



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief August 2021



On World Humanitarian Day (19 August), WFP joined fellow UN agencies and BARMM Government to plant trees in Datu Odin Sinsuat. ©WFP/Jofer Siodora

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

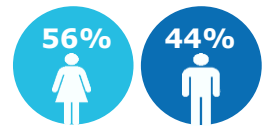
Income Level: **Lower middle**

## In Numbers

**530** participants started working on Food Assistance for Assets activities in BARMM

**5,360** households' profiles updated in the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Emergency Shelter Assistance beneficiary registry

**US\$ 2.4 m** six-month net funding requirements



## Operational Updates

### Emergency Response

- WFP continued its **logistics support** to the Government in response to multiple crisis in August, with funding support from USAID. WFP provided three trucks which carried 5,000 family food packs to Mimaropa region to support families affected by flooding due by typhoon Fabian, the effect of Southwest Monsoon and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Disaster Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptation

- WFP started the validation of beneficiary lists for the UN joint **Anticipatory Action** pilot which aims to support vulnerable populations prior to a disaster. A total of 25,000 households will be registered in the coming weeks and will receive cash assistance before an 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 or constituting food stock. This joint UN agency project will be funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and implemented by FAO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, in partnership with Red Cross/Red Crescent and the Bicol Consortium for Development Initiatives (BCDI) contracted by WFP through a competitive process to lead beneficiary registration.
- WFP is working with BARMM's Ministry of the Interior and Local Government for the formulation and update of **Local Climate Change Action Plans** (LCCAP). In August, WFP conducted a workshop with 40 participants from Maguindanao province and the municipalities of Upi, Sultan Kudarat, and Parang. The workshop aimed to support Local Government Units (LGU) to develop quality plans that contain appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures and corresponding funding. WFP plans to support 17 LGUs in BARMM with the update of their LCCAP.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>48.55 m</b>	<b>30.33 m</b>	<b>2.37 m</b>

### 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 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) 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

Australia, Bank of America, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Italy, Japan Association for the World Food Programme, New Zealand, the Philippines, private sector, United States of America, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and World Bank

- WFP is supporting the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region V to update and enhance DSWD's Emergency Shelter Assistance beneficiary registry. WFP is using SCOPE, its corporate **beneficiary information and transfer management** platform, to proceed with the profile update of around 50,000 families and the collection of additional information. This will facilitate the use of the registry in case of an emergency response. In August, WFP finalized the update of more than 5,000 households' profile.

## Livelihoods and Resilience

- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP started **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** activities for 530 participants. Participants include decommissioned combatants, indigenous people and food insecure families in conflict-affected communities. The projects, implemented under the convergence model, will last three months and are focusing on vegetable production, flood control and bamboo nursery establishment. In September, WFP plans to start additional projects targeting a total of 3,700 participants. FFA activities in BARMM are made possible through contributions from Australia, Japan Association for WFP, and the private sector.

## Policies and Strategic Planning

- In August, the Philippines, through its Secretary of Education, signed the **Declaration of National Commitments to the Global School Meals Coalition**, ahead of the [Food Systems Summit](#). Through the Declaration, it committed to scale up school meals programmes to bolster recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the SDGs.
- The Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and WFP facilitated a 3-day workshop for the formulation of the **'Bangsamoro Food Security Plan'** (BFSP) 2021-2025.
- In BARMM, the Regional Nutrition Council (RNC) drafted a resolution for the adoption and institutionalization of **Home-Grown School Feeding**.

## Analysis and Research

- WFP completed a **multi-hazard Vulnerability and Risk Analysis (VRA)** for the Philippines which provides an overview of underlying vulnerabilities to climate-related risks. This was completed as part of a regional ECHO project to (i) provide a better understanding of geographic areas (municipalities and cities) and population exposed to historical risk; and (ii) inform shock-responsive social protection interventions in case of disaster (including forecast-based and anticipatory action).