



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief November 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. Hunger in the country declined to “serious” in 2017.

In October 2017, the Government declared Marawi City liberated from the ISIS-inspired Maute/Abu Sayyaf Group. Over 10,000 families are still displaced and more than 60,000 returned families require humanitarian assistance. Rehabilitation is expected to take several years.

Super Typhoon Mangkhut struck the Philippines in September. The disaster affected more than 3 million individuals and caused damages to crops, livestock and infrastructure estimated at more than US\$600 million.

Aiming to save lives and change lives, WFP aims to assist the Government in achieving its long-term goals in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework, the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and 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**

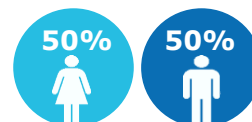
In Numbers

728 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$249,020 cash distributed

US\$2.68 m six months (December 2018-May 2019) net funding requirements

175,450 people assisted
in November 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP's **cash-based transfer** intervention for families affected by Super Typhoon Mangkhut continues in November, reaching 20,005 individuals in the province of Benguet and Cagayan. WFP works in partnership with Western Union in the distribution of cash. Each family received US\$ 60 (PHP 3,200).
- WFP continuously assists the Government in the recovery of the livelihood of the citizens of Marawi. Its **food assistance-for-assets activity** reached 7,220 families. WFP also provided rice to 873 families through **general food distribution**.
- WFP's **school feeding activity** in selected schools in Mindanao encourages school attendance. In November, WFP reached 49,720 schoolchildren in Marawi and 43,510 schoolchildren in Maguindanao.
- In Maguindanao, WFP's presence continues to assist families and individuals through its **stunting prevention programme** and **food assistance for assets activities**: 6,631 pregnant and lactating women and 9,729 children age 6-59 months received specialized nutritious; and 5,120 individuals were engaged in livelihood activities and were provided with either cash or food.
- WFP helps “**Fill the Nutrient Gap**” in the Philippines through a nationwide assessment on the barriers that hinder good nutrition and diet. WFP presented the results in a two-day forum. They will be used to enhance existing policies to achieve good nutrition and adequate diet to address malnutrition.
- As the year ends, WFP concluded its fourth **Forecast-based Financing* Forum** in the country. The event brought together key partners and stakeholders to a discussion on the status of triggering procedures at the local level, strengths and challenges of existing financial tools, and integrating Forecast-based Actions into the local government units' plans. Forecast-based Financing is a mechanism that enhances Early Warning Early Action and sets up an automatic system that triggers and funds preparedness actions before the disaster strikes. WFP's FbF project in the Philippines started in 2015.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec 2018- May 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.68 m	7.68 m	2.68 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Crisis-affected people in the Philippines are able to meet their food and nutrition needs during and immediately after an emergency.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional food and nutrition assistance through the governments' safety net or partners to crisis-affected communities following natural disasters or human-induced shocks and disruptions

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.

Focus area: Root Cause

Activities:

- Provide direct and technical assistance to boys, girls, women and care providers as well as technical assistance to government, build evidence and advocate to ensure nutrition specific and sensitive multiple sectorial responses lead to adequate and healthy diets during the critical times of development.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome #3: Vulnerable communities in Mindanao have improved food security, in support of government targets by 2022.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Support the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and local governments to address the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) needs of all segments of the population (activity category: 9, modality: CS/food/cash) to further consolidate and enhance existing peace and development plans

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome #4: National and Local Government have enhanced capabilities to reduce vulnerabilities to shocks by 2022.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Support national and local capacities for disaster risk reduction and management as well as climate change adaptation
- Strengthen and augment government and partners' emergency preparedness and response capacity to include supply chain and ICT

Donors

Australia, Japan, Italy, New Zealand, United States of America, and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

Download WFP's [ShareTheMeal](#) app and help feed a child with just a tap on your phone: <https://apple.co/1QxNv9G>

Monitoring

- To understand better the food security situation in the Super Typhoon Mangkhut-affected families in Cagayan Province, WFP conducted baseline data collection on the beneficiaries supported through the cash-based transfer intervention. The results show that 15 percent of households have borderline food consumption score (consuming rice and vegetables, accompanied by oil and pulses, a few times a week). About ten percent of the interviewed households also have low dietary diversity. On average, the households spend US\$ 38 (PHP 2,000) per week on food. As a coping strategy to meet the needs of the family, some households resort to using of savings to buy food, reducing the portion size of meals, and reducing the consumption size of adults so young children can eat.
- In Mindanao, WFP also started collecting data to determine the food security outcome of the livelihood activities. Based on post-distribution monitoring, beneficiaries generally feel safe and secure in travelling to and from the distribution site and they were treated in an acceptable manner when they claimed their assistance.

Challenges

- One of the persistent challenges in WFP's operations is insufficient funding. WFP remains committed to its objectives and reaches out to donor commitments to ensure full programme implementation in pursuit of the strategic results outlined in the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

WFP Empowers Maguindanao Women Farmers

WFP, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries-Maguindanao, supports a women's group through its livelihood activities in the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan. The municipal government purchased the vegetables produced by the women farmers to complement WFP's school feeding activity in the municipality.

The **home-grown school feeding** in Maguindanao promotes safe, diverse, and nutritious produce that are locally-sourced from smallholder farmers.

