



WFP Myanmar Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

Myanmar, the second largest country in Southeast Asia, is amidst an important political and socio-economic transformation. Highly susceptible to natural disasters, Myanmar ranks 3rd out of 187 countries in the global climate risk index. An estimated 37.5 percent of its 53 million population live near or below the poverty line. Most in the country struggle with physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food with women, girls, elderly, persons with disabilities and minorities affected most.

Nearly one in three children under the age of five suffers from chronic malnutrition (stunting) while wasting prevails at seven percent nationally. Myanmar is one of the world's 20 high tuberculosis burden countries. It is also among 35 countries accounting for 90 percent of new HIV infections globally.

Ethnic conflicts and violence exacerbate an already fragile situation with over one million people displaced from their places of origin since June 2011. With restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods, many conflict-affected populations rely on external assistance to survive. Attacks on border outposts in August 2017 and ensuing violence forced nearly 700,000 Muslims living in Rakhine State to flee Myanmar and seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh, leading to a humanitarian crisis and activation of WFP's corporate Level 3 response.

WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.



Population: **53.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **29% of children under the age of five**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Sai Nyunt Maung
Caption: Happy schoolchildren from Wang Leng Township of Wa Self-Administrative Zone gathered in front of a WFP food truck.

In Numbers

3,385 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$585,800 cash based transfers made

US\$26.7 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 8.6% of total needs

295,000 people
assisted
in April 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP successfully completed the April food distributions in Rakhine State. In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted 68,500 conflict-affected people, including 2,900 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 10,000 children under the age of five, from Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu communities in 123 villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships.
- In Sittwe District, WFP reached 109,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict affected populations in townships of Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe. WFP continued to coordinate with other actors providing food assistance, including the Red Cross Movement, the Government's Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD) and Centre for Social Integrity to ensure maximum beneficiary coverage and minimise overlaps.
- In areas of Kachin State under Government control, WFP reached 43,000 IDPs in 99 camps with life-saving food assistance by cash. WFP continues to advocate for access to areas beyond Government control to restore assistance to the affected people. At least 6,000 people were reportedly facing severe food shortages in those areas.
- In northern Shan State, notwithstanding the deteriorated security situation, WFP assisted 16,000 IDPs in 20 camps and managed to support 2 camps and 9 villages of conflict-affected communities in Kokang Self-Administered Zone.
- At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, FAO and WFP's international and national experts launched a three-week joint crop and food security assessment mission (CFSAM) in Rakhine State in late April. The mission was divided into three sub-teams to collect and analyse the information on food security and livelihoods in southern, central and northern parts of the State.
- WFP's funding shortfall amounted to US\$ 20.6 million to cover all food assistance needs of IDPs and other most vulnerable populations through October 2018.

Contact info: wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org

Country Director: Dom Scalpelli

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	May - October Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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Country strategic plan 2018-2022

310.8 m	24.6 m	26.7 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2.1)		
Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in food-insecure areas meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.		
263.9 m	19.1 m	25.8 m
Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition (SDG 2.2)		
Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in states and regions with high food insecurity and/or malnutrition have access to food all year round.		
46.9 m	5.5 m	0.9 m

Figures provisional

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 1 – Provide unconditional food transfers and/or cash-based transfers (CBTs) to populations affected by crisis.

2 – Provide technical advice, policy support and training for the Government to improve delivery of national social protection and emergency preparedness programmes and food systems.

3 – Implement a comprehensive school feeding programme in targeted schools in support of the national programme.

SO 2 4 – Provide conditional food or cash-based assistance in support of the creation and rehabilitation of assets, combined with nutrition messaging for targeted populations.

5 – Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients.

6 – Provide implementation support, research-based advice and technical assistance on national policies and action plans for the Government and partners.

SO 3 7 – Implement preventive nutrition interventions for adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and children under 2, and roll out community infant and young child feeding programmes, CBTs for mothers of young children, and social behaviour change communication (SBCC).

8 – Provide specialized nutritious foods for the treatment and management of acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, and children under the age of five.

Monitoring

- By using mobile data collection application (MDCA), WFP completed the baseline data collection for asset creation and livelihood activities in the selected villages and households in Loikaw Township of Kayah State, Ngaphe Township of Magway Division, Tonzang Township of Chin State and Pangkham in Wa Self-Administrative Zone. This systematic sampling of data would help WFP monitor and compare the changes before and after the implementation of asset creation and livelihoods projects.
- Travel authorizations for WFP staff and partners in Maungdaw District were allowed primarily for food distributions, which posed difficulties for carrying out monitoring and assessments.

Challenges

- In April, WFP did not reach 4,500 of the targeted people in need of food assistance, largely due to access constraints in Maungdaw District of Rakhine State and non-government controlled areas of Kachin State.

Best Practice

In Sidoktaya Township of Magway Division, WFP supported a dike construction project through its cooperating partner NGO Renewable Energy Association of Myanmar (REAM). The dike not only offered a complete protection to the surrounding land and households from seasonal rainfall, but also helped minimise the damage brought by flash floods and landslides during the rainy season. Besides, villagers learned about the ways of maintaining the dike systematically and plan to repair it periodically. WFP distributed 4,368,000 MMK (US\$ 3,237) in cash and other non-food items worth 979,000 MMK (US\$ 726) to 120 participants directly involved in the project.



Donors in 2018

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, the Republic of Korea, Poland, Switzerland, the Republic of Turkey, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and Japan Association for WFP.