



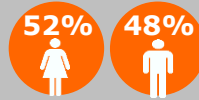
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Myanmar Country Brief November 2020

## In Numbers



555,000 people assisted in November 2020

2,800 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2.8 million in cash-based transfers made

US\$ 44.9 million in net funding requirements for all operations over next six months (December 2020 – May 2021)

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### 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

### Operational Updates

- Government approval and endorsement of key national school feeding policy documents:** Following extensive collaboration among WFP and different government ministries, the *Strategic Guidelines for National School Meal Programme* and the *School Feeding Multi-Year Work Plan (2020-2022)* have been officially approved by the Ministry of Health and Sports. These key documents will support the implementation of a nutrition-sensitive approach to education and encourage active community participation. It marks a key milestone towards a progressive expansion of nationally-owned, sustainable school meals programmes in Myanmar.
- Response to COVID-19:** In November, WFP's short-term food and nutrition assistance has reached a cumulative total of 88,400 people, including 74,100 returning migrants in 11 out of 14 states and regions. In Yangon Region, WFP started providing nutritious meals for some 4,000 people for a month at a government-managed quarantine centre, including the elderly, people with disabilities and those requiring special care.  
  
WFP also operated five weekly international flights connecting Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur, as well as two domestic humanitarian flights from Yangon to Sittwe, central Rakhine State in November. These arrangements will remain in place until regular international and domestic commercial flights are resumed. (Please refer to [COVID-19 Situation Report #13](#) for further details).
- Chin and Rakhine:** In southern Chin State, WFP provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to 8,300 internally displaced people (IDP) in Paletwa and Samee towns. WFP also delivered cash assistance to some 900 IDPs in the isolated rural villages in Meeza Town. WFP is planning to provide lean season support to 4,500 vulnerable people from the host community in Paletwa Town in December.  
  
In central Rakhine, during November, WFP distributed electronic cash transfers to 36,050 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 140,050 food-insecure people, including 25,600 children aged 6-59 months and 5,100 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with fortified blended food.  
  
In northern Rakhine, WFP assisted 100,900 people with emergency food and nutrition assistance, including 18,100 children aged 6-59 months and 3,200 PLW.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec 2020 – May 2021 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
427.6 m	177.0 m	44.9 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 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 in 2020

Australia, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), Luxembourg, multilateral donor funds, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, private donors (including Japan Association for WFP), Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States of America

*\*Listed in alphabetical order.*

## Operational Updates (continued)

- Kachin and Shan:** In November, WFP provided relief assistance to 21,000 IDPs in Kachin State and 16,750 IDPs in northern Shan State, complemented by nutrition interventions.
- Yangon peri-urban areas:** At the request of the Ministry of Health and Sports, WFP plans to expand its treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme in Shwe Pyi Thar Township, one of the poorest localities in Yangon Region, in the first quarter of 2021. In addition, WFP is in discussion with the Yangon Regional Government to identify an appropriate targeted response to address emerging food security and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19.

## Challenges

- In November, WFP was not able to move high-energy biscuits as planned for some 6,900 schoolchildren in rural townships in Kachin State due to lack of travel authorisations, which have been successfully obtained in early December.
- WFP urgently needs US\$ 31.4 million to ensure uninterrupted live-saving food and nutrition assistance to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in Myanmar until May 2021.

## WFP Myanmar commemorates 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and calls for gender equality

Amid an alarming rise in gender inequality and gender-based violence (GBV) during the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP stands in solidarity with thousands of people across the world in support of the global campaign '16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence' to end violence against women.

In line with this year's theme – 'Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!', WFP staff members across Myanmar dressed in orange to reaffirm their commitment to ending all forms of violence and actively engaged in virtual awareness sessions on GBV, human rights and disability inclusion. In particular, WFP male staff voluntarily engaged themselves in the Men Stand for Gender Equality to show solidarity and challenge negative masculine behaviour in the journey towards gender equality.

WFP continues to integrate gender equality and protection in all regular programmes and its COVID-19 response. Through its revamped Community Engagement Mechanism, WFP closely interacts with different age and gender groups, using a gender-sensitive approach to collect feedback and disseminate information. Furthermore, WFP has been a strong supporter of the development of a comprehensive Prevention of Violence against Women Law in Myanmar.



**Photo:** Through a roleplay exercise, WFP staff members advocated for zero tolerance towards any sexual favours in exchange for food assistance. © WFP/Cung Lian Thawng