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## Information bulletin

# Philippines: Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby)

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross has indicated that it will request funding or other assistance from its partners once it finalizes its response plan in the coming days.



Effects of Typhoon Hagupit extend to areas that were affected by Typhoon Haiyan, including Tacloban City.  
Photo: Margaret Stansberry/American Red Cross

## The situation

Typhoon Hagupit (locally known as Ruby) made an initial landfall on Saturday evening, 6 December 2014, in Dolores, Eastern Samar, with maximum sustained winds of 160 kph and gusts of up to 195 kph. Described as the strongest typhoon to hit Philippines so far this year, Hagupit then made a second landfall in Masbate on Sunday 7 December 2014.

The slow-moving Typhoon Hagupit has weakened into a tropical storm as it makes its way ([see map](#)) - across the archipelago. It made third and fourth landfalls in Marinduque and Batangas respectively, on Monday 8 December. Hagupit is now expected to go over mainland Luzon, near Manila and exit into the sea, west of Philippines, on Tuesday 9 December 2014.

The authorities conducted a massive effort to get families, along the storm's path, out of harm's way, evacuating over one million people before Hagupit made landfall. Some evacuees have started to return to their homes as the storm moves on, although a relatively large number remains in evacuation centres.

Reports received so far do not indicate major casualties, with news of some fatalities in Eastern Samar currently being verified. However, it is still too early to get a full picture of the typhoon's impact and needs on the ground because access to some areas is constrained by blocked roads. Where there is access, Philippine Red Cross has mobilized teams to affected areas to conduct assessments. Red Cross teams have also undertaken preliminary surveys in areas where activities relating to Typhoon Haiyan recovery programmes were underway – including Guiuan and Tacloban City – and observed that there was no major damage wrought in those areas.

The slow movement of Typhoon Hagupit has increased the risk of flooding. Concerns remain about the safety of people living in low-lying and mountainous areas along Hagupit's path, owing to a high risk of flash-floods and landslides. Starting today, Hagupit may bring heavy rains in Metro Manila which is susceptible to flooding. Therefore, the risk of urban flooding remains a concern.

The Philippine authorities and humanitarian partners, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, are monitoring the situation closely. Response and assessment teams, as well as relief supplies, have been or are being deployed to the affected areas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) chapters in affected areas are mobilizing assistance, focusing on people currently in evacuation centres. So far, the PRC has served ready-to-eat hot meals to approximately 900 people, distributed food packs to 380 families and provided jerry cans to some 350 families. Additional supplies have been dispatched from the main warehouses to affected areas. With the coming rains, which could impact on Metro Manila, the PRC is also carrying out preparedness activities in the city.

The PRC continues to maintain close coordination with disaster authorities and participates in meetings of disaster risk reduction and management councils at national, provincial and municipal levels. PRC is also holding regular coordination meetings with its International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners with presence in the country. The latest meeting was held on Sunday 7 December 2014. Two teleconferences were held today to provide all partners with an update on the situation.

Based on a preliminary analysis of the situation, PRC has indicated that it will be requesting the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners to support its response to Typhoon Hagupit. In this regard the PRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), have agreed on a joint statement, which outlines how the Movement partners will respond in a coordinated manner. Accordingly, the IFRC will support the PRC interventions in all affected areas although the main support for PRC interventions in Albay, Masbate, Samar and Sorsogon will be provided by the ICRC. The IFRC support to PRC interventions in these areas would be complementary to that provided by the ICRC. Partner National Societies may extend their support directly to PRC or through IFRC and ICRC. All support will be coordinated through the Movement Coordination mechanism for Typhoon Hagupit.

Considering that effects of Typhoon Hagupit extend to areas that were affected by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, the IFRC has mobilized non-food items for 10,000 families for immediate distribution by PRC within the Haiyan operation framework. Relief interventions in areas that were affected by Typhoon Haiyan and have now bore secondary effects by Typhoon Hagupit will be incorporated under the Haiyan Plan of Action. An operations update will be issued in the coming days to communicate the adjustments to the plan.

For other areas affected by Typhoon Hagupit – but were not affected by Typhoon Haiyan – a request for support through the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) will be sought in the coming days.

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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 \(NGOs\) 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.

# Typhoons Hagupit / Ruby and Haiyan / Yolanda

