

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

SOUTH-EAST ASIA: STORMS/FLOODS

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This Information Bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

- **Philippines**

Typhoon Gloria has brought heavy rains in the Philippines, to Luzon, north of Manila, the Luzon Strait islands, Metro Manila, Olongapo, Tarlac, Valenzuela and six other cities. Some 170 000 people have been affected in three regions. To date, more than 15,000 families have been temporarily located into evacuation centres. Ten flood related deaths, and two missing have been confirmed so far.

Typhoon Gloria is on a north-east route, but as heavy rains continue the number of affected families is expected to increase as well. Two more typhoons are reported to be headed towards the Philippines.

- **South-East Asia**

South-East Asia generally experiences seasonal rains, typhoons, cyclones and hurricanes which contribute to flooding, flash-floods and landslides. In recent years, however, weather patterns have changed and the rainy season has become unpredictable. Seasonal rains are expected to begin earlier than usual in 2002 accompanied by some of the effects of the El Nino phenomena.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, normal amounts of rainfall have triggered flooding and landslides in the southern provinces already damaging some of the infrastructure. The situation is expected to deteriorate by the end of July. The population living along the Mekong delta basin are the most at risk to potential damage caused by anticipated flooding and landslides.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

- **Philippines**

The Philippines Government and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) are coping with the present situation, however, attention has been diverted to two new typhoons which are approaching the Philippines.

PNRC headquarters and chapters maintain daily contact with local authorities, and are monitoring the situation 24 hours per day from their Disaster Management Services (DMS)-Operation Centres.

PNRC chapters in Metro Manila, Olongapo City and Tarlac have provided food and relief items to a total of 4,168 families. DMS headquarters provided PNRC chapters with funding and food supplies to carry out rescue and relief operations. Chapter Emergency Response Teams (ERT) in each disaster location are carrying out search and rescue activities and providing First Aid.

Additional relief items, mainly food, have been pre-positioned by the PNRC national headquarters in order to enable rapid response by PNRC chapters in the affected areas.

• **South-East Asia**

Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies throughout South-East Asia are closely tracking disaster trends. The societies in cooperation with the authorities are monitoring the weather system and the water levels, particularly along the Mekong river.

In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Lao Red Cross has pre-positioned relief stocks in three regional warehouses. The Vietnam Red Cross Society is preparing for rising levels of the Mekong river following recent floods in China. The Red Cross Societies of Thailand and Cambodia are closely cooperating with the authorities and the Mekong River Commission, monitoring the river levels..

For a full description of the National Societies profiles, see www.ifrc.org/where/asiapac.asp

For further details please contact :

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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