

snapshot

# Philippine Red Cross

## Key Information

### Branch Offices

With a total of 86 chapters and 16 sub chapters (totalling 102 chapters nationwide) the Philippine Red Cross is represented across all provinces

### Date Established

Formed and recognised by the ICRC and IFRC in 1947.

### Funding

Philippine Red Cross, through its various fund campaign programs and special events, relies on public and private individual and corporate support to sustain its humanitarian efforts.

### IFRC Country Delegation?

Yes

### Key Persons

Chairman: Mr. Richard GORDON

Secretary General: Dr Gwendolyn PANG

### Legal Status

The consolidation of the Senate Bill 3285 and House Bill 6509 was signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and is now known as Republic Act No. 10072 or The Philippine Red Cross Act of 2009. The Act reaffirms the country's "conformity with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols, and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement," as well as a confirmation of Philippine Red Cross' stand as a "voluntary, independent and autonomous nongovernmental society auxiliary to the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines in the humanitarian field." According to the Act, the Philippine Red Cross is exempt from real property taxes, direct and indirect taxes, duties and fees that emerge from its operations and its exclusive importations and purchases.

### Major Partners

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners: American Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Macau Red Cross and Danish Red Cross

### Volunteers

200,000 active volunteers, with 2 million registered



## Background

Born officially in 1947, the Philippine Red Cross serves as an auxiliary to the government to provide relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable people in the country. The National Society adopts a holistic approach to its humanitarian work and offers a wider array of services from preventive medicine to therapeutic counseling, to youth leadership.

The National Society works in partnership with non-government agencies and with private groups to achieve effective networking and implementation of its services.

Launched in 2009, its ambitious volunteer programme, 'Red Cross 143', aims to train 1.8 million volunteers nationwide in community-based disaster preparedness and response, as well as in first aid.

## Programme Overview

**Blood:** The programme promotes voluntary blood donation of safe and healthy blood. It maintains the Philippines' Registry of Rare Blood Types.

**Disaster management and relief services:** The Philippine Red Cross provides disaster preparedness programmes and emergency relief assistance. Rehabilitation programmes are conducted depending on the extent of the disaster and donations received.



**Dissemination:** International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the Fundamental Principles, and correct use of the Red Cross emblem are being actively disseminated. A National IHL Committee was created recently, headed by the Philippine Red Cross, with key government agencies and NGOs as members. The National Society is at the forefront in drafting a domestic legislation on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law.

**Health:** The community Health and Nursing Service conducts training on disaster and home nursing, Primary Health Care programmes, and the Health Action Programme for Street Children.

**Safety services:** The Philippine Red Cross conducts safety skills courses with communities, including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), swimming, water safety and life saving. Trained volunteers are also on call to respond to disasters or emergencies.

**Social services:** The Philippine Red Cross helps those who are psychologically traumatized by disasters or other crises, facilitates the tracing of missing persons, and provides welfare assistance to the disabled and other vulnerable groups. It operates two centers for Women in Crisis.

**Youth:** Leadership training is provided for Red Cross youth members and they are involved in all services. Focus programmes include HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse Prevention Education.

## Recent Disasters

Surrounded by bodies of water, and located along the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire", the Philippine Archipelago is among the world's most disaster-prone areas. The country of over 7,000 islands is frequently affected by typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The country is also impacted by ongoing armed conflict.

### Recent disasters include:

- Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) (November 2013)
- Bohol Earthquake (October 2013)
- Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) (December 2012)
- Pantukan landslide (January 2012)

## Disaster Law

The Philippines has a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management law, adopted in 2010. Recently, the National Society and IFRC have been engaged in a review of this law, and the updated version now includes a chapter on international assistance, based on the IDRL guidelines and Red Cross Red Crescent advocacy efforts. It is hoped that the revised law will be adopted in 2016.

In 2016 and beyond, Philippine Red Cross and IFRC will be undertaking capacity building and legislative advocacy initiatives, building upon the disaster law work already done in the Philippines (including a high-level workshop and operational deployments to provide support on IDRL issues and regulatory barriers to emergency shelter post Typhoon Bopha and Typhoon Haiyan).



### For further information about the Philippine Red Cross

#### Headquarters Address & Contact Details

Philippine Red Cross Tower, 37 EDSA corner Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550  
Truckline: +63 2 790 2300  
Tel: (63) (2) 527 0000/527 0856/527 0866, Fax: (63) (2) 527 0857/525 5787 Email: [prc@redcross.org.ph](mailto:prc@redcross.org.ph)

#### Online Profiles

Website <http://www.redcross.org.ph>  
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/phredcross>  
Twitter <https://twitter.com/philredcross> (450K+ followers)  
Instagram <http://instagram.com/philredcross>  
Google + <https://plus.google.com/+philippineredcross/about>  
Linked In <http://www.linkedin.com/company/1089054>

#### Recent Appeals

A list of all appeals the Philippine Red Cross has submitted is available on the IFRC website here: <http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/appeals/?ac=&at=0&c=&co=SP-351PH&dt=1&f=&re=&t=&ti=&z0>

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