



OPERATIONAL BRIEF

Southeast Myanmar

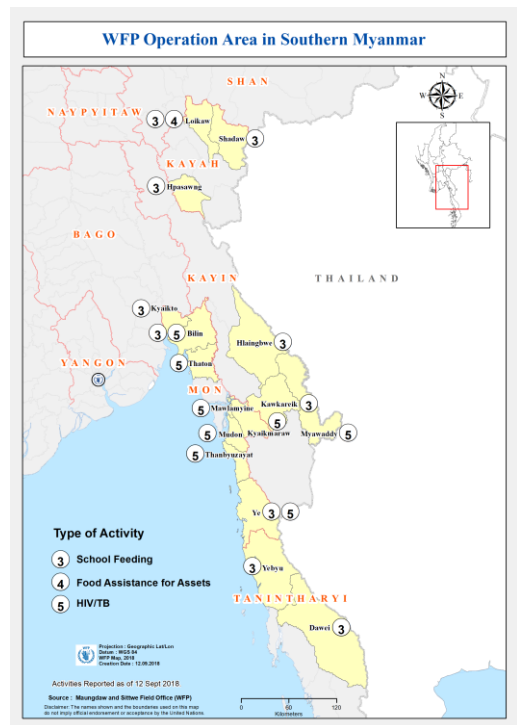
OVERVIEW

Southeast Myanmar is composed of Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, and Tanintharyi Region, bordering Thailand to the east and south, Bago Region and the Andaman Sea to the west and Shan State to the north. With a population of approximately 5.3 million (2014 national census) this area is inhabited by Mon, Bamar, Kayin, Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Pa-O, Shan, Salone and Malay ethnic groups.

At Myanmar's independence in 1948, discord between the Government and ethnic groups over federalism instigated armed conflicts between the Myanmar security forces and ethnic armed groups, including New Mon State Party (NMSP), Karen National Union (KNU), Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP). Routine clashes in rural areas of the southeastern region resulted in decades of instability and the protracted displacement of 110,000 people in ten refugee camps in Thailand as well as 12,400 people in six internally displaced persons (IDP) camps along the Thai-Myanmar border in Shan and Kayin states. In 2015, the ethnic armed groups KNU and DKBA signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), marking a historic first step towards restoration of peace in the area. As of May 2017, a total of 2,370 refugees and 9,386 IDPs verified by UNHCR had returned for permanent stay in the area. The total verified refugee population stands at 100,388 people.

Since 2008, WFP has been providing food and nutrition support to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and TB clients in Southeast Myanmar through IOM. To expand its scope, WFP opened its Mawlamyine field office in June 2014 to support the most vulnerable populations from conflict-affected areas and to assist future returnees from Thai border camps with unconditional food/cash transfers during the transitioning period. This is planned to be integrated with small scale community assets creation, school feeding and nutrition activities.

In 2018, WFP aims to reach approximately 50,000 beneficiaries, specifically in conflict-ridden areas or areas controlled by predominant ethnic armed groups, where Government or humanitarian organizations' assistance is restricted.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government Ministries

- Ministry of Planning and Finance
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Sports
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
- Ministry of Border Affairs

UN Coordination Agencies



Cooperating Partners

- World Vision Myanmar
- Rahmonnya Peace Foundation

Activity 1 – Supporting resettlement of returnees: In 2016, the first group of 71 refugees displaced over the Thai border returned to Myanmar. WFP provided cash assistance equivalent to three-month food rations for this initial group. In early May 2018, the second batch of 93 refugees received WFP cash assistance, equivalent to six months’ food ration. The returnees were resettled in Kayin and Kayah states, Bago, Sagaing and Yangon regions, and the returns were facilitated by the Government. There are plans for a third batch of returnees to be repatriated in late 2018. Assistance in the form of cash based transfers is likely to be required for potential returnees to facilitate their resettlement process.

Activity 2 – Capacity Strengthening: Emergency Response and Preparedness: An active and well-functioning Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) has been working closely with the Mon State Government since its formation in 2014. WFP has been one of the key actors among DRRWG and will be leading Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication clusters for the group, advancing work beyond food security. The objectives of this working group are in line with WFP’s operational strategy which aims to enhance the capacity building of State and Region counterparts and non-state actors for emergency and disaster preparedness, response and rapid recovery.

Activity 3 – School Feeding: WFP began implementing its school feeding programme, providing snacks of high energy biscuits (HEB) to students, in the 2016-17 academic year in Kayah, Kayin and Mon states. In the 2017-18 academic year, WFP expanded the programme, reaching 41,738 primary students in 11 Townships in Mon, Kayin and Kayah states and Tanintharyi Region. In 2018, WFP is rolling out the pilot school meal programme in some schools that have been implementing the school feeding programme, shifting from HEB to cooked meals.

2018 WFP Food Assistance Plan in Southeast

Programme	Target Beneficiaries	Areas
HIV/TB	3,920	Kayin, Mon
Community Asset Creation	3,880	Kayah
School Feeding	41,738	Kayin, Kayah, Mon, Tanintharyi
Relief	376	Kayin, Kayah, Mon, Tanintharyi
Total	49,914	



Activity 4 – Asset Creation and Livelihoods: In 2016-17, WFP collaborated with Rahmonnya Peace Foundation (RPF) and supported 1,000 returnees in need of transient income opportunities through cash for asset creation activities in resettlement areas in Mon State and Tanintharyi Region. In 2017- 2018, WFP cooperated with World Vision and assisted 3,880 people through asset creation activities in Loikaw Township of Kayah State with a total of 109,169,700 MMK (US\$ 82,704) in cash.

Activity 5 – Food-by-Prescription for People Living with HIV/TB: In 2017, WFP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports, supported 314 patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) under the national tuberculosis programme, distributing a total of 81.207mt of mixed commodities. However, due to the limited funding available from the Global Fund, this programme was halted. In 2018, WFP, in collaboration with IOM, aims to reach 3,920 PLHIV and TB patients in seven townships in Mon State and two Townships in Kayin State with a total of 308.911 MT of food through its provision of food-by-prescription.