



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief April 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**

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In Numbers

US\$ 7.1 m six months (May 2020 – October 2020) net funding requirements

WFP currently has no direct distribution of food due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is currently providing technical support to the cash distribution of the Ministry of Social Services and Development – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao through the Government’s Social Amelioration Programme.

Operational Updates

- WFP is lending its technical expertise to the Ministry of Social Services and Development – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MSSD-BARMM) in its financial assistance distribution through the Social Amelioration Programme targeting families affected by the pandemic. As of 4 May, MSSD-BARMM had registered and distributed cash assistance to around 160,000 families using SCOPE – WFP’s beneficiary registration and transfer management platform – while employing social distancing and contactless measures with the beneficiaries. MSSD and WFP are aiming to support a total of 630,000 families in the region.
- In April, WFP also augmented the Government’s COVID-19 response through logistics operations across the country:
 - In the province of Cebu, WFP transported 150 metric tonnes (mt) of rice from the National Food Authority warehouse to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) warehouse to be included in the Family Food Packs.
 - Towards the end of April, WFP transported another 150 mt of rice from the Department of Social Welfare and Development – National Response Operations Centre (DSWD-NROC) in Metro Manila to its warehouse in Mandaue City, Cebu for the assembly of Family Food Packs.
 - WFP also assisted the Cordillera Administrative Region in northern Luzon through transportation services by mobilizing 25,000 units of boxes (for food packing) from the DSWD-NROC to two separate warehouses in La Trinidad, Benguet; and 18.5 mt of food and non-food items from DSWD-NROC to Bontoc, Mt. Province and Luna, Apayao.
- WFP also loaned one mobile storage unit (MSU), one generator, and 150 pallets to BARMM to be used as a temporary storage facility for medical supplies and non-food items.

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	21.06 m	7.1 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>

- One MSU was also loaned to and assembled in the Municipality of Pila in the province of Laguna, which is now used as an improvised isolation facility for suspected COVID-19 cases in the area.

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

In times of crises, delivering life-saving assistance to the Filipino people will not be possible without the generosity and support of our partners. In 2019, WFP continued to deliver on its mission of eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the Philippines by supporting the Government and effecting real change to the lives of the people we assist through our programmes.

[Check out the highlights](#) of our Annual Country Report 2019 that reflected how our partnerships with various donors and organizations have pushed our food security and nutrition agenda. In the coming years, more work needs to be done to ensure that the Philippines is on track towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly **#ZeroHunger**.

[The full report can be accessed here.](#)



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