



# WFP Myanmar Country Brief

## Highlights

- In Maungdaw District of Rakhine State, WFP reached 63,650 against 60,000 targeted people in December.
- In central Rakhine, with logistics support from the local authorities, WFP reached 100 percent of the targeted 114,000 beneficiaries during the December distribution cycle.
- For the first time since 25 August 2017, WFP international staff were granted access for food distribution monitoring in Rakhine State.
- WFP needs US \$23.9 million to meet identified food assistance needs of the most vulnerable people countrywide though June 2018.

**WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE**

## 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)	361 m	229 m (63.3%)	33.2 m**

\*\* 6-month (January – June 2018) net funding requirement for Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2022) as per Country Office Pipeline.

**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 contributing to poverty reduction, 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-led the Food Security Sector, which has been responding to food needs of people affected by ethnic conflicts and natural disasters.

**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 (December 2017)

**543,202** targeted beneficiaries

**549,915** people assisted



**Main Photo**

Photo: WFP/ Zaw Zaw Tun  
Caption: Two young mothers carrying packs of EU funded WFP nutrient-dense food for their malnourished children in Sittwe Township of Rakhine State.

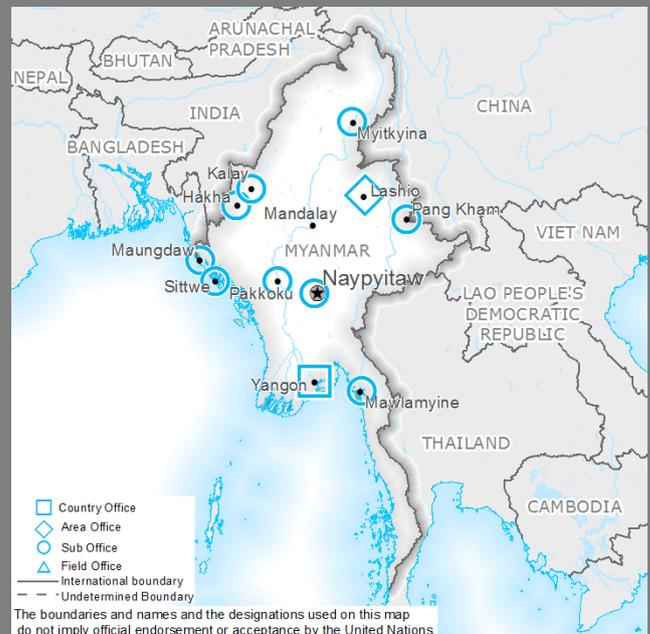


**December 2017**

## Operational Updates

- In Maungdaw District of Rakhine State, WFP continued food distributions in 133 villages in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships. Under the December distribution cycle, WFP assisted 63,650 people, including 2,050 pregnant and lactating women and 9,020 malnourished children under the age of five. Consequently, 3,650 more than the planned 60,000 people were reached.
- With logistics support from the Rakhine State Government, WFP completed the December food distribution cycle in central Rakhine State, reaching 100 percent of the targeted 114,000 beneficiaries in Kyaukphyu, Kyauktaw, Meybon, Minbya, Mrauk U, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships, including 5,890 pregnant and lactating women and 17,650 malnourished children under the age of five. All distributions were monitored by WFP national staff.
- WFP continued to coordinate and cooperate closely with the local authorities for its operations in Rakhine. WFP international staff were granted access for food distribution monitoring in Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Mrauk U Townships. This was the first time WFP international personnel managed to visit field locations since 25 August 2017.
- According to the Inter-Sector Coordination Group, an estimated 688,000 people reportedly crossed the border from Maungdaw District of Myanmar into Bangladesh between 25 August 2017 and 21 January 2018.
- In Buthidaung, Minbya and Myebon Townships of Rakhine State, WFP completed 155 home garden nutrition-sensitive projects, one dyke renovation project and one dam construction project to improve community resilience and increase paddy cultivation. In Tedim and Tozang Townships of Chin State, WFP supported seven contour trench development projects and seven terrace land development projects to increase yields and crop production, and three road renovation projects to improve access to markets and health facilities. In Lahe Township of Nagaland Self-Administrative Zone, WFP helped build an irrigation canal, renovated a road and completed 191 home garden projects.
- In December, WFP provided food and cash assistance to 549,915 people in Chin, Kachin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan and Yangon reaching 6,713 more than planned people.
- In December, WFP received contribution in support of its operations in Myanmar from Canada (US\$ 194,401), Germany (US\$ 1,184,834), Japan Association for WFP (US\$ 268,144), Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (US\$ 287,294) and Norway (US\$ 607,460).
- Notwithstanding the unidentified needs that persisted in Maungdaw District, WFP's funding shortfall amounted to USD 23.9 million to cover all identified food assistance needs of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other most vulnerable people though June 2018.
- WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 2013-2017) ended and being replaced with the new country strategic plan (CSP 2018 – 2022) which will continue providing food assistance to the most vulnerable populations while supporting national capacity building.

## 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, Republic of Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K., UN CERF, U.S.A. and private sector.

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