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Operational Context
Despite making important socio-economic strides in recent years, Myanmar faces 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.

In Numbers

- **566,400 people assisted** in October 2020
- **3,110 mt** of food distributed
- **US$ 2.7 million** in cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 47.3 million** in net funding requirements for all operations over next six months (November 2020 - April 2021)

Operational Updates

- **Response to COVID-19**: In October, WFP started providing nutritious meals for 2,000 people on a daily basis at a government-managed COVID-19 treatment centre in Yangon Region. To complement the Government’s efforts, WFP’s short-term food assistance reached over 2,400 people undergoing quarantine in central Rakhine. Meanwhile, WFP has reached a cumulative total of 72,000 returning migrants with short-term food and nutrition assistance for a 21-day period while they are in government-managed quarantine sites in 11 out of 14 states and regions.

WFP also chartered two domestic humanitarian flights from Yangon to Sittwe, central Rakhine State in October, transporting medical supplies and frontline medical, aid and government workers to support the Government’s COVID-19 response and sustain humanitarian operations in Rakhine State. More flights are planned in November.

In addition, WFP handed over 5,000 sets of personal protective equipment to the Yangon Regional Government to help with its efforts to curb the recent surge of COVID-19 virus transmission. (Please refer to COVID-19 Situation Report #12 for further details).

- **Chin and Rakhine**: In southern Chin State, WFP provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to 4,850 internally displaced people (IDP) in Paletwa Town and 3,400 IDPs in Samee Town. Following months of unrelenting efforts, WFP successfully delivered cash assistance to some 900 IDPs in the isolated rural villages in Meeza Town, where supplies have been scarce since February. Thanks to facilitation by Chin State authorities, WFP is currently completing delivery of 403 metric tons of food commodities to Paletwa, sufficient to feed 10,000 food-insecure IDPs and vulnerable host communities affected by the active conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army.

In central Rakhine, during October, WFP distributed electronic cash transfers to 34,100 newly-displaced people affected by ongoing conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army. In addition, WFP provided two-month rations of food and cash assistance to 139,500 food-insecure people, including 28,950 children aged 6-59 months and 5,500 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with fortified blended food.

In northern Rakhine, WFP assisted 103,300 people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, including 16,700 children aged 6-59 months and 3,100 PLW.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>427.6 m</td>
<td>177.0 m</td>
<td>47.3 m</td>
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</tbody>
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**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 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 children, 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.

**Operational Updates (continued)**

- **Kachin and Shan:** In October, WFP continued to provide relief assistance to 22,900 IDPs in Kachin State and 11,800 IDPs in Shan State, complemented by nutrition interventions.

**Challenges**

- In light of the attack on a boat transporting humanitarian (non-WFP) supplies along the May Yu River near Rathedaung Township in late October, WFP had to switch to more costly transportation routes to mitigate security risks.
- The mandatory COVID-19 testing requirement for frontline field staff, partners and transporters hampered WFP’s ability to move food commodities in a timely manner.
- Of the US$ 47.3 million net funding requirements, WFP urgently needs US$ 33 million to ensure uninterrupted live-saving food and nutrition assistance to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in Myanmar until April 2021. Without a new injection of support, interruptions in WFP cash transfers to IDPs will commence from November onwards and expand significantly thereafter.

**COVID-19 pandemic unveils the urgency of strengthening food systems in Myanmar**

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges to the food systems globally, disrupting food supply chains and pushing the vulnerable further into hunger. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic is devastating, where many are unable to feed their families during lockdowns.

“The world produces enough food for everyone so it’s a problem not of scarcity but of access to nutritious and affordable food,” said WFP Executive Director David Beasley. “Smallholder farmers in developing nations need support so they can grow crops in a more sustainable way, then store and transport their produce to markets, and ultimately improve their own livelihoods.”

In Myanmar, WFP is committed to increasing the amount of food it procures locally from smallholder farmers. In the first half of 2020, WFP has invested US$ 10.3 million into Myanmar’s economy through local procurement of food commodities and logistics services. The goal is to help build dynamic food systems which contribute to community-based agricultural growth and strengthen local economies to withstand shocks.

Through World Food Day 2020’s theme – ‘Grow, nourish, sustain. Together, our actions are our future’, WFP and its partners are calling for sustainable investments in food systems to achieve healthy and nutritious diets for all.

**Donors & Funding Sources to WFP Myanmar Country Strategy (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, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America

*Listed in alphabetical order.

**WFP Myanmar Country Brief**

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Photo: Investment in building school gardens is one of WFP’s strategies to stimulate local food supply while promoting food security. © WFP/Photo Library