



WFP Philippines Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Enhancing the Resilience of Communities and Government Systems in Regions Affected by Conflict and Disasters	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) : 200743 (April 2015 – Mar 2018)	73.9 m	28.1 m (38%)	4.9 m (53%)

*March 2017 – August 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200743

Through the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP assists half a million people affected by the protracted conflict in Central Mindanao as well as typhoon-affected communities in Visayas and Mindanao. The assistance is tailored to reach the most vulnerable in areas where poverty, nutrition and basic education indicators remain well below the national averages. WFP supports food-insecure populations including internally displaced persons and returnees through market-sensitive food assistance-for-assets, school meals, and stunting prevention programmes for children under two years of age and pregnant and nursing women.

Through the disaster preparedness and response (DPR) programme under this PRRO, WFP supports local government units, academic institutions, civil society and NGOs in strengthening disaster preparedness and risk reduction mechanisms through initiatives such as capacity strengthening training, installation of early warning systems, and community-based risk mitigation activities.

This operation also features capacity augmentation and policy development components to optimise the disaster response structures and policy frameworks of the Government of the Philippines in support of the Philippine Development Plan (2011–2016).

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Anthony Chase Lim
Caption: WFP Philippines holds a week-long simulation exercise on humanitarian logistics dubbed as Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX) where national and local government partners and humanitarian agencies are introduced to the challenges of a logistical scenario while simulating emergency conditions.

Highlights

- In February 2017, WFP reached 73,732 people in Central Mindanao with a view to improving their food security.
- WFP signed an agreement with the Office of the Vice President to fund a review that will look into creating an inter-agency commission for food security and nutrition.

National Response Capacity-Building: Applying Lessons Learned from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
Special Operation (SO): 200706 (July 2014 – June 2018)	12.9 m	5.3 m (42%)

This special operation aims to enhance the Government's disaster response capabilities in areas of logistics and supply chain management. It also aims to ensure that WFP is ready to activate emergency response options at-scale, in a timely manner, and in alignment with government relief mechanisms. Building on the key learnings from the Typhoon Haiyan emergency in 2013/2014, the operation aims to mitigate potential operational bottlenecks and challenges as identified during the large-scale humanitarian response.

Key to this operation is the establishment of a network of disaster response facilities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in support of an improved and decentralised emergency response network. WFP also provides technical assistance and trainings for government counterparts on practical, operational and strategic logistics.

In Numbers (February 2017)

WFP Philippines assisted **73,732** people with food including:

62,608 school children

9,483 children aged 6-23 months

1,641 pregnant and nursing women



February 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP supported 73,732 people in February – this includes 9,483 children aged-6-23 months and 1,641 pregnant and nursing women under the stunting prevention programme, who received specialised nutritious food. Additionally, 62,608 schoolchildren from 269 primary schools in Central Mindanao were provided with hot, nutritious meals.
- The Office of the Vice President recently signed an agreement with WFP for a review on the need for an Inter-Agency Commission for Food Security and Nutrition. WFP will contribute USD 100,000 to support this review exercise, which will run for a year.
- Taking off from the success of the first Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Regional Climate Forum for Luzon stakeholders last year, WFP held one for its Mindanao partners in Cagayan de Oro. FbF is an innovative approach using scientific data to indicate elevated risks and then to implement actions and release humanitarian funding for these actions before a potential disaster. WFP implements FbF in partnership with the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Red Cross.
- WFP, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), held a training of trainers for local government units (LGUs), national and regional line agencies on developing contingency plans and how to handle Risk Communication and Media Management in disaster risk reduction and management scenarios. The event, conducted by trainers from the University of the Philippines-Baguio, was attended by LGUs from provinces across Luzon.
- WFP participated in a recent field testing of the Rapid Information Communication Accountability Assessment (RICAA), an assessment tool in gauging the immediate information needs and preferred communication channels of affected communities during emergencies. The OCHA-led Community of Practice gathered humanitarian organizations to discuss how to improve the tool and integrate it into various common service platforms such as IOM's Community Resource Map, OCHA's Kobo tool and EngageSpark's voice messaging/text application.

Challenges

- WFP's livelihood support to food-insecure and vulnerable communities in Central Mindanao is at a standstill due to the continued resource shortfall.
- Insecurity as a result of the Government's military operations against armed groups in Lanao del Sur province resulted in the delay of monitoring activities and the delivery of food assistance.

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 better conditions when combined with other factors such as nutrition and food security. 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 2016 Global Hunger Index, the country has modestly improved its food and nutrition situation from a "serious" hunger score last year to achieve a "moderate" status, ranking it 51st out of 131 countries. 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 Action Framework, and support the attainment of WFP Strategic Objectives, the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Zero Hunger Challenge.

WFP re-established its presence in the Philippines in 2006 to support the ongoing Mindanao peace process and to help build community resilience to armed conflict, which undermines nutrition and food security.

Population: **103 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
115 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

Contact info: wfp.philippines@wfp.org

Country Director: Praveen Agrawal

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/philippines