



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief September 2021



WFP registers beneficiaries in the UN joint Anticipatory Action pilot on Rapu-rapu island in the province of Albay. ©WFP/Arlan Bernido

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**

In Numbers

15,000 households registered in the UN joint Anticipatory Action pilot project

2,900 people participating in Food Assistance for Assets activities in BARMM

US\$ 1.8 m six-month net funding requirements



Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- WFP supported the Government in its response to **Typhoon Jolina** which affected 90,000 families in September according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). WFP provided six trucks which carried 10,000 family food packs from DSWD's Visayas Disaster Response Center, in Cebu City, to affected areas. This support is made possible through a contribution from the United States (USAID).

Disaster Preparedness & Climate Change Adaptation

- WFP continued the registration of beneficiaries for the UN joint **Anticipatory Action** pilot which aims to support vulnerable populations prior to a disaster; 15,155 households were registered in Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes. WFP plans to register a total of 25,000 households who will receive cash assistance in case of an imminent extreme weather event, so they can take anticipatory actions to protect their food security and livelihoods. This joint UN agency project is funded by UN CERF and implemented by OCHA, FAO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP.
- In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP continued to work with the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG) for the formulation of **Local Climate Change Action Plans**. In September, WFP conducted a workshop with 12 Local Government Units (LGUs) from Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Basilan. The workshop aimed to support LGUs to develop quality plans that contain mitigation and adaptation measures and corresponding funding.
- To strengthen **disaster preparedness**, WFP supported the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to conduct regional events in Visayas and Mindanao on contingency planning and communications exercises. This follows the handover from WFP to DICT of vehicles equipped with an integrated communications system. The six sets have been deployed in May 2021 to emergency hotspots in the Philippines and are ready to be used in times of disaster to re-establish communication networks.

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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	30.33 m	1.8 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

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

Livelihoods and Resilience

- In BARMM, WFP and LGUs are implementing **Food Assistance for Assets** (FFA) activities for 2,900 participants; including decommissioned combatants, indigenous people and conflict-affected communities. The projects, implemented under the inter-ministerial ‘convergence’ model, are focusing on vegetable production, flood control and bamboo nursery establishment. In October, 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.
- WFP and FAO participated in DSWD’s ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the Pilot 4Ps ‘Gulayan sa Pamayanan’ (**Community Vegetable Garden**). Both agencies will partner with DSWD to implement the pilot which will support 516 households in the National Capital Region.

Analysis and Research

- WFP is conducting a **gender analysis** to identify opportunities for WFP to better support gender equality and women empowerment in the Philippines. The analysis will have an in-depth focus on gender in the framework of national shock responsive social protection programmes; as well as on the gendered needs of the communities in BARMM, especially the indigenous communities and communities experiencing recurrent displacement.

Food Systems Summit

- In September 2021, the **first-ever UN Food Systems Summit** was organized and saw over 51,000 people tuned in from 193 countries to highlight new actions to accelerate food systems transformation, improve nutrition and enable healthy diets from sustainable, resilient food systems.
- Agriculture Secretary William Dar, as Philippines National Convenor of the Food Systems Dialogue, announced that **the Philippines is joining seven Coalitions of Actions** that were formed during the Pre-Summit and Summit processes, namely the Coalitions of Action on Zero Hunger, School Meals, Healthy Diets, Family Farming, and Agroecology, Sustainable Productivity Growth and Indigenous People Food Systems. By joining these coalitions, the Philippines commits to harness resources for the transformation of the country’s food systems.
- In the framework of the Summit, the United Nations Philippines organized a webinar series on **“Beyond the Plate: Reinventing Food Systems”**. WFP participated as a panelist in the session **“Ensuring Food Security in the Bangsamoro through the BARMM Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap”**.