



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief November 2023



WFP and USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance handed over logistics equipment to the Department of Social Welfare and Development on the 10<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Super Typhoon Haiyan in Palo, Leyte. © WFP/Hae Lin Jeon

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 percent**  
(National Nutrition Survey, 2021)

Income Level: **Lower middle**

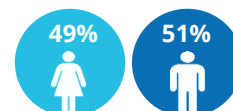
## In Numbers

**26,525 people** assisted in November 2023

**260.3 mt** of iron-fortified rice distributed

**US\$5,400** worth of food vouchers distributed

**US\$13.9 million** six-month (December 2023 – May 2024) net funding requirements



## Operational Updates

### Government Food e-Voucher Programme

- WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted food voucher distributions for 100 families in Tondo, Manila and Dapa, Surigao del Norte under the pilot run of **Walang Gutom (No Hunger) 2027**, a government food e-voucher programme. Each family received a food voucher digital card loaded with US\$55 (PHP 3,000) to purchase nutritious food items from accredited retailers and smallholder farmers' cooperatives.

### Emergency Logistics Support

- WFP provided transportation support to the Government's emergency responses to the **magnitude 6.8 earthquake** in Sarangani, Davao Occidental and the **severe flooding** in Northern Samar caused by the compounded effects of a shear line and low-pressure area. WFP mobilized 95 trucks to transport 160,500 family food packs from Department of Social Welfare and Development for 802,500 people affected by the earthquake and heavy floods.

### Emergency Preparedness

- During the 10<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Super Typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda) held on 8-10 November, WFP facilitated a **Community of Practice (CoP) platform** for disaster risk reduction and management practitioners and decision makers in Palo, Leyte and Tacloban City. In a handover ceremony, WFP provided disaster response equipment (2 tower lights and 1 rescue boat) to DSWD Regional Resource Operations Center in Eastern Visayas. WFP also conducted a tour of the regional warehouse and an exhibit of the [Government Emergency Communications System-Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency \(GECS-MOVE\)](#). GECS-MOVE is an innovative, mobile emergency telecommunications unit co-designed by WFP and Department of Information and Communications Technology that can be deployed to re-establish connectivity in times of crises.

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\* This operational brief is based on the best available information at the time of drafting. Figures may vary if unique beneficiaries are considered.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements* (in US\$)
115.9 m	75.8 m	13.9 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

## Emergency Preparedness (continued)

- As part of the event, WFP convened the **Preparedness and Response Enhancement Programme Forum** to discuss good practices and innovations along five thematic pathways, consistent with WFP's Emergency Preparedness Capacity Indicator Framework. These include i) policies and laws, ii) institutional capacity, iii) strategic planning and financial capacity, iv) mechanism delivery and design, and v) engagement and participation of other actors in preparedness and response mechanisms.

## Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- WFP reached 26,025 people through **food assistance for assets (FFA)** projects in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. FFA participants worked on the rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, vegetable production, and the construction and clearing of irrigation canals. WFP provided each participant with 50 kg of iron-fortified rice to cover their food needs. The FFA initiative aims to support the peace process by providing socioeconomic opportunities to conflict-affected communities vulnerable to food insecurity.

## Supply Chain

- In partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Office of Civil Defense, WFP facilitated a **workshop to enhance the Government's Humanitarian Supply Chain Management Course** and better capacitate and improve the technical expertise of supply chain practitioners in the country. The workshop was attended by key technical officers from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and BARMM and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia.

## Community Engagement

- On 6 November, WFP organized a one-day workshop to design its **action plan on Community Engagement for Accountability to Affected Populations**. The workshop was done in collaboration with representatives from various sectors, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolks, senior citizens, and internally displaced people from BARMM, Caraga region, and the National Capital Region. During the workshop, WFP presented the priorities of its Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and community engagement strategy. Participants shared their insights to adapt the proposed outcomes and activities of the action plan according to their needs and preferences.

## Monitoring

- According to the latest [2023 Inflation Report](#), headline inflation further decreased to 4.1 percent in November from 4.9 percent in October. Lower inflation rate on food, particularly vegetables and other food and alcoholic beverages, contributed to the downward trend in the overall inflation rate.

## Donors

Asian Development Bank, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Luxembourg, the Philippines, Private Sector, United States of America, and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund.