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Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Nesat

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n° 1
GLIDE n° [TC-2011-000147-PHL](#)
27 September 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is currently undertaking rescue and emergency operations. A clearer picture of the nature and extent of needs on the ground will emerge over the next 48 hours as PRC undertakes rapid assessments alongside relief operations. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and partner national societies with offices in-country are on standby for joint assessments and to support PRC action, if required.

[click here for <map of affected areas>](#) or [<contact information>](#)



A house in Manila damaged after a tree, uprooted by the typhoon, fell on it. Photo: Romulo Godinez/PRC

Typhoon Nesat (local name: Pedring) pounded the Philippines early this morning, 27 September 2011, with heavy rains and powerful gusts that blew roofs away, uprooted trees, toppled power lines and whipped up sea surges. It has weakened slightly as it crossed the rugged terrain of the Sierra Madre mountain range although extreme weather conditions are still being felt across the entire island of Luzon, including in the capital, Manila. Nesat is traversing northern Luzon and is expected to exit into the sea west of the Philippines by tomorrow (28 September 2011) morning.

The PRC operations centre has been monitoring the situation since Typhoon Nesat entered Philippine territory, and has issued advisories and regular updates to its chapters in the projected typhoon path. Specialized rescue units were on standby and were deployed shortly after the typhoon made landfall. Red Cross chapters in affected areas have mobilized volunteers to extend immediate assistance. As well as assisting in evacuation and rescue efforts, Red Cross staff and volunteers are serving ready-to-eat meals to families in evacuation centres. Plans have advanced to distribute food packages and relief supplies such as blankets and sleeping mats alongside rapid assessments aimed at determining who needs what and where.

The situation

Typhoon Nesat (local name: Pedring) pounded the Philippines early this morning, 27 September 2011. The powerful storm made landfall over the mountainous region of Isabela and Aurora provinces in northern Luzon, packing winds of up to 140 kilometres per hour (kph) and gusts of 170 kph. Powerful gusts caused by the typhoon whipped up sea surges, blew roofs away, uprooted trees and toppled power lines – resulting in power outages – while heavy rains triggering floods, including in the capital, Manila.

According to the government's weather bureau – Philippine atmospheric, geophysical and astronomical services administration (PAGASA) – Typhoon Nesat has weakened slightly as it crossed the rugged terrain of the Sierra Madre mountain range. Even so, extreme weather conditions are still being felt across the entire island of Luzon, including in the capital, Manila. Nesat is traversing northern Luzon and is expected to exit into the sea west of the Philippines by tomorrow morning.

Preparations began early, with PAGASA issuing regular updates. Areas in the projected path of the typhoon were placed under [Signal No.3](#), which implied, among others, cancellation of travel and outdoor activities, and evacuation of people in harm's way to safer shelters. The areas placed under Signal No.3 included Abra, Aurora, Benguet, Ifugao, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Kalinga, La Union, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan. Apayao, Bataan, Bulacan, Cagayan, Isabela, Manila, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Quirino, Tarlac and Zambales were placed under [Signal No.2](#), which implies, among others, caution when travelling by sea and air, and postponement of all children's outdoor activities.

The national disaster agency, national disaster risk reduction and management council (NDRRMC), regional and local disaster risk reduction and management authorities have been monitoring the situation closely, and a day before the storm made landfall, they issued advisories and effected measures to avoid unnecessary risks or loss of life. Among the measures put in place were halting of ferries and fishing boats, cancellation of flights, and suspension of classes in schools, colleges and universities in areas under heightened alert. The authorities also ordered pre-emptive evacuation of thousands of people and warned that low-lying areas in the provinces concerned are vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Residents in areas lying below major dams have been advised to take pre-cautionary measures and be on alert for the expected increase in water levels.

In its update issued early 27 September 2011, the Philippine national disaster agency, the NDRRMC indicated that at least one person, a baby, was killed in the province of Catanduanes after falling into a swollen river. At the moment, it is still too early to provide a full picture of the typhoon's impact, including casualties. A clearer picture is expected to emerge over the next 48 hours when weather conditions are safer for assessments to be undertaken.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The PRC operations centre has been monitoring the situation since Typhoon Nesat entered Philippine territory, and has issued advisories and regular updates to its chapters in the projected typhoon path. Specialized rescue units were on standby and were deployed shortly after the typhoon made landfall. Red Cross chapters in affected areas have mobilized volunteers to extend immediate assistance. As well as assisting in evacuation and rescue efforts, staff and volunteers are serving ready-to-eat meals to families in evacuation centres. Plans have advanced to distribute food packages and relief supplies such as blankets and sleeping mats alongside rapid assessments aimed at determining who needs what and where.

The Red Cross Red Crescent operational coordination mechanism is being activated, and PRC will provide partners with updates on the capacity of its chapters in affected areas to respond. Meanwhile, IFRC is preparing to support PRC, with specialized personnel, additional emergency supplies and resources available in-country and in the region. Stocks of pre-positioned relief items, sufficient to meet the needs of at least 10,000 families, are available in-country. Australian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Netherlands Red Cross offices in Manila have placed their technical delegates on standby for joint assessments and to support PRC action, if required.



A Philippine Red Cross team undertakes rescue operations in Manila. Photo: Romulo Godinez/PRC

Contact information

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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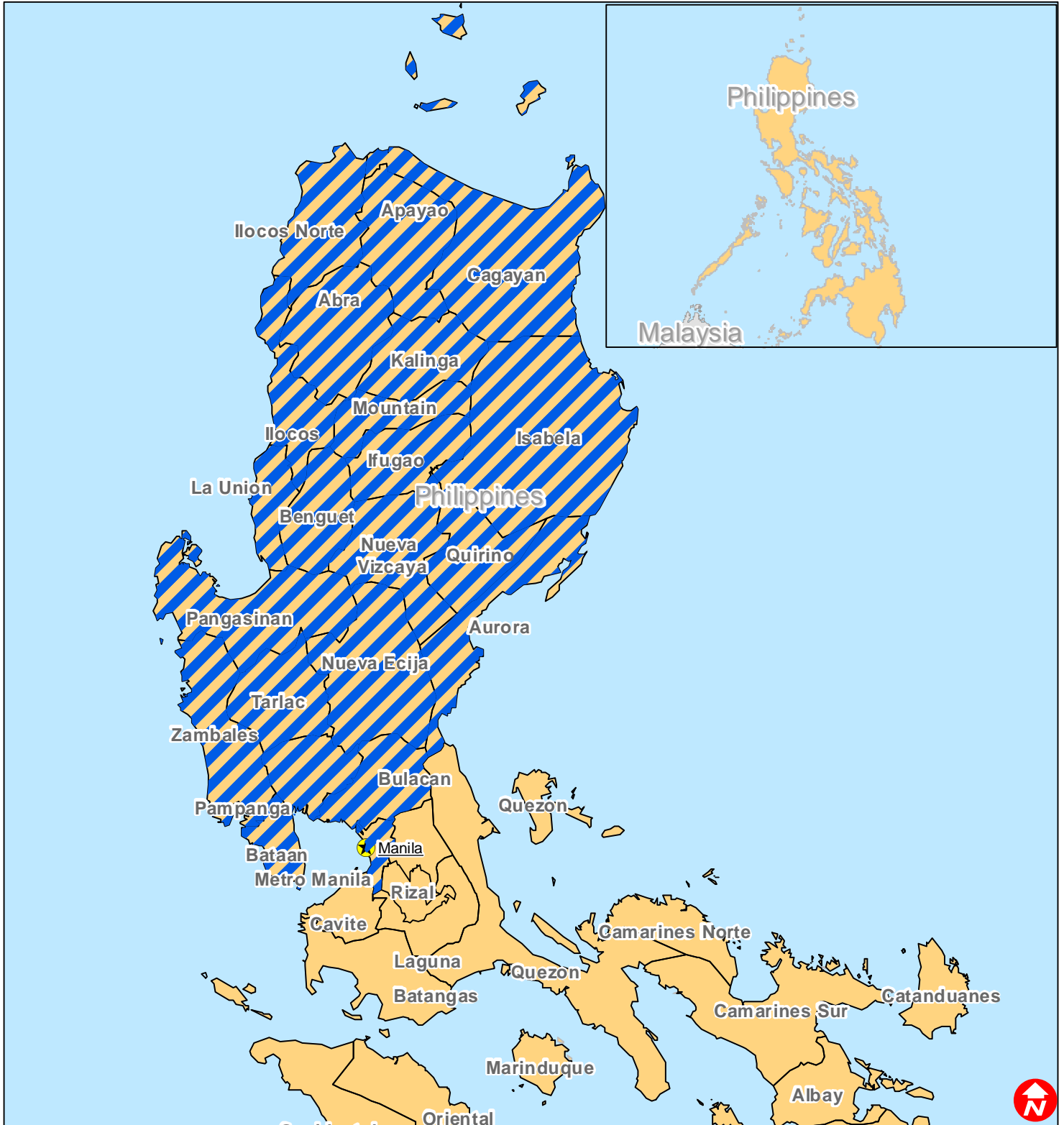



The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#), which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.



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 Affected areas