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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°3
11 January 2012

Period covered by this operations update: 29 December 2011 to 6 January 2012

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

Appeal coverage: The appeal is 97 per cent covered through contributions received. Further funding is also in the pipeline.

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 completed in the first week of January 2012 and will be presented in a revised emergency appeal.

Funds are urgently needed to enable Philippine Red Cross to meet the immediate needs of most vulnerable storm-affected families.



A member of the regional disaster response team (RDRT) visits the relocation site where tents good for 700 to 1,000 families are temporarily built. Photo: Afrhill Rances/IFRC

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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.

Summary: Three weeks after Tropical Storm Washi struck the northern coast of Mindanao island on 17 December 2011 with heavy rains resulting in widespread damage and massive flooding, an outbreak of leptospirosis highlighted the vulnerability of the storm-affected families. The department of health (DOH) declared the outbreak in the hardest-hit area of Cagayan de Oro (Northern Mindanao region); it has confirmed 14 related deaths and more than 200 cases of infection as of 5 January. To date, government figures report 37,769 persons living in overcrowded conditions in 54 evacuation centres. Classes have resumed in schools where evacuees have sought temporary shelter, with the majority of them being transferred to other establishments such as gymnasiums.

Alongside ongoing relief distributions where food items have been provided to more than 18,000 families and non-food items to more than 8,000 others, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) immediately mobilized community health volunteers (CHVs) for assessment of situation and referral of suspected cases for confirmation by health authorities in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. In addition, planning for health education campaigns focusing on leptospirosis prevention and control in communities and evacuation centres has advanced. The local chapters also continue to coordinate with local health authorities in monitoring the situation and providing necessary assistance.

Two members of the regional disaster risk team (RDRT) arrived on 2 January to support the National Society in finalizing assessment and response plans. They are currently in the affected areas where the plan of action will be updated this week - after consultation from various stakeholders. The details of the expanded operation will be defined in a revised emergency appeal expected by the third week of January. More funds are still needed urgently to strengthen the recovery of affected families.

To date, contributions have been received from American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Danish Red Cross/Danish government, Finnish Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Monaco Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, New Zealand Red Cross/New Zealand government, Swedish Red Cross/Swedish government 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.

The situation

Tropical Storm Washi struck the Philippines with heavy rains equivalent to one month of rainfall, resulting in immense flooding and widespread damage in the northern coast of Mindanao island. The powerful storm swept away entire villages and caused more than PHP 1 billion in damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

Table 1: Effects of Tropical Storm Washi - as of 10 January 2012 – 8AM (Source: NDRRMC)

Details	Total
Deaths	1,257
Injured	6,051
Missing	176
Rescued	441
# of evacuation centres	54
# of families in evacuation centres (persons)	37,769 (7,956)
Persons affected	Total # of families (persons)
Central Visayas (2 provinces)	16,631 (82,556)
Zamboanga Peninsula (1 province)	1,290 (4,947)
Northern Mindanao (4 provinces)	70,312 (894,142)
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)
Total no. of affected families	120,233 (1,141,252)
Totally damaged houses	14,705
Partially damaged houses	37,016
Total no. of damaged houses	51,721

Water and sanitation needs in evacuation centres remain paramount. As of this reporting period, some 24,500 persons are housed in 55 evacuation centres. With classes resuming after the holiday season, evacuees who sought temporary shelter in schools have been forced to transfer to different establishments such as gymnasiums. The reported outbreak of leptospirosis¹ highlighted the ongoing and pressing needs of the storm-affected families. The department of health (DOH) confirmed 14 deaths (eight in Cagayan de Oro and six in Iligan) as of 5 January.

¹ An infection caused by the *Leptospira* bacteria that enters the human body through wounds or broken skin when in contact with flood waters, vegetation, or moist soil contaminated with the urine of infected animals, especially rats.

In addition, while the storm-affected population struggle to cope with the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Washi, rains continued to pour in Mindanao area for the past few days due to low pressure, causing a major landslide in Compostela Valley (Davao Region). The incident occurred in a hilly area of Barangay Napnapan in Pantukan municipality. As of 10 January, 36 bodies have been retrieved with a further 16 survivors. Some 40 persons are still missing.

Coordination and partnerships

Movement coordination: Coordination meetings between PRC and other Movement partners (including IFRC, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and ICRC) 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 participates in NDRRMC meetings as well as coordinates 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 the local government level. In an effort to more succinctly inform and coordinate the response in this complex disaster and to better share information between the government and the humanitarian community, the UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA have requested IFRC support to convene a standalone shelter cluster. IFRC has agreed to deploy a small team in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan for the next four to six weeks during this critical period, with the appropriate expertise to build on the achievements gained by the camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)/non-food item (NFI)/shelter cluster. Deployment of two specialists is currently underway and they are due to be in the country by early this week.

The European Union ambassador, together with the Belgian, Italian and Spanish embassy representatives conducted a one-day visit on 4 January in Cagayan de Oro to visit the hardest-hit areas and also to support distribution of relief items donated by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO). The PRC chairman, PRC secretary general, IFRC country representative, and German Red Cross (GRC) head of delegation as well as the Cagayan de Oro chapter staff hosted the EU ambassador's entourage in the morning followed by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and international non-government organizations (INGOs) in the afternoon.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Philippine Red Cross (PRC) community health volunteers reach out to communities for an intensified health information campaign.

Photo: Ahmed Nazri Zakaria/IFRC

Overview

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) relief operations have made substantial progress during the period. Thus far, the National Society has provided hot meals to 5,750 persons, food items to 90,265 persons (18,053 families) and non-food items to 41,505 others (8,301 families). Almost 4,500 families have received hygiene kits.

At the onset of the leptospirosis outbreak, PRC immediately mobilized community health volunteers (CHVs) in the affected chapters to conduct assessment and referral of suspected cases for confirmation by health authorities. Hygiene promotion has been intensified into health information campaigns on leptospirosis. The sessions will be complemented with information, communication and education (IEC) materials dispatched from the headquarters in Manila.

In addition, PRC sent doxycycline tablets to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City to support initial distribution conducted by the DOH. Two PRC health personnel are currently on the ground leading the intervention for the outbreak and providing technical assistance to the affected chapters. Recruitment, training and mobilization of additional community health volunteers (CHVs) are ongoing for the intensified health information drive.

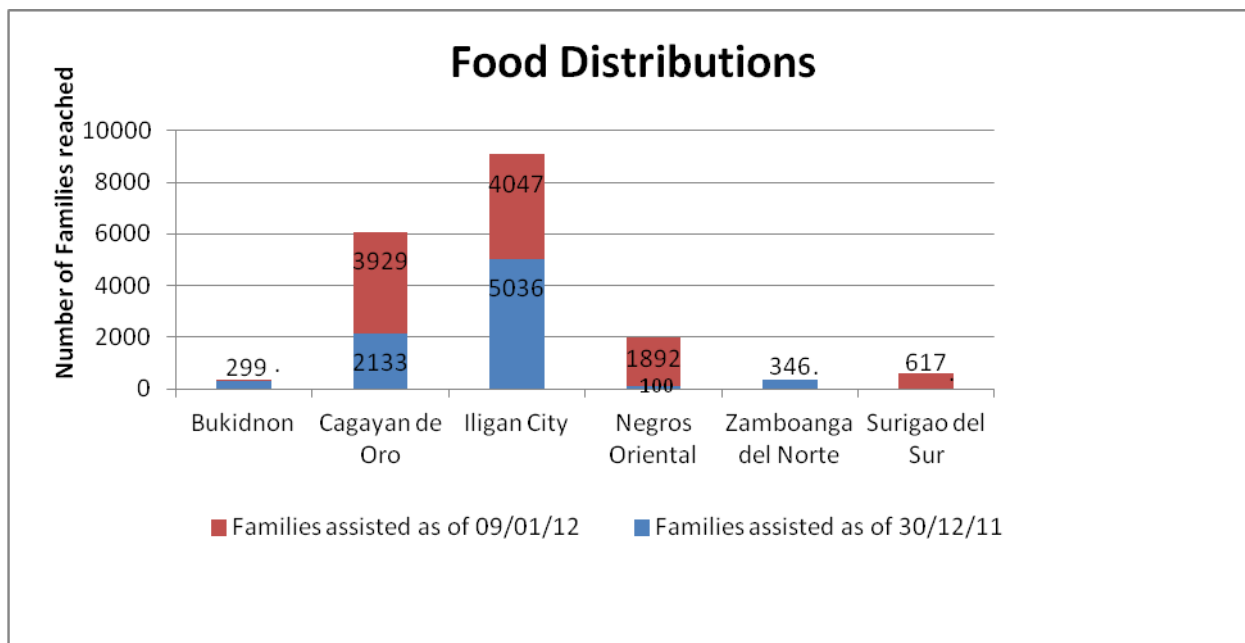
Daily reports monitoring the current situation and activities are shared through the PRC operations centre between branches and headquarters.

Progress towards outcomes

Since the launch of the preliminary emergency appeal on 21 December 2011, the following objectives have progressed as follows:

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"> Establish a beneficiary focusing strategy and distribution protocols. Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols. Identify, register and verify beneficiaries. Mobilize validated beneficiaries for food distributions. Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings. Provide food (rice, noodles and sardines) Conduct post-distribution surveys. Monitor and report on distributions.

Progress: To date, PRC has provided food items to 18,399 families (equivalent to 91,995 people) in Bukidnon (299 families), Cagayan de Oro (6,062 families), Iligan (9,083 families), Negros Oriental (1,992 families), Surigao del Sur (617 families) and Zamboanga del Norte (346 families). PRC food packages include rice, noodles and sardines, among others. Distributions are ongoing.



On 29 and 30 December, PRC organized a special distribution of food items comprising bread, pasta and sauce among others in celebration of the New Year. Also, PRC provided toys for children with magic shows at the evacuation centres. PRC leadership was joined by several chapter governance and key staff members during the distribution.

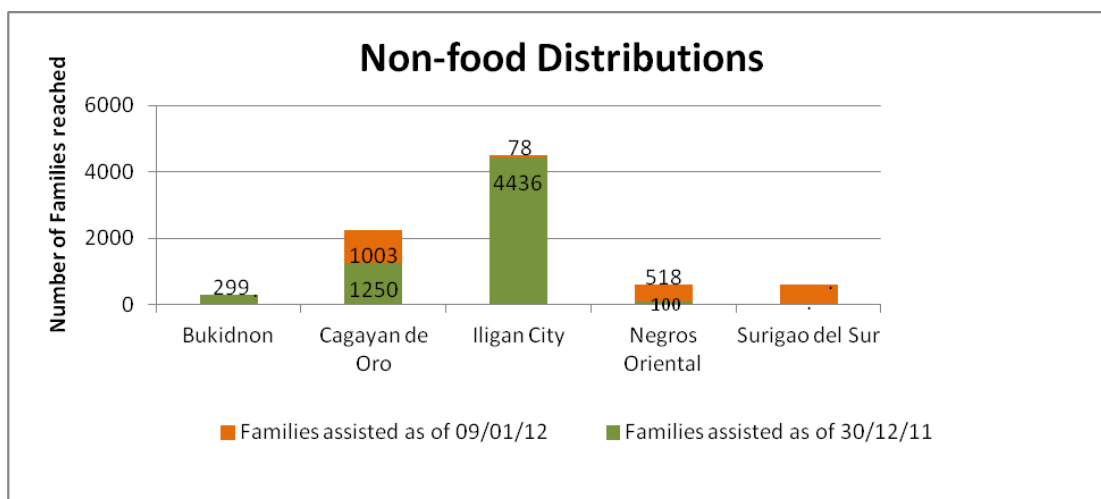
The ongoing processes to revise the plan of action and subsequent emergency appeal have identified an increase in the number of families to be reached to 15,000 with food assistance.

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"> • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system. • Mobilize volunteers and provide them with orientation on distribution protocols. • Register and verify beneficiaries. • Mobilize validated beneficiaries for relief distributions. • Arrange pre- and post-relief distribution volunteer meetings. • Distribute blankets (two per family), and sleeping mats (two per family) • Provide jerry cans for household level water storage • Track movement of items from point of dispatch to end-user. • Undertake real-time needs/capacity assessments to identify gaps • Monitor and report on distributions.

Progress: To date, PRC has distributed non-food packages to 8,301 families (41,505 persons), in Bukidnon (299 families), Cagayan de Oro (2,253 families), Iligan City (4,514 families), Negros Oriental (618 families) and Surigao del Sur (617 families). Non-food item distributions are also ongoing.



Distribution of relief items in Iligan City helps alleviate the difficulties in everyday living wrought by Tropical Storm Washi.
Photo: Afrhill Rances/IFRC

PRC non-food packages generally include two blankets, two sleeping mats, one jerry can and one hygiene kit. Of these, non-food items good for 5,300 families initially are IFRC-supported. Delivery of 5,000 more are set to be completed this week. All relief supplies provided by IFRC and partner national societies are distributed by PRC.

The ongoing processes to revise the plan of action and subsequent emergency appeal have shown an increase in the number of families to be reached to 15,000 with non-food assistance.

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"> • Assess the basic water, sanitation and hygiene promotion needs, given the likelihood and prevalence of water and sanitation-related diseases. • Survey the availability of safe drinking water for people sheltered in evacuation centres.
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"> • Provide safe water [using bladders with treated water] at targeted evacuation centres as per identified needs. • Monitor and report on activities.
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"> • Support construction of pour-flush latrines and septic tanks as integral components of transitional shelters. • Ensure that construction of pour-flush latrines takes into account unique needs of people with disabilities, where required. • 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). • Monitor and report on activities.
Basic hygiene practices among 5,000 families improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize existing trained community health volunteers. • Undertake baseline surveys to determine the level of awareness of water and sanitation-related illnesses and hygiene practices in targeted communities. • Mobilize community members for hygiene promotion sessions. • Distribute information, education and communication (IEC) materials in the target communities. • Disseminate relevant hygiene and health messages • Undertake final surveys to determine level of improvement in awareness and practices. • Monitor and report on activities.
The scope and quality of the PRC hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and train community health volunteers. • Produce IEC materials relevant for hygiene promotion.

Progress: PRC initially dispatched 2,200 hygiene kits from its headquarters in Manila with 2,800 more in transit as of this reporting period. PRC deployed three water treatment units (SETA) with the support of Spanish Red Cross. The water treatment units are supplying clean water to over 1,500 families in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. In addition, with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), PRC have provided 197,000 litres of safe water stored and distributed in bladders (pillow tanks).

At the onset of the outbreak of leptospirosis, PRC immediately mobilized community health volunteers (CHVs) in the affected chapters to conduct assessments and validation of cases. Health and hygiene promotion sessions which have already covered 3,769 families, have been intensified into a campaign with focus on leptospirosis prevention and will be complemented by information, communication and education (IEC) materials that were dispatched from the headquarters in Manila. In addition, PRC sent doxycycline tablets enough to treat 2,600 cases in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City, in to support initial distribution conducted by the DOH. Two PRC national headquarters health personnel are currently on the ground leading the outbreak

response and providing technical assistance to the affected chapters. Recruitment, training and mobilization of additional CHVs are ongoing for the intensified leptospirosis prevention and control campaign.

Table 2. Number of families reached with hygiene promotion and CHVs mobilized

Area	No. of families reached	No. of community health volunteers mobilized
Cagayan de Oro	2,739	20
Iligan	1,030	10
Total	3,769	30

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"> Assess the extent of the shelter needs and shelter solutions preferred by storm-affected communities. Conduct advocacy for access to appropriate land sites. Conduct orientation of volunteers to be involved in shelter projects. Select beneficiaries from lists provided by DSWD. Undertake door-to-door surveys to validate beneficiaries. Provide carpenters and project volunteers with training that promotes awareness and understanding of storm-resilient construction. Conduct orientation of beneficiaries (by project volunteers). Construct model houses in select localities within operational areas. Provide appropriate transitional shelter materials and tools to 1,000 families whose houses were destroyed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote safer, storm-resilient shelter, where possible, by providing technical assistance and guidance. Ensure shelter programming includes access to required water and sanitation services, and linked livelihoods grants. Ensure shelter programming takes into account unique needs of people with disabilities, where required. Promote increased awareness and understanding of shelter response programming with the National Society and affected communities. Coordinate with the emergency shelter cluster, if activated. Monitor and report on activities.

Progress: This emergency appeal operation aims not only to provide structures (homes to live in) but also a durable solution linked to disaster risk reduction – by rebuilding in safer areas that are at less risk to water-related hazards. In-depth assessment is ongoing to identify safer land for storm-affected families. As well as security, PRC is looking at areas where schools, shops, public transportation, electricity and safe drinking water are accessible to beneficiary families.

A ground-breaking ceremony took place in Cagayan de Oro on 30 December where a five-hectare land site from the government was allocated to build between 700 to 1,000 transitional shelters, whereby approximately, 50 square meters of land will be for each family. An adjacent site was also given to erect approximately 1,000 tents until the shelters are ready. Site development work is currently underway and the tender process for the procurement of building materials will begin in the next few days. PRC, with the support of IFRC, will undertake the construction of the houses.

Livelihoods

Outcome: Coping mechanisms of 1,200 storm-affected families improved through enhanced livelihood 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"> • Consult targeted households on their preferred livelihood solutions. • Organize orientation sessions for targeted households on the scope of livelihood assistance to be provided under this operation. • Provide targeted households with livelihood assistance application forms. • Review and validate livelihood assistance application forms submitted by beneficiaries. • Using relevant methodologies, e.g. cash grants, provide livelihood assistance to families whose houses have been destroyed. • Monitor and report on activities.

Progress: In-depth assessment on livelihood is ongoing with the focus on the target beneficiaries. The families who receive transitional shelter assistance may be different from those who receive livelihood grants. With the focus on keeping the progress with shelter moving, conclusions on livelihood assessment will be released in the coming weeks.

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"> • Train and equip two land and water search-and-rescue teams • Equip one PRC chapter with a land cruiser, geared for flood situations • Support two PRC chapters in improving their volunteer management structures • Provide technical materials and technical support to PRC national headquarters and chapters targeted by operation. • 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. • Assist PRC in its training activities by providing delegates as facilitators based on their expertise • Identify and map the overall and essential preparedness gaps in capacities and resources

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 two relief and recovery delegates worked on-site with chapters in the affected areas, providing support and technical assistance.

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 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.

In-kind donations of shelter repair kits (1,000 units) from Swiss Red Cross together with mosquito nets (10,000 pieces) and hygiene kits (10,000 pieces) supported with DG ECHO funding requested by the IFRC Philippines country office will be mobilized from the regional logistics unit (RLU) based in Kuala Lumpur. These are estimated to arrive on 12 January at Davao Port in the Philippines. In addition, a bilateral coordinated donation of 8,000 mosquito nets, 4,000 kitchen sets and 600 shelter tool kits will be sent from the RLU, and consolidated with the same shipment on behalf of German Red Cross.

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 communication officer also visited the worst-affected areas in Cagayan de Oro and Illigan City, gathering beneficiary profiles and news stories as well as audio-video materials.

A [press release](#) was posted on the IFRC website following the outbreak of leptospirosis. A b-roll from the field highlighting the damage caused by the storm and the Red Cross response has been edited and shared with media and national society communicators via the [IFRC Video Newsroom](#). New photographs continue to be added on the IFRC [online gallery](#).

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. During the special food distribution on 29 and 30 December, both foreign and local media were taken along from Manila to the affected communities.

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

Contact information

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