



World Food Programme

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

December 2018

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



School girl washes her hands before enjoying a school meal provided by WFP in Myanmar's dry 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.



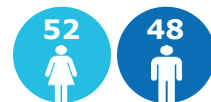
WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

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



In Numbers

642,058 people assisted in November 2018

US\$ 798,724 cash-based transfers made

4,261 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 30 m six months (January 2019 - June 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

Rakhine: Ongoing armed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Arakan Army, a Rakhine ethnic armed group, in Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships of central Rakhine State and in Buthidaung Township of northern Rakhine State caused over 3,000 new displacements in December. WFP collaborated with the government, other UN agencies and humanitarian actors in verifying the needs of the displaced people.

WFP continued providing emergency relief assistance to over 98,600 conflict-affected people from 184 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships of northern Rakhine State. In central Rakhine, WFP reached over 112,600 food-insecure people from various communities. WFP's treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) reached over 18,200 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under five years in northern Rakhine. In central Rakhine, over 4,700 PLWs and over 22,800 children under five years have been reached.

Kachin: 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 from WFP in the form of fortified blended foods aimed at stunting reduction. WFP continued 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: 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 KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 2,200 PLWs and children under two years in Shan State received nutrition assistance.

- **School Feeding:** WFP continued to provide nutritional snacks or meals to over 320,000 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 Wa Self-Administered Division.
- **Community Asset Creation:** A total of 101 community asset creation projects, out of 123 in implementation, were completed in Chin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states, Magwe Region, Nagaland of Sagaing Region and Wa Self-Administered Division.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements January 2019 – June 2019 (in USD)
336.9 m	65 m	30 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.

- **HIV & TB:** WFP provided support to over 2,300 HIV and tuberculosis patients in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine states and in Yangon Region. A total of six field-level agreements with cooperating partners were under review for activity implementation throughout 2019.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 3,800 PLWs and children under five from Yangon peri-urban areas, Chin State and Magwe Region benefited from nutrition interventions.

Project Supervision

WFP conducted a mission to Maungdaw and Sittwe townships of Rakhine State to supervise the implementation of ongoing community asset creation projects. The mission examined ways to upgrade the capacity and technical skills of cooperating partners, particularly during the implementation and supervision of weir, dyke and dam projects.

School meals help in the dry zone

Regions in Myanmar outside conflict areas, such as the dry zone, also face challenges in food security. In the rural dry zone, extreme weather and drought continue to affect the ability of communities to access adequate and nutritious food.

In December, WFP hosted its funding partners, Japan Association for WFP and FamilyMart, on a visit to three villages in Pakokku District in the dry zone. The mission learned that the communities struggle to access basic needs such as clean water and nutritious food. Many children depend on WFP-provided school meals for their regular nutrition intake.

Parents told the visitors that the school meals also help their households by giving them the opportunity to invest the cost of school meals in other necessities. They requested WFP to provide meals every school day instead of three days in a week. WFP is seeking more funds for the school feeding programme to make this wish a reality.



Photo: Parents of school children at Paung Chaung village in Pakokku discuss WFP's school feeding programme with mission members

Donors & Funding Sources in 2018

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, 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.