



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief January 2022



Since the onset of Typhoon Rai, WFP has been responding to the Government's requests of transporting food and other relief items to affected provinces. ©WFP/Maitta Rizza Pugay

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**

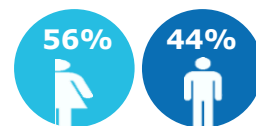
In Numbers

9,075 people assisted in January 2022

US\$ 2,142 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 15.4 m six-month net funding requirements
(February 2022 – July 2022)

US\$ 35.6 m needed for Typhoon Rai response



Operational Updates

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response

- Six weeks after **Typhoon Rai** swept and left a path of devastation, the revised [Humanitarian Needs and Priorities](#) (HNP, revision to be published on 2 February) estimated that **9.9 million people were affected across the six worst hit regions, with 2.4 million people in need of assistance**. This revision incorporates needs from provinces not initially assessed in the immediate aftermath of the typhoon - likened to historic 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan in terms of physical devastation and loss of livelihoods.
- The revised **HNP aims to coordinate and prioritize multi-sectoral assistance to 840,000 people** in the worst affected provinces of Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Southern Leyte, Bohol, and Cebu.
- WFP's revised **requirements total US\$ 35.6 million** for **380,000** of the most vulnerable people :
 - US\$ 29.6 m for food security;
 - US\$ 1 m for emergency telecommunications;
 - US\$ 5 m for logistics.
- Typhoon Rai **has aggravated an already dire food security and nutrition situation** worsened by an economic decline caused by the pandemic. Pre-Rai, many families were **unable to afford a nutritious diet** in Central Visayas (42 percent), Eastern Visayas (49 percent), and Caraga (53 percent). Considering the economic shocks caused by two years of severe COVID-19 shutdowns, now a major climate shock, stunting prevalence in these regions remains a very high public health concern.
- WFP is scaling up efforts to provide direct assistance to affected population and extend its support to the Government and wider humanitarian community



WFP dispatched rice from its Polloc Warehouse to Dinagat Islands. Food distributions took place in four municipalities in Dinagat.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
60.6 m	49.3 m	15.4 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.

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response (continuation)

through logistics and emergency telecommunications. As of February 2022, WFP requires **US\$ 35.6 million** to fully implement its **food and cash programmes** in the provinces of Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Bohol, and Southern Leyte; to sustain **transportation** of relief food and non-food items for the Government; and fill in **connectivity** gaps while communication services are being restored.

- WFP thanks the governments of **Australia, Brazil, Japan, Ireland, the Republic of South Korea, the United States of America, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and private sector partners** for its confirmed contributions (US\$ 12.8 million). WFP is also grateful to pledges of support (US\$ 3.4 million) from the governments of **Canada, France, and the United States of America**, and private donors.
- WFP has reached **90 percent (451,276 meals)** of its targeted half a million meals through [ShareTheMeal](#). This is equivalent to US\$ 361,020 raised.

Nutrition

- WFP participated in the "Workshop on Healthy Eating and Front Pack Labelling" organized by the Center for Policy Studies on Sustainable Development with WHO and the Department of Health from January 24-25. WFP shared insights in discussions on nutrition education and literacy, including topics on importance of breastfeeding, parents and community education, nutrition counselling as part of healthcare, nutrition labelling, use of social media for nutrition education, and establishing metrics to measure effectiveness of nutrition education initiatives.

Food Assistance for Assets

- Following the distribution of cash assistance (final tranche) to farming communities in Maguindanao facilitated by the BARMM government, WFP is currently conducting a post-distribution monitoring to gauge the outcome of the support provided to the community beneficiaries.

Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus

- WFP, with support from its Headquarters and Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, is working on a survey tool for People-centered Risk Indicator Measurement and Engagement (PRIME), which will be implemented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2022. PRIME is a system designed to inform WFP's programming in the areas of conflict sensitivity and contributions to protection, with a framework designed to generate indicators as operational evidence that can be used to track and incentivize positive contributions to peace.
- WFP is actively engaged in the roll out plan for the new UN Joint Programme on Community Transformation in Conflict Affected Areas in BARMM. The four core agencies in this US\$ 14 m project are WFP, FAO, IOM and UNDP. WFP will act as the Convening Agent and Project Coordinator.