



# World Food Programme Myanmar Operational Report | Release # 3/2017

## Successful continuation of e-wallet pilot project:

In Kachin State, WFP successfully completed its second round of disbursements of its “e-wallet” pilot project. In addition to the three camps in Myitkyina who received their cash-assistance via e-wallets in February, the project was expanded to include three additional camps in Waingmaw, thus totalling 284 households of 1,400 internally displaced persons (IDP). The participants received their monthly cash assistance on accounts on WFP-provided mobile phones without major technical issues.

## External evaluation of WFP’s programmes in Myanmar published:

Results of an external evaluation of WFP in Myanmar’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), conducted in August-September 2016, were finalised and published. The evaluation assessed WFP’s relief assistance, food assistance for assets, nutrition support to women, children and HIV/TB patients, school feeding and capacity strengthening in Myanmar. Overall, the evaluation team found the PRRO to be a well-implemented programme that was delivered in a challenging and dynamic environment, which was often influenced by security issues, access constraints, limited infrastructure and capacities of cooperating partners. In addition, the evaluation pointed out that WFP had strengthened government capacity through technical support to develop national policies on emergency preparedness and response, school feeding and nutrition, which had a direct, positive and long-term impact on the most food-insecure people. 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 follow [this link](#).

## Study trip to Brazil on School Feeding programmes:

On 27-31 March, 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, design and implementation of multi-sector and sustainable school feeding programmes and to contribute to the institutional capacity strengthening of the Government. Representatives were from the Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture and Border Affairs. During the five-day study tour, the delegation had meetings with representatives of agencies and ministries involved with Brazil’s own national school feeding programme, which helped the country lift over 30 million people out of poverty and drastically reduce food insecurity.



Internally displaced woman with cash withdrawn from her e-wallet account in Kachin.



Three generations, a grandmother, mother and son, preparing food received from WFP in a village in the northern part of Rakhine State.

### **Study trip on Logistics Preparedness and Response to the Philippines:**

In the framework of South/South and triangular cooperation, WFP sponsored a study tour for staff members from the Government of Myanmar's Relief and Resettlement Department 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 share in the experiences of the Philippine Emergency Preparedness and Response Model, which was considered best in class in Southeast Asia. Among topics discussed was the improvement of the disaster response process of the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development, through the WFP-funded installation of a mechanized production system of packing relief goods. The study tour was part of the Government of Myanmar's strategy in enhancing its disaster response mechanism in partnership with WFP.

### **Exploring the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in humanitarian operations:**

On 17-24 March, WFP carried out a mission in preparation of developing a coordination model for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for humanitarian preparedness and response. UAVs have previously proven useful in humanitarian operations and hold the promise to increase the efficiency of WFP's emergency preparedness response in Myanmar. Fully funded by the Government of Belgium, the mission identified local actors currently working with UAVs and conducted assessments and gathered information on current developments, activities and plans from humanitarian actors in Myanmar related to the use of UAVs for purposes related to WFP's activities.

### **Publication of interim report by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State:**

The advisory commission on Rakhine State, chaired by Kofi Annan, released an interim report, outlining recommendations where urgent action was required. Among these recommendations was one calling for the preparation of a comprehensive strategy towards closing all IDP camps in Rakhine, starting with the immediate return and relocation of IDPs from three specific areas. If implemented, this would have a particular impact on WFP relief operations in Rakhine State, where 110,000 IDPs were assisted.

### **Resource Situation:**

In March, WFP received a contribution of US\$ 2,800,000 from the Government of Switzerland for its operations across Myanmar, as well as a grant of US\$ 149,000 from the Government of Canada for its food assistance in the northern part of Rakhine State.

Given the continuation of severe food insecurity in Rakhine State, which has further been exacerbated following the security incidents in the last quarter of 2016, WFP's current operation is undergoing a budget revision. The new shortfall is estimated to increase to US\$ 39.2 million to cover all food assistance needs of IDPs and other conflict-affected people through December 2017. Fresh funding is required urgently in order to preposition food before the start of the monsoon season in May/June.

WFP's top five funding partners in Myanmar are Japan, United States, European Union, Australia and Switzerland.

**Contact us:**  
[wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org](mailto:wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org)

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