

# Philippines

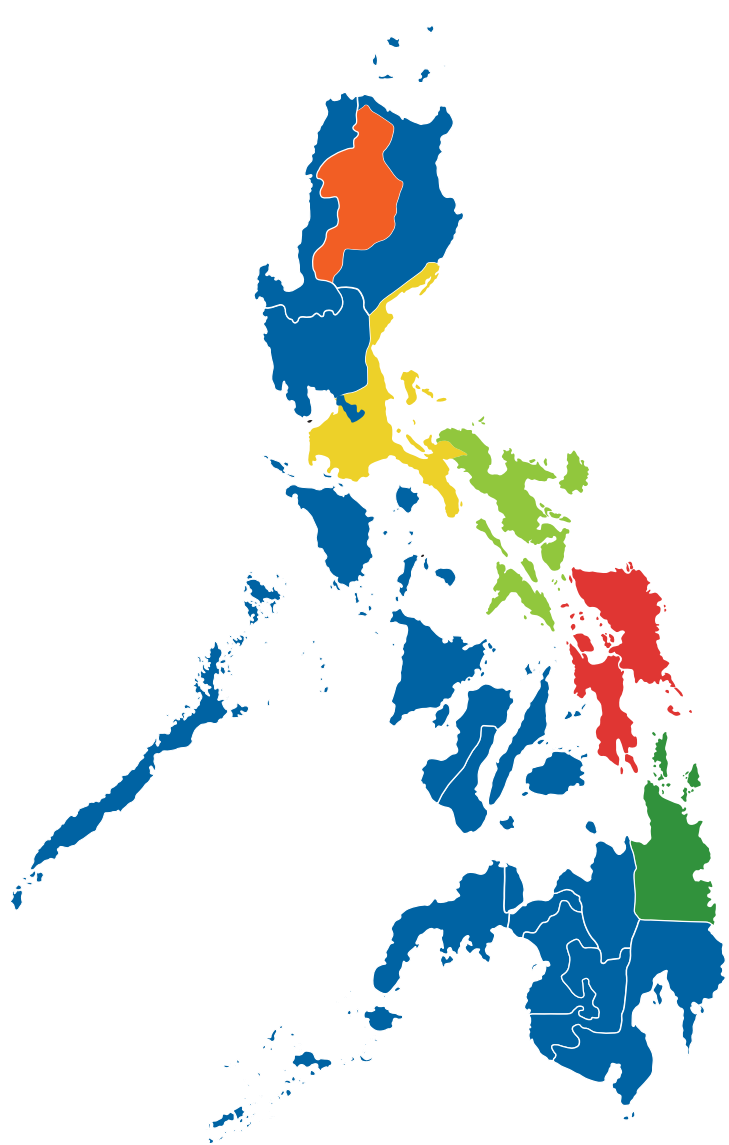
**The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,107 islands in the western Pacific Ocean.**

Its location along the typhoon belt and Pacific “Ring of Fire”—home to approximately 90% of the world’s earthquakes—puts the country at high risk for natural disasters and climate-sensitive diseases such as dengue, malaria, diarrhea and cholera. International Medical Corps has been active in the Philippines since November 2013, following Typhoon Haiyan.







**In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, affecting an estimated 16 million people, with 4.1 million displaced and 6,069 killed. We began coordinating response efforts before the storm hit, arriving in the Philippines less than 24 hours after the typhoon made landfall. The speed of our response enabled our teams to assess conditions quickly and deliver critical humanitarian assistance, even in remote and rural areas.**

We have continued to respond and build local capacity since then, responding to major typhoons that hit the Philippines from September 2018 (Typhoon Mangkhut/Ompong), December 2019 (typhoons Kammuri/Tisoy and Phanfone/Ursula), November 2020 (typhoons Goni/Rolly and Vamco/Ulysses) and December 2021 (Super Typhoon Rai/Odette). We responded to the Taal volcano eruption in January 2020, supported the city of Manila during the polio outbreak of 2019, provided services in Laguna province during the dengue epidemic of 2019, and have provided COVID-19 prevention, treatment, education and vaccination services throughout the country since March 2020. More recently, we responded to the 2022 earthquake in Abra with rapid distributions of hygiene supplies, medical supplies and non-food items.

We continue to address critical needs in the Philippines, rebuilding communities after disasters and providing training to help them become their own best first responders. Today, our main activities in the Philippines include health, disaster preparedness and response, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.



## WHERE WE WORK

-  **BICOL**  
(Region 5) in Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes provinces
-  **CALABARZON**  
(Region 4A) in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Rizal provinces
-  **CARAGA REGION**  
in Surigao Del Norte province
-  **CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**  
in Benguet province and the city of Baguio
-  **EASTERN VISAYAS**  
(Region 8) in Biliran, Western Samar and Eastern Samar provinces
-  **NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**  
in the cities of Manila and Quezon



## As part of our COVID-19 response, our teams:

- ▶ trained 404 health workers and community volunteers on infection prevention and control through the end of 2021;
- ▶ provided logistical support to hospitals and health centers in Cavite, Manila and Quezon cities;
- ▶ installed isolation tents to support COVID-19 treatment in Santa Ana Hospital in the city of Manila;
- ▶ provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to the city of Manila, San Lazaro Hospital and Southern Philippines Medical Center;
- ▶ distributed face masks, alcohol, soap and face shields to thousands of families in several communities in Manila, Cavite, Rizal, Albay and Western Samar provinces.
- ▶ provided logistical support (including PPE, environmental consumables and medical equipment) to the Manila Health Department, Santa Ana Hospital, San Lazaro Hospital, and other health facilities, including the Manila COVID-19 Field Hospital;
- ▶ provided environmental consumables and PPE to Manila Health Department, Paliparan III Health Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Cardona Rural Health Unit;



- ▶ provided 100 patient-care kits to COVID-19 patients in Cardona, Rizal and the city of Manila;
- ▶ vaccinated 49,591 people in Manila, Malabon, Angono and Surigao Del Norte; and
- ▶ reached 89,605 people with health messages on preventing COVID-19.

## HEALTH

We work to strengthen essential health facilities and prepare the health system for future disasters by restocking medicine, supplies and equipment, and training doctors and nurses working in rural health units of Benguet province about disaster-response medicine. In addition, our teams have:

- ▶ provided cold-chain support, staff and transportation for several immunization campaigns, including measles and Japanese encephalitis campaigns in Benguet province;



- ▶ extended logistical support to the Laguna Provincial Hospital-Nagcarlan District Hospital during the 2019 dengue epidemic; and
- ▶ provided logistical support to the polio immunization campaign in Manila.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

International Medical Corps works with the Cordillera Administrative Region Department of Health and Benguet Provincial Health Office to support typhoon-affected populations. Our teams there have:

- ▶ provided diesel generators or solar power to four health facilities to ensure proper cold chain and continuity of health services, even during power outages;
- ▶ trained staff on disaster risk reduction and management office and the incident command system;
- ▶ offered training-of-trainers schooling to health staff from all municipalities of Benguet province about basic life support;
- ▶ trained volunteers about basic life support with first aid in Benguet province; and
- ▶ trained health workers about advanced cardiac life support.

In addition, we worked in collaboration with the Eastern Visayas Santa Regional Health Office to train trainers on basic life support, reaching Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office staff from all the cities and provinces of Eastern Visayas.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH services were among the most urgently needed interventions after Typhoon Haiyan, which caused large-scale infrastructure damage. Damage caused by typhoons continues to threaten the health of vulnerable communities and particularly puts children at risk for contracting communicable diseases. In response, we continue to focus efforts on water supply and hygiene promotion in at-risk schools. In the years after Typhoon Haiyan, our teams have:

- ▶ rehabilitated WASH systems at 95 schools;
- ▶ provided hygiene training to 130 schools;
- ▶ trained 1,041 teachers on proper hygiene practices;
- ▶ trained 322 students and 124 teachers as hygiene champions to train others; and
- ▶ distributed more than 2,000 hygiene kits.

Since 2018, our teams have responded to several natural disasters, providing water survival kits to families in Eastern Visayas and hygiene kits to hundreds of households throughout the country.

In response to Typhoons Gomi and Vamco in 2020, we rehabilitated individual and common toilets in evacuation centers in Albay, and constructed a common laundry area in the Bicol region.

In 2020 and 2021, in response to COVID-19, we installed handwashing facilities in 17 health centers in Manila and Cavite, and distributed WASH materials—disinfectant, detergent, washcloths, mops, buckets, coveralls, goggles and multipurpose gloves—to people in those health centers.



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A pre-eminent first responder since 1984, International Medical Corps delivers emergency medical and related services to those affected by conflict, disaster and disease, no matter where they are, no matter what the conditions. We also train people in their communities, providing them with the skills they need to recover, chart their own path to self-reliance and become effective first responders themselves.

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