



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

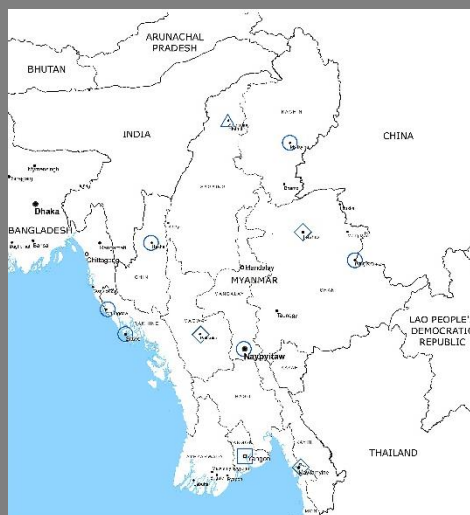


WFP Myanmar Country Brief November 2019

Operational Context

Myanmar is in the midst of 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. Malnutrition is a major challenge, and wasting prevails at 6.5 percent nationally. Likewise, 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 the Arakan Army in Rakhine State since late 2018 has caused fresh 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.



Population:
53.2 million

Income Level:
Lower middle

2018 Human
Development Index:
148 out of 189

Chronic
malnutrition: **29% of
children aged 6-59
months**

In Numbers

52%



48%



WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE

661,500 people assisted in November 2019

US\$ 1.3 million cash-based transfers made

4,000 mt of food distributed

US\$ 26.4 million six months (December 2019 – May 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- Approved Budget Revision to Country Strategic Plan**

The fourth budget revision to WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) was approved by WFP and FAO leadership. The revised five-year budget, amounting to US\$ 425 million, reflects WFP's increased needs, mainly in the conflict-affected areas, as well as the expansion in cash requirements in several programmes.

- Emergency Relief & Nutrition**

Rakhine: Intensified armed conflict is causing insecurity and new internal displacements in Sittwe, Myebon, Minbya and Buthidaung townships. In northern Rakhine, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 830 newly displaced people, complementing the Government's rice distributions. Despite the temporary suspension of food transportation due to security reasons, WFP assisted 107,600 food-insecure people from 187 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. WFP provided 18,900 children aged 6-59 months and 3,100 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with fortified blended food through nutrition interventions.

In central Rakhine, WFP's emergency food assistance reached 4,500 people displaced by the ongoing armed conflict in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. WFP also provided cash assistance to 600 newly displaced people in Paletwa Township of Chin State. In addition, WFP provided 128,000 food-insecure people with life-saving food and cash assistance, and continued to assist 4,500 of the most vulnerable people from 73 villages in Rathedaung Township with support to help them through the critical lean season. WFP's nutrition assistance reached 25,000 children aged 6-59 months and 5,200 PLWs.

Kachin: WFP continued to assist 43,000 displaced people with cash-based transfers. WFP also provided cash for six-month food rations to 54 internally displaced people from Bhamo, Momauk, Myitkyina and Shweku townships, who elected to return to their home villages. WFP nutrition assistance continued to reach 1,250 children aged 6-23 months and 1,220 PLWs.

Shan: WFP distributed food and cash to 12,900 people displaced across northern Shan State. WFP's nutrition assistance benefited 1,600 children aged 6-23 months and 800 PLWs.

- HIV and TB:** WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 2,900 people living with HIV and tuberculosis in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	December 2019 – May 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
425.3 m*	126.1 m	26.4 m

*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.

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.
- Activity 9:** Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients.

Donors & Funding Sources to WFP Myanmar Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)*

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, Republic of Korea, LIFT, Luxembourg, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.

*Listed in alphabetical order.

Operational Updates continued

- School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or hot meals to 297,700 children from primary schools and early childhood care and development centres in 11 out of 14 states and regions across Myanmar. School feeding was expanded to Nanyun Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone, reaching an additional 2,000 students with high-energy biscuits.
- Community Asset Creation:** WFP provided 24,000 people with cash or food incentives for their work on 38 community asset projects in Chin, Rakhine and Kayah states, Naga Self-Administered Zone and Magway Region. The completed projects include dike renovation, construction of irrigation canals, road construction, provision of fuel-efficient stoves and the establishment of home and school gardens.
- Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** WFP's nutrition interventions benefited 3,000 children aged 6-59 months and 1,540 PLWs from Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions and Yangon peri-urban areas.

WFP kick-started 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence

On 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls marked the start of the global campaign '16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence'. In line with this year's initiative '**Orange the World: Gender Equality to end Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**', WFP offices across Myanmar were coloured orange in support of the global UN campaign, to emphasize how social and cultural norms can exacerbate abuse, rape and violence against women. WFP pledges to stand at the forefront of ending sexual and gender-based violence in the family, workplace and the society in Myanmar and endeavours to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in all its offices, and with the people it serves in Myanmar.



Photo: WFP staff celebrated the opening ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism with schoolchildren in Pakkoku.

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The momentum of the Orange Campaign was further amplified by a series of trainings on transforming social norms for gender equality in WFP offices across the country. With a view to building a better understanding of and ability to address discriminatory social norms in Myanmar and strengthening the gender-transformative approach to WFP activities, staff from various functional units in WFP and from its cooperating partners participated in the training.