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Information bulletin

Philippines: Typhoon Nock-Ten



Date of issue: 25 December 2016	Date of disaster: Imminent
Host National Society: Philippine Red Cross	Point of contact: Atty. Oscar Palabyab, Secretary General

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. After the typhoon's landfall, and based on assessments, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will determine whether external support is required.

The situation

As of 1700 on 25 December, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that Typhoon Nock-Ten (locally known as Nina) has maintained its strength and continues to pose a serious threat to Bicol Region. The summary details from PAGASA are as follows:

- **Location of eye/center:** At 4:00 PM today, the eye of Typhoon "NINA" was located based on all available data including Virac doppler radar at 65 km East Southeast of Virac, Catanduanes (13.4°N, 124.8°E)
- **Strength:** Maximum sustained winds of **185 kph** near the center and gustiness of up to **255 kph** (Typhoon Category 3, 178-208kph).
- **Forecast Movement:** Forecast to move West at 15 kph
- **Landfall:** It is expected to make landfall over Catanduanes this evening (Dec. 25), then will cross Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Southern Quezon, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite. Based on the current movement, the eye of the typhoon should make landfall between 2000h to 2400h this evening on the island of Catanduanes. On 26th December morning, it is predicted to be in the vicinity of Gumaca, Quezon.
- **Rainfall:** Estimated rainfall amount is from moderate to heavy within its 500 km diameter of the typhoon.
- **Storm surge:** Storm surge height of up to 2.5 meters is possible over the coastal areas of Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes. Open sea wave heights are 1.25 to 4 meters, with PAGASA also warning against sea travel over the seaboards of northern Luzon, and the eastern seaboards of Central Luzon, southern Luzon, and the Visayas.
- **Exit:** Nock-Ten is expected to exit PAR on 28 December.

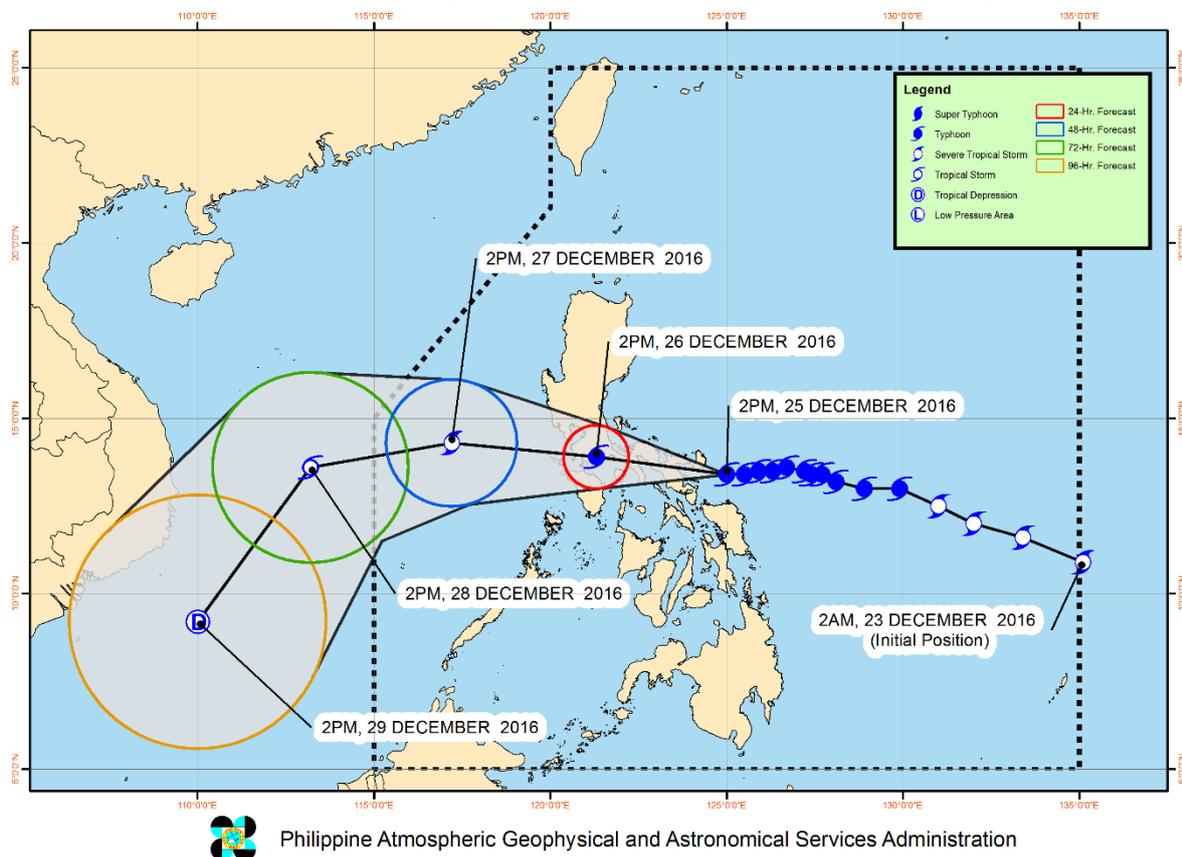
The typhoon has slowed since yesterday and is now tracking an average of 15kph. After Bicol, Nock-Ten is forecast to strike the heavily populated heartland of the main island of Luzon including Manila. Its intensity increased yesterday and has since remained relatively constant with maximum sustained winds of 185 kph according to PAGASA. This equates to a Category 3 Typhoon in accordance with the Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale. However, it should be noted the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre model shows the Typhoon at the upper end of a Category 4 Typhoon.

The level of rainfall is now considered one of the highest risks. Rainfall is estimated to be moderate to heavy with the area affected increased to within 500km of the typhoon's eye. Its outer rain bands are already affecting Northern Samar and most of Bicol Region. Some weather stations are predicting at the point of landfall on Catanduanes Island, there will be up to 122mm of rain between 1700 and 2000 today.

As such, there is a significant risk of flash floods in uplands and flooding for low-lying areas in the Bicol region, Southern Luzon, Central Luzon and Metro Manila particularly in low lying areas of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela. [Flood risk maps](#) are available from PAGASA which show the probable flood areas for corresponding flood return periods.

Many bus lines, sea lines and air lines have been cancelled due to safety concerns and mandatory travel advisories. Thousands of travelers have been left stranded at ports. According to the NDRRMC a total of 11,467 passengers were stranded in different ports. There has been a reported tail back of vehicles at Matnog Port some 4km long with up to 8,000 passengers stranded. Many of these passengers have been evacuated to schools in the neighboring areas.

Track of Typhoon "NINA" {NOCK-TEN}



Action by the authorities

PAGASA is monitoring the tropical storm and issuing regular weather updates. Philippine authorities at all levels (national, regional, provincial, municipal and local government unit) have disseminated advisories issued by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and are continuously monitoring the situation. The [NDRRMC Sit Rep #2](#) has been issued this morning.

In some areas, local governments started pre-emptive evacuations along the path of the typhoon in low lying and other hazardous areas from Saturday, this is continuing during Sunday as the typhoon nears landfall. This includes the slopes of Mayon Volcano where there are large ash deposits that heavy rain can dislodge.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has started providing relief assistance to families affected by Typhoon Nock-ten. According to the welfare department's Disaster Response and Management Bureau (DReAMB), a total of 585 families have been displaced by the typhoon in Region V. They are currently staying in two evacuation centers in Guinobatan, Albay. Meanwhile, around 975 families residing along coastal and riverside areas in the municipalities of Pambujan and Rosario in Northern Samar were evacuated to 14 centers in the region. At least 50,000 family food packs (FFPs) have been delivered to DSWD Field Office V on Sunday afternoon, December 25, while Tuguegarao already received 15,000 FFPs the day before. In addition, 6,000 pouches of arroz caldo were also distributed to affected families.

As of 1400 today two provinces in the Bicol region are now under Cyclone Warning Signal 4 as the threat of the typhoon intensifies (Signal 5 is the maximum). Six provinces are Signal 3, eleven are Signal 2, eighteen are Signal 1. Metro Manila and provinces south of Manila have been raised to Signal 2.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Philippine Red Cross (PRC) issued the first emergency response update this morning at 11am. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for response have been activated and the National Society's chapters in southern and central Luzon, Bicol region and Metro Manila. Teams in the national headquarters are now on high alert and prepared for a potential response. Trained, experienced and equipped staff and volunteers are on standby for immediate deployment should the need arise.

The Operation Center Manager and selected Services including Emergency Response Unit remain on 24-hour duty. All chapters along typhoons path have been alerted to take preparedness actions, such as, constant monitoring, activation of RCAT143 and RC143 volunteers and checking inventory of relief supplies. PRC has also issued an activation signal to NDRT members for potential deployment. Warehouses at the national and regional level (through Logistics Office) and vehicles (through Fleet Office) have been put on standby for potential dispatch.

PRC Chapters affected have a capacity to respond to 300 families and have activate their Chapter and Community Volunteers. PRC has significant quantities of disaster preparedness stocks pre-positioned in its main warehouses located in Cebu, Mandaluyong City, Manila and Subic Bay. The stocks include IFRC-provided preparedness items – which comprise various quantities of essential non-food items (blankets, jerry cans, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and sleeping mats), tarpaulins, shelter toolkit, and corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets – normally sufficient to meet the needs of at least 20,000 households. However, some stocks are lower as they are being replenished from the two previous typhoons.

PRC are making their Relief Fund available to Chapters on request. PRC Chapters are already active in Catanduanes and also Northern Samar where they have provided hot meals to 223 people in evacuation centres. Tomorrow, 26th December, IFRC will support PRC's assessment and Communications team from NHQ in Manila to the affected areas in Bicol Region.

The IFRC and ICRC, as well as some of the Partner National Societies with presence in the Philippines, are ready to support PRC in mounting a response operation should Nock-Ten causes substantial humanitarian impact. Thus far, IFRC is supporting PRC in disseminating updates to Movement partners and coordinating with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The IFRC Country Office for Philippines has some technical specialists who are supporting other ongoing operations of PRC, especially the Typhoon Haiyan recovery programme, who can be mobilized to augment the National Society's response.

The IFRC Country Office has set up a coordination and technical structure to support any initial response required by the National Society. Delegates, technical national staff, communications, logistics and fleet have been placed on standby. The IFRC Country Office is having regular communication with the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) to update about in-country preparedness measures. APRO identified one Disaster and Crisis Unit team member on stand by for immediate deployment to the Philippines should the situation warrant. Yesterday, at 1600h on 24th December, APRO organized a teleconference of Joint Task Force of the DCPRR Geneva, APRO and Country Office. A second call was held this afternoon at 1400 with the Country Office and APRO.

Should the rains persist, a particular concern is the potential for floods in the dense urban areas of Metro Manila. The risk of flooding in Metro Manila is being assessed and built into the scenario development for the typhoon. Previous typhoons of similar track and intensity are also being reviewed, such as Typhoon Durian, 2006. Reference is also being made to the PRC Pre Disaster Meeting held in Manila in June 2016 where a similar scenario was presented and a response developed. This same scenario has since been further developed in coordination with OCHA and the HCT members, in particular, as part of the IFRC's role in conveying the IASC shelter cluster in the Philippines.

IFRC continues to coordinate closely with the National Society concerning any request for support. At this time the National Society are mobilising resources within their own capacity and no such request to the IFRC has been made. However, this situation will be continuously reviewed with the National Society as the situation evolves. With regards to any possible future regional or international support to PRC for this event, we request it

to be well communicated and coordinated with PRC and with the IFRC APRO. We also request that regional and global procedures are followed, in alignment with the IFRC Emergency Response Framework, including supports carried out in accordance with the Principles and Rules for RCRC Humanitarian Assistance.

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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 (NGO's) 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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**
