



Tropical Cyclone Kalmaegi

Tropical cyclone Kalmaegi on November 2–10, 2025

In early November, tropical cyclone Kalmaegi intensified into a severe tropical storm at east of the Philippines, reaching maximum sustained winds of 130 km/h and gusts of 180 km/h as it moved westward at 30 km/h. The cyclone strengthened into a typhoon and damaged across 5 central Philippine areas, including southern Leyte, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Guimaras, and Iloilo City, bringing heavy rainfall, destructive winds, and storm surges. Rainfall totals of 100–200 mm were recorded in Palawan, which triggered widespread flooding and landslides. Additionally, the cyclone affected Vietnam in coastal provinces from Hue City to Dak Lak, which experienced storm surges of 0.4–0.8 m and intense to torrential rainfall reaching 300 mm, with local areas receiving up to 450 mm.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Tropical cyclone Kalmaegi have been reported that it caused widespread devastation across the central Philippines. The cyclone also affected millions of people and brought mass evacuations. According to the Philippine News Agency (PNA), around 175,531 individuals sought shelter in 2,156 evacuation centers, while roughly 340,000 people were directly affected. The cyclone resulted in at least 85 deaths and flooded entire towns, particularly on the densely populated island of Cebu. Despite ongoing relief efforts, 379,000 people remain displaced and more than 800 evacuation centers continue to operate, mainly in Regions 6 and 7. A total damage of house with 155,400 homes affected, including 20,500 completely destroyed.

In Vietnam, heavy rainfall across several provinces, including Quang Ngai, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, caused extensive destruction to housing, infrastructure, and agriculture. A total of 2,365 houses collapsed and 58,824 were damaged, with the largest impacts reported in Gia Lai and Dak Lak provinces. The disaster also damaged 179 boats, mostly in Gia Lai and Dak Lak provinces, and severely affected aquaculture, with 54,285 cages and rafts damaged and 18 hectares of shrimp and fish farms impacted. Agricultural losses were significant with 4,534 hectares of rice and seasonal crops flattened, 35,045 hectares of other crops damaged, and widespread losses to livestock and poultry.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land:

- The Philippines: The most damaged areas were reported in Visayas, Mindanao, Palawan Island, Cebu, southern Leyte, Negros Occidental, Guimaras, and Iloilo City.
- Vietnam: The damaged provinces were Quang Ngai, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Lam Dong, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, with crops loss around 39,579 hectares damaged, and a lot of losses to livestock, poultry, and aquaculture damaged.

Affected crops:

- The Philippines: There are no official reports yet on crops damage.
- Vietnam: Several provinces were affected, contributing to the loss of crops, livestock, and aquaculture. Details are as followed:
 - Quang Ngai: 213 hectares of rice and upland crops, 3,679 hectares of other crops, and 10 hectares of aquaculture.
 - Lam Dong: 740 hectares of rice and upland crops, and 470 hectares of aquaculture.
 - Dak Lak: 3,581 hectares of rice and upland crops, 30,826 hectares of other crops, and 8 hectares of aquaculture.

Government responses and countermeasures

In the Philippines, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. declared a National State of Calamity to fast-track relief, rehabilitation, and recovery efforts following the widespread destruction caused by typhoon Kalmaegi, while also enhancing preparedness for the approaching typhoon Fung-Wong. National and local authorities continued coordinated operation, including relief distribution, power and communication restoration, supported by active Inter-Agency Coordinating Cells to ensure rapid and efficient response. In Vietnam, the government launched a support program for affected farmers, with the Prime Minister issuing Official Telegram No. 212/CĐ-TTg and approving an emergency fund of 80 billion VND (approximately 3.04 million USD) on November 7, 2025, to assist the provinces of Quang Ngai, Gia Lai, and Dak Lak in recovering from the typhoon's impacts.

Sources:

1. ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
2. The Natural Disaster Prevention, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Vietnam
3. Typhoon Kalmaegi - Nov 2025, Reliefweb. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/tc-2025-000203-phl>
4. More than 85 dead as typhoon wreaks havoc in the Philippines, The BBC. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgmx4yjkzj4o>