



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief July 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**

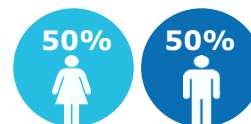
In Numbers

30 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 65,947 cash distributed

US\$ 4.04 m six months (August 2019 – January 2020) net funding requirements

13,857 people assisted in July 2019



Operational Updates

- On July 27, an earthquake shook the islands of Batanes, the northernmost province of the Philippines. WFP supported the Government’s response by providing three trucks that transported 5,000 family food packs from Manila to Tuguegarao. WFP’s assistance was facilitated by a generous contribution from the United States Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.
- WFP contributes to the restoration of economic activity in conflict-affected Marawi by providing livelihood support. In July, WFP provided conditional cash-transfers to 5,490 farmers and fisherfolk who participated in the livelihood activities. This activity also benefitted their families (27,450 individuals in total). WFP reaches these communities in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture.
- WFP reached 3,927 pregnant and lactating women and 4,458 children aged 6-23 months with specialized nutritious food in Marawi this month. Nutrition in Emergencies is a significant aspect of humanitarian response that addresses chronic food and nutrition insecurity, especially in areas affected by conflict.
- On 4-5 July, WFP conducted the first in a series of regional public consultations on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the newly signed National School Feeding Programme Law (Republic Act 11037). The law provides for the institutionalization of a national feeding programme for undernourished children in public schools to combat hunger and undernutrition.
- WFP recently rolled out the Social Behavioural Change Communication Strategy Project to influence nutritional practices among pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children and improve health and nutrition outcomes.

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)	Aug 2019 – Jan 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	15.43 m	4.04 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, New Zealand, the Philippines, United States of America, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and World Bank

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

- WFP signed an agreement with the Department of Information and Communications Technology to help enhance Government capacity, on national and local levels, to reduce vulnerabilities and shocks by 2020. Through the agreement, WFP oversees the design of the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (MOVE). In the initial phase of this project, WFP will deliver six sets of MOVE composed of a Hub (customized heavy-duty truck with a fully integrated communications system), a Dispatch (4x4 vehicle to extend the reach of the Hub) and a purpose-built off-road motorcycle to reach inaccessible terrain.

Monitoring

- WFP completed its Q2 2019 outcome monitoring in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Sulu, where WFP had provided unconditional cash assistance to conflict-affected families. The assessed populations showed an improvement in their Food Consumption Score (FCS), a measure of diet diversity, meal frequency, and nutritional importance of food consumed: in June 2019, 76 percent of households were found to have acceptable FCS, an improvement from 69 percent in the previous month. The proportion of households with poor to moderate FCS decreased to 24 percent in June from 31 percent in May.

Challenges

- WFP operations are challenged by insufficient funding, which creates critical delays in its planned activities. WFP actively seeks donor commitments to ensure full programme implementation in pursuit of the strategic results outlined in its [Country Strategic Plan 2018-2023](#).

WFP's Fill the Nutrient Gap Study



In 2018, WFP, in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, collaborated in using a framework that analyses the nutrition situation in a country, called Fill the Nutrient Gap. The study used existing government data to identify barriers faced by the most vulnerable groups in accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious food.

WFP completed the study in early 2019 and the results were presented various national stakeholders. For the summary of the report, [click here](#).