

## Information bulletin

# Philippines: Typhoon Rammasun

### Information Bulletin n° 2

GLIDE no. [TC-2014-00092-PHL](#)  
16 July 2014

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross has placed its disaster response teams on standby for rapid deployment and preparedness stocks ready for dispatch, as required.

#### Summary

Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall over Lapu-Lapu in Albay province in the east of the Philippines in the late afternoon of Tuesday, 15 July. It crossed the Northern Capital Region (NCR) area on Wednesday morning of 16 July, impacting the Metro Manila area with strong winds and heavy rain between 06:00 and 09:00, causing power outages and interrupting telecommunication lines. According to the national weather agency Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), as of 1300 today, Rammasun was located 64 kilometers west of Subic, Zambales with maximum sustained winds of 140kph and gusts of 170 kph, moving northwest of the country.



***Always first. Always ready. Always there.*** Trained Philippine Red Cross disaster response team members live up to their National Society motto in preparation for immediate deployment in the aftermath of Typhoon Rammasun.  
(Photo: Philippine Red Cross)

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), at least 450,000 people have been affected by Rammasun in Southern Luzon, Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. At this time, 500 evacuation centres are accommodating some 370,000 people in these regions.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been on high alert and at the ready to respond since the typhoon was sighted. Initial assessments conducted by PRC's Albay chapter have prompted the distribution of food and non-food relief items for some 2,500 families. In Masbate, Ormoc and Southern Leyte, PRC chapters have provided hot meals in evacuation centres to some 2,400 people. Chapters located along the anticipated path of the typhoon maintain ongoing monitoring of the meteorological situation. The operations centre (OpCen) at the PRC national headquarters continues to operate 24/7 and uses all means available to communicate with chapters to share and garner information regarding their respective situations. Two emergency response teams have been deployed from the PRC headquarters to assist in the nearby coastal city of Tondo. Also on standby are amphibious vehicles and rubber boats at the national headquarters, ready for deployment as needed.

## The situation

Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall over Lapu-Lapu in Albay province in the east of the Philippines in the late afternoon of Tuesday, 15 July. It continued the same evening into Catanauan, Quezon, and traversed the Northern Capital Region (NCR) area on Wednesday morning of 16 July, impacting the Metro Manila area with strong winds and heavy rain between 06:00 and 09:00, causing power outages and interrupting telecommunication lines. According to the national weather agency Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), as of 13:00 today, Rammasun was located 64 kilometers west of Subic, Zambales with maximum sustained winds of 140kph and gusts of 170 kph, moving northwestward at 25kph. It is expected to exit landmass via Zambales on Wednesday evening, 16 July, and to blow out to sea 450 km off the coast of Ilocos Sur by Thursday evening, and out of the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Rammasun is the seventh weather disturbance to affect the Philippines this year, but the first to make significant landfall. On average, the country is hit by some 20 typhoons every year.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reports that prior to landfall, at least 96,000 people were evacuated from high-risk areas in the Albay and Camarines Sur provinces, which have now been declared under a state of calamity.

Areas currently under alert are as follow:

Areas under Signal 3 (with winds of up to 101-185 kph)
Pangasinan ♦ Zambales ♦ Tarlac ♦ Pampanga ♦ Bulacan ♦ Bataan ♦ Quezon Province ♦ Rizal ♦ Cavite ♦ Batangas ♦ Laguna ♦ Marinduque ♦ Northern part of Mindoro provinces ♦ Metro Manila
Areas under Signal 2 (with winds of up to 61-100 kph)
La Union ♦ Benguet ♦ Nueva Ecija ♦ Southern Aurora ♦ Camarines Norte ♦ Camarines Sur ♦ Albay ♦ Burias Island ♦ Romblon ♦ Rest of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro
Areas under Signal 1 (with winds of up to 30 to 60 kph)
Ilocos Sur ♦ Nueva Vizcaya ♦ Quirino ♦ Rest of Aurora ♦ Catanduanes ♦ Sorsogon ♦ Ticao Island ♦ Masbate

In Tacloban, which was previously affected by Typhoon Haiyan, 1,040 evacuated families have since returned to their homes. According to the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Organization for



Migration (IOM), there has been no major damage, and their teams will conduct a quick assessment in Northern Samar. The team is also ready to proceed to Bicol later today or tomorrow.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), at least 450,000 people have been affected by Rammasun in Southern Luzon, Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. At this time, 500 evacuation centres are accommodating some 370,000 people in these regions. Given the pre-emptive alerts prior to the typhoon's landfall, many other residents have sought shelter with family members in different locations or sought alternative shelter solutions in safer areas.

The NDRRMC also reports one typhoon-related fatality in Northern Samar, and two people injured in Camarines Sur as of today. Thousands of passengers and sailing vessels continue to be stranded at ports in the Bicol region, due to the bad weather. Incidents of collapsed structures, floods and one landslide have been reported in various parts of the country hit by the typhoon.

As of midnight, 15 July, several thousand passengers and sailing vessels were stranded at ports in the Bicol region due to coastal authorities prohibiting boat travel during this time. Those with fishing boats and other small sea craft were also advised not to venture out to sea. Up to 46 international and domestic flights were cancelled on 16 July, due to the weather.

In Leyte, torrential rain has blocked off roads and bridges with floodwater, while in Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and the Metro Manila area, power outages continue intermittently. Due to bad weather, classes have been suspended for schools across the country, including Central and Southern Luzon, the Bicol region, Central and Eastern Visayas, the National Capital Region, Caraga and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. Power supply has been interrupted since last night in various locations throughout Southern Luzon, the Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas and the National Capital Region.

Information on the overall situation continues to be updated as the impact of Rammasun across the Philippines becomes clearer.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



**The PRC operations centre in Manila actively supports the chapters 24/7 with up-to-date communiqués and latest available information on the typhoon situation as Rammasun (Glenda) makes its way across the Philippine archipelago. (Photo: Afrhill Rances, IFRC)**

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been at the ready to respond since the typhoon was sighted, making its approach towards the Philippines. Initial assessments conducted by PRC's Albay chapter have prompted the distribution of food and non-food relief items for some 2,500 families. Assessments continue at this time with the possibility of an increase in the number of families to be assisted. PRC HQ is transferring an initial PHP 340,000 (approximately CHF 6,800) to Albay and Northern Samar chapters to support their initial response such as search and rescue operations and the provision of hot meals in evacuation centres.

In Masbate, Ormoc and Southern Leyte, PRC chapters have provided hot meals in evacuation centres to some 2,400 people. In the meantime, chapters located along the anticipated path of the typhoon maintain ongoing monitoring of the meteorological situation. However, with intermittent power outages and inconsistent connectivity, the consolidation of most up-to-date information and communications between offices takes time and can be delayed. The operations centre (OpCen) at the PRC national headquarters continues to use all means available to communicate with chapters, including the use of satellite, landline and mobile phones.

The PRC operations centre operates 24/7 and has been active sending out advisories to all chapters located along Rammasun's path, and communicates with people on the ground as well. Water search and rescue (WASAR) teams, Red Cross Action teams, and Red Cross 143 volunteers in the affected chapters maintain a high alert status in case the situation worsens. Two emergency response teams have been deployed from the PRC headquarters to assist the nearby coastal city of Tondo, where they rescued a family. Also on

standby are amphibious vehicles and rubber boats at the national headquarters, ready for deployment as needed.

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## Contact information

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## How we work

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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.

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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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