

# ***PHILIPPINES: FLOODS***

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## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

Torrential rain since February 4 has claimed 23 lives and have left half a million people homeless. The heavy rains caused serious flooding in four major provinces in the Southern island of Mindanao. Flood waters in some places rose to over 10 feet, cutting off major centres and towns. Landslides and collapsed bridges have compounded the disaster. The government has declared a state of emergency, blaming indiscriminate logging and loss of forest cover as a main factor in causing the flood. The worst affected provinces are: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. All the 14 towns of Agusan del Sur are under water, displacing over 170,000 people. The National Disaster Co-ordinating Council estimates the total damage at USD 3.2 million.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

All chapters of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) located in the vicinity of the flooded areas immediately began relief and rescue work. They helped set up evacuation centres and distributed relief goods (available from stock) to 1,200 families. An assessment is currently being carried out to estimate the extent of the damage. The PNRC recommends that relief goods be procured first, and that rice and cash advances be released to cover operational expenses of chapters. The PNRC Disaster Management Services unit will monitor the situation. Some of the people in the area have been displaced by insurgency, and are currently receiving assistance from the PNRC and the ICRC.

### ***Needs***

For the present time the PNRC is utilising existing stocks as well as those released by local authorities to meet the immediate and urgent needs of the displaced people. Whilst the PNRC is not currently requesting additional support for the operation, the findings of the current assessment will determine whether an Appeal will be launched.

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head  
Appeals & Reports Service

Hiroshi Higashiura  
Director  
Asia and Pacific Department