

Information bulletin

Philippines: Tropical Cyclone GONI

Glide n°	Date of issue: 29 October 2020	
Expected date of crisis: 30 October 2020	Point of contact: Leonardo Ebajo, Disaster Management Services	
Operation start date: Early actions being initiated from 27 October 2020	Expected timeframe: N/A	
Category of disaster: TBC		
Host National Society(ies): Philippine Red Cross		
Number of people affected: N/A	Number of people to be assisted: N/A	
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation (if available and relevant): N/A		
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation (if available and relevant): N/A		

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing its support ahead of the forecasted tropical storm in the coming days. PRC with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will be requesting for an imminent DREF.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

On the evening of 27 October 2020, a tropical depression developed over the Western Pacific Ocean, Northwest of Guam. Once inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) it will be given local name "Rolly" (GONI). As per the [Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration \(PAGASA\)](#) bulletin at 11.00 am local time today (29 October 2020), that Tropical Storm GONI intensified into a severe tropical storm while moving westward, with a maximum sustained winds of 95 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 115 kilometers per hour. It is forecasted to move generally westward by Saturday evening, then west-northwestward by Sunday as it moves towards Quezon - Aurora area before making landfall over the Bicol Region and Eastern Visayas this weekend Sunday morning, 1 November 2020. It is forecasted to reach typhoon Category 3 within 24 hours and will continue to intensify while moving over the Philippine Sea. As it moves towards eastern sections of Central and Southern Luzon, it may bring heavy rains over those areas starting this Friday (30 October 2020).



Path of Tropical Storm GONI. (Photo: PAGASA)

Tropical Storm GONI will take a similar path as of Tropical Storm Quinta (international name; Molave), which will increase the vulnerability of the people affected. According to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) [Sitrep No. 4](#), due to Tropical Storm Quinta where 16 people died, 57,742 families were affected and 16,830 families are still being served inside 916 evacuation centers and left at least PHP 429.7 million damage to agriculture and infrastructure.

The Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) has reported that for Tropical Storm GONI, 6,485,007 people will be exposed to a Category 1 (120 kilometers per hour), or higher, and has issued “Red Alert” rating of 2.5, predicting a possible “High” level of humanitarian impact.

In addition to the tropical storms, La Niña is present, and most models suggest moderate to strong La Niña is likely to persist until April 2021. La Niña is usually associated with above normal rainfall conditions across most areas of the country during the last quarter of the year and early months of the following year. The rain forecast for the whole country during the months of November and December will be above normal rainfall conditions. The water level in dams and river basins are also forecasted to reach above normal level. Hence possible flooding and landslides could be expected.

According to PAGASA, Tropical Storm GONI will be the 18th tropical storm for 2020 to enter PAR. It would also be the 5th tropical storm for October alone. It is expected there will be a further one to three typhoons in November and two or three more in December 2020.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In accordance with PRC’s standard operating procedures, the Operations Centre (OpCen), which functions 24/7, is on heightened alert. National Headquarters (NHQ) has instructed chapters to be ready to respond through the delivery of services including immediate relief, first aid, search and rescue efforts, psychosocial support and welfare.

PRC chapters in the areas most likely to be affected will communicate with community volunteers (Red Cross 143) for information, and to start implementing early warning measures in coordination with the local government. Chapter Red Cross Action Teams (RCAT 143) are also on standby. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Emergency Response Units (ERU), health and welfare personnel have also been alerted, for possible deployment. PRC NHQ is preparing the deployment of assets, stocks and personnel to Chapters that are in areas mostly likely to be affected.

PRC have requested an imminent DREF activation to mobilize food and household items, response assets, and relief and assessment teams. Existing stocks are now being prepared for dispatch to areas which are expected to be most affected.

Considering the current COVID-19 situation in country, PRC has incorporated COVID-19 prevention into its response protocols. These measures will limit the risks of spreading the virus and protecting those involved (staff, volunteers and item recipients). These measures will be incorporated into the incoming DREF.

The IFRC Philippines Country Office is monitoring the situation in close contact with its counterparts in the PRC NHQ. IFRC will coordinate closely PRC to determine if a full DREF will be activated based on the impact of the storm at landfall and in the meantime undertake preparedness activities as necessary. The PRC and IFRC communications teams will post updates and photos of the situation on Facebook and Twitter.

The IFRC is the co-lead of the Shelter Cluster with the government lead agency Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The IFRC coordination focal point in the country coordinates with OCHA and sector partners on inter-agency to prepare for the typhoon. COVID-19 guidelines for shelter activities are already in place and can be utilized by partners.

IFRC Philippines Country Office will coordinate with and update National Societies in country. The IFRC Philippines Country Office is working in close coordination with the German Red Cross to identify, where appropriate, early actions (which are part of a Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project for typhoons could be incorporated. The IFRC Philippines Country Office is also in contact with the ICRC on any possible security issues in the likely affected areas.

In 2020, PRC has been managing emergency operations supported through the IFRC DREF and Emergency Appeal mechanisms in response to earthquakes (i.e. Mindanao), volcanoes (i.e. Taal), typhoon (i.e. Phanfone), disease outbreaks (i.e. measles and polio) and returnees.



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Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Philippine Red Cross

- Elizabeth Zavalla, secretary general; email: elizabeth.zavalla@redcross.org.ph
- Leonardo Ebajo, director for disaster management services; email: leonardo.ebajo@redcross.org.ph

In IFRC Philippines Country Office

- Robert Kaufman, head of country office; phone: +63 998 585 0794, robert.kaufman@ifrc.org
- Patrick Elliott, operations and programme manager; phone: +63 998 961 2140; email: patrick.elliott@ifrc.org
- Radhika Fernando, interim operations manager; phone: +63 998 960 6284; email: radhika.fernado@ifrc.org

In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office

- Gwendolyn Pang, deputy regional director; email: Gwendolyn.pang@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of disaster and crises unit; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Vinod Muniandy, Operations Coordinator; email: OpsCoord.SouthEastAsia@ifrc.org
- Siokkun Jang, logistics manager, regional logistics unit; email: siokkun.jang@ifrc.org
- Antony Balmain, regional communications manager; email: antony.balmain@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Tiffany Loh, operations coordination senior officer; email: tiffany.loh@ifrc.org
- Karla Morizzo, DREF senior officer; email karla.morizzo@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges

In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office: Alice Ho, partnership in emergency coordinator; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office: Siew Hui Liew, PMER Manager; email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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 Humanitarian 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**.