



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief April 2023



WFP Deputy Executive Director Valerie Guarnieri met with the Vice President and Department of Education Secretary Sara Duterte during her mission to the Philippines in April. ©WFP/Dale Rivera

Operational Context

A lower middle-income country, the Philippines has been one of the most dynamic economies in the East Asia and the Pacific region but has struggled to transpose economic growth into tangible human development gains. Poverty incidence is at 18.1 percent (2021), which translates into 20 million Filipinos living below the poverty threshold. Stunting prevalence is high at 26.7 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 2018-2023 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**

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

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

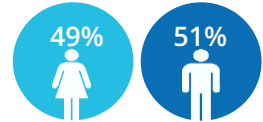
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

1,100 people assisted in April 2023

55 mt of iron-fortified rice distributed

US\$ 3.7 m six months (May-October 2023) net funding requirements



Operational Updates

School Feeding

- WFP Deputy Executive Director for Programme and Policy Development Valerie Guarnieri visited the Philippines on a week-long mission and met with high-level Government officials, donors and other stakeholders. On 17 April, DED Guarnieri and WFP Philippines representatives met with the Vice President of the Philippines and Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sara Duterte to showcase WFP's work in the country, particularly on **home-grown school feeding (HGSF)**. WFP expressed its support to DepEd and the Government's efforts towards achieving its commitments in the Global School Meals Coalition. WFP will support the expansion of the national school feeding implementation while integrating the HGSF concept through technical assistance in policy development and capacity strengthening activities for Government stakeholders and smallholder farmers, under the Changing Lives Transformation Fund.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- WFP started the implementation of **food assistance for assets (FFA)** activities in four municipalities in Maguindanao (Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Odin Sinsuat and Barira) benefitting 5,500 people. FFA participants work on the rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, vegetable production, construction and clearing of irrigation canals. Each participant will receive 50 kg of iron-fortified rice for their productive work.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) to enhance school-based feeding programme operational guidelines that integrate the HGSF concept. Six municipalities (Datu Abdullah Sangki, Matanog, South Upi, Sultan Mastura, Datu Saudi Ampatuan and Datu Blah Sinsuat) in Maguindanao have adopted HGSF and are implementing it in nine schools with more than 3,300 schoolchildren.

Nutrition

- WFP, together with the National Nutrition Council and UNICEF, conducted the Theory of Change (TOC)

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
115.9 m	66.6 m	3.7 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 (continued)

Workshop for the **Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023-2028** on 17-20 April. The results of the TOC workshop will inform the enhancement of the PPAN 2023-2028 aligned to the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

- WFP supported the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) in the creation of **Central Kitchen Technical Working Group (TWG)** that will review the existing systems of central kitchens in the Philippines. The TWG aims to document best practices, develop recommendations, and create partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and government agencies to support the sustainability of central kitchens in the national social protection programmes.

Climate Change Adaptation

- As an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund Project on **Multi-Hazard Impact Based Forecasting and Early Warning System**, WFP participated in the Inter-Agency Partnership Ceremonial Signing together with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services, Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and four local governments (Tuguegarao, Legazpi, Palo, New Bataan).

Disaster Preparedness

- WFP conducted a four-day **training on emergency telecommunications** for responders from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and WFP. The training included theoretical and practical exercises on network configuration and telecommunications device set-up to further improve the emergency telecommunications systems.
- On 4 April, WFP facilitated the visit of representatives from the United States Congress to the Department of Social Welfare and Development-**National Resource Operations Center** to learn about the Government food packing system.

Monitoring

- WFP completed the analysis of the ongoing Mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM) survey (3rd round). Food security monitoring has showed that more than 1 in 10 households (15 percent) nationwide are food insecure. BARMM is the most vulnerable region in the country with three out of 10 households (37.5 percent) facing food insecurity. WFP, together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) presented the key lessons and recommendations of the UN Joint SDG Fund-supported project to the government stakeholders.