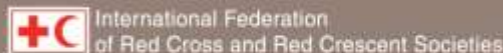


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## Information bulletin

### Philippines: Typhoon Melor



Information bulletin no 1	Glide number no <a href="#">TC-2015-000168-PHL</a>
Date of issue:	16 December 2015
Host National Society:	Philippine Red Cross
National Society point of contact:	Gwendolyn Pang, Secretary General
IFRC point of contact	Patrick Elliott, Operations Manager
Number of provinces affected:	18 provinces are or were under public storm warning signals

***This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation. After the typhoon's landfall Philippine Red Cross – with support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – will determine whether external assistance is required; funding or other assistance from donors is, therefore, not being sought at this time.***

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

## The situation

As of 8 PM, 15 December, Typhoon Melor (locally known as Nona) was located 125 km Northwest of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro with maximum sustained winds of 130 kph near the centre and gustiness of up to 160 kph, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). The typhoon is out of Philippine landmass and is expected to be out of the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Friday evening or Saturday morning. However, another weather system, southeast of Mindanao, is which is now a tropical depression is expected to enter PAR within the week.

Typhoon Melor made its first landfall at around 11 AM, 14 December over the island of Batag, off the coast of Northern Samar as a Category 3 typhoon. Melor made a second landfall in Bulusan, Sorsogon at around 4 PM and shortly before 10 PM, it made its third landfall in Buriyas Island. At 5:30 AM, 15 December 2015, Typhoon Melor made its fourth landfall in Banton Island, Romblon. Melor made its final landfall in Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro province with maximum sustained winds of 140 kph near the centre and gustiness of up to 175 kph. The typhoon has since moved west at about 11 kph.

Aside from strong winds, Melor also brought heavy rain within the 300 km diameter of the typhoon and 4 metre storm surges as it moved towards the coast. Provincial and local governments conducted pre-emptive evacuations in coastal communities and in some mountainous areas with high risk of landslides. More than 730,000 people from five regions were evacuated to evacuation centres.

The provinces of Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Albay, Masbate, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Samar were put on public storm warning signal number (PSWS) 3. This has since been downgraded, and as of 5 AM, 16 December, only the province of northern Occidental Mindoro, including Lubang island, is under PSWS 3. Bataan, Batangas, Cavite, northern Oriental Mindoro and the rest of Occidental Mindoro are still under PSWS 2, while PSWS 1 is raised in several areas, including Metro Manila. *For details on PSWS, refer [here](#).*

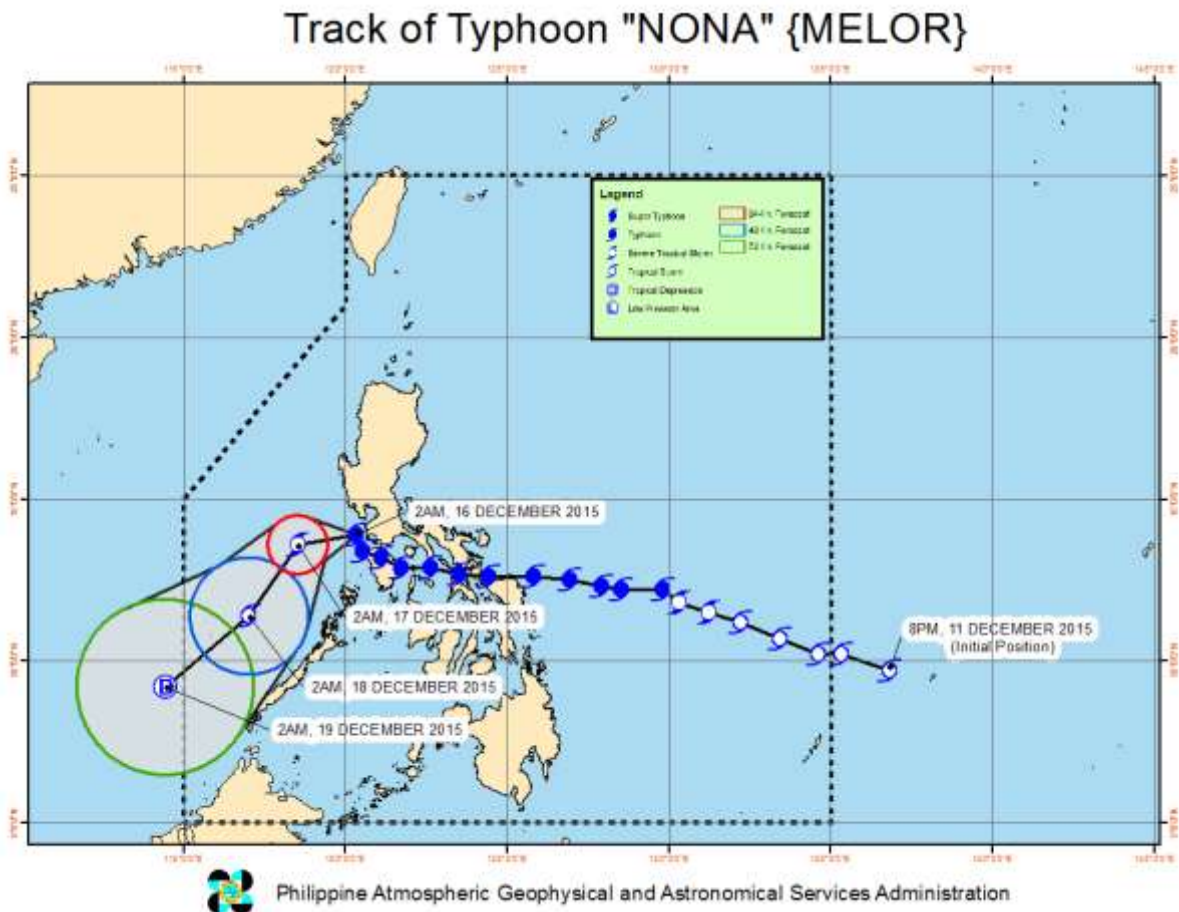
Road networks, communication and power lines have also been damaged, hampering efforts to reach affected areas for relief distribution and rapid assessments. As of 8 PM, 15 December, 1 province, 5 cities and 88 municipalities in Regions IV-A, IV-B, V and VIII are experiencing power interruptions. Communication lines in Northern Samar have been out since the evening of 14 December while cellular networks are also affected in Samar, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

NDRRMC directed all concerned regional counterparts through the Office of Civil Defense Regional Centers to undertake precautionary measures in their areas of responsibility (AOR), and subsequently advised local

disaster councils to initiate pre-emptive evacuation of families in low-lying and mountainous areas if the situation warrants. NDRRMC Operations centre continuously disseminates weather bulletins to all regional and local counterparts.

The NDRRMC also convened its Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment core group on Friday 11 December and again on 13, 14 and 15 December to discuss preparedness actions. 51 areas have been identified to be highly susceptible to flash floods, landslides, and flooding if they experience more than 100 mm of rain. The NDRRMC further encouraged the public to remain alert, and to be prepared for heavy rains during the approaching holidays as another weather system is the other tropical depression enters PAR.

Although the rains expected to be brought by Typhoon Melor will help alleviate the El Niño-induced droughts and dry spells, the NDRRMC is monitoring closely the changing situation and issuing regular updates.



## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) continues to monitor the typhoon through its operations centre and conditions on the ground via its wide chapter network. The PRC Chapters and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners have been alerted and have continuously received updates from the national headquarters (NHQ). PRC is also continuously coordinating with local governments in affected areas, the NDRRMC and Movement partners in country. PRC NHQ has put teams that can back up the chapters, including assessment teams, on standby.

PRC has deployed assessment teams to Northern Samar and Sorsogon. As communication network is expected to be affected, PRC also deployed satellite phones to six chapters – Albay, Batangas, Camarines Norte, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon Lucena and Sorsogon. In addition, PRC mobilized 13 staff members and 93 volunteers for preparedness and response. As of reporting, 587 affected people in the provinces of Catanduanes, Masbate, Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro were provided with hot meals, while other chapters are also preparing to support the local governments. Welfare desks have also been set up in Western Samar. The Haiyan operation team in Leyte is also preparing relief items and equipment to support affected families in Northern Samar.

Meanwhile, the IFRC Philippine delegation coordinated with the Disaster Management Services of PRC on preparedness planning, and with the Disaster Management Unit of the Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Delegates and staff responsible for IFRC field offices in Leyte, Northern Cebu and Panay Island – where Haiyan recovery interventions are underway – have been asked to be on alert, and to monitor the situation. PRC, IFRC, ICRC and other Movement partners are discussing response plans and relief operations to support families affected by Melor.

IFRC-supported preparedness stocks in the country comprise of tarpaulins and essential non-food items (jerry cans, blankets, sleeping mats, hygiene kits, and mosquito nets). These relief items are pre-positioned across several warehouses in Subic Bay, Mandaluyong City, Manila, and Cebu. IFRC and PRC logistics are on standby to dispatch preparedness stocks as needed.

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## 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 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.**