



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief August 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\$ 3.55 m six months (September 2020 – February 2021) net funding requirements

WFP’s support to the Philippines prioritizes capacity strengthening activities with the national, regional, and local governments. Since March, WFP has been providing technical support and augmenting logistics operations to the Government’s COVID-19 response. WFP currently has no direct distribution of food or cash.

Operational Updates

COVID-19

- In August, WFP continued to provide logistics support to the Government in its COVID-19 response. WFP transported 78,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) on behalf of the Office of Civil Defense. WFP transported the PPE from Metro Manila to Region II (Cagayan Valley) and Region V (Bicol Region).
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and WFP conducted a nationwide assessment on the impact of COVID-19. More than 3,600 households were assessed using WFP’s remote monitoring toolkits. WFP and DSWD also conducted a post-distribution monitoring of the Government’s Social Amelioration Programme. The finalization of the analysis is ongoing. This is the first of three rounds of data collection that aim to gauge the food security and livelihood situation in the country amid the pandemic.

Capacity Strengthening

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP co-led two capacity strengthening activities with the regional government on the promotion of school-based feeding and sustainable food systems:
 - On 6 August, WFP and the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) completed a ten-day workshop on school-based feeding programme module development. The workshop aimed to develop the implementation and management of the school-based feeding programme in BARMM. The workshop concluded with the creation of learning modules, which will be used as guidance for BARMM’s implementing agencies.
 - WFP helped inform the passing of an Executive Order that created a Food Sufficiency Task Force that will ensure a holistic and comprehensive approach in pursuing food security programmes in the newly reconstituted region.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sept 2020 – Feb 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
50.64 m	25.72 m	3.55 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, Germany, Italy, 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>

- From 25 to 28 August, WFP, the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform conducted a workshop on the operationalization of a Food Sufficiency Secretariat towards Sustainable Food Systems. The secretariat will take charge in harmonizing all food security and nutrition programmes in the region.
- WFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) are jointly assembling five sets of the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (MOVE), which arrived from Dubai to Manila in May and were turned over to DICT in July following operational delays due to the pandemic. MOVE is a rapid deployable emergency communication system that will provide ICT-enabled support to disaster-stricken areas. Each MOVE set is composed of: a customized heavy-duty truck equipped with an integrated communications system known as the “Hub”; (2) a support vehicle to extend the reach of the Hub called the “Dispatch”; (3) and an off-road motorcycle vehicle to support the crew in inaccessible terrain. In the following weeks, WFP will run two technical training sessions for DICT engineers assigned to operate the MOVE sets. This is the first phase of the partnership between DICT and WFP that started in December 2018.

From fighters to forest rangers and farmers



WFP signed a deal with the regional government of BARMM, targeting agricultural productivity and sustainable income-generating initiatives in the southern Philippines while supporting the rehabilitation of former combatants. Get to know more about how WFP works with the regional government in uplifting the lives and livelihoods of former combatants through vegetable gardening, tree planting, and agro-forestry [here](#).

Photos: Office of Civil Defense (page 1); Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (page 2)