

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

THE PHILIPPINES: TROPICAL STORMS, FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

30 November 2004

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 02/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 150,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Between 300 and 350 people have died and a further 150 are reported missing according to official figures following a succession of powerful tropical storms and typhoons that have wreaked havoc across the eastern Philippines. These triggered flash floods and landslides that subsequently devastated coastal towns in eastern, northern and central Philippines, much of which remains flooded and in parts difficult to access. The provinces of Aurora and Quezon have experienced heavy down pours of rain over the last 48 hours or more. Other provinces around the capital, Metro Manila have been subject to heavy rains.

A government spokesperson stated that at least 348 people died in the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar in Quezon province, about 50 miles east of Manila. A further 150 people are still missing in Real. According to local people, flash floods, carrying logs and mud, swept down from the Sierra Madre Mountains on 20 and 30 November following heavy rainfall during the night. The National Disaster Coordinating Committee reported that

at least 21 people were killed in other provinces in the main northern island of Luzon. There are also reports of large numbers of injured people with broken bones and lacerations in the affected areas.

Hundreds of families have had their homes destroyed or seriously damaged in Marikina City in Manila, and Montalban in Rizal province. Over 900 families have been evacuated from their homes to schools and other public buildings in various parts of the country.

Rescue teams are trying to gain access to areas isolated by floods and mudslides. When confirmed information is available from these areas, it is anticipated that the death toll will rise. Reports from various sources state that rescue efforts have been hindered by landslides blocking roads and bridges being destroyed. Helicopters were required to reach inaccessible areas, though the army was forced to ground some helicopter missions this afternoon (Tuesday) as heavy rains made conditions dangerous.

Fortunately, damage to the rice crop is likely to be minimal as many farmers in the northern Luzon Island (the main rice-growing area) had recently harvested.

The floods and landslides came less than a week after tropical storms resulted in a reported 160 deaths or missing persons. Rescue teams and the army are already engaged in responding to the storms.

As tropical storm Winnie now moves into the South China Sea, fresh fears mount as a new tropical storm Nanmadol, heads in towards the east coast of the island (Baler and Quezon provinces) and is expected to make landfall later this week. Reports suggest that this is stronger (currently winds 140kph) and will have a broader impact than that affecting Quezon and other provinces.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

When typhoon Muifa hit Camarines Sur and Mindoro Oriental on 20 November, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) appealed for support to enable it sustain its relief operation for 17,150 families worst affected by the disaster. An initial situation report indicated that the two provinces would need long term rehabilitation, in terms of housing construction material, food for work, kitchen utensils and livelihood support.

One of the 20 assessment teams, which the PNRC mobilised, reported from the three worst hit municipalities of Roxas, Bungabong and Mansalay in Mindoro Oriental. Their assessment identified food as the common immediate need of the 1,250 most affected families in the province. Apart from a week's supply of food, the team recommended that these families are provided roofing materials for rebuilding their shelters. Potential future problems for these families could extend to food security as agriculture is a main livelihood provider. The team also recommended that the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 50,000 be fully utilized for relief operations in Mindoro. A DREF application for a further CHF 100,000 was granted this afternoon (Tuesday).