

Six people killed in Philippine typhoon

September 26 2022, by Ron LOPEZ



Typhoon Noru is the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year.

The strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines this year left at least six people dead, authorities said Monday, after heavy rain and fierce winds battered the country's most populous island.

Typhoon Noru toppled trees, knocked out power and flooded low-lying

communities as it swept across Luzon on Sunday and Monday.

There have so far been no reports of widespread severe damage to buildings from the [storm](#), which hit the country as a [super typhoon](#).

Five people suffered minor injuries and several others are missing, disaster officials said.

"I think that we may have gotten lucky at least this time, a little bit," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr told a briefing with disaster agencies.

Five rescuers were killed after they were sent to help flooded residents in San Miguel municipality in Bulacan province, near the capital Manila.

Lieutenant-Colonel Romualdo Andres, chief of police in San Miguel, said the rescuers were wading through floodwaters when a wall collapsed, sending them into the fast current.

"Our house was swept away by the flood, it's gone," said Willie Ortega, 59, in San Miguel. "We weren't able to save anything, even the rice to eat, none."

An elderly man died after he was hit by a landslide in Burdeos municipality on the Polillo Islands, part of Quezon province, where the storm made landfall, said Garner Jimenez from the local civil defence office.

The Philippines is regularly ravaged by storms, with scientists warning they are becoming more powerful as the world gets warmer because of climate change.



Noru made landfall about 100 kilometres (62 miles) northeast of Manila, before weakening to a typhoon.

Noru smashed into the archipelago nation on Sunday after an unprecedented "explosive intensification" in wind speeds, the state weather forecaster said earlier.

It made landfall about 100 kilometres (62 miles) northeast of Manila, before weakening to a typhoon as it crossed a [mountain range](#), coconut plantations and rice fields.

More than 74,000 people were evacuated from their homes before the storm hit, as the meteorology agency warned heavy rain could cause "serious flooding" in vulnerable areas and trigger landslides.

But on Monday, there was no sign of the widespread devastation many had feared, as the storm moved over the South China Sea towards Vietnam.

State weather forecaster Ana Laurel said Noru brought less rain and moved faster compared to other destructive typhoons that have hit the Philippines.

"It all depends on the interplay of the weather systems. Each typhoon has its own characteristics," Laurel explained.

Aerial footage taken during Marcos's inspection flight over central Luzon showed rivers that were swollen or had burst their banks, and patches of farmland under water.

Officials estimate about 141 million pesos (\$2.4 million) worth of crops were damaged.

National disaster agency spokesperson Rafaelito Alejandro described the storm's impact as "very minimal".

Marcos said preparations for the storm helped.

"You might think that we overdid it. There is no such thing as overkill when it comes to disasters," he said.



More than 74,000 people were evacuated from their homes before the storm hit.

'The wind was whistling'

The Polillo Islands bore the brunt of Noru with storm surges blamed for flooding coastal communities.

"The wind was whistling and it had heavy rains," said Ervin Calleja, a 49-year-old teacher in Burdeos municipality.

Ferocious winds ripped off roofs and brought down large trees. Some crops were wiped out.

"Here at the town centre all banana trees were flattened, 100 percent," said Liezel Calusin, a member of the civil defence team in Polillo municipality.

"We still have no electricity, but the phones are working."

In Banaba village near Manila, Terrence Reyes fled his riverside home with his family and neighbours as floodwaters rose during the storm.

They returned home Monday to find their belongings sodden and caked in mud.

"We just have to throw them away and start over again," Reyes, 25, said.

The Philippines—ranked among the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of [climate change](#)—is hit by an average of 20 storms every year.

© 2022 AFP

Citation: Six people killed in Philippine typhoon (2022, September 26) retrieved 21 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-09-people-philippine-typhoon.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.