



Tropical Cyclone Penha Hits the Philippines

Tropical cyclone Penha situation from February 5–7, 2026

Tropical Storm Penha, locally known in the Philippines as Basyang, developed from a low-pressure area east of Mindanao and intensified into a tropical storm on February 5, 2026. At that time, it was located about 295 km east of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, with maximum sustained winds of around 65 km/h and gusts up to 80 km/h, and moving westward at approximately 25 km/h. The storm made several landfalls across Mindanao and the Visayas from February 4–6, 2026 before weakening into a low-pressure area. It brought heavy to intense rainfall, with some areas forecast to receive more than 200 mm of rain, raising risks of flooding and landslides. Tropical cyclone wind signals were raised in many provinces. Although classified under a Green Alert by the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) due to relatively moderate wind strength. The cyclone Penha significantly affected Mindanao, the Visayas, Western Visayas, and parts of Luzon, triggering widespread heavy rain and flood threats.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Tropical cyclone Penha caused serious impacts due to heavy rainfall and flooding, despite being assessed as having relatively low wind intensity. At least 8–12 people were reported killed, mostly due to floods and landslides, and dozens were injured. Hundreds of thousands of people were affected, with reports ranging from over 455,000 individuals to more than 182,000 families impacted by the combined effects of the storm and associated weather conditions. Tens of thousands were displaced, including more than 28,000 evacuees in some provinces, and many families were relocated to evacuation centers while others stayed private shelter. Flooded streets, landslides, and inundated communities were widely reported, particularly in southern and central Philippines. Roads became impassable, homes were submerged, flights were cancelled, and transportation systems were disrupted. Continued rainfall after the storm also raised concerns about flash floods, water-borne diseases, and sanitation issues.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land:

Tropical Storm Penha posed significant risks to agricultural areas due to heavy and prolonged rainfall in some areas, which likely affected standing crops and farmlands, especially in Mindanao and the Visayas. Although detailed official figures on total crop area damaged and production losses were not fully released at the time of reporting.

Affected crops:

Damage assessments were ongoing, and comprehensive data on hectares affected and metric tons of crop losses were expected to be confirmed following field evaluations by relevant authorities.

Government responses and countermeasures

The Philippine government, through agencies such as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and the Department of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Operations Center, issued early warnings, tropical cyclone wind signals, and rainfall advisories ahead of and during the storm. Mandatory evacuations were implemented in high-risk areas, and classes and work were suspended in several provinces. Authorities opened hundreds of evacuation centers and coordinated rescue and relief operations. Post-storm actions included ongoing damage and needs assessments, particularly for infrastructure and agriculture, to guide recovery and rehabilitation efforts. Financial assistance and emergency support were mobilized for affected provinces to address immediate humanitarian needs and support early recovery.

Sources:

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2. Flash update #1 - tropical cyclone Penha, Philippines, ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management, AHA centre. https://ahacentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/FlashUpdate_01_5Feb2026-TC-PH.pdf
3. Tropical storm Penha (Basyang), Americares. <https://www.americares.org/crisis-alerts/tropical-storm-penha-basyang/>
4. Overall Green Tropical Cyclone for PENHA-26, the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS). https://www.gdacs.org/Cyclones/report_source.aspx?eventtype=TC&eventid=1001255&bulletinid=2&system=ECMWF