



A troubled new year: 2013 ends with violence and displacement

An abundance of emergencies in the Philippines, Central African Republic and South Sudan set a turbulent precedent for 2014.



While the focus of many nations around the world turned to peace and prosperity this past holiday season, the ability to do so was not a universal luxury. The end of 2013 saw a surge in need for emergency relief in a number of conflict zones and recent natural disasters. The IRC's emergency team was busy working throughout the season to meet the increased need.

In the Philippines, communities still struggle to restore their livelihoods and rebuild their homes after typhoon Haiyan left hundreds of thousands without work and shelter. Some difficult to reach communities have still only received severely limited aid. Even in communities more easily accessible, significant gaps remain as nearly 60% of the UN's appeal has yet to be funded. The increasingly frequent rains and wind of the current season have added to the urgent need to finish the rebuilding of homes and provide more substantial medium-term shelter alternatives. Many schools are still being used as evacuations centres across the country and were only reopened for classes January 6. As a result, the need for learning spaces also remains high.

The IRC in the Philippines is working

to meet this variety of long term recovery needs. Our voucher and small grants based shelter programming has provided 600 households with the materials, funding, and knowledge they need to reconstruct and reinforce their homes. Starting next week, that impact will nearly double as the programme rolls out to 500 more households in a new municipality.

Our Child Protection programmes have held three child protection, psychosocial support and healing and learning space trainings for teachers, village health workers, community youth coordinators and day care centre workers. Child labour, child trafficking and physical violence top the list of IRC concerns as trainings continue and healing and learning spaces are established.

We're also bringing power to many communities where electricity has yet to return. We're distributing 4,000 Waka Waka lamps in San Dionisio and contributing 2,500 more to shelter kits we'll be distributing with our partner Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Incorporated (RAFI) in North Cebu.

While people in the Philippines are rebuilding their homes and learning to cope with the devastation that

In this issue:

A Troubled New Year

The ERT and country programmes respond to three emergencies around the world as 2013 comes to a close.

Roster Reinforcements

With so many emergencies, the IRC's emergency roster has provided a critical pool of much needed responders.

Plus: **Watchlist** | **Team Tracker**

was typhoon Haiyan, ethnic, political and secular fighting erupted across neighboring nations in Africa's interior.

In the Central African Republic, 66 IDP sites sprung up around the capital, Bangui, where despite relative quiet during the day, many still take refuge in the sites as night falls and incidents of violence intensify. It is estimated that some 512,000 people, or half of the city's population use the

sites. Almost double that number, more than 935,000 according to OCHA, have been uprooted throughout the country.

The displacement comes as a result of ongoing violence between the Christian Anti-Balaka militia group and primarily Muslim forces loyal to interim President Michel Djotodia. While the political motivations spurred initial fighting, subsequent attacks have been primarily secular in nature, as Muslim and Christian groups continue to clash, kill and retaliate.

The IRC was active in as many as 20 camps early in the emergency response distributing UN supplied food and non-food items. As the crisis has progressed, our teams have prioritised 8 sites, with three primary focus sites, reaching 75,000 people in total. Initial interventions will focus on providing comprehensive services in WASH, WPE and CYPD. WASH activities will include the provision of water, construction of latrines and showers, solid waste management and hygiene promotion. Medical and psychosocial support to survivors of gender based violence, safety audits, material support to vulnerable women and outreach work will comprise our team's WPE work. In CYPD the IRC will develop child friendly spaces, aid in family tracing and work with unaccompanied children, including children associated with armed forces.

The team in the CAR is also looking further north to reopening an office in Boccranga, a highly insecure part of the country that continues to have significant need.

In South Sudan, while the third round of negotiations between current president Salva Kiir and rebel forces loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar were underway in Addis Ababa this Wednesday, ethnic violence continues across the country. The violence, spurred by an alleged attempted coup and amplified by incessant ethnic tensions between Dinka and Nuer groups, have displaced more than 200,000 people, with 60,000 seeking refuge in UN bases. The fighting has spread out of Juba to nearly every state in South Sudan. As of January 7, health partners working throughout the country had reported treating over 2,500 gunshot wounds since the start of the crisis. The number of casualties is expected to be far higher.

The IRC was one of few major implementing partners to maintain a



A girl stands in front of what remains of her village after typhoon Haiyan.



Left: A boy in an IRC-supported village in South Sudan.
Right: Members of the Seleka rebel militia, Central African Republic.

meaningful presence in the country as others evacuated halfway through last December. The continued presence has allowed our teams to begin emergency relief efforts immediately. The South Sudan country office and ERT members have begun assessing needs throughout the UN camps in Juba. Early assessments have indicated that issues around protection are of priority concern. In response to these findings, the IRC has established an Information, Advice and Referral Centre that will answer beneficiary questions and advocate on

their behalf in case of challenges with service providers. They're also working aggressively to get staff and programmes back into field locations in which we'd been forced to leave as a result of opposition rebels taking control.

As IRC programmes continue to aid in the Philippines' recovery and emergency relief efforts take hold in South Sudan and the Central African Republic the IRC's ERT and country programmes continue to work hand in hand bringing relief around the globe in the new year.

Roster Reinforcements

Roster members from 16 countries deployed to 8 emergencies in 2013-14. 11 were deployed in the last three months alone.

Roster Deployments in the last 3 months

Philippines



South Sudan



Central African Republic



Roster member Serge Dalexis knew that the IRC's response to the typhoon-ravaged Philippines might need a Child Protection Coordinator. With the destruction and displacement that followed the storm, children would be at an increased risk of exploitation and in need of psychosocial support. Having been on the roster since June of 2012, he also knew his name would be on the shortlist. While in the field one Wednesday about a month after the storm made landfall, he received a call from Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Chris Amy. "On Sunday morning I left Haiti and arrived in the Philippines Tuesday afternoon."

Having a month of speculation isn't often the case for members of the Emergency Roster, but quick decisions are. The group of 54 people chosen from country programmes across the IRC and externally agree to remain on standby, are ready to deploy at a moments notice.

The extra capacity has been crucial to the IRC's ability to respond to emergencies, especially when multiple crises erupt at the same time, challenging the emergency team's resources. Such was the case in the last three months of 2013. Increased violence in the Central African Republic and South Sudan in addition to our relief and recovery efforts in the Philippines required a surge of skilled staff, and the roster was ready to provide.

Serge's deployment to the Philippines proved crucial. While protection had been an early focus of the response with the deployment of Protection Coordinator Aisha Bain, Serge, was the first with a specific focus on children. The needs, according to Serge, were immediate and undeniable.

"My main task was to run healing and learning spaces, including psychosocial training," Serge explained, "The need for psychosocial training was very relevant." It was also apparent that child labour, trafficking and physical violence would be priority concerns. "Since the villages in which the IRC is working are near the seashore, many children are involved in fishing activities. They often work informally on fishing vessels where they receive less than 30% of the normal gain. During discussions with teachers, we learned that many children don't come to school because they have to work to support their families." Dalexis is currently leading our team in the Philippines to meet these needs, but he isn't the only roster member deployed there. Over the course of the response he's been joined by fellow roster members with focal points in grants, social protection, environmental health, health and WPE.

Capacity enhancing such as this has also taken place in the CAR and South Sudan. Since fighting between Anit-Balaka and former Séléka groups spiralled into extended secular killing this December in CAR, the Emergency Unit deployed WPE and CYPD Coordinators to contribute to relief efforts. In South Sudan, where fighting between rebel and government forces has displaced more than 200,000 people, four additional

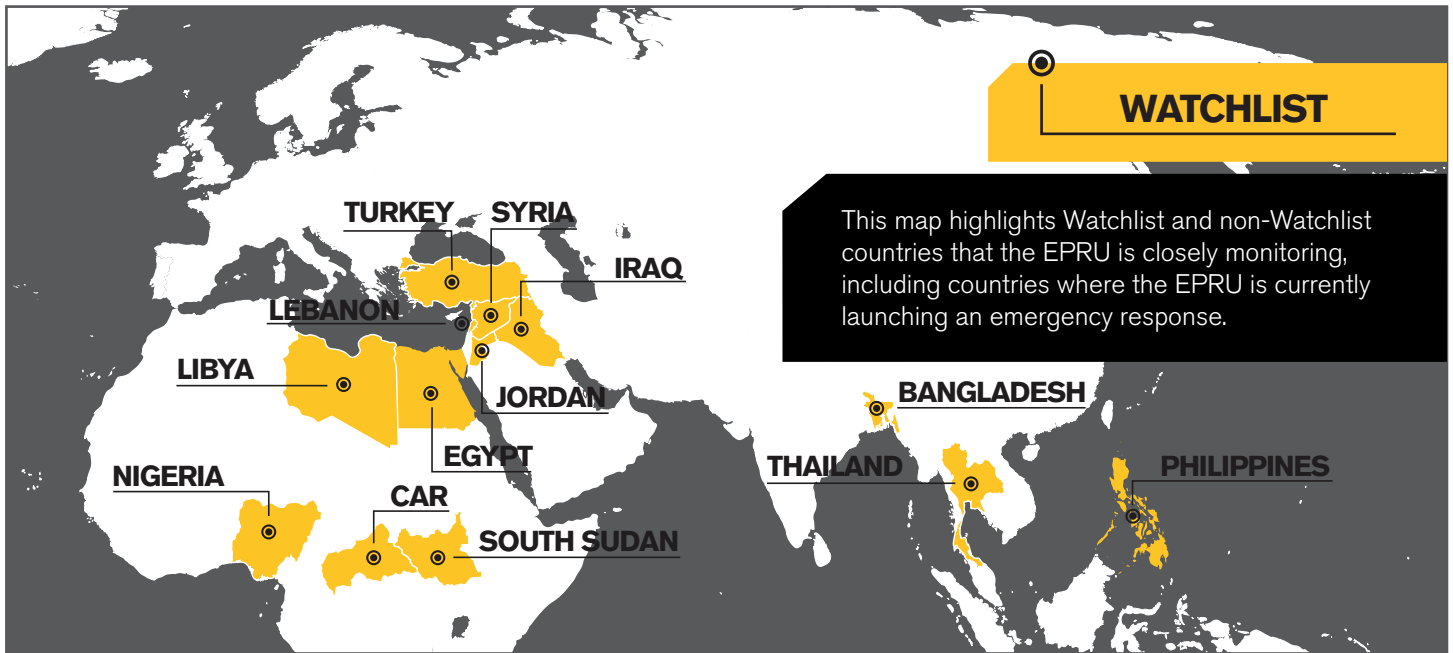
staff were requested from the roster to reinforce our response. They included an Emergency Field Director, a Global Supply Chain Manager and an EH Coordinator who moved in to replace an existing roster EH Coordinator deployed before the recent violence.

Contributing members to the roster can be a challenging investment for country programmes to make, but the rewards are well worth it. While it may require their best candidates to take abbreviated leave from ongoing projects, it means the additional emergency experience when the roster member returns, and the roster as a resource when programmes find themselves in need.

South Sudan has been a strong contributor to the roster since it began in 2012, investing a number of their staff in the programme. They've had nine staff members on the roster in the past two years, with six deployments in the last year alone. Now with 200,000 newly displaced across the country, the investment has paid off. The roster has been able to lend the extra support needed to handle the current emergency. "It's a great example of how this increased preparedness really benefits all of our programmes worldwide," said Chris Amy, "It's nice to know we could offer the extra support for a country programme that has really contributed a lot to our emergency response capacity."

Other countries have made substantial contributions as well. The emergency deployments of twenty four roster staff in eight emergencies in 2013-14 wouldn't be possible without the cooperation of countries like Haiti, Chad and Liberia.

Our emergency response capacity has never been so proven and robust, and our system of vetting, training and deploying the great wealth of skill and knowledge we have around the organisation via the roster has become a core component of that capacity. With such a tumultuous start to 2014 the demand for these capabilities is unlikely to cease. Fortunately for the IRC, we have colleagues like Serge ready to lend their experience and expertise. "Before completing my application, I was already thinking about the trainings, capacity building, and strong emergency response skills I would gain. That, and the honour of contributing to the rebuilding of lives of affected people worldwide [made me want to join the roster]. I knew with no doubt that being part of the Emergency Roster would be a great opportunity."



🕒 BANGLADESH

Mollah execution sparks lasting violence, January elections boycotted



Levels of political tension and civil unrest have risen in Bangladesh over recent weeks. The execution of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah in mid-December sparked violence, which has not abated subsequently. Elections were held in January 2014, though in many states were uncontested after the opposition Bangladesh National Party (BNP) boycotted the elections, citing the government's refusal to put in place a caretaker administration to oversee the election period. In an apparent attempt to limit voter turnout and the legitimacy of the election results, the BNP held two days of strikes, in addition to reported involvement in attacks against politicians, police and rival supporters. The US State Department said that the election did 'not appear to represent the will of the Bangladeshi people.' The military has remained opposed to an intervention, and without a political agreement between the rival parties, the near-term outlook is pessimistic.

🕒 PHILIPPINES

Post-typhoon rehabilitation efforts boost economic outlook



Despite persistent rumors of police extrajudicial killings, and corruption, from a political stability perspective, the Philippines' outlook is optimistic. Boosted by the post-typhoon rehabilitation efforts, some economic estimates suggest the Philippines' economy will grow by over 7% in 2014, with confidence in continued public and private spending over the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the country has also made progress with peace negotiations with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a rebel group. On December 8, the Philippines government signed an agreement with MILF over a power-sharing annex of the comprehensive framework agreement. This development represents a notable benchmark in long-running discussions to establish the Bangsamoro entity, to replace the Region of Muslim Mindanao. Against these positive trends, a separate group, the Moro National Liberation Front, has threatened to conduct attacks aimed at disrupting the negotiations.

🕒 LEBANON

Former ambassador to the U.S. killed, sectarian-motivated attacks rise



The level of sectarian tension continued to rise in Lebanon over the past two weeks. On December 27, Mohamad Chatah, a former Lebanese ambassador to the U.S. and critic of Hizbollah, was killed in a car bomb. The March 14 political grouping blamed Hizbollah or the Syrian government for the assassination. Less than a week later, on January 2, a car bomb exploded in Haret Hreik, a known Hizbollah stronghold of Beirut; the target, timing and location suggest the attack's intent was retaliation. Over the past year, sectarian-motivated attacks have increased in frequency, increasing fear of more widespread sectarian violence. On December 29, Saudi Arabia gave the Lebanese government a \$3 billion grant, a figure which is approximately double the country's annual defense budget – to purchase French arms to provide enhanced military capability against Hizbollah. In late December, for the first time since Syria's uprising broke out, Lebanese military fired against a Syrian aircraft, which crossed into the country's airspace. These indicators show that Lebanon is becoming increasingly polarized, with the strong likelihood of further volatility in towns and cities across the country.

IRAQ

Political and security outlook gloomy



The political and security climate continues to deteriorate in Iraq. There are two long-term drivers of the unrest: discontent among Sunni groups which believe they are excluded from decision-making in the country and rising sectarian tension. Both issues have contributed to a rise in support for several radical Sunni groups. Al-Qaeda in Iraq and the Levant's (ISIL) capabilities has grown and its ambitions extended. In early January, ISIL militants established control of a substantial section of Fallujah, a city in western Iraq, following battles with other Sunni-rebel groups. The political outlook is decidedly gloomy.

Emergency Response Team Tracker

NAME	TITLE	LOCATION
Sanj Srikanthan	ERT Field Director (IRC UK)	Iraq
Suzanna Tkalec	ERT Field Director	Philippines
Muriel Tschopp	Deputy Field Director	CAR
Melody Munz	ERT Sr. EH Coordinator	En route to CAR
Elizabeth Lamond	Sr. ERT EH Coordinator	Leave - UK
Eliane Mogueum	ERT Finance Controller	Leave
Edmond Suluku	ERT Sr. Supply Chain Coordinator	Philippines
Jane Mogeni	ERT Sr. Protection Coordinator	South Sudan
Greg Matthews	ERT ERD Coordinator	New York
Dr. Abdelhadi Eltahir	ERT Sr. Reproductive Health Coordinator	South Sudan
Rachel Unkovic	ERT Grants Coordinator	New York
Francesca Rivelli	WPE Coordinator External Roster	CAR
George Bete	ERT ERD Coordinator	Iraq
Elisabeth Roesch	ERT WPE Coordinator	New York - To CAR Jan. 20
Rey Rodriques	ERT Technology Coordinator	Leave
Jota Echevarria	ERT Sr. Health Coordinator	To CAR Jan. 20
Safryin Djali	Roving Supply Chain Coordinator	Philippines
Tgistu Kinfemichael	EH Coordinator IER Ethiopia	South Sudan
Meghan O'Connor	WPE Coordinator External Roster	Philippines
Jean Sebastien Molitor	Deputy Director External Roster	Turkey
Nora Love	Emergency Field Director External Roster	En route to South Sudan
Stephane Barsalou	WASH Coordinator External Roster	Iraq
Richard Fernandez Garcia	Health Coordinator External Roster	Turkey
Teferra Haile	EH Coordinator IER Ethiopia	Philippines
Serge Dalexis	CYPD Manager IER Haiti	Philippines
Abubakarr Sulaiman	Supply Chain Manager IER Sierra Leone	South Sudan
Iris Knuppel	ERT CYPD Coordinator	Lebanon

EMERGENCY UNIT

The Emergency Radar is a publication of the Emergency Unit. For questions, comments, contributions or concerns, please contact Emergency Unit External Relations Officer Tyler Jump at Tyler.Jump@rescue.org.