



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief September 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 distributed

US\$ 248,154 cash distributed

US\$ 4.63 m six months (October 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

21,209 people assisted
in September 2019



Operational Updates

- WFP supported 4,659 individuals with specialized nutritious food in Marawi this month, including 895 pregnant and lactating women and 3,764 children aged between 6 and 23 months. This is part of the Nutrition in Emergencies programme, which aims to ensure optimal growth during the first 1,000 days of a child’s life in situations of conflict and displacement.
- In September, WFP supported 16,550 farmers and fisherfolk who participated in livelihood activities in Marawi (and benefitted their families as well, a total of 82,750 individuals). This programme contributes to the restoration of economic activity in Marawi through conditional cash-transfers to families, which they use for food and basic necessities for the households. WFP reaches these communities in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture who provide complementary support through agricultural inputs and fishing tools and equipment.
- On 19 September, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations conducted an *El Niño* After-Action Review which served as a platform for the Government and non-state actors to discuss the successes, challenges, and plans to effectively and pro-actively respond to El Niño occurrences in the future. The last El Niño lasted from the last quarter of 2018 until August 2019. The associated drought and dry spell events led to crop damages and a reduced yield from fisheries worth PHP 10.1 billion (US\$ 197 million) and affected 362,000 farmers, according to the Department of Agriculture.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct 2019 – Feb 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	16.66 m	4.63 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

- WFP conducted an outcome post-implementation monitoring of its food assistance-for-assets activities in Mindanao. The results provided useful insights into the positive influence of the activities on gender roles as well as the challenges associated with their livelihoods. The focus group discussions revealed that men and women were sharing the burden of household chores and income generation more equally in 75 percent of the households, while the cash assistance helped sustain school expenses. The post-implementation monitoring also found a high level of sustainability, with 73 percent of vegetable garden sites considered sustainable after replanting and harvesting. Increasing the sustainability of halal chicken production remained challenging, but these findings will help WFP to refine these programmes for the future.

Challenges

- WFP operations are constantly challenged by insufficient funding, which creates critical delays in planned activities. The nutrition support to boys, girls, and women through specialized nutritious food, which is under Strategic Outcome 2 of the [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) 2018-2023](#), is on pipeline break as of the second quarter of the year. Thus, WFP actively seeks donor commitments to ensure full programme implementation in pursuit of the strategic results outlined in its CSP.



Participant at the *El Niño* After-Action Review © World Food Programme/ Chase Lim

Donors

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

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