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Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Saola

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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

Summary: The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has swung to action as the effects of Typhoon Saola continue to be felt across the island of Luzon. Typhoon Saola was a tropical storm before it intensified, and is now slowly heading out of Philippine territory. As well as monitoring the situation around the clock, volunteers and rescue teams are responding to immediate needs of the most affected families. PRC has readied support vehicles and equipment such as rubber boats and ambulances for deployment, if needed.



In the capital, Manila, gale force winds whipped up water levels, creating tidal surges that overshot the Manila Bay seawall, flooding offices, premises and communities along the seaside. Photo: David Macharashvili/IFRC

Although it did not make landfall, Typhoon Saola (local name: Gener) enhanced southwest monsoon rains which caused flooding in low-lying areas of Luzon, including Metro Manila. According to the National Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update issued on 1 August 2012, effects of the typhoon have left at least 14 people dead, one missing and five injured. At the peak, some 1,900 families sought safer shelter in 43 evacuation centres, although most have started going back to their residences as flood waters subside.

Authorities at the provincial, municipal and *barangay* (village) levels responded swiftly to the situation and conducted pre-emptive evacuation of families in low-lying areas as well as search and rescue. Other actions include relief distributions and road clearing operations. Based on its mandate as auxiliary to the authorities in providing humanitarian services in times of emergency and disaster, PRC has served ready-to-eat meals, assorted food items and non-food items to more than 2,000 persons, mainly in evacuation centres.

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

The situation

As Typhoon Saola (locally known as Gener) moved at the fringes of Northern Philippines over the weekend of 28 July 2012 – as a tropical storm before gaining strength – its presence, compounded by a separate weather system that had been bringing rains, enhanced the southwest monsoon, causing heavy rainfall in the island of Luzon as well as parts of Visayas and Mindanao. Although it did not make landfall, its effects caused flooding in low-lying areas of Luzon, including Metro Manila. In the capital, Manila, gale force winds whipped up water levels, creating tidal surges that overshot the Manila Bay seawall, flooding offices, premises and communities along the seaside.

According to the NDRRMC update issued on 1 August 2012, effects of the storm have left at least 14 people dead. There has been a considerable damage to homes, with 580 houses destroyed and 2,034 partially damaged. Some 65,400 families (approximately 311,700 persons) have been affected across 27 provinces. At the peak, some 1,900 families had sought safer shelter in 43 evacuation centres. Many are returning to their residences as flood waters subside, and currently 1,160 families (approximately 5,150 persons) remain in 35 evacuation centres.

Table 1: Casualties and damage caused by Typhoon Saola (Source: NDRRMC)

Details	Number (as of 1 August 2012)
Deaths	14
Injured	5
Missing	1
Number of evacuation centres	35
Number of persons in evacuation centres	1,160 families (5,147 persons)
Number of houses damaged (partially)	2,034
Number of houses destroyed (totally)	580
Total number of affected persons	65,422 families (311,658 persons)

In the meantime, as the typhoon heads towards Taiwan and mainland China, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has warned that its effects will continue to be felt. The enhanced Southwest monsoon will bring rain and moderate-to-strong winds over Luzon and Western Visayas.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRC mobilized its chapters in flood-prone areas to monitor and continue to report the situation on the ground since the storm was sighted. The operations centre at the national headquarters has continuously kept an eye on the weather situation and is sending advisories to chapters concerned. PRC chapters in the affected areas – especially flood-prone provinces – mobilized volunteers, rescue teams and medical teams and have readied support vehicles and equipment such as rubber boats and generators as well as additional relief supplies for deployment, if required.

In response to the needs of affected families, Red Cross volunteers in Bulacan, Manila and Navotas City supported the authorities in evacuating more than 100 families to safer areas. In Romblon, the Red Cross chapter supported the local government unit, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine National Police (PNP) in providing assistance to 57 passengers and 47 crew members who were rescued after their vessel was caught in a mishap at sea.

PRC chapters have also provided ready-to-eat meals, emergency food packages (containing five kilos of rice, five cans of sardine and five packets of noodles) and hygiene kits to more than 2,000 persons. In this regard, the National Society has provided ready-to-eat meals to more than 800 persons in Navotas and Paranaque cities; emergency food packages to 500 families in Cavite, Muntinlupa City, Navotas City, Negros Occidental and Paranaque City; and hygiene kits to 240 families in Cavite and Navotas City.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross Red Crescent operational coordination mechanism is active and PRC is providing partners with updates on the capacity of its chapters in affected areas to respond to the needs. IFRC is ready to support PRC and has specialized personnel, additional emergency supplies and resources available in-country and in the region. IFRC-supplied stocks of pre-positioned relief items available in country are sufficient to meet the needs of at least 10,000 families.

Contact information

For further information, please contact:

- **Philippine Red Cross (phone +63 2 525 5654; fax +63 2 527 0857):**
 - Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general; email: gwendolyn.pang@redcross.org.ph
- **IFRC Philippine country office (phone +63 2 309 8622):**
 - Selvaratnam Sinnadurai, country representative; email: selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org
 - Necephor Mghendi, operations manager; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- **IFRC regional office for Southeast Asia (phone +66 2661 8201):**
 - Anne Leclerc, head of regional office; email: anne.leclerc@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office (phone: +60 3 9207 5700, fax +60 3 2161 0670):**
 - Jerry Talbot, a.i. head of operations; email: jerry.talbot@ifrc.org
 - Heikki Väättämoinen, operations coordinator, email: heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org
 - Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization and PMER; email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org

Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org



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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.

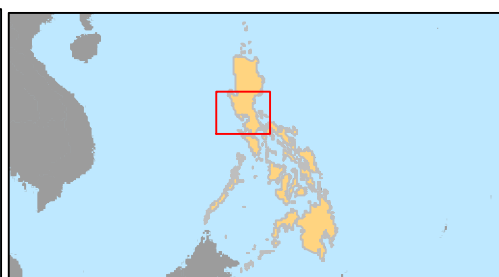
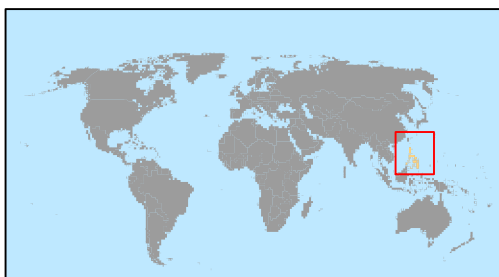
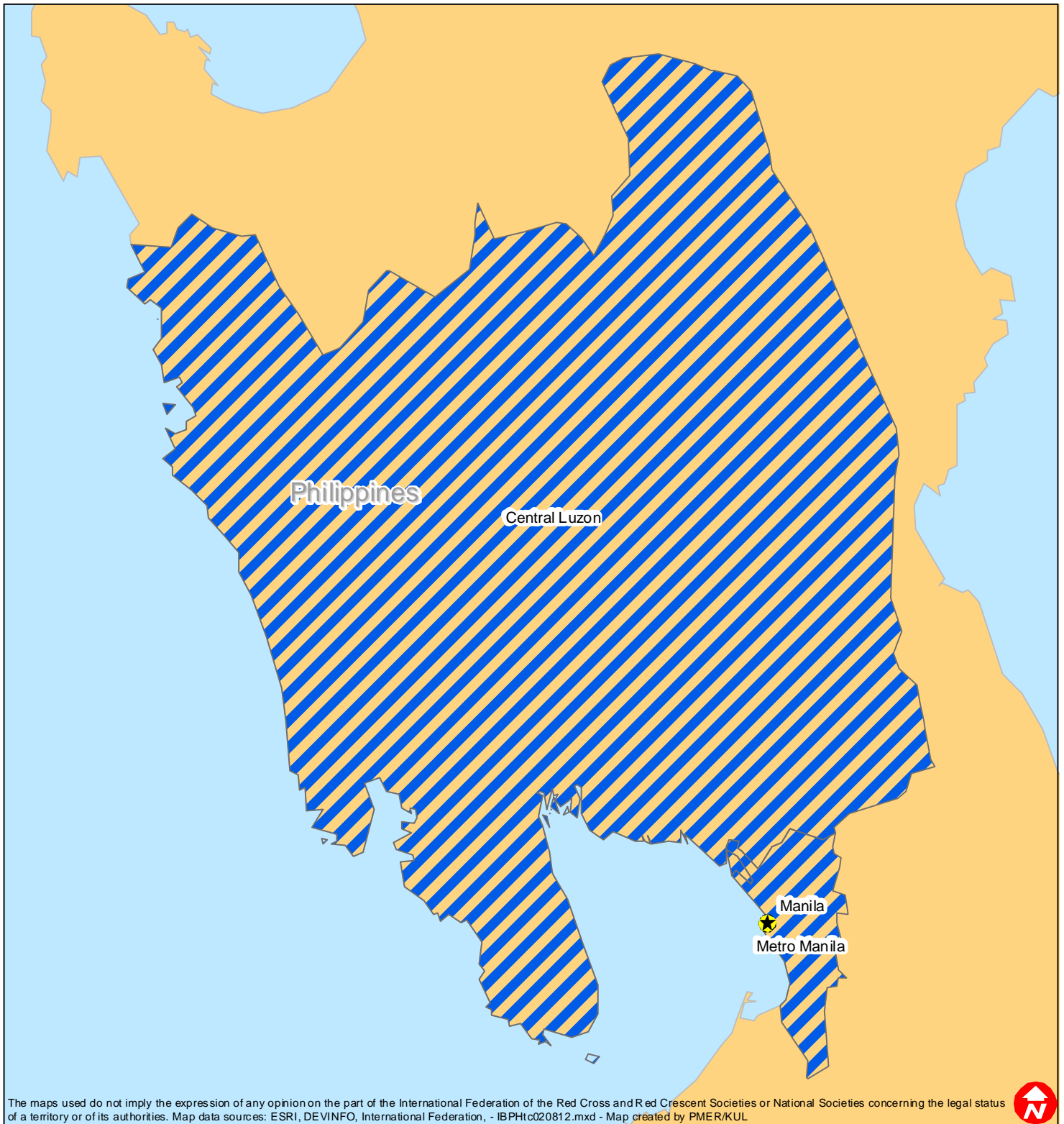




IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

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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-  Capital
-  Affected areas