

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

PHILIPPINES: EARTHQUAKE

6 March 2002

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: None

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

The Situation

A major earthquake measuring a magnitude of 7.2 on the Richter Scale (recorded by the United States Geological Survey) occurred at sea approximately 75 miles (120 km) west of General Santos, Mindanao, Philippines or about 620 miles (1005 km) south-southeast of the capital Manila at 05:16 AM local time. The quake is expected to have also produced a tsunami (tidal wave).

Early reports from the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), supported by official statements from local government and international media, suggest a relatively limited impact on the population and infrastructure. Although additional information from more remote areas is still to be collected, only four possible deaths have been reported, with up to 10 people injured (in General Santos City).

A PNRC Disaster Bulletin issued earlier on 6 March provided the following information:

- General Santos City: The city is experiencing a city-wide black out and water interruption due to fallen and broken electrical posts and water pipes. An estimated 30 buildings have been damaged by the quake while 10 people were reportedly injured. A tsunami has been reported in Kiamba, Saranggani Province where an undetermined number of houses were destroyed. While the situation in other coastal areas is still being clarified, Kapatan Glan, also in Saranggani province, is cut off due to landslides. The areas of Mount Parker and Mount Matutum are also being closely monitored for any impact.
- South Cotabato: The impact of the quake on the neighboring province of South Cotabato also caused a province-wide power blackout. However, there have been no reports of casualties or damage.
- Davao City/Davao del Sur/Davao Norte/ Oroquieta/Butuan City/Zamboanga City/ Cotabato City: The quake was felt by the population, though at the time of reporting no casualties or damage have been reported.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The PNRC Disaster Management Services in Manila has mobilized all chapters within the region to conduct an immediate assessment. Moreover, all members of the national and local level Disaster Response Teams (DRT) have been placed on standby for a possible response in the event of further after-shocks. Chapter managers have been advised to carry out needs identification and to provide relief assistance as required. While the PNRC will

provide further information as it is received from the field, the national society is fully coordinating its response with the government's National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) as well as with the Philippines Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The PNRC is in regular contact with the regional office of the International Federation in Bangkok and continues to coordinate with the ICRC in Manila who currently have operations in the region.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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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