

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Philippines: Flash floods and landslides

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**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details currently available. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is not seeking external assistance, nor funding or other assistance from donors at this time.**

[<click for map of affected areas or detailed contact information>](#)

Since the early morning of 29 December 2010, moderate to heavy rains have been pouring down on MIMAROPA<sup>1</sup> (Region 4-B), Bicol region (Region 5), Central Visayas (Region 7), Eastern Visayas (Region 8), Northern Mindanao (Region 10), Davao region (Region 11), Autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and CARAGA<sup>2</sup> (Region 13) caused by the tail of a cold front that triggered the occurrence of landslides and flash floods in different areas.

### The situation

Since the early morning of 29 December 2010, moderate to heavy rains have been pouring down on the provinces of MIMAROPA (Region 4-B), Bicol region (Region 5), Central Visayas (Region 7), Eastern Visayas (Region 8), Northern Mindanao (Region 10), Davao Region (Region 11), Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and CARAGA (Region 13) caused by the tail of a cold front that triggered the occurrence of landslides and flash flood in different areas.

As of 4 January 2011, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported 68,498 families affected in the following provinces: Palawan Albay, Sorsogon, Cebu City, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte and Western Samar; Lanao del Norte; Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Maguindanao, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

A total of 2,712 families or 12,908 persons are currently housed in 28 evacuation centres in the provinces of Southern Leyte, Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte as a result of a pre-emptive evacuation initiated by the local government units (LGUs).

Up to 4 January, the effects of landslides and flash floods have left ten people dead in Albay, Legazpi City, Compostela Valley, Lanao del Norte and Southern Leyte with one person missing in Southern Leyte. A total of 32 houses were reported totally damaged in the provinces of Southern Leyte, Cebu, Lanao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur. In addition, some 199 hectares of newly planted rice seedlings were submerged in Albay while four hectares of corn fields were also affected in Agusan del Norte.

<sup>1</sup> Comprising the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan

<sup>2</sup> Comprising the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur on Mindanao

**Table 1. Casualties and damaged caused, as of 4 January 2011 (according to NDRRMC)**

<b>Deaths</b>	10
<b>Missing</b>	1
<b>People affected</b>	356,528 persons (68,498 families)
<b>Current no. of evacuation centres (with families sheltered)</b>	2,712 (12,908persons)
<b>Houses totally damaged</b>	32
<b>Houses partially damaged</b>	17

Continuous heavy rains caused the rivers and streams to overflow, resulting in flash floods and landslides. During this reporting period, the tail-end of the cold front is still affecting Visayas and Mindanao, bringing cloudy skies and rain showers. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) advised fishermen in Luzon, Visayas, including Northern and Eastern Mindanao not to venture out into the sea due to big waves generated by moderate to strong winds.

## Action by authorities

To date, authorities have undertaken search, rescue and relief operations. Other areas of action by authorities include, but are not limited to, the following: conducting rapid health assessment and needs analysis, posting situation reports, and relaying information from time to time using social media (Facebook), and providing relief assistance to affected families. Details of assistance rendered are not currently available.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PRC chapters in affected provinces immediately mobilized volunteers to survey affected municipalities and evacuation centres. Following rapid assessments, Southern Leyte chapter mobilized resources locally and undertook distributions of essential food items. As of the reporting period, the chapters of Southern Leyte, Surigao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Lanao del Norte and Agusan del Sur had served 568 families or 2,273 individuals

Other chapters concerned continue to monitor the situation in their respective areas and coordinate with Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) and/or the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC). The PRC operation centre is monitoring the situation very closely and is in touch with the authorities and the affected chapters. While numbers of those affected are high, water levels in many areas have receded rapidly and people in the evacuation centres were relocated mainly as pre-emptive measures initiated by the local government units (LGUs) in anticipation of imminent danger.

The IFRC Philippine country office and PRC are working in preparation for a worst-case scenario, ensuring well-equipped assessment teams and vehicles are on stand-by. A contingency stock of non-food relief items supported by IFRC which is sufficient to meet the needs of 10,000 families is in place at the national headquarters level and is ready for dispatch as need arises.

## 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.**

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.

## Contact information

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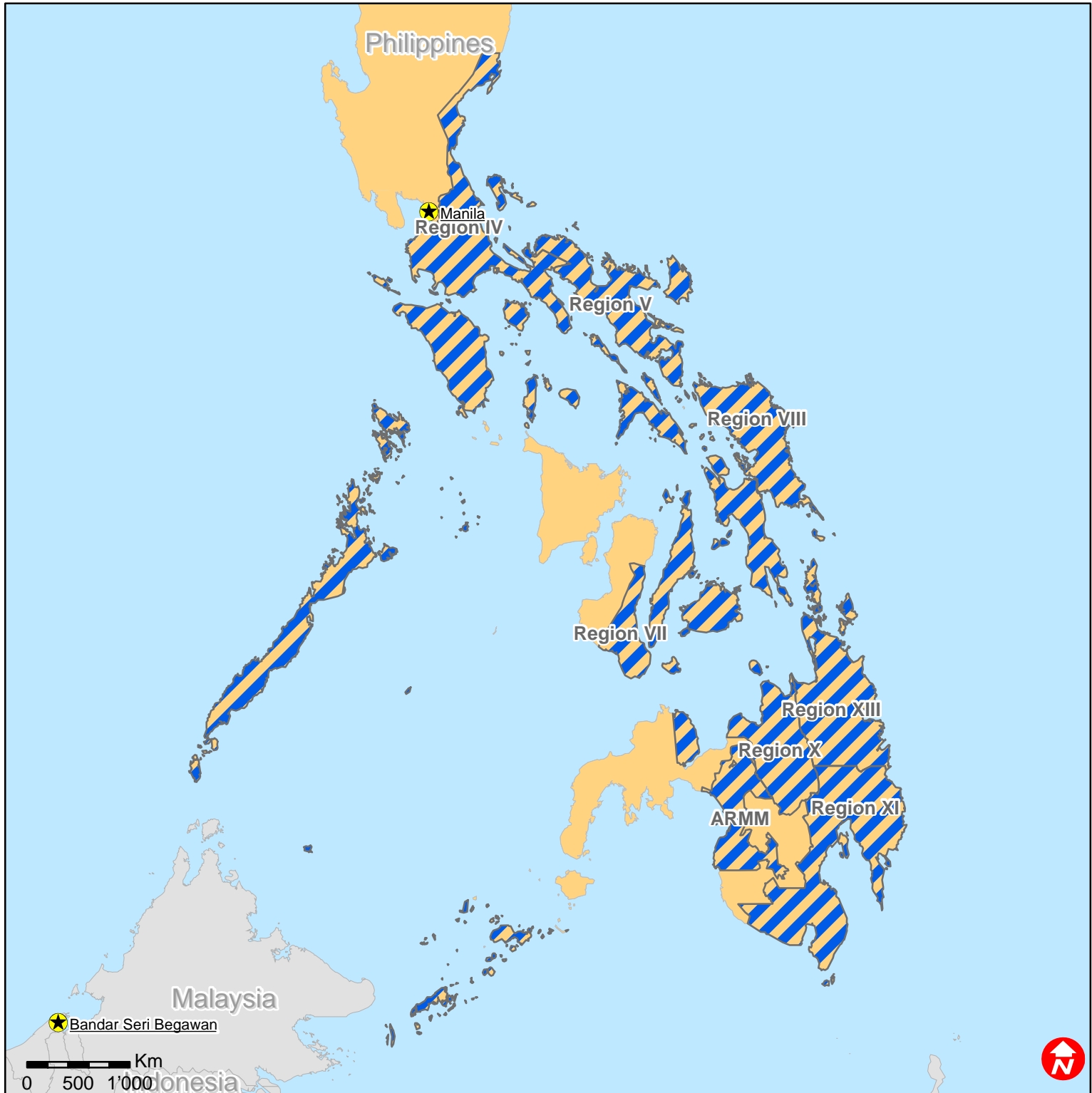
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Please send all pledges of funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

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 Affected Regions