



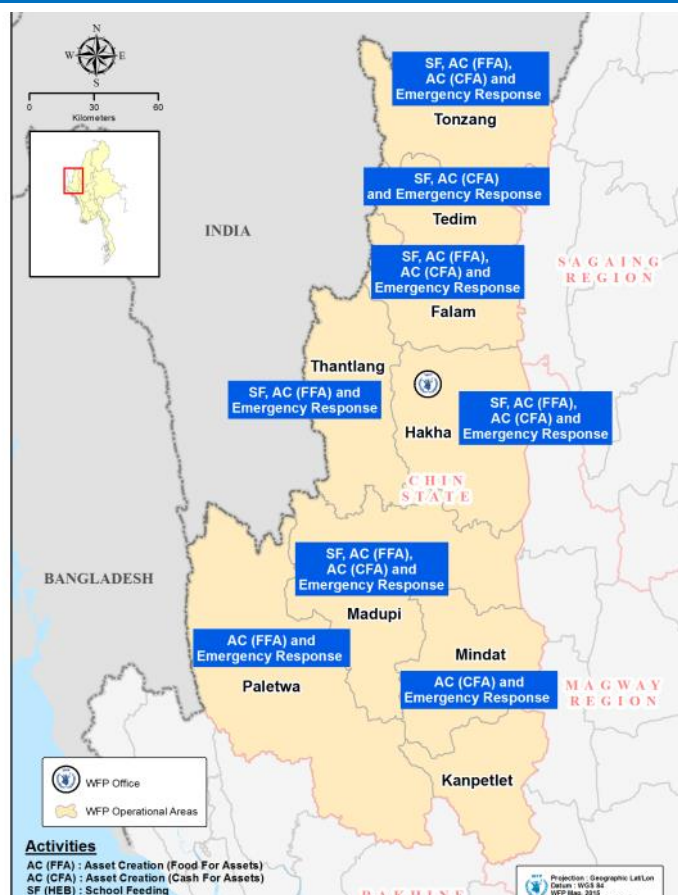
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR Chin Operational Brief

OVERVIEW

Chin State is situated in the western part of Myanmar, bordering with Sagaing Region in the east, India in the west, Kachin State in the north and Rakhine State in the south. Chin State is the second smallest of all States/Regions and with a population of more than 470,000 people, ranked the second least populated States/Region. Of total, urban population constitutes 21 percent only. Chin is the poorest State in Myanmar due to its geographical remoteness, lack of infrastructure and transportation networks with other States and Regions. However, the 2012 cease fire agreement between the Government and Chin National Front, an ethnic armed group, paved the way for sustainable development initiatives such as road and airport construction, wider access to electricity supply.

The main livelihood of the rural community of Chin State is shifting cultivation. The limited area of arable farmland on the steep hilly areas and growing population of the State shorten the shifting cultivation fallow period and lead to poor soil fertility. In addition, deforestation, climate change and irregular rainfall across the State have a negative impact on food production. Food insecurity is therefore a cyclical and chronic problem, which affects all townships of the State. The result of the 2013 WFP food security monitoring in Chin State showed that the food insecurity levels in the State ranged from moderate to severe. The annual food gap in Chin State is three to seven months with limited coping mechanisms. In July and August 2015, Chin State was devastated by the massive landslides, resulting from the heavy rainfalls, which left widespread damages of houses and basic infrastructures. In the aftermath, many villages were relocated and more than 23,000 people in 9 townships were affected by the landslides.

WFP has been present in Chin State since 2008, initially providing emergency food assistance to the farmers, whose crops were destroyed by rodent infestation, affecting the food security to date. In response to the crisis, WFP provided assistance to the crop failure affected farmers through general food distribution as well as cash transfer. In order to improve the food security, nutrition status and livelihood of the food-insecure and vulnerable populations of Chin, WFP opened a sub-office in Hakha in 2009. In 2013, WFP inaugurated the first regional food security resource centre in Hakha, with an aim of enhancing the capacity of locally based organizations and to extend the coverage of food security monitoring in Chin State.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government Counterpart

- Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)

Coordination with other Government Partners

- Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health

UN Coordination Agencies and WFP Cooperating Partners





Terracing is one of WFP asset creation activities in Chin State. Photo: WFP/ Philip Mckinney

Emergency Response

In late July 2015, Chin State was devastated by the landslides, resulting from heavy rainfalls. In the aftermath, housings and infrastructures were destroyed. Access to Chin State was cut off for many days. One week after the declaration of national disaster zones including Chin State, WFP managed to access some of the worst hit townships of Chin State and immediately commenced food distributions to the affected populations. By September, WFP reached more than 29,800 people across nine townships with 356 metric tons of food. WFP aims to provide early recovery support to more than 29,000 people through relief, nutrition support and community asset rehabilitation activities.

Community Asset Creation

Since 2008, WFP has been implementing its asset creation programme in Chin State to create income generating opportunities to the unemployed, landless and most vulnerable populations for their participation in the activities, which are paid either in food or cash. The asset creation activities are implemented based on feasibility assessments and community preferences. In March 2015, WFP conducted micro-assessments to analyse the extent of assets functionality and improved food production, challenges, lessons learned and best practices, involving more than 160 participants in 23 focus group discussions and 171 household interviews, across 5 townships in Chin State. WFP has adapted the design and implementation of community asset creation activities to the findings. In close coordination with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Rural Development, WFP is implementing cash or food for asset activities, including construction or renovation of 351.22 ha of land development, 65.10 km of road, 92.89 km of irrigation canal, 33.87 km of drinking water supply, 7 units of fish pond and 2 units of school in 10 townships. Through these activities, WFP aims to provide cash or food to 6,100 participants, thereby improving food security status. In late August 2015, WFP and the Asian Development Bank assessed the access conditions of Chin State and also explored the possibility of asset rehabilitation activities. To enhance community resilience, WFP intends to support rehabilitation of basic infrastructures damaged by the landslides in Chin State until mid 2016.

School Feeding

To increase the enrollment and the retention of primary school children as well as to supplement their dietary diversity, a pilot school feeding programme was conducted during the 2012-2013 academic year. Since then, the regular school feeding programme has been implemented in 134 primary schools and 60 early childhood development centres (ECDC) in six townships. From September 2015, WFP has partially resumed on-site school feeding activities to provide over 8,000 school children with daily snack (High Energy Biscuits) at 77 pre- and primary schools. In 2015 academic year, WFP has expanded the scope of its programme to three new townships, which are the most food insecure areas of southern Chin State. 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, MoE and WFP will gradually expand the programme nationwide beyond 2016.

Nutrition

In 2014, WFP and the Department of Rural Development (DRD) jointly conducted a Food Security and Poverty Estimation survey. The survey was compartmentalized into northern and southern part of Chin, involving more than 1,000 households in 98 villages. During the survey, 2 percent of households in the north and 11 percent of those in the south reported moderate or severe hunger. Moreover, high levels of diet inadequacy (89 percent in north and 86 percent in south) were observed. Inadequate consumption of protein were also reported, indicating imbalanced nutrient intake of households. To find out more on nutritional needs and concerns pertaining to women and children, WFP and UNICEF carried out a joint-assessment in the first week of July 2015. The results demonstrated a clear need to start nutrition activities to promote access to and quality of pre- and post-natal care visits as well as growth monitoring. In this respect, WFP intends to initiate nutrition support activities in 2016 with blanket supplementary feeding to all pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age in targeted townships, considering the poor nutritional status¹ of those. Subject to the assessment on feasibility and options for programme design of cash based nutrition support, implementation will start in 2016/2017. As the nutrition support is conditional on regularity of attending health services, WFP will enhance its partnership with the Ministry of Health, integrating health facilities as a platform for food/cash-based transfer.

Contacts:

Myanmar Country Office

5 Kanbawza Street,
Shwe Taungyar Ward 2,
Bahan Township,
Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: + 95 (0) 1 2305971~ 6

Email: wfpmyanmar.pi@wfp.org

WFP Chin Sub Office

No. Ma 060 , Myothit Quarter
Pan Chan Lann,
Hakha, Chin State
Myanmar
Tel: +95 (0) 70 22023

¹ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2009-2010 indicated that 58 percent of stunting (short for age) prevalence, highest in the country and 75.6 percent of women receiving ante-natal care, lowest in the country.