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Information bulletin

Philippines: Zambales floods and landslides

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1 28 September 2013

The bulletin is being issued for information only. Nevertheless, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are encouraging donors to provide unearmarked funds for the [emergency appeal MDRPH012](#). This will facilitate the delivery of assistance to meet immediate needs, including in Zambales, should the ongoing analysis of assessment findings recommend the incorporation of the province into the emergency appeal operation.

Summary

Monsoon rains exacerbated by Typhoon Usagi (local name: Odette) have caused flash floods and landslides, since the weekend of Sunday 22 September, affecting nearly 600,000 people, leaving at least 30 dead and two missing. The greatest impact of the latest torrential rainfall has been in the province of Zambales, particularly in Olongapo City.

Responding to the situation, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) deployed emergency response units which rescued 300 people who were trapped, and transported 800 individuals to safer areas in Olongapo City. PRC has served hot

meals to some 10,000 people who sought safer shelter in evacuation centres and is currently providing relief assistance, including sleeping materials to 1,000 families in the province of Zambales. Red Cross teams deployed to Olongapo City and other parts of Zambales have completed rapid assessments, and are currently analysing their findings, which will inform further action of PRC.

The flooding in Zambales comes seven weeks after Typhoon Utor (local name: Labuyo) struck the provinces of Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quirino – prompting PRC to launch a significant operation – followed back-to-back by flooding brought by monsoon rains induced by Tropical Storm Trami (Maring), which affected Metro Manila, its four neighbouring provinces and parts of Central Luzon. To support a scaled-up intervention by PRC, IFRC launched an [emergency appeal](#) seeking CHF 1.9 million (approximately USD2 million) to support the delivery of assistance to 75,000 people. Considering several severe weather events are likely to affect the Philippines into 2014, the emergency appeal covers the entire 2013 typhoon season. As such, the response in Zambales may be incorporated into the emergency appeal operation if analysis of the assessment findings indicates the need for a significant response by PRC.



The latest wave of flooding prompted the evacuation of thousands of families as floodwater reached levels that submerged houses in parts of Bataan and Zambales provinces. Photo: Mike Young/Philippine Red Cross

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

The situation

Torrential rains brought by Typhoon Usagi and southwest monsoon rains caused floods and landslides in Luzon during the third week of September. Typhoon Usagi (locally known as Odette) is the third storm to lash the island of Luzon within a month and followed soon after Typhoon Utor (Labuyo) made landfall in August and wrought significant damage in the provinces of Aurora and Quirino.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), nearly 600,000 people have been affected by the floods, where about 80,000 have sought refuge in evacuation centres and with relatives. The provinces of Palawan in Southern Luzon and Zambales in Central Luzon were declared under state of calamity.

Table 1. Effects of the Southwest Monsoon worsened by Typhoon Usagi to date (source: [NDRRMC](#))

Number of people affected	588,147 people
Zambales	190,664 people
Other areas	397,483 people
Number of people sheltered inside 103 evacuation centres	25,087 people
Number of people sheltered outside evacuation centres (i.e. with friends/relatives)	55,206 people
Deaths reported	31
Injured reported	8
Missing reported	2

Already the fifteenth typhoon to enter the Philippines territory this year, Luzon Island felt the effects of Typhoon Usagi beginning 16 September as a tropical depression. The typhoon moved slowly northward, bringing rains to North Luzon until it made landfall in the Batanes group of islands on 21 September 2013. Usagi was approximately 1,000 kilometres in diameter and as such, affected the entire island of Luzon in varying degrees. Even though it moved away and dissipated on 22 September, Usagi exacerbated the southwest monsoon that brought continuous rain until 24 September. As a result of these rains, floods and landslides occurred in Zambales province in Central Luzon that buried 30 people and injured six others. Apart from Zambales, the province of Bataan was not spared the brunt of floods with 97,000 people affected and one reported death.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Philippine Red Cross emergency responders have helped rescue more than 300 people trapped at Barangay Santa Monica, north of Subic Bay at the height of flooding brought about by Typhoon Usagi.
Photo: Mike Young/Philippine Red Cross

Through its operations centre at the national headquarters, PRC has maintained the line of communication with the chapters concerned since the weather disturbance began, by sending out advisories. The PRC national headquarters immediately deployed water search-and-rescue teams to the most affected areas of Zambales and helped transport 300 people who were trapped inside or on the rooftops of their homes.

Olongapo City and Zambales chapters have been on full alert and some 180 staff and volunteers are mobilized to provide emergency assistance. PRC sent two teams to undertake rapid assessments in the affected areas of Zambales. The National Society has so far provided 10,000 people with ready-to-eat meals and is currently distributing relief items (food and non-food) to 1,000 families in the province of Zambales.

To support PRC interventions in response to needs caused by the severe weather disturbances that affected Philippines during August, IFRC launched an [emergency appeal](#) seeking CHF1.9 million (approximately USD2 million) to support the delivery of assistance to 75,000 people. Considering several severe weather events are likely to affect the Philippines into 2014, the emergency appeal covers the entire 2013 typhoon season. As such, the response in Zambales is likely to be incorporated to the emergency appeal operation if analysis of the assessment findings indicates the need for a significant response by PRC. If this is done, it will be communicated to donors and partners through an operation update relating to the typhoons and floods 2013 intervention.

Contact information

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Please send all pledges of funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org



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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 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.

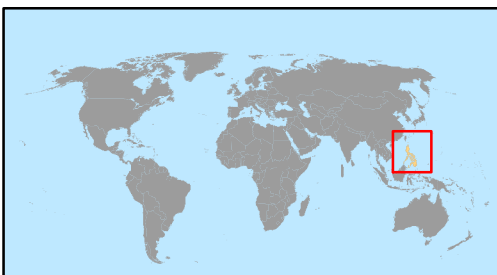


IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.



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 Affected provinces