



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Philippines Country Brief March 2024



In Davao de Oro, Mindanao, women from the Progressive Valencia Farmers Irrigators Association check the water reservoir they built as part of Project LAWA co-implemented by the Government and WFP. © WFP/Earvin Perias

Operational Context

As one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia, the Philippines has made progress in reducing poverty and improving food security. However, disparities remain that put hard-won gains at risk. Despite poverty incidence decreasing from 23.7 percent in 2021 to 22.4 percent in June 2023, approximately 25 million Filipinos are still living below the poverty threshold. Malnutrition remains a serious problem, with child stunting prevalence at 26.7 percent. Natural hazards and human-induced conflicts contribute to food and nutrition insecurity, which were exacerbated by the lingering impacts of COVID-19 and the global food crisis. In 2022 and 2023, the Philippines had the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards compounded with low coping capacities (2023 World Risk Report).

To continue supporting the Government in achieving food and nutrition security, WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028 focuses on i) improving emergency preparedness and response, ii) strengthening resilience of food systems against climate change and other shocks, and iii) enhancing the delivery of social protection to the rural poor, conflict-affected populations, and other groups vulnerable to food insecurity—in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. WFP uses a conflict-sensitive approach particularly in the Bangsamoro Region.



Population: **110 million**

2022 Human Development Index
Ranking: **113th out of 193**

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

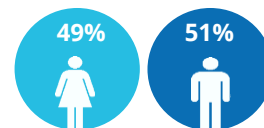
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

US\$59,365 worth of food vouchers distributed

US\$1.67 million six-month (April–September 2024) net funding requirements

11,850 people assisted
in March 2024



Operational Updates

Government Food e-Voucher Programme

- WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided food e-vouchers to 2,370 households under the **pilot implementation of the Walang Gutom (No Hunger) 2027**. Each food e-voucher is loaded with US\$55 (PHP 3,000) which families can use to purchase nutritious food from accredited retailers.

Emergency Preparedness

- WFP participated in the **National Validation Workshop for Project Local Adaptation to Water Access (LAWA)**, together with the DSWD, Department of Agriculture (DA), and local government units. The workshop assessed Project LAWA's implementation in the provinces of Antique, Davao de Oro, and Ifugao, and participants exchanged innovative practices. The project documentation developed by WFP was validated and will serve as the basis for training materials and project enhancements.
- WFP joined the soft launch of the new **Civil Defense and Disaster Management Institute** of the Office of Civil Defense. The establishment of the institute is aligned with Republic Act No. 10121, which focuses on building disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) capacities and standardizing DRRM practices in the country. WFP will support the new institute through i) enhancement of training curricula, ii) assistance in conducting training sessions and simulation exercises, and iii) supply chain, logistics, and emergency telecommunications activities.

Support to Nutrition and School Meals Programme

- WFP participated in the **regional workshop on "Bringing School Nutrition Agenda in Southeast Asia to the Forefront"**, with representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd), National Nutrition Council, Department of Health, and DA. Discussions focused on enhancing advocacy for evidence generation to improve school-based nutrition policies and programmes in Southeast Asia. WFP will assist the Government in generating evidence on the return on investment on school meals to support the proposed expansion of the National School-based Feeding Program.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
131.19 m	8.85 m	1.67 m

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Strategic Outcome 1: By 2028, communities exposed to shocks and stressors in the Philippines are better able to meet their food, nutrition and other essential needs with inclusive and equitable emergency preparedness and response capacity at the national and local levels.

Focus area: Crisis response

- Activities:
- Provide nutrition-sensitive emergency food assistance and restore assets, directly or through the Government's social protection programmes or partners, along with appropriate supply chain and emergency telecommunications services to crisis-affected communities.
 - Strengthen and augment the Government's and partners' emergency preparedness capacity along with appropriate supply chains and emergency telecommunications.

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Outcome 2: By 2028, communities vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity in the Philippines are more resilient and can better manage risks affecting human capital gains and food systems, inclusively and equitably.

Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:
- Provide integrated resilience building activities for targeted communities and support the Government in managing climate, economic, and conflict-related risks and enhancing food value chains.
 - Strengthen the government social protection system, including through the provision of integrated food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable communities using conflict-sensitive and inclusive approaches.

Strategic Result 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

Strategic Outcome 3: The Government and partners in the Philippines access WFP services that augment their interventions, upon request.

Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:
- Provide government and other partners with on-demand services aimed at improving development action, including with regards to food security, nutrition, and supply chains.

Donors

Asian Development Bank, Australia, France, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, OPEC Fund for International Development, the Philippines, the 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.*

- WFP held two **planning workshops** in Isabela Province to launch the pilot of the national school meals programme integrating the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) approach. HGSF links smallholder farmers to school meals programmes to provide schoolchildren with nutritious, locally sourced food. Representatives from DepEd, local government units, schools, and farming cooperatives in the Municipality of Angadanan and Cauayan City underscored the need to i) prepare equipment and human resources for a school kitchen, ii) develop context-specific menus, and iii) contract local suppliers (smallholder farmers and cooperatives). WFP is providing capacity strengthening assistance for these purposes.

Anticipatory Action

- WFP conducted **training on Anticipatory Action (AA)** jointly with partners and core members of the national AA Technical Working Group. The three-day training aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of AA systems, including how to develop and integrate them within the Philippine disaster risk management framework. Participants from the Government, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations will apply their learnings to develop AA protocols to address climate hazards.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- In celebration of **Women's Month**, WFP set up a gallery exhibit for women colleagues in the country office to pay tribute to their invaluable roles and contributions to Saving Lives and Changing Lives. WFP staff in the Philippines, Nepal, and Tajikistan had insightful discussions through a brown bag session on breaking stigmas in women's health. In its Cotabato sub-office, WFP held a learning session on gender equality to guide staff in effectively addressing gender issues and handling gender-based violence cases using a survivor-centred approach.
- WFP organized two **workshops on Gender Transformative Approaches (GTA)** as part of its commitment to address the root causes of gender inequalities that affect food and nutrition security. The workshops enabled participants to i) relate GTA to their own experiences of gender socialization and inequalities, ii) integrate GTA in WFP's operations, and iii) identify capacity strengthening support to apply GTA in programming.

Monitoring

- According to the latest [2024 Inflation Report](#), headline inflation increased to 3.7 percent in March from 3.4 percent in February. Higher prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, restaurants and accommodation services, and transport contributed to the upward trend in the overall inflation rate.