



World Food Programme

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# Walang Gutom 2027— Government Food e-Voucher Program

Philippines

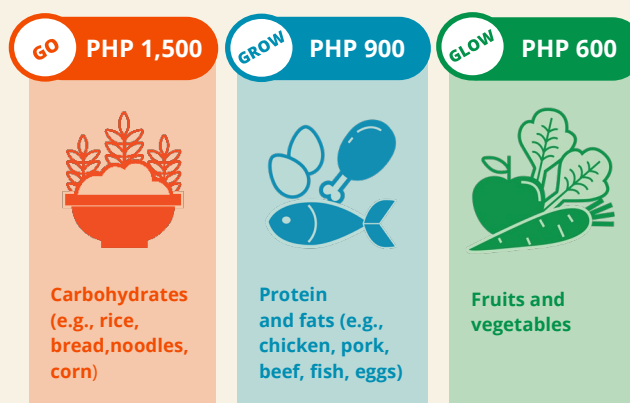
*Walang Gutom* (No Hunger) 2027 is a flagship nutrition-sensitive social protection programme of the Philippine Government to address hunger and malnutrition. WFP's collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) supports the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in implementing a pilot electronic food voucher programme to: i) provide **nutrition-sensitive food assistance to households facing severe food insecurity**; and ii) contribute to the **prevention of child malnutrition**.

The programme's long-term objective is to effectively reduce the persistently high rates of child stunting, wasting, and micronutrient deficiency through the provision of a diverse and nutritious diet. Using electronic food vouchers, the programme promotes better access to healthy food sources while stimulating local markets. It will also help mitigate the adverse effects of climate-related shocks and inflation which impact food access and availability for populations vulnerable to food insecurity.

Executive Order (EO) No. 44 proclaimed *Walang Gutom* 2027 as a **flagship programme of the Philippine Government**. The EO. 44 mandates DSWD as the lead implementing agency to oversee the programme's successful implementation.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Under the *Walang Gutom* 2027, families are given Electronic Benefit Transfer cards loaded with US\$55 (PHP 3,000) of food credits monthly. They can allocate the PHP 3,000 to purchase from a select menu of diverse and healthy food items as follows:



The above allocations follow the 50:30:20 ratio for a balanced diet recommended by the Philippine Food and Nutrition Research Institute. By enabling healthy food purchases, the programme aims to enhance the long-term dietary and nutrition habits of families.

# Food e-Voucher Implementation

*Walang Gutom 2027* consists of three phases: i) feasibility study, ii) pilot launch, and iii) national scale-up. In partnership with the ADB, DSWD, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, WFP launched a small-scale pilot in Tondo, Manila in July 2023. Following the successful kick-off, a larger-scale regional pilot implementation in five locations started in December 2023, with the national scale-up of the programme anticipated in July 2024.

## PHASE 1. FEASIBILITY STUDY

In 2022, WFP and ADB undertook a study to assess the potential for cash-based transfers in the form of food vouchers to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition. The overall results of the study highlighted: i) the need for **nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes** to support the food and nutritional needs of households vulnerable to food insecurity; ii) that households were **receptive** to food vouchers; and iii) the importance of integrating **Social and Behaviour Change Communication** (SBCC) to promote positive nutrition-related behaviours.

The study also found that pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls faced acute challenges due to the high cost of food and lack of cash. There was a general lack of knowledge regarding nutritional guidelines for optimum infant and young child feeding, particularly among teenage mothers and breastfeeding women.

The results of the feasibility study informed the pilot of the *Walang Gutom 2027* co-developed by WFP, DSWD, and ADB.

## PHASE 2. PROGRAMME PILOT

The pilot implementation aims to reach **3,000 families for 6 months** across **5 regional areas**: Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Bicol Region, Cagayan Valley, National Capital Region, and Northeastern Mindanao (Caraga). These areas were selected based on several criteria – high poverty and malnutrition rates, proneness to natural disasters, and level of geographical isolation.

The pilot is focusing on severely food-insecure households, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, teenage mothers, and households with children aged 0-59 months. Households will be provided with digital voucher cards loaded with **US\$55 (PHP 3,000) worth of food credits per month**, which can be used to purchase select healthy food items from registered retailers and smallholder farmers' cooperatives. Also, the pilot will provide the SBCC intervention through context-specific nutrition education sessions to improve participants' knowledge of dietary diversity.

As of March 2024, over 2,460 households received food e-vouchers under the pilot being conducted in Tondo, Manila; Dapa, Surigao del Norte; Garchitorena, Camarines Sur; Parang, Maguindanao; and San Mariano, Isabela.

## PHASE 3. NATIONAL SCALE-UP

Robust evidence generation activities are conducted by the ADB, DSWD, and WFP during the pilot implementation. The evidence generated will inform the scale-up of the food e-voucher programme to support more than 1 million food-insecure households until 2027. With the SBCC strategy and action plan, the interventions will build on the nutrition education sessions and further expand to a wide-ranging campaign using behaviour change communication, social and community mobilization, and advocacy for promoting and sustaining healthy nutrition-related behaviours.



### Fighting Hunger, Fuelling Hope:

Food e-voucher programme powers dreams in the Philippines

*"Makakapagpatapos na ako ng anak (I can finally help my child finish school),"* shares Mindalyn Villanueva of Tondo, Manila during a food assistance activity for the *Walang Gutom 2027*.

Mindalyn's family is one of the households participating in the programme's pilot. Thanks to the food vouchers they receive, her family started to eat healthier and save money for medicine, school, and other expenses. Her story illustrates how the *Walang Gutom* Program lays a foundation for making dreams come true – not just for families but also for the entire country.

Read the [full story here](#) or scan this QR code:



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