



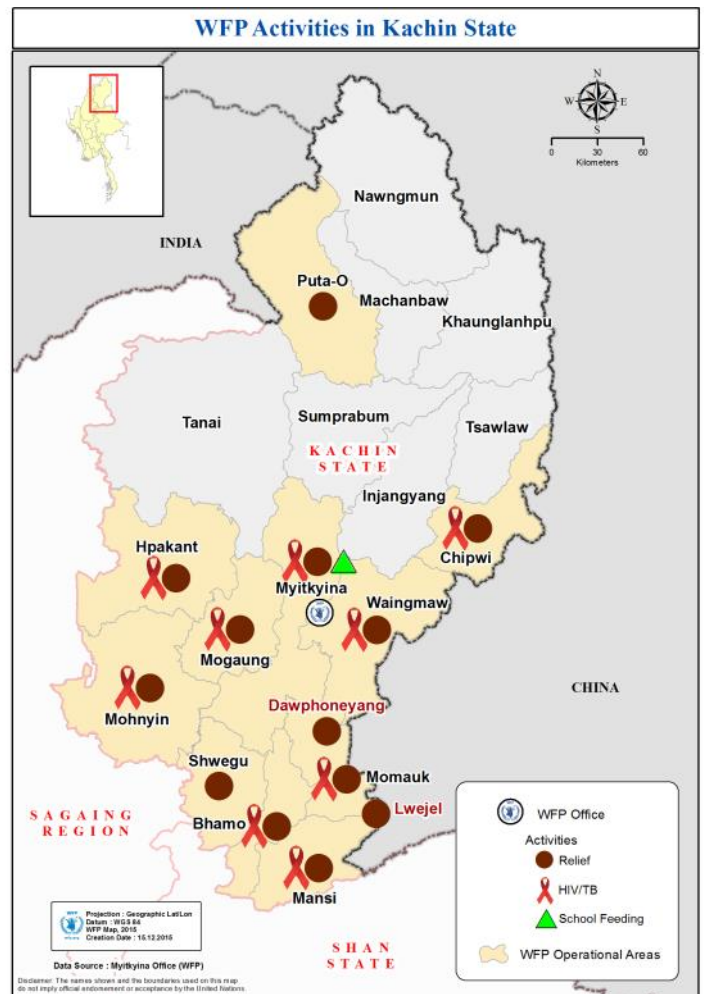
# WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR Kachin State Operational Brief

## 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 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).

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, the Government has granted WFP exclusive access to NGCA to carry out delivery of food for the period of July - December 2015 by complementing assistance provided by NGOs. WFP has also been requesting to the Government for a permanent presence in Laiza, NGCA since 2013. WFP is now working closely with Asian Harm Reduction, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, Médecins du Monde, Medical Action Myanmar, Médecins Sans Frontières and World Vision to provide food assistance to the most food insecure population in Kachin State. In 2016, WFP anticipates to support the IDPs where markets are functioning with cash assistance instead of food to enable self sufficiency of the beneficiaries that will lead to resettlement with better livelihoods opportunities. 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.



## 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





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

### Flood Response

In August 2015, Moegaung Township of Kachin State also sustained the damages caused by the nation-wide floods as a result of torrential monsoonal rain, triggered by the Cyclone Komen. During the emergency response phase, WFP provided life-saving food assistance to 9,100 people. In 2016, WFP intends to provide cash assistance to the flood affected population in Moegaung Township through cash for assets activities, targeting 2,000 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 104 camps in the Government-controlled areas (GCA) of Kachin. In addition, pregnant and nursing mothers and children (6-23 months) receive fortified blended food in order to prevent malnutrition. With regard to the IDPs living in the areas beyond Government control (NGCA), WFP has been providing food assistance for an estimate of 20,000 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. To this end, WFP intends to introduce cash-based transfer to the 28,500 IDPs in 75 camps out of total 104 camps in GCA with functional market access from January 2016. The main objective of the transition of cash transfer is for IDP households to control over resources and make preferred food choices. Meanwhile, WFP will gradually reduce the level of food assistance, determined by vulnerability of IDP households, in order to terminate IDP households' unintended dependency on food assistance and enhance their self reliance. WFP's cooperating partners and other stakeholders such as camp management committees has been cooperating with WFP to ensure smooth transition and clear communication with the beneficiaries. In October 2015, WFP rolled out market assessment, livelihood and camp profiling exercise. Since December, the transition has been commenced with almost 400 IDPs in Puta-O Township and will be expanded to other target areas from January 2016. However, the food assistance to IDPs in highly remote area of GCA, such as Chi Pwe and Hpa Kant etc., and NGCA will remain the same (i.e. food transfer).

### School Feeding

From 2015-2016 academic year onwards, WFP has recommenced school feeding activities at primary schools in Myikyitna Township, catering high-energy biscuits to more than 700 school girls and boys, for the first time since the suspension of the activities due to the recurrent armed conflicts in 2011. In 2016, the school feeding activities will be expanded to Moemauk and Mansi Townships. Furthermore, WFP intends to reach further to additional townships during 2016-2017 academic year.

### Food-by-prescription to PLHIV/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 Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland, 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	4,000
IDP Response Government Controlled Areas	38,000
IDP Response Areas Beyond Government Control	20,000
Support to HIV/TB Clients	600
Community Asset Rehabilitation for flood response	2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,600</b>

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