

Information Bulletin n° 3
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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross has placed its disaster response teams on standby for rapid deployment and preparedness stocks ready for dispatch, as required.

Summary

Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall in Albay province in the Bicol region, on the east coast of the Philippines in the late afternoon of 15 July 2014. To date, it has crossed Luzon, the most populated island in the Philippines, towards the northwest, with Cavite in Southern Luzon, and Albay and Camarines Sur in the Bicol region declared a state of calamity.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), as of 17 July, some 882,300 people have been affected in the Ilocos region, Central and Southern Luzon, the Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas. Forty fatalities have been reported while some 530,000 people are currently being housed in



After the typhoon: A Philippine Red Cross (PRC) emergency response unit (ERU) assisted in the evacuation and rescue of affected families in Baseco Compound, Manila. Medical teams also administered first aid to evacuees with minor injuries. (Photo: PRC)

1,200 evacuation centres in these regions. Some 26,300 homes have also been damaged in these regions, and power supply across the country has suffered intermittent interruptions.

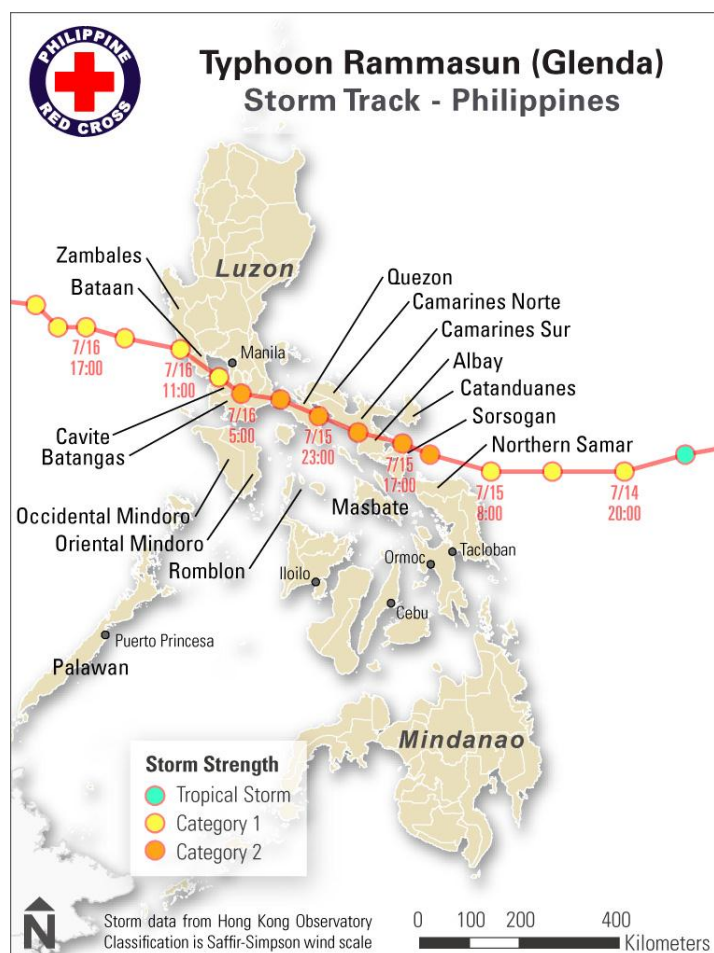
The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is dispatching food and relief items for some 2,500 families in the Albay province and has already provided hot meals to at least 8,370 people in evacuation centres. PRC has also distributed food supplies to over 1,000 families, and non-food relief items, hygiene kits, and sleeping materials.

Apart from distributions, the PRC has rescued six people, administered psychosocial support to 72 others, conducted six medical referrals, held health and hygiene promotion for 169 people, and transported four individuals to the hospital.

One response team has been deployed to Quezon province and the Bicol region, with six more assessment teams being deployed today to Camarines Sur, Albay, Laguna and Quezon provinces to conduct detailed assessments in order to inform PRC post-disaster recovery assistance.

The National Society has deployed heavy machinery and water filtration equipment in Quezon province, Albay and Camarines Sur to help with the removal of environmental debris as well as to support affected communities with clean water supply.

PRC response staff and Red Cross 143 volunteers remain at the ready for further deployment as the situation evolves. At the PRC national headquarters, the operations centre remains on 24/7 alert and maintains communications with all related chapters.



The situation

Typhoon Rammasun (locally known as Glenda) made landfall in Albay province in the Bicol region, on the east coast of the Philippines in the late afternoon of 15 July 2014.

From Bicol, Rammasun crossed Luzon westward with powerful winds that pummelled the island resulting in the government declaring several areas under a state of calamity, including Cavite in Southern Luzon, and Albay and Camarines Sur in the Bicol region.

As of 16:00 local time on 17 July, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported Rammasun at 380 km west of Dagupan, Pangasinan with maximum sustained winds of 130 kph and gusts of up to 160 kph.

Impact has been significant in areas that were hardest hit by Rammasun. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), as of 16:00 local time on 17 July, some 882,300 people were affected in the Ilocos region, Central and Southern Luzon, the Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. As of now, approximately 530,000

people are being housed in 1,200 evacuation centres in these affected regions. A further 236,000 more are estimated to have sought alternative shelter solutions outside these evacuation centres. Following the evacuation of some 96,000 people from the Bicol region as reported by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the NDRRMC has reported 40 deaths as a result of Rammasun with 17 others injured and four others missing.

A total of 26,300 houses have been reported damaged in these regions with at least 7,000 completely flattened while the others sustained various degrees of damages. Power supply has been intermittent since 15 July when the typhoon struck, toppling electric posts and uprooting trees, in the Bicol region, Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and the National Capital Region. As of 12:00 local time on 17 July, the main supplier of electricity in the Metro Manila area had implemented three-hour rotating power cuts (known as *brown-outs*) in the city, as well as in the neighbouring province of Bulacan, to support load shedding while efforts to repair and maintain the power grid continue.

Rammasun is the seventh weather disturbance to affect the Philippines in 2014, and the first to make landfall. On average, the country is hit by at least 20 typhoons each year.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) has already begun responding to the needs of people affected by Rammasun. A total of 250 staff and volunteers nationwide are currently deployed to assist typhoon-affected families. PRC is currently in full swing in providing services to those most affected by Rammasun, providing hot meals in evacuation centres, clearing debris and assisting in evacuation centres. Following initial assessments by PRC's Albay chapter, food and relief items for 2,500 families were dispatched from the PRC national headquarters in Manila. PRC has also provided hot meals to at least 8,370 people in evacuation centres. Interventions already carried out by PRC are as follows:

Response activities by PRC	Number of families/individuals served
Distribution of relief items	
Hot meals	8,370 individuals
Food items	1,037 families
Non-food relief items	202 families
Sleeping materials	13 families (Cavite)
Hygiene kits	95 families (Rizal)
Response services	
Psychosocial support (PSS)	72 individuals
Medical referrals	12 individuals
Health and hygiene promotion	169 individuals
Transport to hospital	4 individuals (3-Rizal, 1-Bulacan)
Search and rescue	6 individuals (NHQ ERU, Manila)
Blood pressure checks	261 individuals (Rizal)

One response team has been deployed to Quezon province and the Bicol region, and a further six assessment teams are being deployed to Camarines Sur, Albay, Laguna and Quezon provinces to conduct detailed assessments in order to inform PRC post-disaster recovery assistance. In addition, the PRC has deployed heavy machinery and equipment in Quezon province, Albay and Camarines Sur to help with the removal of environmental debris as well as to support affected people with clean water supply. These include one pay loader, one fuel tanker, chainsaws, four water tankers, one water treatment and filtration plant with bladder tanks and tap stands, and one rescue van. Chapters along the path of the typhoon continue to monitor the situation while water search and rescue (WASAR) teams, Red Cross Action teams and Red Cross 143 volunteers at affected chapters remain ready for deployment in the wake of Rammasun as information continues to become available.

At the PRC national headquarters, the PRC operations centre remains on alert and maintains communications with the related chapters and personnel on the ground. The operations centre itself has continued its function by all means possible, despite power outages which have affected the national headquarters.

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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.



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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