



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief June 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.

In 2020, WFP’s support to the Government of the Philippines had shifted to prioritize capacity strengthening measures through technical support and augmentation of logistics capacity as the Government responds to the needs of the population affected by COVID-19.

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\$ 4.90 m** six months (July 2020 – December 2020) net funding requirements

WFP currently has no direct distribution of food or cash. WFP’s support to the Philippines has shifted to prioritize capacity strengthening activities with the national, regional, and local government.

## Operational Updates

- In June, WFP started its support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in conducting a remote monitoring and vulnerability assessment on the food security and nutrition situation of families affected by the pandemic. As of 9 July, data has been collected for 20 percent of the total targeted outputs nationwide. WFP aims to continuously support the Government in providing evidence-based knowledge to further understand the pandemic’s impact on the food security situation.
- In June, WFP provided two trucks to support the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in transporting two trucks of cleaning and disinfectant kits as part of its assistance to the Department of Health.
- To date, WFP has facilitated four cargo flights from Guangzhou to Manila, delivering health equipment and materials for UNICEF and the World Health Organization. This comes as part of WFP’s established supply chain services on behalf of the humanitarian and health community worldwide, in response to the escalating needs brought about by COVID-19. WFP currently has nine global humanitarian response hubs scattered across the globe. The closest one to the Philippines is in Guangzhou.
- On 3 June, WFP participated in an (online) after-action review on the Typhoon Vongfong (Ambo) response led by the United Nations Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs. WFP presented the pre- and post-disaster needs assessment it had conducted in the province of Sorsogon. WFP emphasized the importance of establishing pre-disaster data that would inform the risk assessment prior to the impacts of a natural hazard. Since 2015, WFP has been implementing a Forecast-based Financing project that aims to integrate the use of science-based information to trigger anticipatory actions in response to disasters.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July 2020 – Dec 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.64 m	21.53 m	4.90 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>

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP continues to work with the regional government in integrating food security and nutrition into its local policies. In particular, WFP is working with the Bangsamoro Development Planning Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform in developing a policy paper on food security and assisting in the drafting of an Executive Order for the creation of a Food Sufficiency Task Force in BARMM.

## Challenges

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

## WFP Supports the Government in its COVID-19 Response



As part of its commitment to support the Government to ensure food security amid the pandemic, WFP adapted its technical assistance to the Government to continue to meet the needs of vulnerable people while abiding by quarantine measures. WFP leveraged the use of some of its technological solutions including SCOPE, a beneficiary registration and transfer management platform that works both online and offline, as well as its remote monitoring and assessment toolkits.

Additionally, within the last four months, with most parts of the country placed under community quarantine, WFP responded to numerous requests of support from various national, regional, provincial, and city government agencies to provide transport and logistics equipment. WFP has dispatched and delivered over 70 truckloads of cargo to date. Get to know more about WFP's work at these articles here: on [technical assistance](#) and [logistics support](#).

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