



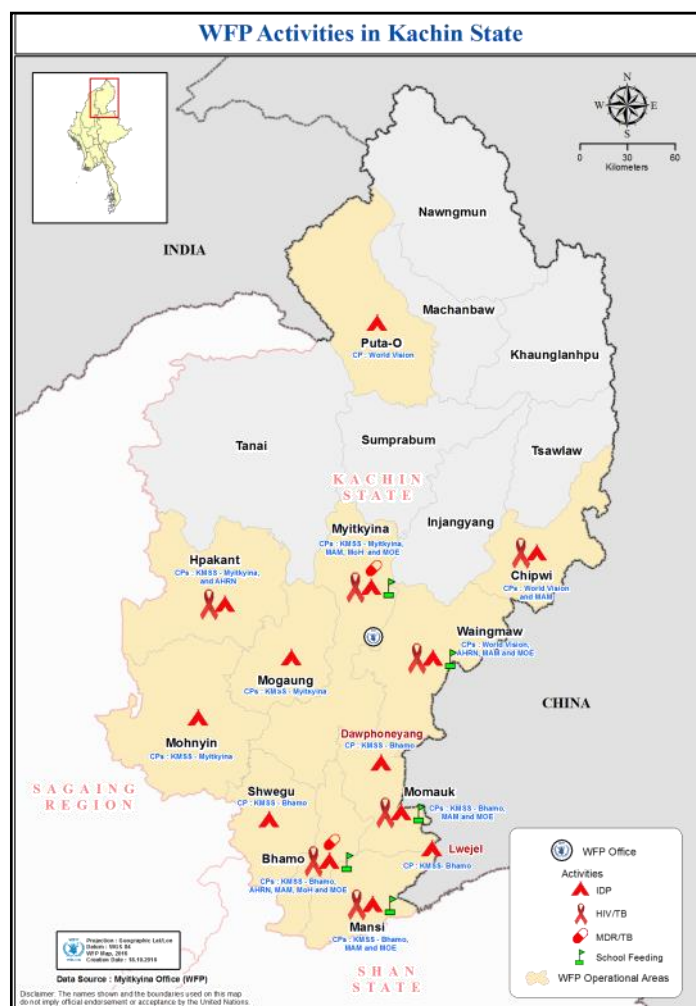
# WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR Kachin State Operational Brief

## OVERVIEW

Kachin is the northern State of Myanmar, bordering with the People's Republic of China in the north and east, Shan State in the south and Sagaing Region and India in the west. The majority of almost 1.7 million people living in Kachin makes a living out of agriculture (mainly rice), followed by mining industries (e.g. jade, gold). Although Kachin State is rich in natural resources, more than 30 years of armed conflict between the central Government and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) have impacted the lives and livelihoods of the population.

In 2008, WFP opened its Myitkyina sub-office to provide food assistance to the conflict-affected communities in order to rebuild livelihoods and improve their food security and nutritional status through its protracted relief and recovery operation. In mid-2011, when clashes between the central Government and the KIA revolved around the disarmament and integration of the KIA into the border guard force, approximately 100,000 people in Kachin State were displaced. Since then, WFP has been providing life-saving food assistance to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Government-controlled areas (GCA) and areas beyond Government control (NGCA). Since January 2016, WFP has proceeded transition of cash based transfers for relief assistance to IDPs with reliable market access to encourage beneficiaries' self-reliance. However, in highly remote areas of GCA and NGCA, IDPs are still receiving food assistance. While WFP has regular access to GCA, delivery of food to NGCA was carried out from 2012-2014 through international humanitarian cross-line missions when access was granted. The logistics for these convoys was arranged by WFP, on behalf of all UN and NGO humanitarian partners. Since April 2015, WFP has been delivering food to NGCA exclusively and in February 2016, the Myanmar Government renewed WFP's exclusive access to NGCA for the period of February to December 2016. WFP food complements regular food assistance provided by local NGOs and WFP food assistance this time will include blended food for pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and malnourished children. WFP has also been requesting to the Government for a permanent presence in Laiza, NGCA since 2013.

Since December 2015, WFP has resumed school feeding activities for 2015-2016 academic year for the first time since the resuscitation of armed conflict in 2011. WFP is now working closely with Asian Harm Reduction, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, Médecins du Monde, Medical Action Myanmar and World Vision to provide food assistance to the most food insecure population in Kachin State.



## PARTNERSHIPS

### Government Counterpart

- \* Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)
- \* Ministry of Education (MoE)
- \* Ministry of Health (MoH)

### Coordination with Other Government Partners

- \* Kachin State Government
- \* Department of Rural Development
- \* Relief and Resettlement Department

### UN Coordination Agencies



### Cooperating Partners





UN convoy, delivering humanitarian assistance, in Bhamo Township of Kachin State. ©WFP/ Soe Thet Nyo

### Emergency Response

In August 2015, Moegaung Township sustained the damages caused by the nation-wide floods. During the emergency response phase, WFP provided life-saving food assistance to 9,100 people. In April 2016, Tsaw Law Township was devastated by flash flood and landslides. With transportation services rendered by the State Government and Northern Commander, WFP delivered one week HEBs to 1,167 people.

### Life-saving food assistance to the IDPs

Since the conflict between the central Government and KIA revived in August 2011, in cooperation with three partners, namely KMSS Myitkyina, KMSS Bhamo and World Vision, WFP has been providing regular unconditional food assistance, consisting of rice, pulses, oil and salt, to an approximate of 38,000 IDPs in 98 camps in Government controlled areas (GCA) of Kachin. In addition, PLW and children (6-23 months) receive fortified blended food in order to prevent malnutrition. With regards to the IDPs living in areas beyond Government control (NGCA), WFP has been providing food assistance for an estimate of 22,500 people in six camps. Food delivery to NGCA is subject to bilateral agreement with the Government. Since it has been four years, there is a need to support early recovery through self-reliance. In order for IDP households to control over resources and make preferred food choices, WFP has adopted cash based transfer where feasible, as indicated by a rapid market assessment. As per results of the assessment, 29,000 IDPs in 68 camps out of total 98 camps in GCA with functioning market access have been receiving cash transfers since January 2016. However, 9,000 IDPs in the remaining 30 camps in GCA have been receiving combined cash and rice since July 2016 due to higher market price of rice. IDPs in NGCA without market access continue to receive in-kind food only. Meanwhile, WFP has gradually reduced the level of relief assistance for all IDPs in GCA so as to terminate unintended dependency on external assistance and enhance their self-reliance on food through rehabilitated livelihoods. Based on results of a prior livelihood profiling exercise undertaken in October and November 2015, level of assistance is determined by vulnerability of IDP households. Various committees such as camp management committee as well as IDP themselves were involved with criteria setting and identification process. Of total 37,000 IDPs in GCA, 14 percent constitutes the most vulnerable group and hence, still receives 100 percent of either food or cash. The remaining majority is entitled to 80 percent of food or 70 percent equivalent cash. Nevertheless, PLW and malnourished children continue to receive fortified blended food inclusively.

### School Feeding

In 2015-2016 academic year, WFP recommenced school feeding activities at 47 primary schools in Myikyitna, Moemauk and Mansi Townships for the first time since the suspension of the activities due to the recurrent armed conflicts in 2011. In 2016-2017 academic year, school feeding programme is expanded to assist 9,046 students in Bhamo and Waing Maw Townships, reaching a total of 12,850 students in 140 primary schools.

### Food-by-Prescription for People Living with HIV/TB

HIV prevalence in Myanmar remains high among vulnerable populations at risk for HIV: Kachin is one of the states most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic given the substantial increase of sex work and drug abuse over the last decades. WFP has been providing food assistance to the people living with HIV and/or tuberculosis (PLHIV/TB) in Kachin since 2008 in order to support their nutritional rehabilitation and enhance treatment adherence and success, with cooperating partners Asian Harm Reduction Network, Medecins du Monde and Medical Action Myanmar. PLHIV receive six month food assistance consisting of rice, pulses, oil, salt and fortified blended food at the inception phase of an anti-retroviral treatment (ART) or if their body mass index is below 18.5. TB patients are supported for the whole duration of directly observed treatment (DOTS). Concomitantly, nutrition education is provided to HIV/TB clients and caregivers in Kachin State. In 2016, WFP anticipates more compact and efficacy-oriented HIV/TB programme with selective number of beneficiaries.

#### 2016 WFP Food Assistance Plan in Kachin

Activities	Beneficiary Numbers
School Feeding	12,900
IDP Response (GCA)	38,000
IDP Response (NGCA)	22,500
Nutrition support to PLW and malnourished children from IDP families	3,200
Food-by-prescription to PLHIV/TB clients	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77,200</b>

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