

Alert

Philippines

Typhoon Nesat in Philippines

Geneva, 30 September 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

On 24 September, Tropical Storm Nesat located 1,030 km East Northeast of Virac, Catanduanes entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility and maintained its course and strength as it moved closer to the Isabela-Aurora area. The storm intensified into a typhoon with local name "Pedring" and made landfall over the boundary of Aurora and Isabela on 27 September. On 28 September, the typhoon moved out of the country, but before that brought strong winds and rainfall, which toppled communication and power lines, trees, houses and others structures. The heavy rainfall also caused landslides and massive flooding.

Subsequently, another typhoon named "Quiel" intensified and entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility on 29 September 2011. With a maximum sustained winds of 140kph near the center with gustiness of up to 170kph, it has increased its threat to Northern Luzon. Severe Weather warnings and public storm signals have been issued to at least 13 provinces in Regions I and II. These are the same areas heavily devastated by Typhoon Nesat.

2. Impact

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) situation report on 30 September reported that at least 43 people have been killed, 44 injured and 30 missing in the National Capital Region, and the provinces of La Union, Cagayan, Bulacan, Zambales, Pampanga, Rizal, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Ifugao. The number of affected people has reached to 205,885 out of a total population of 986,417 persons in 1,567 barangays from 202 municipalities and 35 cities in the 33 provinces of Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, Cordillera Administrative Region and the National Capital Region. Around 34,582 families or 159,467 persons are still in 429 evacuation centers.

Initial cost of damages to infrastructure and agriculture has been estimated around PHP 39,99,751,995 (more than USD 91 million). Damage to agriculture, including crops, livestock, high value crops and fisheries has been estimated PHP 3,454,118,718 (over USD 79 million) while damage to infrastructures which include school buildings, roads, bridges and other structures amounts to PHP 545,633,277 (Over USD 12 million). A total of 3,394 houses completely and 12,901 houses partially destroyed during the catastrophe.

The disaster triggered some other secondary disasters like flooding (18), landslide (8), sea mishap (33), fallen tree (11), storm surge (2), tornado (1), collapsed structure (6), damaged seawall (1), fallen debris (3), electrocution (2), vehicular accident (5) and trash slide (1). A total of 34 bridge/road sections have been reported impassable in

Region II (5), Region III (6), Region IV-B (5), Region V (2), CAR (16) and NCR while 11 provinces experienced power outages due to damaged transmission lines of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). Floods due to the rainfall have been exacerbated by the release of water from at least 6 dams as water levels have reached their spilling levels.

3. National and international response

The NDRRMC reported that on 27 September, the Council was convened and attended by all member agencies wherein they were all instructed to expedite relief and recovery efforts as well as the rehabilitation of the damages to properties incurred from Typhoon Nesat. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)-Central Office through their Field Office in Regions I, II, III, IV-B, V and DSWD CAR prepositioned food and non-food items for allocation in the affected provinces. The Department of Health (DOH) has released logistics (drugs and medicines) as augmentation support to the regional health offices in Regions I, II, III, V, CAR and National Capital Region.

4. ACT Alliance response

NCCP member churches, regional ecumenical councils and partner organizations in the affected regions have sent their initial damage assessment reports. Access to areas is still limited due to damaged roads, landslides and disrupted communication lines. But with the extent of the damage, there is an urgent need for emergency assistance especially to those families badly hit by the typhoon. These areas have been experiencing typhoons since the month of July and therefore hardly got any time to recover from the previous disaster before the next one occurred. The NCCP headquarters is located in one of the areas where power has not been restored since 27 September, which is also affecting the relief efforts of the NCCP Secretariat.

For immediate response, NCCP has issued appeal for donations to its member churches, friends and benefactors. NCCP plans to issue an appeal. The appeal would ask support for humanitarian assistance including food, NFI, hygiene kits and medicines. Coordination with the other ACT members will be initiated early next week.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer (Jean_Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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