

# WFP Myanmar

## Situation Report

August 2022



Photo: An indigenous Kayan woman seen with WFP relief assistance in an IDP camp in southern Shan state. © WFP/Htet Oo Linn

## In Numbers

**11 million** people are facing acute food insecurity

**1.3 million** people are displaced

**4 million** people are targeted for WFP assistance

**2.6 million** people reached in 2022 to date

## Situation Update

- **Humanitarian situation:** [UNOCHA](#) estimates that 1.3 million people are internally displaced by conflict in Myanmar – 974,000 since February 2021 and 653,000 in 2022 alone. A further 330,000 are protracted IDPs, displaced before February 2021.
- **Security** has deteriorated across the country, particularly in Chin, Kayah and Rakhine states. Increased clashes have led to new population displacements and further restrictions on humanitarian access.
- **Economy:** The value of the national currency, the Myanmar kyat (MMK), dropped rapidly in August, trading at around MMK3,500 to the US Dollar in the informal market, compared with MMK1800 in early 2022. The volatility is creating a surge in basic commodity prices.
- **Food security:** An estimated 11 million people – 20 percent of the total population – are facing acute food insecurity according to a [household survey](#) jointly conducted by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in March 2022. A new round of WFP assessments is underway to evaluate the impact of recent economic shocks, including rising food and fuel prices.
- **Food prices** appeared to have stabilised between June and July but continued to climb in August. Early indications from [WFP's price monitoring](#) in August suggest the cost of a basic food basket was 54 percent higher compared to the same time last year.
- **Banking regulations** imposed on 1 September require WFP beneficiaries to present an official identity card when collecting their cash entitlements through financial service providers.

## Highlights

- In response to rising inflation and a surge in local and global food prices, WFP increased the value of cash-based transfers in August. The change will cost WFP an additional **US\$ 450,000** per month.
- In August, WFP reached more than **1 million people** with food and cash assistance, including 33,300 internally displaced people (IDPs) who received WFP assistance for the first time.
- In 2022, WFP has assisted **2.6 million** crisis-affected people across Myanmar with emergency food, livelihoods and nutrition support.

## WFP Response

- **In August, WFP reached more than 1 million people** across Myanmar with food, nutrition, and livelihoods support. In September, WFP plans to assist 938,000 people.
- **WFP increased its cash-based transfer (CBT) values** by MMK1,000 to MMK5,000 from August onwards for beneficiaries under general food assistance across Rakhine, Shan, and Kachin states. These adjustments aim to alleviate sustained financial pressure faced by vulnerable households and ensure WFP cash entitlements cover basic food needs.
- **Starting from September, WFP has transitioned to cash-in-envelope** from mobile cash transfers, in response to the new banking regulations which posed challenges to some 40,000 beneficiaries in accessing WFP assistance through mobile money. WFP consulted with the communities ahead of the change and the initial reception was positive.



Photo: An ethnic Rakhine woman received a one-off food security cash top-up from WFP. © WFP/Zaw Win Lay

## WFP Response – by State/Region

### Rakhine State

- WFP relief distributions were temporarily suspended on 15 September, following an announcement by the de facto state-level authorities. The suspension covers 14 villages in six townships, including Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung townships in northern Rakhine; as well as Mrauk-U, Minbya, and Myebon townships in central Rakhine.
- All 237,000 monthly WFP beneficiaries are impacted by the halt. As a preparedness measure, some 22,500 beneficiaries in central Rakhine received a double ration, which is sufficient to cover their needs into October.

### Chin State

- **Food access** is affected by the situation in Rakhine State. In August, WFP moved food via waterway to Paletwa Township in southern Chin, for the first time since early 2022. However, access restrictions in Rakhine State are likely to impact WFP's ability to reach 6,000 beneficiaries in the townships of Paletwa, Meeza and Samee, unless food stocks can be replenished.

### Magway Region

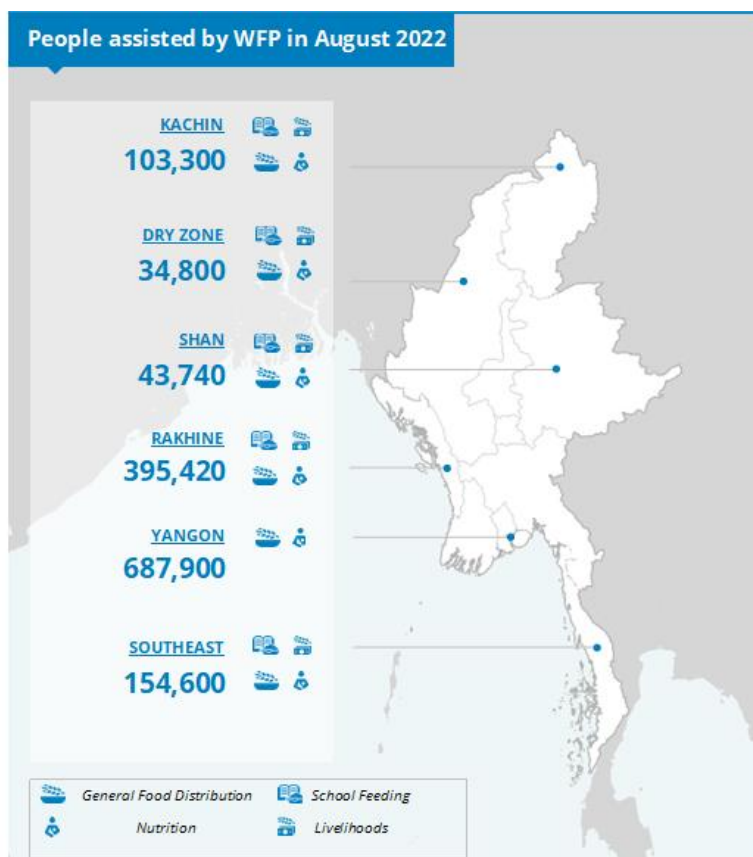
- **WFP was granted permission to access IDPs** for the first time since April 2022. WFP is coordinating with the relevant authorities to finalise distribution plans.

### Yangon peri-urban areas

- **WFP continued to expand its social protection support** to around 5,000 vulnerable families with children aged 6-23 months, or pregnant and lactating women. WFP is providing CBT while partners are providing complementary support. The third round of WFP distributions is scheduled to commence in September.

### Shan State

- **WFP is planning to support IDPs** at risk of evictions due to planned camp closure or de-listing in Kutkai Township, which are hosting 3,100 IDPs displaced by conflict in 2013 to 2016.



## Resourcing Update

WFP requires **US\$ 65.3 million** over the next six months (October 2022 – March 2023) to ensure uninterrupted support to beneficiaries. Of which, **US\$ 46.5 million** (71 percent) is for life-saving food assistance.

Without additional funds, cash-based operations in crisis-affected areas will face interruptions in late November, affecting 424,000 IDPs and crisis-affected people; while in-kind food assistance will experience a break in mid-January 2023, affecting 504,000 IDPs and crisis-affected people.

## WFP Response – by sector

### Food and Nutrition Assistance

#### General Food Assistance

- So far in 2022, **2.2 million** crisis-affected people received WFP emergency food support, including **261,000 new IDPs and people affected by recent conflict**. Of these, 1.9 million people received in-kind food assistance or commodity vouchers, while 279,000 were assisted via CBT.
- In August, WFP assisted **1.1 million people** with **10,508 mt of food** and **US\$ 2.5 million** in cash.

#### Nutrition

- So far in 2022, WFP has provided **132,000 children aged 6-59 months** and **25,870 pregnant and lactating women (PLW)** with nutritious foods to prevent and treat acute malnutrition.
- In August, WFP reached **44,300 children and 13,600 PLW**, as well as **9,100 people living with HIV/TB** with nutrition support.

#### School feeding

- WFP assisted **143,000 children** in August, with **2,245 mt** of high energy biscuits and **US\$ 2.2 million** in cash for school meals in **2,400 schools** across Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states and Sagaing Region.
- In response to rising food costs, WFP increased the CBT value for school meals to MMK700 – up from MMK500 – per student per meal.

#### Asset creation and livelihoods (ACL)

- Since January, WFP has reached **25,000** people through ACL projects, with plans to reach an additional **10,000** people by the end of 2022. These enable vulnerable communities to meet their basic food needs while building resilience.
- In August, WFP assisted **1,260 people** through ACL projects. There are **29** active projects in Shan State and Naga Self-Administered Zone (Sagaing Region),

including farm and terrace development, and construction of roads and irrigation canals.

### Supply Chain and Logistics

- Between January and August, WFP locally procured **46,700 mt** of food, worth **US\$ 17.3 million**.
- In August, WFP dispatched **10,135 mt** of mixed food commodities across Myanmar.
- Retail rice prices are increasing, partly due to rising fuel costs and inflation. While new crops available in the market in October is expected to alleviate price pressure, WFP beneficiaries may experience reduced buying power.
- WFP stands ready to rotate its contingency food stocks in the event of new displacements in Rakhine State due to increased clashes.

### Protection

- WFP received 7,300 cases reported through its Community Engagement Mechanism so far in 2022. More than half were related to requests to be included as WFP beneficiaries.
- WFP has started a six-month cash top-up pilot for people with disabilities, covering 710 families in Kachin and Shan states.
- Findings from the community consultations in four states during the first week of September will be used to inform WFP programming.
- Beneficiary retargeting exercises are ongoing in Rakhine and Kayah states and peri-urban Yangon. Consultations with stakeholders and protection actors are integrated into the retargeting approach. In northern Rakhine State, new targeted lists are utilised for current distributions, with a planned re-verification exercise to address exclusion concerns for October distributions.

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