



Background

Tropical Storm Ketsana struck the Philippines on 26 September 2009, causing the worst flooding to sweep the capital and surrounding regions in over 40 years. With soils already saturated with monsoon rains, including three previous typhoons, the floods submerged around 80 percent of Manila and reached up to six metres in some areas. As of 1 October, losses to human life totaled 277.

The affected population exceeds 2.5 million people spread across 27 provinces of six regions and the entire National Capital Region (NCR). The storm and subsequent flooding destroyed homes and countless assets, causing nearly 686 700 people to flee to evacuation centres and 346 580 others to seek shelter with host families. Affected populations have lost most or all of their possessions and require urgent assistance. Although the waters have subsided in some areas, many remain inaccessible.

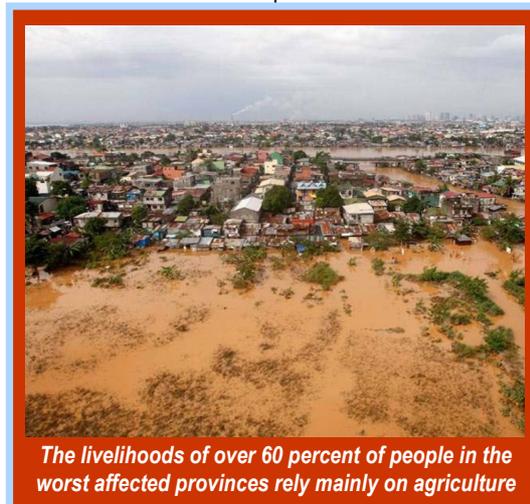
On 26 September, the Government launched a full-scale response, including extensive rescue operations and provision of emergency relief stocks. Two days later followed a request to the international community for assistance in responding to emergency needs in the worst impacted areas – NCR and Region IV-A.

The Philippines Flash Appeal 2009, launched on 7 October, seeks over USD 74 million to support Government efforts in responding to emergency needs of one million people most affected by the floods over a six-month period.

Challenges facing agriculture and livelihoods

In the provinces worst affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana, the livelihoods of over 60 percent of the population rely primarily on agriculture. The sector, which includes crop, livestock and fisheries production, is the mainstay of the rural economy and provides agriculture-dependent households with access to food and income.

Preliminary reports indicate severe damage to approximately 7 500 hectares of rice fields, 500 hectares of corn farms and 5 400 hectares of high-value commercial crops. In addition to extensive financial and asset losses, farmers and their families risk immediate and longer-term food insecurity as the floods destroyed not only food stocks and crops but also the seeds for the upcoming planting season.



The livelihoods of over 60 percent of people in the worst affected provinces rely mainly on agriculture

Inland and coastal fisheries also experienced heavy losses, as did poultry- and livestock-based livelihoods, from which women derive most of their income. Urgent support is needed to ensure that fisheries and livestock activities are resumed and that fields are prepared and planted in time for the imminent cropping season in October/November, which farmers cannot afford to miss. These are time-critical needs that will significantly contribute to reducing food insecurity and dependence on food aid and preventing the adoption of harmful coping strategies.



FAO's response

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is appealing for nearly **USD 4 million** within the framework of the Philippines Flash Appeal 2009 to support ongoing efforts of the Government to restore and strengthen the food security of the most vulnerable farming and fishing communities in storm-affected areas.

As the lead agency for agriculture, FAO is coordinating the efforts of partners active within the sector. With donor support, FAO aims to implement a two-pronged strategic approach, focusing on:

- **immediate agricultural and fisheries input assistance** to the most vulnerable storm-affected families to ensure rapid restoration of food security and agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods; and
- **support to cluster coordination** of emergency response and livelihood recovery in the agriculture sector to enhance the effectiveness of assistance to people affected by the disaster.





FAO'S COMPONENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FLASH APPEAL 2009

Funding requirements: USD 3.98 million

Project Title: Immediate restoration of food security in storm-affected regions of IV-A through the provision of agriculture, livestock and fisheries inputs and technical support (PHL-09/A/27843/123)

Objective: To immediately restore and strengthen the household level food security of affected farmers through the supply of critical inputs (seed, fertilizer, tools, fruit and coconut trees, machinery, livestock, poultry, animal feed, fingerlings and fish feed) in the storm-affected provinces.

Beneficiaries: 40 000 storm-affected families that have lost most of their assets. Emphasis will be given to marginal farmers and female-headed households with children and persons with minor disability.

Partners: Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Units, I/NGOs, CBOs, Provincial Agriculture Offices, Local Government Units, farmers' groups, academic institutions.

Funds Required: USD 3 600 000

Project Title: Effective humanitarian response through enhanced cluster coordination of agricultural emergency and rehabilitation interventions through the agriculture cluster (PHL-09/A/27845/123)

Objective: To achieve an effective and efficient response to the crisis through strengthened coordination of emergency agriculture interventions which will be needs-driven, and will avoid gaps and duplication, thus optimizing the use of funds for the benefit of the storm-affected populations in the Philippines.

Beneficiaries: All storm-affected farming-based households and Regional Field Units targeted by relevant stakeholders.

Partners: Department of Agriculture through the Province of Animal Industry, Regional Field Units, CBOs, I/NGOs, academic institutions, Provincial Agriculture Offices, Local Government Units.

Funds Required: USD 380 000

This project seeks to provide immediate agricultural and fisheries input assistance to the most vulnerable families in storm-affected regions to ensure the rapid restoration of food security and agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods. Carrying out detailed needs assessments will ensure that the most critical and appropriate inputs reach populations most in need.

The distribution of seeds, fertilizers and farming machinery will ensure that farmers are able to meet the upcoming planting season in October/November. Fisheries-based livelihoods impacted by the storm will be restored through the supply of fingerlings and fish feed. The project will also focus on protecting and restoring livestock production – an important source of livelihood especially for women – by immediately providing livestock, poultry and compound feed, together with vaccines and medicines to safeguard animal health.

Donor funding will enable 40 000 worst-affected families to receive the inputs and technical support they need to immediately recover their agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods and resume household food production. Strengthened technical knowledge and skills on improved agricultural practices and the introduction of appropriate cropping systems, targeting the upcoming cropping season, will enhance yields. These efforts will increase the income of vulnerable families during this critical time, enabling them to recover basic livelihood needs and reduce dependence on food aid.

The proposed intervention endeavours to provide support to cluster coordination for emergency response and livelihood recovery in the agriculture and fisheries sector, ensuring coordinated actions and common objectives among various cluster partners. As the lead agency of the agriculture cluster, FAO will provide leadership to the recovery of agriculture- and fisheries-based livelihoods. Regular agriculture cluster coordination meetings will be held in Manila and affected regions at field level.

FAO will coordinate both the fielding of in-depth needs assessments for the cluster to further determine the impacts of Ketsana on the agriculture sector, as well as the development of a detailed plan of action for the cluster based on the outcomes of the assessments. The project will also develop a "Who is doing What and Where" matrix, map the activities of partners to avoid gaps and duplication and share standardized tools for beneficiary selection, input package design, needs assessments, impact assessments and monitoring.

Improved coordination will ensure the timely sharing of information and updates on the agricultural situation for all partners, thereby improving the design of interventions and programming, maximizing synergies and avoiding duplication. These efforts will enhance the effectiveness of the assistance provided to populations affected by the disaster.

For more information please contact:

Mr Kazuyuki Tsurumi

FAO Representative

FAO/UN, 29th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1,

RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue

cor Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City - 1200

Tel: +63 2 9010350

Email: FAO-PH@fao.org

Mr Daniele Donati

Chief

Special Emergency Programmes Service

Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome 00153, Italy

Tel.: +39 06 570 53032

Email: Daniele.Donati@fao.org



