

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS



**Report to the
XXIVth
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF
THE RED CROSS**

**MANILA, PHILIPPINES
NOVEMBER 1981**

A BRIEF REPORT OF ACTIVITIES (From 1977 to 1980)

INTRODUCTION

Name : The Philippine National Red Cross
Emblem : Red Cross on a white background
Headquarters : Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila, Philippines

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

1) Foundation: August 30, 1905 (As a Branch of the American Red Cross)

April 15, 1947 (As an independent National Society)

Recognition by the ICRC: March 29, 1947

Admission to the League of Red Cross Societies:
September 17, 1947

2) The highest governing body of the National Society is the Board of Governors. Headed by a chairman, the Board is composed of 30 members with the President of the Philippines as honorary president. Through its 17 standing committees, the Board formulates policies concerning the administration and general activities of the Society.

Implementation of approved policies is the responsibility of the Secretary General. He is assisted by two assistant secretaries general, one for administration and the other for operations, and the directors of Disaster Preparedness and Relief Service, Social

Services, Safety Services, Nursing Service, National Blood Program, and Red Cross Youth.

Other key offices are Public Relations and Publications, Fund Raising, International Relations, Membership and Volunteers, Accounting and Auditing.

3) The National Society operates through a network of 80 chapters strategically based in the capital towns and cities. The Chapter is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by a Chapter Administrator.

4) The Society has 154,729 volunteer first aiders and 5,016,365 Red Cross youth members.

5) The PNRC works closely with the government in disaster relief work and in improving the health, safety and welfare of the Filipino people.

MEMBERS AND FINANCING

1) Contributors to the Society's fund drive are individually issued a membership certificate. Membership encompasses those on the Board of Governors and on the Chapter Board as well as volunteers who help the Red Cross in its service activities. Students from all levels can become members, too. They can enroll either for Junior Red Cross or Red Cross Youth.

2) Every year the Society conducts a nationwide fund drive authorized under a Presidential Proclamation. The annual goal is set by the Board of Governors. In 1980, the goal was ₱10.5 million, the minimum amount needed to finance Red Cross service programs nationwide.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

1) Disaster Relief

a) The Society organizes volunteer disaster action teams in the community which are mobilized during calamities or emergencies. From 1977 to 1980, the PNRC trained 22,514 volunteer disaster workers throughout the country.

b) Disaster operations are directly carried out by the Chapters with the assistance of National Headquarters.

c) Assistance

— Received from abroad:

For its relief programme, the PNRC received donations in kind mostly for displaced families in Mindanao. These came from the ICRC and sister Societies through efforts of the League of Red Cross Societies.

Spontaneous donations were sent by various international civic organizations and Red Cross Societies for the PNRC relief and welfare programs in 1978.

Responding to League appeals, the PNRC sent token donations to certain countries ravaged by natural disasters.

On the other hand, the Philippine government sent 1,500 metric tons of rice for displaced families in flood-stricken Vietnam in 1978.

2) Activities as auxiliaries of the public authorities

(in the context of preparedness for armed conflicts)

The PNRC has professional social workers assigned in major commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well as in some field units. These social workers perform liaison work and conduct a family service program for servicemen and their dependents.

a) Civil Defense

In the event of war, the National Society is prepared to assist the Office of Civil Defense in the evacuation of the affected population and in rescue operations.

3) Assistance to victims of armed conflicts and internal disorders

Under its charter, the PNRC is officially designated to assist the government in discharging obligations set forth in the Geneva Conventions. One of its major functions is to extend aid to the

sick and wounded of the armed forces in time of war and to help safeguard the civilian populace. It also cooperates fully with the ICRC in implementing plans of action to relieve victims of their sufferings and in extending services to political detainees and cultural minorities. For the welfare of the detainees, the ICRC gave in 1978 and 1979 a total amount of ₱95,342.00 for the purchase of medical, recreational and other comfort items.

4) Activities of the National Society under the Development Program of the League

With financial support from the Netherlands Red Cross, the PNRC embarked in 1978 on the training of village health workers in line with the world thrust of delivering health care to the grass-roots level. This was followed in 1980 for a 3-year expanded primary health care program, with the backing of the Netherlands Government through the Netherlands Red Cross and the League Secretariat.

Also in 1978 the PNRC started the development of its blood program. The funding came from the Canadian government through efforts of the Canadian Red Cross. Another League-assisted project was the training of Red Cross youth trainors in 1977.

In 1978, the PNRC hosted in Manila the Third Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Leaders of Countries within ASEAN and, in 1979, the Asian Regional Public Information and Fund Raising Seminar.

Also in 1978 the PNRC started implementing its Five-Year Development Plan aimed at improving its service goals.

5) Activities in the field of health

*Nursing Service

The Society promotes a health programme known as home nursing which provides brief courses of instruction in maternal and child health and in home care of the sick, the aged and the chronically ill. It also teaches disaster nursing specifically to nurses and student nurses. Family planning and basic nutrition are integrated in home nursing courses for adults. A significant activity in the

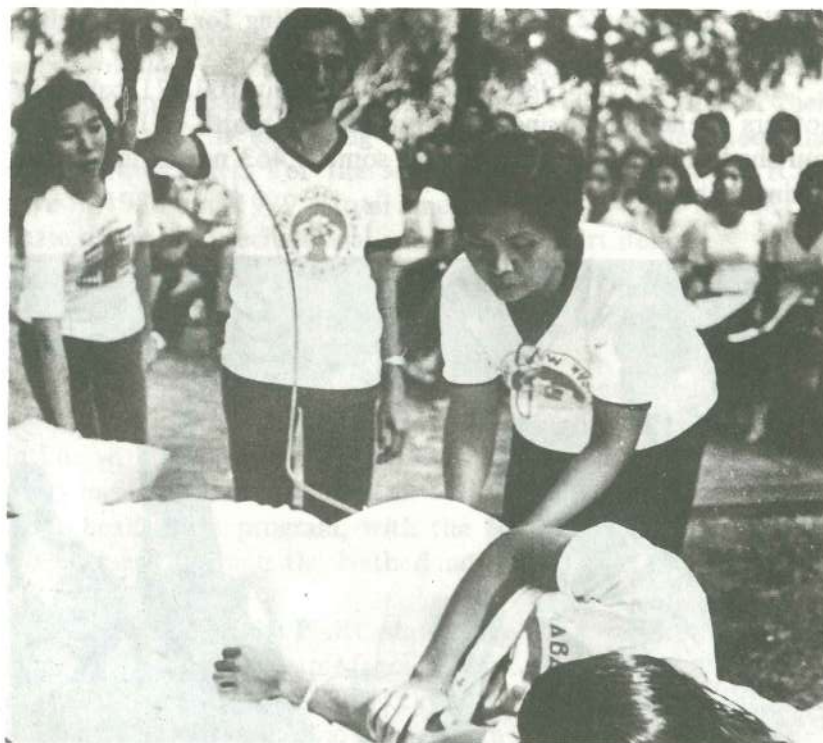
nutrition programme is supplementary feeding for malnourished children.

From 1977 to 1980, the PNRC taught 103,471 barangay mothers in home nursing and restored to health 651,632 malnourished children. It also trained some 4,463 nurses in disaster nursing techniques.



*First Aid

The teaching of first aid knowledge and skills is one important activity of the PNRC due to the prevalence of accidents and disasters. From 1977 to 1980, the PNRC trained a total of 148,201 youth and adults either as plain first aiders or first aid instructors.



***Blood Program**

The PNRC remains as the country's primary source of blood for hospital use, supplying about 60% of the national requirement. It conducts a series of blood drives yearly among the citizenry, including personnel at military bases and visiting foreign sailors.

In 1978, the PNRC launched its blood fractionation after acquiring facilities out of a cash donation of the government. In 1980, it opened a blood chemistry laboratory.

With the assistance of the League, the PNRC was able to establish more chapter blood banks and provide them with facilities they need.

One of its long-range programs is mass bloodtyping that is nationwide in scope.

***Health Education**

The PNRC carries out a nationwide health education campaign on sanitation, health care in the home, nutrition family planning and drug abuse prevention and control in coordination with the government.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES — Relations with health authorities in these spheres

The PNRC works hands in hand with local health authorities in checking the outbreak of epidemics and in looking after the people's health during disasters.

6) Activities in the field of nursing

One of the prime concerns of the PNRC is the training of volunteers in home nursing. From 1977 to 1980 the PNRC trained a total of 2,876 volunteers, many of whom were tapped to teach home nursing in the rural areas.

7) Activities in the field of social welfare

Hundreds of civilians with grave problems ranging from poverty, unemployment, juvenile delinquency to marital conflict are assisted by the Red Cross every year. By way of counselling and guidance the PNRC is able to intervene effectively to promote family stability. It also facilitates contact between family members faced with direct communication problems and handles inter-country casework relating to migration, repatriation and reunification not only of Filipinos but of other nationalities.

Servicemen and their dependents are assisted, too. The PNRC helps them obtain government pensions and benefits and works for the granting of emergency leave, discharge or humanitarian assignment to servicemen here and abroad. Under its community outreach programme the PNRC provides military dependents with skills training in first aid, basic swimming, and handicraft, etc. Militarymen who are confined or recuperating in military hospitals are given recreational activities to hasten their recovery. Detainees,

physically handicapped veterans and migrant workers are extended comfort items, recreational materials and vocational training.

With the exodus of Indo-Chinese refugees to the country in recent years, the PNRC put up a tracing and mailing service aimed at establishing contacts between separated family members and expediting the admission of the individual refugees to countries of permanent resettlement.

PNRC field units were set up at the Philippine Refugee Processing Center in Bataan and at the Refugee Center in Palawan. They operate under an organized Task Force at National Headquarters in Manila.

8) Activities in the field of youth

Red Cross youth members from all school levels are involved in a variety of community development projects. JRC members are engaged in food production, cleanliness and sanitation, nutrition, tree planting, and many more. RCY members take part in blood and fund drives, medical missions and disaster relief and welfare work. Many of them are taught to render first aid and beach patrol service and to disseminate information on the perils of drug addiction.

For the out-of-school youth, the Red Cross provides them with income-generating projects so they can become productive citizens.

9) Dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and Red Cross Principles

The PNRC is assisting the Philippine Government in the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions. At the same time it pursues a continuing information drive on the Red Cross principles. This is done through media publicity, formal talks, lectures, and handouts. The Geneva Conventions are included in the leadership training courses for Red Cross volunteers, particularly those engaged in disaster relief work, nurses and nursing students, youth leaders and JRC teacher-sponsors. The Conventions are also included in the in-service training of new PNRC staff.

10) Activities for peace-making nationally and internationally

The PNRC has been doing its share in the task of safeguarding and promoting peace, nationally and internationally.

In relief work, the Society teams up with the Government in dealing with disaster situations. Under the National Disaster Coordinating Council whose disaster plan is administered by the Office of Civil Defense, the PNRC — as a member agency — carries



out a disaster preparedness program and provides emergency relief and medical assistance and helps facilitate temporary shelter to homeless calamity victims.

On international cooperation for disaster action, the PNRC contributes to relief missions of the League and ICRC in cash and manpower, whenever possible. In cooperation with ICRC, the Society has been implementing plans of action to relieve the country's victims of conflict and to extend services to political detainees and cultural minorities.

Under its youth program the Society affords its youth leaders a chance to participate in decision-making during conventions and to attend seminars of national and international import, JRC members are making friendship albums and the like for international exchange. This is in line with PNRC peace plans for schools which is aimed at fostering brotherhood, goodwill and understanding among the youths of the country and the world.

11) Relations with other non-governmental organizations
(both national and international) and with specialized bodies and institutions of the United Nations

The PNRC maintains relations with the UNDP, UNHCR, WHO, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, and the Salvation Army, among others, as well as with local government and civic and religious organizations, especially in times of disasters and on certain occasions where close cooperation is badly needed.

12) Information and public relations

The PNRC has its own machinery for information and public relations. It utilizes all available facilities of communications (print, radio and television) to inform the public of its activities and those of the International Red Cross in order to cultivate generosity and goodwill.

Among its tools are a weekly radio program, brochures, posters, pictorial exhibits, slides, documentary films, a newsletter and the Junior Red Cross magazine.



PURPOSES OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS

"SECTION 3. That the purposes of this Corporation shall be as follows:

a. To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armed forces in time of war, in accordance with the spirit of and under the conditions prescribed by the Geneva Red Cross Convention to which the Republic of the Philippines proclaimed its adherence on February fourteen, nineteen hundred and forty seven;

b. For the purposes mentioned in the preceding subsection, to perform all the duties developing upon the Corporation as a result of the adherence of the Republic of the Philippines to the said Convention;

c. To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accordance with the authorities of the Armed Forces as a medium of communication between the people of the Republic of the Philippines and their Armed Forces, in time of peace and in time of war, and to act in such matters between similar national societies of other governments and the Government and people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines;

d. To establish and maintain a system of national and international relief in time of peace and in time of war and apply the same in meeting the emergency needs caused by typhoons, floods, fires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters; and to devise and carry on measures for minimizing the suffering caused by such disasters and;

e. To devise and promote such other services in time of peace or war as may be found desirable in improving the health, safety and welfare of the Filipino people and as do not infringe upon the functions of government."

Excerpts from Republic Act No. 95,
Charter of the Philippine
National Red Cross

