

Comprehensive Damage Report: Typhoon Gaemi's Impact on Taiwan

1. Overview of the Typhoon

Typhoon Gaemi, a powerful storm, brought unprecedented rainfall and severe weather conditions to Taiwan, resulting in widespread damage across multiple regions. The storm's impact was exacerbated by the combination of the typhoon's outer circulation, strong southwest airflow, and the concurrent astronomical high tides.

2. Casualties and Injuries

- **Fatalities:** Typhoon Gaemi resulted in 10 confirmed deaths, including incidents of individuals being struck by falling trees, landslides, and structural collapses.
- **Injuries:** A total of 895 individuals were reported injured across various regions, with high casualties in areas like Kaohsiung (260 injured), Tainan (129 injured), and Taichung (122 injured).

3. Infrastructure Damage

- **Power Outages:** Significant disruptions in electricity supply affected 871,741 households. Restoration efforts reduced the number of households without power to 4,367, with concentrated outages in Kaohsiung, Tainan, and Nantou.
- **Water Supply:** Approximately 160,244 households experienced water supply interruptions, with ongoing efforts to restore service to the remaining affected households.
- **Roads and Bridges:** Multiple road obstructions and bridge closures were reported. Major landslides and road collapses were noted in regions like Hualien, Taichung, and Nantou, severely affecting transportation.

4. Agricultural Impact

- **Crop Damage:** Extensive agricultural damage was reported, with total losses estimated at NT\$24 billion (approximately USD 750 million). Key affected crops included bananas, guavas, pears, leafy vegetables, and sweet potatoes. The flooding destroyed significant areas of farmland, particularly in Yunlin, Pingtung, and Hualien.
- **Livestock and Fisheries:** The storm caused disruptions in livestock farming, particularly affecting dairy farms where feed and infrastructure were damaged. Several fishing operations also reported losses due to high waves and flooding.

5. Educational Institutions

- **Schools Affected:** The Ministry of Education reported that 38 schools suffered damage amounting to NT\$4.84 million. The most significant damages were observed in Tainan's Jiali Elementary School, Hualien's Huarin Junior High School, and New Taipei City's Xiufeng High School.

6. Residential and Commercial Property

- **Flooding:** Urban areas like Kaohsiung, Tainan, and Pingtung experienced severe flooding, with water levels reaching over 1.5 meters in some regions. Notable incidents included the flooding of residential basements and commercial properties, leading to significant property damage and displacement of residents.
- **Emergency Response:** Over 8,569 people were evacuated as a precautionary measure, with 866 individuals being housed in temporary shelters across 48 locations.

7. Emergency and Rescue Operations

- **Evacuations:** Multiple areas, especially in mountainous and low-lying regions, saw preemptive evacuations to avoid casualties from landslides and flooding.
- **Rescue Missions:** Emergency services were actively involved in rescue operations, addressing incidents of people trapped in vehicles, homes, and public spaces due to the rapid rise in water levels.

8. Environmental Impact

- **Landslides and Erosion:** Numerous landslides were reported, particularly in mountainous regions like Hualien and Nantou, causing extensive soil erosion and destruction of natural habitats.
- **River Overflow:** Rivers such as the Beigang River and Zengwen River overflowed, flooding adjacent agricultural lands and residential areas.

Conclusion

Typhoon Gaemi's devastating impact on Taiwan highlights the critical need for enhanced disaster preparedness and infrastructure resilience. The extensive damage across multiple sectors underscores the importance of coordinated emergency response efforts and long-term recovery plans to mitigate future risks.