



WFP Philippines Country Brief March 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



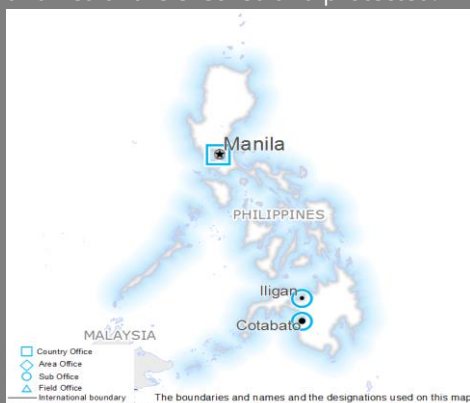
Operational Context

The Philippines is the second fastest growing economy in Asia, but has struggled to transpose these improvements into tangible human development gains. In spite of its middle-income country status, 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 million individuals and causing US\$600 million of damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure.

Aiming to save lives and change lives, WFP acts in line with the UN Philippines Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2019-2023, which prioritizes “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**

2018 Human Development Index: **113 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

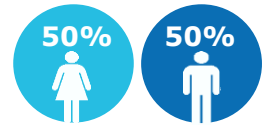
Chronic malnutrition: **33.4% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

199 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.64 million six-month (April-September 2019) net funding requirements

84,625 people assisted in March 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP’s home-grown school feeding in Maguindanao reached 44,017 schoolchildren in March. 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.
- WFP’s stunting prevention programme continues to support nutritionally at-risk populations in Maguindanao. In March, 6,356 pregnant and lactating women, including adolescent girls, and 8,964 children aged 6-23 months received specialized nutritious food in order to improve their nutritional intake. The programme promotes optimal growth during the first 1,000 days of a child, from pregnancy to the second birthday.
- In Marawi, WFP assists schoolchildren through an emergency school feeding project, with the objective of supporting class attendance and retention. 14,288 school boys and girls received meals in March. WFP participated in the Strategic Formulation Workshop organized by the Department of Education of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on 27-30 March in Iligan City. The workshop aimed to identify strategies for the next 100 days, one year and three to five years. One of the strategies for the next 100 days will see WFP’s involvement in conducting an assessment of ongoing school feeding activities and explore future implementation options.

Contact info: Catherine Mones (catherine.mones@wfp.org)

Country Director: Stephen Gluning

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr- Sep 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.6 m	14.1 m	1.64 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, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America, and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

- WFP launched Nutrition-in-Emergencies (NIE) activities in Marawi. To this aim a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed between the City Health Office of Marawi, the Government of Marawi City, the Integrated Provincial Health Office, USAID and WFP on 19 March, to establish streamlined cooperation between parties in the implementation of nutrition activities. In March, WFP's NIE efforts served 1,280 children aged 6-59 months, including 103 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). The Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) also served 1,033 pregnant and lactating women, including those nutritionally at-risk. The plan is to reach 11,004 children and women in 22 municipalities of Lanao del Sur and in Marawi City, complementing the Government's Operation Timbang (OPT) and Measles Vaccination Campaign.

- On cash-based transfers, WFP identified 3,047 farmers/fisherfolks out of 9,612 targeted participants in 53 barangays of Marawi City. WFP provided unique tracking numbers to a first batch of beneficiaries, allowing them to claim the payout, and a first set of families fully received the payout. Biometric data verification is underway for the remaining participants.

Monitoring

- Post-distribution monitoring of WFP's intervention in Cagayan Province showed improvements in household food security levels. The percentage of the households with borderline food consumption score had decreased by 47 percentage points and the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption score had increased by 8 percentage points. The consumption-based coping strategy index, used to assess the level of stress faced by a household due to a food shortage, also decreased from 7.6 to 5.1.

Challenges

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

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