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Information bulletin

Taiwan: Typhoon Nepartak

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 9 July 2016

GLIDE n° [TC-2016-000067-TWN](#)

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO) is on standby to mobilize rescue and relief teams, with essential supplies, to affected areas. International funding or other assistance is not being sought for the response at this time.

[<Click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

Typhoon Nepartak made landfall on the eastern part of Taiwan at about 0600hrs on the Friday 8 July 2016, continued its path westward, and left Taiwan in the late hours of the same day. Initially a cyclone, Nepartak is now a category 5 “super” typhoon, with gusts of 175 mph recorded on Wednesday morning. The storm has caused waves of up to 14 meters at sea, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

The latest update from the authorities indicates three deaths, and 172 people injured. At this time 17,381 people have been evacuated and among them, 3,310 people are currently sheltered in government evacuation centres. Power outages have been reported for 130,797 households.

According to local authorities, thousands of tourists have already been evacuated from the Green and Orchid Islands, two popular tourist spots off the coast of Taiwan. If assistance is required by the government, the Red Cross staff will dispatch rescue teams and deliver relief items.

There have been serious concerns about potentially widespread flooding, particularly in the eastern counties of Yilan, Hualien and Taitung. The island's rugged terrain, with mountains up to 4,000 meters (13,000 ft.) stretching across the territory, increases the risk of flooding and landslides during a typhoon. At this time, more than 900 millimeters of rain has been recorded. The most affected areas is in the Taitung county, which made up most of the injuries caused by the falling glass or debris falling on the streets. The government continues to caution the public about potential heavy rains especially in the eastern and southern parts of Taiwan.



Taitung street view following Typhoon Nepartak on the morning of 8 July 2016.

Photo: Taiwan Red Cross Organization.

Taiwan is frequently affected by typhoons, sometimes with a high numbers of fatalities. In 2015, super typhoon Dujuan killed three people in Taiwan and left more than 300 injured. In the same year, typhoon Soudelor killed at least 36 people in Taiwan and Mainland China, and caused billions of dollars of damage. The local authorities are well prepared for this typhoon; they have lifeboats, power generators, search and rescue aircrafts on standby. The situation is deemed to be within the capacity of the authorities and local organizations to respond and international support is not envisioned.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Taiwan Red Cross Organization (TRCO) has been on high alert since the evening of 6 July, with staff and volunteers stationed in the Central Emergency Operation Center. A general alert was issued to all disaster preparedness centers and local branches, with a specific focus on the eastern region which was expected to be struck by the typhoon first.

The Red Cross is prepared to provide a strong response to the typhoon given the winds, torrential rain, floods and mudslides that are anticipated, which pose a real risk to the people of Taiwan. Disaster rescue equipment and relief supplies have been prepared and remain available. All four of the Red Cross disaster rescue teams are on standby. Each team is assigned to one region: northern, central, southern and the eastern region. The Red Cross chapters in Taitung and Hualien chapters have volunteers on standby to help affected communities. On 8 and 9 July, volunteers of the Red Cross in Taitung went out help remove fallen trees and clean the streets.



Red Cross volunteers help to clean the streets in Taitung.
Photo: Taiwan Red Cross Organization

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is coordinating with TRCO on the response. The IFRC country cluster support team in Beijing as well as the disaster and crisis prevention, response and recovery (DCPRR) team of IFRC's Asia Pacific regional office in Kuala Lumpur are in contact with TRCO and are ready to provide any support if requested. At this point however, international support is not envisioned since the situation is within the capacity of the authorities and local organizations.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**