

Alert note**Severe Impacts of Drought (El Niño) | Philippines | April 26, 2024****Completed by: National Council of Churches in the Philippines****Date completed: 26.04.2024****Forum: PHILIPPINES****Type of emergency: Drought (El Niño)****Date of emergency (if rapid onset):****1. The nature of the emergency**

The Philippines is currently facing a catastrophic drought, one of the slow-onset effects of climate change, along with other climate impact drivers such as rising sea levels, increased precipitation, stronger wind patterns, and typhoons. This catastrophic drought is driven by the 2023-24 El Niño, which is, according to the United Nations weather agency, one of the five strongest on record.

Climate Change Commission defines Drought as a decrease of 21 to 60 percent in rain occurrences for five consecutive months, or below normal rainfall conditions for three consecutive months. Additionally, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geographical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported on March 25 that 37 provinces have experienced drought conditions (3 consecutive months of way below normal rainfall conditions/more than 60% reduction from rainfall average), 22 provinces with dry spell (3 consecutive months of below normal rainfall condition/21%-60% reduction from rainfall average) and 12 provinces with dry condition (2 consecutive months of below normal rainfall condition). As of writing, El Niño remains active and expected to persist at least until May 2024 with a total of 56 provinces expected to be severely affected.

Insecurity in food, energy, and water is a result of these conditions' negative effects on sectors that are vulnerable to climate change, such as agriculture, energy, water, health, and public safety.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

According to the data released by the Philippines Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), as of 24 April 2024, there were 531,114 families or 2,283,636 persons affected in 3,053 villages in Regions II, III, MIMAROPA, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XII, CAR, and BARMM.

Five (5) provinces declared a state of calamities due to the worst effects of drought in their area, namely Occidental Mindoro (IV-B), Negros Occidental (VI), Sultan Kudarat (XII), and Maguinadanao Del Norte, Maguinadanao Del Sur (BARMM). Besides these provinces, 34 local government units also declared a state of calamity.

DECLARATION OF STATE OF CALAMITY

A total of 101 cities/municipalities were declared under the State of Calamity. Below is the number of SOCs issued:

REGION	NO. OF SOCs ISSUED			
	REGIONAL	PROVINCIAL	CITY/ MUNICIPALITY	BARANGAY
GRAND TOTAL	0	5	34	0
MIMAROPA	0	1	7	0
Region 6	0	1	11	0
Region 9	0	0	3	0
Region 10	0	0	2	0
Region 12	0	1	7	0
BARMM	0	2	3	0
CAR	0	0	1	0

The agriculture sector has suffered around 20 million USD (P1.23 billion) worth of damage due to the El Niño phenomenon since January, according to

the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). A total of 26,731.4 hectares (crop area) were greatly affected posing major losses of livelihood to almost 30,000 farmers/fisherfolks.

Department of Agriculture

REGION	NO. OF FARMERS/ FISHERFOLK AFFECTED	AFFECTED CROP AREA (HA)			NUMBER OF DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE, MACHINERIES, EQUIPMENT			PRODUCTION LOSS IN VOLUME (MT)	PRODUCTION LOSS / COST OF DAMAGE IN VALUE (PHP)
		WITH NO CHANCE OF RECOVERY (TOTALLY DAMAGED)	WITH CHANCE OF RECOVERY (PARTIALLY DAMAGED)	TOTAL	TOTALLY DAMAGED	PARTIALLY DAMAGED	TOTAL		
GRAND TOTAL	29,409	2,815.03	23,916.37	26,731.4	0	0	0	44,845.42	1,236,853,305.08

Besides the affected regions above, Central Luzon (Region III), which is the top rice producer in the country, is not exempted from the persisting drought. The Municipality of Capas, Tarlac on February 2024 reported that the livelihood of farmers, predominantly from indigenous communities, has been severely affected by the El Niño. Based on the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) of some local partners of the NCCP, there were 475 families affected in the province of Bulacan, particularly in the City of Malolos and the City of San Jose Del Monte. These groups were involved in the agriculture and fisheries sector.

In Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), the province of Occidental Mindoro suffered the most. The effect of El Niño is devastating. This exacerbates challenges for farmers by diminishing water sources crucial for crop irrigation, including rice, onions, and vegetables. RNA from partner organizations identified that almost 2,500 families were affected in the province. While partners in the Negros Occidental (Region VI) initially identified 500 families from 3 villages that were severely affected by the drought.

Sources:

National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (Philippines)

<https://monitoring->

[dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/assets/uploads/situations/SitRep_No_34_for_El_Nino_2023.pdf](https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/assets/uploads/situations/SitRep_No_34_for_El_Nino_2023.pdf)

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC),

[https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://dromic.dswd.gov.ph/wp-](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://dromic.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DSWD-DROMIC-Report-32-on-the-Effects-of-El-Nino-as-of-20-April-2024-6PM.pdf&hl=en)

[content/uploads/2024/04/DSWD-DROMIC-Report-32-on-the-Effects-of-El-Nino-as-of-20-April-2024-6PM.pdf&hl=en](https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://dromic.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DSWD-DROMIC-Report-32-on-the-Effects-of-El-Nino-as-of-20-April-2024-6PM.pdf&hl=en)

Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center Facebook Page

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Philippines initially responded to meet the extensive needs of affected communities. As of April 24, the government provided different humanitarian assistance amounting to around 1.3 million USD which included family food packs, financial assistance, non-food items, fuel, generator units, and hygiene kits.

NCCP already provided small-scale assistance to local communities, such as the restoration of water systems in farming communities in the Occidental Mindoro (IV-B) province, and minimal food packs for affected farming families in Negros Occidental (VI). As global climate models foresee the phenomenon to persist until May, with an impending La Niña for the next six months, NCCP expects the need for food and livelihood support in the affected areas to continue to increase.

The NCCP is consistently coordinating with regional ecumenical councils and other partner organizations to gather first-hand data. The Council’s statement for Earth Day last 22 April 2024, entitled “*On Earth Day, let us lift up our land, food, and farmers scorched by El Niño*”, highlighted the call for stronger government assistance and call for churches to respond to the needs of their communities.

Source:

Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center Facebook Page

(April 24 Latest Post)

<https://nccphilippines.org/2024/04/22/on-earth-day-let-us-lift-up-our-land-food-and-farmers-scorched-by-el-nino/>

4. Key needs and gaps

Based on the initial data submitted to the NCCP secretariat and through continuous monitoring, the identified priority needs are in-kind food packs, especially for families whose livelihoods solely rely on the agriculture sector; and multi-purpose cash assistance to cover immediate food needs and possibly augment damages to livelihood.

Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)				X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)				
ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
National Council of Churches in the Philippines	Region III – Central Luzon Region IV-B MIMAROPA Region VI – Western Visayas	With Regional Ecumenical Councils Equipped with Emergency Response procedures.	Sufficient funds to support planned response	USD 150,000.00

5. Potential responses

Since March, the NCCP has been consistent in reaching out to regional ecumenical councils (RECs) for data gathering. Some RECs raised concerns brought about by the extreme drought in the country. Consultations conducted online enable NCCP to gather and collate data on affected communities which will be vital in drafting proposals for possible funding requests.

The NCCP plans to respond to the immediate needs of the communities through Food and Unconditional Cash Transfer, in coordination with the regional EcuDReaMCs and member churches. A proposal for the Rapid Response Fund will be submitted by the ACT Philippines Forum with NCCP as a national member leading the emergency response. Coordination with other stakeholders such as LGU in the affected and other faith-based groups in the Philippine FBO Forum will be initiated and sustained.

