

## CONTEXT

---

- Situated along the Western Pacific tropical storm region and the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. An average of 20 cyclones affect the country each year, triggering floods, landslides, and storm surges that frequently result in the loss of lives, damage to infrastructure, and a severe affect on livelihoods. Located between two major fault lines and with 24 active volcanoes, the Philippines also experiences high levels of seismic and volcanic activity.
- While the Philippines has historically faced significant hydrometeorological hazards, the effects of climate change are causing tropical cyclones to intensify rapidly and unpredictably. Super Typhoon Rai—known locally as Super Typhoon Odette—made landfall over the Philippines in December 2021 after quickly intensifying, affecting approximately 12 million individuals, displacing 3.1 million people, and damaging or destroying an estimated 2.1 million houses. In April 2022, Tropical Storm Megi—known locally as Tropical Storm Agaton—made landfall, affecting approximately 2.3 million people and generating additional humanitarian needs. A few months later in September 2022, Typhoon Noru—known locally as Typhoon Karding—rapidly intensified to a super typhoon before making landfall and compounding the damage from the previous storm. Subsequently, in October 2022, Tropical Storm Nalgae—known locally as Tropical Storm Paeng—affected more than 5.3 million people countrywide.
- During 2023, the eruption of Mayon Volcano in June displaced vulnerable communities and drove increased humanitarian needs. On June 22, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Heather Variava issued a declaration of humanitarian need due to the effects of Mayon Volcano. USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supported the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to respond to the long-term displacement of approximately 76,000 people through the provision of multi-sector assistance.



## ASSISTANCE

---

- As the largest humanitarian donor in the Philippines, USAID/BHA supports robust early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs and coordinates with the Government of the Philippines (GPH), local communities, and non-governmental organizations to help vulnerable populations prepare for and be more resilient to disasters. USAID/BHA programs in the Philippines span multiple sectors bolstering disaster management capacities and integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into governance policy and practices of national agencies and community groups. For example, USAID/BHA partners help to build GPH capacity by strengthening contingency planning,

creating private sector partnerships, improving early warning systems, enhancing information sharing, and implementing effective vulnerability and risk assessments.

- For example, USAID/BHA supports Acción contra el Hambre/Spain (ACH/Spain) to create more resilient coastal communities in areas at high risk of tropical cyclones. Under this project, ACH/Spain is supporting vulnerable fishing communities through improved preparedness actions, resilient livelihood strategies, and the implementation of nature-based solutions. ACH/Spain is also strengthening local government and community processes that integrate climate and risk information in DRR management, particularly in early warning systems, mitigation interventions, preparedness planning, and response to reduce impacts of climatic risks. Additionally, since 2017, USAID/BHA has supported the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation to build disaster preparedness and response capacity among local communities through contingency planning and hazard mapping, in addition to strengthening cooperation between the GPH and the private sector to increase the resilience of critical services such as power, telecommunications, and water.
- USAID/BHA also funds regional ER4 programs to develop hazard monitoring and information management systems that improve government-led disaster prevention and response capacities across East Asia and the Pacific, including the Philippines. For example, USAID/BHA is supporting the Pacific Disaster Center to institutionalize the PhilAWARE system—a multi-hazard early warning, modeling, and risk intelligence platform launched in partnership with the GPH Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in late 2021. Since its deployment, PhilAWARE has supported the OCD to monitor and respond to numerous disasters by mapping hazards such as landslides, providing real-time tracking of storm trajectories, and enabling first responders to make informed decisions on resource allocation.
- USAID/BHA responds to humanitarian needs of the affected population impacted by sudden-onset natural disasters. USAID/BHA support is critical in helping the Philippines to further develop its preparedness and capacity to deliver timely and effective assistance as climate change exacerbates natural hazards facing the country.
- Since 1990, USAID/BHA has responded to more than 50 disasters in the Philippines, including providing more than \$29.1 million in response to Super Typhoon Rai in 2021. Following the typhoon’s landfall, six USAID/BHA partners—in coordination with the GPH—delivered emergency food; health; livelihoods; multipurpose cash; protection; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to affected households. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) also deployed more than 660 trucks to transport GPH commodities to affected areas, bolstered telecommunications among first responders, and established logistics hubs to facilitate relief operations.
- Following sudden-onset disasters, USAID/BHA ER4 partners IOM and WFP immediately respond to reinforce GPH capacity to efficiently distribute emergency food assistance and critical relief items, manage displacement centers, provide emergency shelter, and track humanitarian data. For example, in response to Typhoon Karding in September 2022, WFP operationalized five trucks to transport relief commodities and prepositioned Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies to bolster telecommunications capabilities, while IOM deployed displacement tracking experts and delivered 3,000 prepositioned USAID/BHA-shelter grade tarps to the hardest hit areas.

USAID/BHA Funding in the Philippines <sup>1</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>2</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2021	\$3,726,000	\$3,500,000	\$7,226,000

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of October 02, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.

FY 2022	\$29,129,575	\$4,700,000	\$33,829,575
FY 2023	\$200,000	\$7,954,717	\$8,154,717