

World Food

Programme

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# WFP Myanmar

### COVID-19 Situation Report #07

Photo: WFP Country Director hands out WFP-supported meal boxes to ©WFP/Moh Moh Win Aung

#### Situation Update

- According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, there are 293 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar as of 26 June, including six deaths. To curb the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Myanmar has extended several restrictions, including the suspension of international commercial flights until 30 June.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted economic activities in Myanmar and is expected to have a long-term impact on various sectors. According to a poll conducted by the Asia Foundation, nearly one third of companies in Myanmar have temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown and the vast majority of those operating have reported lower sales.

#### **WFP Operations**

- With the approval of the Government at union and state levels, WFP is advancing to pre-position food assistance to cover monsoon season needs in conflict-affected Paletwa and Meeza towns in southern Chin State. Challenges include the unpredictable security context, and the impact of the early rains on road conditions.
- In line with the resilience building activities under the UN Myanmar socio-economic response to COVID-19, WFP is planning to implement a pilot asset creation and livelihoods project in Yangon peri-urban area to support low-income households affected by COVID-19. Additional similar projects will be considered on upcoming feasibility assessments and new evidence of vulnerability caused by the impact of COVID-19.

#### Food and Nutrition Assistance

- WFP continues its short-term emergency food and nutrition assistance for 55,000 returning migrants inside or in transit to quarantine sites in Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states and Tanintharyi and Yangon regions, as requested by the authorities.
- Starting from mid-June, WFP has been providing cooked meals for 7,000 people in quarantine sites in Bago Region and 2,500 people in Magway Region. The current plan is to support up to 60,000 returning migrants until the end of July.
- To improve nutrition status and boost immune systems for vulnerable groups, WFP is providing a "protection ration" by increasing the monthly ration size of fortified blended food (WSB+) from 3 kg to 6 kg for 18,000 pregnant and lactating women in WFP-supported stunting and wasting

#### **Highlights**

- WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to 55,000 returning migrants inside or in transit to quarantine sites in Bago, Kachin, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Shan, Tanintharyi and Yangon, as requested by the authorities.
- WFP is providing a two-month targeted protection ration by doubling the monthly ration size of fortified blended food for pregnant and lactating women in stunting and wasting prevention programmes.
- WFP continues to operate weekly aid flights connecting Kuala • Lumpur to Yangon, allowing humanitarian cargo and personnel to enter Myanmar.

prevention programmes for the June and July distribution cycles in all programme areas.

#### **Common Services Support**

# **Supply Chain and Logistics Coordination**

- WFP continues to offer procurement and logistics support to its humanitarian partners, which includes common logistics services, transport and warehousing.
- With a recent USD 1 million allocation from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund, WFP has completed the tender process for the procurement of personal protective equipment for use by its staff and six UN/INGO partners. WFP plans to award long term agreements to the suppliers shortly. These agreements will also be used by the UN Myanmar Procurement Working Group.

## Aviation Service Support

Since 10 May, WFP has operated a total of six aid flights linking Yangon and Kuala Lumpur, bringing in medical and hygiene supplies and providing access to humanitarian and development workers. This arrangement will remain in place until regular commercial flights resume.

#### **Resourcing Situation**

- WFP requires approximately USD 4.1 million to provide food and nutrition assistance for up to 50,000 quarantined returning migrants, as reflected in the Humanitarian Response Plan Addendum (April – June). WFP requires USD 1 million for logistics/common services support.
- In addition to its COVID-19 response, WFP urgently appeals for USD 16 million to continue providing life-saving assistance to 300,000 IDPs and other vulnerable people in the conflict-affected Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states until the end of 2020. The pipeline for relief operations is expected to break in August 2020 for cash-based activities, and in October for in-kind food assistance.

WFP 6-month Net Funding Requirements (July – December 2020)

**Country Strategic Plan** (2018 - 2022)

USD 32.81 million

