SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Launches Philippine Climate and Food Security Analysis

The Philippines has consistently ranked among the top countries of the world most at-risk to potential impacts of climate change based on the World Risk Index. Climate change directly impacts food system and access, with consequent effects on food quality and nutrition.

As part of its mandate to ensure food security, WFP has anchored its current five-year Country Strategic Plan with the Government's priorities on climate change adaptation. More specifically, one of WFP's four strategic outcomes recognizes the need for WFP to work with national and local governments to reduce vulnerabilities from climate-related risks.

To support WFP's ongoing work on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Philippines, it is imperative to undertake a robust climate and food security analysis which will provide a better understanding of the range of impacts that climate change will pose on food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. The analysis is envisioned to provide evidence of climate risks and vulnerabilities that will guide WFP to strategically support the Government and non-government partners in mobilizing resources to increase community resilience. Moreover, it is anticipated as a basis for collaboration and donor engagement that will promote climate change adaptation.

Recognizing the Philippines' middle-income economic status, WFP has shifted to focus on a country capacity strengthening (CCS) approach. Thus, the primary goal of this project is to identify knowledge transfer mechanisms, provide technical assistance to government and non-government partners, and strengthen key capacities aligned with WFP's 2017 Climate Change Policy to support the Government's National Climate Change Action Plan and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. WFP also aims to share its findings with government partners, particularly with the Zero Hunger Task Force, which leads the country's concerted efforts in

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putting an end to hunger by 2030. As a development partner providing technical support to the task force and its demonstrative arm — the Enhanced Partnership Against Poverty and Hunger — WFP's findings will contribute to the resilience building initiatives relevant to food security and nutrition.

This study will build on the previous thematic work conducted in 2015-2016 on climate variability and extreme events such as typhoons and El Niño events but expanding the topic on longer-term climate risks.

A Better Understanding of Philippine Climate and Food Security

A nationwide assessment will be conducted to characterize risks and vulnerabilities from climate change (including climate variability and extreme events) looking at the food security lens which includes food availability, access, utilization or consumption, and stability. The analysis is geared towards identification of strategic adaptation options for the Philippines to mitigate impacts and build community resilience, particularly in high risk areas.

A livelihoods approach (e.g. agriculture-, fisheries-, aquaculture-, and non-agricultural-based livelihoods) will be used to assess impacts of climate change. The assessment will cover impacts of climate change on water availability, saltwater intrusion, plant diseases, and nutrition. Climate change impacts on rural and urban living situations especially among the vulnerable groups, as well as among gender and age groups will also be explored.

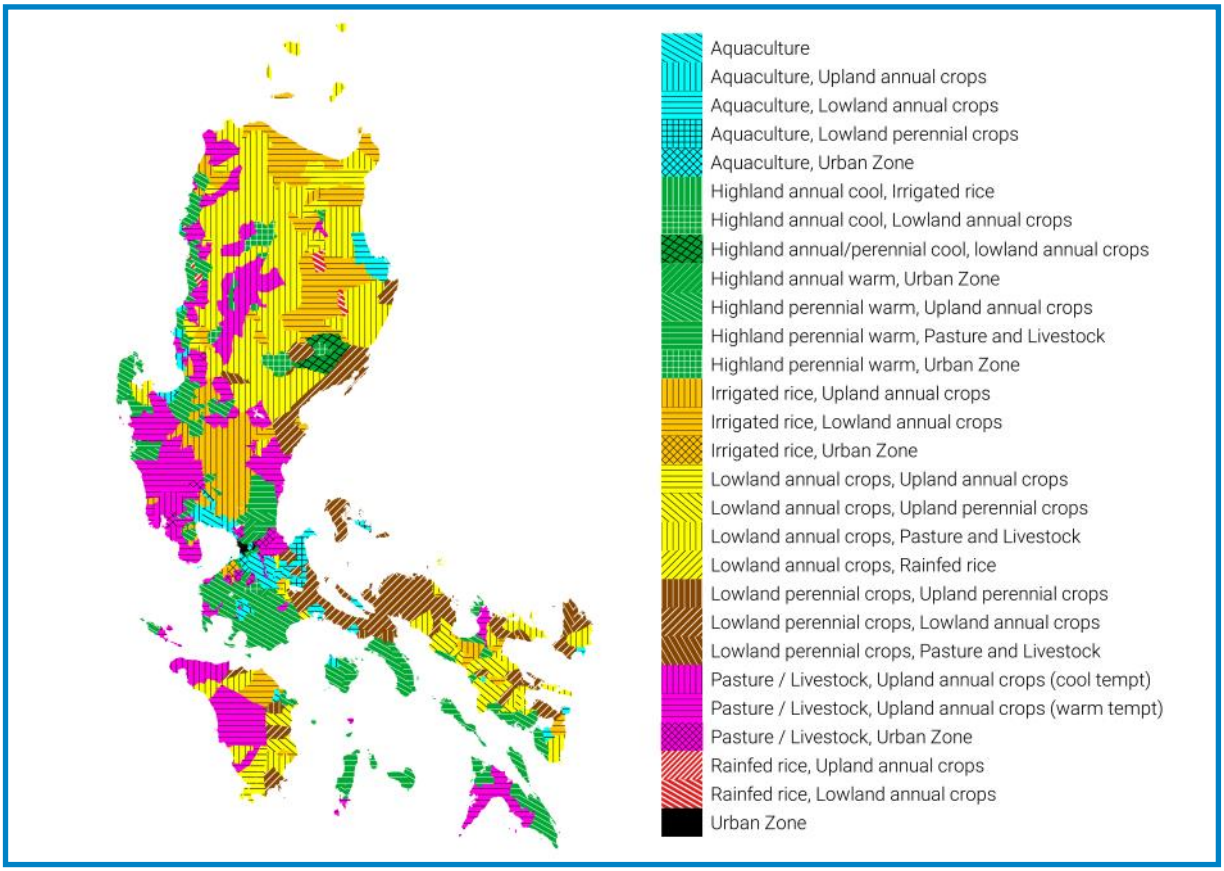
Finally, the analysis envisions to identify the adaptation options for the Philippines to consider, given the projection of impacts through the climate analysis, with emphasis on minimizing the negative impacts for the most vulnerable in the society.

To answer these lingering questions on the recognized correlation of climate and food security, WFP will review existing data related to the Government's approach to climate change adaptation, food security, and nutrition. Results will be communicated with government partners and key stakeholders to ensure relevance and wider utilization of the information.

To officially launch the project, WFP, in partnership with the Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture), will conduct a virtual event on 18 December 2020. This jumpstarts WFP's initiative to engage interested stakeholders, the government sector and other key partners and create a network of next-users of information.

The event is expected to help increase awareness on climate change adaptation and heighten the interest of government agencies towards climate resilience. It will also be an avenue to set up a technical working group for the project composed of WFP, CIAT, and government technical staff and open doors for future spin-off projects that may still be built upon the initial accomplishments of this project.

WFP aims to finish its climate and food security analysis in Q1 2021.



Above is a sample map showing livelihood zones generated by overlaying agroecological zones and land cover in the Philippines. The livelihood zones will be used as base map to assess the impacts of climate change in the country for the periods 2050, 2070, and 2090.