

Information bulletin

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Megi

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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 determined that external assistance is currently not required. Therefore, funding or other assistance from donors is not being sought at this time.



Typhoon Megi smashed into the Philippines with powerful force. Winds toppled electrical posts – causing power outages – and uprooted trees. Fallen electrical posts meant a dark night for residents of Kalinga.
Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC

Typhoon Megi (local name Juan) battered the Philippines on Monday, 18 October 2010, with winds of more than 220km/h and heavy rains. According to Philippine weather authorities, the super storm made landfall near Divilacan Island on the eastern coast of Isabela Province. Its powerful winds toppled electrical posts – causing power outages – uprooted trees, and blew roofs away.

Preliminary data indicates seven confirmed deaths and 12 injuries. In total, there are some 2,300 families affected in 11 provinces, and at least 35 houses damaged in three provinces. More than 1,700 families are currently in over 50 evacuation centres established across the affected provinces.

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) emergency response units and specialized volunteers have begun responding to needs, delivering food and non-food items to families in evacuation centres. The teams that were on standby in affected provinces are on the ground conducting assessments. The IFRC country office has also deployed delegates to augment assessment efforts. Meanwhile, PRC national headquarters and affected chapters are readying additional relief supplies for distribution to affected persons in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela and Pangasinan. The operations centre and chapters in all affected provinces continue to monitor the situation.

[<click here for contact information](#) and [here for a map of affected areas](#)>

The Situation

Typhoon Megi battered the Philippines on Monday, 18 October 2010, with winds of more than 220kph and heavy rains. Weather authorities report that the super storm made landfall near Divilacan Island on the eastern coast of Isabela province. Its powerful winds toppled electrical posts – causing power outages – uprooted trees, and blew roofs away. Megi then weakened slightly as it moved across the northern Philippines, heading towards the South China Sea.

Isabela and Cagayan provinces felt the first blows of Megi, experiencing province-wide power failures and interrupted communication services. Other areas that felt the brunt of the typhoon include Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Benguet, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, La Union, Mountain Province and Pangasinan. Ilocos Sur and La Union are still experiencing province-wide power failure while power interruptions persist in parts of Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan.

According to updates from the national disaster risk reduction and management council (NDRRMC), around 20 casualties have been reported so far. Three provinces – Baguio, Cagayan and Kalinga – have reported one typhoon-related death each and Pangasinan, four deaths. In total, at least 2,300 families have been affected in 11 provinces, with some 35 houses damaged in three provinces. More than 1,700 families are currently sheltered in over 50 evacuation centres across the affected provinces.



This elementary school suffered considerable damage, with its roof blow off by the strong winds
Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC

Earlier, hours before the typhoon made landfall, some 600 families fled their homes – in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes – and sought shelter in sturdy buildings, including gymnasiums, schools and churches. Most of them followed advisories disseminated by NDRRMC to respective local disaster risk reduction and management councils, from provincial to the municipal levels. Besides pre-emptive evacuation, there were forced evacuations of families who were reluctant to get out of harm's way.

Heavy rains continued to pound parts of Luzon on Tuesday morning. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) advised residents of northern and central Luzon, as well as Metro to brace for heavy rains even after downgraded public storm warnings. The highest level as of Tuesday, 19 October 2010, is 'Signal No. 2' [winds of 60 to 100 kph]. It applies to Abra, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan and Zambales provinces. Areas falling under 'Signal No. 1' [winds of 30 to 60 km/h] are Apayao, Aurora, Bataan, Benguet, Bulacan, Cagayan, Cavite, Ifugao, Isabela, Kalinga, Lubang Island, Metro Manila, Mountain Province, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Pampanga, Quirino and Tarlac.

Meanwhile, Isabela has been placed the province under a state of calamity. Additionally, the government has suspended work in government offices in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region (Region I) and Cagayan Valley (Region II) for Tuesday. Nevertheless, departments involved in delivery of basic health services, disaster response, and other vital public services remain operational.

A clear picture of Megi's impact will emerge in the coming days as assessments are conducted to determine the needs on the ground. Authorities had indicated that should the effects of the typhoon go beyond the country's capability to respond, assistance would 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 is made to the international community.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Hours before Megi made landfall, Philippine Red Cross deployed one unit of its water search and rescue (WASAR) teams to Isabela. Additional teams on standby in other provinces for potential deployment.
Photo: Romulo Godinez/Philippine Red Cross

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) emergency response units and specialized volunteers – who had been deployed and were on standby well before the typhoon made landfall – have begun responding to needs, delivering food and non-food items to families in evacuation centres. As of this morning (19 October), they had provided biscuits to 127 families in Kalinga and 173 families in Pangasinan and hot meals to 114 families in Cavite. PRC had also distributed sleeping items [mats and blankets] to 173 families in Pangasinan.

Some response teams that were on standby in affected provinces are already on the ground conducting rapid assessments. Preliminary observations indicate that over 80 per cent of houses in Isabela province suffered some degree of damage – ranging from moderate to total. Damage to houses has also been observed in Kalinga, including to an elementary school that was hard-hit. Red Cross chapter offices in Isabela and Pangasinan were not spared by the storm. However, it is difficult to provide an accurate picture of Megi's impact since assessments are still at the early stage.

Meanwhile, the PRC national headquarters is readying additional relief supplies, sufficient for 2,000 families, to be dispatched to Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela and Pangasinan. The National Society has also purchased additional food – including rice, noodles and sardines – for distribution to the affected provinces. The national headquarters is putting in place measures to boost human resource, logistical and operational capacities of the Isabela chapter, following a declaration of state of calamity in the province. Already, a generator has been dispatched and is expected to be installed by Thursday, 21 October 2010. The operations centre and chapters in all affected provinces continue to monitor the situation

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 has deployed delegates to augment assessment efforts. Two are already on the ground and have assisted PRC chapters in conducting rapid assessments in Kalinga and Pangasinan. Additional delegates and staff will head to Cagayan and Isabela tomorrow morning. They are well equipped with vehicles and communication hardware, including satellite phones, to ensure constant touch. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the IFRC's Asia Pacific Zone disaster management unit (DMU) remains on standby to support the Philippine Red Cross via the IFRC country office, 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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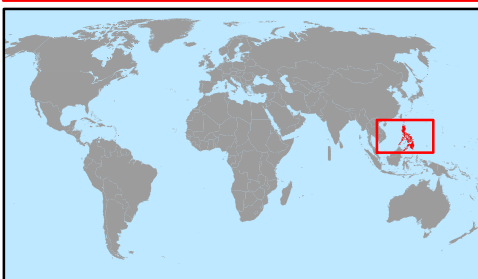
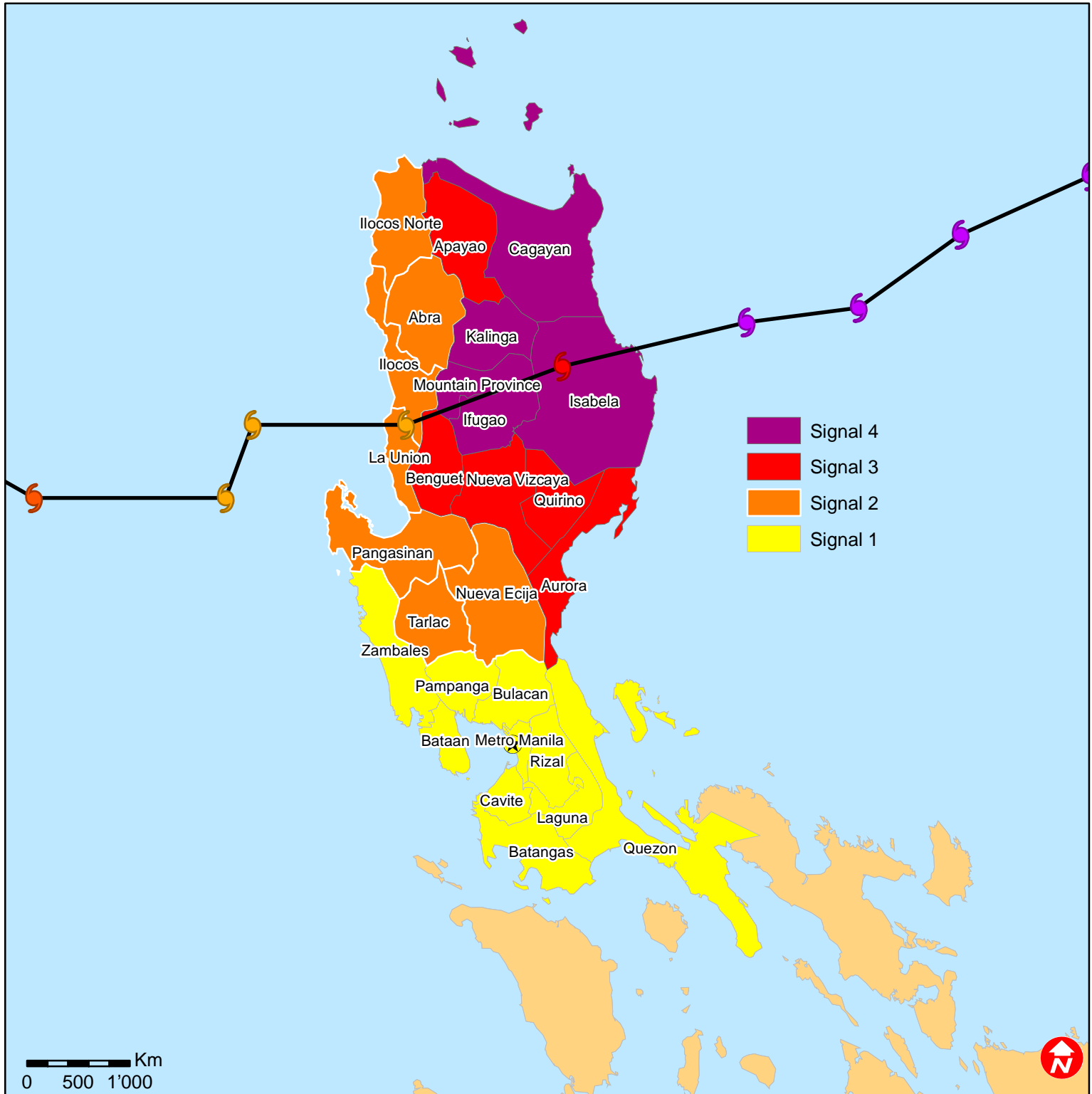
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[<Map below; click here to return to title page >](#)



The Philippines: Tropical Cyclone MEGI



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GRUMP, International Federation, UNISYS - IB191010.mxd

- SUPER TYPHOON-5
- TYPHOON-4
- TYPHOON-3
- TYPHOON-2
- TYPHOON-1
- TROPICAL STORM
- TROPICAL DEPRESSION