



WFP Myanmar Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Supporting Transition by Reducing Food Insecurity and Undernutrition among the Most Vulnerable	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirement s (in USD)*
PRRO 200299 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	361 m	229 m (63.5%)	21.8 m

*October 2017 – March 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200299

In 2017, WFP Myanmar entered the final year of its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which was launched in January 2013. The current PRRO contributes to more equitable development and supports national reconciliation by reducing poverty, food insecurity and undernutrition, responding to disasters, and increasing resilience among the most vulnerable. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Zero Hunger Challenge, the specific objectives of the PRRO are to 1) prepare for and respond to natural disasters and other shocks in support of the Government; 2) assist post-disaster recovery by rehabilitating productive assets to improve household food security and create socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable; 3) address undernutrition among children and pregnant women and nursing mothers, and support at-risk groups such as people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) patients; 4) improve access, enrolment and attendance to primary schools; and 5) improve the sustainability of responses to food insecurity and undernutrition through knowledge-sharing and capacity development.

WFP aims to reach its objectives through five major activities:

Relief—WFP has been providing life-saving food assistance to 515,000 people displaced and/or affected by conflicts, violence and natural disasters. In both 2015 and 2016, WFP assisted people affected by floods. Most recently, during the floods in 2016, 231,000 people affected in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Regions and in Rakhine State received emergency food assistance to mitigate their suffering from hunger. Since 2014, WFP and FAO have co-lead the Food Security Sector, which has been responding to food and/or cash needs of people affected by ethnic conflicts and natural disasters.

Highlights

- With the support of the Rakhine State Government, WFP was able to resume food distributions in central Rakhine State, reaching 73,000 internally displaced and other most vulnerable populations in six townships.
- Humanitarian access to the northern part of Rakhine State was severely affected by the August 25 security incidents and the ensuing violence, leaving an unidentified number of people in need of immediate food assistance.

Nutrition—Linking with the national health system and in line with the national protection scheme, WFP provides nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive support for 89,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers and malnourished young children.

HIV/TB programme—As balanced nutrition is pivotal for people living with HIV or TB patients to keep their immune system strong in order to fight the diseases, WFP provides food-by-prescription to 23,000 PLHIV and TB clients aiming to enhance their adherence and success of treatment.

Community Asset Creation—WFP strengthens community resilience by creating community infrastructures and providing 200,000 people with either cash or food in exchange for participating in asset creation activities.

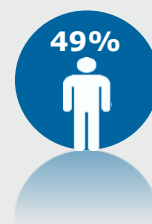
School Feeding—In support of the country's National Social Protection Strategic Plan and the 2016-2021 National Educational Strategic Plan, WFP and the Ministry of Education have started working towards nationalisation of the school feeding programme from the 2015/16 academic year onwards. WFP aims to feed 400,000 school children in the 2017/18 academic year.

Furthermore, WFP, in collaboration with the Government, has completed the Food Security and Poverty Estimation surveys in 2016 and is developing the country's first-ever Food Security Atlas, which will contribute to the advancement of national food security and poverty reduction policies and strategies. WFP has also supported the Government in establishing nine resource centres across the country to enhance national capacity of sustainable food security monitoring.

In Numbers (September 2017)

691,675 people in need of food assistance

440,542
people assisted



Main Photo

Photo: WFP / Saw Lwin
Caption: A farmer enabled to grow crops on sides of the hill by WFP supported terrace land development project in Chin State

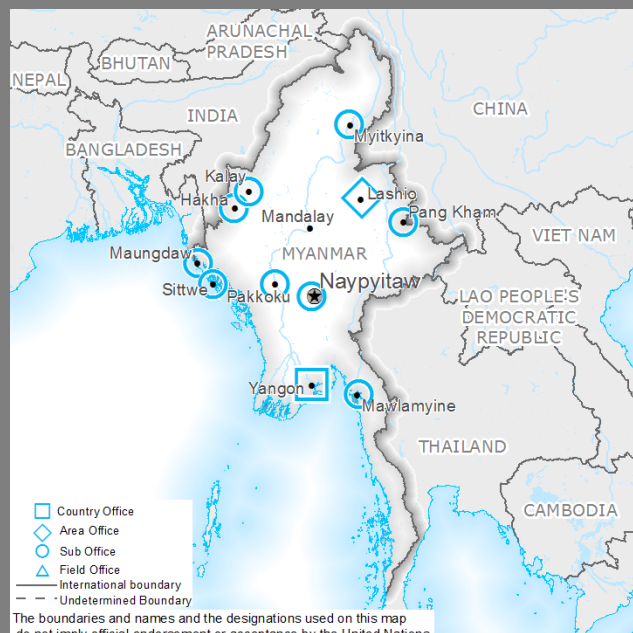


September 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP's distributions to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in central Rakhine State were halted from 25 August to 11 September due to security concerns among service providers and cooperating partners. On 12 September, following discussions with the Rakhine State Government, WFP was able to resume its operations. With logistics support from the local authorities, WFP recommenced food distributions for IDPs and other most vulnerable populations in Kyak Taw, Kyauk Phyu, Mrauk U, Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe Townships. All the 50,000 people, who missed out on their normal August rations, were prioritized and reached with the September distributions. On 07 October, WFP completed the September food distributions reaching 74,000 out of the targeted 111,000 people in central Rakhine. No distributions took place in Rathedaung Township, which remained out of reach due to access restrictions.
- According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group, an estimated 521,000 people reportedly crossed the border from the northern part of Rakhine State of Myanmar, into Bangladesh between 25 August and 08 October. Humanitarian access remained restricted for WFP and other UN organizations in the northern part of Rakhine, despite residual population was in need of immediate food assistance. The Government indicated its intention to work with the Red Cross movement in its initial response to humanitarian needs. WFP worked with partners to explore the possibilities for collaboration with the Red Cross movement for the crisis response.
- In Rakhine State, there were difficulties in distributions of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) for the school feeding programme due to the ongoing security incidents from late August to September. In Wa Region, time constraints and difficult road conditions during the rainy season resulted in delays in the food distribution to schools.
- In Hakha Township of Chin State, Lashio Township of Shan State, Mong Pauk Township of Wa Special Administrative Division and Pangkham Township of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, WFP completed nine terrace land development projects. The outputs helped create land, increased local food production and household income, improved food security, and mitigated shifting cultivation. In Lashio Township, WFP built seven irrigation canals conveying water for paddy cultivation during both rainy and dry seasons while creating job opportunities during the lean agricultural season. In Chin State, WFP supported road construction and renovation projects to provide better transportation to access social services including market and health care centres, and helped save travel costs.
- Notwithstanding the unidentified needs that persisted in the northern part of Rakhine, WFP's funding shortfall amounted to USD 8 million to cover all identified food assistance needs of IDPs and other most vulnerable people until December 2017.
- In September, WFP did not reach 251,133 of the targeted people in need of food assistance, largely due to access constraints in the northern part of Rakhine State caused by the recent security incidents.

Country Background & Strategy



Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. The country is amidst an important political and socio-economic transformation, marked by the election of its first civilian government in 2016, led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

Nevertheless, ethnic conflicts and inter-communal violence continue to exacerbate an already fragile situation in the country. In addition, it is highly susceptible to natural disasters and ranks second in the world among countries most affected by such events, according to the Global Climate Risk Index.

Myanmar remains one of the least developed nations in the world with an estimated 37.5 percent or 20 out of its 53 million population living below the poverty line. Most people in the country struggle with physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and undernutrition rates remain among the highest in the ASEAN countries.

Nearly one in three children under the age of five countrywide suffers from chronic malnutrition (stunting) while wasting prevails at seven percent nationally. Furthermore, an extremely low number of children aged 6-23 months—only 16 percent countrywide—are fed a minimum acceptable diet. Eighty-three percent of children who enrol complete primary school, but less than half of them complete middle school and even fewer children progress onward.

WFP implemented its first operation in Myanmar in 1978 in the northern part of Rakhine State and established its first office in 1994. Currently WFP operates from the Country Office in Yangon, a representative office in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, three Area Offices and six Sub-Offices.

Population: **53.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
145 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Global Fund, Italy, Japan, JAWFP, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K, UN CERF, U.S.A. and private sector.

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