

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no. MDRPH001
17 February 2006

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL IS BEING LAUNCHED ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, AND SEEKS CHF 2,126,000 (USD 1.6 MILLION OR EUR 1.3 MILLION) IN CASH, KIND OR SERVICES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE¹ FOR SIX MONTHS

[click here to view the appeal budget](#), or [here to view the map](#)

CHF 200,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF). UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact the following:

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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>

¹ Given the early stages of this operation and the very preliminary nature of this emergency appeal, the exact number of beneficiaries is currently unknown but will be communicated in subsequent updates to be issued shortly.

The situation

Recent monsoon rains in the Philippines – one of the world’s most disaster prone countries – triggered a massive landslide early Friday (17 February) in the village of Guinsaugon (St Bernard town, Southern Leyte Island; please refer to the attached map). Very initial reports received from the Philippine National Red Cross Society (PNRCS) indicate that 1,500 people are missing, and while the confirmed casualties figure is currently low, the number of deaths is expected to climb quickly.

This area of the Philippines is among the country’s most remote and inaccessible, with poor roads and limited transport and communications links. This lack of infrastructure – and the severe damage to facilities already in place – is hampering the disaster response from outside the immediate vicinity, as well as assessment missions.

The landslide reportedly buried hundreds of houses and a school packed with elementary students. Initial reports from the authorities and the PNRCS official’s estimated 200 people were dead and 1,500 others missing. Five hundred houses are feared buried in the village (total estimated population of 2,500). An elementary school was in session when the landslide struck around 0900 local time (0100 GMT). Only three houses were left standing in the village, 670km southeast of Manila, initial reports said. Survivors were being treated at hospital. Sen. Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross said: ‘There is no body count yet, it’s our estimate.’ ‘We’re mobilizing rescue operations. This area is infamous for landslides.’ The Office of Civil Defense sent two rescue helicopters and two navy ships to the remote area. Two hundred rescue workers – including volunteers from nearby provinces – are currently trying to dig out survivors. More support is arriving by the hour. It was reported that the ground was soaked because of days of rain. Witnesses spoke of trees sliding down upright with the mud. The PNRCS is considering the evacuation of other hillside towns potentially at risk, and is taking responsibility for the management of these evacuation centres.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the PNRCS’s immediate response to this disaster. The PNRCS is the country’s leading humanitarian organization, and has deployed experienced teams to conduct search and rescue operations, emergency feeding, relief distribution, and assessments. A national headquarter-based response team – tasked to examine the immediate needs of the population – has been dispatched to the affected area to conduct an initial assessment of the affected barangays (villages) and municipalities. A Hercules C-130 airplane delivered 2 two search and rescue dog teams, 1,000 body bags, relief supplies in the form of 300 blankets, 400 cartons of biscuits, and five cartons of purification powder, as well as support equipment in the form of rubber boots for rescuers, volunteers, and survivors. The PNRCS has contacted the American embassy in Manila to provide helicopter support for search, rescue, and evacuation activities.

PNRCS chapter administrators and a response team were on site within two hours of the disaster and engaged in search and rescue as well as providing initial relief to those affected. Initial assessments were also underway. PNRCS headquarters has mobilized disaster response teams from other provincial chapters for deployment to the stricken area to help in search and rescue as well as relief. PNRCS directors and managers were holding an emergency meeting to map out the evolving response. PNRCS Southern Leyte chapter members, together with staff from the province’s social welfare and development department, are prepared to provide stress counselling to those affected by the disaster.

Coordination and management

The PNRCS, as one of the Philippines most respected disaster management organizations, close coordinates with government counterparts in the disaster coordinating council. PNRCS national headquarters and the local chapters are members of the disaster co-ordinating councils that aim to ensure a well-coordinated disaster response effort. The operation and planned activities described in this preliminary appeal have been prepared in full cooperation with the PNRCS.

The PNRCS also enjoys good relations with NGOs and government agencies, at the same time maintaining its independence while working within the existing coordinating system at both national and local levels. For the current operation in Southern Leyte, the PNRCS and Federation will coordinate activities with other NGOs present in the disaster zone (Oxfam and Plan International). At PNRCS chapter level, the operation will rely on Red Cross volunteers. Technical support will also be provided by relevant local government specialists, including municipal

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engineers, planning and development officers, and health personnel. At national headquarters, specialist staff from the disaster management services (DMS) unit will be assigned to ensure that the various project components are implemented within PNRC guidelines and policies.

The needs

Based on the initial information and reports available, the immediate needs are for more body bags, food parcels, trauma kits, rubber boots, generators, and plastic sheeting for shelter, light 4x4 vehicles to support transport and logistics, and communications equipment to support the operation. Tracing, family messages, and psycho-social support are critical needs for those who have survived the mudslide but who have lost family members and close friends. Further information and needs in these areas will be communicated in subsequent updates.

The proposed operation

Provision of immediate relief assistance (non-food relief items)

Objective: Provision of basic household kits composed of: cooking utensils, plastic eating utensils, mosquito nets, blankets, plastic mats, plastic pail, and towels for the affected families.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities.
- Procurement of items for the basic household kits based on International Federation logistics standards.
- Organization of a transport and distribution system for the basic household kits by each of the local chapters concerned.
- Distribution of basic household kits with proper recording.

Shelter

Objective 1: Provision of shelter material.

Planned activities:

- Identification of beneficiaries in need.
- Identification of appropriate construction materials.
- Procurement and distribution.

Hygiene

Objective: Provision of basic health and hygiene kits, including body bags, bath soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, water containers for drinking water, oral re-hydration salts.

Planned activities:

- Organize health volunteers in the affected community.
- Orientation on health education activities.
- Procurement of basic health and hygiene kits, and body bags.
- Selection of beneficiaries together with the community.
- Distribution of basic health and hygiene kits with proper recording.

Water and sanitation

Objective: Provision water containers, purification tablets and water testing kits.

Planned activities:

- Purchase of water containers, purification tablets and water testing kits
- Orientation of health team on the use of water-testing kits.
- Conduct water testing for existing water sources.
- Community awareness on the checking potable water sources.
- Distribution of water containers and purification tablets.

Health services

Objective: Mobile health services to provide primary health care, first aid, and emergency medicine.

Planned activities:

- Organize mobile health teams to provide primary health care services to those affected.
- Coordination with the local health system for mobile health team support.

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- Purchase emergency health kits and emergency medicine.
- Identification of community health volunteers.
- Conduct primary health care orientation to community health volunteers.

Capacity of the National Society

The PNRC is established under Philippines Law and mandated to act as auxiliary to the government in providing relief, health and welfare assistance to the most vulnerable sector of the society. In its role as an independent and highly professional humanitarian organisation, the PNRC enjoys nationwide recognition and respect, coupled with long and strong experience of disaster management.

The Society and its provincial branches have extensive knowledge in conducting relief and rehabilitation programmes in the wake of natural disasters, which occur regularly in the Philippines. It is represented in almost all provinces and major cities with a total of 76 chapters and nine sub-chapters. Each chapter has a professional administrator who acts as manager in charge of operations and administrative functions.

The PNRC works in partnership with the government and non-government agencies as well as private groups in achieving effective networking and implementation of its services. It is also in partnership with a number of sister national societies, including the Danish Red Cross - which supports the integrated community disaster planning programme targeted at building the capacities of disaster-prone communities in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. As indicated earlier, the Spanish Red Cross has two delegates in Manila working with the PNRC on an ECHO-funded community-based disaster management programme, also designed to strengthen the local capacities of people and communities situated in high risk areas.

Capacity of the Federation

The International Federation's Southeast Asia regional delegation, in Bangkok, comprises a head, programme coordinator and specialist delegates in disaster management, health and care, organisational development and information, backed by a committed team of regional and local staff and the Asia Pacific and relevant technical departments at the Geneva Secretariat.

Logistics and communication

The required goods, services and materials will be tendered and purchased locally and transported by road and by boat. Transport to the sites accessible by roads will be included in the tendering. The affected area is isolated and inaccessible by road, and it is estimated that the PNRC's logistics and transport capacity will need to be reinforced with 4x4 light vehicles and trucks. Transport by boat to coastal communities will also be explored and considered. Communications in the area are poor, and this appeal includes costs for reinforcing communications capacity and equipment.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for preliminary budget details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget and map below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY

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Philippines - landslide

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	750,000
Clothing & textiles	350,000
Water & sanitation	150,000
Utensils & tools	250,000
Other relief supplies	150,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	1,650,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Vehicles	245,000
Computers & telecom. equipment	15,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	138,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution and storage	20,000
Transport and vehicle costs	15,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	25,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	5,000
Information expenses	3,000
Administrative & general expenses	10,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	476,000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,126,000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	2,126,000



Philippines: Landslides and floods



An entire village has been buried by a major landslide in the central Philippines following heavy rains.

Casualties figures are unknown but there were unconfirmed reports at least 200 villagers could be dead and about 1,500 missing.

The landslide hit Guinsaugon village in the town of St Bernard on the southern part of the island of Leyte.

The Philippine Red Cross responded by flying in a C-130 with response teams, body bags, trauma kits, emergency kits, communication equipment and food.

200,000 Swiss francs have been released from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

International support is being mobilized as assessment is coming from the field.