

Wildfires consume almost 2,000 hectares of land in Sitio Atoyay, Barangay Sering, Socorro, Surigao del Norte from (date) due to extreme heat.

APPEAL for HELP

Help Communities Protect Water, Food and Livelihoods from El Niño

DATE: OCTOBER 08, 2026

ISSUED BY: ECOSYSTEMS WORK FOR ESSENTIAL
BENEFITS, INC. (ECOWEB)

IN COORDINATION WITH: COMMUNITY-LED
EMPOWERING ACTION FOR RESILIENCE NETWORK
(CLEARNET)





Three barangays have been hit by grassfires in Socorro, affecting as well the 10 community self-help groups initially being supported by EcoWEB. The damaged areas include agricultural lands, vegetation, forested areas, and other natural landscapes that are important to the livelihood and environmental well-being of local communities.

Support community-led drought preparedness and response in the Philippines.

For families who depend on farming and daily earnings, prolonged dry conditions can mean losing both their food supply and their income. When water becomes scarce, households must also find ways to meet basic drinking, cooking and hygiene needs.

El Niño is already affecting communities in parts of Mindanao. Agusan del Sur has been placed under a state of calamity following disruptions to agricultural production and declining water supplies. In nearby Surigao del Sur, authorities are monitoring dry conditions and assessing their effects. In Central Visayas, including Cebu, forecasts warn that rainfall shortages could develop into drought in early 2027.

A VERY STRONG EL NIÑO IS EXPECTED

DOST-PAGASA warns that El Niño may intensify into a Very Strong El Niño between September and December 2026 and persist into the first half of 2027.

It is expected to bring higher temperatures, below-normal rainfall, dry spells, and drought across parts of the Philippines.

THE NUMBERS



>90%

Probability of El Niño persisting through late 2026



₱15 BILLION+

Agricultural losses during the 2023–24 El Niño



21%

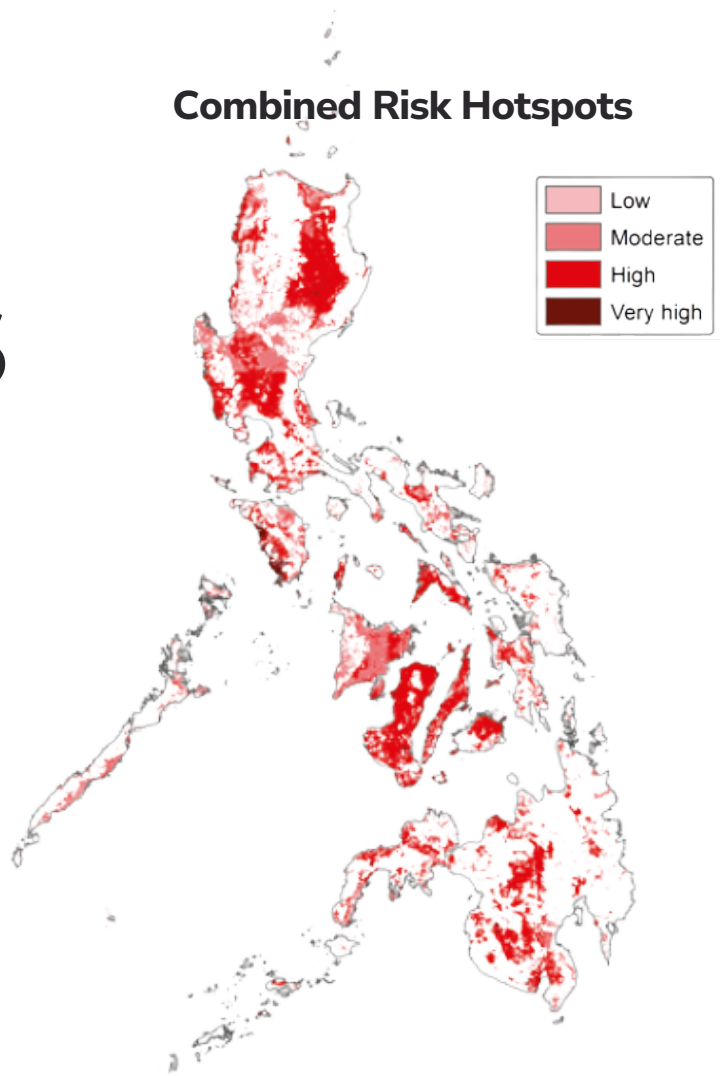
Of the Philippine workforce is employed in agriculture



60–70%

Of the rural population depends on agriculture for livelihoods

Combined Risk Hotspots



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR COMMUNITIES

Less rain → crop losses & food insecurity

Less water → pressure on households & farms

Livelihood losses → reduced household income

Higher temperatures → greater health & water stress

WHY EcoWEB COMMUNITIES ARE AT RISK

Rainfall deficits are expected to emerge early in western and eastern Mindanao, where many communities depend on agriculture and other climate-sensitive livelihoods.

For vulnerable families, a prolonged dry period can mean less food, less income, and fewer resources to cope with the next crisis.

Early action can help communities prepare before the impacts become a crisis.

SOURCES

PAG-ASA: <https://pagasa.dost.gov.ph/press-release/225>

UNDRR: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/documents-and-publications/el-nino-climate-impact-outlook-philippines>

EcoWEB is seeking your support to help communities respond now and prepare for the months ahead.

We will work through our existing community partnerships in Mindanao and the Visayas, prioritizing locations according to verified needs and local climate advisories. These partnerships include communities in Agusan, Surigao, Northern Mindanao and Cebu.

Our approach places affected people at the center of decisions. Through **Survivor and Community-Led Response**, EcoWEB supports local mutual-aid groups to identify priorities, develop practical solutions and manage small grants for actions they can carry out together.

Your donation can help support:

- **Safe water access:** Community-led repairs to small water systems, safe storage, rainwater collection where feasible, and assistance to households facing water shortages.
- **Food and essential needs:** Locally appropriate food or cash assistance for families whose income and access to food are disrupted, based on assessed needs and functioning markets.
- **Protection of livelihoods:** Water-saving farming practices, suitable seeds and planting materials, and small livelihood adaptations guided by local conditions and agricultural advice.
- **Early action:** Accessible climate information, monitoring of community water sources, and preparedness plans that help families act before conditions worsen.
- **Community-managed solutions:** Flexible micro-grants that allow local groups to address urgent needs and adapt as the situation changes.



The extensive area impacted in Barangay Sering, Socorro includes portions of agricultural lands that many communities depend upon.



The reported wildfires in Socorro, Surigao del Norte underscores the vulnerability of upland and rural communities to large-scale fires, particularly during El Niño .

Call to Action

Empower People. Build Resilience. Leave No One Behind.

We will give particular attention to Indigenous communities, smallholder farmers, women-led households, older people, persons with disabilities and families with limited resources to cope with another crisis. Community members will help determine priorities and identify people who might otherwise be overlooked.

EcoWEB will combine community leadership with technical guidance, financial monitoring and coordination with local authorities. We will document supported activities and share updates on how contributions are used.

Acting early can help families protect their water supply, preserve livelihoods and reduce the need for more costly emergency assistance later. Where impacts are already being felt, timely support can help people meet essential needs while organizing their own recovery.

Please donate through Benevity. If your employer offers donation matching, consider using it to increase your contribution.

Help communities act now to protect their families through the coming dry months.



The Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (EcoWEB), Inc. has been applying the survivor and community led crisis response (sclr) approach since 2017 and has worked with around a thousand community self-help groups over the 7-year period.

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