



# WFP PHILIPPINES

COUNTRY BRIEF  
March 2026

## KEY MESSAGES

- WFP continues to work with the Government in strengthening national and subnational systems for disaster risk management, social protection, and food systems – enabling faster and more scalable government-led responses for affected communities.
- Through technical assistance, policy support and strategic partnerships with government and development actors, WFP helps embed innovations such as anticipatory action, home-grown school feeding, rice fortification, and asset creation into government systems, ensuring sustainability and impact beyond direct assistance.

## IN NUMBERS



**49,840 people** directly assisted in February 2026



**51%**  
Male



**49%**  
Female



**318,000 people** indirectly reached with government relief and WFP rice through WFP's transport support



**73,400 people** indirectly benefited from home-grown school feeding (HGFS) activities in the Bangsamoro Region and Luzon

**Photo:** Bangsamoro Government responders joined WFP in a learning visit to the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Luzon Disaster Resource Center. © WFP/Bea Iglesia

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- Home to approximately 115 million Filipinos and one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, the Philippines has made significant progress in reducing poverty and improving food security, despite the impacts of a polycrisis of climate shocks, persistent inflation, and sporadic conflict – pressures likely to intensify with the start of the crisis in the Middle East.
- 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 systems strengthening to i) improve disaster risk management, ii) enhance the delivery of social protection, and iii) strengthen resilience against climate related and other shocks. WFP uses a conflict-sensitive approach particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

*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 February 2026.*

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

- With WFP's technical assistance, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) increased efficiently in delivering assistance reaching over 312,000 people in Bicol and Caraga regions with family food packs (FFPs) during the Mayon Volcano unrest and tropical storm Basyang (Penha).
- Through its Emergency Relief Assistance Programme, the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) reached 6,000 people affected by a massive fire in Tawi-Tawi Province with various relief items delivered by four WFP trucks, including 1,000 sacks of WFP rice. The MSSD also provided 117 FFPs, each containing 25 kg of WFP rice, that benefitted 702 conflict-displaced people in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao del Sur.
- WFP supported nearly 180 government partners in improving DRM capacities under its multi-year strategy.
  - Assessed the DRM strengths and gaps of BARMM government responders through a workshop and facilitated their learning visit to disaster risk reduction and management facilities in Metro Manila<sup>1</sup>
  - Strengthened government capacity in Batanes to conduct post-disaster damage and needs assessments and institutionalize programmes that ensure uninterrupted public service delivery amid crises
  - Improved the capacities of responders in Catanduanes to independently manage emergency operations centers for disaster coordination, monitoring, and decision making
  - Advanced logistics readiness by i) updating logistics baseline information in Iloilo and ii) identifying strategic sites to establish humanitarian response depots in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, and Palawan
  - Improved the reliability and efficiency of the Department of Information and Communications Technology's GECS-MOVE unit prepositioned in La Union by installing a backup solar power system.<sup>2</sup>

### Social Protection

- In BARMM and Isabela, WFP supported the Government in providing home-grown school meals for over 13,000 schoolchildren by complementing government contributions with iron-fortified rice (IFR) and capacity strengthening for key stakeholders. In Cauayan City, a delegation of high-level government officials explored HGSF impact on nutrition and farmer livelihoods, reinforcing advocacy for expanding the programme.
- A Philippines-India learning visit, organized by the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) with WFP, enabled knowledge sharing to enhance school meals delivery, strengthen partnerships, and explore central kitchen models.
- In Davao, WFP supported the Department of Education (DepEd) and local government use its School Menu Planner Plus (SMP Plus) Tool to design cost-effective and nutritious menus, and clarified school roles for the HGSF programme.

## Integrated Resilience

- Through the Bangsamoro Government's Sustainable Environment, Community Upliftment, and Resiliency (SECURE) programme, WFP complemented ministry assistance with fortified rice, reaching 30,000 people engaged in community assets creation and income-generating activities, including rehabilitating 26.8 km of irrigation and drainage canals, and establishing 28.3 ha of communal vegetable gardens.
- WFP supported a strategic planning session between the Ministry of the Interior and Local Government and BARMM local government units (LGUs) to assess governance gaps and align local priorities on food security, nutrition, and resilience with regional development goals, resulting in agreed strategic directions and draft action plans with timelines and responsibilities.

## Crosscutting Priorities

- Together with government partners and the Green Climate Fund, WFP conducted a Training of Trainers on enhancing early warning systems and protocols to better reflect the needs of people and groups with intersecting vulnerabilities. The activity engaged over 130 sector representatives in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and enhanced their skills to facilitate future training sessions.
- WFP is providing technical support to the Provincial Government of Maguindanao del Sur in establishing its own rice fortification facility. As part of this initiative, WFP facilitated a learning visit to its IFR supplier in South Cotabato, where BARMM government and farmer cooperative representatives gained insights into IFR production processes and requirements.

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring of cash assistance provided during the Government's typhoon Uwan (Fung-wong) response in Camarines Sur. Initial analysis showed that respondents mainly used the cash for food, medicines or hospital bills, and shelter materials. Most respondents were well aware of the cash assistance, found it safe to participate, did not encounter access or security challenges, and were satisfied with the cash and how it was distributed.

## Donors and Development Partners:

Adaptation Fund, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, Ireland, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Norway, the Philippines, the Private Sector, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the World Bank

<sup>1</sup> The delegates visited Pasig City's RED Training Center and Command Center and the Luzon Disaster Resource Center of the DSWD in Pasay City.

<sup>2</sup> The Government Emergency Communications System - Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergencies (GECS-MOVE) is a response asset that can be deployed to restore communications in disaster-hit areas.