



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief May 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\$ 4.85 m six months (June 2020 – November 2020) net funding requirements

WFP currently has no direct distribution of food or cash. WFP’s support in the Philippines is prioritizing capacity strengthening activities with the national, regional, and local governments.

Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Social Services and Development – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MSSD-BARMM) has completed its financial assistance distribution to 353,000 households who were impacted by COVID-19, as part of the Social Amelioration Programme. MSSD-BARMM partnered with WFP in its implementation of this programme in the region using SCOPE, WFP’s beneficiary information and transfer management platform. MSSD-BARMM and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also utilized SCOPE in reaching an additional 1,000 beneficiaries in the region. WFP monitored the cash distributions remotely, using digital payment information.
- WFP is also supporting the Department of Social Welfare and Development in carrying out a remote monitoring and vulnerability assessment on the food security and nutrition situation of the families affected by the pandemic. This assistance will focus on Metro Manila and BARMM.
- In May, WFP also augmented the Government’s COVID-19 response through logistics operations across the country:
 - WFP moved 3,000 mt of rice that the BARMM Government requested to store in WFP’s Polloc warehouse in Maguindanao;
 - Following the request received from BARMM’s emergency response office (Rapid Emergency Action on Disaster Incidence), WFP loaned one mobile storage unit and 140 pallets for the storage of rice that will be distributed to pandemic-affected households;
 - To assist Marawi City in setting up a warehouse for the storage of relief items, WFP loaned 300 pallets to the local Government;
 - WFP supported the Office of Civil Defense in the movement of 1.3 mt of frozen fish to 23 hospitals around Metro Manila for health workers.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	June 2020 – Nov 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.64 m	21.23 m	4.85 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 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>

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.

Reaping the Fruits of Labour



“We are thankful to the Government and to the other agencies, such as the World Food Programme. [Our earnings from] the produce that we are harvesting is a big help in our daily expenses.” – Makatangkal Ali Mama

It has been almost three years since the Marawi Siege had rendered tens of thousands of families homeless, food insecure, and stripped of their livelihoods.

Many of these displaced families, particularly farmers and fisherfolks, were engaged in the Food Security Convergence Project led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Task Force Bangon Marawi, and the City Government of Marawi.

Today, the farmers are reaping what they sow. Their fresh produce is now being traded at the market fair of the provincial Government. The City Agriculture Office of Marawi is also linking the produce of these smallholder farmers to the provincial capitol market.

Amid the pandemic where food security is threatened in local communities, the Food Security Convergence enabled the farmer beneficiaries to run sustainable livelihoods to continue putting food on the table.

Photos: © Task Force Bangon Marawi Facebook Page