



ECHO FACTSHEET

Philippines

Facts & Figures

- €33 million in response to natural disasters since 1997
- €21 million to assist the victims of armed conflicts since 1997
- €7.7 million for disaster preparedness since 1998
- €7.6 million to help storm- and flood-affected people in 2011
- €3 million in 2012 to address continued needs of people affected by Storm Washi in late 2011
- August 2012; €700,000 following floods in Luzon island

Through ECHO funding, nearly 150 million people are helped each year in more than 90 countries outside the EU through approximately 200 partners (International non-governmental organisations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies).

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Destruction caused by Typhoon Washi – Mathias Eick EU/ECHO March 2012

Key messages

- Making rapid assessment of specific needs of those affected by typhoons together with implementing, partner organisations.
- Responding effectively and efficiently to the humanitarian needs of those affected by the seasonal storms.
- Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures into all humanitarian assistance and supporting specific DRR projects to strengthen the resilience of communities regularly affected by natural disasters in the Philippines.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with well-developed disaster management capacities. However, with the incessant occurrence of strong typhoons and storms, often back-to-back, the European Commission has stepped in to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance through its department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO). In 2011 alone nineteen tropical cyclones entered the country, ten of which were destructive. In August 2012, the country was battered by the heaviest rains recorded in three years, affecting more than three million people in the capital Manila and in the neighbouring provinces, and forcing massive displacement.

Major needs and related problems

Storms, and the floods, landslides and destruction of homes and livelihoods they frequently cause in the Philippines, often leave inhabitants in need of temporary shelter, clean water and sanitation, primary health care, food and non-food items and hygiene awareness.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

Following the extensive flooding of Luzon island in early August 2012, the European Commission committed €700,000 to assist more than 15,000 families which had to be evacuated from their homes. A consortium of non-governmental relief organisations (NGOs) led by Save the Children, and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) working in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and three EU Red Crosses, will provide assistance including basic household items, hygiene kits and access to safe drinking water.

A week before Christmas 2011, communities in Mindanao were devastated by flash floods caused by tropical storm Washi (local name "Sendong"). More than 1.14 million people were affected, with over 400 000 seeking emergency shelter. At least 1257 people died. Within 48 hours of this disaster three ECHO experts were deployed to assess the humanitarian situation. The assessment led to the swift release of €3 million in emergency aid from the EU for debris clean-up, emergency rehabilitation, food assistance, basic household items, shelter, coordination and the management of evacuation centres, health and hygiene promotion, water and sanitation, psychological support and protection.

A further €3.55 million of ECHO funding followed in 2012 with partners including the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the German Red Cross (in partnership with the Philippine and the Spanish Red Cross), the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN's Organisation for Coordinating Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and a consortium of NGOs led by Acción Contra el Hambre, including Save the Children, Plan International and Care. The focus continues to be on improving access to water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, displaced peoples' camp management, food security, protection and general humanitarian aid coordination to help communities get back on their feet.

Reducing the Impact of Natural Disasters

DIPECHO, the disaster preparedness programme of ECHO, aims at improving the capacities of at-risk communities to prepare for and protect themselves from natural disasters. It was set up in 1996. For 2012-2013, the overall amount for the region has been increased to €11 million with some €2.4 million allocated for DIPECHO projects in the Philippines. Components targeting the Philippines are also included in DIPECHO regional projects implemented by IFRC and Oxfam. DIPECHO projects support community-based activities, local capacity building, small-scale mitigation actions, early warning systems, and education and public awareness campaigns. The programme has helped millions of people in disaster-prone regions throughout the world to become more resilient to the effects of natural disasters.

