Operational Context

A lower middle-income country, the Philippines has been one of the most dynamic economies in the East Asia-Pacific Region, but has struggled to transpose economic growth into tangible human development gain. Poverty incidence is at 18.1 percent, which translates into 20 million Filipinos who live below the poverty threshold. Stunting prevalence is high at 28.8 percent. Natural hazards and man-made conflicts contribute to food insecurity and malnutrition, which are now exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19, as well as the global food and energy crisis. The Philippines ranks 1st in Natural Hazards and Exposure risk according to the 2022 Inform Risk Index.

WFP’s Country Strategic Plan focuses on supporting the Government in achieving food security, reducing malnutrition, preparing 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.

In Numbers

- **4,500** people assisted in September 2022
- **US$ 44,451** distributed through cash-based transfers
- **260,000** seedlings produced through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities

Operational Updates

Super Typhoon Karding (Noru) Response

- On 25 September, Super Typhoon Karding swept through the country’s main island Luzon, bringing torrential rain and heavy winds. It affected more than 714,000 individuals across six regions. WFP, along with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) led an inter-agency rapid needs assessment on 27-29 September in Regions 3 and 4A.
- WFP provided eight trucks to transport 3,000 plastic sheets and 9,500 family food packs from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), respectively.

Earthquake Response

- WFP augmented the Government’s response to the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck Abra in Northern Luzon on 29 July through logistics services. WFP provided 12 trucks to transport 20,400 family food packs on behalf of DSWD.

Typhoon Odette (Rai) Early Recovery

- To support communities to recover from the impact of Typhoon Odette, WFP continued to implement food assistance for assets (FFA) activities to address immediate food gaps and rehabilitate pre-existing assets, in line with the local government’s early recovery plans. So far, 14,500 participants produced more than 260,000 seedlings (such as banana, coconut, root crops, and diverse tree), rehabilitated 101 hectares of forest or coastal lines, 80 km of roads/trails and 289 other social infrastructures (such as health stations, schools, and shelter).

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM)

- WFP, in partnership with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), organised a workshop on 26-29 September on the formulation of a buy-back scheme for Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes, aligned with the Community-Based Procurement Process Manual of the Government.

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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 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93.9 m</td>
<td>61.7 m</td>
<td>2.1 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 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 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

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: 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: 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).

WFP has commenced the Phase 3 implementation of the Food Security Convergence Model in BARMM, with Kayud Ka Bangsamoro (KKB) as an entry point. KKB aims to integrate reforestation of denuded areas in BARMM with livelihood opportunities for decommissioned and soon-to-be decommissioned combatants, family members, and other community partners. The project is implemented in partnership with various BARMM Ministries.

Nutrition

- WFP supported a workshop on drafting the BARMM Plan of Action of Nutrition (PAN) 2023-2028 held in General Santos City on 14-15 September. The Regional PAN was developed in line with the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023-2028.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health in BARMM conducted a 4-day Training of Trainers session on Maternal, Newborn, Infant, and Young Child Health and Nutrition (MNIYCHN) for 26 participants in Davao City.
- On 20 September, WFP organised an Interpersonal Communication for Behavior Change Workshop for 28 local health and nutrition officers from Maguindanao City. The workshop discussed the use of effective communication to engage in constructive dialogues on food and nutrition.

Disaster Preparedness

- WFP participated in a UN joint simulation exercise for the pilot implementation of Anticipatory Action strategies, covering 250 households in Surigao City and Catanduanes.
- WFP, as the global lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), continue to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. The development of a trailer vehicle is underway, which will hold essential ETC equipment to be prepositioned in WFP warehouses for easy deployment during emergencies.

Monitoring and Situation Update

- According to WFP Monthly Price Monitoring Bulletin, headline inflation in August (6.3 percent) remains 52 percent higher than in January. The upward trend is attributed to the higher annual growth in food and non-alcoholic beverages and fuel price increase.
- The Philippines ranks first out of 193 countries in disaster risk exposure, according to the new World Risk Index 2022. The country is also among the countries identified vulnerable to disasters caused by extreme natural events, which include earthquakes, storms or flooding.