



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar

COVID-19 Situation Report #13

10 December 2020



Photo: WFP handing over food assistance to government officials and representatives at ThaBarWa Community Quarantine Centre in Yangon. © WFP/Htet Oo Linn

Highlights

- WFP continues its short-term food and nutrition assistance at selected quarantine and treatment sites in 11 out of 14 states and regions, so far cumulatively supporting 96,100 people including 74,800 returning migrants.
- The Government has approved WFP’s joint plan with the World Health Organization (WHO) to augment COVID-19 testing capacity in Rakhine State.
- WFP is planning to operate additional domestic humanitarian flights connecting Yangon and Sittwe (Rakhine State), and initiate a new route connecting Yangon and Myitkyina (Kachin State).



Situation Update

- As of 9 December, Myanmar has 103,166 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 2,174 deaths. Myanmar currently ranks third among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries with the highest COVID-19 infection and death rates. The number of positive cases continue to soar steadily, with over 1,000 positive cases [reported daily](#) since mid-October and a 10 percent positivity rate.
- The Government of Myanmar has extended the existing COVID-19 prevention measures until 15 December, including the temporary suspension of domestic flights. International commercial flights remain suspended until 31 December.

WFP Operations



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In Yangon Region, WFP is providing food assistance to a quarantine centre targeting 4,000 people for one month including the elderly, people with disabilities and/or those requiring special care. In addition, WFP continues to provide daily cooked meals for 2,000 people on a daily basis at a government-managed COVID-19 treatment centre.
- Furthermore, WFP is in active discussion with Yangon Regional Government and partners to identify an appropriate targeted response to address emerging food security and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19 in Yangon peri-urban areas.
- In central Rakhine, WFP continues its assistance at government-managed quarantine sites. To date, 2,700 people undergoing quarantine in eight townships have received WFP’s daily nutritious meals.
- WFP’s short-term emergency food and nutrition assistance for returning migrants in government-managed quarantine sites is now limited to facilities at the Myawaddy gate on the border with Thailand. WFP expects to hand over this operation to the Kayin State Government by the end of December.



Social Protection

- WFP and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) are jointly supporting the Department of Social Welfare in providing a one-time cash support of MMK 30,000 (USD 23) to 7,000 pregnant women in Kachin State to strengthen their resilience to other shocks and stresses

compounded by COVID-19. Beneficiary registration is ongoing and distributions will start in mid-December.

Common Services Support



Humanitarian Testing Capacity

- As part of the United Nations’ commitment to scale up its support to the Government, WFP and WHO, in coordination with the National and Sittwe Health Laboratories, plan to put in place additional COVID-19 testing facilities in Rakhine State. The facilities will create extra capacity to allow timely COVID-19 testing of frontline humanitarian workers and key service providers. The plan has been approved by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the COVID-19 testing machines are expected to arrive in Rakhine in mid-December.



Aviation Service Support

- Given the temporary suspension of all domestic flights in Myanmar, WFP has operated four domestic humanitarian flights connecting Yangon and Sittwe (Rakhine State) since end-October. Additional flights are planned, with a new route connecting Yangon and Myitkyina (Kachin State), and will continue until regular domestic flight services resume.
- Meanwhile, WFP’s weekly aid flights linking Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur, remain in place until regular international commercial flights resume.



Resourcing Situation

- WFP is actively seeking USD 2.5 million to continue and scale up its COVID-19 response to meet immediate needs.
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, WFP requires close to USD 32 million to provide uninterrupted life-saving food security and nutrition assistance for the coming six months until May 2021 to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in the conflict-affected areas of Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states.

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (December 2020 – May 2021)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	USD 44.9 million
Emergency relief assistance	USD 31.4 million*

*This includes outstanding loans amounting to USD 6.27 million from WFP’s Immediate Response Account (IRA) to be repaid.

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