



World Food Programme

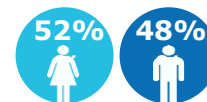
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

July 2019



In Numbers



585,600 people assisted in July 2019

US\$ 1 million cash-based transfers made

3,900 mt of food distributed

US\$ 31.88 million six months (August 2019 – January 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

Rakhine: Temporary internal displacements were reported during July due to monsoon floods in central Rakhine and armed clashes in the north of the state.

In central Rakhine State, WFP's nutrition assistance reached 5,200 PLW and 25,300 children under 5. Through emergency relief food assistance, WFP continued to assist 134,800 food-insecure people including 2,900 who were newly displaced. Through its lean season support, WFP extended its food and cash assistance to over 3,000 most vulnerable people in 55 villages.

In northern Rakhine State, WFP's emergency relief assistance continued to reach 94,600 conflict-affected people including 1,300 newly displaced people from 145 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages 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.

Kachin: WFP expanded the coverage of E-Money (the transfer of emergency cash assistance via mobile phones) to reach 23 camps for internally displaced people in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships, with plans to eventually cover all 42 camps. Emergency food assistance reached 49,000 displaced and flood-affected people in Kachin State through cash and E-Money transfers. WFP distributed two-months of nutrition rations in June to cover the needs of over 3,300 PLW and children under 2 in July.

Shan: Emergency relief distributions continued to support 15,100 beneficiaries from northern Shan State and conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 1,700 PLW and children under 2 received nutrition assistance.

• **School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or meals to 263,900 primary school children in 11 out of 14 states and regions in Myanmar. WFP has expanded the coverage of its school feeding assistance to include an additional 9,600 school children at 130 schools in Rakhine, Kachin, Mon, Kayah states and Thanintharyi Region.

• **Community Asset Creation:** WFP completed 24 out of 38 ongoing community asset creation projects in Rakhine and Shan states, the Naga Self-Administered Zone and the Wa Self-Administered Region. Projects include the construction of irrigational canals and rainwater collection tanks, the renovation of roads and dykes, and the development of terrace land and home and school gardens. Over 8,300 people benefitted from cash or food assistance from WFP.

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

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	July - December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
336.9 m	115.39 m	31.88 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 2,500 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 4,000 children under-5 and PLW from Chin State, Magwe Region, Naga Self-Administered Zone and Yangon peri-urban areas benefitted from WFP’s nutrition interventions.

Challenges

Security incidents in Rathedaung Township blocked waterway transport to northern Rakhine State on the May Yu River. The blockade on the river, WFP’s primary supply route, caused delays and prevented the delivery of assistance to 2,500 beneficiaries. WFP has identified alternative transport routes via Sittwe-Agnu Maw-Maungdaw and resumed transport of commodities following a short period of delay.

Flood response in Kachin State

The onset of the monsoon season in June has led to heavy rainfall across Myanmar, causing flooding in eight states and regions across the country. By the end of July, the floods had displaced over 86,000 people. The strongest impact so far has been felt in Kachin State.

Acting as the lead of the food security sector in Kachin, WFP coordinated closely with government authorities, UN agencies and partners to ensure the needs of the affected people are met rapidly and effectively. Following close consultations, WFP provided a three-day ration of high energy biscuits to over 5,000 flood-affected people in Myitkyina and Waimaw townships, securing their immediate food needs. This emergency assistance complemented cash and non-food items provided by the Government and other partners.

Myanmar will remain prone to widespread flooding until the monsoon season ends around October. WFP continues to monitor the situation, working closely with all partners to ensure full readiness for any required response.



Photos

Page 1: A woman in Shan State receives her WFP food ration
Page 2: A WFP staff member consults with flood-affected communities in Kachin State