



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief December 2022



WFP supported the pilot implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding in Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao. ©WFP/Rein Skullerud

## 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 gains. Poverty incidence is at 18.1 percent, which translates into 20 million Filipinos living 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 and 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 – in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. Specifically, WFP works on a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach in the Bangsamoro region during its transition period.



Population: **110 million**

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

Childhood stunting: **27%** (National Nutrition Survey, 2021)

Income Level: **Lower middle**

## In Numbers

8,590 people assisted in December 2022

US\$ 59,746 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 4.3 million six-month net funding requirements (January-June 2023)



## Operational Updates

### Flooding in Mindanao

- On 25 December, heavy rains caused massive floods to parts of Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao affecting 600,000 people. To support affected communities, WFP provided **19 trucks to transport relief items** from the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) warehouses.

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

- WFP supported **1,718 households** through **food assistance for assets activities** in the municipalities of Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Matanog, and South Upi in Maguindanao province. Participants planted 7,500 crops over 17 hectares of land and rehabilitated 7 km of farm-to-market roads.
- WFP presented the results of the **People-Centered Risk Indicator Measurement and Engagement (PRIME)** implementation to BARMM Government and Provincial Government partners. Findings showed that support to alternative livelihoods of former combatants and in areas with high poverty incidence indirectly contributed to reducing the probability of armed conflict.
- The municipality of Datu Abdullah Sangki in Maguindanao launched a **Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)** pilot programme. Through the pilot, **100 schoolchildren** started receiving nutritious, hot meals prepared with locally sourced produce. WFP has been providing technical assistance towards the institutionalization of HGSF in four municipalities in Maguindanao. HGSF programmes link local smallholder farmers to schools to provide children with school meals that are local, diverse, and nutritious. HGSF has the potential to not only create demand for more diverse and nutritious local and traditional foods, but also create stable markets, boost local agriculture, impact rural transformation, and strengthen local food systems.

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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	66.2 m	4.3 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 participated in the five-day **Social and Behaviour Change Communication Summit 2022** in Marrakech, Morocco organized by a consortium of international and local partners. WFP delivered two presentations on: (1) the perceived roles of Filipino teenagers and male adults in food-related decisions at home; and (2) the perceived neglect on the emotional and psychological exhaustion of the food and nutrition frontline workers. Representatives from the Government, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations participated in the Summit.
- WFP, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, conducted a **feasibility study on the use of cash transfers and food vouchers to improve nutrition** in the Philippines. More than 1,200 individuals were interviewed in Metro Manila, BARMM, and Caraga Region. The study indicated that respondents had a high preference to receive food packs and cash cards under supplementary nutrition programme.

## Monitoring and Situation Update

- According to the [2022 Inflation Report of the Philippine Statistics Authority \(PSA\)](#), headline inflation surged to **8.1 percent** in December, the highest rate recorded since November 2008. Increased annual growth rate in food and non-alcoholic beverages influenced the higher inflation rate.
- WFP completed the data collection for the second-round [food security monitoring survey](#) via **Mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM)** in December. Analysis of findings will be completed in January 2023. Initial results found that more than one in 10 households (11 percent) nationwide are food-insecure with regions and sectors affected differently by the ongoing global food crisis. BARMM is the most vulnerable region in the country with three out of 10 households facing food insecurity. The study is being undertaken with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) through the support of UN Joint SDG Fund.



Teachers and parents prepare the meals of the children under the HCSE in