



WFP Philippines Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

A middle-income country, the Philippines is the second fastest growing economy in Asia, but has struggled to transpose these improvements into tangible human development gains. Poverty remains above 20 percent according to the Asian Development Bank. Food and nutrition security in the country declined from “moderate” to “serious” from 2016 to 2017 (Global Hunger Index). The Philippines ranked third out of 171 countries in 2017 World Risk Index and fifth out of 181 countries in the 2017 Global Climate Risk Index.

The southern Mindanao region suffers from armed conflicts resulting in internal displacement. In May 2017, the ISIS-inspired Maute/Abu Sayyaf Group occupied Marawi City, displacing more than 77,000 families. The government has restored stability in the city but displacement continues to necessitate years of humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation.

WFP re-established its presence in the Philippines in 2006 with operations augmenting the country’s capacity to rebuild lives and provide help in line with the Philippine UN Development Assistance Framework and the 2013 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Zero Hunger Challenge.



Population: **103 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
116 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33.4% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

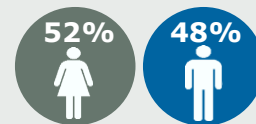
Credit: WFP/Marilou Cezar
Caption: WFP continues to provide emergency school meals to schoolchildren displaced by the armed conflict in Marawi City. It is currently in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense in reaching eight schools in Lanao del Sur.

In Numbers

631 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$4.53 m net funding requirements (May-June 2018), representing 7% of total

33,055 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Updates

- As of April, WFP has reached 8,364 families in 14 municipalities in Lanao del Sur with 418.2 metric tonnes of rice through general distribution. The municipalities served include Bayang, Buadiposo Buntong, Bubong, Ditsaan Ragain, Lumbaca Unayan, Lumbatan, Lumbayanague, Madamba, Malabang, Marantao, Masiu, Poona Bayabao, Saguiaran, and Tamparan. The general distribution is implemented with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Food for Peace.
- In its continued response to encourage school attendance among displaced students in Marawi, WFP, in partnership with the Office of Civil Defense – Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, assisted eight schools in April, providing 2,584 students with 7.9 mt of rice through school meals. The schools assisted were in the communities of Banga, Cabingan, Datu Tambak Etado, Pandi, Sikap, Sugod, Sultan Condong, and Sultan Guo. WFP’s emergency school meals is generously supported by the Government of Australia.
- For its emergency operation for families affected by Tropical Storm Tembin (locally known Vinta), 3,390 families, or 16,950 individuals, were reached by WFP in April. A total of 170 metric tonnes of rice was distributed to municipalities in Lanao del Sur. To date, WFP has distributed a total of 833 metric tonnes of rice to assist those affected by Tropical Storm Tembin.
- From 25 to 26 April, WFP and USAID held the Disaster Preparedness Response Handover Ceremony in Manila. The ceremony highlighted achievements and good practices of the seven-year project and brought together hundreds of participants from the local government, non-governmental organizations, line agencies, and academia from the ten participating provinces.
- WFP also launched “*Handa*” – a resource book on disaster preparedness with stories and best practices learned from the 2011-2018 DPR project.

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- Along with the presentations and conference, the DPR Handover Ceremony also had a Project Partners' Recognition Night. WFP expressed its appreciation and awarded tokens to the institutions and organizations who made the collaboration on DPR possible.
- Towards the end of April, WFP joined Radyo Pilipinas #SalaamRadio to talk about how WFP supports the national government, through Task Force Bangon Marawi, in their efforts to rebuild the lives and livelihoods of the families affected by the five-month armed conflict in Marawi City.
- In strengthening its efforts to help promote gender-inclusive programming in the rehabilitation and recovery of Marawi, WFP and Task Force Bangon Marawi facilitated a gender mainstreaming workshop. It provided an avenue for the participants to identify gender issues and develop gender-sensitive rehabilitation plans based on the differing needs of women, men, girls, and boys in Marawi City.

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Enhancing the Resilience of Communities and Government Systems in Regions Affected by Conflict and Disasters**			
PRRO 200743 (April 2015 – June 2018)	61.76 m	37.2 m (60%)	4.53 m (7%)
Immediate Response to People Affected by Typhoon "Vinta"			
IR-EMOP 201119 (January 2018 – March 2018)	1 m	-	1 m

*This includes the duration of the project until June 2018 only. The activities under the PRRO will finish in June and will be carried over to the Country Strategic Plan to begin in July 2018.

Monitoring

- Indicative results from post distribution monitoring showed that the proportion of beneficiary households with poor food consumption was reduced from 8 to 4 percent. The assistance provided by WFP and other humanitarian actors shows to have effectively helped the assessed households in improving their food security situation. The use of different food coping strategies such as buying less preferred food, borrowing food from relatives, or reducing the portion size of meals or the number of meals eaten per day has decreased. Households still buy less expensive food on an average of three days within the last seven days or reduced the number of meals eaten on an average of one day per week.
- For the implementation of the stunting prevention program, commodities were consumed by beneficiaries every day. However, some respondents revealed that other family members such as siblings, and children of

pregnant and lactating women also consumed the commodities. There is also a need to strengthen the capacity of both health workers especially on commodity tracking and handling. Some barangays did not have storage areas so commodities were stored in either rural health unit or house of barangay chairman or health worker.

- WFP extended its partnership with Kalimudan Foundation Inc. (KFI) until June 2018 to conduct distribution monitoring and post distribution activities for general distribution of rice in Lanao provinces. Baseline for the Zero Hunger Scorecard or Capacity Needs Mapping in preparation for the Country Strategic Plan had also started and will continue in the coming months.

Challenges

- Five months have passed since Marawi City was liberated and only 25,615 families out of the 77,170 displaced have returned to 42 *barangays* (administrative sub-units) in Marawi. Both returning and displaced families continue to require humanitarian assistance to fully recover.
- Although a brief orientation of beneficiaries was conducted prior the distribution, sensitization of beneficiaries still needs to be strengthened especially on the knowledge on the duration of assistance and complaints and feedback mechanism.
- Funding remains to be a challenge and could result in beneficiary cutbacks, non-distribution of food commodities, low programme implementation and organizational restructuring.

Disaster Preparedness Response 2011-2018

As WFP Philippines officially close its seven-year Disaster Preparedness Response project in April, WFP looks back on the partnerships it has forged, the awareness it has promoted, and the milestones it has achieved.

Through its implementation, WFP has partnered with 10 provinces, 59 municipalities, 9 cities, 15 academes, and 21 non-governmental organizations. It has delivered 3,086 trainings to more than 112,000 participants.

Donors

United States of America, Australia, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Norway, Azerbaijan, Canada, New Zealand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan, Italy, United Nations Central Emergency

GENDER MARKER  PRRO 200743

GENDER MARKER  IR-EMOP 201119