

## CONTEXT

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- Situated along the Western Pacific tropical storm region and the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is susceptible to frequent natural disasters. An average of 20 cyclones affect the country each year, triggering floods, landslides, and storm surges that frequently result in the loss of houses, infrastructure, lives, and livelihoods. Located between two major fault lines, and with more than 20 active volcanoes, the Philippines also experiences high levels of seismic and volcanic activity.
- In December 2021 Super Typhoon Rai—known locally as Super Typhoon Odette—made landfall over the Philippines, adversely affecting approximately 12 million individuals, displacing 3.1 million people, damaging or destroying an estimated 2.1 million houses, and resulting in at least 406 deaths. Nearly four months later, Tropical Storm Megi—known locally as Tropical Storm Agaton—made landfall over the Philippines on April 10, affecting approximately 2.3 million people residing in areas still recovering from the effects of Super Typhoon Rai, resulting in the deaths of 212 individuals, and generating additional humanitarian needs.
- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic continues to strain the capacity of health care facilities across the country and challenge the Government of the Philippines' (GPH) ability to allocate adequate resources for emergency response and disaster preparedness. Meanwhile, damage sustained during Super Typhoon Rai and Tropical Storm Megi exacerbated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, generating increased health and protection risks among storm-affected individuals.



## ASSISTANCE

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- As the largest humanitarian donor in the Philippines, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports robust early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) programs that coordinate with the GPH, local communities, and non-governmental organizations to help vulnerable populations prepare for and respond to disasters while addressing the long-term needs of at-risk communities. USAID/BHA also funds rapid emergency responses to natural disasters that address the humanitarian needs of people affected by sudden-onset events, such as Super Typhoon Rai.
- USAID/BHA has responded to more than 50 disasters in the Philippines since 1990, and since December 2021, has allocated more than \$29 million to address the emergency needs of populations affected by Super Typhoon Rai. Immediately following the super typhoon, five USAID/BHA partners—in coordination with the GPH—delivered emergency food, health, and livelihoods assistance; multipurpose cash assistance; and protection, shelter, and

water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to households affected by the storm across the Philippines' Caraga, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and Western Visayas regions. USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) also deployed more than 550 trucks to transport GPH commodities to affected areas, bolstering telecommunications for first responders, and establishing mobile storage units and emergency logistics hubs to facilitate the rapid movement of relief commodities and staff.



A beneficiary in Super Typhoon Rai- and Tropical Storm Megi-affected Limasawa municipality, Southern Leyte province, receives a USAID/BHA-funded cash transfer. *Photo Credit: Joseph Curry*

- In 2021, USAID/BHA supported Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Services, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to implement COVID-19 mitigation activities, including the installation of handwashing stations and other WASH facilities, as well as the training of community members and health care professionals on COVID-19 mitigation measures across Mindanao Island, benefitting vulnerable populations in Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and North Cotabato provinces.
- USAID/BHA's ER4 funding in the Philippines spans multiple sectors to bolster disaster management capacities by strengthening early warning systems, hazard mapping, and livelihoods resilience. In addition, ER4 programs supplement GPH response capacities and promote private sector engagement to build community disaster risk awareness that facilitates planning to protect infrastructure during natural disasters. Since 2018, USAID/BHA has supported IOM to augment the capacity of the GPH's Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to manage displacement centers, provide emergency shelter, and track displacement data, enabling the GPH to develop a more informed and effective approach to emergency response programs. Following Super Typhoon Rai, two USAID/BHA multi-year programs implemented by IOM and WFP reinforced the capacity of the DSWD and the Office of Civil Defense to efficiently distribute emergency food assistance and critical non-food items, manage displacement centers, provide emergency shelter, and track response data, further enhancing GPH-led disaster response efforts.
- 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. USAID/BHA supports the U.S. Geological Survey to provide technical assistance to counterparts in the Philippines and to respond to volcanic eruptions via the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, including the January 2020 Taal Volcano eruption, which affected more than 500,000 people.

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
FY 2022	\$29,129,097	\$2,330,000	\$31,459,097

<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 May 5, 2022. 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.