

# ***PHILIPPINES: TYPHOON DAN***

*7 October 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 1***

### ***The Disaster***

Thousands of families in the northern regions of the Philippine's main island of Luzon have been affected by serious flooding due to heavy moonsoon rains. The region affected is mountainous and crisscrossed by rivers. The continuous rains are causing rivers to overflow which has caused flooding of rice fields and family homes. The provinces seriously affected include Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Viscaya.

The situation worsened dramatically this week when typhoon *Dan* hit the provinces of Cagayan, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan and La Union. To date, over 37,200 people (or 7,365 families) have been affected in the six provinces, according to the Secretary General of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). "Chapters in these areas have been fully mobilised to help with evacuations and to distribute relief," she says.

In Cagayan Province, 4,330 families are affected with serious flooding in 58 *barangays* (communes) in the towns of Alaca, Baggao, Anoling, Allacapan, Lasam, Sta, Ana and Iguig. Pangasinan is also severely hit with 1,865 families affected in the towns of Mapandan and Alcala. Displaced families are housed in school buildings and community halls where Red Cross volunteers are distributing relief items.

This is the first typhoon of the season to strike the mainland of the Philippines, where quite a number of typhoons hit each year.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

In Pangasinan, PNRC volunteers distributed relief items including 50 kilograms of rice per family, one kilogram each of dried fish and salt, seven cans of sardines and corned beef, a water jug and blankets. These relief supplies are from disaster preparedness stocks funded by ECHO and the Spanish Red Cross.

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Relief distribution has been particularly difficult in Pangasinan and La Union as many roads are impassable due to the flooding. Bridges are deluged with river water. Police and navy units are bringing in rubber dinghies to assist those cut off by the water.

## *Needs*

Assessments are underway by the PNRC. At present, there are no plans to appeal for assistance.

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Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Director  
Asia and Pacific Department

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