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WFP's Work in Enabling Social Protection in the Philippines

Highlights of the World Food Programme's Contributions to Social Protection in a New Normal

March 2021

Deploying WFP's Digital Tools to Support Government Social Assistance in The Philippines

To help alleviate the economic shocks wrought by COVID-19, the Government of the Philippines provided financial assistance for daily wage earners and those working in informal economies through the Social Amelioration Programme (SAP).

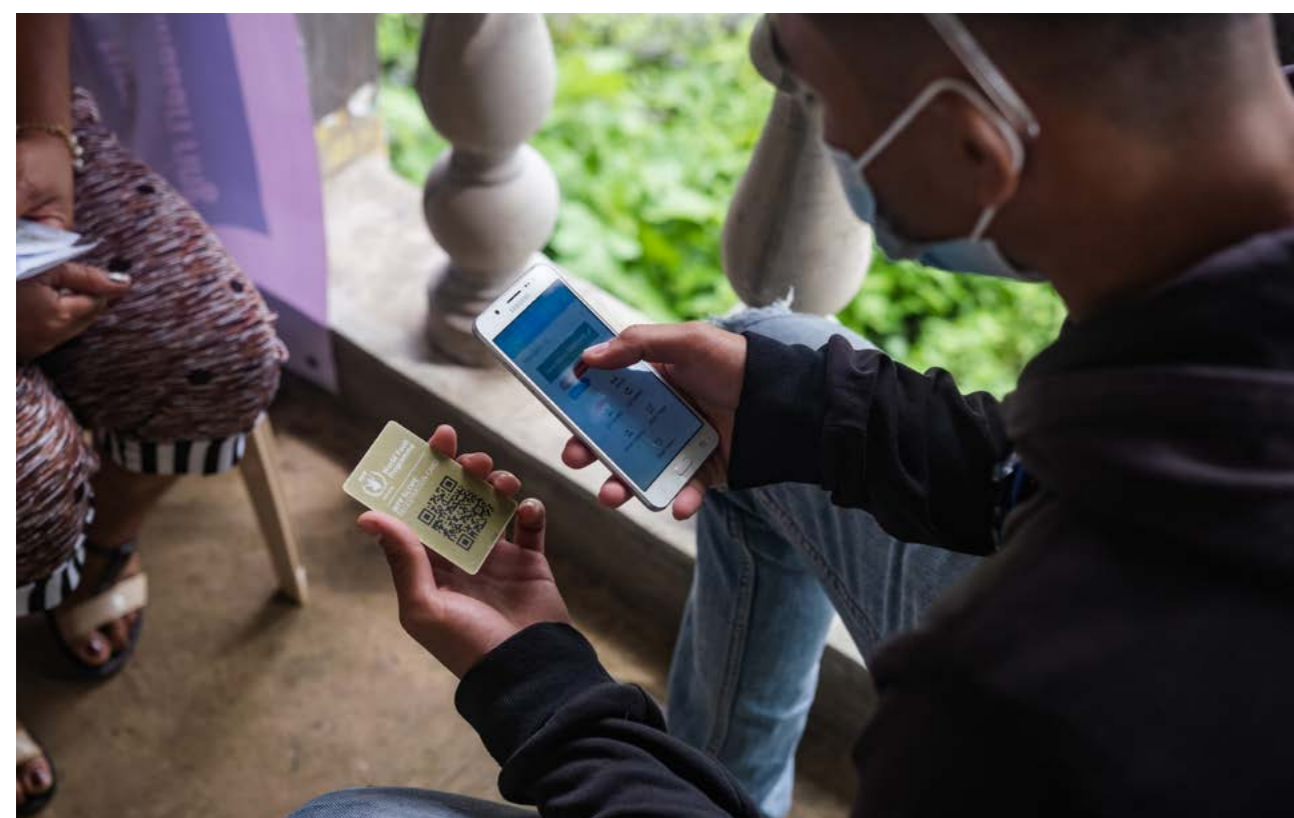
As part of its commitment to support the government to ensure food security amidst the pandemic, WFP adapted its technical assistance so that the government could continue to meet the needs of these vulnerable groups while abiding by quarantine measures in place.

To that end, WFP provided digital advisory and solutions services to the government to ensure continuity of namely three aspects of national social protection programming:

1. household vulnerability and food security assessments;
2. monitoring of the SAP; and
3. registration and distribution of payments in locations where financial service providers were unable to operate owing to lockdown restrictions.

To support the government to gather information on the impacts of COVID-19 on food and nutrition security of Filipinos under quarantine, WFP deployed mVAM – its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping project that uses mobile technology to remotely monitor household food security and nutrition with a view to inform decision making. Through mobile surveys, mVAM enabled the government to gauge food security and nutrition levels in Metro Manila, the region with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), one of the regions with the highest poverty rates in the country. MoDa, WFP's new corporate tool for Mobile Operational Data Acquisition, provided an accessible platform for collecting the data.

Meanwhile, to monitor outcomes and processes of the SAP, WFP supported the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) develop outcome level indicators and further offered its remote monitoring and evaluation toolkit (rM&E) in order to track the programme's performance.



DIGITAL ADVISORY AND SOLUTIONS SERVICES



With most service providers unable to operate as usual because of quarantine restrictions, the Ministry of Social Services and Development in BARMM (MSSD-BARMM), requested support from WFP for the distribution of financial assistance to households impacted by COVID-19, under the SAP. To meet the request, WFP offered a customized version of its beneficiary information and transfer management platform SCOPE, where MSSD-BARMM could collect, control and manage its own data. As a technical solution, SCOPE was readily available, did not require procurement of any equipment to be operational as MSSD-BARMM enumerators were able to use their own smartphones, and, the government had already witnessed previous deployments of SCOPE for emergency response, for example the

Marawi Siege (2017), Typhoon Ompong (2018), and the eruption of Taal Volcano (2020). By May 2020, MSSD-BARMM had completed its financial assistance distribution to 353,000 households.

Beyond the COVID-19 response, the support provided by WFP serve two longer-term objectives:

1. that the generated evidence and knowledge of the vulnerabilities faced by the Filipino population and the performance of the SAP can be used to inform future social protection programming; and
2. that the support in the creation and use of digital solutions can further the development of a strong digital ecosystem to facilitate the extension of social protection in the country.

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To know more about WFP's work in enabling social protection around the globe check the full publication and infographic:

World Food Programme

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