

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS

28 August 2004

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

### In Brief

**This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

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### The Situation

Massive flooding in the island of Luzon in recent days has affected an estimated 129,620 families in 65 cities and municipalities, with some 670 families evacuated to 21 evacuation centers. There are now 17 confirmed fatalities from drowning, electrocution from toppled power lines, and mudslides. Worse hit by flooding are the provinces of Tarlac and Pampanga. Both provinces had been declared by the government under a state of calamity.

In Tarlac, 15 villages had been inundated by floods from a breached dike along the river bank (not a dam as in earlier reports). More than 3,000 people have been affected.

In Pampanga, 18 towns are inundated with flood waters, affecting 61,421 families in 227 villages. The flooding has also rendered all major roads impassable. These floods have been caused by several dikes breached by rising water level from the major waterways.

In Metro Manila, flood waters prevalent earlier in the week are receding; schools and government offices, which declared holidays due to the flooding, reopened yesterday (Friday). Five major dams in Luzon are being closely monitored as all have reached the critical levels of carrying capacity.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council is conducting search and rescue operations through the police and military. Navy rubber boats and personnel are reaching communities isolated by the floods, with army helicopters airlifting evacuees and relief goods.

The provincial governments of Pampanga and Tarlac have declared a state of emergency in their respective provinces to expedite the release of the government funds.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, working with the National Grains Authority is distributing rice and other relief items in communities and evacuation centres.

As this information bulletin was being prepared, news was emerging that the floods waters are on the wane and a massive clean up operation underway.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has launched a major response operation. Several disaster response teams have been deployed to Pampanga and Tarlac to conduct rescue and evacuation operations. Chapter staff and volunteers in the two provinces are distributing relief goods to the affected communities in the evacuation centres and surrounding areas.

The PNRC national headquarters has sent truckloads of relief supplies to its chapters in Pampanga and Tarlac to augment the local stockpiles. This is to ensure that all those most affected will receive food and other basic needs.

On-going relief PNRC operations have already assisted 4,267 most vulnerable people in the disaster zone. Food items distributed include noodles, compact food, canned goods and rice.

With the flood waters receding, PNRC efforts will soon be directed more towards health issues, since the risk of the outbreak of disease in the affected areas is quite prevalent.

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