



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR

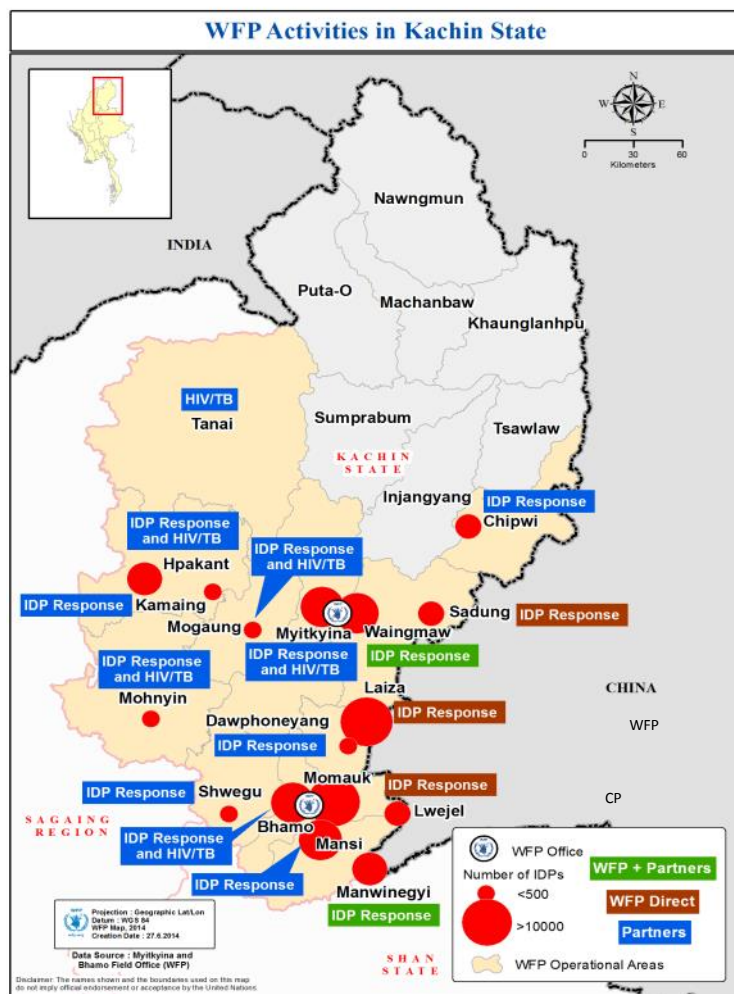
Kachin State Operational Brief

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 the 1.6 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 and areas beyond Government control.

While WFP has regular access to the Government controlled areas, access to the areas beyond the Government control has been limited to times when the international humanitarian cross-line missions have been granted access. Since the cross-line missions have not been granted since October 2014, WFP is further enhancing its coordination with the national and locally-based food security sector partners who are present in the areas beyond Government control, such as Health Poverty Action, Karen Baptist Convention and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), and is closely monitoring the situation of the food assistance provided to the IDPs through the partners.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government Counterpart

- Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)

Coordination with Other Government Partners

- Relief and Resettlement Department
- Kachin State Government

UN Coordination Agencies



Cooperating Partners



World Food Programme

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LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE

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 food assistance to the IDPs in the Government-controlled areas of Kachin. The monthly food ration consists of rice, pulses, oil and salt. In addition, pregnant and nursing mothers and children (6-23 months) receive fortified blended food in order to prevent malnutrition.

Building on its logistics expertise, under the overall coordination of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), when access is granted to the areas beyond Government control, WFP organizes the logistics of the joint humanitarian cross-line missions from its presence in Myitkyina and Bhamo. Close coordination with the local partners who are operating in the areas beyond Government control has helped to avoid overlaps and WFP has been operating in a way that would complement the assistance provided by these partners.

Since 2013, WFP has been requesting to the Government of Myanmar for a permanent presence in Laiza in the area beyond Government control, as well as regular and predictable humanitarian access and food deliveries to the areas beyond Government control.

In 2015, food security sector partners will review beneficiaries in Kachin and northern Shan States, through a multi-sectoral assessment. The aim is to provide insight into food security and livelihoods, the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men, as well as information about access to social services, governance and social cohesion. This evidence-based approach and subsequent findings will inform food security strategies and feed into other sectors/clusters analysis, and allow better mainstreaming of early recovery activities across sectors.

WFP will also look into a possibility of starting a cash-for-relief activities in Kachin State.

SUPPORT TO HIV/TB CLIENTS

HIV prevalence in Myanmar remains high among vulnerable populations at risk for HIV: Kachin is 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 is providing food assistance to the people affected by HIV and/or tuberculosis (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 Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland, and Medical Action Myanmar. HIV/AIDS clients 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.

Overall in 2014, in Myanmar, WFP provided food assistance to almost 12,500 HIV/AIDS and TB clients, 53 percent were male, 47 percent were female. Adherence rate to ART remarkably high at 97.5 percent.

In 2014, WFP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health on the implementation of a nationwide food distribution to multi drug resistant (MDR)-TB clients on DOTS.

2015 WFP Food Assistance Plan in Kachin

Activities	Beneficiary Numbers
IDP Response	
Government Controlled Areas	44,000
IDP Response	
Areas Beyond Government Control	27,600
Support to HIV/TB Clients	6,185
TOTAL	77,785

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