



Highlights

- Myanmar has seen a significant surge in local COVID-19 transmissions since late August. The Government has extended the period of special control measures and introduced stricter enforcement in Yangon.
- WFP has initiated the provision of food assistance to 34 quarantine sites in eight townships of Rakhine, as requested by the authorities, with plans to extend similar assistance in quarantine and treatment centers in the poorest areas within Yangon Region.
- In light of these expanding needs and WFP response, WFP is calling for continued support from its donor partners.

Situation Update

- According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, there are 27,975 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar with 646 deaths as of 11 October. Yangon Region has the largest portion of the newly-confirmed cases, with an increase of 18,000 confirmed cases between September and October. In Rakhine State, the outbreak has stabilised at around 30 new cases reported daily.
- The Government has extended its existing COVID-19 prevention measures until the end of October, while suspending all in-country commercial flights. In Yangon, the authorities have tightened enforcement of the existing stay-at-home order requiring staff of non-essential businesses to work from home.

WFP's Ongoing Response

- WFP continues its short-term emergency food and nutrition assistance, so far supporting 71,800 returning migrants in quarantine sites (with three meals a day throughout the 21-day quarantine period) in 11 out of 14 states and regions as requested by the authorities. These sites have included Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states; as well as Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Tanintharyi and Yangon regions. The main focus of this operation now is the border gate at Myawaddy in Kayin state.
- Following an agreement with the State Government, WFP has begun food assistance for the government-managed quarantine sites in eight townships of Rakhine State. So far, over 1,500 people undergoing quarantine at 34 sites in Rakhine have received WFP's daily nutritious meals.
- Throughout September, WFP distributed high-energy biscuits and cash-based transfers to 181,200 students in 10 state and regions in lieu of school meals during the school closures due to COVID-19.
- In September, WFP handed over personal protective equipment (PPE) suits, sanitizers and disinfectants to Phaung Gyi COVID-19 treatment center in Yangon where over 1,000 COVID-19 patients were receiving medical care. This is in addition to the provision of USD 1 million worth of full-gear PPEs, sanitizers and thermometers by WFP and partners to over 260,000 frontline health and aid workers in Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states, with support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund.



New Initiatives

- As requested by the Government, starting from October, WFP plans to provide meals for some 2,000 people on a daily basis in government-managed quarantine and treatment centers in South Dagon, one of Yangon's poorest townships with a large number of informal settlements.
- In agreement with the Government, WFP plans to operate three humanitarian flights between Yangon and Sittwe for front-line health and humanitarian workers given the temporary suspension of all domestic flights until end October. WFP's weekly special flights launched in May connecting Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur continue to operate.



Resourcing Situation

- WFP is actively seeking support from donors for a total of USD 4.1 million to continue and expand its COVID-19 response to meet anticipated needs through the end of 2020.
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, WFP requires USD 22 million to continue providing life-saving relief assistance to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in the conflict-affected areas until March 2021, while USD 38.7 million is required to carry on regular programmes.



WFP six-month Net Funding Requirements (October 2020 – March 2021)	
For Country Strategic Plan (2018-22)	USD 38.7 million
For Emergency Relief Assistance*	USD 22 million

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

