

Information bulletin



Philippines: Typhoon Conson

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has determined that external assistance from donors is not presently required. However, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) will accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected populations.

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Typhoon Conson (local name Basyang) – which hit the northeastern coast of the Philippines on the night of Tuesday, 13 July 2010 – moved out of the Philippines' area of responsibility on Thursday, 15 July 2010. By then, it had weakened into a tropical storm. Latest official figures indicate that over 30,600 families are affected across 12 provinces, with some 1,700 families sheltered in evacuation centres.



A family affected by Typhoon Conson in the municipality of Siniloan, Laguna, assesses their destroyed home. Laguna was hard hit, with a state of calamity declared in the province. Photo: Alexander Mikadze/ IFRC

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) chapters in affected provinces have undertaken rapid assessments to determine the extent and nature of needs. Four chapters have established the nature of support needed on the ground and are mobilizing or distributing relief items. The national headquarters is coordinating response efforts while monitoring the situation.

The Situation

Typhoon Conson (local name: Basyang) – the first serious typhoon of the season – hit the north-eastern coast of the Philippines on the night of Tuesday, 13 July 2010, with winds of up to 120km per hour, and gusts of 150km per hour. It swept across the capital city, Metro Manila, as well as parts of Luzon, leaving a trail of destruction, displacing hundreds of families and causing tens of casualties.

According to the Philippine national disaster coordinating council (NDCC), the effects of this latest typhoon have left 38 people dead, around 20 injured and some 47 missing. In total, over 30,600 families (about 153,000 persons), have been affected across 12 provinces, including in the National Capital Region. Some 2,500 houses have been destroyed and over 16,000 others damaged. Initially, up to 2,100 families were evacuated and sheltered in 62 evacuation centres; as of 06:00 on Friday, 16 July, at least 1,700 families remain in 51 evacuation centres.

In the meantime, Typhoon Conson, which has weakened into a tropical storm, moved out of the Philippines' area of responsibility on Thursday, 15 July 2010, and blew into the South China Sea with sustained winds of approximately 85 km per hour. As of 16 July 2010, no public storm-warning signal has been raised in any area of the country.

Table 1: Casualties and damage caused (Source: NDCC)

Deaths reported	38
People injured	18
People missing	47
People affected	153,426
Initial no. of evacuation centres (with families sheltered)	62 (2,145 families)
Current no. of evacuation centres (with families sheltered)	51 (1,757 families)
Houses damaged	16,067
Houses destroyed	2,591

Meanwhile, normalcy is creeping back and undertaking of repairs to the damage caused has begun. Already, flights have resumed, schools reopened and electricity been restored to Manila and other affected provinces of Luzon. However, at the time of issuing this bulletin, electricity supply had not yet been restored in the entire of Camarines Norte province. Nevertheless, local Red Cross chapters in Aurora, Bulacan, Cavite, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Las Pinas, Manila, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan and Quirino have reported good weather conditions and have closed their typhoon operations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Within hours, the Aurora, Bataan, Batangas, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Cavite, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, Laguna, Manila, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan, Quirino and Rizal chapters of PRC had mobilized their experienced and well-trained volunteers to support rescue efforts and/or to undertake rapid assessments with a view of determining the needs on the ground.



Everyday living resumes and undertaking of repairs to the damage caused has begun. Photo: Alexander Mikadze/ IFRC

Following the rapid assessments, four chapters – Bataan, Batangas, Laguna and Rizal – have established the nature of assistance required, and plans have advanced for them to further respond as needed. The Bataan chapter determined a need for gloves, body bags, food and masks for rescue workers; over 10 deaths directly linked to the typhoon have been reported in the province. The Batangas, Laguna and Rizal chapters have planned to undertake distribution of essential relief items, mainly using resources mobilized locally. All chapters are maintaining close coordination with the national headquarters.

PRC's operations centre and disaster management services unit continued to monitor the typhoon until it moved out of the Philippines.

The two units are also consolidating reports from the chapters. The national headquarters is in constant touch with the Batangas, Laguna and Rizal chapters.

Meanwhile, the IFRC Philippine country office has supported PRC in conducting rapid assessments in Laguna and Rizal [where a response to the typhoons that lashed Philippines in late 2009 is ongoing] as well as in Cavite. The country office is also supporting the National Society in preparing for the worst-case scenario, following the onset of the typhoon season: vehicles and assessment teams are on stand-by.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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