

Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses): at least 67 killed in Philippines' deadliest storm of year

Monday 16 November 2020, by [Reuters](#) (Date first published: 15 November 2020).

- **The far north of Luzon island, where many areas remained submerged even days later, was hit by some of the worst flooding in more than four decades**
- **Six cyclones have now hit the Philippines in a span of just four weeks, including Vamco and Goni - the world's most powerful this year**

The death toll from the deadliest cyclone to hit the Philippines this year has climbed to 67, while many areas remained submerged in a northern region hit by the worst flooding in more than four decades, officials said on Sunday.

President Rodrigo Duterte flew to Tuguegarao province to assess the situation in Cagayan Valley region, which was heavily flooded after Typhoon Vamco dumped rain over swathes of the main Luzon island, including the capital, metropolitan Manila.

Twenty-two fatalities were recorded in Cagayan, 17 in southern Luzon provinces, eight in Metro Manila, and 20 in two other regions, said Mark Timbal, the disaster management agency spokesman.

Twelve people were still missing and nearly 26,000 houses were damaged by Vamco, he said.

"This is the worst flooding that we had in the last 45 years," Cagayan Governor Manuel Mamba said during a briefing with Duterte. "We see that it is worsening every year."

The accumulated effects of weather disturbances and huge volumes of water from a dam affected thousands of families in Cagayan, some of whom had fled to rooftops to escape two-storey high floods.

Six cyclones hit the Philippines in a span of just four weeks, including Vamco and Super Typhoon Goni, the world's most powerful this year.

But Mamba also lamented about denuded forests in Cagayan, prompting Duterte to order him to curb logging operations in the province.

"We always talk about illegal logging and mining but nothing has been done about it," Duterte said.

Relief and rescue operations continued in Cagayan even as the nearby Magat Dam was still releasing water, two days after releasing a volume equivalent to two Olympic-size pools per second, based on government data.

Vamco, the 21st cyclone to hit the Philippines this year, also caused the worst flooding in years in parts of the capital.

On Sunday morning, it barrelled into Vietnam, damaging buildings and injuring at least five people with winds of up to 90 km/h, according to media reports, uprooting trees and blowing the roofs off houses and schools.

Initial reports from the Disaster Management Authority on Sunday said that five people were injured while they were trying to secure their houses.

Authorities evacuated nearly 650,000 people from seven coastal provinces to higher and safer ground before the storm hit to try to reduce casualties.

Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Nguyen Xuan Cuong told the VNExpress news website he hoped the precautions would minimise the storm's impact.

Reuters in Manila

Additional reporting by Agence France-Presse

P.S.

• South China Mornong Post. Published: 4:47pm, 15 Nov, 2020. Updated: 4:47pm, 15 Nov, 2020: <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3109928/typhoon-vamco-least-67-killed-philippines-deadliest-storm>