

# Information bulletin

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Philippines: Typhoon Megi

Information bulletin n° 3  
GLIDE [TC-2010-000205-PHL](#)  
21 October 2010

**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and Red Cross Red Crescent partners with in-country presence are currently conducting assessments. Assessment results will indicate if external donor support is required. Therefore, funding or other assistance from donors is not being sought at this time.**

Typhoon Megi battered the Philippines on Monday, 18 October 2010, with winds of more than 220km/h and heavy rains. Weather authorities report that the super storm made landfall near Divilacan Island on the eastern coast of Isabela province. It weakened as it moved across the northern part of the country, exiting through La Union to the South China Sea Tuesday, 19 October 2010, morning.

Gale force winds and heavy rainfall were experienced throughout Ilocos (Region I), Cagayan Valley (Region II), Central Luzon (Region III), and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Cagayan and Isabela provinces, in Region II, were severely affected, with communication channels cut and access prevented due to stormy weather. Isabela province has been placed under a state of calamity. Roads in some affected provinces remain blocked and impassable due to landslides, hampering accessibility by assessment teams.

National disaster authorities have reported 19 typhoon-related deaths and 28 injuries, as of 21 October 2010 afternoon. Some 211,149 families (1 million persons) have been affected, with 5,428 families (23,127 persons) sheltered in 170 evacuation centres established across the affected provinces. At least 22,099 houses have been damaged; 7,947 of them destroyed and 14,152 partially damaged.



Observations by Red Cross Red Crescent assessment teams show a significant need for shelter assistance in Isabela which remains under a state of calamity. These children play at their destroyed house. Photo: Hajime Matsunaga/IFRC

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has provided – and continues to provide – food and non-food items to families in evacuation centres across the affected provinces. The national headquarters has dispatched additional relief supplies to enable its chapters to serve those affected in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela and Pangasinan.

Meanwhile, four joint Red Cross Red Crescent assessment teams are on the ground surveying the extent of the damage and the needs of affected communities. Rapid assessments have so far been undertaken in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela and Pangasinan. It is clear that there are significant shelter needs in Isabela where tens of thousands of houses have been either partially damaged or totally destroyed. Some coastal parts of Isabela remain inaccessible; the needs there are also likely to be significant.

[<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 220km/h and heavy rains. Weather authorities report that the super storm made landfall near Divilacan Island on the eastern coast of Isabela province. It weakened as it moved across the northern part of the country, exiting through La Union to the South China Sea Tuesday, 19 October 2010, morning.

Gale force winds and heavy rainfall were experienced throughout Ilocos (Region I), Cagayan Valley (Region II), Central Luzon (Region III), and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Cagayan and Isabela provinces, in Region II, were severely affected, with communication channels cut and access prevented due to stormy weather. Isabela province was placed under a state of calamity. Both Isabela and Cagayan provinces – which felt the first blows of Megi, experiencing province-wide power failures and interrupted communication services – are the worst hit. 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.

According to updates from the national disaster risk reduction and management council ([NDRRMC](#)), at least 47 typhoon-related casualties – 19 deaths and 28 injuries – had been reported as of 21 October 2010 afternoon. Some 211,149 families (1,015,895 persons) have been affected, with 5,428 families (23,127 persons) sheltered in 170 evacuation centres established across the affected provinces. As regards damage to shelter, at least 22,099 houses have been damaged; 7,947 of them destroyed and 14,152 partially damaged.

On Wednesday, 20 October 2010, a high level NDRRMC team undertook rapid aerial and ground assessments in Cagayan and Isabela. The assessment noted that shelter assistance is critical for the displaced families. This corroborates the observations made by the joint Red Cross Red Crescent assessment team that there is a significant need for shelter assistance in Isabela, which remains under a state of calamity. In fact, some coastal parts of the province remain inaccessible and the needs are likely to increase. Some roads in Benguet, Ifugao and Kalinga provinces remain blocked and impassable due to landslides.

A clear picture of Megi's impact is emerging gradually as assessments are conducted to determine the needs on the ground. Other general observation show that communication and power facilities are on the process of being restored, together with roads and bridges becoming more passable. Conservative estimates by the authorities show the extent of damage at 80 per cent to rice, corn and other high value commercial crops. This is because the most affected provinces are agriculture-rich.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has indicated that Typhoon Megi continues to move away from the country. However, the weather bureau has alerted residents along the coastal areas of Western Luzon of possible storm surges. They have also warned of another weather system with the potential of entering the Philippines. All public storm warnings have now been lifted.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the disaster struck, PRC has provided – and continues to provide – food and non-food items to families in evacuation centres across the affected provinces. A total of 1,735 families have been assisted to date.

Specific details on the assistance provided are as follows:

- Hot meals to 222 families in Baguio and 114 families in Cavite
- Biscuits to 297 families in Benguet, 127 families in Kalinga and 251 families in Pangasinan
- Sleeping items (mats and blankets) to 251 families in Pangasinan
- Standard food parcel (rice, noodles and sardines) to 500 families in La Union and 224 families in Tarlac

On Tuesday, 19 October 2010, PRC national headquarters dispatched standard food packages [comprising rice, noodles and sardines] and relief supplies – sufficient for 2,000 families – to Isabela. Also dispatched to Isabela were tarpaulins for 600 families. The items have arrived and distribution is ongoing. Similar items, sufficient for 300 families, were dispatched to Benguet.

Meanwhile, four joint Red Cross Red Crescent assessment teams are on the ground surveying the extent of the damage and the needs of affected communities. The teams comprise members from PRC, IFRC, German Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross. Rapid assessments have so far been undertaken in Cagayan, Kalinga, Isabela and Pangasinan and are presently ongoing in Cagayan, Isabela and La Union. The rapid response coordinator from European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) regional support office in Bangkok joined one assessment team in Isabela. Based on first observations, it is clear that there are significant, urgent shelter needs in Isabela where tens of thousands of houses have been either partially damaged or totally destroyed.



**A Philippine Red Cross ambassador joins other volunteers in readying relief supplies. PRC has assisted 1,735 families to date.**  
Photo: Afrhill Rances/IFRC

The Red Cross Red Crescent is coordinating with other actors. PRC continues to participate in NDRRMC meetings as well as 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. On its part, the IFRC country office is participating in the humanitarian country team (HCT) meetings. The HCT held a 'donor briefing session' earlier today, during which PRC made a presentation on the preliminary findings of its rapid assessments.

The interagency standing committee (IASC) clusters are taking no chances and are holding preliminary meetings to be prepared, should a massive response be required. The country office has played a role in the preliminary meetings of the emergency shelter cluster, during which the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Handicap International indicated they would be providing shelter repair kits in Isabela.

The IFRC country office deployed delegates to augment assessment efforts. Two have assisted PRC chapters in conducting rapid assessments in Kalinga and Pangasinan. Additional delegates and staff are in Cagayan and Isabela as part of the joint Red Cross Red Crescent assessment teams. They comprise specializations in relief, shelter, water and sanitation, communications and reporting. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the IFRC's Asia Pacific Zone office remains on standby to support Philippine Red Cross with additional technical support, emergency supplies and resources, if needed. Similarly, the ICRC delegation in the Philippines is also ready to provide support to PRC, including relief items, and water and sanitation expertise.

## **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

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

In the Philippines

- Philippine Red Cross (phone: +63-2-525-5654, fax: +63-2-527-0857):
  - Gwendolyn T. Pang, secretary-general; email: [gwenpang@redcross.org.ph](mailto:gwenpang@redcross.org.ph)
- IFRC country office (phone: +63-2-309-8622, fax +63-2-524-3151):
  - Sandro Kushashvili, head of operations, email: [alexander.kushashvili@ifrc.org](mailto:alexander.kushashvili@ifrc.org);
  - Selvaratnam Sinnadurai, head of country office, email: [selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org](mailto:selvaratnam.sinnadurai@ifrc.org);

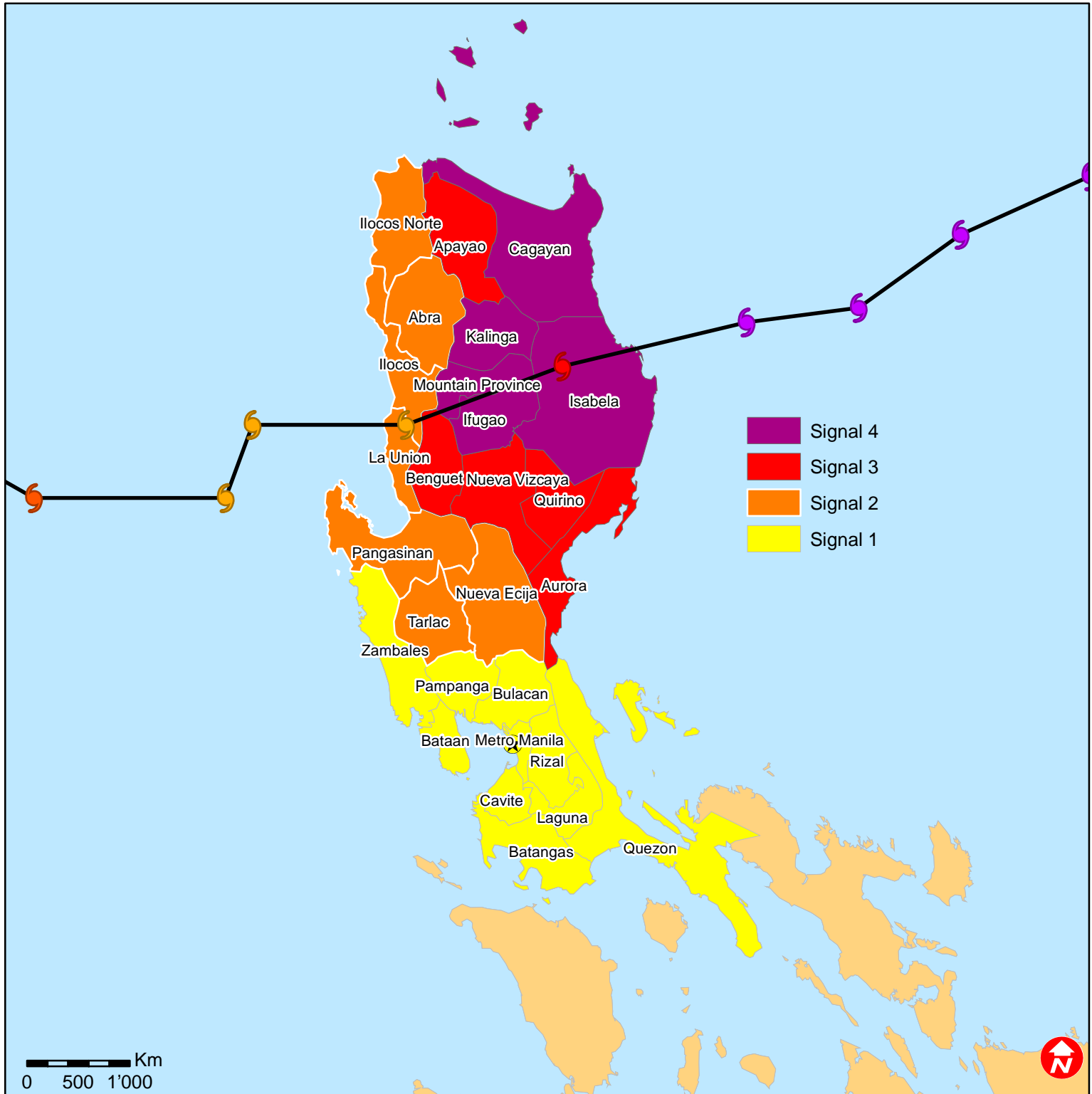
IFRC Asia Pacific zone office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60-3-9207-5700, fax +60-3-2161-0670):

- Jagan Chapagain, head of operations; email: [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org)
- Heikki Väättämoinen, operations coordinator, email: [heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org](mailto:heikki.vaatamoinen@ifrc.org)
- Francis Markus, acting communications manager, email: [francis.markus@ifrc.org](mailto:francis.markus@ifrc.org)  
mobile: +86-139-1009-6892
- Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization and PMER; email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org)  
Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

[<Map below; click here to return to title page >](#)



# The Philippines: Tropical Cyclone MEGI



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

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