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# Information bulletin

## Philippines: Tropical Storm Nock-Ten



<b>Date of issue:</b> 24 December 2016	<b>Date of disaster:</b> Imminent
<b>Host National Society:</b> Philippine Red Cross	<b>Point of contact:</b> Atty. Oscar Palabyab, Secretary General

**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. After the typhoon's landfall, and based on assessments, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will determine whether external support is required.**

### The situation

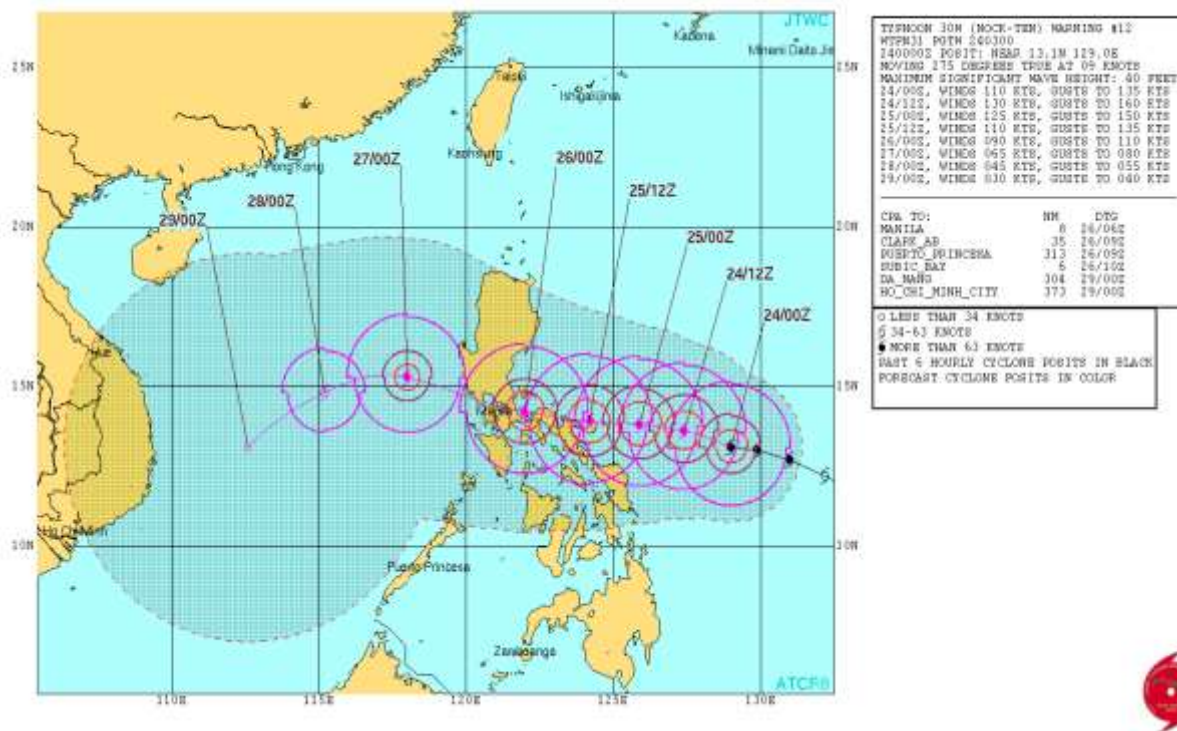
Tropical Storm Nock-Ten (locally known as Nina) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) at 0300H (Manila time) on 23 December 2016. As of 11am on 24 December, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that Nock-Ten had intensified into a Typhoon and is expected to intensify further before it makes landfall in the afternoon or evening of 25 December. The summary details from PAGASA are as follows:

- **Location of eye/center:** At 1000H on 24 December, the eye of Typhoon "NINA" was located based on all available data at 480 km East of Virac, Catanduanes (13.0 °N, 128.6 °E)
- **Strength:** Maximum sustained winds of 150 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 185 kph (Typhoon Category 1, 119-153kph).
- **Forecast Movement:** The typhoon has slowed considerably from 25kph yesterday to 15kph in the morning of 24 December. The track remains a general West Northwest direction.
- **Landfall:** It is expected to make landfall over Catanduanes in the afternoon or evening of 25 December. Catanduanes is an island province off the coast of Bicol Region. The Mayor of Virac, capital of Catanduanes province, has also declared a state of "imminent danger," authorizing municipal officials to make cash advances to purchase supplies to beef up their emergency food stockpile.
- **Rainfall:** Estimated rainfall is from moderate to heavy rains within its 400 km diameter of the typhoon.
- **Exit:** Nock-Ten is expected to exit PAR on 28 December.
- **Analysis:** The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre (JTWC) predicts the Typhoon will intensify further before making landfall and peak at a Category 4 (209-251kph) as it tracks north of the Bicol Region coast in the evening of 24 December. As the typhoon interacts with the landmass the JTWC predicts it will weaken to a Category 2 (154-177kph) before it crosses the actual landmass on 25 December. The Typhoon is predicted to cross Metro Manila in the evening of 25 December. Manila is the most densely populated and one of the most the low lying areas of the Philippines.

Rainfall is estimated to be moderate to heavy within 400km of the typhoon's eye. Aside from the Bicol Region, there will also be stormy weather in Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Northern Samar between 25 and 26 December. There is a risk of flooding for low-lying areas in the Bicol region, Southern Luzon, Central Luzon and Metro Manila. Some weather stations are predicting 156mm of rain over Metro Manila on 26 December (the maximum December monthly average for Metro Manila is less than 100mm and its annual peak is about 375mm of rainfall). Hence, flooding in low lying areas is expected. It should be noted that Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela are areas within Metro Manila that are highly prone to flooding.

Open sea wave heights are 1.25 to 4 meters, with PAGASA also warning against sea travel over the seaboard of northern Luzon, and the eastern seaboard of Central Luzon, southern Luzon, and the Visayas. PAGASA also warned that storm surges are possible in coastal areas in Bicol, Samar, and Quezon.

As well as a potential humanitarian impact, Nock-Ten will disrupt travel plans of thousands of people – who travel back to their provinces during the festive period – as bus lines, sea lines and air lines will be forced to cancel trips owing to safety concerns and mandatory travel advisories.



**Map source:** Joint Typhoon Warning Center

(<http://www.usno.navy.mil/NOOC/nmfc-ph/RSS/jtwc/warnings/wp3016.gif>)

### Action by the authorities

PAGASA is monitoring the tropical storm and issuing regular weather updates. Philippine authorities at all levels (national, regional, provincial, municipal and local government unit) have disseminated advisories issued by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and are continuously monitoring the situation. NDRRMC has issued three advisories to local disaster risk reduction and management councils (DRRMCs) – from provincial to municipal levels – on the potential disaster.

The Government have raised Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal 1 (30-60kph in the next 24hrs) was raised over: Southern Quezon, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate including Ticao and Burias Island, Northern Samar, Samar and Eastern Samar. •Possible inclusion of Northern Quezon including Polillo Island, Marinduque and Romblon to areas with TCWS #1.

In its pre-disaster risk assessment on Friday, the NDRRMC raised the alert level to blue. The latest advisory has directed all DRRMCs in areas likely to be affected to undertake precautionary measures and to start pre-emptive evacuations of families in low-lying or mountainous areas. On 23 December, the Office of Civil Defence and the NDRRMC convened its first pre-disaster meeting to discuss the preparedness measures. PRC is a member of the NDRRMC. The next PDRA meeting will take place at 0900H on 24 December.

The Philippine government is also responding to floods in Samar province, which may also be exacerbated as the storm continues to approach. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has prepositioned 573,730 family food packs across the country and standby funds of around PHP 127 million (approximately CHF 2.6 million) and ready to supplement local government units in the storm's path. On 23 December, the DSWD reported that the number of families affected by torrential rains in the Eastern Visayas region in the past days had increased to 33,161 families or around 141,929 individuals in 240 barangays. Some families who have evacuated are already returning to their homes due to improving weather.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for response have been activated and the National Society's chapters in southern and central Luzon, Bicol region and Metro Manila. Teams in the national headquarters are now on high alert and prepared for a potential response. Trained, experienced and equipped staff and volunteers are on standby for immediate deployment should the need arise.

On 23 December, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) briefed all Services and offices concerned. The Operation Center Manager and selected Services including Emergency Response Unit are now on 24-hour duty starting immediately to 27 December (duration will depend on actual impact). PRC NHQ sent Advisories to Chapters along typhoon path on preparedness actions, such as, constant monitoring, activation of RCAT143 and RC143 volunteers and checking inventory of relief supplies. PRC has also issued an activation signal to NDRT members for potential deployment. Warehouses at the national and regional level (through Logistics Office) and vehicles (through Fleet Office) have been put on standby for potential dispatch.

The Operations Centre is receiving up-to-date information from the wide PRC chapter network, which covers the entire nation, and also disseminating advisories from PAGASA and NDRRMC to chapters in areas that are likely to be affected.

PRC has significant quantities of disaster preparedness stocks pre-positioned in its main warehouses located in Cebu, Mandaluyong City, Manila and Subic Bay in addition to assorted relief items that are stocked by several of its Chapters. The stocks include IFRC-provided preparedness items – which comprise various quantities of essential non-food items (blankets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and sleeping mats), tarpaulins, shelter toolkit, and corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets – normally sufficient to meet the needs of at least 20,000 households; however some stocks are lower as they are being replenished from the two previous typhoons.

The IFRC and ICRC, as well as some of the Partner National Societies with presence in the Philippines, are ready to support PRC in mounting a response operation should Nock-Ten cause substantial humanitarian impact. Thus far, IFRC is supporting PRC in disseminating updates to Movement partners and coordinating with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The IFRC Country Office for Philippines has some technical specialists who are supporting other ongoing operations of PRC, especially the Typhoon Haiyan recovery programme, who can be mobilized to augment the National Society's response.

Delegates, technical national staff, communications, logistics and fleet have been placed on standby. The IFRC Country Office is having regular communication with the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) to update about in-country preparedness measures. APRO identified one Disaster and Crisis Unit team member on stand by for immediate deployment to the Philippines should the situation warrant.

At 1600H on 24 December, APRO will organize a teleconference of Joint Task Force of the DCPRR Geneva, APRO and Country Office to provide further updates and next steps.

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## Contact Information

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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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The 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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2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.