

# Philippine Red Cross

## Working towards School Safety



With a total of 86 chapters and 16 sub-chapters across the country, the Philippine Red Cross is presented across all the provinces. It counts on the active engagement of 2 million volunteers nationwide, including 50,000 youth members forming Red Cross Youth (RCY) Councils in schools.

As part of the Strategy 2020, the Philippine Red Cross continues to intensify its volunteering programme called “Red Cross 143”. The programme aims to have at least 44 volunteers, consisting of 1 leader and 43 members, in each community. Their works are focused on disaster management, health and welfare, first aid, blood donations, international humanitarian law and youth advocacy.

and the private sector. After Typhoon Haiyan, various partners provided support to the recovery operations such as repair and construction of classrooms and water and sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion at schools.

Through various projects in schools, the Philippine Red Cross works across the three pillars of the Comprehensive Framework for School Safety. Particular projects include:

- Support to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management institutionalization in schools
- Managing risk through Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA)
- Training of teachers and pupils
- Construction of small-scale mitigation measures following the assessments (e.g., repair of facilities, water and sanitation interventions, provision of basic response equipment)
- Extra-curricular activities (e.g., awareness campaigns, youth camps, simulation exercises, etc.)
- Advocacy on child protection and participation
- Ecosystem-based management and climate change adaptation

Over the years, the Philippine Red Cross has developed its policies and strategies to implement activities in schools, in addition to providing a set of tools for teachers, youth members and children.



School Safety initiatives are led by Red Cross Youth councils and the Philippine Red Cross chapters in close cooperation with the Department of Education. Regular activities are supported by a wide range of partners, including sister National Societies, Civil Society Organizations, Non-Government Organizations



# Outreach



**Schools**  
**422**

Number of school reached



**Children**

Primary : 227 in total  
(106 boys and 121 girls)  
Elementary : 120,185 in total  
(62,792 boys and 57,393 girls)  
High school : 43,462 in total  
(21,539 boys and 21,923 girls)



**Red Cross Youth**  
**576**

clubs were established with 40,562 members

## 1 Safe Learning Facilities

School building, retrofitting and small-scale construction  
Water and sanitation interventions



**Small-scale construction at school**  
Repair of school perimeter fence to block the overflowing water from fish pond area in Ilocos Sur



**Water and sanitation interventions**  
Handwashing facilities constructed for school children in Calocan

## 2 School Disaster Management

Creation and capacity building of school disaster committee  
Provision of basic response equipment for schools  
First aid trainings



**Creation and capacity building of school disaster committee**  
School Disaster Risk Reduction and Management committee drafting, reviewing and finalizing their Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)



**Provision of basic response equipment**  
The equipment provided to schools includes first aid kits, spinal boards, fire extinguishers and megaphones.



**First Aid training**  
First Aid training of pupils in Isabela

## 3 Risk Reduction and Resilience Education

Awareness sessions as part of curriculum  
Dissemination of awareness raising materials  
Organization of campaigns and competitions



**Awareness session on Disaster Risk Reduction**  
Awareness session conducted as part of curriculum in Ilocos Sur



**Dissemination of awareness raising materials**  
Distribution of Get Ready for Disasters workbook in Leyte



**Campaigns and competitions**  
Poster-making entries to promote clean and safe school environment

“Understanding the disaster preparedness process is a priority for our community. We have gained these knowledge through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment which helped us become aware of the hazards and risk in our living and working environment. We also feel we are more receptive since we acquired skills on response and lifesaving measures with the First Aid and Basic Life Support Trainings and flood drills in our community.”

Racelia C. Palacio, one of the Red Cross Youth Adviser in Bakhaw Norte Elementary School, Kalibo, Aklan.



## Challenges

- 🔍 Not all activities can be sustained after project implementation due to limited budget of schools.
- 🔍 Insufficient or ad hoc integration of Disaster Risk Reduction into the curriculum due to lack of guidelines.
- 🔍 Limited knowledge on Disaster Risk Reducton related policies and guidelines for schools.
- 🔍 Lack of knowledge on technical and practical implementation of school Disaster Risk Reduction activities



## Ways forward

- ➔ Stronger partnerships with government authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector for resource mobilization to support Disaster Risk Reduction activities in schools.
- ➔ Train teaching and non-teaching personnel on how to integrate and deliver Disaster Risk Reduction sessions in the academic curricula.
- ➔ Support the dissemination of existing policies and guidelines to local school authorities. The Philippine Red Cross could also play a role to advocate for development or improvement of policies based on needs of the schools.
- ➔ Peer-to-peer learning or visits to schools with good practices on Disaster Disaster Risk Reduction and dissemination of case studies and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

### Contact Details



**Atty. Oscar P. Palabyab**  
 Secretary General  
 37 EDSA corner Boni Avenue,  
 Mandaluyong City 1550Philippine

**Marwan Jilani**  
 Head of Country Cluster Support Team  
 IFRC Bangkok  
 marwan.jilani@ifrc.org  
 www.ifrc.org