



# WFP Myanmar Country Brief

May 2018

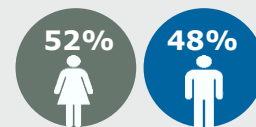
## In Numbers

**3,314 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 581,000** cash based transfers made

**US\$31.0 m** six months (June-November 2018)  
net funding requirements

**274,310 people**  
**assisted**  
in May 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**

### Operational Updates

- WFP successfully completed the May food distributions in Rakhine State. In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted 69,000 conflict-affected people, including 2,500 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 10,500 children under the age of five, from 130 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships.
- In Sittwe District, WFP reached 110,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict affected populations in townships of Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe.
- In Kachin State, armed conflict continued into May. An estimated 10,000 people were reportedly newly displaced in April and May, although figures could not be independently verified by the UN due to restricted access. Armed clashes flared up in Chipwi, Hpakant, Injangyang, Mogaung, Momauk, Tanai and Waingmaw, with Tanai Township most heavily affected, followed by Waingmaw – mainly the Laiza area – and Hpakant. Some of the displaced were trapped in conflict zones, unable to escape. Humanitarian support was provided to the newly displaced by the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Kachin State Government, private donors, church-based groups, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and UN agencies. WFP, as the co-lead of the Food Security Sector, coordinated with partners for the response in Kachin. In May, WFP assisted a total of 41,000 people in 99 camps.
- In Shan State, the security situation remained fragile with ongoing conflict. No new permanent displacements were reported. WFP provided relief assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries, including 20 camps in government administered areas and 4 camps in Kokang Self-Administered Zone.
- WFP and FAO conducted a joint crop and food security assessment mission, visiting 30 villages in all five districts of Rakhine State. Discussions were held with more than 300 people. The team is in the process of analysing the information gathered.

**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/ Ti Wai Kaung  
Caption: WFP commodities being loaded in Pakokku Jetty to Lahe Township of Nagaland.

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## WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	June - November Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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### Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022

310.8 m	25.2 m	31 m
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**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	19.7 m	30 m
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**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	1.0 m
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Figures provisional

## WFP Myanmar 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.

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).

**SO 3**

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

- WFP’s nutrition team performed a monitoring visit to Sittwe and northern Rakhine State, to assess the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment programme and blanket supplementary feeding programme. Permission to start the MAM programme in northern Rakhine is still pending and, in the meantime, 6kg of specialized nutritious foods was provided individually to 13,000 beneficiaries.
- WFP international staff based outside of Rakhine State were granted travel authorizations to the area. The Country Director visited Maungdaw for three days in the last week of May.

## Challenges

- Due to an early monsoon season in Nagaland, less than planned community asset creation projects were implemented in the region.
- Food receipts and dispatches in Sittwe faced delays of several days due to congestion at all jetties. Eighty percent of WFP food is transferred to Sittwe by sea.

## Best Practice

In Buthidaung Township of northern Rakhine State, WFP supported a pond renovation project through its cooperating partner, Myanmar Heart Development Organisation. The project implementation was accompanied by formal nutrition messaging to improve villagers’ knowledge of good nutrition practice. The pond renovation was completed over 41 days and WFP distributed a total of MMK 7,175,000 (USD 5,436) to 50 participants actively involved. WFP encouraged gender equality by providing men and women participants with equal opportunities and wages. The pond will provide access to clean water throughout the year.



**Caption:** Kwan Taung Rakhine pond renovation in progress.  
**Photo credit:** Cin Do Kap, WFP Engineer, Maungdaw

## Donors in 2018

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, 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.