



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief September 2019



Photo: A terrace land project in Wa Self-Administered Division implemented by WFP @WFP/Photolibrary

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.

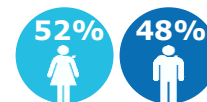


WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

2015 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

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

In Numbers



658,700 people assisted in September 2019

US\$ 1.06 million cash-based transfers made

3,900 mt of food distributed

US\$ 26.2 million six months (October 2019 – March 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Relief & Nutrition

Rakhine: Insecurity continued in September with recurrent skirmishes and new displacements in Sittwe, Myebon and Minbya townships and various areas in northern Rakhine State.

In northern Rakhine, WFP extended its emergency relief assistance to 4,100 newly displaced people, in addition to 94,800 vulnerable people from 146 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. WFP also supported the nutrition of 19,700 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with fortified blended food in northern Rakhine.

In central Rakhine, a total of 130,600 food-insecure people continued to receive life-saving food or cash assistance from WFP. This included over 2,500 newly displaced people affected by the ongoing armed conflict. In addition, WFP also continued to provide food assistance to 4,400 beneficiaries in Rathedaung Township who are vulnerable to the lean season. WFP's nutrition assistance reached 5,400 PLW and 24,900 children aged 6-59 months in central Rakhine.

Kachin: WFP continued to assist 43,300 displaced people in Kachin State using cash transfers and E-money. WFP also supported 234 IDPs from four townships with six months of cash transfers, as they returned to their places of origin. WFP also provided nutrition assistance for 1,930 PLW and children aged 6-23 months.

Shan: WFP regained access to conflict-affected communities in Kokang Self-Administered Zone (except the northernmost part because of the security situation). Ongoing armed clashes in Kutkai, Nant San and Kyaukme townships caused the new and temporary displacement of 1,000 people.

Emergency relief distributions continued to reach 7,100 displaced people from northern Shan State and 3,200 people in conflict-affected villages of the KoKang Self-Administered Zone. WFP provided nutrition assistance for 2,300 PLW and children aged 6-23 months across Shan State.

- Community Asset Creation:** WFP completed four road and dyke renovation projects in Rakhine and Shan states and Wa Self-Administered Region. WFP also supported 35,700 people through food assistance for assets.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	October 2019 - March 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
425.3 m*	116.2 m	26.2 m

*Based on the ongoing budget revision

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, Private Donor, Sweden, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America.

Operational Updates continued

- **School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or hot meals to 296,200 children from primary schools and early childhood care and development centres across Myanmar. WFP also organized the first technical workshop to develop National School Feeding Guidelines, held in Nay Pyi Taw. WFP and partners will discuss the first draft in November.
- **HIV & TB:** WFP supported 2,600 people living with HIV and/or tuberculosis, with food and nutrition assistance in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** WFP's nutrition interventions benefited 6,300 children aged 6-59 months and PLW across Chin State, Magwe Region and Yangon peri-urban areas.

A bridge between communities in northern Rakhine State

Through the food assistance-for-asset-creation activities, WFP promotes the construction or rehabilitation of assets that improve long-term food security and resilience. In Myanmar's northern Rakhine State, the programme is supporting people's access to markets and health facilities.

On a small island in Buthidaung Township surrounded by the May Yu River and Sein Nyin Pyaw Creek, lie six villages inhabited by Rakhine and Muslim communities. For a long time, this geographic isolation has created a significant constraint for over 5,000 villagers living together on the island in peace. To access a nearby market, school and health center, they had to cross the creek on an improvised, rickety bamboo-log structure which they had built with the scarce resources they had.

"Every single step along this road and bridge was very worrying. The route was even riskier for pregnant women, school girls and boys," Zawli Husson, a 67-year-old from Hpoe Kaung Chaung village, told WFP.

After hearing about these challenges, WFP mobilized and supported the local community in constructing a new road and bridge in June. "The road and bridge have impacted everything in our life. Now we can even use a tuk-tuk (a tri-wheel taxi) to go to the market, health center, relatives' home, and more," Zawli Husson told WFP. This new infrastructure not only provides safe and convenient transportation for the villagers, but also cuts transportation costs in half.



Photo:

Before, during and after the road and bridge construction
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