



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Country Brief

March 2019



WFP Myanmar Country Director participates in a traditional dance of Naga ethnic people in Lehe Township

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 7 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 1 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 assistance to survive. Attacks on border outposts in August 2017 and ensuing violence forced over 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.

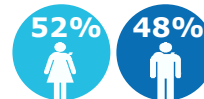


WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

2015 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

Chronic malnutrition: **29% of children**
under the age of 5

In Numbers



322,943 people assisted in March 2019

US\$ 828,710 cash-based transfers made

4,071 mt of food distributed

US\$ 23.66 m six months (April - September 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

• Emergency Relief & Nutrition

Rakhine: A significant increase in internal displacements due to continued armed conflict between the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) and Arakan Army was reported in northern and central Rakhine State increasing from 6,000 people in February to 20,000 in March. WFP delivered a one-month ration of food to 2,220 newly displaced people in central Rakhine State, with plans to extend support to additional displaced populations based on coordination with other actors meeting current needs, including the Government and ICRC. WFP continued providing emergency relief assistance to 96,050 conflict-affected people from 173 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships of northern Rakhine State. In addition, WFP reached over 16,300 children under 5 years through nutrition interventions. In central Rakhine, 4,740 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) and 24,160 children under 5 years were reached with nutrition interventions, and over 128,040 food-insecure people received relief assistance.

Kachin: WFP continued to provide emergency food assistance to 44,200 displaced people in 12 townships of Kachin State through cash and e-money transfers via mobile phones. In addition, WFP provided over 250 internally displaced people who returned to their homes with a cash grant to cover essential food needs for three months. Moreover, WFP assisted over 1,100 conflict-affected people in Namti Township with rice, complementing an ICRC cash grant to cover other basic food items. This was coordinated by WFP as chair of the Kachin Food Security Sector. Over 1,900 PLW and children under 2 received WFP's nutrition assistance.

Shan: Ethnic armed clashes reoccurred in Kyethi, Hsipaw and Namtu townships during March, causing new internal displacements. WFP's emergency relief distributions continued to support 15,200 beneficiaries across northern Shan State as well as from conflict-affected villages in the northernmost part of KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 2,100 PLWs and children under 2 years in Shan State received nutrition assistance.

- **School Feeding:** As the holiday season has begun for government-run schools, WFP continued to provide nutritional snacks or meals only to 11,500 primary school children from 120 schools in Wa Self-Administered Division, an autonomous region in northeastern part of Myanmar.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	April - September Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
336.9 m	74.33 m	23.66 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 & Funding Sources to WFP Myanmar Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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

- **Community Asset Creation:** Over 3,550 vulnerable people from Kayin and Mon states benefitted from WFP’s cash assistance following the completion of 36 community asset creation projects including establishment of home gardens and renovation of roads and irrigation canals.
- **HIV & TB:** WFP assisted 2,600 HIV and tuberculosis patients in Kachin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region. Three agreements with cooperating partners were under review for implementation throughout 2019.
- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 2,950 children under 5 and PLW from Yangon peri-urban areas, Chin State and Naga Self-Administered Zone benefitted from nutrition interventions.

Challenges

Nutrition interventions at some of the Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) treatment centers in three townships of central Rakhine – Kyauk Taw, Myauk U and Minbya – have been suspended by the Government due to the intensification of the ongoing armed conflict. In northern Rakhine, WFP received permission by the Government to continue MAM activities.

International Women’s Day celebration

Men staff members of WFP donated one half-day of their leave balance to all of their women colleagues as a gift on International Women’s Day in honor of the unseen work, time, love and dedication women bring to their homes, families and the workplace.

Expedition to Nagaland

WFP Country Director Mr Dom Scalpelli visited remote villages in Lahe Township of Naga Self-Administered Zone during the last weekend of March. The mission met authorities of Lahe Township, village administrators and local communities to explore opportunities to increase WFP’s assistance to vulnerable communities in Nagaland where poverty and remoteness continue to result in a high prevalence of malnutrition.

WFP has been implementing its nutrition and community asset creation programmes in 24 villages in Lahe Township since 2017. Its school feeding programme is assisting over 15,600 students in 245 schools at Khamti, Lahe and Leshi townships. WFP plans to assist over 7,000 vulnerable people of Nagaland throughout 2019 with nutrition and community asset creation programmes.



Mr. Dom Scalpelli observing nutrition beneficiaries in Laung Nguak Village of Lahe Township in Nagaland. Photo: WFP/Htet Oo Linn