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 (2021), which translates into 20 million Filipinos who live 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 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.

Social Protection

- WFP joined the Department of Social Welfare and Development in a workshop to develop the programme design of *Walang Gutom* (No Hunger) 2027—food stamp programme of the Government. The programme aims to help reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty by supporting access of food-insecure families to affordable, healthy and diverse food sources. Pilot implementation will be conducted in five areas across the country, targeting 3,000 to 6,000 beneficiaries over 6 months.

Nutrition

- WFP sensitized 450 beneficiaries participating in the FFA activities in Maguindanao with *social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)* messages through the Nutrishow. WFP developed the Nutrishow to reinforce key messages on dietary diversity and provide corrective feedback (e.g. benefits of exclusive breastfeeding) during the community-wide activity. It is a 30-minute informative activity game conducted before rice distributions.
Nutrition (continued)

- WFP, together with National Nutrition Council (NNC) and UNICEF co-organized the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023-2028 Online Public Consultation with over 2,000 government staff from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the DSWD. The consultation aims to gather insights from various stakeholders to ensure that the PPAN fully aligns with the Government's priorities to end malnutrition.

- WFP Philippines and WFP India organized a virtual knowledge exchange session on central kitchen attended by representatives from the DSWD, NNC, Department of Education, and the private sector. Participants shared good practices and benefits of adopting central kitchen models in school feeding programmes.

Disaster Preparedness

- WFP supported the DSWD in conducting an orientation and consultation workshop on DSWD's Relief Goods Information Management System (RGIMS) with its Field Offices in Visayas and Mindanao Regions. The feedback and recommendations gathered from the regional warehouse managers on RGIMS will inform the enhancement of the system, supported by WFP's multi-year emergency and preparedness response project in the Philippines.

- WFP and the BARM Phillipines conducted a Pre-Crisis Market Assessment with representatives from the local government, other UN agencies, and partners. The team analysed the findings on the availability of basic commodities and market chains in flood-prone areas in BARM and developed market maps to identify and access vulnerable markets in the region.

Emergency Telecommunications

- WFP, in its capacity as the lead of the emergency telecommunications (ETC) cluster, joined as a keynote panelist at the 2023 Emergency Telecommunications Summit. The conference delved deeper on the state of ETC in the Philippines as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate shocks.

- WFP hosted the Department of Information and Communications Technology in a field visit to the WFP Warehouse in Mabalacat, Pampanga to learn more about WFP’s ETC field operation and witness the ongoing customization of the three new Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergency (MOVE) units.

Monitoring

- According to the latest 2023 Inflation Report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), headline inflation slightly slowed down further to 6.1 percent in May from 6.6 percent in April. Lower inflation rate on food and non-alcoholic beverages, transportation, and utilities contributed to the downtrend in the overall inflation rate.