WFP Philippines
Country Brief

Highlights

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of US Foreign Development Assistance and the Government of Australia pledged contributions to help WFP continuously support the ongoing food assistance operations of the Government in Marawi City.

- WFP is launching an immediate response emergency operation to respond to the immediate needs of the families displaced by Tropical Storm Tembin (local name Vinta) in Lanao Del Sur.

- Funding constraints continue to affect WFP's livelihood support in Central Mindanao.

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

WFP Assistance

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (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	31.36 m (51%)	6.4 m
National Response Capacity-Building: Applying Lessons Learned from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency			
SO 200706 (July 2014 – June 2018)	8.4 m	5.3 m (63%)	-

*January – June 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200743

Through the **protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200743)**, WFP aims to assist half a million people affected by the protracted conflict in Central Mindanao and typhoon-affected communities in Visayas and Mindanao. WFP targets the most vulnerable, food-insecure populations through food assistance for assets (FFA), school meals, and stunting prevention programmes for children under two years of age and pregnant and nursing women.

In support of the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022, WFP augments the capacity of government and community disaster preparedness and risk reduction mechanisms at national and sub-national levels. It also advocates for policy development to optimise the disaster response structures and policy frameworks of the Government of the Philippines.

PRRO 200743 also provides life-saving assistance to victims of the siege in Marawi. Through emergency school meals to displaced students and general food distribution to families, hunger is satiated and the return of students to school is supported.

The **special operation (SO 200706)** aims to enhance the Government's disaster response capabilities in logistics and supply chain management. It builds on the key learnings from large-scale humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013/2014. The special operation mitigates potential operational bottlenecks and challenges identified, and establishes an improved, decentralized network of disaster response facilities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. These will ensure that the Government and WFP are ready to activate emergency response options at-scale and aligned with government relief mechanisms in a timely manner.
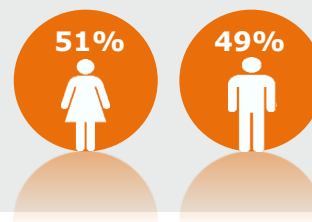
In Numbers

353,921 people displaced by the Marawi conflict and in need of assistance

185,776 people assisted through general food distribution

3,966 people assisted through food assistance for assets

46,497 students assisted through on-site school feeding

People Assisted
December 2017

51% | 49%

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Norman Escasinas
Caption: In partnership with the USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, WFP provides logistics support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development to ensure that relief assistance is immediately provided to the communities affected by Tropical Storm Kai-tak (locally known as Urduja) in Eastern Samar.

ONE FUTURE #ZeroHunger   SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS   ZERO HUNGER

December 2017

Operational Updates

- Through its general food distributions, supported by the Government of Japan, WFP provided 36.9 mt of rice to 738 families in three *barangays* (administrative sub-units) in Marawi City, namely Tuca, Fort, and Bangon.

- WFP provided logistics support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in transporting 200,000 family food packs to communities affected by Tropical Storm Kai-tak (locally known as Urduja) in Eastern Samar.

- On 29 December, WFP joined a rapid damage assessment and needs analysis in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) led by ARMM Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team and Mindanao Humanitarian Team. Reports indicate that 740,000 people were affected in 24 provinces and more than 310,000 remain displaced. Findings reveal that in addition to direct food assistance, displaced families would also require livelihood support, medication, water, and hygiene kits among others.

- To augment the Government's data collection on the immediate needs of returning families affected by the Marawi crisis, an Emergency Food Security Assessment is scheduled to be conducted in the third week of January. Consequently, it will also include an assessment of the immediate needs of those displaced by Tropical Storm Tembin (locally known Vinta).

- In partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, WFP hosted the Regional Interoperability Simulation Exercise (RISE) in Tagaytay City from 5-7 December. Through RISE, WFP was able to share valuable knowledge with the Government sector in strengthening their competencies, testing their plans, and using protocols in place during an emergency. Participating agencies included the DSWD, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of Civil Defense, and provincial and municipal government units of Cagayan and Benguet.

- On 7 December, WFP joined the National Convention on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction conducted by the Climate Change Commission in Manila. WFP presented its 72-hour rapid assessment approach and how it is utilised in the Philippines.

- On 14 December, WFP and the Department of Education held the Conference on the Presentation of Findings on the School Feeding Programme Delivery Assessment. Together with key stakeholders, WFP and the Department of Education are working to enhance the National School-based Feeding Programme in the Philippines.

Challenges

- Two months after the liberation of Marawi City, 18,800 displaced families have so far returned as of December. While more families are scheduled to return, returning families and those who are still displaced would require humanitarian assistance to fully recover.

- The impact of displacement caused by the conflict in Marawi is further aggravated as it overlaps with the displacement caused by Tropical Storm Tembin in Mindanao. Thousands of families require life-saving assistance.

- Funding remains a huge challenge and could result in beneficiary cutbacks, non-distribution of food commodities, low programme implementation and organizational restructuring.

Country Background & Strategy

Despite being one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia in recent years, the country's declines in poverty were modest, leaving marginalised groups such as women, children and the elderly vulnerable to hunger and poverty. The rapid economic growth does not necessarily translate to tangible gains in human development when combined with other factors such as food security and nutrition. The Philippines has maintained its GDP growth annually but poverty incidence remains high at 21.6 percent by the end of 2015.

According to the 2017 Global Hunger Index, the food and nutrition situation in the country has declined from "moderate" to a "serious" hunger score. Prevalence of undernutrition remains an issue of public concern. Based on the 2015 National Nutrition Survey, wasting and stunting among children in WFP's operational areas in Mindanao remained a problem at 8.2 percent and 45.2 percent respectively, which are higher than the national prevalence and above the acceptable range as defined by the World Health Organization.

WFP projects in the Philippines are in line with the Philippine UN Development Assistance Framework, and support the attainment of WFP Strategic Objectives, the 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**

Donors

USA, Australia, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea, Iceland, Norway, Azerbaijan, Canada, New Zealand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan

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