



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief November 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\$ 2.1 million** six months (December 2020 – May 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 will also be implementing a cash-based transfer to support families affected by Typhoon Goni (Rolly) in Bicol.

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Response

- November ushered in typhoons Goni (Rolly) and Vamco (Ulysses), which followed the same track of devastation as Typhoon Molave (Quinta), and caused major destruction in the Bicol Region, Southern Luzon, and Cagayan Valley, and affecting more than 3 million people. WFP immediately responded to the government’s call for support through:
  - **Assessments** – WFP participated in two rapid damage needs assessments in the Bicol Region and Cagayan Valley. These assessments provided quick snapshots on the initial impact of the typhoons and the most pressing needs of the affected populations. The findings from the assessments also formed part of the [United Nations Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan](#).
  - **Logistics** - In response to the Government’s request to augment their logistics operations on multiple emergencies, WFP mobilized 73 trucks to transport various relief items such as family food packs, water, tents, hygiene kits, and laminated tarpaulins as temporary shelters. This support was made possible thanks to a contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
  - **Warehousing** - WFP also loaned warehouse equipment to the province of Catanduanes, including two mobile storage units, a portable office, and a generator to set up a temporary emergency logistics hub at the provincial capitol. WFP loaned another generator to power a mobile water filtration system to provide clean drinking water to municipalities where water sources were affected by the typhoon.

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

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	December 2020 – May 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>46.55 m</b>	<b>26.91 m</b>	<b>2.10 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

**Operational Updates (cont.)**

- In addition to logistics and warehouse management support provided to the national and local governments in response to the typhoons, WFP will also be implementing a series of cash-based transfers in Catanduanes and Albay, with contributions from the Government of Australia and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. Cash distribution will commence in mid-December. WFP will target the most vulnerable populations jointly identified with the local governments of Catanduanes and Albay. WFP will also roll out SCOPE as the platform for registering beneficiaries and monitoring the claiming of entitlements.

**Capacity Strengthening**

- Following the launch of the collaboration between WFP and BARMM ministries to provide livelihood support to decommissioned and soon-to-be-decommissioned combatants in the Bangsamoro region last July, WFP conducted simultaneous activities such as farming training, coordination meetings, SCOPE registration, and seed distribution in Lanao del Sur. On 5 November, WFP provided vegetable seeds to 320 former combatants who have been trained by the government in organic farming. These greening activities are generously supported by the Japan Association for the World Food Programme.
- WFP's five-year Forecast-based Financing (FbF) project funded by the Government of Germany is set to conclude on December 2020. WFP has completed the final documentation of the project, including the adoption of FbF by partner provinces, policy at the national level, and various national dialogues and technical working groups.
- In May, WFP started providing warehousing support to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) by storing its food commodities at WFP's warehouse in Polloc, Cotabato City free of charge. As of November, the BARMM Government has fully dispatched its food commodities and provided these to families affected by COVID-19.

**Donors**

Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, the Philippines, United States of America, United Nations, Central Emergency Response Fund, and World Bank

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