



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief January 2021



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 19.8 percent in 2020. Now combined with COVID-19, natural hazards, and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity rates in the country.

WFP supports to the Government of the Philippines in its emergency response to natural hazards and armed conflicts, while gradually shifting to prioritise 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, supporting nutritional rehabilitation of undernourished children, and providing skills enhancement 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: **110 million**

Childhood stunting: **28.8%**
(National Nutrition Survey, 2019)

2020 Human Development Index
Ranking: **107 out of 189**

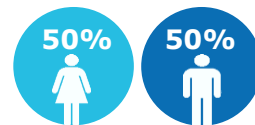
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

US\$ 218,117 cash distributed

US\$ 1.93 m six-month (February 2021 – July 2021) net funding requirements

17,285 people assisted
in January 2021



Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- Following WFP's rollout of cash-based transfers to support typhoon-affected families in Bicol region in December 2020, WFP continued its cash distribution through Western Union. **In January, WFP reached 3,217 families (16,085 individuals) in the provinces of Albay and Catanduanes.** Each family received US\$ 52 (PHP 2,500) to support their food and nutrition needs, basic shelter repair, and other essentials:
 - Through a contribution from the **Government of Australia**, WFP reached 252 families (1,260 individuals) in January, bringing the total to 2,443 families (12,215 individuals) in the municipality of San Miguel in Catanduanes since the start of the cash distribution in December 2020.
 - With support from the **United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)**, WFP provided cash assistance to 2,965 families (14,825 individuals) in Virac, Catanduanes and Malilipot and Malinao in Albay. WFP held a high-level visit and mid-term review in Albay and Catanduanes together with implementing partners – the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP sustained its support to decommissioned combatants. Some 240 families (1,200 individuals) from the municipalities of Butig, Maging, and Masiu in Lanao del Sur received cash assistance from WFP to jumpstart their productivity as they wait for their farm yields this coming harvest season. This activity is in line with the ongoing convergence project between WFP and BARMM ministries that uplifts former combatants through agricultural activities that will assimilate them back into their communities as economic contributors. As such, participants are engaged in vegetable production and planting nurseries and forest and fruit trees as part of their work in preserving and utilizing arable lands.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	February 2021 – July 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
48.56 m	27.39 m	1.93 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.)

- WFP provides logistics support to the Government's COVID-19 and disaster recovery operations through transportation and allocation of pre-positioned logistics equipment. In January, WFP mobilized 24 trucks on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Development to transport 17,626 hygiene kits, 10,000 Family Food Packs, and 4,500 kitchen kits to Iloilo, Northern Samar, Davao City, Benguet, Leyte, and Zamboanga. WFP also allocated one mobile storage unit to the Office of Civil Defense to serve as additional storage space for various relief items.

Capacity Strengthening

- As part of WFP's formative research to inform the design and development of a social behaviour change communication (SBCC) strategy, WFP conducted focus group discussions and key informant interviews to collect data. This is the first phase of the SBCC project with the aim of providing insights into the sociocultural barriers that contribute to poor dietary practices among women and children.
- WFP held a consultative meeting with government partners on the development of its ongoing Climate Change and Food Security Analysis. During the meeting, WFP presented initial outputs of the study, including livelihood zone maps. The analysis aims to determine the impacts of climate change on food systems in the Philippines. Findings are expected to inform policies towards climate adaptive food security, nutrition, and livelihood systems.

WFP's Cash Assistance Supports the Most Vulnerable Families in Bicol



Rose Domingo, 24, was eight months pregnant when Typhoon Goni – the strongest landfalling tropical cyclone in world recorded history – hit her hometown in Catanduanes. She immediately took shelter in a safer location with her family. She and her family were then selected as beneficiaries of WFP and the Government of Australia's cash assistance. She said the support has enabled them to buy nutritious food so she can sustain exclusive breastfeeding of her newborn child. WFP works to ensure that mothers and young children have access to nutritious food, especially during the first 1,000 days of life.

Photos courtesy of © WFP/Maitta Rizza Pugay