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DREF operation update

Philippines: Typhoon Maysak



DREF operation: MDRPH018 Date of allocation: 2 April 2015	DREF operation update n° 1 (revised EPOA) Date of issue: 9 May 2015
DREF allocated: CHF 119,180	Revised budget: CHF 20,284
Operation start date: 2 April 2015	Operation end date: 31 May 2015
Number of people to be assisted: 4,500 (900 families can be reached with prepositioned items)	
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross (PRC) 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 Red Cross 143, where 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 has worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), local government units and members of the UN-led Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).	

A. Situation update

Description of the disaster

After striking — and wreaking havoc in — the Federated States of Micronesia as a Category 5 typhoon during the last week of March 2015, Typhoon Maysak (also known in the Philippines as Chedeng) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on 1 April 2015 packing maximum sustained winds of 215 km/h and gusts of up to 250 km/h. The authorities and agencies were concerned about the humanitarian impact that the typhoon could have if it maintained its strength at landfall. Fortunately, the typhoon weakened significantly as it approached landmass and eventually made landfall as a tropical depression over the province of Isabela on 5 April 2015. It was further downgraded into a low pressure area as it moved across northern Luzon.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), there were no reported deaths, injured and missing persons directly attributed to Typhoon Maysak. Damage to houses, infrastructure and livelihoods was minimal, with the relief assistance provided mainly comprising distributions to people who had pre-emptively been accommodated in evacuation centres.

Prior to the typhoon's landfall, the authorities and members of the UN-led Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) met on a regular basis to undertake an analysis of risks and to coordinate preparedness efforts. The authorities activated preparedness and response clusters, alerted relevant local government units and departments to pre-position relief items in areas along the typhoon's projected path and undertook pre-emptive evacuation of people in high-risk areas.

On their part, Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) activated their preparedness measures for a potential response. The IFRC allocated CHF 119,180 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the PRC to mobilize pre-positioned relief supplies to areas under threat in readiness for distribution in case of need. The allocation was also to facilitate the deployment of rapid assessment teams to determine needs post-landfall.

REVISION Based on how the situation evolved, and considering that fortunately Typhoon Maysak did not have a significant humanitarian impact as the typhoon was downgraded to a tropical storm on 4 April, a revision of the DREF operation plan of action and budget is being made. The budget is consequently reduced from CHF 119,180 to CHF 20,284 <see revised budget> and the operation timeframe adjusted to two months, to be completed by 31 May 2015. A DREF final report will be available 90 days after the end of operation.

Summary of the Red Cross response

Even before Typhoon Maysak entered PAR, PRC was prepared in anticipation of any possible post-landfall scenarios. The DREF allocation made was to enable PRC to mobilize staff, volunteers, vehicles, equipment, and relief stocks (non-food items, hygiene kits and emergency shelter materials) in areas along the typhoon's path.

The National Society utilized two 10-wheeler trucks to transport non-food relief items (blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets and sleeping mats) and hygiene kits for 900 families to Nueva Ecija and Nueva Viscaya. Of these, items for 200 families were released from IFRC in-country stocks. As assessments indicated that there was no need for distributions, the items were pre-positioned Nueva Ecija, where they remain to date, as preparedness for a potential future response. Additional items remain in PRC warehouses in Cebu, Manila and Subic Bay.

As well as mobilizing preparedness stocks, PRC placed six trained and experienced field assessment staff from different sectors — including disaster management, health and social services — on standby, ready for deployment together with response units equipped with search-and-rescue facilities among others. Two IFRC field delegates were also on standby in Manila for possible deployment. Since Maysak weakened significantly and eventually made landfall as a tropical depression, the teams were advised to stand down and returned to their respective duty stations. Vehicles, other goods and equipment that had been readied for potential response were also returned to the national headquarters in Manila, although two vehicles remain in Subic Bay ready for future response.

After the landfall of tropical depression Maysak, staff and volunteers of PRC's Aurora chapters served hot meals to 250 individuals who had sought temporary shelter in one of the evacuation centres. All families in evacuation centres returned to their respective homes almost immediately after the tropical depression passed the area.

Overview of in-country Red Cross Red Crescent actors

PRC works with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, The Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross Organization and Qatar Red Crescent Society in-country.

Movement Coordination

The IFRC has an acting Movement coordinator in place. The coordinator liaises frequently and supports coordination with the PRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies in-country as well as with external organizations, as needed.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

Coordinating with the authorities

As auxiliary to the 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 (DRRMCs); and (iii) the local government units (LGUs) as defined in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act from 2010.

PRC participates in NDRRMC meetings and coordinates with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health, LGUs and DRRMCs at provincial, municipal and barangay levels.

Inter-agency coordination

At country level, PRC and IFRC participate in Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings 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 other relevant clusters as required. Regionally, the IFRC Asia Pacific zone office and South-East Asia regional delegation participate in regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) meetings.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs assessments

Fortunately, Maysak weakened as it approached landmass and eventually made landfall as a tropical depression. Damage to houses, infrastructure and livelihoods was minimal, and the assistance provided mainly comprised distributions to people who had gone to evacuation centres pre-emptively. The DREF allocation, therefore, fulfilled the need of supporting PRC to prepare for an imminent crisis by mobilizing staff, volunteers, vehicles, equipment, and relief stocks (non-food items, hygiene kits and emergency shelter materials) in areas along the typhoon's path.

Beneficiary selection

The situation did not warrant the delivery of assistance to direct beneficiaries. Institutionally, PRC was able to dispatch non-food relief items (blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets and sleeping mats) and hygiene kits for 900 families from Manila to Nueva Ecija – closer to the area where they could be needed.

Feasibility and delivery capacity

The PRC chapters in Luzon have technical capacity and experience to deliver in any potential responses with support from their national headquarters, IFRC and other Movement partners. All distributions of relief items prepositioned in Nueva Ecija and other areas will be led and carried out by PRC staff and volunteers at the chapter level.

B. Revised operational strategy and plan

Based on how the situation evolved, and considering that fortunately Typhoon Maysak did not have a humanitarian impact, a revision of the initial DREF plan of action and budget is being made. The budget is consequently reduced from CHF 119,180 to CHF 20,284 and the operation timeframe adjusted to two months. The operation will now be completed by 31 May 2015 and a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

Overall objective

The overall objective of this DREF operation is to support the Philippine Red Cross to prepare for an imminent crisis by mobilizing staff, volunteers, vehicles, equipment, and relief items in areas along the Typhoon Maysak's path.

Adopted strategy

The DREF allocation was made to enable the PRC to mobilize pre-positioned relief supplies to areas under threat in readiness for distribution in case of need. The allocation was also to facilitate the deployment of rapid response and assessment teams to support the chapters in their immediate response and to determine needs post-landfall.

Operational support services

Human resources

PRC placed six trained and experienced field assessment staff and volunteers from different sectors — including disaster management, health and social services — on standby, ready for deployment. Two IFRC field delegates were also on standby in Manila for possible deployment. Since Maysak weakened significantly and eventually made landfall as a tropical depression, the teams were advised to stand down and returned to their respective duty stations.

Logistics and supply chain

PRC and IFRC logistics teams facilitated the dispatch of blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and hygiene kits for 900 families to Nueva Ecija – closer to the area where they could be needed. Vehicles, other goods and equipment were also readied for potential response but have since returned to the national headquarters in Manila, with two vehicles remaining in Subic Bay ready for future response.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation will be made in accordance with the IFRC minimum reporting standards. With the issuance of this update, the remaining standard requirement is for the final report. The final report will be issued within three months of the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Implementation is by large complete. PRC and IFRC finance teams are currently ensuring that expenditure incurred under the operation is captured so that it can be accurately reflected in the financial statement to be attached to the final report. All expenditure is in line with IFRC procedures.

C. REVISED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Early warning & emergency response preparedness

Outcome 1: The Philippine Red Cross is better prepared to respond to Typhoon Maysak.			
Output 1.1: Surge capacity provided and relief items mobilized to high risk areas to enable an immediate response by PRC if needed.			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Month	1	2
1.1.1 Place National Society staff and volunteers on stand-by in various locations for immediate response.			
1.1.2 Mobilize/deploy IFRC delegates available in-country to support PRC in its immediate response.			
1.1.3 Mobilize and preposition non-food items and response equipment in areas along the typhoon's path.			

Quality programming

Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.			
Output 2.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings.			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Month	1	2
2.1.1 Undertake assessments to determine specific needs post land-fall.			
2.1.2 Develop a response plan with activities that will meet identified needs.			

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.

REVISED DREF OPERATION

09/05/2015

MDRPH018 Philippines - Typhoon Maysak

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Storage, Warehousing	650
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,119
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	4,769
National Society Staff	4,427
Volunteers	2,049
Total PERSONNEL	6,476
Travel	6,650
Office Costs	434
Communications	217
Financial Charges	500
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,801
Programme and Services Support Recovery	1,238
Total INDIRECT COSTS	1,238
TOTAL BUDGET	20,284