In January, WFP assisted 771,000 people in Myanmar

WFP’s food assistance in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan States as well as Magway and Mandalay Regions reached more than 771,000 people in January. WFP delivered 4,843 mt of food (worth more than US$4.9 million) to the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations.

**Humanitarian cross-line mission in Kachin:** Coordinated by OCHA, WFP organized the logistics of five humanitarian convoys to areas administered by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) in January 2014. WFP provided food assistance to more than 30,000 IDPs in 14 camps through convoys from Myitkyina and Bamaw to Waing Maw, Moe Mauk, Sadone and Mansi townships. In talks to national and regional authorities, WFP has reiterated its request for permanent presence in Laiza, and regular long-term humanitarian access to the KIO-administered areas.

**ECHO mission to Kachin:** Representatives from ECHO visited Bamaw District in Kachin State from 19 to 21 January to review ECHO funded projects implemented by humanitarian partners on the ground, including WFP. Thirteen IDP camps as well as the WFP warehouse were visited. The mission noted the improvement of food security, shelter, water and sanitation as well as health care in the camps. Considering the variations in access to livelihood activities among IDP groups/camps, ECHO suggested to explore shifting to targeted food distribution instead of blanket feeding.

**Japanese Ambassador visiting WFP activities in Rakhine:** Together with UNDP and UNHCR, WFP organized a project review mission to Rakhine for the Japanese Ambassador from 20-22 January 2014. The objective of the visit was to review the impact achieved by Japan-funded relief, recovery and development assistance in Rakhine State. The WFP Myanmar Country Director accompanied the Ambassador during his visit to several IDP Camps and WFP Warehouse and briefed him about WFP’s monthly requirements of US$2 million for the Rakhine IDP response. During the meeting with the State Government, the Ambassador expressed Japan’s commitment to continue supporting Rakhine State through funding of UN agencies’ operations in this area, and requested the Government to share information on the recent incident that took place in Maungdaw, as well as the Rakhine State’s Development Master Plan. Japan is the largest donor of WFP operations in Myanmar.

**Month in review:**

30,000 IDPs assisted by WFP and partners through humanitarian cross-line mission to Kachin’s KIO-administered areas

ECHO observing progress in humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Bamaw District, Kachin

Japanese Ambassador visiting WFP assisted IDP camps and warehouse in Sittwe, Rakhine

WFP planning to open tenth sub-office in Mawlamyine, Mon State, in March

Japanese Ambassador Mikio Numata visiting WFP warehouse in Sittwe.

Photo: WFP/ Ayuka Ibe
**Operations in South-eastern Myanmar:** WFP is setting up a new sub-office in Mawlamyine, Mon State, in order to assist the most vulnerable populations in conflict affected areas in Mon, Kayin and Tanintharyi and assist future return and resettlement of Myanmar people on the Thai border. In addition to unconditional food transfers to Myanmar returnees for a limited transition period, WFP plans asset creation programmes and possibly school feeding and nutrition interventions. The strategic location of the new sub-office will also enhance WFP’s emergency preparedness and response capacity, especially in view of floods and cyclones that regularly hit Myanmar’s coast lines. The office opening is planned for March 2014. WFP is negotiating a partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

WFP’s presence in Mawlamyine will allow greater disaster preparedness and response e.g. to floods and cyclones which regularly hit Myanmar’s coast line.

*Photo: WFP/SoeThet Nyo*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Food distributed (MT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chin State</td>
<td>10,228</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachin State</td>
<td>64,091</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway Region</td>
<td>97,080</td>
<td>335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay Region</td>
<td>5,293</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine State</td>
<td>351,424</td>
<td>2,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan State</td>
<td>237,746</td>
<td>803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon Region</td>
<td>5,315</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>771,177</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,843</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resources:** Thanks to timely distributions made by the European Commission and Unilever in January 2014, WFP can sustain its operations until May without facing pipeline breaks. New contributions are required by end-February to keep assisting the people most in need from June onwards. WFP Myanmar appeals for its current shortfall of US$72.3 million to ensure unimpeded food distributions reaching 1.2 million people throughout 2014.

**WFP in Myanmar**

WFP started its first operations in Myanmar in 1974 by providing emergency relief assistance to flood and cyclone victims. Currently, WFP has more than 300 staff in nine sub-offices around the country as well as the country office based in Yangon.

From 2010-2012, WFP reached over 1.4 million people every year through food for assets, school feeding, nutrition, and emergency relief assistance.

In January 2013, WFP launched a new three-year Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200299) that targets up to 1.6 million people, focusing on five activities:

- **Relief assistance** for victims of conflict and natural disasters
- **Nutrition support** to treat and prevent acute malnutrition in children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)
- **Asset creation** and recovery
- **School feeding** through HEBs and take-home rations of rice
- **Support to HIV/TB patients**

WFP works with 30 international and local NGO partners and seven UN agencies.

The top five donors to WFP in Myanmar are Japan, European Commission, USA, Australia and Switzerland.