



WFP Myanmar

Situation Report #3

August 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Photo: A vulnerable beneficiary household receiving WFP's emergency food assistance in Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon peri-urban areas. © WFP/Photo Library

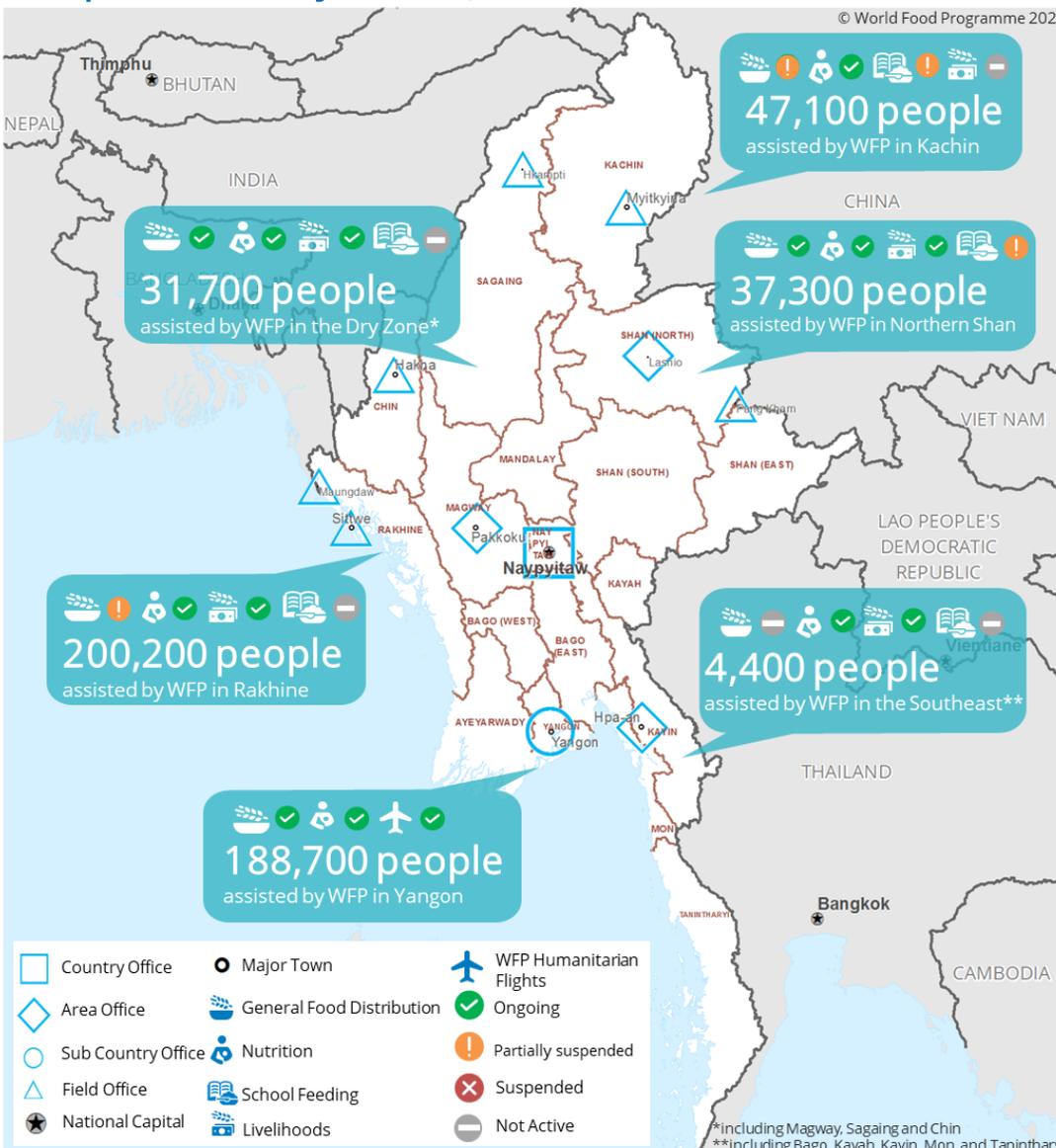
Highlights

- To date in 2021, **1.25 million people** in Myanmar have received WFP food, cash and nutrition assistance across urban and rural areas.
- Since May, WFP has **supported over 800,000 vulnerable people** in its large-scale urban food response in Yangon peri-urban areas.
- Significant funding shortfalls** may hamper WFP's ability to sustain ongoing life-saving operations while scaling up to support up to 3.3 million food-insecure people in Myanmar.

6-month Net Funding Requirements (August 2021—January 2022) **US\$ 86 million**

73%

People assisted by WFP in June 2021



In Numbers (June 2021)

Gender and Age Marker = 4



509,400 people assisted

4,267 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1 million in cash transferred

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Situation Update

The situation in Myanmar remains complex and volatile: The triple impact of poverty, ongoing political unrest and economic crisis, compounded by a rapidly spreading third wave of COVID-19 transmissions since June, have exacerbated food insecurity in Myanmar. Lockdown measures and the spread of COVID-19 cases among WFP's staff, partners and contractors, as well as in internally displaced people (IDP) camps, further constrain WFP's ability to respond to life-saving needs. Heavy floods, particularly in the southeast and Rakhine State, in late July have further complicated humanitarian efforts.

Conflict-driven displacements hit a new high:

As of 9 August, [UNHCR estimates](#) that at least 191,100 people remain internally displaced across Myanmar since the military takeover. The humanitarian situation for many IDPs, in urgent need of food and other support, remains dire during the monsoon season. However, access remains largely limited due to security reasons and bureaucratic requirements.

The economic outlook is bleak: The World Bank [estimates](#) an 18 percent contraction in Myanmar's economy in the 2021 fiscal year. In 2022, the poverty rate is likely to more than double compared to pre-COVID levels in 2019, and up to 1 million more jobs could be lost.

The vulnerable bear the brunt of price volatility: WFP's latest [market monitoring in June](#) showed a continued increase in the price of fuel (48 percent), cooking oil (37 percent), and rice (13 percent) compared to pre-1 February. Overall, the cost of a basic food basket has increased by 16 percent. These are likely to have significantly worsened the precarious situation faced by many poor and food-insecure households.

WFP Response

In June, WFP assisted **509,400 people** in Myanmar with a total of **4,267 mt of food commodities** and **US\$ 1 million in cash-based transfers (CBT)**.

In light of persistent cash liquidity challenges, WFP has identified workable solutions to partially resume its regular CBT operations and to settle payments of suppliers which have been delayed since June.

WFP is ramping up its remote monitoring and assessment efforts in nine states and regions to better understand the food security and nutrition situation.

WFP continues to advocate for safe and unimpeded access to all populations in need.

COVID-19 response

WFP continues to adhere to COVID-19 protocols in its operations to ensure the safety of its staff, partners and beneficiaries. WFP has dispatched 20 portable oxygen concentrators to its field offices for the use of its staff members in emergency situations.

Rapid Food Support: As a partial response to the impact of COVID-19, WFP distributed 29 mt of high-energy biscuits to some 12,200 vulnerable households, 8,000 schoolchildren, and 3,200 IDPs in northern Rakhine. These vulnerable households, many of whom are casual labourers, are facing food security challenges, with limited access to their regular livelihoods activities as a result of stringent COVID-19 movement restrictions.

Procurement of lifesaving medical equipment: WFP has stepped up its efforts to bolster COVID-19 testing capacity in Rakhine State. WFP has donated four COVID-19 testing machines and 5,000 COVID-19 PCR test kits to Mrauk U and Sittwe townships. WFP is in the process of dispatching 500 additional COVID-19 PCR test kits, 8,600 boxes of face masks, and additional oxygen concentrators to Rakhine State.

Medical Evacuation Services: To ensure the health and well-being of humanitarian staff, WFP has leveraged its logistics capacity to support COVID-19 medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) in emergency situations. Since mid-July, WFP has helped facilitate five UN MEDEVAC flights for UN and INGO staff and dependents.

Emergency Relief Assistance

WFP prioritizes its life-saving assistance to IDP and other vulnerable populations who fully rely on it. In June, WFP assisted **232,440 people** with food and cash in conflict-affected states of southern Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan.

Due to banking challenges, WFP's cash transfers were delayed to some 140,000 people in June. In line with new guidance from the Central Bank of Myanmar, WFP is currently taking active steps to effect immediate cash transfers to those who were affected by the delays.

WFP is continuing efforts to provide rapid emergency food assistance to people affected by recent escalation of conflict, particularly in Chin and Kayah states.

WFP is in close coordination with partners for a rapid flood response for some 38,000 flood-affected people in Kayin and Mon states.

Urban Response

WFP continues to scale up its urban response in Myanmar's main urban centres. To date, WFP has assisted **over 800,000 vulnerable people** in two poor townships in Yangon-peri-urban areas.

In July, WFP expanded its urban food response to Dagon Seikkan Township, reaching 253,700 vulnerable people. Meanwhile, WFP's second round of rice distributions for some 470,000 people in Hlaing Thar Yar Township are ongoing. WFP is conducting door-to-door delivery to targeted households, in an effort to avoid gathering of crowds at distribution points, in light of the COVID-19 lockdown measures.

WFP has received the green light to further expand its distributions to three townships in Yangon and two townships in Mandalay. Preparations are currently underway, subject to available resources.



Photo: A family sharing a warm meal together with WFP-donated rice in Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon peri-urban areas. © WFP/Photo Library

Nutrition

In June, WFP provided a comprehensive package of nutrition support (stunting prevention; prevention and treatment of wasting) for 85,500 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.

Furthermore, WFP also provided food and cash support to 2,800 people living with HIV and tuberculosis patients.

In mid-August, WFP is planning to resume its nutrition interventions in Dala, Hlaing Thar Yar, and Insein townships in Yangon. The activities have been temporarily suspended since mid-July, due to the surge of COVID-19 cases among WFP cooperating partners' staff and community volunteers.

Livelihood Support

WFP delivered conditional cash/food assistance, coupled with health and nutrition education, to 9,640 people in exchange for building or rehabilitating community assets.

School Feeding

WFP continues to adopt a "Do No Harm", conflict-sensitive approach to the resumption of school feeding.

In June, WFP assisted 28,800 students in Kachin State and Wa Self-Administered Division with take-home rations of high-energy biscuits/cash-based transfers.

Common Services Support

WFP closely coordinates its response with humanitarian partners in Myanmar, and provides common services support to partners based on their priorities.

Logistics Services

WFP provided logistics and warehousing support to UNHCR for the transportation of non-food items for some 1,000 IDPs in Chin's Mindat Township.

WFP Humanitarian Flights

WFP continues to provide its biweekly humanitarian flight services connecting Kuala Lumpur and Yangon for aid workers and diplomats.

As of early August, WFP humanitarian flights completed 19 rotations in 2021, transporting more than 1,000 passengers.

Resourcing Update

The Myanmar Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) budget has been revised upwards with a US\$ 121 million increase, to capture the increased humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas and WFP's large-scale urban response.

WFP requires **US\$ 86 million** for the next six months (August 2021-January 2022) to provide food assistance to 3.3 million people. In particular, for the urban operations, significant pipeline shortfalls are expected to commence in mid-August.

WFP thanks donors for their generous support to Myanmar's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022):

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