



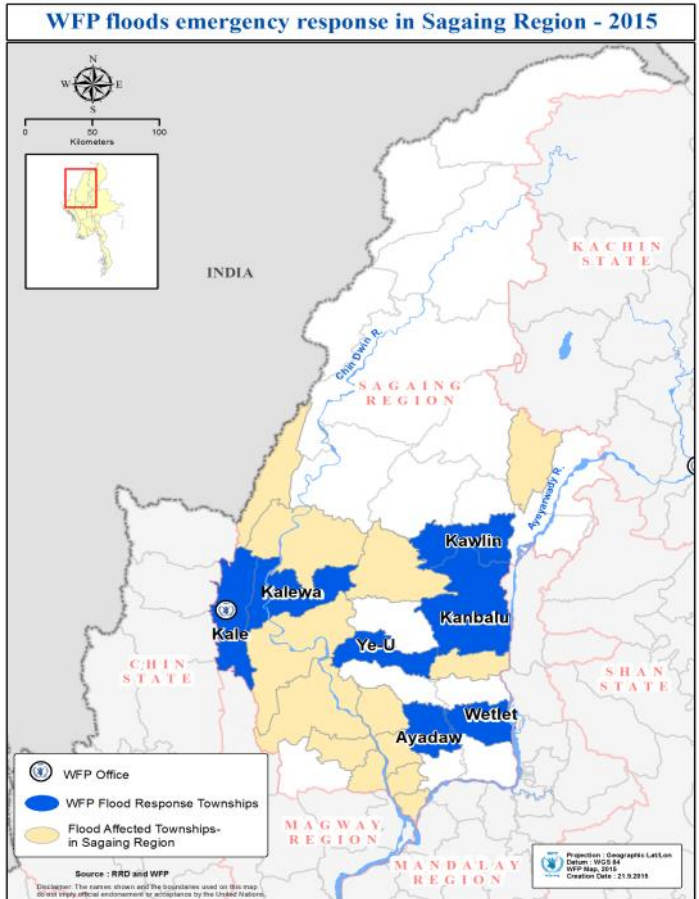
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR Sagaing Operational Brief

OVERVIEW

Sagaing Region is the second largest constituent unit of Myanmar with 5.3 million population, located in the north western part of the country. Sagaing Region consists of 8 districts, 37 townships and 1 Self Administered Zone¹ (SAZ). The Region's capital city is Sagaing, located on the Ayeyarwaddy River, 20 km southwest of the country's famous Mandalay city where numerous Buddhist temples and monasteries exist.

The Region abounds in natural resources, with the Ayeyarwaddy benefiting the local economy. Agriculture is the mainstay of the local economy, followed by livestock, fresh water fisheries, agro-industrial activity as well as natural resource extraction. The southern part is comparatively highly urbanized while infrastructure in the remote northern areas are poorly developed. Amongst other, Naga SAZ is the poorest, most isolated and least developed of Myanmar.² In early 2014, the Government's Department of Rural Development (DRD) and WFP carried out a food security survey, involving a total of 1,800 households from 150 villages in Sagaing. The survey was compartmentalized into three strata (i.e. north, south and centre) and discovered higher levels of hunger scale and diet inadequacy in the northern Sagaing.

In July 2015, Sagaing was severely devastated by widespread flooding, triggered by heavy monsoonal rains and exacerbated by the tropical Cyclone Komen. Approximately 455,700 people across 26 townships were affected in addition to agriculture, livelihoods and infrastructures. Sagaing was declared as one of the natural disaster zones by the President of Myanmar and Kale was identified as the worst affected Township of Sagaing by the National Natural Disaster Management Committee afterwards. Following an initial rapid assessment in collaboration with the Government, other UN agencies and non-government organizations, WFP prompted its emergency response with distribution of life-saving food assistance in Sagaing Region. In late August, an in-depth assessment, undertaken by WFP and humanitarian partners, pointed out a need to continue distributions of general food assistance in the worst affected areas in Sagaing. In light of this, WFP has established a sub-office in Kale of Sagaing to support early recovery through relief activities in Kale Township and community asset rehabilitation activities in Kale and Kawlin Townships.



PARTNERSHIPS

Government Counterpart

- Ministry of Border Affairs (NaTaLa)

Coordination with other Government Partners

- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- Relief and Resettlement Committee

UN Coordination Agencies and WFP Cooperating Partners



¹ Naga Self-Administered Zone (SAZ) is made up of three townships: Lahe, Leshi and Nanyun. The name of the SAZ is derived from one of the most distinct ethnic Naga people.
² UNDP Myanmar (2015). *The State of Local Governance: Trends in Sagaing*.



WFP's cooperating partner KMSS delivering WFP food assistance to the flood victims in Kale Township of Sagaing Region. Photo: WFP/ Johnny

Flood Response

Emergency Flood Response: Since the inception of its emergency response on 2 August, WFP has provided a one-month supply of rice, pulses, cooking oil and salt as well as a one-week ration of high energy biscuit. As of 4 September, WFP has accomplished the initial response, reaching 107,867 people in need of immediate food with 789 metric tons of food across Ayadaw, Kale, Kalewa, Kantbalu, Kawlin, Wetlet and Ye-U Townships in Sagaing. From December, WFP will gradually shift its focus to support early recovery through relief and community asset rehabilitation activities.

Relief Assistance: Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) report indicated 80 percent in Sagaing Region reported partial or total crop loss and only 29 percent reported having food stock for more than one month. Through its relief response, WFP is targeting some 50,000 flood victims in Kale Township. As WFP anticipates gradual decrease in the number of people in need of external food assistance, WFP aims to reduce number of its target beneficiary for unconditional relief assistance. WFP intends to continue general food distributions till the end of next harvest season in 2016.

Nutrition: Approximately 20 percent of women/caretakers assessed through MIRA reported having problems feeding children below two years of age, contributed by three major factors including insufficient access/availability of food. This is consistent with pre-existing findings of the WFP food security survey in Sagaing, which demonstrated less than 4 percent of the visited villages have a market. The MIRA results indicated that access and availability of food is of primary importance to prevent further deterioration in nutritional status among vulnerable groups and mirrored the need to promote, protect and support appropriate infant and young child feeding practice. In consideration of this, WFP has been providing nutrition support to 3,000 children and pregnant and lactating women in Sagaing since October. This will include provision of fortified blended food on a monthly basis.

Community Asset Creation: The floods caused damages to food stocks, standing crops, farmlands as well as basic infrastructures such as roads, schools and housings. Sixty percent of villages assessed in the MIRA reported that people no longer fish or find casual work. In coordination with the Government and various humanitarian partners, WFP aims to restore food security and rebuild livelihoods for the local community so that they can generate income to meet immediate needs. WFP plans to implement cash and/or food for asset activities in Kale and Kawlin Townships, involving 15,000 people from December. The choice of food or cash transfer modality will be determined depending on communities' access to functioning food markets, food prices and the presence of reliable financial services, providers or partners to provide transfers. WFP will fine tune its asset rehabilitation programme, guided by a national recovery and rehabilitation plan that is currently being developed by the Government and humanitarian/development organizations.

Partnerships and Looking Forward: Since the inception of its emergency response, WFP has been collaborating with the government counterparts, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. At the early stage of response, WFP, in cooperation with UNICEF, UNOCHA, World Vision and Myanmar Red Cross Society, conducted inter-agency need assessments in a total of nine townships in August. In collaboration with the government's relief committee at local level, WFP has identified the most vulnerable people. WFP has been working with Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) to deliver food assistance to the targeted communities. WFP also anticipates further cooperation, enhanced through recovery and rehabilitation activities, with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. Upon generating the first food security and poverty atlas in Myanmar, following a series of WFP assessments and surveys across the country, WFP will consider extending its operations, which are currently limited to the worst flood affected areas in the south Sagaing, to other vulnerable and food-insecure communities in the north of the region.

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