


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin

Philippines: Manila Fire Incident

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1	GLIDE n° FR-2017-000015-PHL
Date of issue: 10 February 2017	Date of disaster: 7 February 2017
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross	Point of contact: Atty. Oscar Palabyab, Secretary General

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required at this time.

The situation

A massive fire swept through the crowded shanty Parola compound in Tondo area, near the port of Manila in the evening of February 7, destroying more than 1,000 makeshift houses and leaving 3,000 families (15,000 people) homeless. Seven people were reported injured.

According to the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the flames spread quickly as houses in the area are made of light materials, making them incredibly flammable. 90 fire trucks were deployed, and fire was put out in the morning of February 8. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

Four evacuation centres were opened right after the fire broke out and are still active, accommodating more than 1,000 families. Some 900 other families chose to spend the night on pavements near their burned homes. Food and water have been provided to the affected families at the evacuation centres by the local government and NGOs.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the local government of Manila are assessing the needs of the affected people. The Manila City government has announced plans to release PHP 3 million (approximately CHF 60,000) from its calamity fund to address immediate needs of the affected 3,000 families.



Red Cross staff, volunteers, fire trucks and ambulances were immediately deployed to support the local authorities in putting out the fire.

Photo credit: PRC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) responded swiftly to the fire incident by deploying three fire trucks and two ambulances. Six patients were provided treatment by the medic teams as part of the ambulance services. 25 'Red Cross 143' volunteers and staff from two chapters were mobilized to set up welfare desks and first aid stations in the evacuation centers. PRC coordinated their activities with the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office as well as the local community officials.

In addition to the immediate response, PRC has distributed hot meal and food items to more than 2,700 affected people. A 5,000-litre water bladder has been deployed to provide safe drinking water in the area. In support of at least 2,500 displaced families, PRC has dispatched 2,500 hygiene kits and 5,000 collapsible jerry cans (2 per family) to be distributed.

PRC is planning a further dispatch of non-food items and continues to support families in the evacuation centres.

The Netherland Red Cross, which funds an urban disaster risk reduction project of the PRC in the affected community, is providing some support to the National Society.

The IFRC Philippine Country Office is monitoring the situation closely and continues to coordinate with PRC, with personnel and supplies available to support the National Society's response if requested. The Country Office is also updating the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur on the situation and potential support to PRC.

It is important to note that in March 2015, a blaze tore through the same compound, Parola, leaving more than 1,000 families homeless after their houses were destroyed. The IFRC launched a [DREF operation](#) to support the PRC response.



Red Cross ambulances were mobilized to provide medical assistance to the injured.

Photo credit: PRC

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

Philippine Red Cross:

- Atty. Oscar Palabyab, secretary general; phone: +63 2 790 2300; secgen@redcross.org.ph
- Resty Lou Talamayan, manager for disaster management services; restylou.talamayan1@redcross.org.ph

IFRC Philippines country office:

- Kari Isomaa, head of country office, phone: +63 928 559 7170; kari.isomaa@ifrc.org
- Patrick Elliott, Operations Manager, phone: +63 998 960 2140; patrick.elliott@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur:

- Martin Faller, deputy director, phone: +603 9207 5700, martin.faller@ifrc.org
- Nelson Castano, head of disaster and crisis unit (DCU), nelson.castano@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, operations coordinator, phone: +60 122 246 796, necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Patrick Fuller, communication manager, phone: +60 12 230 8451, patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
- Diana Ongiti, relationship manager, diana.ongiti@ifrc.org
- Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), peter.ophoff@ifrc.org



Click

Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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.

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**.
