


www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin

Philippines: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1

GLIDE n° [EQ-2013-000134-PHL](#)

15 October 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is currently undertaking rescue and emergency operations. A clearer picture of the nature and extent of needs on the ground will emerge over the next 48 hours as PRC undertakes rapid assessments. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Partner National Societies with offices in country are on standby for joint assessments and to support PRC action, if required.

Summary:

Following a deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Bohol and Cebu islands of the Philippines today, 15 October 2013 around 0800 hrs. local time, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is conducting rapid assessments to assess possible response needs. The National Society has mobilized staff and volunteers to support search and rescue efforts, verify damage reports and to provide emergency assistance.

The latest National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update indicates that at least 67 people have been confirmed dead with 164 reported injured. 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 churches, 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.

The PRC national headquarters is deploying additional capacity to strengthen the Bohol and Cebu chapters in their immediate response and conduct rapid assessments to have a more thorough picture of the disaster's impact and to determine the needs of the affected population.

The situation

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Bohol island of the Philippines today, 15 October 2013, around 8 o'clock in the morning, local time. According to the US Geological Survey, the quake's epicentre was located some two kilometers south of Carmen municipality in Bohol island, with an approximate depth of 33 kilometers. Impact of the quake was mostly felt in Bohol and Cebu City with the surrounding provinces of Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Antique and cities of Masbate and Davao also badly shaken. Bohol and Cebu City authorities declared state of calamity, owing to the extensive damage brought by the earthquake. This is the strongest earthquake quake to hit these islands in more than 20 years.



There have been more than 200 aftershocks and residents remain fearful of returning to their homes. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), up to this time, 67 people are confirmed dead with 164 others injured.

Besides residential houses, office buildings, bridges and critical infrastructure, electricity, water and communication lines are also affected. Flights to and from Bohol were cancelled earlier today but have since resumed. Partial damages to the air and seaport buildings have been reported in Bohol, Cebu and Iloilo. Power interruptions have been experienced in Bohol, Cebu and other parts of Central Visayas. Access to some affected areas is limited due to damaged bridges and impassable roads.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRC volunteers and staff in the Cebu, Lapu-Lapu City, Negros Oriental and Siquijor were mobilized immediately after the earthquake to verify incoming damage reports. Members of the national headquarters' emergency response team are standing by to augment the response operations. The team includes trained responders with expertise in collapsed-structure rescue operations. PRC is also preparing to send specialized volunteer units to support the Bohol and Cebu chapters in their immediate responses and in conducting rapid assessments. Operations centres at the national headquarters and respective chapters are continuously monitoring the situation. PRC is supporting emergency operations by the authorities and local agencies. Earlier today, PRC participated in the NDRRMC meeting.

PRC has made ready its preparedness stocks for at least 15,000 families in Manila including hygiene kits and non-food items (blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats and mosquito nets). The National Society Davao City warehouse can also provide food items including cooking oil, sardines, soy sauce and corned beef. These items can be mobilized immediately to the quake-affected areas depending on assessed needs.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Partner National Societies with offices in country are on standby for joint assessments and to support PRC action, if required. At the moment IFRC has a temporary shelter surge capacity in Manila who could be deployed together with PRC team members to conduct rapid assessments in the quake-affected area if required.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **Philippine Red Cross, Manila:** Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general; phone +63 2 525 5654; fax +63 2 527 0857; email: gwendolyn.pang@redcross.org.ph
- **IFRC Philippine country office, Manila:** Bernd Schell, country representative; phone +63 2 309 8622; mobile +63 928 559 7071; email: bernd.schell@ifrc.org
- **IFRC regional office for Southeast Asia, Bangkok:** Anne Leclerc, head of regional office; phone +66 2661 8201; mobile +66 85 661 7464; email: anne.leclerc@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60 3 9207 5700, fax +60 3 2161 0670);**
 - Al Panico, head of operations; email: al.panico@ifrc.org
 - Andreas Weissenberg, operations coordinator, email: andreas.weissenberg@ifrc.org
 - Patrick Fuller, communications manager, email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org
 - Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER); email: peter.ophoff@ifrc.org

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



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 \(NGOs\) 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:

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.