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DREF operation update

Philippines: Typhoon Rammasun

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation: MDRPH015	GLIDE n° TC-2014-000092-PHL
DREF update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 4 to 22 August 2014
Date of issue: 9 September 2014	Date of disaster: 15 July 2014
Manager responsible for this DREF operation: Marcel Fortier, Head of Delegation, IFRC country delegation	Point of contact: Gwendolyn Pang, Secretary-General, Philippine Red Cross
Operation start date: 15 July 2014	Operation end date: 31 October 2014
Operation budget: CHF 260,000	DREF allocated: CHF 260,000
Number of people assisted: 50,000 people (of the overall PRC response target)	
Host National Society Philippine Red Cross is the nation's largest humanitarian organization and works through 100 chapters covering all administrative districts and major cities in the country. It has at least 1,000 staff at national headquarters and chapter levels, and approximately one million volunteers and supporters, of whom some 500,000 are active volunteers. At chapter level also, a programme called 143 volunteers is in place to enhance the overall capacity of the National Society to prepare for and respond in disaster situations.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The National Society works with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Spanish Red Cross in this operation.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Governments of Australia and New Zealand are also providing relief supplies	

Summary: Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall in the town of Rapu Rapu, Albay, Bicol region (eastern coast of Philippines) Tuesday morning, 15 July. It moved westward across seven regions and exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on 17 July 2014 leaving behind damages in agriculture, infrastructure, and school and health care facilities amounting to more than 10 billion Philippine pesos (approximately 200 million Swiss francs) and affecting a million families.

Rammasun is the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year to date. Its sheer force uprooted trees and toppled electric posts resulting in the interruption of power supply and telecommunication systems in most of the affected areas. It took weeks before power, as well as water supply (some water stations use electric pumps), was available in some



A PRC action team provides first-aid during an evacuation of a coastal community in Manila at the height of Typhoon Rammasun. *Photo: PRC*

provinces, including Albay, Batangas, and Quezon. There were areas which declared a state of calamity to allow local government units of affected areas to utilize calamity funds.¹

As the typhoon exited PAR through the sea west of Philippines, the Philippine authorities reported that more than 500,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, while 5,500 families (27,500 people) were displaced and took shelter in 115 evacuation centres. Furthermore, almost 100 people lost their lives while more than 700 were injured. (Source: [NDRRMC](#))

As the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) provides humanitarian services to the people affected by Rammasun, prepositioned stocks must be replenished to restore PRC's capacity to respond in the event of another typhoon. This DREF allocation will be utilized to support the National Society in restocking food, household items and shelter supplies.

The situation

On 15 July, Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall in Albay province in the eastern coast of the Philippines with maximum sustained winds of up to 185 kilometres per hour. It moved westward across Luzon island and struck the National Capital Region the following morning, 16 July, bringing strong winds and rains which caused power outages and interrupted communication lines along its path.

Table 1. Summary of damages and losses in the affected areas²

No. of affected provinces	28
No. of affected cities/municipalities	360
No. of affected barangays/villages	4,612
No. of affected families (people)	1,006,440 (4,822,621)
No. of dead	98
No. of injured	736
No. of missing	15
No. of houses damaged	Totally damaged – 111,834 Partially damaged – 473,341
No. of classrooms damaged	Totally damaged – 50 Partially damaged – 115
No. of health care facilities damaged	Hospitals – 8 (partially) Barangay health unit/regional health unit – 22 (partially)

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The PRC is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and several partner National Societies (PNSs) which established in-country presence in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. The IFRC has an overall Movement Coordinator who liaises frequently and supports coordination within the PRC, ICRC and PNSs, as well external organizations as needed.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

Coordinating with authorities

As auxiliary to public authorities, PRC maintains a strong relationship with government bodies through participation or collaboration with (i) the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC); (ii) the provincial, municipal and barangay (village) disaster risk reduction and management councils; and (iii) the local government units defined in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.

Inter-agency coordination

At country level, PRC and IFRC participate in Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) forums held both during disasters and non-emergency times. PRC and IFRC are involved in relevant cluster information sharing, planning and analysis at all levels while IFRC supports PRC coordination efforts through representation in

¹ The Calamity Fund is a lump sum fund appropriated under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to cover aid, relief, and rehabilitation services to communities/areas affected by man-made and natural calamities, repair and reconstruction of permanent structures, including capital expenditures for pre-disaster operations, rehabilitation and other related activities. (Source: Department of Budget and Management website)

² [National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council](#) website

other relevant clusters as required. Regionally, the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office participates in regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) meetings; while globally, the IFRC has taken part in the IASC Principles and Emergency Director meetings.

Operational implementation

As soon as Rammasun was sighted by weather agencies, the PRC undertook preparatory measures for possible response and relief operations. As the typhoon hit land, PRC deployed its response teams to provide emergency and relief services to people affected by the typhoon. PRC Action Teams and Water Search and Rescue (WASAR) teams were immediately deployed to provide crucial first aid, rescue services to a coastal community in Manila and a clearing team to Quezon province. Equipped with 20 vehicles, the teams were able to help rescue and transport more than 100 people to safety.

From 17 to 20 July, assessment teams were deployed by the PRC from the National Headquarters and chapters to areas hit by Rammasun. Three teams plus a clearing operations team was sent to Quezon province. One team was sent to Camarines Sur which went on to do the assessment in Camarines Norte. One team also assessed the situation in Laguna and another in Albay.

Upon assessment, chapters requested from the National Headquarters additional food and water stocks, non-food items such as hygiene kits, mosquito nets, jerry cans and blankets, and shelter repair kits to replenish prepositioned stocks. As of reporting, five chapters – Albay, Quezon Lucena, Laguna, Camarines Sur and San Pablo – have received cash advances amounting to almost 3 million Philippine pesos (60,000 Swiss francs) to allow for purchase of necessary supplies for relief and recovery interventions in the affected areas.

Overall, more than 1,400 PRC staff and volunteers and 17 vehicles were deployed to provide relief services, conduct assessments and disease prevention education and distribute clean water. In addition, 95 welfare desks were also established to provide hot meals and psychosocial support to displaced people in evacuation centres. The PRC welfare desks provided hot meals to 24,188 individuals in Regions III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VIII³ and the National Capital Region, and provided psychosocial support to 8,236 people.

Furthermore, PRC provided food relief (two to three day rations) to 6,785 families in 11 areas. In all, 2,871 families from four provinces also received hygiene kits while 156 families in three provinces received clothes. An additional 160 families from the province of Rizal received cleaning kits while 3,800 families from five provinces received plastic mats. Also, 3,876 families received blankets, 3,831 families received mosquito nets, 2,547 families received jerry cans and 1,110 families received hurricane lamps. In Camarines Sur, 241 families whose houses were damaged or destroyed received tarpaulins.

Quality Programming
Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation
Output 1.1: Initial needs assessments are updated according to current findings
Output 1.2: Selected food and emergency shelter items are considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan

Progress: PRC has since completed assessments of the areas hit by Rammasun. Response plans have also been implemented which include, for the chapters, emergency response such as rescue operations and setting up of welfare desks; distribution of food items, non-food items, and tarpaulins; assessment of and continuous monitoring of affected areas; and coordination with local government units, provincial disaster risk reduction councils and other rescue groups. The National Headquarters (NHQ), meanwhile, was on alert level III⁴ during Rammasun, monitoring the typhoon 24/7 in its operation centre. It was also continuously monitoring weather bulletins from the national weather agency, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and disseminating information to the concerned chapters. The NHQ also coordinated with the chapters and the NDRRMC for situation updates on affected areas and consolidated information gathered as Rammasun battered Luzon.

³ Region III – Central Luzon, Region IV-A – CALABARZON, Region IV-B – MIMAROPA, Region V – Bicol, Region VIII – Eastern Visayas

⁴ Alert level III means that chapters are engaged in disaster operations – level I (lowest) to V (highest)

Table 2. Deployment of assessment teams

Area	Team	Date
Albay	Assessment team	19 to 24 July
Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur	Assessment team	18 to 22 July
Laguna	Assessment team	19 to 21 July
Quezon 1	Assessment and clearing team	17 to 26 July
Quezon 2	Assessment team	20 to 23 July

Results of the assessment showed that pre-emptive evacuation in some areas in Quezon province prevented casualties resulting from the typhoon. Also, although the damages were relatively minimal, partially and totally damaged shelters were observed in some areas in the provinces of Batangas, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Laguna and Quezon. Furthermore, significant damages to agriculture and to fishing equipment, which are the primary livelihood of most of the people in the affected provinces, were recorded.

Shelters and settlements (and household items)

Outcome 1: Essential household non-food items to meet the needs of 10,000 families over three months

Output 1.1: Affected families have access to essential household non-food items

Progress: Alongside rapid assessments, PRC started distribution of essential items to families housed in different evacuation centres. The distribution of non-food items are detailed in Table 3 below. Only families in Camarines Sur whose houses were damaged or destroyed received tarpaulins. These items helped them cope with their losses as the typhoon left extensive damage on shelter and access to basic services was limited.

Table 3. Summary of distribution of non-food items as of 22 August 2014

Province	Number of families who received					
	Hygiene kits	Mosquito nets	Jerry cans	Plastic mats	Blankets	Tarpaulins
Albay	1,564	1,548	1,540	1,524	1,548	n/a
Bataan	n/a	n/a	61	n/a	n/a	n/a
Camarines Sur	500	1,000	500	993	1,008	241
Cavite	n/a	13	n/a	13	13	n/a
Quezon	507	1,110	507	1,110	1,110	n/a
Rizal	300	160	n/a	160	197	n/a
TOTAL	2,871	3,831	2,547	3,800	3,876	241

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: Basic food assistance to meet the needs of 5,000 families over three months

Output 1: Affected families have access to basic food assistance

Progress: PRC provided food relief containing five kilogrammes of rice, four canned goods and four packets of noodles (equivalent to two to three day ration) to 6,785 families in 11 affected areas. PRC has managed to serve more than the initially planned 5,000 families with basic food rations.

Table 4. Summary of distribution of food items

Area	No. of families
Batangas	200
Camarines Sur	2,134
Cavite	1,122
Laguna	791
Leyte	37
Marinduque	100

Northern Samar	788
Olongapo	85
Quezon	1,110
Rizal	425
Sorsogon	19
TOTAL	6,785

The PRC's 95 welfare desks also provided hot meals to 24,188 people in 18 affected areas and provided services like psychosocial support (8,236 people), tracing/RFL (26 people), and referrals (27 people).

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Humanitarian 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.