



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief December 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**

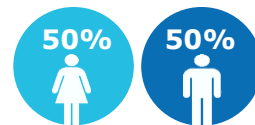
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

US\$ 115,377 cash distributed

US\$ 2.05 m six months (January 2021 – June 2021) net funding requirements

10,945 people assisted
in December 2020



Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- In December, WFP began registering beneficiaries of its cash-based transfers programme in San Miguel, Catanduanes, using [SCOPE](#) – WFP’s beneficiary information and transfer management platform. Thanks to the Government of Australia, **WFP provided cash to 2,189 vulnerable households** (10,945 individuals) who were affected by Typhoon Goni (Rolly) in the Bicol Region, in partnership with Western Union. Two succeeding rounds of cash distribution are scheduled in early 2021.
- In the same month, WFP began another round of registration in Albay and Catanduanes for another batch of cash-based transfers, with a contribution from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. Three rounds of cash distributions are scheduled in early 2021.
- Following the busy month of November responding to requests from the Government to augment logistics capacity in transporting relief items to provinces affected by typhoons Goni and Vamco (Ulysses), WFP reverted back to providing transportation support to the Government’s COVID-19 response. WFP transported 24,000 sets of personal protective equipment, as well as oxygen concentrators, ventilators, and body bags from Metro Manila to various locations in Baguio City, Tacloban City, and Davao City.

Capacity Strengthening

- WFP virtually launched a new study called “Philippine Climate and Food Security Analysis” on 18 December. The study, expected to be completed on April 2021, will provide WFP a better understanding on the short/medium and long-term impacts that climate change will have on food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. This analysis will support WFP with evidence-based data and information in its provision of technical assistance and capacity strengthening to the Government around adaptation planning.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	January 2021 – June 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
48.56 m	27.20 m	2.05 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

Download WFP's [ShareTheMeal](#) app and help feed a child with just a tap on your phone: <https://apple.co/1QxNv9G>

Donors

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

Operational Updates (cont.)

- In line with its Social Responsive Shock Protection (SRSP) initiative in the Philippines, WFP developed typhoon vulnerability maps with triggers. The maps were developed using WFP's findings from its vulnerability and risk assessment on typhoons and droughts. Through innovative solutions such as these, WFP aims to enhance the government's SRSP mechanism.
- In its work to improve food security in Mindanao, WFP conducted several capacity strengthening initiatives in December:
 - WFP co-led two workshops to help identify a list of programmes and activities in line with the ongoing convergence project in the Bangsamoro region, as well as gaps, challenges, and opportunities related to food security. The workshops directly contribute to the region's food sufficiency task force.
 - The Bangsamoro region and WFP are working on a food basket survey and market analysis to determine local availability of basic food groups and to map local food sources and supply. In December, WFP conducted the second batch of training with government staff on the use of tools for the assessment.
 - WFP conducted a training of trainers for the school feeding programme in Cotabato City on 15-17 December. Specifically, the training aimed to facilitate a common understanding on improving the implementation and management of the programme among school administrators, regional staff, and school staff.

Recovering from Typhoon Goni



The worst typhoon in 2020, Typhoon Goni, affected 260,000 people and damaged more than 90 percent of the island province's homes. The affected communities are still trying to recover.

Find out how WFP and the Government of Australia are helping them get back on their feet. Full article [here](#).