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## Information bulletin Philippines: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1  
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20 August 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) 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 mounted rapid rescue response as the effects of Tropical Storm Trami – which was a tropical depression before it intensified as it heads slowly out of Philippine territory – continue to be felt across the island of Luzon. 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 deployed an amphibian vehicle and equipment such as rescue boats and ambulances to assist in search and rescue operations.



Since Monday 19 August morning, Red Cross emergency responders equipped with elevated trucks, ambulances, an amphibian vehicle, and rubber, plastic or steel boats have been undertaking ground operations that have so far brought more than 130 persons to safety and transported 50 stranded people to safer areas.

Photo: Philippine Red Cross

Even without making a landfall, Tropical Storm Trami (local name: *Maring*) 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 20 August 2013, effects of the storm have left at least seven people dead, four missing and 11 injured. At the moment, 41,000 people are seeking temporary shelter in 200 evacuation centres while 90,000 others are staying with friends and relatives.

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. 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 to 1,500 people, mainly in evacuation centres.

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

## The situation

As Tropical Storm Trami (locally known as *Maring*) moved at the fringes of Northern Philippines over the weekend of 19 August 2013, – as a tropical depression before gaining strength – its presence, compounded by a separate weather system that had been bringing rains, enhanced the southwest monsoon, bringing heavy rains 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. The torrential rains and resultant floods come a week after Typhoon Utor slammed into Luzon with a damaging impact, and exactly a year – to the month – after monsoon rains, locally known as Habagat, brought massive flooding that marooned Manila and nearby provinces, displacing half a million people and prompting a major Red Cross intervention.

According to the NDRRMC update issued on 20 August 2013, effects of the storm have left at least seven people dead. Some 600,000 people (approximately 125,000 families) have been affected across 503 barangays (villages) in five regions of Luzon. At the moment, some 41,000 people had sought safer shelter in 200 evacuation centres. An additional 90,000 people are staying with friends and relatives. Classes have been suspended at all levels in the National Capital Region, as well as offices since 20 August 2013 as major roads were impassable due to the massive flooding. Major dams have reached critical levels and flooding is expected downstream once the dams open their gates. Water levels in Laguna de Bay have risen drastically, threatening to displace thousands of families living in its surroundings. The provinces of Cavite, Laguna, municipalities of Santa Maria and Narvacan in Ilocos Sur, as well as cities of Mandaluyong and Muntinlupa in Metro Manila, among others, have been placed under the state of calamity due to damage wrought by the floods in these areas.

**Table 1: Casualties and damage caused by Tropical Storm Trami (Source: NDRRMC)**

Details	Number (as of 20 August 2013)
Deaths	7 persons
Injured	11 persons
Missing	4 persons
Number of evacuation centres	199
Number of persons in evacuation centres	9,153 families (40,740 persons)
Number of houses damaged and destroyed	32
<b>Total number of affected persons</b>	<b>125,024 families (601,114 persons)</b>
Affected persons in Ilocos Region (Region 1)	6,578 families (32,265 persons)
Affected persons in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	266 families (575 persons)
Affected persons in Central Luzon (Region 3)	85,698 families (408,217 persons)
Affected persons in CALABARZON <sup>1</sup> (Region 4-A)	26,120 families (130,119 persons)
Affected persons in MIMAROPA <sup>2</sup> (Region 4-B)	204 families (1,020 persons)

<sup>1</sup> Provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon

<sup>2</sup> Provinces of Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Masbate, Romblon and Palawan

Meanwhile, 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 rains and moderate to strong winds over Luzon and Western Visayas.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



**Philippine Red Cross puts up first aid stations in evacuation centres to assist the flood-affected families seeking temporary shelter in a gymnasium.**  
Photo: Philippine Red Cross

PRC mobilized its chapters in flood-prone areas to monitor and report the situation on the ground since the storm was sighted. Some 330 staff and volunteers have been mobilized to provide assistance to those affected by the floods. The operations centre at the national headquarters has continuously kept an eye on the weather situation and is sending advisories to concerned chapters. PRC chapters in the affected areas – especially flood-prone provinces – mobilized volunteers, 14 rescue teams and medical teams and have deployed support vehicles and equipment such as rescue boats and generators. Since Monday 19 August morning, Red Cross emergency responders equipped with elevated trucks, ambulances, an amphibian vehicle, and rubber, plastic or steel boats have been undertaking ground operations that have so far brought more than 130 persons to safety and transported 50 stranded people to safer areas.

To ensure that more people in flood-prone areas do not get into harm's way, Philippine Red Cross is using multiple channels to encourage families in low-lying areas and those residing along major dam spillways to evacuate immediately. Red Cross management, staff and volunteers are using the social media, such as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), disaster response teams in the chapters are sending SMS (short text messages) to residents whose mobile phone numbers are in record, and emergency response team members are making announcements in affected communities using megaphones. Besides undertaking rescue operations and supporting pre-emptive evacuation efforts, the Red Cross is providing immediate relief to families that have sought safer shelter in evacuation centres. So far, some 1,500 affected individuals have been provided with ready-to-eat, hot meals. First aid stations as well as welfare desks have been put up at evacuation centres to assist flood-affected families with medical and psychosocial needs and have so far served some 300 individuals. Meantime, the Red Cross is preparing to scale up further its response as weather forecasters indicate that the rains may continue for days.

Ongoing efforts of PRC are being supported by IFRC and partner national societies with in-country presence such as Australian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Netherlands Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. The IFRC disaster management unit based in the Asia-Pacific zone office has been sending informal updates to partner national societies since the storm was sighted. 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 such as blankets, jerry cans and sleeping mats available in country are sufficient to meet the needs of 20,000 families. Additional supplies can be airlifted into the country within 24 hours from IFRC's zone logistics unit (ZLU) in Kuala Lumpur.

## 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](mailto:gwendolyn.pang@redcross.org.ph)
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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.

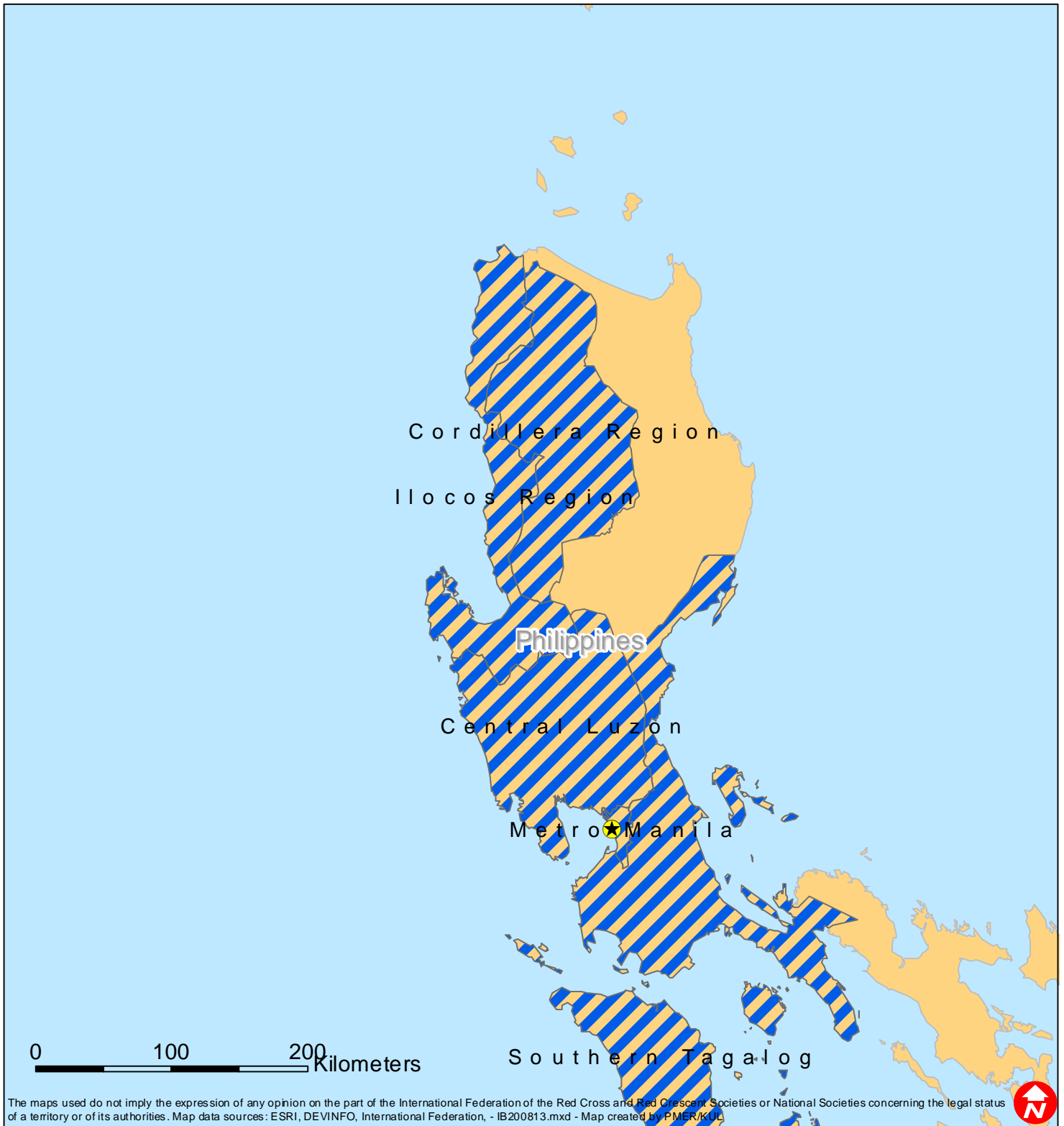



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



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 Affected regions