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Information bulletin

Philippines: Cotabato, Mindanao Earthquakes

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° EQ-2019-000129-PHL	Date of issue: 29 October 2019
Date of disaster: 29 October 2019	Point of contact: Leonardo Ebajo, Director for Disaster Management Services
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross (PRC)	
Number of people affected: 56,513 ¹	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Government of Philippines such as Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Energy (DOE), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)	
Categorization of disaster² : Yellow	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is currently conducting needs assessment. Based on the findings, PRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has determined that international support is now being considered and will seek funding through DREF activation to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

On Tuesday, 29 October 2019, a series of strong earthquakes struck Tulunan, Cotabato, Mindanao. The first strong earthquake was recorded at 6.6 magnitude and was felt at 9:04 AM (local time), with 7km depth focus. A second significant earthquake was recorded at 6.1 magnitude and was felt at 10:42 AM with a 9km depth focus. As of 11:00 AM, there had been 23 earthquakes recorded by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS). PHILVOCS reports that the strongest intensity was intensity VII (destructive). Damages and aftershocks are expected.



Reported intensities are:

- Intensity VII - Tulunan & Makilala, Cotabato; Kidapawan City; Malungon, Sarangani
- Intensity VI - Davao City; Koronadal City; Cagayan de Oro City
- Intensity V - Tampakan, Surallah and Tupi, South Cotabato; Alabel, Sarangani
- Intensity IV - General Santos City; Kalilangan, Bukidnon
- Intensity III - Sergio Osmeña Sr., Zamboanga del Norte; Zamboanga City; Dipolog City; Molave, Zamboanga del Norte; Talakag, Bukidnon
- Intensity I - Camiguin, Mambajao

¹ Number of people affected is the population near the epicentre of Cotabato.

² Based on the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Response Framework. This categorization implies that the response intervention is within the capacity of the National Society of an affected country to manage with resources available in-country. If requested, the IFRC Country Office may provide any necessary technical or management support to the National Society, and if required, the IFRC Regional Office may support the mobilization of regional disaster response tools, with Geneva supporting the allocation of Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

Instrumental Intensities:

- Intensity VII - Kidapawan City; Malungon, Sarangani
- Intensity V - Alabel, Sarangani; Tupi, South Cotabato
- Intensity IV - Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental; General Santos City
- Intensity II - Zamboanga City
- Intensity I - Dipolog City; Bislig City; Palo, Leyte

For reference purposes, please refer to the PHIVOLCS Earthquake Intensity Scale through this [PEIS](#) link.

In Davao City, all classes in public and private schools from kindergarten to post-graduate studies have been suspended. There are already unconfirmed reported damages to some infrastructures, such as, the Magsaysay municipal hall in Davao del Sur. According to the Municipal Mayor of Magsaysay on a news interview, there are 541 families (approximately 2,700 individuals) sheltering in the evacuation centre. Power interruption is reported in some areas; General Santos City, Carmen in North Cotabato, Sarangani Polomolok in South Cotabato, and in Sultan Kudarat. Based on some news interviews with the local government unit and press briefing of NDRRMC, 43 people are reported injured (30 injured in Kidapawan City while 13 injured in Mlang Cotabato).

Previously on 16 October 2019, an earthquake of 6.3 magnitude struck the same area at 7:37 PM (local time) with a depth of 15km, approximately 22km southeast of Tulunan town, which killed seven people and injured 215

people in Regions XI, XII and BARMM. The earthquake has affected 7,303 families (35,481 people). As of 27 October 2019, NDRRMC reported that 936 families (4,604 people) continue seeking shelter in three evacuation centres while 407 families (2,035 people) are still displaced outside the evacuation centres.

This most recent earthquakes are causing increased trauma and fatigue among the people who have been previously affected by the 6.3 magnitude earthquake on 16 October 2019.

PHIVOLCS continues to monitor seismic events and issues earthquake information and real-time updates. The NDRRMC is coordinating with the city, provincial, municipal, and barangay disaster risk reduction and management councils and has issued situation reports. The [NDRRMC](#) has started issuing advisory to the local authorities through the local disaster risk reduction and management councils (LDRRMCs) to undertake precautionary measures within their area of responsibilities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Operations Centre (OpCen) at the Philippine Red Cross national headquarters continues to collect information – from the chapters and directly from Red Cross 143 volunteers in the affected areas – and at the time of this publication, had issued three disaster incident updates. Communications teams are also posting updates and photos of the situation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Chapter/Province	Actions taken
Cotabato City/Maguindanao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PRC ambulance is roving the area for wounded patients. • Chapter is also assisting the ongoing evacuation.
Davao City (Davao del Sur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter has activated RCAT and Search-and-Rescue Team for assessment. • Six people were provided with first aid and supported the transportation of one person.



Davao City chapter is assisting a patient affected by the earthquake. (Photo: PRC)

General Santos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chapter has mobilized its ambulance team and has deployed RCAT volunteers to schools, malls, and hospitals.
North Cotabato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A welfare desk has been set up at the chapter. The chapter has also mobilized a team for assessment. RC143 and RCY volunteers have been activated to assist the affected people.
South Cotabato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chapter has deployed ambulance and manpower. A service vehicle was also deployed to assess damages. Monitored the blood pressure of 20 people and supported the transportation of one person.
Sultan Kudarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided psychosocial support to 38 teachers in Nueva Vida National High School.

PRC Chapters were able to activate their initial response activities such as coordination and impact assessment. PRC is coordinating with the NDRRMC OpCen for possible response cluster activation. Local chapters are also doing coordination with their Municipal, and Provincial DRRMCs.

PRC is also on monitoring for the possible needs of the provinces affected on impact of earthquake. Response Team such as RCAT 143, NDRT's and other specialized PRC personnel's such as Relief, Shelter, WASH, Health and Welfare were alerted and are now on standby for possible augmentation.

The IFRC Philippine country office has been coordinating with the National Society, Movement partners in-country and the Humanitarian Country Team in support of PRC coordination. The country office is also coordinating and providing updates to the Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. IFRC will support PRC with technical support from the country office.

PRC has requested international support; and are working in collaboration with the IFRC Country Office and IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur to activate an allocation from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide support to the affected population.

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[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to see the map
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page



Davao City chapter is assisting a patient affected by the earthquake. (Photo: PRC)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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In IFRC Geneva

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For resource mobilization and pledges

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For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

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How we work

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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



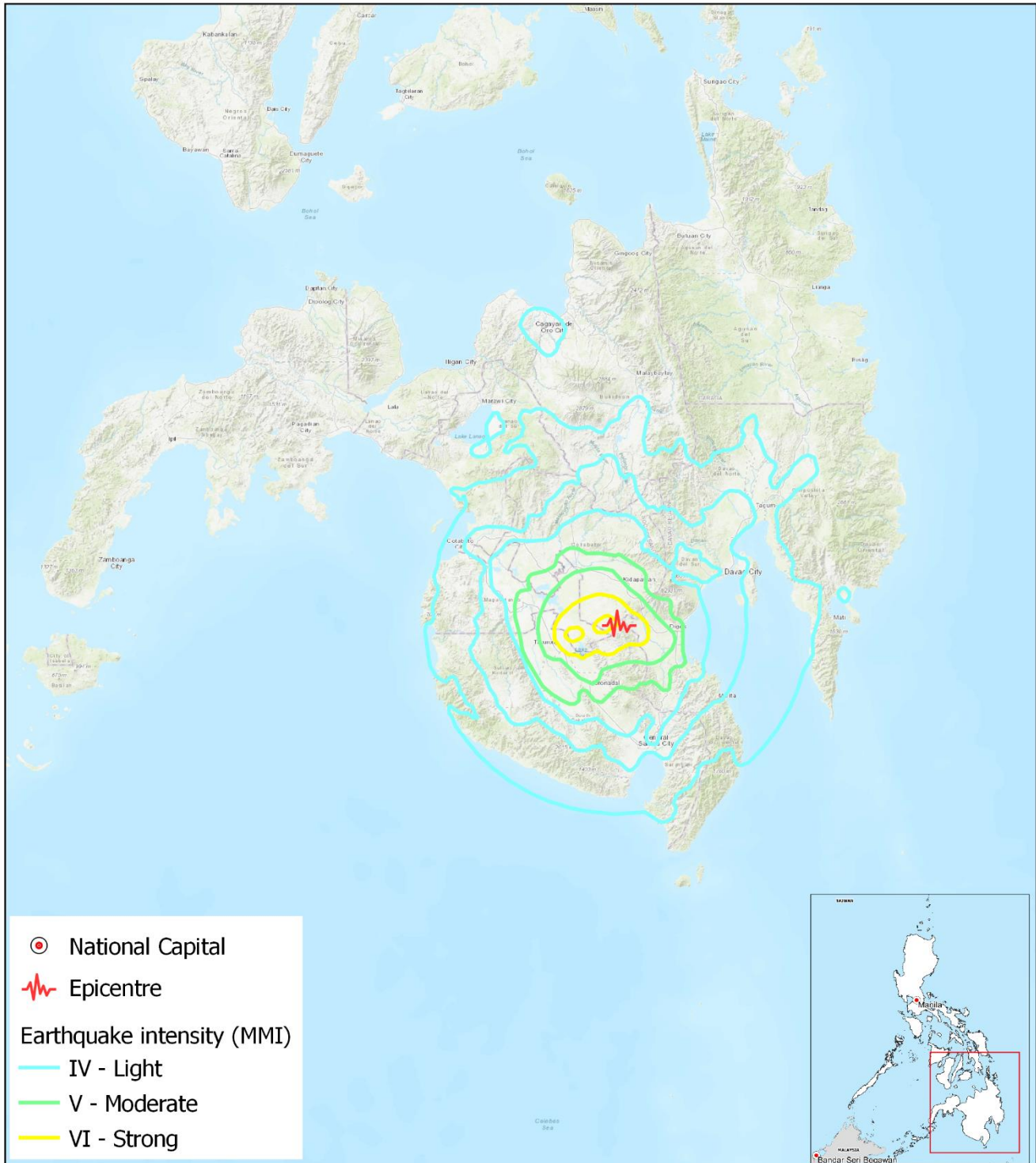
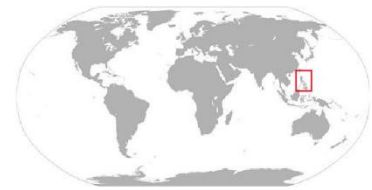
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

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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 territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, GDACS, ICRC, IFRC, USGS

