



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief April 2022



WFP staff handing a cash card (MTCN) to a beneficiary with a value of PHP 5,800 in Dinagat Islands. Photo: WFP/Lourdes Ibarra

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 as one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, the Philippines ranks 1st in Natural Hazards & Exposure risk (earthquakes, flood, tsunami, cyclone, drought, epidemic) according to the 2022 Inform Risk Index. 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**

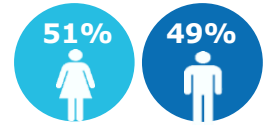
In Numbers

156,635 people assisted in April 2022

US\$ 2.7 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.3 million distributed through vouchers

US\$ 4.9 m six-month net funding requirements
(May 2022 – October 2022)



Operational Updates

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response

- Nineteen weeks after **Typhoon Rai**, WFP continues to assist the most vulnerable people in line with the revised [Humanitarian Needs and Priorities \(HNP\) plan](#). WFP is targeting **380,000 people** in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island, Bohol, and Southern Leyte provinces through a combination of in-kind food (rice), vouchers and cash assistance.
- WFP has reached **294,960 people** affected by Typhoon Rai so far, distributing **1,136 mt of rice and US\$ 5.4 million in cash transfers and vouchers**. In April, WFP finalized food distributions, reaching a total of 115,000 people in Siargao and Dinagat Islands. Cash distributions in Southern Leyte are completed and WFP is continuing to provide cash assistance in Bohol and the Caraga region, reaching 146,995 people. WFP is also continuing to distribute food vouchers in Surigao del Norte, reaching 58,455 people so far.
- As relief assistance is being completed, WFP is preparing to launch **early recovery activities** in June 2022 to support affected communities through food assistance for assets activities.
- WFP has received US\$ 20.7 million for Typhoon Rai response out of US\$ 35.6 million required to reach 380,000 people. WFP thanks the **Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Ireland, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, United States of America, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and private sector partners for their support.**

Tropical Storm Megi (local name Agaton)

- Tropical storm Megi struck in early April 2022, causing heavy rain and landslides, impacting more than 2 million people. **Over 11,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.** WFP conducted a rapid damage and needs assessment in the Province of Leyte with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 13 and 14 April 2022.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
93.9 m	58.7 m	4.9 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, Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Japan Association for the World Food Programme, New Zealand, the Philippines, Private Sector, Republic of Korea, United States of America, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and World Bank.

- WFP is supporting the government-led response with logistics support and emergency telecommunications. WFP has provided **120 trucks to move 110,000 government supplied family food packs**, 4,000 sleeping kits, 3,125 family kits, 6,500 hygiene kits, 2,900 kitchen kits, and 330 mt of rice.

Nutrition

- To further nutrition progress in the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)**, WFP is conducting a study on Iron Rice Fortification Capacities and Supply Chain. Underway as well is a technical and economic feasibility study on the production of a "Nutribar" made from selected traditional crops in Maguindanao. Engagement in these two areas and next steps were presented by WFP during the 2nd Regular Bangsamoro Food Self-Sufficiency Task Force Meeting on April 22.
- WFP participated in the workshop organized by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) on April 20-22 to review and update the **Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC)** communication plan of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN). The workshop aimed to identify communication objectives, key indicators, and key messages for each target groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents.
- WFP participated in the 23rd **Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger (IATF-ZH)** meeting on April 22. The IATF-ZH is the lead body assigned by the President of the Philippines to coordinate, monitor, and assess the efforts to eradicating hunger and achieving food security. WFP updated the task force on efforts to scale-up rice fortification, including key issues and potential solutions gathered from key stakeholders.

Emergency Preparedness - Anticipatory Actions

- WFP participated in the After-Action Review of CERF Anticipatory Action (AA) to assess the AA Framework, and to consider the lessons learned from the preparedness activities and near activation in December 2021, and response operations to Typhoon Rai. WFP is implementing the anticipatory action pilot in Region 5 with 25,000 families registered to receive cash-based assistance 3 days prior to landfall of a Category 4 or 5 typhoon.

Food and Fuel Prices Monitoring

- WFP is facing challenges with **rising fuel costs**. The price of fuel has risen by over 40 percent since the beginning of the year. Transporters have already requested WFP to increase transportation rates which will negatively impact WFP's operations.
- The war in Ukraine may drive **food prices** even higher in Asian countries, including the Philippines. The Philippines Statistics Authority reported the headline inflation in the Philippines increased further to 4.9 percent in April 2022, from 4.0 percent in March 2022. Further, the food inflation is expected to be 6 percent by the end of this quarter, according to Trading Economics' global macro models.