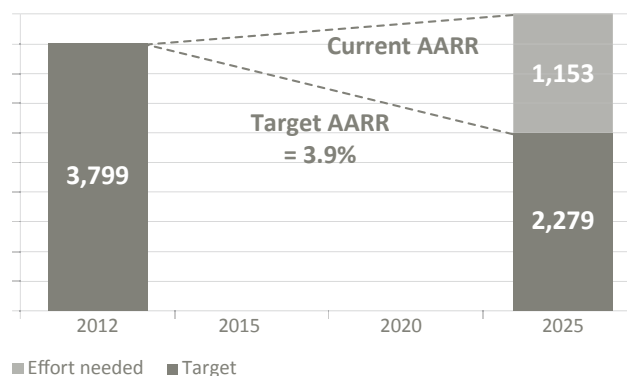


# Philippines

Joined: May 2014

Beginning prevalence: 33.6% **Targeted Stunting Reduction (million U5 stunted children)** Target prevalence: 18.2%



<b>Under five stunting:</b>	<b>30.3%</b>
<b>Low-birth weight:</b>	<b>19.6%</b>
<b>0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding:</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
<b>Under five wasting:</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>Under five overweight:</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
<b>Women Anaemia 15-49 years:</b>	<b>25.4%</b>

*\*data sources detailed in Annex 1*

## Highlights

- The Philippines has established inter-agency local nutrition committees which are chaired by elected local chief executives and provide the mechanism for multi-sectoral action. Further decentralisation exists at village or barangay level with community-based nutrition volunteer workers called Barangay Nutrition Scholars. These scholars identify families with both over- and undernourished children through regular growth monitoring activities, and assist in the delivery of nutrition related interventions.
- At the local level, a system for monitoring and evaluating nutrition plans has been institutionalised. The system has the ability to recognise local government units that show exemplary performance in nutrition program management.



The Philippines continues to bring people together for a shared view to address both undernutrition and overnutrition in the country. The National Nutrition Council (NNC) is the highest policy-making and coordinating body for nutrition. It is composed of an NNC Governing Board and NNC Secretariat. The NNC Governing Board is chaired by the Department of Health, and co-chaired by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior and Local Government. The NNC Secretariat serves as the executive arm of the NNC Governing Board. The NNC is supported by an NNC Technical Committee, which is composed of technical representatives from the health and agriculture sectors, local government, academia and civil society organisations. Technical working groups have been organised to look into specific concerns. Priority areas include: salt iodisation, mandatory food fortification, nutrition in emergencies, nutrition surveillance and Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.

A Programme Management Committee for the Sub-outcome on Food and Nutrition Security, under the United Nations (UN) Development Assistance Framework, is co-convened by the NNC Secretariat and the World Food Programme. It includes government and UN agencies

A Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition under the Philippine Development Forum (PDF) is co-convened by the NNC Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The PDF is the primary mechanism of the government to facilitate substantive policy dialogue among stakeholders.

Non-government organisations in the Philippines have formed the coalition The Philippine Coalition of Advocates in Nutrition. The coalition is represented in the formal government structure for policy formulation and coordination.

At the local level, inter-agency local nutrition committees are chaired by elected local chief executives. These committees, provide the mechanism for multi-sectoral action to address local nutrition problems. Further decentralisation exists at the village or barangay level with community-based nutrition volunteer workers called Barangay Nutrition Scholars. These scholars identify families with malnourished (both over- and undernourished) children through regular growth monitoring activities, and assist in the delivery of nutrition and related interventions.



The Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (2011-2016) (PPAN) provides the overall framework for addressing nutritional problems in the country. The plan covers both nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive components to achieve targets set for the plan period. It also highlights the importance of focusing on the first 1000 days of life. A mid-term review of the plan identified the need to:

- 1) strengthen the mobilisation of local government units;
- 2) make explicit the specific contributions of key sectors to nutrition improvement; and

3) intensify and systematize the promotion of complementary feeding, management of acute malnutrition, behavior-change communication, and advocacy.

The Department of Health has begun to formulate its Strategic Plan on Nutrition (2015-2025) to ensure coordinated strategic action among its different programs and operating units.

At the local level, local nutrition committees formulate three-year local nutrition action plans as a component of the local development plan.



A results framework for the PPAN has been drafted and relevant sectors have been consulted and awaits formal endorsement. The framework identifies key actions, including activities and output targets that should be undertaken by each sector, in line with the priorities of the PPAN. In addition, a monitoring and evaluation framework has been drafted to support the PPAN.

At the local level, a system for monitoring and evaluating nutrition plans has been institutionalised. The evaluation

covers aspects of efficiency (the extent to which physical targets were achieved) and effectiveness (in terms of changes to child nutritional status). The system has the ability to recognise local government units that show exemplary performance in nutrition program management. This has enabled the development of an awards system which has become an inspiration for local government units to also improve their respective nutrition programs.



Tracking financial investments for the PPAN is a gap that has to be addressed. Nonetheless, mobilising resources for nutrition is a continuing action that taps into resources of the national and local governments, non-government organisations, and relevant UN agencies.

“Clear” investments for nutrition are evident in the national budgets of the NNC, the Departments of Health, Education, Science and Technology, Social Welfare and Development and some local government units. Alignment of these investments with the PPAN is a priority for the Philippines.