



WFP PHILIPPINES

COUNTRY BRIEF

February 2026

KEY MESSAGES

- WFP is supporting the Government to enable the scale-up of national programmes for school meals, social protection, and resilience building activities through policy and programme reforms. Support from development partners is critical to ensure initiatives continue to be scaled, sustained, and embedded in government systems by unlocking greater domestic resources for food security and nutrition solutions.
- Given the Philippines' disaster vulnerability, WFP welcomes donor support to strengthen national and subnational disaster risk management and social protection systems while maintaining a capacity to rapidly fulfill government response augmentation requests year-round.

IN NUMBERS



86,560 people directly assisted in January 2026



51%
Male



49%
Female



PHP35.7M (US\$610,700) in government funding allocated for home-grown school feeding (HGSF) in Davao



74,400 people indirectly benefitted from HGSF activities in the Bangsamoro Region and Luzon

Photo: With WFP's support, the Government launched home-grown school meals in Santiago City, Isabela in Luzon. © WFP/Orlyn Hangdaan

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Home to approximately 115 million Filipinos and 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.
- Natural hazards and human-induced conflicts contribute to food and nutrition insecurity. Since 2022, the Philippines has had the highest disaster risk worldwide due to its exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards compounded with low coping capacities (2025 World Risk Report). In 2023, 17.5 million Filipinos were living below the poverty threshold. Malnutrition remains prevalent, with child stunting incidence at 23.6 percent.
- Against this backdrop, WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2028 continues to support the Government in achieving food and nutrition security as the Philippines gears up to become an upper-middle income country. The CSP focuses on i) improving disaster risk management, ii) enhancing the delivery of social protection, and iii) strengthening resilience against climate related and other shocks. WFP uses a conflict-sensitive approach particularly in the Bangsamoro Region.

This operational brief is based on the best available information at the time of drafting. Figures may vary if unique beneficiaries are considered. Operational data in this report covers the month of January 2026.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Disaster Risk Management

- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and WFP reached nearly 43,260 people (8,650 families) in Camarines Sur with cash assistance through the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the largest national social protection programme. Each family received PHP5,300 (US\$90) for their urgent food and other vital needs. Over 302,000 people (60,400 4Ps families) in eight provinces received cash assistance before and after super typhoon Uwan (Fung-wong) hit in November 2025.
- WFP supports the Government to establish multi-agency relief depots in strategic locations to store and facilitate swift deployment of critical relief and logistics items for emergency response. Together with government representatives from the Philippines and the United States, WFP assessed potential sites for setting up these hubs in Cagayan Valley and Northern Mindanao.
- Under its multi-year disaster risk management initiative, WFP trained 84 responders in Catanduanes, Dinagat Islands, and Cagayan provinces in emergency telecommunications to improve government communication, coordination, and interoperability during emergencies.
- Together with key government partners, WFP further strengthened institutional capacities to produce iron-fortified rice for DSWD family food packs, to ensure the nutritional quality of food assistance in emergencies. This entailed technical training, technology transfer, and demonstrations on using specialized blending equipment for 45 National Food Authority personnel.

Social Protection

- In Santiago City in Isabela Province, the Department of Education (DepEd) launched home-grown school feeding (HGFS) and led the refurbishment of the school kitchen and local procurement of food commodities, with WFP providing rice, technical assistance, and coordination support. Over 13,300 students are now receiving daily, hot, locally sourced, and nutritious meals in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Luzon. In Davao City, WFP provided technical assistance in planning the HGFS pilot implementation in selected districts, with the Government allocating PHP35.7 million (US\$610,700) for school kitchen construction, salaries of cooks, and hot meals to over 3,100 learners for 200 school days in school year 2026-2027.

- During the School Meals Accelerator launch in Germany, the Philippines showcased achievements of the School-Based Feeding Programme (SBFP): expanded budget and coverage, shift to hot meals, increased local government involvement (including financing), and integration of HGFS and water, sanitation, and hygiene. WFP also assisted DepEd in streamlining SBFP data management systems and processes for better programme monitoring.

Integrated Resilience

- WFP facilitated the BARMM visit of the First Secretary and Agriculture Attaché from the Embassy of Japan. Through engagements with BARMM officials and visits to schools and farmer cooperatives, the field mission highlighted the impact of contributions from Japan through WFP to support government programmes towards strengthening resilience and food security in the region.
- Under the BARMM Government's Sustainable Environment, Community Upliftment, and Resiliency (SECURE) Programme, WFP reached 30,000 people (5,000 families) across 10 municipalities with iron-fortified rice and strengthened government capacities in climate-smart agriculture. Each household received 25 kg of rice as they participated in irrigation and drainage canal rehabilitation, vegetable gardening, and other productive activities. This complements the Cash-for-Work programme of the Ministry of Social Services and Development.
- WFP supported three innovators from the Philippines in participating in a bootcamp led by the WFP Innovation Accelerator with support from the Adaptation Fund. This activity helped the innovators refine proposed solutions on financial inclusion to help smallholder farmers cope with climate shocks.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted baseline assessments among households benefiting from HGFS and farmer market access support in BARMM and Cauayan, Isabela. The assessments aim to establish a clear baseline for monitoring progress and making future comparisons. Findings vary across both contexts at the baseline. Farmer households in BARMM face higher economic stress and coping pressures than those in Cauayan. Schoolchildren in BARMM consume more diverse meals with 90 percent meeting minimum dietary requirements, compared to 68 percent in Cauayan.

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, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America