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 first 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
Childhood stunting: 28.8% (National Nutrition Survey, 2019)
Human Development Index Ranking: 107 out of 189
Income Level: Lower middle

In Numbers

51,000 people assisted in July 2022
US$501,000 cash-based transfers disbursed
US$37,000 distributed through vouchers
US$4 million six-months net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Earthquake response

- A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Abra in northern Luzon Island on 29 July. More than 57,000 people were displaced and 500,000 people affected according to the Government. WFP provided logistics support to the Government to transport more than 21,000 Family Food Packs as well as relief items to affected areas. WFP also participated in an inter-agency Rapid Needs Assessment together with IOM, UNICEF and UNDP on 29-31 July.

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response

- To support communities to recover from the impact of Typhoon Odette, WFP continued to implement food assistance for assets (FFA) activities in Bohol, Caraga and Southern Leyte. Participants receive cash or voucher assistance for their participation in FFA activities. FFA activities serve the dual objective of meeting immediate food gaps, while rehabilitating or repairing pre-existing assets, in alignment with local governments’ early recovery plans.

- WFP is implementing FFA activities for 14,500 participants, supporting around 72,000 beneficiaries throughout all affected areas. Activities identified during community consultations include coconut and banana tree rehabilitation and plantation, vegetable gardening, mangrove reforestation, solid waste management, seaweed farming and paddle boat repair.

Transforming Education Summit

- The UN Transforming Education Summit (TES) will be held in New York in September 2022 to renew political commitment to education and reimagine education with a view to recovering pandemic-related learning losses. In the Philippines, the UN developed recommendations for the Government ahead of the TES, including the scale-up of school meals programmes as a commitment to the Global School Meals Coalition, and the improvement of national, sustainable school-based feeding programme by linking schools to smallholder farmers.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93.9 m</td>
<td>57.3 m</td>
<td>4 m</td>
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**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 enhanced 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 (ARMMM) 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**

Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, the Philippines, Private Sector, Republic of Korea, United States of America (USAID), United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

**Emergency Preparedness**

WFP is preparing to scale up its Anticipatory Actions (AA) project which aims to support vulnerable populations prior to a severe typhoon. In addition to the 25,000 families registered in Bicol region, WFP will include an additional 20,000 families in Caraga and Eastern Visayas regions – bringing the total number of families to 45,000 (approximately 225,000 individuals). Registered beneficiaries will receive cash-based assistance as early as three days ahead of an imminent severe typhoon forecast. This will enable families to take preparatory measures to protect their food security and livelihoods; for example, by purchasing food or other essential items, strengthening their houses, and evacuating.

**Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)**

- WFP participated in a workshop facilitated by the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority on the formulation of the 2nd Bangsamoro Development Plan 2023-2028. The workshop was held in 18-19 July 2022. It focused on the economic, social, and infrastructure sectors.

- WFP facilitated a three-day workshop in Davao City on cooperatives’ capacity strengthening assessment. The workshop engaged representatives from the Cooperative and Social Enterprises Authority; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform; the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism; the Ministry of Labor and Employment; and the Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority.

- On the occasion of the nutrition month (July) in the Philippines, WFP, UNICEF and FAO participated in the event “BARMM Children Should Have Enough: Addressing Micronutrient Supplementation and Food Fortification in the New Normal” organized by BARMM Ministry of Health. The event was held in Cotabato City on 21 July 2022 with participants from BARMM ministries, civil society organizations, academe, and local government units.

**Monitoring and Situation Update**

- 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.

- In the State of the Nation Address, newly elected President Marcos, highlighted an eight-point socioeconomic agenda that aims to address high prices, vulnerability to shocks, and economic uncertainties caused by global crises, including by protecting purchasing power and food security.