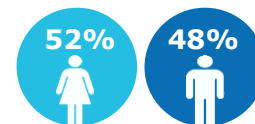




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Myanmar Country Brief October 2018



## In Numbers

619,562 people assisted in October 2018

US\$ 847,409 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 21.15 m six months (November 2018 - April 2019)  
net funding requirements

4,141 mt of food assistance distributed

## 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 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

Income Level:  
Lower middle

2015 Human Development Index:  
145 out of 188

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

## Operational Updates

- Rakhine:** During October, WFP assisted over 96,000 conflict-affected people, including over 2,900 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 14,400 children under the age of five, from 242 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. In central Rakhine, over 136,000 people received various assistance from WFP including emergency relief and nutrition intervention.
- Kachin:** The Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Kachin Independence Army engaged in an armed clash during October. However, the situation did not trigger new displacements of civilians. WFP continues to provide cash for emergency food assistance to over 47,000 IDPs in Kachin State. Over 1,800 pregnant and lactating women and children under two received nutrition assistance from WFP. WFP continues to coordinate food security and livelihoods needs for IDPs in both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas through its role as the Chair of the Kachin Food Security Sector.
- Shan:** The security situation in northern Shan State deteriorated with renewed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and ethnic armed groups in the second half of October. Approximately 1,800 people from conflict-affected villages were displaced temporarily. WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 7,200 beneficiaries from 20 IDP camps in northern Shan State, as well as 9,000 people from conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of the KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 56,000 people were assisted through all activities.
- Cash Replacement for Oil in October:** Due to production issues suffered by WFP's cooking oil supplier, WFP did not receive sufficient oil to cover all the requirements for the month of October. In this regard, WFP distributed MMK2000 (USD 1.25) per beneficiary to substitute for the oil ration. This substitution was distributed equally to all beneficiaries of WFP in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Rathedaung, Myebon, Kyauk Phyu, Kyauk Taw, Mrauk U and Minbya. WFP expects this change to be temporary and to take place in October only.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	November 2018 – April 2019 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
309.35 m	64.47 m	21.15 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.

WFP Myanmar welcomed Mr. Marcus Prior as its new Deputy Country Director and Head of Programme. With expertise and extensive experience in communications, emergency coordination and partnerships, Mr. Prior will reinforce WFP Myanmar’s operations, overseeing and supervising the programme unit as well as all area and field offices. Mr. Prior assumed office on 3 October and is based in Nay Pyi Taw.

## Challenges

The Rakhine State Government has placed more restrictions on applications for travel authorizations (TA) to the northern regions of Rakhine State. Starting from October, TAs now require written endorsement from township administrators of Maungdaw and Buthidaung where verbal concurrence was previously sufficient. The requirements also include specific details on the names of staff, destinations and dates, instead of allowing blanket lists of all staff members to travel to a location. The new regulations may cause WFP to face challenges as it loses flexibility in human resource management, especially when designated staff members are not available due to unforeseeable circumstances.

## Monitoring

WFP’s Deputy Country Director and nutrition team visited WFP operation sites to observe food distributions, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and community asset creation in Sittwe, Rakhine State. The mission engaged with beneficiaries and stakeholders to explore ways to enhance and scale up various modes of assistance to the local communities.

## Pilot school meal cash programme

WFP’s pilot projects of providing cash for school meals have been successful in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, Magwe and Thaninthary regions, and Wa Self-Administered Division. Many parents and teachers report preferring cash assistance to food, as it helps communities manage more diverse food items that lead to more balanced nutrition for school children. Township medical officers and health staff actively assist in disseminating information on nutrition at schools in conjunction with the school meals programme.



Photo: Children from Wa Self-Administered Division enjoying a school meal provided by WFP

## Donors in 2018

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