

PHILIPPINES: TYPHOONS & FLOODS

**appeal no: 32/98
28 October 1998**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 3,458,000
IN CASH AND KIND TO ASSIST 40,000
FAMILIES WITH FOOD, HOUSEHOLD KITS
AND HOUSING MATERIALS FOR 3
MONTHS***

Summary

The Philippines has been hit by nine typhoons in 1998, the latest of which, *Babs*, left 178 people dead, 23 missing and thousands without shelter and with only very limited food supplies. Two previous typhoons, *Vicki* and *Zeb*, resulted in massive floods, landslides and devastation to property, agriculture and infrastructure in Northern Luzon. The three typhoons combined are responsible for at least 374 deaths. An estimated 423,191 families (2,093,778 people) in the Philippines have been affected by typhoon *Babs* with 44,858 homes destroyed and 99,961 partially damaged.

The Philippine National Red Cross carried out evacuation and rescue activities while the typhoons raged and provided mass feeding in the initial phase. However, with relief stocks now depleted and a desperate shortage of shelter, there is an urgent need for assistance. The National Society is also providing tracing services for relatives and friends of the victims domestically and abroad.

The Disaster

Latest reports by the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council (NDCC) and the PNRD indicate that 423,191 families (2,093,778 persons) from 224 municipalities (1,711 villages) have been affected by the strong winds, heavy rains, flash-floods and landslides associated with the latest typhoon. Of this number 178 people have been killed (largely by land-slides), 23 people are missing and an estimated 374 people have sustained serious injuries. Furthermore, crops have been washed away and as many as 145,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed (of this 44,858 houses have been washed away).

Whilst the full picture is still emerging, total losses to infrastructure, housing and agriculture is expected to reach CHF 105 million. Given that the affected region is a prime rice and coconut producing area (rice accounts for 55% of the GDP) and that the country is in an economic recession, the Philippines government will face considerable difficulty in maintaining food supply and affordable prices for foodstuffs.

Catanduanes province in the Bicol region, where communities were isolated by fallen power lines, uprooted trees, damaged roads, collapsed bridges and 3-10 ft. floodwaters, has been particularly affected.

An estimated 87% of the 33,829 families have been left homeless and 46,200 hectares of rice, coconut, abaca, corn and vegetable plantation have been washed away.

The extent of the damage has meant that the local government has only been able to provide limited response and access to the northern municipalities (which are reported to be more devastated according to aerial assessments) remains constrained by collapsed bridges and landslides.

Relief supplies currently need to be airlifted to the disaster areas and survivors are seeking shelter under galvanised iron sheets, plywood and other salvaged materials. Schools, churches and community centres are either already congested or have been destroyed.

Whilst there are currently no acute health problems, the destruction of water sources and sanitation facilities could lead to health risks.

The Response so far

Government Action w

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) declared the provinces in Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions as disaster areas for an immediate relief and rehabilitation operation. Local disaster funds were released and the Philippine President and the Chairman of the NDCC flew to the Catanduanes and Albay areas. The President also approved the initial release of PHP 255 million (approximately 8.1 million) to compliment local relief activities.

Military planes have been bringing food stuffs to the relief distribution points. Search and rescue teams in Bicol, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon are still on alert since floodwaters have not yet receded.

Local government units pressed by the devastating effects of typhoons one after the other, are on the brink of exhaustion since rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts have continued non-stop for the 3 typhoons.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

The PNRC, through its 40 Chapters, mobilised rescue and response teams which conducted rapid needs and damage assessments, assisted in the evacuation and transfer of trapped families, and distributed emergency food to evacuees. These teams provided initial assistance to 18,321 families (94,378 persons) with rice, canned goods, instant noodles and coffee. More than 1,500 people in Sorsogon and Camarines Norte provinces were also given food assistance.

The National Headquarters released more than PHP 1 million (CHF 32,000) over the weekend for the purchase of rice, canned goods and instant noodles. This is in addition to more than PHP 5.5 million (CHF 176,000) worth of relief items issued to Luzon Chapters either as augmentation or replenishment stocks. More relief supplies were flown to Catanduanes and Occidental Mindoro to expedite food distribution.

National and regional teams will be assigned to Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions this week to conduct more detailed surveys and to assist the Chapters in the massive relief operations.

Other Agencies' Action w

Local NGOs and foundations also assisted the government in distributing food to the severely affected areas, as well as in raising funds to sustain relief efforts.

Co-ordination w

The National Disaster Co-ordinating Council is the highest policy and co-ordinating body on disaster management, and is headed by the Secretary of National Defence. Disaster preparedness and response programmes are co-ordinated by the Office of Civil Defence which also serves as the implementing arm of the NDCC.

NGOs actively participate as resource organisations during massive relief operations. Their activities are usually co-ordinated by the Department of Health, and by the Social Welfare and Development which head the health and relief/rehabilitation service committees of NDCC, respectively.

A member of the NDCC and local DCCs, PNRC closely co-ordinates its preparedness and response activities with these co-ordinating bodies.

The Intended Operation

Assessment of Needs •

The needs assessment was carried out by PNRC response teams both initially from Chapter level and then supported by headquarters staff. Response teams, co-ordinating with government authorities, have visited most disaster hit areas though some regions still remain inaccessible. Assessment involved both discussions with community leaders as well as direct contact with those affected; the Philippine RC network is fully integrated within the community and staff have considerable experience in similar operations.

Whilst the needs are considerable, the PNRC, in co-ordination with the government, will target an estimated 10% of the worst hit families for assistance (10% of this population will be provided with housing materials). The PNRC will focus on Catanduanes and Bicol Provinces.

Immediate Needs •

As people are currently homeless and lacking sustained access to food or shelter, food supplies, household equipment (cooking sets etc.), basic health support and housing reconstruction materials are urgently needed.

Anticipated Later Needs •

Immediate needs will be supplemented by further health care (including water and sanitation), housing materials and possibly food security interventions and income generation.

Red Cross Objectives •

This operation will assist more than 40,000 families (240,000 beneficiaries) in their immediate needs for a period of three months. It will specifically aim:

- { to alleviate the suffering of some 40,000 worst affected families (240,000 beneficiaries) through the provision of emergency food supplies, household kits and housing material;
- { to assist 5,000 families (of the 40,000) in hardest hit areas to rehabilitate their homes by providing housing/construction materials;
- { to assist health authorities prevent the outbreak of health epidemics through water purification, fogging operation and immediate treatment of minor ailments.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

The PNRC will implement the operation with initial technical support and monitoring by the Federation's Regional Delegation in Kuala Lumpur. As the programme gets underway a reporting delegate will assist in the operation.

Food •

The PNRC, intends to provide rice, canned goods, salt, sugar and cooking oil to 40,000 worst-affected families (240,000 beneficiaries) for a two-month period of this operation.

Distribution will be as follows:

NAME OF COMMODITY	DAILY FAMILY REQUIREMENT	TOTAL FAMILY REQUIREMENT	TOTAL PROGRAMME REQUIREMENT
Rice	0.6 kgs	20 kgs	800 tons
Sardines	1 tin	0.6 case	528 tons
Meatloaf	1 tin	1.2 cases	627 tons
Salt	50 grams	3 kilos	120 tons
Sugar	50 grams	3 kilos	120 tons
Cooking oil	50 ml.	3 litres	120 tons

Housing repair and household kits •

There is a need to support homeless families through the provision of household kits and construction materials. The operation will assist 5,000 families (30,000 persons) to rehabilitate their shelter/houses through the provision of the following materials:

NAME OF MATERIAL	SPECIFICATION	FAMILY ALLOCATION	TOTAL REQUIREMENT
GI sheets	12 ft length gauge 31	12 sheets	60,000 sheets
Timber	25 pcs. 2x2x12 6 pcs. 2x3x12	126 bdf.	630,000 bdf
CW nails	3" length	5 kilos	25,000 kilos
Umbrella nails	2" length	5 kilos	25,000 kilos

These 5,000 families will also be provided with kitchen utensils including: a pail, a basin, five plastic plates, and five pairs of forks and spoons. 10,000 families will also receive blankets.

Health support •

The operation will assist in the disinfecting of water sources through the distribution of chlorine and water purification tablets. Fogging operations will also be conducted in the severely-flooded communities to reduce the spread of mosquito-borne diseases (specifically dengue) which were at epidemic proportions before the floods. Basic drugs will be used in the treatment of acute diseases of children and the most vulnerable population -- such as gastro-intestinal diseases, respiratory infections and skin problems. The involvement of existing local health systems and the community will be maximised.

Restocking of Supplies

The initial response to the operation has exhausted PNRC stocks. The operation will, therefore, also procure rice, sardines and meatloaf to re-plenish emergency stocks.

Implementation Mechanisms •

Duration of Operation

The over-all operation will be completed within three months. The distribution of food items and household kits should be completed within two months. The provision of housing materials may take longer depending on the availability of materials in the worst-affected provinces.

Selection of Beneficiaries

Local officials and social workers will be consulted in the selection of beneficiaries. The list to be submitted to PNRC will be validated following the criteria stipulated in the PNRC Disaster Operations Manual.

Procurement

The food items, household starters and medicines will be purchased in Manila after securing three tenders, while the housing materials will be procured in the provinces where these can be readily distributed to the beneficiaries. The PNRC will be responsible for the delivery and actual distribution of the relief items.

Mode of Distribution

Actual distribution in the field will be carried out by Chapter officers, staff and volunteers with support from field co-ordinators from the National Headquarters. The Chapters will be responsible for the co-ordination with local authorities, organisation of the distribution system, documentation and recording, as well as dissemination of relief policies and procedures.

Transportation and Warehousing

PNRC vehicles and rented trucks will be utilised in the delivery of relief items to the Chapters and local distribution points. Relief items will be primarily stored at Chapter warehouses where re-packing of the supplies will take place. The Chapters will also be provided with financial support for storage, transport and distribution of the relief items.

Public Awareness and Visibility

The NHQ and Chapters will maintain high-level visibility of the operation through the media and display of Red Cross logos at the distribution sites. Staff will be provided with vests and T-shirts for volunteers. Video material will be produced to enhance dissemination and visibility of the Red Cross.

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Regular field monitoring visits will be conducted by NHQ-based field co-ordinators. Representative of donors will also be given opportunity to visit the field and observe actual distribution. The Federation is also expecting to provide a reporting delegate to the operation.

Monthly situation reports will be prepared by the PNRC, while a final narrative and financial report will be made within one month after the completion of the operation. An evaluation will be conducted by PNRC officials and a Federation representative immediately upon completion.

Operational Capacity of the National Society •

The PNRC is the key relief organisation in the country. Through its range of programmes (including disaster preparedness) as well as its extensive response to previous disasters, it has the necessary experience and expertise to carry out the operation. Its operational capacity is backed up by all-terrain vehicles, radio facilities, warehouses and thousands of experienced and well-trained staff and professional volunteers.

Budget summary

This Appeal seeks CHF 3,458,000 to undertake a three-month emergency relief and rehabilitation operation. For details, please see Annex 1.

Conclusion

The Philippines has been severely affected by numerous typhoons this year and will require external support to meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable victims. Donors are encouraged to support the PNRC in this operation. For further information, please contact Antony Spalton in the Asia/Pacific department at + 41 22 730 4252 or by e-mail: spalton@ifrc.org.

Margareta Wahlström
Under Secretary General,
Disaster Response & Operations Coordination

George Weber
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY
PHILIPPINES: Typhoons & Floods

IN CHF**NON FOOD ITEMS**

Construction material (Timber/Nails)	261,600
Iron sheets (60. 000 pcs x CHF 8)	480,000
Blankets (10.000 pcs x CHF 4.80)	48,000
Agricultural tools & fishing material	3,200
Basins & Buckets (10.000 pcs x CHF 1,6)	16,000
Cooking pots & pans (5.000 pcs x CHF 1,6)	8,000
Crockery & Cutlery (25.000 pcs X CHF 0.19)	4,800

MEDICAL SUPPLIES/DRUGS

Basic Emergency Drugs (see attached list)	48,900
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FOOD ITEMS

Rice (1.050 MT x CHF 544)	571,200
Salt (120 MT x CHF 128)	15,400
Sugar (120 MT x CHF 1.440)	172,800
Oil (120 MT x CHF 1.920)	230,400
Sardines (572 MT x CHF 1.091)	624,000
Meatloaf (700 MT x CHF 1.028)	720,000
Vegetable seeds	8,000

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	3,212,300
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Transport, storage & vehicle costs	36,000
Personnel (Reg. Del +1 expat staff x 3 months)	45,000
Personnel (local staff)	40,000
Travel & Communications	5,000
Information	12,000
Audit	2,000
Administrative, office & general expenses	5,700

Secretariat operational support	100,000
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TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	245,700
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND	3,458,000
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LESS CASH ON HAND	0
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NET REQUEST CASH & KIND	3,458,000
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All items are going to be purchased locally