

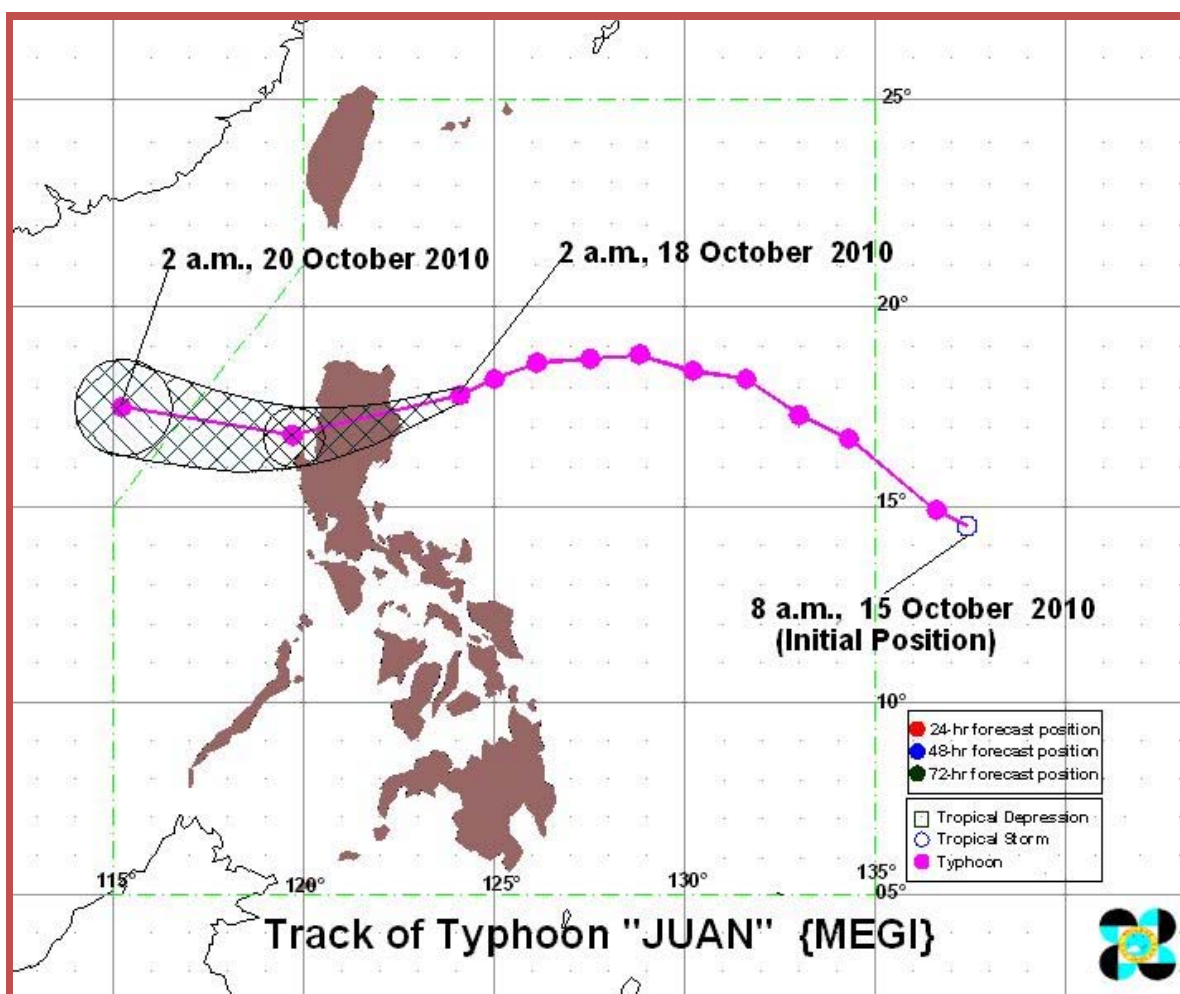
Information bulletin



Philippines: Typhoon Megi

Information bulletin n° 1
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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) and Philippine Red Cross (PRC) have stepped up emergency preparations.



PAGASA's projection of the typhoon's track (as of 02:00h, GMT+8, 18 October 2010)

Typhoon Megi (local name: Juan) is bearing down on the Philippines, packing winds of more than 220kph. Philippine weather authorities have projected that Megi will make landfall in Northern Luzon, on Monday, 18 October 2010. PRC's operations centre and Northern Luzon chapters are monitoring the situation. Search and rescue teams, emergency response units and specialized volunteers are on high alert, standing by for potential deployment. Chapters are readying pre-positioned emergency supplies to help meet needs that may arise.

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The Situation

Super typhoon Megi (local name Juan) is bearing down on the Philippines, packing winds of more than 220kph. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has reported that as of 09:00h GMT+8, Monday, 18 October 2010, the typhoon was located at 140 km East of Tuguegarao City (17.6°N, 123.1°E). It is expected to make landfall in Cagayan Valley, Northern Luzon, within hours.

PAGASA has issued various levels of public storm warnings, ranging from 'Signal No.1' to 'Signal No. 4', for provinces in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region (Region I), Cagayan Valley (Region II) and Central Luzon (Region III). 'Signal No. 4', indicating winds of 185 kph and/or above, has been issued for Cagayan, Ifugao, Isabela, Kalinga and Mountain Province. Areas falling under 'Signal No.3' – winds of 100 to 185 kph – are Apayao, Babuyan group of islands, Batanes, Benguet, Calayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and northern parts of Aurora. Signal No. 2' [winds of 60 to 100 kph] has been issued for Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Polillo and Tarlac and the rest of Aurora. Finally, Bataan, Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Metro Manila, Pampanga, Rizal, Zambales, and northern parts of Quezon fall under 'Signal No. 1', winds of 30 to 60 kph.

Respective government agencies have activated preparedness measures and response teams are on standby for deployment. The national disaster risk reduction and management council (NDRRMC) – which coordinates government response to disasters – is issuing regular advisories. The advisories have been disseminated to respective local disaster risk reduction and management councils, from provincial to the municipal levels. Pre-emptive evacuation of families in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes has been undertaken to minimize casualties resulting from flooding, landslides and mudslides.

Ambulances and medical teams have been mobilized in areas likely to be hit and with regional hospitals have been put on alert. The department of health has provided additional medicine to local health centres in areas likely to be hard-hit while the department of education has ordered the suspension of classes in areas placed on high-level public storm signal in northern Luzon.

Communities have also been warned that – due its strength – the super typhoons could uproot trees, blow away houses made of light material, trigger landslides, and cause storm surges in coastal areas. In all, residents living in low lying and mountainous areas are alerted against possible flash floods and landslides, and those in coastal areas, of possible storm surges. Communities in the direct path of the typhoon are advised to stock up on food and medicine.

NDRRMC has indicated that should the effects of the typhoon go beyond the country's capability to respond, assistance will be requested from members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as per the ASEAN agreement on disaster management and emergency response (AADMER) before an appeal may be made to the international community.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) operations centre is monitoring the situation, receiving latest updates from PAGASA as well as from its chapters in areas placed on alert. Regular updates have been received from Abra, Benguet, Cagayan, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Isabela, La Union, Nueva Vizcaya, Olongapo, Pangasinan and Quirino chapters. The national headquarters has disseminated information – complementing advisories issued by NDRRMC – on measures that communities should take before, during and after the storm.

The National Society has already deployed one unit of its water search and rescue (WASAR) team, with additional teams on standby for potential deployment. Emergency response units (ERUs) are also on standby for possible deployment. PRC has additional equipment [for water search and rescue], water treatment plants, ambulances and vehicles that are on standby and ready for deployment to priority areas, should the need arise. It can also provide portalets to evacuation centres, and its community health volunteers are ready to conduct basic hygiene education to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities by families to be assisted.

Volunteers and staff are readying pre-positioned emergency supplies such as food, bedding and hygiene items to help meet communities' needs. Pre-positioned emergency supplies are sufficient to serve 10,000 families as of now. With regard to food, PRC has a memorandum of agreement with the national food authority (NFA), which allows the National Society to obtain rice at NFA provincial warehouses nearest to the affected areas.

Meanwhile, PRC is participating in NDRRMC meetings, to discuss preparedness and response measures, as it is a member agency. PRC is also coordinating with the department of social welfare and development (DSWD), department of health, and disaster risk reduction and management coordination councils at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels.

The IFRC country office is also supporting in preparing for the worst-case scenario. It has put well-equipped assessment teams, with vehicles and communication equipment on stand-by. The country office has personnel in some of the areas currently under alert, as it has been supporting PRC in ongoing operations relating to typhoons Ketsana and Parma of 2009. A delegate is already in Kalinga [which falls under 'Signal 4' areas] while another is on way to Pangasinan [which falls under 'Signal 2' areas]. They will support the local Red Cross chapters in emergency relief operations and rapid assessments.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the IFRC's Asia Pacific zone disaster management unit (DMU) is closely monitoring the storm, coordinating with the logistics team. Preparations have advanced to support Philippine Red Cross with additional emergency supplies and resources, if needed.

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.

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.

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.

Contact information

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