

THE PHILIPPINES



Devastating natural disasters, disease, epidemics, and protracted armed conflict combine to generate diverse humanitarian needs, destabilize the economy, and stifle regional development.

Country Context

As the government and armed forces struggle to contain multiple separatist and extremist insurgencies in the south, thousands of Filipinos face challenges from violent conflict, typhoons and earthquakes, and dangerous dengue, polio, and measles outbreaks. Meanwhile, there is a rare opportunity for peace in the newly established Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) that may help address local grievances and reduce militant activities. Good-governance and social-development support will be vital for BARMM's nascent institutions to succeed.

How is the U.S. Involved?

Approximately 36% of the humanitarian assistance received by the Philippines comes from the United States, which prioritizes disaster risk reduction in light of recurring natural and human-made disasters.

Key Figures



At least 768,000

affected by Typhoon Kammuri in November 2019



144,589

people in Mindanao have been displaced for six months or more



207%

increase in dengue cases in 2019



\$5 billion

average annual cost of natural disaster response



\$43.6 million

requested for humanitarian response in 2019

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Funding shortfalls are impeding progress in chronically under-developed Mindanao and have forced several NGOs to declare office closures in 2019.
- Suicide bombings, particularly by women, posed a significant security threat in 2019.
- The government has stepped-up intimidation tactics against civil society groups, including detaining organizations' members with alleged ties to non-state armed groups.

Responses and Actions

- Since the Marawi conflict in 2017, 27 NGOs cooperated to complete more than 4,000 activities in response to health, food, shelter, education, and other needs.
- The Humanitarian Country Team and partners consulted directly with communities on developing typhoon contingency plans in areas vulnerable to seasonal natural disasters.
- Save the Children responded to the October 2019 earthquakes in Mindanao by distributing 1,051 family hygiene kits and 130 plastic tarpaulins to protect them from contagious diseases while in temporary shelters.

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

