**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Section A: Basic information**

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| Organisation: | *Viva Denmark* |
| Title of alert: | *Drought Emergency Response in Negros and Iloilo* |
| Type of crisis: | * *rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)*   *X slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*   * *spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)* |

**Section C: Slow onset humanitarian crisis**

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| **c.1 Where is the crisis? Describe the areas affected.**  The Philippine archipelago is currently undergoing a drought linked to the most recent El Niño event impacting the nation. A State of Calamity has been declared in 131 localities[[1]](#footnote-1), with several others experiencing a dry spell. As of now, the following regions are severely affected: I, II, III, MIMAROPA, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, CAR, and BARMM.[[2]](#footnote-2)  c.2 What is the nature of the crisis? Please describe the type of crisis?  From July 2023 to March 2024, El Niño triggered abnormal weather, leading to droughts due to less rainfall and higher temperatures. This impacted ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources, causing crop failures, livestock problems, and economic losses for farmers. Water scarcity affected sanitation and living conditions in both rural and urban areas. Dry conditions led to forest fires, damaging biodiversity and releasing harmful emissions.  c.3 What information do you have about the situation?  El Niño has led to a state of calamity in Isabela province, with the Department of Agriculture denying underreporting of damage. Over half of the Philippines’ provinces, including Nueva Ecija, are in drought, affecting over 1.4 million people and likely reducing the upcoming harvest. A submerged ancient settlement has reappeared due to dropping water levels. Severe drought conditions are expected from February to May 2024, potentially impacting 77% of the country’s provinces by the end of May.    - affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these  As of May 7, 2024, water shortages and extreme temperatures are affecting over 3.5 million people across 4,678 barangays. Vulnerable groups such as farmers, indigenous communities, and marginalized populations are hardest hit. Impacts include job losses, disrupted cultural practices, malnutrition, health risks, and increased poverty. The crisis is disproportionately affecting ethnic minorities, low-income communities, and socially excluded populations.  ***- urgent emergency and/or protection needs***  Access to clean water for drinking and hygiene, as well as access to food, and seeds for livelihood rehabilitations are the top priority needs of the people affected by the drought. As groundwater resources become depleted, water sources for both household use and farm production have become scarce. This scarcity exacerbates poverty and leads to malnutrition and illness.  ***- other actors responding and coordinating***  The Philippine government is considering cloud seeding to combat drought from El Niño. The DSWD is monitoring El Niño’s effects. The UN, including Climate Crisis Coordinator Reena Ghelani, is advocating for increased climate resilience. The FAO and Oxfam Pilipinas have initiated Anticipatory Action programs in Isabela and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region to support communities before drought effects intensify. Various LGUs have declared a State of Calamity due to the severe drought.  **Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert. Documentation may be found at UN OCHA, ACAPS, or other internationally recognised sources.**   * Philippines: Impact of El Niño Snapshot (As of 25 March 2024)[[3]](#footnote-3) * The Devastating Impact of El Niño on Philippine Agriculture[[4]](#footnote-4) * Task force ramps up mitigation efforts as 41 provinces hit by El Niño[[5]](#footnote-5) * The UN calls for increased support for climate resilience in the Philippines as drought wreaks havoc[[6]](#footnote-6)   **c.3.1 Provide as strong as possible evidence of why there is a change in the current slow onset crisis. Describe also when the change occurred (mention specific dates if possible).**  As of 2023, the Philippines is potentially facing its worst drought in decades despite seeing fewer storms than in the past 25 years. The number of localities that have declared state of calamity has risen to 131. Record breaking temperatures have been measured in end of April with temperatures as high as 42 degrees locally. The 25th of April the UN called for increased support for the Philippines due to the drought. 65 provinces expect drought at the end of May.  **c.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?**  DERF grants can aid local NGOs and responders in the impacted region. Their local knowledge enables them to assist inaccessible areas swiftly. Prompt fund allocation is vital for immediate assistance and effective local response. CSO’s with already established partnerships in the area would be able provide help quicker than an organization that would need to establish partnerships before implementation.  **c.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?**  PCMN have started training families in resilience building on Negros. This is not specific training for this disaster but the climate crisis in general; since the area are and will be affected by climate change. |

1. https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1935420/fwd-areas-under-state-of-calamities [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/dswd-dromic-report-54-effects-el-nino-07-may-2024-6am [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/philippines/philippines-impact-el-nino-snapshot-25-march-2024 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://ispweb.pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph/the-devastating-impact-of-el-nino-on-philippine-agriculture/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1218739 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/un-calls-increased-support-climate-resilience-philippines-drought-wreaks-havoc [↑](#footnote-ref-6)