



WFP Philippines Country Brief

May 2018

Operational Context

A middle-income country, the Philippines is the second fastest growing economy in Asia, but has struggled to transpose these improvements into tangible human development gains. Poverty remains above 20 percent according to the Asian Development Bank. Food and nutrition security in the country declined from “moderate” to “serious” from 2016 to 2017 (Global Hunger Index). The Philippines ranked third out of 171 countries in 2017 World Risk Index and fifth out of 181 countries in the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index.

One year has passed since the ISIS-inspired Maute/Abu Sayyaf Group occupation of Marawi City led to the displacement of more than 77,000 families. The Marawi Crisis is one of the armed conflicts that results to internal displacement in the country. Despite the Government’s declaration of the liberation of the city in October 2017, 50,000 families are still displaced and require humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation is expected to take several years.

Aiming to save lives and change lives, WFP’s presence in the Philippines focuses on assisting the Government in achieving its long-term goals anchored on the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. It is also in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework, the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Zero Hunger Challenge.



Population: **103 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **116 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33.4% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

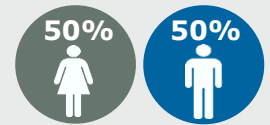
Credit: WFP/Anthony Chase Lim
Caption: During the holy month of Ramadan, WFP helps families affected by the Marawi crisis in ensuring there will be food at the table for the family to eat during their breaking of fast.

In Numbers

592 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.4 million net funding requirements
(June – November 2018)

39,191 people assisted
in May 2018



Operational Updates

Marawi Crisis Response

- **General Distributions of Rice:** Through the generous contributions of the Government of Australia and the United States Agency for International Development, WFP was able to cover 15 municipalities in Lanao del Sur and 11 *barangays* (administrative sub-unit) in Iligan City. During its simultaneous general distributions of rice in both areas, WFP reached a total of 7,412 families, or 37,060 individuals. In time for the holy month of Ramadan, WFP was able to help provide food on the table as the affected families break their fast during *iftar* (traditional sundown meal).
- **School Feeding:** Before the schools in Marawi closed for summer break in mid-May, WFP’s school feeding operations were able to provide school meals to 2,126 students in nine schools. Due to the crisis, only a few number of schools reopened and extended until May, thus fewer students have been targeted for school feeding activities. WFP’s school feeding will resume for the new academic year in June.
- **Food Assistance for Assets:** Many of the families displaced by the Marawi crisis are struggling to earn a steady income to provide for their families’ needs. In partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) of the province of Lanao del Sur, and through the contribution of the Government of Italy, WFP will be implementing a livelihood programme from June to August 2018. This three-month project will assist 1,580 participating farmers in planting corn, rice, and vegetables in more than 400 hectares of land. WFP and DAR held community-based orientations to invite participants and inform them of the project’s mechanism, benefits, entitlement, and duration.

WFP Activities in May

- **Homegrown School Feeding:** WFP aims to empower Maguindanao’s small-scale farming communities through local food production and purchase for its school feeding activity in the province. In preparation for the upcoming school year, WFP has identified four pilot municipalities that

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will participate in homegrown school feeding. An orientation with local government partners, Department of Education, and Department of Agriculture was conducted to involve all local actors in linking the school feeding programme with small-scale farmer production that can create a market for small landholders while encouraging school attendance through nutritious school meals.

- **Capacity Strengthening:** Recognizing the role that food security and nutrition play in development, WFP partnered with the municipal governments of Buldon and South Upi in Maguindanao through the formulation of food security and nutrition work plans. Through a consultative workshop, representatives from Buldon and South Upi were able to determine activities and strategies from their Community Development Plan in order to improve the food security and nutrition in Maguindanao.
- **Enhancing Cash-Based Transfers in the Country:** WFP worked with the Philippine Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations within the Cash Working Group in drafting a National Framework Guidelines on Emergency Cash Transfer. The draft will be proposed to the Government to serve as a standard reference material in undertaking cash-based transfer interventions in the country.
- **WFP’s Country Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Underway:** WFP hosted a round of consultative meetings with Government officials, the donor community, civil society organisations, and the United Nations Country Team, to share and gather feedback on the WFP Philippines 2018-2023 Country Strategic Plan, which will be implemented starting July 2018. Participants recognized the flexibility of the CSP, its alignment with Philippines Framework for Sustainable Development, and identified areas for collaboration.

- Beneficiaries of the recent round of distributions conducted have expressed gratitude in the food assistance received as it ensured their family would have food for *iftar* during Ramadan.
- WFP is currently conducting an end-line survey in 14 municipalities for its stunting prevention programme in the province of Maguindanao.

WFP Philippines Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	June - November Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
33 m	1.2 m	1.4 m
Strategic Result 1: Access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in the Philippines are able to meet their food nutrition needs during and immediately after an emergency <i>Focus area: Marawi City, Lanao del Sur</i>		
5 m	0.6 m	0.5 m
Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Women, boys, and girls in provinces prioritized by the Government have adequate and healthy diets to reduce malnutrition in line with government targets by 2022. <i>Focus area: Central Mindanao</i>		
6 m	0.03 m	0.25 m
Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening		
Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable communities in Mindanao have improved food security, in support of government targets by 2022. <i>Focus area: Central Mindanao</i>		
7 m	1 m	0
Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening		
Strategic Outcome 4: National and local government have enhanced capabilities to reduce vulnerabilities to shocks by 2022. <i>Focus area: Philippines</i>		
15 m	0.03 m	0.9 m

Monitoring

- As WFP successfully wrapped up its seven-year Disaster Preparedness Response project last March, a post-implementation monitoring on partner local government units (LGUs) was conducted in gauging the effectiveness of WFP’s assistance in strengthening the capacities of its partners. The [final report](#) revealed that partner LGUs have been empowered in their own capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.
- In monitoring the food assistance distributions in Lanao del Sur and Iligan City, an orientation with the LGU partner was conducted to clarify the roles and responsibilities during distribution. WFP works hand in hand with the LGU in its fulfilment of its roles on information dissemination, setting up of distribution facilities, finalizing the master list, and ensuring the safety and security of the beneficiaries.

Challenges

- A year has passed since the Marawi City siege broke out and seven months since it was liberated yet only 27,770 families out of the 77,170 displaced were able to return to 67 *barangays* in Marawi. Both returning and displaced families continue to require food and livelihood assistance to fully recover.
- Funding remains a challenge. WFP Philippines will begin implementing its five-year strategic plan in July and continues to reach out for donor commitments to ensure programme implementation.

Donors

United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Norway, Azerbaijan, Canada, New Zealand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan, Italy, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

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