



World Food Programme

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WFP Philippines Country Brief September 2025

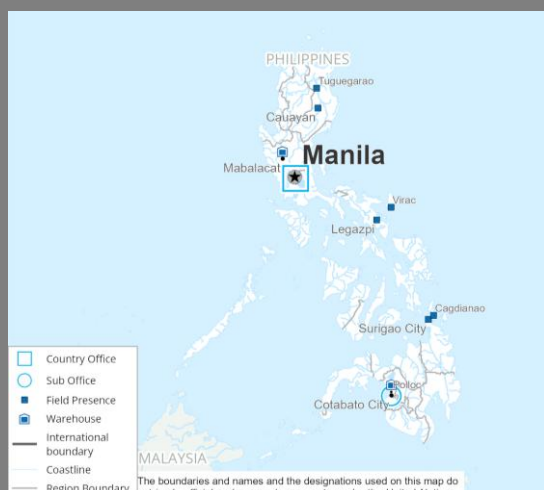


WFP facilitated the visit of Japanese Ambassador Endo Kazuya at Blala Elementary School, a home-grown school meals site in Upi, Maguindanao del Norte. © WFP/Dale Rivera

Operational Context

As one of the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia, the Philippines has made significant progress in reducing poverty and improving food security, despite the impacts of unprecedented levels of climate shocks, lingering inflation, and sporadic conflict. In 2023, 17.5 million Filipinos were 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. Since 2022, the Philippines had the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards compounded with low coping capacities (2025 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: 115 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

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Representative and Country Director: Regis Chapman

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

Highlights

Anticipatory action bill passed into law

Over 137,830 people impacted by flooding received government family food packs (FFPs) with WFP logistics support

11,013 students provided with locally-sourced, nutritious, hot meals or iron-fortified rice rations. These activities indirectly benefitted over 51,700 people in Luzon and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

474 government responders trained to strengthen disaster risk management capacities



Operational Updates

Advocacy

- On 16 September, the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Bill was passed into law as Republic Act (RA) 12287, embedding anticipatory action (AA) into the country's disaster risk management framework. This legislation allows the Government to mobilize funds to mitigate the impacts of a forecasted hazard on communities before a state of calamity is declared. The bill was developed by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) with technical support from WFP and other partners. In parallel, WFP supports the Government through PAGASA in enhancing the country's impact-based forecasting and early warning systems through the Green Climate Fund (GCF)-supported project.¹ This entailed advocating the institutionalization and adoption of the project to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and local governments.
- At the public hearing led by the Senate Committee on Basic Education on 11 September, WFP Representative and Country Director Regis Chapman—along with representatives of farmer cooperatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Isabela Province—advocated for universal school meals and home-grown school feeding (HGSF) to combat hunger, improve education and nutrition outcomes, boost farmers' incomes, and stimulate local economies. WFP submitted to the Committee a policy brief on school meals which outlines recommendations for amending the National School Feeding Law (RA 11037).

Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- Through its logistics support, WFP assisted the Government in providing life-saving aid to more than 137,830 people impacted by storms Crising and Opong. This entailed the deployment of i) 10 trucks to move 2,900 rice bags from the National Food Authority warehouse in Pampanga to the Luzon Disaster Resource Center in Pasay City for family food packs (FFP) production, and ii) 2 trucks to transport 3,400 government FFPs to Masbate Province. Ahead of the typhoon season, WFP facilitated the provision of 2,016 mt rice donated by the Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for over 271,000 FFPs, prepositioned across the country and integrated to the overall government response.
- Together with government partners, WFP supported enhancing the humanitarian logistics management capacity of national and local disaster risk management responders. These include the nationwide rollout of the enhanced Humanitarian and Supply Chain Management Course training and other government capacity strengthening activities under WFP's multi-year PREP: Preparedness and Response Excellence in the Philippines, supported by multiple partners.²

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

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
131.2 m	48.4 m	3.6 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

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

¹ PAGASA: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

² Other PREP capacity strengthening activities focused on i) emergency operations centre management, ii) enhancing understanding of the Incident Command System (ICS) and training prospective ICS instructors, iii) developing and conducting simulation exercises to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, and iv) using the Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment System to simulate quakes and their potential impacts.

³ In September, WFP's capacity strengthening support for smallholder farmers and their cooperatives includes training on simplified record keeping and rollout of the farmer capacity assessment tool to assess the production and marketing capacities of farmer cooperatives/associations.

⁴ This is based on the estimation that each cooperative i) earns US\$17,838 (PHP 1,038,738) from produce sold with a 10 percent profit margin, and ii) has on average 20 farmer members directly supplying produce to HGSF schools.

- In collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and OCD, WFP conducted a study to validate the feasibility of leveraging maritime transportation to better assist the Government in reaching disaster-impacted populations in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas like Batanes Province. The study assessed viable contracting modalities, by which WFP can support government response efforts.
- Through its South-South and Triangular Cooperation initiative, WFP facilitated a learning visit between the Governments of the Philippines and Mozambique on 1-5 September. Delegates exchanged insights on the operationalization and institutionalization of AA in government systems and social protection programmes.

Social Protection and Integrated Resilience

- In partnership with the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education and local governments in BARMM, WFP facilitated two high-level visits to showcase the Government's HGSF programme and farmer cooperatives' role in supplying fresh produce for sustainable school meals. On 5 September, the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, Endo Kazuya, [engaged](#) with students at Bala Elementary School and farmers from the [Puok Maunlarin Agriculture Cooperative](#) in Upi, Maguindanao del Norte. On 10 September, WFP Goodwill Ambassador KC Concepcion [visited](#) the Sultan Mastura Vegetable Producers Cooperative and helped prepare [school meals](#) at Datu Panda Elementary School.
- Through the HGSF programme, 9,332 students across 24 BARMM schools are receiving locally-sourced, hot, nutritious meals daily since the start of school year 2025-2026, with plans to scale up to over 10,000 students in 28 schools. WFP provides iron-fortified rice (IFR) and kitchen equipment to schools, and capacity strengthening for government partners and farmers.³ Fourteen cooperatives (representing 986 farmers) are actively supplying food items to the schools in BARMM. Each farmer can generate an additional US\$892 (PHP 51,936) for participating in the programme.⁴ In Isabela Province (Luzon), WFP provided IFR rations to 1,681 students (6 kg per student) to supplement nutrition, while schools prepare to run the school meals programme.
- On 18-19 September, WFP joined the Department of Education in the 2nd School Meals Coalition (SMC) Global Summit in Brazil. The summit convened 111 Member States, 6 regional bodies, and over 140 partner organizations to reflect on progress since the first Global Summit in 2023, nurture collaborations, and mobilize commitments for school meals in the next two years. The Philippine Government expressed its intention to host the 2nd Southeast Asia SMC Summit next year.
- The OCD and WFP co-facilitated a session with 23 government staff to integrate early warning systems and AA in the NDRRMC Contingency Planning Guidebook. The enhanced guidebook will serve as basis for local governments of GCF project sites in formulating contingency plans that incorporate AA protocols, aligned with existing government systems and financial mechanisms.
- WFP facilitated a Training of Trainers on climate-smart agriculture in partnership with Mindanao State University – Maguindanao. Twenty-one BARMM government staff increased their understanding of food security convergence programmes, enhanced communication skills, and developed action plans to support vulnerable communities and farmer cooperatives in adopting climate-resilient farming practices.
- Key BARMM agencies and WFP conducted a training on enterprise development for eight women-led farmer cooperatives engaged in WFP's resilience programmes, to strengthen capacities in market-oriented production.