



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines

Context

Natural hazards remain a leading cause of hunger, affecting all aspects of food security: economic and physical access to food, availability and stability of supplies, and nutrition. Delays in response to and recovery from shocks can quickly turn into a food, nutrition and socio-economic crisis, which can take several years for people to recover from, trapping them in a cycle of hunger and poverty.

The Philippines is among the world's most disaster-prone countries, exposed to multiple hazards of high intensities such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, volcanic eruptions, droughts, and sea level rise. Every year, the country experiences an average of 10 to 25 extreme weather events. Approximately 20 tropical cyclones enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility every year, with 8 to 9 of them making landfall. Roughly 900 earthquakes are recorded annually, and strong periodic droughts affect the country due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Climate change is further intensifying the impacts of multiple natural hazards affecting the country. There has been an increase in the number of days of extreme

heat, which is set to continue with average temperatures projected to surpass the 1.5°C limit set under the Paris Agreement within the next five years. This entails substantial impacts on ecosystems, health, labour productivity, livestock production, and crop yields. Frequent droughts and floods significantly affect the agricultural sector, which employs approximately a third of the population and is a main contributor to the Philippine economy.

Situation Snapshot



Highest disaster risk worldwide due to high exposure and susceptibility to natural hazards, and low coping capacities.¹



Nearly 16 million people affected by six consecutive typhoons in the last quarter of 2024.²



Over US\$269 million (PHP 16 billion) of agriculture, housing, and infrastructure damage from successive storms in late 2024.³

¹ [World Risk Report 2024](#) published by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft.

²⁻³ Figures are based on the latest situation reports published by the [Department of Social Welfare and Development](#) and [National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council](#).



PREP ka na ba? Are you ready?



WFP compiled **30 initiatives that improved disaster risk management in the Philippines** after super typhoon Haiyan. Ten years since the super typhoon, the Government and the humanitarian community amplified their initiatives to protect communities from natural hazards throughout the country.



2024 Typhoon Season Response

In 2024, six successive storms hit the Philippines in 25 days, affecting over 16 million people and causing substantial agriculture, housing, and infrastructure damage. The capacity strengthening support delivered under WFP's PREP: Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines initiative, supported by various partners, contributed to a swift and more effective government typhoon response. Following the storms, the Government was able to rapidly deliver life-saving aid (including food and cash assistance) to communities in need.

Read the full report [here](#).

Emergency Preparedness

PREP: Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines

In 2023, WFP launched PREP, a multi-year strategy aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the national and local governments to reduce vulnerabilities to shocks. Building on lessons learned and best practices, WFP focuses on **strengthening the Government's capacity** on disaster risk management, while maintaining a solid presence in the Philippines to provide operational support during major disasters when requested.

PREP is structured along three pillars:

Strengthening Government Capabilities: WFP works closely with national and local government agencies, particularly the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to enhance disaster management through training, simulations, and technical support.

Enhancing Logistics, Telecommunications and Supply Chain Resilience: PREP focuses on improving disaster management infrastructure at national and subnational levels by optimizing the Government's supply chain and telecommunications capacity and reducing disruptions. Response assets and equipment are prepositioned in strategic locations.

Leveraging Innovation and Data-Driven Decision-Making: WFP integrates technology to innovate the Government's incident and relief inventory management systems, as well as early warning tools to support

evidence-based planning and improve preparedness, including anticipatory action, and response coordination.

The overall strategy of PREP focuses on enhancing the Government's disaster risk management systems and capacities with the aim of continuously increasing the threshold at which point the Government requires external support and resources. In effect, PREP is designed to further shift the financing and management of humanitarian responses to more localized levels.



Government Capacity and System Strengthening

In close consultation with the national Government, WFP formalized partnerships with eight priority provinces through a Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) to fill gaps and augment critical disaster risk management (DRM) services. WFP provides assets to support efficient prepositioning and quick dispatch of relief items, as well as technical assistance in refining existing DRM systems. This entails transforming the Government's incident and relief inventory management systems, **from an analogue, paper-based process to a digitalized setup**, to ensure efficient delivery of relief items to crisis-affected communities. WFP contributes to improving the skills and technical expertise of DRM experts to operate the refined systems, assets, and infrastructure.

WFP works with government partners to assess needs and gaps, as well as collectively identify activities for enhanced preparedness, using its corporate Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Indicator (EPCI).

WFP supported government DRM efforts, by facilitating

the EPCI assessment across national and local levels with Government partners in Bicol, Cagayan Valley, Caraga, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). In response to the identified needs and gaps, WFP continues to support capacity strengthening efforts by providing training on geographic information system, risk mapping, and rapid damage and needs assessment and providing technical assistance on a variety of DRM related issues.

Under PREP, WFP provided mobile storage units (MSU) and training on MSU installation to government responders in the provinces of Albay, Cagayan, Catanduanes, Dinagat Islands, Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao del Sur, and Surigao del Norte. These activities significantly enhanced government response operations during the 2024 typhoon season by facilitating last mile delivery of relief items through enhanced storage networks.



Humanitarian Supply Chain Management

To strengthen national and subnational humanitarian supply chain management, WFP works with government and humanitarian partners by providing **technical assistance** through assessments, training, and learning sessions. WFP supports with carrying out assessments to i) enhance government goods management and inventory systems and ii) to inform the establishment of government warehouses in strategic locations. Additionally, WFP provides technical assistance to government agencies in enhancing their humanitarian supply chain management and disaster response courses.

In BARMM, WFP works with government representatives to strengthen regional emergency logistics capacity. WFP supported the BARMM Government in conducting a **capacity needs mapping** exercise that led to the creation of the Ministry of Social Services and Development Logistics Preparedness Working Group. The Group will lead the development of the multi-year roadmap to address identified gaps and strengthen the BARMM Government's emergency logistics capacities.



Emergency Telecommunications

To strengthen the Government's capacity on emergency telecommunications and coordination, WFP supports the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in fulfilling its role as the national emergency telecommunications cluster lead. WFP provides technical assistance through assessments, training, and learning sessions to emergency responders. This

includes guidance on equipment configuration, emergency telecommunications solution design, and practical communication exercises to enhance technical and interpersonal skills crucial in response operations.

WFP co-developed the digital learning platform that contains all related lessons on emergency telecommunications. The training materials can be accessed both offline and online, allowing DICT emergency responders to take charge of their learning journey at their own pace and convenience.

Emergency Response



Anticipatory Action

WFP supports the localization of anticipatory action (AA) in the Philippines by enhancing early warning systems and strengthening community preparedness. Working closely with PAGASA, WFP helps improve forecast-based models to enable timely and effective AA.

WFP has provided continued technical assistance in the development of House Bill No. 9935: Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act. The bill aims to integrate AA into the Philippines' Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework, allowing government agencies to access funds for AA to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events, before the declaration of a state of calamity.

Under the United Nations Joint Central Emergency Response Fund Programme on Anticipatory Action, WFP is ready to provide unconditional cash assistance and early warning information to approximately 45,000 households three days before a severe typhoon (wind speed: 154 km/h or higher) hits. The unconditional cash assistance amounting to US\$53 (PHP 3,300) will enable households to protect their livelihoods and cover essential needs during and right after a catastrophic typhoon.





Emergency Assistance

WFP maintains a capacity to be able to support Government-led responses by providing emergency assistance to populations affected by shocks and support early recovery activities. This support is provided during response to catastrophic events where the Government looks to partners, like WFP, to augment their response.

WFP provides **unconditional food assistance through in-kind food, vouchers, and cash assistance** to ensure affected communities meet their essential needs. WFP prioritizes cash assistance in areas where markets are functional and, as was the case in 2024, endeavors to do so through existing social protection systems and programmes, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). These efforts not only allow for a quicker cash-based response, it also brings a number of efficiencies given the large scale of the 4Ps program. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity to strengthen the shock-responsiveness of social protection in the country. In emergencies, cash transfers empower people with the flexibility to meet their essential needs while supporting local markets.



Emergency Logistics Support

In nationally-led response operations, WFP provides direct logistics support to the Government by **transporting government relief items and providing emergency logistics response equipment**. In close coordination with OCD and DSWD, WFP fills the gap in transporting relief assistance to reach crisis-affected populations. In 2024, WFP mobilized 358 trucks and 14 shipping containers to transport more than 527,000 government family food packs and over 170 mt of non-food supplies. This reached more than 2.6 million people, in response to eight emergencies.

WFP maintains **emergency logistics response equipment** in strategic locations that can be readily provided to the Government to support preparedness and/or response activities. Equipment such as mobile storage units, generators, tower lights, and forklifts are stored in WFP warehouses located in Pampanga (Luzon) and Maguindanao (Mindanao).

Key Government Partners



Emergency Telecommunications Support

In 2018, WFP signed an initial five-year partnership agreement with the Philippine Government through the DICT to launch the [Government Emergency Communications System-Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies](#) (GECS-MOVE) Project. DICT and WFP co-developed six high-tech, mobile, emergency telecommunications units prepositioned in key areas of the country, ready to be deployed to disaster zones to re-establish telecommunications. The MOVE units enable swift telecommunication of critical information among frontline rescuers, including emergency responders and health and welfare practitioners as well as providing critical connectivity for impacted communities.

As part of the second phase of the project, WFP handed over four additional GECS-MOVE sets to DICT in 2024. Currently, a total of 10 units are prepositioned in strategic areas nationwide. During the 2024 typhoon season response, WFP supported the DICT in deploying five GECS-MOVE units and various connectivity equipment, providing internet access for 6,000 people across eight typhoon-affected provinces.

2024 Key Accomplishments on DRM



8.4 million people indirectly benefit from disaster risk management systems strengthened with the support of WFP



2.6 million people reached with government family food packs through WFP's transport support



112,700 people in five priority provinces affected by successive storms reached with cash assistance



358 trucks and 14 cargo containers mobilized to transport more than 527,000 family food packs and over 170 mt of non-food items



1,200 government and national partner staff trained on disaster risk management

