



World Food Programme

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# WFP Myanmar Country Brief

August 2019



Photo: A young girl receives a screening for acute malnutrition in Naga region (WFP/Htet Oo Linn)

## 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 24.8 percent of its 54 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 6.7 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.

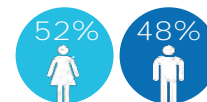


WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994.

2015 Human Development Index:  
145 out of 188

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

## In Numbers



565,320 people assisted in August 2019

US\$ 984,700 cash-based transfers made

3,600 mt of food distributed

US\$ 26.2 million six months (September 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Relief & Nutrition

**Rakhine:** New small internal displacements were reported during August due to the ongoing armed conflict. In northern Rakhine State, WFP's emergency relief assistance continued to reach 97,700 conflict-affected people including 1,900 newly displaced people from 165 Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. In addition, WFP reached over 7,800 children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) through nutrition interventions.

In central Rakhine State, WFP continued to assist 110,800 food-insecure people including 2,200 who were newly displaced through emergency relief food assistance. In addition, WFP extended its lean season support to over 4,400 most vulnerable people in Rathedaung Township. WFP's nutrition assistance reached 5,200 PLW and 24,600 children under five years of age.

**Kachin:** WFP provided emergency food assistance to 43,700 displaced and flood-affected people in Kachin State using cash and E-Money transfers. Over 1,860 PLW and children under 2 received nutrition assistance from WFP.

**Shan:** Armed clashes have flared up in Shan State since mid-August causing over 9,000 temporary internal displacements. Urgent needs of the displaced people were covered by the assistance from the Government and local well-wishers. WFP emergency relief distributions continued to support 7,300 displaced populations from northern Shan State. Hampered by the armed clashes, WFP could not reach about 8,000 targeted people in conflict-affected villages of the KoKang Self-Administered Zone. Over 1,400 PLW and children under 2 received nutrition assistance in Shan State.

- **School Feeding:** WFP provided nutritional snacks or cooked meals to 237,700 children from primary schools and early childhood care and development centres across Myanmar.
- **Community Asset Creation:** WFP completed 6 out of 13 ongoing community asset creation projects in Rakhine and Shan states and the Wa Self-Administered Region. The projects include the construction of dykes, roads and retaining walls. Over 39,200 people benefitted from cash or food assistance from WFP.
- **HIV & TB:** WFP supported 2,500 HIV and tuberculosis patients with food and nutrition assistance in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Shan and Rakhine states, and Yangon Region.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2019 - February 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
425.3 m*	115.8 m	26.2 m

\*Based on the ongoing budget revision

## 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 &amp; 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, Republic of Korea, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Private Donor, Sweden, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America.

## Operational Updates continued

- **Nutrition in non-emergency areas:** Over 5,000 children under-5 and PLW from Chin State, Magwe Region and Yangon peri-urban areas benefitted from WFP's nutrition interventions.

## Challenges

The security situation in Shan State has deteriorated significantly following a series of coordinated attacks by an alliance of three ethnic armed groups in Shan State and Mandalay Region and ensuing armed clashes. As a result, WFP was not able to complete some community asset creation projects and had to partially postpone implementation of its school feeding programme in Shan State. WFP continued to coordinate closely with partners to ensure continuation of the existing assistance and to stand by to respond to the new needs.

## August, the nutrition promotion month

To get to Zero Hunger, food is not enough. Providing food assistance in an emergency can save lives, but the right nutrition at the right time can also help change lives and break the cycle of poverty. It is critical to couple food and nutrition assistance with targeted nutrition promotion to leverage the benefits.

In August, WFP offices across Myanmar engaged with partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders to keep nutrition firmly in public health priorities. WFP also reached out to business associations and companies to form the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network in Myanmar.

In Chin State, Kachin State and Naga region, WFP and partners held demonstrations to show how to combine locally available meat and vegetables into a healthy food pyramid. These demonstrations were coupled with activities that enhanced the beneficiaries' and local communities' knowledge of factors underlying good nutrition, such as feeding and hygiene practices.

Nutrition promotion month is an important nationwide initiative by the Ministry of Health and Sports which WFP was honoured to take part in. With refreshed commitments in August, WFP encouraged all its partners to keep the momentum alive through the coming months and years.



## Photo:

Beneficiaries try meals prepared in a cooking demonstration in Hpakant Township, Kachin State (WFP/Haymar Aung)