



THE PHILLIPINES: TYPHOONS

As CRS and our partners move swiftly to bring affected families vital shelter and supplies, communities where CRS works report increased preparedness due to resilience programming.

A woman attempts to salvage items from her home in the aftermath of Typhoon Vamco, in Santa Ana barangay in the city of San Mateo in Rizal province.

Photo by Jomari Guillermo for CRS



Philippines map by Tom Walsh / Noun Project

CONTEXT

The Philippines is reeling from back-to-back typhoons that devastated homes and communities in late October and early November. These storms destroyed vital water infrastructure, flooded cities and left hundreds of thousands of people displaced. Compounding the need is the high number of COVID-19 cases that makes relief efforts particularly difficult.

On November 11, Typhoon Vamco, called Ulysses locally, struck Central Luzon, north of the capital, Manila, with winds of nearly 100 mph, triggering extensive flooding in several areas, including Metro Manila, which is composed of 16 cities. At least 879,000 people are affected across 48 cities in eight regions, and 366,700 people have been displaced. Some 303,100 people are staying in evacuation centers. According to the Philippine government, infrastructure damage is estimated at \$205.9 million, and damage to agriculture at \$20.1 million.

On October 31, Super Typhoon Goni, called Rolly locally, made landfall on the eastern island of Catanduanes with winds of up to 195 mph. More than 2.3 million people are affected across eight regions, with 112,000 people staying in evacuation centers or with other families. Said to be the strongest storm since 2013's Typhoon Haiyan, Goni caused widespread damage to roads and bridges, as well as power outages. So far, 25 people have been reported dead, 399 injured and six missing. The government estimated \$245 million worth of damage to infrastructure, and a loss to crops, livestock, fisheries and agricultural facilities of \$62 million. More than 36,000 homes were destroyed in Albay and Catanduanes.

THE PHILIPPINES



An estimated 346,000 people sought refuge after Super Typhoon Goni destroyed homes. The government is providing inflatable dividers in evacuation centers to offer privacy and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Photo by CRS staff



PRIORITY NEEDS

Typhoon Vamco: In Central Luzon, priority needs for families include food, water, hygiene items, household items and shelter materials.

Super Typhoon Goni: Across Albay and Camarines Sur provinces and the island province of Catanduanes, priority needs include the repair and rebuilding of people's homes, as well as water and sanitation systems, household and hygiene items for daily living, and access to food and potable water.

CRS PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Typhoon Vamco

Due to a confluence of social, political and economic factors, the families, communities, and government bodies in poor and hazard-prone areas of Metro Manila are especially at risk and disproportionately affected when a natural disaster strikes.

Since 2015, CRS has invested in strengthening local government emergency preparedness for high-risk *barangays*, or districts, in and around Metro Manila to increase family resilience to flooding and earthquakes. Program activities focus on building technical capacity at the city or municipal level, improving coordination at the watershed level, and supporting families to develop preparedness plans, including with strengthened savings and financial stability.

As part of these efforts, CRS installed five emergency howler sirens in five *barangays* in Rodriguez, a municipality in Rizal province east of Manila. The sirens were used during Typhoon Vamco. CRS has also previously helped *barangay* disaster risk reduction, or DRR, and management councils to build capacity to activate task groups during emergencies, and assisted them with making contingency plans for flooding.

Glen Evangelista, chairperson of San Jose *barangay*, Rodriguez, Rizal, said the contingency plan formulated with CRS was fully activated. When the typhoon warning for Metro Manila and Rizal province was raised to Signal 3—indicating wind speeds rising to 74-105 mph—the local DRR and management councils deployed task groups and triggered the emergency sirens to alert their communities. By the time Signal 4 was raised, the evacuation procedures had been fully implemented in San Jose. As a result, although seven deaths were recorded in these communities, many lives were saved thanks to a combination of early evacuation, the CRS-installed alert systems, and the higher level of community preparedness resulting from DRR activities.

CRS' livelihoods programming has further helped vulnerable families to improve their resilience and ability to plan and prepare for disasters. It included the formation of micro-savings groups, which, in many of the areas affected by Typhoon Vamco, have decided to have an early share-out of their savings in order to bolster recovery. CRS is also planning to provide cash assistance to families impacted by both the typhoon and COVID-19.

Super Typhoon Goni

CRS has sent emergency shelter kits, tarps, tool kits and water purification tablets to support 835 families in Albay and a further 835 families in Catanduanes. In both areas, our work will focus on the repair and rebuilding of water infrastructure and safe homes. Among other proposed activities, CRS will work with diocesan Caritas partners to serve 3,000 families, or about 15,000 people, with water, sanitation and hygiene support, including cash and voucher assistance. The support will include access to potable water, latrine repair and desludging, and the repair of local water systems in the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes and Camarines Sur.



“When the typhoon warning was raised to Signal 3, local DRR task groups were deployed and the emergency sirens triggered ... and by the time Signal 4 was raised, evacuation procedures had been fully implemented.

Glen Evangelista
Chairperson, San Jose
barangay, Rodriguez, Rizal

HOW TO HELP

- Donate online: [Support.crs.org/typhoon-goni](https://support.crs.org/typhoon-goni)
- Donate by phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS
- Donate by check: Philippines Typhoon Response Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303