



# WFP Myanmar

## Country brief

January 2018

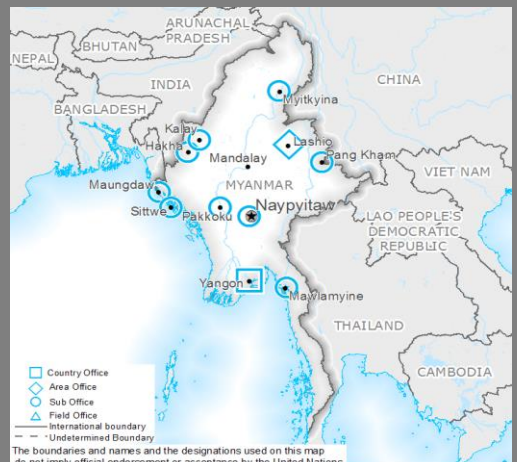
### Operational context

Myanmar, the second largest country in Southeast Asia, is amidst an important political and socio-economic transformation. An estimated 37.5 percent or 20 million out of its 53 million population are living near or below the poverty line. Most people in the country struggle with physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food with women, girls, elderly, persons with disabilities and minorities most affected.

Nearly one in three children under the age of 5 years suffers from chronic malnutrition (stunting) while wasting prevails at 7 percent nationally. Myanmar is one of the world's 20 high tuberculosis (TB) burden countries. It is also among the 35 fast-track priority countries accounting for 90 percent of new HIV infections globally. Men and boys are more likely to suffer from HIV or HIV and TB co-infection due to seasonal migration to border areas. The country is highly susceptible to natural disasters, ranking 2 out of 187 countries in the global climate risk index. Seventy-four percent of children who enrol complete primary school, but less than half of them complete middle school and even fewer children progress onward with girls more likely to drop out of school to serve family needs.

Ethnic conflicts and violence continue to exacerbate an already fragile situation with over 1 million people displaced from their places of origin since June 2011, of whom about 80 percent are women and children. With restrictions on movement and lack of access to livelihoods, many conflict affected populations rely on external assistance for their survival. The attacks on the border outposts in August 2017 and ensuing violence forced nearly 700,000 Muslims living in Rakhine State to flee Myanmar and seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh leading to a humanitarian crisis and activation of WFP's corporate level 3 response.

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



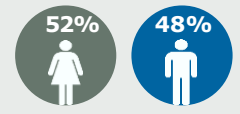
Population: <b>53.2 million</b>	2016 Human development index: <b>145 out of 188</b>
Income level: <b>lower middle</b>	Chronic malnutrition: <b>29% of children under the age of five</b>

### In numbers

**499,775** food-insecure persons

**US\$22.6 m** six-month (February-July 2018) net funding requirements representing 7.27% of total needs

**457,130 people** assisted in January 2018



### Operational updates

- WFP completed January food distributions in Rakhine State. In Maungdaw District, WFP assisted 38,700 conflict-affected people, including 5,700 pregnant and nursing women and 1,400 malnourished children under the age of 5 years, from Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu communities in 96 villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. In Sittwe District, WFP reached 114,400 displaced people and other conflict affected populations, including 5,700 pregnant and nursing women and 16,000 children under the age of 5, in townships of Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe.
- Armed conflict between government forces and the Kachin Independence Army continued in Sumprabum and Tanai Townships. More than 900 people fled the fighting in Sumprabum, sheltering in areas beyond government control. Due to intensified fighting in Tanai, 5,000 people were unable to leave the area. Humanitarian access to Tanai has been severely restricted since June 2017. The United Nations, including WFP, have not had access to areas of Kachin beyond government control since June 2016 despite reiterated requests from the UN leadership.
- On 1 January 2018, WFP launched its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2022 in support of the Government of Myanmar in achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030. With three strategic outcomes and eight activities in the CSP, WFP will continue to collaborate with the Government of Myanmar and cooperating partners to provide timely and effective assistance to the 2.8 million people across the country over the course of five years.
- WFP is grateful to the governments of Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Germany, Poland, the Republic of Korea as well as the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and Japan Association for WFP for the early support to the CSP totalling USD 14.6 million, enabling WFP to kick-start the CSP.
- WFP's funding shortfall amounted to USD 22.6 million to cover all identified food assistance needs of displaced and other most vulnerable populations through July 2018. Needs are expected to increase significantly pending the assessment outcomes.

**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/Innocent Sauti  
Caption: A WFP assisted household received their emergency food rations in Kyauk Ta Lone displaced person camp in Kyauk Phyu Township of Rakhine State.

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## WFP Country Strategy

	Total Requirement (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Country strategic plan 2018-2022<sup>1</sup></b>			
<b>Overall</b>	<b>310.8 m</b>	<b>8.9 m</b>	<b>22.6 m</b>
<b>Strategic outcome 1:</b> <i>Crisis-affected people in food-insecure areas meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.</i>			
<b>Strategic result 1</b> <b>Access to food</b> (SDG 2.1)	<b>263.9 m</b>	<b>7.9 m</b>	<b>19.1 m</b>
<b>Strategic outcome 2:</b> <i>Vulnerable people in states and regions with high food insecurity and/or malnutrition have access to food all year round.</i>			
<b>Strategic result 2</b> <b>End malnutrition</b> (SDG 2.2)	<b>46.9 m</b>	<b>1.0 m</b>	<b>3.5 m</b>

<sup>1</sup> Resourcing figures as per country office pipeline.

## WFP Myanmar Activities

SO 1	Act 1	Provide unconditional food transfers and/or cash-based transfers (CBTs) to populations affected by crisis
SO 2	Act 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
	Act 3	Implement a comprehensive school feeding programme in targeted schools in support of the national programme
	Act 4	Provide conditional food or cash-based assistance in support of the creation and rehabilitation of assets, combined with nutrition messaging for targeted populations
	Act 5	Provide unconditional food and/or cash-based assistance combined with nutrition messaging and counselling for people living with HIV and TB patients
	Act 6	Provide implementation support, research-based advice and technical assistance on national policies and action plans for the Government and partners
SO 3	Act 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)
	Act 8	Provide specialized nutritious foods for the treatment and management of acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, and children under 5

## Challenges

- Since the outbreak of violence in August 2017, no UN organizations have been allowed to carry out needs assessments in Maungdaw District. WFP was able to adjust its beneficiary caseload by using beneficiary lists provided the Myanmar Red Cross Movement and local authorities, evidence of household registration and informal contacts with key informants during distributions. The revised lists were shared with authorities and other actors to maximize coverage and avoid overlaps.
- Getting timely authorization from local authorities for food distributions remained a challenge in Rakhine and Kachin States. Due to the intensified fighting between government forces in Kachin State, WFP did not have access to Tanai and Hpakant Townships for relief and school feeding.
- In January, WFP did not reach 42,645 of the targeted people in need of food assistance, largely due to access constraints in Maungdaw District of Rakhine State and areas of Kachin beyond government control.
- While distributing fortified blended food (wheat soya blend) in Maungdaw District, WFP disseminated basic information on nutrition to beneficiaries receiving emergency relief assistance. Given the limited time for distributions, WFP was not able to reach all the assisted women, girls, boys and men with nutrition awareness messaging.
- Despite the Government of Myanmar's commitment to start accepting returnees in two reception centres in Taung Pyo Let Wea and Nga Khu Ya and one transit camp in Hla Poe Kaung on 23 January, through the repatriation process 2018, the return of people has been postponed.

## Best practice

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP was able to extend school feeding to Ye Township of Mon State. Apart from distributing high-energy biscuits to the schoolchildren, WFP also provided training to teachers implementing the programme at township level and encouraged teachers to form food management committees with parents. As a result, the attendance rate increased and students were able to gain weight and becomes less susceptible to getting seasonal flu.



## Donors

Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), Republic of Korea, Poland, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and Japan Association for WFP.