

Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Phanfone

Glide n° TC-2019-000176-PHL	Date of issue: 24 November 2019
Date of disaster: 24 December 2019	Point of contact: Leonardo Ebajo, Disaster Management Services
Operation start date: Early actions being initiated from 23 December 2019	Expected timeframe: N/A
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross	
Number of people affected: 1.7m million exposed	Number of people to be assisted: N/A
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: N/A	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: N/A	

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) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. However, this might change as the situation evolves, especially after the information on impact of the storm is more available.

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

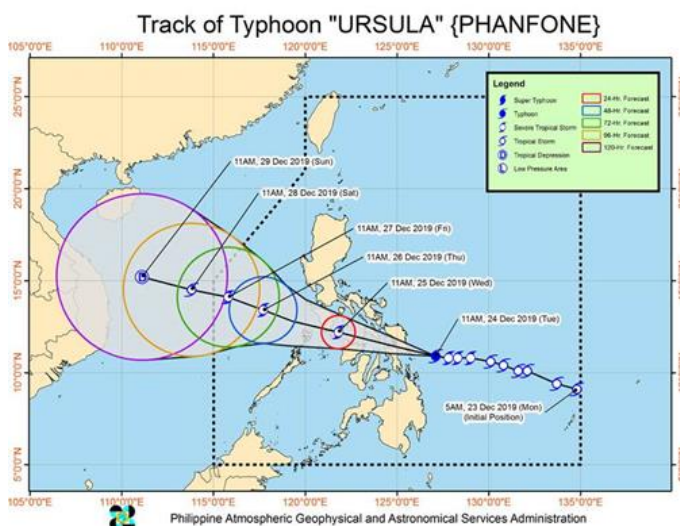
The situation

According to the [Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration](#) (PAGASA) Typhoon Phanfone (known locally as Typhoon Ursula) made landfall at 4:45 PM (local time) on Tuesday, 24 December 2019, in Salcedo, Eastern Samar.

PAGASA¹ reports that Phanfone made landfall with maximum winds of 120² kilometers per hour (km/h) and gustiness of up to 150 km/h.

PAGASA issued Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) signals as early warning. PAGASA warned that areas under Signal No. 3 will begin to experience destructive typhoon-force winds and "high-risk structures may experience heavy damage." There are concerns that the weather system could cause damage in communities across Visayas, which have already been badly affected by Tropical Storm Kammuri that crossed some of the same areas in November 2019 ([MDRPH037](#)) and Tropical Storm Usman (January 2019, [MDRPH030](#)).

Strong winds, and storm surges are expected, and rainfall can cause flooding and trigger landslides, resulting in casualties, as well as damages to crops livelihoods, livestock, infrastructure and housing. There are reports of rough



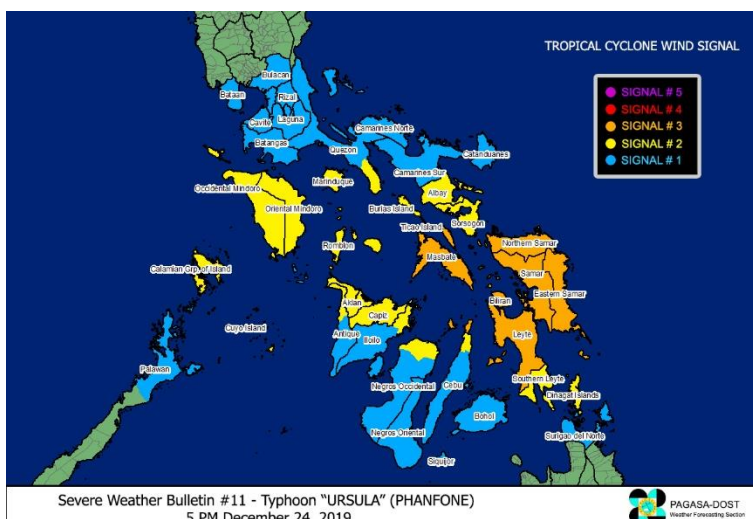
Track of Typhoon Phanfone (Source: PAGASA)

¹ <http://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/tropical-cyclone/severe-weather-bulletin/2>

² According to the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale this equates to a Category 1: Maximum sustained winds of 119-153 kph.

sea conditions along the eastern seaboard of the Philippines. Seas will also be rough in the inland waters of Southern Luzon and the Visayas and in the western seaboard of Southern Luzon on Wednesday afternoon.

Maritime trips had been canceled as early as Monday, 23 December 2019. As of 4.00 am (local time) on Tuesday, the Philippine Coast Guard said it has recorded a total of 16,649 stranded passengers in Bicol, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, Northern Mindanao, Western Mindanao, and Southern Visayas. There are canceled flights for Tuesday and Wednesday as well.



Areas predicted to be affected by Typhoon Phanfone (**Source: PAGASA**)

Based on its latest forecast track, Typhoon Phanfone is expected to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility late Friday, 27 December or early Saturday, 28 December 2019.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) has also been issuing advisory warnings³. The NDRRMC will start to issue Situational Reports for Response Actions and Effects for Ursula based on reports from local government units.

The [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System \(GDACS\)](#) has reported that 1.7 million people will be exposed to a Category 1 or higher typhoon and has issued an “Orange Alert” rating of 1.5, predicting a possible “[Medium](#)” level of humanitarian impact.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In accordance with PRC’s standard operating procedures, the Operations Centre (OpCen), which functions 24/7, is on heightened alert. National Headquarters (NHQ) has instructed chapters to be ready to respond through the delivery of services including – first aid, search and rescue, psychosocial support and welfare. PRC chapters in areas most likely to be affected will communicate with community volunteers (Red Cross 143) for information, and to start implementing early warning measures in coordination with the local government. Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT 143) are on standby. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), health and welfare personnel have also been alerted, for possible deployment. The PRC communications teams will post updates and photos of the situation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Philippine Red Cross, Cebu chapter is distributing hot meals to the stranded passengers brought by TY Ursula at the Abellana Sports Complex Cebu. (**Photo: [Philippine Red Cross Twitter](#)**)

PRC are already mobilized in some chapters to provide welfare services to passengers stranded at the ports. PRC volunteers and staff in Surigao del Norte put up a first aid and welfare station at the Surigao Bus Terminal to assist stranded passengers. PRC Cebu chapter is also distributing hot meals to the stranded passengers at an evacuation center.

³<http://bagong.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/tropical-cyclone/severe-weather-bulletin/2>

The IFRC Philippines Country Office is continuing to monitor the situation in close contact with its counterparts in the PRC NHQ. The Country Office has also checked preparedness stocks and alerted its National Society staff and delegates for possible deployment. In addition, the Country Office is also coordinating with the ICRC on any possible security issues in the likely affected areas.

In 2019, PRC has been managing operations supported through the IFRC DREF and Emergency Appeal (EA) mechanisms in response to earthquakes (e.g. Batanes and Mindanao), typhoon (i.e. Kammuri and Mangkhut) and disease outbreaks (e.g. dengue, measles and polio).



Click [here](#)

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

Contact information

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

In Philippine Red Cross

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Alice Ho, Partnership in Emergencies Coordinator; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Siew Hui Liew, PMER Manager; email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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.

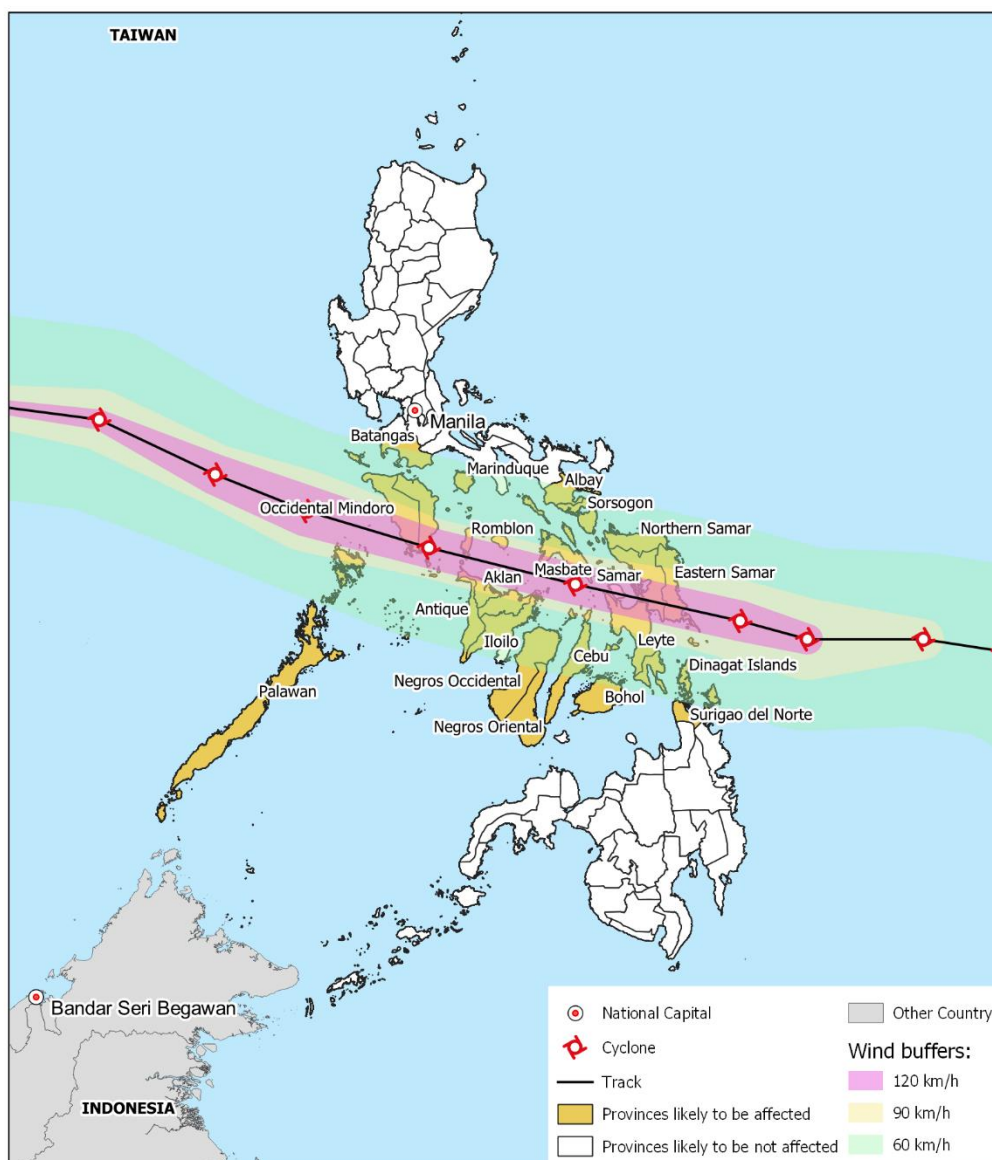
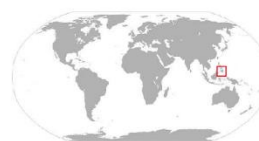


Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



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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, ICRC, IFRC, GDACS-IRC (24 Dec. 2019)

0 50 100 150 km

