



WFP Philippines Country Brief June 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP works with communities affected by Typhoon Odette in Bohol to plant fruit trees under FFA projects. ©WFP/ Mary Ruth LLOBRERA

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's Country Strategic Plan focuses on supporting the Government in achieving food security, reducing malnutrition, assisting the Government and communities to be better prepared for disasters and climate change impact, and improving access to income-generating activities for the rural poor, conflict affected population and other vulnerable groups. 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**

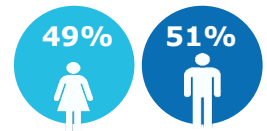
In Numbers

31,000 people assisted in June 2022

US\$ 230,000 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 85,000 distributed through vouchers

US\$ 6 million six-month net funding requirements



Operational Updates

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response

- WFP is implementing **food assistance for assets (FFA) activities** targeting 80,000 people for a further two months in Bohol, Caraga and Southern Leyte. FFA activities serve the dual objective of meeting immediate food gaps through cash and vouchers, while starting to rehabilitate or repair pre-existing assets, in alignment with local governments' early recovery plans.
- WFP has started these FFA activities with **7,400 participants** so far in June 2022, supporting around 37,000 beneficiaries. Activities identified during community consultations include coconut and banana tree rehabilitation and plantation, vegetable gardening, mangrove reforestation, solid waste management, seaweed farming and boat repair.
- WFP conducted **nutrition training sessions** for 180 nutrition scholars, health workers and community organizers in Bohol and Surigao del Norte. The sessions focused on the importance of the first 1,000 days, maternal health and nutrition, and infant and young child feeding (IYCF). The trainings were co-facilitated by the National Nutrition Council Region VII and Caraga Region. In June, WFP also updated the list of food items that can be bought with **vouchers** to include additional **seasonal vegetables and fruits**.
- WFP continued its **logistics support** to the Department of Health to transport five truckloads of specialized nutritious foods to areas affected by Typhoon Odette and Agatan.

Disaster Preparedness

- WFP teams participated in the reopening ceremony for the **Mechanized Family Food Pack Facility** in the Visayas Disaster Resource Center (VDRC) in Cebu. The VDRC is equipped with a custom-built mechanized system, designed to produce 50,000 family food packs a day, thus crucial for typhoon response. The equipment was originally designed and purchased in 2015 by WFP with funding from the UK and Australia. As there is already an existing National Resource Operations Center (NROC) in Pasay City, the reopened VDRC will double the national production capacity of family food packs.

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Country Director: Brenda Barton

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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
93.9 m	56.6 m	6.0 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 is working with the Cooperative and Social Enterprise Authority (CSEA) in BARMM to facilitate the establishment of **farming cooperatives**. Cooperatives increase market access of smallholder farmers, supporting overall rural development. In June, WFP facilitated one training for CSEA's social enterprise division staff.

Nutrition

- The National Nutrition Council (NNC) organized a workshop to identify key **social and behavior change communication (SBCC)** messages, as part of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. WFP participated in the workshop along with key stakeholders from government agencies, NGOs, and developmental partners.
- WFP Philippines presented its '**NutriBar**' project at the WFP Innovation Pitch Event themed "How innovation can help overcome the current food crisis" organized by WFP's Innovation Accelerator in Munich. With NutriBar, WFP aims to develop a nutritious bar made from local and climate-friendly crops in Maguindanao.

Monitoring and Situation Update

- WFP initiated weekly **market monitoring** in June to monitor the impact of the global food, energy, and financial crisis. WFP is collecting data in Bohol, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, and Surigao del Norte. The cost of the Minimum Expenditure Food Basket value in areas where WFP is providing assistance increased to USD 144 in June 2022, from USD 123 in January 2022, according to WFP's market monitoring.
- With support from the Joint SDG fund, WFP, FAO and ILO are preparing to launch **phone surveys** in the Philippines to monitor the impact of the food, energy, and financial crisis; and inform policy and response options.
- According to the new [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\) 2022](#) prepared by FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, global hunger rose further in 2021, and now affects up to 828 million people. This new increase follows a sharp rise in the previous year and sets the stage for a year of unprecedented needs
- Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was sworn in as **Philippines' new President** in June. In his inaugural speech, he vowed to put food security and support to agriculture high on his agenda. He announced that he will head the country's agriculture department as he seeks to revamp the sector amid rising food prices and possible shortages.