



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.



Rommel Cabrera, IFRC

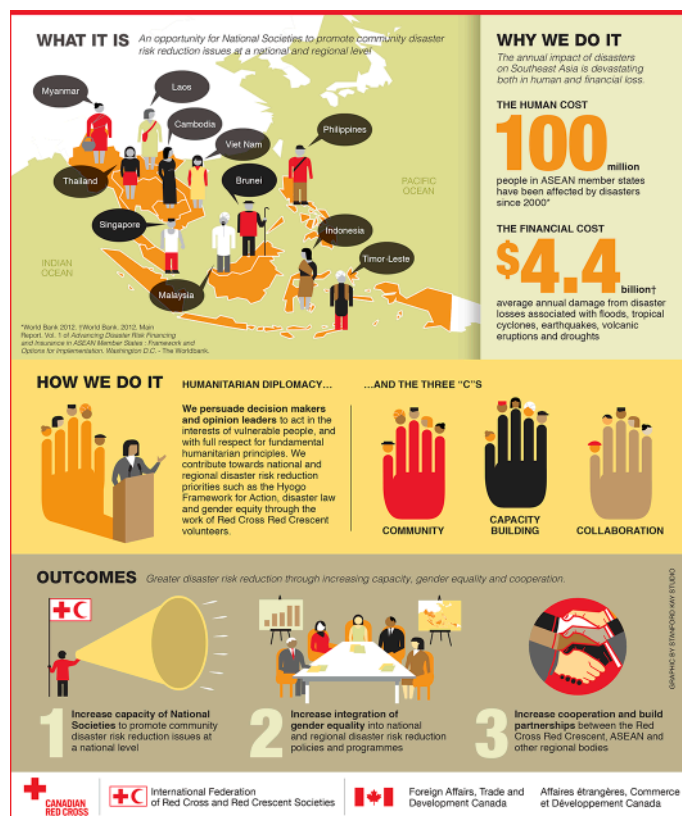
REGIONAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

In early February, together with Ms Elcy Debildos, Philippine Red Cross' deputy chair of the Southeast Asia Youth Network, I attended the Regional Resilience Initiative (RRI) Mid Term Retreat in Thailand, arranged by our Bangkok colleagues. The RRI is sponsored by the Canadian Government and the Canadian Red Cross under a four-year agreement signed nearly two years ago. The retreat also included senior managers from the National Societies of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar.

The aim of the RRI is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on Southeast Asia's most vulnerable people by working with 11 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, including the Philippine Red Cross, to improve their skills and capacities in DRR advocacy, and to strengthen regional partnerships within the movement and with key partners such as ASEAN and the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction.

This halfway point was an opportunity for us to reflect and analyse challenges, key successes, strengths and opportunities. Progress so far has been significant. For example, National Societies and IFRC are receiving many more requests for technical support in the field of Disaster Law. National Society leaders in Southeast Asia, including Philippine Red Cross, are endorsing plans to introduce gender and diversity mainstreaming in programs, and have agreed to a regional network.

In a nutshell, the aim of our sessions in Thailand was to give us a shared understanding of the options in terms of donor rules; an opportunity to reflect on our 'selling points' and anticipated



achievements by the end of 2017; review a concept note and propose an overall strategy for the RRI, and agree on next steps for IFRC and the Canadian Red Cross.

These few days were certainly a golden opportunity for the 20+ RRI participants to hear about the many great examples of resilience initiatives around the Asia Pacific region. We also took part in lots of brainstorming sessions, workshops and interactions.

Before leaving for Bangkok each participant had to write a short story based on a methodology called the Most Significant

Change. The aim of MSC is to capture significant changes in the lives of our beneficiaries, give us a better understanding of the reality our beneficiaries live in and a deeper understanding of the changes that result from our work.

According to the other participants, the Stories of Change from the Philippines' Typhoon Haiyan Conditional Cash Transfer Program was one of the most interesting accounts. Please contact Michael Belaro, Michael.Belaro@redcross.org.ph, PRC Livelihood Sector Head for the Haiyan Operation, if you would like more information about this groundbreaking project.

- Kari Isomaa, Head of Philippine Delegation, IFRC

WINNING SHOTS: HAIYAN PHOTO COMPETITION

As the two-year anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan approached, the delegation decided to hold a photo competition for staff and volunteers who have been working for the Red Cross movement. We thought it would flush an interesting selection of photos out of the woodwork. The panel of judges included Ernie Sarmiento of the Manila Bulletin, who is one of the best sports photographers in Asia, and top talent Noel Celis from AFP, who has been out in the field with us a few times and taken some amazing shots. What we realised was that there is a lot of talent to be nurtured out there and that having fancy equipment doesn't necessarily limit the kind of photos that people take. Among Ernie's tips for budding photographers:

'What I'm looking for in a photograph is the message it is trying to tell its viewer. There should be a story behind what I'm looking at. And it should be an honest representation of what is happening at that moment.'

'Next is the impact. Does the photo tug at your heart? There should be a connection between the subject, photographer and the audience. Then I look for its technical and compositional qualities.'



Coron prize winners receive certificates from PRC and Swiss Red Cross



Winner April Arellano says:

Thank you for appreciating my photo! The first time I joined the Red Cross it was just for work, but I now know the real meaning of being a volunteer.

I started to love it and then I met Catalina (Jaime) in the DRR sector (the former Swiss Red Cross DRR delegate and coordinator for the Calamian Islands, Palawan). She teaches us how to love and understand what's happening ... and now another recognition!..Thank you!..Even though Haiyan took our houses we are blessed to have people like her here. Thank you so much we learned a lot! I hope we continue to get help to teach us new strategies and knowledge.



First runner-up Christel Afafe says of her photo:

In this photo taken in September 2015, Red Cross health team volunteers Argie Anabe and Rey Loyola rejoice in

achieving the rebuilding of the health centre of Maybunga, Balangiga, Eastern Samar, destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan. The project was a real triumph as the isolated upland barangay is accessible only by foot after a demanding four-hour hike through rugged terrain. It was a team effort, with the community hauling all required materials.



Second runner-up Ryan Ang says:

A month after Typhoon Haiyan, ICRC, together with Philippine Red Cross, distributed food and non-food items to residents of

Brgy. Surok in Guiuan, Eastern Samar. The relief package is composed of rice, tins of sardines, oil, soy sauce, salt, sugar, hygiene kits, family cooking sets, jerry cans and tarpaulins.

PRC OPCEN: ON CALL AND READY FOR ACTION

As the manager of the recently unveiled Philippine Red Cross Operations Centre, Maycarol Zipagan Layugan has one of the most demanding jobs in Philippine Red Cross. Yet the stress rarely shows.

It's May's responsibility to know what's in the news, to organise all the Opcen shifts, to liaise with the PRC's 99 active chapters, to oversee the database of volunteers and staff, to have information at her fingertips about manpower, equipment, distributions, logistics, aircraft and seacraft movements. It's quite a task.

'We are always monitoring the news and government agencies for information and receive regular updates from the chapters. All this information is checked through other sources such as social media and volunteers on the ground,' May explains.

'When we know a typhoon is going to hit, we call and email our chapters and textblasts to our volunteers and First Aiders. The chapters also warn their volunteers and communities outside their area of responsibility.'

Opcen also maintains and updates lists of government buildings, schools and hospitals, as well as contact details for officials, so PRC can monitor casualties and evacuation numbers.

'In Typhoon Lando (Koppu) last year we relied on 143 to supply local information so we could get a sense of what was happening ... we called the PNP (police) and hospitals.'

May and her team prepared a scenario map, including all available data, plotting all the provinces that could potentially be affected and how many WASAR (water search & rescue) personnel could be tapped.

The data is fed into the system manually, then used to construct and update regular reports. These go to Disaster Management Services, the relevant chapters and the PRC leaders. PRC communications team then uses this information, as well as photos from responders on the ground, for their stories and social media accounts.

As a country of scattered islands and communities, the Philippines is used to communications problems. PRC does not have enough satellite phones, but even these aren't much use when there is cloud cover. Radios can be more reliable in stormy conditions or when power is out.

Understandably, during a bad typhoon when power and telecommunications are out, it's not always possible to reach the chapters. That's when social media proves useful.



Cheryl Gaglac, IFRC

In their element: PRC Opcen Manager May Layugan and staff

'The hardest part of an emergency is not being able to get information from our own teams if they are themselves affected by incidents, floods and typhoons,' says May. 'If we can't reach the 143 volunteers, so in that case we call on members in the adjoining town or barangay (village),' says May. 'They report in whatever way they can.'

Recalling the last two typhoons, Lando (Koppu) and Nona (Melor) May said there were heartbreaking moments when even the PRC couldn't respond.

'We got frantic phone calls asking us for help, but we were already responding elsewhere and couldn't pull the teams out and send them somewhere else. Times like this can be very challenging.'

As for Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, May says hard lessons were learned from the monster storm.

'Haiyan was so big, so powerful, that there was no information coming out. Now we make sure we alert people in plenty of time, that we preposition rescue teams in good time; that we know who to call for information, make sure we have updated contacts for the police, for hospitals, for local officials. All that makes a difference to the way we respond.'

And, of course, there's the Boss: PRC Chairman Richard Gordon.

'Opcen is his baby, his visualisation,' says May.

'Before, when I arrived, all we did was answer the phone and do encoding – we had no self-esteem. The Chairman told us "You can't do this forever" and urged us to aim high, to question the information, to analyse the data, to challenge what we get from the chapters, to chew and digest.'

'Ever since we moved into the new centre our work has really improved. Now we feel appreciated by everyone, rather than intimidated.'

**PRC Opcen received funding support and equipment from IFRC movement partners and Finnish Red Cross*



Joms explains a point

KEY LIVELIHOODS STAFF TRAINED UP TO TRAIN OTHERS

Two delegates recently had a very busy and productive week training five key Philippine Red Cross livelihoods staff to be the trainers of the future.

With the guidance and support of the IFRC's Philippine Delegation DMS Development Delegate Sandra Romero Ruiz, and Spanish Red Cross Livelihoods Delegate Luciano Jimenez, the livelihoods national staff - Michael Belaro, Perzeus Jay Luna, Cher Manansala, Jomari Borlongan and Jessilou Morigo - successfully completed Livelihood Training of Trainers certification.

Both Sandra and Luciano are on the roster of the IFRC's Global Reference Centre for Livelihoods and Cash Transfer Programming. The centre is hosted by the Spanish Red Cross in Madrid.

The successful certification makes Michael, PJ, Jessilou, Cher and Jomari the first Filipinos to become members of the Livelihoods Centre – indeed the first such group of trainers in South East Asia. They will now be mobilised as the need arises as a resource for the national society, and for the region and elsewhere.

Following the certification, with the participation of Sandra and Luciano, the five PRC staff conducted the introduction to

livelihood training with livelihood chapter staff and volunteers from the Visayas, many areas of which were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013.

'As the trainer of the Livelihoods and Disaster Management Services teams of the Philippine Red Cross, I found the process very rewarding personally. The richness of knowledge this great team has also had a great impact on me as a livelihoods practitioner,' Sandra says.

'One of the most relevant messages from the training that we all took home is that the Livelihoods program is an essential part of Disaster Risk Reduction interventions. Communities prioritize sustainable livelihoods, as that secures the future of their families, and they are willing to protect their families and their livelihoods with Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

'The creativity and the energy of the team is only surpassed by their knowledge of the field reality and the communities they work with. They are an inspiration! Now PRC counts five ToTs, who have already trained a group of Livelihoods and DM staff as part of their ToT practice.'

Photos: Cheryl Gaglac, IFRC



Jessie Lou (seated, centre) with her training group



Joms, Sandra, Michael and PJ



The PRC livelihoods team



Michael conducts a training session

TREAT ANIMALS WITH RESPECT, AND THEY WILL REPAY YOUR KINDNESS

For many rural Filipinos, domestic animals are an important resource for boosting nutrition and household income. While pigs, chickens and ducks are the most common animals, most tenant and smallholder farmers rely on water buffaloes for ploughing, and goats and cows to provide milk and cheese.

Recently, the PRC livelihoods team hosted Nguyen Thu Tra and Ruth De Vere, two experienced educators and trainers from World Animal Protection, at a training of trainers workshop for 22 participants. Many of them have since attended an introduction to livelihoods and ToT, comprising staff working for the Typhoon Haiyan operation and Disaster Management Services.

World Animal Protection and the IFRC are partners in a series of global initiatives to support IFRC food security and livelihood programs. Best Practice Animal Management training is a key part of the partnership's objectives.

The aim of the training was to help the group of very committed PRC staff to better understand animal welfare and enable them to work more effectively with animal owners, resulting



Filipino farmers' reliable best friend, a carabao (water buffalo)

in better lives for all. Participants discussed the impact of livelihood loss on beneficiaries and the related issue of poor animal management.

Participants also discussed the vital contribution of animals to human survival (food security, nutrition, family income, savings, social standing and resilience); what issues to expect when dealing with animals; how animal welfare practices relate to the existing PRC livelihoods program, and the best way to deliver training to community project partners. It also covered the Five Freedoms or components of animal welfare (see chart).

The IFRC's Disaster Management Development delegate Sandra Romero Ruiz explained that the training had taught participants the relevance of animal welfare to their community work.

'This training taught participants what animal welfare is, why it is relevant to the community work we do and how to apply this knowledge and understanding to supporting our work and community engagement. We also learnt how to use tools and methodologies to identify animal management issues and needs.

'Ultimately, it will improve the way staff work with communities and people that own animals, with the result that they will all live better lives.'

For more information, visit worldanimalprotection.org



Rommel Cabrera, IFRC

Beneficiaries like Amado will be better prepared to look after their pigs

SCHOOL-BASED DRR: CREATING A CULTURE OF SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

In the Philippines, where schools double as evacuation centres during emergencies, creating a culture of safety and resilience needs to be implemented as early as possible in areas vulnerable to natural disasters.

In 2010, 69 SBDRR projects were started in the province of Pangasinan with hygiene promotion in 13 schools under the IFRC. The Philippine Red Cross, in partnership with the German Red Cross (GRC) and IFRC, started more DRR projects in 25 schools, followed by four more under the Australian Red Cross.



MJ Evalarosa, IFRC

Start them young: These Kindergarten students from Embarcadero elementary school already know how to wash their hands properly.

continued on page 6

The Myanmar Red Cross Society, together with DRR officers from the IFRC-Bangkok delegation, conducted a field visit in four Pangasinan schools under the recommendation and support of PRC's Disaster Management Services and the IFRC Philippine delegation.

Nalsian-Bacayao Elementary School is running an awareness campaign to educate different grade levels on school-based disaster risk reduction (SBDRR).

As well as monthly seminars, the school also conducts fire drills and first aid training. The school is also equipped with Information, Education, and Communication materials that test knowledge and application of the school's DRR plan. A SBDRR manual will also be rolled out to all PRC chapters to support and implement this nationwide.

A few towns away, Embarcadero Elementary School focuses on strengthening its water, sanitation and hygiene/DRR plan because the school is located near Cayanga river, making it vulnerable to flooding during the rainy season. The school has managed to construct a storm drainage system, demolished old structures and buildings, and equip each classroom with its own toilets.

The delegation also visited two schools in urban Manila to get an idea of the contrast with the two Pangasinan schools.



Unannounced earthquake drill at Nalsian-Bacayao elementary school. The school conducts regular drills every month based on SBDRR plan

"It's a great opportunity for the Disaster Management staff from both National Societies to share experiences, successes, lessons learnt, challenges, and stories on how critical SBDRR programs are, especially for young children," says Sandra Romero Ruiz, Disaster Management Development Delegate for the IFRC Philippine delegation.

DELEGATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES IN QATARI DESERT



Imran Husain (far left) was one of 34 delegates to complete FACT training

This month our Support Services Coordinator, Imran Husain, was one of 34 representatives from 22 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies selected to train as a Field Assessment and Coordination Team member.

The 11-day course, the first ever to be held in the Middle East and North Africa region, was organised by the Qatar Red Crescent Society and IFRC and supported by British Red Cross.

FACT teams are an important part of the IFRC's global emergency response tools to major disasters. Comprising experienced RCRC disaster managers who support national societies and IFRC field offices, it's their job to create situation reports and develop intervention plans in coordination with the host NS.

'The job of a FACT team is to go into a country straight after a disaster to do an initial assessment. Based on the assessment, there might be an Emergency Appeal, for example,' says Imran, who is from Pakistan.

Team members are on standby and someone can be deployed anywhere in the world, usually within 24 hours, for up to four weeks.

Training involves identifying damage in healthcare, food, shelter, water and sanitation. In the disaster training simulation, Al Khor City on Qatar's northeast coast was shaken by an earthquake that damaged infrastructure and caused deaths and injuries. The four FACT groups were tasked with assessing the impact and preparing for later invention by emergency responders. They visited government facilities, hospitals, airports and ports and spoke to local officials.

The teams also had to negotiate 'security checkpoints' before obtaining permission to enter certain places. In accordance with real-life disasters, the FACT teams were required to wait for a 'permit' from the QRCS before starting their assessments.

THE LAST WORD

With the Haiyan recovery program now well into its third and final year of activities, it is on track to be substantially completed by the end of June 2016. But the next four months will be super busy as we complete all the sectors as part of the integrated programme. Shelter is well on track, but we still have a lot to do on the community-based projects for health, water and sanitation and livelihoods. At the same time we are also moving ahead on the community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management programmes in support of three Chapters, Valenzuela, Antique and Aklan. The Red Cross Action Team is also starting up in 12 Chapters as part of the National Society Capacity Development programme. These two last initiatives will continue into next year.

Haiyan is the largest response by the IFRC in the Asia Pacific region for some years, and will take some effort to be closed down responsibly.

2016 will be about looking back with a view to learning for the future, conducting final evaluations and impact surveys, to be followed by a period of transition and exit. We will be guided by the impact of community responses to innovate and build on the community-based cash transfer model with technologies such as Open Data Kits.

The Philippines continues to live up to its reputation as the most natural disaster-prone country in the Asia Pacific region. In addition to Haiyan, Philippine Red Cross, supported by a DREF, is still working on the response to Typhoon Koppu (Lando) and subsequent prolonged floods which affected Central Luzon in October 2015. There is also an ongoing Emergency Appeal for Typhoon Melor (Nona) in December



Shelter and livelihood beneficiary Noel is pooling his cash to build bakery

2015. This one made landfall across five islands and caused widespread damage to livelihoods and shelter. Relief is now complete and early recovery will run for the next six months. Funding for the Appeal remains low, but every effort is being made to support the most vulnerable families with the limited resources available.

In addition, the national weather forecaster, Pagasa, has forecast that the record dry conditions brought by the current El Nino will wane by March, but would still continue to bring drought conditions to many provinces, exacerbating the plight of families dependent on agriculture and already suffering the impact of the most recent typhoons and floods. The Philippines' last experience of a similar strong El Nino-La Nina pattern brought intense rainfall and flooding, so we are waiting to see what the next few months have in store.

Patrick Elliott, Operations Manager, IFRC

STAFF NEWS

UNTA MAGMALUNG TARON ANG KALIPAY SA INYONG KAMINYOON!

Congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy married life to Lhance Lester Wee and his new wife Ivory Jeanne.

Lhance is the PRC/IFRC Shelter Technical Project Assistant in northern Cebu. Like all our TPAs he is an extremely dedicated member of the Haiyan team, having worked for the operation for more than two years.

'For me, the best part of the job is helping the people who are really in need, and listening to them saying thank you. That really helps get rid of my exhaustion and just helps me get going,' he says.

'I'm an instrument in helping the Red Cross movement achieve its mission and goals. I'm just giving back what I can to the community through my job.'



Eli Bryn Tambiga



TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA) OPERATION RECOVERY UPDATE

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



758 Philippine Red Cross 143 Barangay Recovery Committees

February 2016

COMMITMENT

SHelter	LIveLIHOOD	WATER & SANITATION	HEALTH	EDUCATION	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
80,203 houses to be built and repaired.	62,289 households to receive livelihood assistance. 100 communities targeted for community-managed livelihood projects. 1,000 individuals targeted for skills training and enterprise development.	110 schools targeted for water and sanitation facilities construction. 46,287 individuals targeted for Hygiene promotion activities.	64 health facilities for rehabilitation/construction. 100 communities to be organized and trained in Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). 3,000 affected individuals and 500 humanitarian workers targeted for Psychosocial Support.	505 classrooms selected for repair and construction. 40,000 school kits for distribution to students.	100 community, schools, and work places to be organized and trained to implement Disaster Risk Reduction programs.

ACHIEVEMENT

70,141 houses built/ repaired with ongoing of 600+	62,594 households supported with livelihood assistance. 90,779 families reached with cash relief assistance during emergency phase. 1,234 individuals started skills training. 574 students passed the NC II Assessment. 207 individuals completed the skills training program and are employed. 11,539 individuals trained in Short Term Livelihood.	45 schools with improved access to water and sanitation facilities 63,951 families participated in Hygiene Promotion Activities and 9,804 students reached through Children Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (CHAST)	51 health facilities repaired/constructed 132 communities participated in Community Based Health and First Aid sessions and 1,145 volunteers were trained in CBHFA. 42,222 individuals assisted with medical consultations, health promotion and health care referral and supplemental feeding.	431 classrooms rehabilitated and constructed. 5,489 school kits distributed.	257 Red Cross 143 organized in the community with 12,110 individuals 101 individuals trained in Standard Disaster Risk Reduction Management – Instructors Training Course.
--	--	---	--	---	--



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian organization, providing assistance without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

www.ifrc.org

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Philippine Delegation

Philippine Red Cross National Headquarters

7th Floor, 37 EDSA Corner Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila 1550, Philippines

For more information or to comment on stories contained in this newsletter please contact:
Kate Marshall, IFRC Communications Delegate - kate.marshall@ifrc.org,
Patrick Elliott, IFRC Operations Manager - patrick.elliott@ifrc.org
Kari Isomaa, IFRC Head of Delegation - kari.isomaa@ifrc.org

Follow IFRC



Follow Philippine Red Cross

