



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief May 2021



WFP and DICT hand over GECS MOVE sets to Visayas Cluster 2 on 25 May. Photo Courtesy of DICT.

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. Now exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, natural hazards and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity.

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.



Population: **110 million**

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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Country Director: Brenda Barton

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines

In Numbers

6 Government Emergency Communications System Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (GECS MOVE) sets dispatched to emergency hotspots in the Philippines

90,000 family food packs transported on behalf of the Government to individuals economically affected by COVID-19

US\$ 1.7 m six-month (June – November 2021) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- WFP completed its response to support communities affected by **Typhoon Vamco** (Ulysses), focusing on farming and fishing households whose livelihoods were severely damaged by the flooding. With support by the Australian Government (DFAT) and in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP provided cash assistance to 5,090 people in Cagayan Province since December 2020, distributing US\$ 63,086.
- WFP continued its **logistics support** to the Government in response to multiple crisis. In May, WFP transported 90,000 family food packs on behalf of the Government to individuals who have been economically affected by COVID-19 in various locations across the country. WFP also supported the Bangsamoro government in transporting rice to the internally displaced populations affected by armed clashes in March. This support is made possible through a contribution from the United States (USAID).

Disaster risk reduction and management

- WFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) have now completed the first phase of GECS MOVE, which aims to **establish resilient government emergency communication systems** that can be used when emergencies strike. In May, DICT and WFP jointly sent off six GECS MOVE sets to emergency hotspots in the Philippines. Each set is composed of a heavy-duty truck equipped with an integrated communications system, an off-road motorcycle and a 4X4 support vehicle to access difficult terrain, and two partner drones to extend connectivity.
- WFP completed a country **Shock-Responsive Social Protection** Capacity Assessment and presented the key findings to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The assessment identified strengths and gaps in social protection systems; key capacities to improve systems' responsiveness; and provided recommendations to improve existing systems to better respond to shock.
- To support BARMM in disaster risk reduction and management, WFP conducted a one-week workshop which aimed to develop the **use of forecasts 72 hours before a disaster hit**. Participants from Maguindanao province and BARMM ministries worked on mapping hazards and vulnerabilities, updating existing hazard and risk assessment maps and developing analytical reports.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
48.55 m	29.01 m	1.74 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, 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

Nutrition

- WFP supported the [launch](#) of the **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0** Strategy in the Philippines on 25 May. Philippines is the first country in South East Asia to launch the new strategy.
- WFP presented the [Iron Fortified Rice Pilot Project results](#) to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger. Rice fortification can be one of the most important interventions to reduce malnutrition and the pilot study successfully demonstrated that it was possible to use **iron-fortified rice** for the school feeding program. WFP advocated for resolutions to fast track pending policies and for the implementation scale-up of the Rice Fortification Law. This included adding the cost of rice fortification and maintenance of blending machines.

Resilience

- As part of resilience-building efforts, WFP rolled out the **Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP)** in Lanao del Sur. The SLP consultative approach brings together communities, government, and partners to design integrated multi-sectorial and longer-term operational plans, identifying which programmes to be implemented where, when, for whom, and by which partners.

Peace

- The Country Director undertook her first mission to BARMM, accompanied by the UN Senior Peace and Development Advisor, Melina Nathan. They visited WFP livelihood projects where indigenous and Moro peoples, and decommissioned combatants **built assets collectively** and harmoniously.
- WFP Philippines participated in the 2021 [Stockholm Peace and Development Forum](#) on 7 May. WFP shared the results of its measurement pilot study conducted in October-December 2020, which aimed to identify drivers of peace and risks to populations in BARMM.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- WFP initiated the **mid-term review of its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2023** which will be conducted by a team of six independent experts from BrainTrust. Targets, challenges and adjustments also arising from COVID-19's impact on food and nutrition security will be studied. A first report is expected in July.
- WFP held two programme implementation reviews of its **convergence project** in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), at regional level and Lanao del Sur. BARMM ministries' representatives and soon to be decommissioned combatants assessed results, documented good practices and identified challenges. The convergence project is a joint initiative between BARMM and WFP towards holistic rural development through income generating activities for farmers, fisherfolk, and decommissioned combatants.

Food Systems Summit 2021

- WFP and sister UN agencies are helping to plan the UN Food Systems Summit dialogues, nationally and internationally, ahead of the July pre-Summit (Rome) and the September global Summit (New York).