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Information bulletin

Philippines: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 2
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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) is currently coordinating with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Partner National Societies with offices in country towards outlining a detailed response plan as rapid assessments have reflected significant humanitarian needs. A scaled-up response which will require support of partners, is envisioned.

[< click to view map of the affected area or for contact information >](#)

Summary:

A deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Central Visayas in the Philippines on 15 October 2013 around 0800 hrs. local time. The latest National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update indicates that 171 people have been confirmed dead and 375 injured.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has mobilized its chapters in the affected provinces of Bohol and Cebu to provide emergency assistance and immediate relief. The PRC Bohol chapter has served hot meals to 3,000 people who sought safer shelter in evacuation centres, while relief support is ongoing. The PRC Cebu chapter deployed four teams, with two ambulances, to support rescue efforts and for rapid survey of affected areas. As a clearer picture of the quake's impact emerges, the National Society is focused on response in Bohol. Additional personnel, supplies and equipment have been deployed to augment the chapter's capacity for immediate assistance, emergency health station and rapid assessments.

At the same time, PRC is coordinating response efforts with national authorities, and together with IFRC coordinating interventions with other Movement and non-Movement partners within the context of inter-agency coordination.

The situation

Following the magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Bohol and Cebu islands in Central Visayas on the morning of 15 October, the number of deaths is now 171 according to the latest the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) update. However, the death toll may rise as responders reach some of the hardest hit towns which were isolated. The NDRRMC update also indicates that 375 people have been injured and 20 missing.



Following the earthquake, municipalities in Bohol have been isolated after bridges collapsed and roads were rendered impassable due to landslides or physical damage. Photo: Afrhill Rances/IFRC

According to the US Geological Survey, the quake's epicenter was located some two kilometers south of Carmen municipality in Bohol island, with an approximate depth of 33 kilometers. This is the strongest earthquake to hit these islands in more than 20 years. According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), more than 1,500 aftershocks have been recorded so far, of which more than 24 were strong enough to be felt. The provinces of Bohol and Cebu have been placed under state of calamity.

At the moment, some 19,300 houses are reported to have been damaged by the quake. These figures are likely to increase as responders reach some of the hardest hit isolated towns. Reports from teams on the ground indicate extensive damages to concreted houses in the municipality of Maribojoc (which has a population of 20,491 according to the 2010 census) and municipality of Loon (which has a population of 42,800 according to the 2010 census). The two municipalities are close to the epicenter of the quake, and had been isolated after bridges collapsed and roads were rendered impassable due to landslides or physical damage.

An estimated 97,600 people (20,000 families) are currently in evacuation centres and are in need of relief as well as emergency shelter. Most survivors are apprehensive of returning to their homes or going inside concreted buildings for fear of aftershocks.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the earthquake struck, the PRC operation centre at the national headquarters has been coordinating with the chapters and to consolidate updates on the situation. The PRC Bohol chapter has served hot meals to 3,000 people who sought safer shelter in evacuation centres, while further relief support is ongoing. The PRC Cebu chapter deployed four teams, with two ambulances, to support rescue efforts and for rapid survey of affected areas. The teams helped to transport six injured persons to hospital.

As a clearer picture of the quake's impact emerges, the PRC response is now focusing on Bohol, and additional personnel, supplies and equipment have been deployed to augment the chapter's capacity. PRC has released relief items for 1,500 families from its preparedness stocks and dispatched them to Bohol for immediate assistance. The National Society has also deployed an emergency health station and Rubb hall to augment damaged hospital buildings in accommodating patients. The teams deployed includes five persons to focus on rapid assessments as well as personnel assigned for specific sectors, including health, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, logistics and camp management. The teams are already on the ground, having arrived on the morning of 17 October. Members of water search and rescue teams, equipped with boats, have been deployed (not for search and rescue) to assist in transporting relief items to isolated towns that are only reachable via sea.

On 16 October, IFRC deployed a shelter surge delegate to participate in a multi-cluster rapid needs assessment - which is underway in Bohol - being done jointly by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the government. On the morning of 17 October, IFRC deployed a communications person to Bohol to obtain photographs and video material for distribution to National Societies and the media, and to generate news-related content.

Coordination:

PRC is participating in national coordination meetings of the NDRRMC, to which it is a member, as well as in coordination meetings of disaster risk reduction and management councils in Bohol and Cebu levels.

The PRC leadership, IFRC country representative and representatives of Partner National Societies with offices in country visited Bohol on 17 October for a quick survey of the situation and for solidarity with the affected populations. The IFRC country representative will remain in Bohol until 19 October. Based on an analysis of the situation following the visit, and based on the scale of response that PRC plans to mount, the support of partners is envisioned. Movement partners housed at PRC's national headquarters are currently discussing how they will best support the National Society to deliver urgent relief in quake-affected areas.

Coordination has also been maintained with the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) focal person for Philippines, who is also visiting Bohol, and a briefing session on Red Cross interventions is being organized. PRC and IFRC are coordinating with other agencies through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). It is in this context that they are participating in a multi-cluster rapid needs assessment, with IFRC focusing on the emergency shelter needs – as the co-lead of the emergency shelter cluster.

Contact information

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

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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.

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.

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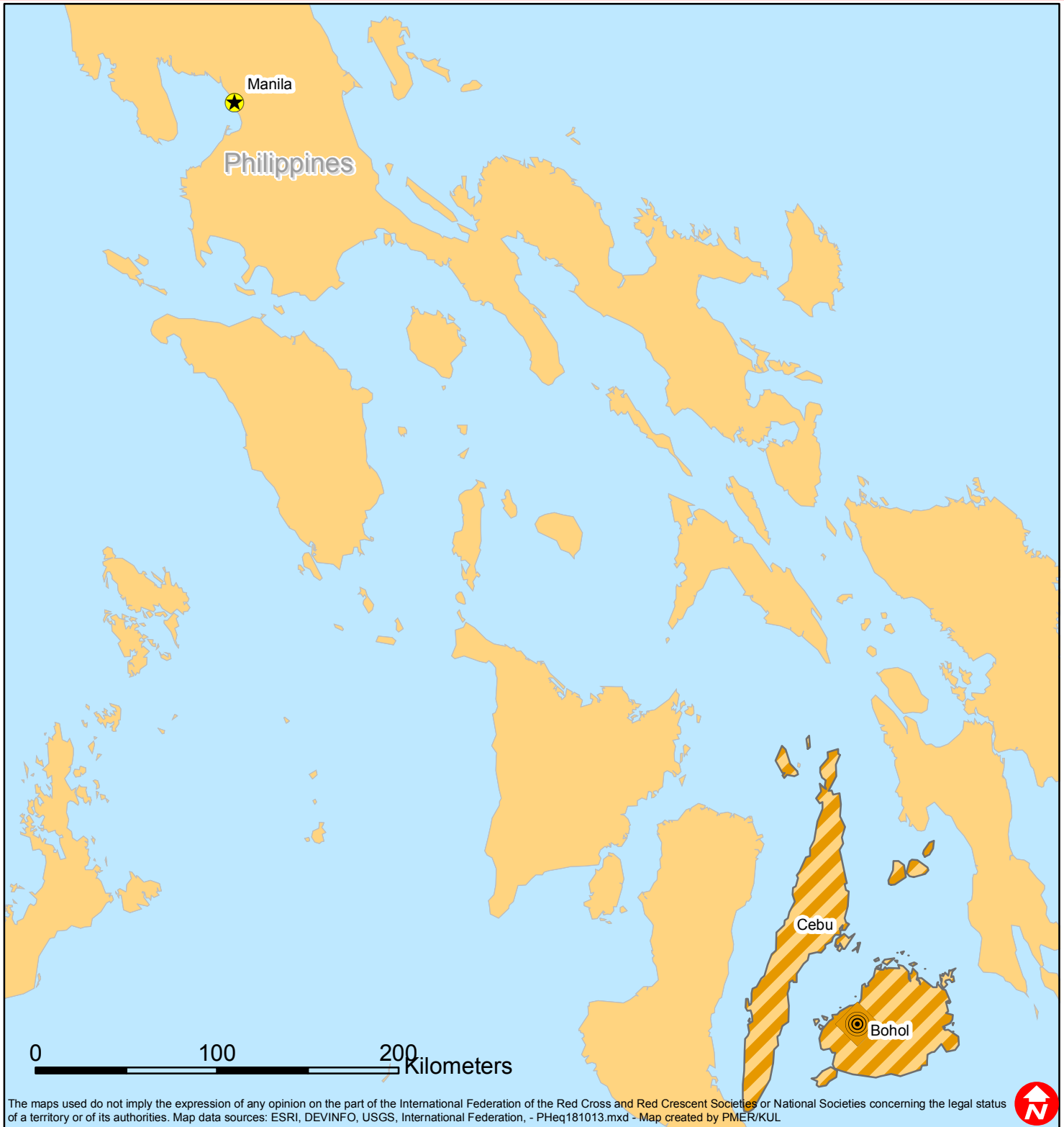


The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



Philippines: Earthquake



Epicentre



Affected provinces