



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief July 2021



The National Food Systems Dialogue convened by Secretary William Dar of the Department of Agriculture took place on July 13-14

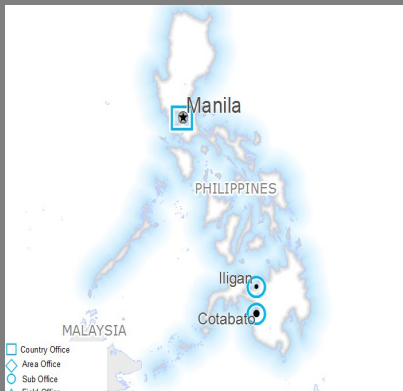
Operational Context

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, with support provided for the development of the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap.

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)

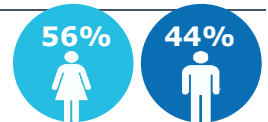
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

25,000 families will benefit from WFP's new Anticipatory Action pilot which aims to mitigate the impact of disasters

3 trucks provided to support the Government's COVID-19 response with logistics services

US\$ 2 m six-month (August 2021 – January 2022) net funding requirements



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

- WFP continued its **logistics support** to the Government's COVID-19 response. In July, WFP provided 3 trucks which carried medical equipment (such as ventilators) to hospitals in the southern regions of the country.
- WFP started the preparation of its new **Anticipatory Action** pilot which aims to support vulnerable population prior to a disaster. WFP will register 25,000 families in the disaster-prone provinces of Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes (region V) who will receive cash assistance in case of imminent extreme weather event (such as typhoon or flooding). This will enable families to take anticipatory actions to protect their food security and livelihoods; for example, by harvesting their crops early, protecting their house, or constituting food stock. The cash assistance provided by WFP will be complemented by a top-up from UNFPA to support pregnant and nursing women. This joint UN agency project is funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and WFP will implement in partnership with the Bicol Consortium for Development Initiatives (BCDI).
- WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region V signed an agreement in July to partner on the update and enhancement of DSWD's Emergency Shelter Assistance beneficiary registry. WFP will use SCOPE, WFP's corporate **beneficiary information and transfer management** platform, to support DSWD with the profile update of around 50,000 families and the collection of additional information (such as phone numbers and pictures). This will facilitate the use of the registry in case of an emergency response in an accountable and efficient manner. WFP will also be able to use the registry for its own programmes (such as the Anticipatory Action pilot) which will maximize resources by reducing the duplication of efforts and providing better targeted, transparent cash handouts.

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org
Country Director: Brenda Barton
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines

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	2.03 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

Donors

Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM), Australia, Bank of America, Germany, Italy, Japan Association for the World Food Programme, New Zealand, the Government of the Philippines, United States of America, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and World Bank.

Livelihoods and Resilience

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP started the registration of a further 3,700 participants for **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** activities which will start in August. Participants include soon-to-be decommissioned combatants, indigenous people and food insecure families in conflict-affected communities in Lanao del Sur and Basilan. FFA activities will focus on agriculture production and environmental protection, using a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach.
- As part of resilience-building efforts, WFP rolled out the **Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP)** in Maguindanao, with the participation of 33 focal points from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), the national meteorological agency (PAGASA), Maguindanao Provincial Planning and Development and FAO. The SLP brings together communities, government, and partners to design integrated multi-sectorial and longer-term operational plans, identifying which programmes will be implemented where, when, for whom, and by who.

Analysis and Research

- WFP presented to a large forum the results of its research on **social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)** that aims to improve nutrition in Maguindanao by addressing barriers which contribute to poor dietary practices. The research called **BAMBINA** (Better Access of Mothers and Babies on Integrated Nutrition Agenda) analysed topics from food choices in the home, to myths and taboos, to the challenges and barriers of eating nutritious meals. For example, one finding indicated that though families generally believed that healthy eating is important, only 38 percent wanted to eat more fruits. The findings will inform the development of a SBCC strategy in Maguindanao, which has one of the highest stunting prevalence rates (39 percent) in the country.
- The UN in the Philippines (FAO, UNDP, WFP and IFAD) conducted a joint research on **“the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Systems and Adaptive Measures Practiced in Metro Manila”**. Among the key findings are that community quarantines resulted to poor connectivity to markets, logistical bottlenecks and food insecurity. Farmers have been particularly affected due to poor access to information and communication technology which has left them behind in the increasing e-commerce and digital transformations.

National Food Systems Summit 2021

- In July, Secretary Dar of the Department of Agriculture convened the **National Food Systems Dialogue**, with support from the UN country team. The event brought together diverse actors to shape national pathways to sustainable food systems, ahead of the July Pre-Summit (Rome) and the global UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) in New York this September.