



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief February 2024

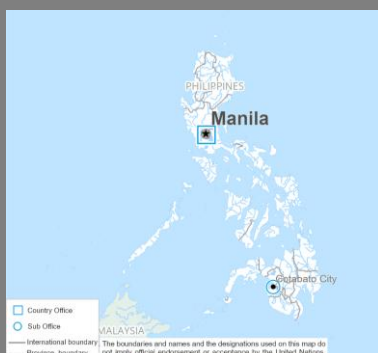


WFP, represented by Country Director a.i. Dipayan Bhattacharyya, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development held a ceremonial launching of the Project LAWA at BINHI in Doña Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan. © WFP/Dale Rivera

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 22.4 percent (June 2023), equivalent to 25 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 were exacerbated by the lingering impacts of COVID-19, as well as the global food crisis. The Philippines has the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards according to the 2023 World Risk Report.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan focuses on supporting the Government in achieving food security, reducing malnutrition, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, mitigating the impact of climate change, and improving access to income-generating activities for the rural poor, conflict-affected populations 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.



Population: **110 million**

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

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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* mt = metric tonnes. 1 metric ton is equivalent to 20 bags of 50 kg rice.

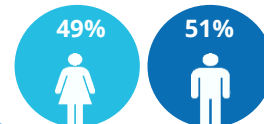
In Numbers

10 mt of iron-fortified rice distributed*

US\$119,865 worth of food vouchers distributed

US\$6.21 million six-month (March–August 2024) net funding requirements

12,150 people assisted
in February 2024



Operational Updates

Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028

- WFP's **Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2028** was approved by the Executive Board. The new CSP outlines how WFP will continue to support the Philippine Government in i) strengthening emergency preparedness and response and ii) enhancing resilience in the next five years, in line with the national and subnational development plans and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Government Food e-Voucher Programme

- Under the **pilot implementation of the Walang Gutom (No Hunger) 2027**, WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reached a total of 2,230 households in Dapa, Surigao del Norte; Garchitorena, Camarines Sur; Parang, Maguindanao; San Mariano, Isabela; and Tondo, Manila. Along with nutrition messages, each participant received food vouchers loaded with US\$55 (PHP 3,000) to meet their basic food requirements.

Logistics Support

- To augment Government-led response operations in communities affected by **severe floods in Caraga and Davao Regions in Mindanao**, WFP mobilized 54 trucks to transport over 91,000 family food packs from DSWD to support 455,000 crisis-affected people.

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- WFP signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** for a five-year partnership with the Government to implement the Project on Local Adaptation to Water Access (LAWA) and Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished (BINHI). Community-driven activities through this initiative aim to ensure water sufficiency and food security in communities vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change, especially indigenous peoples.
- WFP conducted the **Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index (EPCI) Workshop** with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office of Cagayan Province. The workshop assessed the province's current EPR capacity and identified areas of improvement and support that WFP will provide moving forward.

- WFP participated in the **first Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Core Group meeting** for 2024. Representatives of SUN networks discussed the schedule of activities for the year, the organization of the SUN Youth Network, the 2023 SUN Joint Assessment reporting template, and the upcoming General Assembly in June.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)

- WFP reached 1,000 people through **food assistance for assets** (FFA) projects in Maguindanao del Sur. This marks the completion of the three-month FFA project that supported BARMM communities on local infrastructure rehabilitation (farm-to-market roads and footbridges), seedling production, and reforestation. Each family received 150 kg of iron-fortified rice (50 kg per month) from WFP to meet their food and nutrition needs.

Anticipatory Action

- WFP joined Congressman Jose Manuel Alba from the Province of Bukidnon in filing House Bill No. 9935: **Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act** in Congress. The Bill aims to lay the legislative groundwork for the adoption of Anticipatory Action into the Philippines' Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework, allowing government agencies to **access funds before** a state of calamity is declared. The Bill's filing in Congress highlights the joint efforts of the Policy, Financing, and Institutionalization Technical Sub-Working Group co-chaired by WFP and the Office of Civil Defense.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

- WFP organized a **learning visit** between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Philippines on the institutionalization of Anticipatory Action and development of adaptive and shock-responsive social protection programmes. The delegates consulted with the BARMM-Ministry of Social Services and Development, BARMM-READi (Rapid Emergency Action on Disaster Incidence), and the Municipality of Midsayap in the province of Cotabato, as well as the Office of Civil Defense, DSWD, and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration.

Monitoring

- Impact evaluation results of WFP's FFA activities in BARMM indicated positive outcomes. Compared with the 37 percent baseline in August 2023, nearly half (49 percent) of participants were classified as food-secure by the end of the activities. The improvement was more significant in Lanao del Sur, where the percentage of food-secure households increased from 36 to 53 percent. Data also suggested that women were more inclined to prioritize their family's food needs once they received assistance from WFP.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
115.86 m	72.01 m	6.21 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, Australia, France, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, OPEC Fund for International Development, the Philippines, Private Sector, and the United States of America.

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