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SPR Reading Guidance



National Response Capacity-Building Applying Lessons from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency

Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Philippines, Republic of the (PH)



World Food Programme

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

Achievements at Country Level

Country Context and Response of the Government

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Supply Chain

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Accomplishments under the Trust Funds

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Results

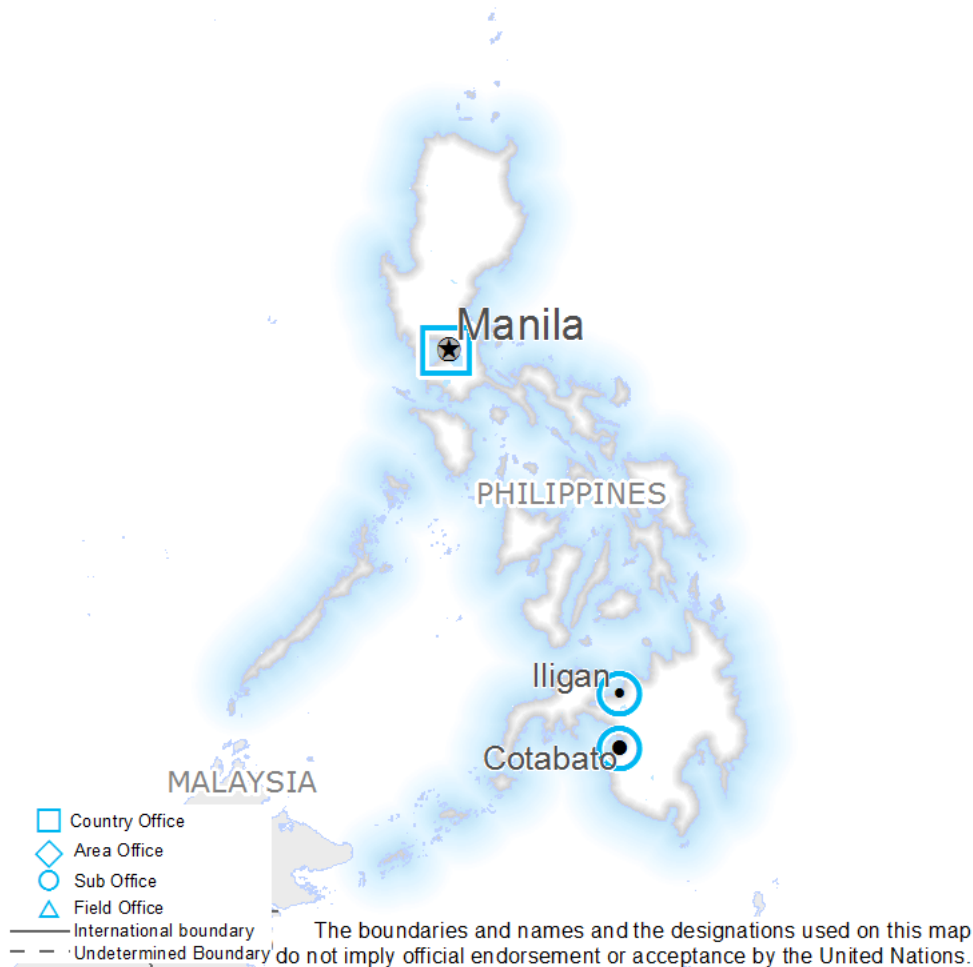
Story Worth Telling: Compostela Valley's Silver Lining after Typhoon Bopha

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Project Indicators

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

In 2017, WFP assisted 340,000 people in the Philippines with 3,900 mt of food through general distribution, school meals, stunting prevention and food assistance for assets under its protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200743) and immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 201084). At the same time, WFP ran a Special Operation (200706) to strengthen the national capacity in the area of logistical disaster preparedness and response.

Responding to where it was needed the most, WFP assisted the Philippine government in providing life-saving support to those displaced by the armed conflict in Marawi City. From June to October 2017, WFP provided 25,700 families with rice and at least 57,000 children with school meals. As the fighting concluded in mid-October, WFP supported the Government's plans for the return of displaced residents and recovery efforts in Marawi. WFP continues to provide food to returning families under its PRRO.

In partnership with the Office of Civil Defense WFP conducted a workshop on gender mainstreaming strategies and guidelines. The workshop aimed to ensure that WFP's operations during the rehabilitation and reconstruction in Marawi were designed and implemented to support gender equality. The workshop further sought to support identified local government units in mainstreaming gender into their activities plans.

WFP augmented the Government's capacity in responding to emergencies by facilitating a simulation exercise in early 2017, gathering Government counterparts, along with logistics staff from partner non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The exercise helped to strengthen WFP's partnerships with other humanitarian actors present in the Philippines, as well as with the private sector.

At policy level, WFP informed the development and approval of a national nutrition plan for the next six years, and committed itself to support the achievement of the national objectives for food security and nutrition.

An advocacy platform was created together with relevant partners such as the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) as well as academic institutions and youth leaders with the goal of raising awareness and making food security and nutrition a national cause. WFP encouraged an informed discussion about opportunities and challenges in promoting food security and nutrition in the government's agenda.

WFP's forecast-based financing (FbF) pilot in the Philippines was completed in 2017 and started its second phase (from July 2017–June 2020). Together with the Government's Climate Change Commission and the Philippine Red Cross, WFP hosted its third annual FbF Forum. This milestone event helped advocate the importance of building resilience amidst disasters by reducing the impacts and losses caused by climate-related hazards through innovative approaches using scientific data. The major project output from the first phase was the release of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for preparedness and early action in ten pilot provinces. These SOPs were developed with localized triggers and tested extensively through simulation exercises. During the second phase of the project, WFP will focus on enhancing the SOPs with a focus on financing early actions, integrating the FbF concept at the national and local level, and generating evidence to contribute to the body of knowledge on FbF and preparedness.

Finally, a national Strategic Review on Food Security and Nutrition in the Philippines was published in 2017, providing the basis to engage government counterparts and donors in a dialogue on WFP's future strategic direction. The strategic review also provided an evidence base for the formulation of its Country Strategic Plan set to roll out in July 2018.

Country Context and Response of the Government

In mid-2016, the Philippines elected Rodrigo Duterte as its 16th President. His administration's ten-point socioeconomic agenda emphasized peace and order through eradication of corruption and drug criminality as the bedrock of continuous economic growth. It pushed for increasing competitiveness, ease of doing business, infrastructural improvements, agricultural and rural enterprise development, and social protection programmes.

Exhibiting an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.4 percent in the first half of 2017, the Philippines is a middle-income country with a population of 103 million that is slowly shedding the long-held label of 'sick man of Asia'. In the second quarter of 2017, it became the second fastest growing economy after China, ahead of its neighbouring countries Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. Despite this growth, the Philippines struggled to transpose these improvements into tangible gains in human development. In terms of food security and nutrition, marginalized groups such as women, children and the elderly remained vulnerable to hunger and poverty. The Asian Development Bank indicated in its Basic Statistics 2017 that the poverty incidence remained high at 21.6 percent.

According to the 2017 Global Hunger Index, the food and nutrition security situation in the country declined from moderate in 2016 to serious in 2017. The prevalence of undernutrition remained one of the major public health problems. Based on the latest National Nutrition Survey conducted in 2015, wasting and stunting among children aged 6–59 months in WFP's operational areas in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) were at 8.2 percent and 45.2 percent respectively, exceeding the 40 percent WHO threshold of public concern. Among school children aged 5–10 years, 44 percent were stunted and 6.5 percent were wasted. This meant that a substantial number of students went to school, or to bed hungry, and they were not able to reach their full potential in learning either in or outside of school. According to the Global Education Monitoring Report 2017/2018, the Philippines recorded a 117 percent gross enrolment rate (GER) in primary education in 2013.

In terms of climate vulnerabilities and risks, the Philippines ranked third out of 171 countries in the 2017 World Risk Index and fifth out of 181 countries in the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index. The World Risk Index noted that the country had managed to "slightly reduce the lack of adaptive capacities and susceptibility." Being committed to the fight against climate change, the Philippines ratified the Paris Agreement in March 2017.

With regard to peace and security in the country, the Philippines has, for decades, been entangled in conflicts with non-state armed groups, especially in Mindanao. Aggravating the security situation in 2017 was the Maute/Abu Sayyaf Group—inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS/Daesh)—who occupied Marawi City on 23 May. This led to the displacement of more than 77,000 families. Peace and stability have been restored in the city by government forces after five months of fighting, and more than 18,000 families have returned to their homes. However, returnees and those still displaced continue to require humanitarian assistance.

Despite its consistently high rankings in the annual Global Gender Gap Report (tenth place in 2017; seventh in 2016), the Philippines has yet to fully close the gender gap in all sectors, particularly in labour and employment. Apart from earning less than men for similar work, women in the Philippines had a much lower labour force participation rate in 2017, averaging 53 percent, compared to 81 percent for men. Women's participation in paid work was constrained by unpaid domestic and care work, and a lack of productive employment opportunities. According to statistics from the Department of Labour and Employment, 30 percent of working-age women reported that household or family duties prevented them from participating in the labour market. These gaps are symptomatic of gender inequalities in terms of economic opportunities.

In response to these simultaneous, recurrent and multi-faceted challenges, the Government has intensified its national policies and programmes. With the aim of breaking the cycle of poverty, the Government has been implementing a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme since 2007. Locally known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps), this CCT programme is part of the Government's social protection system to help improve the health, nutrition and education of the poor. Alongside the Government, the United Nations system in the Philippines has been supporting the country's achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012–2018 and on the national development priorities reflected in the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022.

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

Since reestablishing its presence in the Philippines in 2006, WFP has seen an increase in its operations, augmenting the country's capacity to rebuild lives and providing help where needed. WFP assisted communities affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing nutritious food and enabled self-sufficiency through asset-creation activities. Throughout its interventions, WFP aimed to promote the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment into its work and activities, to address and fulfil the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, boys and girls. The initial intent of supporting the country's peace process in 2006 evolved into a much more meaningful partnership with the Government of the Philippines and other humanitarian actors to help build community resilience to armed conflict and natural disasters which undermine food security and nutrition. In 2017, WFP had three projects: a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), an immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP), and a special operation. With a strong focus on results the operations sought to address the country's humanitarian needs enabling the achievement of longer-term development in line with the Government's goals.

Through **PRRO 200734: Enhancing the Resilience of Communities and Government Systems in Regions Affected by Conflict and Disaster (2015–2018)**, WFP aspired to attend to the needs of around half a million people affected by the protracted conflict in Central Mindanao. It also sought to assist the typhoon-affected communities in Visayas and Mindanao through food assistance for assets, emergency school meals and a stunting prevention programme for children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). The emergency component of this PRRO aimed to provide life-saving responses to the victims of the siege in Marawi through emergency school meals and general distribution to families. WFP's objective was to further augment disaster preparedness and risk reduction mechanisms across various government agencies and to promote disaster resilience through its Disaster Preparedness and Response–Climate Change Adaptation (DPR–CCA) project. It advocated for policy development to optimize the disaster response structures and policy frameworks of the Government. By working with the multiple sectors, WFP sought to strengthen national capacities and support the Government in establishing disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) structures and systems, as well as developing policies and plans. WFP also planned to provide basic search and rescue equipment and implement community-based risk mitigation activities.

With the **IR-EMOP 201084: Immediate Response to the People Affected by the Armed Conflict in Marawi City (2017)**, WFP aimed at supporting the Government's response through the provision of rice to the most vulnerable households in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The IR-EMOP was completed in October 2017.

The **special operation 200706: National Response Capacity-building Applying Lessons from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency (2014–2017)** was designed to enhance the Government's disaster response capabilities in logistics and supply chain management with the overall goal to increase the Government's and WFP's readiness to activate aligned emergency response options at-scale and in a timely manner. Building on the learnings from the large-scale humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013/2014, it aimed to mitigate potential operational bottlenecks and challenges, and to establish an improved, decentralized network of disaster response centres.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP has had a challenging year in terms of funding its operations in the Philippines. Although emergency donor support was mobilized in response to the armed conflict in Marawi, it was difficult to secure new multi-year contributions for systemic food assistance, nutrition and livelihoods projects. While the challenge of obtaining contributions was evident, WFP remained committed to implementing its projects to reach the most vulnerable populations in the Philippines.

The funding levels for the implementation of food- and cash-based interventions remained critically low. The only component that received full funding was the on-site school meals programme which was supported by various donors, ensuring its full coverage for the year. A private sector donation, as well as an allotment from the WFP Strategic Resource Allocation Committee, were essential to avoid pipeline breaks for nutrition-based activities.

The budget of the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200743 was revised in May 2017 to maximize and optimize available resources and to align the project plans with the current funding forecast. The revision focused on realigning the direct support costs, which allowed the Country Office to implement further cost-saving measures. The special operation also underwent a revision, reducing its duration by six months in preparation for the roll-out of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) in July 2018.

In May, the Country Office's funding requirements increased because of the outbreak of armed hostilities between government forces and the Maute/Abu Sayyaff Group in Marawi. To fast-track its response mechanism to the emergency, WFP created the immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP) 201084 through its internal immediate response account. In partnership with the Government, WFP was able to support 9,679 displaced families through general distributions. The IR-EMOP was extended for 45 days due to unforeseen institutional delays in rice delivery. WFP also activated the emergency component of its PRRO, allocating 534 mt of rice from the Government of Australia, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to the emergency school meals programme. The Government of Japan donated USD 1.2 million, which was used for providing rice to displaced families.

To support the early recovery phase in Marawi, WFP circulated an appeal for USD 8.5 million to cover general distributions, emergency school meals and food assistance for assets from December 2017 to May 2018. WFP actively engaged with donors to attract contributions towards existing projects until June 2018, and to secure resources for the upcoming CSP. Through the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), WFP briefed donors on the food security situation in Marawi and WFP's project portfolio funding requirements. Resource mobilization efforts will be further enhanced once the 2018 United Nations Development Assistance Framework is finalized.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	19,158	18,768	37,926
Children (5-18 years)	109,264	109,683	218,947
Adults (18 years plus)	33,076	49,690	82,766
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	161,498	178,141	339,639



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country IR-EMOP	484	-	-	-	-	484
Single Country PRRO	3,080	82	160	100	30	3,452
Total Food Distributed in 2017	3,564	82	160	100	30	3,936

Supply Chain

The geographical focus of the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200743) lay on Mindanao, for which most of the commodities were stored in the WFP warehouse at Polloc Port in Cotabato. Polloc is capable of handling international shipments. However, due to local security issues, very few international shipping lines were calling on Polloc Port. WFP received commodities instead via the ports in Manila and Davao and contracted the transshipment of commodities through other mechanisms. The need for transshipment affected the overall costs and lead times in delivering the supplies to the areas of operation.

WFP maintained long-term agreements with a variety of contractors to ensure readiness in responding to natural disasters. However, identifying reliable and available contractors for the Mindanao operational areas was more challenging.

In response to the armed conflict in Marawi City, the regional government of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) sent a request for food assistance through general distributions and school meals. WFP responded with the provision of rice through emergency school meals (under the PRRO) and general distributions (under the immediate response emergency operation IR-EMOP 201084). Having contingency rice stocks available proved to be effective in enabling a fast response to the emergency. Additional rice was procured locally and internationally.

In February 2017, WFP facilitated the Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX PH) in Clark, Pampanga. FLEX PH targeted government logistics staff and focused on addressing the logistical requirements for the government response to a simulated sudden-onset emergency. This activity helped build new partnerships with other humanitarian actors and the private sector. WFP and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) signed a cooperation framework agreement during the process of facilitating FLEX PH. A work plan with the Office of Civil Defense was also approved, focusing on strengthening the institution's logistics capacity.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Beans	-	80	80
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	-	120	120
Rice	1,083	1,660	2,743
Vegetable Oil	-	37	37
Total	1,083	1,896	2,979
Percentage	36.3%	63.7%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	110
Total	110

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Realizing the importance of gathering and using critical feedback from its partners, WFP acknowledged and followed through on the recommendations made for the improvement of its projects in the Philippines. The recommendations also helped inform the design of the upcoming Country Strategic Plan (CSP). Reviews with partners were useful to align the programme with the priorities of the local government units and to identify needs for WFP's intervention. For the school meals programme, WFP partnered with the Philippine Department of Education in completing a programme review. The recommendations included:

- to sign a memorandum of understanding between WFP and the Department of Education for conducting an assessment of the school meals delivery in the context of the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER);
- to improve the sensitization of beneficiaries and school personnel;
- to ensure appropriate storage and proper accounting for commodities provided to schools.

WFP and the Department of Education signed the memorandum in June 2017. This paved the way for extensive data collection to assess the implementation of the school meals programme with the goal of strengthening the existing national School Based Feeding Program (SBFP) policy and provide a mechanism for partners to align with the national programme. To increase the awareness of beneficiaries and school personnel on the ration size needed for an improved nutritional status among schoolchildren, WFP and the Department of Education produced posters and other visual materials which were provided to schools. The materials also informed about WFP's feedback and complaints mechanisms. Guidance was given to schools on relevant storage and food handling methods. In the previous reporting year, a decentralized evaluation was recommended along with an updated strategy for the Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) programme's fifth and final phase. Both were implemented in 2017. In response to the decentralized evaluation, WFP developed an action plan to address the recommendations and monitored implementation. This included the hosting of a workshop on best practices. Lessons learned from the five phases of the DPR project from 2011 to 2018 will serve as building blocks for one of the strategic objectives of the upcoming CSP, namely, enhancing the capabilities of the local and national government to reduce vulnerabilities to shocks.

Accomplishments under the Trust Funds

Apart from its three main operations—the protracted relief and recovery operation, special operation, and immediate response emergency operation—the Philippines Country Office managed two trust funds.

The first trust fund, established with multi-year grants received from the United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and aimed at enhancing the Government's logistics readiness and response capacity. Under this trust fund, WFP provided the Philippine Government with mobile storage units, generators and other logistics equipment for its response to the Marawi crisis, and assisted in transporting commodities from the Department of Social Welfare and Development's National Relief Operations Centres in Metro Manila and Cebu to Iligan City. In providing logistical support, particularly at the onset of the emergency and in logistically challenging areas, WFP overcame complex transportation challenges. It was crucial that WFP delivers commodities to the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Region X, particularly to Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, where most of the displaced people were taking refuge. One of the biggest challenges faced was security, given the nature of the emergency. WFP scheduled the arrival of commodities through regular coordination and planning with local officials on the ground. Through this trust fund, WFP reached 55,790 people delivering 558 mt of rice through general distributions to families affected by the crisis in Marawi. WFP also assisted in evaluating sites intended as humanitarian staging areas. This extended WFP's role from direct food assistance in Mindanao to capacity strengthening activities for the Government. The support encompassed the development of a logistics training curriculum in line with national counterparts' objectives and other technical support.

Under its second trust fund, sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office, WFP launched the second phase of its forecast-based financing (FbF) project. In partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), WFP worked with local governments in using innovative approaches driven by scientific data in mitigating the risks and reducing the impact of climate-related hazards. FbF held its third annual forum in November 2017. FbF was born out of WFP's Disaster Preparedness and Response–Climate Change Adaptation (DPR–CCA) project, which aims to augment disaster preparedness and risk reduction mechanisms and promote disaster resilience in the Philippines. DPR–CCA fifth and final phase is set to be completed by March 2018. In September 2017, WFP signed an agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to enhance its technical and physical capacities to mainstream climate change knowledge and risk management throughout the country.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

Special Operation 200706: National Response Capacity-building Applying Lessons from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency built on WFP's partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Office of Civil Defense in addressing the challenges following Typhoon Haiyan. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is the government agency primarily involved in emergency operations and is the co-chair of the National Response Cluster. During crisis situations, it acts as the front-line emergency responders by activating its quick response teams in field offices all over the country. The department works closely with the humanitarian sector and acts as WFP's main channel of organized humanitarian assistance in the Philippines. Under the government disaster response framework, the Office of Civil Defense leads the National Logistics Cluster. WFP's mandate during emergencies aligns closely with that of the Office of Civil Defense and has led to close collaboration in designing, planning and providing logistics support.

Special Operation 200706 was guided by the identification of the operational bottlenecks and the challenges encountered in the aftermath of super typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda). Yolanda was one of the strongest tropical cyclones ever recorded. In this context WFP and Department of Social Welfare and Development identified a series of prioritized actions to address those issues.

Special Operation 200706 was launched in 2014 with the goal of enhancing the disaster response capacity of the Government in the areas of logistics and supply chain management. This goal emerged from the shared experience of managing a system-wide level 3 international humanitarian response. The challenges and achievements of the typhoon Haiyan response presented the opportunity and responsibility to reinforce the Government's emergency response capacities in logistics and food service delivery and to align and optimize the Government and WFP's operational planning for future emergencies. Acknowledging the increasing desire of the national government for self-sufficiency in humanitarian affairs, WFP and the Government defined the following objectives for this Special Operation:

- Enhance the throughput and efficiency of the National Resource Operation Center (NROC), the main facility in Manila packaging the Department of Social Welfare and Development's family food packs by utilising a mechanized packing system (MPS) and adopting best practices in flow optimization.
- Establish a network of disaster response centres (DRC).
- Design and implement a government training programme with an emphasis on disaster response logistics and supply chain management, utilising the equipment, facilities and response options established at the DRCs.

Special Operation 200706 was revised to align the project duration and scope to the upcoming Country Strategic Plan. The revision modified the project's lifespan, bringing forward the project end date to 31 December 2017. It refocused the objectives and scaled back activities according to the resourcing levels of the project and prioritization of works agreed by WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The resourcing shortfall led to reducing the scope of the DRC in Mindanao as well as not sourcing of a third MPS. In line with the adjustment in project closure, in October 2017, WFP closed the rented facility known as the Visayas Disaster Response Centre (VDRC) in Cebu. WFP transferred operations and equipment to a facility provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the same city (Mandaue City), and the department has assumed responsibility for the facility to complement the NROC facility.

Following the achievements of Special Operation 200706 in 2016, the capacity strengthening component of the operation continued in 2017 with a successful Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX PH) from February to March 2017. The FLEX PH was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Office of U.S. Foreign Development Assistance (OFDA). This was a functional simulation exercise targeting logistics staff from Government counterparts, along with logistics staff from partner non-governmental organizations and the private sector. In an effort to attract a diverse range of humanitarian responder profiles, participants included representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Pilipinas 911, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Vision, Globe Telecom, Smart Communications, Kuehne + Nagel, Save the Children and American Heart Association.

The Special Operation also facilitated the participation of a staff member from the Department of Social Welfare and Development's NROC in WFP's regional training of trainers workshop for the emergency logistics training courses. The staff member is now part of a regional pool of facilitators supporting WFP's roll-out of emergency logistics training courses throughout the region, highlighting the Department of Social Welfare and Development's expertise in disaster response and management in the region.

The MPS installed in the NROC in Pasay, the first of its kind in the Philippines, has proven to be a valuable asset for the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The partnership between WFP, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Office of Civil Defense in delivering life-saving assistance to communities affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters has been critical in forging long-lasting collaborations which continue to evolve.

Results

Strategic Objective 1: Special Operation (Logistics)

Activity: Logistics capacity-building activities (Field Logistics Emergency Exercise)

From 26 February to 3 March 2017, WFP facilitated the Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX PH) in Clark, Pampanga. FLEX PH was a six-day simulation exercise focused on the logistical requirements of a disaster response operation. It aimed to provide a realistic learning venue for the logistics staff of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Office of Civil Defense and partner organizations to practice their competencies in setting up logistics operations during emergencies. The activity had the following objectives:

- Provide the participants with an appreciation of cluster coordination during the onset of emergency logistics operations.
- Identify opportunities for inter-agency coordination with the Government and its United Nations (UN) and humanitarian partners.
- Highlight the various stages of an emergency response and present realistic scenarios and problems encountered during emergency operations.
- Foster networks of government staff from different agencies and amongst various humanitarian actors in the Philippines.

Nineteen participants from Government, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector lived and worked in field conditions where they drafted a concept of operations for the emergency relief operation scenario, which was presented to the Government's response teams and to the donor community (in scenario) at the end of the exercise.

FLEX PH worked with more than 30 facilitators representing 11 organizations involved in disaster response in the Philippines, and was the first emergency simulation exercise of its kind conducted with government partners in Asia. FLEX PH was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

As a result of the FLEX PH a memorandum of understanding was established with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), a private sector group of corporations focused on business resilience during emergencies. FLEX PH also led to signing a work plan with the Office of Civil Defense aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Logistics Cluster in the Philippines. WFP assisted the Office of Civil Defense in their facilitation of the Logistics Cluster Bayanihan Summit, which was held in December 2017, and in drafting the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) Operations Manual. The second FLEX PH, planned for March 2018, will test the LET concept.

Through the FLEX PH exercise, WFP was able to simulate realistic scenario challenges that emergency responders will inevitably encounter during emergency operations. The facilitators were able to share knowledge and skills that improved participants' appreciation and understanding of the technicalities of emergency logistics operations. The activity generated a high level of government counterpart collaboration intended to enhance inter-agency coordination in the future. WFP also identified opportunities to improve future FLEX PH.

Strategic Objective 1: Special Operation (Logistics)

Activity: Provide technical assistance (Disaster Response Centres)

In line with the objective of assisting the Government in enhancing the efficiency of the National Resource Operation Center (NROC), WFP handed over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development the equipment installed at the NROC which is utilized in the mechanized packing of family food packs (FFPs). In 2015, WFP enhanced the throughput and efficiency of the main facility in Manila by establishing the mechanized packing system (MPS). The system enables the Department of Social Welfare and Development to produce up to 50,000 FFPs per day, sufficient to feed 250,000 people for three days.

In October 2017, WFP transferred the equipment from the temporary Visayas Disaster Response Centre to a government-owned facility in accord with the objective of establishing a network of disaster response centres. In consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, WFP was able to transfer the equipment and pledged to provide technical support to the department for the operation of equipment and management of the new

site before project closure.

Together, the two operations centres have enhanced the Department of Social Welfare and Development's ability to quickly produce FFPs, and the Government has acknowledged that it has improved accountability and beneficiary satisfaction during emergency operations.

Story Worth Telling: Compostela Valley's Silver Lining after Typhoon Bopha

"I wish we had been prepared five years ago" were the words of a mother as she cried recounting one of the most traumatising disasters to hit her community. It was the middle of the day and the town of New Bataan was holding an earthquake drill. The field was busy with emergency responders attending to mock casualties, coordinators organising residents into a mock evacuation camp, and trucks and ambulances hastily entering and exiting the area. The familiar sight of a drill being carried brought back a sombre recollection to the mother as she sat beside her daughter on one of the beds in the evacuation centre.

It has been five years since Typhoon Bopha left physical wreckage and emotional scars in Compostela Valley, a province in the southeast part of Mindanao.

Lynne Dollalosa poignantly recalls how the people in Compostela Valley tragically lost livelihoods and loved ones as the province was ravaged by the strongest storm system to hit the region in 20 years. "One night we could not go anywhere because water surrounded the 12 remaining houses... all the other houses of our neighbours were swept away by the raging waters," she recalled. Many in the community were stunned, caught unprepared to face nature's power that shook trees, flooded streets and sent mudslides that crushed or inundated houses and buildings. This provided an important life lesson: you cannot prevent natural disasters, but you can prepare for them.

At the time, Compostela Valley had a disaster council and a team of emergency responders, but these had proved insufficient. The absence of an operations centre for disaster preparedness and response left them unprepared and ill-equipped, the townfolk lacked resources and procedures to cope with large-scale disasters.

Lynne recalls how the national government and international humanitarian organizations worked in a cohesive manner, promptly providing life-saving assistance. WFP, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provided humanitarian assistance and conducted training to strengthen the town's emergency response capacity for the future. WFP assisted in the renovation of a structure which now houses the fully functional Disaster Operations Centre of New Bataan. The centre paved the way for the introduction of systems and policies, and has proved to be an ideal base to prepare for disasters and respond to disasters.

Now in 2017, Lynne is the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer in New Bataan. She and her team are training responders and conducting emergency drills in every *barangay* (sub-unit) of the town. Lynne and her team are also sharing their best practices with other disaster-prone communities in the country.

While her town learned its lesson the hard way, she looks back on the experience of Typhoon Bopha noting that storms and typhoons are unstoppable, but damage can be mitigated and risks can be reduced if everyone has the right mindset of preparedness and remains alert to natural disasters. Typhoon Bopha was a reminder that while the Government and humanitarian agencies can assist those in need, communities have to assume the critical task of preparing for the worst.

"Maybe I could not say that we are totally and 100 percent prepared because nobody could ever be prepared enough for a big disaster... But at least, at this moment, people really know what to do," Lynne stated.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development established a new mechanized packing system leading to a reduction in the time required to assemble family food packs and quicker dispatch to beneficiaries.

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Logistics)				
Number of agencies and organizations using coordination and logistics services	agency/organization	11	11	100.0%
Number of technical support activities provided on food security monitoring and food assistance	activity	1	1	100.0%
Number of trained and qualified responders on stand-by	individual	19	19	100.0%
Number of training sessions / workshops organized	training session	1	1	100.0%