

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Shan Operational Brief WFP Myanmar

OVERVIEW

Shan State, the largest State or Region in Myanmar, borders China in the north, Laos in the east and Thailand in the south. It has four self-administrative zones and one self-administrative division. It is home to 5.8 million people from 33 different ethnic groups. The main livelihood activity is agriculture. During most of the 20th century, people relied heavily on poppy cultivation, especially in areas where the geographic and meteorological conditions were not favorable for growing food crops, and opium became the main source of income for the people. Following the Government's comprehensive ban on poppy cultivation in 2003, the livelihood of poppy farmers was severely affected in northern Shan State. From 2011, conflicts between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Government forces in Kachin State have extended to townships in northern Shan State close to the Kachin border.

Due to the fragile security situation, various ethnic armed organizations (EAO) remain active and there is fluid movement of EAOs as well as communities fleeing to safer areas for either temporary or long-term displacement. There is also high tension between EAOs and Government forces in Kokang Self-Administered Zone (KSAZ) where, after some years of stability, armed clashes flared up again in 2009 and 2015.

In September 2003, WFP opened its first field office in Laukai, Kokang Self-Administered Zone to support ex-poppy farmers. In 2004, WFP expanded its operations to Wa Self-Administered Division (SAD) and nine townships in the northern part of Lashio, where food security had also deteriorated following the opium ban. Since then, WFP's assistance in northern Shan State has been carried out through its area office in Lashio Town.

Following improvements in the food security situation, the Laukai field office was closed in 2014. Between 2005-2015, WFP also operated through a field office in Taunggyi to support ex-poppy farmers in southern Shan.

Currently, WFP provides food assistance not only to ex-poppy farmers, but also to vulnerable people affected by natural and man-made disasters, particularly in areas classified as highly food insecure. WFP's Shan operations are implemented by the Lashio area office which also oversees operations in Wa SAD implemented by the field office in Pangkham, the capital town of Wa SAD.

EMERGENCY RELIEF

In 2011, WFP began assisting displaced populations in Shan State with in-kind food assistance, including five IDP camps located on the Kachin side of the Kachin-Shan border area. In 2014, WFP switched to a combined modality of cash and rice for 2,500 recipients with access to functioning markets.

BENEFICIARIES IN 2018



Relief
29,000



School Feeding
41,900



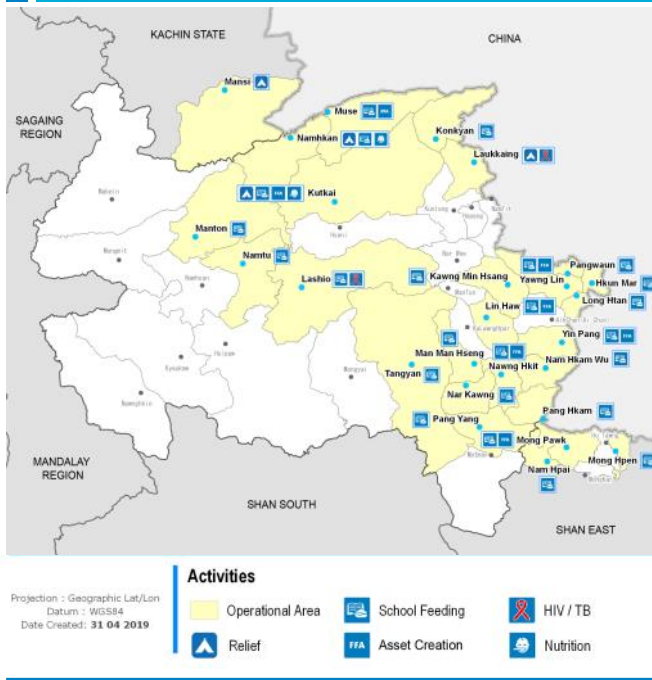
Nutrition
2,300



Assets Creation
2,000



WFP Activities & Operational Areas in Shan State



From 2016 onwards, all food assistance has been provided through cash, reaching 7,500 beneficiaries by the end of 2017.

In addition, WFP provides life-saving food assistance to 21,500 resettled but food insecure people in Kokang Self-Administered Zone, who had been displaced by armed conflict between government forces and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army in 2015.

SCHOOL FEEDING

WFP started its school feeding programme in Shan State in 2004. Following the ban on poppy cultivation, many children dropped out of school, as their parents could no longer afford their school fees. With an objective to promoting education among the most poor and vulnerable, WFP's school feeding programme mainly targets children in primary schools located in remote villages with high and moderate food insecurity and (prevalance of nutrition).

COMMUNITY ASSET CREATION & LIVELIHOODS

Asset creation and livelihoods activities were first implemented in northern Shan in 2004 to provide ex-poppy farmers with alternative work opportunities and to build assets that benefit the entire community. In order to reduce dependency of the conflict-affected people on relief assistance, WFP further scaled up its asset creation activities in Shan to create more livelihood opportunities, especially when relief assistance was gradually phased down in 2015. Following a successful pilot cash-for-assets programme in the Lashio area, WFP has expanded its cash-based asset creation programmes to areas where markets are functioning and safe cash infrastructure systems are in place. Examples of successful projects include construction or renovation of mini dams,

Photo page 1: WFP-assisted road renovation project in Kutkai Township

Photo page 2: A ethnic Myaung Zi woman seen with WFP's oil ration

irrigation canals, roads, gravity flow water supply systems, rainwater collection tanks, fish ponds and terraced land. WFP has also introduced natural forest management to maintain water sources in a sustainable way and supported creation of nutrition-sensitive home gardens.

SUPPORT to PLHIV/TB PATIENTS

To improve the adherence of treatment and prevent the deterioration of patients' nutritional status, WFP provides food-by-prescription to people living with HIV on anti-retroviral therapy and to tuberculosis patients receiving directly observed treatment (DOTS) or DOTS-Plus. WFP has cooperated with the Government under the National Tuberculosis Programme to reach patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

NUTRITION

At 30.1 percent, the prevalence of stunting for children under the age of five in Shan State is higher than the national average of 26.7 percent. WFP's stunting prevention programme was first implemented in two villages in Kokang Self-Administered Zone in 2007. WFP has expanded the programme to cover over 400 villages in three townships in 2018, while also providing assistance to conflict-affected pregnant and lactating women as well as children under two living in IDP camps in northern Shan. WFP's nutrition programmes are implemented in coordination with the National Health Department in order to improve practices, and health and nutrition-related knowledge.

PARTNERS

Government Partners

- Shan State Government
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Sports
- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
- Ministry of Border Affairs

Cooperating Partners

Asian Harm Reduction Network, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, Myanmar Heart Development Organization

UN Agencies

UNDSS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOCHA

