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## Enhanced School Feeding with Iron Fortified Rice in Maguindanao, Philippines

Pilot Project of World Food Programme and the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (BARMM)



31 March 2021







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# Acronyms

ACRONYM	MEANING
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BC	Bureau Circular
BLGU	barangay local government unit
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DASUA	Datu Saudi Uy Ampatuan (Municipality)
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DBS	Datu Blah Sinsuat (Municipality)
DepEd	Department of Education
DO	Department Order
DOH	Department of Health
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECs	electric cooperatives
eNNS	Enhanced National Nutrition Survey
ES	elementary school
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDC	Food Development Center
FNG	Fill the Nutrient Gap study
FNRI	Food and Nutrition Research Institute
FRK	fortified rice kernel
g	gram(s)
GPP	Government procurement policy
GPPB	Government Procurement Policy Board
HNU	Health and Nutrition Unit
IEC	Information, education and communication
IFR	iron-fortified rice
IRP	iron rice premix
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
kg	kilogram(s)
km	kilometer(s)

# Acronyms

ACRONYM	MEANING
LGU	local government unit
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MAFAR	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform
MBHTE	Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
mg	milligram(s)
MOOE	Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	metric tonnes
NFA	National Food Authority
NFA-GMOD	National Food Authority-Grains Marketing Operations Department
NFA-TRSD	National Food Authority-Technology Resource Services Department
NGOs	non-government organizations
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NNS	National Nutrition Survey
QA	quality assurance
RA	Republic Act
RHU	rural health unit
SBFP	School-Based Feeding Program
SFP	School Feeding Program
SU	South Upi
SY	School Year(s)
TA	technical assistance
TLE	Technology and Livelihood education
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPH	tons per hour
TWG	technical working group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

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# Foreword

Around the world, school meals are a proven safety net for communities, helping to improve children's nutrition, their health, and their access to education. A daily school meal is a strong incentive for vulnerable families to regularly send their children to school as they provide appreciated financial contribution to households, especially like now during the COVID-19 pandemic when families face heightened economic stress.

When nutritious, locally-produced foods are used as part of the school meal, they boost farming community economies. They create demand for more diverse, nutritious food while helping to stabilize markets and support the growth of local agriculture. Overall, they play an important part of the local food system, also cultivating trust and stimulating sustainability in national education system programmes and government partnerships.

With this in mind, in 2018, WFP piloted the Homegrown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) in Maguindanao with the aim to link local agricultural production to school feeding through the purchase of locally produced school meals, ensuring that children can be provided with fresh, diverse, and affordable foods.

In 2019, WFP and the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) piloted the implementation of Iron Fortified Rice (IFR) through School Feeding in Maguindanao, BARMM. This is pursuant to Republic Act 8976 (Food Fortification Law) and Republic Act 11037 (National Feeding Law). This project aimed at demonstrating the feasibility, scalability, and sustainability of local iron fortification of rice, paving the way for the institutionalization of MBHTE's School Based Feeding Programme in BARMM.

The pilot test effectively demonstrated that iron fortified rice can be sourced and produced locally. With the strong collaboration among government partner agencies at national and local levels, and WFP, the potential of Homegrown School Feeding becoming a feasible model for scaled-up food fortification in BARMM, and eventually in the whole country, was demonstrated.

The IFR Pilot implementation was conducted in partnership with the National Food Authority-Food Development Center (NFA-FDC), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) to whom WFP extends gratitude for their assistance, alongside the Provincial Government of Maguindanao and the Municipal Local Government of Datu Abdullah Sangki.

In a post-COVID-19 world, school feeding programmes are proving more of a priority investment than ever before. WFP's support does not and will not end here. We will further our commitment to support BARMM in addressing its food security and nutrition needs to achieve its vision of a self-reliant, food secure, and resilient Bangsamoro.

Now more than ever, the link between conflict and hunger and malnutrition is more evident. Food and

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