



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Myanmar

Response overview
June 2022



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In numbers

-  **13.2 million** people facing moderate or severe food insecurity
-  **2 million** people in need of nutrition support
-  **912 700** internally displaced people

Key points

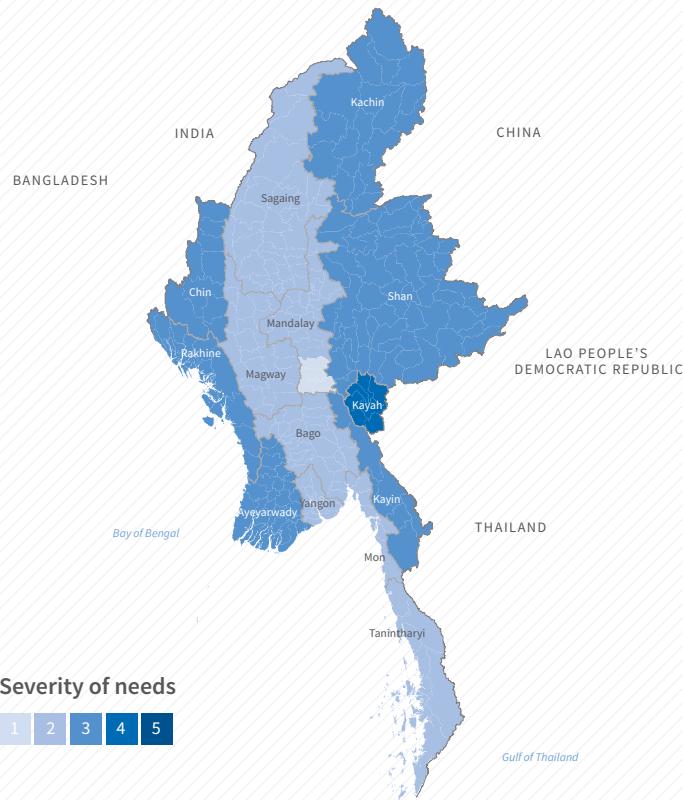
- Humanitarian needs in Myanmar continue to rise sharply since February 2021 as a result of political and economic upheaval and increased conflict.
- Myanmar is facing a rapidly growing food security crisis, and nearly one in four people are already food insecure. Ongoing violence, economic crisis, recurrent climate-induced shocks, population displacement and COVID-19, among other factors, are disrupting the entire national food system.
- Since January 2022, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has assisted 14 115 households (70 575 people) through the provision of staple crop seeds and fertilizers along with the implementation of cash-based interventions, enabling them to produce their own food and meet their basic needs.

Challenges facing food security and agriculture

Agriculture is a source of livelihoods for nearly 70 percent of the population of Myanmar. The ongoing crisis is reversing hard-won agricultural development gains and posing an enormous threat to the livelihoods and food security of agriculture-dependent communities. Intense violence is triggering new waves of population displacement and disrupting livelihoods across the food supply chain. In 2021, 24 percent of farmers reduced the size of their planted areas and 18 percent reported a reduction in expected harvest. Moreover, while the incomes of smallholder farmers continue to decline, the cost of production inputs continue to rise. For example, the cost of fertilizers is currently 3.6 times higher than in 2019 and high-quality seeds are increasingly becoming unavailable or unaffordable. As a result, food production is declining and food prices are soaring, leading to unprecedented and critical levels of food insecurity with 89 percent of households adopting at least one negative coping mechanism. Against this backdrop, protecting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers to enable them to feed themselves and their communities is a frontline humanitarian response. Without urgent and scaled up interventions to protect agricultural livelihoods, the food security crisis will inevitably deteriorate further and the numbers of people who resort to negative coping mechanisms and/or rely on food aid for their survival will continue to grow.

In collaboration with its local and international partners, FAO is responding to the crisis through providing smallholder farmers across Myanmar with access to fertilizers and high-quality seeds along with the implementation of cash-based interventions. Furthermore, FAO will provide livestock keeping households with animal feed to enable them to keep their livestock assets alive, healthy and productive. FAO is also focusing on enhancing the technical knowledge and skills of community-based service providers, and on promoting healthy diets among highly vulnerable groups.

People in food insecurity by region (2021)



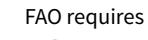
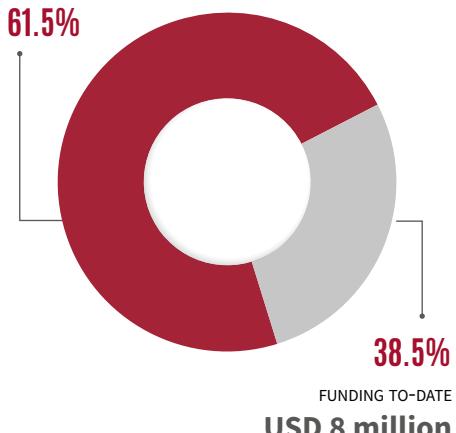
Source: OCHA. 2021. *Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022 (December 2021)*. New York, USA. <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-needs-overview-2022-december-2021>. Map conforms to United Nations Geospatial Myanmar map, 2018.

Funding

FUNDING GAP

USD 12.8 million

61.5%



FAO requires
USD 20.8 million



to assist
694 110 people

Resource partners

Central Emergency Response Fund,
FAO internal funds and the Japan International
Cooperation Agency

Response to date (January–May 2022)

- Provided 16 500 households (45 220 people) with 322 tonnes of fertilizers, 5.5 tonnes of maize seeds, 904 kg of vegetable seeds, 54 264 soaps, 108 528 face masks, and raised their awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Provided multipurpose cash assistance to 4 561 households (22 805 people), transferring approximately USD 420 000.
- Engaged 510 vulnerable farmers in cash-for-work activities, distributing approximately USD 60 000.

Planned response (June–December 2022)

Provide 16 500 households (82 500 people) with 213 tonnes of cereal seeds and/or vegetable production packages. | Provide 7 800 livestock keeping households (39 000 people) with 1 500 tonnes of animal feed. | Provide 24 350 households (121 750 people) with 775 tonnes of compound fertilizers and 160 tonnes of organic fertilizers. | Provide 9 989 households (49 945 people) with multipurpose cash assistance (USD 92 per household). | Facilitate capacity-building trainings and support to six women's groups to improve their agricultural enterprises. | Train 422 farmer trainers (e.g. para-technicians and community animal health workers) on good agricultural production and livestock management practices. | Raise the awareness of 24 350 households (121 750 people) on COVID-19 prevention measures and provide them with soap and face masks. | Disseminate dietary guidelines for pregnant and lactating women, and children under five years of age and provide counseling where possible.

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