



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

May 2019



A Karen boy says hello to WFP Myanmar Country Director during his visit to southeastern Myanmar.

In Numbers



314,040 people assisted in May 2019

US\$ 537,280 cash-based transfers made

3,800 mt of food distributed

US\$ 39.77 million six months (June - November 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

Rakhine: Armed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Arakan Army continued in May across Rakhine State, resulting in small-scale and sporadic internal population movements. WFP continued to support newly displaced people with emergency food assistance, assisting over 1,500 newly displaced people in northern Rakhine and over 2,300 in central Rakhine during May.

In northern Rakhine State, WFP's emergency relief assistance reached 91,340 conflict-affected people from 164 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages and two internally displaced people (IDP) locations in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. In addition, WFP reached over 18,900 children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through nutrition interventions. In central Rakhine State, WFP nutrition assistance reached 6,430 PLW and 27,070 children under 5, and 113,700 food-insecure people received WFP relief assistance.

Kachin: Building on the previous expansion of E-Money, the transfer of cash for relief assistance through mobile phones, WFP extended its coverage to a further four IDP camps in May. These camps previously relied on direct cash assistance only. E-Money is now running in 14 IDP camps in Kachin State. Using mobile phones to transfer money can make the process faster, safer and more convenient for the recipients.

WFP continued to provide emergency food assistance to 47,450 displaced people in 11 townships in Kachin State through cash and E-Money transfers. Over 1,850 PLW and children under two received WFP's nutrition assistance.

Shan: Tensions between armed forces continued to remain high during May in northern Shan State. WFP provided cash for food rations covering one month to 19 households of IDP returnees in Namkham Township. WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 11,010 beneficiaries from northern Shan State and conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 2,200 PLWs and children under two received nutrition assistance.

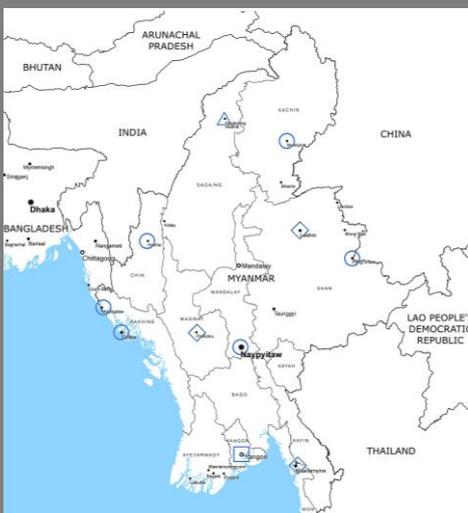
- **School Feeding:** As the holiday season continued for government-run schools, WFP provided nutritional snacks or meals to 7,580 primary school children in Wa Self-Administered Division, an autonomous region in northeastern part of Myanmar.
- **Community Asset Creation:** WFP completed a total of 16 community asset creation projects, including irrigational canal construction, land development and road renovation, in Chin State and Wa 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 6.7 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 1 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.

2015 Human Development Index: 145 out of 188

Chronic malnutrition: 29% of children under the age of 5

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	June - November Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
336.9 m	113.4 m	39.77 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 to WFP Myanmar Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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

Operational Updates continued

- **HIV & TB:** WFP supported 2,780 HIV and tuberculosis patients with food and nutrition assistance in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 5,290 children under 5 and PLW from Chin State, Magwe Region, Naga Self-Administered Zone and Yangon peri-urban areas benefited from WFP nutrition interventions.

Challenges

WFP’s plan to assist over 600 people displaced by the armed clashes in Paletwa Township, Chin State has been put on hold due to the ongoing fighting. Similarly, WFP did not receive travel approval to assist new IDPs in Mrauk-U and Minbya in May.

Opportunities for Southeastern Myanmar

Affected by decades of armed conflict, southeastern Myanmar remains vulnerable in many ways. With the peace process gathering momentum, the region is noticeably more stable than states such as Kachin and Rakhine. However, this does not mean that there is no need for humanitarian and development interventions. Limited livelihood opportunities and prevalent food insecurity continue to hold back the development of the region.

From its newly relocated field office in Hpa-An, WFP is planning to scale-up its assistance in Kayin, Kayah and Mon states and in Tanintharyi Region. Short-term targets include:

- extending the school feeding programme to the most vulnerable children taking non-formal education;
- providing nutrition assistance to fight micronutrient deficiency in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP camp; and
- implementing community asset creation projects in Tanintharyi to provide job opportunities for resettled populations and host communities and to help build resilience.

Southeastern Myanmar is a success story of humanitarian-development nexus intervention, however the lack of available funding is the primary constraint preventing WFP from building even further on this potential.



Photo: WFP Myanmar Country Director Dom Scalpelli explores opportunities for expansion of the asset creation programme in Kayin State