



WFP Myanmar Country Brief

June 2018

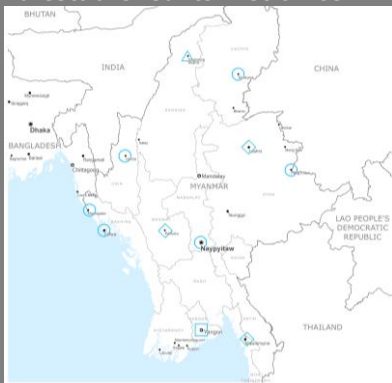
Operational Context

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. This internal classification has since been downgraded to Level 2.

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: Aik Rong, WFP Field Monitoring Assistant
Caption: Children enjoying a WFP provided school meal in Pang Kham Township, Wa Self-Administered Division.

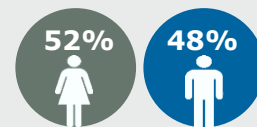
In Numbers

3,572 mt of food distributed

US\$ 573,871 cash based transfers made

US\$ 25.9 million six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements

304,691 people
assisted
in June 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP successfully completed the June food distributions in Rakhine State. In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted 69,300 conflict-affected people, including 2,200 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 9,800 children under the age of five, from 148 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships.
- In Sittwe District, WFP reached 113,500 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 June. Approximately 8,500 people were displaced to existing IDP camps or to new locations in Moemauk, Myitkyina, Mogaung, Hpakant, Tanai, Waingmaw and Chipwi. The Kachin State Government, private donors, NGOs, ICRC and UN agencies including WFP provided food and cash assistance to these newly displaced populations. As the lead of the Kachin Food Security Sector, WFP continued to coordinate food assistance by FSS actors. In June, WFP assisted 1,800 newly displaced people who arrived in existing IDP camps in Myitkyina, Hpakant, Momauk, Waingmaw and Chipwi Townships. In total, WFP assisted 42,500 beneficiaries in Kachin.
- In Shan State, there were no major conflicts or new displacements in June. An armed group attacked a village in Kutkhai Township, which resulted in the death of one child. WFP continued to provide cash for relief assistance to around 7,200 beneficiaries in 19 IDP camps in 5 townships, as well as to around 8,200 beneficiaries in Kokang Self-Administered Zone.
- WFP presented its second comprehensive update on the Country Strategic Plan to WFP's Executive Board, highlighting recent progress and key developments in Myanmar.
- WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, David Kaatrud, visited Myanmar for four days in early June. After visiting Njang Dung Baptist Church IDP camp in Kachin State, he met with several officials and ministers to discuss WFP's work in Myanmar.

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Operational Updates

- WFP operations in Myanmar were downgraded from a Level 3 to a Level 2 emergency response, based on an internal WFP emergency classification system. The surge capacity generated by the Level 3 response were embedded within the capacities of the Regional Bureau and Country Office, and so the response was re-classified as Level 2.

WFP Myanmar Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	July - December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022		
309.4 m	34.9 m	25.9 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

- Given the sensitivities of collecting personal data from beneficiaries in the context of Rakhine, a comprehensive privacy impact assessment was conducted in two IDP camps in Myae Bon Township, with the purpose of identifying, evaluating and addressing any risks that could arise during the distribution of life-saving food assistance.

Challenges

- Heavy rains in some operational areas delayed deliveries. Alternative transport modes and routes were identified to meet the operational requirements of the upcoming distribution cycle.
- Although the school year began in June, WFP was unable to resume its school feeding programme due to unstable school enrolment at the beginning of the academic year. School feeding continued in Pangkham, Wa Self-Administered Area, which operates along a different school calendar. The programme will resume throughout the country in July.

Best Practice

In Loikaw Township, Kayah State, WFP, in partnership with World Vision Loikaw, is implementing cash-for-assets programmes targeting 3,743 of the most vulnerable people. The projects provide land development and include nutrition messaging and agriculture training for the restoration of areas suffering from deforestation. By June, MMK 55,519,00 (US\$ 3942) had been transferred to beneficiaries since the activity started in March 2018.



Caption: Site clearing for upland development, Loikaw Township
Photo credit: Sa Pyae Phyo Aung, WFP Field Monitoring Assistant

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, USA and Japan Association for WFP.