



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Philippines Country Brief May 2022



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. Natural hazards and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity, which are now exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, as well as the global food and energy crisis.

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 natural disasters and 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)

2021 Human Development Index
Ranking: **107 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

51,260 people assisted in May 2022

US\$ 639,000 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 486,000 distributed through vouchers

US\$ 5.5 million six-month net funding requirements
(June to November 2022)

56%

44%



Operational Updates

Social Protection

- WFP published its [scoping study on Social Protection and WFP in the Philippines](#). The study explored the main national and international actors working in social protection, their policies, priorities and initiatives, and assessed the key opportunities and challenges that the country faces to advance nutrition outcomes and shock response through national social protection. It also provides a set of recommendations for defining and improving WFP's role and engagement in support of national social protection.

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response

- Almost 6 months after **Typhoon Rai**, WFP continues to assist the most vulnerable people in line with the revised [Humanitarian Needs and Priorities \(HNP\) plan](#). WFP has reached **320,000 people** affected by Typhoon Rai so far, distributing **1,136 mt of rice and US\$ 6.6 million in cash transfers and vouchers**.
- In May, WFP started **cash for work** activities targeting 80,000 people for a further two months across Bohol, Caraga and Southern Leyte. Activities identified through community consultations include coconut tree rehabilitation, vegetable gardening, mangrove reforestation and paddle boat repair.
- WFP also conducted education activities in Southern Leyte on **nutrition** and **gender-based violence** for more than 100 nutrition Scholars and health workers. The sessions are conducted in partnership with local authorities and UNFPA.
- As part of its **monitoring activities**, WFP has conducted interviews with over 1,100 beneficiaries since the start of the operation. Monitoring results indicated that 98 percent of beneficiaries were satisfied with the assistance.

Tropical Storm Megi (Agaton) Response

- WFP continued to support the government-led response with **logistics support**. Since Tropical Storm Megi hit, WFP has provided 131 trucks to move 109,000 family food packs, along with other relief supplies and equipment.

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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	56.5 m	5.5 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.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- WFP conducted consultations with Members of the Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force to define geographical areas for the implementation of the project "**Increased Productivity of Smallholder Farmers and Fisherfolk in BARMM**", funded by the Government of Japan. WFP, the Government and partners identified 16 municipalities in Maguindanao and 8 municipalities in Lanao del Sur.

Nutrition

- WFP Philippines' project '**NutriBar**' was selected under the 2022 Innovation Challenge launched by WFP's Innovation Accelerator based in Munich. With NutriBar, WFP aims to develop a nutritious bar made from local and climate-friendly crops in Maguindanao, with the goal to enhance nutrition and support sustainable livelihoods.
- WFP participated in the Sub-Technical Working Group (TWG) on **Rice Fortification**, chaired by the National Nutrition Council, on May 4. WFP presented the results of the WFP Study on Iron-Rice Fortification Capacities, Supply Chain and Campaign Initiatives in the Philippines. Participants included the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Department of Health, Food and Drug Administration, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Economic Development Authority, UNICEF and University of the Philippines Los Banos.

Climate Change

- WFP renewed its partnership with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to update and validate the [Climate Change Food Security Assessment](#) (CCFSA) in BARMM, Region 9, Region 12, and Region 4B; as well as to update the CCFSA Livelihood Map in Urban Areas in the country.

Fuel and Food Prices Increase Impact

- The Philippines **Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)**, co-led by FAO and WFP, is monitoring the impact of the global Food, Energy and Finance Crisis in the Philippines. Inflation has hit 5.4 percent in May 2022, compared to 4.9 percent in April 2022, with food and transport costs leading to the increase in commodity prices.
- Due to the 45-50 percent **increase in the price of fuel** since the beginning of the year, WFP amended its transport contracts and increased rates by 15 percent. This addresses requests from WFP's transporters who are facing challenges due to the overall increase in the cost of fuel. The new rates will be in place for two months when another review will take place.