



World Food
Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Philippines— Strengthening Resilience for Zero Hunger

Countries are facing increasingly complex risks ranging from climate change, natural hazards, human-induced conflicts, and the global food crisis. When these shocks occur—often simultaneously—the poorest and most marginalized populations are hit hardest, with adverse impacts on their food and nutrition security. Smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, women, children, elderly people, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, and urban and rural poor people are among those most vulnerable to their impacts.

The Philippines is particularly susceptible to climate shocks and natural disasters. For three consecutive years (2022 to 2024), the country had the highest disaster risk globally due to its exposure to natural hazards, compounded with low coping capacities.¹ In response, the Government has been strengthening its disaster risk management capacities, enhancing climate change adaptation, and designing shock-responsive social protection systems to build resilience against shocks. These efforts are increasingly vital as climate change increases the frequency and severity of weather events such as droughts, typhoons, and El Niño and La Niña conditions.

The situation is more fragile in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where recurrent natural hazards and sporadic conflicts intersect with high levels of poverty, malnutrition, and environmental degradation. These overlapping challenges continue to put peace, food security, and development gains at risk, while the region solidifies its governance.



What is resilience?

Resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, institutions, and systems to **prepare, anticipate, absorb, recover, adapt and transform** in the face of shocks and stressors in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner.

Based on WFP's Resilience Policy (2024)

WFP as a Resilience Advocate

Resilience is at the core of WFP's mandate. Under its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2028, WFP continues to work with the National and BARMM governments to strengthen the resilience of households, communities, institutions, and systems against shocks to achieve food and nutrition security outcomes, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. In middle-income countries like the Philippines, WFP uses its technical expertise to strengthen government capacities for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and adopt effective policies to deliver sustainable resilience and shock-responsive social protection programmes in line with its National Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plan.

¹ [World Risk Report 2023](#) published by Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft

Advancing Climate Resilience



Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action

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" alongside the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, Office of Civil Defense, and Department of the Interior and Local Government. The initiative aims to i) transform and enable the country's EWS to issue impact-based advisories for a range of hazards including floods, strong winds, storm surges, and landslides, ii) support the institutionalization of anticipatory action (AA) within the national disaster risk management framework, and iii) strengthen the inclusivity of EWS by ensuring that timely, actionable information reaches the most vulnerable and remote communities before disasters occur.

The programme is implemented in four areas exposed to various hazards such as typhoon, floods, storms, and landslides: i) Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; ii) Legazpi City, Albay; iii) Palo, Leyte; and iv) New Bataan, Davao de Oro.

WFP provides technical support for the institutionalization and operationalization of AA systems for typhoons and priority hazards. WFP provides technical assistance on policy such as the [Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill](#), which has passed its third and final reading in Congress in June 2025. Once enacted, this bill will allow the Government to access funds for implementing AA and other pre-emptive measures to support communities and households at risk to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events.



Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Market Access

To enhance the climate resilience, food security, and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, WFP prioritizes inclusive and sustainable food systems by addressing climate change, market inefficiencies, and environmental degradation. This entails strengthening i) smallholders' linkages to markets including government feeding programmes through existing convergence platforms such as the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty; promoting climate-smart agricultural practices; and ensuring

marginalized groups' (including women farmers) equitable participation and inclusion in food value chains.



Community-based Climate Adaptation

To help communities prepare for and mitigate the impacts of dry spells or droughts, WFP works with the Government in implementing Project LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) at BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished), an early action and response intervention led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This government-led adaptive social protection initiative employs cash-for-work and training approaches and natural-based solutions to target Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and fisherfolks, women, and other climate-vulnerable populations.

During the pilot implementation in 2023 during an El Nino induced drought, community participants built small farm reservoirs to improve water access. In 2024, the Government scaled up the project to 61 high-risk provinces, with WFP providing technical support under a memorandum of understanding with DSWD, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of the Philippines signed in February 2024. The scale-up promotes climate-resilient livelihoods and food security through community-based gardening and diversified integrated farming.



Evidence Generation

As part of its climate analytics and evidence generation work, WFP published the [Climate Change and Food Security Analysis](#) study in 2021. It highlights the interconnectedness of climate change and food security, particularly the threats and opportunities it presents to food security, nutrition, and livelihood in rural and urban areas. In 2024, WFP published five regional reports which identified geographic areas, population groups, and livelihoods most vulnerable to climate impacts. These publications can support policy planning at national and sub national levels, inform local development and action plans for sustainable food systems.

WFP aims to partner with academia, Government, and other stakeholders to expand the development of innovative research products on climate analytics, and relevant studies on the intersection of climate change with food security, nutrition, livelihoods, gender, and other sectors.

Key Accomplishments to Date



4 localized AA plans developed for typhoons, floods, and landslides



AA Bill: **Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster** filed in Congress in February 2024 and approved in June 2025



7 publications developed on climate-related risks to food security, nutrition, and livelihoods in the Philippines



876,000 people indirectly benefitted from WFP's support to the Government in implementing Project LAWA at BINHI in 2024

Shaping a Resilient Bangsamoro Region

WFP puts resilience as a central objective in its support to BARMM through a conflict-sensitive approach. This entails layering assistance to people affected by conflict and natural hazards with development and peacebuilding interventions to address the root causes of conflicts, enhance resilience, and promote social cohesion.

In 2020, the Government and WFP co-created the Bangsamoro Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap (FSNR), a sustainable blueprint for improving food and nutrition security in BARMM. It also promotes peace and social cohesion in the region through a *convergence* approach (or close collaboration) across BARMM authorities. To implement the FSNR, the Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force was established, with WFP as a technical advisor.

Consistent with the FSNR, WFP applies an **integrated resilience programming** approach in BARMM which focuses on the strategic alignment of complementary programmes targeting the same communities over multiple years. These interventions integrate the results of community-based participatory planning (CBPP) conducted jointly with key ministries, local government units (LGUs), and community organizations and members. CBPP considers local livelihood landscapes, shocks and stressors, vulnerabilities, priority needs, and interests to determine the most suitable projects in the community.

Through its field office in Cotabato, WFP conducts its activities across 10 municipalities in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, and Maguindanao del Sur.



Community-Led Climate Solutions

WFP works with relevant BARMM ministries and LGUs to implement community development programmes. Among these is the SECURE (Sustainable Environment, Community Upliftment and Resiliency) Programme launched by the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) in partnership with WFP and other key BARMM ministries. Building on the MSSD's cash-for-work programme, the SECURE Programme aims to enhance the adaptive capacities of 30,000 vulnerable individuals in high-risk areas, including smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, former combatants and their families, Indigenous Peoples, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. The initiative focuses on implementing nature-based solutions for community-based disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and resilient livelihoods.

Projects are identified by communities according to local needs and priorities, to enhance agricultural productivity and climate resilience. Participants engage in climate-smart agricultural practices such as crop diversification, planting of drought-resistant crops, and water irrigation. These



climate actions contribute to restoring depleted ecosystems and fosters climate-resilient livelihoods.



Home-grown School Feeding

WFP collaborates with BARMM LGUs to integrate home-grown school feeding (HGSF) into local school meals programmes, enhancing child nutrition and learning outcomes and providing economic benefits to local communities. HGSF strengthens connections between schools and smallholder farmers, ensuring a sustainable supply of nutritious, locally sourced food. By boosting demand for local agricultural produce, HGSF expands market opportunities for smallholder farmers, creating a predictable source of income and fostering their resilience against climate shocks.

WFP works with the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education to institutionalize HGSF in regional and local development plans and model the approach in selected schools, with the intent to scale up at the national level. The BARMM government and LGUs contributions include kitchen construction/rehabilitation, purchasing proteins, vegetables and fruit, paying salaries of cooks and cleaners amongst others. Meanwhile, WFP provides fortified rice, technical support in policy development, and capacity strengthening for government stakeholders and smallholder farmers.

Through HGSF activities conducted in BARMM during School Year 2024-2025, 3,200 schoolchildren (from Kindergarten to Grade 6) benefitted from daily, nutritious, hot meals locally sourced from about 1,200 smallholder farmers, improving their household income to benefit 6,000 people. The programme is being expanded to reach 10,200 learners and 5,000 farmers across 10 municipalities in the region by 2027.

In addition to BARMM, WFP is also supporting the national Government in modelling the HGSF in Luzon. Evidence generated from both models will inform policy design for scaling up HGSF at the regional and national levels.



Sustainable Livelihoods

WFP helps strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk by improving their access to markets and enhancing their skills and knowledge in agricultural practices. WFP provides capacity strengthening for government personnel, smallholder farmers, and other key stakeholders on Negotiated Procurement – Community Participation (NP-CP). The NP-CP is a government procurement modality for purchasing commodities from smallholder farmers for government-sponsored institutional feeding programmes. This was particularly helpful in enabling farming cooperatives in BARMM to supply their production for school meals.

In addition to the broader support to smallholder farmers in BARMM, WFP places specific emphasis on enhancing the nutrition, food security, and resilience of rural and Indigenous women. These efforts seek to promote equal opportunities for women by providing training in leadership and sustainable agricultural practices, facilitating their access to resources, and strengthening market linkages.



Social and Behaviour Change

WFP advances social and behaviour change (SBC) by combining scientific evidence and community knowledge to ensure people adopt and maintain positive behaviours. By understanding the individual, social, and environmental drivers of change, WFP co-creates local solutions and delivers a package of SBC interventions. WFP trains local health workers in communication practices and strategies and then co-lead community dialogues (*Kwentuhan*) to help pregnant and breastfeeding women eat better.

Local health workers and WFP run a 30-minute *Nutrishow* in BARMM, sharing tips on varied diets and the importance of exclusive breastfeeding. WFP works together with BARMM ministries and provincial health offices to weave these behavior change efforts into local policies and plans.



Gender, Protection, and Inclusion

WFP advances equality and inclusion to address food and nutrition insecurity by contextualizing and addressing deep-rooted gender and social norms. WFP brings about transformative and inclusive change by i) enhancing individual and collective agency and empowerment, ii) challenging power imbalances, and iii) promoting fairer practices and norms. With its Leaving No One Behind Analysis, WFP suggested targeted policy recommendations to better include and adapt to groups who were not adequately covered by government social protection programmes. For the HGSF programme, WFP assessed the needs of school children with disabilities. This ensures that its evidence-based SBC strategy for HGSF reduces the

barriers to full inclusion in food and nutrition programmes.

In BARMM, WFP talks with communities and identifies local vulnerabilities and risks to choose projects that fit their needs. Smallholder farmers, fisherfolks, Indigenous Peoples, former combatants, and displaced families work together to create shared assets that strengthen community self-reliance, improve food security and nutrition, and create more sustainable livelihoods. WFP prioritizes women farmers by promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights through leadership training, livelihood skills development, and linkages to local markets.

Key Accomplishments in 2024



60,300 people reached with food and nutrition-related messages



50,000 people benefitted from resilience strengthening activities



186 ha (equivalent to 4,464 basketball courts) of community gardens built/rehabilitated



3,200 schoolchildren received hot, nutritious meals at school in school year 2024-2025, indirectly benefitting **3 million** people in supported provinces



PHP 1.5 million (US\$27,160) earned by seven farmer cooperatives linked to HGSF in 2024

Key Government Partners



Learn more about
WFP in the Philippines:

