

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

8 December 2005

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

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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](#) 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

Floodwaters and strong currents, as a result of heavy monsoon rains, destroyed a dike in Del Pilar village, Naujan town, Oriental Mindoro province on Tuesday (6 December). The breach of the dike caused major flooding in the municipality and the city of Calapan.

According to the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) chapter administrator, the local disaster coordinating council has reported that 14,227 families (approximately 71,135 people) were affected. A total of 135 *barangays* (villages) from five municipalities of Calapan, Naujan, Victoria, Pola and Pinamalayn are 4-8 feet under water. The power lines, water and communications are cut off. Road access to Naujan is unpassable. Affected families are evacuated by Red Cross and government rescue teams to school buildings and churches. Floodwater washed away newly harvested crops. There has been no report of casualties. The lack of sanitation and water facilities at the temporary evacuation centre has been the main concern.

More rains are expected in the northeast part of the country, according to the government weather office. Officials have been on alert for storm-related threats in the latter half of the year after heavy rains caused floods and landslides that left over 1,000 people dead or missing in the eastern Philippines in December 2004.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) is now conducting a major relief operation in Mindoro Occidental due in response to the flooding caused by the collapsed dike.

Since the onset of the disaster, PNRC chapter staff and disaster response teams immediately conducted assessment and initially served food rations and water to 300 families in two evacuation centres in Calapan. PNRC-Disaster Management Services unit in the headquarters facilitated initial release of 50 sacks of rice and PHP 50,000.00 (CHF 1,220) for operational expenses. A 14-member disaster response team (consisting of water rescue, assessment/relief, communication/IT and administrative support specialists Manila, Laguna, and Rizal chapters) was deployed from the national headquarters on 7 December evening to reinforce the chapter manpower in the affected area. The team was equipped, to be self-sufficient, with radio sets, base radio, mobile phones, vehicles, truck, command post tent, generator, rubber boat, and food supplies.

An operation centre has been set up at the headquarters to provide 24 hour monitoring support in close coordination with the government disaster coordinating councils and with the Federation regional delegation in Bangkok. A second disaster response team and a health team with a rubber boat, a six-wheeler and supplies have also been put on stand by at the headquarters for deployment to augment the first team.

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