



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief February 2025

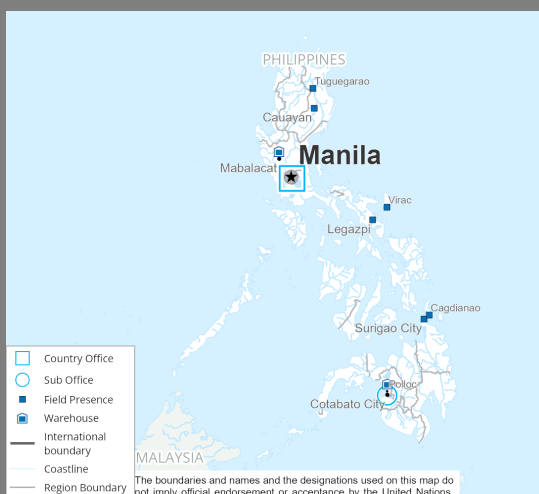


WFP inspected a mobile kitchen co-developed with the Department of Social Welfare and Development. These vehicles can be deployed to disaster-affected areas to provide hot meals to communities in need. © WFP/Christian Reyes

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 23.6 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: **113th out of 193 countries**

Childhood stunting: **23.6 percent**
(National Nutrition Survey, 2023)

Income Level: **Lower middle**

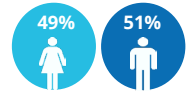
In Numbers

US\$6.86 million six-month (March – August 2025) net funding requirements

240,400 people indirectly benefitted from school meals activities in the Bangsamoro Region

Over 160 disaster response equipment and innovations turned over to the Government

5,800 people directly reached in February 2025



Operational Updates

Disaster Risk Management

- WFP turned over a mobile kitchen to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to strengthen the agency's capacity to swiftly meet the food needs of shock-affected communities. The mobile kitchen, co-designed with DSWD, can be deployed to provide hot and nutritious meals for at least 1,000 evacuees and was the basis for a further 15 mobile kitchens procured by DSWD.
- In continued support of the Government-led response to the 2024 typhoons, WFP provided cash assistance to i) 3,125 people (625 families) in Aurora Province through the national social protection programme, *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or 4Ps, and ii) 785 people (157 families) in Catanduanes pre-registered under a joint UN anticipatory action programme. Since November 2024, over 151,000 people have received cash assistance, enabling families in typhoon-affected areas to purchase food and other essential needs.
- WFP organized a technical monitoring visit for representatives from the Australian Embassy's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Aurora Province. The visit provided a platform to share experiences in delivering emergency financial assistance through the 4Ps. DFAT staff engaged with families from Dipaculao and Baler municipalities who shared their appreciation for the timely support from the Government and WFP.
- WFP facilitated a visit of a Swedish delegation headed by the State Secretary and the Ambassador of Sweden to showcase the [Government Emergency Communications System-Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies \(GECS-MOVE\)](#)¹ units funded primarily by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) as part of WFP's broader disaster risk management portfolio. WFP also handed over the final GECS-MOVE set to the DICT regional office in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.
- To support the DICT in establishing a national emergency telecommunications training centre, WFP donated additional telecommunications equipment.² The centre will deliver specialized training programmes for upskilling government responders.

Social Protection

- WFP and DSWD trained 26 government personnel to strengthen the adoption of negotiated procurement

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¹ The GECS-MOVE is a vehicle equipped with state-of-the-art technology that can be deployed to maintain open communication lines during emergencies.

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
131.19 m	35.14 m	6.86 m

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.

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

² These include laptops, routers, very high frequency radios, antennas, and other information technology and telecommunications devices.

³ The NP-CP is a mode of government procurement used to purchase commodities from local agricultural cooperatives for government-sponsored institutional feeding programmes.

through community participation (NP-CP) in food-based programmes.³ Participants developed an action plan to address challenges in implementing NP-CP, such as limited awareness of the modality among stakeholders. The NP-CP is used to procure food supplies for ongoing home-grown school feeding (HGSF) activities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which have indirectly benefitted around 240,400 people including smallholder farmers.

- The Quezon City Government, Department of Education, and WFP assessed the readiness of Cong. Reynaldo A. Calalay Memorial Elementary School to implement HGSF for school year 2025-2026. HGSF strengthens local economies by sourcing food supplies for school meals from smallholder farmers. Complementing government funds, WFP provides fortified rice, kitchen supplies and equipment, and technical assistance to programme stakeholders including the Government, school staff, and farmers.

Nutrition

- WFP participated in a regional nutrition and supply chain workshop held by WFP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. The workshop aimed to guide participants in developing a country-specific roadmap to support government priorities in advancing food fortification, supply chain management, and environmental sustainability. Actions to strengthen food fortification in the Philippines were identified such as scaling up the inclusion of fortified rice in national social protection programmes and government family food packs used during emergencies.

Partnerships

- WFP and the Government of Japan formalized a new partnership to enhance climate-resilient livelihoods in BARMM. With Japan's support, the BARMM government and WFP will implement a three-year project to i) enhance social cohesion, ii) mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on food security, and ii) strengthen government capacities to manage climate-induced shocks.
- WFP and Land Bank of the Philippines signed a partnership to support families affected by shocks through cash assistance. This agreement will enable WFP and Landbank to quickly and efficiently deliver cash and ensure access to financial services for those in need during emergencies.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted an internal review of its 2024 emergency response operations, particularly during the typhoon season. The review highlighted good practices in coordination, partnerships, and response procedures. Lessons learned informed how WFP can better complement future government response operations, such as having a flexible financial service provider agreement that can be quickly activated to deliver emergency cash assistance.
- The [Philippine Institute for Development Studies' Policy Pulse report](#) projects that through strategic investments and policy reforms, the Philippine economy could grow by 6.1 percent in 2025, potentially achieving upper middle-income status. To mitigate risks and sustain growth, the report advises strengthening global ties, expanding trade partnerships, and boosting investments in infrastructure, technology, and climate resilience.