



Photo: WFP staff handed over personal protective equipment funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund to the Rakhine State Government. © WFP/Aung Sein Mya

Highlights

- The total number of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar more than doubled in 17 days, with a vast majority of local transmissions reported in Rakhine State. WFP is ready to support the Government with food assistance to government-managed quarantine sites in affected townships in Rakhine.
- WFP has taken measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in Rakhine State, including reducing staff.
- WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to 60,400 returning migrants in quarantine sites for 21 days in 10 out of 14 states and regions, as requested by the authorities.

Situation Update

- According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, there are 938 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar as of 2 September. The number of cases more than doubled from 375 cases over the course of two weeks since 16 August. A large majority of the local transmissions were reported in Rakhine State.
- To curb the spread of COVID-19, lockdown measures were imposed in all townships in Rakhine State, including a stay-at-home order and a curfew from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.. The Government has instructed people who travelled to Rakhine since 10 August to report immediately to the authorities and undertake a 14-day quarantine. In addition, the temporary ban on international commercial flights was extended to 30 September.

WFP Operations



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP continues its short-term emergency food and nutrition assistance, so far supporting over 60,000 returning migrants in quarantine sites (with three meals a day throughout the 21-day quarantine period) in 10 out of 14 states and regions as requested by the authorities. These include Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states; as well as Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Tanintharyi and Yangon regions.
- In light of the recent spike of COVID-19 cases in Rakhine, WFP is ready to support the Government with food assistance to the government-managed quarantine sites in Kyaukphyu, Minbya, Mrauk U, Myebon and Sittwe townships in central Rakhine, where necessary and appropriate.
- WFP is assisting the Department of Disaster Management to distribute cash grants via e-money to 3,036 IDP households in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships in Kachin State. Each IDP household will receive 40,000 Myanmar kyats (equivalent to USD 30). Distributions are ongoing.
- WFP is distributing high-energy biscuits and cash-based transfers to 200,550 students in 10 state and regions in lieu of school meals during the school closures due to COVID-19. Distributions started in August and will be finalized by the first week of September.

Common Services Support



Supply Chain and Logistics Coordination

- Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 in Rakhine State, WFP has reduced the physical presence of staff at offices, distribution points and warehouse to minimize the risk of transmissions.
- WFP continues its close monitoring of all supply chain infrastructure and stands ready to facilitate or respond to logistics gaps as they arise. WFP recently expanded the storage capacity of its Sittwe warehouse to accommodate up to 1,600 m³ of cargo. WFP will make half of the storage capacity available for humanitarian partners if needed.
- WFP has delivered personal protective equipment to its field offices for use by its staff and six UN/INGO partners. These were procured with a contribution from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund.



Aviation Service Support

- Since 10 May, WFP has operated 18 weekly aid flights linking Yangon, Vientiane and Kuala Lumpur, bringing in medical and hygiene supplies and providing access to humanitarian and development workers. This arrangement will remain in place until regular international commercial flights resume.

Resourcing Situation

- WFP requires a further USD 1.4 million to provide food assistance for up to 60,000 quarantined returning migrants and USD 1 million for common logistics support, as reflected in the Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan Addendum.
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, WFP requires USD 12.7 million to continue providing life-saving assistance to more than 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in the conflict-affected Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states until February 2021.

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (September 2020 – February 2021)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	USD 25.8 million
Emergency relief assistance	USD 12.7 million*

*This includes outstanding loans amounting to USD 6.39 million from WFP's Immediate Response Account (IRA) to be repaid.