

# 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: TIDAL WAVES

27 January 2004

Information Bulletin N° 01/04

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

**This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

### **The Situation**

Giant waves occurred in the province of La Union of the Philippines on 23 January 2004. The tidal waves are believed to have originated from a north east monsoon which increased in intensity due to a tail end cold front affecting the region. While the tidal waves did not cause damage on shore approximately 100 fishing boats were caught unaware by the giant waves which sunk many of the boats. A total of 194 fishermen were affected with 131 managing to return home safely with a further 36 fishermen being rescued by a joint operation of the local authorities and the Philippine coast guard. Four people have been confirmed dead and 23 are still missing.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) through the La Union chapters immediately dispatched its disaster response team to the disaster site to assist in the provision of first aid and meet the immediate medical needs of the victims as well as to assist in the transportation of the victims to the hospital.

The La Union chapter provided essential psychological support to victims and established welfare desk. Food assistance was also provided to the families of the 85 fishermen affected by the tsunami.

### Conclusion

Coordination and monitoring of the situation is being maintained by the La Union chapter as a search and recovery operation to locate the missing fishermen is still on-going. The PNRC-headquarters is supporting the La Union chapter through its Disaster Management Operation Centre maintaining 24-hr monitoring.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) and local DCC in the province have dispatched their response team in the disaster site. The PDCC had also alerted other response agencies to assist in the operations.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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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.*

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