

WFP Philippines country achievements

Based on the Annual Country Report 2020

SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES





expresses its utmost gratitude to its 2020 donors for aiding us in

SAVING LIVES. CHANGING LIVES.























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Message from the

REPRESENTATIVE & COUNTRY DIRECTOR





BRENDA BARTON

Representative and Country Director WFP Philippines

Years from now, when we look back to the year that was 2020, many of us will consider it an unprecedented and challenging year that brought many of us to our knees. This is especially so for the most vulnerable, those in the margins of society, who have few to zero savings to continue putting food on their families' table amid quarantine measures and job losses. COVID-19 has impacted all of us ways we have never seen nor even imagined. But it has also forced us to create and implement new, innovative solutions to cope and fight back like we have never done before – a true test of our resolve to resist and persist.

For colleagues at WFP here in the Philippines and globally, we had to find ways to identify and reach people who were suffering quietly in their homes, away from the television screens where

communities struck by natural or man-made disasters, needing our help, pop out of invisibility.

I'm proud to see how colleagues at WFP, now a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, rose to these unique challenges to meet the needs of communities and governments.

From the warm and congenial in-person meetings and fora moving to virtual channels, especially in fast moving emergencies, we knew we had to keep the momentum going and our energy aflame because if there is one thing the pandemic has successfully emphasized, it is the fact that coordination among actors indeed saves lives.

2020 literally started off with a bang with the eruption of Taal Volcano, the complexity of which was layered with a raging pandemic. The year was bookended with two strong typhoons that added salt to the wounds. The double hit brought by typhoons Rolly (Goni) and Ulysses (Vamco) exacerbated the situation of thousands of Filipinos who for a year, were reeling from the impact of the pandemic.

To assuage their suffering, WFP supported the Government in providing relief assistance to affected communities with cash assistance, demonstrating the effectiveness of cash to empower and dignify disaster-stricken communities in deciding for themselves their greatest needs, be it food, medicine, shelter repair, and other essentials.

I am also impressed by the technological solutions we have lent to the Government to support the Social Amelioration Programme. In just one week in April 2020, we rolled out SCOPE - WFP's globally recognized beneficiary registration and cash transfer platform - that enabled the Bangsamoro Government to serve 2.3 million people through cash assistance. The establishment of this efficient registry allowed the migration of the Government's beneficiary master list into SCOPE in just 37 days, effectively fast-tracking the distribution of cash while limiting the risk of infection through the avoidance of in-person hand-outs. Likewise, our support to the Government in monitoring the food security of all 17 regions amid the pandemic provided critical information for the government to understand the fast moving vulnerability of people as the pandemic spread.

WFP also made remarkable strides in the areas of science and evidence generation for food security and nutrition, which require new solutions to overcome the country's serious rates of malnutrition – pre COVID - especially the stagnant high rates of stunting. In one year, we worked on a designing an innovative social and behaviour change communication project to unpack the barriers to good nutrition, a climate change and food security analysis, a food basket survey, a food security and peacebuilding study, and iron fortification pilot, among others. These are vital cogs to a machine that will allow WFP to inform the policies and to design and expand the implementation of targeted Government programmes.

Indeed 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges. But it was also a year of unprecedented and ground-breaking responses, all of which would not be possible without our robust partnership with the Government and partners, the unwavering support of our donors, and the tireless and dedicated support of our staff. We close 2020 not with the bitterness it left to the tongue, but with the growing pains and learnings we took away from it. And as the calendar changes to 2021, it does not guarantee that suffering will magically disappear along with 2020. But whatever happens, we shall be fighting braver, pushing harder, and persisting stronger to deliver our services to those who need it the most... across and within this country's 7,641 islands.

Brenda Barton

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Representative and Country Director

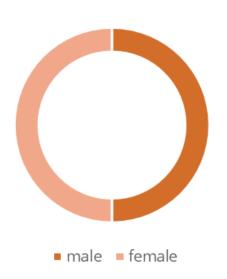
WFP Philippines



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED IN 2020



Total beneficiaries reached in 2020



TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED BY PROGRAMME AREAS



through asset creation and livelihood activities





Schoolchildren provided with hot and nutritious school meals



173 mt

of **food** provided to beneficiaries



US\$ 433,633

of total cash distributed



 $\boldsymbol{2020}$ was a challenging year for WFP in the Philippines, characterized by a series of emergencies and a nationwide lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, groundbreaking initiatives made 2020 a year of accomplishments as well. At the beginning of the year, WFP's programmes were gradually shifting towards capacity strengthening. WFP assisted in enhancing institutional capacities and streamlining government systems. This included informing policies, facilitating knowledge transfer through training, technological solutions, and technical support. As the nation remains one of the countries most exposed to natural hazards, WFP also continued to play a vital role in emergency response. At the request of the Government, WFP provided lifesaving food and/or cash support to disaster-stricken families, where its support was most needed, in coordination with local authorities.

and corresponding training activities were delayed. Nevertheless, WFP completed the first of three phases of the GECS MOVE project, delivering six sets of rapid deployable emergency communications systems integrated into custom vehicles.

WFP also supported the Government by transporting food, health and medical kits, and equipment. WFP loaned portable warehouse facilities to local governments in need. In addition, WFP provided SCOPE, its beneficiary and transfer management platform, as the technical solution for beneficiary registration and tracking of the Government's cash assistance to families affected by the pandemic in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Finally, the Government utilized WFP's remote monitoring and analysis tools to assess the food security situation of the country during the pandemic.

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