



# WFP Philippines Country Brief

## Highlights

- As Marawi fighting continues, volatile displacement ensues in affected areas. WFP provides food assistance to displaced families and supports return of displaced children to schools through school meals. WFP also provides logistics support in establishing emergency operation centres.
- Funding constraints are affecting livelihood support in Central Mindanao.

## WFP Assistance

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>Enhancing the Resilience of Communities and Government Systems in Regions Affected by Conflict and Disasters</b>			
PRRO 200743 (April 2015 – Mar 2018)	74 m	29 m (39%)	8.4 m (56%)
<b>National Response Capacity-Building: Applying Lessons Learned from the Haiyan/Yolanda Emergency</b>			
SO 200706 (July 2014 – June 2018)	8.4 m	5.3 m (63%)	-
<b>Immediate Response to People Affected by Armed Conflict in Marawi City</b>			
IR-EMOP 201084 (15 June – 15 Sep 2017)	0.5 m	0.5 m (100%)	-

\*July 2017 – December 2017

**GENDER MARKER 2A** PRRO 200743

Through the **protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200743)**, WFP assists 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, 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 operations (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)** is 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 are re-opening and accommodating displaced pupils.

WFP supports enrolment and attendance by providing emergency school meals to support the displaced children. It also complements 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.

## In Numbers (June 2017)

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

**6,899**  
People Trained



**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/Marilou Cezar  
Caption: During the immediate response to Marawi conflict, WFP distributed rice to affected families in an evacuation center in Iligan City.



**June 2017**

## Operational Updates

- Lack of funding has seriously hampered WFP's ability to fulfil its operational objectives. Pipeline breaks continue for nutrition and food assistance-for-assets activities. No food has been distributed since April.
- In response to a government request for support to the emergency response in Marawi under both the PRRO and IR-EMOP, WFP distributed 9.72 mt of dates to 4,900 families and 7.85 mt of rice to 314 families of the Department of Agrarian Reform. Preparations are ongoing to distribute rice in July to 8,800 displaced families in evacuation centres as well as home-based evacuees in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.
- WFP is co-leading both the Food and Non-Food Items, and the Logistics Clusters with the Government of the Philippines. WFP provided transport services support and donated a mobile storage unit in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte. WFP is also supporting the set-up of Malabang Operation Centre in Lanao del Sur by providing logistics technical assistance, a generator, a pre-fabricated office and two mobile storage units.
- In Maguindanao Province, WFP resumed its school meals programme with the start of school year 2017-2018 this June. In partnership with the Department of Education, WFP distributed 86.6 mt of fruit dates, rice, oil and beans to 42,000 schoolchildren to support their enrolment and school attendance.
- WFP Philippines Representative and Country Director Praveen Agrawal met with newly appointed Department of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano. WFP highlighted its long-term strategic partnership with the Government, reaffirming its commitment to support national priorities in achieving food security and nutrition.
- WFP signed an agreement with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, Inc., major private sector coordinator for disaster management, to collaborate in disaster preparedness, response and developing solutions to achieve food security and nutrition.
- At the First Regional Dialogue Platform in Asia on Forecast-based Financing (FbF) in Hanoi, Vietnam, WFP Philippines presented its project on developing preparedness actions based on early warning and scientific information.

## Challenges

- As the Marawi conflict ensues, WFP supports the Government of the Philippines in responding to the food assistance needs of the affected population. Government estimates that at least four months of food assistance is imminent. The Department of Health has called for intensified actions to address the nutrition security of affected populations. However, while there is no indication as to when the crisis will end, the Government also welcomes international support to an eventual Marawi rehabilitation effort.
- Funding remains a huge challenge and has already adversely affected beneficiary numbers, distribution of food commodities, programme implementation and organization restructure.

## 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 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 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 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

Contact info: [wfp.philippines@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.philippines@wfp.org)

Country Director: Praveen Agrawal

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Philippines)