



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

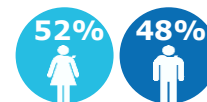
# WFP Myanmar Country Brief

October 2019



Photo: Vegetables at a local bazaar in Hpakant Township, Kachin State © WFP/ Haymar Aung

## In Numbers



625,900 people assisted in October 2019

US\$ 1.2 million cash-based transfers made

3,800 mt of food distributed

US\$ 23.9 million six months (November 2019 – April 2020) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Relief & Nutrition

**Rakhine:** With increased military activity and new displacements, the ongoing armed conflict continued to cause insecurity in the region in October. New internal displacements were reported in Sittwe, Myebon, Minbya and Buthidaung townships.

In northern Rakhine, WFP responded by providing emergency food assistance to 2,000 newly displaced people, complementing the Government's rice distributions. In addition, WFP continued to assist 97,400 food-insecure people from 176 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. WFP provided 18,700 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with fortified blended food through nutrition interventions in northern Rakhine.

In central Rakhine, WFP's emergency food assistance reached 3,500 people displaced by the ongoing armed conflict in Kyauk Taw, Minbya, Myebon, Pauk Taw and Sittwe townships. In addition, WFP provided 128,000 food-insecure people with life-saving food and cash assistance. WFP also continued to assist 4,400 of the most vulnerable people from 73 villages in Rathedaung Township with lean- season support. WFP's nutrition assistance reached 5,200 PLW and 25,000 children aged 6-59 months in central Rakhine.

**Kachin:** Following relative stability throughout most of this year, armed clashes broke out in Mohnyin Township, though no new displacements were reported. WFP continued to assist 43,000 displaced people in Kachin State with cash-based transfers. WFP also provided cash for six-month food rations to 110 internally displaced people from Bhamo, Momauk and Mansi townships, who decided to return to their home villages. WFP nutrition assistance continued to reach over 1,900 PLW and children aged 6-23 months.

**Shan:** As the security situation improved, WFP regained access to some conflict-affected communities in the northernmost Kokang Self-Administered Zone, which were out of reach in September. WFP assisted 4,800 people with emergency relief distributions there. WFP also reached a further 7,100 displaced people across northern Shan State. WFP's nutrition assistance benefitted 2,400 PLW and children aged 6-23 months.

- HIV and TB:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2,600 people living with HIV and tuberculosis in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.

## 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 food 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. An escalation in armed conflict between the Myanmar military and Arakan Army in Rakhine State since late 2018 has caused new displacements and aggravated the humanitarian situation.



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

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	November 2019 - April 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>425.3 m*</b>	<b>119.1 m</b>	<b>23.9 m</b>

\*Based on the latest 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, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Turkey, Russian Federation, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America.

\*Listed in alphabetical order.

## Operational Updates continued

- **School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or hot meals to 296,300 children from primary schools and early childhood care and development centres in 11 out of 14 states and regions across Myanmar. The school meals programme was expanded to Kyaukme and Lashio townships in Shan State, reaching an additional 2,300 students with hot meals.
- **Community Asset Creation:** WFP supported 2,900 people through cash or food assistance, in exchange for their work on seven community asset projects in Chin, Rakhine and Shan states and in Magwe Region. These completed projects include the construction of a road, contour trench and rainwater tank, the provision of fuel-efficient stoves, the establishment of school gardens, and the renovation of a dike.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** WFP's nutrition interventions benefited over 5,600 children aged 6-59 months and PLW from Chin State, Magwe Region, Sagain Region and Yangon peri-urban areas.

## Myanmar receives its latest nutrition analysis

To contribute to Myanmar's goal of improving nutrition, the National Nutrition Centre and WFP conducted a Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis in 2019, closely collaborating with stakeholders from a variety of sectors. The FNG assesses the gaps and barriers in consumption of adequate nutrients.

The FNG Analysis found that only four out of ten households in Myanmar can afford a diet which meets nutritional requirements. Nutrition needs of girls and PLW are generally not considered in household food allocations, putting them and their unborn children at greater risk of micronutrient deficiencies.

In urban areas, a lack of time and purchasing power to source and prepare a nutritious diet, combined with an abundance of cheap processed foods, has led to a rapidly increasing prevalence of people who are overweight and obese. At the same time, there is persistently high child undernutrition. Wasting prevails at an average rate of 6.5 percent in rural areas and 7.1 percent in urban areas; the rates are high enough to be a public health concern.

The time is now ripe for Myanmar to diversify the food supply chain towards more nutritious foods. Household food production through home gardens and ponds can increase access to nutritious foods for rural households. School feeding and emergency rations also offer platforms to improve access to healthy diets. Combining effective interventions could reduce the cost of a nutritious diet to as low as 25 percent of its current cost.



**Photo:** Partners gather at the FNG Dissemination Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw, October 2019 © WFP/ ShweYiWinLei Aung