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Information bulletin

Philippines: Tropical Storm Fung-Wong

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° TC-2014-000128-PHL	Date of issue: 22 September 2014
Date of disaster: 19 September 2014	Number of people affected: 1.1 million
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross	Point of contact: Gwendolyn Pang, Secretary General

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross has determined that external assistance is not required for this operation, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<Click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Starting Friday, 19 September 2014, the Philippine Red Cross was prompted to mount an emergency operation following severe flooding brought by heavy rains fuelled by Tropical Storm Fung-Wong (locally known as Mario). So far, the National Society has been able to take 670 people – who were trapped by floodwater – to safety and served ready-to-eat hot meals to some 20,000 people who have sought safer shelter in evacuation centres.



One of the Philippine Red Cross water search and rescue (WASAR) teams deployed for the response. So far, Red Cross WASAR teams have taken 670 people – who were trapped by floodwater – to safety.

Photo: Philippine Red Cross

Tropical Storm Fung-Wong made landfall on 19 September 2014 morning, over the northern tip of Cagayan Province of Luzon Island with maximum winds of 85 kilometres per hour (kph) near the centre, and gustiness of up to 100 kilometres per hour. Although it just brushed the northern tip of Cagayan province, its effects enhanced heavy rains that brought flooding in low lying areas of Luzon, including Metro Manila and the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal. The flooding prompted the suspension of classes at all levels of learning, and disrupted office work and businesses. Essential services were brought to a standstill in the worst-affected parts, with several roads rendered impassable (as they were covered in deep floodwater or blocked by landslides) and electricity supply interrupted.

According to the update released by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Monday 22 September 2014 morning, effects of Tropical Storm Fung-Wong have left at least 11 people dead, 12 injured and two missing. Some 259,000 families (around 1.1 million people) have been affected across 27 provinces, with some 30,200 families (around 129,700 people) currently accommodated in 324 evacuation centres. It is expected that these families will start going back to their residences as floodwater subsides.

As well as forcing thousands of families to evacuation centres, the floods have disrupted livelihoods, with the total damage wrought to agriculture valued at PHP 48.5 million (approximately CHF 1 million). At least 425 families are now homeless after their houses were destroyed while 1,710 others will have to undertake repair works before they can return to their homes, which were damaged by the floods.

While the worst seems over for now, rains still continue to pour in some areas although they are expected to ease. Classes remained suspended in Valenzuela City of Metro Manila and in some areas of the province of Rizal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) went on heightened alert as soon as Tropical Storm Fung-Won was sighted and its disaster response teams observed that models by various meteorological agencies projected that although the storm would make landfall at the northern tip of Luzon, its outer bands would bring heavy rains. The operations centre at PRC's national headquarters continuously kept an eye on the weather situation and sent advisories to concerned chapters. Volunteers and staff members – as well as an amphibious vehicle, rescue trucks, ambulances, support vehicles and rescue boats – were readied for deployment, if the situation warranted.

As floodwater began to raise, PRC deployed water search and rescue (WASAR) teams to help take trapped residents to safety. The WASAR teams helped to rescue 670 people in Metro Manila and the provinces of Ilocos Sur and Rizal. The National Society has also set up 13 welfare desks in evacuation centres to capture essential information on and concerns of evacuees so as to effectively address their welfare needs. Red Cross social workers and care providers manning the desks have so far provided psychosocial support to 1,700 people and served ready-to-eat hot meals to some 20,000 people in evacuation centres.

Furthermore, PRC has distributed food rations to 364 affected families and non-food relief items (blankets and sleeping mats) to 359 families in the provinces of Pangasinan and Rizal. Community health volunteers have reached some 2,000 families with disease prevention messages, including essential tips on leptospirosis. The National Society has also disseminated health and hygiene messages via social media.

In all, PRC has mobilized some 670 volunteers and 150 staff members for the ongoing response. Additional personnel are on standby to boost the response, if needed. More information about response is available at PRC's [website](#). PRC is also issuing regular updates on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

On its part, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – through its country delegation – has been in close coordination with the National Society, and ready to provide support if requested.

Unless the situation escalates, this is the only information bulletin issued for this operation.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Click here

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

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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**.
