

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

15 December 2005

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 over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 02/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In the Philippines:* Victor Liozo (Secretary-General) or Raul Garganera (Manager, Disaster Management Service), Philippine National Red Cross, email pnrchq@redcross.org.ph, phone +632 5278384, fax +632 5270887
- *In Thailand:* Alan Bradbury (Regional Programme Coordinator) or Rene Jinon (Acting Head of Regional Disaster Management Unit), Southeast Asia Regional Delegation, email alan.bradbury@ifrc.org, or rene.jinon@ifrc.org, phone +66 2 661 8201, fax +66 2 661 9322
- *In Geneva:* Charles Evans or Sabine Feuglet, Southeast Asia desk, Asia Pacific Regional Department, email charles.evans@ifrc.org or sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org, phone +41 22 7304320, fax +41 22 733 0395.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) 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>

The Situation

Severe monsoon rains have affected the provinces of Mindoro Oriental, Isabela (capital city Ilagan) and Palawan. Ensuing floods and landslides have killed five people and injured three to date. Mindoro Oriental has been the worst hit, with 14,247 families or 85,446 people affected in one city (Calapan city) and four towns. In Isabela and Palawan, 27 *barangays* (villages) in eight municipalities have been inundated, and recent floods have increased the number of affected to 633 families or 3,978 people. *Barangay* Fugu in Ilagan remains isolated, while *barangay* Lalod in Calapan City is still underwater because the area is surrounded by low-lying farm fields. Many other *barangays* in Palawan are inaccessible because of high water levels. Minor cases of common medical emergencies such as diarrhoea, colds, coughs and fever are being reported in the town of Aborlan, Palawan.



Dedicated team members from PNRRC traverse a road so flooded that it has trapped vehicles.

The general situation has begun to normalize however, as families that were evacuated to school buildings and churches begin to return to their own communities. To accommodate the remaining evacuees, local government units (LGU) have established 16 evacuation centres in Mindoro Oriental. As the weather improves, flood water in Calapan City is gradually receding and power, communication and water supplies previously down have been restored or partially restored in all affected regions.

The government national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) has coordinated with the air force to conduct aerial survey/damage assessment and rescue operations. A rescue and relief coordinating centre (RRCC) has been established on 9 December to facilitate transport of relief goods, rescue equipment, medicines and personnel involved in rescue/relief operations. Local government units are also providing relief to affected families and restoring *barangay* roads affected by landslides.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The affected chapter and national headquarters of the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) have coordinated closely with each other in the current operation and have been providing regular updates on the situation through the Federation's disaster management information system (DMIS). They have also been coordinating with the regional delegation based in Bangkok, local disaster coordinating councils and provincial governments. After an assessment indicated the local chapters were capable of monitoring and implementing the operation, the PNRC headquarters handed it over to them, maintaining only a supervisory role.

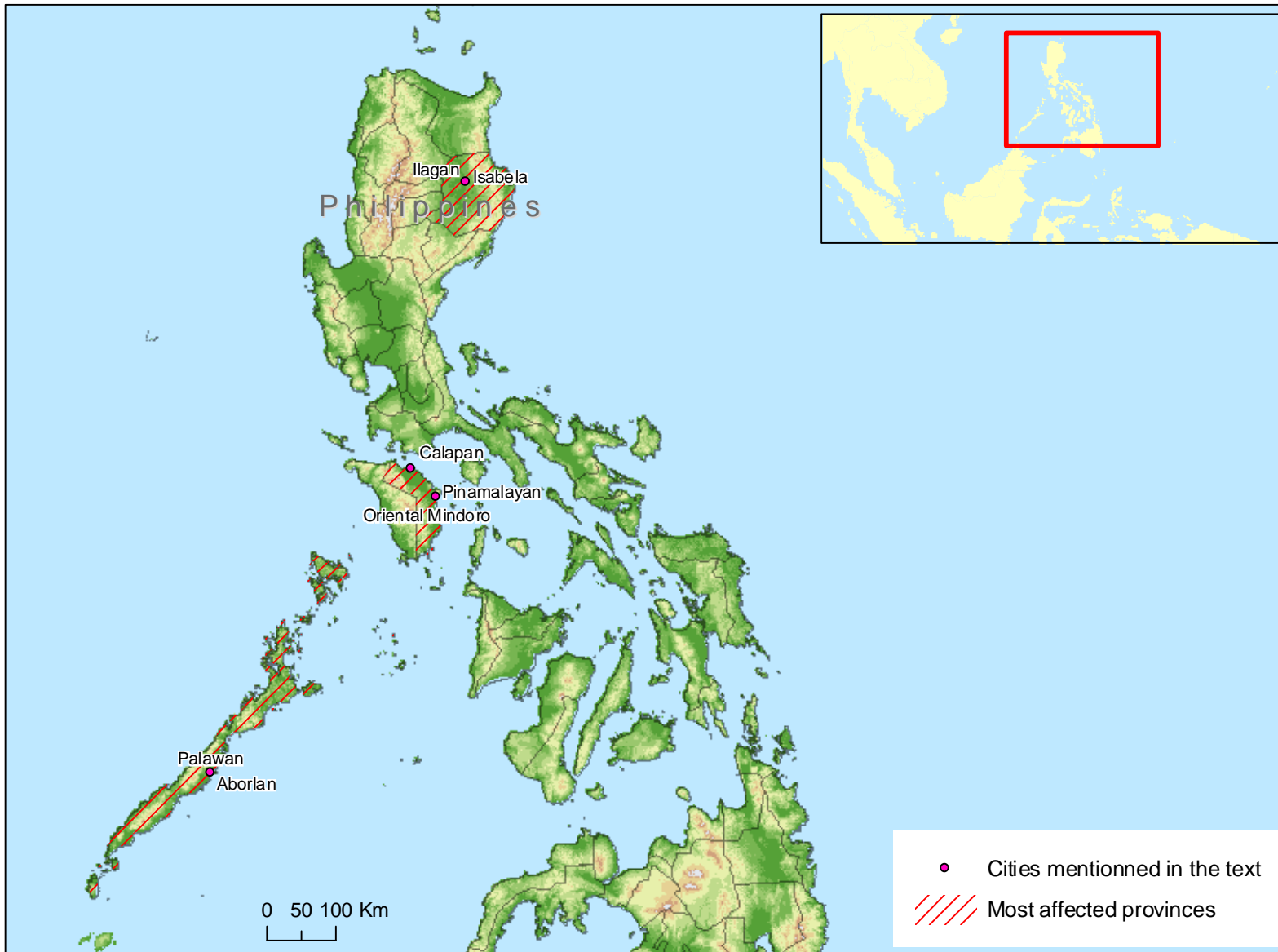
Consequently, the Mindoro Oriental chapter has deployed three assessment teams while the Palawan and Isabela (Iligan city) chapters have deployed three disaster response teams (DRT) responsible to carry out situation analysis, needs assessment and immediate assistance to affected families. The teams have been engaged in rescue, medical/health intervention and evacuation management. They have been assisted by a national headquarters DRT. Latest assessments by these teams identified immediate needs for food, medicines (to treat fever, diarrhoea, cough and cold), water and non-food items (blankets, plastic mats, mosquito nets). The PNRC Mindoro Oriental chapter, assisted by the headquarters team, has served a total of 4,643 families comprising of 27,045 persons with food relief and 138 people in the Pinamalayan municipality with medical aid. A total of 118 families comprising of 580 persons were provided with food assistance in Iligan. Health assessments have also been conducted by national society health teams that are equipped with new emergency health kits. To support teams from the chapter, *barangay* disaster action teams (BDAT) have been further mobilized in affected areas to assist assessment and relief distribution. Volunteers and Red Cross youth have been assisting the packing of relief supplies.

Maintaining its supervisory role, the PNRC national headquarters has been facilitating the procurement of rice, other food items (canned goods, noodles) and financial support to the chapter's disaster operation. The national headquarters has also deployed logistics support and a disaster response team to the chapter; the team has since then been pulled out of the operation and is on standby mode. Monitoring is maintained 24 hours a day through the PRCS chapter disaster operations centre and the headquarters disaster management services operation centre that have been set up specifically for this emergency. Coordination at chapter and national level is also ongoing with government and other partners.

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Philippines: Landslides and floods



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The Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) Mindoro Oriental chapter has deployed three assessment teams while the Palawan and Isabela (Ilagan city) chapters have deployed three disaster response teams (DRT), assisted by a national headquarters DRT.

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