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Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

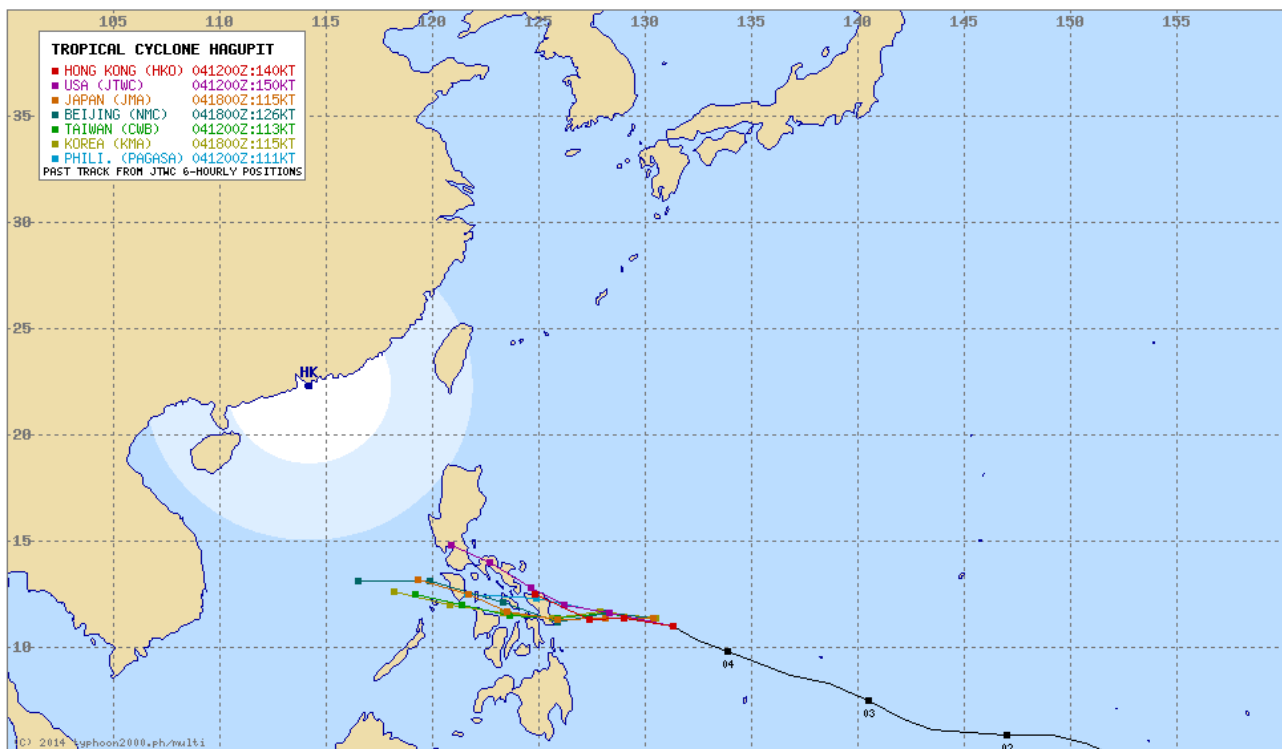


Figure showing the possible paths of Typhoon Hagupit forecasted by different weather agencies.
Source: <http://typhoon2000.ph/multi/?name=HAGUPIT> (dated 05/12/2014 03:30 am Philippines time)

The situation

At 10:00 am Thursday, 4 December 2014, the eye of Typhoon Hagupit (locally known as Ruby) was located, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), 860 km East of Surigao City (10.1°N, 133.3°E), with maximum sustained winds of 195 kph

(100 knots) near the centre and gustiness of up to 230 kph (120 knots). This typhoon is being forecasted as the strongest typhoon since Typhoon Haiyan struck last year.

Several tracks for the typhoon have been forecasted by different weather agencies. One of these forecasts (PAGASA) predicts that the typhoon will mimic the track of Typhoon Haiyan and make landfall in Eastern Visayas. Another forecast (JTWC) predicts that the typhoon will continue to move north and make landfall on the east of Luzon and traverse across Central Luzon and go out to the sea west of the Philippines.

As of reporting, 10 areas – Biliran, Dinagat, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Siargao island - are under storm signal #1. Furthermore, it is expected to enhance northeasterly winds over the seaboard of Northern Luzon and the eastern seaboard of Central Luzon, which will cause very rough sea conditions in these areas.

Heavy rains are also expected as the typhoon moves closer to land, imperiling areas recovering from previous disasters. Fifty five provinces across the Philippines, including those affected by Typhoon Haiyan, are deemed critical areas as the possibility of the typhoon making landfall increases. Due to the strength of the approaching typhoon and the amount of rain it brings, with forecasts reaching 20 mm per hour downpour across the 700 km diameter of the typhoon, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) have directed their regional chairpersons in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA and ARMM to activate their respective operations centres, and prepare and make available their resources for possible augmentation and/or deployment to regions which may be affected by Typhoon Hagupit.

As the track of the typhoon is not yet certain, it is difficult to estimate the damage and loss at this time. However, most of the current forecasts indicated that Hagupit is likely to develop into a super typhoon and to cause extensive damage and loss. The Philippines Government has advised the population in the forecasted areas to prepare for a possible disaster, in which evacuation will likely follow. Different government and non-government agencies are continuously monitoring the situation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As of 4 December, the PRC National Headquarters (NHQ) is on Alert Level II, which means they are on a state of alertness and preparedness. The PRC's Operations Centre (OpCen) has put on standby Water Search and Rescue Teams (WASAR), Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT), nurses and volunteers. The OpCen continuously disseminates, through SMS and emails, weather bulletins and consolidated data from PAGASA and other sources to different chapters likely to be affected. PRC NHQ is also maintaining close coordination with the NDRRMC, while the OpCen is monitoring developments 24/7.

Through its OpCen, the PRC has alerted all chapters in Visayas (Central, Eastern and Western Visayas), Bicol, Mindoro, Davao, Northeast Mindanao, Zamboanga and CARAGA regions as well as in south and central Luzon to activate their disaster response teams and ready their supplies, assets and personnel available for possible response. The chapters have been instructed to support the disaster risk reduction and management councils at various levels within their areas of responsibility in disseminating early warning alerts and making preparations for pre-emptive evacuations. The chapters are also readying staff and volunteers who can quickly set up welfare desks and first aid stations in evacuation centres, and making necessary arrangements to serve hot meals in evacuation centres, should the situation necessitate.

Furthermore, PRC is communicating and coordinating with chapters for updates on situations in their area of responsibility. Maps of all possible provinces to be affected are being prepared, while an inventory of assets on the ground is being undertaken. Preparedness stocks – which include blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans and hygiene kits – are prepositioned in Manila and Cebu to provide relief to those who will be affected by the typhoon. Tarpaulins and kitchen sets are also being prepared for possible distribution in case of damage to shelters in the affected areas.

The PRC chapter in Leyte has also started planning for the possibility that the chapter and Haiyan office will not be functional after the typhoon makes landfall due to flooding and storm surges. In their plan, the blood bank will be transferred to the Chinese Chambers Building, which will also serve as a meeting area after Typhoon Hagupit hits. RCATs will be stationed in three different areas – Asian Development Foundation College, Robinson's Place Clinic and Chinese Chambers Building; which will also be

augmented by the Haiyan Leyte Team, if the need arises. Non-food items will be temporarily stored in MacArthur and Marasbaras warehouses, which will be supported by IFRC and American Red Cross.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners with presence in the Philippines – American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC, Japanese Red Cross Society, Korean Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross – are in close coordination with PRC to define how they will best support the host national society in responding to potential humanitarian needs that will be wrought by the typhoon. The IFRC delegation in the Philippines is also on stand-by to provide technical assistance and coordination if the situation will necessitate. In due course, partners will be updated on how the Movement components will coordinate possible interventions.

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office (APZO) is monitoring the situation with PRC and IFRC Philippines country office. Potential surge capacities from APZO have been identified – (1) Communications Delegate in replace of the outgoing of current Communications Delegate in the coming week, and (2) Shelter Coordinator who has experiences in previous in-country response and strong network across the humanitarian country team. Both persons are on standby for deployment.

Contact information

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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby

contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.