



Tropical Cyclone Koto

Tropical Cyclone Koto on November 24–26, 2025

Tropical Cyclone Koto, locally named Verbena, developed from a low-pressure area identified as INVEST 92W over the Philippine Sea. The cyclone moved westward near the eastern coast of Surigao City, Surigao del Norte, passing over northern Mindanao and the Visayas before continuing toward the west Philippine Sea. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), it brought minimal to minor impacts, although heavy rainfall of 50–200 mm, along with localized floods and landslides, was recorded in some areas. The PAGASA also noted that the cyclone could approach the central coast of Vietnam. The worst situation may potentially occur in those areas.

In addition, a high-pressure area from China extended into Thailand and was expected to influence Vietnam, which could weaken the cyclone rapidly and prevent it from entering Thailand, according to the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD). Another likely scenario suggested that the cyclone Koto could curve northward near the Spratly Islands, weaken into a low-pressure area, and drift toward central Vietnam. Widespread rainfall was expected from Da Nang to Lam Dong in early December, particularly along coastal areas.

Meanwhile, a low-pressure area over northern Malaysia developed into tropical cyclone Senyar. The agency forecasts to move toward the Vietnam Sea. The two systems are expected to interact around December 1, potentially producing the Fujiwhara effect, which could temporarily strengthen the cyclone Koto as it tracked southward near Quy Nhon, Vietnam, before weakening into a tropical depression and dissipating over Cambodia.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

Tropical cyclone Koto passed over Mindanao, Visayas, and Palawan, resulting in missing persons and displacing many families, with a total of approximately 275,500 people affected. Heavy rainfall persisted in several areas of the Philippines even after the cyclone moved into the eastern waters of Vietnam near the central region. While coastal provinces of Vietnam may experience widespread rainfall, cold air intrusion over central Vietnam caused cooler sea surface temperatures, pushing the monsoon southward and weakening the cyclone as the cold air disrupted its circulation.

Rough sea conditions are expected across Vietnam's coastal areas, making risks to marine activities, while moderate to heavy rainfall from Da Nang to Lam Dong may increase flooding, landslides, and disruptions to transportation and logistics. Although Thailand is not expected to be directly impacted by the cyclone, enhanced monsoon moisture may still bring increased rainfall to eastern and southern parts of the country.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land:

- The Philippines: Several damaged areas were reported in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, Biliran, Surigao provinces, Dinagat Islands, Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, multiple Bicol provinces, Palawan, western and central Visayas, and parts of northern Mindanao.
- Vietnam: widespread damaged provinces were reported from Da Nang to Lam Dong across the coastal areas.

Affected crops:

- The Philippines: No official reports regarding crop damage have been released yet.
- Vietnam: No official reports regarding crop damage have been released yet. However, the disaster damages to the aquaculture sector.

Government responses and countermeasures

The agency advised the public to closely monitor real-time weather updates, while local authorities instructed residents to remain alert to changing conditions and to secure warehouses, stock, and infrastructure to prevent further damage. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, Office of Civil Defense (NDRRMOC) also raised alert status for tropical cyclone Koto and together with relevant agencies, which have continued issuing public updates to support local preparedness for potential flooding.

Sources:

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3. Philippines, Viet Nam - Tropical cyclone KOTO, update (GDACS, NDRRMC, NOAA, PAGASA, JTWC) (ECHO Daily Flash of 26 November 2025), Reliefweb. <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-viet-nam-tropical-cyclone-koto-update-gdacs-ndrrmc-noaa-pagasa-jtwc-echo-daily-flash-26-november-2025>
4. Typhoon Koto update: Current status, forecasts, and preparedness measures, Vietnam Briefing. <https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/typhoon-koto-update-current-status-forecasts-and-preparedness-measures.html/>
5. Typhoon Koto leaves one dead, three missing, Viet Nam News. <https://vietnamnews.vn/environment/1730750/typhoon-koto-leaves-one-dead-three-missing.html>