

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Philippines: Typhoon Fengshen

Emergency appeal n° MDRPH004
GLIDE n° [TC-2008-000093-PHL](#)
4 July 2008

Period covered by this Update: 10 days since the appeal was launched

Appeal target (current): CHF 8,310,213 (USD 8 million or EUR 5.1 million);

[<click to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget or for a map of the affected areas>](#)

Appeal coverage: To date, the appeal is only 16.4 per cent covered. Funds are urgently needed to enable the Philippines National Red Cross to provide immediate assistance to those affected by the typhoon.

[<click to link to contact details>](#)

Appeal history:

- A preliminary emergency appeal was launched on 24 June 2008 for CHF 8,310,213 (USD 8 million or EUR 5.1 million) for twelve months to assist 6,000 families.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 200,000 was allocated from the International Federation's DREF.

Summary:

The PNRC estimates at least 2.5 million people have been affected by typhoon Fengshen which hit the Philippines on 18 June 2008. The national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) estimates this figure to be four million people. More than 75,000 houses are totally destroyed and a further 200,000 seriously damaged.

In the past 10 days, assessment teams composed of 12 Southeast Asia regional disaster response team (RDRT) members and eight Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) RDRT-trained members have been gearing up to access as many affected *barangays* and municipalities as possible to get the full picture of the damage wreaked by typhoon Fengshen and to identify needs of those affected. In support of these four teams, two water and sanitation engineers from American Red Cross and German Red Cross accompanied by PNRC water and sanitation-trained staff have also been deployed. They will conduct detailed assessments of emergency water provision in the two worst affected provinces of Aklan and Iloilo. By now, four water treatment units are providing water in these two provinces while the emergency response unit (ERU) water treatment unit (with a production capacity of 600,000 litres per day) is on its way to the Philippines.

Partner national societies which have made contributions to the appeal include: the British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and New Zealand Red Cross. A contribution has also been received from the Australian government. Humanitarian organizations, national and international communities, governments and other donors continue to come forward with offers of aid in cash and kind.

The International Federation, on behalf of the Philippines National Red Cross society, would like to thank all partners who have so far contributed to this appeal.

The situation

Typhoon Fengshen (locally named Frank) initially affected Eastern Samar in the Philippines on 18 June 2008. It then moved west-northwest and affected 37 more provinces, with winds of 140 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 170 kilometres per hour. Considered as the worst typhoon this year, Fengshen has now left the Philippines but continues to move northwards bringing rain which may trigger additional floods.



Philippine National Red Cross volunteers assist children from a typhoon Fengshen evacuation shelter in Jaro district, province of Iloilo, Philippines in drawing water from a portable water purification system. The storm caused thousands of families to lose their homes and led to water and food shortages. Photo: Albert Lee

According to the national disaster coordinating council (NDCC), the typhoon has affected 507,306 families - almost four million people - from 4,330 *barangays* (local districts) and 284 municipalities/cities in 14 out of 16 regions of the country. At least 390 people have been killed but the death toll is expected to rise with missing passengers of the ferry MV Princess of the Stars confirmed dead. Up to 560 people are still missing, and search and rescue efforts are still on-going.

The NDCC also estimated the damage wrought by the typhoon has reached PHP 10 billion (CHF 225.4 million), in which damage to agriculture was estimated at PHP 5.21 billion (CHF 117.4 million). Hardest-hit are the provinces of Aklan, Iloilo, Capiz, Sultan Kudarat and Cebu; damage to infrastructure is placed at PHP 2.3 billion (CHF 51.8 million).

Fengshen is the sixth typhoon to hit this disaster-prone country in 2008. It has caused the collapse of 74,000 houses and severely damaged another 214,000. Almost 90 per cent of the damaged houses are on Panay Island (Iloilo, Antique, Capiz, and Negros Occidental) and in Eastern and Western Samar. As many as 740 evacuation centres have been established to house approximately two million people. However, it is believed that a considerable number of affected families have sought refuge with friends and family.

The typhoon defied all prediction models and weather forecast organizations as it changed paths and crossed areas not usually affected by typhoons. As such, many communities and the authorities were caught by surprise. Moreover, its effect was compounded by pre-existing bad weather as a result of the monsoon season which combined, triggered flash flooding in the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan and Cotabato. Many people were forced to stay

on roofs and trees until water subsided only to discover severe damage to roads and other public infrastructure including the water supply system.

No.	Province	Families affected	Persons affected	Houses totally damaged	Houses partially damaged
1	Aklan	34,000	170,000	10,138	21,205
2	Antique	22,743	110,397	3,694	7,212
3	Capiz	64,095	354,453	6,588	26,372
4	Cebu	2,353	8,589	5,113	23,174
5	Cotabato	61,555	214,836	61	
6	Eastern Samar	31,762	166,817	793	18,387
7	General Santos	1,868	7,396	43	155
8	Iloilo	226,214	1,121,136	26,184	35,524
9	Leyte	3,210	16,065	2,889	17,117
10	Marinduque	498		167	2,164
11	Masbate	9,153	45,965	370	3,545
12	Mindoro Oriental	3,598	19,479	106	10
13	Ormoc	4,961		171	4,790
14	Romblon	27,088	151,967	1,777	7,557
15	Western Samar	880	4,838	14,275	35,829
Total		540,268	2,630,973	74,175	214,533

While the typhoon has left the Philippines and water levels are subsiding fast, severe health risks persist, given the major damage to public water drinking systems; thousands of highly vulnerable families are left without a home and the barest of personal belongings.

In most of affected municipalities in **Aklan** province, there are increasing signs of some return to 'normal life'; businesses have resumed and power lines have been restored in several areas, especially in Makato, Ibajay, Tangalan and Nabas. However, in the municipalities of Numancia and Kalibo, power has not yet been restored. Based on detailed assessments, the most affected areas are Kalibo and Numancia, which should undoubtedly be given the utmost priority at this point in time.

Major roads are accessible but some, especially in Kalibo are still under mud. Road cleaning is still ongoing in these areas, by the Metro Manila development authority (MMDA) and the department of public highways (DPWH). This process is painstakingly slow; cleaning of individual houses by the occupants has caused a delay in drying of the mud, thus adding to the difficulty of the clean-up process.

People are endeavouring to rebuild their lives and livelihoods but in many cases, major support is desperately needed. People continue to repair or cover damaged roofs from existing debris. In most of the areas visited, local authorities and community members said that it is very hard for them to assist affected people with construction materials as their capacity is overwhelmed.

In Iloilo, limited water supplies have returned to some municipalities as the result of urgent repair works by the local government unit (LGU). However, proper repair work will take around three months for the system to be fully functioning since the stretch of the main pipeline originally attached to the bridge completely collapsed together with the bridge. Many people in Iloilo town and Pavia depend on potable water provided by mobile water units from LGU, PNRC and other agencies. In some barangays of Sta Barbara municipality, water sources, including deep wells, have been severely damaged by flash floods and contaminated by mud.

At least 23,400 houses have totally collapsed and about 22,000 partially damaged with an estimated 1.2 million people affected.

In Western Samar, 43 people in Vilareal (one of whom has died) were with suspected typhoid due to poor hygiene and sanitation. In the barangay of Basey, 20 children were admitted to the hospital with diarrhoea and one 7-month-old baby died due to dehydration.

In Antique, extensive damage to agricultural production has been reported in Bugo (98 per cent); Bagumbayan (30 per cent); Sido (98 per cent); San Juan (80 per cent); Alangan (70 per cent); and in Bongsod (70 per cent).

The need for emergency shelter in Western Samar is minimal but long-term permanent shelters are required for some 2,000 families. Support can be provided through the supply of construction materials such as coco lumber, nails, and roofing, and building techniques.

The availability of mobile clinics as well as public awareness raising and hygiene education should also be considered, as the community appears to lack information on safe water practices (such as boiling water) and environmental cleanliness. Also, as electrical supply has still not yet returned to normal, the lack of water pumps and other facilities dependent on electricity are still unavailable to the affected communities.

In general, support is urgently needed:

1. To avoid an outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases by:
 - a. organizing a large-scale campaign to convince people to boil water or use only bottled water;
 - b. treating the community in the use of oral rehydration salts (ORS); and
 - c. the provision of treated drinking water to the community
2. To facilitate the construction of typhoon-resistant economical core shelter that can be supported by the PNRC/International Federation and built by the beneficiaries themselves. Special attention will be given to the dissemination of simple but effective construction techniques that improve the typhoon resistance of the most vulnerable homes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

The national society has confirmed its openness to assistance in managing and planning this operation. The PNRC operation centre is on 24/7 standby to update information and support PNRC headquarters and its chapters in scaling up the operation.

In support of this scale-up, 293 Red Cross volunteers have been mobilized at the headquarters for relief distribution efforts to the most affected areas. This includes repacking food and non-food items before shipping them to the beneficiaries; assisting PNRC chapters in conducting assessments; and other related tasks. Many volunteers are on standby if/when needs arise. Many more volunteers were mobilized by chapters in all of the affected areas since day one.

The PNRC is presently supporting 69,000 people (approximately 13,850 families) who are housed at evacuation centres acting as temporary mass shelters. This number represents the total number of beneficiaries requiring shelter as most of them prefer to stay with relatives or neighbours. This support will continue along with efforts to assist people at temporary camps in other provinces. Assessments have been followed by more targeted distribution of relief items. A total of 13,850 food parcels have been distributed (including five kilogrammes of rice; four tins of sardines and six packs of noodles) to assist more than 69,000 people in the Iloilo, Aklan and Romblon provinces to meet basic needs for one week.



Relief supplies arrive at an evacuation centre in Iloilo. As many as 740 evacuation centres have been set up to house some two million people while others have sought refuge with friends and family. (Photo: PNRC)

Four SETA (mobile potable water plant) units from PNRC headquarters have been deployed to Iloilo and Aklan to produce at least 10,000 litres of water per day for distribution to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. In addition, two 10,000 litre and three 5,000 litre bladder tanks have also been sent to these areas.

Twelve Southeast Asian RDRT members from the Cambodian, Indonesian and Malaysian national societies were deployed within 48 hours to support the in-country team in conducting detailed assessments to pinpoint gaps and subsequently, develop a plan of action. In support of the RDRT, PNRC has mobilized an additional eight RDRT-trained members to join the team.

Two water and sanitation engineers from American Red Cross in Sri Lanka and German Red Cross in Vietnam were also deployed to Iloilo and Aklan to conduct assessments and support the PNRC field teams there. In responding to a request from the International Federation, the Swedish Red Cross is deploying a mass water ERU to Iloilo with six to eight specialists and related equipment.

A shelter coordinator from the shelter department at the Geneva secretariat has arrived in the country to assist the in-country team to facilitate the shelter cluster .

Main needs

Key necessities continue to be safe drinking water and household kits (consisting of cooking utensils, mosquito nets, mats and blankets). Other matters include rising concern over health issues such as malaria and communicable diseases. In the longer term, there will be a need for seeds to assist in crop production, and materials for the rebuilding of houses.

Logistics

A regional procurement officer from the regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur has arrived to support PNRC and the International Federation country office in terms of procurement of non-food items and housing construction kits. The local purchase of items (following International Federation/PNRC rules and procedures) has begun along with the daily tracking of the prices of essential items and their availability.

The detailed mobilization table (based on the field request) will soon be available on [Disaster Management Information System \(DMIS\)](#). It will be regularly updated based on the assessment results and needs of the operation.

The regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur will be working on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field and it is important that donors [coordinate with the RLU](#) regarding their plans and/or proposals in this respect.

Shipping instructions will be provided to donors from Kuala Lumpur RLU, with a Consignment Tracking Number (CTN) which must be issued prior to shipping of any goods to the operation.

Coordination and partnerships

The Red Cross is a permanent member of the national disaster coordinating council (NDCC) and attends regular meetings to update and share information to help to map the needs, beneficiaries, and the stakeholders involved, thus avoiding the overlapping of efforts. Similar coordination is also essential at the provincial level through the provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC).

The International Federation country office attends regular inter-agency standing committee (IASC) meetings to map out activities taken by each agency and share information collected from the field.

ICRC has been involved from the start of the operation by providing security updates and by providing water and sanitation equipment and expertise to PNRC.

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

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APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Philippines:Typhoon Fengshen

MDRPH004

ORIGINAL

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	3,810,000
Clothing & Textiles	132,000
Water & Sanitation	1,298,000
Utensils & Tools	97,500
Other Supplies & Services	
Total Relief Needs	5,337,500

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Vehicles Purchase	102,500
Computers & Telecom Equipment	51,700
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	10,000

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	95,625
Transport & Vehicles Costs	358,563

PERSONNEL

International Staff	951,600
Regionally Deployed Staff	75,000
National Staff	78,975
National Society Staff	397,166

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	301,750
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	4,470
Information & Public Relations	5,000
Communication Costs	200

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR (6.5% of total)	540,164
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Total Operational Needs	2,972,713
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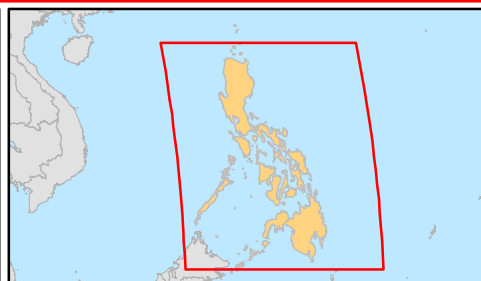
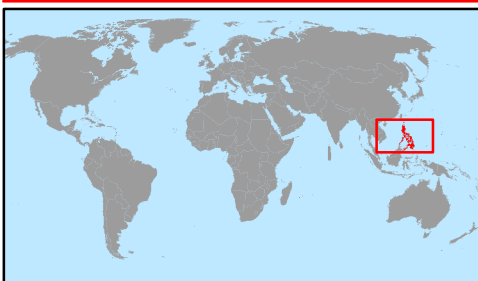
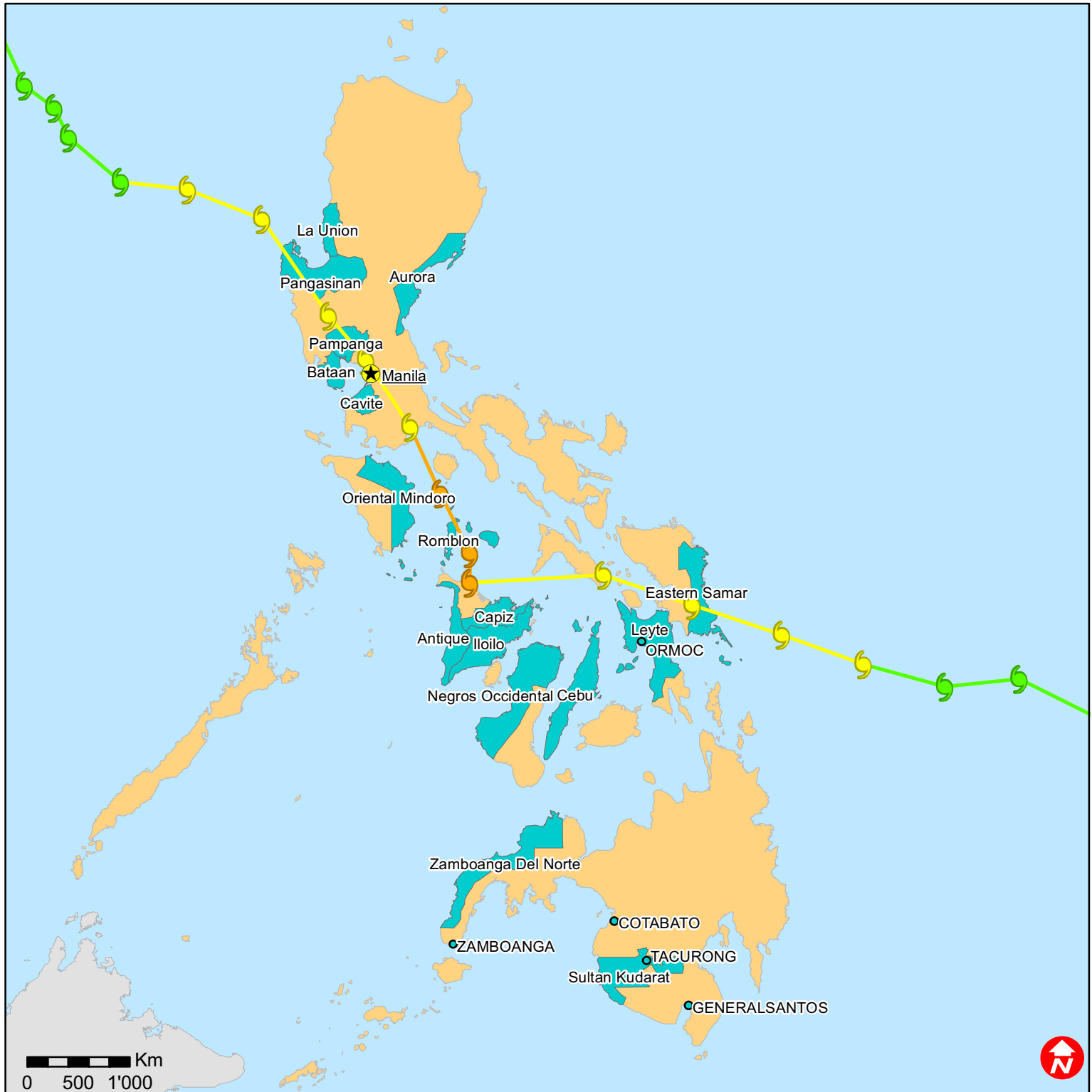
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	8,310,213
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Less Available Resources	
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Net Request	8,310,213
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The Philippines: Typhoon Fengshen



- TROPICAL DEPRESSION
- TROPICAL STORM
- TYPHOON-1
- TYPHOON-2
- Affected cities
- Affected provinces

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 - MDRPH003.mxd