



Highlights

- The Government of the Philippines has regained control of Marawi City and displaced families have started to return. WFP is coordinating with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to identify return and rehabilitation plans for the displaced population.
- WFP has completed an Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment of the displaced population in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. Data analysis is ongoing.
- Funding constraints continue to affect WFP's livelihood support to communities in Central Mindanao.

WFP Philippines Country Brief

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)	61.7 m	30.3 m (49%)	8.4 m (56%)
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%)	-

*November 2017 – April 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 to reach 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 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.

The **special operation (SO 200706)** aims to enhance the Government's disaster response capabilities in logistics and supply chain management. Building on key learnings from large-scale humanitarian response to Typhoon Haiyan in 2013/2014, it mitigates potential operational bottlenecks and challenges identified, and

establishes an improved, decentralised network of disaster response facilities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. These will ensure that the Government and WFP are ready to timely activate emergency response options at-scale and aligned with government relief mechanisms.

The **immediate response emergency operation (IR-EMOP 201084)** was launched in areas affected by the armed conflict in Marawi, the provincial capital of Lanao del Sur in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. An estimated 90 percent of the Marawi population has been displaced, sheltered in evacuation centres and/or by relatives in nearby areas. Schools in surrounding areas have re-opened and accommodated displaced students.

WFP supported enrolment and attendance by providing emergency school meals to the displaced children. It also complemented the Government's response through provision of rice to the most vulnerable households, with targeting amendments based on criteria jointly agreed upon with government counterparts. The IR-EMOP was completed in October 2017.

In Numbers (October 2017)

WFP Philippines reached **38** partner local government units across the country with capacity strengthening activities to increase their ability to respond to shocks.

8,999
People Trained



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Anthony Chase Lim
Caption: WFP's school meals project provides children in Maguindanao with hot and nutritious meals, allowing them to focus on their studies instead of their stomachs.



October 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the Government's emergency response to the crisis in Marawi through general food distributions and school feeding. In the month of October, WFP distributed a total of 142.45mt of rice to 2,849 families.
- WFP has concluded the emergency school feeding programme which was operated with the generous support of the Government of Australia (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade). The programme supported nearly 60,000 students in more than 170 public elementary and secondary schools in the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur where the majority of the displaced population are taking refuge.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to implement forecast-based financing (FbF) projects in the Philippines. Since 2015, WFP Philippines has been implementing the FbF pilot project, generously supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, to help reduce the impacts and losses caused by climate-related hazards through innovative approaches using scientific data.
- WFP's Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment in Marawi City has been completed. Preliminary findings reveal that over 40 percent of the displaced population have borderline or poor food consumption scores.
- WFP participated in the ABCSN News Channel's (ANC) "Bangsamoro and Beyond: A National Conversation" forum which discussed the Bangsamoro Basic Law, as well as the ongoing peace process. The law is being proposed by the Congress to establish the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region that will replace the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.
- In celebration of World Food Day, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP, together with the Department of Agriculture, promoted Zero Hunger and the importance of investing in food security and rural development at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City on 18 October, and at the Salcedo Community Market in Makati City on 21 October.
- On 24 October, United Nations (UN) agencies in the Philippines celebrated UN Day with the Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Foreign Affairs. The event was highlighted by public engagement activities featuring exhibits about the UN. The high point of the event was the ceremonial lighting of the Filipino Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) cubes to launch the 17 SDGs in the Filipino. The Filipino SDGs bring the goals closer to every Filipino in the country, fostering inclusiveness. UN Day 2017 was held in Taguig.
- Lack of funding for PRRO 200743 has seriously hampered WFP's ability to fulfil its operational objectives. A pipeline break continues for FFA activities.

Challenges

- Around 5,000 residents of Marawi City have reportedly returned to destroyed and looted homes soon after the Government declared several areas safe. Rehabilitation costs are estimated at USD 1 billion, thus the return of most displaced people is expected to be lengthy and thousands would still require humanitarian aid.
- 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.

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 food security and nutrition.

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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