

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Megi

Emergency appeal n° MDRPH006
GLIDE n° **TC-2010-000205-PHL**
Operations update n° 3
6 January 2011

Period covered by this operations update: 26 November to 25 December 2010

Appeal target: CHF 4,183,640 (USD 4.31 million or EUR 3.08 million)

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, the appeal is 64 per cent covered in cash and kind, with more contributions in the pipeline.

[<click here for the donor response list¹>](#)

Appeal history:

- An [emergency appeal](#) launched 26 October 2010 for CHF 4,183,640 (USD 4.31 million or EUR 3.08 million) for 12 months to assist 12,000 families (approximately 60,000 people).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 214,855 was allocated from IFRC's [DREF](#) on 22 October to support Philippine Red Cross in its initial response and rapid assessments.



Chapter staff and volunteers started distributing shelter repair kits to identified beneficiaries in Ilagan, Isabela. (Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC)

Summary:

Two months after the launch of this emergency appeal operation, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) continues to provide assistance to typhoon-affected families. The national society is supported in its efforts by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), German Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross.

Distribution of non-food items has been completed, pending post-distribution surveys which are scheduled for the first quarter of 2011. Hygiene kits have been distributed alongside other non-food items, and concurrently with information materials bearing hygiene messages. Some 12,000 families had been assisted as of 14 December 2010. Following the conclusion of relief distributions, in January 2011, PRC will decide whether implementation of hygiene promotion activities shall continue under this operation or if the activities be incorporated to the long-term annual appeal programmes.

With regard to early recovery, beneficiaries for shelter interventions have been identified in Isabela and Kalinga, while revalidation in Cagayan, La Union and Pangasinan will be done during the first quarter of 2011. Delivery of shelter assistance to families identified in Isabela and Kalinga has already started. Some 680 families had received shelter repair materials in the two provinces as of 15 December 2010.

¹ The first financial report for this operation is still under process and will be attached to the next operations update.

To date, cash and/or in-kind contributions have been received from the American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (DG ECHO), Finnish Red Cross/Finnish government, Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government and the Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates. Further contributions are in the pipeline.

On behalf of PRC, IFRC would like to thank all partners/donors for their generous and invaluable contributions to this appeal. However, more funds are needed urgently to strengthen the recovery of affected families.

The situation

Typhoon Megi [the strongest storm to hit the Philippines since typhoon Durian in 2006] battered northern parts of Luzon on 18 October 2010, with winds of more than 220km/h and heavy rains, killing 31 people and injuring 42 others. Some 428,000 families (approximately 2 million people) were affected, with around 148,000 houses damaged, 30,000 of them totally and 118,000 partially. Overall, more than 95 per cent of damaged houses are located in the Isabela, Kalinga, Pangasinan, Cagayan and La Union provinces.

The typhoon made landfall as a Category V storm near Divilacan Island on the eastern coast of Isabela province. It weakened as it moved across the northern part of the country, exiting through La Union to the South China Sea on 19 October 2010. In total, 23 provinces were affected, with Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela, La Union and Pangasinan worst hit.

Table 1: Casualties and damage caused by Typhoon Megi (Source: NDRRMC)

Details	Number (as of 30 October 2010)
Deaths	31
Injured	42
Missing	4
Persons affected	427,962 families (2,008,984 persons)
Total number of houses damaged*	118,174*
Houses damaged in Isabela	72,828
Houses damaged in Kalinga	12,753
Houses damaged in Pangasinan	8,378
Houses damaged in Cagayan	14,737
Houses damaged in La Union	5,560
Total number of houses destroyed*	30,048*
Houses destroyed in Isabela	25,186
Houses destroyed in Kalinga	1,778
Houses destroyed in Pangasinan	1,095
Houses destroyed in Cagayan	1,048
Houses destroyed in La Union	545

*Includes houses damaged/destroyed in all 23 affected provinces

While the direct impact on lives was low, the typhoon caused significant damage to houses, livelihoods and infrastructure. The damage to houses and buildings was mainly because of powerful winds, considering that Megi made landfall as a Category IV storm. Flooding, resulting from heavy rains, also had an impact in some areas. Overall, more than 95 per cent of all destroyed or damaged houses are located in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela, La Union and Pangasinan.

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination: PRC is coordinating its response with Red Cross Red Crescent partners with in-country presence, i.e. IFRC, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. These partners hold regular coordination – as well as ad hoc – meetings, complemented by updates from PRC. IFRC delegates who were already in-country supporting the response to the typhoons of 2009 are also supporting this latest operation.

Coordinating with authorities: A long-standing and strong relationship exists between PRC and government bodies through the national society's participation and/or working relationship in/with the following: (i) NDRRMC; (ii) local disaster risk reduction and management councils; and (iii) local government units. PRC also coordinates

with the department of social welfare and development (DSWD), department of health (DOH) and department of education (DepEd). PRC continues to participate in NDRRMC meetings as well as coordinating with DSWD, DOH, and disaster risk reduction and management councils at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels.

Inter-agency coordination: The IFRC country office continues to participate in humanitarian country team (HCT) meetings as well as relevant inter-agency standing committee (IASC) cluster meetings. The shelter cluster activated during the typhoons of 2009 – now led by UN Habitat – has coordinated shelter plans relating to the latest typhoon. IFRC delegates attend cluster meetings. Via this mechanism, PRC and IFRC monitor where other organizations are working in the same sector so as to build synergies and prevent duplication. IFRC has also maintained collaboration with other partners, outside the Philippines, including European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid department (DG ECHO).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Chapter staff conducts orientation to recipients of shelter repair kits in Ilagan, Isabela. (Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC)

During the emergency phase, PRC deployed specialized units, such as water search and rescue teams to provide immediate assistance. The support extended to displaced families that sought shelter in evacuation centres. At the same time, PRC undertook rapid assessments – with support of IFRC, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross – to determine the nature and extent of needs. Shelter was identified as top priority.

Relief operations have progressed during the period under review. Thousands of typhoon-affected have received food, non-food items and hygiene kits. Distributions continue, and the relief phase is on track to be completed in the first quarter of 2011.

For shelter support, Isabela and Kalinga chapters of PRC have revalidated beneficiary lists, with the support of IFRC delegates. Delivery of shelter repair materials has kicked off in the two provinces. Revalidation of beneficiaries continues in Isabela and Kalinga, and will soon start in Cagayan, La Union and Pangasinan.

Based on the contributions received to date, the emergency appeal is 64 per cent covered, with a majority of the funds earmarked for relief items. Further contributions – especially for shelter – are urgently needed to enable PRC to strengthen the recovery of typhoon-affected families.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food items)

Outcome: Emergency food needs of 7,000 typhoon-affected families are met within one month.

Outputs	Activities planned
The immediate food needs of 7,000 typhoon-displaced families and host families are met through one-off food distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a beneficiary focusing strategy, including distribution protocols • Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols • Register and verify beneficiaries • Identify displaced families hosted by other families • Mobilize validated beneficiaries for food distributions • Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings • Provide food (rice, noodles and sardines) to 7,000 families (35,000

	<p>persons) as well as to host families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct post-distribution surveys • Monitor and report on distributions
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Achievements

Distribution of food items to typhoon-displaced families has been completed. As reported in the [previous update](#), the objective for food distributions has been fully achieved, pending post-distribution surveys scheduled for the first quarter of 2011.

Relief distributions (non-food items)	
Outcome: The status of 10,000 affected families improved through timely provision of appropriate relief items within four months.	
Outputs	Activities planned
The immediate needs of 10,000 typhoon affected families are met through relief distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a beneficiary focusing strategy, including distribution protocols • Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols • Register and verify beneficiaries • Identify displaced families hosted by other families • Mobilize validated beneficiaries for relief distributions • Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings • Distribute blankets (two per family), sleeping mats (two per family) and insecticide-treated mosquito nets (two per family) to 10,000 families (50,000 persons) <i>Note: Items for additional 2,000 families to be provided by PRC using own resources</i> • Provide 20-litre jerry cans (1 per targeted family) for household level water storage, to 10,000 families (50,000 persons) <i>Note: Jerry cans for additional 2,000 families to be provided by PRC using own resources</i> • Coordinate with other sectors (such as water and sanitation, for distribution of mosquito nets, jerry cans and hygiene kits) • Track movement of items from point of dispatch to end-user • Conduct post-distribution surveys • Monitor and report on distributions

Achievements

Distribution of relief items continued during the reporting period. To date, PRC has distributed a variety of relief items to 12,402 families across ten provinces, including Benguet, Tarlac and Zambales, which are outside this operation.

Table 2: Families assisted with relief items in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela, La Union and Pangasinan provinces

Chapter	Blankets	Sleeping mats	Mosquito nets	Jerry cans	Hygiene kits
Cagayan	910	910	910	0	910
Isabela	8,220	8,220	8,220	4,643	7,281
Kalinga	1,781	1,781	1,781	n/a	1,781
La Union	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pangasinan	242	242	242	484	419
Total	11,153	11,153	11,153	5,127	10,391

Distribution of relief items continued during the reporting period. Following further verification of data from the chapters, some variations to figures provided in the previous update have been noted, particularly as regards

Pangasinan. A computation error had earlier inflated the figures for Pangasinan by 1,000; this update corrects the error.

In the course of carrying out relief distributions, PRC chapters undertook real-time assessments of needs in view of assistance provided by local authorities and other humanitarian actors. It was observed that some non-food item needs of targeted beneficiaries – especially jerry cans and hygiene kits – had been met by new actors. As such, fewer of these items were provided in comparison to blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. In the meantime, PRC will undertake post-distribution surveys during the first quarter of 2011. Design of questionnaires and identification of volunteers to undertake the exercise is ongoing. Among others, the surveys will identify gaps and enable the national society to meet any outstanding needs before activities under this objective are closed.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion	
Outcome: Risk of water-related and hygiene-related diseases reduced among 10,000 families in typhoon-affected areas.	
Outputs	Activities planned
Household level water treatment and safe storage as well as improved hygiene behaviour is practiced amongst the target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify families in need of emergency household water treatment • Provide water purification solutions to identified families in need, through trained volunteers • Provide 20-litre jerry cans (1 per targeted family) for household level water storage, to 10,000 families (50,000 persons) <i>Note: Jerry cans for additional 2,000 families to be provided by PRC using own resources – see also relief distribution: non-food items.</i> • Provide hygiene kits (1 per targeted family) to 10,000 families (50,000 persons) <i>Note: Kits for additional 2,000 families to be provided by PRC using own resources</i> • Conduct post-distribution surveys to determine water treatment and safe storage practices (where water purification solutions provided) • Coordinate with other sectors (such relief distributions for water storage containers and hygiene kits) • Mobilize existing trained community health volunteers • Recruit and train new/additional community health volunteers • Undertake baseline surveys to determine level of awareness and hygiene practices in project communities • Produce and distribute information, education and communication materials • Mobilize community health volunteers and members for hygiene and health promotions sessions • Disseminate relevant hygiene and health messages in the target communities • Undertake final surveys to determine level of improvement in awareness and practices • Monitor and report on activities • Ensure continuity by linking to the community health education project under the annual appeal programme

Achievements

Distribution of hygiene kits and jerry cans is being done as part of the overall relief operation. To date, 10,391 families have been assisted with hygiene kits and 5,127 with jerry cans [see also Table 3 above]. Information materials bearing hygiene messages have been provided alongside hygiene kits. A standard PRC hygiene kit contains five toothbrushes, a tube toothpaste, a bottle of shampoo, five pieces of bathing soap, five plastic combs, a pack cotton buds (with 200 pieces), a pack of sanitary napkins (with 10 pieces), a nail cutter/clipper, a bar of washing soap, two packs of disposable razors, two rolls of toilet paper and five face towels.

Early recovery (shelter)

Outcome: 12,000 typhoon-displaced families are sheltered from harsh weather elements, with dignity, at the end of the operation.

Outputs	Activities planned
Typhoon-affected households have shelter after rebuilding or refurbishing their damaged homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute tarpaulins to 1,400 families in Isabela for emergency shelter • Coordinate with the department for social welfare and development as well as local government authorities to map potential beneficiaries • Mobilize or recruit volunteers for shelter interventions • Conduct orientation of project volunteers • Select beneficiaries • Undertake door-to-door surveys to validate beneficiaries • Conduct orientation of beneficiaries (by chapter volunteers) • Identify and engage project carpenters • Form project teams comprising volunteers and carpenters • Provide project teams with training that promotes awareness and understanding of typhoon-resistant construction (by IFRC shelter delegates) • Provide posters that promote awareness and understanding of typhoon resistant construction to 2,000 families whose houses were destroyed by the typhoon • Provide to 2,000 families, whose houses were destroyed by the typhoon, with training that promotes awareness and understanding of typhoon resistant construction (project teams) • Identify and map suppliers of shelter materials • Provide house repair materials and tools to 12,000 families whose houses were damaged or destroyed by the typhoon (using a commodity voucher system) • Conduct post-distribution surveys • Monitor and report on assistance provided to beneficiary families

Achievements

During the reporting period, PRC distribute more tarpaulins, for emergency shelter, alongside relief items. To date, 5,332 families in Isabela have been assisted with tarpaulins, including in isolated coastal areas of Divilacan and Maconacon.

The process of identifying beneficiaries for shelter intervention continued and distribution of shelter repair materials started in mid-December. Project volunteers were mobilized in Isabela and Kalinga and received orientation from PRC staff and IFRC delegates. In Isabela, some 2,000 families will receive Category I shelter repair kit assistance while 1,000 others will receive Category II shelter repair kits by end of January 2011. In Kalinga, 1,000 families have been identified to receive Category I shelter repair kits by mid-January 2011.



Beneficiaries from Isabela get their respective shelter repair kits. *Bayanihan* system (members of a community helping one another) is a common practice in constructing the houses. (Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC)

Of the families revalidate in Isabela and Kalinga, 687 have received shelter repair materials and have undertaken or are undertaking repairs to their damaged houses.

Table 3: Families that have received shelter assistance (as of 14 December 2010)

Province	Number of families assisted
Isabela	61
Kalinga	626
Total	687

Revalidation in Cagayan, La Union and Pangasinan will be done during the first quarter of 2011. The revalidation process entails crosschecking whether listed beneficiary families meet PRC's selection criteria, including by visiting the actual sites where their damaged homes stand or destroyed homes stood to assess the extent of damage. This is to ensure that it is the Red Cross serves the most vulnerable who have not received assistance from other actors.

Challenges

While the emergency appeal is 64 per cent covered, a majority of the funds are earmarked for relief items. Further contributions, especially for shelter, are urgently needed to enable PRC to strengthen the recovery of typhoon-affected families. A lack of funds for shelter could constraint the ability of PRC to provide much-needed assistance to vulnerable populations whose coping mechanisms have been dealt a double blow – by Typhoon Megi and recent rains.

Suppliers also closed business due to holiday preparations for December which slowed down the distribution of shelter materials. Starting January 2011, however, human resource efforts are expected to return to previous levels and the distribution of shelter repair materials should intensify.

National Society capacity building and preparedness

Outcome: The disaster preparedness capacity of chapters in affected provinces increased within 12 months.

Outputs	Activities planned
PRC chapters in operational areas have improved their disaster response and overall capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train and equip three water search-and-rescue teams • Equip Isabela and Kalinga chapters with two land cruisers, geared for flood situations • Repair and refurbish Isabela, Kalinga and Pangasinan chapter office buildings • Increase training of the chapter disaster response teams in key hazard areas • Provide training and orientation for volunteers at targeted chapters in disaster preparedness and response skills • Support overall chapter development, including in administration, finance and logistics

Achievements

IFRC delegates are supporting PRC chapters concerned in relief distributions and laying the groundwork for shelter interventions. In order to provide better support to the national society, IFRC has established a field office in Isabela from which it will provide technical support to typhoon-affected chapters in north Luzon – mainly Cagayan, Isabela and Kalinga. IFRC delegates will be integrated into the chapter office and will work alongside PRC staff and volunteers, thereby providing on-the-job coaching, mentoring and technical advice.

Logistics

IFRC's regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur has supported international mobilization of items such as 4,200 hygiene kits, 20,000 mosquito nets and 1,400 tarpaulins, which were dispatched from the RLU warehouse. Other items such as corrugated galvanized iron sheets, galvanized plain sheets, blankets, jerry cans

and sleeping mats are being procured locally with the technical support of RLU. Local procurement of 3,500 blankets, 3,500 sleeping mats and 10,000 jerry cans is complete. An updated mobilization table is available on IFRC's disaster management information system ([DMIS](#)). All donors should [coordinate with the RLU](#) regarding outstanding needs relating to items listed in the mobilization table. RLU will provide shipping instructions and issue a consignment tracking number before any goods are shipped to the operation.

The IFRC in-country logistics team – which comprises two logistics delegate and two logistics officers – continues to support PRC in securing additional transport and warehousing capacity, identifying/mapping suppliers, preparing contracts and follow up with suppliers. Support also extends to fleet management, with a number of additional vehicles leased from IFRC's fleet base in Dubai to facilitate movement and monitoring in the field.

Communications – advocacy and public information

Since Typhoon Megi made landfall, IFRC and PRC have maintained a steady flow of information to Red Cross Red Crescent partners and other major stakeholders. PRC leadership and the IFRC country representative conducted interviews with various local and international media outlets. Various communications materials, including photos and a video, have been shared with partners to highlight the needs on the ground and the progress made thus far.

Most recently, the serious lack of funding for this emergency appeal operation was profiled on IFRC's public website under the heading: "[More funding needed as Typhoon Megi survivors face fresh deluge](#)". Previous stories, information bulletins and a press release on Typhoon Megi operation are available on the [Philippine field operations](#) page of IFRC public website. Regular updates and stories are also being posted on PRC's [website](#).

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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.

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.

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