



Magway Operational Brief

WFP Myanmar

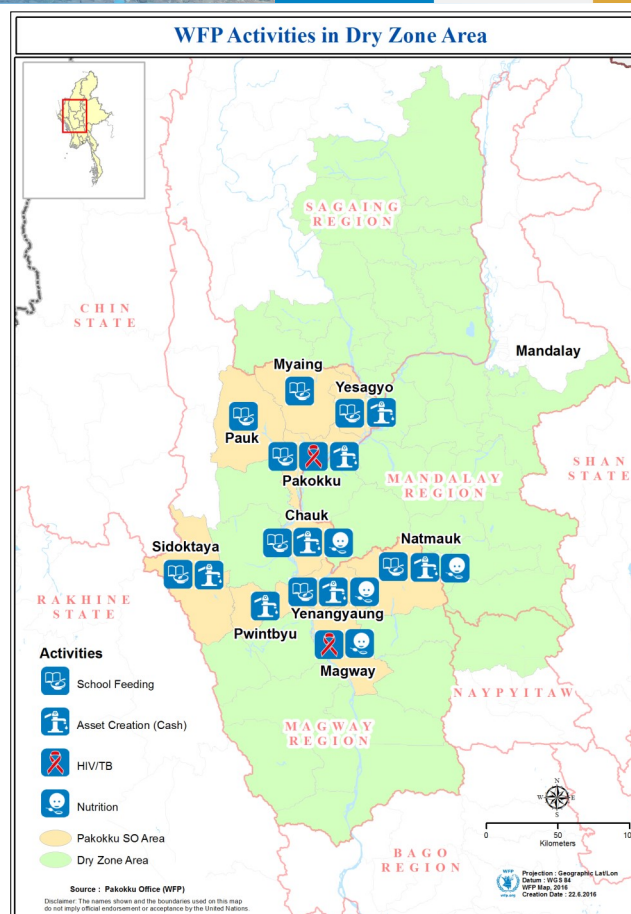


Overview

Magway Region with 3.9 million, representing 7 percent of the country's population, is located in the central part of Myanmar, bordering with Sagaing Region in the north, Mandalay Region in the east, Bago Region in the south and Rakhine and Chin States in the west. Despite largest land area, economically, it is one of the poorest regions in Myanmar due to lack of job and poor infrastructure and services. Moreover, limited access to land, inadequate farming inputs, drought, and scarcity of water and declination of soil fertility also lead to food insecurity of the vulnerable. Rural population accounts for 15 percent of the total in the region. The chronic food insecurity causes migration of the local people and many social and health problems. The chronic poverty and high vulnerability to shocks are widespread throughout the region. A food security, poverty and nutrition survey conducted in 2013 by WFP and Save the Children in the Dry Zone - large part of Magway, Mandalay and lower part of Sagaing Divisions - reported that 26 percent of the people in Dry Zone live below the poverty line and 18 percent is food-insecure. Chronic and acute malnutrition was found to be widespread among children under the age of five with 12 percent acutely malnourished while 27 percent chronically malnourished.

In 2003, WFP opened a sub-office in Pakkoku to provide relief food assistance to families, whose breadwinners contracted HIV/TB. The food assistance was provided through the direct support from Fund for HIV/AIDS for Myanmar (FAHM). Two years later, WFP sub office moved to Magway Town, to provide food assistance to the vulnerable communities, to improve their food security and nutritional status through its protracted relief and recovery operations. Additionally, WFP operated emergency response for Pakkoku flash flood victims in 2011, Mandalay flood victims in 2012 and people affected by Meikhtila inter-communal violence in 2013.

At present, in cooperation with seven partners, WFP is providing food assistance to the food insecure and vulnerable populations in eight townships of Magway Region. In addition to traditional in-kind food assistance, WFP has employed cash based transfers (CBT) initially in cash for work activities and since late 2015, in relief activities for population affected by floods.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government Counterpart

- Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)

Coordination with other Government Partners

- Department of Development Affairs
- Department of Education
- Department of Health

WFP Cooperating Partners





Flood Response

Magway Region was declared as one of four disaster zones on account of severe impacts by the floods in the aftermath of Cyclone Komen in 2015. More than 323,000 people were affected in 18 townships in the Region. Since 2 August, WFP immediately responded with life-saving food assistance and at the end of August when WFP completed its emergency flood response, it had already reached more than 100,000 beneficiaries in Pwint Hpyu, Sidoktayar, Yaenangyaung and Yasegyo Townships in Magway Region. WFP aims to continue its flood response through nutrition support and community assets creation activities in at least two townships until July 2016.

Community Asset Creation

WFP asset creation programme in Magway Region started in 2005, to provide food assistance to targeted vulnerable communities to meet their short term food requirement, and at the same time to build and improve assets that are beneficial to the whole community. Following the successful pilot cash-for-asset programme in Yenanchaung Township in 2012, cash for asset programme is being implemented in five townships, where markets function and reliable cash infrastructure systems are in place. In 2016, WFP will be implementing cash for asset activities, in collaboration with five partners: ALARM, MHDO, OISCA, REAM and World Vision, to create income generating opportunities for more than 4,300 food insecure people in townships of Natmauk, Pakkoku, Pwint Hpyu, Sidoktayar and Yaesagyo. Projects include road rehabilitation, irrigation canal rehabilitation and dyke reconstruction, etc.

School Feeding

WFP started its school feeding programme with an objective to promote the enrollment rate and retention of primary school children. In 2015, WFP signed a letter of Intent with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to work closely towards nationally owned School Feeding Programme, which is a part of the National Education Strategic Plan and a flagship programme of the National Social Protection Strategic Plan. To reach this goal, the MoE's staff at township level have facilitated school feeding, assisting 41,300 school children in eight townships during 2015-2016 academic year and WFP will maintain its partnership with the MoE. From 2015-2016 academic year, WFP aims to provide high energy biscuit to 40,303 school children in 557 primary schools, expanding to new 110 schools in Sidoktayar Township as compared to previous year. This includes 30 monastic schools in its programme, catering to more than 3,800 school children in seven townships in Magway.

Activity	Number of people
Community Asset Creation	4,300
School Feeding	40,303
Nutrition	4,500
HIV/TB	930

Nutrition

In July 2006, WFP piloted nutrition programme in Chauk Township. The main objective is to prevent the wasting and stunting among pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under 2 by providing fortified blended food. Myanmar Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009-2010 noted that around one in four children in Magway, together with Shan (north) and Ayeyarwaddy, are underweight. 2013 Food Security and Poverty Estimation survey, jointly conducted by WFP and the Department of Rural Development (DRD), in Dry Zone revealed that the nutrition situation was a concern, with high rates of wasting and medium rates of stunting, high rates of low birth weight and high rates of undernutrition among mothers, particularly those who are pregnant and/or lactating. In response, WFP has gradually expanded its nutrition programme and is now being implemented in Chauk and Yenanchaung Townships in cooperation with Partners, Terre des Hommes-Italia and World Vision. In 2016, WFP aims to reach 4,500 PLW and malnourished children through prevention of stunting and treatment of Moderate Acute Malnourishment interventions.

Food-by-prescription to HIV/TB patients

The prevalence of HIV/TB in Dry Zone is relatively high due to high mobility among the population. In cooperation with partners: ADRA and Progetto Continenti, WFP has been providing food-by-prescription to the people living with HIV (PLHIV) & TB clients since 2003. The purpose is to help achieve optimal outcomes of the treatment of PLHIV on anti-retroviral therapy and TB clients on Directly Observed Treatment (DOTS) and DOTS-Plus treatment, as well as to maintain or prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status. In 2015, WFP provided nutritional support to 1,400 PLHIV & TB clients in Magway, Mandalay and Meikhtila. By early 2015, WFP has withdrawn its HIV/TB programme from Mandalay and Meikhtila, except for nutrition support for Multidrug-resistant TB patients in Mandalay in cooperation with the Government's national TB programme. WFP targets 930 PLHIV & TB clients within Magway Region to provide food-by-prescription in 2016.

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