



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief October 2019



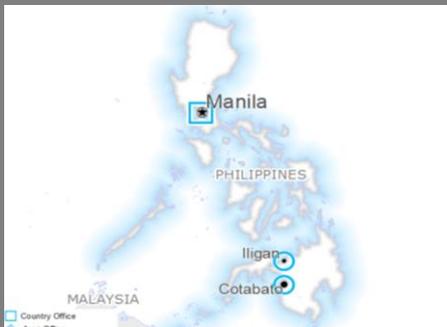
## Operational Context

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

7.7 mt of food distributed

US\$ 294,028 cash distributed

US\$ 4.7 m six months (November 2019 – April 2020) net funding requirements

22,802 people assisted in October 2019



## Operational Updates

- WFP's Nutrition in Emergencies programme, provided 3,077 individuals with specialized nutritious food in Marawi this month, including 2,050 pregnant and lactating women and 1,027 children aged 6-23 months. This programme aims to safeguard against conflict-related disruptions to growth in the vital first 1,000 days of a child's life.
- In October, WFP provided conditional cash-based transfers (CBT) to 19,725 farmers and fisherfolk who participated in agriculture work in Marawi. These CBTs also benefitted 98,625 of their family members. The agricultural activities were supported by the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Agriculture to contribute to the continued restoration of economic activity in Marawi.
- On 29 and 31 October, Central Mindanao was hit by magnitude 6.3 and 6.6 earthquakes, respectively, which affected 50,000 families or 250,000 individuals. After the initial strike of the earthquake, WFP immediately responded to requests from national government agencies, including the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), for logistics support for the relief operations. WFP provided 16 trucks for the transport of relief items such as family food packs, tents, and other non-food items, two prefabricated buildings to serve as temporary offices, two mobile storage units, and two prefabricated buildings and pallets for food storage. WFP continues to coordinate with the key agencies to understand where any further assistance is needed.
- WFP participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Task Force Bangon Marawi Kawayagan, a monthly livelihood distribution for IDPs of Marawi, through its CBT activity supported by USAID Office of Food for Peace. The event marks the commemoration of the second year of liberation of Marawi. The event also included awards for the winners of WFP's Children Design Competition.

Contact info: Katrina Mae Leros (katrinamae.leros@wfp.org)  
Country Director, a.i.: Douglas Broderick  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov 2019 – April 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
42.07 m	16.66 m	4.7 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>

- As part of country capacity strengthening, WFP supported DSWD in conducting a three-day workshop on designing digital solutions for social protection programming. WFP also informed the development of the monitoring tool of the Department of Agrarian Reform.
- In line with the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> National Dialogue Platform on Forecast-based Financing (FbF), a round table discussion was held together with the government partners including the OCD and Department of the Interior and Local Government, to further discuss the future of FbF and institutionalization of this approach in the National Government.
- WFP co-facilitated the After-Action Review of the *Kathanor* IDP Profiling where SCOPE was used, together with the DSWD, Mindanao State University, World Bank, and Task Force Bangon Marawi. The review provided recommendations to improve the communication, process and mobility in future responses.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the development of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap. Phase I is now finished and WFP is preparing to develop Phase II.

## Monitoring

- A monitoring evaluation was conducted following the culmination of WFP's food assistance-for-assets activities in Mindanao which were supported by the USAID Office of Food for Peace. The results showed the remarkable performance of the project sites, with 80 percent hitting the expectations and 20 percent exceeding it. Despite the challenge in land preparation, WFP was able to sustain the number of participants throughout implementation, particularly women participants.

Meanwhile, the evaluation also revealed that the participants had increased awareness of work norms, regardless of gender. Homemaking and taking care of children did not interrupt their participation since other household members were able to share in these responsibilities. The project sites and distribution areas were also seen to be safe and accessible for most of the beneficiaries.

## Challenges

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