

CONSOLIDATED RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

SUPER TYPHOON NORU (KARDING)

PHILIPPINES

30 SEPTEMBER 2022

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY
TEAM (HCT)

INTER-CLUSTER
COORDINATION GROUP (ICCG)



©Aerial footage of flood-hit San Miguel, Bulacan/INQ



AFFECTED POPULATION



AFFECTED FAMILIES



AFFECTED REGIONS



DISPLACED POPULATION

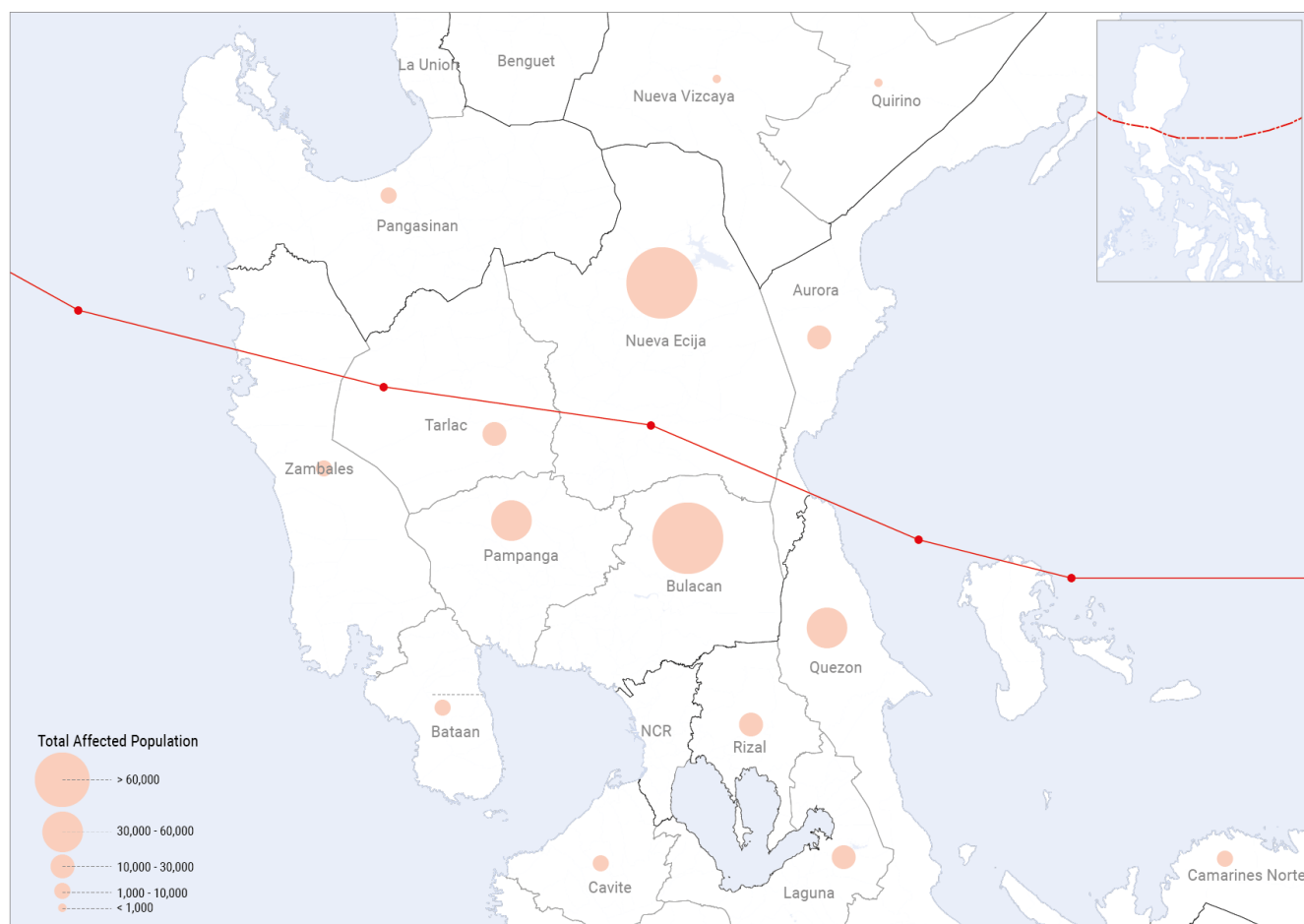


INSIDE EVAC. CENTRES



OUTSIDE EVAC. CENTRES

Affected Population by Province



Figures are as of 12nn 29 Sept. Source: DSWD/NDRRMC DROMIC

Situation Overview

On 25 September, Super Typhoon Noru (locally named Karding) swept through Luzon after intensifying from a severe tropical storm to a super typhoon within hours. With maximum sustained winds of 195km/h and gustiness of 240km/h, Noru is one of the strongest typhoons to have formed and made landfall this year. Passing through Burdeos, Quezon before making a second landfall in Dingalan, Aurora province, the storm brought violent winds and torrential rains. After traversing the Sierra Madre Mountain range, the storm weakened into a typhoon as the 500 km long mountain range acted as a natural vertical barrier. However, parts of Bulacan and Rizal were not spared from floods and rains which contributed to the numbers of those displaced.

Noru is the 11th tropical cyclone to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility with the possibility of more storms to develop before the year end.

According to the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) data released on 29 September, more than 714,213 people were affected in 1,768 barangays across Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, V, and CAR. 22,908 persons are currently displaced, with 11,837 taking temporary shelter in 127 evacuation centres. Situation reports from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) initially report 5 missing and 8 casualties. One province, thirty-five (35) cities and municipalities have declared a state of calamity, which will allow the local governments access to disaster response funding. The Government is taking the lead in response and clearing operations.

Damage to Agriculture



90.9K

AFFECTED FAMERS/FISHERFOLKS



150.7K

AFFECTED AREAS (Ha)



35.5M

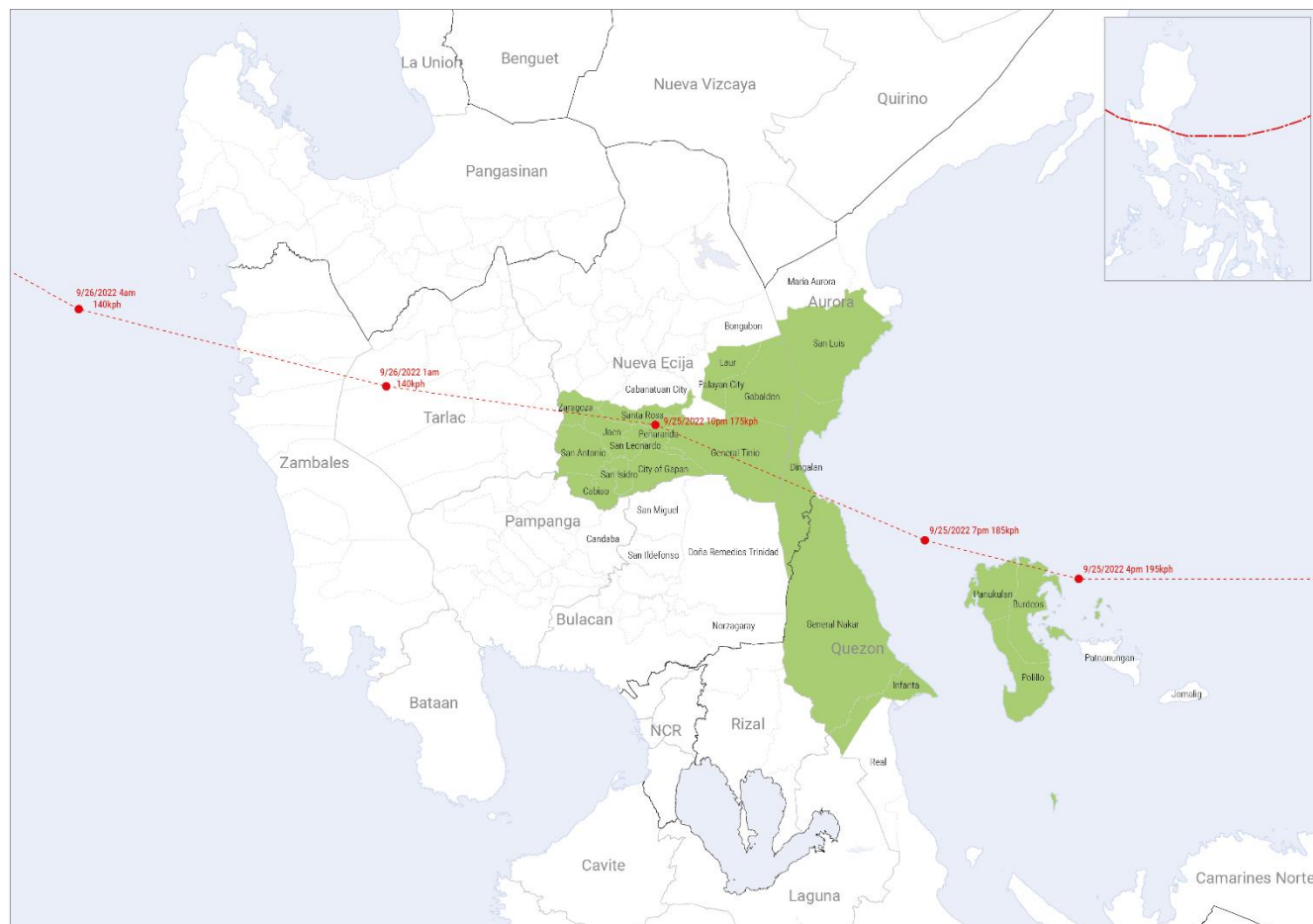
COST OF DAMAGE TO AGRICULTURE (USD)

Impact to lifeline services such as power, communications and water has largely been minimal with only parts of Nueva Ecija and Aurora provinces, and island barangays in Quezon still without power. Electrical companies are working round the clock to completely restore power at the soonest possible time. Affected communication lines are almost fully restored.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) has been in close communication with the authorities, offering support of in-country humanitarian partners if needed, including the conduct of rapid needs assessments to complement government analysis. Three teams led by OCHA and WFP together with over 50 staff from UN agencies, INGOs, Red Cross Movement and Faith-based organizations were deployed to conduct a Joint inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment in Region 3 and 4A, focusing on the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Aurora and Quezon, including the island municipalities of Polillo.

Methodology

Map of Rapid Assessment Areas



The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), working through the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) agreed to a joint inter-cluster approach in conducting rapid assessments and gaining an overview of priority needs and gaps across most affected areas while benefiting from other assessments and presence of partners on the ground. ICCG and partners followed the same standardized multi-sectoral debrief form, which they were requested to complete. Where possible, this approach also included a combination of key informant interviews with local authorities, focus group discussions with affected people and direct observations by humanitarian partners on the ground, as well as the collection of secondary data and available government reports and social media accounts.

ICCG worked with a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and humanitarian partners already present in affected areas to facilitate primary data collection. Together, they used the HCT Rapid Assessment Form and Debriefing forms to collect initial information. OCHA compiled and consolidated individual reports to identify priority humanitarian concerns and geographic areas in this Consolidated Rapid Assessment Report.

As of 28 September, at least 7 UN agencies - including IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, OCHA - as well as at least 16 international and local NGOs, Red Cross, faith-based organizations and foundations -

including ACCORD, CARE, Caritas Philippines, ChildFund, IMC, Oxfam-COM, CRS, Plan International, PRC, Relief International, LDS, Save the Children, World Vision, REINA Federation, KASAPI and UMCOR - participated in the rapid needs assessment exercise. *All figures in this report are as of 29 September 2022 using [NDRRMC](#) and [DSWD](#) report. Figures may still change as more information becomes available.*

Province	Joint Rapid Assessment Organizations
Aurora	ACCORD, CARE, IMC, IOM, UNICEF, Latter Day Saints, World Vision, WFP, PRC
Nueva Ecija	Save the Children, Plan Intl., OCHA, UNHCR, Relief International, CRS, UNICEF, WFP, Latter Day Saints, ACCORD, IOM, PRC, KASAPI
Quezon	IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, World Vision, Child Fund, UNICEF, Oxfam-COM, OCHA, PRC, and Reina Federation and UMCOR.

Impact



After first approaching Polillo Islands, in the afternoon of 25 September, Typhoon Noru crossed central-northern Philippines, specifically Quezon (Region 4A), Aurora and Nueva Ecija (Region 3). Contrary to predictions, Noru intensified from a tropical storm to a super typhoon, within hours before making landfall, after a period of explosive intensification, one of the fastest ever recorded in the Pacific basin. Bringing torrential rains, violent winds and floods, Super Typhoon Noru made two landfalls, the first one in Burdeos, Quezon, at 5:30p.m. and the second one in Dingalan, Aurora at 8:20 p.m. local time.

On the afternoon of 26 September, the center of the eye of Typhoon Karding exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, being compared by PAGASA for its intensity to Ulysses/Vamco, 2020, as well as Ondoy (Ketsana, 2009) which submerged several parts of Manila in floodwater

Activating preparedness procedures and early warning messaging, the government pre-emptively evacuated 91,169 people to 574 evacuation centers from region I, region II, region III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and NCR resulting in low number of deaths and injured, as well as low search, rescue and retrieval (SRR) requests. A total of US\$500,000 (P 28,5 million) worth of assistance was provided to affected families through DSWD, Local Government Units and other partners.

According to DROMIC data over 796, 467 people (215,728 families) were affected in 1,792 barangays across Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, V and CAR. NDRRMC reported that 10,463 people remained displaced, most of them in evacuation centres. Initial data suggested that Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija were most affected. Due to the impact of the Typhoon, 35 cities and municipalities declared State of Calamity including the entire Nueva Ecija province.

Authorities confirmed that 8 people died and 5 are missing. The number of typhoon-related incidents reached 100 in the flooded areas.

According to the NDRRMC Situational Report, the total number of damaged houses has reached 20,628 (18,110 partially damaged, 2,518 totally damaged) in the Typhoon's path with houses made from light materials being hit the hardest. According to NDRRMC, preliminary cost of damage to infrastructure is around \$400,000 (P 23 million). Concerning agriculture, the Department of Agriculture stated that about 150,693 hectares of crops in which 90,944 farmers/fisherfolks work have been affected and at an estimated cost of US\$35.5 million (P 2,02 billion). Authorities closed and restricted operations at 67 seaports and cancelled over 84 domestic and international flights.

The Education Cluster reported that almost 21,509 schools were affected by interrupting educational activities in 734 cities/municipalities. With many schools damaged and others used as evacuation centres, it was a priority to ensure safe return to school for all children living in typhoon-affected areas.

Wind damage, flooding and landslides interrupted road access, power, and communication throughout affected areas. In the first 72 hours, Noru/Karding left 115 cities and municipalities without electricity and 6 locations with network interruptions.

Damage to Infrastructure



AFFECTED ROADS/BRIDGES



MUNICIPALITIES/CITIES
EXPERIENCED POWER
OUTAGES



DAMAGED HOUSES

Most affected communities

Super Typhoon Noru hit Burdeos municipality in Polillo Island in Quezon Province and Central Luzon particularly coastal towns of Dingalan in the province of Aurora and Gen. Nakar in Quezon Province. It crossed the main island of Luzon passing through Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales. According to statistics, up to 26% of people in the worst affected areas live below the poverty line.

Province	Total Popn (2022 Est)
Aurora	232,023
Nueva Ecija	2,443,879
Quezon	2,306,668
Total	4,982,570

Province	Municipality	Mun Class	Popn (2022 Est)	Poverty Rate (2018)
Quezon	Burdeos	4	30,391	22
	General Nakar	1	35,156	18.4
	Infanta	1	74,707	7.6
	Jomalig	5	8,134	25.8
	Panukulan	4	14,949	22.3
	Patnanungan	5	15,564	24.1
	Polillo	3	33,933	10.7
Aurora	Dingalan	3	28,211	12.7
	San Luis	2	30,064	10.9
Nueva Ecija	Gabaldon	4	40,030	7.1
	Gen. Tinio	1	55,811	5.1
	Jaen	2	82,208	4.1
	Penaranda	4	33,519	4.3
	San Antonio	1	84,678	5.8
	Gapan City	4	123,229	5.4

Quezon Province (Polillo Island municipalities and General Nakar)



© Damaged house in Burdeos, Quezon/UNICEF-Moneth Solleza

Super Typhoon Noru made its first landfall in Quezon Province (Polillo ground of islands). While the mainland portions of the province received minimal damage, barangay Umiray in General Nakar and northern portions of Polillo islands were badly affected due to its proximity to the storm's eye.

Barangay Umiray is one of the northern most barangays in Gen Nakar municipality, Quezon province. In close proximity to Dingalan, where the typhoon made its second landfall, the town is home to 5,925 residents (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020). Assessment teams report that 85% of houses in the community were either partially or totally damaged due to strong winds. Farming, the main source of livelihood, was also badly affected. To date, no other non-government organization has communicated or coordinated with the barangay. The local government has provided food assistance of 5 kilograms rice, canned goods, and coffee to severely affected barangays, which according to the MSWDO, will only last for a day for a family of five. Barangay Umiray is only accessible via motorboat, with travel time of about four (4) hours or via four-wheel vehicle via Nueva Ecija or Dingalan with about eight (8) hours travel time

In the municipality of **Burdeos** on Polillo island, electricity has yet to be restored as of 29 September affecting essential services dependent electricity. Extensive damage to houses, community facilities, banana and coconut farming and fishing boats was reported in northern barangays of Burdeos municipality, such as **Mabini, Carlagan and Calutcot**. On the other hand, barangays in the central and southern part of the municipality have suffered minimal damage.

Other nearby barangays and municipalities also report similar damage. The key immediate needs include food, drinking water, tarpaulins, shelter repair materials, non-food items, hygiene kits, medicine and solar

lamps. Access to clean water is also a major concern as some have reported contamination of their main sources of water.

Communities in hard to access barangays have expressed their preference for in-kind support for shelter as many travel to the mainland for shelter repair items.

Assessment teams were unable to assess the town of Panukulan due to access constraints. There is also word on other geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the province due to electricity interruption and lack of mobile services. Emergency response assistance is greatly needed in these and other island barangays areas. Early recovery planning should also be initiated at this stage to support the resilience of affected communities.

Aurora Province (Dingalan municipality)



© Crops affected by typhoon Karding in Aurora/WFP

Six of the eight municipalities of Aurora province were mildly or not significantly affected by Typhoon Noru, whereas two, namely San Luis and Dingalan, were assessed to have been heavily affected. Typhoon Noru made its second landfall in **Dingalan**, and a State of Calamity was declared on 27 September. It caused massive damage to shelter affecting almost 2,000 families at a total estimated cost of \$187,000 (P 11 million), damage to government infrastructure at a tentative cost of \$1.2M (P 70.5 million), and losses in agriculture and fisheries, which are the main livelihood activities in this 3rd class town, at \$2M (P 119.2 million). Specifically lost are anticipated production from rice, banana, coconut, cacao, and other high value crops.

Additionally, Dingalan sustained losses of \$23,000 (P 1.35million) in livestock, and damage to 423 fishing vessels at an estimated cost of \$576,000 (P 33.9 million). Dingalan's fishing sector supplies not only the local market but also Metro Manila markets, among them Malabon.

Meanwhile, **San Luis** reported a similar trend. No figures were provided on losses in agriculture at the time of survey, however, information gathered indicated damage to rice, banana, coconut, corn, cacao, pineapple, which are major crops grown by about 3,000 farmers. These losses in agriculture will affect other related sources of income, such as those coming from chips making or tableya production. The fishing community

was likewise heavily affected, with about 3,000 individuals in the fishing sector, with specifically 1,500 of them considered as vulnerable fisherfolk.

As of September 26, there were 1,180 families or 4,965 people taking temporary shelter in 77 evacuation centers in the 8 municipalities of Aurora Province. By September 29, 2022, almost 61% of the evacuation centers in Aurora are already closed and erected makeshift shelter houses or returned to repair their shelters. There are no longer displaced individuals who are staying with their relatives and friends or outside evacuation centers. While there are still 958 families reported (3,591 individuals displaced) in 30 inside evacuation centers in the Municipality of Dingalan and Dipaculao. Displaced families are not expected to remain longer and may leave evacuation centres as early as possible.

The super typhoon Karding compromised Aurora communities' access to nutrition services and nutritious and diversified diets, increasing the risk of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women. Aurora's acute malnutrition prevalence is manageable at 2.2%, stunting rates is at 12% based on provincial electronic Operation Timbang data, the eOPT, a periodic growth monitoring of children conducted for the first quarter of 2022 is only covering 74% of the population.

In education, 40% of 17 schools in the town of Dingalan were affected (both totally and partially damaged) and need immediate repair. The damage in Dingalan town in terms of classrooms costs around \$125,000 (P 7,377,000.00). In San Luis, 20% from 22 schools were affected (both totally and partially damaged). All the identified schools are located in coastal areas.

DSWD distributed 85\$ (P5,000) financial assistance to each of the 475 families in Dingalan, Aurora. There are 3,000 provisions of bottles of 7-liter purified drinking water for distribution to the affected communities.

The immediate needs expressed in order not to compromise food security were the provision of multi-purpose cash and short-term livelihoods, such as the provision of seeds and cash for work to restore boats, solar lamps. Also, Nutrition-In-Emergencies and Information Management (NIE-IM), Maternal Nutrition and Infant and Young Child Feeding MNIYCN capacities at the local level need to be provided to ensure preparedness.

Nueva Ecija



©Malimba ES at Gapan City, Nueva Ecija/OCHA

The Nueva Ecija Assessment Team was comprised of OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, Plan International, UNHCR, CRS, Save the Children, ACCORD/CARE and local NGO KASAPI, covering 12 municipalities on 27-28 September.

About 50 per cent of Nueva Ecija province (out of 27 municipalities, 5 cities and 529 barangays) was affected. As of 27 September, some of the 19,193 families (95,517 individuals) who were preemptively evacuated remain in evacuation centers and 14 municipalities are still without power outages.

In **Gabaldon**, the power is expected to be restored in 2-3 weeks in some areas. **Brgy. Camatchile** remains unreachable and isolated with the only bridge connecting them to the rest of the Municipality destroyed by the typhoon. The municipal LGU started reconstructing the riverway to provide emergency access to the isolated to the isolated barangay. All the evacuees and the community in Brgy. Camatchile were initially given relief packs by the Local Government Unit (LGU). Damage to agricultural production has been reported and with access concerns, food and water distribution in this isolated barangay is critical for the next few weeks.

Most of the damage was due to high winds that mainly affected the agricultural sector, although, under the direction of the local government units, some farmers were able to harvest their crops two days before landfall. According to the Governor, damages are estimated at \$54,000 (P3.2 billion) in rice and high-value crops, with the possibility of this increasing as the rains continue to intermittently affect the province. A mechanism is in place to harvest flood-damaged crops, but it will lose 40-50% of its capacity.

More than half (54% or 415) of the evacuated families are Indigenous People from the Dumagat tribe of Sitios Pagsanjan, Pindangan, Mabaldog, and Kanawan in Barangays Dupinga and Pag-Asa. As of 28

September 2022, three (3) of these Sitios Pagsanjan and Mabaldo and Karugang are still reported to be inaccessible due to the rising levels of water and damaged access roads.

The Provincial Food Council has launched an early response and recovery program to reduce the socio-economic impact on farmers through the direct purchase of agricultural products without intermediaries. The Governor extended an open invitation to the Provincial Food Council team, to support it with their technical expertise and how it can be improved.

Regarding the education sector, which covers Congressional Districts 3 and 4 (out of 27 municipalities and 5 cities), 17 out of 33 districts in the province have been damaged. Most of the affected schools are in Gapan, Jaen and Gabaldon and adjacent municipalities, where damage to schools and gyms has been reported. An estimated 50% of the 350,000 students and 50% of the 14,000 teachers are affected. The suspension of classes was in effect during the assessment. But even before the STY Karding, the two districts already reported the breach of 1,894 classrooms.

While most municipalities have reported minor problems, the municipalities of San Antonio and Jaen were the most affected, with some protection issues in MHPSS. Most schools are damaged and there is a high impact on infrastructure. During the assessments, the need for shelter repair kits, food and non-food items, emergency telecommunications and sustainable livelihood support, agricultural supplies were highlighted.

Priority Needs

Based on initial assessment findings, identified priority clusters include shelter (including core relief items / non-food items); food security and agriculture, livelihood, water, sanitation and hygiene; health and nutrition; education; psychosocial support and protection. Equally important were logistics and coordination activities.

Immediate priority needs include food, temporary shelter, agricultural inputs, water and hygiene kits, livelihood/cash for work as well as protection services. Affected people expressed the preference for cash assistance to access local markets where they had been restored. Shelter repair kits are preferred in island barangays since shelter repair materials are not readily available in the local market.



© Barangay Paltik Dingalan/World Vision

Education

The Education Cluster has reported that 21,509 schools were affected, interrupting or suspending classes for 12.1 million pupils in 8 regions. With the exit of the storm most students have been able to

return to schools except for students in 16 schools divisions where resumption of classes still needs to be verified.

Around 141 schools have reported damages, with 336 classrooms totally damaged and 365 partially damaged including around 158 toilets and 109 handwashing facilities. The estimated cost of repair and reconstruction is now at PHP 1.02 billion, in addition PHP 390.53 million worth of school furniture, learning materials, and computers affected.

152 schools are currently being used as evacuation centres, renewing the call for more evacuation centres to be built outside of school grounds so as not to hamper the education of learners. Based on the rapid needs assessment, the Department of Education and Education partners observed that the most affected areas are Jaen, Gabaldon, and Gapan in the Province of Nueva Ecija and Dingalan and San Luis in the Province of Aurora citing severe infrastructure and non-infrastructure damages in schools.

Partners have also noted that data on the effects of the typhoon on Early Childhood Education remains limited.

Key immediate needs include:

- Temporary learning spaces
- Learners' kits
- Teachers' kits
- Psychosocial support



© Barangay Calutcut, Island Barangay, Quezon/UNFPA

Emergency Shelter

According to the NDRRMC Situational Report, the total number of damaged houses has reached 20,628 (18,110 partially damaged, 2,518 totally damaged) across Regions 1,2,3 and CAR. Rapid assessments in three heavily impacted areas report that the number of damaged houses in Nueva Ecija reached to 13,670 (12, 563 houses-Partially Damaged) and Quezon Province to 4,315 totally damaged and 2,566 partially damaged with the municipality of Burdeos having 75% of the houses damaged beyond repair. While Aurora province had 421 partially damaged houses and 181 totally damaged.

Using the 2019 Census data by the Philippine Statistics Authority on “Household building construction materials of the outer walls and roof by city/municipality”, assumptions can be drawn out that houses with walls and roof made of light and salvaged materials could be owned or occupied by families living in poverty line. Based on available data, Nueva Ecija has the highest percentage of damaged houses made of light and salvageable materials at 41%, followed by Aurora at 8% and Quezon at 8%.

Upon observation, validated by community feedback, the shelter damage was mainly caused by strong winds and slow dissipation of flood waters due to high tide. Tarpaulins are needed for families temporarily displaced and for houses needing repairs. To ensure the safe return of families, durable house repairs incorporating DDR compliant solutions and the 8-key messages building back safer are key solution strategies.

Considering the spread and geographical separation of provinces and areas significantly impacted by Super Typhoon Noru, there will be a need to establish shelter coordination at regional hub level. The Philippine shelter cluster coordinator will be providing coordination, technical and IM support to these regional hub coordinators. At the national level, the Philippine Shelter Cluster Coordinator will continuously be working in close collaboration with the government lead shelter agency, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group.

Key immediate needs include:

- Immediate distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits or Shelter Repair Kits and Essential Household Items to families with heavily damaged and destroyed houses.
 - Distribution Shelter Grade Tarpaulins
 - CGI Sheets and Tool Kits
 - Solar Lamps
 - Family Kits
 - Mosquito nets and blankets
- Promotion safe early return by moving directly to durable house repairs where possible.
- Dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on Building Back Safer (BBS), inclusive shelter design
- Conditional cash and voucher assistance to displaced families (rental support, hosted and hosting families support, labour support, tools, materials and fixings) with rapid market assessments.
- Technical assistance to those receiving cash and advisory services to the Cash Working Group to ensure consideration of shelter needs in cash grant programming.



©Distribution of Solar Lamps by IOM in Barangay Carlagan of Burdeos Municipality/IOM

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Evacuation Preparedness aka pre-emptive evacuations kept the casualties to the barest minimum. DSWD reports that 5,374 families or 22,908 persons are displaced in Regions I, III, IVA, V, and CAR (DROMIC Report #11). Out of this total displaced population, 2,849 families or 11,837 persons are currently taking temporary shelter in 127 evacuation centers and 2,525 families or 11,071 persons are temporarily staying with their relatives or friends.

Family Food Packs were not enough in some LGUs thus it was only distributed to those inside the evacuation centers. Other organizations provided support by distributing their own food packs and medicines to these affected areas. There is no electricity still in GIDA barangays which is a risk for GBV and other protection issues.

Families living in houses made of light materials sought shelter with their neighbors/families whose houses were made of concrete. Adequate space and privacy issues were raised. Monitoring for home-based IDPs is also needed to be able to provide shelter and other humanitarian assistance.

Several evacuation centers in the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Quezon, and Aurora have already closed with the residents wanting to return and repair their houses, thus the immediate need for tarpaulins and Shelter Repair Kits.

Overall, there is not much need for CCCM but for shelter repair materials.

Key immediate needs include:

- Hygiene Kits

- Shelter Repair Kits
- Shelter Tarpaulins
- Drinking water
- Solar Lamps
- Cash assistance to repair shelter

Emergency Telecommunications

Although there were reported disruptions, the overall impact of Super Typhoon Noru on local telecommunications infrastructures can be considered minimal. Private telecommunications teams were prepositioned in strategic areas allowing them to quickly restore their services. At this time, 100% restoration has been achieved in the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Zambales, Rizal and Quezon including the Polillo Group of Islands and Metro Manila. Network services restoration in Nueva Ecija, among the worst-hit provinces, is still ongoing with Voice and Data Services almost fully restored.

Three (3) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (MOVE) Kits were prepositioned in Batangas, Pampanga and in the national capital region. The kits were ready to be deployed but were discontinued after an assessment revealed the impact was lighter than expected.

Some electrical transmission lines and distribution utilities were also damaged causing major power interruptions in Nueva Ecija and Aurora provinces. Electrical companies had managed to restore power in some of the areas in those 2 mentioned provinces but most of the areas still do not have power. They are working round the clock to completely restore power at the soonest possible time.

Prior to landfall, the National ETC was activated for this operation. As of September 27, only Regions 3 and 4 ETC are currently activated.

Key immediate needs include:

- Support to DICT to reestablish connectivity in regional and local coordination offices and outposts.
- Support to humanitarian clusters and workers in areas where connectivity is not available.



© Aurora Market/WFP

Food Security and Agriculture

Based on assessments made by the Department of Agriculture DA regional field offices (DA-RFOs), damage and losses have been reported in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON and Bicol Region. The total amount of damage and losses in agriculture due to Super Typhoon Noru is at USD 35.5 million (PHP2.02 billion) with 117,663 MT of volume loss, affecting 91,944 farmers and fisherfolks with 150,693 hectares of agricultural areas. A summary of affected commodities is shown below, and figures are still subject to validation.

Commodity	Area Affected (Ha)	Volume Loss (MT)	Total Value (USD)
Rice	147,918	108,361	29.2 million
Corn	1,643	1,810	767,943
High-Value Crops	1,131	7,471	4.8 million
Fisheries	-	-	736,240
Livestock and Poultry	-	44,392 heads	128,578

Typhoon Noru has had a negative impact on families dependent on farming and fishing as their primary or secondary source of livelihood. While the DA has planned agricultural support (seeds, loans, fingerlings) to affected farmers and fishers, these communities will need additional assistance to supplement their basic needs as they re-establish their agriculture/fisheries-based livelihoods.

Six of the eight municipalities of Aurora province were mildly or not significantly affected, whereas San Luis and Dingalan, are assessed to have been heavily affected.

Typhoon Noru made its second landfall in Dingalan. It caused massive damage to shelter affecting almost 2000 families at an estimated cost of 11 million, damage to government infrastructure at a tentative cost of 70.5 million, and losses in agriculture and fisheries, which are the main livelihood activities in this 3rd class town, at 119.2 million. Specifically lost are anticipated production from rice, banana, coconut, cacao, and other high-value crops. Additionally, Dingalan sustained losses of 1.35million in livestock and damage to 423 fishing vessels at an estimated cost of 33.9 million. Dingalan's fishing sector supplies not only the local market but also Manila markets, among them Malabon.

Meanwhile, San Luis reported a similar trend. No figures were provided on losses in agriculture at the time of survey; however, information gathered indicated damage to rice, banana, coconut, corn, cacao, and pineapple, which are the major crops grown by about 3,000 farmers. The fishing community was likewise heavily affected, with about 3,000 individuals in the fishing sector, with specifically 1,500 of them considered vulnerable fisherfolk.

Around 17 of 27 Municipalities are badly affected in agriculture and livelihoods; almost 80% of rice has been damaged due to the typhoon. Vegetable prices almost doubled in the markets after the typhoon because most high-value crops were damaged. The PDRRM Council activated the state of emergency on 26th September 2022 so that barangays and municipalities to use their funds to support the affected population with limited cash support.

As of 28 September, the provincial agriculture estimated the cost of Palay is PHP 3.2 billion, PHP20 million for corn, and PHP 29 million for high-value crop production.

Barangay Umiray General Nakar, where farming is the main source of livelihood, reported that around 80% of farm fields were devastated.

Key immediate needs include:

- Multi-purpose cash transfers to cover immediate food needs, support the livelihoods of affected households, and allow affected people to restart agricultural, fisheries, and other livelihood activities.
- Agricultural and fisheries inputs to farmers/fishers whose crops and other assets destroyed by the typhoon
- Food Packs for affected families.
- Cash for Work/assets for farmers/fisherfolks to restore boats and affected people
- Cash assistance to the farmers and fishers
- Clear the roads from the farm to the market.



© Girl walking in the surroundings where her house used to be. Quezon/IOM

Health, Sexual Reproductive Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

The Department of Health (DOH) had reported 27 health facilities that were partially damaged but functional in Regions III and CALABARZON. There are 11 Barangay Health Stations (BHS), nine (9) are Rural Health Units (RHUs), and seven (7) are Hospitals in the current list. The estimated cost of damages as of today is \$291,660 (PHP 17,111,387). Given the power outage in the affected provinces, the concern for maintaining the cold chain for vaccines is urgent.

In Nueva Ecija, Dr. Paulino J Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center, a referral center for Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and Neonatal Care (CEMONC) services in the province remains functional despite damages. In Aurora, the provincial hospital and one big private hospital which provide CEMONC services are intact.

In Quezon, particularly in the municipality of Burdeos, health services such as medical consultations and facility-based deliveries are continuously provided. Health facilities in GIDA barangays (Brgy. Calutcot and Brgy. Mabini) health facilities were severely damaged. In Brgy. Calutcot, there are no regular health staff manning the Barangay Health Station/birthing center and a team of midwife, nurse and doctor visit the island once a month to provide consultations and services; while in Barangay Mabini, a midwife mans the station. Family planning particularly pills and DMPA are accepted by women in the community, many prefer progestin subdermal implant as well. There is a scheduled provision of family planning services but has been disrupted because of the crisis. Moreover, at the time of the assessment, there are about 25 pregnant women in the community. At face value, the majority of these pregnant women need focused and more frequent prenatal care as they have high risk pregnancy (pregnant adolescents, seemingly undernourished pregnant women, etc.). Access to correct health information including sexual and reproductive health

information is likewise critical for the affected community. A pregnant adolescent verbalized that she would deliver in her home. This reflects that there is a serious need for information on health risks and positive health-seeking behavior.

Adolescent pregnancy is rampant even before the typhoon. Interviews with barangay captain, barangay health workers and barangay nutrition scholars of Calutcot indicate high adolescent pregnancy in the island. Field staff were able to speak with six (6) girls who got pregnant (2 are currently pregnant aged 16,18). Youngest adolescent pregnancy recorded is 13 years old.

On 15 September 2022, the barangay had one pregnant woman die due to hemorrhage secondary to undetected uterine mass. Patients in the barangay requiring urgent medical care provided at the rural health center are ferried to the mainland municipality which is about two hours. More complex medical cases like pregnant women requiring comprehensive obstetric care would be referred to the district hospital in Polillo municipality or in Manila which is about another one hour and seven hours travel time respectively. Pregnant women are at risk of dying considering the delaying factors in accessing health care. In addition, referral of complicated pregnancies and other emergency medical cases are hampered as the transportation cost is high and that monsoon season has begun. In addition, traditional birth practices in the island still persist. Pregnant women, if not transported to a functional health facility, have no resort but to deliver in homes with the assistance of traditional birth attendants which could be life-threatening.

At the time of the assessment, the Department of Health along with the Rural Health Unit provided about two boxes of various medicines (antibiotics, vitamins, antipyretics, etc.). Still, the medicines would not suffice for the needs of the affected community.

Early recovery planning for health is needed to ensure the health resilience of affected communities. These include the construction of a resilient potable water system, construction and/or repair of birthing health facilities and schools as typhoon-resilient facilities and strengthening of clinical capacities and referral mechanisms within the health care providers network through alternative service delivery mechanisms and communications.

Key immediate needs include:

- Repair of damaged health facilities
- Provision of Generator sets to Rural Health Units
- Anti-fungal ointment request of provinces that are still flooded
- Dissemination of information on prevention of Leptospirosis and other waterborne diseases
- Reiteration and implementation of Minimum Public Health Standards on evacuation centers and foster homes
- Disease surveillance in affected areas
- Provision of dignity kits, maternity packs and solar lamps, to women and girls.
- Provision of medical care and reproductive health care, maternal, newborn, and childcare including immunization, vaccination, family planning services especially to adolescent girls through reproductive health medical mission, with provision of drugs, medicines, and health equipment and supplies.
- Provision of standby boat for referral of pregnant women and GBV survivors.

Nutrition

Super Typhoon Noru has compromised the communities' access to nutrition services, nutritious and diversified diets, heightening the risk of malnutrition among children 0-5 years. Prior to landfall, malnutrition was high, with stunting reported at 32.2% in Quezon province, 18.8% in Nueva Ecija province, and 13% in Aurora province. The prevalence of wasting was also high in Nueva Ecija province (10 %), with Quezon and Aurora province reporting a low prevalence of 3.5% and 3% respectively. In 2019, a total of 56.4% of households in Nueva Ecija province and 61.8% in Quezon were reported as food insecure. Only 13.5% of children 6-23 months consume the Minimum Acceptable Diet in Quezon province and 6.4% in Nueva Ecija.

Initial assessments reveal that affected regions have an organized regional cluster. However, coordination of nutrition cluster partners at the provincial and municipal level remains a challenge. While the Operation Timbang (OPT) data was available and updated, the Nutrition Information Needs Assessment (NINA) tool was not utilized by the province due to limited knowledge and skills of the responsible nutrition and health staff.

According to DOH situational report, 27 health facilities in regions 3 and CALABARZON have been partially damaged by the typhoon. Based on the field assessments conducted by UNICEF and UN agencies, life-saving nutrition commodities such as RUTF, RUSF, Vitamin A, Iron and Folic Acid are available in the health facilities visited. However, the available supplies are likely to run out in the next three months therefore there is a need for the regional CHD to replenish the respective provinces and municipalities. Some frontline health and nutrition workers were also affected by the typhoon. Thus, the delivery of some health and nutrition services in the typhoon affected areas has been delayed and is expected to be challenging for the next few weeks.

For many households in the region, their livelihood is primarily based on agriculture. A vast spread of agricultural areas was destroyed by the typhoon and with limited food relief assistance to the affected families, limiting access to income and nutritious foods, these factors will lead to further deterioration of the nutrition and food security situation and increased levels of malnutrition in the coming days if action is not taken.

Key immediate needs include:

- Technical assistance to the province of Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija and municipalities on nutrition cluster leadership and information management.
- Distribution of essential nutrition supplies (RUTF, RUSF, Vitamin A, IFA) from the regional CHDs to the municipalities to maintain a steady supply of the commodities to prevent stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight in children under five years to prevent stunting, wasting, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight in children under five years,
- Replacement of the damaged anthropometric equipment, nutrition job aids, and IECs, including maternal nutrition, infant and young child feeding counselling tools, is needed to ensure continued delivery of essential nutrition services.
- Deliver evidence-based interventions with a workforce supported in refreshing and improving their knowledge and skills, building their nutrition capacity (NIE-IM, MNIYCN) to properly roll out the response activities-building.
- Tents to augment infrastructure for damaged Barangay Health Stations (BHS) and local health facilities

Logistics

Disruptions to logistics caused by Super Typhon Noru were kept to a minimum as there were no major damages reported to roads and transportation hubs. As a precaution, many flights and sea voyages were cancelled in anticipation of the storm's landfall but have since normalized with all airports and most seaports having resumed their operations. Six (6) seaports have yet to open, leaving around 600 passengers and other vessels stranded in CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and NCR.

While in the immediate aftermath of the storm certain areas were temporarily cut off due to lack of road access, progress has been made in road clearing and thus many roads have now reopened. Clearing of landslides and fallen power lines were prioritized by the Government.

ROADS & BRIDGES

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has identified nine (9) total road closures as of 12 noon of Monday, September 26, 2022. These are, one (1) road in the Cordillera Administrative Region, one (1) in region 1, two (2) in Region 2, four (4) in Region 3, and one (1) in Region 4-A are currently closed due to safety reasons, damaged pavement, landslides, flooding and fallen electrical post brought about by the typhoon. DPWH also monitored three (3) roads with limited access namely: Apalit-Macabebe- Masantol Road, K0062+200 - K0062+400, Calsada Bayu, Sta. Rita, Macabebe, Pampanga due to flooding; Olangapo-Bugallon Road, sections in Sindol, San Felipe and San Rafael, Cabanang, Zambales due to flooding; and the Rizal Bdry. - Famy - Quezon Bdry. Road, K0076 + 150 to K0076 + 550 in Laguna due to flooding.

As per NDRRMC report on September 29, there are 14 roads and 9 bridges that are still not passable due to various reasons, these are in the areas of Region 2, Region 3, CALABARZON, Region 5 and CAR.

POWER

NDRRMC reported on September 29 that a total of 116 cities/municipalities experienced power interruption/outage, of which power supply in 62 cities/municipalities were already restored. Power outages and water disruptions are still present in some affected areas but seem to be returning to normal rapidly. Power outages can affect the ability for banks to reopen and ATM machines to work as well as for water pumping to occur.

The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) reported that as of 6pm on September 27, Cabanatuan-Bulual to 69kV Line transmission line is unavailable. One (1) 230kV line remains unavailable, particularly the San Rafael-Cabanatuan 230kV Line 1. NGCP deployed 14 line gangs comprised of over 100 personnel and two choppers to inspect and assess the impact of the typhoon to its operations and facilities. Aerial inspection and simultaneous restoration activities are being conducted on areas already accessible. Please note that this update pertains only to the status of the transmission network. Specific cities and municipalities affected by the unavailable transmission facilities are determined by concerned local Distribution Utilities, unless the outage affects the entire franchise area.

Key immediate needs include:

- Immediate clearing of road debris in the remaining areas not yet cleared. This includes removal of fallen power transmission post by the local power distribution companies.
- Restoration of power supply and water to areas still without power.



©Totally damaged shelter in Barangay Malocawe, Dingalan/IOM/Gliza Maraon

Protection, including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

Based on the DROMIC report of DSWD, there are 305,133 affected individuals (88,096 affected families) in Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quezon. Of this number, 9,233 are internally displaced persons (IDPs) (2,205 families) staying inside and outside evacuation centers/home-based IDPs. It was reported that there is a lack of monitoring of the home-based IDPs in other municipalities. This is a protection issue as home-based IDPs would be left behind in terms of access to humanitarian assistance.

While the affected population and IDPs can obtain information through community leaders and social media, there is a concern pertaining to accessing humanitarian assistance/aid information. There are reported increases in vegetable prices, affecting food consumption of both the affected population and the IDPs.

There were reports that in other evacuation centers (i.e., Polillo), the affected population have yet to receive assistance from the local government. Moreover, there were concerns regarding the absence of a specific section for pregnant women, elderly and other vulnerable groups in evacuation centers.

Access to some areas is also a concern. Whilst the main road is passable and cleared of debris, other barangays can only be accessed by motorcycle or on foot (for instance in Jaen, Nueva Ecija). As of this report writing, no issues relating to housing, land and property issues (e.g., no-build zones) were reported), and no reported tensions between the host communities and the IDPs were observed.

Meanwhile, other protection issues are yet to surface given that the people are focused on survival and recovery phase. Continuous protection monitoring should be in place to ensure that the affected population and IDPs concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

Gender-Based Violence

There are existing protection mechanisms as well as referral pathways in some areas. However, there are pockets of concern especially in evacuation sites and in areas where damage is more severe. In some assessment reports, girls expressed concern in regard to their exposure to violence since they share hygiene facilities with both sexes and lack personal effects for hygiene management. In Polillo, reports of attempted rape were reported by young girls. Some men also expressed their high levels of stress. Female headed households with damaged buildings have no support system to rebuild their shelter. Therefore, continuous monitoring of protection issues should therefore be in place.

There have been observed gaps. For example, no GBV services, especially Clinical management of Rape and PSS, in Brgy. Mabini, Burdeos. In geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) in Quezon, there are no health personnel trained to provide specialized medical response like clinical management of rape for women and children. There are also no support groups and psychosocial services for survivors. Notably, there is increased risk for GBV as the livelihood in the community were destroyed, houses were torn down, power supply is down, and lighting at minimal. As there are no medical and social services readily available in the island barangay, access to these services in the mainland municipality is a challenge. The Barangay Desk Officers spaces were destroyed.

Child Protection

Three days have passed since Super Typhoon Noru struck the country. Several government agencies and humanitarian organizations have already started conducting rapid needs assessment in affected areas such as Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5. Unfortunately, sex, age, disability disaggregated data remain to be missing in most reports. Specific protection concerns and issues of displaced and affected children, adolescents, and youth, including protection, still need to be gathered to better design emergency response.

With 299 evacuation centers found in Regions III, IV-A, and V to temporarily house 5,861 families, there is a possibility of children getting separated from their families and guardians or unaccompanied which increases their protection risks. If they are not identified, traced, and reunified, they can easily fall prey to neglect, exploitation, and violence. It is also not clear if there are designated safe spaces for children and youth in evacuation centers and if psychosocial support services are being provided. However, one of the reports also showed that there were limited safe spaces for pregnant and lactating women. The lack of privacy in most evacuation centres increases the vulnerabilities of each family.

The typhoon has negatively impacted the food security of the affected regions since it was almost harvest season. This could make worse the fragile situation of the displaced families that could lead to parents and even young people looking for food to survive. If protection is not incorporated in the emergency response, there might be those who would take advantage and offer food, money, or relief goods in exchange for sexual service.

The situation may exacerbate existing child protection issues such as child labor in Quezon and early marriage in Nueva Ecija especially for indigenous cultural communities. Whether there are or no reports of child protection and gender-based violence, mitigation, prevention, and response measures should be put in place right away to protect vulnerable groups from further harm. Needs assessment results showed that community-based protection mechanisms such as security patrols, help desks of the Philippine National Police, Barangay VAWC desks, referral pathways, and Local Councils for the Protection of Children are in place and functioning.

This may worsen with the COVID-19 health protocols wherein physical distancing or use of masks may be limited.

Key immediate needs include:

- **Continuous IDP Protection Monitoring Including Child Protection and Gender-based Violence**
 - Ensure implementation of protection protocols for evacuation centers and relevant areas
 - Inclusion of home-based IDPs/living outside of evacuation centers in the provision of humanitarian assistance i.e., systematic distribution measures
 - Identification, family tracing, and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children
 - Ensure persons with disabilities, persons with special needs, indigenous cultural communities, LGBTQI+, solo parents, and other vulnerable groups are given equal access to humanitarian assistance and their protection needs and concerns are addressed and promptly acted upon
- **Mitigation and Prevention Measures are in Place**
 - Protection referral pathways are updated and displayed in evacuation centers with hotline numbers
 - Awareness-raising and information dissemination on key protection issues such as child protection and gender-based violence are made available esp. in GIDA areas
 - Establishment of child/adolescent and women-friendly spaces esp. in evacuation centers to support PSS for women and girls and where possible a complete GBV case management services
 - Establishment of Help Desks and continuous provision of support for Barangay Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Desks as well as Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD)
 - Support to female and child/youth headed households to repair their shelters
 - Support with Dignity kits and solar lamps
 - Segregation of space and bathing facilities and latrines at the evacuation centers to promote privacy and protection
- **Accessibility and Availability of Multi-Sectoral Response Services**
 - Mental health care and psychological support services for children, adolescents, youth, and women are promptly provided
 - Case management led by the multi-disciplinary teams
 - Access of women and girls to clinical management of rape
- **Access to Information**
 - Provision of support on information management
 - Ensure availability of information regarding access to humanitarian assistance
 - Monitoring of price increase of commodities that affects the food consumption or commodities



©WASH services affected in Barangay Calutcut, Burdeos/UNFPA

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Unlike in previous major emergencies, Typhoon Noru did not result in the widespread disruption of water and sanitation facilities and services. There was no prolonged suspension in the operations of water concessionaires, no long queue over limited water tankers, no extended closures of water refilling stations where people have been used to sourcing their drinking water for a fee.

Evacuation centers, utilised mainly for pre-emptive evacuation, quickly closed along with WASH issues that could have arisen. The storm, however, still brought heavy rains, flooding in many areas across Regions III and IV, submerging Level I water sources (pumps, wells, bore holes), possibly contaminating them. Quite alarmingly, people immediately went back to utilizing these sources after floods subsided without the benefit of water testing.

Thousands of houses across the affected regions were either partially or totally damaged, presumably along with their sanitation facilities. DepEd reported at least 56 schools sustaining significant destruction along with 86 toilets and 44 handwashing facilities (Education Cluster Update, 27 September 2022). DOH indicated that 27 healthcare facilities were affected but remain functional, including their WASH facilities (DOH Situation Report No 11 on Typhoon Karding, 28 September 2022). Overall, the impact of Typhoon Noru on WASH seems rather minimal especially when noting that concerned government agencies and local government units (LGUs) are continuously extending WASH assistance: DSWD serves its family food packs always along with bottled water (DSWD DROMIC Report #11 on Super Typhoon Karding, 29 September 2022); DOH continuously mobilizing hygiene kits along with medicines and medical supplies, at least in Region III (DOH Situation Report No 11 on Typhoon Karding, 28 September 2022); private sector groups also being involved in WASH.

Pockets of critical WASH needs exist in areas that were initially impacted where Noru first made landfall as a super typhoon, in particular, the island municipalities in Northern Quezon (Polilio, Burdeos, Panukulan, Patnanungan, others). In these towns, particularly in communities in the mountains and along the shorelines,

WASH needs are alarmingly evident, from limited access to safe water, increased rate of open defecation, to as high as 90% of houses flattened to the ground. Typhoon Noru exacerbated pre-existing WASH underdevelopment such as saltwater intrusion, and very low water and sanitation coverage. As most of these communities are Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA), further assessment is required. Typhoon Noru negative impact on people's livelihoods—farmer's losing their crops, fishers missing their boats—will ultimately affect their access to safer WASH in the coming months, heightening their vulnerability to WASH-related diseases.

Key immediate needs include:

- Testing of water sources in communities that were momentarily submerged in floodwaters, including treatment of these sources as may be necessary
- Limited distribution of water kits (water containers with water treatment chemicals) and hygiene kits, particularly in the island-municipalities in Northern Quezon
- Distribution of sanitation (latrine) repair kits, especially in the island-municipalities in Northern Quezon, however depending on results of shelter assessment



©Fishlanding area. Barangay Paltic, Dingalan/IOM/Gliza Maraon.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Nueva Ecija

Around 50% of the province, mainly in Congressional Districts 3 & 4, have been affected by Typhoon Noru. Irrigated palay/rice production suffered damages with severe winds flattened standing palay and other commercial crops. Rain in the northeastern seaboard flooded rice fields downstream, affecting near-to-harvest palay.

Key immediate needs include:

- Government subsidy/support for hybrid seeds and fertilizers to affected rice farmers

- Planting materials and inputs for high-value crops production and restocking livestock (chickens, ducks, swine for additional income for farming families)
- Cash for Work to repair damaged fields and debris clearing prior to cultivation

Aurora

Heavily impacted were the southernmost municipalities of San Luis and Dingalan in Aurora, affecting over 5,000 families engaged in agricultural production and capture fisheries. Main crops destroyed were rice, corn and coconut. High value crops, i.e., cacao, pineapple and vegetables were likewise damaged. Boats, gears and paraphernalia were damaged/destroyed preventing fishers from going out to sea.

Key immediate needs include:

- Government subsidy/support for hybrid seeds and fertilizers to affected rice farmers
- Planting materials and inputs for high-value crops production
- Cash for Work for boat repair and boat repair kits including gears and paraphernalia
- New boats

Quezon

The northern and island barangays of Burdeos and Panukulan and northern coastal villages of Polillo bore the brunt of Noru's severe winds. The island barangay of Calutcot and hard-to-reach Carlagan in Burdeos were ground zero.

Rice farms were flattened and while there were no visible felled/broken coconuts, Noru's severe winds has negatively impacted coconut production for the next 12-24 months. Banana stands were wiped out. Both coconut and banana are cash crops for the poor island households. Over 90% of registered motorized and non-motorized boats, motors, gears and paraphernalia were totally damaged. Boats secured inland before the typhoon were not spared as waves crashed into the coastal communities. Fishing is the main source of livelihood in the affected areas and in some islands, capture fisheries is the only economic activity as there is no available land for agricultural production.

Key immediate needs include:

- Government support for the procurement/fabrication of new boats, gears and paraphernalia to restore fishing activities of the coastal villages severely impacted by Noru
- Cash for Work and boat repair kits for boats that can be repaired
- Household-based renewable energy systems in the off-grid islands to support economic and social (education) activities during nighttime. It is also a protection mechanism for women, young girls and the elderly

Medium-Term Needs

- Introduction of off-farm livelihood activities to complement income from agricultural production and capture fisheries
- Assessment of municipal fishing grounds in Aurora and Quezon, including health status of mangroves, sea grass beds, corals among others to inform fishery management plans
- Capacity building on fabrication of reinforced fiberglass boats including provision of mould, resins and fibers
- Conduct LGU Assessment in Burdeos and Panukulan in Quezon, Dingalan and San Luis in Aurora to determine capacity and gaps in recovery planning and resource mobilization
- Targeted value chain analysis of the local fishing industry in the Polillo group of islands towards increasing income of coastal families from the fishery sector

- Conduct of community/barangay-level disaster risk reduction management capacity building towards formulation of multi-hazard contingency plan and DRR plan for the affected islands and coastal barangays



© Coordination meeting with the mayor of Burdeos municipality, Quezon/OCHA

Coordination

The humanitarian response in the Philippines is led and coordinated by the Government through the NDRRMC. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) closely monitored STY Karding and convened ad-hoc meetings at the strategic (HCT) and operational (ICCG) level. HCT clusters through the ICCG are in coordination with cluster members/partners in discussing preparedness and response measures.

On behalf of the HCT, OCHA participated in the NDRRMC meetings to gather information on government plans; on which the same information is the basis of HCT/ICCG's next steps. OCHA is also coordinating with OCD.

On 27 September, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator extended HCT's expression of solidarity to the Philippine government and commitment to support its ongoing relief efforts in strategic areas. An HCT inter-agency, multi-sectoral rapid assessment was organized on 27 September and teams were deployed to Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Quezon on 28 September. During assessments, partners observed the need to further strengthen coordination, in particular in the most affected GIDA areas, to ensure systematic mapping of needs, response and gaps.

Key needs include:

- Continued communication and close coordination with the authorities
- Joint advocacy messages to raise awareness and promote accountability to affected people and centrality of protection

Operational Constraints

Access

There were no specific security concerns at the time assessments were conducted. Most assessed areas could be reached through the road network. Some roads were temporarily cut off due to landslides, floods, downed power lines and trees. Weather conditions also hampered field visits. In island municipalities, sea access was available although there are challenges in reaching the island barangays because of very limited and costly transportation options. Similarly, many parts of coastal barangays have narrow, dirt roads and are accessible by motorcycles or tricycles only. There was heavy rain on 28-29 September in the Polillo group of islands.

Transmission of information was normal but for some affected areas still experience unstable internet connection and intermittent power supply.

Operational Capacity

With the proximity of the affected areas to Metro Manila, HCT member agencies with Red Cross and local partners were able to deploy to conduct rapid assessment and conduct targeted immediate response, as requested by the authorities.



©HCT Interagency coordination meeting

About the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

The HCT, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, and supported by OCHA as a secretariat, has as its overall goal to ensure that inter-agency humanitarian action alleviates human suffering and protects the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people in need. As the inter-agency humanitarian leadership body in the Philippines, the HCT's primary purpose is to provide strategic direction for in-country based humanitarian organizations with national partners in humanitarian responses. The HCT members include Humanitarian Coordinator–Chair, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, Save the Children (co-lead for Education Cluster), Action Against Hunger, ACTED, ADRA (PINGON co-convenor), CARE, Oxfam (PINGON convenor), Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines, Philippine Partnership for Emergency Response and Resilience, UN Civil Society Assembly. Observers include UN Resident Coordinator Office, UNDSS, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Philippine Red Cross, Embassy of Australia, ECHO, Embassy of Japan, Spain/AECID, USAID and the private sector - PDRF.

The HCT makes decisions to ensure that humanitarian action at the country level in the Philippines is well coordinated, principled, timely, effective and efficient. It also ensures that adequate prevention, preparedness, risk and security management measures are in place and functioning.

The HCT is ultimately accountable to the people in need. The Government of the Philippines retains the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within the country, as well as for the protection of its citizens. The HCT operates in support of and in coordination with national and local authorities.