



**Flood  
Resilience  
Alliance**



**Philippines  
Country Briefing**



*Houses on stilts, an age-old tradition for adaptation and protection against floods Credit: PRC field team*

## Who are we?

**The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance (ZFRA) is a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to help communities in developed and developing countries strengthen their resilience to flood risk.**

### **Our definition of resilience:**

The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological, and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its disaster risk over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

**Vision:** Floods have no negative impact on people's and businesses' ability to thrive.

**Goal:** To increase social, political, and financial investment in community-based flood resilience-building through public, private, and third sector partnerships.



*PRC assisted tens of thousands of people affected by monsoon flooding in July 2018 Credit: PRC field team*

## Impact of flooding in the Philippines

The Philippines is the twelfth most populated country in the world and is ranked third globally in terms of its vulnerability to natural hazards. The Philippines is especially prone to hydrometeorological events; floods have accounted for over 80 per cent of natural hazard events in the country during the last half-century and have devastating economic and social impacts.

Data from the Emergency Events Database reveal that floods cause losses that lower average annual gross domestic product (GDP) by 0.8 per cent. In 2009 alone, floods cost approximately USD 4.4 billion: that is 2.7 per cent of the country's GDP.

Investments for addressing climate change and disaster risk, including replacing and expanding resilient infrastructure, have so far been wholly inadequate.

Along with climate change-related risk, the Philippines also faces rapid urbanization, socio-economic inequality, and health issues. The Philippines Red Cross (PRC) supports the most vulnerable people affected by events triggered by natural and human-induced hazards. PRC responses aim not only to alleviate suffering during emergencies but also to build community resilience and local capacities to prepare for and respond to disasters and uplift dignity among the most vulnerable.

## ZFRA in the Philippines



Philippine Red Cross is the country's premier humanitarian organization and is duly recognized by Philippine law as a voluntary, independent, and autonomous non-governmental organizational auxiliary to the government. The core mandate of PRC is uplifting dignity and alleviating human suffering through the promotion and implementation of its services in times of peace, emergencies, and armed conflict, improving the health, safety, and welfare of the most vulnerable populations.

PRC has significant experience in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) all over the country and is recognized as the partner of choice on preparedness, response, and recovery in the Philippines. It is one of the most experienced organizations in the Philippines focusing on community-based work, with more than 200,000 active volunteers across the country.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the PRC have enjoyed a strong partnership over the years, particularly on DRRM programmes. Together with the PRC, IFRC is working with provincial and local leaders, and other key stakeholders to implement the community-based DRRM programme, which will further enhance PRC's capacity in working with communities in terms of DRRM and flood resilience.



*PRC, with support from IFRC and ZFRA, is working with communities in Mangatarem to address flood-related issues that affect the lives of the residents Credit: PRC field team*



## ZFRA objectives in the Philippines:

The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance project is being incorporated into a wider PRC community and school-based disaster risk reduction programme with the following objectives, along with cross-cutting issues such as climate change adaptation:

- Increased community awareness of hazard and risk exposure through participatory tools.
- Improved capacity among community and Red Cross volunteers to implement disaster preparedness activities that enable effective response in times of emergency.
- Reduction of identified disaster risks after implementation of recommended mitigation measures.
- Improved capacity of PRC in implementing community resilience programmes.

## The communities we are working with

Many resilience-building actions can be taken at community level as communities often know best how and where they need to build resilience. Working with communities, we can demonstrate tangible impact on people's lives and learn from best practices which can help to shape policy at a higher level.

PRC is working with four communities (Bogtong Silag, Dorongan Valerio, Dorongan Sawat, and Pampano) in the municipality of Mangatarem, in Pangasinan province. These four communities are located along the Agno River and its tributaries, which are prone to riverine flooding at times of excessive rainfall and strong typhoons.

## Impact of flooding in Pangasinan

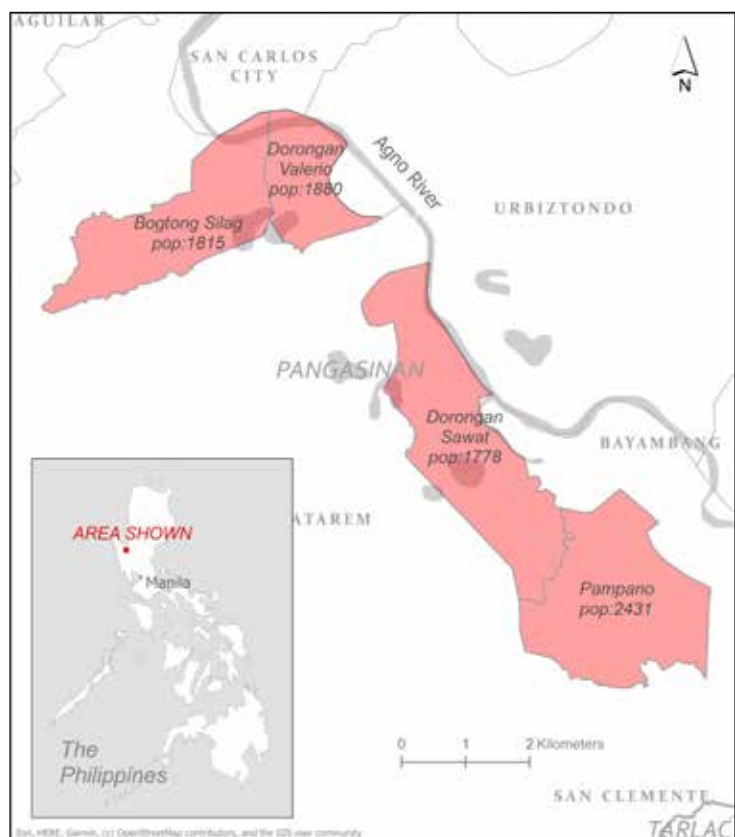
Pangasinan is the third largest province in the Philippines, with a population of 3 million. The province is at high risk of typhoons, heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides, while lacking vital capacity to cope with and respond to natural hazard events.

Poverty incidence data show that 11 per cent of families are poor and more than 124,000 families are part of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) – a government support scheme for the most vulnerable families. The Agno River cuts across the province of Pangasinan, coming from the mountain areas of the Cordillera in the north and discharging into the Lingayen Gulf. Severe flooding in 2018 resulted in USD 6.2 million in losses, impacting infrastructure, agriculture, and public works.



Calendar creation as part of Community Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Credit : PRC field team

## Duration of the Philippines ZFRA programme: June 2019 to June 2022



Group of women sharing their insights with Red Cross volunteer Credit : PRC field team

## The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



*Flood resilience ensures lives and assets are protected and community members can bounce back from disaster quicker and easier*  
Credit: PRC field team

The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: (1) the Alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience; and (2) an associated tool for implementing the framework in practice.

### Uses of the FRMC:

- As the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale; fully integrated into community programming
- To help analyse problems before seeking solutions
- To support impact measurement
- To generate data for empirical evidence on flood resilience

## The Flood Resilience Portals

The Alliance's Flood Resilience Portals are online spaces for sharing practical knowledge about why and how to build community flood resilience. They bring together the knowledge generated and exchanged through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance and beyond.

 [www.floodresilience.net](http://www.floodresilience.net)

 [@floodalliance](https://twitter.com/floodalliance)



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## Contact

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