



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief January 2020



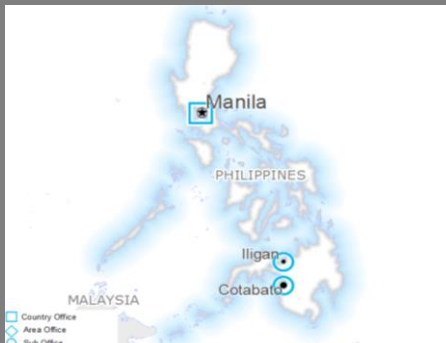
Operational Context

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**

2019 Human Development Index: **106 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **30.3% of children between 6-59 months (NNS)**

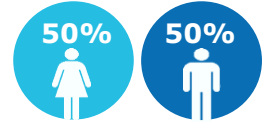
In Numbers

26.3 mt of food distributed

US\$ 283,932 cash distributed

US\$ 7.7 m six months (February 2020 – July 2020) net funding requirements

29,891 people assisted
in January 2020



Operational Updates

- Taal Volcano erupted on 12 January, affecting 468,000 individuals. WFP provided response equipment such as four mobile storage units, two prefabricated offices, two prefabricated accommodation units, 200 pallets. This also included the provision of 25 trucks to transport 7,000 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) family food packs and 225.7 mt of rice from the National Food Authority warehouse to National Resource Operations Center. WFP assisted also in equipment installation. WFP works closely with DSWD to use [SCOPE](#), WFP’s beneficiary information and transfer management platform, in registration and profiling of affected population.
- WFP provided 15 trucks to transport 3,400 DSWD family food packs and 183.3 mt of rice from National Food Authority for affected populations of Typhoon Ursula in Southern Luzon and Visayas Region.
- WFP, through its asset creation activities, provided 463 participants with rice for their participation in the establishment of nurseries as part of watershed rehabilitation of South Upi Watershed Forest Reserve.
- WFP provided 1,227 farmers and fisherfolk with conditional cash-based transfers for their participation in agriculture work in Marawi, benefitting 6,135 family members. In parallel, the Department of Agrarian Reform and Department of Agriculture supported agricultural activities to restore economic activity.
- WFP provided crisis-affected populations in Pikit, Maguindanao and Sulu with conditional cash-based transfers in exchange for their productive work, benefitting 15,530 family members.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb 2020 – July 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.6 m	19.2 m	7.7 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>

- WFP continued to provide technical assistance in formulation of School Feeding Guidelines and Food Security and Nutrition Road Map in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)
- WFP supported 24,000 school children with hot nutritious meals in 12 municipalities of BARMM under its homegrown school feeding activity. WFP's rice commodity was complemented with vegetables from school gardens, teachers, and parents.
- WFP conducted an after-action review on cash-based transfers in communities affected by the Marawi siege. Participants from WFP, Task Force Bangon Marawi, the local government unit of Marawi, and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Agrarian Reform discussed accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned to further improve future programme. WFP facilitated drafting of the Food Security Plan of Marawi in the same event.
- The [State of Food Insecurity \(SOFI\)](#) in the Philippines was presented on 30 January. This joint project between the Government and various UN agencies, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP resulted in a comprehensive product that will inform strategy development, planning and programming of interventions to promote food security and nutrition in the country.
- WFP discussed the scaling up of rice fortification in the country prioritizing provinces identified in the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) with Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles. WFP shared the successful pilot of iron-fortified rice in school feeding programme in Maguindanao.

Monitoring

- Results of the post-distribution monitoring evaluation of WFP's asset creation activities showed that most beneficiaries were satisfied with the overall management of the distribution.

Challenges

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