



## ECHO FACTSHEET

## Philippines

### Facts & Figures

- €700.000 of funding to help 127.000 of the most impoverished and vulnerable affected by massive flooding in August 2012
- €3.5 million in 2012 to address the continuing needs of people affected by the 'Sendong'/Washi tropical storm in Mindanao' in late 2011
- €7.6 million to help storm- and flood-affected people in 2011
- €7.7 million for disaster preparedness since 1998
- €33million in response to natural disasters since 1997
- €21million to assist the victims of armed conflicts since 1997

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



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

### Key messages

- ECHO's priority is to quickly assess the specific needs of those affected by natural disasters together with implementing partners.
- ECHO aims to respond effectively and efficiently to the humanitarian needs of those affected by the seasonal storms.
- ECHO is pushing to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures in all humanitarian assistance and to support specific DRR projects that 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 increasing number and strength of typhoons that have struck the island nation, 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 several major storms hit the island nation causing widespread destruction and a loss of many lives. A week before Christmas 2011, several communities in Mindanao were devastated by flash floods caused by tropical storm Washi (locally named "Sendong"). At least 1 257 people died, and

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more than 1.14 million people were affected, with over 400 000 seeking emergency shelter. In late September 2011, two powerful Typhoons, Nesat ("Pedring") and Nalgae ("Quiel"), hit Luzon island within a week, bringing torrential rains and high winds, which resulted in overflowing rivers and extensive flooding in Luzon.

### Major needs and related problems

Storms with the resultant floods, landslides and destruction of homes and livelihoods often leave people in need of temporary shelter, clean water and sanitation, primary health care, non-food items and hygiene awareness.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

### Funding

The European Commission has consistently been one of the fastest donors to respond to natural disasters in the Philippines. For example in August 2012, €700.000 of funding was mobilized within 72 hours of the first emergency appeal launched by the International Federation of the Red Cross. Within 48 hours of the 'Sendong'/Washi disaster in 2011, three ECHO experts were deployed to Mindanao to assess the humanitarian situation. As a result, the EU swiftly released €3 million of emergency aid for water and sanitation, food assistance, emergency shelter, the coordination and management of evacuation centres/camps, debris clean-up, health and hygiene promotion, psychological support and protection.

A further €3.55m in assistance is being provided in 2012 through partners such as 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 non-governmental relief organisations led by Acción Contra el Hambre, and including Save the Children, Plan International and Care. The focus continues to be on providing better water and sanitation, promoting good hygiene practices, managing camps for the many who still have no homes to return to protecting people's livelihoods. Overall the goal is to help people and communities get back on their feet.

### Reducing the Impact of Natural Disasters

DIPECHO, ECHO's disaster preparedness programme, 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 the International Federation of the Red Cross 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.

