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## Information bulletin

# Philippines: Typhoon Nesat

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 2  
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30 September 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. CHF 280,000 has been allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 125,000 beneficiaries. Using the funds advanced from DREF, the National Society will provide food packages to 25,000 families and essential non-food items to 7,500 families. This will be done alongside ongoing rapid assessments aimed at obtaining a full picture of the typhoon's impact to enable PRC provide further relief and recovery assistance. The National Society has expressed its intention to seek support from partners through an IFRC emergency appeal, which is likely to be launched in the coming week.

[<click here for <a map of affected areas> or for <contact information>](#)

**Summary:** Typhoon Nesat pounded the Philippines early Tuesday, 27 September 2011, triggering floods and widespread damage. Although it weakened as it made way across land, adverse conditions were reported across the entire island.

The latest National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update indicates that the combined effects of Typhoon Nesat have led to at least 43 deaths and 44 injuries, with 30 people still missing. A total of 205,885 families (986,417 persons) have been affected across 33 provinces and 35 cities, of whom 34,582 families (159,467 persons) have sought refuge in 429 evacuation centres.

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) rescue units that were on standby acted swiftly after the typhoon made landfall. Staff and

volunteers, equipped with amphibious vehicles, rubber boats, rescue trucks and ambulances, helped to take more than 2,500 people from at-risk areas to shelters. Volunteers are manning welfare desks set up in the evacuations centres, and have served ready-to-eat, hot meals to more than 7,000 evacuees. At the same time, Red Cross chapters, supported by teams from the national headquarters, are carrying out rapid assessments to determine who needs what and where. Based on preliminary reports, it is clear that thousands of families need urgent relief.

As well as the typhoon, monsoon rains, resultant overflowing rivers and release of water from several reservoirs across the island of Luzon has worsened the situation. It is paramount that affected families receive immediate assistance. Even as assessments continue, a new weather disturbance – Tropical Storm Nalgae – has entered the region. Projections show that if the storm stays on its course, it will hit northern Luzon, potentially as a



**A man points at what used to be his home in San Miguel, Bulacan. It was extensively damaged by floodwater that spilled from a reservoir.  
Photo: Afrhill Rances/IFRC**

typhoon, further weakening the coping mechanisms of those enduring the most of Typhoon Nesat. In view of the looming situation, PRC is mounting an operation that targets to deliver immediate food and non-food items to 25,000 families (125,000 persons) in six provinces and one city. Some 25,000 families will receive food packages sufficient for two days while 7,500 families will be provided with essential non-food items, i.e. blankets, sleeping mats and jerry cans.

## The situation

Typhoon Nesat, a powerful storm, pounded the Philippines early Tuesday, 27 September 2011, triggering floods and widespread damage. It weakened as it crossed the rugged terrain of the Sierra Madre mountain range, before exiting into the sea west of the Philippines the following day, 28 September 2011. The typhoon fuelled monsoon rains, and adverse conditions were reported across the entire island. Dramatic flooding in Manila, resulting from sea surges that shattered and breached a seawall along the Manila Bay, forced the evacuation of several buildings. Strong waves also battered other coastal communities across the island of Luzon, and falling trees and toppled power lines cut electricity in several towns and cities. Extensive flooding was reported in cities, urban centres and villages, forcing the evacuation of residents. In some mountainous provinces, landslides triggered by continuous rains blocked roads.

The latest National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update indicates that the combined effects of Typhoon Nesat have led to at least 43 deaths and 44 injuries, with 30 people still missing. A total of 205,885 families (986,417 persons) have been affected across 33 provinces and 35 cities. Of these, 34,582 families (159,467 persons) have sought refuge in 429 evacuation centres.

**Table 1: Casualties and damage caused by Typhoon Nesat as of 30 September 2011 (Source: NDRRMC)**

Details	Number (as at 06:00h, 30 September 2011)
Deaths	43
Injured	44
Missing	30
Number of evacuation centres	429
Number of persons in evacuation centres	34,582 families (159,467 persons)
<b>Persons affected</b>	<b>Number of families (persons)</b>
Aurora	90 families (440 persons)
Bulacan	25,638 families (127,851 families)
Ifugao	138 families (660 persons)
Isabela	16,306 families (69,688 persons)
Navotas City	2,158 families (10,618 persons)
Nueva Ecija	26,992 families (155,347 persons)
Quirino	11,687 families (45,849 persons)
Other provinces (26 provinces)	122,876 families (575,964 persons)
<b>Total number of affected persons*</b>	<b>205,885 families (986,417 persons)</b>

Reservoirs across Luzon are filling up, with a couple of dams reaching spill levels. The authorities have advised residents in downstream areas to take precautionary measures and be alert for an expected release of water – for flood control. The most affected province is Bulacan, where hundreds of residents have been forced to escape to the roofs of their houses or to flee their homes in part due to the release of water from reservoirs and the swelling of Angat and Pampanga rivers.

As a clearer picture of Typhoon Nesat's impact slowly emerges, a new weather disturbance – Tropical Storm Nalgae – has entered the region. According the Philippine atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical services administration (PAGASA) if the storm stays on its course, it will hit northern Luzon, potentially as a typhoon. The authorities have already hoisted public storm warning [Signal No. 2](#) over Cagayan and Isabela provinces, with [Signal No. 1](#) raised over Apayao, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Benguet, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and Abra. The majority of these provinces have yet to recover from the devastation of Typhoon Nesat, and a new storm would further weaken the coping mechanisms of affected people.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) rescue units that were on standby acted swiftly after the typhoon made landfall. Staff and volunteers, equipped with amphibious vehicles, rubber boats, rescue trucks and ambulances, helped to take more than 2,500 people from at-risk areas to shelters. Volunteers are manning welfare desks set up in the evacuation centres, and have served ready-to-eat, hot meals to more than 7,000 evacuees.



**A Red Cross team undertakes search and rescue operation.**  
Photo: Romulo Godinez/PRC

At the same time, Red Cross chapters, supported by teams from the national headquarters, are carrying out rapid assessments to determine who needs what and where. Teams from the PRC's national headquarters have been dispatched to Aurora, Isabela and Quirino for rapid assessments.

IFRC complemented these efforts by sending out two relief/recovery delegates to Bulacan, Ifugao, La Union and Pangasinan. PRC assessment teams will remain in northern Luzon over the weekend. They will visit other areas as access improves and will be on the ground for immediate action should Tropical Storm Nalgae cause further damage.

Based on preliminary reports, it is clear that thousands of families need

urgent relief. As well as the typhoon, monsoon rains, resultant overflowing rivers and release of water from several reservoirs across the island of Luzon has worsened the flooding. It is paramount that affected families receive immediate assistance. Consequently, the National Society targets to deliver immediate food and non-food items to 25,000 families (125,000 persons) in six provinces and one city – Aurora, Bulacan, Ifugao, Isabela, Navotas City, Nueva Ecija and Quirino – using DREF funds.

In general, this operation targets typhoon-affected families as a whole rather than individual members of family units. Lists of beneficiaries will be obtained from the department of social welfare and development (DSWD) and local government units. Respective PRC chapters will revalidate the lists, with volunteers undertaking surveys in affected areas. Some 25,000 families will receive food packages (rice, noodles and sardines) sufficient for two days while 7,500 families will receive essential non-food items, i.e. blankets, sleeping mats and jerry cans.

Coordination is crucial for the success of this operation. The Red Cross Red Crescent operational coordination mechanism has been activated, and PRC has provided updates on its response plan. It is upon a request from the National Society that the IFRC is releasing DREF funds. Partners continue to hold coordination and ad hoc meetings to discuss the latest developments.

IFRC has specialized personnel, emergency supplies and resources available in-country and in the region for immediate mobilization. Australian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and The Netherlands Red Cross offices in the Philippines have also placed their technical delegates on standby for joint assessments and to support PRC action.

There are pointers that an emergency appeal may be launched for at least CHF 2.8 million in the coming week to support detailed relief and recovery assistance of PRC. Should this materialize, IFRC encourages funding for this operation to be channelled through the appeal framework to minimize overlap or duplication of efforts, and to reinforce accountability.

## Contact information

**For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:**

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  - Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization and PMER; email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org)Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)



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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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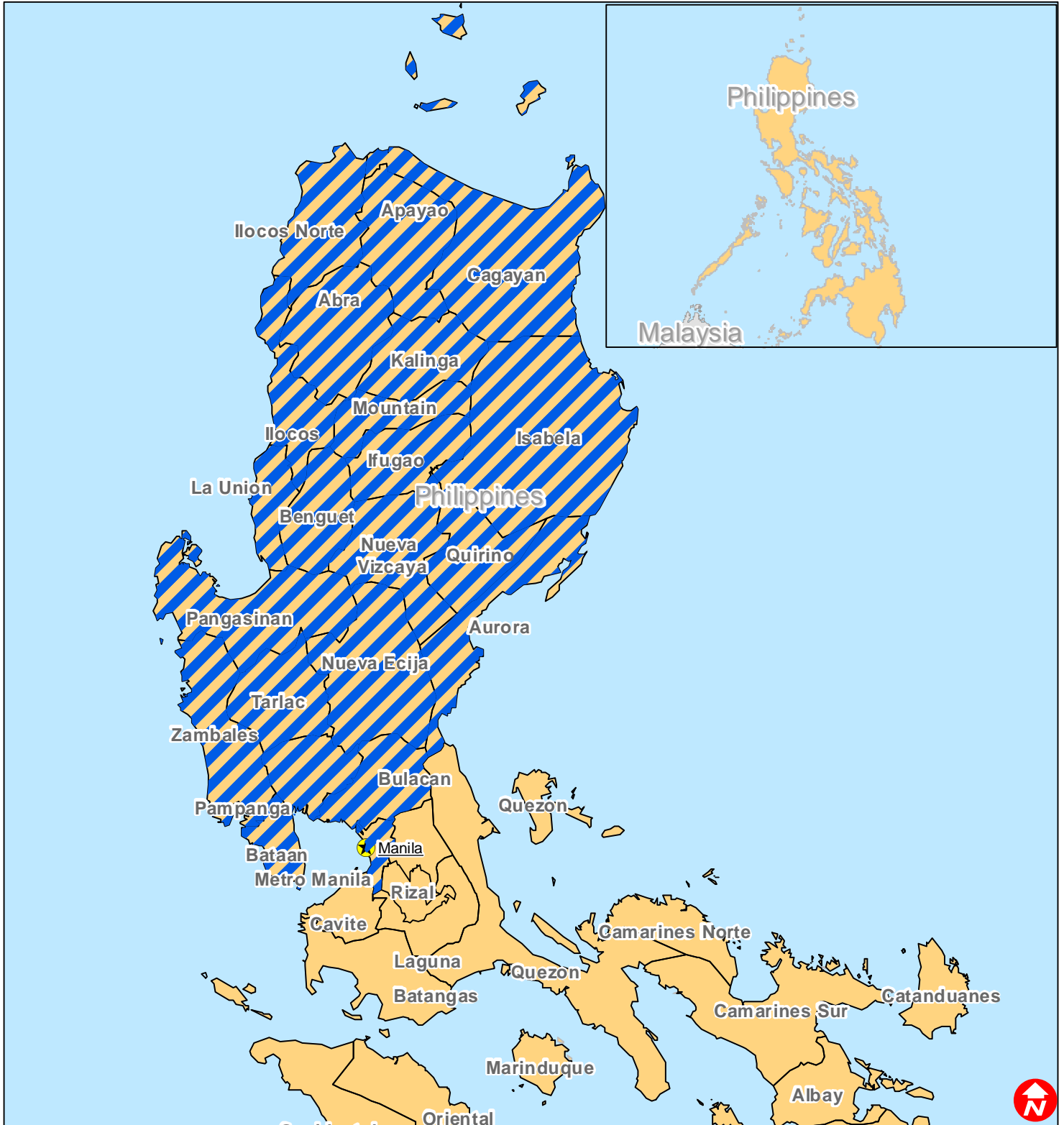



IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



# Philippines: Typhoon Nesat (Pedring)



 Affected areas