

Development Cooperation Philippines/Spain

People, Prosperity, Our Planet and Peace

Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian Action aims to protect and save lives, to prevent and alleviate human suffering, to meet the basic and immediate needs of the population and to promote their rights, all from a perspective of reducing vulnerability and capacity building.

Context

The Philippines is among the world's most vulnerable countries in terms of natural disasters, and among the top ten most affected by them (9th in Global Risk Index 2019). Because of its geographical position in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is exposed to typhoons and various natural hazards, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. In addition, the 22 active volcanoes in the country give more complexity to the risk scenario. All these factors have led to the Philippines becoming one of the main recipients of the Humanitarian Action for the Spanish Cooperation, as it receives support to several emergency response actions, mainly for tropical typhoons and storms across the country.

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation -AECID-, has supported the Philippines in all the crises where its presence was requested, as was the case for Tropical Storm Washi (locally Sendong) in 2011, Typhoon Bopha (Pablo) in 2012, the earthquake in Bohol in 2013 (7.1 on the Richter scale), Super Typhoon Haiyan (or Yolanda) in November 2013, or the most recent ones produced by concatenated typhoons Sarika and Hima in October 2016 and Nina in 2017.

In recent years, interventions have been carried out specifically through Spanish NGOs present in the country. As such, support has been provided in the Marawi crisis (2017), South Surigao earthquake, super typhoon Mangkhut (local name Ompong), Mayon volcano eruption, both in 2018, and the recent earthquakes in 2019 in Northern Cotabato and more recently in 2020, the Taal volcano eruption.



Strategic approach

AECID has a Humanitarian Action Office in charge of coordinating and leading the Spanish Humanitarian Action, both in the context of humanitarian crises and in international and regional humanitarian fora. The Spanish Humanitarian Action is governed by the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) of independence, humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

The fifth Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2018-2021 addresses the general paradigm shift outlined in the World Humanitarian Summit 2016. Ten years after the first humanitarian strategy, a new strategy has been adopted in March 2019.

This new Humanitarian Action Strategy for the Spanish Cooperation (2019-2026) outlines the key aspects of the new way of working (resilience and humanitarian-development nexus, flexibility in financing, localization or cash transfers), while undertaking ambitious gender, protection and/or humanitarian diplomacy commitments.



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Main actions

AECID and its Humanitarian Action Office have different mechanisms for channeling humanitarian aid in the event of crises:

- **Through Bilateral Support:** Channeling funds directly through the Technical Cooperation Office (TCO) in the country, directly managing the project or purchasing necessary humanitarian equipment and supplies, which are donated to the competent Philippine bodies in emergency management. This modality of implementation has not been demanded lately in the Philippines.
- **Through Emergency Agreements** with specialized NGOs: AECID currently has four Emergency Agreement with Spanish NGOs in the Philippines (Action Against Hunger, Spanish Red Cross, Plan International and Caritas Spain), which are activated if necessary. This mechanism allows a prompt mobilization of funds to deal with an emergency.
- **Through Multilateral Support:** Another very important part of humanitarian aid is channeled through the UN agencies (OCHA, WFP, UNICEF...) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), covering both those affected by natural hazards and vulnerable populations in conflict areas in Mindanao.

The interventions in the last five years have been the following:.

Implementation partner	Title of assistance	Total subvention	Location
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Provision of shelters for Internally displaced people in Zamboanga City (Philippines). 2016	EUR 250.000	Zamboanga
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Emergency assistance in the Philippines (2014-2019)	EUR 2.500.000	National
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Emergency response for Typhoon Haima (Lawin) in Cagayan and Kalinga (Cordillera region). 2016	EUR 89.726	Cagayan and Kalinga (Cordillera)
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Emergency response for Typhoon Nina (Nock) in the Bicol region. 2017	EUR 89.762	Bicol
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Displaced people by armed conflict in evacuation centers and shelters in Marawi City. 2017	EUR 56.101	Marawi
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Emergency response caused by Typhoon Vinta/Tembin affecting people displaced by the Marawi conflict. 2017	EUR 100.000	Marawi, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur
Spanish Red Cross	Humanitarian Assistance to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) by the Marawi Crisis in Mindanao, Philippines. 2017	EUR 122.000	Marawi
International Federation of the Red Cross	Emergency Action Plan following Surigao's earthquake. 2017	EUR 40.000	Surigo Norte (Caraga)
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Emergency response to the population affected by Typhoon Ompong in the province of Benguet, Philippines. 2018	EUR 30.546	Benguet
Spanish Red Cross	Emergency assistance for the population displaced by the eruption of the Mayon volcano. 2018	EUR 50.000	Albay
Spanish Red Cross	Emergency response and early recovery response to Typhoon Ompong. Philippines. 2018	EUR 212.000	
International Federation of the Red Cross	Appeal Typhoon Manghut. 2018	EUR 100.000	
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Rapid emergency assistance for earthquake affected population in Northern Cotabato, Philippines. 2019	EUR 69.985	North Cotabato
Caritas Spain	Emergency and early recovery assistance to the population affected 6.6 magnitude earthquake in Southern Philippines. 2019	EUR 100.000	North Cotabato
International Federation of the Red Cross	International Emergency Call in North Cotabato. 2019	EUR 100.000	North Cotabato
Action against Hunger (ACH)	Rapid emergency assistance for the population affected by the eruption of the Taal volcano in Batangas province. 2020	EUR 63.149	Taal, Batangas
Plan International Spain	Volcano emergency response in the Philippines. 2020	EUR 122.627	Taal, Batangas