


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information Bulletin

Palau: Typhoon Haiyan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin no.1
[TC-2013-000139-PLW](#)
15 November 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Palau Red Cross Society (PRCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that an International Appeal is not required, and is therefore not seeking additional funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information, and here for map>](#)

The situation

On Friday, 7 November at around 4am, Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest typhoon in 2013 approached Palau, its centre passing a mere 7 miles from the northernmost state of

Kayangel, and approximately 74 miles from the capital Koror. Rated as a Super Typhoon, the winds reached up to 160 mph, combined with heavy rains and storm surges particularly along the western coasts of the small Pacific island nation. Fortunately, there were no fatalities or serious injuries reported, however the impact was felt across 12 of the 16 states.

Communities in closest proximity to the eye of the storm sought refuge in the nearest evacuation shelter. The Palau Government National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) issued warnings and advice for households across the country to secure their property and board up their homes in preparation for Typhoon Haiyan's impact. Most residents of Kayangel state, in the eye of the storm, chose not to evacuate. Kayangel was devastated by the typhoon, with all infrastructure damaged and all but two buildings destroyed.



PRCS volunteers assist a family in Koror whose house was destroyed by an uprooted tree, which was over 100 years old.
Photo cred: PRCS

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Prior to the impact of Typhoon Haiyan, Palau Red Cross Society (PRCS) activated their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at their national office in Koror and undertook a number of preparatory activities. Staff and volunteers confirmed the inventory of relief items, tested communications facilities and equipment, and arranged transport facilities. Additional volunteers were placed on standby for mobilization. Regional staff from IFRC and volunteers from Australian Red Cross and Micronesia Red Cross Society were in-country for on-going work with PRCS and were placed on standby to support the preparedness and response activities. A minimal support team of PRCS personnel staffed the PRCS EOC throughout the curfew and during the typhoon.

Once the curfew was lifted, teams of PRCS conducted initial observational surveillance across Babeldoab and Koror to determine the overall extent of damage and to establish priority needs. Based on this information, household assessments were undertaken on a state-by-state basis, followed by distributions the next day. Emergency relief items immediately distributed included tarpaulins, water containers, emergency lighting and hygiene kits. Within the first week, more than 100 family kits were distributed to affected households in the states of Ngerchelong, Ngaraard, and Ngardmau, as well as to on-demand distress calls within Koror and Airai. Assessments and distributions in Koror and Babeldoab will continue for a period of up to two weeks; however the PRCS stocks are almost depleted. Procurement of additional relief items is currently underway. The PRCS has a stock holding plan which identifies the minimum standards and quantities of permanent prepositioned stock required to enable immediate response. After the immediate distributions are completed, PRCS will replenish stock in accordance with this plan.

PRCS relief distributions in Babeldoab and Koror

State	Estimated damage ¹	Est. number of HH in each State ²	Family kits distributed to date ³
Ngerchelong	Up to 80%	56	36
Ngaraard	Up to 50%	91	53
Ngardmau	Up to 20%	39	11
Koror ⁴	Up to 20%	2,333	9
Airai	Minor damage	507	2
Aimeliik	Minor damage	56	2
Ngatpang	Minor damage	51	2
Ngiwal	Minor damage	45	1
Melekeok	Minor damage	60	1
Ngchesar	Minor damage	57	4
Ngeremlengu	Minor damage	62	0
	TOTAL	3,357	115

1 – Estimated damage is based on PRCS observational surveillance.

2 – Total number of households based on population data from the Palau 2012 Mini-census data, with an average of 5 persons per household. The actual number of households may vary depending on family size.

3 – Kits distributed based on the needs assessment process.

4 – Response was based on distress calls, rather than a needs assessment.

PRCS support to evacuees from Kayangel

The National Emergency Committee (NEC) requested PRCS to provide support to 41 evacuees from Kayangel state who are currently staying at the Palau Cultural Center in Koror, by distributing supplementary food, clothing, water, bedding and hygiene kits for the initial days, provided by various donors. The PRCS has also been participating in NEC meetings and providing updates on the situation and its activities.

With support from the regional IFRC team, the Micronesia Red Cross Society and Australian Red Cross, PRCS is simultaneously mobilizing and training new volunteers for the response operation. New volunteers have received PRCS orientation, field training and have gained experience in assessments and distributions under the guidance of experienced volunteers.

PRCS Plan of Action

Volunteer Mobilization	
Outcome: Activation, training and support for 50 PRCS volunteers for deployments over a 30-day period to undertake assessments and response activities.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
50 volunteers are activated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers activated and roster confirmed. • Conduct PRCS orientation training to familiarize volunteers with the Red Cross response. • Conduct briefings and debriefing prior to and following each deployment. • Activate volunteer insurance.
Volunteers are adequately trained in assessments and distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response related trainings to adapt volunteers to the requirements of the response. • Undertake Community Disaster Response Training (CDRT) through PRCS, supported by ARC and IFRC.
Volunteers are supported with visibility materials, and personal protective equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ high visibility vests ○ back packs ○ gloves ○ ponchos ○ clip boards and stationary ○ t-shirts with logos ○ signage and stickers.

Response Preparation	
Outcome: PRCS has adequate communications, transport and logistics capacities to respond effectively to disasters.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Existing communications facilities and equipment are tested and activated for response and further needs identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon activation of the EOC, all communications equipment are tested, activated and issued. • Satellite phones are activated through New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC). • Any inoperative equipment is recorded and included in the procurement planning for the response.
Additional communications needs are addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HF (SSB) radios are installed for country wide coverage to substitute the need for satellite phones. • Other needs are addressed to maintain a relevant communications network, including VHF radios and internet.
Existing PRCS relief items inventory is confirmed and items prepared for distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock take is undertaken. • Distribution kits are prepared and documented based on assessment analysis and consideration of standards. • Procurement of additional relief items to complement existing stocks and needs.
Adequate transport is arranged to facilitate needs assessments and distribution activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate vehicles are hired to support and complement the immediate distribution needs of the responding teams. • An additional vehicle will be procured to augment longer term response capacity.
Logistics capacities of PRCS are further strengthened through training activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical training is provided to personnel engaged in logistics related activities to ensure that the NS can manage the relief items in a clear and transparent manner. • Opportunistic trainings are undertaken in stock management and the mobilization of relief items.

Rapid and Detailed Needs Assessments

Outcome: PRCS teams undertake initial rapid assessments, followed by detailed needs assessments to determine the scope of the required response.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Within 24 hours of the disaster, PRCS teams will conduct a rapid assessment to determine the most affected locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-deployment briefings for staff and volunteers including debriefing and operational updates. 3 teams dispatched to the north, south and central states of Babeldoab and Koror. Compilation and analysis of data.
Within 7 days, detailed needs assessments will be completed in all 10 states of Babeldoab.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispatching of 4 teams to conduct detailed household assessments on a state-by-state basis, beginning with those identified as worst affected.
Individual assessments in response to distress calls within Koror.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRCS teams on standby at the national office and dispatched to individual homes to identify needs.
Assessments of persons evacuated from Kayangel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and volunteers will receive and register evacuees at the Palau Cultural Centre and assess their needs.

Relief materials and Distribution

Outcome: Up to 270 affected families will receive immediate food, water and/or relief supplies as required based on needs assessments.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Affected families in the 10 states of Babeldoab will receive emergency relief supplies within 24 hours of assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 270 pre-packaged kits of nonfood items (NFI's) will be distributed by PRCS teams, according to the assessment data. Any additional needs identified will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Families evacuated from Kayangel State will be provided with initial support to meet their basic welfare needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supplementary food and water additional portable toilets, and sanitation kits clothing and bedding Staff and volunteers will be stationed within the center to provide ongoing personal support, to receive and distribute any public donations to the families and to identify any outstanding needs.
Distress calls received from Koror state will be responded to within 24 hours and relief supplies provided if required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distress calls received by PRCS and assessed as requiring immediate relief will be acted on within 24 hours (or as soon as possible) by PRCS teams on standby.

Replenishment, Prepositioning of Relief Supplies

Outcome: Replenishment of stock to enable PRCS to respond to future disasters during the current typhoon season

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
PRCS warehousing containers are retrofitted to meet storage capacity requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 containers, located near PRCS national office, will be refurbished and equipped with shelving, painted with Red Cross logos, and electricity installed.
Relief materials and family kits will be	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relief material will be procured in accordance with the standards of the International Red Cross Emergency Relief Items Catalogue.

replenished, as per the PRCS stock holding plan for a minimum of 100 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Items will be stocked and managed in accordance with the PRCS stock holding plan.
--	---

Monitoring, Evaluation and Strengthening Capacities for Future Response

Outcome: The impact and effectiveness of the response operation will be monitored and evaluated by PRCS to improve overall preparedness and response capacities.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
PRCS will continue to monitor and adapt the response based on beneficiary feedback.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRCS teams will collect beneficiary feedback throughout the operation and will adapt the response plan accordingly.
PRCS will conduct an evaluation of the response with a view to further strengthen preparedness and response capacities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRCS will undertake an internal evaluation process following the completion of the immediate response. The evaluation will be used as a basis for updating and improving the disaster management plan and SOPs as required.
1. IFRC will provide ongoing technical support to PRCS through existing regional resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFRC will support the operation through the provision of technical assistance from regionally-based staff, who will remain in-country for a period of two weeks during the immediate response. Replenishment and capacity building activities will be supported for the duration of the operation by the IFRC Pacific regional office.

Funding and in-kind support for PRCS

PRCS has been receiving in-kind contributions from members of the public in the form of food, water, non-food items and an additional vehicle on loan to assist in the assessment and distributions. Funding has been made available from PRCS, Australian Red Cross and IFRC to enable the immediate mobilization of volunteers and transport and the procurement of additional relief items in order to avoid delays in distribution. New Zealand Red Cross has activated four satellite phones and are providing technical support for communications. PRCS has been approached by several donors wishing to support the operation and has prepared a plan and budget to facilitate those discussions. USAID/OFDA has expressed an interest to support PRCS work and a proposal based on the plan of action has been submitted. There are no plans to launch an international appeal for assistance.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- National Society:** Santy Asanuma, PRCS Chairman; +680 488 2308; +680 778 1433; asanumasanty@gmail.com
- IFRC country office:** Victoria Bannon; +680 778 7809 (Palau) +692 456 3140 (Marshall Islands) victoria.bannon@ifrc.org
- IFRC regional office:** Ysabeau Rycx, Regional Disaster Management Coordinator; tel: +679 331 1855; email: ysabeau.rycx@ifrc.org
- IFRC Zone:**
 - Al Panico, Head of Operations; tel +603 9207 5704; email: al.panico@ifrc.org
 - Christine Strater, Operations Coordinator; tel: +603 9207 5814; email: christine.strater@ifrc.org

- Florent Chane, Zone Logistics Unit; tel: +603 9207 5752; email: florent.change@ifrc.org.
 - Peter Ophoff, Head of Planning, Monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER); email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org.
-

[Click here](#)

1. [Map below](#)
 2. [Return](#) to the title page
-

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 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.

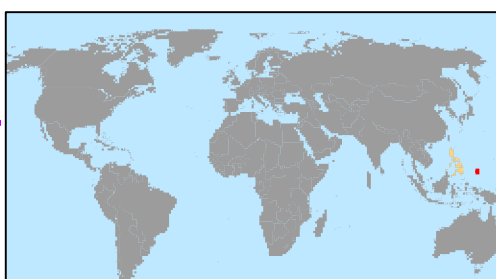
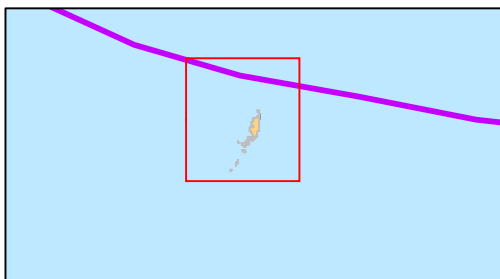
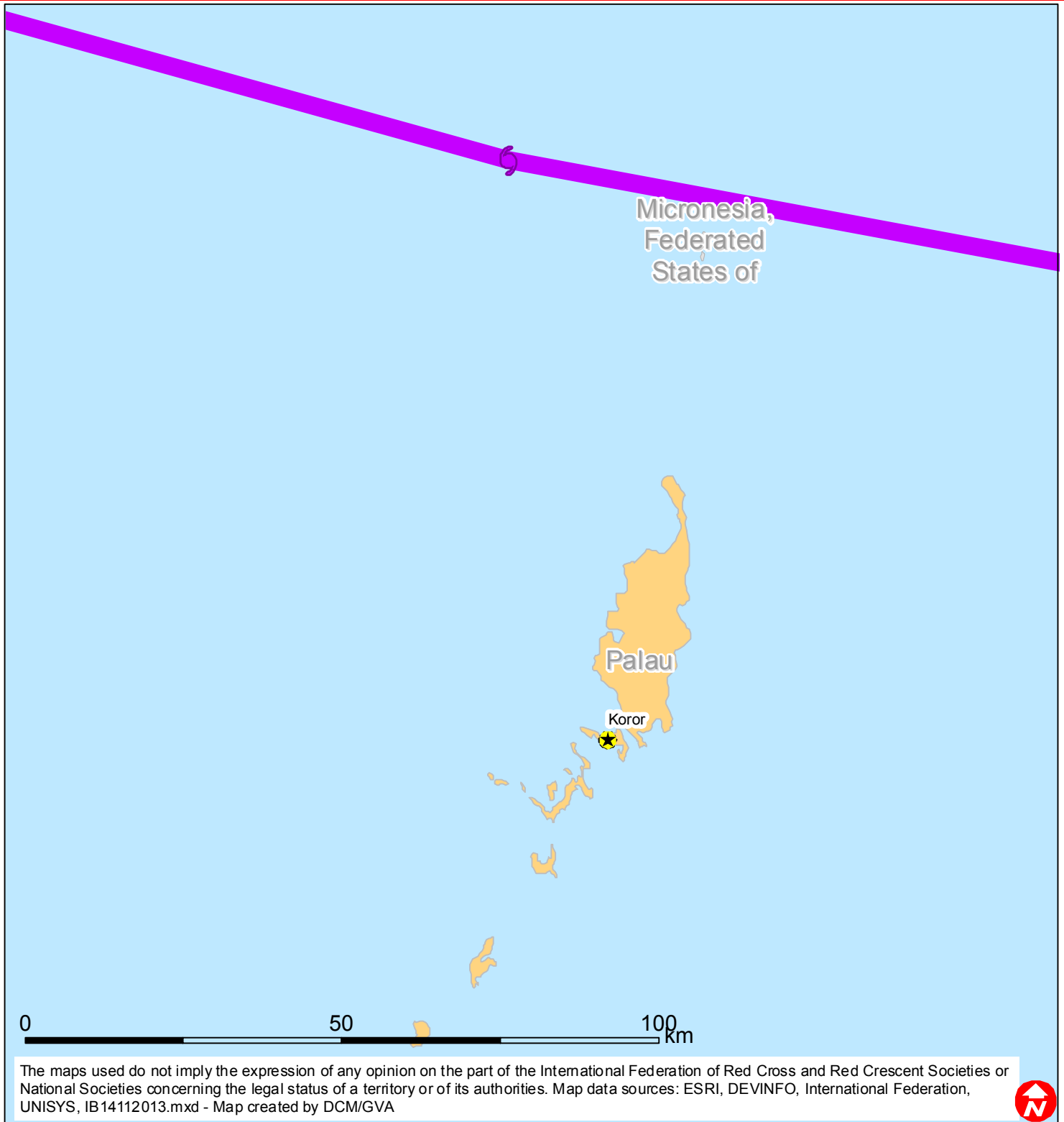


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



Palau: Typhoon Haiyan



 Haiyan's path