

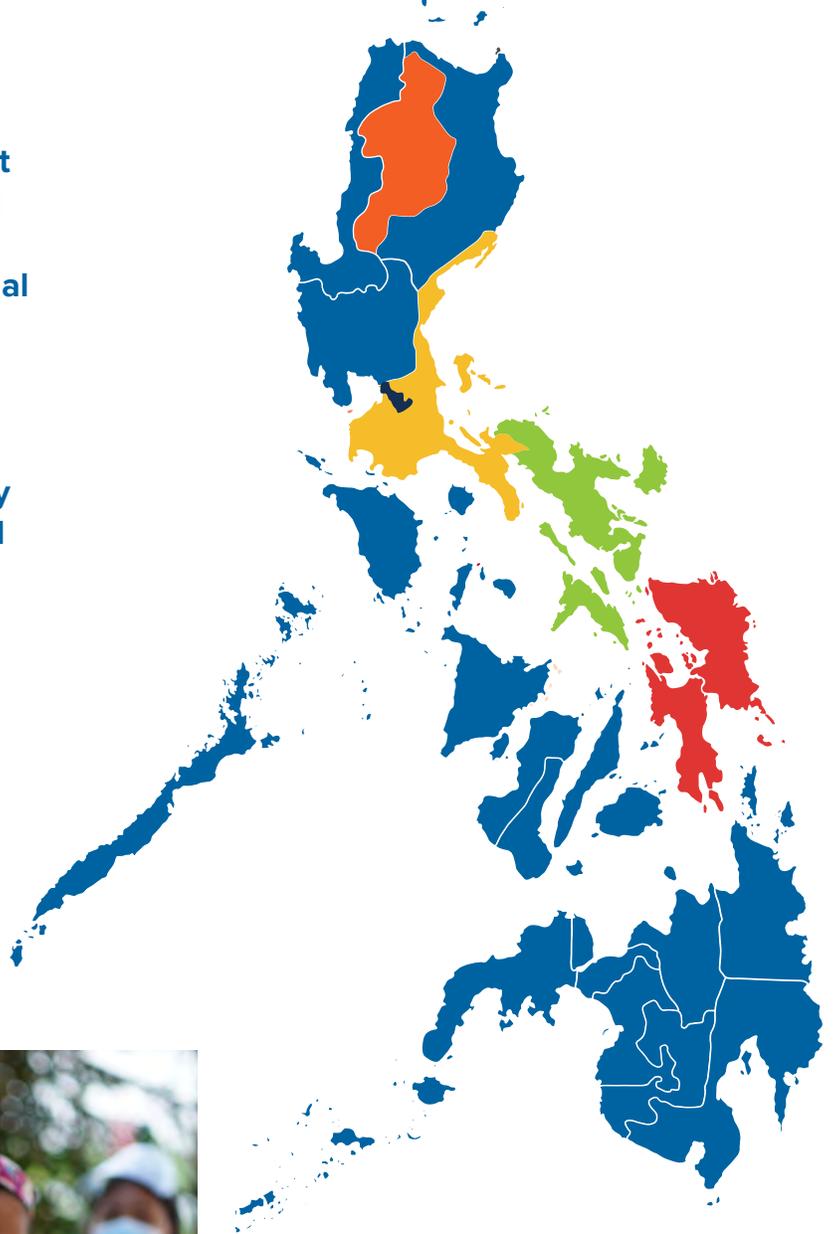
# Philippines

**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. International Medical Corps began coordinating response efforts before the storm hit, and arrived in the Philippines less than 24 hours after the landfall of the typhoon, enabling our teams to quickly assess the situation and deliver critical humanitarian assistance, even in remote and rural areas.

International Medical Corps continues to address critical needs in the Philippines, rebuilding communities in need after disasters and helping them become their own best first responders. Our main activities in the Philippines include health services, disaster preparedness and response, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In 2020, our WASH services increased in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## WHERE WE WORK

-  **BICOL**  
(Region 5) in Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes provinces
-  **CALABARZON**  
(Region 4A) in Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Rizal provinces
-  **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



## HEALTH

International Medical Corps works to strengthen essential health facilities and prepare the health system for future disasters by restocking medicine, supplies and equipment, as well as by training doctors and nurses. Our teams have:

- ▶ provided cold-chain support, staff and transportation for several immunization campaigns, including measles and Japanese encephalitis campaigns in Benguet;
- ▶ provided 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 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 (DRRMO) and the incident command system;
- ▶ conducted training of trainers (TOT) to 34 health staff from all municipalities of Benguet province about basic life support;
- ▶ trained 49 volunteers about basic life support with first aid; and
- ▶ trained 30 health workers about advanced cardiac life support.

In addition, we conducted TOT about basic life support for 29 DRRMO staff members from all the cities and provinces of Eastern Visayas, in collaboration with the Eastern Visayas Regional Health Office.

## In Eastern Visayas, in response to Typhoon Haiyan, our teams:

- ▶ distributed medical supplies and equipment to seven rural health units and one district hospital, reaching an estimated 181,000 people;
- ▶ rehabilitated and restocked 21 health facilities; and
- ▶ trained 345 healthcare workers in seven municipalities on disease prevention and new national standards in reproductive and maternal health.

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

- ▶ trained 239 health workers and community volunteers on infection prevention and control;
- ▶ provided logistical support to hospitals and health centers in Cavite, Manila and Quezon City;
- ▶ installed isolation tents to support COVID-19 treatment in Santa Ana Hospital;
- ▶ provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to the city of Manila, San Lazaro Hospital and Southern Philippines Medical Center; and
- ▶ distributed face masks, alcohol, soap and face shields to 5,715 families in several communities in Manila, Cavite, Rizal, Albay and Western Samar provinces.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

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

- ▶ 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. We provided water survival kits to 300 families in Eastern Visayas and hygiene kits to:

- ▶ 600 households (Typhoon Kammuri) and 393 families (Typhoons Goni and Vamco) in Bicol;
- ▶ 500 families in Batangas (Taal Volcano eruption);
- ▶ 231 families in Rizal (Typhoon Vamco); and
- ▶ 378 families in Eastern Visayas.

In response to Typhoons Gomi and Vamco in 2020, we rehabilitated 15 individual and two common toilets in evacuation centers in Albay and constructed a common laundry area in 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 beneficiaries in those health centers.



[www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org](http://www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

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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**COUNTRY CONTACT:** Jojo Cangao, Medical Coordinator  
[jcangao@InternationalMedicalCorps.org](mailto:jcangao@InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

**HEADQUARTERS CONTACT:** Megan Greenhalgh, Deputy Director  
[mgreenhalgh@InternationalMedicalCorps.org](mailto:mgreenhalgh@InternationalMedicalCorps.org)

International Medical Corps is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA, and has offices in Washington, DC; London, UK; and Split, Croatia.  
For contact information, visit [internationalmedicalcorps.org/contact](http://internationalmedicalcorps.org/contact).