



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief August 2018



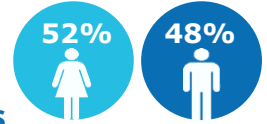
In Numbers

3,873 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$613,820 cash based transfers made

US\$ 25.96 m six months (September 2018 - February 2019) net funding requirements

541,634 people assisted
In August 2018



Operational Updates

- Rakhine:** WFP successfully completed August food distributions in Rakhine State. In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted 95,000 conflict-affected people, including 3,000 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 14,000 children under the age of five, from 217 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. In central Rakhine, WFP reached 118,000 people with emergency relief food assistance. WFP also began distributing UNICEF-procured soap alongside food in northern Rakhine, leveraging WFP's access and reach.
- Kachin:** WFP began assisting approximately 5,200 new IDPs from the August distribution cycle. All of these IDPs are newly displaced since armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army intensified starting in early April. WFP also continued to coordinate new food and livelihood needs for resettled IDPs through its role as the Chair of the Kachin Food Security Sector. August was Nutrition Promotion Month. WFP Myitkyina conducted nutrition-related activities in two townships in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education. WFP assisted a total of 87,700 beneficiaries in Kachin, of whom 48,000 received emergency relief assistance.
- Shan:** The overall security situation remained unstable, with fighting between ethnic armed organizations and the military in Nam Tu, Nam San, Kut Kai, Lashio and Nam Kham Townships. Around 900 people from villages in Namtu Township have been displaced to Hsipaw and Namtu townships due to armed clashes on 16 and 17 August. Additionally, more than 200 people were forced to flee their homes following flooding caused by heavy rainfall in northern Shan State's Lashio Township. Emergency relief distributions reached 7,100 beneficiaries from 20 IDP camps in Shan State, as well as 8,200 people from conflict-affected villages in the northern most part KoKang Self-Administered Zone. A total of 56,800 people were assisted through all activities.
- WFP secured US\$1 million from UN CERF to support flood recovery operations and needs a further US\$2 million for cash and cash-for-work assistance for flood recovery.

Operational Context

Myanmar is amidst an important political and socio-economic transformation. The country is highly susceptible to natural disasters and climate risks. An estimated 37.5 percent of its 53 million population live near or below the poverty line. Many struggle with physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food with women, girls, elderly persons with disabilities and minorities affected most.

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 conflict exacerbates an already fragile situation. Over one million people have been 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 to flee Rakhine State to and seek refuge in Bangladesh, leading to a humanitarian crisis and activation of WFP's corporate Level 3 response, since 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

2015 Human Development Index: 145 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

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

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2018 – February 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
309.35 m	53.73 m	25.96 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in food-insecure areas meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.

Activities:

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

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in states and regions with high food insecurity and/or malnutrition have access to food all year round.

Activities:

- **Activity 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.
- **Activity 3:** Implement a comprehensive school feeding programme in targeted schools in support of the national programme.
- **Activity 4:** Provide conditional food or cash-based assistance in support of the creation and rehabilitation of assets, combined with nutrition messaging for targeted populations.
- **Activity 5:** Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients.

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5 in Myanmar have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2022.

Activities:

- Activity 6 – Provide implementation support, research-based advice and technical assistance on national policies and action plans for the Government and partners.
- Activity 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).
- Activity 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 asset creation team visited the Pangkham area of Wa Self-Administered Region to monitor several ongoing projects which focus on providing water supplies, school gardens, road construction and terraced land development for the poorest Wa communities. Recommendations include targeting three or four of the most vulnerable townships in 2019.

Challenges

Due to lead-times of food procurement, funds for in-kind emergency relief assistance need to be secured several weeks before the distribution cycle, to allow for commodities to reach locations on time. Throughout August, WFP faced a pipeline break in late-September and urgently required new funds to begin the procurement process for subsequent distribution cycles.

School meals for those in need

At Pa La Na Primary School in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, 50 out of 139 children did not have access to an adequate, daily breakfast and lunch before 2017. Thirty of these children were orphans and most suffered from hunger and, consequently, an inability to concentrate on lessons. Since 2017, the children at Pa La Na Primary School have been enjoying lunch through WFP’s school meals programme (SMP). SMP has emerged as a stable safety net for the most vulnerable children in the village, meeting their daily nutrition requirements. WFP provides cash assistance or basic food items, such as rice and pulses, sometimes additionally supporting the creation of a school garden, while meals are prepared by parent volunteers who also provide complimentary food items. In 2018-2019, WFP plans to support 22,281 students in 235 primary schools across Myanmar through SMP.



Photo: Students enjoying WFP’s school meal in Pa La Na WFP/Thiffanie RODRIGUEZ

Donors in 2018

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