



World Food Programme

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# WFP Philippines Country Brief June 2025

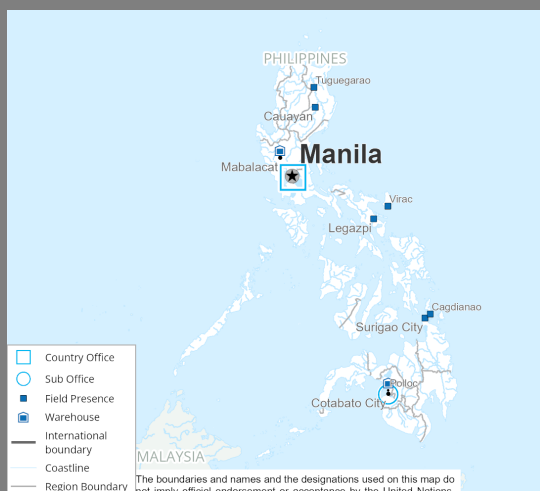


Government and WFP representatives convened for a policy briefing on the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill with Senator Jinggoy Estrada, the Bill's principal author. © WFP/Zuhaina Abubacar

## 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: **117<sup>th</sup> out of 193 countries**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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## Highlights

**Anticipatory action bill** approved by the Congress, with WFP's technical support

**Over 140 government staff** trained to strengthen disaster risk management and food fortification capacities

**156 women farmers** trained on cooperative development

## Operational Updates

### Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- On 9 June, the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill passed its third and final reading in the Congress. Once enacted, the Bill will i) allow government agencies to mobilize funds for preventive measures before a state of calamity is declared, and ii) integrate anticipatory action (AA) into national and local disaster risk management frameworks to reduce the impacts of a forecasted hazard on communities. The Bill was developed by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) with support from members of a technical working group co-chaired by WFP. WFP played an instrumental role in the drafting and passage of the Bill, paving the way for cash transfers ahead of a disaster, through AA.
- WFP, together with the BARMM and Bicol governments, organized training to enhance the DRM capacities of over 80 government staff.<sup>1</sup> These initiatives focused on i) public service continuity planning to ensure unhampered delivery of essential services during disasters, ii) emergency operations center management, and iii) using geographic information system to map hazards and analyse climate vulnerabilities to guide the formulation of evidence-based risk management plans.
- DSWD and WFP co-facilitated a workshop to develop a standard operating procedures (SOP) in leveraging the national social protection programme for shock-responsive AA and rapid response. The SOP aims to operationalize the joint AA interventions in areas highly prone to the impacts of extreme weather events.
- Ahead of the typhoon season peak, WFP and OCD conducted logistics capacity assessments in Bicol, Cagayan Valley, Negros Island (Dumaguete), and Western Visayas (Bacolod). These assessments aim to provide the Government and humanitarian actors with a better understanding of the country's logistics infrastructure and services to support emergency operations planning.
- WFP supported the OCD-led Logistics Conference and Humanitarian Supply Chain Management (HSCM) Training, which focused on best practices in humanitarian logistics through WFP's co-facilitated modules on the enhanced HSCM curriculum.
- DSWD and WFP co-facilitated a tour of delegates from the United States Congress at the National Resource Operations Center (NROC) in Manila. The visitors learned about NROC's role in prepositioning, repacking, and dispatching relief items to disaster-affected areas.

<sup>1</sup> BARMM – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

## 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>41.88 m</b>	<b>1.15 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.

## Donors and Development Partners

Australia, Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union, France, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, the Private Sector, Spain, and the United States of America

<sup>2</sup> Participants include government representatives from the DSWD, National Food Authority, and the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network. Arete Food Corporation currently provides iron-fortified rice to the Department of Education's (DepEd) National School-based Feeding Program.

<sup>3</sup> Brigada Eskwela is an annual programme held by the DepEd where community members and volunteers work together to ensure schools are ready for the opening of classes.

## Social Protection

- WFP showcased the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme during the US Congressional staff delegation visit to BARMM. Delegates learned about school meals delivery at Blala Elementary School in Upi, Maguindanao del Norte. They also engaged with smallholder farmers from the Busikong Greenland Multi-Purpose Cooperative, which supplies fresh food items to the school.
- WFP joined government partners in a learning visit to Arete Food Corporation to strengthen the operationalization of the food fortification law.<sup>2</sup> Participants observed iron-fortified rice blending and discussed quality standards, scalability, and potential linkages with government food distribution programmes.
- WFP facilitated online consultations on negotiated procurement-community participation (NP-CP) for government personnel in BARMM and the Department of Education. The sessions aimed to enhance participants' understanding of utilizing NP-CP to procure food items for school meals from local farmers.
- WFP engaged with local government and school representatives from Cauayan City, Isabela Province (Luzon) to strengthen collaboration for HGSF implementation. WFP i) presented the HGSF journey in Cauayan City during the launch of *Brigada Eskwela* 2025 and ii) held a mission to brief stakeholders on HGSF implementation and advocacy activities.<sup>3</sup>

## Integrated Resilience

- WFP and the University of Southern Mindanao formalized a partnership aimed at enabling knowledge sharing, capacity strengthening, and advocacy to promote food security and women's empowerment in BARMM.
- In partnership with the BARMM Government, WFP co-conducted workshops on cooperative development for 156 women farmers from eight women-led farmer associations. The workshops aimed to introduce basic cooperative concepts and principles and help define the associations' mission and vision, laying the groundwork to establish them as cooperatives.
- The BARMM Government and WFP co-facilitated ten planning sessions with representatives from vulnerable groups to identify shocks and stressors in their communities. The findings will inform priority community-led projects aimed at improving food security, climate resilience, and livelihoods in the region.
- WFP supported the creation of an enabling environment for early action and disaster preparedness by i) conducting a landscape analysis of climate information services in BARMM and ii) providing technical support to Government-led workshops on validating localized response tables and AA protocols, and developing AA triggers and thresholds.

## Monitoring

- Hunger in the Philippines dropped from 27.2 percent in March 2025 to [20 percent](#) in April 2025. Among the poor, hunger remained prevalent at 28.4 percent, though lower than the 35.7 percent in December 2024. While the Government has launched various programmes to address hunger, a weaker peso and rising fuel and transport costs due to global instabilities affect the food security of vulnerable groups.