



WFP Philippines Country Brief February 2019

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 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**

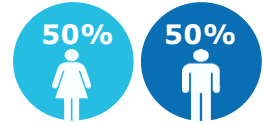
Chronic malnutrition: **33.4% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

363 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 6.21 m six months (March-August 2019) net funding requirements

110,034 people assisted in February 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP's **home-grown school feeding** in Maguindanao reached 44,216 schoolchildren in February. This initiative effectively links the school feeding activity, led by the government and assisted by WFP, with local food production. Through a farm-to-table approach, local farmers sell their produce (fruits and vegetables) to the local government, thereby complementing WFP's school feeding.
- In Marawi, WFP also assists schoolchildren through a **school meals project**. With the objective of supporting class attendance and retention, WFP provided meals to 50,124 school boys and girls in February.
- WFP **stunting prevention programme** continues to support nutritionally at-risk populations in Maguindanao. In February, 8,951 pregnant and lactating women, including adolescent girls, and 6,743 children age 6-23 months were provided with specialized nutritious food in order to improve their nutritional intake. The programme promotes optimal growth during the first 1000 days of a child, starting from a mother's womb.
- WFP participated in the **WFP Innovation Accelerator** bootcamp, coordinated by Google Developers Launchpad held in Munich, Germany. The bootcamp introduced the country teams to innovation techniques such as human-centered design and lean startup methodologies, integrating WFP's operational excellence. WFP presented its project "ALIA: Automated Livelihoods Information Assistant," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered tool to generate narratives that WFP programme officers can use to come up with a plan of action in response to a disaster. This early action information helps to create resilience-building information pre- and post-emergencies.
- WFP received the **"Gawad Kalusugan Plaque of Commendation"** from the Department of Health, which recognized WFP as one of the Heroes of Health for its health and nutrition work in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar – Aug 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.68 m	8.65 m	6.21 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

- To determine the outcome of the assistance provided to families affected by the Typhoon Ompong, an outcome post-distribution monitoring was carried out. The objective was to gather food security indicators such as food consumption score and coping strategies. The beneficiaries expressed great appreciation on the cash assistance received from WFP and an in-depth analysis of the results of the monitoring will be analyzed and presented in the quarterly monitoring and evaluation report.
- WFP and its monitoring partner The Moropreneur Inc. (TMI) underwent capacity strengthening for its monitoring activities in the Lanao provinces. This is in preparation of the monitoring activities that TMI will undertake on WFP's school feeding programme, nutrition intervention, and asset creation activities.

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

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