


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 2
GLIDE n° [TC-2014-000160-PHL](#)
6 December 2014

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 monitoring the evolving situation. Detailed information, including potential request for external assistance, is expected in the coming days.



Philippine Red Cross is mobilizing volunteers, staff, equipment and supplies to areas anticipating higher risk of disaster impact to enable prompt delivery of assistance in the immediate aftermath – once safety conditions permit.

Photo: Swedish Red Cross.

The situation

Typhoon Hagupit (locally known as Ruby) continues to charge towards the Philippines, with the potential of leaving a significant humanitarian situation in its aftermath. According to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), although the dangerous storm had earlier slowed down, it has picked up speed and is projected to make landfall in the night of Saturday 6 December 2014 at the northern parts of Samar Island.

The typhoon, which is currently packing maximum sustained winds of 215 kilometres per hour (kph), is expected to be accompanied by heavy-intense rainfall and a storm surge of up to five metres. The combination of winds, rainfall and storm surges is likely to cause wind-induced damages, flooding and landslides, including in urban areas as well as regions recovering from previous disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan. Another concern from the continuous heavy rains is the possible formation of 'lahar' at the Mayon Volcano.

The Philippine authorities and humanitarian partners, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, have activated their response plans and are supporting pre-emptive evacuation of at-risk populations in areas along Hagupit's most dangerous bandwidth. Emergency responders and supplies have been readied to ensure that assistance is delivered promptly.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Philippine Red Cross

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been on the highest alert level since projections started showing that Typhoon Hagupit would make landfall as a destructive storm and has put teams on standby for immediate response. Volunteers, staff, equipment and supplies are being mobilized to areas anticipating higher risk of disaster impact to enable prompt delivery of assistance in the immediate aftermath – once safety conditions permit.

Furthermore, PRC chapters in areas along the typhoon's path are supporting their respective local government units in effecting pre-emptive evacuations. Volunteers and staff in these chapters are prepared to provide ready-to-eat hot meals to families in evacuation centres. In areas that were previously affected by Typhoon Haiyan and where substantial activities were underway, assets have been secured and contingency measures enacted to ensure that delivery of service resumes as soon as Typhoon Hagupit has passed. Personnel in such areas, including Tacloban City, have been advised to comply with safety procedures so as not to endanger their lives and are able to respond once safety conditions permit.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

The IFRC delegation in the Philippines has activated its task force to lead the planning for potential support to the PRC response. Personnel who have been supporting various interventions in the country are on standby for immediate deployment upon request of PRC.

In addition to delegation personnel, an emergency communications delegate, a shelter coordinator and an operations coordinator from the IFRC Asia Pacific Zone Office are already in the Philippines to provide surge support. The early deployment of surge support ensures that there would be some immediate capacity to guarantee non-disruption of recovery programmes that are underway in Haiyan-affected areas.

Movement coordination

Meantime, on Friday, 5 December 2014, Philippine Red Cross leadership chaired a joint preparedness and planning meeting, in which Movement partners with in-country presence participated. The partners comprised representatives of the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies. A joint Philippine Red Cross-IFRC-ICRC statement is being developed and will outline how the Movement will respond in a coordinated manner.

Shelter cluster coordination

Based on a request from the Humanitarian Country Team, IFRC has put preparedness measures in place to enable it to fulfil its commitment to be co-convenor of the Shelter Cluster in the event that Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) clusters are activated for the Hagupit response. The National Cluster Coordinator who was set to leave the country on Saturday 6 December 2014 after handing over tasks relating to the Typhoon Haiyan response to the authorities, will remain in-country and will help set up the shelter coordination team if clusters are activated. The shelter coordination would be exclusively dedicated to the task of cluster coordination, independent of Philippine Red Cross-IFRC operations.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Philippine Red Cross**
 - Gwendolyn Pang, Secretary General, phone +63 2 525 5654;
email: gwendolyn.pang@redcross.org.ph
- **IFRC Philippines country office**
 - Kari Isomaa, Head of Delegation, phone +63 2 336 8622; email: kari.isomaa@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok**
 - Anne Leclerc, Head of Regional Office, phone +66 2661 8201; email: anne.leclerc@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur**
 - Martin Faller, Head of Operations, phone: +60 3 9207 5704; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
 - Christine Strater, Operations Coordinator, phone: +6012 213 0149;
email: christine.strater@ifrc.org
 - Peter Ophoff, Head of PMER, phone:+60 3 9207 5775, email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org



[Click here](#)

1. [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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.