

Philippines

The Philippines joined the Coalition in August 2021 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education in September 2021 around the following areas: Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage.

Achievements

The Philippines has scaled up provision of school meals by demonstrating a multisectoral approach through policy, innovation, and partnerships that strengthen local economies.

The government has expanded its School-Based Feeding Program. Starting in 2025, all primary school students will receive meals for 175 days, while all kindergarten learners will receive meals and milk for 120 days. This expansion covers all children, regardless of their nutritional status, increasing the number of beneficiaries to 3.3 million learners. The current budget of USD 207 million (PHP 11.7 billion) represents a 254% increase from the 2022 budget of USD 58 million (PHP 3.3 billion).

The programme has provided Iron-Fortified Rice at a large scale in partnership with small and medium enterprises certified by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute – a total of 213 million kilograms of rice worth USD 25 million (PHP 1.4 billion) in three years.

The Philippines has also initiated the implementation of Home Grown School Feeding in partnership with WFP, carrying out local procurement with five local agricultural cooperatives in Cauayan, Isabela, and subsequently expanding to two more rural and urban sites to generate evidence for potential scale-up to foster local economic development.

The government views its approach to school meals through the convergence of nutrition, education and agriculture and it pushes for a holistic approach through the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program and the Integrated School Nutrition Model, with 275 lighthouse/model schools that integrate feeding, nutrition education, and gardening, aiming to preserve indigenous crops through seed exchanges and peer learning. The institutionalization of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools Program also ensures deworming of learners and sanitation and hygiene beyond food preparation.

Policy support for school meals is also being strengthened through regulation of the sale and marketing of food items according to their sugar, sodium and saturated fat content and training Food Safety Compliance Officers to ensure a healthy school food environment.

The central kitchen system is also being revitalized through capacity development activities, refurbishment and activations such as the “Oplan Kaalaman,” a nutrition education program, and Nutrition Month activities.

Next steps

Despite infrastructure and resource constraints, the government remains committed to improving coverage, strengthening local procurement, and scaling best practices, with the goal of achieving universal coverage to promote every Filipino child's well-being by protecting them from hunger and malnutrition.

Highlights

- In 2025, The Philippines will serve meals and milk to a total of 3.3 million learners, including all kindergarten learners and undernourished learners in grades 1 to 6.
- The current budget of USD 207 million (PHP 11.7 billion) represents a 254% increase from the 2022 budget.
- The Philippines has also initiated Home Grown School Feeding, carrying out local procurement with five local agricultural cooperatives in Cauayan, Isabela and expanding to two more rural and urban sites to generate evidence for potential scale-up.

