In Numbers

- **US$ 63,836** cash distributed
- **US$ 1.74 m** six-month (May – October 2021) net funding requirements
- **5,645** people assisted in April 2021

Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- WFP completed cash distribution to the victims of Typhoon Goni (Rolly) in Bicol. Since rolling out this programme in December, WFP has distributed **US$ 667,055** through its financial service provider partner, Western Union. In April, WFP concluded the final round and reached the remaining 70 households who had not yet claimed their cash assistance in the previous months. Overall, since starting in December 2020:
  - WFP supported 2,443 households (12,215 individuals) during the first round of cash distributions and 1,630 households (8,150 households) for both the second and third rounds, focusing on the most vulnerable beneficiaries identified from the first round, through a contribution from the Government of Australia.
  - WFP reached 3,000 households (15,000 individuals) for the first round of cash assistance and identified 2,000 households (10,000 individuals) from the first round to receive continued support in the second and third rounds, through a grant received from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.

- WFP supported households affected by Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses), focusing on farming and fishing households whose livelihoods were severely damaged by the flooding. In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP began registration of targeted beneficiaries followed by disbursement of cash assistance. In April, **WFP has so far reached 1,058 households (5,290 individuals)** out of the 1,125 targeted households in Cagayan Province, distributing a total of **US$ 59,258**.

- The Bangsamoro government requested support in transporting relief items to the internally displaced populations affected by the armed clashes between government security forces and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Maguindanao. **WFP provided 22 trucks** to the regional government to bring rice, family food packs, and kitchen and hygiene kits to evacuation centres and as resettlement package to returning populations. This support is made possible through a contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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 and the country ranks 4th among countries most affected by climate risks in a 20-year period (2000-2019). Now exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, natural hazards and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity rates in the country.

WFP supports 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 Memorandum of Understanding with the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, 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 improved access to income-generating activities for rural poor in Mindanao. Specifically, WFP works on a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in the Bangsamoro Region during its transition period.

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.
**WFP Country Strategy**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>May - October 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48.56 m</td>
<td>28.99 m</td>
<td>1.74 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 sectoral 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 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.

**Strategic Result 5**: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 5**: The Government have adequate and healthy diets to reduce malnutrition - in line with government targets by 2022

**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 sectoral responses lead to adequate and healthy diets during the critical times of development.

**Emergency Response (continued)**

- WFP continued to support the national government in its COVID-19 response by augmenting logistics operations. WFP mobilized 16 trucks carrying food and non-food essentials delivered to various locations across the country. WFP also extended the loan of mobile storage units and generators currently used by various government offices at the national, regional, and local levels. This support is generously funded by USAID.

**Capacity Strengthening**

- WFP continues its fight against malnutrition in the Philippines through its social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) project entitled: Better Access of Mothers and Babies to Integrated Nutrition Agenda (BAMBINA). The project endeavours to identify the barriers to good nutrition. In April, WFP presented the project’s key findings from the interviews and focus group discussions it has conducted. WFP convened multi-sectoral representatives for a strategic consultation meetings to validate findings and strengthen its messaging.

- WFP held a three-day programme implementation review of its convergence project with Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM) to discuss accomplishments, best practices, challenges, and lessons learned in preparation for scale up. The convergence project is a joint initiative between BARM and WFP towards holistic rural development through income generating activities for farmers, fisherfolks, and decommissioned combatants.

- WFP and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture completed its Climate Change and Food Security Analysis, which began in October 2020. The key findings of the study affirmed the negative impact of climate change to staple crop yields in the Philippines, particularly on the occurrence and severity of pests and diseases in major livelihood categories nationwide, such as livestock. These findings will contribute to science-based evidence that WFP will share with government decision makers to aid in policymaking and programming initiatives towards disaster risk reduction and agricultural adaptation. Overall findings will be presented to stakeholders in June 2021.

**Food Systems Summit 2021**

- WFP is working with sister UN agencies on the planned United Nations Food Systems Summit dialogues, nationally and internationally. These efforts are underway ahead of the July pre-Summit in Rome and the September global Summit in New York. On 26 April, WFP supported Cotabato provincial governor Nancy Catamco as she represented the Philippine Government at a Food Systems Summit 2021 side event in Rome titled “Voice from the Field: Harnessing Traditional Knowledge, Building Agency and Sustainable Models”. Governor Catamco presented her province’s initiatives to support indigenous peoples in relation to sustainable food systems.

**Donors**

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

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**WFP Philippines Country Brief**

April 2021