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Information bulletin

Philippines: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1

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8 February 2012

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has released relief items from its pre-positioned stocks to enable the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) deliver immediate assistance to some 500 families. The National Society has deployed emergency response teams to support ongoing search and rescue efforts. Specialized Red Cross volunteer units are also on the ground conducting rapid assessments aimed at obtaining a full picture of the disaster's impact.

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

Summary: Following a deadly 6.9 magnitude earthquake that struck Negros and Cebu islands of the Philippines on Monday, 6 February 2012, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has mounted an emergency response. The National Society has deployed emergency response units that are supporting search-and-rescue operations on the ground. The teams are backed up by a Red Cross medical team equipped with an ambulance.

The latest national disaster risk reduction and management council (NDRRMC) update indicates that at least 26 people were confirmed dead, with 52 injured and 71 missing. The number of casualties is expected to increase as access to isolated areas is restored and more information on the extent of damage emerges. The powerful earthquake collapsed homes and bridges, and triggered landslides that have buried dozens of homes. Telephone communications in some parts were severed, making it difficult to obtain information from remote localities.



Jimalalud, Pangaloan Bridge: The quake damaged houses, bridges and critical infrastructure such as electricity and communication lines.

Photo: Negros Oriental chapter/PRC

Meanwhile, as well as supporting rescue operations, PRC has dispatched food and relief supplies to Negros Occidental to meet urgent needs of earthquake survivors. The National Society has also sent specialized volunteer units and emergency response units from neighbouring chapters to conduct rapid assessments aimed at obtaining a full picture of the disaster's impact and to determine who needs what and where. Rapid assessments are ongoing.

The situation



Some affected residents, such as these in Buenavista, Ayungon, are fearful of returning to their homes after dozens of aftershocks.

Photo: Negros Oriental chapter/PRC

A 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck Negros and Cebu islands of the Philippines on Monday, 6 February 2012, around noon local time. The quake's epicentre was located in the Tanon Strait, approximately 5 kilometres from Tayasan, between the islands of Negros and Cebu. The highest intensity of the quake was felt in Dumaguete City, the capital of Negros Oriental, and surrounding municipalities at the southeastern part of Negros Island.

As of 8 February 2012, Philippine national disaster authorities – NDRRMC – had confirmed at least 26 deaths, 52 people injured and 71 missing. Unknown numbers of people are feared dead or injured as dozens of homes are still buried by landslides and rescuers are still to reach remote hinterland communities.

Some affected residents are fearful of returning to their homes after dozens of

aftershocks. Some 70 aftershocks had been felt as of this morning – with the highest recorded intensity ranging between 6.2 to 6.5 in magnitude – although seismologists have recorded over 1,200.

Besides residential houses, office buildings, bridges and critical infrastructure, such as electricity, water and communication lines, are also impacted. Access to some affected areas is limited due to damaged bridges and impassable roads. Emergency operations by the authorities and local agencies are ongoing and the nation's president is scheduled to visit the most affected areas on Wednesday, 8 February 2012.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Based on its mandate – of providing humanitarian services in times of emergency and disaster – as auxiliary to the authorities, PRC immediately deployed an emergency response unit (ERU) from its national headquarters to support rescue operations in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental. The team arrived on Tuesday morning, 7 February 2012, and is involved in the ongoing search-and-rescue efforts. The team from the national headquarters is backed up by two more – one each from PRC's Bacolod and Iloilo chapters. The teams comprise of highly specialized and trained responders with expertise in collapsible structure rescue operations. Also supporting the operations is a Red Cross medical team, equipped with an ambulance.

To meet immediate needs of the most vulnerable earthquake survivors, the National Society has dispatched 1,000 units of bottled water as well as food packs and relief supplies sufficient for 500 families. The supplies consist of 500 two-day ration food packs [comprising 5kg rice, five packets of noodles and five cans of sardines], 500 jerry cans of 20-litre capacity each, 1,000 blankets and 1,000 sleeping mats. The relief supplies – released by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from its pre-positioned stocks – are expected to arrive in Dumaguete City today in the afternoon local time.

In addition, PRC has sent 30 tents to provide temporary emergency shelter for residents fearful of returning to their homes because of aftershocks and one Rubb hall as a potential temporary/emergency hospital to accommodate patients afraid of staying at a local hospital because of aftershocks. The National Society has also deployed a water and sanitation team equipped with a filtration unit, truck and bladder tank.

Meantime, the National Society also sent specialized volunteer units to work alongside emergency response units in conducting rapid assessments aimed at obtaining a clearer picture of the disaster's impact and to determine who needs what and where. Rapid assessments are ongoing. The national society has also dispatched a psychosocial support team to handle cases of trauma, and a tracing team to assist in relocating family members and restoring family links. The PRC operations centre at the national headquarters and respective chapters are

continuously monitoring the situation. Additional teams and emergency response units are on heightened alert for immediate response.

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 \(NGOs\) 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.

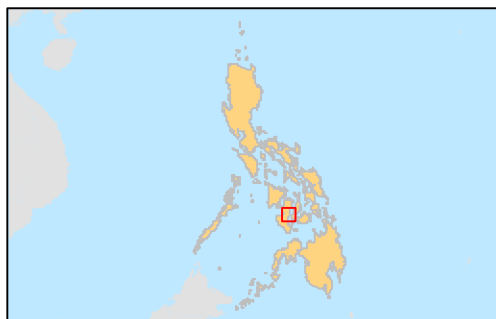
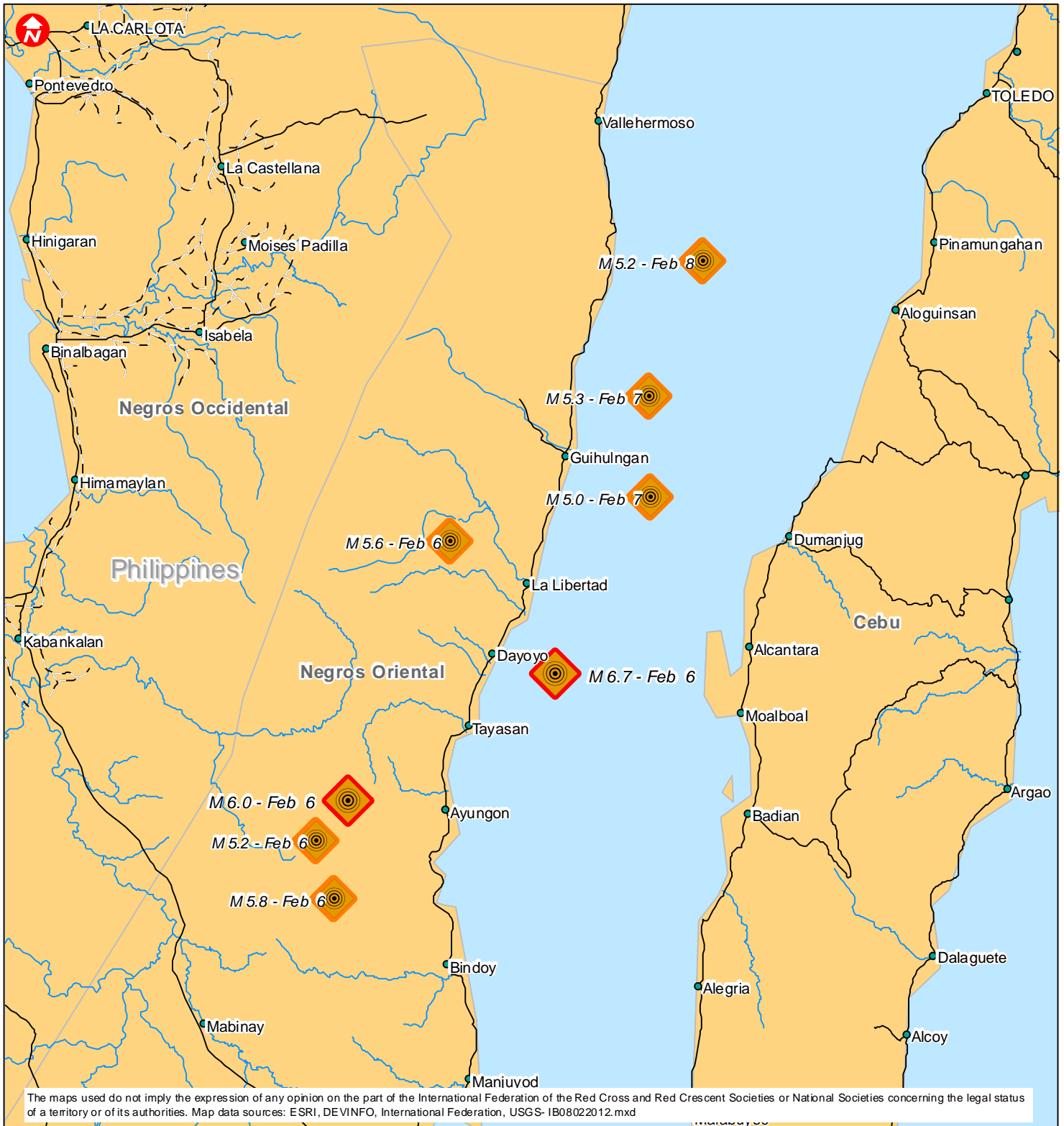


IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



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Magnitude 6 (5 quakes)



Magnitude 5 (42 quakes)