



Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap

**Bangsamoro Autonomous Region
in Muslim Mindanao**

October 2020

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FOREWORD—MAFAR MINISTER

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh!

Indeed, we are at a crossroads – an opportune one. As we transition into becoming the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as promulgated through the Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law, we have the heavy, yet noble responsibility to truly effect change in the lives of our people.

For decades, the Bangsamoro people have been flanked by many challenges and hardships caused by natural hazards and armed conflicts that have left inter-generational setbacks in their lives. They have lost homes, livelihoods, families, and even lives and opportunities. These have negatively impacted the food security and nutrition of the population, which has also contributed greatly to the deceleration of progress in the region. Thus, the need to champion our advocacy and promotion of food security and nutrition is evident now, more than ever. Food is our most basic need in order to survive. To make sure that everyone has access to clean, affordable, and nutritious food, we need to pave the way through policies that will identify strategies and activities into our plan. This will not be an easy task. We need to put our hands together and develop a multi-sectoral approach to address our multi-sectoral challenges. Hence, the need for this Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap.

The Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap will not only outline policies and strategies but will also endeavor to shift mindsets towards the achievement of #ZeroHunger. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform recognizes and reiterates the importance of delivering basic services such as education, health, and livelihood through evidence-based approaches. We need to develop this roadmap to implement 2021-2022 strategies that will prioritize farmers and fisherfolks in order to uplift their living conditions and their ability to innovate, earn, save, and be economically secure. We also need to support our former combatants so we can welcome them back to society as productive members. As in most cases, it is always the poor and food insecure that are left behind in the society on accessing the basic services. We should change this. We will change this.

As in the old adage, the road is long. There are still lots of things we have to do. But hopefully, we look at this crossroad as one that is necessary to take to put an end to the decades-long poverty and malnutrition in the region and provide the services that will open doors of possibilities for the people, towards a stronger, healthier Bangsamoro!



Minister Mohammad Yacob

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform

FOREWORD—BARMM CHIEF MINISTER

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmahtullahi Taala Wa Barakatuh

Let me begin by extending my gratitude to the team that made this roadmap possible — the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform headed by Minister Mohammad Yacob, PhD, to our dear partners from the World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, our very own Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority and to everyone who, in one way or another, made significant contributions in crafting this substantial document. Thank you for sharing your time, expertise, and most importantly, your heart for the Bangsamoro!

It is unfortunate that we have to finalize this document during these unprecedented times in the middle of a pandemic. However, if we look things on a more positive note, this roadmap comes at a precise timing. Precise, in a sense, that during the pandemic, the country saw how important food security is and witnessed the incredible service provided to the community by our dear farmers. The consciousness towards food security and nutrition has become apparent in the entire archipelago.

The Bangsamoro, of course, as an agricultural hub in the Philippines has its own share of unlimited potential and probable challenges when it comes to food security. We hope to tap some of these potentials as we move along with the ongoing transition period in the regional bureaucracy. The Government of the Day assures that not only do we share the direction set forth by this document, we will also embed its importance in all various spectrums of the young yet vibrant Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, be it in our legislative work or through the work that we do in the executive. We also acknowledge that during this process, we will encounter hiccups especially in presenting sustainable innovations to our rural communities who are accustomed to traditional methods in agriculture and by extension, nutrition.

The journey towards this roadmap will be rocky, but with the competence and vision of the team that crafted this substantial document, it can be done, *In shaa Allah*.

Finally, I thank our dear farmers and farmworkers who, day in and day out, are out there providing us what literally helps us to survive — food. When all is said and done, I hope that this document eventually echoes recognition to the unsung heroes of food security and nutrition. I am optimistic that this is the first towards a Bangsamoro that leads the country in food security and nutrition.

Thank you so much and *Wassalam*.



Chief Minister Ahad "Al Haj Murad" Balawag Ebrahim
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

MESSAGE from WFP

As the Philippines marked its feat of ending decades-long conflicts and building a more peaceful south through the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, a new chapter of opportunities awaits for the newly established Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Immense challenges may present itself along the way, but with the collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, no obstacle is too difficult to overcome.

In 2006, WFP re-established its presence in the country at the Government's to support the ongoing peace process in Mindanao region. Since then, WFP and the regional government have forged stable partnership throughout the years towards progress in Mindanao. Amidst the transition to BARMM, WFP expressed its support through a Framework Agreement that will identify the organization as one of their key partners towards enhancing regional, provincial, and municipal programmes on food security, nutrition, and disaster risk management.

With decades of instability brought by protracted armed conflict and worsened by natural hazards, the population had endured the deterioration of their living standards. These circumstances reverse decades of progress and efforts put into fighting hunger. WFP firmly believes that having access to nutritious food is a foundation of a full and dignified life. Hence, ensuring food security and nutrition are not mutually exclusive in any scenario. Setting policies and strategic plans in place, along with multipronged approach is one contributing factor to ensure equal access to basic human need.

In the formulation of the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap, WFP joined several Ministries of BARMM to develop a guide that will pave the way in uplifting the lives of Bangsamoro People to achieve food security and nutrition towards sustainable development in the region. This document will serve as a stepping stone in this journey as BARMM ventures more in partnerships for improved implementation of FSN programmes in the coming years in order to build a sustainable food system by 2030.

The real work is just starting in this long course towards the holistic development of the community. In this partnership that had been tested through time, WFP continues to support the Government in ensuring that no one gets left behind in a self-reliant, food secure, and resilient Bangsamoro.



Mats Persson
Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Country Director
World Food Programme

MESSAGE from BPDA

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wabarakatoho

My warmest greetings and appreciation to the core group of the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), and to the unwavering support of our development partner, the World Food Programme, in making this plan realized.

It is overwhelming that we have arrived in the formulation of the Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap with our aim to improve the food sufficiency and security of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through sustainable food system.

During the crisis that our region has faced, our economy was caught in a bottleneck, challenging the region in the food insecurity of its populace. The impacts of this crisis were observed in the living condition of our people and a long-term predicament that the Bangsamoro Government must overcome.

Crafting the Food Security and Nutrition roadmap serves as the initial step in addressing the prevalence of malnutrition and food insecurity in the Bangsamoro region.

In the 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) 2020-2022, the matter on Food Security has been mainstreamed. It aims to increase production of staple and other nutritious food by boosting the food production viable in our region, given our agricultural potential. It is also aligned to the 12-Point Priority Agenda of the Bangsamoro Government, along with the four key areas being promoted by the Chief Minister such as social services, health, education, and strategic infrastructure.

The Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA) is privileged to be part of this historical process of formulating the roadmap on Food Security and Nutrition.

Hopefully all local plans will highlight the food security and nutrition plan that will contribute to the goal to be a self-reliant, food secured, and resilient Bangsamoro.

In Shaa Allah, may this serve as our reference and our direction towards overcoming the food insecurity and insufficiency of the BARMM and contribute to the overall goal of the Bangsamoro Government in uplifting the lives of the Bangsamoro people through moral governance.



Engr. Mohajirin T. Ali
Director General, BPDA

MESSAGE of support from FAO

Greetings of Peace!

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), I profoundly congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) team for the completion of the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Roadmap for BARMM – a key milestone towards setting the direction of food and nutrition security in the Bangsamoro Region and its people. We at FAO are deeply honoured to have supported the crafting of this strategic document through the contribution of technical expertise and advice.

The FSN Roadmap for BARMM is a very timely and significant accomplishment given the challenges to food security and food systems brought about by the current COVID-19 pandemic and the natural- and human-induced disasters that perennially hit the region.

We recognize that BARMM continues to be challenged by persistent malnutrition. In the 2015 National Nutrition Survey (NNS), the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) has indicated that BARMM has the highest prevalence of stunting in the country at 44.9%, which increased from 42.6% in 2013. Relatedly, the region continues to suffer from chronic malnutrition, with a prevalence rate of 45.2% in 2015. We are indeed grateful to be a partner of MAFAR in addressing these challenges to the Bangsamoro people. Achieving food security and nutrition for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts, especially as we work towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on attaining Zero Hunger.

Through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, we will provide technical assistance to MAFAR to bolster its nutrition-sensitive interventions and contribute towards supporting BARMM and the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2017-2022. Likewise, FAO is supporting the regional government in strengthening its legislations that will ensure the appropriate implementation of laws and policies relevant to improving food security and nutrition through the FAO Legislative Advisory Group in BARMM (FLAG-BARMM).

FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2018-2024 is also deemed aligned with the FSN Roadmap, as the former defines the technical cooperation priorities of the partnership between FAO and the Government of the Philippines and our updated Mindanao Strategic Programme for Agriculture and Agribusiness, which aims to contribute in reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and increasing employment in the region.

FAO assures MAFAR and BARMM of its commitment and cooperation to support the implementation of the

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