



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	218 m (63.5%)	5.1 m (21%)

*April 2017 – September 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200299

In 2017, WFP entered the final year of its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in Myanmar, 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 production 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) 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 515,000 people displaced and/or affected by conflicts, violence and natural disasters. Both in 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. WFP and FAO co-lead the Food Security Sector since 2014, which has been responding to food and/or cash needs of people affected by ethnic conflicts and natural disasters.

Highlights

- In the northern part of Rakhine State, WFP assisted 25,500 food-insecure and vulnerable people. The majority of displaced people returned to their villages of origin.
- WFP successfully completed the second round of disbursements for the e-wallet pilot project in Kachin State, which included three additional camps in March.
- WFP conducted a mission assessing the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for humanitarian preparedness and response.

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 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 400,000 school children in the 2017/18 academic year.

Furthermore, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, has completed Food Security and Poverty Estimation surveys in 2016 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 (March 2017)

302,808 people in need of food assistance

258,325
people assisted



Main Photo

Photo: WFP/Innocent Sauti
Caption: WFP staff and a woman from a vulnerable community during food distributions in Sittwe, Rakhine State.

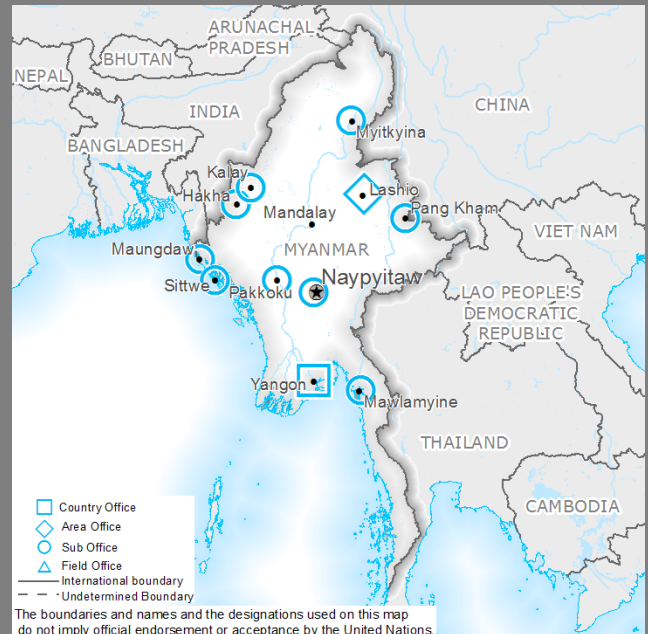


March 2017

Operational Updates

- In the northern part of Rakhine State, WFP delivered food to 25,500 food-insecure people who had either been displaced or lost their homes or livelihoods during the recent security operations in the area. A majority of displaced persons in the area returned to their villages either as a result of the Government's authorisation or on their own individual initiative.
- In Kachin State, WFP successfully completed the second round of disbursements for its e-wallet pilot project. In addition to the three camps in Myitkyina, the project was expanded to include three additional camps in Waingmaw, thus targeting a total of 284 households or 1,400 displaced people. All participants received their monthly cash assistance through accounts on WFP-provided mobile phones without major technical issues.
- On 17-24 March, WFP carried out a mission in preparation for the development of a coordination model for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for humanitarian preparedness and response. Fully funded by the Government of Belgium, the mission identified local actors currently working with UAVs and conducted assessments to gather information on current developments, activities and plans from humanitarian actors in Myanmar related to the potential use of UAVs for large-scale humanitarian emergency operations. The novel technology holds the promise of a diverse portfolio of rapid strategic planning applications that are already being effectively used in humanitarian response operations around the globe.
- In order to support the Government of Myanmar in realising its own first-ever national school feeding programme, WFP and representatives from the Government went on a study tour to Brazil to visit WFP's Centre of Excellence against Hunger. The purpose of the trip was to enable Government officials to enhance their knowledge on the development of multi-sector and sustainable school feeding models, and included representatives from the Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture and Border Affairs.
- In the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, WFP sponsored a study tour for staff members from the Government of Myanmar to the Philippines. The objective was for the two Governments to share best practices in the area of logistics preparedness and response and for the Government of Myanmar to learn from the experiences of the Philippine emergency preparedness and response model, which is considered the best in Southeast Asia.
- The results of an external evaluation of WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in Myanmar, conducted in August-September 2016, were finalised and published. The evaluation assessed WFP's assistance across its main activities as well as capacity strengthening in Myanmar. Overall, the evaluation team found the PRRO to be a well-implemented programme that was being delivered in a challenging and dynamic environment. The operation was relevant and appropriate to the needs of the target groups, although some outcomes were constrained by factors including funding shortfalls. To read the full report, please use the following link: <https://www.wfp.org/content/myanmar-prro-200299-supporting-transition-reducing-food-insecurity-and-undernutrition-among->

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. 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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