



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Myanmar Country Brief January 2019

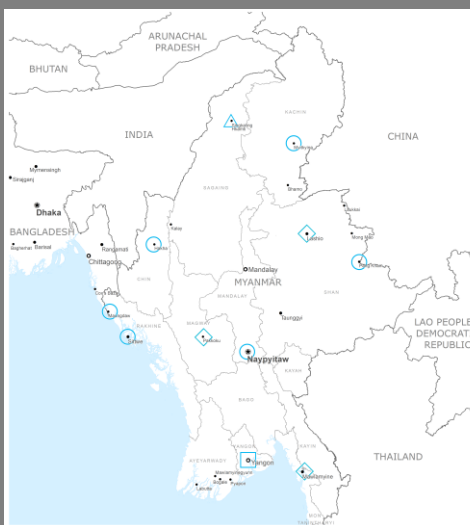


## Operational Context

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 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



568,432 people assisted in January 2019

US\$ 437,850 cash-based transfers made

4,020 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 30.18 m six months (February 2019 - July 2019)  
net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

**Rakhine:** An intensification of armed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Arakan Army, a Rakhine ethnic armed group, in Rakhine and Chin states caused up to 6,000 new displacements of Rakhine and other ethnic people by the end of January. WFP has offered to the government its readiness to assist the newly displaced communities. WFP continued to collaborate with local authorities, other UN agencies and humanitarian actors in verifying the needs of the displaced people.

WFP continued providing emergency relief assistance to over 95,300 conflict-affected people from 179 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships of northern Rakhine State. In central Rakhine, WFP reached over 112,300 food-insecure people. In northern Rakhine, WFP reached over 18,100 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under five years through nutrition interventions. In central Rakhine, over 5,200 PLWs and over 21,900 children under five years were reached.

**Kachin:** WFP continued to provide cash for emergency food assistance to over 45,700 IDPs from 108 camps in 12 townships of Kachin State. 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 8,000 beneficiaries from 18 IDP camps in northern Shan State, as well as 8,000 people from conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 1,800 PLWs and children under two years in Shan State received nutrition assistance.

- **School Feeding:** WFP continued to provide nutritional snacks or meals to over 289,700 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 11 community asset creation projects were under implementation in Kayin State. Six field-level agreements (FLA) with cooperating partners were signed for implementation throughout 2019.

Contact info: [wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org](mailto:wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Dom Scalpelli  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar](http://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar)

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements February 2019 – July 2019 (in USD)
<b>336.9 m</b>	<b>65 m</b>	<b>30.18 m</b>

#### 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 2,400 HIV and tuberculosis patients in Mon and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region. Three FLAs with cooperating partners were signed and three others were under review for implementation throughout 2019.

- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 840 children under two years from Chin State benefited from nutrition interventions.

## Challenges

- ▶ Following intensification of the ongoing armed clashes, the Rakhine State Government issued restrictions on humanitarian and development actors from conducting field operations in areas with security concerns in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and Rathedaung townships. WFP, along with ICRC, was exempted from these restrictions and was able to continue its operations. WFP continues to advocate for continued and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to all those in need by other partners too.
- ▶ Emergency food distributions were temporarily postponed for a few days during the last week of January in villages in the northern most part of Maungdaw Township due to sporadic armed clashes in the area. Despite this, WFP fully reached its targeted beneficiaries in January through close cooperation with township-level authorities.

## Monitoring

- ▶ WFP organized a field mission headed by the Deputy Country Director, Mr Marcus Prior, to Myitkyina, Kachin State, with the objective of familiarizing with WFP’s relief assistance and school feeding activities. The mission sought ways to enhance WFP’s assistance in Kachin State by speaking to beneficiaries and partners on the ground.
- ▶ Upon the successful completion of emergency response assistance to flood-affected communities in Bago Region, Kayin State and Mon State, WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in close coordination with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF. Field-based data collection was completed in the last week of January ready for comprehensive analysis and reporting.

The PDM findings will assist WFP in the assessment of food security of the affected regions and the long-term impact of the floods. WFP will also use the findings to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of joint unconditional and unrestricted cash interventions in emergency response.

## Donors & Funding Sources to WFP Myanmar Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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.



Photo: Field data collection in Nyaung Lay Pin, Bago Region @WFP/ThetNaingOo