



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)	361 m	230 m (63.8%)	27.2 m **

*November 2017 – April 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 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.

Highlights

- WFP received the green light from the local authorities to resume distributions in the northern part of Rakhine State and was finalizing preparations for emergency response.
- With the support of the Rakhine State Government, WFP completed the October cycle of food distributions reaching 119,000 internally displaced and other most vulnerable populations, including 24,000 pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and young malnourished children in eight townships.

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.

** 6 month net funding requirement as per Country Office Pipeline.

In Numbers (October 2017)

517,098 people in need of food assistance

450,049 people assisted



Main Photo

Photo: WFP / Soe Win Tun
Caption: WFP emergency food assistance being offloaded from a boat to Ah Nuak Pyin IDP camp in Rathedaung Township, Rakhine State.



October 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP received permission from the local authorities to resume operations in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships in the northern part of Rakhine State and is currently working out the details of the distributions with the Government. With the lifting of the temporary relocation status of the UN personnel by the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), WFP staff returned to their duty station at Maungdaw field office and started preparations to restart food distributions. WFP head of the field office, who is an international staff member, remained stationed in Maungdaw since the security incidents on 25 August.
- The Muslim population continued to leave the northern part of Rakhine State for Bangladesh. According to the Inter Sector Coordination Group, an estimated 607,000 people reportedly crossed the border from the northern part of Rakhine State of Myanmar, into Bangladesh between 25 August and 28 October.
- With logistics support from the Rakhine State Government, WFP continued food distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other most vulnerable populations in Kyaukphyu, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe Townships of central Rakhine State. On 29 October, WFP completed the October distribution cycle, reaching 119,000 out of the targeted 120,000 IDPs and most vulnerable people in central Rakhine State, including 24,000 pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and malnourished children under the age of five. The remaining 1,000 people could not be reached due to access restrictions in some areas of Rathedaung Township.
- In Shan State, WFP continued to provide life-saving assistance (including food and cash) to 12,000 beneficiaries in 16 IDP camps. Due to security reasons in Man Tone area, 15 percent of the targeted people could not be reached. WFP will prioritise them during the November distribution cycle.
- In Man Tun Township of Wa Self Administrative Region, WFP built an irrigation canal conveying water for paddy cultivation. In Pangkham and Lashio Townships of Shan State, WFP completed two terrace land development projects. The outputs helped the poor farmers to increase production rate and improve household food security. In Hakha, Mindat and Rezua Townships of Chin State, WFP supported three road construction/renovation projects to improve rural road access and four terrace land development projects to create land.
- Notwithstanding the unidentified needs that persisted in the northern part of Rakhine, WFP's funding shortfall amounted to USD 27.2 million to cover all identified food assistance needs of IDPs and other most vulnerable people until April 2018.
- In October, WFP did not reach 67,049 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. Access to areas of Kachin beyond Government control also remained restricted putting at risk the food and nutrition security of more than 20,000 IDPs.

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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