



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief

August 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**

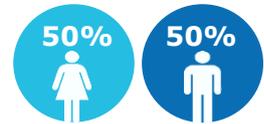
In Numbers

18.84 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 246,258 cash distributed

US\$ 4.37 m six months (September 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

20,588 people assisted
in August 2019



Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided 9,224 individuals with specialized nutritious foods as part of its nutrition in emergencies programme. Of these beneficiaries, 4,320 were pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, and 4,904 were children aged between 6 and 23 months. The goal of the programme is to ensure that children are well nourished during the first 1,000 days of their lives – which are critical for healthy growth and development. WFP promotes exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary food during this stage.
- WFP provided conditional cash-transfers to 11,364 farmers and fisherfolk who participated in its livelihood activities. WFP reaches these communities in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture who provide complementary support through agricultural inputs such as seeds and farming and fishing tools and equipment. This livelihoods programme, which contributes to the restoration of economic activity in conflict-affected Marawi, is made possible by the generous support of the United States Agency for International Development.
- WFP is launching an optimization study to identify and address logistical gaps and bottlenecks during emergency response. The study will be conducted in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Office of Civil Defense and will be undertaken with HELP Logistics, one of WFP's corporate partners.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep 2019 – Feb 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	16.35 m	4.37 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>

Monitoring

- The food security condition of the households assisted by WFP’s food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) activity in Mindanao has improved, according to a recent outcome post-distribution monitoring (PDM). The proportion of households with poor to borderline food consumption score decreased by 39 percent from the baseline results. Meanwhile, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption increased by 18 percent.
- The PDM also found that households involved in the FFA programme were less reliant on coping strategies than those surveyed in baseline studies, as measured with the coping strategy index. On average, households reported that they relied less on coping strategies (such as borrowing food, relying on help from friends and relatives, reducing the number of meals eaten per day, reducing the portion size of meals and reducing the quantities consumed by adults) than in the baseline survey (resorting to them on fewer than one day in the previous week, compared to the baseline result of two days).

Challenges

- WFP operations are challenged by insufficient funding, which creates critical delays in 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 Champions Fight Against Hunger and Malnutrition at the End Hunger Summit



On 23 August, WFP joined more than 440 stakeholders across the Philippines at the End Hunger Summit held at the Ateneo de Manila University. The summit served as a platform for discussions on the challenges of facing and putting an end to hunger and malnutrition among schoolchildren, which remains to be one of the most pressing issues in the Philippines.

WFP Representative and Country Director Stephen Gluning discussed global hunger and what WFP has been doing in more than 80 countries worldwide to promote Sustainable Development Goal #2: Zero Hunger. Meanwhile, WFP’s nutrition expert, Dra. Corazon Barba, presented on the importance of First 1,000 Days of Life as a frontier for the battle against hunger and pushing for the causes that involve women and maternal healthcare.