Bago Flood Response
At the beginning of August 2014, heavy rains in Bago region led the Bago River to rise over emergency levels and flow over the banks. This resulted in the flooding of vast areas in Bago, Kawa, Thanatpin and Woll townships, with some 25,000 people staying in temporary relocation camps in 56 locations. Support to flood affected people mainly in the form of cooked meal and non-food items, was quickly provided by the local Government. However, the water level rose up to 6 feet in some areas and the flood victims kept relocating to the camps. Their food stocks back home have been destroyed or at least severely damaged.

In response to the requests from the Regional and Union Governments for emergency food assistance to the flood affected population, on August 8, WFP deployed an assessment team to Bago to conduct a rapid food needs assessment in order to evaluate, jointly with the Government, how WFP can best complement the Government’s initial and immediate food assistance to the displaced population. Majority of the flood victims were casual laborers, poor fishermen and farmers with no other livelihoods opportunity.

On August 11, WFP deployed its Emergency Response team to Bago and logistical preparations for food distribution were arranged. On August 12 and 13, WFP commenced, coordinated, monitored and completed the distribution of the two-week take home ration consisting of rice, pulses and salt to 25,809 flood affected people in Bago District. Total 186 metric tons of food was distributed.

The timely flood response in Bago District was made possible thanks to funding support from the Government of Australia in June 2014.

Kachin Humanitarian Cross-line Mission
In August, in coordination with OCHA and the partners, WFP organized logistics of, and participated in, four humanitarian cross-line missions to the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) administered areas. WFP provided 158 metric tons of life-saving food assistance to more than 24,000 IDPs in nine camps through the missions from Myitkyina and Bhamo, to Mansi, Moe Mauk and Waing Maw Townships. Missions from Bhamo provided two-month rations of pulses, salt and blended food to the IDPs in La Na Zup Ja, Bum Tsit Pa, Pa Kahtwang and Nhkawng Pa camps to complement KMSS-Bhamo rations. Missions from Myitkyina provided one month full rations (rice, pulses, oil, salt and blended food) to Won Chyai and Hpum Lum Yang camps while selected rations (salt, blended food) were provided to IDP Boarding School and Je Yang camps for two months in Laiza area. WFP also provided pulses, oil, salt and blended food to the IDPs in Market 3 camp to complement Health Poverty Action’s rice distribution. So far in 2014, WFP has distributed a total of 874 metric tons of food to some 27,000 IDPs in KIO administered areas through the cross-line missions organized in January, February, March, April, June and August.
Security Incidents in Northern Shan State
In August, several clashes between Myanmar military and non-state arms groups - Kachin Independence Army and Ta ng National Liberation Army - broke out in Galeng, Mone See, Namt Phat Kar areas in Kut Khai Township, Pay Say area in Namt Kham Township and Baw Dwin area in Nam Tu Township. No person had been displaced by the clashes. WFP Lashio sub office conducted new IDP assessment in Won Wat village, Kye Thi Township where 396 population from 64 households were displaced in July due to the clashes between Myanmar military and the Shan State Army. As per the assessment findings, food was not urgently needed as IDPs had received private donation which is enough to cover the needs for one and half months.

Termination of Meikhtila Relief Assistance
As agreed with the Government, WFP food assistance to 5,000 internally displaced people in Meikhtila, Mandalay Region was terminated in August. Some IDPs have moved into new apartments allotted by the Government after living in the camps for one and half years since the inter-communal violence broke out in March 2013. WFP has been providing monthly food assistance consisting of rice, pulse, oil and salt to the IDPs. In addition, fortified blended food was also provided to pregnant and nursing mothers and children 6-23 months in view of preventing malnutrition.

Asset Creation Training
In August, WFP asset creation engineers organized the asset creation trainings for cooperating partners (CPs) staff in Magway and Lashio areas. The objectives of the trainings were to enhance the capacity of the CPs staff on basic engineering field survey techniques, awareness of WFP asset creation guidelines, understanding of the work norm calculation and how to monitor and evaluate the asset creation projects in order to have quality assets for the vulnerable communities. So far in 2014, WFP distributed 2,965 metric tons of food and US$ 665,114 cash through asset creation activities, reaching a total of some 165,000 beneficiaries. Community assets such as access roads, terrace lands, irrigation canals and dams have been developed for the benefit of the entire community in the targeted villages.

Strong Wind Response in Bo Yar Gyi Village, Mon State:
In August, a strong wind swept through Boe Yar Gyi village, Kyaik Hto Township in Mon State. As a result, 38 houses were damaged and 198 people were displaced to safer places: monastery and schools. In coordination and jointly with the Deputy Director of the Department of Relief and Resettlement (RRD), WFP went to Boe Yar Gyi village for a rapid assessment. WFP provided 0.368 metric tons of high energy biscuits to 194 victims from 38 households, to complement the township authorities and RRD’s distributions of blankets, cooking pots, plates, soaps and clothes to the affected communities in Mon State. The response was provided by WFP Mawlamyine sub office which opened in May 2014.

Resources
As of September 2014, food pipeline breaks are expected from November onwards. WFP Myanmar is currently facing a shortfall of US$ 9 million in order to meet all food assistance needs until the end of December. New contributions are required as soon as possible, taking into account the lead time of procurement and to ensure uninterrupted food assistance.

The top five funding sources to WFP in Myanmar are Japan, EU, USA, Australia and Switzerland. Funding has also been received in 2014 from Canada, Japan Association for WFP, UN CERF, Unilever and Yum! Brands.