



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

June 2019



Beneficiaries receive fortified nutritious food in an IDP camp in Kachin State

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 24.8 percent of its 54 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.

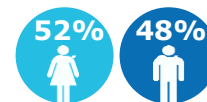


WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

2015 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

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

In Numbers



349,270 people assisted in June 2019

US\$ 967,130 cash-based transfers made

3,850 mt of food distributed

US\$ 29.26 million six months (July - December 2019)
net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

- **Rakhine:** Following continued armed clashes between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Arakan Army, the Government of Myanmar issued a directive to temporarily shut down mobile internet in nine townships of Rakhine and Chin states. The shutdown affected WFP's communications with cooperating partners.

WFP provided emergency relief food rations to over 3,000 people displaced by armed conflict in Minbya, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships. In northern Rakhine State, WFP's emergency relief assistance continued to reach 93,580 conflict-affected people from 174 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages and internally displaced people at two locations in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. In addition, WFP reached over 15,500 children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through nutrition interventions. Nutrition messages were disseminated to 2,700 caregivers in both townships.

In central Rakhine State, WFP nutrition assistance reached 5,260 PLW and 30,500 children under 5. A further 136,530 food insecure people received emergency relief food assistance from WFP.

- **Kachin:** WFP continued to provide emergency relief food assistance to 43,890 displaced people in Kachin State through cash and E-Money - the transfer of cash through mobile phones. Over 3,340 PLW and children under 2 received WFP nutrition assistance.
- **Shan:** WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 14,520 beneficiaries from northern Shan State and conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 2,160 PLWs and children under 2 received nutrition assistance.

School Feeding:

- While academic year began in June for government-run schools, WFP's school feeding activity did not fully start due to unstable student enrollment. WFP prepared to expand the activity in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states and in Magwe and Taninthary regions. WFP provided nutritional snacks or meals to 20,070 primary school children in Kachin, Shan and Dry Zone.

HIV & TB:

- WFP supported 2,580 HIV and tuberculosis patients with food and nutrition assistance in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.

Contact info: wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org

Country Director: Dom Scalpelli

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July - December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
336.9 m	104.7 m	29.26 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

Community Asset Creation:

- WFP completed 13 community asset creation projects, including irrigational canal construction, terrace land and home garden development, and road renovation in Naga Self-Administered Zone and Wa Self-Administered Region. Over 17,600 people benefitted from cash or food assistance.

Nutrition in non-emergency areas:

- Over 5,370 children under 5 and PLW from Chin State, Magwe Region, Naga Self-Administered Zone and Yangon peri-urban areas benefited from WFP's nutrition interventions.

Challenges

WFP did not receive approval to assist newly displaced people in Mrauk-U and Minbya townships in Rakhine State and Paletwa Township in Chin State due to the ongoing fighting. WFP continued to advocate the authorities on the need for unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need.

Protection Partnerships and Capacity Development

To WFP, protection means designing and carrying out assistance activities in a way that does not harm affected communities in any way, but rather contributes to their safety, dignity, and integrity.

Among many protection-related activities in Myanmar, WFP is mainstreaming survivor-centred approaches in all locations of its operation through a systematic referral standard operating procedure in collaboration with its key partners, UNFPA and UNICEF. This will enable WFP beneficiaries who have protection concerns to access survivor services, such as legal assistance, counselling, health assistance and more. The joint capacity strengthening effort will also equip social workers with know-how on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender-based Violence.

WFP continued to advocate with partners to promote collaborative action on the need for feedback from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities to ensure their perspectives are heard and taken into consideration. Read WFP's Strategy for Accountability to Affected Populations [HERE](http://bit.ly/WFPAPPStrategy). (<http://bit.ly/WFPAPPStrategy>)



Photo: Beneficiaries in Rakhine State learn about WFP's Complaint and Feedback Mechanism