



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines— Strengthening Resilience for Zero Hunger

## Context

Today, countries around the world face evolving 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 people and communities are hit hardest, with adverse impacts on their food and nutrition security.

The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to climate shocks and natural disasters. For two consecutive years (2022 and 2023), the country had the highest disaster risk globally due to its exposure to natural hazards, compounded with low coping capacities.<sup>1</sup> From 1999 to 2019, it ranked fourth in the list of countries most affected by extreme weather events (Global Climate Risk Index 2021). Smallholder farmers and fisherfolks, women, elderly people, and urban and rural poor people are among those most vulnerable to climate impacts.

The situation is more fragile in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where recurrent natural hazards and armed conflicts intersect with high levels of poverty, malnutrition, and environmental degradation. These overlapping challenges occur, putting peace, food security, and development gains at risk, while the region undergoes a critical transition period to solidify its governance.



## What is resilience?

Resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, institutions, and systems to **prevent, adapt to, respond, and recover effectively in the face of shocks and risks**, without compromising sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all.

*Based on the UN Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies (2020)*

## 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 communities, institutions, and food 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. Leveraging half a century of experience, 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 programmes.

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

## Climate Resilience



### Anticipatory Action

At the institutional level, WFP provides technical support for the institutionalization and operationalization of Anticipatory Action (AA) systems for typhoons and priority hazards. WFP leads 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. This Bill will allow the Government to access funds for implementing AA and other pre-emptive measures to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events. A strong advocacy plan for the Bill will be implemented under the national AA “Policy, Financing, and Institutionalization” Technical Sub-Working Group co-led by WFP and the Office of Civil Defense.

To strengthen climate resilience at the household and community levels, WFP, under the United Nations Joint Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Programme on AA, is ready to provide households with early warning information and unconditional cash assistance **three days before a severe typhoon (wind speed: 178 km/h or higher) hits**. Families may use the cash assistance to secure their livelihoods or stock up on essential needs during and right after a destructive typhoon.



### Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System

WFP is the Government’s implementing partner for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, “Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System (EWS) for the Philippines”. The project aims to i) transform and enable the country’s EWS to issue impact-based advisories, ii) support the institutionalization of AA within the national disaster risk management (DRM) framework, and iii) enhance the inclusivity of EWS to reach last-mile communities and improve their emergency preparedness, AA, and response capacities. The GCF project includes four pilot sites to test the approach before scaling up at the national level: i) Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; ii) Legazpi City, Albay; iii) Palo, Leyte; and iv) New Bataan, Davao de Oro.

WFP’s activities under the GCF project focus on:

- Researching the vulnerability, risk perception, and resilience capacities of households to inform the design of a more effective national early warning and risk management framework envisioned under the project;
- Providing gender-sensitive training sessions and technical support on AA to government stakeholders;
- Co-developing AA protocols and last-mile climate solutions with communities and integrating them within local DRM plans and programmes; and
- Supporting the institutionalization of AA within national DRM policies, plans and programmes, leveraging WFP’s leading role in the national AA Technical Working Group.



### Evidence Generation

As part of its climate analytics and evidence generation work, WFP published the **Climate Change and Food Security Analysis (CCFSA)** 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 2023, WFP developed five regional reports which identified geographic areas, population groups, and livelihoods most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The CCFSA study and regional reports can inform local development and action plans for sustainable food systems.

WFP aims to partner with the academia, Government, and other stakeholders to expand the development of innovative research products focused 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



**44,119**

households registered for cash-based transfer under the CERF AA Programme for typhoons



**Kickstarted the five-year GCF project, “Multi-Hazard Impact-based Forecasting and Early Warning System for the Philippines in 2023**



AA Bill (**Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster**) filed in Congress in February 2024



**2 learning visits** on AA and adaptive, shock-responsive social protection facilitated (Bangladesh and Indonesia)



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



## Integrated Resilience in the Bangsamoro

WFP puts resilience as a central objective in its support to BARMM through a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach. This entails layering assistance to people affected by conflict and natural hazards with development and peace interventions to strengthen resilience.

In 2020, WFP co-created the Bangsamoro Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap (FSNR), a sustainable blueprint for building inclusive and resilient food systems. 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** 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 20 municipalities in the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, and Maguindanao del Sur.



### Food Assistance for Assets

WFP works with relevant BARMM ministries and LGUs to implement food assistance for assets (FFA) activities. This initiative promotes resilient livelihoods and peacebuilding by enabling smallholder farmers and fisherfolks, former combatants and their families, displaced populations, and Indigenous Peoples to transition out of conflict as they partake in FFA projects and reintegrate into society as economic contributors.

FFA projects are identified by communities according to local needs and priorities, to increase agricultural productivity. Participants engage in vegetable production; rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, irrigation canals, footbridges, and post-harvest facilities; and planting of agricultural and forest seedlings. FFA projects contribute to restoring depleted natural resources and fostering climate-resilient livelihoods.



### Home-grown School Feeding

WFP is closely working with BARMM LGUs to integrate home-grown school feeding (HGSF) in local school meals programmes. HGSF promotes nutrition and learning among schoolchildren while establishing linkages with smallholder farmers. By supporting increased demand for local agricultural produce, HGSF fosters wider market access for smallholder farmers to create stable livelihood opportunities amid climate shocks.

WFP advocates for the institutionalization of HGSF in regional and local development plans and provides technical support in policy development and capacity strengthening for government stakeholders and smallholder farmers. In 2023, WFP closely collaborated with the Bangsamoro Food Sufficiency Task Force-Technical Working Group to establish the HGSF Core Group. The Group is mandated to facilitate technical coordination and implementation of HGSF activities in BARMM.

WFP organized consultations and planning workshops with BARMM ministries and local governments in preparation for the pilot implementation of HGSF in BARMM targeting seven municipalities for the school year 2024-2025. The pilot aims to: i) serve locally sourced hot meals to **3,000 schoolchildren** (from Kindergarten to Grade 6) daily within the school year and ii) integrate **500 smallholder farmers** into the school meals value chain.

In addition to BARMM, WFP is also supporting the Government in implementing an HGSF pilot in Isabela, a province in Luzon prone to natural hazards. Evidence generated from both pilots will inform policy design for scaling up HGSF at the regional and national levels.



### Smallholder Agricultural Market Support

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.

WFP launched **Farm2Go**, a digital application that creates an online marketplace where different value chain actors can interact in real time for better and fair price negotiation. This virtual platform reduces the presence of middlemen and cuts transportation costs as smallholder farmers can sell their crops and commodities directly from their farms, thereby increasing their potential incomes.

Farm2Go enables cooperatives to plan their production based on demand trends observed from their direct engagement with buyers (public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and penitentiaries). It also facilitates consumers' access to fresh and competitively priced produce while encouraging an exchange of market information.



### Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC)

WFP implements tailored communication campaigns in BARMM to improve food and nutrition-related behaviours and address underlying factors contributing to malnutrition.

WFP facilitates community dialogues or "*Kwentuhan*" to improve dietary behaviours among pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls. The dialogues are co-led by rural health workers who receive training sessions on interpersonal communication from WFP.

WFP provides nutrition messages to FFA participants through *Nutrishow*, a 30-minute activity that provides information on dietary diversity and the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding. As part of its advocacy efforts, WFP works with key BARMM ministries and provincial health offices to mainstream SBCC initiatives.

## Key Accomplishments to Date



**1,125** metric tonnes of iron-fortified rice distributed



**250,000** seedlings planted and **65** hectares of land cultivated



**195** km of farm-to-market roads rehabilitated



**37,500** people reached with food and nutrition-related messages



**15** cooperatives registered in Farm2Go



**7** municipalities identified to pilot HGSF in school year 2024-2025



Scan this QR code to learn more about WFP's work in the Philippines:

