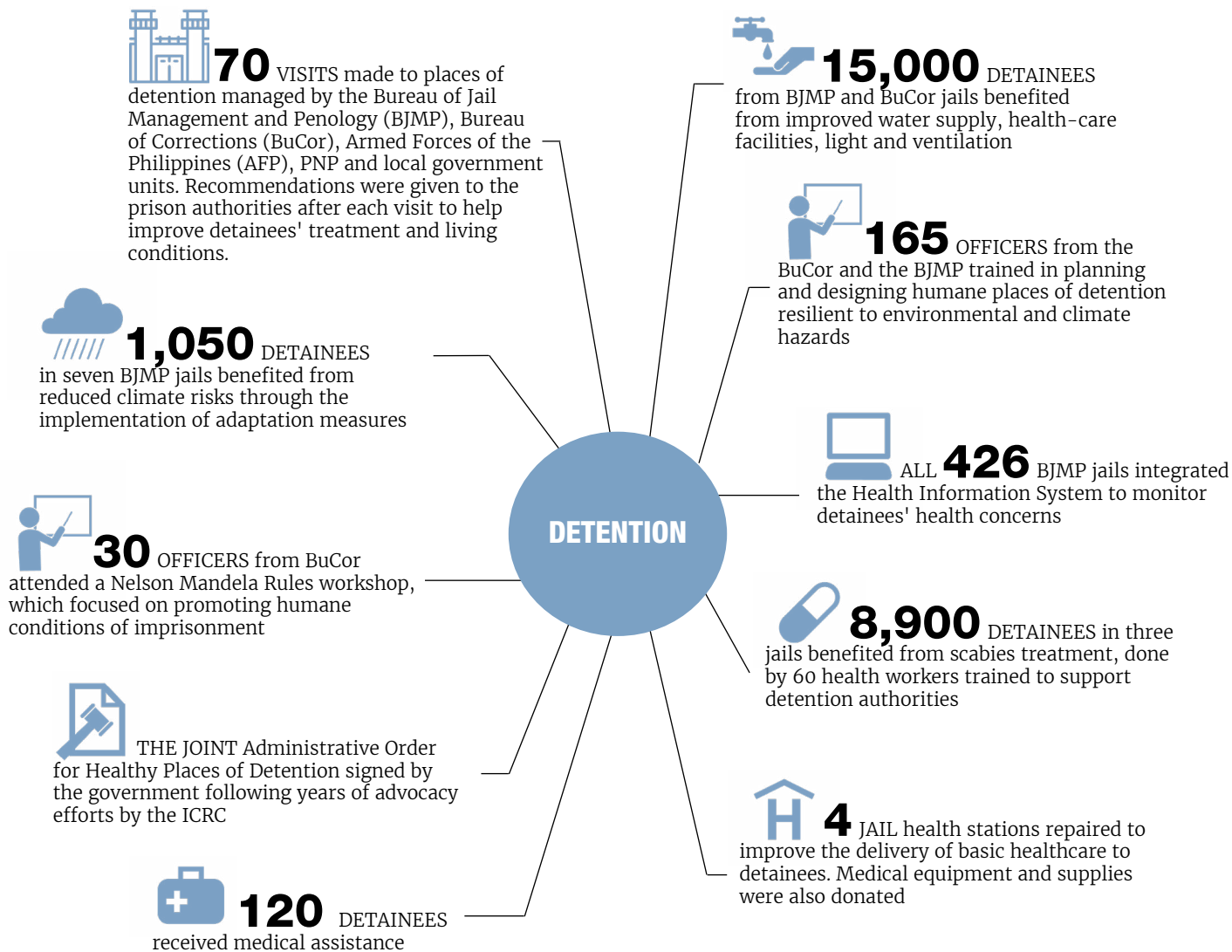
HEALTH CARE



10 WOMEN and Children Protection Units in hospitals provided with assistance. Temporary shelters were built in two hospitals to improve the care given to victims/survivors of sexual violence



400 PEOPLE, including weapon bearers, attended Basic Trauma and First-Aid Training and Basic Emergency Care sessions all over Mindanao





3,300 CONFLICT-AFFECTED people in Visayas and Mindanao received cash grants to help them purchase food and other basic supplies



1,060 PEOPLE in Visayas and Mindanao received cash grants to help them start businesses or revive existing livelihoods as they recover from the consequences of armed conflicts

ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE



1,120 PEOPLE in Maguindanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Basilan received hygiene kits and essential household items



4,810 RESIDENTS from Visayas and Mindanao received agricultural items, seed, cash grants and training to help them revive their livelihoods or improve their farming practices



MACHINERIES were donated to different areas in Mindanao to improve food processing methods and help farmers boost their agricultural productivity



20,180 PEOPLE in Marawi City gained access to clean water through the repair and improvement of the urban water supply system



7,360 PEOPLE in several shelters and villages in Mindanao benefited from the repair and improvement of their rural water supply systems



1,490 RESIDENTS of Mindanao's rural areas received 300 shelter kits and used them to repair or build homes

WATER AND HABITAT



680 RESIDENTS in Mindanao's rural areas experienced improved living conditions through the construction of 160 latrines



SULU Provincial Hospital's patients and staff gained access to treated water through the installation of new water chlorination and water storage facilities



8,300 PEOPLE received health services such as vaccination, medical consultation and treatment during the 75 medical missions organized by the PRC, with ICRC's support



180 VOLUNTEER mobilizations (involving 80 unique volunteers) facilitated from 12 chapters to support 60 ICRC's operational activities



690 MOBILIZATIONS of PRC staff and volunteers done using the 13 Volunteer Emergency Response Vehicles donated by the ICRC



330 PRC staff and volunteers from 100 chapters participated in regional learning sessions on the domestic IHL law and Emblem Law, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions



60 PRC staff and volunteers from the national headquarters and eight chapters in Mindanao joined the Advanced Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies training

COOPERATION WITH THE PRC



40 MILLION PHP (approximately USD 684,000) provided to support the PRC's typhoon operations in the Bicol and Cagayan Valley regions.