

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

PHILIPPINES: LANDSLIDES AND FLOODS

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 50,000

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 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.

The Situation

A week of torrential rains, starting 14 December, has caused massive flooding on the island of Mindanao and landslides on the island of Leyte, killing about 100 people so far and affecting at least 65,000 people in both locations.

Volunteers have so far dug 77 bodies from two landslides on the eastern island of Leyte, where deforestation worsened landslides that struck at midnight on Friday, 19 December.

According to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) more deaths are expected as the landslides occurred suddenly with little time for people to head for safety. The landslides have affected a number of remote towns and there is difficulty in reaching the injured and displaced persons and helicopters have been called in.

Meanwhile, flash floods on Mindanao have claimed 13 lives, including 12 due to a landslide, and one due to drowning. The floods affected 59,077 people in 11,450 families. Water levels on Mindanao are receding and people are starting to return to their homes. Power supplies have already been restored and some roads are passable.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On Leyte, rescue attempts by the PNRC, which is working with government agencies, are also being hampered by continuing heavy rains, strong winds, a lack of electricity and phone lines, and roads blocked by mud and fallen trees.

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On the request of provincial and national disaster agencies, the PNRC is providing emergency supplies of canned food, rice, noodles, shelter, blankets, cooking pots and water containers to 300 of an estimated 1,000 families evacuated to emergency centres following the landslides on Leyte. The PNRC is appealing, nationally, for food, medicines and money to help the victims and avoid disease.

On Tuesday (23 December), a Red Cross emergency response assessment team is expected to arrive in the landslide area to survey the damage and people's needs. Information gathered will help the PNRC decide whether to launch an international appeal.

PNRC local chapters are conducting the following activities:

- Surigao del Norte chapter has distributed food supplies to a total of 231 families affected by flash floods on Mindanao. Chapter relief operations are continuing.
- Agusan del Norte chapter has distributed food supplies to a total of 130 families affected by flash floods on Mindanao. Chapter relief operations are continuing.
- Chapter disaster response teams of Southern Leyte were deployed to assist in the recovery operation from the landslides and nearby disaster response teams alerted for possible assistance as the need arises. Disaster and needs assessment is being conducted to identify possible help from the PNRC.

The PNRC through its disaster management services has recommended purchasing more than 85 sacks of local rice for a total of P60,000 for people affected by the flash floods and landslides. The society is working with the national and local disaster coordinating council and is maintaining 24-hour monitoring at head quarters through the disaster management services operation centre and chapters affected by the disaster.

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.