



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Myanmar Situation Report #4 August — September 2021



Photo: WFP Myanmar Country Director visited local vendors in Dala Township, Yangon peri-urban areas. © WFP/Photo Library

Highlights

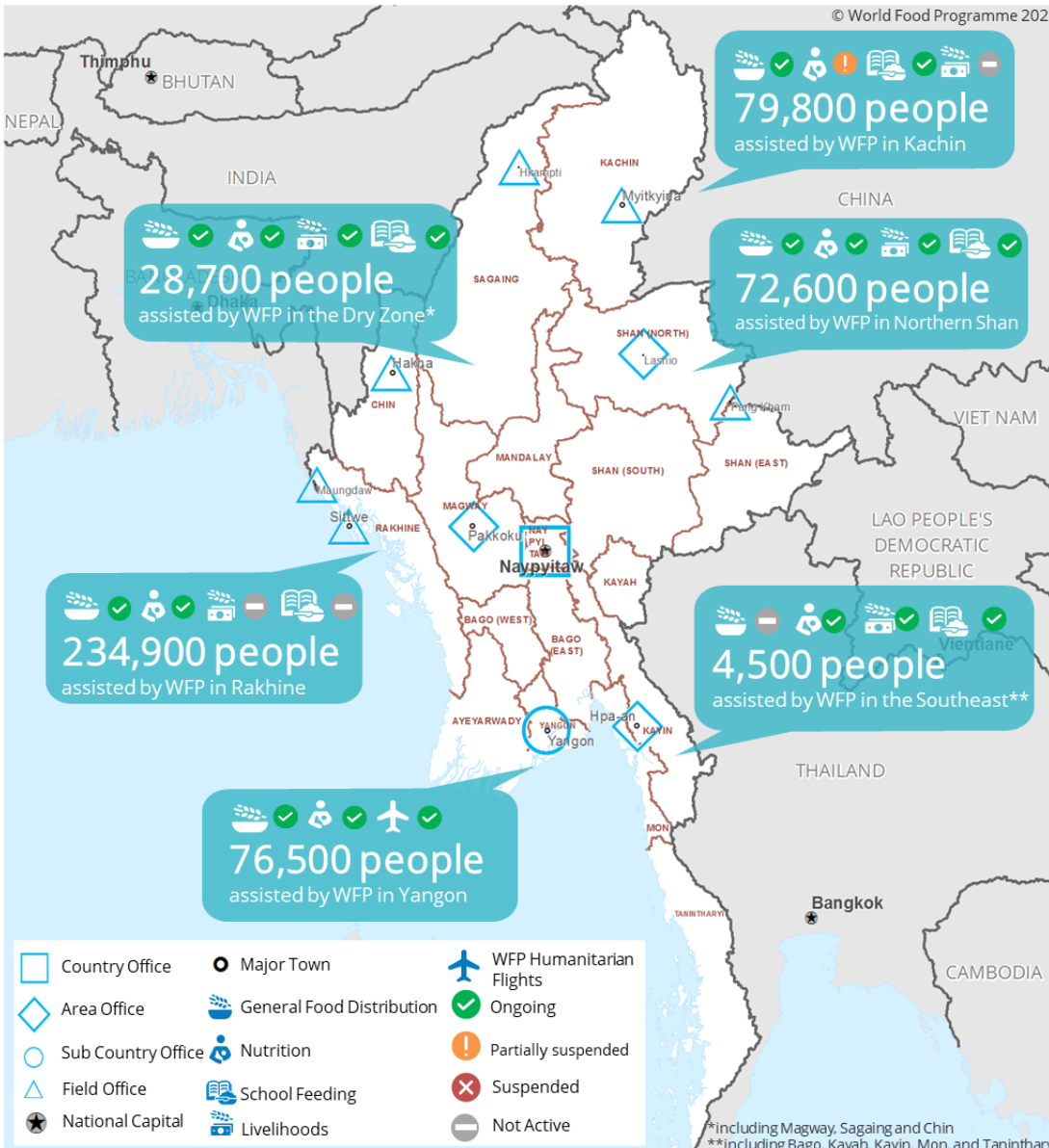
- More than 1.8 million people in Myanmar have received WFP food, cash and nutrition assistance across urban and rural areas to date in 2021.
- Since May, WFP has supported 1 million vulnerable people in its large-scale urban food response in Yangon and Mandalay alone.
- Starting in December, funding for WFP cash-based operations in crisis-affected areas will run out, which will affect 275,000 targeted beneficiaries.

6-month Net Funding Requirements
(November 2021 — April 2022)

US\$ 37 million

People assisted by WFP in September 2021

52%



In Numbers (September 2021)

Gender and Age Marker = 4

51% (Women) 49% (Men)

497,000 people assisted

3,800 mt of food distributed

US\$ 1.2 million in cash transferred

Contact info: wfp.myanmar@wfp.org
Country Director: Stephen Anderson
Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar>

Situation Update

The situation in Myanmar remains complex and volatile: Since September, Myanmar has seen a significant upsurge in armed conflict and civil unrest in various states and regions, particularly the northwest (Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions) and the southeast (Kayah State). The growing insecurity and a deteriorating economy are likely to further worsen food insecurity among the vulnerable households reeling from a deadly third wave of COVID-19 between June and August. Recurrent banking challenges continue to impact WFP's timely delivery of cash assistance and procurement processes.

Conflict-driven displacements are on the rise:

As of 18 October, [UNHCR estimates](#) that at least 218,900 people remain internally displaced across Myanmar since the military takeover. This is in addition to 336,000 already displaced before 1 February. While humanitarian needs continue to increase, particularly in the northwest, access to conflict-affected populations remains largely constrained by the prevailing security situation and lengthy administrative processes.

The vulnerable bear the brunt of price volatility:

WFP's [latest market monitoring in August](#) showed a notable increase in the price of fuel (68 percent), cooking oil (40 percent), and rice (16 percent) compared to pre-1 February. Overall, the cost of a basic food basket has increased by 20 percent. The recent drastic devaluation of the Myanmar currency is likely to further drive up food and fuel prices, threatening the food and nutrition security of many vulnerable households.

WFP Response

In 2021, **more than 1.8 million people** in Myanmar have received WFP food, cash and nutrition assistance across urban and rural areas.

In September, WFP assisted **497,000 people** in Myanmar with a total of **3,800 mt of food commodities** and **US\$ 1.2 million in cash-based transfers (CBT)**.

WFP is ramping up its remote monitoring efforts in nine states and regions to better understand the food security and nutrition situation. Findings will inform WFP's targeting and prioritization of assistance in 2022.

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

WFP continues to adhere to COVID-19 protocols in its operations to ensure the safety of its staff, partners and beneficiaries.



Emergency Relief Assistance

WFP prioritizes life-saving assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and other vulnerable populations who fully rely on it. In September, WFP assisted **260,500 people** with food and cash in conflict-affected southern Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan states.

Given persistent banking issues and lengthy administrative processes, WFP's emergency relief assistance to more than 235,000 beneficiaries was delayed for eight weeks between mid-June and mid-August. WFP disseminated messages to keep the affected beneficiaries informed on the delayed food distributions through its Community Engagement Mechanism (CEM). In line with new guidance from the Central Bank of Myanmar, on 23 August, WFP has resumed its regular food and cash distributions in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states following a two-month delay.

WFP is continuing efforts to provide rapid food assistance to people affected by the recent escalation of conflict, particularly 40,500 IDPs in Chin and Kayah states, and Sagaing Region. WFP has supported **23,700 new IDPs** in Chin, Kachin, Kayin and northern Shan states and Bago Region.

In late August, WFP provided a rapid response for **87,570 flood-affected people** in southeastern Myanmar (Kayin and Mon states) with emergency rations of rice and high-energy biscuits.

Starting from October, WFP will adjust its monthly cash transfer values in line with rising food prices in Kachin and central Rakhine states to ensure WFP cash entitlements are adequate to cover basic food needs.



Urban Response

WFP continues to scale up its urban response in Myanmar's main urban centres. To date, WFP has assisted **1 million vulnerable people** in five poor townships in Yangon-peri-urban areas and Mandalay.

In Yangon, WFP expanded its urban food response to Dala Township in late September, reaching 174,000 vulnerable people.

In Mandalay, WFP's second round of rice distributions reached 5,900 people in Maha Aung Myae and Aung Myay Tharzan townships in September.

WFP is currently considering an expansion to additional townships in Yangon, subject to available resources.



Nutrition

In September, WFP provided a comprehensive package of nutrition support (stunting prevention; prevention and treatment of wasting) for 78,100 children aged 6-59 months, as well as pregnant and nursing women and girls. WFP also provided food and cash support to 3,800 people living with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) patients.

In mid-August, WFP resumed its nutrition interventions for 21,100 children aged 6-59 months in Dala, Hlaing Thar Yar, and Insein townships in Yangon, following a two-month halt due to the surge of COVID-19 cases among WFP cooperating partners' staff and community volunteers.

School Feeding

WFP continues to adopt a "Do No Harm", conflict-sensitive approach to the resumption of school feeding. In September, WFP assisted 60,200 students in Kachin, Kayin, Mon and northern Shan states with take-home rations of high energy biscuits and cash-based transfers due to continued school closures.

Livelihood Support

In September, WFP delivered conditional cash and food assistance, coupled with health and nutrition education, to 20,600 people in exchange for building or rehabilitating community assets.

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 facilitated the transportation of 57 oxygen concentrators units, pooled by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies, to various UN field office locations for use by UN staff and their dependents.

WFP Humanitarian Flights

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

As of October, WFP humanitarian flights completed 25 rotations in 2021, transporting more than 1,500 passengers.

Resourcing Update

WFP requires **US\$ 37 million** for the next six months (November 2021 – April 2022) to provide food assistance to 3.39 million people. Starting in December, funding for cash-based operations in crisis-affected areas will run out, which will affect 275,000 targeted beneficiaries.

WFP thanks donors for their generous support in 2021:

Australia, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, multilateral donors, Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, Norway, private donors (including Japan Association for WFP), Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, United States of America.