

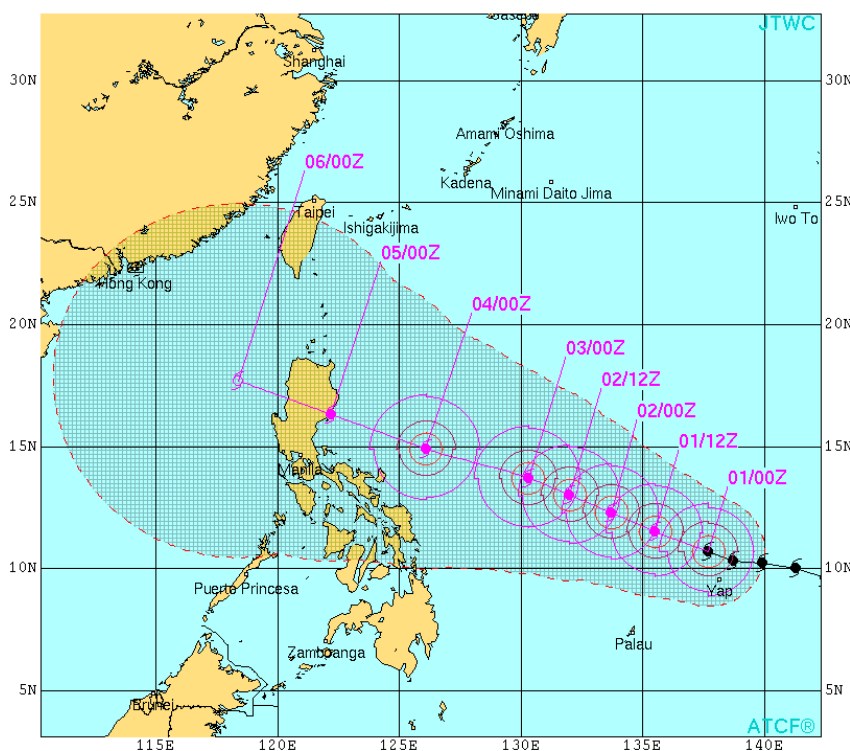
Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Maysak

Information Bulletin n° 1 1 April 2015

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has placed its disaster response teams on standby for rapid deployment and preparedness stocks ready for dispatch to areas under threat but is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

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Source: Joint Typhoon Warning Center

The situation

Moving northward from the Pacific, Typhoon *Maysak* continues to make its way towards the Philippines as a Category 4 cyclone. As of 11:00 am today, 1 April 2015, the eye of the storm was located at 1,280 km east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, with maximum sustained winds up to 250 kph near the centre and wind gusts projected up to 310 kph¹. This weather system is currently moving west-northwest at some 20 kph, and is expected to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) between the evening of Wednesday, 1 April and early morning of Thursday, 2 April 2015. Upon entering the PAR, *Maysak* will be locally named *Chedeng*.

While it is still uncertain where Typhoon *Maysak* will make an initial first landfall in the Philippines, various models seem to agree that the typhoon will first strike the central region of Luzon Island. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) indicates there is also an existing possibility that *Maysak* may curve northeast instead of crossing the Philippine archipelago or weaken prior to making landfall. However, given the topography of where it is currently projected to make landfall, there exists the very real risk of flash floods and landslides. Rough to very rough sea conditions are expected across the eastern seaboard of the Philippines from the afternoon of 1 April 2015.

¹ Joint Typhoon Warning Center/Pacific Disaster Center

Given the current wide diameter of Typhoon Maysak, it is expected that its effects may be felt in other parts of Luzon – from the north to south of the island – as well as parts of Visayas region.

Considering that the typhoon will be impacting during a holiday period for the largely Catholic nation, in observance of the Holy Week/Easter season, many people are expected to throng coastal areas at this time. Furthermore, there will be large numbers of commuters travelling by sea to their home provinces. As such, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is evaluating the situation and will likely issue warnings to inform vacationers and inhabitants along the coastal areas of the potential hazard. It is also likely that flights and ferry services will be suspended.

The NDRRMC has already begun issuing storm advisories since 30 March 2015, directing disaster risk reduction and management councils at the local level to initiate pre-emptive evacuations if the situation warrants. NDRRMC continues to monitor the situation and to update information. Continuous monitoring of the typhoon is also being carried out by various government and non-government agencies. The Philippine Red Cross and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) are coordinating closely with NDRRMC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) national headquarters has been monitoring the track of the typhoon, since it was first sighted, through its operations centre that functions 24/7. The national headquarters is updating its chapters and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners across the country on the current situation. PRC chapters are now on high alert for the upcoming typhoon and have activated standard preparedness for response measures. The Disaster Management Services (DMS) department of PRC is preparing a roster of personnel who will be available for response during the holiday period. Staff and volunteers are on standby while assessment teams are ready for possible deployment.

The slow progress of the typhoon generally indicates heavy rainfall and subsequent floods and as such, PRC is paying particular attention to water levels in rivers and major reservoirs in the locations likely to be in the typhoon's path. The National Society is readying teams that will support pre-emptive evacuations; teams are also being mobilized for rapid assessments and search-and-rescue efforts as and when needed.

PRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have discussed the preparedness measures taken by the National Society. The IFRC country delegation team in Manila has also organized a roster of personnel who will be on call during the holiday period. It is worth noting that the IFRC has substantial capacity in-country to provide immediate support to PRC, if required. These include field delegates who can support relief and recovery interventions, and others specializing in various technical sectors including health, shelter, water and sanitation as well as support services such as communications, finance, grant management, logistics, and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER). Already, two field delegates with extensive knowledge of the region where the typhoon is projected to strike have been identified and will be embedded with the PRC field teams, should the need arise.

IFRC is also supporting PRC in its communications activities including arrangements for potential deployment and photo documentation once forecasts are clearer. The delegation's logistics team has prepared for the dispatch of relief items as requested by the PRC. Current IFRC-provided preparedness stocks available in-country include some 55,400 blankets, 33,000 jerry cans, 17,000 hygiene kits, 5,200 kitchen sets, 71,300 sleeping mats, 14,500 tarpaulins, 14,400 mosquito nets and 1,100 tents. Transport service providers have been alerted and the delegation's fleet readied to support PRC.

Meantime, PRC is organizing a meeting of Movement partners with presence in the Philippines, to update them on the situation and to discuss preparedness measures. PRC works with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Taiwan Red Cross Organization, in-country. A majority of these partners are supporting PRC's response to Typhoon Haiyan.

The IFRC has an interim Movement coordinator in place who will continue to liaise frequently and support PRC in coordinating with Movement partners in-country as may be needed for the response to Typhoon Maysak. In consultation with the PRC leadership, the IFRC head of delegation and operations manager will coordinate any deployment of IFRC personnel, supplies and fleet as needed.

The country delegation continues to update the Asia Pacific zone office on the situation. Based on the request from the National Society, a request is being prepared to the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for an imminent crisis. Such support will enable PRC to mobilize personnel, relief supplies and response equipment (in advance) to areas likely to be hit so as to respond swiftly to the needs.

Contact information

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

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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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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