



WFP Philippines Country Brief October 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP participated in the Joint Rapid Assessment in BARMM after the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Paeng. ©WFP/Roxanne Nicolas

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 & 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.



Population: **110 million**

Human Development Index (2022): **116 out of 191 countries**

Childhood stunting: **28.8%**
(National Nutrition Survey, 2019)

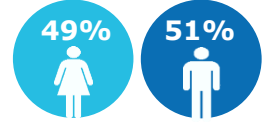
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

US\$165,986 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$206,370 distributed through vouchers

37,795 people assisted
in October 2022



Operational Updates

Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (Nalgae) Response

- On 28 October, severe tropical storm Paeng made six landfalls in the Philippines, leaving 5 out of 17 regions severely hit with at least 4 million people affected. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was declared under the state of calamity for its damages sustained. WFP joined the [Rapid Assessment](#) as the lead in one of the eight clustered areas in BARMM.
- At the Government's request, WFP provided **28 trucks** to transport **46,800 family food packs** from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) bound to Mindanao.

Earthquake Response

- WFP provided logistics support to the Government in its response to the 6.4-magnitude earthquake that struck Abra in Northern Luzon. WFP provided **11 trucks** to transport modular tents, family tents and kits, and sleeping kits on behalf of DSWD.

Typhoon Odette (Rai) Early Recovery

- WFP completed **food assistance for assets (FFA)** activities to assist with the recovery process in Typhoon Odette-affected areas. Overall, 75,000 people benefitted from the FFA activities. Participants produced 267,000 seedlings, rehabilitated 101 hectares of mangrove and coastal areas, cleared or built 81 kilometres of land trails, and rehabilitated 45 literacy and health centers,

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- WFP participated in the first **Social Protection/Cash Working Group (SP/CWG)** in BARMM, led by the Ministry of Social Services and Development with support from various BARMM Ministries. The SP/CWG aims to facilitate coordination among humanitarian and development actors to align humanitarian assistance with the national social protection policies and programmes.
- WFP facilitated the School-Based Feeding Programme Implementation Review of the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education. WFP has been advocating for the adoption of a **home-grown school feeding** model in BARMM.

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 US\$) | Allocated Contributions (in US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 93.9 m | 64.7 m | 5.1 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

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).

Nutrition

- WFP, in partnership with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), conducted a four-day training on **Nutrition in Emergencies and Information Management** for members of the NNC and other nutrition partners.
- WFP, together with NNC-BARMM and UNICEF, provided technical assistance to the second round of the formulation of the **Bangsamoro Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023-2028**.
- WFP facilitated 16 **Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) community dialogues** in four municipalities in BARMM. Participants included 406 pregnant and nursing women, mothers with children aged 6-59 months and women of reproductive age. These contributed to knowledge building to positively influence on behaviours, attitudes, and practices on food and nutrition.
- WFP completed household surveys to inform a **feasibility study for a food voucher program** in partnership with the Asian Development Bank. WFP interviewed 1,200 households with pregnant and nursing women, caregivers, and teenage mothers in Metro Manila, Surigao del Norte, and BARMM.

Disaster Preparedness

- WFP and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) conducted a **National Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Jamboree** on 5-7 October. The event aimed to train government personnel on managing the [mobile operations vehicle for emergencies \(MOVE\) units](#). The MOVE units are high-tech, mobile, telecommunications units designed by WFP and DICT to re-establish telecommunications after disasters.
- WFP started the development of a **mini-MOVE prototype** – a small trailer with telecommunications equipment to be deployed to the most remote areas. This will further augment the Government's telecommunications capacity during emergencies.
- WFP, together with the Bicol Consortium for Development Initiatives, a local cooperating partner, completed the registration for 24,995 households from three provinces in Bicol Region. Registered households will receive multi-purpose cash, three days before a typhoon landfall as part of the **Anticipatory Action** project.

Monitoring

- According to [WFP Monthly Price Monitoring Bulletin](#), headline inflation in September (6.9 percent) increased by **57 percent** compared with January. The upward trend is attributed to the higher annual growth in food and non-alcoholic beverages prices.
- The first round of WFP's **Mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM)** assessments found that the majority of households in all regions showed concern about increasing prices of food (42 percent) and fuel (26 percent). BARMM appeared as the most vulnerable region in the country in terms of food insecurity.