

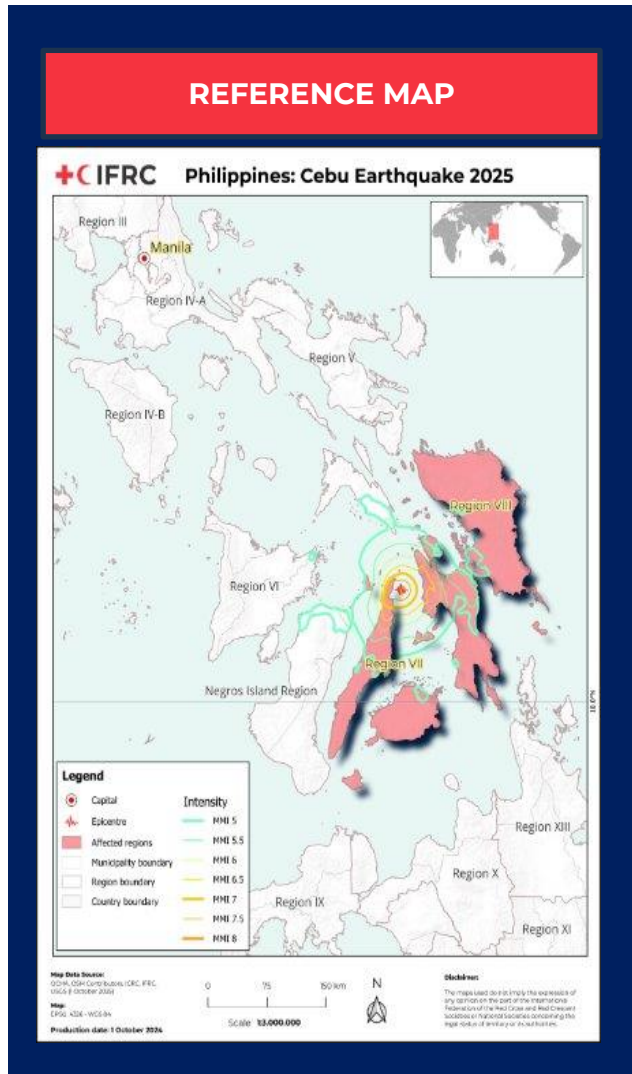


Rescuers in the Philippines search for survivors and retrieve bodies after a magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck off the coast of Cebu Island. Drone footage shows collapsed buildings and victims in body bags, as emergency crews dig through rubble. (Photo credit: [REUTERS/Adrian Portugal](#))

Appeal No: MDRPH057	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 5.5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 8 million¹	
Glide No: EQ-2025-000181-PHL	People affected: 170,959 people	People to be assisted: 67,500 people
DREF request: CHF 1 million	Appeal launched: 4 October 2025	Appeal ends: 31 October 2027

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in response to the emergency. It includes the PRC's domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 2.5 million), as well as the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 5.5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



A magnitude 6.9 earthquake struck off the coast of Bogoto City, Cebu, at 9:59 PM local time on 30 September 2025, making it one of the strongest recorded earthquakes in Cebu to date. The epicentre was located near Bogoto City in northern Cebu, where intense ground shaking led to the collapse of buildings, destruction of roads, and power outages. Neighbouring municipalities, including Daanbantayan, Medellin, San Remigio, and even parts of Cebu City, were also severely affected.

The earthquake was tectonic in origin and occurred at a shallow depth of approximately five kilometres. It was felt across Visayas, part of Luzon, and Mindanao, causing widespread panic, infrastructure damage, and casualties. The aftermath of the earthquake in Cebu has affected thousands of individuals and damaged vital infrastructure, including homes, churches, schools, government facilities, and bridges. The earthquake affected two regions: Central Visayas (Region VII) and Eastern Visayas (Region VIII). Northern Cebu, located in Region VII, sustained the most impact and damage.


According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology ([PHIVOLCS](#)), the quake was caused by an offshore fault in the epicentre area that had remained inactive for 400 years. Within less than 48 hours, PHIVOLCS recorded over 2,400 aftershocks, the strongest of which measured [4.9 magnitude](#). DOST-PHIVOLCS issued a tsunami advisory following the earthquake, warning of

possible minor sea-level disturbances in coastal areas, which was later lifted once conditions subsided. In response to the widespread impact of the quake, the provincial government of Cebu has declared a state of calamity.

As of 2 October 2025, the disaster has resulted in at least 72 confirmed fatalities and 294 injuries, with the death toll expected to rise as rescue operations continue. Based on the latest National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Report dated October 2, a total of 47,221 families, or 170,959 individuals, have been affected in Cebu. A total of 597 houses were reportedly damaged, 501 partially and 96 completely. The earthquake also caused significant damage to 87 public structures, including government facilities, schools, and cultural heritage sites. Additionally, a fire was reported inside a mall in Consolacion town, northern Cebu, following the quake.


Several bridges are damaged throughout Cebu province, and deep cracks have appeared in asphalt and concrete roads in several locations, especially in northern municipalities such as Medellin, Daanbantayan, and San Remigio. These conditions slow the delivery of aid, the transport of injured individuals, and the movement of emergency personnel. Road-clearing equipment and fuel are urgently needed. Furthermore, 58 cities and municipalities are still experiencing power supply interruptions, while three municipalities continue to experience communication line interruptions. Classes remain suspended in 46 cities and municipalities, while government work was suspended in four cities and municipalities in Region VII.

Initial assessments were conducted using secondary data from government sources, such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), along with media reports and internal data from the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Operations Centre. This was further validated by PRC local chapters in the affected areas.

 **170,959**
Affected Population

 **597**
Damaged Houses

 **20,134**
People Displaced

 **72**
Dead and missing

TARGETING

In Cebu Province, more than 170,959 people are estimated to have been directly affected by the earthquake, with thousands displaced and critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, health facilities, and schools, either damaged or destroyed. Certain indigenous communities in upland and remote areas may also be disproportionately impacted due to geographic isolation, systemic inequalities, and pre-existing socioeconomic disadvantages that limit their access to assistance.

This operation aims to meet the immediate, lifesaving, and recovery needs of an estimated 67,500 vulnerable people (13,500 families) in the most severely affected municipalities of Cebu Province following the 6.9 magnitude earthquake.

The response and recovery operations will target the most severely impacted areas, the communities with the highest vulnerability, and those receiving minimal or no assistance from other humanitarian actors. Priority will be given to:

- **Displaced individuals and families** who have lost their homes or whose residences have been rendered unsafe, particularly those not covered by other humanitarian agencies.
- **Low-income households** who are unable to afford essential items or repairs, and typically struggle to recover without external support.
- **Elderly individuals** who require special consideration due to mobility challenges, health vulnerabilities, and limited access to care – putting them at risk during and after a seismic event.
- **Women and children**, particularly pregnant and lactating women, and female-headed households, who face heightened protection risks, including gender-based violence, as well as disrupted access to basic services such as healthcare and education.
- **Persons with disabilities**, who face significant barriers in accessing emergency support and safe shelter. With disability prevalence in the Philippines exceeding global averages – 12 per cent living with severe disabilities – this group is critically underserved in disaster situations.
- **Residents of high-risk or informal settlements**, especially those living in poorly built or densely packed structures, which are more likely to collapse or suffer serious damage during earthquakes.

By focusing on these vulnerable groups, the response will not only meet urgent humanitarian needs but also support early recovery and longer-term community resilience.

Rapid Damage and Needs Assessments (RDANA) are currently underway across affected municipalities. The initial findings have informed the prioritisation of target locations and response strategies. The PRC is using a set of indicators to identify priority areas, including:

- Percentage of affected families
- Degree of infrastructure and livelihood damage
- Accessibility and logistical feasibility
- Poverty incidence in the area
- Presence and capacity of PRC chapters and other stakeholders

PLANNED OPERATIONS

This emergency operation will ensure the immediate relief, recovery, and resilience of an estimated 67,500 of the most vulnerable persons – bridging the gap so communities can rebuild better, restore livelihoods, and withstand future shocks through shelter assistance, provision of essential households items, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), livelihoods assistance, health and WASH interventions, as well as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) considerations along with a robust Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach. A comprehensive set of assistance will be provided to displaced individuals taking temporary shelter in family tents provided by the PRC in a camp-like setting, encompassing basic infrastructure, services, and protection. Other affected communities in priority areas will receive assistance based on their unmet needs.

The immense scale of the destruction and continuing aftershocks make it clear that short-term relief alone is insufficient. Numerous houses are unsafe, and many communities are hesitant to return, as a result, the IFRC's support must go beyond emergency relief distribution and extend to sustained recovery. Small businesses, farmers, fisherfolk, and service workers, among others, have lost their livelihoods and restoring them will require phased grants, technical support, restocking of tools and equipment, and capacity building over an extended period. Houses, schools, and public infrastructure were completely or partially damaged. Children may not be able to return to school until structural integrity is ensured, water and sanitation facilities are restored, and the necessary repairs are completed. Given the scale of shelter damage and displacement, transitional shelter assistance is needed to restore dignity and normalcy to affected communities through the provision of safe, medium-term housing solutions.

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Philippine Red Cross in their response to the 6.9 magnitude earthquake. The IFRC's response strategy is to assist 13,500 families (67,500 people), focusing on the following areas:

Integrated assistance

(Shelter, Livelihoods, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Household Livelihoods Assistance)

Family tents will be provided as immediate emergency shelter assistance to displaced individuals. Camp management will be put in place to coordinate and ensure assistance, protection, and services to displaced individuals, adhering to international humanitarian standards. People taking shelter in the camp will receive a comprehensive set of basic services from the PRC, along with the necessary infrastructure in place in the area.

Essential household items such as sleeping kits and kitchen sets will be provided to the most affected families whose essential supplies and personal items were damaged in the earthquake. Shelter toolkits, tarpaulins, and safe shelter awareness orientation will be provided to households in need of repairs and immediate solutions.

To meet the nutritional needs of the displaced population, hot meals will be provided using food trucks. The PRC will implement a standardised meal plan developed with a nutritionist.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance will complement these efforts by meeting the basic needs of affected households while supporting the restoration of lost income sources.

As the situation transitions into early recovery, Temporary Shelter Assistance (TSA) will be provided to ensure that displaced families have safe shelter and begin the transition back to normalcy.

Household Livelihood Assistance (HLA) in the form of conditional and restricted cash transfers will be provided in areas where livelihoods have been severely impacted. Complementing HLA at the community level, Community-Managed Livelihood Projects will be implemented for the



most vulnerable communities, supporting income recovery and enhancement through measures such as seed money, capital investment, and other livelihood support activities.

Community Savings Groups will support the recovery and resilience of communities by building collaboratives that promote key financial skills while enhancing their financial resilience through numerous financial and social strategies.



Health and Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health)

The PRC will ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the displaced individuals taking temporary shelter in the camp and those with unmet needs outside of the camp. To complement these efforts, the PRC will provide basic health services and health promotion to families residing in the area.

Considering the widespread damage to infrastructure caused by the earthquake, the PRC will support communities with debris clearing.



As part of the initial response, the PRC will provide basic first aid and medical transport to health facilities utilising its ambulances during the immediate response.

Welfare desks will be established to provide psychosocial first aid and other MHPSS activities. PRC volunteers will conduct disease prevention campaigns and health and hygiene promotion activities using various methodologies and platforms, including key messaging on high-risk health concerns.

As the situation transitions into recovery, efforts will focus on community-based health and WASH activities, increasing the capacity and resilience of affected communities to mitigate longer-term health risks.

Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Education)

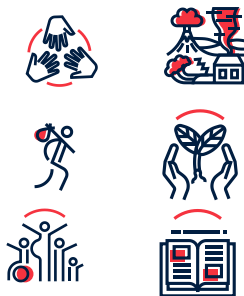
The PRC will implement PGI Minimum Standards in Emergencies throughout this operation to ensure the dignity, safety, participation, and access of all individuals under its care. Close coordination will be maintained with relevant authorities and protection actors to ensure adequate protection planning at the camp level, including accessible and safe camp infrastructure and referral pathways to specialised protection services.



The PRC will assess risks posed to children by this operation and ensure that safeguarding of children and other at-risk groups is in place across all interventions.

Targeting will be guided by assessed risks and needs and will focus on vulnerable groups, such as women and child-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, men, women and children made vulnerable by disasters, families with persons with a disability, older people, individuals with chronic illnesses, families with children under five years old, families who have not received any or sufficient assistance from other agencies, socially marginalised families, and households lacking the resources to meet basic humanitarian needs.

Community engagement and accountability, including feedback mechanisms, will be integrated into the operation to ensure inclusive participation and provide communities with direct access to information on the scope and nature of available services.



Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships



The PRC's national headquarters and local chapters are regularly coordinating with local authorities to ensure complementarity of response efforts. The chapters are currently coordinating with local government units (LGUs) to gather situational and operational updates to respond in a timely and appropriate manner in the most affected communities, complementing the efforts of LGUs and other agencies. At the national level, the PRC is collaborating with appropriate authorities, notably the NDRRMC.

The IFRC Secretariat will support the PRC, which is leading the overall response operation, by ensuring a coordinated approach with the Participating National Societies (PNSs) present in the Philippines, as well as National Societies supporting the PRC without having a direct presence in country.

Shelter Cluster Coordination



In the Philippines, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), leads the Philippines Shelter cluster, which is co-led by the IFRC. The cluster will continue to provide coordination support, ensuring a harmonised humanitarian shelter response. The cluster will coordinate damage assessments, prioritise the shelter sector, and continue to provide guidance on shelter standards.

IFRC Secretariat Services



The IFRC's Philippines Country Delegation will support the PRC by providing technical and operational support as needed to ensure accountability and compliance throughout the operation.

A Federation-wide approach will be maintained in planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. Reporting and monitoring of the operation's targets will be carried out in accordance with IFRC monitoring and reporting standards.

The IFRC will provide the necessary support to the operation to effectively manage procurement and finance processes according to IFRC standards and procedures.

National Society Strengthening

All volunteers involved in the operation will be insured under the PRC's Membership and Accident Assistance Benefit (MAAB).



As part of National Society Development (NSD) in emergencies, the affected chapter and the branch will be supported with basic infrastructure and equipment, which have either been damaged or worn-out during the response and recovery operations. WASH facilities and equipment are major parts of the PRC's operation; procurement of water treatment equipment, water tankers, and water storage bladders may be required to ensure the PRC's enhanced and sustained response capacity in the future.

Adequate focus will be placed on mobilising, engaging, and training 143 volunteers throughout the emergency operation.

The Emergency Appeal will also support the PRC in realising their NSD goals as envisioned in the PRC Strategy 2026-2030 and in the Unified Plan 2026.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released following the launch. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 31 October 2027, the remaining supplementary activities will continue under the [IFRC Network Philippines Country Plan](#), which provides an integrated approach to ongoing emergency response, recovery, and longer-term programming tailored to the country's needs, while also providing a Federation-wide perspective on actions in the Philippines. This aims to streamline activities under one plan while ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent manner.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Philippine Red Cross

Core areas of operation		PRC Critical Response Asset Map
Number of staff:	1,923	
Number of volunteers:	541,000	
Number of local units:	138	

The Republic Act No. 10072 of the Philippines recognises the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) as an auxiliary to the public authorities and the nation's largest humanitarian organisation. The PRC operates through 101 local chapters, covering all administrative districts and major cities in the country. The National Society is organised into two levels, with these 101 chapters forming the first level, to which other local units are attached. Including the headquarters, this brings the total number of PRC local units to 139.

With more than 1,900 staff at its national headquarters and chapter levels, the PRC is supported by approximately one million volunteers and supporters, including over 541,000 active volunteers. At the chapter level, the Red Cross 143 programme ensures a robust presence of trained and equipped volunteers on standby at the community (barangay) level, thus enhancing the National Society's overall capacity to prepare for and respond to disaster situations.

The National Society focuses on its core programmes and services, which include blood services, disaster management and relief services, dissemination of international humanitarian law, health services, safety services, social services, and volunteer and youth initiatives.

IFRC Membership coordination

The PRC is working closely with the IFRC, and with the IFRC Philippine Delegation supporting the PRC in sharing updates with the IFRC network in-country. Currently, five PNSs operate in the Philippines (Spanish Red Cross, German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, American Red Cross, and Canadian Red Cross), three of which have a special focus on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk financing. The IFRC is in daily contact with partners, providing regular updates on the ongoing operations. Partner briefings have been organised since the onset of the situation to share updates and discuss potential support for the operation. Several partners have expressed their willingness to contribute to and support the operation, while funding confirmations are currently in process.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Internal coordination meetings are being held between the Asia Pacific Regional Office and the Philippine Country Delegation (Regional Task Force), along with regular information sharing with IFRC network partners.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also present in the Philippines, with an operational base and a warehouse on Mindanao Island. The IFRC Country Delegation coordinates closely with the ICRC in the Philippines on programmes and operations.

External coordination

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the PRC maintains a strong relationship with government bodies through active participation and collaboration with the NDRRMC.

The PRC and IFRC are continuously coordinating with various government and non-government agencies, including members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). Participating agencies have shared situational information and updates on their preparedness and response activities. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), together with its partners, are on the ground in many of the most affected areas conducting harmonised needs assessments, which will be consolidated into an initial assessment report by OCHA.

The published Emergency Appeal will be shared with HCT partners to improve their understanding of the interventions and the role of the Red Cross in the country, as well as to solicit support and collaboration, where possible.

Currently, the Shelter Cluster Coordinator is assisting the DHSUD with situational analysis and providing support to other shelter cluster partners through information sharing and coordination. Additional responsibilities may be undertaken if the shelter cluster is activated in response to the 6.9 magnitude earthquake.

Contact information

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Reference



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