

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

THE PHILIPPINES: TYPHOONS

5 April 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 26/04; Operations Update no. 5; Period covered: 16 March 2005 – 5 April 2005; Appeal coverage (received/pledged/indicated): 76.6%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Preliminary appeal launched on 2 December 2004 for CHF 2,011,000 (USD 1,749,036 or EUR 1,316,738) for three months for 250,000 beneficiaries.
- Appeal revised on 15 December 2004 for CHF 4,193,878 (USD 3,634,146 or EUR 2,731,487) for six months for 60,000 families (some 300,000 beneficiaries).
- Final report is due in September 2005.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 150,000.

Outstanding needs : CHF 982,887 (USD 819,756 or EUR 634,530)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Southeast Asia Annual Appeals [01.66/2004](#) and [05AA057](#)

Operational Summary:

The Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) has resolved the initial logistics challenges causing delays to relief activities. Both relief distributions and health activities made significant progress. All non-food distributions will be completed in April while the distribution of food and housing material is expected to start in the coming days. New emergency health kits (NEHK), supplementary medical supplies and equipment are being provided to the selected health facilities along with health services and education activities. Health facilities have also been identified for rehabilitation. A plan of action for water and sanitation is also being developed. The PNRC is organizing disaster response teams training to strengthen its capacity to respond to future disaster.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Background

Since mid-November 2004, floods and landslides provoked by a series of storms, including Typhoons Muifa and Namadol and two tropical depressions, have killed 1,062¹ people, injured 1,161 and affected more than three million, mostly on the northern island of Luzon. Some 550 people are still reported missing. Over 188,000 houses were completely or partially damaged. The combined impact has caused significant loss of life and damage to the agricultural economy and severe disruption to livelihood and infrastructure in the country.

The PNRC has been in the forefront of response activities including distributions of food and household items, temporary shelter and health interventions. The Federation immediately released CHF 150,000 from DREF to support the relief operations of the PNRC and launched a preliminary appeal on 2 December 2004. Building on identified priority needs and the capacity of the national society, a revised appeal was launched on 15 December 2004, jointly with the UN Flash Appeal, to support PNRC relief activities in the worst-hit areas where humanitarian aid to date has been inadequate and affected households face an extended recovery period.

Operational developments

Nearly four months after the devastation of the floods and landslides, there are areas still without electricity and thousands of displaced families still staying in temporary relocation centres.

Since the launch of non-food distributions on 3 March 2005, more than 10,000 affected families have already received the non-food items. All non-food distributions will be completed in April. However, the procurement of food items, sardines and rice in particular, encountered a number of challenges and resulting delays, mainly due to supplier's non-compliance with the specified standards. The sardines were replaced and the new delivery was scheduled for completion in two days. The national food authority (NFA) agreed to supply rice to the PNRC and delivery was expected to start over the coming week. Procurement of housing material is about to be completed and distribution will start soon for those families who have lost their homes. This will be done in partnership with a community service organization to rebuild houses on behalf of those who may not be able to carry out the reconstruction work themselves.

The health programme made significant progress during the reporting period. On 16 March 2005, PNRC began the allocation of new emergency health kits and supplementary medical supplies and equipment to the selected *barangay* and district health facilities in Quezon, Aurora and Gabaldon, and distributions are now ongoing. The field validation report identified the main health centre in General Nakar and 11 *barangay* health stations (BHS) for rehabilitation. Procurement and construction work will begin in April. Health education activities also started in March in Camarines Sur and Quirino. A total of 62 *barangays* were covered, nearly 1,000 patients were attended to and some 670 families benefited from health education sessions. Education materials on common diseases such as dengue, diarrhoea, cholera and malaria were distributed. Also in March, training was conducted for the community volunteers in General Nakar who will serve as core disseminators on common public health emergencies. In the first week of March, PNRC and sanitary engineers jointly undertook water testing in Real. The results indicated the need for chlorination and boiling of water for drinking but for the long-term the water system structure needs to be re-evaluated for repair, improvement and protection. PNRC will meet with the local authorities to identify an action plan.

With the relief distributions now progressing well, the PNRC is looking into the capacity building component of the appeal, including the preparation of disaster response teams (DRT) training in various regions of the country and purchase of DRT equipment.

¹ These figures are based on the government's report of 19 December 2004 on recovery and rehabilitation operations. Casualty figures from different sources remain inconsistent. No further update has been released.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action – objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Objective 1: 50,000 affected families (approximately 250,000 people) receive basic food items and 25,000 families (approximately 125,000 people) receive non-food items to help recover their losses arising from the damage caused by the severe weather disturbances.

Progress/Achievements

Food

Procurement of noodles and sardines were undertaken as reported in the previous operations update. The noodles and sardines were delivered to the PNRC warehouse in Mendaluyong. However, the contracted inspection company rejected the supply of sardines since they did not comply with the standards specified in the purchase order and agreed by the vendor. The vendor removed the supplies and began replacing the sardines after the inspection at its warehouse. More than half of the supplies have been received and it was hoped that the delivery would be completed by the week.

The national society faced some problems with the purchase of rice since they had to ensure the quality of the rice supplied by the vendor met the Federation and PNRC standards. Advertisements had to be posted twice before quotations were received from two private companies. One of them was chosen and awarded the contract. As the purchase order was being prepared, the company withdrew its bid citing internal problems within the company. The NFA which normally supplied rice to the PNRC refused to bid during the bidding process since they were a government agency. To address the situation, the national society decided to negotiate the deal with the NFA to supply the required amount of rice and a contract was agreed upon and the signing was planned for the week. However, since PNRC required the rice to be packed in 21 kilogram packets, NFA requested to be provided with the rice bags as it would otherwise take them more than 40 days to purchase the bags. PNRC agreed to purchase the bags and deliver them to their warehouses in the provinces targeted for rice distributions. It was agreed that the NFA would make the rice available within 10 days of delivering the bags. PNRC has issued the purchase order for rice bags with both the national society and Federation logos printed on them with the quantity of rice also indicated on the bags. The bags are expected to be delivered by the second week of April. PNRC chapters will then be able to collect the required rice from the respective NFA warehouses in their provinces. Except for transportation within the provinces, this saves extra costs. The rice will be distributed by the third week of April. The inspection company has already certified the sample provided by the NFA as acceptable according to national standards. They will also inspect the rice at the warehouses before collection by the PNRC to ensure quality.

Non-food

The procurement of non-food items was completed and the distribution continued since its launch on 3 March 2005 with a break for the holy week which was celebrated across the country. The distributions have resumed and the supplies are constantly being delivered to the chapters for distribution. More than 10,000 families have already received the non-food items. It is expected that all non-food distributions will be completed by the beginning of the third week of April. Information materials on family preparedness for disasters and disease prevention were also provided during the distribution of non-food items.

All the chapters were provided with visibility materials like streamers and volunteer identity cards. They were also provided award sheets for distribution of food, non-food and shelter materials to keep records of distribution to the beneficiaries.

Shelter

Objective: 2,500 affected families (approximately 12,500 people) are able to return home through the provision of semi-permanent shelter kits.

Progress/Achievements

The purchase order for shelter materials has been issued. All the supplies, except the galvanized iron sheets and plywood boards, have been delivered to the PNRC warehouse. The supplies of the iron sheets and plywood boards are expected to be completed by the end of April. Distribution is scheduled to start in the first week of May. PNRC

has identified 100 more families that would need shelter assistance in Bulacan province in addition to the 2,500 families already identified in eight provinces. The Belgian Red Cross has been contacted to provide the required funds.

In Luzon, PNRC is coordinating with the local authorities and its community service partner organization – Gawad Kalinga – to supplement the housing construction materials and help beneficiaries who require additional aid from other sources to complete their houses. In Nueva Ecija chapter, the local government has agreed to provide the beneficiaries the cement needed for the floor of the houses.

Health, water and sanitation

Objective: 25,000 families (approximately 125,000 people) have improved access to primary health care services, water and sanitation facilities.

Progress/Achievements

Distribution of new emergency health kits (NEHK)

The PNRC undertook coordination during the reporting period with the municipal mayors and municipal health officers for the provision of medicines, supplies and equipment in Quezon, Nueva Ecija and Aurora. On 16 March 2005, NEHK were allocated to the municipality of Real for the main health centre and four *barangay* (village) health stations. PNRC will follow up on the required utilization reports in April. The NEHK distribution for Infanta took place on 21 March 2005 with the presence of the municipal mayor, the municipal health officer, rural health midwives and the captains of the recipient *barangays*. On the same day, allocation was made to the Infanta district hospital. For General Nakar, the distribution to the different *barangays* is scheduled in the first week of April as agreed with the local municipality. The commitment of the local government units to ensure the presence of assigned midwives in the BHS will need to be complemented by a copy of the resolution on the work appointment. For the meantime, the allocation was temporarily stored at the PNRC warehouse in Infanta.

The distribution for Aurora and Nueva Ecija was rescheduled in April. Additional allocation for basic units is recommended in the municipality of Baler for four BHS. There is also a request for additional supplementary medicines, infusions and equipment for the main health centre in Dinggalan with the assignment of a new municipal health officer (doctor) in place.

The NEHK contents are distributed in separate units as they are required in the various health stations and rural health units concerned. Some receive the basic health units (10 in each NEHK) with medicines, infusions, etc. So far five NEHK were already distributed among the health institutions referred to above. With the distribution to Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Dinggalan, seven NEHK will be distributed. The rest of the kits would be used for replenishment as and when the utilization reports are received.

Rehabilitation of the health facilities

The additional support team of engineers has undertaken the field validation of assessment in the three municipalities of Quezon targeting two main health centres and 12 BHS. Results of the validation report identified the final health facilities for rehabilitation assistance: the main health centre in General Nakar and 11 BHS, with details of locations below:

Municipality	Location of health facilities
Real (3 in total)	Capalong BHS
	Lubayat BHS
	Tignoan
Infanta (6 in total)	Agos-Agos BHS
	Boboin BHS
	Libjo BHS
	Dinahican BHS
	Maypulot BHS
	Langgas BHS
General Nakar (3 in total)	Minahan Sur BHS
	Catablingan BHS
	Rural health unit - main health centre

During the field validation, it was learned that the local government of Infanta had already allocated the renovation fund to the main health centre of Infanta. The proposed Bantilan BHS will also need new construction with its floor area observed to be five metres below ground level. These two facilities were therefore taken off the list of buildings to be repaired under this appeal.

Road access to the BHS has already been restored in most of the *barangays*. *Barangay* councils in Libjo, Real, Catabangan and General Nakar have made their initial efforts to provide materials for repair and for the security of the BHS.

For the month of April, the PNRC will undertake the purchase of the required materials and construction works, and closely monitor and supervise the engineer team. The local government and *barangay* councils have declared support and cooperation to the rehabilitation project.

Medical consultations and health education activities

In Camarines Sur, health education activities were incorporated in the launching of the non-food distribution. The PNRC chapter mobilized community health volunteers, two volunteer doctors, and 14 volunteer nursing students with midwives and nurses from the local government. A total of 17 *barangays* were covered, treating 273 patients; approximately 170 families benefited from the health education sessions. The same activities were also undertaken in Quirino, covering 45 *barangays*, serving 720 patients and approximately providing 500 families with health education sessions. Common ailments encountered during the medical consultations were acute respiratory infections (cough and colds), fever, urinary tract infection, malnourishment/undernourishment, flu, hypertension and diarrhoea. Children were observed to be affected more with acute respiratory infection, diarrhoea and malnourishment while hypertension, flu and urinary tract infection were observed among adults. Education materials from community health and nursing services were provided on dengue, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), diarrhoea, cholera, meningococemia, malaria, measles, typhoid fever and skin diseases.

On 29 March 2005, the chapter in General Nakar organized and trained 30 community volunteers. These volunteers will serve as core disseminators on common public health emergencies. They will be mobilized for community health education and campaign activities in their own *barangays* and will be supported with education materials from the project that will be made available before the end of April.

Quotations for health education materials were finalized for the reproduction of 'Teaching aids on Hygiene 101-How disease is transmitted', the flip charts on 'Simple practice for sanitation and personal hygiene', and the brochures on malaria, diarrhoea, and cholera with the printing and distribution targeted for April. Other material for reproduction is a booklet on 'Tips for good health' that will be mass produced upon approval before the end of April.

Water testing

In the first week of March, community health and nursing services trained technical staff and the Philippine Environment Sanitary Engineers Foundation, Inc. team jointly undertook water testing in the municipality of Real that covers 11 affected *barangays*. Two teams were organized: one team responsible for the coordination and collection of sample water from the different *barangays* in Real with the support of the sanitary inspector and *barangay* health workers, and the other team responsible for the water testing and analysis. Samples of water were taken from springs, waterfalls, hand pumps and open dug wells for testing. In general, results of the water testing and analysis indicated the need for chlorination and boiling of water to be used for drinking for a short-term intervention. However, it was also recommended that for the long-term, there is a need to re-evaluate the water system structure for repair, improvement and protection.

The interpretation and recommendation on the water analysis results was shared with the local government unit of Real. A formal meeting is scheduled in April to identify plan for local actions with the community's support for the campaign on chlorination and boiling.

With the availability of chlorination granules supplied to the municipal health centre from the local government and provincial health office, it was decided that instead of providing the chlorination tablets, the project will focus more on the campaign and education activities for the water boiling and chlorination.

Water testing request in Camarines Sur, as recommended by the chapter, will be scheduled in April.

Coordination

Local coordination for the allocation and distribution of NEHK with the local government at the municipal and *barangay* levels were undertaken in Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quezon. As part of the memorandum of agreement established with the local government, support for the distribution of allocation to the *barangay* health stations was arranged. The provincial health office was also informed of the assistance provided by the PNRC/Federation in Quezon province with a copy shared with the government's department of health.

In Infanta and General Nakar, the community health and nursing services department is working closely with the Spanish Red Cross/European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to complement health facilities and equipment for the *barangay* health stations. The health assessment report was shared including recommendations for specific basic equipment that will be supplied for BHSs that are not included in the Federation's assistance.

Institutional capacity building

Objective: The capacity of the PNRC and the affected communities to respond to emergency situations is increased.

PNRC national headquarters has sent an administrative memorandum to all chapters on the training of disaster response teams in various regions. The criteria for the selection of participants include a two-year service contract after the training for each trainee and also previous attendance at the PNRC disaster management and standard first aid trainings. Three participants are expected to attend from each chapter consisting of two volunteers and a staff member. The staff members have to be of permanent status and involved in disaster operations. Chapters have already been grouped by region and schedules for regional training have already been set to start in first week of April and end in June. Participants were asked to fill up database forms for DRT members. Some chapters have already submitted them. The PNRC in cooperation with the Federation will have a lessons learned workshop at the end of relief and rehabilitation operations.

The PNRC is preparing the specifications for bidding and procurement of disaster response teams' equipment. All PNRC chapters will benefit from this appeal initiative. The Federation has already provided the PNRC with a satellite phone for use during disaster operations. The PNRC radio telephone operators are familiarizing themselves with the use of this new tool.

Coordination

The PNRC and the Federation continue to maintain close and regular consultation with the national and local government agencies and other humanitarian organizations on various sectors of relief activities. The PNRC sits in the national disaster coordinating council and participates in national coordination efforts and planning.

Based on the known cost of the procurement of materials thus far, the operational budget will be revised to accommodate some of the needs that were considered not a priority due to lack of funds. The Federation and the PNRC are working closely on this revised budget and hope to submit it for approval by mid-April. A memorandum of understanding between the Federation and the PNRC was signed in March. Another was also signed between the Belgian Red Cross-Flanders, PNRC and the Federation for the supply of shelter materials, the funding for which was provided by the Belgian government. All distributions thus far have been monitored by the PNRC headquarters staff and the Federation's delegation.

The Federation's logistics delegate left on 20 March 2005 upon completion of his mission and is not being replaced.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Philippines - Floods and typhoons

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 26/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/04/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				4,193,878	TOTAL COVERAGE 76.6%	
ANDORRA, GOVT		30,000	EUR	46,290	14.01.05	
AUSTRALIAN - RC		18,500	AUD	16,326	07.02.05	
BELGIUM - GOVT		28,755	EUR	43,607	03.12.04	FOOD, NON-FOOD, BASIC HOUSEHOLD KITS
BELGIUM - GOVT		348,663	EUR	537,987	24.12.04	PROCUREMENT OF SHELTERS, TRANSPORT, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION
BRITISH - RC		25,000	GBP	57,150	03.12.04	75% RELIEF NEEDS, 25% OPERATIONAL COSTS
BRITISH - RC		87,475	GBP	190,783	22.02.05	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		98,040	GBP	224,119	07.12.04	75% RELIEF NEEDS, 25% OPERATIONAL COSTS
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA/IHA		100,000	CAD	93,800	02.12.04	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		100,000	CAD	96,300	17.12.04	
DANISH - RC				28,520	07.12.04	
DANISH - PRIVATE DONOR				445	10.02.05	
ICELANDIC - RC		1,000,000	ISK	17,600	15.12.04	
IRISH - GOVT		200,000	EUR	303,300	09.12.04	
JAPANESE RC		181,700	USD	208,047	27.12.04	
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC				30,000	13.12.04	
LIECHTENSTEIN - RC				5,000	23.12.04	
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,165	15.12.04	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT/RC		247,525	EUR	381,931	21.12.04	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		25,000	NZD	19,863	02.12.04	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT				81,700	17.12.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,078,749	NOK	201,726	14.12.04	
RPVIATE DONORS ON LINE				12,037	20.01.05	
SINGAPORE - GOVT/RC		50,000	SGD	35,640	07.12.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	167,500	03.12.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	170,000	20.12.04	
SWEDISH - PRIVATE DONOR				490	30.12.04	
SWISS - RC				106,952	09.12.04	
SWISS - GOVT				100,000	07.12.04	
TAIWAN RC ORGANIZATION		11,400	USD	13,053	21.12.04	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	5,660	31.01.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,210,991	CHF	76.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
FEDERAL EXPRESS	TRANSPORT			N/A	15/12/2004	FREE TRANSPORT OF TENTS

Philippines - Floods and typhoons

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 26/2004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/04/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	