

# WFP Myanmar Situation Report

May 2022



Photo: A boy enjoys fortified food provided by WFP while playing at home in an informal settlement in Yangon ©WFP/Su Myat Yadanar

## Key Facts

WFP has assisted more than 2 million people in Myanmar during the first quarter of 2022, with plans to assist at least 4 million by the end of the year.

Those assisted mainly include people newly displaced by conflict, people living in prolonged displacement, and poor urban dwellers – mostly women and children – whose livelihoods and food security status have been affected by the economic crisis.

WFP continues to seek humanitarian access to tens of thousands of displaced and vulnerable populations in active conflict zones who are in urgent need of emergency food and nutrition assistance.

## Funding Requirements

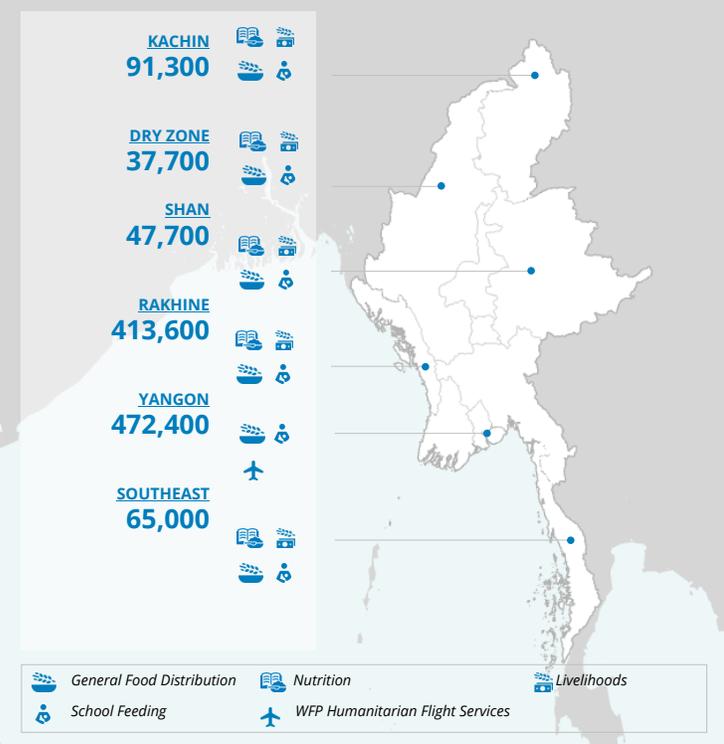
WFP requires USD 66.8 million between June to December 2022 to ensure uninterrupted support to its beneficiaries. Of the required amount, USD 43.8 million (66 percent) is for life-saving food assistance. Funding for urban operations is expected to run out in August, while cash-based operations in crisis-affected areas will face interruptions in September 2022, affecting IDPs and other vulnerable people.

**2022 Net Funding Requirements**  
(June 2022— December 2022)

USD **66.8**  
million



## People assisted by WFP in March 2022



## Situation Update

**Escalating conflict and displacement:** Clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various armed groups have continued to escalate in 2022, especially in the north-west and the south-east regions of the country. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of these conflicts, with 240,000 displaced during the first quarter of the year. The total number of IDPs – both pre- and post-military takeover – in Myanmar now stands at more than 1 million (UNHCR). The security and humanitarian situation remains tense in many areas, with active conflict – including airstrikes, artillery fire, ambushes, and raids – a daily threat for many civilians.

Extended periods of conflict in some areas have cut ties between civilians and their homes, and their sources of livelihoods: many farmers have not planted or harvested crops, while seasonal workers have been unable to secure crucial casual employment.

**Rising food and fuel prices:** Fuel prices increased 18 percent between February and March this year, driven by global uncertainty, the conflict in Ukraine, and local

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

conditions. At the end of March, fuel prices in Myanmar were more than double those registered in February 2021 (+133 percent), according to [WFP's March Market Price update](#).

The increase in fuel prices has caused transport costs to rise – a key driver of increasing retail food prices. The cost of a basic food basket increased by 10 percent from February to March, and the highest month-on-month increases were recorded in northern Rakhine State (+29%) and Kayah State (+26%). Compared to the same time last year, the average cost of a basic food basket is up 32 percent.

Edible oil prices rose by 23 percent between February and March, mostly due to high transport costs and volatility in local exchange rates. The average price of rice increased 7 percent from February to March with rising prices felt nearly everywhere in the country. Rising fertilizer prices could drive food prices higher still. While Myanmar mainly imports fertilizer from China, the conflict in Ukraine is expected to have knock-on effects on the availability and price of fertilizer in Myanmar.

**Access challenges:** Humanitarian access to newly displaced populations, mainly in active conflict zones, remains largely restricted, limiting WFP's ability to reach populations in urgent need of food assistance. The lengthy process required to secure travel authorizations for WFP's monthly distributions remains a challenge. Travel authorizations are often granted on a tight schedule, allowing only limited periods to distribute humanitarian assistance.

WFP continues to plan well in advance to ensure travel authorizations are granted in time for distributions to proceed on schedule, as the security situation allows.

**Meeting humanitarian needs:** The conflict in Ukraine, coupled with the protracted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is exerting a negative impact on food prices, lead times and supplier capacity. In Myanmar, these issues are exacerbated by conflict within the country.

Many displaced farmers have been unable to harvest and sow crops since October of 2021. If this continues, the sowing of paddy rice will also be affected in many areas. The cumulative effect is likely to be a reduction in farmers' income and food stock, which could result in a rice shortage in the market and even higher prices.

WFP will continue to use its monthly market updates to monitor the costs of food and fuel, and work with field offices and partners to identify potential activity adaptations, such as coordinating ahead of time with banks to ensure funds are available for cash-based transfers, adjusting transport contracts, and increasing the value of cash-based transfers to meet the basic needs of beneficiaries. WFP also continues to allow more lead time for the procurement of food and nutrition rations.

A potential risk is that WFP will need to pay more to procure commodities from international markets, which would require additional funding or reducing relief assistance coverage.\*

\*Any reduction in coverage would involve strict geographic and beneficiary targeting to prioritize the most vulnerable people.



**Photo:** Cash assistance from WFP reaches the most vulnerable people in Rakhine State as they face increased risk of food insecurity ©WFP/Zaw Win Lay

## WFP Response

Between January and March, and thanks in large part to generous support from the international community, WFP assisted **2.2 million people** in Myanmar with a total of **28,150 metric tons (mt) of food commodities** and **USD 5.9 million in cash-based transfers (CBT)**. By the end of the year, WFP plans to reach 4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, subject to availability of resources and access to affected populations.

WFP continues to advocate for safe and unimpeded access to all populations in need as well as for sufficient and timely resources.



### Emergency Relief Assistance

WFP prioritizes life-saving assistance to internally displaced persons (IDP) and other vulnerable populations who fully rely on its support. From January to March 2022, WFP assisted vulnerable people with food and cash in areas of protracted conflict in Kachin, northern Shan, Rakhine, and Chin states.

WFP is also working to rapidly provide food assistance to people affected or displaced by the recent escalation of conflict in the south-east and north-western areas of the country, with important gains in access realized in southern Shan and Kayah states during the first quarter of 2022.



### Rakhine State Retargeting

WFP is undertaking a retargeting exercise for protracted IDPs in northern and central Rakhine State. Household-level verification and data collection has concluded in northern Rakhine, and will conclude in central Rakhine in mid-June. Once the data collection is complete, the following steps are planned for June and July: analysis of household data (including revisits/reverification as required); stakeholder consultations with partners and other humanitarian actors to discuss the analysis; engagement with communities to brief them on the results and prepare updated monthly beneficiary lists; use updated lists to inform monthly distributions from August and September onwards.

As monitoring data continues to show high reliance on coping strategies, coupled with continuing food price increases, WFP does not anticipate immediate or significant changes to beneficiary targets. However, a deeper understanding of the different levels of vulnerability among beneficiary households will allow WFP to prioritize assistance to the most vulnerable, target conditional livelihood activities, and make program adjustments as required.



### Urban Response

WFP has continued to address the urgent needs of vulnerable people in peri-urban areas impacted by the socio-economic shocks of COVID, the political crisis, and underlying poverty. Between January and March 2022, WFP reached 1.5 million beneficiaries in five Yangon Region townships. Through successive distribution cycles, WFP continues to refine beneficiary targeting, building off ward vulnerability profiling and community consultations, and plans to transition to cash-based transfers for 400,000 of the most vulnerable by the end of the year. WFP is also working with partners and stakeholders to develop urban resilience programming.



### Nutrition

Between January and March 2022, WFP continued to provide a comprehensive package of nutrition support to 142,000 beneficiaries, including 119,500 children aged between six months and five years, and 22,500 pregnant and lactating women and girls. The support included activities related to stunting prevention and the prevention and treatment of wasting. WFP also provided food and cash-based nutrition support to 16,500 people living with HIV and TB in Kachin, northern Shan, Mon, Kayin, Rakhine and Yangon states, and delivered nutrition education and counselling to beneficiaries and caregivers.



### School Feeding

WFP continues to adopt a “do no harm” and conflict-sensitive approach through its school feeding programme. Between January and March 2022, WFP assisted 210,000 primary school students in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan states, including onsite feeding, take-home rations of high energy biscuits, and cash-based transfers for school meals.



### Livelihood Support

In the first quarter of 2022, WFP delivered conditional cash assistance linked to the development of community assets, including infrastructure, irrigation schemes, land development and home gardens. The asset creation support reached 24,000 people in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah states, as well as the Wa (northern Shan State) and Naga self-administered zones (across Sagaing and Chin states). Complementary trainings and health and nutrition education are delivered alongside the cash assistance. In total, WFP delivered USD 252,500 to beneficiaries of these activities.

## Common Services Support

In 2022, WFP will provide on-demand logistics services to nine humanitarian and development partners: the AHA Centre, FAO, IRC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, and WHO. More than 3,000 square metres of warehouse space will be provided to partners, much of it in Yangon.

WFP also plans to provide ICRC with warehouse space in Myitkyina (Kachin State). WFP will work with UNICEF to provide soap and handwashing facilities, which includes distributing 40 mt per month of UNICEF-procured soap to 100,000 WFP beneficiaries in Rakhine State, and the installation of handwashing stations in 217 schools in Shan State and the Wa Self-administered Zone.

In March 2022, WFP supported OCHA and lead humanitarian agencies to deliver 23 mt of health, WASH and protection items. The items were transported from Myitkyina to Putao and delivered to 6,500 IDPs in Kachin State who were displaced following clashes.

## WFP Humanitarian Flights

With the recent resumption of international commercial flights into Myanmar, WFP has ended its humanitarian flight service; the final relief flight left Yangon on 24 April. In 2022, 10 bi-weekly humanitarian flight services connecting Kuala Lumpur and Yangon transported more than 360 people, mostly aid workers and diplomats. In 2021, WFP humanitarian flights completed 29 rotations, transporting more than 1,700 passengers.

## Resourcing Update

Funding for WFP cash-based operations in crisis-affected areas will run out in September 2022. WFP is urgently appealing for **USD 66.8 million** to avoid a funding gap, which will directly affect IDPs and conflict-affected populations who fully rely on WFP food assistance.

## WFP thanks its donors for their generous support in 2022

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, private donors including Japan Association for WFP, and multilateral donors.



**Photo:** Dyke construction project implemented by WFP in rural Sittwe, Rakhine State aims to boost paddy yields by preventing salt water entering paddy fields ©WFP/Htet Oo Linn