

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

THE PHILIPPINES: LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

Appeal No. MDRPH001
22 June 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 05; Period covered: 28 April 2006 to 3 June 2006;
Appeal target: CHF 2,664,579 (USD 2 million or EUR 1.67 million);
Appeal coverage: 116% (including confirmed direct contributions to the Philippine National Red Cross);
([click here to go directly to the revised appeal budget and contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- A Preliminary emergency appeal was launched on 17 February 2006 for CHF 2,126,000 (USD 1.6 million or EUR 1.3 million) for six months.
- On 8 March, appeal revised to CHF 2,593,000 (USD 2 million or EUR 1.67 million) to assist 8,000 beneficiaries for 18 months till August 2007, focussing on recovery and rehabilitation.
- This operations update increased the appeal budget to CHF 2,664,579 (USD 2.2 million or EUR 1.7 million)
- Final report is due on 30 November 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000.

Operational Summary: Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), with support of the Federation, continues to provide relief assistance to people affected by the Southern Leyte landslides and floods. Focus is now on the rehabilitation of the identified 191 affected families in Catmon and assistance to other affected families through the provision of food and non-food items.

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Background

More than four months has passed since the 17 February 2006 massive landslides in *barangay* (village) Guinsaugon, St. Bernard Town, Southern Leyte. At present, most of the affected families are still living in four evacuation centres namely Catmon Elementary School, St. Bernard Central School, Cristo Rey High School and Iglesia ni Cristo.

The PNRC is implementing the specified appeal objectives in close coordination with the local government unit in St. Bernard Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council and Southern Leyte Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council. The focus is the rehabilitation of the identified 191 affected families in Catmon and assistance to other affected families through the provision of food and non-food items.

Occasional rain showers have been experienced in the area due to the effects of the monsoon. The last tropical storm "Caloy" (Chanchu) last 11-18 May 2006 triggered minor landslides in the town of Sogod. The PNRC Southern Leyte chapter, based in the town of St. Bernard, immediately responded to the affected areas to conduct assessment and provide basic relief assistance to the affected families. Although evacuation of threatened populations was undertaken, families have returned to their homes since the typhoon passed.

Operational Developments

Coordination between the local government, NGOs and PNRC has improved considerably. A two-day coordination workshop organized by the St. Bernard Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council was funded by the Federation. It resulted in a coordinated rehabilitation plan including psychosocial support, relief, water and sanitation activities. The coordination workshop brought together representatives of the affected/ beneficiaries, local government and other organizations.

People still remain in four evacuation centres and are being provided basic assistance. Although some organizations have started to build houses in one of the two identified construction sites where the government provided land, beneficiaries have yet to move into completed houses as water supply problems have not been solved.

Consequently relief assistance is continuing to people living in the evacuation centres. At the same time, longer-term assistance and programmes are gaining momentum. A few, mainly local, organizations remain in the area whereas other NGOs, supporting activities, visit the area from time to time. After a period of mainly provision of relief by PNRC volunteers, the PNRC is now increasing its presence of staff in line with the start of longer-term recovery and rehabilitation programmes. The PNRC volunteers are still actively serving 191 families in the Catmon evacuation centre as well as the 30 families within the church compound with food supplies and sanitary items.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

PNRC continue to actively participate in various scheduled meetings and scheduled coordination meetings being initiated by the local government units in St. Bernard as well as by the provincial government of Southern Leyte. As a result the PNRC found it timely to review the support programmes in Southern Leyte and their plans and budgets have been adjusted accordingly.

Besides some minor adjustments of budgets the main changes relate to Objective 1 and 6, resulting in increased appeal budget.

In regard to Objective 1, PNRC will from 1 June focus their support on the Catmon centre only. Objective 6 is excluded from the programme as the Philippine government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Mines and Geosciences Bureau is in process of hazard mapping.

The construction of houses remains the highest priority. However, the legal process to acquire land, has been rather time-consuming.

As part of the preparation for the construction of 96 units of duplex, pre-qualification for the identification of qualified bidders had been completed. Four bidders out of nine who submitted the requirement passed the criteria for the qualifying bidders. A project timeline has also been prepared for the qualified bidders to follow and compete. The bidding deadline is now 26 June and the awarding date set at 11 July. If the bidding is successful the construction can start on 24 July and will take 180 days.

In the meantime, contacts have been made with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization which has considerable experience to build low-cost housing in the Philippines. Their concept with steel frame construction seems to be suitable and attractive for the housing in Southern Leyte. Furthermore, a non-profit organization can benefit most probably considerably lower construction costs than the market price. The non-profit organisation is not bidding for contracts, which complicates the procedure.

A Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) composed of technical specialists such as site engineers and architect to act as consultant for the construction of housing has been established to monitor and supervise the work by the selected bidder/contractor to ensure quality and appropriate standards.

The Sanguniang Bayan (Town Council) of St. Bernard has finally passed a resolution to convert the three lots to be acquired from agricultural to residential use. This will accelerate the transfer of land title of the third Catmon lot to full ownership of the PNRC. The local authorities have promised that the legal process will be completed by the end of June and that will more or less coincide with the finalization of the bidding process.

As the construction of houses cannot start until July, together with the onset of the rainy season, it is anticipated that evacuees in the Catmon centre will not be able to move into houses for some time but have to remain in the centre. Consequently it is necessary to continue basic assistance to the people in the centre. PNRC has therefore prepared a plan and budget to do so for a maximum of six months.

Accordingly, a three-man team composed of technical staff from PNRC was sent to St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, to conduct a needs assessment in the affected areas on the living conditions of the four evacuation centres. The assessment team focused on the situation and needs in the Catmon evacuation centre, housing 221 families. Of these, 191 families are primary beneficiaries for the housing to be constructed with funding from the Federation. PNRC has decided to focus their assistance on the Catmon evacuation centre and a plan and budget has been finalized for managing and ensuring proper assistance is provided to these approximately 1,000 people during six months or until the construction of their houses is completed. Presently, evacuees from Catmon had to be moved outside the school building since the classes will start early this June 2006. These families have built their temporary shelter by means of tarpaulins that have been provided by the PNRC.

The assessment identified overcrowding and some water and sanitation concerns which need urgent attention. During a follow-up visit by the PNRC's disaster manager and the Federation delegate, an additional area for some 30 of the evacuee families in Catmon, was identified together with the mayor. This was done to ease the overcrowded centre and minimize health risks.

PNRC requested the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in the Philippines to assist in regard to the water and sanitation situation. The ICRC sent its technical person to conduct an assessment to provide possible assistance in regard to water and sanitation. Plan International and Oxfam have also committed to construct temporary latrines and toilets in Catmon evacuation centre. Coordination is being done with these stakeholders emphasizing the urgency.

The new activities and budget focusing on the management of Catmon evacuation centre have been included in amended appeal programme and budget. The Federation delegate has initiated to secure funding for the additional costs in the management of the Catmon evacuation centre for six months.

Emergency relief

Objective 1: 1,000 families living in evacuation centres receive non-food relief items.

Progress/Achievements

- Procurement, transport and distribution of food and non-food items were implemented according to plan and until 31May
- As of 1 June all remaining items and allocated funds under this objective will be integrated in the plan and budget of the management and support of the Catmon evacuation centre. (Please see attached adjusted budget)

Health and Care

Objective 2: Relatives and survivors receive the needed psycho-social support.

Progress/Achievements

- Social preparation for the conduct of the capacity building for the psycho-social support training such as identification of beneficiaries, venue and training dates is done in close coordination with local government unit through the Department of Municipal Social Welfare and Development.
- Six communities have been identified for the psycho-social support training namely *barangay* Guinsaugon, Hinabian, Magatas, Kauswagan, Atuyan and Sug-angon.
- This project is set to start early June.

Emergency Response and Risk Reduction capacity building

Objective 3: PNRC's emergency stocks and equipment are replenished.

Progress/Achievements

- The 300 tents procured by the Federation, arrived in the Philippines 24 May 2006 - these were procured outside the country. Presently these are being released from customs.
- Procurement for the BP 5 Compact Food and rubble halls (temporary storage tents) was allocated to Danish Red Cross within their earmarked contribution. Despite several reminders, no progress has been reported.
- All other stocks and equipment under this objective have been procured and implemented.

Objective 4: The telecommunications capacity of PNRC's Southern Leyte chapter is enhanced.

Progress/Achievements

- Procurement of telecommunications equipment, such as two UHF mobile bases and 20 handheld radios, was completed.
- Licensing of the procured radios from the National Telecommunications Commission took some time but has been completed.
- Delivery to Southern Leyte has been completed and the installation of the antennae in St Benard is underway by a local contractor. The UHF will be operational in early June.

Objective 5: The logistics capacity in Tacloban City, Cebu and Southern Leyte is enhanced, to enable faster response to disaster-prone areas.

Progress/Achievements

- Quotations and programme of works in relation to the improvement of warehouses in Tacloban City, submitted to PNRC-NHQ approved. Work to start in early June.
- Inspection of the warehouse in Cebu was postponed due to a recent typhoon.
- As the PNRC office/warehouse in Maasin (Southern Leyte) may be relocated, no action taken. In the meantime the warehouse allocated by local government in St. Benard will be used.

- The 5 pick-ups, 2 trucks and minivan are ordered and are to be delivered first week of June. In the meantime other appropriate vehicles have been temporarily stationed in the area.

Objective 6: Hazard mapping.

- The initiative is now removed from the appeal as hazard mapping is being implemented by the government.

Objective 7: Integrated community-based disaster preparedness project in Southern Leyte leading to livelihood interventions and including recruitment and training of Barangay Disaster Action Teams (BDAT)

Progress/Achievements

- Social preparation for the conduct of the community-based disaster preparedness project had been completed in close coordination with the local government and concerned *barangays*
- Training syllabus and curriculum being prepared, focusing on the implementation of the PNRC-initiated '143 programme' for the training and organization of the Barangay Disaster Action Team (BDAT)

Organizational Development

Objective 8: The capacity of PNRC's Southern Leyte chapter is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

- Some initiatives taken – need involvement of PNRC leadership to sort out some basics before any steps can be taken.

Reconstruction and Recovery

Objective 9: Housing is provided to 191 families in Southern Leyte displaced by landslides.

Progress/Achievements

- Resolution from the Sanguniang Bayan (Town Council) has already been passed and approved converting the acquired lot for the housing construction from agricultural land to residential land.
- Awaiting transfer of ownership to PNRC
- Finalization of the list of beneficiaries had been completed - PNRC is awaiting the official letter of confirmation, signed by the mayor of St. Bernard.
- Completion of the pre-qualification of bidders who had submitted their requirement to participate in the bidding for the construction of 96 units (duplex houses) in Catmon. Four out of nine bidders have been qualified to participate in the submission of their proposed bids for this project.
- Timeline for the award of bids to the winners is scheduled for 26 June 2006 and target for commencement of the housing construction is 24 July 2006.
- Habitat for Humanity (not bidding because it is a non-profit organization) contacted as an alternative contractor
- Creation of project monitoring unit has been done to ensure the construction plan and schedules are followed. Beneficiaries being approached on plans.

Objective 10: Health volunteers are trained, equipped and mobilized for village health centres.

Progress/Achievements

- The PNRC community health and nursing services has undertaken the necessary proposal and plans for the start of implementation. As construction somewhat delayed the training may be rescheduled.

Management and Coordination

Objective 11: Effective administration and management support is provided to the operation.

Progress/Achievements

- Close coordination with the provincial and municipal coordinating council is continuously maintained by way of religiously attending and participating in the weekly meetings every Friday.
- Coordination between ICRC, Oxfam, and Plan International regarding the concern over water and sanitation in Catmon evacuation centre
- Two desktop computers, two laptop computers, printers and multi media projector have already been procured and allocated according to plan
- All project staff, except one, have been appointed. Process for hiring of training assistant initiated. An appropriate review for qualifications is being undertaken.
- The local government is now actively looking for interested parties to build houses for the 30 remaining families from the Catmon evacuation centre as the land available for procurement by PNRC can only house 191 families.

Impact

The presence of the PNRC from the early rescue phase through to relief and now rehabilitation is highly appreciated by the government and beneficiaries. The impact of rehabilitation efforts including construction, preparedness and various training may only be measured after completion of the programme.

In Catmon evacuation centre, the 221 families in-house have received adequate needs and basic services, such as health, water, sanitation and food. This will be provided for six months or until they can move into constructed houses.

Constraints

The major constraint has been the acquisition of the parcel land for the housing construction. However, this seems to have been resolved after the latest visit of the Disaster Management Service (DMS) manager and the Federation delegate; the mayor has promised that the transfer of land title to the name of PNRC is being undertaken by the municipal local government unit of St. Bernard on a priority basis to fast track the requirements needed.

The identification of bidders for the housing construction and award of the contract to the appropriate bidder may take an additional four weeks to ensure compliance to legal proceedings and country laws requirements. Appropriate procedural actions will be based on the Philippine Construction Accreditation Board (PCAB) that gives authority and provides license to all construction firms to undertake any particular contracted work.

A promising alternative may be to use the services of the non-profit organization Habitat for Humanity. However, before this alternative, although potentially qualitatively and financially superior, is taken to consideration, it may be necessary to wait for the conclusion of bidding, to ensure that Federation rules are followed and if these require a formal comparative analysis.

The issue of provision of water to the Catmon construction site, flagged by the Federation for some time, is now looked into more thoroughly. A solution is yet to be found. Unfortunately the closest source of water from a spring seems to be located about 5-6 km away.

Federation Coordination

The Federation delegation is continuously providing advice to facilitate coordination and implementation. This is done through weekly meetings with the PNRC leadership, visits to Southern Leyte together with the DMS manager of PNRC and contacts on a daily basis with the DM department. The locally recruited Federation financial assistant is also providing support through ensuring proper financial requirements and reporting based on Federation standards.

The MoU between the Federation and PNRC is being amended in regard to the funding procedure. The 'reimbursement system' will be replaced by a 'working advance system' to expedite implementation.

The municipal mayor of St. Bernard and the Barangay chief of Catmon are now extending full coordination and support to Red Cross in the area. These good relations are based in some part on the appreciation on the good work of the national society, with Federation support.

[Revised appeal budget and contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

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 \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Southeast Asia regional appeal 2006-2007](#).

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No.: MDRPH001

PHILIPPINES: Landslides & Floods

TYPE	ORIGINAL CHF	REVISED CHF	VARIANCE CHF
RELIEF NEEDS			
Shelter & constructions	967,308	965,769	-1,539
Clothing & textiles		31,900	31,900
Food & seeds		47,100	47,100
Water & sanitation	12,821	15,898	3,077
Medical & first aid	10,256	10,256	0
Teaching materials		25,641	25,641
Utensils & tools	286,487		-286,487
Other relief supplies	125,641	178,150	52,509
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	1,402,513	1,274,714	-127,799
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Vehicles	307,692	307,692	0
Computers & telecom equipments	64,615	59,487	-5,128
Other Equipment	12,821	12,821	0
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	168,524	173,198	4,674
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Distribution & Storage	256	28,102	27,846
Transport & vehicle costs	25,642	17,180	-8,462
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
International staff	216,000	216,000	0
National staff	14,000	14,000	0
National Society Staff	87,179	156,410	69,231
<u>WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS</u>			
Workshops & Seminars	118,462	218,462	100,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	92,180	122,180	30,000
Information Expenses	13,462	8,333	-5,129
Office Running Costs	17,948	20,000	2,052
Other General expenses	51,384	36,000	-15,384
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	1,190,165	1,389,865	199,700
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,592,678	2,664,579	71,901
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-) Multilateral funding to date		2,740,867	
NET REQUEST		0	

Philippines - landslide

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRPH001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/06/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->					TOTAL COVERAGE	
					2,664,579	116%
AMERICAN - RC		50,000	USD	66,050	21.02.06	
BAHRAIN - RC		250,000	USD	324,750	12.04.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE
CANADIAN - RC		50,000	CAD	56,077	17.02.06	
CHINESE - RC		30,000	USD	38,565	22.02.06	
CHINESE - RC		20,000	USD	26,420	02.03.06	BILATERAL: PHILIPPINES RC
CHINESE - RC		20,000	USD	25,980	12.04.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE
CYPRUS - RC				8,078	28.02.06	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,723	21.02.06	
GERMAN - RC		80,000	EUR	125,200	22.03.06	RELIEF ACTIVITIES
IRISH - GOVT		100,000	EUR	155,445	20.02.06	
IRISH - RC		6,500	EUR	10,172	09.03.06	
IRISH - RC		3,820	EUR	5,955	10.04.06	
JAPANESE - RC		30,000,000	JPY	328,215	20.02.06	
JAPANESE - RC		50,000,000	JPY	568,000	14.03.06	
KOREAN - RC				30,000	20.02.06	
KOREAN - RC		100,000	USD	132,100	23.03.06	
MACAO - RC				20,000	17.02.06	SHELTERS & CONSTRUCTION
MALAYSIA - RC		10,000	USD	12,990	12.04.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE
MONACO - RC		15,000	EUR	23,670	11.04.06	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		25,000	NZD	21,896	21.02.06	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT				161,220	24.03.06	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,618,123	NOK	315,534	07.03.06	
OPEC FUND		150,000	USD	194,850	07.04.06	
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				11,134	23.03.06	
QATAR - RC		10,000	USD	13,210	20.02.06	
SINGAPORE - GOVT/RC		100,000	SGD	79,115	23.02.06	PROCUREMENT OF RELIEF ITEMS
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	168,250	17.02.06	
TAIWAN - RCO		44,803	USD	58,199	13.04.06	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	13,210	06.03.06	
TURKISH - RC		10,000	USD	12,990	04.04.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5,000	USD	6,495	28.02.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				3,091,493	CHF	119.2%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Philippines - landslide

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRPH001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

20/06/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SAUDI ARABIA - RC		50,000	USD	63,025	06.05.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				63,025	CHF	