



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Philippines Country Brief May 2025

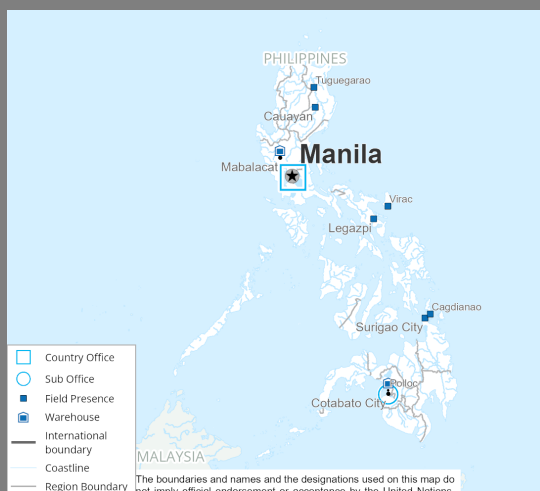


WFP and the Department of Social Welfare and Development held a sensitization session on the emergency cash assistance for beneficiaries in Cagayan province. ©DSWD

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 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: **114 million**
(Philippine Statistics Authority, 2025)

2023 Human Development Index
Ranking: **117th out of 193 countries**

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

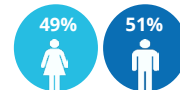
Income Level: **Lower middle**

In Numbers

US\$0.62 million six-month (June–November 2025)
net funding requirements

190 government staff trained to strengthen capacities in disaster risk management and school meals programmes

9,100 people directly reached with cash assistance in May 2025



Operational Updates

Disaster Risk Management

- As part of the ongoing support to the Government's typhoon response, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in partnership with WFP, provided cash assistance to 9,100 people (1,820 families) in Cagayan Province, northern Luzon who were further affected by shearline-induced heavy rains in early 2025. Each family, enrolled under the 4Ps: *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (national social protection programme), received PHP 3,350 (US\$57) to help meet urgent food and essential needs. Since the aftermath of multiple typhoons in late 2024, more than 151,000 people (30,000 families) across five provinces have benefited from similar cash-based interventions.
- The Provincial Government, the Office of Civil Defense in the Bicol Region, and WFP conducted a workshop on public service continuity planning in Virac, Catanduanes. The training convened 29 provincial authorities and local disaster risk reduction and management officers to develop detailed action plans that identify i) essential public services that must be maintained during and after emergencies, ii) risks and threats that could impact service continuity, and iii) mitigation strategies and recovery procedures. The draft action plans are expected to be finalized and adopted later in the year, reinforcing the local government's commitment to strengthening emergency preparedness and resilient service delivery.
- To further strengthen national emergency telecommunications capacities, WFP conducted two specialized training sessions for 20 responders from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT): one in Cagayan Valley and another in Zamboanga Peninsula Region. Participants were trained on the operation of the [GECS-MOVE](#)¹ sets and other connectivity tools. A telecommunications kit with expanded network coverage was also handed over to both regional offices. Four staff from the DICT Central Office served as facilitators – preparing them to become future technical trainers – building on the online learning platform relaunched in March where more than 80 DICT staff are enrolled.

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Representative and Country Director: Regis Chapman

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines

¹ Government Emergency Communications System – Mobile Vehicle for Emergencies

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
131.19 m	41.88 m	0.62 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, European Union, 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

Social Protection

- To support the scale-up of the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme for school year 2025-2026, WFP facilitated strategic planning workshops in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and in Quezon City. The sessions convened over 90 participants—including government partners, school heads, and school meals coordinators—to align priorities, strengthen collaboration, and define next steps for effective HGSF implementation.
- In the previous school year (2024-2025), more than 5,000 students benefitted from daily hot meals sourced from over 1,800 local smallholder farmers linked to HGSF activities in BARMM and Isabela Province. Linking with local farmers helps increase income for them and their families, expanding the return on investment compared to traditional school meals. WFP's support, which includes the provision of fortified rice and technical assistance, complements government investments (kitchen construction/ refurbishing, purchase of proteins, vegetables and fruits, kitchen staff, etc.). These efforts contribute to generating evidence on the impact and scalability of HGSF within the national school meals framework.
- WFP trained 49 people engaged in HGSF in Cotabato City (BARMM) in using the School Menu Planner Plus to design nutritious, cost-effective menus tailored to local ingredients. The training also included a session on basic nutrition and diets of schoolchildren.

Jumping over hurdles: How school meals energized a young track athlete



12-year-old Charlene Linaza, a Grade 6 student and school meals participant from Bisang Elementary School in Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao del Sur, proved her strength and determination as the BARMM representative in the Athletics 400-metre hurdles (elementary girls category) at the 65th Palarong Pambansa (National Games), an annual multi-sport event organized by the Department of Education.

Beyond the track, Charlene is also an academic achiever. Since the introduction of daily school meals, she says she's more excited to go to school each morning—eager to learn new lessons and eat the day's meal.

[Link to story](#)

* This operational brief is based on the best available information at the time of drafting. Figures may vary if unique beneficiaries are considered.