



PHILIPPINES



COUNTRY BRIEF

September 2026

KEY MESSAGES

- WFP continues to work with the Government in strengthening national and subnational systems for disaster risk reduction and management, social protection, and food systems – enabling faster and more scalable government-led solutions for vulnerable households and communities before, during and after shocks.
- Through technical assistance, policy support and strategic partnerships, 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



31,106 people reached from June to August



51%
Male



49%
Female



180,000 people indirectly benefitted through resilience-building activities under BARMM's SECURE programme



1.5 million people indirectly benefitted from emergency transportation and logistics support provided to the Government

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- A Southeast Asian archipelago home to 116 million people, the Philippines has made significant progress in reducing poverty and improving food security, despite the impacts of unprecedented levels of climate shocks, inflationary pressures, and sporadic conflict.
- In July 2026, the Philippines was designated an upper-middle income country. However, intensifying El Niño effects and the impact of the Middle East conflict have slowed the country's growth outlook.
- For three consecutive years, the Philippines has had the highest disaster risk worldwide ([World Risk Index](#)) due to exposure to extreme weather events and geologic hazards combined with low coping mechanisms and fragmented geography.
- While the poverty incidence dropped to a historic low of 9.7 percent in 2025, chronic malnutrition remains a critical issue. Stunting prevalence among Filipino children aged 0 to 5 years old increased to 25.3 percent in 2025, the first increase since 2013.
- Against this backdrop, WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028 prioritizes supporting the Government in achieving food and nutrition security. Improving disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), enhancing the delivery of social protection, and strengthening resilience to shocks remain key priorities.
- WFP uses a conflict-sensitive approach particularly in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where the poverty incidence and food insecurity remain highest.

Reporting period: June to August 2026

Photo: Ahead of the typhoon season, the first Government/WFP Forward Integrated Emergency Logistics Depot of vital emergency equipment arrives in Batanes — the Philippines' northernmost province often in the path of tropical cyclones. ©WFP/Injun Song

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

- WFP supported the Government-led response following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake in Mindanao last June by transporting 212,500 family food packs and shelter repair kits that benefitted over a million people. WFP deployed two mobile storage units to serve as temporary storage for food and non-food items.
- In August, in response to flooding in Central Mindanao (Region 12), WFP transported a further 85,334 family food packs from the Mindanao Disaster Resource Center in Butuan City to Koronadal City, benefitting 426,670 people.
- As convener and co-facilitator, WFP provided technical assistance on a range of topics across the country:
 - Anticipatory action and disaster preparedness: In partnership with key BARMM agencies, WFP facilitated strategic dialogues on anticipatory action to review milestones achieved, assess institutional readiness, and identify future targets to improve localization and implementation of anticipatory action programmes.
 - Emergency preparedness and capacity indicators: WFP worked with provincial DRRM offices of Cagayan, Albay, Catanduanes, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur to review the progress of planned capacity strengthening initiatives and prioritize areas for future investment.
 - Incident command system: Senior local government officials from Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands participated in an executive training course on strategic leadership, resources mobilization and inter-agency-coordination for emergencies.
 - Emergency operations and telecommunications: WFP trained disaster management personnel in Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte to operate WFP-donated emergency telecommunications equipment. Participants then shared the knowledge with colleagues in their provinces, further strengthening local capacity to restore critical connectivity during emergencies.

- Rapid damage assessment and needs analysis: Co-facilitated with the Office of Civil Defense and the local governments of General Luna, San Isidro, San Benito and Dapa, local emergency responders from the four partner municipalities in Surigao del Norte were trained to strengthen capacities in conducting emergency damage assessments.
- Public service continuity plan (PSCP): WFP convened 220 government personnel to develop their PSCPs, informed by disaster scenarios simulation to ensure uninterrupted delivery of critical public services during emergencies.

Social Protection

- Starting on 20 July, 1,660 schoolchildren began receiving daily hot, nutritious meals in Cauayan, Isabela for the 2026-27 school year. With WFP support, the city government allocated public resources and maximized local procurement of fresh produce from smallholder farmers.
- National and regional government representatives and school administrators took part in WFP co-convened validation workshops to review lessons learned and set priorities for the national school meals programme, supporting the scale-up of the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) model nationwide.
- WFP conducted food safety and quality assessments in rice mills in Mindanao to improve processes and ensure compliance of partner smallholder farmer cooperatives supporting HGSF programmes. Trainings were also held to enable local government and school staff to act as food safety, quality and nutrition focal points of the school meals programme.

Integrated Resilience

- WFP's Sustainable Environment, Community Upliftment, and Resiliency initiative (SECURE 1.0), BARMM's flagship food security and resilience programme, concluded its first phase with a market and product showcase and the distribution of iron-fortified rice across several municipalities. Member agencies of the Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force reaffirmed their commitment to sustaining and replicating SECURE 1.0 initiatives as the programme transitions from a project-based intervention to an institutionalized, government-led model.

- In the next phase (SECURE 2.0), greater emphasis will be placed on linking vulnerable households to complementary social protection, agricultural and livelihoods programmes and will further integrate watershed management approaches and last-mile climate services to help communities better anticipate, adapt to, and withstand increasing climate shocks.
- The BARMM Government, in partnership with WFP and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, convened the region's first climate forum with representatives from the Government and partner institutions. The forum developed tailored agricultural weather bulletins, strengthened the region's action plan against El Niño and created a coordinated warning-to-action system for climate risk management.

Women-Led Action for Food Security

- AGREA Foundation, the BARMM Government and WFP hosted a learning exchange for Indigenous and rural women to improve their leadership and communication skills as gender champions, which help them lead community dialogues on food security, strategize for economic empowerment, and develop plans to sustain women-led community projects.

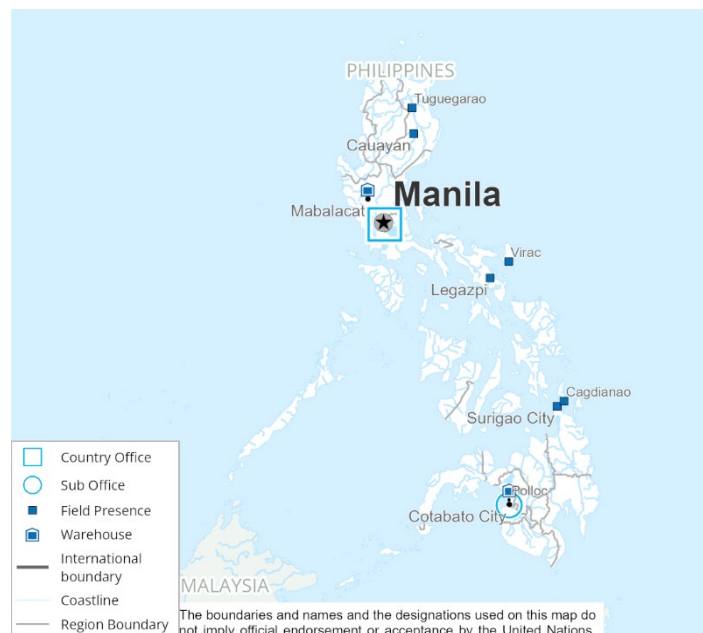
Story from the field



In Upi, Maguindanao del Norte, the Purok Maunlarin Agricultural Cooperative is supporting children's nutrition and education by supplying locally grown produce to the Bangsamoro Government's school meals programme. To sustain and expand production, the cooperative transformed an old WFP mobile storage unit frame into a greenhouse for growing vegetables.

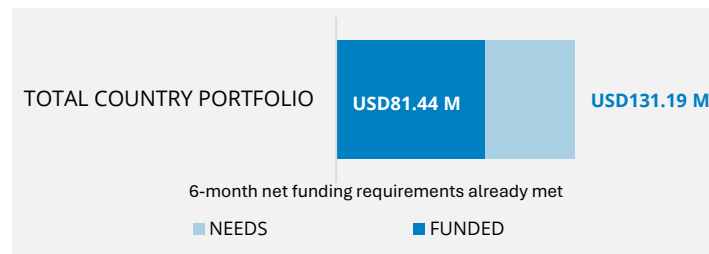
Each week, farmers deliver fresh vegetables to two schools in Upi, where kitchen cooks prepare daily hot meals for 690 schoolchildren.

Through its government contract, the cooperative earns PHP 1.1 million annually. For farmer-member Tony Peñañiel, the initiative has boosted incomes while enabling farmers to contribute directly to children's nutrition in their community.



FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 - Dec 2028)



DONORS AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, World Bank, Republic of Korea, Asian Development Bank, Green Climate Fund, the private sector, Rockefeller Foundation, and School Meals Accelerator.

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