



WFP Philippines

Country Brief

December 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

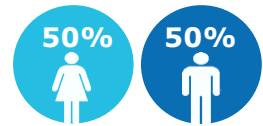
In Numbers

651 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$44,800 cash distributed

US\$2.2 m six months (January-June 2019) net funding requirements

139,701 people assisted in December 2018



Operational Updates

- In December, WFP continued the distribution of cash vouchers to families affected by Super Typhoon Mangkhut (Ompong) in Cagayan Province and reached 805 individuals. In partnership with Western Union, WFP has been responding to the emergency by providing **unconditional cash-based transfers** since October 2018.
- In Marawi, WFP’s support to the displaced and returning families affected by the 2017 Marawi Siege continues. WFP supports school attendance and provided **school meals** to 49,559 school girls and boys. The restoration of livelihoods among farming and fishing families in Marawi City and other municipalities also continued in December with WFP reaching 4,711 families (23,555 individuals) – who participated in the **asset creation activities** – with 50 kg of rice.
- In Maguindanao, WFP continues to assist families and individuals through its **stunting prevention programme**: 6,480 pregnant and lactating women and 8,981 children age 6-59 months were provided with specialized nutritious food to improve nutritional intake. The programme promotes optimal growth during the first 1000 days of a child, starting from a mother’s womb, and up to age five.
- WFP’s **home grown school feeding** in Maguindanao links on-site school feeding with agriculture production activities. WFP helps stimulate local food production in six municipalities by engaging smallholder farmers in increasing their produce sales by selling to consumer’s cooperatives. The local government uses the fruits and vegetables to complement WFP’s school feeding. In December, WFP reached 44,266 schoolchildren in 130 schools and provided 6,075 participating farmers with cash or food support.
- WFP conducted a process review of the home grown school feeding introductory run on December 17-19 in Cotabato City. The workshop identified the best practices and challenges, and discussed ways on how to expand the involvement of the local government in supporting local agriculture production.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan - June 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.68 m	8.12 m	2.2 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

- To understand better the food security situation of conflict-affected families in Marawi City, WFP conducted a fourth Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, covering a total of 1,000 households in December. The initial findings of this EFSA will be released in January.
- Outcome monitoring on the asset creation activities in Maguindanao revealed that 74 percent of the assessed population has an acceptable food consumption score, which means families are consuming staples and vegetables on a daily basis and frequently accompanied by oil and pulses, and meat, fish, and dairy occasionally.
- Overall, beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance they received and women actively participated in the decision-making on the use of the entitlement.

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.

Donors

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

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