



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief

October 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**

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In Numbers

US\$ 1.1 million six months (November 2020 – April 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 capacity strengthening activities and augmenting logistics operations to the Government’s COVID-19 and emergency response. WFP currently has no direct distribution of food or cash.

Operational Updates

- In the last week of October, Typhoon Quinta (international name Molave) made landfall in the Philippines five times, bringing strong winds and heavy rains in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions. WFP supported the Government’s response to the affected families. The Department of Social Welfare and Development and WFP worked together in bringing **1,200 family food packs from Metro Manila to Boac, Marinduque**. As the Philippines enters its typhoon season, WFP is ready to identify and fill the gaps identified by its government partners.
- On 16 October, WFP and the ministries of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) successfully **launched the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap of the Bangsamoro** in Cotabato City. The Roadmap is the product of collaboration between the Bangsamoro regional government and WFP. It is the region’s blueprint towards a self-reliant, food secure, and resilient Bangsamoro.
- WFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) are **finalizing the first phase of the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (MOVE)*** project in October. Three WFP FITTEST (Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team) engineers are delivering training of trainers to DICT technical teams followed by practical exercises. WFP is also finalizing the vehicle and prototype kits’ technical upgrades.

**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.*

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | November 2020 – April 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 46.59 m | 25.72 m | 1.1 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

WFP joins World Food Day 2020 celebrations with FAO and PH government



On 16 October, WFP joined the World Food Day celebrations led by the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Convention Hall in Quezon City.

Mats Persson, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Country Director, said that, "The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic had brought us uncertainty and prompted us to show more appreciation for the most basic of things which many of us often neglect – food."



Photo: Representatives from FAO, WFP, and the United Nations, together with the Cabinet Secretary and Department of Agriculture Secretary join the candle lighting ceremony and declaration of the 2020 World Food Day pledge that symbolized that solidarity and commitment of the partner agencies to the goals and theme of World Food Day.

Donors

Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, United States of America, and World Bank

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