



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief July 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\$ 2.79 m** six months (August 2020 – January 2021) 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

- On 29 July, WFP and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) signed an agreement to harmonize collaboration on sustainable agriculture and livelihood programmes, food security and nutrition, and disaster risk reduction and management in the region. The [agreement](#) was signed with the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform, the Ministry of Interior and Local Government, and the Bangsamoro Development Planning Authority.
- In July, WFP continued to provide logistics support to the Government on its COVID-19 response:
  - WFP provided 12 trucks to the Office of Civil Defense to transport 104,000 sets of personal protective equipment from Metro Manila to Regions II, V, and VIII.
  - WFP also supported the United Nations Children’s Fund in mobilizing five trucks that carried cleaning and disinfection kits from Metro Manila to Regions I, V, VIII, IX, XI, and Cordillera Administrative Region.
  - WFP extended the loan of the mobile storage unit to the Municipality of Pila, Laguna. It is currently used as an isolation facility for probable COVID-19 cases.
- WFP contributed to the institutionalization of the school feeding programme in BARMM through the development of modules. These modules will be used by the Government as training material to facilitate a common understanding on the implementation and management of the programme from the regional level down to the school level. The modules will also strengthen the monitoring and evaluation systems and structures in the programme.
- Five sets of emergency telecommunication systems arrived from Dubai to Manila in July and are currently undergoing technical inspection. The sets are part of the Government Emergency Communications System – Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (GECS MOVE) project of WFP

**Contact info:** Catherine Mones ([catherine.mones@wfp.org](mailto:catherine.mones@wfp.org))  
**Country Director, a.i.:** Mats Persson  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines)

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2020 – Jan 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>50.64 m</b>	<b>21.53 m</b>	<b>2.79 m</b>

**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, Japan, 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>

Communications Technology (DICT). The project aims to improve disaster response through rapidly deployable communications systems integrated into custom-built vehicles. WFP will also provide capacity strengthening activities with DICT in the maintenance and operation of the GECS MOVE sets.

**Challenges**

- WFP’s operations in the Philippines are experiencing funding shortfalls that hamper continuity in the activities of 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 achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

**WFP’s 2019 Sustainable Livelihood Support in Maguindanao Helped Farmers Put Food on the Table During the Pandemic**



In 2019, WFP supported farmers from the Municipality of Guimba who were affected by the Marawi Siege of 2017 through a livelihood activity that promoted sustainable food production and income generation. WFP provided cash to help farmers jumpstart their vegetable gardening. Fast forward to today, and the activities have created a ripple effect on the farmers as they continue to harvest fruits and vegetables that [they now sell through the “mobile market” across town](#). WFP’s assistance helped the farmers and their families to now provide for themselves and put food on the table during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photos: Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (page 1); © WFP/Jaslin Masbud (page 2)