



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief

June 2019



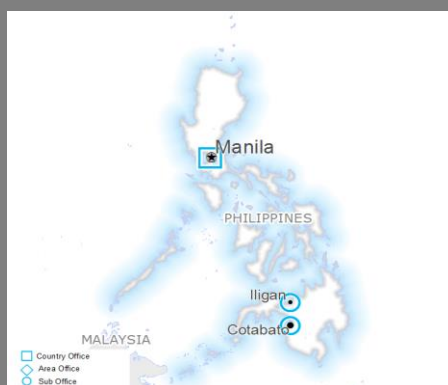
Operational Context

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: **108 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

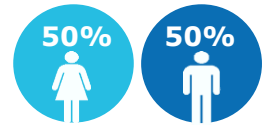
In Numbers

35.412 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 436,445 cash distributed

US\$ 4.07 m six months (July-December 2019) net funding requirements

52,463 people assisted in June 2019



Operational Updates

- Since the hostilities between the government security forces and armed groups broke out in various areas within the provinces of Sulu, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, WFP has been assisting internally displaced populations through an unconditional cash-based transfer. In June, 32,542 people were provided with cash to assist with their immediate food and non-food needs.
- WFP continues to respond to the protracted crisis in Marawi through the provision of livelihood assistance. This month, 4,479 participants qualified as recipients of a conditional cash-based transfer for productive farming and fishing work. The assistance also benefitted their families (a total of 22,395 individuals). To reach these communities, WFP works in coordination with the local Department of Agrarian Reform and Department of Agriculture. These departments complement WFP's projects by providing agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools, and other farming equipment to help modernize the communities' farming practices.
- Recognizing the vulnerability of nutritionally at-risk populations that have been displaced by the Marawi crisis, WFP is providing specialized nutritious food to pregnant and lactating women, including adolescent girls, and children aged 6-23 months to help ensure optimal growth during the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. In June, WFP reached 15,442 beneficiaries (3,454 pregnant and lactating women and girls; and 5,755 young boys and 6,233 young girls aged 6-23 months).
- In June, representatives from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) visited WFP's facility in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to inspect prototypes for the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (MOVE) that were commissioned by DICT from WFP. This project aims to set up a communications system that the Government can deploy quickly in times of disaster.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July - Dec 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	15.81 m	4.07 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

- WFP co-organized the third regional dialogue platform on Forecast-based Financing with the Philippine Red Cross, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the START Network in Manila. The dialogue provided a platform for sharing best practices, challenges and lessons learned on the integration of early warning, early actions, and appropriate financing methods before and during disasters. WFP led the session on shock-responsive social protection.

Monitoring

- Initial findings from post-distribution monitoring of internally displaced persons who had received WFP support through unconditional cash-based assistance revealed that the proportion of households with a poor-to-borderline food consumption score was reduced from 31 percent to 24 percent. The beneficiaries also noted that they were satisfied with the assistance received and that they were treated with respect and dignity by WFP staff and its cooperating partners during the distribution of cash assistance.
- Initial analysis of the outcome data found that the coping strategy index (CSI) was reduced from 14 to 8. The CSI assesses the level of stress faced by a household due to food shortage, combining the frequency and severity of the food consumption-based negative coping strategies that households engage in.
- WFP is validating the achievement of milestones among farmers participating in livelihoods activities to ensure they have made enough progress against agreed criteria to become eligible for the cash payout.
- WFP conducted an after-action review of its unconditional cash-based transfer programme in Sulu, Maguindanao, and Lanao del Sur to reflect on and assess the design, implementation and results achieved. This review will inform future programming.

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.

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Donors

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