

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **PHILIPPINES: VOLCANIC ERUPTION**

*12 November 2001*

*Appeal No. 22/2001*

*Launched on: 09 August 2001 for CHF 250,531 for 3 months.*

*Revised Budget: CHF 165,890*

*DREF Allocated: CHF 75,000*

*Beneficiaries: 4,459*

*Operations Update No. 1 Period covered: 09 August - 30 October 2001*

### *“At a Glance”*

*Appeal coverage: 115.9%*

*Related Appeals: 01.40/2001 South East Asia regional programmes*

*Outstanding needs: None*

*The situation: The budget of the operation - and as a consequence the amounts of relief involved - was revised in late August and is attached to this report. The final expenditures are currently being reported on and the final financial report is expected to be approved by the regional finance unit in the coming weeks.*

### **Operational Developments**

The Emergency Appeal to provide assistance in the wake of the Mayon volcanic eruptions in the central Philippines was launched on 9 August 2001. At this time, the alert level was at a maximum 5, and a 6 km permanent danger zone (PDZ) and 7 km extended danger zone (EDZ) was in force. More than 46,900 people (9,700 families) had been evacuated to safe areas by local government units (LGUs) and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). The appeal sought to assist 4,459 beneficiaries (957 families) who had been evacuated from the PDZ, their land having suffered irreparable damage.

More than two months has passed since the last violent eruption on 26 July, and the alert level for future eruptions has been reduced to level 2. However, PHIVOLCS (Philippine Institute of Volcanology &

Seismology) warn that life-threatening lahar and other debris flow may still occur, especially during heavy rains.

In view of the reduced alert level, all evacuees have returned to their homes. This includes 603 families from the municipalities of Malilipot and Daraga (part of the 957 families who were to be permanently relocated from the PDZ) who have chosen to return to their home areas within the continued danger zone. Negotiations for land and for funds for shelter, which will allow these 603 families to be resettled outside of the danger area, is still ongoing.

**Red Cross Red Crescent action**

The Emergency Appeal was covered by 77%. In light of this, the operation was reviewed at the end of August 2001 and the budget and quantities, largely of foodstuffs, were adjusted accordingly. These changes are shown in the table below.

Commodities	Unit	Quantities	
		Planned	Actual
Rice	kgs	94,743	63,162
Sardines	tins	172,260	114,840
Noodles	packets	120,582	80,388
Blankets	Pieces	1,914	1,914
Mats	Pieces	1,914	1,914
Mosquito Nets	Pieces	1,914	1,914
Water Containers	Pieces	957	957
Water Tankers	Units	3	3

The emergency phase of the operation was completed in October and efforts have now shifted to rehabilitation to assist beneficiaries to return to their normal lives. This has included the clearing of debris on agricultural land, the development of relocation sites and the clearance of drainage systems. This work has been implemented through a ‘food for work’ scheme.

The PNRC local chapter in Albay, with support from PNRC headquarters, continues to manage the operation. Ten staff and more than 30 volunteers were mobilised in the operation.

**Achievement of Objectives**

**1. Water-sanitation**

*Objective 1*

In support of the water sanitation project of the local Department of Health, the PNRC aims to provide safe potable water to the evacuees.

*Achievement*

The National Society provided 957 water containers directly to 957 families. Additionally three mobile water tankers have been procured and continue to provide additional capacity to the Department of Health and Fire Department which is responsible for water distribution.

*Constraints*

Other than the lengthy procurement process, there were no constraints.

**2. Relief distributions**

*Objective 1*

To provide for the immediate food and partial nonfood needs of 957 families for two months.

### ***Achievement***

The PNRC carried out weekly distributions of food commodities to provide for the immediate needs of the 957 families. The National Society procured 63,162 tonnes of rice, 114,840 tins of canned fish and 80,388 packets of noodles. PNRC also provided the nonfood items as planned (see table above). Distributions commenced during the second week of September which was 1 month later than the planned date (15 August).

In addition to the nonfood items budgeted under the Emergency Appeal, local cash donations enabled PNRC to distribute shampoo and washing soap to all evacuees.

### ***Constraints***

Distribution delays were caused by the prolonged procurement process (difficulties were encountered in finding the required size of rice package - 11 kgs) and extended delivery time (all procurement was carried out in Manila). The Society had planned to support the local economy in the disaster area, however, local suppliers could not meet the requirements and procurement had to take place in Manila.

### **3. Logistics**

PNRC headquarters dispatched one ten-wheel truck, a six-wheel truck and a mini van to deliver the goods to Albay; a further mini van and a Hi-lux stationed in Albay were used for relief distribution. The local chapter coordinated with the LGUs to provide trucks during distribution to increase the existing vehicle fleet.

### **4. Communications**

The National Society has been unable to procure the proposed five VHF portable radios. According to suppliers, VHF units with a frequency range of 220-230 MHz (units compatible with PNRC frequency of 228.750 MHz) are out of stock in the country. In response to this, PNRC headquarters has temporarily released five units from existing supplies along with two cellular phones to facilitate communications to and from the field.

### **Federation Delegation**

In early September the regional finance delegate and regional programme manager assisted PNRC in aspects of financial management and reporting. A one day workshop on planning and reporting provided PNRC staff with the tools and skills to enhance their reporting and to comply with requirements under the scope of this Emergency Appeal. Though there was a delay in producing this Operations Update, PNRC were able to access the appropriate format and are better positioned for planning and reporting against future operations.

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

In addition to support from the Federation regional team (especially the regional finance unit), a staff member from the PNRC headquarters has been assigned to the project from its outset to monitor the operation. Regular field visits are also conducted by the disaster management service. Weekly reports are submitted and, where appropriate, steps are taken to address challenges and adjust the operation.

### ***Coordination and Management***

The local Disaster Coordinating Council (DCC) is one of the most organised, trained and skilled in the country; the PNRC is represented on the council at the national and local level. The operation is coordinated with the Provincial Disaster Co-ordinating Council (PDCC) to avoid duplication of programmes. Coordination with the respective LGUs is being maintained. Additional logistics (such as trucks and volunteers) were also provided from each municipality during distributions.

## ***Outstanding needs***

The revised budget for the operation is fully covered. However, following the receipt of a late contribution to the Appeal the total income is now an estimated CHF 25,000 more than the revised budget. Discussions are currently underway, with both PNRC and the donor, to decide the most appropriate use of this balance.

Whilst the emergency operation has come to an end (the final report is expected in December 2001), the PNRC are examining the longer term rehabilitation requirements. Of particular concern are the 603 families, who despite the possible danger, have returned to their dwellings in the immediate area of the volcano.

PNRC are also studying what longer term support (such as assistance in income generation or advocating for access to land) they can provide to the high number of families who not only lost their homes but also lost their means of production.

## ***Financial Update***

The budget of the operation was revised in late August and is attached to this report. The final expenditures are currently being reported on and the final financial report is expected to be approved by the regional finance unit in the coming weeks.

### *Food Items*

CHF 119,376 was originally budgeted for food items. Given the availability of funds and the lower cost of goods, the actual expenditure is approximately CHF 78,320.

### *Non Food Items*

Whilst the quantity of items procured was as originally budgeted, the lower than expected cost per item has meant a saving of an estimated 30% against the budget.

### *Transport, Storage and Vehicle Cost*

Because of the reduction in food quantities savings were made on transport costs between Manila and the disaster area (Albay).

### *Travel and Related expenses*

The revised budget shows a proportionate reduction in this budget line.

## **See Annex 1 for Revised Budget**

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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		ANNEX 1
<b><u>BUDGET SUMMARY (Revised)</u></b>	APPEAL No. 22/2001	
<b>Philippines - Mt Mayon volcano</b>		
TYPE	VALUE	
<b>RELIEF NEEDS</b>	IN CHF	
Plastic mats:1,914	15'503	
Blankets: 1,914	8'651	
Mosquito nets: 1,914	7'847	
Food (rice, sardines, noodles)	80'158	
Water tank, container	4'983	
<b>TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS</b>		<b>117'142</b>
<b>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</b>		
Programme management	11'186	
Technical support	3'348	
Professional services	3'713	
<b>TRANSPORT STORAGE &amp; VEHICLE COSTS</b>	10'100	
<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
National staff	4'355	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; GENERAL SERVICES</b>		
Travel & related expenses	8'000	
Information expenses	1'916	
Administrative & general expenses	6'129	
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</b>		<b>48'748</b>
<b>TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES</b>		<b>165'890</b>
<b>LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)</b>		<b>192'321</b>
<b>NET REQUEST</b>		<b>NIL</b>