

PHILIPPINES: MONSOON RAINS AND FLOODING

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The Disaster

Two severe weather fronts have affected the Philippines this week. First, typhoon Kirogi struck the northern regions, followed by tropical storm 'Edeng' (Kai-tak) which also intensified from monsoon scale to a full-blown typhoon with 120-150 kph winds. While it was expected to move out of the Philippines by tomorrow morning (8 July) towards Japan and the mainland of China, intense monsoon rains continued to inundate large portions of western Luzon. All storm warning signals have already been lowered, except for Ilocos Norte and Batanes islands which are still under public storm warning signal 1.

Torrential monsoon rains caused dams and major river channels to swell, causing flooding in low-lying towns in regions 1, 3, 4, 6 and Metro Manila.

The Disaster Management Services (DSM) of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has assessed the situation and provided the following detailed update:

- Torrential rains caused 10 major dams or water reservoirs to swell to up to 34 meters above their normal levels. To relieve pressure, water was released from five dams, causing additional flooding. The release of water from the La Mesa dam in Quezon City (Metro Manila) is expected to inundate 4 cities.
- There are no reported lahar (volcanic material) flows, so far. However, 9 towns of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales (Central Luzon provinces) are considered at risk.
- The agricultural sector (ricefarming, livestock and fisheries) is expected to suffer the majority of the damage, and estimates are expected to rise as most of the local disaster coordinating councils have not yet submitted their comprehensive damage reports.
- There are no reports of the outbreak of disease. Health authorities are closely monitoring the health conditions -- especially those low-lying flooded areas in congested evacuation centers.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The PNRC has already provided immediate food assistance consisting of rice, canned goods and noodles to approximately 74,136 persons (9,161 families), mostly those evacuated to temporary emergency shelters. Some of these families also received hot meals, blankets and tarpaulin sheets. The table below provides an initial estimate of victims and assistance distributed.

Since Monday, 3 July, 19 PNRC Chapters have been actively involved in the preparations for evacuation, provision of first aid services, and distribution of food supplies through Chapter Disaster

Response Teams (DRT). These Chapters are still in full swing in food distribution, especially those still in evacuation centers.

The DRT in La Union also rendered emergency care to tornado victims in Carlatan and Bancusay, San Fernando, and La Union.

Additional supplies and funds were sent to Pampanga, Pangasinan, Bulacan, La Union, Bataan, Rizal, Caloocan, Manila, Tarlac and Ilocos Sur to expedite PNRC assistance.

Region/ Chapter	Affected		Houses Destroyed		Casualties			Served	
	Families	Persons	Totally	Partly	Dead	Missing	Injured	Families	Persons
Region I									
La Union	2,127	8,374	3	49	2		3	505	2,539
Pangasinan	9,034	42,037	7		1			24	129
Ilocos Norte	503	2,767						31	167
Ilocos Sur	1,555	8,553	34	179		1			
Baguio City					2				
Region III									
Bataan	7,223	32,190						200	899
Bulacan	34,837	174,999			3			4,873	52,625
Pampanga	72,601	298,010						294	1,293
Olongapo City	256	967					1	256	967
Tarlac	20	100				1			
Zambales	1,901	8,283	84	34			2	12	66
Region IV									
Mindoro Oriental	496	2,174							
NCR									
Caloocan City	3,568	19,624			2			985	4,925
Manila City	844	4,220						844	4,220
Quezon City	21	116						21	116
Rizal	566	3,215			1			300	1,650
Region IV									
Cavite	2,477	13,466	111	115	1			432	2,330
Region VI									
Iloilo	88	491	48	185				88	491
Negros Occidental	14	73	13					14	73
TOTAL	138,131	619,659	300	562	12	2	6	8,879	72,490

Needs

At this point of time, the PNRC is covering the needs from available stock and its own resources, and does not anticipate launching an appeal for assistance.

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