

# 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

Appeal No. MDRPH002  
TC-2006-000175-PHL

13 December 2006

## PHILIPPINES: TYPHOONS

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

- **Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 4 - 11 December, 2006;**
- **Appeal target: CHF 8,833,789 (USD 7,318,798 or EUR 5,552,350) in cash, kind, or services to support the Philippines National Red Cross with assisting 200,000 beneficiaries for nine months;**
- **Appeal coverage: ([click here for live update](#)).**

#### Operational Summary:

Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) continues to effectively support populations affected by Typhoon Durian (Reming), one of most recent in a series of devastating storms to hit the country. As part of the national society's latest initiatives, some 31,752 people in 12 provinces have received relief. In parallel, PNRC branches and headquarters are responding to the needs arising from Typhoon Utor (Seniang), on 10 December, which affected 132,650 people in nine provinces; destroying over 10,000 homes and damaging close to 15,000.

The International Federation is supporting PNRC typhoon response in-country through: the Federation country delegation; an 11-member regional disaster response teams (RDRT) from Southeast Asia (seven) and South Asia (four); a seven-person field assessment and coordination team (FACT); three delegates from French Red Cross; an IT/telecomm emergency response unit (ERU); and a delegate from the regional logistics unit of the Asia Pacific Service Centre (APSC).

### Background



This two-month old homeless baby (pictured left in an evacuation centre in Albay province) is one of thousands of people – some very young and some very old – still struggling in the aftermath of the series of typhoons in the Philippines.

In the wake of Typhoon Durian (Reming), latest reports confirm 715 deaths. 764 people missing and 2,174 injured. A total of 3,160,703 people are reported affected in 160 municipalities and 13 cities covering 14 provinces. 211,032 houses are destroyed while 308,231 are damaged.

In response to Durian, Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) has delivered relief to some 31,752 people in 12 provinces. PNRC chapters in Batangas,

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Laguna, Quezon-Lucena, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, and Marinduque (Region IV of the country) are providing tinned fish, noodles, first aid as well as social welfare support.

PNRC chapters in Albay-Legaspi city, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Masbate (Region V) are distributing basic relief as well as providing first aid, psychological support and health referrals.

PNRC headquarters has sent representatives from Manila to each branch to support the local operations centres, which are being run by the respective chapter administrators and chapter chairmen.



*In search of the Christmas spirit, volunteers in PNRC HQ pitch in to make sure supplies get out to those in need.*

In parallel, PNRC branches and headquarters are responding to Typhoon Utor (Seniang) on December 10, which affected 132,650 people in nine provinces destroying over 10,000 homes and damaging close to 15,000.

The Mindoro Occidental branch recently distributed relief to 576 families in Mamburao in response to Durian, now once again is mobilising in the aftermath of Utor that destroyed the homes of 6,178 families.

The impact of the typhoons that have pounded the Philippines late 2006 should also be viewed against the backdrop of serious disasters earlier in the year. For those who live here, severe storms and typhoons are a part of life, however, the scale and number of major disasters in 2006 has been exceptional. In addition to

the normal range of flooding and storms, the country has been subjected to landslides (Southern Leyte in March), Typhoon Chanchu (May), and evacuations in Albay due to the threat of volcanic eruption in August.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Federation support to the PNRC has been augmented with the 12 December arrival of team members of the Danish Red Cross IT/Telecomm ERU. The accompanying equipment was planned for arrival in Manila today (13 December). Given the limited functioning and access to telecommunications in the operational areas the ERU should improve information flow greatly. The three-person team will be deployed to the eastern provinces to: assess the situation; work with PNRC to create a longer term IT/communications development plan for the national society; and, support the Federation to set up a typhoons operations office in Manila.

After consultations with the PNRC and based on comprehensive assessments, the Federation will support PNRC to address needs in shelter, health, water and sanitation and relief in Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Quezon, Marinduque and Mindoro as a result of Typhoon Durian. The Federation will also continue work with the PNRC on delivering assistance to families affected by September's Typhoon Xangsane (Mileyno) in Aurora, Isabela, Laguna and Sorsogon; bringing the total number of provinces to ten.

Within each of these ten provinces, the Federation and the PNRC have identified the five most affected barangays (villages of some 100 to 1,000 families). The number of beneficiaries within each of the respective barangays has been confirmed based on: 1) the level of damage in the barangay; 2) recommendations made by the PNRC assessment teams; and, 3) priority areas for assistance expressed by the PNRC. The Federation's logistics delegates are moving forward with this information to procure and deliver shelter materials.



*PNRC social welfare teams make sure children are keeping well.*

On December 11, FACT and RDRT members created the basic framework for the operation plan of action. To finalise this plan of action, however, it was critical to liaise with PNRC and incorporate their findings, which were shared with the Federation on 12 December. The arrival of Typhoon Utor on 10 December hindered scheduled field visits of the FACT/RDRT team members; it was then agreed that the plan be finalized after further Federation assessments in health and water and sanitation. Teams have been sent to work with the PNRC in Albay, Quezon, Sorsogon, Camarines Sur, Marinduque and Mindoro to look into further needs in these two sectors.

In regards to shelter, the Federation is providing 15,000 families with construction materials, and tools to repair damaged homes or to construct adequate shelters in the most

severely affected areas within the next three months. Raising awareness of better building techniques will help in this.

In regards to health, the Federation envisions supporting the PNRC to carry out necessary minor repairs to the barangay health stations so that they can resume caring for sick people as best they can with adequate storage for medical supplies.

Availability of medicines has also been identified as an issue. As such, the most severely affected rural health units and barangay health stations will be provided with sufficient medicines and supplies in the form of emergency health kits for three months.

Finally, health activities will be integrated into water and sanitation initiatives. Identified households and evacuation centres in the targeted areas will benefit from improved health awareness and hygiene practices.

Water borne disease, especially among children and elderly, is possible because of inadequate numbers of toilets, improper garbage disposal and lack of water supply in affected areas, including in evacuation centers.

In regards to water and sanitation, activities will focus on:

- Ensuring improved access to safe and adequate water for people in evacuation centres and the repair and rehabilitation of water sources in severely affected areas;
- The provision of adequate emergency sanitation for people in evacuation centres and severely affected barangays

At the same time given the frequency of disasters in the country, the Federation will work with the PNRC to expand the society's considerable strength in disaster response and improve its preparedness to address emergency water and sanitation needs.

### **Pipeline**

The procurement of 3,000 shelter kits commenced during the first week of December, and bids opened at PNRC Headquarters today (Wednesday 13 December).

One challenge in procuring shelter materials is the recent price rise for galvanised iron sheeting. These sheets are used by much of the population for roofing and as walls. The cost of iron sheeting is ordinarily at 250 pesos (USD

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5) per sheet is now as high as 800 pesos (USD 16) per sheet. The extent of damage after the spate of disasters and the loss of Nipa leaves (one of the primary sources of shelter materials) have caused the price increase.

This limited availability of building materials, while an issue in terms of procurement, is of course a serious challenge for a population which has lost so much to recent storms, is drained of local resources and already suffers with 40 per cent of people living below the poverty line.

The Federation's FACT health team is working with PNRC to identify the most malaria prone areas to deliver the 20,000 mosquito nets and available emergency health kits.

## Xangsane (Mileyno) Response

### • Update

Prior to typhoons Durian and Utor, the PNRC and the International Federation was responding to a series of typhoons which affected a large part of the Philippines including Typhoon Xangsane (Mileyno) on 27 September. Xangsane wove its way through Laguna, Albay, Sorsogon, Quezon, Isabela, Aurora and Camarines Sur damaging well over 400,000 houses with at least 106,254 destroyed. It affected a total of 753,066 families (mostly living in coastal areas). Items received thus far in regard to the Federation's October Appeal are detailed in the table below.

**Table: Schedule of delivery of Supplies re: Typhoons Mileyno, Paeng and Queenie**

	Blankets (pcs)	Mosquito nets (pcs)	Plastic Mats (pcs)	Hygiene kits	Charcoal stoves	Buckets
Laguna	712	712	712	356	356	350
Quezon	2,600	2,600	2,600	1,300	1,300	
Sorsogon	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	
Albay	4,110	4,110	4,110	2,055	2,055	
Isabela	2,096	2,096	2,096	1,048	1,048	
Aurora	2,482	2,482	2,482	1,241	1,241	

## Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC)

The PNRC is continuing to operate its 24/7 operations centres in each of the affected branches and at national headquarters. On Tuesday 12 December PNRC multi-sectoral assessment teams gathered at its headquarters in Manila to share their recommendations for further action in the areas of health, shelter, relief, social welfare and logistics.

At the same time during the first week of December, PNRC headquarters provided PNRC chapters in Catanduanes, Albay-Legaspi and Marinduque with a further shipment of relief items, detailed below:

Chapter	Tents	Family Packs	Used Clothing (bags)	Generators	Compact Food (ctns)	Plastic Bags	Noodles (ctns)	Biscuits (ctns)	Rice (sacks)	Sardines (ctns)	Shroud (pcs)	Cadaver bag (pcs)
Catanduanes	25	295	200		100	6,000	105	200	299			
Albay	100	655	200	1	100	16,000	139		745	60	500	220
Marinduque		300			100				301			

## Federation Coordination

At present the Federation is supporting PNRC typhoon response through the country delegation and with RDRTs from South and Southeast Asia, a seven-person FACT team, three delegates from the French Red Cross and the IT/Telecomms ERU, and a logistics delegate from the Regional Logistics Unit in KL. The Federation's Geneva-

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based Secretariat and South East Asia Regional Delegation in Bangkok continue to support the operation as well. Over the coming weeks the Federation will establish an operations centre in support of the national society efforts.

### Appeal history:

- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated in September: CHF 100,000 (USD 80,000 or EUR 63,291). This DREF will be reimbursed through this Appeal.**
- **Launched on 2 October 2006 for CHF 5,704,261 (USD 4,563,408 or EUR 3,610,292) for three months to assist 126,000 beneficiaries.**
- **Revised 19 October 2006 for CHF 5,704,261 (USD 4,563,408 or EUR 3,610,292) for nine months to assist 126,000 beneficiaries.**
- **1 December 2006, Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000 (USD 80,000 or EUR 63,291)**

### For further information:

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**The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to 'improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity'.**

### Global Agenda Goals:

- **Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**
- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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