



World Food Programme

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# WFP Philippines Country Brief June 2023



WFP mobilized trucks to transport government family food packs and non-food items to the affected communities of the Mayon Volcano unrest. ©WFP/DSWD-National Resource Operations Center

## 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.



Population: **110 million**

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

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

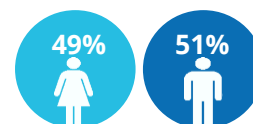
Income Level: **Lower middle**

## In Numbers

**1460 people assisted** in June 2023

**US\$ 15,900** distributed through cash-based transfers

**US\$ 3.9 m** six months (July-October 2023) net funding requirements



## Operational Updates

### Response to Mayon Volcano Unrest

- In June, **Mayon Volcano** is placed under Alert Level 3 due to increased tendency towards **hazardous eruption**. Over 9,800 families (38,300 people) are affected, of which over 5,300 families (18,700 people) are taking temporary shelter in 26 evacuation centers. To support the Government's response, WFP mobilized **45 trucks** to transport 58,000 family food packs and 117 mt of non-food items.

### Social Protection

- WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) conducted a retail market assessment in four towns in Caraga Region to understand the capacity of local retailers in providing healthy and diverse food commodities for the planned pilot implementation of the **Walang Gutom (No Hungry) 2027—food stamp programme of the Government**.

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

- WFP reached 292 households with **food assistance for assets (FFA)** activities in the province of Lanao del Sur under the United Nations Joint Programme on Conflict Transformation in Areas Affected by Armed Conflict in BARMM. This initiative aims to support the peace process by providing socio-economic and peacebuilding investments. Each participant received USD 53 (PHP 3,000) per month for their work on the construction of farm-to-market roads, vegetable production, and construction and clearing of irrigation canals.
- Under the FFA activities implementation, WFP conducted **Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP)** in eight municipalities of Maguindanao to determine the most suitable projects in the community, considering the specific livelihood landscapes, shocks and stressors, vulnerabilities, priority needs, and interests of communities.

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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	68.2 m	5.9 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

## Nutrition

- WFP conducted **series of training on social and behaviour change communication (SBCC)** in BARMM. Over 40 participants from the Ministry of Health participated in the training on designing, implementing, managing, and evaluating SBCC programmes to support the integration of SBCC into their activities. In addition, over 90 frontline workers from Maguindanao participated in the capacity strengthening session on interpersonal communication to help them in facilitating community dialogues to positively influence food and nutrition-related behaviours of pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- WFP and the Department of Education co-convened the first **School Meals Coalition** meeting of key Government agencies and other stakeholders to discuss the progress and other planned activities towards the achievement of the Philippine commitments in the Coalition.

## Disaster Preparedness

- WFP supported the DSWD in the conduct of an orientation and consultation workshop on DSWD's **Relief Goods Information Management System (RGIMS)** with its Field Offices in Luzon Region. 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.

## Anticipatory Action (AA)

- WFP and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) co-facilitated the first Anticipatory Action-Policy, Financing, and Institutionalization Thematic Sub-group (PFI-TSG) meeting to identify the 2023 priorities and develop its workplan. One of the priority actions identified was the finalization of the proposed **Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill** that will serve as basis for the implementation and financing of AA at the national and sub-national levels.

## Emergency Telecommunications

- WFP, in its capacity as lead of the global emergency telecommunications (ETC) cluster, supported the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation in its 'Project Reached', a two-year initiative that aims to provide selected local governments with emergency telecommunications equipment and capacity building interventions. WFP, as a member of the **project steering committee**, will provide technical guidance on technology and training under the project from 2023 to 2025.

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted three rounds of survey under its **Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)** from October 2022 to March 2023 to understand the food insecurity situation of households amidst the food, energy, and financial crisis. Results showed that food insecurity was generally stable between the three rounds of survey (ranged between 10 percent to 15 percent). However, significant regional disparities exist with BARMM having the highest food insecurity of more than 30 percent.

## 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).