



Nourish Life

PHILIPPINES PROGRAMS



NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN PHILIPPINES

Philippines is grappling with severe malnutrition, with high prevalence of wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight among children and women. The trend of nutrition indicators shows a lack of improvement — and in some cases it has been worsening since 2003. Without additional interventions, the cost of malnutrition to the economy is estimated at USD 3.99 billion annually.

With an aim to enhance, accelerate and expand nutrition interventions in Philippines, Nutrition International is working with the Government of Philippines (GoP) to strengthen the country's health and nutrition programs. Nutrition International's work includes strengthening government health systems and service delivery, building capacity of healthcare workers, and improving knowledge of mothers and caretakers on key nutrition interventions and their uptake of nutrition services and commodities. Applying its knowledge of best practices and innovative solutions, Nutrition International also informs government policies to make programs and services more effective, inclusive and sustainable.

Nutrition International works with the GoP through the Department of Health (DOH); the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and its member agencies; local government units (LGUs) which includes provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays; civil society partners like the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) and the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF); and development partners like UNICEF and Helen Keller International (HKI).



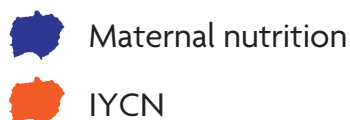
PRIORITY PROGRAMS AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Nutrition International Philippines will aim to achieve four key and complementary strategic objectives between now and 2024:

- Improve the nutrition, health and survival of pregnant and postpartum women, their newborns and children 6-23 months through the First 1,000 days
- Improve the nutrition, health, and well-being of adolescent girls and women 20-49 years of age
- Improve the nutrition, health, development and productivity of the general population
- Strengthen nutrition governance and increase resourcing for nutrition



Sub-national programs supported by NI*:



* Stripes indicate multiple NI-supported programs defined by colors above; only provinces supported by NI named

Philippines Capital: Manila



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR NUTRITION

Nutrition International, with support from UNICEF, provided technical assistance to the NNC, the highest policy making and coordinating body on nutrition in the Philippines, to develop the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2017-2022. PPAN is an integral part of the National Development Plan of the Philippines and factors in the country's commitments to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and 2025 Global Targets for maternal, infant and young child nutrition. PPAN is a results-based plan designed to achieve significant reductions in wasting, stunting, micronutrient deficiencies and other forms of malnutrition in the Philippines. It was officially set in motion in May 2017 and consists of 12 programs (46 projects) to be undertaken by member agencies of the NNC, other national government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, academic institutions and development partners.

Intensifying its technical assistance for PPAN, Nutrition International, in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners, is also supporting the NNC to effectively operationalize the plan at various levels by improving planning and delivery of nutrition actions at the national, regional and local levels; identifying and documenting success stories and lessons to further mobilize and capacitate LGUs; strengthening, monitoring and reporting mechanisms of nutrition actions; and capacitating the NNC to be an effective advocate for better nutrition in Philippines.

Nutrition International also provides technical assistance to the NNC for scaling up the rice fortification and distribution, within the Social Safety Net Program (SSNP), by facilitating collaboration between the line departments in the country. This is expected to contribute to the government's ability to design the national level policy and program guidance for scaling up the rice fortification intervention in order to cover nearly 4 million families registered under the SSNP iron fortified rice.





CURRENT PROJECTS

MATERNAL NUTRITION

In partnership with the DOH, and in collaboration with UNICEF and HKI, Nutrition International Philippines supports the government in developing and strengthening nutrition services provided during the First 1,000 days to pregnant women and their newborns and infants. This includes the organization of community based mother-to-mother support groups to provide continuum of nutrition services for women and their children, promotion of supplementary feeding for nutritionally at risk pregnant women and supporting an increase in the uptake of iron and folic acid supplementation. Nutrition International also works to build the capacity of local health service providers to deliver and track these services, for example through training curriculum and job-aids or tools.

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION

Nutrition International, in partnership with the DOH and in collaboration with UNICEF and HKI, supports the government in implementing interventions to improve the nutrition and health of infants and young children. This includes the organization of community based mother-to-mother support groups to provide continuum of nutrition services for women and their children, the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life, enhancement of complimentary feeding practices for infants 6-23 months, and increased uptake of Multiple Micronutrient Powder supplements.





CURRENT PROJECTS

NUTRITION ADVOCACY

Nutrition International Philippines is also working with government at multiple levels to ensure that nutrition is made a priority — and that adequate funds are allocated to it in LGU budgets. This includes:

- supporting the DOH in the development and review of national policies and guidelines on nutrition services during the First 1,000 Days;
- mobilizing LGUs and communities for strengthened nutrition governance;
- supporting the development of the nutrition specific component of LGU's nutrition action plans;
- passing local ordinances to institutionalize interventions and provide recurrent costs of implementation;
- strengthening the supply chain mechanisms for nutrition commodities, and increasing uptake of nutrition commodities and services across the First 1,000 Days; and
- enhancing recording, reporting and utilization of data to inform program management and promote accountability of LGUs to deliver nutrition outcomes.

CURRENT PROJECTS

GIRL POWERED NUTRITION

To help ensure that girls get better health and nutrition information and services, Nutrition International, as part of its Nutrition Leverage and Influence for Transformation (NLIFT) initiative and in collaboration with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has developed the Girl Powered Nutrition Programme. The programme is being piloted in the Philippines through GSP, as well as in Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Madagascar.

As part of the programme, Nutrition International supported WAGGGS for the development of a curriculum which aims to improve the knowledge and attitudes of girl scouts to make healthy food choices and enhance their skills and confidence to influence their community members. Targeting over 100,000 member girl scouts ages 6 to over 17 across Philippines, the curriculum is delivered through GSP camping activities, regular troop meetings and special events. Members completing the curriculum are awarded the GSP Nutrition Badge which enables them to reach an additional 200,000 girls in their respective communities through actionable activities.





CURRENT PROJECTS

URBAN NUTRITION GOVERNANCE

Building on the DOH's Health Leadership and Governance Project, Nutrition International, in partnership with ZFF, will pilot implementation of urban nutrition governance in three cities in Philippines. The project will support the cities to:

- improve leadership competencies of city mayors, their nutrition councils and health teams in nutrition governance;
- improve management competencies of health and nutrition workers to refer and provide appropriate programming for the First 1,000 Days;
- improve management of data collection, analysis, utilization for evidence-based planning, policy development and program implementation;
- implement strengthened policies and ordinances for improved delivery of nutrition programs in the First 1,000 Days at the city and barangay levels;
- integrate nutrition programs for the First 1,000 Days into existing services for women, infants, young children and adolescent girls, especially those living in urban poor communities, barangays located in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and barangays with indigenous people;
- strengthen systems for improved access to and utilization of services by pregnant and lactating women and their children; and
- strengthen health system monitoring with core set of nutrition indicators, standardized method of collection and regular data collection, analysis and use.



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