



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief September 2018



Operational Context

Myanmar is amidst an important political and socio-economic transformation. The country is highly susceptible to natural disasters and climate risks. An estimated 37.5 percent of its 53 million population live near or below the poverty line. Many struggle with physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food with women, girls, elderly persons with disabilities and minorities affected most.

Wasting prevails at seven percent nationally. Myanmar is one of the world's 20 high tuberculosis burden countries. It is also among 35 countries accounting for 90 percent of new HIV infections globally.

Ethnic conflict exacerbates an already fragile situation. Over one million people have been displaced from their places of origin since June 2011. With restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods, many conflict-affected populations rely on external assistance to survive. Attacks on border outposts in August 2017 and ensuing violence forced nearly 700,000 Muslims to flee Rakhine State and seek refuge in Bangladesh, leading to a humanitarian crisis and activation of WFP's corporate Level 3 response, since downgraded to Level 2.



WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

Population:
53.2 million

Income Level:
Lower middle

2015 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

Chronic malnutrition: **29% of children under the age of five**

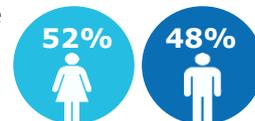
In Numbers

589,989 people assisted in September 2018

US\$ 682,596 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 25.39 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

4,183 mt of food assistance distributed



Operational Updates

- **Rakhine:** In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted over 93,500 conflict-affected people, including 3,000 pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls and 14,600 children under the age of five, from 202 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. In central Rakhine, WFP reached a total of 116,000 people with emergency relief food assistance.
- **Kachin:** Around 98,000 people remain displaced in Kachin State across 139 camps or camp-like settings as a result of intensified armed conflict since 2011. WFP continued to coordinate new food and livelihood needs for resettled IDPs through its role as the co-chair of the Kachin Food Security Sector. WFP assisted a total of 88,600 beneficiaries in Kachin, of whom 47,000 received emergency relief assistance.
- **Shan:** Approximately 2,500 villagers from conflict-affected areas were displaced temporarily due to armed conflict in northern Shan State. WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 7,100 beneficiaries from 20 IDP camps in Shan State, as well as 8,200 people from conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 55,000 people were assisted through all activities.
- **Funding:** WFP secured additional funding for emergency relief, community asset creation and nutrition assistance in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states.
- **WFP Programme staff to be based in Nay Pyi Taw:** For the purpose of deepening cooperation with counterpart government departments, WFP's Programme team has begun to relocate to the UN compound in Nay Pyi Taw since June. With over 30 staff members expected to complete the move, WFP will run operations from Myanmar's capital under the direct supervision of the Deputy Country Director. Business support units, such as administration and finance, supply chain and partnership, reports and communications, will remain in the Yangon office.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements October 2018 – March 2019 (in USD)
310.8 m	61.94m	25.39 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in food-insecure areas meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.

Activities:

- **Activity 1:** Provide unconditional food transfers and/or cash-based transfers (CBTs) 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.

Activities:

- **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 cash-based assistance in support of the creation and rehabilitation of assets, combined with nutrition messaging for targeted populations.
- **Activity 5:** Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients.

Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5 in Myanmar have improved nutrition in line with national targets by 2022.

Activities:

- 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 girls, and children under 2, and roll out community infant and young child feeding programmes, CBTs 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.

Donors in 2018

Australia, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, the Republic of Korea, LIFT, Luxembourg, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the Republic of Turkey, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the United States of America.

Challenges

- The school feeding programme faces a pipeline break at the end of November. If no new funding is received, WFP may have to significantly reduce or stop its support to around 340,000 primary school children throughout the country.
- WFP was unable to secure sufficient and timely funding to procure enough rice for September distributions in central and northern Rakhine. Additionally, due to production issues at WFP's cooking oil supplier, oil rations were also reduced. To avoid ration cuts for beneficiaries, WFP distributed Wheat Soya Blend (WSB+) to meet the required daily kilo-calories. The ration changes affected all camps and villages assisted by WFP in Rakhine equally.

Monitoring

WFP's Country Director and nutrition team visited a pilot project of the maternal and child cash grant programme in Yangon's peri-urban Dagon Seikkan township. The WFP team assessed the digitalized tool its cooperating partner has developed for monitoring anthropometric parameters of the nutrition status of beneficiaries. The tool can assess and track progress in case of relocation between townships. WFP encouraged its partners to share more health and nutrition key messages at every distribution.

Workshop on 2019 Asset Creation projects

WFP's Asset Creation team organized a workshop in Sittwe, Rakhine State with cooperating partners and counterpart government departments on seasonal livelihood programming and village selection for community asset creation projects in 2019. The workshop, which included representatives from six townships of Rakhine State, analyzed the region's livelihood seasonality and patterns and identified villages for project implementation. It also enhanced stakeholder inclusiveness in planning 2019 projects and strengthened linkages between stakeholders for project efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.



Photo: Workshop participants in discussion
WFP/ Phyu Phyu Win