WFP Forced to Suspend School Feeding
Throughout November, WFP continued facing funding shortfalls. WFP has repeatedly advised funding partners since September about the impending food pipeline break but insufficient funding came through. As a result, WFP was obliged to suspend take-home rice rations for all schoolchildren in Magway, Rakhine, Shan and Wa. This forced measure affected 174,000 schoolchildren and their 522,000 family members, who also benefited from this school feeding modality in the country’s poorest and most remote areas with the lowest food security and education indicators. WFP take-home rice ration helps build a safety net mechanism against food insecurity at the household level with families more likely to meet their minimum consumption needs and thus encourages to keep sending their children to school, especially girls in certain ethnic communities. In consequence, school feeding improves nutritional status, enhances cognitive abilities and encourages participation, resulting in increased enrolment, attendance and retention. Furthermore, in-school feeding with high-energy biscuits (HEBs) to 58,000 children in Chin, Magway and Shan also faces suspension. WFP would run out of HEBs already in January 2015. WFP continues working with partners to fill in funding gaps but it will not be able to resume school feeding activities in the country until sufficient resources are secured.

Reduced Humanitarian Access in Kachin
In November, no humanitarian crossline missions to KIO administered areas in Kachin State were approved by the government. WFP organises the logistics of such convoys for all partners in order to deliver humanitarian assistance to IDPs living in KIO administered areas, when access is granted. Meanwhile, local NGOs and other organisations are working to meet the most urgent gaps in food assistance for displaced people.

Government Assisted New IDPs in Kayin
Some 500 people in Karmamaung were internally displaced due to fighting, which had occurred between a Karen armed group and the Myanmar Army earlier in October 2014. WFP stood ready to provide emergency food assistance to newly displaced people. However, because of the small caseload, local government reported that it was able to provide an emergency response by distributing 95 bags of rice to IDPs in question. WFP continues monitoring the situation.

Logistics Capacity Assessment
In November, WFP continued the implementation of its Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for coastal areas in Myanmar, initiated under the UK DFID-funded “Strengthening Humanitarian Preparedness in High Risk Countries” emergency preparedness project. The LCA missions have been completed in Ayeyarwady (delta area), Rakhine and Yangon (airports, ports, warehouse) and are underway in remaining Mawlamyine, in southeastern Myanmar. Once the findings from all the assessments are compiled and standardised, the data will be uploaded on the WFP corporate website by end-December 2014. The LCA will provide a full picture of the coastal infrastructure, enhancing government and WFP’s emergency response and preparedness measures in natural disaster-prone Myanmar.
Names to Faces: Introducing WFP Beneficiaries
Zorinar with her seven family members, lives in Pan Myaung village in Rakhine State. Her family has been receiving WFP food assistance for nine years now. Zorinar's family used to be well-off, owning land and cattle. A decade ago, her husband fell ill, suffering from an eye disease, and completely lost his vision. The family sold all the properties and livestock in order to seek treatment and recover his eyesight, but all in vain. Having lost everything, Zorihar's family became a vulnerable household. Zorinar with her husband and children started to beg in the streets for their daily meal. Little money from begging was not enough to meet the basic nutrition needs of the family. "We had to go to bed with an empty stomach for more than ten days in a month during that period," recalls Zorinar. "These harsh and unbearable living conditions often made me consider fleeing abroad as many other families did". However, Zorinar always dreamt of some wonder to change her life, and her dream fulfilled, when WFP included her family for food assistance under the protracted relief programme. "As a WFP beneficiary, I obtained certain stability and became more confident about my life in the village. WFP food is a core drive for changing my life from beggary," gratefully claims Zorinar. "Thank you to WFP, which made my dreams come true, changing my life for better."

Preparations for Laukai Field Office Closure
WFP started its intervention in Kokang region in 2003 at the request of the government to provide emergency food assistance after stepping up poppy eradication efforts. Ever since, WFP provided food assistance to the most vulnerable populations in Kokang through its field office in Laukai. Recent assessments showed that the livelihood opportunities of the majority of the population improved. Based on these findings and upon the government’s approval, WFP has planned to close its field office in Laukai by the end 2014. From its Lashio field office, WFP will continue providing nutrition assistance to vulnerable groups in the area, such as pregnant and nursing mothers, children under 2, and HIV/TB clients.

Resource Situation
As of December 2014, take-home rice distribution for schoolchildren remains suspended due to funding shortfalls. In-school feeding with HEBs is also facing suspension from January onwards. Food pipeline breaks for other WFP activities in the country are expected from April 2015.

WFP Myanmar is currently facing a shortfall of US$22 million in order to resume school feeding activities and meet all other food assistance needs through June 2015. Taking into account the lead time of food procurement and delivery, new contributions are required as soon as possible in order to ensure uninterrupted food assistance.

In November and December, Luxembourg and the UK donated timely US$275,000 and US$779,065 respectively in support of WFP activities in the country. WFP also received a generous contribution of US$10 million from the USA, which has now become WFP’s largest donor in Myanmar in 2014.

The top five funding sources to WFP in Myanmar are USA, Japan, EU, Australia and Switzerland. In 2014, WFP operations in Myanmar have also been supported by Canada, Luxembourg, UK, UN CERF as well as Japan Association for WFP, Unilever and Yum! Brands.