



WFP Philippines

Country Brief

February 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 is at 21 percent in 2018 and hunger remained “serious” in 2019. Both natural hazards and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity rates in the country.

As a signatory to the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Memorandum of Understanding, WFP is committed to supporting the Government with strategic measures for building resilience to food and nutrition insecurity and supporting nutritional rehabilitation of undernourished children and provide skills enhancements leading to higher income opportunities for the rural poor.

WFP also supports the Government’s Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger in its goal of putting an end to hunger by 2030, in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.



Population: **108 million**

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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

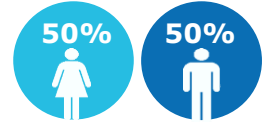
In Numbers

71.95 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2,040 cash distributed

US\$ 7.4 m six months (March 2020 – August 2020) net funding requirements

24,132 people assisted in February 2020



Operational Updates

- In coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, WFP has been assisting with the registration of families affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano. WFP’s beneficiary and transfer management platform, called SCOPE, was rolled out in Batangas province this month. To date, 1,150 households have been registered, with efforts concentrating on supporting families within a 7-km radius from the volcano, which is currently at alert level 2.
- WFP augmented the logistics capacity of the Government to transport food aid in two emergency operations:
 - For the Taal Volcano eruption response, WFP mobilized 20 trucks to transport 268 mt of rice from the National Food Authority to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The rice was part of the family food packs that were packaged for the displaced families.
 - For the Typhoon Phanfone (local name Ursula) emergency response. WFP sent three trucks to move 5,000 family food packs to Region VI (Western Visayas).
- WFP’s pilot project on iron fortification of rice has supported almost 24,000 schoolchildren with hot nutritious meals in Maguindanao, through homegrown school feeding this month. Anchored on Republic Act 11037 (institutionalization of a national school feeding programme) and Republic Act 8976 (food fortification law), this pilot project aimed to build upon existing national policies in addressing child hunger and malnutrition, while tapping into smallholder farmers and local suppliers to produce iron-fortified rice.
- WFP’s asset creation activities in conflict-affected areas in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have benefitted 125 individuals (25 families) in Marawi City and 950 individuals (190

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar 2020 – Aug 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.6 m	19.2 m	7.4 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, Italy, Germany, New Zealand, the Philippines, United Kingdom, United States of America, and World Bank

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

families) in the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Jolo, and Sulu. The cash-based assistance supported families whose main sources of income are farming and fishing.

- As lead convenor of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network globally, WFP supported the National Nutrition Council in establishing the business network in the Philippines. On 28 February, the first organizational meeting was held in Manila, introducing SUN to businesses and corporations in the country. The meeting served as a platform to enjoin the business sector in supporting the reduction of malnutrition in the country through concrete action steps that directly contribute to the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. The first national summit will be held in March. SUN is a global movement hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services that aims to end malnutrition, led by 61 participating countries.
- On capacity strengthening, WFP provided technical support to inform the drafting of the food security plan of Lanao del Sur Province and Marawi City in February.

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, particularly the process of beneficiary selection, complaints and feedback mechanisms, and the assistance received.

Challenges

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

International Women’s Day 2020

In celebration of International Women’s Day 2020, WFP [put the spotlight](#) on one of its women beneficiaries empowered by WFP’s community-based asset creation activities.

In order to make real progress in the community, WFP believes in the importance of women’s participation in income-generating activities and encouraging them to contribute to the improvement of the household food security.