



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Philippines Country Brief July 2025

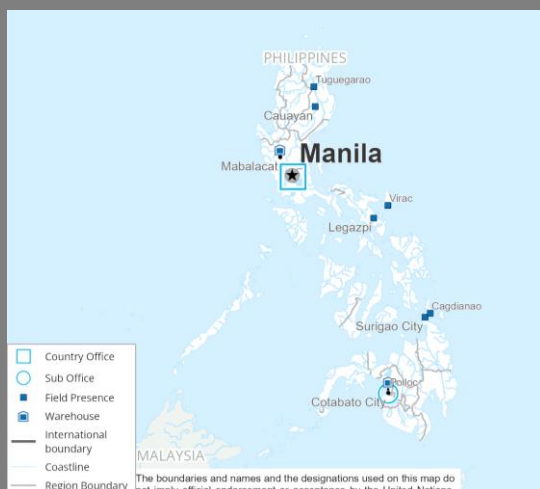


The Bangsamoro Government and WFP launched the home-grown school meals programme for school year 2025-2026 in Matanog, Maguindanao del Norte. © WFP/Irene Malabanan

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

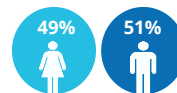
408,500 people reached with government family food packs through WFP's logistics support

69,530 people indirectly benefitted from school meals activities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARM)

960 students began receiving nutritious, hot meals with the start of the school year

Over 240 government staff trained to strengthen disaster risk management capacities

Operational Updates



Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- Over 9 million people were affected by the compounded impacts of three consecutive tropical cyclones and the southwest monsoon, especially in Luzon. With WFP's logistics support, the Government provided 408,500 people across Luzon with family food packs to address their urgent food needs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Bicol Region deployed its [mobile kitchen](#), co-designed with WFP, to provide hot meals to 530 evacuees in Guinobatan, Albay.
- In preparation for the typhoon season, DSWD and WFP co-facilitated workshops in Caraga and Eastern Visayas to roll out the joint standard operating procedures on Anticipatory Action (AA) by leveraging the 4Ps: *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*. This enables the integration of AA into the national social protection system to ensure timely and effective cash assistance for communities affected by natural disasters.
- Together with government partners, WFP supported the following initiatives to enhance DRM capacities:
 - Conducting a capacity needs mapping workshop with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), through the Civil Defense and Disaster Management Training Institute, to identify gaps and priority areas in disaster preparedness;
 - Implementing specialized courses to improve disaster response coordination and management of emergency operations centers, together with the OCD regional offices and provincial partners;
 - Training responders from the Department of Information and Communications Technology - Ilocos Region on emergency telecommunications; and
 - Assisting the Provincial Government of Maguindanao del Sur in conducting the training on contingency planning for flooding and landslides to assess risks and resource capacities and enhance coordination mechanisms.
- During the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development on 21 July, WFP shared its emergency response experiences, particularly its i) food and voucher assistance for communities affected by Typhoon Rai (Odette) in 2022, and ii) provision of cash

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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	42.09 m	N/A

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

Photo: WFP proudly joined the Department of Education at the national launch of the expanded School-based Feeding Program. Starting this year, all kindergarten students will now receive daily hot meals in school. © WFP/Bea Iglesias

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

assistance through the Government's 4Ps after six successive cyclones in late 2024, to strengthen social protection systems across the region.

Social Protection

- The Bangsamoro Government and WFP launched the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme for the 2025–2026 school year in Matanog, Maguindanao del Norte. The event gathered key BARMM government officials, development partners, school heads, cooperative representatives, teachers, and students. The HGSF programme is expanding to provide nutritious, hot meals to 10,451 students at 28 schools in BARMM, by locally procuring food items from 850 farmers.
- Following the launch, 960 students in four BARMM schools have started receiving daily, hot meals prepared from food commodities supplied by two cooperatives (representing 165 farmers), with the other schools starting in August. To supplement government investments (kitchen construction/refurbishing, purchase of proteins, vegetables and fruits, kitchen staff deployment), WFP provides iron-fortified rice, kitchen equipment, and capacity strengthening support, including food safety and nutrition training to ensure delivery of safe and nutritious meals.
- The Department of Education (DepEd), with WFP support, launched its expanded School-based Feeding Program to include all kindergarten students. WFP showcased its HGSF model through an exhibit, interactive games, and advocacy materials to key government officials. These initiatives promoted the expansion of school meals programmes through the HGSF approach to improve nutrition and learning outcomes while bolstering local food systems.
- The DepEd and WFP co-developed i) HGSF implementation guidelines and ii) a Joint Administrative Order that will establish an HGSF technical working group to strengthen integration of school meals with national initiatives—a key step in institutionalizing a more sustainable and multi-sectoral approach to school nutrition.

Integrated Resilience

- With WFP support and coordination with school division offices in BARMM, six farmer cooperatives (representing 575 farmers) in Maguindanao del Sur were linked to the HGSF programme through Negotiated Procurement – Community Participation (NP-CP). The NP-CP is a mode of government procurement for purchasing commodities from local agricultural cooperatives for government-sponsored feeding programmes.

