



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief June 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 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**

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

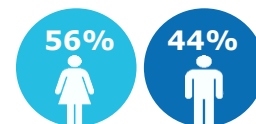
2020 Human Development Index
Ranking: **107 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

13 trucks provided to support the Government with logistics services in response to multiple crisis

US\$ 2 m six-month (July – December 2021) net funding requirements



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- WFP continued its **logistics support** to the Government in response to multiple crisis in June. In support of the Government's COVID-19 response, WFP provided 10 trucks which carried medical and relief items to hospitals in multiple destination around the country; this included hygiene kits, family packs, masks, and ventilators. WFP also supported the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with 3 trucks to transport rice and family food packs to people affected by Typhoon Dante which made landfall in late May.
- WFP signed a **Partnership Agreement** with the Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) which will allow for collaboration on joint disaster preparedness and response activities, and the sharing of warehousing and office spaces during disasters. This will include the possibility for WFP to use PDRF facilities in Clark, 2 hours north of Manila, in case WFP's main office become unusable following a major disaster. WFP has worked closely with PDRF in the past during disaster response and logistics trainings events.

Livelihoods

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP, together with the Convergence Technical Working Group, finalized the design of the Scaling-Up Convergence (SUC) project. The SUC aims to strengthen and expand the **Convergence Development Model** to support decommissioned, soon to be decommissioned combatants, indigenous people and conflict affected families by creating sustainable income generating activities towards holistic rural development.

School Feeding

- WFP conducted an orientation session on **home-grown school feeding** (HGSF) with the Regional Nutrition Committee of BARMM for the possible integration of HGSF as part of the nutrition-sensitive intervention of the local government units.
- WFP, together with Oxford Policy Management, organized a webinar on school feeding programmes amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific. The webinar provided lessons learned and insights into the alternative measures undertaken by governments and partners to mitigate the impacts of school closures on school feeding programmes.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
48.55 m	29.90 m	2.07 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 3: 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 4: 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 Country Director participated as a panelist in the launch of the World Bank's report entitled "[Undernutrition in the Philippines: Scale, Scope, and Opportunities for Nutrition Policy and Programming](#)". The report highlighted that the rates of both wasting and stunting in the Philippines have been nearly flat for nearly 30 years. For 2019, the prevalence of stunting among children under five years was 29 percent, that of underweight was 19 percent and that of wasting was 6 percent. The Philippines' stunting rate places it fifth among countries in the East Asia and Pacific region, and among the top 10 countries globally.
- WFP launched a [Recipe Book](#) to guide caregivers in preparing meals for children diagnosed with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The recipes will serve as an alternative solution in the absence of standard treatment, such as Ready to Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) and Fortified Blended Food (FBF), which are not always available. As part of July Nutrition Month, WFP also organized an [online cooking contest](#) to raise awareness on MAM by asking caregivers to share their own nutritional recipes on social media.
- WFP continues to support the Government in preparation of the National Nutrition Council and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) **Food Systems Summit** Independent Dialogue "Food System Transformation to End Malnutrition" on July 12, which will provide feedback in the National Food Systems Dialogues on July 13 and 14.

Monitoring and Analysis

- WFP conducted a study entitled "**Food security and nutrition in urban Philippines:** Evidence from a remote COVID-19 survey". The study focused on Quezon City and was conducted with FAO, UNICEF and WHO. Preliminary results indicate that COVID-19 exacerbated poverty in an already vulnerable population, with 84 percent of households seeing their income reduced. Nearly 2 in 3 households experienced food insecurity. Households dramatically altered the way they purchased foods due to COVID-19, for example by reducing the purchase of nutritious foods such as meat, poultry and fish (respectively a decrease of 72 percent, 80 percent and 67 percent) due to limited purchasing power. The final report is expected in August.
- WFP initiated a research study on the capacity and potential of **rice production in BARMM**, focusing on resources, policies, competitiveness, adequacy of raw materials, marketability, and sustainability in the region. Findings will be used to inform rice value chain policy and institutionalization in BARMM.
- WFP completed the post-distribution monitoring of the **Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses)** emergency assistance operation. Results indicated that 98 percent of the households were satisfied with the assistance they received, and that households used cash assistance mainly to buy food (41 percent) and agricultural supplies (14 percent). WFP had provided cash assistance to 5,000 people between December 2020 and June 2021, focusing on farming and fishing households whose livelihoods were severely damaged by the flooding. This was conducted with support by the Australian Government (DFAT) and in partnership with FAO.