5 December 2014: The Philippines - Tropical Cyclone HAGUPIT

SITUATION

- Tropical Cyclone HAGUPIT formed in the western Pacific Ocean, near Micronesia, on 1 December. Over 1-5 December, it moved west-northwest, intensifying. Having passed Micronesia without making landfall, it entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility as a very strong Typhoon, on 4 December.

- On 5 December, 12.00 UTC, the centre of HAGUPIT, known as "RUBY" in the Philippines, was located over water, approximately 335 km east of Eastern Samar province. Its maximum sustained wind speed was 241 km/h and it was moving west-northwest, towards the coasts of Eastern and Northern Samar.

- HAGUPIT is forecast to approach Eastern/Northern Samar on 6 December, having slightly weakened, but still as a very intense Typhoon. Subsequently, it is forecast to cross Visayas and then southern Luzon, before exiting into the sea west of the Philippines. Its intensity is expected to decrease over 6-9 December; however, it will remain a Typhoon throughout its passage over the country.

- Very strong winds, heavy rains and storm surge are expected to affect central and northern Philippines, including parts of the areas that were severely hit in 2013 during the passage of Typhoon HAIYAN (namely Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Bohol and Panay islands).

- The humanitarian actors are actively preparing for quick delivery of emergency assistance, should it be needed.

- Evacuations of areas along the predicted path of HAGUPIT have already commenced according to the Government of the Philippines, while preparations for more evacuations are underway.

Sources: GDACS, JTWC, PAGASA (L, 2), NDRRMC, Government of the Philippines (L, 2), Media (L, 2)
Sources for HAIYAN: GDACS, ECHO, NDRRMC