



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Two extreme weather events – Super Typhoon Goni and Typhoon Vamco – hit the Philippines in early to mid-November 2020, quickly following Typhoon Molave that hit in late October. All three typhoons took roughly the same destructive path across southern and central Luzon. Strong winds and heavy rains inundated farmlands and communities and overflowed rivers, inland fishponds and dams. Furthermore, the Cagayan River overflowed and caused widespread floods in Cagayan and Isabela provinces.

The typhoons wrought massive damage to agriculture and fisheries in southern, central and northern Luzon, destroying high value crops, including rice and corn, agricultural equipment, boats, fishing gear and other livelihood assets and resources. Super Typhoon Goni destroyed large areas planted with perennial and long-gestation coconut and abaca in Catanduanes.

The combined effects of both typhoons are expected to have severe negative impacts on families who depend on farming and fishing for their primary or secondary source of livelihood – their productive capacities will decrease, and their incomes will be disrupted. Affected smallholder farmers and fisherfolk's food security and nutrition will also suffer; the typhoons damaged backyard gardens and fishponds, which contribute to families' daily nutritional intake, promote crop diversification, serve as alternative sources of cash and, in some cases, articulate the role of women and children in household food production and security.

Lack of food diversity and access to low-cost nutritious food is a chronic problem in the Philippines and has contributed to high levels of undernutrition, particularly in Catanduanes Province and Cagayan Valley where there is a high level of malnutrition. The typhoons have only exacerbated these vulnerabilities.



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The Philippines

Super Typhoon Goni and Typhoon Vamco

Urgent call for assistance



to assist

**18 500 smallholder
farming and fishing
households**



FAO requires

USD 4.1 million



period

**December 2020–
November 2021**



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Response

As part of the United Nations appeal, and working closely with the government, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aims to support affected farmers and fishers by helping them re-establish their livelihoods and improving their food security and nutrition. FAO also plans to assist abaca and coconut farmers with alternative sources of livelihoods, as it takes an estimated two or more years for these crops to reach productive stages. This will help vulnerable households avoid reliance on food aid, which could further contribute to their poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Timely recovery and rehabilitation assistance will restore production and link farmers and fishers to markets and agribusiness value chains.

Objectives

- ▶ To restore the lost agricultural and fisheries resources through the provision of agriculture and fisheries inputs.
- ▶ To provide multi-purpose cash transfers to meet immediate food needs and allow farmers and fisherfolk to restart their agricultural and fisheries activities.

Proposed interventions

Immediate

- provide fertilizers (to complement corn and high-value crop seeds to be provided by the Department of Agriculture), assorted vegetable seeds and garden tools;
- provide livestock/poultry, vaccines and livestock shelters;
- provide fisheries inputs, including fingerlings and feed;
- provide multi-purpose cash transfers to cover immediate food needs, support alternative livelihoods or restoration of livelihoods of affected households; and
- conduct assessments and field validation activities.

Medium- to long-term

- provide access to inputs, including seeds, tools and equipment for the 2021 cropping season;
- provide technical support and capacity-building activities to improve productivity and resilience of farming systems, utilizing Early Warning Early Action approaches and damage assessment tools, including drone technology;
- support crop diversification and enhance linkages to markets along the value chain; and
- strengthen institutional capacity for shock responsive social protection and early warning systems.

Situation analysis



Typhoon Goni was a Category 5-equivalent “super typhoon”, and Typhoon Vamco was a Category 4 storm with heavy rains



More than **2.1 million** people affected in eight regions



225 893 ha of agricultural land damaged, affecting 62 697 farming and fishing households



About **USD 186 million** worth of agri-fishery products damaged or lost



349 574 tonnes of crops lost

Target areas



Contact

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