



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief December 2021



Aftermath of Typhoon Rai (local name: Odette), Siargao Island, 22 December; 2.4 million people need assistance. © WFP/Bobert Roferos

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 was 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**

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Country Director: Brenda Barton

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

In Numbers

19,410 people assisted in December 2021

US\$ 214,806 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 9.6 m six-month (January 2022 – June 2022) net funding requirements

US\$ 25.8 m needed for Typhoon Rai response

56%

44%



Operational Updates

Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) & WFP response

- Typhoon Rai** made landfall in the southeast of the Philippines on 16 December, **the strongest typhoon to hit the Philippines in 2021**. Initial numbers reported 587,224 people displaced across ten affected regions (source: Super Typhoon Odette Humanitarian Needs and Priorities). It put 2.4 million people in need of assistance, while 61,000 ha of agricultural land was damaged (source: DSWD, Report #16 on Typhoon "ODETTE" as of 22 December 2021).
- Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Plan – WFP requires a total of US\$ 25.8 m which consists of:
 - US\$ 20.8 m for food security
 - US\$ 1 m for emergency telecommunications
 - US\$ 4 m for logistics
- WFP is providing transport support to the Government's response with the delivery of emergency relief items to affected areas. Since the onset of Typhoon Rai, **WFP has provided 93 trucks to the Government to transport 120,000 family food packs**, as well as other relief items such as hygiene kits, sleeping kits, and family kits. Relief items are being delivered to the worst-hit areas including Surigao City, Cebu City, Bohol, Iloilo City, Dumaguete City, Himamaylan City, and Southern Leyte; and to airports in Clark, Pampanga and Mactan, Cebu. Collaborating with the Philippine Disaster and Relief Foundation, aid items were also transported via barge from Butuan City to Palawan.
- WFP thanks its donors, the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for US\$ 1 million**, the **Government of Ireland for EUR 250,000**, and private sector organizations, for contributing to WFP's operations. Likewise, WFP is grateful for **USAID's yearly funding support of US\$ 500,000** that allowed WFP to immediately provide logistics support to the Government in the aftermath of Typhoon Rai.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- Phase 2 of the partnership project between WFP and the Department of Information and Communications (DICT) commenced on 13 December 2021.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
60.6 m	37.1 m	9.6 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, Ireland, Italy, Japan, 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.

Emergency Communication (Cont.)

The plan is now to carry out the design, assembly and delivery of **Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies (MOVE) sets** within the Philippines. The final units will be delivered towards end of 2022.

- On 14 December, DICT deployed two existing MOVE sets in Suriago City on the northern tip of Mindanao and in Maasin City Southern Leyte in the expected path of the Super Typhon Rai. The deployment proved to be successful as the entire area had a blackout of public power and connectivity. With support from a WFP senior telecoms engineer, the units were setup as soon as the typhon had passed in to re-establish the communication in the government communication hubs. Later, additional two MOVE sets and 11 standalone VSAT's were positioned in response to the emergency. The actual emergency deployment has proved the concept and the requirement but also proved the design and the build of the unit.

Simulation Exercise for CERF Anticipatory Action (AA)

- On 8-9 December, a Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) in the Province of Albay and Catanduanes was conducted to test WFP's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for CERF AA implementations. 233 selected households received cash assistance through a financial service provider. Also, 88 Early Warning messages were sent electronically, and Money Transfer Control Numbers (MTCN) via SCOPE for the first time in the Philippines.

Nutrition

- WFP conducted in partnership with the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD) a webinar entitled "[Why we eat, what we eat?](#)". It is part of WFP's Social and Behaviour Change Communication Project, which intends to support mothers and caregivers of children to adopt healthier feeding practices, as well as policymakers, food producers and business establishments to support specific program services. The webinar was joined by more than 300 attendees from e.g. government offices, universities, hospitals, as well as NGO.

Disaster Risk Reduction & Community Transformation

- WFP conducted a workshop to finalize the Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans (LCCAP) of eight Municipalities in Maguindanao. The finalized LCCAPs of the participating municipalities are currently up for adoption by their respective Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, as well as for budget appropriation and implementation by their respective Municipal Councils.
- The WFP Cotabato Sub Office, together with colleagues from headquarters and the Regional Bureau Bangkok, developed a survey tool on People-centered Risk Indicator Measurement and Engagement (PRIME), which will be implemented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2022.
- Finalization of UN Joint Programming on Community Transformation in Conflict Affected Areas in BARMM.