



# 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 Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200299 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	343 m	205 m (60%)	10 m (47%)

\*January 2017 – June 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A** PRRO 200299

In 2015, WFP extended its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which was launched in January 2013, until the end of 2017 to harmonise it with the work of the United Nations Country Team. 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 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 mother (PNM), and support at-risk groups such as people living with HIV (PLHIV) and tuberculosis (TB) clients; 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 280,000 people displaced and/or affected by conflicts, violence and natural disasters. Both in 2015 and 2016, WFP assisted people affected by floods. As of September 2016, WFP has reached 179,520 flood victims with food and cash assistance, in Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway and Mandalay Regions and in Rakhine State. WFP and FAO co-lead the Food Security Sector (FSS) since 2014, which has been responding to food and/or cash needs of people affected by ethnic conflicts and natural disasters.

## Highlights

- Partial access for life-saving food assistance to Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in northern Rakhine was granted in mid-December.
- Ongoing conflicts in the northern regions of Shan State caused access restrictions to WFP’s operations and ability to conduct needs assessments in the affected area.
- Armed conflicts in Kachin State continue to impede WFP’s access to displaced people in the state.

**Nutrition** – Linking with the national health system and in line with the national protection scheme, WFP provides nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive support for 140,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers and malnourished young children.

**HIV/TB programme** – As balanced nutrition is pivotal for people living with HIV or TB clients 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 treatment success.

**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 half a million school children in the 2016/17 academic year.

Furthermore, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, has completed Food Security and Poverty Estimation surveys in 2015 and is developing the country’s first-ever Food Security Atlas, contributing 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, enhancing national capacity of sustainable food security monitoring.

## In Numbers (December 2016)

**574,900** people in need of food assistance

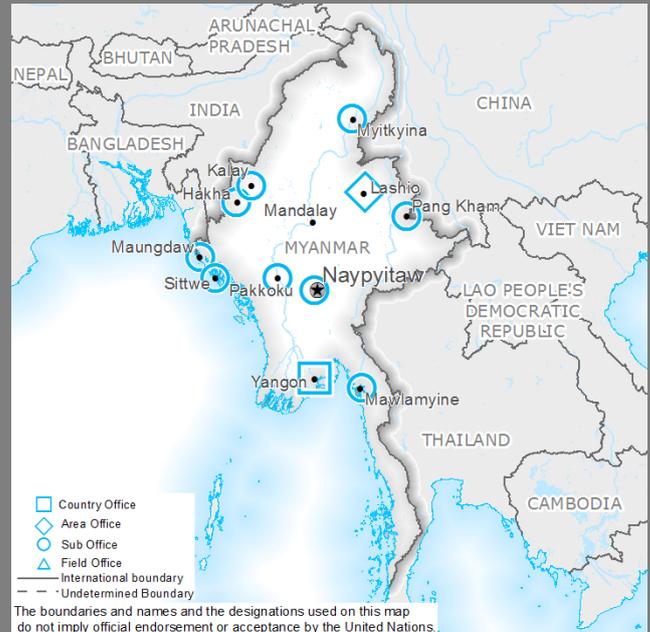
**442,983** people assisted



## Operational Updates

- Following the authorisation from the local authorities on 18 December, WFP managed to briefly resume relief and nutrition activities and assist 28,096 food insecure and vulnerable people in 169 villages of Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. Since 19 December, WFP reached 18,740 people in 95 villages of Maungdaw and 9,356 people in 74 villages of Buthidaung. Many areas most affected by the ongoing security operations in northern Maungdaw were rendered inaccessible again on 28 December, due to safety and security concerns from the authorities. WFP remains in close contact with authorities on a national and local level to stand ready to act when access to the most food insecure areas is once again possible.
- The security situation in the northern region of northern Shan State remained unstable due to sporadic fighting between the military and ethnic armed groups. The conflicts resulted in WFP being unable to deliver food assistance to affected people in Kokang during December, while access to the townships of Muse, Nam Kham, Kut Khai, Nam Tu and Man Tone was limited. In order to ensure the delivery of assistance to people in need, food assistance was replaced with cash assistance in Muse, Nam Kham and Kut Khai. WFP continues to follow up with the Ministry of Border Affairs about the situation and stands by to resume food and cash distributions in affected areas when the security situation is once again stable.
- Clashes between Government forces and the Kachin Independence Army in Kachin State continued to create a volatile situation in the state. Due to ongoing access restrictions since June 2016, 21,000 displaced people who previously received pulses from WFP in 9 camps in Waingmaw, Mansi and Momauk Townships, which are located in areas beyond the Government's control, continued to be affected by the situation.
- On 7 December, the Government of Japan, WFP's largest funding partner in Myanmar, donated JPY 300 million (USD 2.6 million). The grant was formally handed over to WFP Deputy Country Director and Officer-in-Charge Ms Naoe Yakiya by His Excellency Tateshi Higuchi, Japan's Ambassador to Myanmar, at a grant signing ceremony at the Ministry of Border Affairs in the capital Nay Pyi Taw. The contribution will allow WFP to procure 1,900 mt of mixed food to benefit 140,000 food insecure people across Kachin, Magway, Mon, Sagaing and Shan states/regions.
- WFP assisted a total of 442,983 people out of an estimated 574,900 people in need of food assistance across Myanmar in December. The reason for 131,917 people not being reached was largely due to access restrictions in northern Rakhine State, the northern part of northern Shan State as well as Kachin State.
- In total in 2016, WFP provided 34,684 mt of food to the most vulnerable and food insecure communities in Myanmar. The vast majority of this food, 27,228 mt (nearly 80 percent), was procured locally in Myanmar, thus contributing to the economic development of the country and supporting local businesses producing commodities such as rice and pulses.

## Country Background & Strategy



Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia. The nation's economy is one of the least developed in the world and is suffering the effects of extended isolation and stagnation. More than 13 million people or 26 percent of Myanmar's population live below the poverty line and three million people are spending a high percentage of their limited income on food with a restricted diet that does not meet all their consumption needs.

Development in Myanmar is being compromised by prolonged ethnic conflicts and intercommunal violence since its independence in 1948, resulting in massive displacements of people. In terms of education, according to the latest statistics, the net enrolment rate in primary schools is close to 88 percent, and 75 percent of children starting grade 1 reaches grade 5, the last grade of primary school. However, the net completion rate is only 54 percent.

The country's vulnerability to natural disasters and the Government's poor emergency response capacity affect its socio-economic progress. Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in the general election in November 2015. A new cabinet led by the first civilian president in five decades took office on 1 April 2016.

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

Population: **51.4 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **148 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **35% 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.