Rakhine State is located in the western part of Myanmar, bordering with Chin State in the north, Magway, Bago and Ayeyarwaddy Regions in the east, Bay of Bengal to the west and Chittagong Division of Bangladesh to the northwest. It is one of the most remote and poorest states in Myanmar, geographically separated from the rest of the country by mountains. The estimated population of Rakhine State is 3.2 million. Chronic poverty and high vulnerability to shocks are widespread throughout the State. The 2012-2013 nutrition survey carried out by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in northern Rakhine reported 20 percent prevalence of global acute malnutrition, well above the usual 15 percent emergency threshold.

WFP is the main humanitarian organization providing food assistance in Rakhine. Its first operation in Myanmar commenced in 1978 in northern Rakhine, following the return of 200,000 refugees from Bangladesh. For three years, WFP provided food aid to the returnees to help them rebuild their livelihoods through its emergency operation. In 1994, WFP returned to Rakhine to assist the repatriation of 250,000 people, whose food security and nutritional status was affected by restrictions to travel to certain parts of the State to work or trade for their livelihood, to access health and education services.

Since June 2012, when the inter-communal violence broke out in Rakhine, WFP has been providing life-saving food assistance to over 128,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) through its sub-offices in Maungdaw and Sittwe.

### Local Procurement
WFP procures almost 95 percent of its food distributed in Myanmar, locally in the country (rice, pulses, salt and super cereal: rice soya blend), at a value of more than US$21 million. Rice was also procured in Rakhine State, contributing to the rural economy. 50 percent of the total rice procured in 2014 was from Rakhine (Sittwe and Buthidaung).

In order to encourage and contribute to small-holder farming, 18 procurement contracts were awarded to Rakhine small vendors in 2014.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**Government Counterpart**
- Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)

**Coordination with Other Government Partners**
- Ministry of Development Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Planning and Economics

**UN Agencies and WFP Cooperating Partners**

![Partner Logos]
LIFE-SAVING FOOD ASSISTANCE

The inter-communal violence in Rakhine, which broke out in 2012, has led to the displacement of local communities. WFP distributes monthly food rations consisting of rice, pulses, oil and salt to over 128,000 IDPs. Children under five and pregnant and nursing mothers also receive fortified blended food to prevent malnutrition.

In 2014, WFP has scaled up its nutrition interventions in five townships, namely Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Minbya, Myebon and Sittwe - by targeting over 1,000 children under five from the IDP camps for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, in partnership with Myanmar Health Assistant Association.

In March 2014, UN and INGO premises in Sittwe, including WFP office building and warehouses, were ransacked by demonstrators. Significant damages were sustained to WFP premises as well as office equipment, vehicles, speedboats, warehouses and food. However, with close coordination with the Government, WFP was able to resume its food assistance to the vulnerable communities within ten days after the attack and completed 100 percent of the planned April food distribution.

PROTRACTED RELIEF

Under the protracted relief activity, WFP assists the most vulnerable and food insecure households in 630 villages across northern Rakhine. During the lean season (May-November), approximately 70,000 people benefit from WFP’s food assistance, including 17,000 children under five and pregnant and nursing mothers, who also receive blended food for their nutritional support.

SCHOOL FEEDING

WFP started its school feeding programme in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships in Rakhine State in 1996, with the objective of increasing the enrollment rate of girls and boys in primary schools. School feeding aims to facilitate access to quality education to children from the most vulnerable and food insecure areas by providing monthly take-home rations (10 kg rice) to students who attended at least 90 percent of classes. School feeding programme is currently implemented in 117 Muslim schools, 110 Rakhine schools and 59 Muslim and Rakhine mixed schools with approximately 70,000 children in Rakhine State. WFP plans to expand its school feeding programme to other townships in Rakhine State.

ASSET CREATION

WFP started its asset creation programme in northern Rakhine State in 2008 to help the most food insecure and vulnerable populations to build assets based on the communities’ greatest needs. Asset creation programme provides employment opportunities for the duration of the project participation. Projects such as dam renovation, road construction and erosion control activities are implemented. WFP facilitates technical expertise to implement the projects and provides food to the participants. Cash was also provided for the asset creation participants in Maungdaw township. In 2014, there were over 1,400 project participants, and the food/cash provided to them had also benefited over 7,100 family members.

In order to assist the conflict affected communities in Sittwe township, WFP plans to implement a pilot cash-for-assets programme.

NUTRITION

WFP has been supporting ACF’s nutrition programme in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships since 2003. Blended food is distributed to children under five and pregnant and nursing mothers through supplementary feeding in order to prevent and support treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. Through its nutrition programme, WFP reaches 9,000 beneficiaries monthly in Rakhine State.

SUPPORT TO HIV/TB CLIENTS

In cooperation with Malteser International and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), WFP provides food assistance to people affected by HIV/TB who are undergoing anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and directly observed treatment short course (DOTs) in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.

In 2015, WFP is targeting 800 TB clients and 25 people living with HIV/AIDS, in order to support their nutritional rehabilitation and enhance treatment adherence and success.

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