

PHILIPPINES

OPERATIONS, FACTS AND FIGURES



OVERVIEW

WFP returned to the Philippines in 2006 to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Mindanao by addressing the food security needs of vulnerable people in conflict affected areas. WFP provides a combination of immediate and short-term interventions that meet humanitarian needs and household and community priorities, and medium to longer-term measures that support rehabilitation, recovery and the development of conflict-affected areas. Consistent with the World Bank-led Joint Needs Assessment of December 2005, which recommended, *inter alia*, food aid to meet urgent needs and as an immediate "peace dividend" for conflict-affected communities, food security is addressed through:

- Temporary free food distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs);
- Support to primary education;
- Food for work and food for training aimed at restoring community assets and enhancing local capacities; and
- Nutrition support to pregnant and lactating mothers and children under the age of 5.

WFP currently has 61 staff with offices in Manila, Cotabato City and Iligan City and works in cooperation with partner NGOs, civil society organizations and local government units and in close collaboration and in support of national Government. WFP is entirely funded by contributions to its operations and purchases food commodities on the global or local market. Provincial and municipal government provide transport and warehousing, supplemented by WFP-contracted private transporters where needed. Ongoing assessments and monitoring ensure efficient and effective targeting and implementation. WFP programmes directly address Millennium Development Goals (MDG) 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and 2 (achieve universal primary education), while also contributing to MDGs 4 and 5 (reduce child mortality and improve maternal health).

WFP also stands ready to support national disaster response efforts, as and when needed. From December 2006 through December 2007, WFP implemented food-supported relief and recovery programmes for people affected by Typhoon Reming (Durian) in the Bicol region. WFP formed one component of a UN Philippines Typhoon Appeal.

WFP COUNTRY OFFICE
 Manila

SUB-OFFICES
 Cotabato, Iligan

WFP OPERATIONS IN 2008
 WFP beneficiaries: 2.1 million
 School Feeding – 1 million
 Food for Work and Food for Training – 212,000
 Assistance to IDPs – 612,000
 Mother and Child Nutrition – 23,500

FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 84.5 million
 Children under 5: 9.7 million
 Human Development Index: 90
 Per Capita GDP (PPP\$): 5,137
 Global Hunger Index: 18
 Percentage of 5 suffering from acute malnutrition: 31.8%
 Adult Literacy:
 Men – 93%
 Women – 93%
 Primary School Attendance:
 Boys – 88%
 Girls – 89%
 Children under 5:
 Underweight – 31.8%
 Stunting – 31%
 Wasting – 6%
 Population Undernourished – 18%

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PROGRAMMES

Emergency Operation 10489.1: "Assistance to Conflict Affected Mindanao"

June 2008 – December 2009

SCHOOL FEEDING

Educational indicators in Mindanao are far below national average, with only 33 percent of children completing primary school as compared to 67 percent in the rest of the country. Various assessments show that 40 percent of parents do not send their children to school and lack of food is cited as a contributing factor. WFP's school feeding programme is targeting over 70,000 primary school students (Grades 1 through 3) in 427 schools in North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces. By providing the children attending school with take-home rations, WFP's school feeding programme plans to reach an estimated total of 420,000 beneficiaries. On-site meals are also being provided to school children to improve nutrition and educational performance. WFP has increased enrolment by 40 percent and has sustained attendance at 94 percent at assisted schools. Since 2006, WFP's Food-for-Education initiatives have been operational in over 800 schools in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, and provided take-home family rations to nearly 187,000 primary school students in Grades 1 through 6 on the basis of proven school attendance, and provided hot meals to 16,000 children in 277 schools and day-care centers.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

WFP also provides food assistance to conflict-affected communities through food-for-work (FFW) activities, targeting 12,000 households (72,000 beneficiaries). Participants receive cereal and pulses in exchange for time spent working on selected community projects, including rehabilitation of school buildings, health posts and other communal assets. WFP is also supporting the rehabilitation and restoration of people's livelihoods by providing food assistance to 6,000 poor families while they attend skills training organized by NGOs, donor, UN and government programmes operating in Mindanao. The skills taught include technology training, literacy classes and psycho-social support and life skills training. This food-for-training programme plans to assist an estimated 36,000 people and give special attention to increasing the livelihood skills of women.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The conflict has severely affected the health and nutrition of the people of Mindanao where infant and maternal mortality are 30 percent and 80 percent higher than the national rates and one third of all children under 5 are stunted. WFP plans to assist 13,000 children under 2 and 15,000 pregnant and lactating women through a Mother and Child Nutrition (MCN) programme. To combat the high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, the rations include fortified blended foods, sugar and vitamin A enriched oil.

ASSISTANCE TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Continuing conflict in Mindanao provokes a continuous cycle of displacement. The dramatic upsurge in internal clashes, which broke out between government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao without warning in mid-August 2008, resulted in the internal displacement of over a half million people and an immediate increase in humanitarian needs. Despite efforts to resume the peace process, the low-intensity conflict continues in Central Mindanao and some 65,000 families remain displaced. Since August 2008, WFP has supported the Government-led relief response and has despatched 8,500 tons of food assistance to affected families. WFP reached a cumulative (peak) total of 88,920 displaced families (533,520 persons) in August/September 2008.

Last Updated: February 2009

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