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# WFP Philippines Country Brief

## December 2025



Pre-selected families under the Government's national social protection programme participated in a simulation exercise on anticipatory action in Dinagat Islands. © WFP/JM Pascua

### 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 24 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: 117<sup>th</sup> out of 193 countries

Childhood stunting: 24 percent  
(National Nutrition Survey, 2023)

Income Level: Lower middle

### Highlights

**Implementing guidelines on anticipatory action (AA)** endorsed by the Government for nationwide adoption, with WFP's support

**96,125 people** (19,225 families) benefitted from cash assistance through early response and AA simulation exercise

**PHP18.3 million** (US\$314,800) in guaranteed annual income generated for 18 farmer groups linked to school meals in 2025-2026 school year (SY)

**117 percent increase** in school meals budget secured by the Government for SY 2026-2027, with WFP's support and advocacy

### Operational Updates

#### Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- In response to super typhoon Uwan (also known internationally as Fung-wong), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and WFP reached 91,390 people (18,278 families) across Bicol, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Central Visayas with cash assistance through the national social protection programme. Each family received PHP 5,300 (US\$90) to address urgent food and other basic needs. This collaboration strengthened government capacity to deliver cash assistance through digital payment systems, harmonized procedures, and secure data sharing agreements, drawing on lessons from the 2024 typhoon response.
- To advance the operationalization of anticipatory action (AA), the Office of Civil Defense and WFP engaged key stakeholders to finalize the implementing guidelines for the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Law. The validated guidelines were presented to the Executive Committee of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for final review and approval before its nationwide adoption.
- Following the successful AA activation ahead of Uwan in November 2025, the DSWD and WFP conducted a simulation exercise in Dinagat Islands. The exercise highlighted key logistical challenges in an island context, providing critical insights to enhance the joint AA standard operating procedures for diverse settings. The activity reached 947 typhoon-impacted families (4,735 people) with cash assistance of PHP 1,000 (US\$17) per family.<sup>1</sup>
- Monitoring findings in five provinces where AA was activated showed that most respondents used the cash assistance mainly for food, medicines, and other essential non-food items, while some bought materials to secure their homes. Sixty eight percent of respondents reported receiving the assistance before Uwan's landfall. A large majority (92.4 percent) were satisfied with both the amount and delivery of cash, noting that it reduced stress and helped their families prepare adequately before the typhoon.
- WFP facilitated the visit of Irish Ambassador Emma Hickey in Cagayan, one of the provinces where AA was activated ahead of Uwan. The Ambassador met with local government officials and community members, to learn about how the anticipatory cash assistance supported the communities.
- The Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) has reached 71,780 people (14,356 families) impacted by various emergencies in BARMM\*. This entailed the provision of i) hygiene kits from the regional government and ii) 25 kg of rice through WFP. WFP supported planning and conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in selected municipalities.

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\* 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)
<b>131.2 m</b>	<b>52.9 m</b>	<b>1.8 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, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, the Private Sector, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America

\* BARMM: Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

<sup>1</sup> The cash assistance prioritized families impacted by typhoon Tino (Kalmaegi) which hit the country six days before Uwan.

<sup>2</sup> GECS-MOVE: Government Emergency Communications System – Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies

<sup>3</sup> For SY 2025-2026, PHP 11.78 billion (US\$200.3 million) was allocated for the DepEd's School-Based Feeding Program.

<sup>4</sup> Under SECURE, community development partners engage in rehabilitating irrigation and drainage canals, establishing communal vegetable gardens, and implementing soil and water conservation measures. WFP provides complementary support by providing monthly iron-fortified rice.

- WFP supported the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in enhancing the GECS-MOVE's<sup>2</sup> reliability to restore data connectivity during emergencies by installing an electric backup power system and solar units, completing Phase 2 of the GECS-MOVE Project. In parallel, WFP trained 10 DICT personnel in operating drone aircraft to support rapid assessments and monitoring in disaster-impacted areas.

- WFP is supporting the Government to include iron-fortified rice (IFR) in DSWD family food packs to enhance the nutritional value of rice assistance provided during emergencies. To prepare for the pilot blending of IFR in March 2026, WFP convened with key partners to plan activities, ready equipment, and review the tripartite agreement with the DSWD and National Food Authority.

- WFP is supporting the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in developing the Humanitarian Logistics Operations Framework to strengthen the OCD's logistics preparedness and response capacities. An inception report was completed which outlined key deliverables, coordination mechanisms, and next steps.

### Social Protection

- WFP's advocacy and evidence generation supported the Department of Education (DepEd) to secure PHP25.6 billion (US\$435.3 million) for school meals in SY 2026-2027, more than double the previous academic year's allocation.<sup>3</sup> The expanded programme aims to extend feeding to 200 school days for all public kindergarten and Grade 1 learners, as well as undernourished and pregnant students in higher grade levels—a significant step toward universal feeding.

- Building on this momentum, WFP convened the DepEd and the Global Partnership for Education - School Health and Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility (GPE-TAF) in a kick-off meeting. With support from GPE-TAF and WFP, the DepEd will develop an evidence-based roadmap for the national school meals programme to be presented at the National School Meals Summit in March 2026.

- WFP supported the DepEd and the BARMM Government to scale up the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme in Luzon and BARMM. In SY 2025-2026, over 12,200 students received daily, hot, locally sourced, nourishing meals. Through WFP's facilitation and capacity support, 18 farmer groups linked to HGSF generated stable annual income valued at PHP 18.3 million (US\$314,800). The Government is further expanding HGSF in Luzon, BARMM, and Davao City (Mindanao). In an activity led by the Department of Agrarian Reform in Cauayan City in Isabela, WFP, through an HGSF farmer cooperative representative, encouraged agrarian reform beneficiary organizations to be suppliers for school meals.

### Integrated Resilience

- As the lead implementing ministry of the SECURE (*Sustainable Environment, Community Upliftment, and Resilience*) convergence programme, the MSSD provided cash assistance to 30,000 households (5,000 community partners). Community partners each received PHP 2,750 pesos (US\$47) as they participate in activities that promote climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and food security in BARMM.<sup>4</sup> WFP will complement government cash transfers with rice in subsequent months.
- WFP facilitated a visit of representatives from Landbank, Development Bank of the Philippines, FAO, and AGREJA Foundation in Maguindanao. With key BARMM ministries, the group explored collaborative ways to address barriers to farmers' financial inclusion. Agreed action points include capacity strengthening for cooperatives, mapping investment opportunities in school meals, and including BARMM in climate finance proposals.