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# Information bulletin

## Philippines: Typhoon Ambo (Vongfong)

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Glide n°</b> <a href="#">TC-2020-000134-PHL</a>	<b>Date of issue:</b> 14 May 2020
<b>Date of disaster</b> Expected landfall on 14 May 2020	<b>Point of contact:</b> Leonardo Ebajo, PRC Disaster Management Services
<b>Operation start date:</b> N/A	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> N/A
<b>Category of disaster:</b> N/A	
<b>Host National Society:</b> Philippine Red Cross (PRC)	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 7.1 million exposed	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> N/A
<b>N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation:</b> N/A	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> N/A	

*This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. However, this might change as the situation evolves, especially after the storm makes landfall. An imminent DREF activation is currently under consideration.*

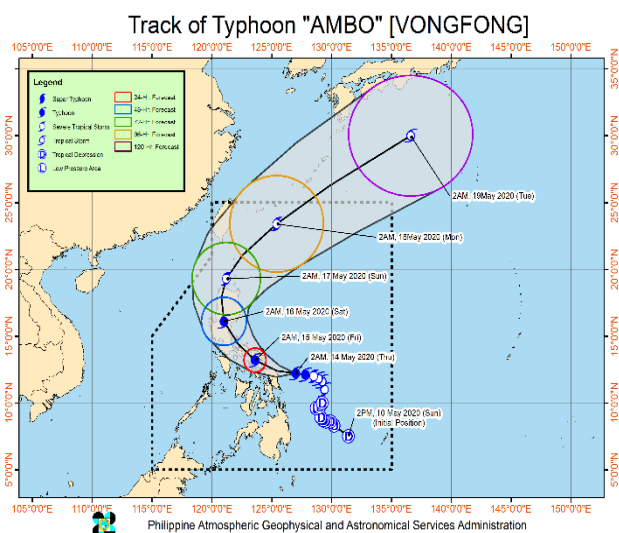
<click [here](#) to view the map of the affected area, and click [here](#) for detailed contact information>

## The situation

According to the [Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration](#) (PAGASA) as of 04:00 hours local time on 14 May 2020, Typhoon Vongfong is approximately 230 kilometers east of the Catarman, Northern Samar, moving west at 15 kmph. On entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), it has been locally named "Typhoon Ambo". PAGASA reports that Typhoon Ambo has maximum sustained winds of 150 kmph near the center and gustiness of up to 185 kmph. It has rapidly intensified from a severe tropical storm into a Category 3 typhoon over the past 12 hours.

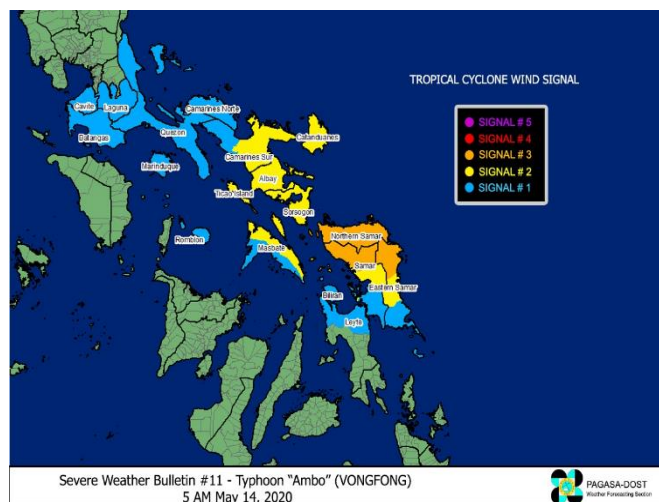
The trajectory of the weather disturbance is currently forecast to make landfall over the northeastern part of northern Samar province, eastern Visayas (Region VIII) in the afternoon of 14 May 2020, before moving towards Sorsogon province, Bicol (Region V).

Heavy to intense rainfall is predicted in Samar provinces, eastern Visayas (Region VIII) and in Aurora, Quezon, Marinduque, northern Samar, Quezon and Romblon provinces, Bicol (Region V). Storm surges between 1.0 to 3.0 meters may also be experienced in coast areas. Strong winds, storm surges and rainfall can be expected to cause flooding and trigger landslides, resulting in casualties, as well as damages to crops livelihoods, livestock, infrastructure and housing.



The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has warned that heavy rain associated with Typhoon Ambo may also cause lahar<sup>1</sup> and sediment laden streamflow along the rivers that run down the slope of Mayon Volcano in Albay province, Bicol (Region V). Mayon is regarded as the Philippines most active volcano, last erupting in 2018. Approximately, 729,000 people (in 350 barangays) live within the 17 kilometers Danger Zone of Mayon Volcano and would be at risk in the event of an eruption (Philippines Statistics Authority).

From 10 May 2020, the [National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council](#) (NDRRMC) has been issuing advisory warnings. As the weather system comes closer and more information on the expected impact becomes available, the NDRRMC will begin to disseminate public warnings on flooding and landslides.



Wind signal mapping over Philippines. (Source: PAGASA)

There are concerns that the weather system could cause damage in communities across Bicol (Region V) and Easter Visayas (Region VIII), which have been struck in recent years notably by Typhoon Melor (2015, [MDRPH020](#)), Typhoon Nock-Ten (2016, [MDRPH023](#)), Tropical Storm Usman (2019, [MDRPH030](#)) and Typhoon Kammuri (2019, [MDRPH037](#)).

The [Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System \(GDACS\)](#) has reported that 7.1 million people could be exposed to the effects to this weather disturbance (Category 1 or above), and has issued a “Red Alert” rating of 2.5 (from a scale of 3), predicting a possible “[High](#)” level of humanitarian impact.

Typhoon Ambo will become the Philippines first tropical cyclone in 2020, and comes at a time when the authorities and partner organizations are tackling the COVID-19 outbreak, which has resulted in 11,618 cases and 772 deaths in the country since the beginning of 2020 ([Department of Health](#)). The COVID-19 outbreak has led to the introduction of enhanced community quarantines, physical distancing, and limitation of movement within the entire country. This can be expected to complicate actions required to evacuate and support those affected by the impacts of Typhoon Ambo, and potentially increase the risk of transmission. There are also ongoing responses underway to disease outbreaks (measles and polio), earthquakes (Mindanao), typhoons (Kammuri and Phanfone), and volcanic eruptions (Taal Volcano).

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In accordance with PRC’s standard operating procedures, the Operations Centre (OpCen), which functions 24/7, is on heightened alert. National Headquarters (NHQ) will instruct PRC’s chapters to be ready to respond through the delivery of services including – first aid, search and rescue, psychosocial support and welfare. PRC chapters in areas most likely to be affected will communicate with community volunteers (Red Cross 143) for information, and to start implementing early warning measures. Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT 143) will be put on standby. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), health and welfare personnel have also been alerted, for possible deployment. The PRC communications teams will post updates and photos of the situation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). PRC has disseminated updates and is coordinating with Movement partners with presence in-country.

In 2019-2020, PRC has been managing operations supported through the IFRC DREF and Emergency Appeal (EA) mechanisms in response to disease outbreaks (COVID-19, dengue, measles and polio), earthquakes (Batanes, Mindanao), typhoons (Kammuri, Phanfone and Mangkhut) and volcanic eruptions (Taal Volcano).

The IFRC Philippines Country Office (CO) is continuing to monitor the situation in close contact with its counterparts in the PRC NHQ; and has been in dialogue with the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) who are on standby to support should there be a need to mobilize international assistance. IFRC has shared updates with the ICRC and

<sup>1</sup> Lahar is a violent type of mudflow or debris flow composed of a slurry of pyroclastic material, rocky debris and water.

Partner National Societies (PNS) including the American Red Cross who has programming in areas which are expected to be affected in Bicol (Region V). An [IFRC GO Platform field report](#) was issued on 14 May 2020.

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team's (HCT) preparedness measure in anticipation of a need to respond to the impact of Typhoon Ambo, HCT has begun a mapping exercise of the humanitarian footprint in the most likely-affected areas. IFRC as co-lead of the Shelter Cluster is contributing to this exercise, alongside the government lead agency Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The German Red Cross as part of a Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project for typhoons supported through the IFRC DREF has been monitoring the situation, based on pre-agreed meteorological based indicators, should there be a need for the activation of the "Early Action Protocol" (EAP) and mobilize resources. At the time of publication, it has been decided not to activate this funding mechanism. The Netherlands Red Cross supported 510 initiative has already been preparing maps, containing information on where the weather system will impact, and expected level of damage.

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## Contact information

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

### In Philippine Red Cross

- Elizabeth Zavalla, secretary general; email: [elizabeth.zavalla@redcross.org.ph](mailto:elizabeth.zavalla@redcross.org.ph)
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## How we work

All IFRC 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 Humanitarian 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.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



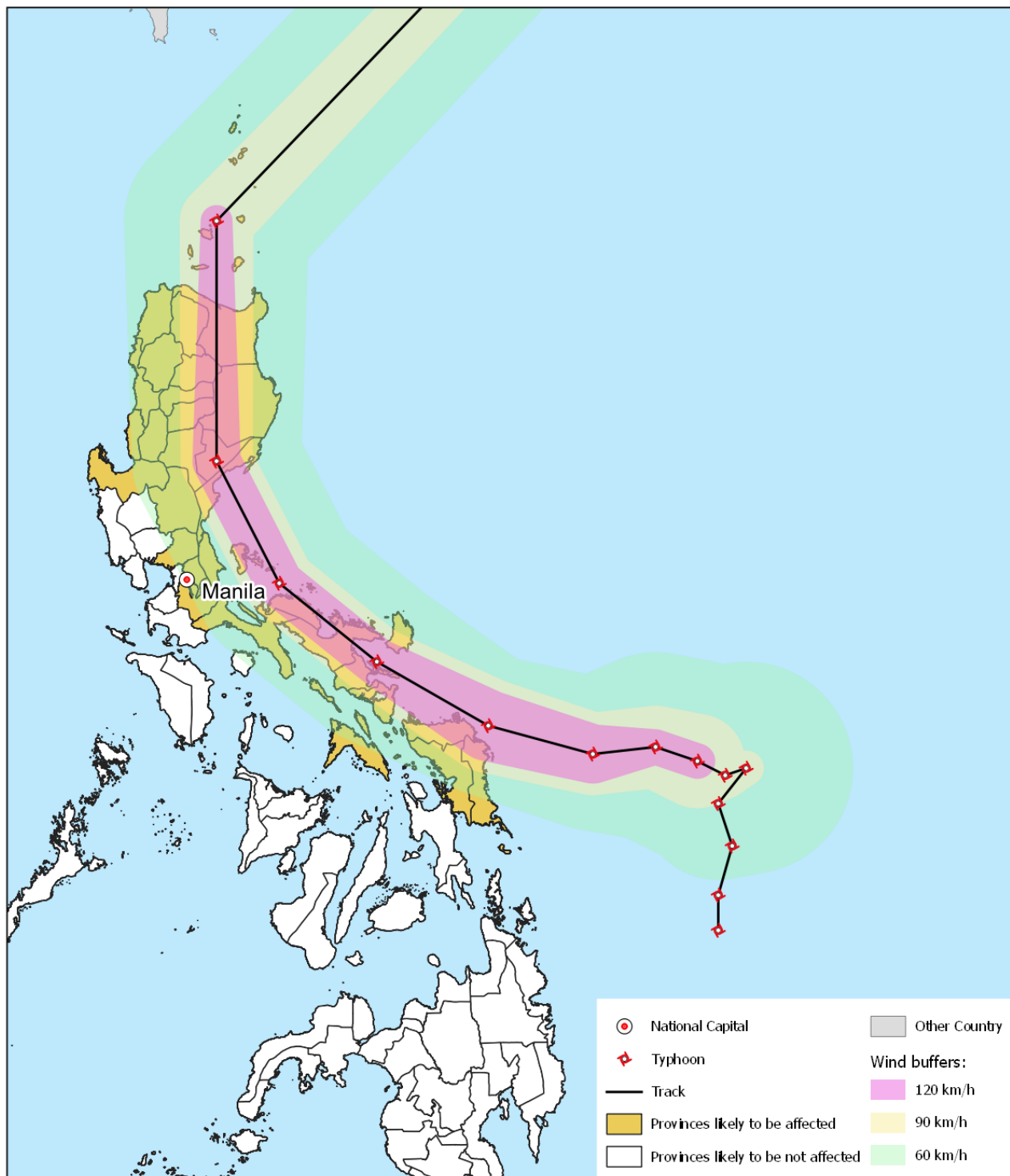
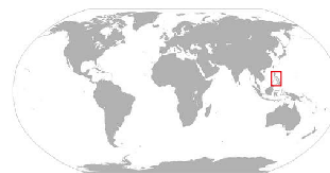
Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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# Philippines: Typhoon Ambo (Vongfong) Informal Update

14 May 2020



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 territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, GDACS (14 May 2020)

