



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Myanmar Country Brief November 2018



Ladies from different backgrounds in Maungdaw, Rakhine participating in WFP's celebration against Gender-based violence

## In Numbers



**637,676 people assisted** in November 2018

**US\$ 913,062** cash-based transfers made

**4,282 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 22.67 m** six months (December 2018 - May 2019) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Relief & Nutrition

**Rakhine:** WFP provided emergency relief assistance to over 97,200 conflict-affected people from 169 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships of northern Rakhine in November. In central Rakhine, WFP reached over 117,000 food-insecure people from various communities. WFP's assistance for prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) reached over 18,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and children under five in northern Rakhine. In central Rakhine, over 9,000 PLWs and over 22,000 children under five received WFP's assistance on prevention and treatment of MAM.

**Kachin:** Military movement continued to occur in Kachin State, resulting in an armed clash in Sumprabum Township. WFP is assisting over 50 villagers displaced internally due to the clash. WFP continued to provide cash for emergency food assistance to over 47,000 IDPs from 108 camps in 12 townships of Kachin State. Over 1,900 PLWs and children under two received nutrition assistance (MAM) 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.

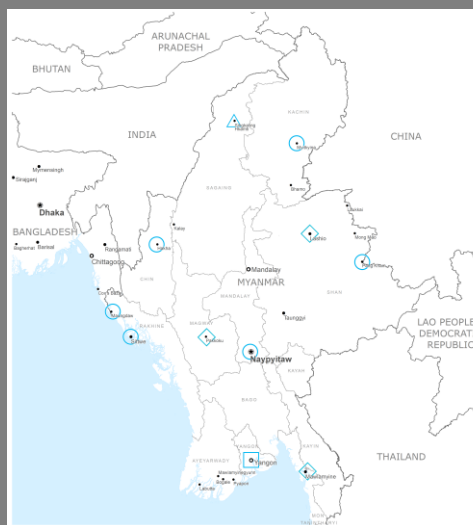
**Shan:** Security situation in the northern Shan State remains unstable with continued clashes among ethnic armed forces and forced recruitments of soldiers. WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 7,100 beneficiaries from 18 IDP camps in northern Shan State, as well as 8,200 people from conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of Kachin Self-Administered Zone.

## 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 over 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

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- **School Feeding:** WFP continued to provide nutritional snacks or meals to over 300,000 primary school children from over 4,300 schools in Magwe, Mandalay, Sagaing and Tanintharyi regions and in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states including the Wa Self-Administered Division.
- **Community Asset Creation:** Over 100 of WFP's community asset creation projects were under implementation in Chin, Rakhine and Shan states; Magwe Region and in Nagaland of Sagaing Region and the Wa Self-Administered Division.
- **HIV & TB:** WFP provided support to over 2,000 HIV and tuberculosis patients in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine states and in Yangon Region.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 3,700 PLWs and children under 5 from Yangon peri-urban areas, Chin State, Magwe and Sagaing regions received nutrition intervention assistance from WFP.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements December 2018 – May 2019 (in USD)
309.3 m	64.97 m	22.67 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.

## Donors & Funding Sources 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.

## Flood Response

WFP continued supporting the early recovery of flood affected townships in Bago, Kayin and Mon states in southeastern Myanmar. A total of 8,900 flood-affected people from 23 villages received cash assistance. WFP also collaborated with UNICEF to provide cash for WASH activities.

## Monitoring & Challenges

WFP's school feeding team visited 30 primary schools in northern Rakhine during November. The team observed that the absence or irregular attendance of teachers in schools hinders the implementation of the school feeding programme. Many schools were also found to not have proper WASH facilities or sufficient room for the storage of WFP's High Energy Biscuits. WFP will continue to coordinate closely with the state and or township education officers, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, local government authorities, school teachers and parents to find ways to mitigate the challenges.

## WFP celebrates 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence

WFP's offices throughout Myanmar reaffirmed their commitment to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and support survivors of GBV by organizing activities in celebration of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. WFP's field offices brought together and engaged with beneficiaries and their communities to advocate on how to take steps to reduce the risks of GBV at the community level.

## National Plan on Nutrition

The first national-level meeting of the Nutrition Sector Committee held on November 26 in Yangon launched the Multi-sectorial National Plan on Nutrition 2018-2022 (MS-NPAN). The five-year long MS-NPAN, supported by WFP, will trigger multi-sector cooperation in health, education, agriculture, irrigation and social welfare to improve the nutritional status of people in Myanmar. WFP's Country Director, Mr Dom Scalpelli, co-chair of the UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition, gave a speech at the event with the Country Representative of UK/DfID, who along with WFP co-facilitate the national nutrition sector coordination group, chaired by the Minister of Health & Sports. Mr Scalpelli emphasised the need for mobilizing adequate resources required to implement the plan to its utmost potential. The Government has committed to contributing US\$663 million for implementation.



WFP's Country Director delivering a speech at the launching event in Yangon (Photo: Ministry of Health and Sports)