



Overview

- **Very heavy rainfall and thunderstorms hit Maguindanao del Sur province**, in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), southern Philippines, on 18-19 June, causing floods and affecting more than 50,000 people. **Heavy rainfall continued to affect western Luzon and Mindanao Island since 11 July**, causing floods and landslides that resulted in casualties and damage and affecting over 600,000 people.
- On 24 July, the **combined effects of the Southwest Monsoon, enhanced by Tropical Cyclone Gaemi** (local name: Carina), brought **heavy to intense rains across the Philippines**. Northern Luzon, particularly the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, and Ilocos Norte, experienced severe impacts, while Central Luzon provinces Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija faced severe flooding and power outages. In Metro Manila, home to 13.5 million people, heavy rainfall caused urban flooding, road closures, and significant disruptions. More than **880,000 people had been affected by typhoon Gaemi, and 612,000 had been displaced**.
- Tropical Cyclone Gaemi, which has intensified into a **Super Typhoon**, has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Thursday morning, but a number of areas in Metro Manila remain flooded.

Context

Since mid-June, intense rainfall affected the island of Mindanao, Southern Philippines, as well as the south-west of the Visayas archipelago (mainly the islands of Cebu and Negros), two regions that had already been experiencing regular flooding for several weeks. Further heavy rainfall had then hit the island of Mindanao from 8 July, affecting at least 600,000 people and destroying hundreds of homes. In both cases, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was among the worst affected areas, with more than 100,000 people impacted in the province of Maguindanao del Sur alone.

Intense armed violence further aggravated the humanitarian situation in BARMM. At least four firefights were reported between 22 and 24 July in the Special Geographical Areas, displacing a further 2,500 people to improvised evacuation sites in neighbouring villages.

On 19 July, **two tropical depressions developed off the Philippines:** Butchboy in the South China Sea, and Gaemi (or Carina, as it is known locally) in the Philippine Sea. Gaemi, which intensified into a typhoon, came closer to the island of Luzon in the north of the country, with winds exceeding 100 km/h, prompting a "red alert" from the Disaster Response Control Centre. Although it did not hit the Philippines directly, Gaemi enhanced the Southwest monsoon, triggering **heavy to intense rainfall and causing flash floods, flooding, landslides and power cuts** over a large part of the country.

According to OCHA, by 24 July, **more than 880,000 people had been affected by typhoon Gaemi, and 612,000 had been displaced.** Initial media reports put the death toll at thirteen.

The north of the island of Luzon (provinces of Cagayan, Isabela and Ilocos Norte) bore the brunt of the storm, but the centre (Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija) is also facing severe flooding. The densely populated western part of the island (the provinces of Abra, Benguet, Bataan, Zambales, or Rizal) and Metro Manila also experienced rainfall ranging from 100 to 200 millimeters on 24 July.

The capital, where the authorities declared the **State of Calamity**, was particularly hit hard by devastating **urban flooding**, with **water reaching waist-high** and even shoulder-high in some places. Search and rescue teams were overwhelmed, forcing some victims to swim out of the flooded streets on their own. The level of the Marikina River, which runs through Metro Manila, exceeded 20 meters, overflowing in low-lying areas. Finally, Quezon City received 458 millimeters of rain in 24 hours, more than during the passage of typhoon Ketsana in 2009. According to the government, more than 55,000 people, including nearly 16,000 families, had been evacuated and were sheltering in evacuation centres.

Furthermore, a tanker carrying close to 1.5 million litres of industrial fuel has capsized and sank off the Philippine capital on Thursday. An **oil spill** has been detected but strong winds and high waves were hampering the authorities' response.

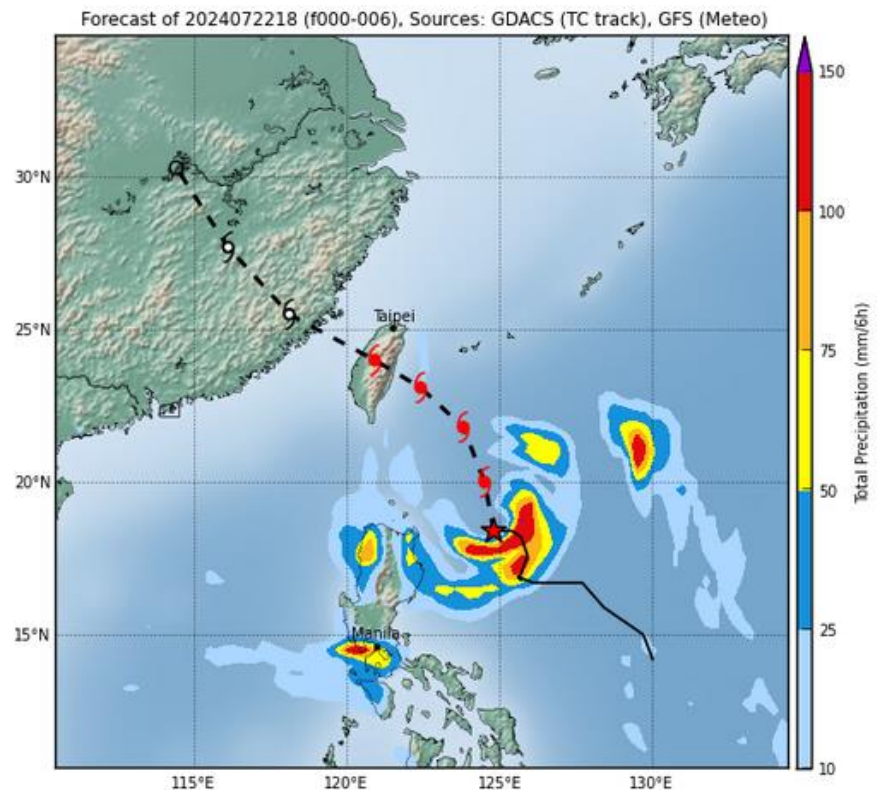
The combined effects of the southwest monsoon and two tropical cyclones within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) have impacted over 1,120,000 people in regions III, MIMAROPA VII, IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA, and BARMM. Almost all of the displaced population are from Mindanao.

Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [PAGASA](#), [GDACS](#), [OCHA](#), [ECHO](#), [DSWD](#), [Reliefweb](#), [BBC](#)

Humanitarian Situation

In Southern Philippines, **gaps and immediate needs remain important.** The continuous rainfall is likely to exacerbate the situation, with more areas becoming inundated and increasing the need for ongoing evacuation and relief efforts. The destabilized slopes due to continuous rain have

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Typhoon Gaemi's path and rainfall observed at 6pm on 22 July (Source: GDACS)

already caused landslides, damaging infrastructures, blocking roads and hampering rescue and relief operations by obstructing critical transportation routes. The flooding has severely affected agricultural lands, leading to crop destruction and livestock losses, which is likely to impact the food security situation in the region. The stagnant water increases the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and leptospirosis. The health system's capacity to respond is already stretched, and further deterioration will likely overwhelm health services. In BARMM, as of 18 July, UNFPA reported 1,455 families sheltered in 21 evacuation centres. The Shelter cluster expects the damage and needs to be similar to those experienced during typhoon Ketsana in 2009, with fewer houses destroyed but more demand for house cleaning materials, kitchen kits and sleeping kits. **The recurrent floodings in June and July 2024 exacerbated the vulnerability of the affected communities**, which did not have time to recover from the first floods and the devastating effects of El-Niño.

Following typhoon Gaemi, as of 25 July, some **21,318 families** (or 86,986 persons) **were being sheltered in 682 evacuation camps** in Luzon and western and central Visayas, with limited access to drinking water, food and other basic commodities, but numbers are expecting to increase. Access to drinking water, medicines and hygiene kits, as well as the restoration of sanitation systems, are among the most pressing needs according to UNFPA. **Needs assessments are currently ongoing in Metro Manila**, but the government recommends to focus immediate relief efforts on the distribution of food, water, medical supplies, and rescue and evacuation operations.

The floods are expected to have an **impact on the start of the new school year**, scheduled for 29 July. More than 100 schools have been flooded, and 21 are being used as evacuation centres. A further 103 classrooms have been damaged, and 102 partially damaged.

Sources: [UNFPA](#), [Save the Children](#), [OCHA](#) ¹²

Humanitarian Response

From 11 July 2024, **rapid assessment teams from the ACCESS consortium** (including HI) **were deployed** to the affected areas in Southern Philippines, in coordination with the local authorities. Save The Children distributed household kits in evacuation centres in Lanao Del Sur and Maguindanao Del Norte. Action Against Hunger distributed hygiene kits and provided psycho-social support sessions and psychological first aid, as well as protection services. Through the SUPREME BARMM project, OXFAM through local partners distributed hygiene and sleeping kits. Plan International gave out sleeping kits as well as a Community-based Protection Against Gender-based Violence orientation in Maguindanao del Norte.

The BARMM Ministry of Health distributed hygiene kits, medicine, and commodities in several provinces (Maguindanao del Sur and Lanao del Sur) and provided food packs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development has made available 1.4 million USD (PHP 82 millions) for Quick Response Fund. The Mindanao Humanitarian Team continues to support the government response clusters in assessments, response planning and provision of essential items and services.

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Following typhoon Gaemi, the **first rapid needs assessments have started on 25 July** by various actors, such as CARE, HI and other organizations. Most of the teams are based in Manila and are also significantly affected by the flooding.

The government has been on **Red Alert status** since 21 July and **has allocated more than 4 million USD** (PHP 245 million) **for relief efforts**. The government has taken the lead in assessment and response efforts, identifying temporary shelter materials, shelter repair kits, food and non-food items, medical supplies and rescue and evacuation operations as the priority needs. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) deployed teams for Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in the NCR amid floods caused by Typhoon Gaemi and the enhanced southwest monsoon (Habagat).

The NCR and a nearby province Batangas have declared a **State of Calamity** on 24 July. This declaration allows the national government to use **quick response funds** and **impose a price freeze on basic commodities**. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has distributed 500,000 family food packs (FFPs), 10,000 hygiene kits, and 5,000 sleeping kits to affected communities. Armed Forces of the Philippines have readied humanitarian assistance and disaster response teams, including 1,572 troops on standby for rescue.

Sources : [OCHA](#), [CARE](#)

HI Focus

In Southern Philippines, HI is currently responding to the floods through two projects:

- **ACCESS** is a multi-year, multi-sectoral project funded by ECHO and implemented by a consortium of 8 local and 4 international organizations. In Maguindanao del Norte, HI with its partner COM (Community Organizers Multiversity), has deployed teams from the 12th of July, and has pre-positioned hygiene kits, shelter kits and assistive devices. Some assistive devices were provided to internally displaced persons with mobility difficulties in an evacuation center. Following the firefight between armed groups in Tugal and Nabalawag SGAs (BARMM) and the displacement of 500 families, HI and COM immediately launched a rapid needs assessment and provided on the same day sleeping kits and assistive devices.
- **SUPREME BARMM** is a disaster preparedness and resilience project in BARMM, funded by ECHO and implemented by 4 local and 5 international organizations. HI with Oxfam and COM started a rapid response on the 24th of July, in Tugunan (Cotabato province) and distributed 200 hygiene and water kits and 200 cleaning tools.

In response to typhoon Gaemi, HI is currently conducting a **rapid needs assessment in Valenzuela** (National Capital Region) and is planning to **raise an alert with Start Network partners in anticipation of disease outbreaks** (validation yet to be confirmed). Indeed, typhoon Gaemi has left Metro Manila and other affected areas particularly vulnerable to water-borne diseases and to leptospirosis, a potentially fatal disease transmitted through the urine of infected

animals. The health department has already recorded more than 1,200 leptospirosis cases and 133 deaths from the beginning of the year.



HI partner Community Organizers Multiversity carries out hygiene promotion and risk education session to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases in flood-affected village in Barangay Balong, Tugunan Municipality, SGA.



HI Philippines team conducts rapid needs assessment in Malanday, Valenzuela City, still submerged in floodwaters up to knee-level.



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