



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief July 2020



Photo: On 30 July, 20,000 COVID-19 test kits donated by WFP and UNHCR arrived in Myanmar. ©WFP/Hkun Lat

Operational Context

Despite making important socio-economic strides in recent years, Myanmar is faced with a multitude of challenges, including armed conflict, displacement, widespread poverty and food insecurity and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic, which hinder ongoing development efforts. An estimated 24.8 percent of its 54 million population live near or below the poverty line. Many struggle with inadequate physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, with women, girls, and persons with disabilities and minorities particularly affected.

Malnutrition is a major challenge, and wasting rates prevail at 6.5 percent nationally. Likewise, Myanmar is one of the world's 20 high tuberculosis (TB) burden countries. It is also among the 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.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic presents particular risks in humanitarian settings in Myanmar, where internally displaced persons in overcrowded camps and communities in conflict-affected areas are at higher risk in the event of local-level outbreaks. Moreover, COVID-19 is likely to have a significant impact on livelihoods and further adverse socio-economic consequences on poor communities across Myanmar.

WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in northern Rakhine and established its first office in 1994. Given the protracted humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, high rates of malnutrition countrywide, and high susceptibility to natural hazards, WFP remains committed to improving coordination with its national and international partners and developing innovative solutions to meet acute needs across the country.

Read the [Annual Country Report 2019](#) to learn more about key WFP activities and results in Myanmar during 2019.



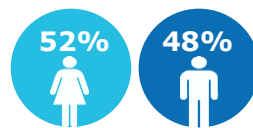
Population:
54.1 million

Income Level:
Lower middle

2019 Human Development Index:
145 out of 189

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

In Numbers



521,700 people assisted in July 2020

3,244 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2.1 million in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 24.2 million in net funding requirements for all operations over next six months (August 2020 - January 2021)

Operational Updates

- **Approved Budget Revision to Country Strategic Plan:** The fifth budget revision to WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) was approved. The creation of **Strategic Outcome 4** allows WFP to provide reliable, on-demand logistics and common services support to humanitarian and development partners in Myanmar on a regular basis and especially during crisis response.
- **Response to COVID-19:** Since April, as requested by the authorities, WFP has provided short-term food and nutrition assistance to 51,000 returning migrants for a 21-day period while they are in government-managed quarantine sites in 10 out of 14 states and regions. WFP further augmented its response by providing fortified blended food to prevent malnutrition to pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children aged 6-59 months in quarantine centres in Myawaddy Township in Kayin State.
- **Rakhine and Chin:** Despite insecurity and challenging road conditions, WFP distributed emergency food and nutrition assistance to 4,300 internally displaced people (IDP) in Paletwa Town, southern Chin State. WFP continues to seek access to Paletwa using the waterway from Sittwe, central Rakhine for further deliveries during the monsoon season. In July, WFP also assisted 3,900 IDPs in Samee (east of Paletwa Town).

Across Rakhine State, despite a volatile security situation, WFP reached 30,200 newly-displaced people with emergency food assistance in July.

In northern Rakhine, WFP assisted 97,550 people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, including 3,100 PLW and 16,700 children aged 6-59 months in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships.

In central Rakhine, WFP provided 138,600 food-insecure people with food and cash assistance, including 31,900 children aged 6-59 months and 6,300 PLW with fortified blended food.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2020 – Jan 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
427.6 m	179.9 m	24.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in food-insecure areas meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.

- **Activity 1:** Provide unconditional food transfers and/or cash-based transfers (CBT) 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.

- **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 social school feeding programme in targeted schools in support of the national programme.
- **Activity 4:** Provide conditional food or CBT in support of the creation and rehabilitation of assets, combined with nutrition messaging for targeted populations.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5 in Myanmar have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2022.

- **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 the age of two, and roll out community infant and young child feeding programmes, CBT 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 CBT combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients.

Strategic Result 8: Enhancing Global Partnerships (SDG 17)

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian and development partners in Myanmar have access to reliable common services during crisis and normal situation.

- **Activity 10:** Provide humanitarian common services for humanitarian assistance operations in Myanmar.

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

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), Luxembourg, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Private Donors (including Japan Association for WFP), Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America

**Listed in alphabetical order.*

- **Flood response in Kachin:** Following heavy rains across northern Myanmar, rising water levels caused flooding in Kachin State and displacements of 6,000 people in July. In response, WFP provided 1.6 mt of high-energy biscuits to 1,455 affected people, complementing the Government's provision of cash assistance for rice, masks and soap. Other humanitarian agencies provided hygiene kits and other non-food items. WFP will closely monitor the flood situation in close coordination with the local authorities and stands ready to provide assistance as needed.

Challenges

- Given considerable logistics challenges in the transportation of food commodities to remote areas in northern Rakhine, WFP could only reach half of its regular distribution points during monsoon season. WFP, in close coordination with local authorities, is organizing consolidated distributions at safe and accessible locations.

WFP vital assistance reached remote communities in Paletwa, southern Chin State amidst logistics challenges

The rainy season in Myanmar from May through October presents a particular logistics challenge. Roads are muddy and at times impassable for WFP food trucks. In many areas, the struggle to bring food to hard-to-reach areas is further compounded by ongoing insecurity.

Amidst these challenges, WFP maintains an agile supply chain across Myanmar to ensure that timely and effective assistance can be delivered to crisis-affected people.

In the remote Paletwa Township, southern Chin State, for example, WFP continues to reach conflict-affected communities stranded for months with emergency food and nutrition assistance, despite an armed attack on a WFP convoy in early May. WFP swiftly shifted from trucks to boats to bring WFP assistance to the distribution points.

In addition to prepositioning food stocks in Samee Town, WFP continues to negotiate for access to Paletwa using the waterway from Sittwe, central Rakhine for further deliveries during the monsoon season.



Photo: A convoy of WFP food trucks with life-saving assistance traversing through muddy, hilly roads en route to Paletwa, southern Chin State. ©WFP/ Photo Library