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## Emergency appeal operation update Philippines: Tropical Storm Washi

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Emergency appeal n° MDRPH008**  
**GLIDE n° TC-2011-000189-PHL**  
**Operation update n°2**  
**30 December 2011**

**Period covered by this operations  
update:** 23-28 December 2011

**Appeal target (current):**  
CHF 2,629,398

**Appeal coverage:** The appeal is 48 per cent covered through contributions received. Further funding is also in the pipeline. Funds are urgently needed to enable Philippine Red Cross to meet the immediate needs of most vulnerable storm-affected families.

[<click for donor response report, or contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

- This [emergency appeal](#) was launched on a preliminary basis on 21 December 2011 for CHF 2,629,398 for nine months to assist 5,000 families (25,000 people)
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 200,000 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) DREF to support the initial response of the national society.



Philippine Red Cross (PRC) scaled up its relief efforts in assistance to families affected by Tropical Storm Washi. To date, some 8,000 families received food packages while 6,000 others received non-food packages. Distributions are ongoing. Photo: PRC

**Summary:** As of 29 December 2011, the national disaster risk reduction and management council (NDRRMC) reports that Tropical Storm Washi has left 1,257 persons dead, 4,619 injured and 85 missing. The storm caused more than PHP 1 billion worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure with 12,817 houses totally damaged and 29,524 others partially damaged. Tropical Storm Washi made landfall in the vicinity of Surigao del Sur (Caraga region) on 16 December, traversing the Northern Mindanao region, Central Visayas, and Western Visayas through 17 December, and finally exited through the Palawan area on 18 December.

A week after the launch of the preliminary emergency appeal, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) scaled up its relief efforts to provide assistance to storm-affected families. The national society is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, among others. Relief activities started immediately after the storm. Food distributions have been conducted, with some 8,000 families receiving food packages composed of rice, noodles and sardines and some 6,000 others receiving non-food packages consisting of blankets, jerry cans and plastic mats. Distributions are ongoing with a major distribution scheduled on 29 December. Hygiene kits are being dispatched from the PRC headquarters in Manila

for 2,200 families with 2,800 more to follow. Planning for hygiene promotion activities has advanced, with community health volunteers being mobilized.

**Based on needs, the current operation is exceeding initial targets and is currently being reviewed to target up to 15,000 families with assistance. The details of the expanded operation will be defined based on further assessments scheduled for the first week of January 2012 and will be presented in a revised emergency appeal .**

To date, contributions have been received from Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government, and the governments of the Czech Republic and Japan. Pledges are also being made by American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian Government, Finnish Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, and the European Commission humanitarian aid and civil protection (DG ECHO).

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

## The situation

Tropical Storm Washi (local name: Sendong), was the first powerful storm in decades that hit the northern coast of Mindanao Island. With maximum winds of 65km/hr and gusts of 80km/hr, it brought an equivalent of one month's rain, causing massive flooding and affecting more than 110,000 families. Almost 60 per cent of these affected families live in the Northern Mindanao region.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), as of 29 December, the storm left 1,257 dead with 4,619 injured and 85 missing. A total of 113,437 families have been affected with 63,825 of these families from the Northern Mindanao region.

**Table 1: Effects of Tropical Storm Washi - as of 29 December 2011 – 8AM (Source: NDRRMC)**

Details	Total
Deaths	1,257
Injured	4,619
Missing	85
Rescued	441
# of evacuation centres	53
# of families in evacuation centres (persons)	10,984 (54,022)
<b>Persons affected</b>	<b>Total # of families (persons)</b>
Central Visayas (2 provinces)	16,322 (81,606)
Zamboanga Peninsula (1 province)	1,290 (4,947)
Northern Mindanao (4 provinces)	63,825 (474,700)
Davao Region (2 provinces)	1,016 (5,080)
Caraga (2 provinces)	3,552 (14,648)
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (1 province)	27,432 (139,879)
<b>Total no. of affected families</b>	<b>113,437 (720,860)</b>
Totally damaged houses	12,817
Partially damaged houses	29,524
<b>Total no. of damaged houses</b>	<b>42,341</b>

The Philippine government declared a national state of calamity on 20 December 2011. Almost two weeks after the storm struck, the search for missing bodies continues. Authorities have widened their search and will continue as long as bodies are being recovered. Some have been recovered as far as 100km out to sea in the two most hardest-hit areas of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City, both in the Northern Mindanao region.

On 25 December, low pressure areas was simultaneously identified in the Caraga region and Northern Luzon, bringing rains to Cagayan Valley, MIMAROPA<sup>1</sup>, Bicol region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao region and Caraga region, triggering floods and landslides in these areas.

<sup>1</sup> Also known as Region IV-B consisting of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan

The latest rains have made the affected families, as well as their damaged and destroyed houses more vulnerable to weather events. As of 29 December, 10,984 families are still based in 53 evacuation centres as a result of Tropical Storm Washi.

## Coordination and partnerships

**Movement coordination:** Coordination meetings between PRC and other Movement partners (including IFRC, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross) continue on a regular basis both formally and informally.

**Coordinating with authorities:** PRC maintains a long-standing and strong relationship with government bodies through participation or collaboration with the following: (i) the NDRRMC; (ii) local disaster risk reduction and management councils; and (iii) local government units. PRC is participating in NDRRMC meetings as well as coordinating with the department of social welfare and development (DSWD), department of health (DOH), and disaster risk reduction and management councils at the provincial, municipal and *barangay* (village) levels.

**Inter-agency coordination:** Since the storm struck, the coordination mechanisms already in place have been maintained. IFRC participates in humanitarian country team (HCT) meetings, led by the UN resident coordinator. Cluster meetings are held at Cagayan de Oro level. The IFRC country office has kept the European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection (ECHO) updated on Red Cross action.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Alongside relief efforts, PRC staff and volunteers also provide first aid and psychological support to families in evacuation centres. Photo: PRC

### Overview

Philippine Red Cross' (PRC) relief operations have progressed during the period under review. Thousands of people storm-affected have received food and non-food items. Hygiene kits are on their way. Distributions continue, and the relief phase is on track to be completed in the first quarter of 2012.

Based on initial assessments, water, sanitation and hygiene, transitional shelter and food remain the top needs. Some health concerns which include diarrhoea and skin infections arise in evacuation centres. PRC's planning for hygiene promotion activities has advanced, with community health volunteers being mobilized.

Psychological support (PSP) activities have also been carried out in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City where some 170 persons were assisted. Orientation for some 30 volunteers who were deployed to evacuation centres was conducted. These volunteers provided PSP to evacuees in the two mentioned areas.

Meanwhile, PRC also sent body bags to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City for bodies retrieved. Ten cellphone units and two generators were also sent to facilitate communication and electricity supply respectively.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Relief distributions: Food

**Outcome:** Emergency food needs of 5,000 storm-affected families in Northern Mindanao are met through provision of appropriate food items in adequate quantities and quality within one month.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The immediate food needs of 5,000 storm-displaced families are met through one-off food distributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a beneficiary focusing strategy and distribution protocols.</li> <li>Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols.</li> <li>Identify, register and verify beneficiaries.</li> <li>Mobilize validated beneficiaries for food distributions.</li> <li>Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings.</li> <li>Provide food (rice, noodles and sardines)</li> <li>Conduct post-distribution surveys.</li> <li>Monitor and report on distributions.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** As relief distributions progress, PRC have distributed food packages to 7,914 families (39,991 people). Among the areas reached are Bukidnon (299 families), Cagayan de Oro (2,133 families), Iligan City (5,036 families), Negros Oriental (100 families) and Zamboanga del Norte (346 families). Food distributions are ongoing, despite intermittent weather interruptions.

### Relief distributions: Non-food items

**Outcome:** The status of 5,000 affected families in three regions improved through timely provision of appropriate relief items within three months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
The immediate needs of 5,000 storm-affected families are met through relief distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system.</li> <li>Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols.</li> <li>Register and verify beneficiaries.</li> <li>Mobilize validated beneficiaries for relief distributions.</li> <li>Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings.</li> <li>Distribute blankets (two per family), and sleeping mats (two per family)</li> <li>Provide jerry cans for household level water storage</li> <li>Track movement of items from point of dispatch to end-user.</li> <li>Undertake real-time needs/capacity assessments to identify gaps</li> <li>Monitor and report on distributions.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** To date, PRC has distributed non-food packages to 6,085 families (30,069 persons), in Bukidnon (299 families), Cagayan de Oro (1,250 families), Iligan City (4,436 families) and Negros Oriental (100 families). Non-food items distributions are also ongoing despite intermittent weather disturbances.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

**Outcome:** The risk of water and sanitation related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water, appropriate sanitation and hygiene promotion to up to 5,000 families over nine months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs of 5,000 affected families identified to enable design of appropriate solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs, given the likelihood and prevalence of water and sanitation-related diseases.</li> <li>Survey the availability of safe drinking water for people sheltered in evacuation centres.</li> </ul>

Safe water is provided to 5,000 affected families in evacuation centres as floodwater subsides and damaged systems are restored.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide safe water [using bladders with treated water] at targeted evacuation centres as per identified needs.</li> <li>• Monitor and report on activities.</li> </ul>
Appropriate household sanitation facilities provided to 1,200 families assisted with transitional shelter in three regions for eight months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support construction of pour-flush latrines and septic tanks as integral components of transitional shelters.</li> <li>• Ensure that construction of pour-flush latrines takes into account unique needs of people with disabilities, where required.</li> <li>• Provide sanitation kits comprising a 20-litre jerry can, a 60-litre water container, a dipper and a toilet brush (one per targeted family) to families assisted with transitional shelters (kit included in transitional shelter toilet).</li> <li>• Monitor and report on activities.</li> </ul>
Basic hygiene practices among 5,000 families improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize existing trained community health volunteers.</li> <li>• Undertake baseline surveys to determine the level of awareness of water and sanitation-related illnesses and hygiene practices in targeted communities.</li> <li>• Mobilize community members for hygiene promotion sessions.</li> <li>• Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials in the target communities.</li> <li>• Disseminate relevant hygiene and health messages</li> <li>• Undertake final surveys to determine level of improvement in awareness and practices.</li> <li>• Monitor and report on activities.</li> </ul>
The scope and quality of the PRC hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit and train community health volunteers.</li> <li>• Produce IEC materials relevant for hygiene promotion.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** PRC initially dispatched 2,200 hygiene kits from its headquarters in Manila with 2,800 more to follow. With the rising concerns of water, sanitation and hygiene, especially in evacuation centres, PRC's planning for hygiene promotion activities has advanced, with community health volunteers being mobilized. A water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs assessment to enable design and scope of appropriate interventions is planned.

## Shelter

**Outcome:** 1,200 storm-affected families are provided with safer shelter solutions through the provision of locally appropriate materials, tools and guidance on improved building techniques within eight months.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
1,200 families whose houses were totally destroyed as a result of the storms have rebuilt applying resilient techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent of the shelter needs and shelter solutions preferred by storm-affected communities.</li> <li>• Conduct advocacy for access to appropriate land sites.</li> <li>• Conduct orientation of volunteers to be involved in shelter projects.</li> <li>• Select beneficiaries from lists provided by DSWD.</li> <li>• Undertake door-to-door surveys to validate beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Provide carpenters and project volunteers with training that promotes awareness and understanding of storm-resilient construction.</li> <li>• Conduct orientation of beneficiaries (by project volunteers).</li> <li>• Construct model houses in select localities within operational areas.</li> <li>• Provide appropriate transitional shelter materials and tools to 1,000 families whose houses were destroyed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote safer, storm-resilient shelter, where possible, by providing technical assistance and guidance.</li> <li>• Ensure shelter programming includes access to required water and sanitation services, and linked livelihoods grants.</li> <li>• Ensure shelter programming takes into account unique needs of people with disabilities, where required.</li> <li>• Promote increased awareness and understanding of shelter response programming with the National Society and affected communities.</li> <li>• Coordinate with the emergency shelter cluster, if activated.</li> <li>• Monitor and report on activities.</li> </ul>
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**Progress:** An in-depth assessment will be conducted in January 2012.

### Livelihoods

**Outcome:** Coping mechanisms of 1,200 storm-affected families improved through enhanced livelihoods opportunities

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
1,200 families assisted with transitional shelter are able to re-establish a basic means of household income and to increase livelihood opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult targeted households on their preferred livelihood solutions.</li> <li>• Organize orientation sessions for targeted households on the scope of livelihood assistance to be provided under this operation.</li> <li>• Provide targeted households with livelihood assistance application forms.</li> <li>• Review and validate livelihood assistance application forms submitted by beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Using relevant methodologies, e.g. cash grants, provide livelihood assistance to families whose houses have been destroyed.</li> <li>• Monitor and report on activities.</li> </ul>

**Progress:** An in-depth assessment will be conducted in January 2012.

### National society disaster preparedness and capacity building

**Outcome:** The disaster preparedness and response capacity of PRC national headquarters and two chapters in affected regions are strengthened.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
PRC national headquarters and two chapters in operational areas have improved their disaster response capacities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train and equip two land and water search-and-rescue teams</li> <li>• Equip one PRC chapter with a land cruiser, geared for flood situations</li> <li>• Support two PRC chapters in improving their volunteer management structures</li> <li>• Provide technical materials and technical support to PRC national headquarters and chapters targeted by operation.</li> <li>• Conduct on-the-job training in Sphere and logistics core areas (procurement, warehousing, and transport and fleet management) for PRC staff and volunteers at national headquarters and targeted chapters.</li> <li>• Assist PRC in its training activities by providing delegates as facilitators based on their expertise</li> <li>• Identify and map the overall and essential preparedness gaps in capacities and resources</li> </ul>

**Progress:** IFRC dispatched a land cruiser to Cagayan de Oro to support the ongoing relief operations of the chapter. The operations coordinator from the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur, together with the

relief and recovery delegate are still on-site in the affected areas, providing support and technical assistance to chapters.

## Logistics

The IFRC's in-country logistics team – which comprises one logistics delegate and two logistics officers – has facilitated the immediate release of pre-positioned stocks and assisted in organizing transportation of items. The team has also supported local mobilization of goods, i.e. 5,300 jerry cans, 10,600 blankets and 10,600 sleeping mats to replenish released stocks. The team is also supporting the operation with regard to fleet management, procurement, and warehousing.

Donors are requested to [coordinate with the regional logistics unit](#) (RLU) based in Kuala Lumpur regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors with a consignment tracking number to be issued before shipping any goods to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through the RLU. It is important that all Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners wishing to donate goods to this operation should coordinate via the RLU to avoid overlap or duplication.

## Communications – advocacy and public information

The PRC and IFRC communication teams continue to work closely together to highlight the needs of the affected communities and Red Cross Red Crescent response, ensuring a steady flow of timely and accurate information targeted at key stakeholders including the media, national societies, and prospective donors.

The communications team has continued to provide updated factsheets with talking points for National Society communicators and spokespeople. The IFRC regional communications manager for the Southeast Asia region also visited the worst-affected areas in Cagayan de Oro and Illigan City, and gathered beneficiary profiles and news stories as well as audio-video materials.

The latest news story has been posted on the IFRC website, [Following tropical storm Washi's path of destruction in the Philippines](#). A b-roll from the field highlighting the damage caused by the typhoon and the Red Cross response has been edited and shared with media and national society communicators via the [IFRC Video Newsroom](#). New photographs have also been added on the IFRC online gallery, [Cumulus](#).

There is high visibility of the Red Cross operations on the ground. PRC and IFRC have been interviewed by local and international media such as Al Jazeera, BBC World, CBC News and CNN. An article on Channel News Asia highlighted the psychosocial support that Red Cross volunteers are providing to children in evacuation centres: [storm-orphaned children comforted in Philippines](#).

In the field, the zone operations coordinator has written two blog articles/field diary entries to be posted on IFRC online communication channels as well as other online media such as Alertnet. Communications support to the operations will be continue to be provided by the IFRC Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok and the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur.

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## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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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.

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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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