

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Ketsana

Emergency appeal n° MDRPH005
GLIDE n° [TC-2009-000205-PHL](#)
Operations update n° 3
9 October 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update:
6 to 9 October 2009

Appeal target (current):
CHF 3,086,571 (USD 2.98 million or EUR 2.45 million);

Appeal coverage: 69%; funds are urgently needed to enable the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to those affected by this disaster.

- **Appeal history:** This preliminary [emergency appeal](#) was launched 1 October 2009 for CHF 3,086,571 (USD 2.98 million or EUR 2.45 million) for nine months to assist 20,000 families (100,000 people).

- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 250,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society in initial response.



Volunteers keep the relief effort moving: Members of the public knock on the door of the PNRC national headquarters and volunteer to help in packing relief goods for distribution to those affected by Typhoon Ketsana/Ondoy in Metro Manila. (Photo: PNRC)

[<link to updated donor response list, or contact details>](#)

Summary

As of 8 October, the national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) reports 337 people killed, 308 injured and 37 still missing. To date, government figures report 16,502 houses completely destroyed, and 25,948 damaged, while almost 4.2 million people (about 838,000 families) across the country have been affected.

PNRC has distributed food items to 41,664 families, non-food items to 5,149 families and hygiene kits to more than nine thousand families. A total of fifteen water bladders have been made operational since commencement of relief activities, and 45 portable toilets are in place.

To date, cash and in-kind contributions have been received from American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross/Italian government, Japanese

Red Cross, Republic of Korea Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross. Contributions have also been received from European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and OPEC Fund for International Development.

On behalf of the Philippine National Red Cross, the International Federation would like to thank all donors for their quick and generous response to this appeal.

The situation

Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) hit the Philippines on 26 September, causing mass destruction across Central Luzon, including the capital city Metro Manila. Government figures estimate almost 4.2 million people nationwide have been affected. An estimated 57,615 families (some 287,500 people) remain in 455 evacuation centres in the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana.

Water and sanitation, and relief needs in evacuation centres remain paramount, while needs assessments continue. Local health authorities and medical teams also continue to visit, provide medicines and medical services, and monitor the health situation in the evacuation centres.

The health situation is reported under control as local health authorities and privately supported medical teams visit the evacuation centres and provide medical supplies and services. However, on 7 October, the Philippines health secretary reported that some 6,725 people in evacuation centres are suffering from respiratory tract infection, skin infections, diarrhoea, and minor injuries. It should be noted, however, that there is no outbreak of disease in any of the evacuation centres. The health secretary also stated that the department of health's medical teams continue to monitor the situation in several evacuation centres, adding that they are providing free immunization for pregnant women and children below five years of age.

On the heels of Ketsana, Typhoon Parma (known locally as Pepeng) made landfall on Saturday, 3 October at 15:00 local time, moving through northern Luzon, and leaving the island around 03:00 on 4 October. Agriculture and infrastructure have been severely affected. In the early morning of Friday, 9 October, Typhoon Parma, now downgraded to a tropical depression, made a sharp U-turn and returned, causing widespread flooding across the west central province of Pangasinan. According to initial local information, spillway gates were opened at San Roque Dam in Pangasinan to release the excess floodwaters, producing an outflow of 4,636 cubic metre per second.

Consequently, the municipalities of Rosales, Bautista, Bayambang, Alcala, Sto. Tomas, Uzbitondo, San Carlos City, Lingayen, San Manuel, Tayug, Asingan, Natividad and Sta. Maria have been critically hit. Three dykes are reported collapsed in the areas of Bacnono, Sison and near Agno River. A total of 10 dykes have been reported damaged.

There are now 9,303 families (42,057 people) in 175 evacuation centres across Pangasinan province. It is estimated that some 234,232 families (approximately 1,053,325 people) have been affected by Typhoon Parma. Following the events overnight, casualty figures have been revised to a total of 74 people, which includes 25 deaths, 10 injured and 39 people missing.

At 07:00 on 9 October, rescue teams from PNRC Olongapo Chapter and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) proceeded towards Pangasinan but had difficulty penetrating flooded areas due to extremely strong currents, poor visibility (darkness) and difficult access to some remote communities. The PNRC national headquarters deployed six water search-and-rescue (WASAR) teams with six water boats in Dagupan for the rescue operations. Disaster response teams (DRTs) deployed in San Fabian are attempting to access Tococ barangay to reach families stranded there.

Coordination and partnerships

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the PNRC is supported by the International Federation, regional disaster response team (RDRT) members and partner national societies including German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Swiss Red Cross. Movement support in the Ketsana relief operation is in terms of operational capacity and the coordination of relief efforts. The PNRC also coordinates and cooperates with national and local authorities.

Daily coordination meetings are held with all Movement partners at operational level. Similarly there are various sectoral meetings held on a daily basis. Overall Movement coordination meetings are held once or twice per week according to need. As outlined in the preliminary emergency appeal, international delegates have been identified and are now arriving in Manila to provide further support. In-country German and Spanish Red Cross partners are in the process of receiving more delegates to support the operation while ICRC has provided four water and habitation teams, and five tracing teams directly to PNRC.

A reporting delegate joined the International Federation on 6 October, and finance/administration and logistics delegates will arrive from 12 October onwards.

The International Federation is awaiting the arrival of three field assessment and coordination team (FACT) delegates to join three Movement partners in-country. The FACT members will include a team leader, and recovery and shelter delegates, while Movement partners will cover water and sanitation, health and logistics.

The regional disaster response team (RDRT) from Southeast Asian national societies are also supporting the effort. The team includes Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Malaysian Red Crescent, Singapore Red Cross and Thai Red Cross members, specializing in water and sanitation, logistics, relief coordination and health. The disaster response delegate and the logistics delegate deployed from the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur continue to support the PNRC in-country.

Inter-agency coordination

The International Federation participates on behalf of PNRC and its partners at inter-agency meetings to coordinate overall relief efforts in the country. The emergency shelter cluster has been activated and is currently being facilitated by a shelter cluster coordinator and an information manager. Activities of organizations, donors and government agencies will be coordinated by relevant clusters to ensure efficient accountable partnerships in the Typhoon Ketsana response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

To date, a total of fifteen water bladders have been made operational since the commencement of relief activities, and 45 portable toilets have been put in place. The PNRC continues to support water and sanitation, and health activities at these evacuation centres.

Assessment efforts with regard to Typhoon Parma are gathering pace and this will feed into the development of one overall plan in support of PNRC's emergency response and recovery operations.

Daily reports monitoring the current situation and activities are shared through the PNRC pipeline between branches and headquarters. With the strike by Typhoon Parma, a larger number of chapter staff and volunteers, and national disaster response team members have been mobilized in response to the subsequent flooding and destruction.

Progress towards objectives

Since the launch of the preliminary emergency appeal on 1 October, the following objectives have progressed as follows:

Relief distributions (non-food items)

Objective: Up to 75,000 people (15,000 families) have their immediate needs provided for through the distribution of non-food items (NFI), such as hygiene kits, kitchen sets, clothing, bedding, jerry cans and household items, by the Red Cross and Red Crescent relief operation.

Expected results	Activities planned
The immediate needs of 15,000 affected families living in evacuation shelters and damaged houses are met through relief distributions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue ongoing needs assessments in affected areas. • Coordinate with local authorities in registration and mapping the selected families. • Deploy trained PNRG volunteers and staff to carry out beneficiary selection and social mobilization. • Engage community participation in planning and distribution of relief items. • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end-user. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

PNRG has distributed family kits to 5,149 families. Each kit consists of two blankets, two mosquito nets, two plastic mats and one hygiene kit. A further nine thousand hygiene kits have been also distributed.

International Federation relief supplies for 10,000 families (or 50,000 people) arrived by air charter on 5 October, deployed from the Federation regional logistics unit warehouse in Malaysia. These items include contributions from American, British, Finnish, German, Japanese, Luxembourg, and Netherlands partner national societies, along with Federation stocks. It took over 12 hours to clear the goods from airport to warehouse as they had to be manually handled. On Tuesday, 6 October, PNRG mobilized items from this stock for more two thousand families in the Laguna, Rizal, and Quezon City areas.

ICRC has also mobilized in-country stocks and Spanish Red Cross has provided bilateral support with staff to assist in the assessment work. All relief supplies provided by the Federation, ICRC and partner national societies are distributed through the PNRG.

Water and sanitation

Objective: Up to 75,000 people (15,000 families) have received water and sanitation support, enabling them to ward off the risks of waterborne and related diseases as well as ensure community survival.

Expected results	Activities planned
Access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities at target evacuation centres has been established along with increased awareness of hygiene practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address water, sanitation and hygiene priorities among people living in selected evacuation centres, with special emphasis on the needs of women and children. • Survey availability of safe drinking water for people living in selected evacuation centres. • Provide water containers and purification tablets to 75,000 people (15,000 families) for one month. These will be included in the non-food item (NFI) packages. • Serve a projected 20,000 people through the trucking of potable water and provision of water bladders at targeted evacuation centres. • Serve a projected 20,000 people by providing emergency latrines for men and women at evacuation centres. • Conduct emergency participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) sessions on the safe use of water and sanitation facilities in the target area through locally identified and

	<p>trained community health and first aid volunteers and other community volunteers in selected shelters and respective communities supporting safe return.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster and maintain regular reporting/feedback.
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PNRC is assisting with water distribution to beneficiaries with the use of jerry cans and trucks as well as two water bladders set up at two evacuation centres. Other sanitation facilities available for beneficiaries are 45 portable toilets. The PNRC water and sanitation team is supported by Spanish Red Cross and ICRC.

Up to fifteen water bladders have been set up by PNRC since the beginning of the operation in different areas. With the help of ICRC, PNRC has water bladders installed in seven evacuation centres in Metro Manila and one in Sta. Maria, Laguna.

Health	
<p>Objective: A projected 75,000 affected people (15,000 families) have benefited from a variety of curative and referral health services, thus reducing community health risks for a quicker rehabilitation and recovery process.</p>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Affected people in communities hit by the typhoon have received appropriate medical services.</p> <p>Communities have received appropriate referral services for the most vulnerable patients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health promotion to affected communities, in coordination with water and sanitation support, through 25 health promotion teams and information, education and communication (IEC) materials. • Provide medicines through 50 essential drug kits, which have the capacity to supply up to 50,000 people. • Service affected communities through the deployment of seven mobile medical teams for one month. • Support medical referral systems for malnourished patients, including children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups.

PNRC's health teams continue visiting the evacuation centres with volunteer first aiders and relief personnel, and distributing hygiene kits and medical services. The organization of more teams for mobile medical and health services in coordination with the department of health is ongoing. Tracing, welfare services and basic psychosocial support to those affected also continue in evacuation centres and private homes.

The following components are part of the longer-term plans of the operation and will be refined and adjusted according to ongoing assessments and the evolution of the situation in the affected areas.

Shelter	
<p>Objective: 4,000 affected people (800 families) are assisted with adequate temporary shelter.</p>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<p>Improve shelter conditions at evacuation centres for families with severely damaged and destroyed houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy trained local PNRC staff and volunteers to carry out beneficiary selection, including dissemination of a self help programme. • Procure and distribute locally appropriate shelter materials, tools and guidance to improve the privacy, repair damages and collectively maintain the premises.

Joint assessment teams are presently in the field carrying out assessments. Further updates on information and statistics will be provided when available.

Early recovery

Objective: 4,000 people (800 families) in the areas most affected have safe and adequate shelter and settlement solutions through the provision of locally appropriate tools, resources and guidance to repair and refurbish their homes.

Expected results	Activities planned
Families are able to refurbish and repair their homes through locally appropriate tools and materials/clean-up kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess and identify beneficiary communities and families, prioritizing families who have lost homes or who have had their homes severely damaged. Mobilize and procure appropriate shelter materials following Federation procurement standards, and distribute them to identified families. Ensure that families are able to organize/mobilize refurbishment of their own homes. Provide guidance on refurbishing homes to be safer, more storm- and flood-resilient where appropriate. Carry out ongoing monitoring and assistance to the families involved.

Activities related to early recovery are still to be planned based on ongoing analysis of needs.

Disaster preparedness

Objective: Communities affected and those at risk to future disasters are supported through increased ability to deal with future calamities via enhanced disaster preparedness capacity.

Expected results	Activities planned
Local PNRC chapters have improved equipment and training for staff and volunteers in disaster and preparedness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train and equip 10 rubber-boat teams in search-and-rescue work. Equip local chapters with 500 rubber boats and 150 life-vests for future search and rescue operations. Equip PNRC headquarters with two land cruisers that will be specially geared for flood situations.

Disaster preparedness efforts have been re-focused on needs in depth rather than on a wider but more superficial basis. Positive impact from this approach is anticipated to be more beneficial for those affected. As such, more study into the identification of priorities and areas of concentration is being done.

Logistics

All appeal items currently listed on the original mobilization table posted by the regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur for this operation have been covered. An updated mobilization table was posted on DMIS on 9 October, with an increase in the need for many of the items. The chartered B747-200 arrived in Manila on 5 October with some 100 tonnes or 500 m³ of relief items sent from the regional logistics warehouse in Malaysia, including 20,000 jerry cans, 20,000 mosquito nets, 20,000 blankets, 3,500 kitchen sets and 10,000 hygiene parcels.

Depending on the availability and estimated time of arrival in Manila, some quantities of the additional needs may go by sea freight. To date, one logistics delegate from the unit remains in Manila to support in-country logistics in the short term. The recruitment of one logistics delegate for longer term support of this operation is in progress.

Additional warehousing in Manila has been secured to accommodate the incoming shipments.

Donors are requested to [coordinate with the regional logistics unit](#) in Kuala Lumpur regarding outstanding needs. Shipping instructions will be provided to donors with a consignment tracking number to be issued before

shipping any goods to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through the regional logistics unit.

Communications – advocacy and public information

International news media continues with extensive coverage of the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines. At present, the destruction and flooding caused by Typhoon Parma in the north of Philippines and Pangasinan are making headlines on international news channels.

Current news stories and further updates from the field are available on the International Federation [website](#).

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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