



World Food Programme

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WFP Philippines Country Brief March 2025

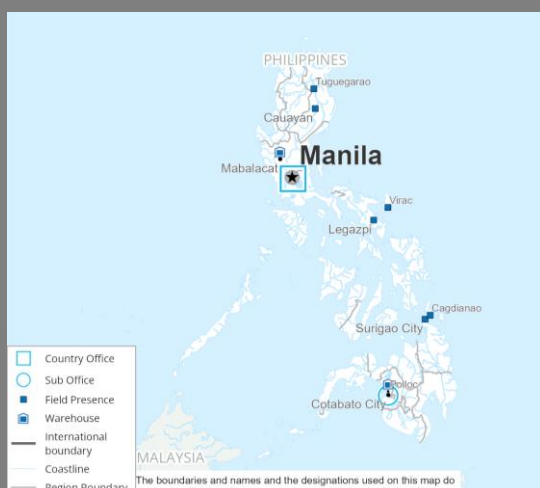


A tour of the mobile storage unit used during the typhoon response in Bicol for international partners. © WFP/Dale Rivera

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 were still living below the poverty threshold. Malnutrition remained 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 variability and 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**

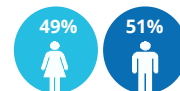
In Numbers

US\$1.3 million six-month (April–September 2025)
net funding requirements

379,400 people indirectly benefitted from school meals
activities in the Bangsamoro Region and Luzon

8,500 people reached with government family food
packs through WFP's transport support

92,800 people directly assisted



Operational Updates

Disaster Risk Management

- Continuing support to the Government's typhoon response, WFP provided an additional month of cash assistance to 88,600 people in Bicol Region under the Government's 4Ps: *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*. So far, 151,500 people (**30,300 families**) in Albay, Aurora, Cagayan, Camarines Sur, and Catanduanes have received cash support. An after-action review by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and WFP discussed ways to improve cash operations and strengthen and leverage social protection systems in emergency responses.
- Post-distribution monitoring indicates that the cash assistance contributed to fewer households using negative livelihood strategies (e.g., begging, selling productive assets, harvesting immature crops) to cope with food shortages (from 61 percent to 47 percent), particularly in Bicol. The cash assistance top-up improved their capacity to buy preferred food.
- WFP, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), and DSWD, led a mission in Bicol with delegates from Australia, Canada, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom (UK). The mission showcased how partner contributions supported the WFP-augmented government typhoon response. Delegates i) met beneficiaries, ii) discussed the effectiveness of leveraging social protection programmes in emergency response, and iii) learned about the Government and WFP's collaboration on emergency logistics and telecommunications (including the [GECS-MOVE](#), [mobile storage unit](#), a mobile kitchen, and WFP transportation support).
- WFP and DSWD organized the visit of the Australian government, led by the Deputy Secretary of Development, Multilateral and Europe Group and the Ambassador to the Philippines, at the National Resource Operations Center in Pasay City. The visit highlighted key partnership areas including i) digitalizing warehouse inventory systems, ii) strengthening humanitarian supply chain management capacities, and iii) supporting the 2024 typhoon response.

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Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
131.19 m	38.41 m	1.3 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

¹ AA refers to the implementation of actions based on early forecasts aimed at mitigating the humanitarian impacts of a hazard before it occurs. WFP is ready to provide pre-registered households with early warning information and unconditional cash assistance three days before a severe typhoon (wind speed: 154 km/h or higher).

- WFP re-launched an online learning platform offering 13 emergency telecommunications (ETC) and information technology courses, to support the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in establishing a national ETC training centre. Nearly 80 DICT responders are currently enrolled in the platform.
- WFP participated in activities aimed at enhancing disaster risk management and logistics coordination. This entailed: i) facilitating a humanitarian logistics course for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Emergency Response and Assessment Team and ii) joining a disaster response and preparedness workshop by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance in partnership with the Armed Forces and the Pampanga Provincial Office.

Social Protection

- WFP participated in a regional convention organized by Grow Asia and the Rockefeller Foundation. The event explored how school meals can enhance nutrition, food security, rural livelihoods, and climate resilience, aligned with government and ASEAN priorities. WFP shared experiences in working with the Government to expand school meals through the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) approach. Over 4,000 learners are receiving daily, hot, nutritious meals sourced from more than 1,800 farmers linked to ongoing HGSF activities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Luzon. WFP complements government contributions with iron-fortified rice and capacity strengthening support.
- In BARMM, WFP conducted a training of trainers for government staff on developing school menus using WFP's innovative online platform for designing nutritious, cost-effective menus with local ingredients.

Integrated Resilience

- During the first Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force coordination meeting, the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education, with WFP's support, secured approval to expand the HGSF programme to benefit 10,200 learners and 5,000 farmers starting June. WFP will also assist the Ministry of Social Services and Development in implementing a cash-for-work programme to support 10,000 people through community asset creation and provision of fortified rice.
- From February to March, WFP convened over 200 representatives from the Government, private sector, and communities in four Green Climate Fund-supported workshops on developing localized, people-centered anticipatory action (AA) protocols. The initiative aimed to tailor AA protocols to community needs and priorities, thereby improving resilience against climate shocks.¹
- At the Investor Forum organized by the UK Government, WFP highlighted its collaboration with the Philippine Government in supporting climate-vulnerable communities through [Project LAWA at BINHI](#), which indirectly benefitted over 876,000 people in 2024. WFP also showcased its [Climate Change and Food Security Analysis](#) which explored the interplay between climate shocks, food security, and livelihoods.