



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)	74 m	29 m (39%)	6.3 m (52%)

*April 2017 – September 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 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 (2017–2022).

Credit: WFP/Isabelle Francine Lacson
Caption: Officials from the Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department visited the Government of the Philippines' Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) National Resource Operations Centre (NROC) as part of a study visit to learn about the successes of its national emergency preparedness structure.

Main Photo

Highlights

- Critical funding levels continue to limit WFP's support to vulnerable food insecure populations in Central Mindanao.

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 (March 2017)

WFP Philippines assisted **70,125** people with food including:

62,608 school children

7,517 children aged 6-23 months



March 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP reached 70,125 people in March – this includes 62,608 school children from 269 primary schools in Central Mindanao who were provided with hot, nutritious meals, and 7,517 children aged 6-23 months who received specialised nutritious food to prevent the long-term negative effects of inadequate nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life.
- In March, less food was distributed than planned as a result of severe funding constraints. Beneficiaries of the asset creation activities and nutrition programme for pregnant and nursing women did not receive their food baskets and nutrient supplement, respectively.
- WFP Philippines facilitated the Field Logistics Emergency Exercise (FLEX), a six-day simulation exercise focused on the logistical requirements of a disaster response operation. Participants from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector lived and worked in field conditions while planning the operation. Practical field logistics activities kept the participants occupied while they assessed the situation and developed a concept of operations, which was presented to the Government's response teams and the donor community (in scenario) at the end of the exercise. The exercise involved more than 30 facilitators representing 11 organizations involved in disaster response in the Philippines. FLEX is the first emergency simulation exercise of its kind conducted with government partners in Asia and was funded by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID-OFDA).
- The Government of Myanmar's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) participated in a study visit facilitated by WFP Philippines. The study visit was aimed at increasing the RRD's capacity through learning the successes of the national emergency preparedness structure in the Philippines and the establishment of close collaboration with the Government of the Philippines and WFP in emergency preparedness measures and response initiatives.

Challenges

- Although small contributions have been received from the private sector, the funding outlook for WFP Philippines remains critical and has created pipeline breaks for the nutrition and livelihood programmes.
- Military operations against militant groups in Central Mindanao continually trigger sporadic clashes and counter attacks, which often restrict the movement of staff.

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

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