



School Feeding WFP Myanmar



Context: In rural areas of Myanmar, less than half of all children complete primary school. High dropout rates in primary school remain a serious concern, especially in remote areas. In 1996, WFP launched school feeding in northern Rakhine, which has some of the lowest education and food security indicators in Myanmar. Ever since, WFP has expanded its school feeding programme to Chin, Kachin, Magway, Shan, and Wa. Under the current Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, launched in January 2013, WFP school feeding covers early childhood care development (ECCD) centres and primary schools with on-site school feeding of a daily snack, fortified high energy biscuits (HEB), during the entire length of the school year, which runs from the beginning of June, to the end of February.

Globally, WFP has supported governments in the transition to nationally-owned school feeding programmes. The Government of Myanmar's transformational goal of reaching the Middle Income Country status by 2030 has signaled its readiness to employ school feeding as a social safety net. In this regard, WFP coordinates closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) whose officials oversee the implementation of the activities at township level in the operational areas. WFP welcomes the government's leadership, which was formalised through a Letter of Intent signed between the MoE and WFP in June 2015. It was agreed, together with the government, to nationalise WFP's school feeding programme, and gradually extend the programme to the entire country beyond 2016.

Myanmar's national school feeding programme will be designed with technical assistance from WFP, following WFP standards and policy for school feeding programmes, aligned with national policy and legal frameworks; this includes the National Education Strategic Plan, as well as the National Social Protection Framework. In order to support the Myanmar government in realizing its own first ever national school feeding programme, WFP also will provide the necessary support in building the capacity of relevant ministerial staff from MoE.

2016 WFP School Feeding Programme In Numbers

500,000 School children	4,000 schools	6,600 MT HEB
6 States/ Regions	USD 8.2 million needs	USD 5.2 million requirement

Response: Traditionally, WFP has provided monthly take-home rations of rice under its school feeding programme in Myanmar. However, since the daily on-site feeding of HEB was introduced as a pilot project in 2012, this child-centred approach has been well accepted by the children themselves, their parents and teachers; therefore, in consultation with the government, from the 2015-2016 academic year, the modality of the school feeding programme has been switched to daily on-site biscuit feeding. HEBs diversify the diet and contribute to tackling micronutrient deficiencies in school-aged children, improving their overall nutrition and health status. In addition, the HEB programme contributes to changing health-related behaviours both among children and school staff, as it combines the distribution of HEBs with health and hygiene practices. In this way, children learn the importance of hand-washing and sanitation.

From 2015/16 academic year, WFP has expanded its operational coverage to additional schools in Magway Region, in particular Sidoktayar Township, which is one of the poorest areas in the Region. The operation in Rakhine State was expanded to include Myebon Township, whereas in Kachin, school feeding was resumed in 47 primary schools in Myitkyina, Mansi and Moe Mauk Townships; this is the first time schoolchildren received WFP food assistance since the activity was suspended in 2011 due to the recurrent armed conflict. WFP has continued to provide support to the poorest monastic schools in its targeted areas.



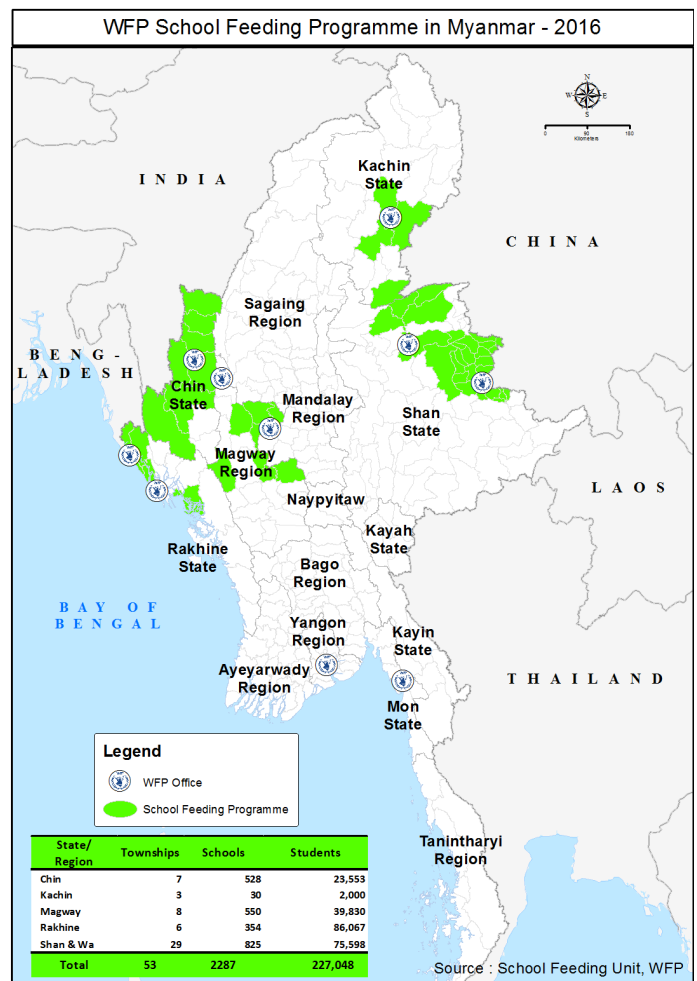
- Increase school enrolment, attendance and retention rates
- Address short-term hunger and improve micronutrient status
- Improve children's' access to primary education

School Feeding Achievements for 2015/16 Year

Region/ State	Townships	Schools	Students
Chin	6	326	14,200
Kachin	3	47	3,800
Magway	8	557	41,300
Rakhine	4	251	67,800
Shan & Wa	28	674	64,000
Total	49	1,855	191,100

Way Forward: During the upcoming school year, WFP intends to continue strengthening its partnership with the government. This includes organizing a study tour to WFP's Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil, to enable government officials to strengthen their knowledge on the development of multi-sector and sustainable school feeding models. The Myanmar delegation for this study group will include senior government officials from the MoE, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Border Affairs. In addition, WFP Myanmar plans to organize an additional study tour to neighbouring Asian countries to enable government officials to learn from successful school feeding programmes already in place. Moreover, in the 2016-2017 school year, WFP will introduce SABER (Systems Approach for Better Educational Results) for school feeding, a tool developed by WFP and the World Bank to evaluate the quality of education policies towards evidence-based global standards, focusing on assessing the principles and procedures of school feeding programmes. As a first step, WFP plans to hold a national level workshop with government officials to launch SABER in Myanmar. Furthermore, WFP will promote cooperation with the MoE at state/region and township levels to ensure the operational practice of relevant staff is in compliance with WFP's standard operational guidelines for school feeding through regular monitoring and evaluation visits to target schools. In the next 5 years, WFP and the government plan to expand the school feeding operation to reach 1 million school children by 2021.

Resource Situation: WFP's school feeding programme is historically underfunded, which often resulted in pipeline breaks in the past. Thanks to top-up contributions from Australia and Japan Association for WFP (JAWFP), WFP has been granted adequate resources to fund the school feeding programme, with its existing beneficiary number, which amounts to 230,000. However, WFP urgently requires US\$5.2 million to realise its plan to expand activities, targeting to reach a total of 500,000 preschool/ primary school girls and boys in the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year.



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