As Christmas and the New Year were celebrated with optimism in the Philippines despite the unprecedented level of destruction caused by Typhoon Haiyan, the International Committee of the Red Cross continues its joint humanitarian response with the Philippine Red Cross while speeding up the shift to the recovery phase.

Two months after Typhoon Haiyan (local name “Yolanda”) tore through Central Philippines, its devastating consequences remain impressive as the rising tally recorded by the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) shows. On 9 January 2014, the NDRRMC estimated that the total number of people directly affected by Typhoon Haiyan exceeds 16 million across the Visayas region. The human toll tops 6'000 dead, 28'626 reported injured and 1'785 persons still missing. Out of the total affected, more than 4 million persons are displaced and more than 100'000 are still housed in 381 evacuation centers.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) concentrates its emergency response jointly with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) in the island of Samar, where it has been operational for years responding to the internal armed conflict. The large-scale ICRC / PRC humanitarian operations have enabled the population in the affected areas of the island to have their basic immediate needs covered in a short period of time.

**EMERGENCY PHASE - OPERATION REVIEW**

**Drinking water supply and trucking**

Because of previous humanitarian responses in the Philippines, some materials were already pre-positioned in the ICRC warehouse in Davao. Therefore, after the typhoon struck on 8 November and despite the numerous logistics challenges, the ICRC engineers and PRC staff immediately deployed their resources and focused on the delivery of safe water in both rural and urban environments. They were able to rapidly restore access to drinking water for more than 40’000 people along the coastal municipalities in Samar and Eastern Samar through mobile water treatment units and water tankers. Slow sand filters and new hand pumps were also provided and installed in the shallow wells along the coast.

Furthermore, a major achievement has been the immediate rehabilitation of the Guiuan City water network with new generators, pumps, spare parts and regular supply of fuel for the pumping stations. The repaired system serves additional 32’000 beneficiaries in both Guiuan and Mercedes municipalities.
The emergency water supply and trucking along the seven coastal municipalities will be continued until the rehabilitation of the Barangays water systems is completed.

**Food and non-food items distributions**

In the aftermath of the typhoon’s landfall, three-day food rations were rapidly distributed in the most devastated municipalities and some households received two tarpaulins for emergency shelter. And from 28 November, the ICRC and the PRC have started to assist the population of Samar island with half-month food parcels, Essential Household Items (EHI) and Hygiene kits.

The distributions are on-going and should continue until mid-March to ensure a proper coverage of all thirteen municipalities in Samar and Eastern Samar, ie approximately 50’000 households (some 250’000 persons).

The food distributions have been carefully coordinated with the World Food Program plans as it has identified similar municipalities for their food assistance. A systematic exchange of distribution plans has led to complementary distribution schedules between the two organizations.

The joint ICRC/PRC relief assistance will continue through unconditional cash grants for the most vulnerable people.

**ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED SO FAR**

**Emergency 3-day food rations**

(until November 26)

**Beneficiaries:** 11’925 households (59’625 persons)

**Municipalities covered:** Guiuan (including Victory Island), Mercedes, Saicedo, Balangkayan, Balangiga

**Half-month food rations**

(on-going since November 28)

**Beneficiaries:** 32’685 households (163’425 persons)

**Rations distributed:** 34’766 in 8 municipalities

On-going distributions in the municipalities of Quinapondan and Marabut

**Emergency Household Items**

(on-going since November 23)

**Beneficiaries:** 32’763 households (163’815 persons)

**Kits distributed:** 29’562 in 9 municipalities

Ad hoc tarpaulins distributions to schools in Guiuan municipality

On-going distributions in the municipalities of Quinapondan and Marabut
Provision of primary health care and hospital services

Typhoon Haiyan has severely damaged and disrupted the health systems. Ensuring access to health care for the population of Samar and Eastern Samar was therefore one of the top priorities of the initial response to the disaster.

The Rapid Deployment Emergency Hospital and the Basic Health Care Unit (BHCU) deployed respectively in partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross (RC) in Basey and with the Finnish RC in Balangiga are fully functional since 29 November. They continue to provide health care with the support of local health services, several Philippine RC nurses and other National Societies’ medical staff.

The BHCU in Balangiga provides outpatient care and obstetric services, as well as outreach care through its mobile clinic. The mobile clinic team proposes curative and preventive care with hygiene and health education. It covers remote barangays in three municipalities: Lawaan, Balangiga and Giporlos.

The Emergency Hospital in Basey provides outpatient and inpatient care (acute medical emergencies and paediatrics), and emergency surgery and obstetric services (complicated deliveries and caesarean sections).

Assistance to detention facilities

The ICRC has carried out 56 visits in 31 detention facilities in Leyte and Samar islands since Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines. Following the emergency assessments, the organization has supported the penitentiary authorities with ad hoc assistance depending on the needs: drinking water supply, food, medical supplies and tarpaulins. More than 120 detainees without news from their relatives were enabled to contact them through satellite / mobile phones or Red Cross Messages.

At present, the emergency phase of the assistance is finished. The ICRC will continue to monitor the situation in detention places as part of its normal activities in the Philippines, working with the authorities to ensure that detention conditions meet international standards.

Restoring contact between families

The emergency phase of the Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities of the ICRC and PRC teams have come to an end. However, the PRC chapters are still following up the remaining caseload. The ICRC will continue to support the PRC through technical expertise at the PRC headquarters and through the facilitation of communication and transportation means in the field.

Support to the authorities in managing dead bodies

As part of its on-going support to the Philippine authorities in the management of dead bodies after disaster, the ICRC donated two additional forensic kits on 9 January in Tacloban City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH CUMULATIVE FIGURES</th>
<th>As of 6 January 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emergency Hospital Basey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient consultations</td>
<td>4'038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including Antenatal</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Clinics operating</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Clinic consultations</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital admissions</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeries</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the main causes of consultations in both facilities, injuries and wounds show a high prevalence, as well as upper respiratory infections.

The website http://familylinks.icrc.org/yolanda-typhoon was launched in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan to facilitate the processing of the enquiries and requests for missing family members.

UPDATE ON RFL SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 8 January 2014</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 52'000 pages visited in the FamilyLinks website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>971 persons registered as missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504 cases of missing persons solved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345 cases of missing persons still pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2'411 “I’m alive” published in the website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202 phone/satellite calls facilitated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The website http://familylinks.icrc.org/yolanda-typhoon was launched in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan to facilitate the processing of the enquiries and requests for missing family members.
SHIFT TO RECOVERY PHASE

Support to damaged health facilities

In parallel to the deployment of the Emergency Hospital and the BHCU, the ICRC conducted thorough assessments of 44 damaged health facilities in Samar and Eastern Samar. Based on the findings, 33 of them - 4 hospitals, 7 Rural Health Units (RHUs) and 22 Barangay Health Stations (BHS) – in nine municipalities (150'000 population) have already been assisted with ICRC medical donations: Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK kit – for 1’000 people / 3 months), drugs, dressing and medical material, basic equipment and dispensary tents. These donations have enabled 11 BHS and 1 RHU in Marabut municipality to resume medical consultations although their damaged facilities have not been repaired yet.

Moreover, the implementing phase of the rehabilitation of 6 RHUs (Basey, Marabut, Lawaan, Balangiga, Giporlos and Quinapondan municipalities) and 2 hospitals (Basey and Balangiga) has started.

Considering the volume of these rehabilitation works, the ICRC is applying the same strategy of joint projects with the Department of Health and local authorities as it was done in Typhoon Pablo/ Bopha response.

All the health facilities, once rehabilitated, will benefit from equipment and medical donations.

Rehabilitation of damaged water systems

Along with the repair of the Guiuan water network, training and technical support was provided to Guiuan Water District staff in chlorination and water disinfection, electrical installations and maintenance of generators, control units and pumps, and in water network system planning and repair.
Besides, joint ICRC / PRC assessments are on-going and immediate repairs are proposed for more than 30 smaller water schemes in the municipalities of Basey, Marabut, Balangiga, Lawaan, Quinapondan, Salcedo and Mercedes, focusing on remote communities and serving additional 46'000 people. The repair will allow to exit from the emergency water treatment and distribution by tankers. This support will continue in the recovery phase until the authorities concerned will be ready to take over the repaired systems and continue the service.

**Construction of long-term shelter**

End of December, the ICRC conducted an initial technical assessment of possible areas suitable for implementing a quality shelter response. The aim is to construct 6'000 “core progressive houses” for 30'000 beneficiaries selected among the most vulnerable families and with a support on remote communities. The design of the model house is based on principles of storm resilience applied to roofing, bracing and foundations.

The programme, implemented jointly with the PRC, should last until the end of the year. It will also represent an important source of cash injected in the communities as it will mobilize hundreds of local carpenters and skilled manpower.

**Rebuilding livelihoods**

The food and non food distributions of the emergency phase are insufficient to lift households out of their current situation: the typhoon has indeed devastated the livelihoods to an unimaginable extent. Helping families to resume profitable activities is a parallel priority. The assessments of previous livelihoods carried out since December have enabled the ICRC and the PRC to finalize a recovery plan and define the most sustainable response mechanisms:

1. a **short-term action** to enhance and diversify local food production and consumption: four types of vegetable seeds for 50’000 households, for homestead gardening, as well as supporting households’ access to short term income through the development of the on-going Cash-for-Work programs, for 10’000 workers, 15 days each;

2. **mid-term actions** over a period of six months: rehabilitation and recovery of previous livelihood practices (such as fishermen, sari-sari shops, small crafts, farmers, services, small/large livestock breeders, etc) or the support to develop new quick-yielding livelihood practices (particularly for the people for depended on the now devastated coconut plantations). 15’000 households will receive once the equivalent of 10’000 PHP (240 CHF or 260 US dollars). Association projects will also be an option.

The diversified livelihood alternatives through the promotion of income generating activities should indirectly strengthen the existing market mechanisms and assure a local production with prices that are affordable to consumers and still profitable for producers.

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The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued on 10 November 2013 a joint statement defining the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s response and the specific responsibilities of each movement component towards addressing the humanitarian needs caused by Typhoon Haiyan.

The ICRC has launched an initial appeal for 15 million Swiss Francs (over 16 million US dollars) on 12 November to scale up its operational capacities and provide jointly with the PRC emergency support to 180’000 people for a period of three months. An additional appeal will be issued in early 2014 to enable the organization to support the victims of the typhoon beyond the emergency phase.