



Philippine Delegation

IFRC in the Philippines

June 2016: Focus on Shelter and Health



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

www.ifrc.org Saving lives, changing minds.



Lawa-an, New Washington. The Remetrios have been married for 47 years and has turned their Red Cross house into a happy retirement home. Photo by Mary Joy Evalarosa / IFRC

A PERIOD OF TRANSITION

The first half of 2016 was marked as a period of fast and efficient transition for the IFRC Philippine Delegation as we head into the final stretch of the Haiyan recovery program, now set to end major activities by end of July 2016.

The Haiyan operation remains the largest response by IFRC in the Asia Pacific region, and we want to make sure we get it right. We are working with Philippine Red Cross on the exit, and where possible, transition to regular programs to promote sustainability. As we build up to the official exit of the Haiyan program, together with the Philippine Red Cross, ICRC, and Partner National Societies we are now preparing for the next Movement-wide Haiyan report and the final evaluation towards the end of the year.

A number of our delegates from the Haiyan operation have already ended their missions, while others have been deployed as surge support for Fiji's Cyclone Winston early recovery phase.

From March to June of this year, members of the IFRC Philippines team supported and attended numerous conferences, workshops, discussions, and meetings, that would further strengthen our proximity, proficiency, and presence within the Movement and with our colleagues and external partners.

I was honoured to join so many of my esteemed colleagues as participant at the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Preparatory Workshop for the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The 180 participants, a diverse range of representatives from within the Movement, consolidated and aligned the Movement's key messages, policy asks, and approach, leading up to engagement in the World Humanitarian Summit.

With national elections concluding in May, this June will mark an

important event in the Philippines as the country transitions towards a new government, with a new President taking office at the start of July. The Philippine Red Cross will also find itself with new advocates in Senate with four of its Board of Governors from HQ and Chapter level, including the PRC Chairman, elected to serve. This should provide more opportunities to boost the Red Cross Humanitarian Diplomacy, including potential revisions or passage of important disaster legislations.

Operationally, as the national weather bureau has officially announced a transition from the long bout of El Nino drought to La Nina, the country is expecting unusually heavy rains over the coming months that will pose great risk of severe and dangerous flooding throughout much of the country. The Philippine Red Cross, together with IFRC and other Movement partners are bracing for the worst and we have started preparation with a Pre-Disaster meeting planned for early June.

As the IFRC Delegation and the country both go through this period of transition, let us reflect, reorganize, and address the challenges, successes, and strengths we have encountered, so we may continue to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in the country, better, faster, an even wider reach, and with commitment to the mantra of PRC to be *Always First, Always Ready, Always There!*

I wish you all a pleasant few months ahead, and for many, a restful summer, but let us always keep in our hearts and minds, those that that may be in need of our help, our protection, and our care, to help restore hope and dignity to those less fortunate, fleeing harm's way, or tragically affected by disaster or disease. It is a privilege to be part of the IFRC in service, and I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who also continue to serve so selflessly, and often, so bravely, for humanity.

Kari Isomaa, Head of Delegation



HAIYAN SHELTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Lessons learned and looking forward

Colin Price served as the shelter delegate for the recovery operation in the province of Leyte, one of the five provinces severely affected by typhoon Haiyan. The shelter recovery programme for the Haiyan operations has helped build and repair over 80,000 shelters.

Before he ended his mission, Colin shared the challenges, achievements, and lessons learned working for one of the largest shelter recovery operations for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Asia-Pacific.



As a shelter delegate for IFRC, my task was to guide and work closely with PRC, technical project assistant teams, leaders, and shelter officers. PRC is the main driver of this programme, and my role is very much on support, guidance, and technical advice.

In the earlier stages of the Haiyan shelter program, which was developed by IFRC and PRC as part of the long-term recovery program for typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the programme went through streamlining before it reached its final design to make it more efficient and cover larger geographic areas, making it easier for the team to move forward faster, but with the same quality.

ON BUILDING BACK BETTER

Our core houses are designed to be extended. All core houses were built 60-70 percent complete, with focus on the foundation. When the family has the means, they can then build a more permanent, concrete home. We've given them guidance as well on how to best extend the house depending on the size of the family to adapt to their own needs.

We also found a more sustainable way of using the millions of coconut trees felled by the typhoon as part of the shelter, before they became damaged by termites. That way, we did not add to the deforestation in the country and at the same time, managed to maintain our supply of coco lumber.

The challenges have been, I guess, logistically, the geographic spread of the people we are trying to reach. We've gone outside Tacloban to reach the people in their home communities. We don't want to detach them, break their social capital, or relocate them so we'd go to the furthest places to help those most affected.

SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

The support of the volunteers from PRC have been fantastic. Their dedication to their work is something you have to see for yourself. They give so much energy and effort working as volunteers.

A lot of them are putting their future careers on hold because they really want to finish the project and achieve the targets to help their own people. PRC will have a really good base from these volunteers to call upon in the future. I'm quite grateful to work in this operation and to work with PRC's volunteers. I won't forget this experience and happy to be a part of it.



ON CAPACITY-BUILDING

One of the main lessons learned from this program, was to keep everything at the local level, especially when it comes to labour. Instead of getting one large contractor to handle a couple of hundred houses, we trained carpenters, village by village, and oriented them on the eight key messages on shelter.

We filtered down all the technical details to very understandable messages, produced detailed drawings, and ensured that all the questions that they may have could be answered. Then there would be an open session for all the experience, and new carpenters to answer any questions each one may have and explain step-by-step how to build better, safer, and stronger homes.

There's a lot more to it than just plain construction. It's about long-term knowledge sharing, and building the skills of the carpenters who may never have had formal training and just learned on the job, and improving the overall quality and standard of housing in their communities.



RED CROSS HAIYAN SHELTER RECOVERY PROGRAM ON TRACK TO FINISH MID-2016



San Miguel, Leyte. IFRC Program coordinator Ramsey Rayyis with Philippine Red Cross Secretary General Dr. Gwendolyn Pang holds up the Haiyan core shelter model during the turnover ceremonies. Photo by Mary Joy Evalarosa / IFRC

In April, ceremonies attended by representatives from the Philippine Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and American Red Cross, were held in three different venues in the province of Leyte to mark the handover of more than 5,600 homes, three health centres, and seven educational facilities.

Over the past three years, to help communities to recover from Typhoon Haiyan, which struck the Visayas region of central Philippines in 2013, the Red Cross has helped build and repair more than 74,000 homes. Its shelter programme aims to support the rebuilding of more than 80,000 homes by the end of the year.

The Philippine Red Cross recovery operation is spread over nine provinces, and is supported by the IFRC, 17 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies, as well as private donors including Air Asia, HSBC, Citibank, and Singapore-based CUBE.

Various approaches have been used by Red Cross partners to help families rebuild. The IFRC's shelter programme consists of shelter repair assistance, which provides people with the equivalent of 220.00 US dollars (or 195.00 euros) in cash and building materials. In some cases, core shelters' have been constructed for some families who lost their houses, and training has been provided which has allowed families to complete the

construction process themselves.

Crisencio Auris, a 42-year-old carpenter, is one of those who directly benefited from the build back better approach. He has been working for the Red Cross as a skilled labourer since 2014 and was able to help build typhoon-resistant homes for his community in Pastrana, Leyte.

"I have six kids so the concrete floor would always get dirty," says Crisencio. "Instead of letting my wife spend hours and hours each day to keep it clean, I decided to save the money I earned to buy new tiles for my house which are easier to clean."

To ensure that each identified household will have a secure site for the next 10 to 15 years, the Red Cross is coordinating closely with local government units, volunteers, and project staff. Each core shelter's design was kept simple so that it focused on what the people needed, but at the same time, giving people the freedom to customize their homes.

"Together with the wider humanitarian community, our Red Cross Red Crescent family, through the strong leadership and initiative shown by the Philippine Red Cross, will continue to work towards recovery and renewal in the Visayas," says IFRC Program Coordinator Ramsey Rayyis, "This way, we can ensure our communities are stronger, better informed, and more resilient to future disasters."

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2016: BEAT DIABETES



Kanlim-ao, Cebu. PRC volunteer Helbert warms up the crowd before the zumba class, one of the main activities of the Health Team in Cebu. Aside from the fun and social spirit these sessions bring, community health volunteers (CHVs) measure the blood pressure of local residents every three months to check on individual progress. Photo by Cheryl Ravelo Galalac / IFRC

The WHO estimates about 422 million people in the world have diabetes, which means 1 out of 11 have diabetes in the world today. With the disease the direct cause of some 1.5 million deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) projects that diabetes will be the 7th leading cause of death by 2030. The incidence of diabetes continues to grow around the world, and Filipinos are not an exemption to this incidence.

To highlight this priority area of public concern in the world, this year's theme for World Health Day is 'Beat Diabetes.' Held every 7th of April of each year, World Health Day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of WHO in 1948.

As part of this celebration, the Philippine Red Cross, in coordination with the Municipal Health Offices, Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the five operational areas (Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Cebu and Leyte) were mobilized to deliver key messages through health teaching in Diabetes Prevention.

One of the main goals of the "Beat Diabetes" campaign is to increase awareness on the prevention of diabetes, and its staggering burden and consequences among Filipino population.

"We will actively promote highly cost-effective "best buys": physical exercise, alcohol and tobacco control, and healthy diet to tackle rising incidence of diabetes in the Philippines," says IFRC Health delegate Dr. Abhishek Rimal. "Efforts to prevent and treat diabetes will be important to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goal 3 target, of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by one-third by 2030."

The PRC Health teams, through the community health volunteers, conducted a series of activities in their respective covered

communities. Coordination with the city and municipal health offices was conducted to ensure participation of the local health unit, and other stakeholders to support the activities.

Community-Based Disease Prevention (CBDP) is the core of the health and care program in the Philippines. According to the Department of Health (DOH), non-communicable diseases—like heart disease—top the cause of death in the country.

Among the major activities carried out by the communities include free diabetes screenings for residents, complemented with information drive campaigns, and video presentations on diabetes, courtesy of WHO.

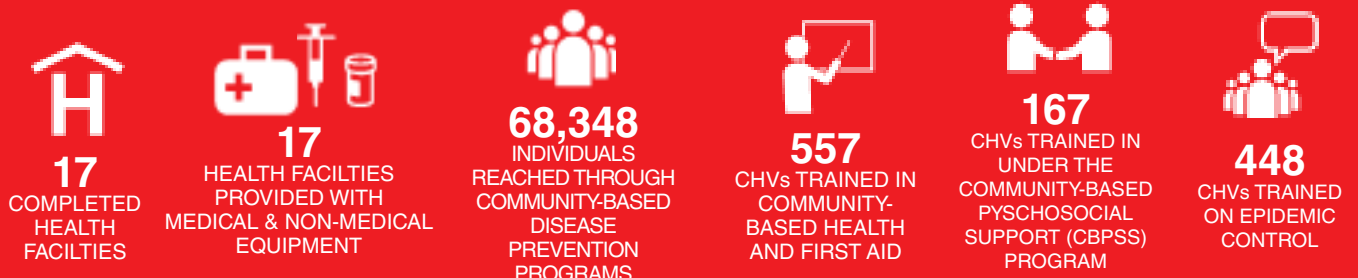
"These activities not only help us promote the health programs of our health units, but also give us a better vision of our community status by providing updated records," says Myra Domingo, one of the municipal nurses based in Malinao, Aklan.

In many of the operational areas, zumba exercises were conducted together with the community. The town of Kanlim-ao in Cebu, held a poster-making activity participated by elementary school students, to educate children early on about diabetes, and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

All in all, 3,565 people in 68 targeted communities across the five operational areas actively participated during the World Health Day activities.

"We are thankful that the Philippine Red Cross is supporting our health activities in the barangay," says Dr. Mary Humbelyn Horneja, Municipal Health Officer of Municipality of Dao, Capiz. "It was a big help for us that the community would be more aware on their health, and will continue to practice a healthy lifestyle."

IFRC HEALTH FIGURES





REHABILITATED HEALTH FACILITIES TO CATER 6X MORE PATIENTS

Many frontline health facilities, from health stations, rural health units and hospitals, to PRC blood banks, were destroyed or damaged by typhoon Haiyan in 2013, depleting existing essential resources, and hampering the delivery of basic health services.

Over 570 health facilities were damaged across the Visayas region, with estimated losses of up to CHF 16 million to structures, basic medical supplies and equipment.

Out of the 20 targeted health facilities supported by IFRC, 17 have been successfully rehabilitated and reconstructed out of the overall 64 target health facilities in Central Philippines.

In the municipality of Palompon, a second-class municipality with a population of 56,115, three health centers located in the towns of San Guillermo, Tabunok, and Cantuhaon, were recently upgraded from non-birthing to birthing facilities.

The town of Cantuhaon, the third farthest coastal town, currently serves as a catchment for five towns, catering to 5,656 individuals.

“For the rehabilitation and upgrading of the non-birthing to birthing

facilities, we prioritized this health center since Cantuhaon has the largest number of home deliveries, which the DOH is trying to minimize to avoid birth complications,” says IFRC Health Delegate Dr. Abhishek Rimal.

Through the rehabilitation of the damaged health facilities, towns were provided with community-based health programming such as disaster preparedness, psychosocial support, health and first aid, and epidemic control.

Each upgraded health center has at least one recovery room and birthing room, complimented with new medical and birthing equipment approved by the DOH.

Moreover, the rehabilitated health facilities will improve access to health services for the entire community, contributing to the umbrella goal for health in the Government’s development agenda for universal health care and reinforce Philippine Red Cross’ role as an auxiliary to government.

“The rehabilitation of the health station will be of a large help to the communities, especially those who live in far flung areas,” adds Rimal.



Six-month old Moneth Lumapas gets her weight checked using an electronic weighing scale, one of the more recent upgrades for one of the health centers in Cebu. Photo by Cheryl Ravelo Gaglac / IFRC

One of the residents who will directly benefit from the upgrade is 33-year-old mom Noeme Amores. A mother of three, Noeme recalls the time when she had to travel for more than an hour over bumpy roads to go to Palompon's main hospital to give birth and now, to get immunizations for her six-month old daughter Akiesha.

"I was already in labor that time, and it was hard to hitch a ride to get to the main road where the jeepneys ply," says Noeme. "But with this new health center, I don't need to spend 120 Php (2 USD) for transportation. I can just walk to the facility, and save that money for my kid's allowance."

In the town of Kanlim-ao in the province of Cebu, mom-to-be Janice Sumalinog shares the same sentiments. Now five months pregnant, Janice had to pay roughly the same amount for transportation to the city for her six-year-old's checkups in the city hospital.

"The unrelenting support from the community, from the Department of the Health, LGUs, and project team, especially the PRC volunteer and barangay health committee what made the rehabilitation of these health facilities possible," says IFRC Operations Manager Patrick Elliott.

Each rehabilitated health facility can now cater up to six times more residents in each town.

"Our old town health station in Cantuhaon only covers 5x3 meters, which is quite small, considering the influx of residents from the five other towns that come here for their appointments," says Dr. Maria Lora Andales, Palompon municipal health officer. "With the new infrastructure and the equipment that the Red Cross has provided us, our health delivery would be augmented and at the same time, our health workers will feel more at ease and confident in delivering our health services."



One of the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) holds up the new medical and birthing equipment recently delivered in the town of Lambusan Photo by Cheryl Ravelo Gaglac / IFRC



Kanlim-ao, Cebu. Health station midwife Anabelle Laraga gives Janice Sumalinog, who is now five months pregnant, a prenatal checkup. Photo by Cheryl Ravelo Gaglac / IFRC



WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES
4TH ASIA-PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS FORUM
 Seoul | South Korea

From March 14-16, the 4th Asia-Pacific Communications Forum, 'Communicating in the Digital Space' was held in Seoul, Korea. This movement-wide event is held every two years and brought together communications colleagues from NS, IFRC and ICRC offices from across 23 countries spanning SE Asia, East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. Colleagues from IFRC Geneva and the Global Disaster Preparedness Center also participated.

The focus was on using social media for saving lives and changing minds via plenary sessions and skills labs which looked at a wide range of applications, including using social media for disaster response, community awareness & education around preparedness, advocacy and campaigns, fundraising, connecting with media, "big data" and deepened community engagement. The program included external speakers from media organizations including Rappler, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, UN Global Pulse, Greenpeace, AFP and more.

The Philippine Red Cross, through representatives Sheila de Luna and Lyn Garcia, shared PRC's best practices and experiences on social media for disaster response and how to leverage online influencers, drive engagement, and mobilize advocates and key influencers at key moments. IFRC Philippines was represented by former Communications delegate Kate Marshall and Communications Officer Mary Joy Evalarosa.



DISASTER LAW ORIENTATION FOR PH, 2016 AND BEYOND

On April 28, the Philippine Red Cross hosted an orientation on Disaster Law, to introduce their plans for disaster law work in the Philippines in 2016 and beyond.

This initiative follows several years of disaster law work, which has included stakeholder consultation workshops, and provided feedback into national law and the policy development processes.

This new phase of work in the Philippines will focus largely on building the knowledge and capacity of Philippine Red Cross staff and volunteers in disaster law and legislative advocacy.

"As an auxiliary to government and the most prominent community-based organization in our country, Philippine Red Cross is exceptionally well-placed to support the implementation and dissemination of disaster laws and procedures", explained PRC's Secretary General Dr. Gwendolyn Pang in her opening speech.

There was a great turnout at the orientation event from across the RCRC movement, which included Partner National Societies, and the ICRC.

Atty. Lucia Cipullo, Regional Disaster Law delegate from the

International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), Bangkok office, discussed the mandate of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) movements regarding the disaster law including the role of RC/RC in the formulation of it.

"Laws and procedures are very important in times of disasters, especially when it comes to facilitating and regulating international assistance" explained Ms. Cipullo. "If a government has comprehensive procedures in place, it can help regulate the type and amount of international disaster assistance being received and, at the same time, also provide the facilities necessary to help international actors deliver swift and effective assistance."

Cipullo also emphasized that, given their role as auxiliary to government, the Philippine Red Cross is very well placed to act as a bridge between the community and national levels, and to bring the voice and interests of communities to higher level law and policy making processes.

She highlighted how PRC is well-positioned to help implement and disseminate information about relevant laws and procedures relating to disasters, through their vast network of branches and volunteers. "Effective implementation and dissemination is vital," she explained.

OIC Acting Manager of PRC's Disaster Management Department and former Head of the Haiyan Team Resty Lou Talamayan gave an overview of PRC's existing projects related to disaster law, from IEC materials, a review of RA 10121 (The Philippine Disaster Law), to formulation of local policies that will benefit people of the community at the barangay (town) and municipal levels.

"In policy making processes, advocacy is very important, and advocacy can be best done by a team," said Talamayan.



World Red Cross Red Crescent Day 2016 EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE

To support the global campaign for this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day last May 8, IFRC Programme Coordinator, Ramsey Rayyis, and a representative from the Philippine Red Cross went on radio to talk about the history of the Movement, the strength and reach of our global network, and the contribution of the 17 million volunteers through the theme "Everywhere for Everyone."

The Philippine Red Cross has had an existing public service radio programme called "Kalinga Hatid ng Red Cross" (Support from the Philippine Red Cross) for almost ten years now. The radio program talks about on-going operations and planned activities of the Philippine Red Cross, although the radio program has had, over the years, interviewed IFRC/PNS/ICRC/PRC officers who have supported the PRC operations and programs in the past decade.

The hosts of the radio show are radio broadcaster Francis Cansino, and former Philippine Red Cross Secretary General Cora Alma de Leon.



Support Services Coordinator Imran Husain on his last day as surge support, here with Director General Filipe Nainoca. Photo by Fiji Red Cross Society

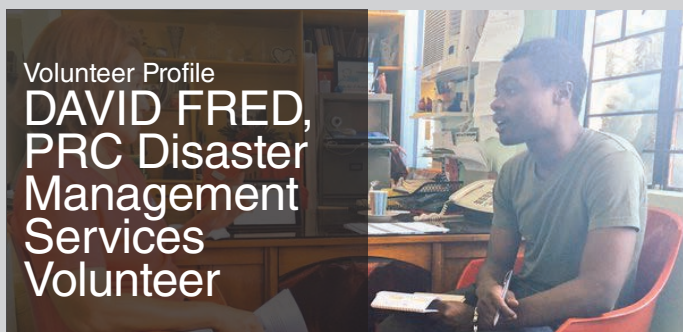
Staff News

IFRC DELEGATES DEPLOYED AS SURGE CAPACITY FOR CYCLONE WINSTON

Three delegates from the IFRC Philippines delegation were recently deployed as surge support to help with the emergency and early recovery phase for Tropical Cyclone Winston in the Pacific Islands of Fiji and Vanuatu, which was hit with a category 5 cyclone last December.

IFRC Operations Manager Patrick Elliott, Support Services Coordinator Imran Husain, and Field Logistics delegate Ashfaque Ahmed, all provided needed technical support for the emergency appeal.

"I got a lot of support and respect from the Director General of Fiji Red Cross," said Husain. "It was a great learning experience."



Volunteer Profile
DAVID FRED,
PRC Disaster
Management
Services
Volunteer

I am David, an international volunteer with the Philippine Red Cross for the past six months now. My first engagement with the RCRC movement was back in February 2015, while I was still in Malaysia studying for my Master's Degree.

I knew this is an organisation that I want a career in after hearing a talk given by Nathan Rabe, then IFRC Humanitarian Diplomacy Coordinator, and through the valuable advice of the IFRC Volunteering and Organisational Development Delegate, I decided to volunteer here in Philippines. I have learned a lot during my time as volunteer here, and my background in International Development allowed me to put into practise what I have learned.

As a DMS volunteer, I have helped develop an M&E plan for one of the IFRC supported projects, and helped review the IEC materials. After this is when I was tapped to handle the IFRC-funded RC143 case story publication project, under the Regional Resilience Initiative. I was sent to different locations around the Philippines to interview and capture the different experiences and stories of the Red Cross 143 volunteers; the end result will be a publication of the RC143 volunteer program, as agents of resilience.

Volunteering with the Red Cross and working with the Federation has been an invaluable experience for me personally. Apart from learning new skills and honing those I have, working in such an organisation is something worthy and fulfilling. Moreover, colleagues I have worked with are no longer just that but friends also. I look forward to continue learning more and to be more involved with the Federation and the Red Cross as a whole.



Meet your Colleague
PJAY LUNA,
IFRC
Livelihood
Officer

I am Perzeus Jay Luna, and I've been working with the Red Cross for the past nine years. I started working at the Pasay city chapter as a CSR-Safety services as one of the first aid trainers.

When the twin typhoons Nesat and Nalgae hit the Philippines in 2011, I was deployed to the northern part of the Philippines, to help conduct initial assessments along with the Federation, and was subsequently asked to handle livelihood projects under AusAid.


Two years later, I was deployed in Visayas for the Bohol earthquake relief operations with IFRC and a month later, for the Haiyan operations. My first designation was Team Leader for restoring family links (RFLs) with ICRC; I was later absorbed into the PRC Haiyan Team.

As a livelihood officer, I helped plan and develop guidelines, and implement projects. This May, I have now started to work for the Federation as staff on loan, to continue implementing their livelihood programs for their ongoing operations in the Philippines.

Everyday is a learning opportunity working for IFRC, so even if it's been a huge change for me personally and professionally,



TYPHOON HAIYAN (YOLANDA) OPERATION RECOVERY UPDATE







 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



758 Philippine Red Cross 143 Barangay Recovery Committees

As of June 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	111 schools targeted for water and sanitation facilities construction 46,287 individuals targeted for Hygiene promotion activities	64 Health facilities for rehabilitation/reconstruction 100 communities to be organized, trained, and implemented Community Based Health and First Aid 3,000 affected individuals and 500 humanitarian workers targeted for Psychosocial Support	505 classrooms for repair and rehabilitation 40,000 school kits for distribution to students	100 community, schools, and work place to be organized trained, and implemented Disaster Risk Reduction program	

ACCOMPLISHMENT

74,046 houses built and repaired with ongoing of 350	62,670 households supported with livelihood assistance 90,779 families reached with cash relief assistance during emergency phase 1,234 individuals currently enrolled on the skill training program 574 students already passed the NC II Assessment 1,159 individuals completed the skills training program lectures 11,912 individuals trained on Short Term Livelihood 57 ongoing Community Managed Livelihood Projects	63 schools with improved access to water and sanitation facilities families 63,951 participated in Hygiene Promotion Activities 10,820 students reached through Children Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (CHAST)	52 health facilities repaired / constructed 176 communities participated in Community Based Health and First Aid sessions 1,327 volunteers were trained thru CBHFA 42,222 individuals assisted with medical consultations, health promotion, health care referral and supplemental feeding	434 classrooms rehabilitated and constructed 8,375 school kits distributed	257 Red Cross 143 organized in the community with 12,110 Individuals 101 individuals trained of Standard Disaster Risk Reduction Management Instructors Training Course
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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.

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