

Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Rammasun

Information Bulletin n° 1 GLIDE no. **TC-2014-00092-PHL** 15 July 2014

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross has placed its disaster response teams on standby for rapid deployment and preparedness stocks ready for dispatch, as required.

Summary

The first typhoon expected to make landfall since the beginning of the Philippines' annual rainy season this year, Typhoon Rammasun is currently advancing from the east towards the country with maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near its centre and wind gusts of up to 150 kph. It is expected to first strike the Albay-Sorsogon area in the Bicol region in eastern Luzon on the evening of Tuesday, 15 July, and maintains its path across the northern Philippines before exiting into the sea northwest of Zambales. At its worst, Rammasun is expected to bring widespread torrential rain and destructive winds, triggering flash floods and landslides in mountainous areas, flooding in lower-lying areas, and possible storm surges along the coastline.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been on high alert since the typhoon was sighted approaching the Philippines. The national society remains in close coordination with the national disaster management authorities both at headquarters and chapter levels, especially in the Bicol, MIMAROPA¹, CALABARZON and Central Luzon regions. At its operations centre in the national headquarters, PRC maintains 24/7



monitoring of the typhoon, keeping the chapters likely to be affected on

¹ MIMAROPA – Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan; CALABARZON – Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezón

constant alert with the latest information available. Relief supplies, equipment and personnel to be deployed for immediate response as necessary, are already in place. The Red Cross 143 volunteers are also on alert, with PRC volunteers across the country on standby for deployment should more assistance be needed in the areas likely to be affected.

The situation

Typhoon Rammasun (locally named Glenda) continues to approach the Philippine islands, maintaining its strength across the Pacific and moving westward towards the Philippines' Bicol region in the east of the country. Rammasun is expected to make landfall over the Albay-Sorsogon area in Bicol on the evening of Tuesday, 15 July and carry on towards Southern Luzon, through the National Capital Region, and exit into the sea across Zambales by the afternoon of Wednesday, 16 July. From Thursday into Friday, it is expected to be northwest of Zambales, finally blowing into the sea outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

The first typhoon expected to make landfall since the beginning of the Philippines' annual rainy season, Rammasun is currently advancing with maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near its center and wind gusts of up to 150 kph. All areas of the country currently lying in its expected path are on alert for winds up to 185 kph within the next 18 hours, especially in the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Northern Samar, and the Burias and Ticao Islands. Estimated rainfall of up to a maximum of 25mm per hour is projected within the 500km diameter of the typhoon's path.

As of 6 a.m. on 15 July, several thousand passengers and sailing vessels have been stranded at ports in the Bicol region due to coastal authorities prohibiting boat travel during this time. Those with fishing boats and other small sea crafts have also been advised not to venture out into the eastern seaboard of Luzon and Visayas. At least 50 international and domestic flights have been cancelled.

At present, most public utilities and lifelines continue to function, though there have been power and telecommunications outages in Albay, Mindoro Oriental and Cavite. Due to bad weather, classes have been suspended in schools across the country, including the Bicol region, the National Capital Region, Central and Southern Luzon.

In Albay, pre-emptive evacuation, from low-lying and mountainous areas such as Santo Domingo, Daraga, Libon and Polangui, has been organised by the authorities. Residents have also been alerted against possible flashfloods and landslides, while those in coastal areas have been alerted against potential storm surges.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has been on high alert since the typhoon was sighted, making its approach towards the Philippines. The National Society continues to maintain close coordination with governmental disaster management authorities, and as a member of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), attended a pre-disaster risk assessment meeting on 14 July, at the NDRRMC operations centre together with other members in order to prepare for Typhoon Rammasun's entry into the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

In its operations centre at the national headquarters in Manila, PRC maintains 24/7 monitoring of the typhoon, and disseminates current government-issued weather bulletins to the chapters likely to be affected, through text messaging and social media. Preparations for the deployment of assistance to the chapters in the event of flooding, landslides and other typhoon-related emergencies are also being made.

At chapter level, PRC staff and volunteers in the Bicol Region (Catanduanes, Albay, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Northern Samar, and Burias and Ticao Islands) are on high alert, as well as other chapters in the MIMAROPA, CALABARZON and Central Luzon regions. These PRC chapters maintain close contact with the provincial and local DRRMC for possible response and relief operations. They also support community alerts and public information services to local radio stations in their respective areas of responsibility. Disaster preparedness supplies including food items, equipment, personnel and logistics support at chapter level are ready for emergency response. The Red Cross 143 volunteer are also on alert, with PRC volunteers across the country on standby for deployment should more assistance be needed in the areas likely to be affected.

In a recent interview with Radio Australia, the PRC secretary-general Gwendolyn Pang highlighted the preparations of the National Society for the impact of the typhoon and its after-effects. "In the past, as we have observed, even with slight rain, we have flooding in central Manila," she said. "So this one, if it's

brought by a typhoon, we're expecting heavy flooding, because with slight rain, we are experiencing flooding already."

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the Philippines is also ready to support PRC in immediate response with pre-positioned relief stock, including non-food items and hygiene kits for 20,000 families and 10,000 tarpaulins as well as delegate staff on standby to support needs assessments.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Philippine Red Cross:**
 - Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general; office: +63 2 525 5654; fax: +63 2 527 0857;
gwendolyn.pang@redcross.org.ph
- **IFRC Philippines country office, Manila:**
 - Marcel Fortier, head of delegation; office: +63 928 559 7071; marcel.fortier@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Southeast Asia regional office, Bangkok:**
 - Anne Leclerc, head of regional office; +662 661 8201; anne.leclerc@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur:**
 - Naoki Kokawa, acting head of operations; +60 3 9207 5700; naoki.kokawa@ifrc.org
 - Necephor Mghendi, operations coordinator; +6012 224 6796, necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
 - Peter Ophoff, head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER);
+60 3 9207 5775; peter.ophoff@ifrc.org



Click here

1. 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.