



# WFP Myanmar Country Brief

December 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

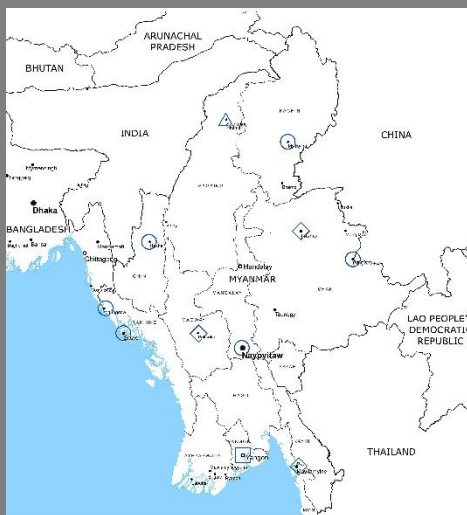


Photo: Villagers trading in a local Market in Seikdokyta Township, Magway Region. @WFP/Soe Thet Nyo

## 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 limited access to livelihoods, many conflict-affected people urgently need food assistance. 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 widespread population 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.



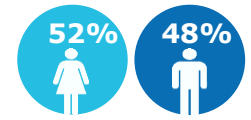
Population: 54.1 million

Income Level: Lower middle

2019 Human Development Index: 145 out of 189

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

## In Numbers



683,000 people assisted in December 2019

4,300 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.7 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 29.5 million six months (January 2020 – June 2020) net funding shortfall

## Operational Updates

### Letter of Understanding signed between WFP and the Government of Myanmar

In December 2019, WFP signed a letter of understanding with the Government of Myanmar which sets forth principles of the strategic partnership for the implementation of the Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022. This includes assistance to one million conflict-affected and other vulnerable people per year in Myanmar, as part of a joint collaborative effort to end hunger and malnutrition.

### Emergency Relief & Nutrition

**Rakhine:** The security situation remained volatile, with fresh displacements caused by ongoing clashes. Total displacement figures fluctuated due to the fluidity of movement among displaced people.

In northern Rakhine, WFP provided emergency food assistance to 1,100 newly-displaced people, complementing the Government's rice distributions. WFP assisted 102,450 food-insecure people from 183 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. Through nutrition interventions, WFP provided 17,200 children aged 6-59 months and 2,900 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) with fortified blended food.

In central Rakhine, WFP's emergency food assistance reached 12,400 persons who were newly displaced by ongoing armed conflict in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe townships. Furthermore, WFP provided 128,000 food-insecure people with life-saving food and cash assistance. WFP's nutrition assistance reached 26,500 children aged 6-59 months and 5,400 PLWs. However, a lack of access prevented WFP from assisting hundreds of other beneficiaries.

**Kachin:** WFP assisted 42,000 displaced people with cash-based transfers. WFP continued to provide a six-month cash ration to some 400 internally displaced people from Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Puta-O townships, who elected to return to their home villages. In addition, WFP supported 1,000 people in line with the Government's Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme recently rolled out in Kachin in December. WFP continued to provide specialized nutritious food to 1,250 children aged 6-23 months and 1,450 PLWs.

**Shan:** WFP distributed food and cash to 12,900 people displaced across northern Shan State. WFP's nutrition assistance benefited 1,500 children aged 6-23 months and 800 PLWs.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	January 2020 – June 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>425.3 m*</b>	<b>126.6 m</b>	<b>29.5 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.

## 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.

- **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. In order to give beneficiaries the flexibility to purchase food they most need, WFP is preparing for transition to cash-based transfers in 2020.
- **School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or hot meals to 307,000 children from primary schools and early childhood care and development centres in 11 out of 14 states and regions across Myanmar. A total of 38 new school gardens in three townships of Magway Region helped provide fresh vegetables to children and improve their dietary diversity.
- **Community Asset Creation:** WFP supported 34,605 people to create sustainable livelihood assets with cash or food incentives in 70 community asset projects in Chin, Kayah, Rakhine and Shan states, Naga Self-Administered Zone, Magway Region and Wa Self-Administered Division. The completed projects include the renovation of a dike, the construction of rainwater collection tanks, irrigation canals and roads, as well as the provision of fuel-efficient stoves and the establishment of home and school gardens.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** WFP's nutrition interventions benefited 3,700 children aged 6-59 months and 3,000 PLWs from Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions and Yangon peri-urban areas.

## WFP prepares for the launch of the SUN Business Network in Myanmar in 2020

In 2019, WFP explored the interests of various stakeholders in setting up the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network in Myanmar. The SUN Business Network is a global platform for the private sector to join forces with the nutrition stakeholders to act, invest and innovate in responsible and sustainable actions to end malnutrition in all its forms by 2030 (SDG 2.2).

WFP, as the global convenor of the SUN Business Network, formulated the strategy and workplan for the launch in the first quarter of 2020. This was accomplished through extensive desk research and consultation with counterparts from the Government, private sector, the UN and non-profit sector. In early 2020, an Advisory Committee with these stakeholders will be established. The Committee, of which WFP is a major driving force, will support the growth of the network in Myanmar and position it as a focal point for private sector engagement in nutrition.



**Photo:** Key stakeholders attended the SUN Business Network consultation in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2019. © WFP/ Khin Khin Wint Aung