

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Kachin State WFP Myanmar

Context

Kachin is the northern most State of Myanmar, bordering the People's Republic of China in the north and east, Shan State in the south and Sagaing Region and India in the west. The majority of the almost 1.7 million people living in Kachin makes a living out of agriculture (mainly rice), followed by mining industries, such as jade and gold.

Although Kachin State is rich in natural resources, more than 30 years of armed conflict has impacted the lives and livelihoods of the population. According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019, over 97,000 people remain displaced across 140 camps or camp-like settings as a result of the intensification of armed conflict in 2011 and ongoing hostilities. Women and children together make up about 75 percent of this population. About 40 percent of the displaced people are located in areas outside Government control. Over 130,000 people have been identified as food insecure across Kachin State.

WFP Response

In 2008, WFP opened its Myitkyina Field Office to provide food assistance to the conflict-affected communities in order to rebuild livelihoods and improve their food security and nutritional status. In mid-2011, when clashes resumed, approximately 100,000 people in Kachin State were displaced. Since then, WFP has provided life-saving food assistance to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Government-controlled areas (GCA).

WFP also provided assistance in areas beyond Government control (NGCA) until mid-2016. In 2012-2014, the assistance was delivered through international humanitarian cross-line

missions, with WFP arranging logistics for these convoys on behalf of all UN and NGO humanitarian partners. Access to NGCA has not been possible for WFP since June 2016.

As the lead of the Kachin Food Security Sector and Kachin Cash Working Group, WFP is working closely with local and international partners to coordinate food and nutrition assistance to the most food insecure populations.

Partnership

Government Partners

- Kachin State Government
- Ministry of Health and Sports
- Ministry of Education

Cooperating Partners



UN Agencies



Photo: A Kachin mother receives WFP assistance via mobile phone



Emergency Relief Assistance

Since the resumption of conflict in August 2011, WFP has been providing regular, unconditional in-kind food assistance (rice, pulses, oil and salt) or cash assistance equivalent to this food basket at market prices, to IDPs in GCA.

Levels of assistance are based on the vulnerability of IDP households as determined through prior livelihood profiling exercises conducted by WFP. WFP ensures the involvement of stakeholders in criteria setting and identification processes through various bodies, such as camp management committees, and consultation with IDPs.

WFP has gradually reduced the level of relief assistance for all IDPs in GCA to mitigate dependency on external assistance and enhance IDPs' self-reliance through renewed access to sustainable livelihoods. Pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and malnourished children, continue to receive fortified blended food.

School Feeding

In 2015, WFP recommenced school feeding activities in 47 primary schools in Myitkyina, Momauk and Mansi townships after a suspension in activities caused by the eruption of conflict in 2011. In 2018, the Ministry of Health and Sport began taking a strong lead in the National School Feeding Programme, with support from WFP. Consequently, WFP has been able to focus on more remote areas with high food insecurity. WFP piloted cash assistance for school meals in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo and Momauk townships in 2017.

Nutrition

Kachin State continues to have a high burden of stunting and anemia. According to the Myanmar Micronutrient and Food Consumption Survey (2017-2018), over 24 percent of school-age children are stunted. Over 43 percent of children in the same age group as well as about half the population of pregnant women have anemia. To counter this, WFP has been providing fortified blended foods to PLW and children under two (U2) living in IDP camps in 11 townships since 2012. WFP's nutrition assistance was suspended from January 2018 to July 2018 due to funding constraints, but resumed in August 2018.



BENEFICIARIES in 2018

Emergency Relief	48,400
School Feeding	43,600 students in 450 schools
Nutrition	1,900
HIV/TB	350
Total	94,300

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Nutrition Assistance for People Living with HIV/ TB

Kachin is one of the states most affected by the HIV/ AIDS epidemic due to an historically high prevalence of sex work and drug abuse. WFP has been providing food assistance to people living with HIV and/or tuberculosis (PLHIV/TB) in Kachin since 2008 in order to support their nutritional rehabilitation and enhance treatment adherence and successful medical outcomes.

Innovative Solutions

To allow IDP households to control resources and make preferred food choices, WFP has adopted cash-based transfer where feasible, based on regular market assessments. WFP began transitioning relief assistance from in-kind food to cash-based transfers for IDPs with reliable market access. In highly remote areas of GCA and NGCA, IDPs are still receiving in-kind food assistance.

Digital transformation stands as one of WFP's core corporate pillars. Since the first pilot in 2017, WFP has been transforming its cash transfer system from cash-in-envelope to E-Money – the transfer of cash through mobile phones. By early 2019, WFP had successfully introduced E-Money in 14 IDP camps in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships. WFP plans to expand E-Money coverage in Kachin State, leveraging technology to maximize efficiency in humanitarian assistance.

SCOPE is the WFP's digital beneficiary and transfer management system that supports all areas of the programme intervention cycle, from beneficiary registration and targeting to intervention setups, distribution planning, transfer and distribution reporting. WFP has been implementing the use of SCOPE in Kachin operations since 2017 and is increasing its coverage in Kachin and other operations in Myanmar.

