



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief April 2019



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**

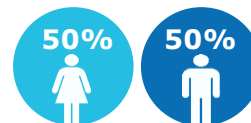
Chronic malnutrition: **33.4% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

39.17 mt of food distributed

US\$ 4.6 million six-month (May-October 2019) net funding requirements

17,779 people assisted
in April 2019



Operational Updates

- To support the population displaced by recent armed conflict in Mindanao, WFP received Immediate Response Account funding to provide unconditional cash based transfers. WFP registered 7,240 IDP families in Maguindanao in April, of which 6,556 received unconditional cash. In Sulu, 698 IDP families received unconditional cash transfers.
- WFP continues to implement Nutrition-in-Emergencies (NIE) activities in Marawi City including the 22 municipalities in Lanao del Sur affected by the Marawi Crisis by providing 26 mt of Specialized Nutritious Food to a target of 11,004 children and women. This activity complements the regular health program of the local health centers including the massive measles immunization campaign.
- In the Food-for-Assets area, WFP distributed 17.55 mt of food in Mindanao to 201 participants in partnership with FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MAFAR), and Local Government Units. In Marawi, 197 beneficiaries (families) were reached.
- WFP's stunting prevention programme, which targets 20,000 beneficiaries, experienced a pipeline break starting April 2019. Resource mobilization is on-going for this activity. Meanwhile, consultation and coordination with the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)-Ministry of Health Secretary, along with the other UN-Agencies and partners, is ongoing for the implementation of the regional and provincial nutrition action plans.
- WFP's home-grown school feeding activities in Maguindanao stopped in March at the end of the Filipino school year. Classes resume in June 2019; the program will resume if the funding is secured.
- WFP led the activation of the BARMM Food Security Cluster.
- Staff provided inputs into the Strategic Planning of the MAFAR-BARMM ensuring integration of food security and nutrition lens.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May - October 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
40.6 m	14.7m	4.6 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

Operational Updates (continued)

- Together with the Office of Civil Defense, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, WFP facilitated the 2nd Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX 2) in Clark, Pampanga, from 4-8 March. 55 participants from the government, UN, NGO, and private sector came together to handle the logistical challenges (coordination, information management, transport, warehousing, etc) of a disaster response in the Metro Manila West Valley Fault scenario.
- WFP supported a study visit of the Government of Bangladesh to the Philippines to examine the country's social protection system. DSWD supported facilitation of the high-level visit, which included Saima W. Hossain, daughter of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The study tour included a site visit to Legazpi, where the delegation from Bangladesh were able to interact with beneficiaries of the government's social protection system.

Monitoring

- Baseline data collection for Lanao Del Sur for the food assistance for asset intervention showed improvement compared to the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) result in December 2018. Based on the results, 9.7 percent of households have poor food consumption score (FCS) (vs 11 percent in EFSA). 18.7 percent have borderline food consumption score (vs 23 percent in EFSA).
- However, the food related coping strategy index is much higher compare to the EFSA results (13.4 percent vs. 4 percent). This indicates that there were more people engaging in food-related coping strategies such as relying on less preferred and less expensive food, reducing the portion size of meals and reduction of quantities consumed by adult members for young children. Some also resulted in using their savings to buy food. Thus, the cash assistance from the FFA intervention would help the households to address their immediate food needs and even decrease the use of food based coping strategies.

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>