



THE PHILIPPINES

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

EU humanitarian aid for the Philippines:

- EUR 72.7 million in response to natural disasters and EUR 21.3 million to assist victims of armed conflicts since 1997
- EUR 7.7 million for disaster preparedness since 1998

In 2013:

- EUR 40 million in relief aid and early recovery for Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda survivors in November
- EUR 2.5 million for Bohol earthquake in October
- EUR 200 000 small –scale response for Typhoon Trami/Maring
- EUR 300 000 small scale response to assist IDPs in Zamboanga
- EUR 10 million in humanitarian aid for Typhoon Bopha/Pablo in 2012-13

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Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) caused massive devastation in the Philippines. The European Commission is providing EUR 20 million in relief assistance. Photo: WFP/Praveen Agrawal – Tacloban - November 2013

Key messages

- The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with several earthquakes and around 20 tropical cyclones per year among other natural calamities.
- Following the devastating Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in November 2013, the European Commission immediately deployed humanitarian and civil protection experts to the worst hit areas. It also made available EUR 40 million in relief assistance and early recovery and rehabilitation to help the most affected communities.
- The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was activated to coordinate the delivery of assistance offered to the Philippine government by the EU Member States, who provided considerable personnel and material support in addition to financial assistance of well over EUR 110 million.
- Since 1997, the European Commission has released EUR 72.7 million in emergency relief interventions for survivors of natural disasters and EUR 21.3 million to help victims of armed conflicts. Furthermore, EUR 7.7 million have been allocated for local communities to better withstand future disasters (DIPECHO programme).

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

The Philippines is located in one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. It has well developed crisis management capacities but with the incessant occurrence of strong cyclones and storms, often back-to-back, the European Commission has recurrently stepped in to deliver urgently needed humanitarian assistance. Around 20 typhoons hit the country every year, many of them destructive. The deadliest one so far has been Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda), which crossed the archipelago in early November causing massive devastation (see below).

Despite on-going efforts to bring an end to decades of conflict in Mindanao, sporadic outbursts of violence also cause short-term displacements of communities in the Southern part of the archipelago.

Major challenges

Floods, landslides and the destruction of homes and livelihoods caused by frequent storms often leave people in need of temporary shelter, food and non-food items, clean water and sanitation facilities and primary health care, among others. Likewise, displacements because of socio-political turmoil in different zones trigger similar humanitarian needs among vulnerable populations.

The European Union's humanitarian response

Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan has been one of the most destructive cyclones ever recorded. It struck the Philippines in early November 2013 causing heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides especially in the Visayas regions: Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Bohol and Panay. Despite preparedness measures and evacuations undertaken by the national authorities, humanitarian impact was colossal. To date, the government has reported over 6 200 dead and 4 million displaced. Between 14 and 16 million people got affected by the disaster, out of which almost 6 million are children. Most affected zones suffered a loss of communications, electrical power and transport access, with initial security problems gradually under control.

The European Commission has provided EUR 40 million in humanitarian assistance and early recovery and rehabilitation for the survivors. The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department's (ECHO) experts were deployed to the worst-hit areas within hours to identify priority needs. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism was also activated to ensure coordinated European relief efforts, following a request from the Philippine authorities. All 28 EU Member States extended their support, either dispatching personnel or material assistance such as water purification teams and medical supplies, or with generous financial aid of over EUR 110 million in total.

Other ECHO funded relief assistance in 2013

In October 2013, the European Commission allocated EUR 2.5 million to help with relief efforts needed for the communities who lost their homes and livelihoods because of the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that killed over 200 people, injured hundreds and affected around 3.1 million in the island of Bohol and surrounding provinces.

A month earlier, fighting in the southern city of Zamboanga between armed groups and government forces had led to the displacement of over 82 000 people. ECHO responded by releasing EUR 300 000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to assist thousands of displaced with basic household items, shelter material and by improving the management and facilities at evacuation centers.

In August, following flooding around the capital Manila caused by Typhoon Trami (Maring) ECHO committed EUR 200 000 from its Small Scale Response fund to a project implemented by IOM. This initiative is improving the facilities and management of the emergency shelters used by temporarily displaced families.

ECHO made available EUR 10 million in emergency funding to help communities in the areas of Mindanao struck by Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) in December 2012. Over 1 000 people were killed and 6.5 million others got affected throughout the island.

Reducing the impact of natural disasters

ECHO's disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO), set up in 1996, aims at improving the capacities of communities to prepare for and protect themselves from natural catastrophes. For 2012-2013, the overall amount made available for South East Asia was EUR 11 million, with around EUR 2.4 million allocated for projects in the Philippines. These funds support community-based activities, local capacity building, small-scale disaster mitigation actions, early warning systems, education and public awareness campaigns.

The Philippines - ECHO assistance



South China Sea

