



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief January 2019



## 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 2018, affecting more than three million individuals and causing US\$600 million of damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure.

Aiming to save lives and change lives, WFP is in line with the UN Philippines Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023, which prioritizes people, particularly, “the most marginalized, vulnerable, and at risk people and groups benefit from more inclusive and quality services and live in more supportive environments where their nutrition, food security, and health are ensured and protected.”



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

**279 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$119,820** cash distributed

**US\$ 4.2 m** six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements

**117,942 people assisted**  
in January 2019



## Operational Updates

- WFP has completed its unconditional cash-based assistance to families affected by Super Typhoon Mangkhut (Ompong) in northern Luzon. In January, 9,985 families received USD 60 (PHP 3,200) to assist families in their food and non-food needs. WFP's cash-based assistance was implemented from October 2018 to January 2019, reaching 7,568 families. Western Union facilitated the distribution of cash entitlements through its branches in the provinces of Benguet and Cagayan.
- WFP continues its **home grown school feeding** in Maguindanao in 2019. This initiative, which began in September 2018, links on-site school feeding with agriculture production in the province. Using a farm-to-table approach, local farmers sell their produce to the local government, which serves the fruits and vegetables to schoolchildren, thereby complementing WFP's school feeding. In January, 43,448 girls and boys were provided with locally produced and purchased meals.
- In Maguindanao, WFP continues to assist families and individuals through its **stunting prevention programme**: 6,486 pregnant and lactating women and 8,464 children age 6-23 months were provided with specialized nutritious food to improve their nutritional intake. The programme promotes optimal growth during the first 1000 days of a child, starting from a mother's womb.
- In Marawi, WFP supports school attendance and provided **school meals** to 49,559 school girls and boys.
- In January, WFP held a consultation dialogue with the Bangsamoro Development Authority in Cotabato City to carefully plan for the integration of food security and nutrition components to the Bangsamoro Development Transition Plan. The two-day discussion also identified a core technical team that will promote food security and nutrition in the local agenda.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb – July 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.68 m	8.42 m	4.2 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

## Monitoring

- The most recent emergency food security assessment (EFSA) on the families affected by the Marawi crisis revealed that 30 percent of the assessed households were food insecure. Further, the proportion of people spending more than 65 percent of their income on food increased from 18 percent in August 2018 to 47 percent in December 2018. The number of people not engaged in any livelihood activity also increased from four percent to 33 percent. This indicates continued vulnerability in the food security situation among households, both displaced and returned.
- WFP and other partners concluded an after-action review and impact analysis to discuss the successes, gaps, and challenges experienced during the response to Super Typhoon Mangkhut. The review identified that the partnership with the local governments of Benguet and Cagayan, which grew over the last seven years under WFP's disaster preparedness response project, played a pivotal role in responding quickly. The existing partnership facilitated the quick identification of focal persons in the planning and implementation phase. The support from Western Union, especially local branches that facilitated the cash distribution, was also commendable. Overall, the quick decision-making in mobilizing resources, selection of the transfer modality (cash), and assessment-based identification of coverage areas contributed to the rapid response to typhoon-affected municipalities in Benguet and Cagayan.

## Challenges

- The EFSA revealed a worsened status on the food security of those affected by the Marawi Siege, despite the siege ending in October 2017. Both the displaced and returning families require continuous support in the restoration of their livelihoods and improvement of their food security and nutrition situation. WFP continues to reach out for donor commitments to ensure programme implementation in support of the crisis-affected populations.

## Donors

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

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