



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# World Food Programme

## Road to a Resilient, Food-secure Philippines

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide by delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition, build resilience, and forge pathways to peace. In 2020, WFP was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and preventing the use of hunger as a weapon of war.

As one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia, the Philippines has made progress in reducing poverty and improving food security. However, its growth has been hampered by the compounded effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate hazards, and conflict. For two consecutive years, the Philippines had the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and susceptibility to natural hazards compounded with low coping capacities.<sup>1</sup>

Poverty remains a major driver of food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. More than 25 million Filipinos, most of whom live in rural areas, experience challenges with accessibility and affordability of nutritious diets.<sup>2</sup> The minimum wage is insufficient to cover a nutritious diet with one-third of households (32 million people) unable to afford a diet that meets nutritional needs. High prevalence of stunting among children under 5

(26.7 percent), nutritionally-at-risk conditions among pregnant women (16.4 percent), and other forms of malnutrition (overweight, obesity, undernutrition) indicate persistent challenges in improving nutrition outcomes.<sup>3</sup>

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) remains challenged by widespread poverty, natural hazards, and conflict-related risks. BARMM remains the poorest region with the highest malnutrition: 45.2 percent of Bangsamoro are chronically malnourished and 36.6 percent of children under 5 are stunted.<sup>4</sup>



**Highest disaster risk worldwide**  
in 2022 and 2023



**36 percent of children are stunted**  
in BARMM and **26 percent** nationwide



**32 million people** cannot afford  
a nutritious diet

<sup>1</sup> [World Risk Report 2023](#) published by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft.

<sup>2</sup> [Preliminary 2023 First Semester Official Poverty Statistics](#) published by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

<sup>3</sup> [2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey Results](#) published by the National Nutrition Council.

<sup>4</sup> The Philippine Nutrition Facts and Figures 2015 published by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute

# WFP's approaches and strategies

## How we started

WFP first started working in the Philippines in 1968 to support the socioeconomic development projects and ensure that crisis-affected populations meet their immediate food needs. As the situation improved, WFP concluded its operations in 1996. At the Government's request, WFP re-established its presence in the country in 2006 to support the peace process in the Mindanao region.

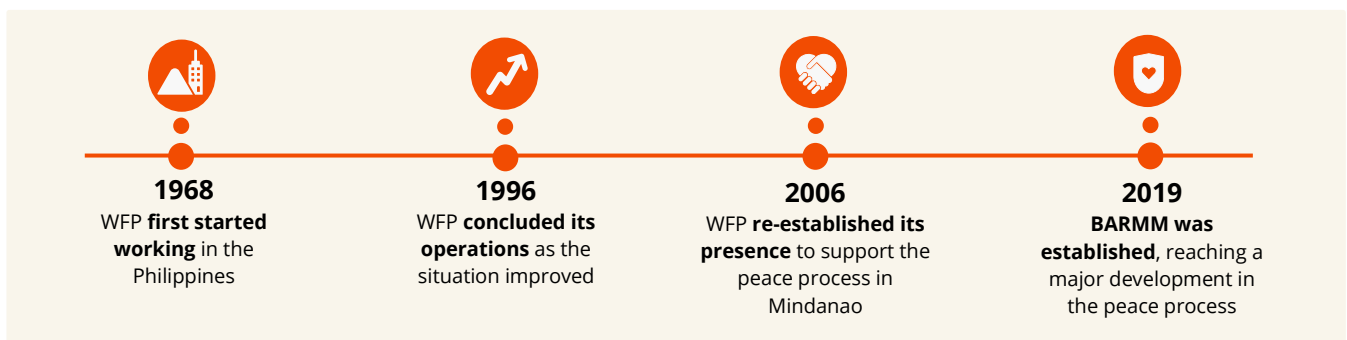
## Where we work

WFP's Country Office is based in Manila, with a strong field presence in Cotabato City for its operations in BARMM. WFP opens sub-offices in strategic parts of the country, as the need arises, such as in emergencies. WFP has two warehouses located in Pampanga and Maguindanao.

## How we work

WFP works in partnership, to most efficiently Save Lives and Change Lives. WFP works closely with the Government of the Philippines at the national and sub-national levels. WFP's work is grounded within renewed global commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028 Philippines.

As a global leader in the fight against hunger, WFP is working to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition (SDG 2: Zero Hunger). WFP is forging partnership with national and global actors to achieve the SDGs (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals).



## WFP Philippines Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

WFP Philippines Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2028 embodies the Saving Lives and Changing Lives agenda, responding to key national humanitarian and developmental challenges. WFP Philippines CSP is aligned with the targets set forth in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and the Bangsamoro Development Plan 2023-2028.

The CSP focuses on supporting the Government in achieving food security and reducing malnutrition in the country. This is outlined in three pillars: i) emergency preparedness and response, ii) integrated resilience, and iii) service delivery. There are also three cross-cutting and special focus areas across WFP operations: nutrition, gender-transformative programming, and conflict-sensitive approach.

To achieve Zero Hunger in the Philippines, WFP collaborates with governments, international financial institutions, UN agencies, academia, the private sector, civil society groups, and communities.



-  Augmenting emergency response operations
-  Enhancing emergency preparedness capacities
-  Providing resilience building activities and strengthening food systems
-  Strengthening social protection system
-  Providing on-demand services to improve development action



## Key Projects



### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

WFP works with the national and local stakeholders to ensure communities exposed to shocks are able to meet their food, nutrition, and other essential needs, along with emergency preparedness and response capacity at the national and local levels.

- WFP adopts a systems-strengthening approach in supporting [preparedness and response excellence in the Philippines](#) (PREP), with a focus on three pillars: i) infrastructure, ii) digitalization, and iii) human capital.
- To strengthen the national and regional [emergency logistics and telecommunications capacity](#), WFP works with the Government and humanitarian partners in providing technical assistance through assessments, training, and learning sessions.
- WFP supports the Government in implementing [early actions and response interventions](#) to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of natural hazards. WFP provided technical assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development to implement Project LAWA: Local Adaptation to Water Access, a cash-for-work activity for communities most affected by dry spells.
- WFP provides emergency assistance to crises-affected populations in the form of [cash, vouchers, and food](#), coordination with the Government. In large-scale emergency response operations, WFP implements emergency assistance followed by early recovery activities.

- To augment Government-led emergency responses, WFP provides [logistics support](#) to transport food and non-food items and provide logistics equipment, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of Civil Defense.
- WFP provides [telecommunications services](#) to the Government and humanitarian partners during emergencies. This is done through the [Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies](#) Project with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, where six high-tech, mobile, emergency telecommunications units are prepositioned in major disaster-prone areas of the Philippines.



### CLIMATE RESILIENCE

With a trend of more frequent and severe climate emergencies, WFP supports communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate shocks.

- WFP provides technical assistance support for the institutionalization of Anticipatory Action (AA) systems for typhoons and priority hazards. WFP led the technical discussions and coordination with the Government to develop the [Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill](#) which was filed in Congress in February 2024.
- Under the [United Nations Joint Central Emergency Response Fund Programme on AA](#), WFP is ready to provide unconditional cash assistance and early warning information to approximately 45,000 households three days before a severe typhoon (wind speed: 178 km/hr or higher) hits, to protect

their livelihoods and cover essential needs by stocking up food and medicine supplies, strengthening their houses, and harvesting crops early.

- WFP is the Government's implementing partner for the Green Climate Fund project, "[Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System \(EWS\) for the Philippines](#)", which aims to transform the country's EWS and support the institutionalization of AA within the disaster risk management framework.



## INTEGRATED RESILIENCE

Strengthening the resilience of the Government is a central objective of WFP. In the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), WFP adopts a conflict-sensitive approach by layering assistance to crisis-affected people with development and peace interventions to strengthen resilience.

- WFP implements [food assistance for assets](#) activities to reach smallholder farmers and fisherfolks, former combatants and their families, and Indigenous Peoples. Participants engage in agricultural production to contribute to restoring depleted natural resources and fostering climate-resilient livelihoods, while increasing their access to markets.
- WFP works with the Government to integrate the [home-grown school feeding](#) (HGSF) approach into the school meals programme, by providing technical support in policy development, capacity strengthening for smallholder farmers, and evidence generation. HGSF promotes nutrition and learning among schoolchildren while sourcing food locally from smallholder farmers.
- WFP strengthens the resilience of [smallholder farmers and fisherfolks](#) by improving their access to agricultural extension services and potential markets, and enhancing their skills and knowledge of farming practices, food processing, and storage techniques.



## NUTRITION

WFP contributes to delivering nutrition-sensitive responses to address the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition.

- WFP provides [technical support](#) to the Government at the national and sub-national levels to develop coherent nutrition policies, plans, and programmes in line with government targets.

- WFP advocates for [multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration](#) in the implementation of food security and nutrition programmes. This includes partnership with the Scaling-up Nutrition Movement and the National School Feeding Technical Working Group.
- WFP promote healthy diets through nutrition messaging under [social and behaviour change](#) (SBC) activities. To strengthen SBC evidence, WFP conducts in-depth research to understand the perspectives of teenage mothers, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples on nutrition, which informs tailored communication campaigns.



## SOCIAL PROTECTION

WFP provides technical assistance to the Government in designing hunger-preventive and shock-responsive social protection programmes.

- WFP co-designed the [Walang Gutom 2027: Government Food e-Voucher](#), a flagship programme of the Government. With the support of the Asian Development Bank, the programme aims to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty by increasing food-insecure families' access to affordable, healthy and diverse food sources. WFP and DSWD launched a pilot to reach 3,000 households for 6 months across 5 regional areas. The evidence generated from the pilot will inform the national scale-up to support more than 1 million food-insecure households until 2027.

## Key Achievements in 2023



**54,520 people** reached with cash, vouchers, and food



**20,920 bags of iron-fortified rice** (50 kg each) distributed (1,046 mt)



**US\$339,190** of cash and voucher assistance transferred



**396 trucks** mobilized to transport government relief items for 12 emergencies



**102 ha of community gardens** cultivated (2,448 basketball courts)



**2,117 government and national partner staff** received technical assistance and training

