



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Nalsian-Bacayao Elementary School is running an awareness campaign to educate different grade levels on school-based disaster risk reduction (SBDRR). Here, elementary students play Riskland, one of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials developed by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) to test the knowledge and application of the school's DRR plan. Photo by MJ Evalarosa / IFRC

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

I believe that all humanitarian workers have something in common: the passion to help people. It is this passion which drives and motivates us every day.

The past three months flew quickly for all of us here at the IFRC country office. A number of capacity building trainings and workshops to support the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) were undertaken, all with one goal in mind: to boost the capacity of PRC response in future disasters through timely, efficient and coordinated humanitarian assistance for the monsoon season, the onset of La Nina, and other disasters.

In this edition, we would like to highlight some of the developments and achievements in disaster management, led by the PRC and supported by IFRC and other movement partners.

PRC kick-started the disaster preparedness campaign in June with a series of meetings and workshops on disaster planning, disaster law, and community safety and resilience. The Movement also participated in a state-led nationwide earthquake drill that happened simultaneously all over the Philippines. Shelter cluster workshops that focus on lessons from the Haiyan operation were scheduled in support of PRC, including the Australian Red Cross and American Red Cross supported participatory video workshop in Leyte.

In July, the country office also hosted a number of high-level visits from different national societies and organizations around the world. The head of IFRC Logistics in Geneva inspected the general Logistics operations of IFRC-supported programs in the Philippines and he was very satisfied with his assessment. Representatives from the Nepalese government and the Nepal Red Cross had a learning visit to the Philippines, exchanged skills and knowledge with their Filipino counterparts and also attended PRC's disaster law workshop.

The CEO of the British Red Cross also visited the long-term Haiyan recovery programs in their areas of operation. The Movement also supported PRC's first specialized training focusing on health in emergencies held over a course of one week in August.

As IFRC is one of the major partners of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), the third batch of AHA Centre

Executive programme (ACE) participants held their learning visit and graduation rites here in the Philippines. The group visited the regional warehouse and logistics hub in Cebu, and the PRC Operations centre in Manila. I had the honor to participate in their graduation ceremony of 16 future leaders in disaster management in the ASEAN.

PRC has intensified its educational campaign to stop the spread of the Zika, Chikungunya, Dengue virus, and other water-borne diseases as the wet season begins in the country.

As we end the third year of the Haiyan recovery operations, the next three months are expected to be another busy period as IFRC and many of our partners continue to scale down on operations and transit to more long-term development programs with PRC.

In September, IFRC also kicked off its first monthly Partnership Platform meeting to exchange skills, experiences, and brainstorming on improved coordination and cooperation. The meeting was received positively by the Movement partners.

The country office is now working on the last Movement-wide report for the Haiyan operation, scheduled to be released by October. IFRC Philippines is also finalizing its long-term strategy and operational planning and budget for the coming years.

The last two days of September, the country office had its annual team building to foster team spirit and also share their knowledge and experiences, and in turn, continue building the team's capacity to support the national society better.

A number of our delegates from the Haiyan operation will repatriate, while others already been deployed as surge support to other areas in the Asia-pacific region. New positions in Finance and Management Services Coordination, Shelter Coordination, Climate Change, and Disaster Law, Policy and Advocacy Consultancy have been filled.

As the country moves towards longer nights and shorter days, malls are already filled with Christmas decorations and carols. With the expected natural disasters and planning for the new year ahead, the last months of 2016 will surely continue to keep us busy.

- Kari Isomaa, Head of Delegation

PRC's DISASTER MANAGEMENT SERVICES: ONE TEAM, ONE VISION



Since 1947, the Disaster Management Services has been one of the major service departments of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC).

With 30 full-time staff, DMS was created to implement humanitarian interventions by empowering and capacitating the most vulnerable in reducing disaster risks and delivering services, thus enabling communities to cope and recover from the impacts brought by both natural and human-induced disasters.

Known then as Disaster Preparedness and Relief Service (DPRS) the team adopted the community-based disaster preparedness through its Integrated Community-based Disaster Planning Program piloted in Palawan and Benguet provinces in 1994.

Two years later, the PRC Operations Center was established. The expansion of programs and basic delivery services brought forth the renaming of the department to Disaster Management Services (DMS) in 1997.

In 2006 the PRC Emergency Response Unit (PRU) was created. It was tested heavily during the onslaught of typhoon Durian (local name Reming) in the Bicol region.

"Apart from the core DM programs, we are also in charge of ERU, the Operations Center, and other cross-cutting programs like climate change adaptation and ecosystems management and restoration," says DMS manager Resty Lou Talamayan.

Resty Lou joined the DMS team in 2009, when DRR was just starting to gain ground in the humanitarian community in the Philippines.

At the moment, the DMS oversees 40 development programs at varying stages of completion. When the Haiyan Recovery Operations team formally closes at the end of 2016 after three years, its projects and team members will be integrated into the DMS program.

"In a country like Philippines where disasters affect millions of people every year, close coordination and support is important," says Sandra Romero Ruiz, Disaster Management delegate for the IFRC Country Office in the Philippines.

"Resty Lou and her team have proven how passion and commitment is moving them through their innovative DRR programs. It is truly inspiring working with their team."

THE 3 COMPONENTS

Disaster Management

Main function is to empower (or capacitate) the most vulnerable, alleviate human sufferings and prevent further loss of life and assets through timely preparedness and risk reduction activities, and provision of relief (such as food, water, shelter, clothing and medical care) and recovery interventions following a disaster or human catastrophe.

Operations Center

Serves as the communication, control and coordination center of the PRC to support its Chapters to monitor, analyze data, disseminate information, and provide logistical support during emergency and disaster situations. Its main activities are alert / early notification, situation monitoring, collation of data, information dissemination, reporting, and information sharing with state agencies.

Emergency Response Unit

Specialized unit for search and rescue operations, medical and fire fighting capabilities. This unit is equivalent to other emergency services as the "Emergency Medical Service" or "EMS" of other organizations in the country. It is also a 24/7 operation responding to a call within its area of responsibility.

DMS' CORE PROGRAMS

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Disaster Preparedness
- Disaster Response
- Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery



THE RESOLUTE RESTY LOU

As told to MJ Evalarosa

A Red Cross volunteer almost all her life, Resty Lou Talamayan's commanding presence served her well during her biggest challenge as Head of the Haiyan operations.

As she starts her new role as manager of the PRC Disaster Management Services (DMS), Resty, 37, shares valuable lessons about working for one of the largest recovery operations for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, managing her ever expanding team, and the best piece of advice she received from her colleagues.

Starting and doing it right

I was deployed right after Haiyan. Haiyan's emergency and recovery response was ten times bigger than any of the previous programs we had. The PRC management created a task force, an ad-hoc team for the implementation of the recovery.

It was hard, because we were still in the middle of the relief phase for those affected by the Bohol earthquake and the Zamboanga siege when we started with the Haiyan emergency operations.

In order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable on the ground in Haiyan, we had to start right, and we had to do it right, since everyone's eyes were trained on the Haiyan response.

With the formation of the new team, we had more mobility to conduct the assessment so former DMS manager Eric Salve and I decided to split the responsibilities in DMS.

Eric would be in charge of the emergency operations for Haiyan as well as the regular programs, while I take over the newly formed Haiyan team.

We asked for help from our partners because the task is just too big for us to handle on our own, and we especially needed assistance to make our assessment more efficient.

If we really wanted to really have a bigger footprint, we needed to have only one report. Having one report showed just how large the Movement response was once everything is consolidated.

We wanted to ensure uniformity of each partner national societies (PNS) working in the response, that there should only be one approach, and that is the PRC approach.

One of the challenges I had to get used to was dealing with the different cultures and backgrounds of the partners we worked with.

Some, fresh off their mission where they were used being in charge, had to adjust to the PRC structure where they would only coach, and not manage. Imagine trying to work with 200-300 delegates from different national societies and different expertise and ideas!

On micromanaging

I trust the people under my wing. I let them decide. When something goes amiss, I would always look at what I did wrong or could have done better as their manager.

My father had a lot of influence on how I developed my management style. He was in the military and a lawyer, so I was trained early on how to manage being under scrutiny or tremendous stress.

Challenge yourself

The best and most practical advice I ever received was from Chairman Gordon himself. 'The hard way is always the best way,' he told me once. 'Anything is possible. There is always a way. The reason why I push you is not because you cannot just settle with just okay. You need to discover that you can do it.'

Sometimes, when I know I'm almost there at the peak of what I'm trying to achieve, he raises the bar up a notch higher. That's the constant challenge I set myself with.

Managing stress

There were so many disasters that happened when I started with DMS. I hardly had time to eat or sleep on time. During Haiyan, a lot of the operations staff started to succumb to the stress, but not me. As long as I could get up from my bed, I would never call in sick, even when I have the flu.

But then I started to develop a skin rash, and after much pressure from my co-workers, I decided to go see a doctor.

My doctor told me that I had an immune system of an 80-year-old! So to boost my immune system and de-stress from work, I began to change my lifestyle.

So now on weekends, I go mountain climbing with friends. It's relaxing because we don't talk about work during our hiking trips. We just focus on the path ahead and reaching the summit.

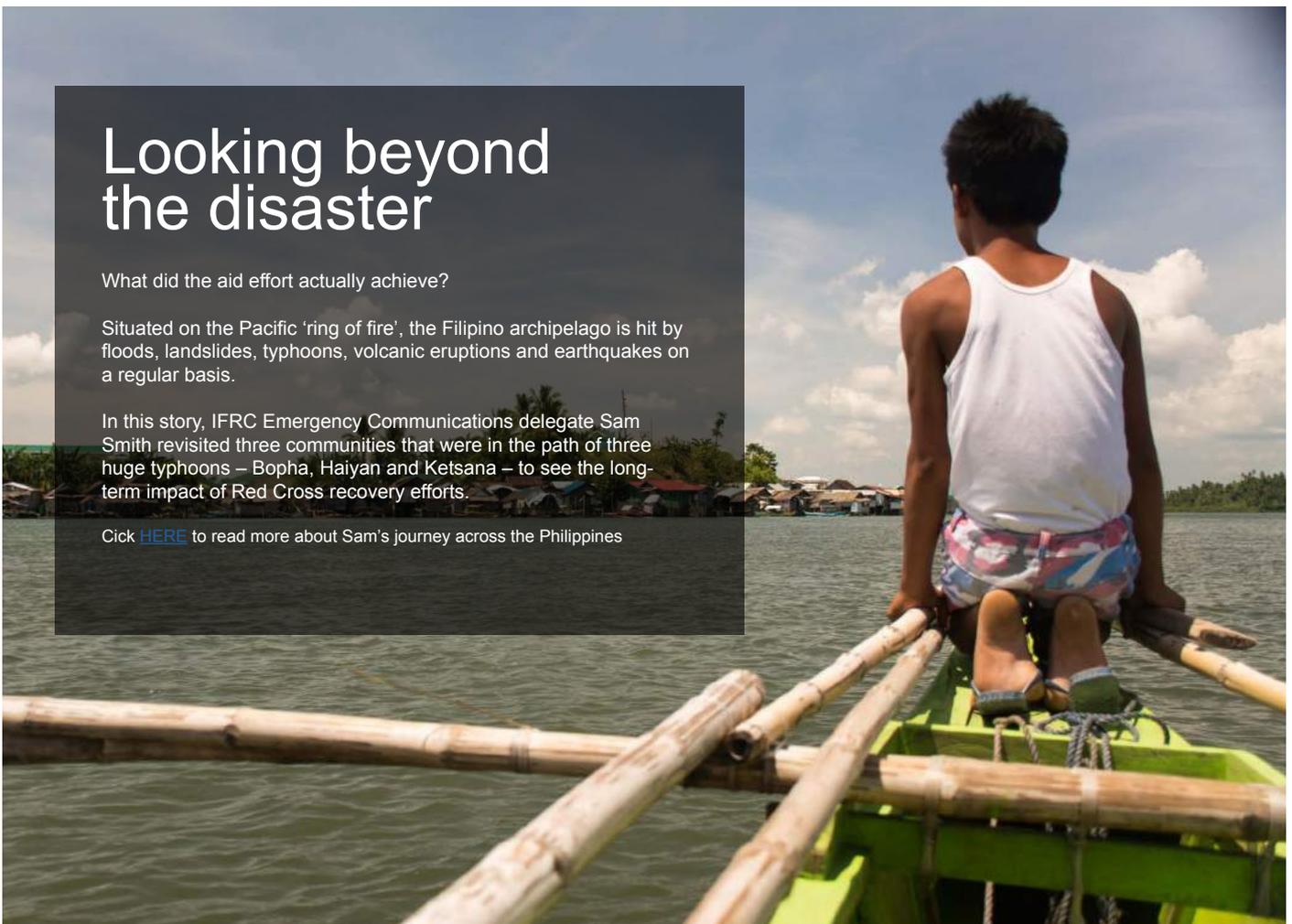
Looking beyond the disaster

What did the aid effort actually achieve?

Situated on the Pacific 'ring of fire', the Filipino archipelago is hit by floods, landslides, typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes on a regular basis.

In this story, IFRC Emergency Communications delegate Sam Smith revisited three communities that were in the path of three huge typhoons – Bopha, Haiyan and Ketsana – to see the long-term impact of Red Cross recovery efforts.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about Sam's journey across the Philippines



ENHANCING DISASTER RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES



Rizly Dogcio from PRC's Disaster Management Services goes over one of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials with representatives from the Myanmar Red Cross during their learning visit to the Philippines early this year. Photo by MJ Evaralosa / IFRC

In the 2015 World Disasters Report, IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy called for a new initiative, the “One Billion Coalition for Resilience” to rally communities and partners into action on improving resilience against disasters—to save lives, preserve livelihoods and to build the capacity of communities to bounce back better and withstand future shocks.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has taken great strides to improve disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and response by investing in resilience building programs, even more so in the past few years as the country weathers disasters one after the other.

Capacity building

Livelihoods programming has become one of the cornerstone of every PRC recovery operation in recent years.

Through the support of IFRC and Spanish Red Cross, PRC conducted an Emergency and Recovery Livelihood Assessment Training (ERLA) from September 5 to 9, 2016. The activity was co-organized by PRC's Social Services and Disaster Management Services teams.

Based on Household Economic Security methodology from the British Red Cross, the ERLA training provides participants with necessary tools and knowledge in executing livelihood assessment and creating a plan of action to improve the project's quality to protect, restart and strengthen livelihoods in post emergency situations.

“The training also focused on assessments and response options analysis that serve as the basis of all recovery programs,” says Sandra Romero, disaster management delegate for the IFRC Philippine Country Office, who facilitated the training.

PRC also hosted the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) Level 2 training from September 17-27 at the national headquarters.

The Philippines Cash Working Group (PCWG) was established as part of the Typhoon Haiyan response in 2013. It is the only national CWG led by an all-Filipino Steering Committee from the United Nations, state agencies, and NGOs.

While the group has strengthened its function as a strategic coordination body, it has identified a need for technical capacity building as part of its priority preparedness activities to ensure that the members have the technical skills and confidence to design context-specific cash transfer programs.

“In PRC, we took a lot of baby steps with cash transfer, and when Haiyan came, we had to make a big leap, especially convincing our management that cash transfers in an effective, efficient tool to empower our beneficiaries,” says DRR officer Ana Mariquina.

“It is not easy and there will still be more challenges in implementing cash transfer programming here in the Philippines. I look forward for more joint partnerships with the different stakeholders in this.”

The Philippines is uniquely conducive to cash transfer, as seen in the good practices that emerged from the Haiyan experience.

“It takes a lot of work and education to manage and understand what cash transfer is, how it works, and what resources you need to give people the cash they need,” says Patrick Elliott, operations manager for the IFRC Philippine Country Office.

“It's more on preparation and follow-up, what is the impact and how you feed that back in from emergency, relief to recovery, how it fits together and how it complements all the other sectors.”

Disaster law

Recognizing sound legal footing as an essential element in building resilience against disasters, a disaster law training for the PRC was



One of the volunteers conduct a DRR awareness seminar in the province of Leyte. Photo by Philippine Red Cross



Acting Manager of Haiyan team Brian Kae Enriquez discusses the key issues of disaster law during one of the sessions during the Disaster Law Training. Photo by MJ Evaralosa / IFRC



Cash transfer based programming (CTP) is an effective and flexible way to support people affected by emergencies, maintaining their dignity and choice, while fostering local economies. Photo by Kate Marshall / IFRC



One of the participants from the Cash Learning and Partnership (CaLP) level 2 training help plot their group's implementation plan as part of their outputs for the workshop. Photo by MJ Evaralosa / IFRC

conducted in August 16-17, 2016.

IFRC disaster law experts lectured participants on the auxiliary role, legislative advocacy, and the role of PRC in national law and policy making.

Another notable achievement of the IFRC Disaster Law Programme was its participation in the review of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (Philippine Republic Act 10121) at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

"This will help ensure that the national and chapter staff are oriented in disaster law and further capacitate the PRC," says DM manager Resty Lou Talamayan.

In the meeting of the NDRRMC Technical Working Group last September 14-15, IFRC and PRC provided technical and legal inputs on disaster risk reduction and management based on international and domestic contexts.

It was also an excellent opportunity to promote better understanding of the auxiliary role of PRC and its important status in the humanitarian world.

New initiatives

For the past several years, with support from the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIPECHO) (2011-2012) and EuropeAid (2013-2016), the Philippine Red Cross has collaborated with partners, the Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross to strengthen community-based DRR institutions. Launched in 1996, DIPECHO is the core element of ECHO's DRR global efforts.

This is part of the bigger Building Urban Resilience in Southeast Asia project, supporting Red Cross Movement partners in four countries (Cambodia, Lao, Vietnam and the Philippines). Part of the outcomes of the project

is to instill safer behaviour, improved preparedness and social change through a coherent, regional strategy building on good practice and using innovative methods.

For PRC, it will also entail a strengthened capacity of local government authorities, Red Cross Youth and 143 Volunteers Disaster Management Teams and First Aid and Safety Teams in targetted towns.

Partnerships

Meanwhile, participants from the Association of South East Asia AHA Centre Executive Program (ASEAN ACE) program visited the PRC to exchange skills and to enhance Red Cross engagement with ASEAN in the field of disaster management.

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) is an inter-governmental organisation which aims to facilitate cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the United Nations and international organisations for disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN Region.

Since its establishment in 2011, AHA Centre has been responding to more than 13 disasters in ASEAN region

The six-month training programme intends to provide on-the-job training and capacity building for professionals from National Disaster Management Offices of ASEAN Member States who are pursuing a career in disaster management.

PRC shared experiences from the emergency response during Typhoon Haiyan—the most destructive storm to ever hit the Philippines – and its subsequent recovery operations.

The PRC also gave a tour of the National Society's Operations Center in Mandaluyong City and the regional warehouse and logistics hub in Mandaue City, Cebu.



RA 10121 Sunset Review technical working group from IFRC, PRC, and different state agencies. Photo by Atty. Pauline Caspellan-Arce / IFRC



The third batch of ACE program participants survey PRC's regional logistics warehouse in Cebu. Photo by Patrick Mongaya / Philippine Red Cross



PHILIPPINE RED CROSS HOLDS ITS FIRST SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR HEALTH IN EMERGENCIES

As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been actively involved in responding to public health emergencies and the delivery of vital health care services in times of disasters.

From curbing epidemic outbreaks, to the swift emergency health response right after disasters, PRC through its dedicated, committed staff and volunteers, has been recognized around the world for its frontline response in health emergencies.

To further support PRC as they continue to assist communities prepare and respond to disasters, emerging infections and seasonal diseases which cause outbreak and epidemic potential, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), organized a specialized training course for health in emergencies for PRC staff and volunteer in Lagos Del Sol Resort in Cavinti, Laguna.

The training was designed to guide the immediate actions of staff and volunteers in response to any given epidemic and/or disasters.

"Epidemics are a constant threat to the well-being of communities everywhere, and the trained staff and volunteers of PRC will ensure better preparation as well as rapid response to epidemics and other health emergencies," says Dr. Abhishek Rimal, IFRC Philippine Country Office health delegate.

A total of 24 participants screened by evaluators from the PRC, IFRC, and ICRC were tested on their knowledge and capacity to handle stressful health emergency situations through field simulations.

The training was a perfect blend of theoretical knowledge and application, and it exposed the participants to different situations and some of the realities that happen in the field.

"Assessment and coordination are quite crucial right after health emergencies," says PRC Health Service Manager Dr. Ann Claire Reyta.

Four seasoned staff from various National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT): Hera Gamongan, Al-Azanereeh Madale, Rex Vincent Escano, and Dennis Saneo, were chosen as team leaders during to mentor their respective groups.

"It has been a great occasion to bring together health professionals who will respond to future public health emergencies and / or disasters and other humanitarian crises," says Beatriz Karottki, Health Coordinator for ICRC, and one of the training facilitators.

"I appreciated the human quality of each of the participants showed and their dedication to strengthen their knowledge in analyzing health problems in a humanitarian crises," adds Beatriz.

In the last 20 years, PRC has been steadily building its capacity on public health through its community health volunteers and health professionals to cushion the impact of disasters, disease outbreaks, economic crises, and unhealthy lifestyles and also provide additional social protection with psychosocial interventions to victims of armed conflicts, displacement and other situations of violence.

"We hope this training will not only teach you the holistic approach in disaster response, but also create opportunities to build a stronger bond with each other," says IFRC Philippine Country Office Head of Delegation Kari Isomaa. "Unity is strength, and each and every one of you will need that strength of teamwork when disaster strikes."

In the closing ceremony, Kym Blechynden, IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Health Emergency Coordinator emphasized the important role of a specialized team in the event of health-related disaster response. "This is the first training of its kind in the Philippines and the region," says Kym.

"In a disaster prone country like the Philippines, it is crucial that we have strong health-trained emergency response team members to identify health issues and to develop strong health and nutrition responses which save lives" says Laguna Governor Leonida Ortizin in her closing remarks on the last day of the training.

THE FOUR SCENARIOS



Scenario 1: Health coordination in the field



Scenario 2: Health Centre assessment/ visit



Scenario 3: Camp Visit and interview with IDP leaders



Scenario 4: Coordination and cooperation meeting with the Mayor

Red Cross partners with ADB to strengthen health facilities in Haiyan affected areas



IFRC Logistics Coordinator Nand Sharma (left) and Basey District Chief of Hospital Dr. Jessamine Elona (right) check on the medical equipment. Photo by MJ Evaralosa / IFRC

After the coastal town of Basey in Western Samar was hit hard by Haiyan in 2013, doctors at the local hospital were at a loss on how to respond to the medical needs of the victims.

"Our hospital was almost destroyed," says Dr. Jessamine Elona, Chief of Basey District Hospital. "We were just an infirmary hospital then, and we needed new medical equipment to augment our medical supplies and our facilities needed repairing."

From their perch on top of a hill, Dr. Elona and her staff saw the destruction Haiyan left in its wake and knew that they have much to do.

Pregnant women in need of ultrasound scans or patients with heart conditions requiring ECG measurements were referred to nearby Tacloban City, some 20 kilometers away from Basey, where better medical facilities are available.

Aid groups to the rescue

International aid groups have since flocked to the region, Basey included, rehabilitated damaged health facilities and provided much needed medical supplies and equipment.

Through the assistance from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), three brand new upgraded medical equipment: an anaesthesia machine, respirator, and ECG machine arrived just in time. Today, Basey District Hospital, overlooking the blue waters of San Pablo Bay has added ten more beds to its original 25 and has been recently upgraded into a Level 1 hospital.

For the first time, IFRC has partnered with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the implementation of a programme aimed to increase access to essential maternal and child health services in areas most affected by Typhoon Yolanda through the provision of necessary medical and non-medical equipment and goods to 72 Government Hospitals and Health Centres.

Fifteen hospitals and 57 rural health facilities along the typhoon corridor in Central Philippines were assessed by the IFRC and PRC over the last 12 months and each



Representatives from the Department of Health, Philippine Red Cross, Tacloban City hospital, and supplier conduct a final inspection of the medical equipment before distribution. Photo by Nand Sharma / IFRC

health facility's needs for medical and non-medical equipment were identified and verified.

"The procurement of the equipment was done by IFRC through international competitive biddings in Geneva," says Nand Sharma, Logistics Coordinator for IFRC in the Philippines. "We received the funding from ADB under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction's (JFPR) Grant 9175 to the Philippine Government."

The IFRC-ADB program provided 15 district/provincial hospitals with five major hospital equipment (anesthesia machines, ventilators, ultrasound machines, ECG machines and respirator) while 57 rural health units were given sets of first aid kits, obstetrics and delivery kits and generators to augment the needs of the health centers.

Power cuts are quite normal, specially after a disaster. In hospitals where they did not have power for several days, 10 KVA generator sets were provided to help continuing emergency medical services.

"It has been two years and we have started to recover and we are very much thankful for the donors," says Dr. Elona of Basey District Hospital.

In Palo, Leyte, 15 kilometers south of Tacloban, Dr. Amelita Avenido, chief of Schistosomiasis Control and Research Hospital, attests that the procured new medical equipment have been of great help for their patients. Her hospital received a respirator and an ultrasound machine from the program.

"So far, there have been more than a hundred patients who have benefitted from the respirator," says Dr. Avenido. "Most of our patients are poor, so having an ultrasound machine and respirator has been of great help for us because it means we can give better services to our less fortunate patients."

Some 45 kilometers east of Tacloban City is Carigara District Hospital. Currently operating on a 25-bed capacity, the hospital lists age, pelvic uterine full term (PUFT) and newborns as its top three leading causes of hospitalization.

"When our patients needed an ultrasound, we would send them to the city," says Dr. Leda Claros-Alegata, OB-GYN. "We badly needed an ultrasound machine, so you don't know how much this new machine means to us here."

Last stretch

The project is expected to be completed by November 2016, in time for the third anniversary of Haiyan, according to Sharma.

"We have completed distribution of hospitals equipment, first aid kits and obstetric and delivery kits and we are at the last stretch of distribution of generator sets," says Sharma. "The steady cooperation and coordination with ADB, the Department of Health (DoH), the health facilities authorities and our Philippine Red Cross colleagues has made this program a success."

Logistics support to ADB Project



WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

SHELTER CLUSTER WORKSHOP

29-30 June 2016 | Holiday Inn, Makati

Taking a longer term view of recovery, the Geneva-based IFRC Global Shelter Cluster has commissioned a shelter recovery assessment, of which the initial findings were presented during the Lessons Learned Workshop last June 29-30, 2016 in Makati City.

The workshop was also an opportunity for cluster partner agencies in the Philippines to reflect on the previous ten years of cluster activations to emergency response and to draw out some consistent themes in preparation for the upcoming typhoon season.

The Shelter Cluster, under IFRC, has responded to the last six major disasters in the Philippines, starting with Typhoon Durian (Local name: Reming) in 2006.

The two-day workshop was designed to look at both the strategic and technical aspects of the shelter response.

Five long term shelter cluster partners who were active during both during Haiyan and previous emergencies and representing national and international organizations were asked to reflect briefly on the successes and challenges of the shelter response.



HAIYAN RECOVERY PROGRAM PARTICIPATORY VIDEO WORKSHOP

18-21 July 2016 | Leyte, Philippines

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), together with the Australian Red Cross (ARC) and American Red Cross, has been working with four municipalities in the province of Leyte, an area hard hit by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

To provide long-term capacity building, ARC organized a participatory video training for PRC volunteers and ARC-supported project beneficiaries to document the changes and developments the Haiyan PRC-ARC programs have had in their communities.

Three facilitators from PRC and IFRC taught participants basic photography, videography, video editing and post-production.

The training will enable community groups to personally document the change in their barangays and the livelihood projects being developed. It is a unique way of building project ownership and creativity and it provides a great resource base for PRC and Partners moving forward.

"The groups have organized themselves across the three municipalities the Australian Red Cross has recovery operations in," says Jock Rutherford, Country Manager of the Australian Red Cross in the Philippines.

"They are aiming to produce at least one video per month for the remainder of the project. This is to showcase the projects conducted by the community-managed livelihood and Skills Training and Enterprise Development (STED) program."



A brief chat with Philippine Red Cross' new Secretary General Atty. Oscar P. Palabyab



How were your first three months as the new Secretary General for the Philippine Red Cross?

Well, I had to hit the ground running, but I have been involved with the Philippine Red Cross before as their legal counsel, so I already have an idea of how PRC works and understood the demands of the job when Chairman Gordon offered me the post.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Managing and organizing the Red Cross and its hundred plus chapters. We need to ensure that as PRC continues to grow, the organization is ready to handle the demands it will have on the manpower. We need to make sure that our staff across the board are also equipped with the right skills.

I have been travelling quite a lot in the past months to represent PRC in important events. As I see it, being the SG is a physically demanding job, and a large part of it is being out there, engaging the public about our advocacies and services which can help raise funds for the Red Cross, particularly now that the Chairman is busy with his responsibilities in the Philippine Senate.

However, I would like to visit more of our chapters in the future so I can understand their needs better.

How is your relationship with the partners working here with the Philippine Red Cross?

So far, so good! I am not rigid to our partners. I have seen them around as my former capacity as a legal adviser, so I am not a stranger to them. This time though, I now have a better idea of how the partners really work through their cooperation.

Are there any areas in PRC that you want to focus on in the next few months?

Yes, I would really like to focus on a more uniform, transparent, and user-friendly financial system and process for PRC's chapters that they can use for their reports. If we are to protect PRC's integrity, we need to be also number one in financial transparency.

How does PRC's Secretary General de-stress?

I am part of a choir group, the John Van de Steen, for the past seven years. We named our group after the Belgian musical director that most of the group members were under when we were young. What I like about the group is that our members come from various professional backgrounds, from executives to ordinary folks.

On Saturdays, I usually play badminton with friends. Sunday is family day—we attend mass or accompany my wife to buy fruits at the local market.

MEET YOUR COLLEAGUE



Michael Belaro,
Livelihood delegate,
former Livelihood officer
of the Haiyan team

When did you start working for the Red Cross?

My first acquaintance with the Red Cross movement was during a first aid training conducted in our campus during my freshman year. I joined the College Red Cross Youth Council and I became the President the following year.

What were your greatest challenges as the livelihood officer of the Haiyan operations?

Piloting a new livelihood programming in the middle of the recovery operations. The Skills training and Enterprise Development (STED) and the Community-managed Livelihood program (CMLP) because it proposed new ways of implementation, which also challenged the existing systems of PRC. But we took it as an opportunity for PRC to explore program that would provide more meaningful impact to our beneficiaries.

How did you get deployed to Pakistan?

I applied for the post as a Cash Transfer Program (CTP) delegate. I am currently under a British Red Cross contract seconded to the IFRC and working together with the Danish Red Cross to support and scale up the CTP preparedness of Pakistan Red Crescent in emergency response.

How do you balance your work as a Red Cross humanitarian worker and personal life?

As a social worker I am blessed that I was trained to become aware of the signs and signals when to stop and when to move further with work and personal life. Self-awareness and constant self-check is always essential, and time management is imperative in this kind of work.



Pauline Caspellan-Arce,
Disaster Law, Policy
and Advocacy
Consultant

How did you get involved with the IFRC Disaster Law Program?

My interest in DRR started way back in university as a law student when I helped draft the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (RA 10121).

At the moment, my work with IFRC and PRC is to help in the revision the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act and its implementing rules and regulations with key partners such as the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and other members of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The Philippine government has been trying to have better coordination with organizations such as PRC, and this revision is a great opportunity for PRC to continue on that strong partnership with our stakeholders.

Because of my involvement in the DRRM Act since its early stages, it has become a sort of personal advocacy to ensure that I finish what I have started, and to continue pushing for policies that improve disaster risk reduction in the Philippines.

Since then, I have worked with UNDP, Save the Children, PEMSEA, and the Ateneo School of Government as a Policy Analyst and Legal Consultant. I want to continue working on policies that strengthen our engagement in relevant law and policy-making processes.



Dushyanthi Carmel David,
Finance and
Management
Services Coordinator

How long have you been working for the Red Cross?

I have been working in support services for the past 23 years. I started my career as the Assistant to the Head of Delegation of IFRC Sri Lanka and was later promoted to Office Manager. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, I became the Senior Finance Manager for three years, and subsequently, I was given the responsibility to oversee the Finance Department. It was quite a handful, with 15 locally recruited professional finance team members.

From 2010 I then became been the Head of Support Services in Sri Lanka IFRC Country Office and helped lead key support services during the large housing programme which was carried out in north east of Sri Lanka.

Is this your first mission to the Philippines?

This is my second mission. During the onset of the Haiyan emergency operations, I was deployed here as surge capacity in the province of Cebu. This month, I've started my new mission as the IFRC Philippine Country Office Finance and Management Services Coordinator, managing the Finance, Admin and IT in our office.

When not busy with work, how do you spend your free time?

I like to cook spicy Sri Lankan food, listen to music, watch movies and take long walks. I hope my mother from Sri Lanka and my daughter, who is studying in a university in New Zealand, will both come and visit me soon in Manila so I can cook for them!



TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA) OPERATION RECOVERY UPDATE



As of September 2016

COMMITMENT

	SHELTER	LIVELIHOOD	WATER & SANITATION	HEALTH	EDUCATION	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
	<p>80,203 houses to be built and repaired</p> <p>Movement-wide</p>	<p>62,289 households to receive livelihood assistance</p> <p>100 communities targeted for community-managed livelihood projects (CMLP)</p> <p>1,000 individuals targeted for skills training and enterprise development (STED)</p>	<p>111 schools targeted for water and sanitation facilities construction</p> <p>46,287 individuals targeted for Hygiene promotion activities</p>	<p>64 Health facilities for rehabilitation/reconstruction</p> <p>100 communities to be organized, trained, and implemented Community Based Health and First Aid</p> <p>3,000 affected individuals and 500 humanitarian workers targeted for Psycho-social Support</p>	<p>505 classrooms for repair and rehabilitation</p> <p>40,000 school kits for distribution to students</p>	<p>100 community, schools, and work place to be organized trained, and implemented Disaster Risk Reduction program</p>

ACCOMPLISHMENT

<p>75,931 houses built and repaired with ongoing of 350</p> <p>Movement-wide</p>	<p>62,670 households supported with livelihood assistance</p> <p>1,820 individuals were enrolled on the skill training program</p> <p>12,790 individuals trained on Short Term Livelihood</p> <p>73 ongoing Community Managed Livelihood Projects</p>	<p>66 schools with improved access to water and sanitation facilities</p> <p>65,295 participated in Hygiene Promotion Activities</p>	<p>62 health facilities repaired / constructed</p> <p>190 communities participated in Community Based Health and First Aid sessions</p> <p>1,327 volunteers were trained thru CBHFA</p> <p>42,222 individuals assisted with medical consultations, health promotion, health care referral and supplemental feeding</p>	<p>490 classrooms rehabilitated and constructed</p> <p>8,375 school kits distributed</p>	<p>101 individuals trained of Standard Disaster Risk Reduction Management Instructors Training Course</p>
<p>26,824 (8,859 houses built and 18,976 repaired with 759 carpenters and craftspeople trained</p> <p>IFRC</p>	<p>26,224 households supported with livelihood assistance</p> <p>606 individuals completed skills training and enterprise development (STED) training</p> <p>44 Community-managed livelihood projects supported</p>	<p>30 schools with improved access to water and sanitation facilities</p> <p>15,792 participated in Hygiene Promotion Activities, with 263 RC143 volunteers trained on health promotion</p>	<p>20 health facilities repaired / constructed</p> <p>721 community health volunteers (CHVs) and facilitators trained</p>		<p>24 Red Cross 143 communities organized (1,375 individuals organized)</p>

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