



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief August 2024

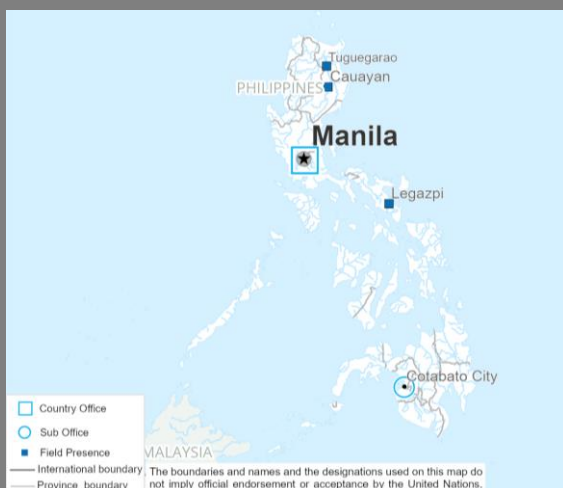


WFP signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Province of Dinagat Islands and handed over a mobile storage unit to enhance the province's disaster risk management capacities. © PIO/Dinagat Islands

## 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 to 2024, the Philippines had the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards compounded with low coping capacities (2024 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

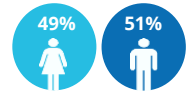
**US\$4.2 million** six-month (September 2024 – February 2025) net funding requirements

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

Supported the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to reach over **300,000 people**

Disaster risk management capacities strengthened in **six provinces**

**29,551 people** directly reached in August 2024



## Operational Updates

### Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)

- WFP supported the Bangsamoro Government in implementing HGSF in nine schools to provide **3,251 students** with daily, hot, and nutritious meals using ingredients sourced locally through smallholder farmers. WFP provides iron-fortified rice, while local government units purchase fresh foods. Parent volunteers and school meals assistants follow a 20-day menu plan created using WFP's School Menu Planner Plus tool which considers current market prices and availability of locally produced commodities. With WFP's support, seven agricultural cooperatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) are now providing school food supplies.
- In Cauayan City of Isabela Province, WFP conducted an HGSF dry run for **300 Kindergarten to Grade 6 students** of Cauayan North Central School. This tested procedures, identified potential challenges, and aligned relevant stakeholders on their roles in implementing the programme. To improve school meals delivery, WFP i) transferred the external kitchen to the school to address logistics challenges in meal distribution, as recommended by the city's HGSF Technical Working Group (TWG); and ii) supported the renovation of the school kitchen for safe meal preparation.<sup>1</sup>
- WFP assisted the Cauayan City Government in developing its **Operational Plan for School Meals Programme**. Endorsed by the city's HGSF TWG, the plan sets guidelines to safely implement the school meals programme by integrating the HGSF approach, including the procurement of food commodities from smallholder farmers.

### Disaster Risk Management

- WFP signed a **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** with the Provincial Government of Dinagat Islands to strengthen disaster risk management capacities. Under the MOA, WFP donated a mobile storage unit (MSU) to ensure enhanced logistics capacities to improve the last mile delivery of emergency relief resources in disaster-affected areas. In addition to Dinagat Islands, WFP **handed over MSUs** to the Provincial Governments of Albay and Surigao del Norte. WFP trained 83 emergency response staff

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## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

| Total Requirement<br>(in US\$) | Allocated<br>Contributions (in US\$) | Six-month Net Funding<br>Requirements (in US\$) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>131.2 m</b>                 | <b>21.8 m</b>                        | <b>4.2 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>1</sup> The HGSF Technical Working Group, composed of representatives from the city government, Isabela State University, Department of Education, civil society, private sector, and WFP, was formed to guide the design and implementation of the HGSF programme in Cauayan City.

<sup>2</sup> The structural factors identified are geography, poverty, discrimination, and social norms and attitudes, while programme-related factors pertain to programme design, programme implementation, and transparency and accountability.

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

from the three provinces on proper installation, dismantling, and storage of MSUs.

- WFP and the Office of Civil Defense conducted a training of trainers on **rapid damage assessment and needs analysis** for 32 participants from the local disaster risk reduction and management offices of Albay, Cagayan, and Catanduanes and WFP. The training aimed to capacitate the participants as trainers and members of assessment teams deployed in crisis-affected areas to assess the impact of emergencies and identify the critical needs of affected populations.
- WFP deployed 29 trucks to transport i) 110 mt of rice and ii) 13 mt of non-food items (sleeping, kitchen, and hygiene kits) from the DSWD's warehouses, reaching more than **300,000 people** affected by the impacts of the southwest monsoon in Mindanao. From January to August, WFP supported DSWD to reach over 1.1 million people affected by various emergencies by deploying 124 trucks and 14 cargo containers to transport government relief items.
- WFP turned over an improved set of [Government Emergency Communications System - Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies \(GECS-MOVE\)](#) to the Department of Information and Communications Technology's field office in Tuguegarao City. When communication lines are down during emergencies, the GECS-MOVE can swiftly restore ETC services for at least 3,000 responders and/or affected populations.



Government and ETC partners witnessed the capabilities of the newly turned over Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies during a communication exercise. © WFP/Mart Francis Escano

## Integrated Resilience

- WFP reached **26,000 people** in BARMM through food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. FFA participants received 60 kg of iron-fortified rice as they planted fruit-bearing trees, constructed community seedling nurseries, built small farm reservoirs, and rehabilitated communal irrigation systems, access roads, and drainage canals.
- WFP reached 881 FFA participants in Maguindanao with nutrition messaging through **NutriShow**, an interactive quiz game activity conducted before rice distributions. The activity provides messages on dietary diversity and practice of healthy behaviours such as exclusive breastfeeding.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- WFP conducted a [Leaving No One Behind study](#) to identify groups being left behind in terms of access to and coverage by social protection programmes in the Philippines. The study found that structural and programme-related factors contribute to the exclusion of certain groups, including farmers, fisherfolks, Indigenous Peoples, and women.<sup>2</sup> The research findings will inform the enhancement of social protection policies and programmes to prioritize the most disadvantaged populations.