

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Flash floods

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15 January 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only. A cold front and continuous rains on 7-12 January 2009 caused flash floods, landslides, and sea surges in large areas of the country, affecting some 156,419 people. The Philippine National Red Cross Society (PNRCS), with support from the International Federation, has responded by undertaking assessments to identify numbers of people affected and needs, as well as to begin the delivery of relief assistance and arrange temporary shelters.

The PNRCS has determined that external assistance is not required at this time, and is therefore not presently seeking funding or other assistance from donors.

[< view map of affected areas, or contact information >](#)

The Situation

As a result of a cold front and continuous rains on 7-12 January 2009, the Philippines has experienced a series of flash floods and sea surges. Flash flooding, landslides, and sea surges were triggered in several areas of the country, particularly the Bicol region and eastern areas of Visayas and Mindanao Islands, the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Gingoog, and the provinces of Misamis Oriental and Northern Samar. High tides also occurred in Surigao del Norte Province (in particular, Aringay, La Union, Surigao City; Siargao Island, Bucas Grande Island and Dinagat Island). This is the second serious occurrence of flooding this year in the country. Given the continuing rains, it is anticipated that the flooding will worsen, and several low-lying and coastal barangays are on alert for possible evacuation. Flights to Cagayan de Oro and the nearby airport in Butuan City have been cancelled for the last three days. Cagayan de Oro can only be accessed via Davao airport, and a further seven hours of travel by land/road.

The Philippine National Red Cross Society (PNRCS) and its branches report that at least 32,060 families (156,419 persons) have been affected by the continuous flooding and sea surges. The following information reflects preliminary information available at this time. More complete assessments and damage reports are expected shortly.

- **Cagayan de Oro:** some 10,440 families (52,200 persons) are affected by floods with 4,289 families (21,445 persons) presently accommodated at 31 evacuation centres. At least 123 houses have been destroyed and another 92 damaged. One casualty has been reported
- **Misamis, Oriental Province:** some 7,289 families (33,982 persons) are affected by floods, and 3,189 families (15,317 persons) accommodated at 40 evacuation centres. At least 60 houses have been destroyed and another 133 damaged. One person is reported missing, one reported casualty and two reported injured,
- **Gingoog:** 13 barangays out of 79 are affected by floods. 1,549 families (7,745 persons) are currently housed in 6 evacuation centres. Up to 25 houses have been totally destroyed and one is partially damaged. One casualty reported, three persons injured and one missing
- **Northern Samar:** Five municipalities out of 24 are experiencing flooding. As many as 8,657 families (43,338 persons) in 41 barangays are reported affected. The PNRCS chapter reported about eight casualties and two persons injured. One house has been totally damaged
- **Agusan Del Sur:** Up to 282 families (1,410 persons) are affected by flooding.

- **La Union:** At least 83 houses have been destroyed and 10 partially damaged. In total 93 families (416 persons) have been affected.
- **Surigao Del Norte:** Some 3,322 families (15,166 persons) were affected, with 165 houses destroyed and 76 houses partially damaged. Of this number Surigao City had 16 houses totally damaged and 68 partially destroyed while on Siargao Island: 149 houses were totally damaged, and in Bucas Grande Island had eight houses reported as partially damaged.
- **Sulu:** At least 20 families (116 persons) are affected, with 13 houses totally damaged and five partially damaged.
- **Lanao Del Norte:** Some 45 houses were totally damaged and 195 partially destroyed. In total 303 families (1,521 persons) are affected by the sea surge. Up to 63 families (316 people) are now accommodated at one evacuation centre.
- **Palawan:** Up to 105 families (525 persons) are affected with 74 houses totally damaged and 31 partially damaged.

To date a total of 32,060 families (156,419 persons) are affected by the continuous flooding and sea surge. Up to 11 people are reported dead, two missing, and seven injured. In total, 9,247 families (45,481 people) are being moved to 78 evacuation centres set up by local authorities in stricken areas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PNRCS is involved in search and rescue operations, working with government agencies. More than 250 Red Cross volunteers were mobilized for emergency evacuations, rescue operations, provision of first aid, assessment, emergency canteens, welfare desk services in evacuation centres, and psychosocial support.

Eleven PNRCS assessment teams were deployed to undertake damage assessments, and to determine the needs of affected communities. Five teams are presently conducting assessments in Cagayan De Oro/Misamis Oriental; three teams in Surigao del Norte and a further three in Gingoog City. The updates serve as the basis for PNRCS action in delivering timely and effective assistance.

To date, some 2,250 families have received food assistance (including rice, canned goods, and noodles) from local PNRCS chapters, and some 7,745 persons have been provided with hot meals in evacuation centres through emergency canteen services.

At the PNRCS national headquarters, round-the-clock monitoring is maintained through the disaster management operations centre. Coordination with the relevant national and local authorities and other local partner agencies in disaster management is being maintained both in the field and at headquarters level. The PNRCS has launched a local appeal and has approached local corporate donors for assistance.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

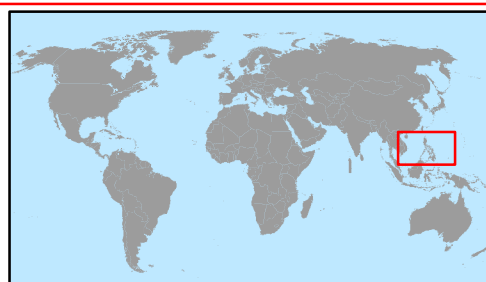
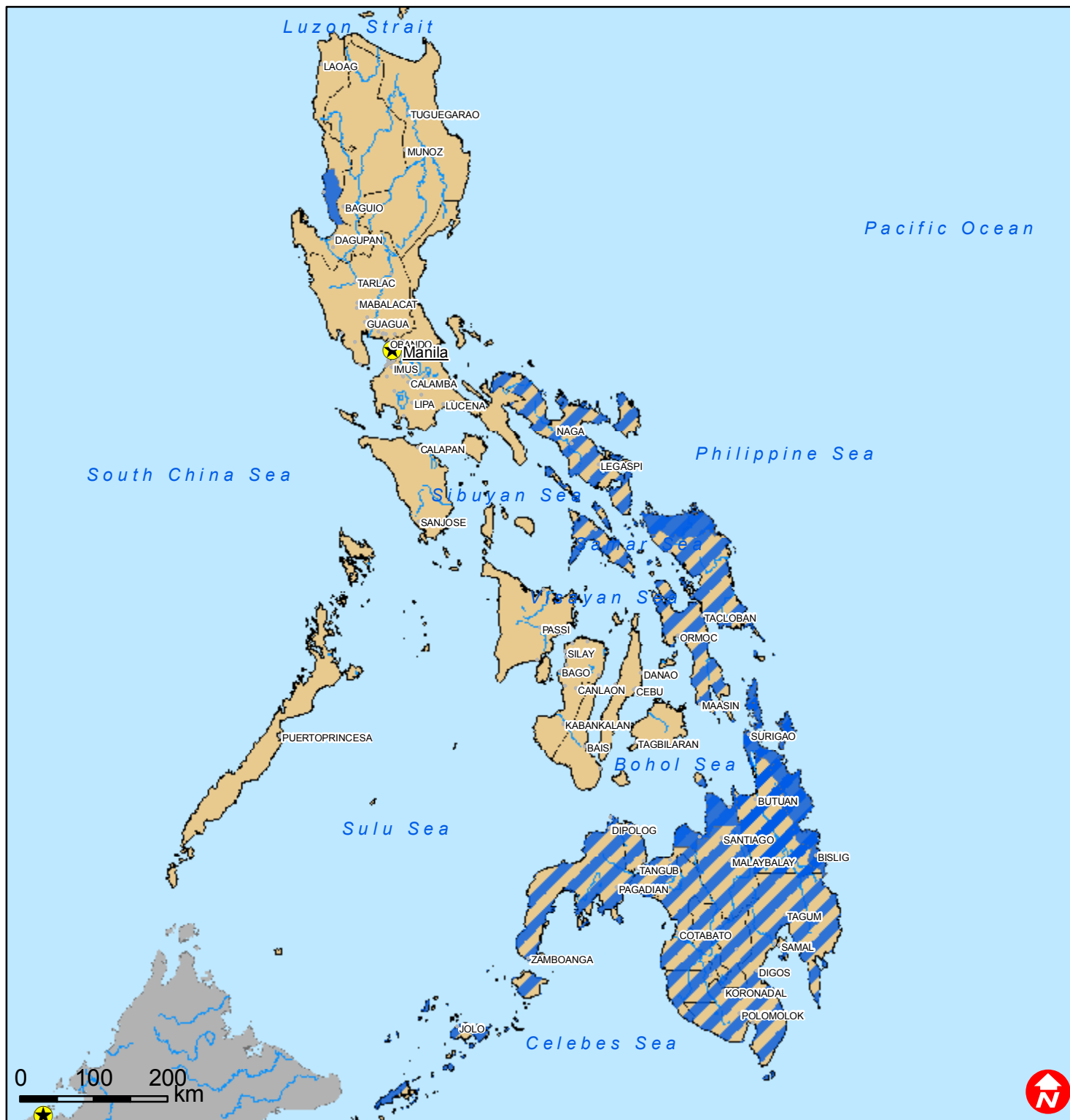
For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- Philippine National Red Cross:
 - Corazon Alma De Leon, secretary-general; phone: +639189123546, email: corazonalma.deleon@redcross.org.ph, pnrchq@redcross.org.ph; or
 - Gwendolyn T. Pang, deputy secretary general , phone: +63 91 7827 7421, email: gwenpang@redcross.org.ph
- Federation country office, Philippines: Sandro Kushashvili, head of operations, email: alexander.kushashvili@ifrc.org, phone: +63 527 0000 (ext 155), mobile: +63 908 266 6584
- Federation Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok; phone: +66 2 661 8201
 - Patrick Fox, disaster management coordinator; email: patrick.fox@ifrc.org
 - Alan Bradbury, head of regional office, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
- Federation Asia-Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur
 - Heikki Väättäminen, disaster management delegate, email: heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org, phone: +603 9207 5729, fax: +60 3 2161 0670, mobile: +60 12 2307895.
 - Penny Elghady, resource mobilization and PMER coordinator, email: penny.elghady@ifrc.org, phone: +603 9207 5775Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Philippines: Floods



- Provinces
- Most affected areas
- Affected areas
- Capital
- Cities
- River

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation - IB140109.mxd