



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief March 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 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

US\$ 8.2 m six months (March 2020 – August 2020) net funding requirements

WFP has been providing logistics support to the Government in response to the COVID-19 situation in the Philippines.

It remains on standby for any additional support that may be requested by its Government partners.

Operational Updates

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has requested for WFP’s support in transporting food for vulnerable populations. In Metro Manila, WFP transported 419 metric tonnes of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) warehouse to the National Response Operations Centre, where commodities for the family food packs are being assembled. In the province of Cebu, WFP also moved 60 mt of rice from the NFA warehouse in Cebu City to the packing facility in Mandaue City.
- WFP also responded to Cotabato Regional Health Center in Region XII’s need for a temporary hospital by loaning one of its mobile storage units (MSU) and a generator. WFP also loaned an MSU, generator, and 150 pallets to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which will be used as a temporary storage facility of medical supplies and non-food items during the pandemic.
- In assistance to the Department of Health, WFP transported specialized nutritious food from the warehouse in Metro Manila to Region XII. This was part of the Government’s response to the vulnerable families affected by the earthquakes in Mindanao in late 2019.
- In March, WFP began its technical assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in creating a profile registry of the families affected by the January eruption of Taal Volcano in Batangas. WFP rolled out SCOPE, its beneficiary information and transfer management platform, to register 75,000 displaced families, which will enable accurate assistance delivery to the population in need. By 12 March, WFP had registered 4,398 families (17,607 individuals). The registration exercises are currently suspended due to the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Apr 2020 – Sep 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.6 m	19.9 m	8.2 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>

- In Maguindanao, WFP conducted the following capacity strengthening activities with local government units:
 - WFP trained 30 *barangay* (village) nutrition scholars, health workers, and day care workers from the municipality of South Upi on food security indicators. These indicators will be integrated into the municipality's Community-Based Management Information System.
 - WFP conducted an orientation on the home-grown school feeding framework to the local government personnel of Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality. This is part of the integration of food security and nutrition into the municipality's Comprehensive Development Plan.

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.

#ResultsMatter

WFP's commitment to Zero Hunger in the Philippines, is reflected in its **2019 Annual Country Report**, which showcases the achievements in 2019.

Learn how WFP has assisted the Government in responding to emergencies; reducing malnutrition among vulnerable groups; and strengthening the capacity of the national and local governments through poverty eradication measures and disaster preparedness and response in this [full report](#).



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