



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief May 2019



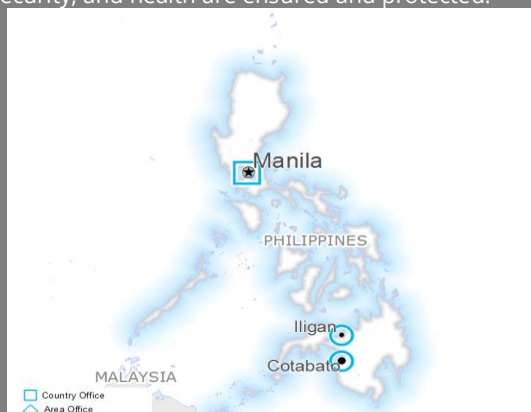
Operational Context

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.

Amidst the transition into the new regional entity Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, armed clashes with militant groups continue to cause displacement to thousands of families fleeing for safety.

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

15 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 287,800 cash distributed

US\$ 3.95 m six months (June-November 2019) net funding requirements

18,195 people assisted
in May 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP is responding to the immediate needs of families displaced by the armed conflict in Maguindanao Province of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Services, 6,216 families were given immediate and unconditional cash assistance to provide for their food and non-food needs this month. This assistance project is part of a three-month intervention to support 10,000 families affected and displaced by conflict.
- In Maguindanao, WFP also provided 2,461 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, and 8,539 children age 6-23 months with specialized nutritious food to improve their nutritional intake. This nutrition in emergencies programme helps ensure optimal growth during the first 1000 days of a child's life.
- In response to the continuing crisis in Marawi, WFP livelihood assistance supported 979 families. Each family received a conditional cash-based transfer for productive farm work. This activity is in partnership with the Department of Agrarian Reform and Department of Agriculture, who are complementing the assistance by providing agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools and farming equipment to the participating farmers.
- WFP signed a Framework Agreement with BARMM. This identifies WFP as a key partner towards enhancing regional, provincial, and municipal programmes on food security and nutrition, and disaster risk management. A Memorandum of Agreement was also signed between the two parties on WFP's use of a warehouse in Polloc for storing prepositioned relief items in the event of an emergency.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	June – Nov 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	15.21 m	3.95 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 food security situation of the displaced families affected by the armed conflict in the BARMM, WFP conducted a baseline assessment. The results showed that 31 percent of households interviewed have borderline to poor food consumption score. This suggests a drastic deterioration in the food security situation compared with the findings of the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) in 2018, which recorded borderline to poor food consumption score at 17 percent.
- The assessment also found the average food-based coping strategy index to be lower than the 2018 CFSVA. Relying on less-preferred and less-expensive food was the strategy used most frequently, an average of four days a week, while reducing portion size of meals was used an average of two days a week.
- An emergency food security assessment in Marawi found that one in 10 households in conflict-affected areas is food insecure. The food insecurity index showed that 6 percent of the population are moderately or severely food insecure.

Challenges

- WFP's operations continued to be challenged by insufficient funding which creates critical delays in its planned activities. WFP is actively seeking 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, Philippines, United States of America, and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund