



EL NIÑO & LA NIÑA in the Philippines

QUICK FACTS



USD 325 million

worth of total damage and production losses in crops



1.48 million metric tonnes

of crops lost, including rice, corn, cassava and high value crops such as banana and rubber



413 456 affected farming households

are in need of support to recommence farming activities in the next cropping season.



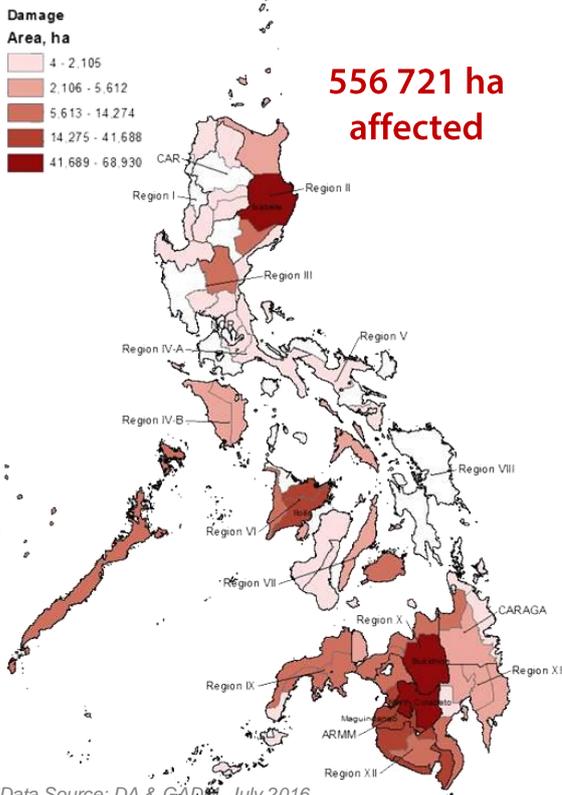
16 of the country's 18 regions

were affected between February 2015 and July 2016. Impact was strongest in Mindanao where 27 provinces were affected.

**Source: Department of Agriculture (DA), Report on Damage Caused by El Niño, July 2016*

El Niño is caused by the **warming of sea surface temperature** in the Pacific and can affect air and sea currents. This phenomenon resulted in reduced rainfall that led to **dry spells, droughts** and **stronger typhoons**. El Niño lasted for 18 months in the Philippines and officially ended in July 2016. In May 2016, **La Niña** Watch was activated by the Government. The agriculture sector was advised to maintain preparedness despite the projected low probability of La Niña occurring. Historical data shows that severe flooding and landslides can occur even under weak La Niña conditions such as the Guinsaugon landslide (2006) and Typhoon Ketsana (local name: Ondoy) in 2009.

Areas affected by El Niño (2015 to 2016)**



**Data Source: DA & GADM, July 2016

The conclusions given in this information product are considered appropriate at the time of its preparation. They may be modified in light of further knowledge on the results of validation activities.

FAO SUPPORT

- FAO stands ready to provide technical assistance in affected areas when necessary.
- FAO worked with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF-ARMM) in assessing damage caused by clashes between the Government and armed groups and drought in Maguindanao and North Cotabato. A workshop on Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis on agricultural crops was co-organized with DAF-ARMM on 21 April 2015. This resulted in a project proposal to restore the livelihoods of farmers affected by natural and human-induced disasters.
- FAO and the World Food Programme co-led the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in ARMM and the El Niño Working Group of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which monitored the accessibility of food and nutrition services and backstopped the HCT in supporting the Government in addressing the impacts of El Niño.
- FAO actively participated in the formulation of the ARMM Humanitarian and Development Action Plan, which identified critical humanitarian needs to support government and private sector initiatives in building resilience and responding to crises.
- FAO provided rice and vegetable seeds and fertilizer to about 43 800 farming households in Central Luzon (Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Aurora) whose livelihoods were affected by Typhoons Koppu and Melor as well as dry spells and drought in 2015. The project was funded through the support of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (contribution from the Government of Belgium) and re-programmed savings from the Haiyan programme provided by Ireland, New Zealand and Norway.
- Through internal FAO funding and support from the New Zealand Government, FAO is assisting approximately 20 500 affected farming households in Mindanao (North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani) to bounce back from the impacts of drought and armed clashes through the provision of rice, corn and vegetable seeds and fertilizer, and training on climate-smart agriculture and disaster risk reduction and management/climate change adaptation.
- In June 2016, FAO provided technical support to DA in national action planning to enable the agriculture sector to minimize damage and losses, and plan for early response to the impacts of the impending La Niña.