

Planet Water Foundation

Disaster Response Alliance

PHILIPPINES

Typhoon Co-may Response

August, 2025

Typhoon Co-may

Before Typhoon Co-may (local name Emong) struck on the night of July 24, 2025, Luzon had already been hit by two separate typhoons in a single week, all worsened by intense southwest monsoon rains.

When Co-may made landfall, flooding and landslides escalated, prompting state-of-calamity declarations in over 80 towns and cities. Around 278,000 people were displaced, nearly 3,000 houses were damaged, and at least 25 lives were lost.

La Union Province was among the hardest hit. Schools across the province were closed, and vital infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power and water systems suffered heavy damage.



















Our Response

A few days before Typhoon Co-May's landfall, Planet Water Foundation's disaster response monitoring system issued an alert on July 23, prompting strict monitoring.

When the typhoon made landfall on July 24, coordination with the authorities began in the most affected provinces, particularly La Union and Pangasinan. At the time, Planet Water's team was in Benguet working on school based water filtration system deployments. This proximity allowed them to rapidly transition into Disaster Response mode.

Despite challenging road access and weather conditions, the team travelled through La Union and Pangasinan gathering first-hand information from municipal disaster risk reduction offices, confirming significant damage to water supply systems and an urgent need for safe drinking water solutions in La Union.



In the following days, the team deployed two AquaBlock emergency water systems, one in Barangay Calingsamasan, San Juan, and another in Barangay Poro, San Fernando City, La Union province. Each AquaBlock utilizes a 4-stage water filtration process to produce 700 liters of safe water per hour.

At each site, residents lined up with containers, as potable water remained unavailable due to damaged municipal water systems. The installations included water quality testing and comprehensive commissioning, during which designated operators were trained on system maintenance and cleaning to ensure long-term functionality.

All project sites were selected to maximize impact and ensure that systems remain operational for medium-to long-term community benefit, particularly in areas where municipal water restoration may take months.

















A mother of four, Gloria recalls the night the typhoon struck with fierce winds that tore off their roof. The strongest gusts came in the middle of the night, catching them unprepared. They hadn't stored or bought drinking water, and the nearest source was far away. By morning, they saw the full extent of the damage, no electricity, no signal, and no water.

"It was very hard, especially with small children," she says. *"I'm grateful to Planet Water for the AquaBlock, which now gives us clean, free water. I also appreciate that they trained residents to help maintain it so it can serve us for a long time."*

Gloria Palabay



At 65, Pablito was relocated from Barangay Agustin to Poro evacuation center after his home was destroyed. He now lives in a tent. The center had gallons of water from a deep well, but residents avoided drinking it because of its taste and discoloration.

“I’m happy we now have safe water from the AquaBlock. It tastes good, and we were shown that it’s safe.”

Pablito Cabinta













In the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Co-may, the AquaBlock systems are delivering life-saving clean water to up to 12,000 people in La Union Province.

We are grateful to our Disaster Response Alliance partners, whose support made this response possible.

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