

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

PHILIPPINES: LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

7 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 03/04; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 07 January 2004 to 31 March 2004; Appeal coverage: 42%; Operations Update no.2 due on 30 April 2004 ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 07 January 2004 for CHF 853,000(USD 692,989 or EUR 544,144) for six months for 565 beneficiary families;
- Budget revised to CHF 378,000 and 300 beneficiary families (including 180 for the shelter component) to an unchanged timeframe with the final report still due on 30 September 2004.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000 (reimbursed).

Outstanding needs: CHF 69,294

Related Emergency/Annual Appeals: [Emergency Appeal 03/04](#); [South East Asia Regional Appeal 01.66/04](#)

Operational Summary: Since the launch of the rehabilitation operation to provide dwellings for vulnerable families severely affected by landslides and floods in Southern Leyte at the end of 2003, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has faced a number of implementation challenges, which have now been addressed. In conjunction with the provincial and local authorities, the shelter activities funded through appeal no 03/04 will now be concentrated in the Pinut-an barangay (village) of San Ricardo, where it has taken time to resolve satisfactorily various land rights/ownership issues. Plans are now in place to establish houses for 300 floods affected families, with PNRC specifically targeting 180 and a further 120 provided by a local church group. Although various direct contributions to PNRC predicated in the appeal document have not emerged, the Society is still hopeful that funds can be found to finance the full complement of homes for people in urgent need. A Federation relief delegate is now in the Philippines to work with PNRC through the implementation phase. This operations update describes how the appeal-based initiatives will move ahead under the modified arrangements, with completion still on schedule - including the water-sanitation/training/livelihood components - for end June.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The monsoon rains that afflicted the Philippines - one of the world's most disaster prone countries - for much of December 2003 severely affected five municipalities in the province of Southern Leyte and four provinces in the Caraga region of Mindanao island, leaving 174 people dead and at least 60 dead, with damage to infrastructure, agriculture and property across the disaster zone estimated at CHF 16.3 million. Of the affected provinces, Southern Leyte, with a population of 350,000 occupying 17 municipalities and one city, was worst hit, suffering the highest number of casualties - including 154 people killed - and houses destroyed. This area of the Philippines is among the most remote and inaccessible in the country, with poor roads and limited transport and communications links.

On 19 December 2003, the heavy rainfall caused three major landslides in the province, affecting twelve 12 barangays (villages) in three municipalities of Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo. Flooding also occurred in the municipalities of Pintuyan and Malitbog and the capital city of Maasin, with more than 1,000 families (over 5,000 people) worst affected in these stricken areas.

Operational developments

The rapid mobilisation of the country's government and non-government organisations in providing assistance to the many people displaced by the floods and landslides in Southern Leyte has evolved under the direction of the authorities, with each agency working in specific areas according to resources and ability. As part of this inter-agency and government coordinated plan, the PNRC will now focus its efforts in the San Ricardo municipality - an original target of the emergency appeal. The other two areas that formed part of the appeal, Liloan and San Francisco are now included in the government operations, which will cover the 565 families initially targeted by the Federation appeal and where PNRC has already started to implement elements of the operation's community-based disaster management training module.

San Ricardo, specifically the barangay of Pinut-an, has been allocated to PNRC because it is felt the Society is best placed to handle difficulties in accessing a community which, to date, has received little assistance. Effectively this means the operation is now focusing on a new location than that originally envisaged - but still within the disaster zone identified in the appeal document - with a reduced number of beneficiaries. While a number of direct contributions to PNRC anticipated at the time of the appeal launch have not emerged - hence the consequent budget reduction - or been redirected towards assisting floods victims outside the area of this operation, support from the Federation membership to the appeal has been robust.

The speed and professionalism of PNRC's disaster management machine - together with the government and other local agencies - was again highlighted through the very short relief phase when the Society's rapid response teams were able to provide more than 1,000 families (some 5,570 individuals) with food, medicines and non-food commodities, including mosquito nets, blankets, mats and kitchen utensils, from stocks already held. As a result the Federation's DREF allocation (CHF 50,000) has been reimbursed unused and the operation itself focuses on rehabilitation - shelter, water-sanitation, livelihood projects and community-based disaster management training.

Implementation of the shelter component - for 300 families, with 120 covered by a local church group - has been slowed due to difficulties in obtaining land titles at the new location. Despite an earlier understanding that such a delay should not be expected, the reality proved quite different. There has been better progress in recent weeks, however, with land titles granted, the ground cleared for construction to begin, food-for-work arrangements put in place with the beneficiaries and the deployment of an Australian Red Cross sponsored Federation delegate for three months, mainly to assist the PNRC with monitoring and reporting. The PNRC and the Federation are working to the following schedule, closely aligned to the timeframe set out in the appeal document:

15 January – 15 June: housing reconstruction, water and sanitation preparation, procurement and implantation

1 March – 15 May: livelihood component and community volunteer training.

15 June - 30 June: final evaluation and reporting.

On the basis of current funding and soft pledges, there is a shortfall of almost CHF 70,000, which, if not covered in full, could reduce by 46 (to 136), the number of houses the PNRC plans to provide.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Objective 1: Provide new housing for 180 families living in evacuation centres or other temporary accommodation. *(This objective now refers only to families in the Pinut-an village, San Ricardo municipality)*

Progress/Achievements

- Memorandum of Understanding between the PNRC and the local and provincial government has been made for the Pinut-an rehabilitation (shelter) project.
- All architect and technical plans have been made and submitted to the respective authorities; plans have approved for 150 duplex houses (300 homes per 27.5 m² - including those being provided by the local church group) in the allocated relocation area.
- Scale models of these houses have been introduced to the beneficiaries with positive response.
- The local suppliers have been identified and the procurement process started.
- Storage places for the construction materials have been identified.
- Skilled technical manpower has been engaged by local authorities for this project.
- Food-for-work activity has been agreed upon with the beneficiaries and the local purchase of food for the purpose started.
- The PNRC implementing field teams and technical units working in neighbor municipalities have made preparations for the Pinut-an exercise.
- The training teams have conducted community-based disaster management (CBDM) training for the affected populations in all three municipalities.

Impact

- As the operation is recently underway, there is no specific impact of activities to report at present. However, it is clear the villagers are positive and encouraged by the presence of PNRC, as evidenced through their willingness to participate in the food-for-work programme.

Constraints

- The biggest constraint has been the delay due to the land title issue, with the local authority taking time to source the funds to pay for the land.
- Although the appeal has been revised to take into account of the smaller target group, insufficient funds are available at present to complete all 180 houses, within the PNRC's remit. The shortfall is 46 homes. A local church group has confirmed funding for 120 homes on the understanding that the PNRC together with the authorities will cover the remaining 180 homes - and work is proceeding on this basis.

Federation coordination

The Federation regional delegation handles external coordination and maintains close communication with the delegate assigned to the operation mainly to facilitate monitoring and reporting.

Objective 2: Re-establish and improve access to safe water and provide sanitation facilities for the affected population.

Progress/ Achievements

- The locations for the wells are established and full plans for installation in place.
- There has been good collaboration with the authorities and beneficiaries on the water distribution plan.
- A number of latrines have been built (by Oxfam) in the vicinity of temporary accommodations

Impact

- No impact to report as yet.

Constraints

With the water project unable to move ahead pending more progress on the housing project. Safe water remains problematic for families still living in makeshift shelters.

Federation Coordination

The regional delegation liaises with the Bangkok and Manila offices of Oxfam, which has provided some latrines in Pinut-an. The Federation utilises its network in the region for sharing reports with the ICRC, UNDP, ADPC, IDRM and other agencies with recent experience in water and sanitation projects both in the Philippines and the region. The Australian water and sanitation delegate has been briefed and will support the PNRC project. The Federation delegate will provide the regional delegation any information needed for external coordination purposes.

Objective 3: Assist 300 of the most affected families to regain financial stability through the provision of livelihood facilities for income generation. *(This objective now refers only to families in the Pinut-an village, San Ricardo municipality)*

Progress/ Achievements

- The target families in Pinut-an village are farmers and together with this vulnerable group, the PNRC field team has identified a proper set of agricultural tools and local suppliers
- Previously planned fishing nets have been excluded in agreement with the beneficiaries

Impact

- No impact to report as yet.

Constraints

- No specific constraints.

Federation Coordination

The regional delegation through the delegate assigned to the operation and site visits will ensure the appropriate procurement process is used and all transactions are accountable and transparent.

Objective 4: Train and organise 120 community volunteers in the 12 most affected barangays of the five municipalities in community-based disaster management training (CBDMT). *(This objective includes San Ricardo municipality and surrounding areas, as outlined in the original appeal document).*

Progress/ Achievements

- The PNRC's Integrated Community Disaster Preparedness Planning (ICDPP) training team from the Southern Leyte chapter started the training programme immediately after the disaster struck, with four training events already organised in Liloan and San Francisco.
- Vulnerability and capacity assessments have been initiated in several villages.

Impact

- These activities have increased the interest in the Red Cross resulting in the recruitment of new volunteers to the PNRC Southern Leyte chapter.

Constraints

- No specific constraints identified.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The community-based disaster preparedness training comprises extensive information on the Movement and the Fundamental Principles. Training has a strong participatory approach and invites participants from the beneficiary groups to propose various initiatives for prevention and mitigation. In addition there are initiatives from the trainees' perspective on how to promote Red Cross volunteering

National Society Capacity Building

The capacity of the PNRC to respond to emergencies has continued to develop and has been reflected in the media coverage the PNRC receives as well as in its invitation to lead training with local and provincial central government in community and social development, dissemination and education programmes.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The PNRC activities are being advertised on community notice boards, local newspapers and radio/ TV. In addition the PNRC distributes its ICDPP materials to all participants at training events and authorities. The Southern Leyte Governor who is also the chairman of the PNRC chapter board has regular press meetings where she advocates for the Red Cross and these widely respected rehabilitation projects.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY**Philippines - landslides and floods**

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & constructions	521,000	232,162	-288,838
Water & sanitation	105,000	18,182	-86,818
Utensils & tools	35,000	20,796	-14,204
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	661,000	271,140	-389,860
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers & telecom. equipment	3,000	4,091	1,091
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	55,000	24,579	-30,421
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Vehicle costs	23,000	17,045	-5,955
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	48,000	25,300	-22,700
National staff	16,000	12,919	-3,081
Training / workshops	15,000	4,545	-10,455
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	19,000	12,278	-6,722
Information expenses	5,000	5,113	113
Administrative & general expenses	8,000	1,138	-6,862
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	192,000	107,008	-84,992
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	853,000	378,148	-474,852
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		308,854	
NET REQUEST		69,294	

Philippines - landslides and floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 03/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

31/03/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				853,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 36.2%	
BELGIUM GOVT		30,000	EUR	47,265	13.02.04	FOOD-FOR-WORK, AGRICULTURAL TOOLS
BRITISH - RC		15,000	GBP	34,298	02.02.04	
DANISH - RC				48,736	09.01.04	
JAPANESE - RC		34,600	USD	43,215	14.01.04	
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,600	06.02.04	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		20,000	NZD	16,840	09.02.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		600,000	SEK	102,900	14.01.04	RELIEF NEEDS, OPERATIONAL NEEDS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				308,854	CHF	36.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	