



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief September 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\$ 1.26 million six months (October 2020 – March 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 response to the rising need for guidance on nutrition amid the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP, the National Nutrition Council, the Department of Health, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), jointly developed an online version of the Nutrition in Emergencies training material for health workers that the consortium had produced in 2019. The online training material focuses on the proper delivery of nutrition services to pregnant and lactating women and children under 5.
- The Cotabato Regional Medical Center (CRMC) is now utilizing the mobile storage unit (MSU) that WFP loaned to the medical facility. The MSU is being used as a 20-bed quarantine facility for CRMC personnel who are waiting for the results of their COVID-19 test results.

Capacity Strengthening

- WFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) had taken several activities towards the completion of the first phase of the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (MOVE)* project in September:
 - WFP and DICT engineers have installed the ICT equipment onboard vehicles. Preparations for the technical testing and acceptance of the MOVE sets are currently underway and scheduled in October;
 - WFP engineers from Dubai will travel to Davao City to train DICT Davao technical staff on the operation and maintenance of the MOVE sets;
 - WFP will conduct a training-of-trainers event slated for October.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct 2020 – Mar 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.59 m	25.72 m	1.26 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>

WFP donates four used vehicles to the Bureau of Customs



WFP donated four motor vehicles to the Bureau of Customs (BoC) in September 2020. The vehicles will be used to improve the BoC's operational capability, particularly the enhancement of its logistical and enforcement capacity to eliminate smuggling in the Philippines.

BOC expressed its gratitude to WFP, noting that the vehicles will greatly improve the mobility of BoC's enforcement and security unit. WFP received a plaque of appreciation from the Philippine government for this donation.

**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.*

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