In May, WFP reached over 500,000 people throughout Myanmar.

Regular activities continued in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan States, and Magway Region during May, as well as in Mandalay, reaching over 500,000 people with nearly 6,400 metric tonnes (mt) of food.

**Mahasen preparation:** Tropical Cyclone Mahasen was forecast to hit Rakhine state on 16 May, with potentially devastating effects on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in makeshift shelters and in low-lying areas. WFP had finished distributions to over 125,000 IDPs in Rakhine ahead of the storm, and worked closely with other UN agencies and the Government to ensure that disaster preparations were in place. WFP encouraged communities to take food rations with them when they relocated, to supplement the 10,000 bags of rice that the Government provided at relocation areas.

Mahasen bypassed Myanmar entirely, but it did highlight the urgent need for a plan of

*The school year runs from June - February in most of the country*
action for the thousands of IDPs living in poorly constructed shelters.

**Ongoing assistance in Rakhine:** In May, the Government granted official permission for the humanitarian community to assist displaced Muslims who arrived to Sittwe in late 2012 by boat from Pauktaw and Kyaukphyu townships. WFP had previously provided assistance on a case-by-case basis, and is now assisting an additional 2,200 IDPs in the The Chaung camp in Sittwe. WFP now reaches over 127,000 IDPs in Rakhine each month.

In late May, WFP resumed regular Protracted Relief activities in northern Rakhine state, providing food assistance to extremely food-insecure and destitute people to bridge the seven-month food gap during the lean season. WFP reached over 68,000 beneficiaries through this programme in May, including 22,000 children under 5 receiving blanket supplementary feeding to prevent acute malnutrition.

**Outbreak of intercommunal violence in Lashio:** On 28 May, an incident in Lashio, northern Shan state, resulted in an outbreak of intercommunal violence around the city. Over the course of two days, religious buildings, shops, and homes were burned and vandalized before the military and police restored order.

WFP distributed food for over 730 people on 31 May at the local monastery in Lashio. Over the next week, as Muslim residents sought temporary security, the numbers of displaced people at the monastery increased to nearly 1,400. Although most returned to their homes in the following days, WFP remains ready to continue assistance if necessary.

**WFP’s ongoing support in Meiktila:** In May, WFP distributed food at five camps to over 5,400 people still displaced by violence in Meiktila, as well as to over 2,200 people to facilitate their return to their homes. WFP is continuing to assess food needs as the situation stabilizes.

**Child-centered approach to school feeding:** As the school year resumes in most of the country, WFP is completing its dispatches of over 200 mt of High Energy Biscuits to partners in Shan state and Magway region. The fortified daily snacks will replace a monthly take-home ration of rice in selected schools as part of a more “child-centered” approach to school feeding. WFP will support up to 1,200 schools in
WFP in Myanmar

WFP started its first operations in Myanmar in 1974 by providing emergency relief assistance to flood and cyclone victims. Currently, WFP has 290 staff in nine sub-offices around the country as well as the country office based in Yangon.

From 2010-2012, WFP reached over 1 million people every year through Food and Cash for Work, School Feeding, Nutrition, and emergency relief assistance.

In January 2013, WFP launched a new three-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200299) that targets up to 1.6 million people, focusing on five activities:

- **Relief assistance** for victims of conflict and natural disasters
- **Nutrition support** to treat and prevent acute malnutrition in children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)
- **Asset creation** and recovery
- **School feeding** through HEBs and take-home rations of rice
- **Support to HIV/TB patients**

WFP works with 24 international and NGO partners and 7 UN agencies.

The top five donors for PRRO 200299 are: Japan, ECHO, U.S.A., Switzerland, and the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

---

**Contact Us:** wfp.yangon@wfp.org

**WFP OFFICES AND AREAS OF OPERATION**

**Resources:** Thanks to timely contributions from donors, WFP has enough funds to continue food distributions until November 2013.

**Distributions in May 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Food (MT) distributed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>227,500</td>
<td>3,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>47,000</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>32,700</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan (inc. Kokang and Wa)</td>
<td>150,300</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>38,400</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>7,700</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>507,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,390</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As restrictions on commodity flows were officially lifted in 2012, the environment in Myanmar is becoming more conducive to the use of cash-based assistance. WFP provides cash for work — the equivalent of 80 percent of local labour costs — in areas where markets are functioning and accessible, financial services are available, and where the security situation is stable enough to allow for movement of cash and goods. Beneficiaries can use the cash to pay back debt, to purchase farming inputs, and pay for school-related fees. WFP aims to reach up to 20,000 beneficiaries in 2013 through cash.

**Continuing assistance in Kachin and northern Shan:** In May, WFP reached over 40,100 IDPs affected by conflict in Kachin and northern Shan states. Flare-ups of fighting between Government forces and armed groups in April had resulted in new displacements, primarily in Shan state. In early May, WFP distributed a two-week ration to nearly 300 newly displaced people in Nar Tee village, Thein Ni township. These IDPs have subsequently returned to their homes as the situation stabilized.

**Ramping up cash assistance:** In May, WFP distributed over 50 million kyat (approx. US $55,000) to participants in assets creation activities in Chin state and Magway region.

In northern Rakhine state, where schools were closed in 2012 due to the conflict, WFP is finalizing discussions with partners to relaunch school feeding in targeted food-insecure areas, after a period of school selection and attendance verification.

Myanmar throughout the academic year with either snacks or a take-home ration.

In northern Rakhine state, where schools were closed in 2012 due to the conflict, WFP is finalizing discussions with partners to relaunch school feeding in targeted food-insecure areas, after a period of school selection and attendance verification.

**Resources:** Thanks to timely contributions from donors, WFP has enough funds to continue food distributions until November 2013.

---

**Contact Us:** wfp.yangon@wfp.org