



Barangay 598, Manila City, flood-prone street Credit: Isabelle Baguisi, Plan Philippines

## Who are we?

**The Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance 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.



Low-level tidal flood

Credit: Joice Balicog, Plan Philippines

## Impact of flooding in the Philippines

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, commonly experiencing floods, droughts, and typhoons. According to the latest assessment of the World Risk Index (2022), the Philippines is the country with the highest disaster risk in the world. Extreme weather events have been increasing in severity and frequency in recent decades and this trend is projected to continue under climate change.

Both partners are working in Metro Manila, which has a population of 15 million. The region is exposed to sea level rise and is at risk of sinking below sea level. High population density and limited space to evacuate the residents exacerbate the already vulnerable condition of its marginalized citizens.

## Alliance partners working in the Philippines

The **Philippine Red Cross** and **Plan International** use their specific strengths to achieve improved community flood resilience, increased investment, and improved policies for flood resilience at all governance levels in the Philippines.



**Plan International** (Plan) is an international NGO with expertise in gender equality and inclusion. Plan supports community members, especially children, adolescents, and women, in disaster risk management (DRM), to prepare them in the event of a flood. Plan collaborates with the **International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis** to pilot a more nuanced, gender-aware application of the Alliance's Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) in the Philippines.



The **Philippine Red Cross** (PRC) is the country's premier humanitarian organization and is recognized by Philippine law as a voluntary, independent, and autonomous auxiliary to the government. PRC's core mandate is uplifting dignity and alleviating human suffering through improving the health, safety, and welfare of the most vulnerable. PRC is supported by the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** (IFRC). IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian network, reaching 150 million people in 192 countries. The IFRC and PRC have enjoyed a strong partnership over the years, working with provincial and local leaders and other key stakeholders to implement community-based DRM programmes.

## Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance objectives in the Philippines

The overarching objectives of the joint efforts by PRC, IFRC, and Plan in the Philippines are:

- Improve understanding of the flood risk faced by communities in the project areas, through application of the FRMC, among other approaches.

- Successfully influence local and national government units, schools, and other stakeholders to integrate flood resilience into their plans and to respond to the needs of vulnerable communities including children, adolescents, and youth, particularly girls and young women, before, during, and after floods.
- Improve the capacity of communities to implement evidence-based and risk-informed DRM interventions including risk reduction, preparedness, and response activities.

## 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 six rural *barangays* (smallest administrative unit in the country) in the municipality of Mangatarem in Pangasinan Province, located along the Agno River and its tributaries, which are prone to riverine flooding at times of excessive rainfall and strong typhoons. Severe flooding in Pangasinan in 2018 resulted in US\$6.2 million in losses, impacting infrastructure, agriculture, and public works. Since 2021, PRC has also been working in 28 urban communities in seven *barangays* in Pasig and Pateros in Metro Manila. The denser, more diverse, and dynamic urban context creates particular vulnerabilities to floods.

Plan works with seven urban *barangays* in two cities, Manila and Navotas. Both cities are exposed to sea level rise and coastal flooding. Greenpeace East Asia reported that the city of Manila is at risk of sinking by 2030, affecting 1.54 million people, which could cost the municipality US\$39.24 billion.

In addition, livelihoods have already become more unstable due to the constant risk of flooding. In Manila, day labourers may experience more disruption and a reduction in working days, leading to a significant decrease in income. In Navotas, fishers are already experiencing reduced fish catch because of climate change and loss of livelihood assets due to the damage brought about by the flood waters, both resulting in a drop in earnings.



*Risk and resource mapping workshop*  
Credit: Isabelle Baguisi, Plan Philippines

## Duration of the Philippines flood resilience programme:

PRC/IFRC: June 2019 – June 2024

Plan: July 2021 – December 2024



*Putting the field survey data on the map*  
Credit: Isabelle Baguisi, Plan Philippines

## The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities



The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities (FRMC) framework comprises two parts: the Alliance's framework for measuring community flood resilience and 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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