



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Philippines Country Brief January 2025



WFP conducted a two-day forum on inclusive and sustainable home-grown school feeding programme through social and behaviour change in Cauayan City, Isabela. © WFP/Christian Reyes

## 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 2023, approximately 17.5 million Filipinos are still living below the poverty threshold. Malnutrition remains prevalent, with child stunting incidence at 22.5 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. From 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: **23.6 percent**  
(National Nutrition Survey, 2023)

Income Level: **Lower middle**

## In Numbers

**US\$9.1 million** six-month (February – July 2025) net funding requirements

**155 officials** engaged in social and behaviour communication forums

**150 professionals** trained in disaster risk management

**41,200 people** directly reached in January 2025



## Operational Updates

### Disaster Risk Management

- WFP continued to support the Government-led response to the Q4 2024 typhoons:
  - Cash assistance:** 7,583 pre-registered families (38,000 people) under the United Nations Joint Central Emergency Response Fund-supported anticipatory action programme received two months of cash assistance (PHP 3,300 or US\$57 per month) in Catanduanes. Distributions are ongoing to reach of 7,736 families.
  - Monitoring:** WFP completed cash distribution monitoring in Bicol, Cagayan, and Aurora. Most respondents withdrew the money within 15 minutes, (83 percent); ii) received clear information on how and where to withdraw the cash (95 percent); and iii) were satisfied with the assistance received (97 percent) and the transfer modality (95 percent). The post-distribution monitoring in Bicol showed that the availability of cash contributed to a reduction in relying on negative livelihood coping strategies (from 8 percent to 22 percent of households).<sup>1</sup>
- In support of the government response to the Mt. Kanlaon eruption in December, WFP provided logistics support to deliver 1,350 family tents to Negros Occidental. The tents were used to establish a temporary evacuation site to accommodate displaced families residing within the 4 km-radius permanent danger zone.
- In collaboration with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development regional offices, WFP conducted two training sessions on geographic information systems application for climate and disaster risk assessment. The training sessions equipped 73 government representatives from Catanduanes, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao Del Norte with spatial analysis skills for developing local climate change action plans.
- WFP trained 26 government responders on the installation, dismantling, and storage of a mobile storage unit in Maguindanao del Norte. The enhanced capacities of responders facilitate efficient management of temporary storage during emergencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples of negative livelihood coping strategies of families are begging/scavenging, harvesting immature crops, and selling non-food items, among others.

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>131.19 m</b>	<b>35.91 m</b>	<b>9.1 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.

- WFP trained over 50 first responders from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Participants learned how to deploy and operate connectivity assets, including satellite technologies integrated with the [Government Emergency Communications System-Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies \(GECS-MOVE\)](#). WFP provided connectivity equipment to three DICT regional offices to enhance government response capacities and improve the GECS-MOVE set's functionality.

### Social Protection

- WFP signed a Memorandum of Agreement and field-level agreement with the City Government of Cauayan (Isabela Province) to launch home-grown school feeding (HGSF), complementing ongoing activities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). HGSF sources food supplies from local farmers to provide nutritious, daily hot meals to schoolchildren. WFP complements local government contributions with fortified rice, kitchen supplies and equipment, and capacity strengthening for school staff and farmers.
- WFP hosted a forum with 35 representatives from key partner agencies of the *Walang Gutom* (No Hunger) food voucher programme. The forum finalized the social and behaviour change (SBC) strategy and action plan for *Walang Gutom* through consultative workshops and mapped out implementation steps to ensure effective and cohesive delivery of SBC interventions.
- WFP gathered over 120 stakeholders in two SBC forums on HGSF (one in Isabela Province and one in the BARMM). WFP shared the initial findings of formative assessments on HGSF and disability inclusion to initiate the co-creation of an SBC strategy and action plan. The plan aims to promote an inclusive and sustainable HGSF programme, fostering an enabling environment for schoolchildren (including those with disabilities) to eat nutritious foods.

### Integrated Resilience

- WFP, development partners, and the Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force convened to assess the implementation of the food security convergence programme and the progress in carrying out the Bangsamoro Food Security and Nutrition Plan 2023-2028. Bangsamoro ministries identified key priorities for 2025-2026.

### Nutrition

- WFP convened the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network's (SBN) first meeting for 2025. Representatives from member organizations discussed accomplishments, progress, priorities and activities for 2025. The SBN will focus on implementing the central kitchen in Antipolo (Rizal Province), scaling up efforts on rice fortification, and continuing engagement with private sector organizations to address malnutrition.

### Monitoring

- The percentage of Filipino families who experienced hunger rose by 3 percentage points in December 2024 (25.9 percent), per the latest [Social Weather Station Survey](#). Mindanao reported the highest hunger incidence (30 percent), followed by Luzon (25 percent), Visayas (24 percent), and Metro Manila (22 percent). This is the highest hunger rate since the 30.7 percent peak during the pandemic in September 2020.

## Donors and Development Partners

Asian Development Bank, Australia, Central Emergency Response Fund, France, Canada, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Republic of Korea, OPEC Fund for International Development, the Philippines, the Private Sector, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America