



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR

March 2015 Operational Report

WFP Executive Director's visit: Executive Director Ms. Ertharin Cousin visited Myanmar from 10 to 12 March with UNDP Administrator Ms. Helen Clark. On 11 March, Ms. Cousin and Ms. Clark visited Sittwe town, Rakhine State where they met with State Chief Minister H.E. U Maung Maung Ohn and discussed priorities for continued humanitarian assistance and scaled-up development support by UN agencies in Rakhine State. Ms. Cousin and Ms. Clark visited a WFP assisted Muslim IDP camp and a UNDP assisted Rakhine village. The village visit involved meetings with communities and beneficiaries of income generation activities at a shrimp paste making shop as well as a bridge construction, which enables better access to services and markets. The following day in Nay Pyi Taw, Ms. Cousin and Ms. Clark paid joint visits to Vice Presidents H.E. Dr. Sai Mauk Kham and H.E. U Nyan Htun, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. U Thant Kyaw, the Parliamentary Speaker H.E. Thura Shwe Mann and Member of Parliament Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms. Cousin also held bilateral meetings with Minister of Border Affairs H.E. Lt. General Thet Naing Win, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development H.E. U Ohn Myint and Deputy Minister of Education H.E. Dr. Zaw Min Aung.

Upon conclusion of the visit, a [joint media statement](#)* was released mentioning WFP and UNDP's commitment to supporting the Government's goal of reaching the Middle Income Country status by 2030 and attaining higher levels of human development in Myanmar. Ms. Cousin commended the Government for the adoption of "National Zero Hunger Challenge" initiative in 2014 and assured to continue to be part of addressing the underlying causes of hunger while providing food assistance to the most vulnerable people in Myanmar.



WFP Executive Director (fifth from left), UNDP Administrator (center) and Vice President of Myanmar Dr. Sai Mauk Kham (fifth from right) at Nay Pyi Taw with representatives from UN and Government

Photo: WFP/ Silke Buhr

Kokang Armed-conflict: From 9 February onwards, a series of armed clashes between the Myanmar military and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) allied with other ethnic armed groups has been taking place in Kokang region. In light of this conflict, thousands of local people are estimated to have fled from conflict area. Unconfirmed reports suggested that the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) climbed approximately to 62,000 with more IDPs finding shelter in temporary camps in Wa Self Administrative Region and Yun Nan province of China. To date, the clashes have been ongoing and the State of Emergency is still in effect.

In response to a needs assessment indicating food insecurity of 300 IDPs in Namsalat village, Theinne Township of northern Shan State, WFP distributed three-week food rations to the IDPs. WFP's relief assistance to IDP camps in Nam Tit, Nam Kham and Kut Khai townships is expected to be fully operational in April. WFP has been negotiating with the Government to secure access to 4,000 conflict-affected populations sheltered in Border 125 point camp inside Kokang area. WFP has prepositioned sufficient food in Lashio area office in order to provide any necessary immediate response. WFP has temporarily suspended its activities in Kokang, affecting a total of 4,800 pregnant women and nursing mothers, children under 2 and people living with HIV and TB clients.

Recurrent Clashes in Kachin: In February, several cross fires between Myanmar military and Kachin Independent Army (KIA) were reported in Hpakant Township. With the fighting being escalated, villagers from Kan See involuntarily moved out and displaced to Hpakant, Lone Khin and Myitkyina. By the end of February, 658 new IDPs from 166 households have sheltered in Hpakant. WFP's overall food distribution for February fully covered these new IDPs.

*Joint statement available online:

[https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/undp-administrator-helen-clark-and-wfp-executive-director-ertharin-cousin-discuss-](https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/undp-administrator-helen-clark-and-wfp-executive-director-ertharin-cousin-discuss)



World Food Programme



Food Security Information Network (FSIN):

With regard to FSIN periodic monitoring for 2014 monsoon season, joint data collection was conducted in Yangon, Hakha, Taunggyi, Lashio, Magway, Sittwe, Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in January and information analysis was conducted in February 2015. In March, data validation regional workshops were held in the above-mentioned areas, involving FSIN members and local government officials, to review the initial indicative results integrated with secondary information (for instance, Government's reporting system and surveys) and to classify the food security situation. Classification of food security situation has been completed in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships and has been ongoing in remaining areas. According to the evidence-based review, Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships were considered as highly food-insecure (phase 3) during 2014 monsoon season.

Impact Assessment on Suspension of School Feeding:

Due to lack of resources for school feeding, WFP was obliged to suspend its nationwide school feeding operation in November 2014. In February, WFP sub-office in Pangkham completed a rapid assessment in 22 townships of Wa. Preliminary findings suggested that 20 percent of 6,570 boarding school students in Wa skipped classes with the average 3-4 school days per month. Likewise, the absence rate among non-boarding school students also increased up to 12 percent. Interviews with parents reflected the likelihood of even higher school drop-outs for the next semester with the school feeding suspension mainly accounting for that. It will be less likely for parents to continue sending their children to schools without WFP's school feeding.

Resource Situation:

WFP Myanmar is currently facing a shortfall of US\$35 million in order to meet all the food assistance needs till the end of December 2015. Food pipeline breaks in the country are expected from mid-August 2015. In February and March 2015, WFP recently received contributions from Japan, EU, Australia and Switzerland that helped meet the immediate funding needs.

The top five funding sources to WFP in Myanmar are Japan, USA, EU, Australia and Switzerland.

Contributions to WFP: In March, WFP Myanmar welcomed several contributions made by various funding partners. The Government of Japan granted JPY 1 billion (US\$8.2 million) to WFP for life-saving food assistance to IDPs in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. Ninety percent of the food will be purchased locally, thereby also supporting Myanmar farmers and contributing to the national economy. On 19 March, WFP Country Director Mr. Dom Scalpelli attended Exchange of Notes signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. The ceremony was presided by Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Deputy Minister of Border Affairs Major General Tin Aung Chit and Deputy Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development H.E. Dr. Aung Myat Oo. On 27 March, Grant Agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was co-signed by WFP Country Director and JICA Chief Representative Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa.



WFP Country Director Mr. Dom Scalpelli exchanging notes with Ambassador of Japan H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi



Grant Agreement signing between Mr. Dom Scalpelli, WFP Country Director and Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa, JICA Chief Representative

Photos: WFP/ Ayuka Ibe

EU also extended its funding to WFP granting EUR 1.8 million (US\$1.9 million) for delivering food assistance to IDPs and the most food insecure and vulnerable communities in northern Rakhine State. WFP also received contribution of AUD 1.5 million (US\$1.3 million) from Australia for school feeding. WFP aims to resume the school feeding activities in July 2015.