



Photo: A woman washing her hands at a WFP distribution site in Kutkai Township in northern Shan State. © Myanmar Heart Development Organization/Brang Seng

Situation

- According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, there are 146 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar as of 27 April, including five deaths.
- To contain the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Myanmar has issued a nationwide order that restricts gatherings of five or more people. A curfew order has also been imposed until further notice in nine out of 14 states and regions in Myanmar, including the capital Nay Pyi Taw and the commercial hub Yangon.
- WFP market price monitoring in early April shows that:
 - Overall, the average retail price of rice increased compared to March. Areas with notable price increases included the southeast (14%), Shan (12%) and Rakhine (9%).
 - Rice shortages were reported in Maungdaw Township in northern Rakhine and Kutkai Township in northern Shan.

WFP Operations

- In response to the needs of migrant returnees from Thailand, WFP has deployed an emergency response team to Myawaddy Township along the Thai-Myanmar border, where distributions are ongoing.
- WFP is introducing remote monitoring in its operational areas to continuously monitor the food and nutrition security situation, and coping strategies of the beneficiaries in all WFP activities. Additionally, WFP and FAO are planning to conduct a joint food security and livelihood assessment in COVID-19-affected areas.
- To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, WFP introduced a new set of standard operating procedures on preventive measures at its warehouses. These include disinfection for trucks and vehicles, and hygiene practices for staff and visitors.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP has completed the April distribution cycle for emergency relief activities in Kachin and northern Shan with two- to three-month rations, while distributions in Rakhine are ongoing.
- WFP plans to provide food and nutrition assistance to 50,000 migrant returnees in quarantine sites until the end of June. WFP stands ready to scale up its assistance in close coordination with the Government, particularly in the southeast, should needs increase significantly in the coming weeks.

Highlights

- WFP continues its emergency food and nutrition assistance to 7,500 migrant returnees in quarantine centres, at the request of local authorities.
- WFP is introducing remote monitoring in its operational areas to track the food and nutrition security situation of WFP-supported beneficiaries.
- WFP is chartering a series of flights connecting Yangon to Kuala Lumpur for humanitarian workers and cargo.
- WFP is promoting the use of its newly established Consolidation Hub in Guangzhou, China to humanitarian partners for storing and forwarding COVID-19 related humanitarian cargo.

Common Services Support



Supply Chain and Logistics Coordination

- As requested by the Food Security Sector, WFP is coordinating the consolidated procurement of key personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and basic hygiene supplies. WFP is closely coordinating with all partners to avoid duplication of efforts and to avoid destabilizing the market price for protective equipment. In addition to providing timely information on reliable suppliers and supply lines to partners, WFP plans to engage in a procurement exercise under the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund.
- As the lead agency in the Inter-Agency Logistics Sector Coordination Group, WFP regularly updates partners on the common logistics services it provides. WFP engages partners to utilize WFP's newly established International Consolidation Hub in Guangzhou, China and the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Subang, Malaysia for delivering humanitarian cargo. To date, no significant gaps have been raised by partners in relation to the provision of in-country supply chain services.



Aviation Service Support

- With generous pledges from the European Union and Switzerland, WFP, on behalf of the United Nations, is arranging the first of a series of chartered flights connecting Yangon to Kuala Lumpur, on 3 May. The air service will provide access to humanitarian workers and help transport necessary COVID-19 supplies. This air service is expected to last for a maximum of four weeks as a bridging initiative until WFP's regional air service is up and running and will continue to service Yangon.

Resourcing Situation

- WFP requires approximately US\$ 3.7 million to provide food and nutrition assistance to 50,000 quarantined migrant returnees.

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (April 2020 – September 2020)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

USD 27.96 million