



Photo: Frontline COVID-19 responders and aid workers boarding WFP ad-hoc humanitarian flight en route to Sittwe, Rakhine State. © WFP/Htet Oo Linn

Highlights

- Myanmar currently ranks third among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries with the highest COVID-19 infection and death rates.
- In addition to short-term food and nutrition assistance to returning migrants, WFP is providing daily nutritious meals to people at government-managed quarantine and treatment sites in Rakhine State and Yangon Region.
- WFP has chartered three ad-hoc domestic humanitarian flights to support the Government of Myanmar's COVID-19 response and sustain humanitarian operations in Rakhine State.

Situation Update

- According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, there are 68,994 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1,577 deaths in Myanmar as of 15 November. Myanmar currently ranks third among ASEAN countries with the highest COVID-19 infection and death rates.
- The Government has extended the existing COVID-19 prevention measures until the end of November, including the temporary suspension of international and domestic flights. Mandatory swab tests or quarantine are required for inter-state travels, including for frontline humanitarian workers.
- The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) [estimates](#) that food insecurity has risen in Yangon Region, despite Government's cash transfers support. The proportion of mothers with inadequate diets has steadily increased from 30 percent in June/July 2020 to 53 percent in September/October 2020.

WFP Operations



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In South Dagon, one of Yangon's poorest townships with a large number of informal settlements, WFP is providing cooked meals for some 2,000 people on a daily basis at a government-managed COVID-19 treatment centre. WFP is in discussion with the Yangon Regional Government on further plans to potentially support poor communities severely affected by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.
- In central Rakhine, WFP's assistance at government-managed quarantine sites is ongoing. Over 2,500 people undergoing quarantine at 34 sites have received WFP's daily nutritious meals.
- WFP continues its short-term emergency food and nutrition assistance for returning migrants, so far supporting 73,100 people in quarantine sites (with three meals a day as well as nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women and children throughout the 21-day quarantine period) in 11 out of 14 states and regions, as requested by the authorities. The current main focus of this operation is at the Myawaddy border gate in Kayin State.
- WFP strives to integrate technology and innovation in its COVID-19 emergency response. In October, WFP assisted 34,000 newly displaced people in central Rakhine with electronic cash transfers of 15,000 Myanmar kyats (equivalent to USD 12) per person.

Common Services Support



Supply Chain and Logistics Coordination

- At the request of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WFP co-facilitated the urgent delivery of indelible ink for the 2020 general elections across 300 townships throughout Myanmar.



Aviation Service Support

- On 24 and 31 October and 14 November, WFP operated three domestic humanitarian flights on an ad-hoc basis connecting Yangon and Sittwe, Rakhine State, with generous contributions from donors. This ad-hoc arrangement provided access for frontline health and humanitarian workers as well as essential government staff and brought essential medical cargo, given the temporary suspension of all domestic flights in Myanmar. Since the temporary suspension of domestic flights is extended beyond mid-November, WFP will continue to organize flights based on field demand.
- Meanwhile, WFP's weekly aid flights linking Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur, remain in place until regular international commercial flights resume.

Resourcing Situation

- WFP is actively seeking USD 2.5 million to continue and scale up its COVID-19 response to meet anticipated needs through the end of 2020.
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, WFP requires USD 33 million to continue providing life-saving assistance to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in the conflict-affected Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states for the next six months until April 2021.

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements

(December 2020 – May 2021)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	USD 49.4 million
Emergency relief assistance	USD 32.8 million*

*This includes outstanding loans amounting to USD 6.39 million from WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) to be repaid.