

Alert note**Severe floodings due to enhanced Southwest Monsoon, September 1, 2026.****Completed by: National Council of Churches in the Philippines****Date completed: September 1, 2026****Forum: Philippines****Type of emergency: Floods****Date of emergency (if rapid onset):****1. The nature of the emergency**

The Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) has intensified over the Philippines, bringing persistent heavy rainfall over western and northern Luzon, Metro Manila, some parts of CALABARZON (combined provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), and MIMAROPA (combined provinces of Mindoro island, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan) for the past four weeks. Over the past month, the Southwest Monsoon was enhanced by a series of typhoons, starting from “Luis” (Peilou), which made landfall on August 3, “Maymay” (Kojuri) which made landfall on August 5, “Neneng” (Gaenari) on August 18, “Obet” (Saudel) on August 30, and “Pilandok” which is the 16th typhoon for the year. Comparatively, in August 2025, the country by then only experienced its ninth typhoon of the year.

As of August 29, the national weather bureau, PAGASA, issued multiple red rainfall warnings as two low pressure areas (LPAs) influenced and intensified the southwest monsoon, with serious flooding and landslide warnings over affected areas. By August 30, the Office of Civil Defense reported 429 areas in Metro Manila, CALABARZON, Ilocos Region, and Central Luzon that were flooded by the heavy rains. The Mines and Geosciences Bureau, meanwhile, issued alerts for landslide occurrences in 3,786 villages.

The weather bureau forecasts that enhanced monsoon rains will persist, continuing and increasing the risk for flooding, flash floods, landslides, and disruption in basic utility lines and transportation.

Sources:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/phl-flood-08-2026-phl-enhanced-southwest-monsoon-habagat-2026-08-29>

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/1000396/over-400-areas-flooded-in-four-regions-due-to-habagat-ocd/story/>

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

As of this writing, on August 31, the OCD reported death toll of the enhanced Southwest Monsoon rains has reached 33. The Office reported a total of 8.8 million people or 2.5 million families were affected by heavy rains in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Calabarzon, Cordillera Administrative Region, Metro Manila, and Mimaropa. The emergency has already displaced 83,580 people across the country.

A total 117 local government units have declared a state of calamity, unlocking emergency funds, triggering price freezes, and speeds up relief delivery efforts. This includes province-wide declarations in Benguet, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales, Pangasinan and Cavite.

Among the regions, Central Luzon recorded the highest death toll with 16, including nine indigenous Ayta people; followed by the Cordillera Administrative Region which recorded the highest death toll with 15, all from landslides. Four were recorded in Rizal province of Calabarzon due to rock slides.

The Habagat-induced month-long rains have also overwhelmed the flood-control capacities in Metro Manila, causing floodwaters to reach 60-inches or five-feet -- neck-deep for most Filipinos -- and above-

head levels. While most affected families in Metro Manila carried on with their daily activities and livelihoods, many were still affected. Families are requesting for support to repair their homes, evacuees are appealing for food as they ran out of supplies, while many are appealing for medicines. There were also separate cases of deaths due to accidents related to flooding.

This did not only pose damages to infrastructures and personal properties, but also increased health risks in many flooded villages. In Metro Manila alone, major hospitals are operating at 300% - 500% bed capacity due to surge of leptospirosis cases, a bacterial infection mostly linked with exposure to water contaminated by urine of infected animals. In addition to this, flu-like cases have also increased.

In most flood-stricken communities, children are most affected as they cannot leave their homes because of risk of infection. In many areas in Central Luzon, which have been experiencing month-long floods, water sources are already contaminated. In Rizal province, floods and flash floods carried heavy loads of mud, dirt, and debris. When these floods subsided, families were left with thick layers of mud and waste.

The OCD reported infrastructure damage to reach P6.16 billion (or \$98.96 million USD), while agricultural losses stood at P2.32 billion (or \$37.27 million USD) affecting at least 50,000 farmers and fishers. Massive fish kill was also reported in the largest lake in the country, Laguna de Bay in Calabarzon, due to algal blooms affecting livelihoods of municipal fisherfolks. Agricultural damages include rice, corn, high-value crops, fisheries, livestock, agricultural equipment, facilities and infrastructures such as irrigation systems.

These damages bring immediate income losses and impacts to food sources. As the impacts of the super El Niño looms, it is projected that the agricultural sector, especially small farmers and fishers, will have the hardest path to recovery and could bury farmers to further debt. There is also a high-risk to sharp increase in market price of agricultural products due to these damages and irregular market behaviors (massive and sudden importation, smuggling, hoarding and cartel operations).

In a separate report, the Department of Education tallied almost 10,000 classrooms needing repair and reconstruction and 1,630 schools damaged by flooding and landslides. With these damages and as most schools maximized as evacuation centers, class suspensions and alternative class modes are expected in the coming days and weeks. This situation poses protection and psychosocial risks among children.

Source:

NCCP assessment and situation report

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/weather/content/1000492/live-updates-habagat-rains-affect-parts-of-ph-on-monday-aug-31-2026/story/>

<https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/nation/2026/8/30/flooding-persists-in-parts-of-metro-manila-rizal-and-bulacan-2114>

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/08/31/pilandok-habagat-to-cause-more-rains/>

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1282345>

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2026/08/30/2552861/32-dead-81-million-affected-recent-storms-habagat>

3. Local and national capacity

The earlier impacts of the southwest monsoon were weathered by the national government, local government units, private sector, and civil society groups. While local resilience efforts through vigilance in flood mitigation projects, government aid, and civil society mutual aid initiatives helped communities get by at the beginning of the rainy season; local capacities were later on overwhelmed by the incessant rains, month-long floodings, and cumulative impacts and damages.

The government reported P1.74 billion worth of aid provided to affected families by OCD, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), local government units, and other partners. Pre-emptive evacuation by local government units were employed. Search and rescue efforts in different municipalities and provinces have been responsive.

The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), the largest ecumenical fellowship of 10 mainline Protestant and non-Roman Catholic churches in the country. NCCP is the only ACT Alliance

member in the country. It has member churches present in the affected regions and provinces, organized as Regional Ecumenical Councils which have a ready-to-mobilize Ecumenical Disaster Response and Management Committees.

The NCCP is also part of the Philippine FBO Forum, the network of the humanitarian programs of the country's three largest Christian Councils. Along with NCCP, the Caritas Philippines and the Philippine Relief and Development Services, Inc. (of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches) constitute the FBO Ph.

As of this writing, the NCCP Secretariat is conducting a rapid needs assessment in coordination with local ecumenical formations in the affected regions.

Source:

[NDRRMC Situation Update, August 31, 2026](#)

4. Key needs and gaps

An initial assessment conducted by local ecumenical formations identified the following priority needs:

- a) Food assistance and access to safe drinking water;
- b) Essential non-food items, including hygiene kits and cleaning materials;
- c) Psychosocial support and protection services, particularly for women and children;
- d) Economic support for income and livelihood losses

Humanitarian Gaps and Challenges

- Limited capacity of local government units to respond to immediate emergency needs;
- Limited supplies and WASH deficits in evacuation centers
- Severed logistics and damaged infrastructures
- Strained disaster response capacities (national, local, private sector, civil society)
- Severe income and agricultural losses

These humanitarian needs, together with the gaps and challenges faced by local government units, responders, and affected communities, are compounded by existing vulnerabilities in the affected areas. Collectively, these factors pose significant risks to the lives, safety, and overall well-being of affected populations. Hence, there is an urgent need for timely, quality, accountable, and coordinated humanitarian assistance and cooperation.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
National Council of Churches in the Philippines	National Capital Region, Calabarzon, Central Luzon	Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Food Assistance, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) kits and Mental Health Psychosocial Support
6. Potential responses		
Given the gaps identified in the ongoing response efforts, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) is committed to addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of communities affected by the massive floodings due to the enhanced southwest monsoon rains. With the support of local partners and members of the ACT Alliance, NCCP is preparing to launch an appropriate humanitarian response for a Rapid Response Fund. In collaboration with the Regional Ecumenical Councils (RECs) and other ecumenical partners, NCCP plans to apply for the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) that will prioritize food assistance, multi-purpose cash assistance and psychosocial support interventions for affected communities. A comprehensive needs and gap analysis will guide the prioritization and implementation of response activities. Local partners and volunteers, who possess a strong understanding of the community context, are currently conducting assessments to determine the extent of damages, identify priority needs, and map existing capacities in the affected areas. Ongoing DRR-CCA programs of the NCCP will also complement the recovery and resilience efforts with the affected communities.		