



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief June 2024

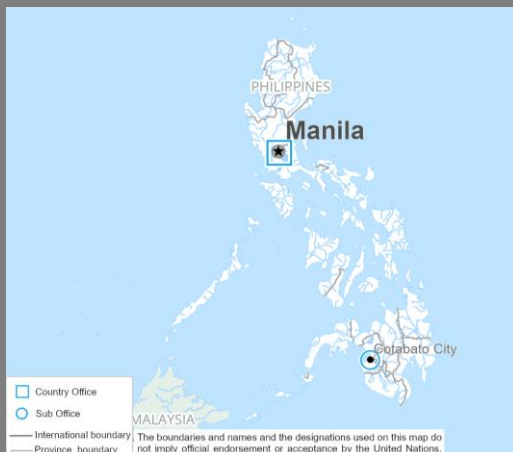


WFP and the United Nations Country Team delegation celebrating Pride Month. © UNFPA Philippines

## 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, challenges remain that put hard-won gains at risk. In the first semester of 2023, approximately 25 million Filipinos are still living below the poverty threshold. Malnutrition remains prevalent, with child stunting incidence 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).

WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028 continues to support the Government in achieving food and nutrition security. It focuses on i) improving emergency preparedness and response, ii) strengthening resilience against climate change and other shocks, and iii) enhancing the delivery of social protection, 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: **113<sup>th</sup> out of 193**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

## In Numbers

**60 mt** of fortified rice distributed

**US\$2.2 million** worth of food vouchers distributed

**US\$7.79 million** six-month (July–December 2024) net funding requirements

**8,725 people** assisted in June 2024



## Operational Updates

### Walang Gutom: Food e-Voucher Programme

- WFP joined the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in a **workshop to review and evaluate the pilot implementation of the Walang Gutom (No Hunger) 2027 Program**. Under the pilot phase, WFP and DSWD reached 2,456 families with food e-vouchers equivalent to PHP 3,000 (US\$55) per month and contracted 21 local retailers including *kadiwas*<sup>1</sup>. The results of the workshop will inform the upcoming national scale-up of the programme in July 2024.

### Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)

- WFP conducted a **workshop on EPR Capacity Needs and Priorities Mapping** with key officials of the DSWD. Using the Emergency Preparedness Capacity Indicator tool, the workshop mapped out the existing EPR capacities of DSWD and identified priorities to enhance their disaster risk reduction and management work. Following the workshop, the EPR components of the DSWD-WFP workplan 2023-2028 were reviewed and updated.
- WFP facilitated a **learning visit to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot and South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities in Malaysia** for Philippine government representatives. Participants learned about i) effective humanitarian asset management, ii) asset and information management systems, iii) best practices in supply chain management training, and iv) innovative warehouse designs. Supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the visit marked a vital step toward strengthening the Government's EPR capacity and fostering stronger collaboration between the Philippines and Malaysia.

### Logistics

- WFP joined the **National Logistics Cluster Summit 2024** led by the Office of the Civil Defense. Participants i) discussed lessons learned and best practices in recent emergency response operations and ii) recommended adjustments to the Logistics Cluster Standard Operating Procedures. WFP presented the [Logistics Information Exchange](#)<sup>2</sup> tool and shared updates on the Enhanced Humanitarian Supply Chain Management Course.

### Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- During the **National ICT Month 2024 Celebration**, WFP was recognized by the Department of Information and Communications Technology for its significant contributions to strengthening capacities in ETC, demonstrated through the [GECS-MOVE project](#).<sup>3</sup>

Contact info: [wfp.philippines@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.philippines@wfp.org)

Country Director: Regis Chapman

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines)

<sup>1</sup>Kadiwas are cooperative/farmer associations accredited by the Department of Agriculture.

<sup>2</sup>LogIE is an open-source data platform developed by WFP that aims to provide swift, valuable, and accessible logistics information to help improve emergency response.

<sup>3</sup>The Government Emergency Communications System - Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (GECS-MOVE) are vehicles equipped with state-of-the-art ETC technology to maintain open communication lines during emergencies.

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>131.19 m</b>	<b>20.18 m</b>	<b>7.79 m</b>

**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

<sup>4</sup> Representatives from the city government, Isabela State University, Department of Education, civil society, private sector, and WFP will form the TWG.

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

## Nutrition and Resilience

- WFP supported the National Nutrition Council in organizing the **first Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Philippines General Assembly**. The event celebrated the country's progress in supporting actions and systemic changes for nutrition, aligned with the SUN Strategy 2021-2025 and the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023-2028.
- WFP, key ministries, and local government units signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the **pilot implementation of home-grown school feeding (HGSF) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)**. The MOA outlines the responsibilities and commitments of stakeholders in carrying out HGSF activities. Launching on 23 July, the BARMM HGSF pilot will provide schoolchildren with nutritious, locally sourced food.
- WFP supported the creation of an Executive Order **establishing a HGSF technical working group (TWG) in Cauayan City, Isabela** (Luzon). The EO, signed by the city government, mandates the TWG<sup>4</sup> to lead the planning, implementation, and evaluation of HGSF activities in Cauayan City.
- WFP reached 1,000 families in Lanao del Sur (BARMM) through **Food Assistance for Assets** activities. Each family received 60 kg of fortified rice as they i) established communal vegetable gardens, ii) reforested timberland areas, iii) created/rehabilitated small farm reservoirs, and iv) constructed community seedling nurseries.
- WFP trained health officers in BARMM on **broadcasting and producing radio programmes that promote positive nutrition behaviours** and will run from July to August. WFP also supported students from the University of Southern Mindanao in **designing radio ads and dramas that encourage healthy eating habits**.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- **WFP oriented its cooperating partner on the standard operating procedures for managing distribution points** to ensure site accessibility and the safety of participants during distribution activities. The orientation focused on the minimum standards for distribution points with consideration to gender equality, disability inclusion, and conflict sensitivity.
- WFP conducted a **refresher course on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment (PSEAH)** for all its employees to promote a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for staff and communities it serves. Staff were re-oriented on i) WFP's PSEA and SH policies and ii) reporting mechanisms for addressing SEAH-related concerns.
- WFP joined the United Nations (UN) Philippines in **celebrating Pride Month** in Quezon City. The WFP and UN delegation advocated human rights for all and emphasized the importance of "Leaving No One Behind" during the Pride March.

## Monitoring

- The Philippines Country Office contributed to the development of a **report** on the impacts of the global food crisis and climate shocks on food security, nutrition, and food system resilience in the Asia-Pacific region. The Philippines faced food inflation during the crisis, negatively affecting people's access to food. On the country's food system resilience, the report highlighted that i) rapid urbanization worsened food security in urban areas, with women and children facing a decline in dietary quality, and ii) harmful marketing practices drove the high consumption of low-quality, processed foods.