



## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR February 2016 Operational Report

### Relief assistance in Kokang, northern Shan and Wa:

After two months' delay due to unstable security situation, WFP resumed its monthly food distributions through a cooperating partner in January, reaching approximately 6,000 returnees. As resettled households in Laukkaing have had varied access to livelihoods or income sources while IDPs from Chin Shwe Haw have not resettled in Laukkaing, because of limited income opportunities, a needs assessment and a beneficiary retargeting exercise are scheduled in February to subtract comparatively better-off households and to avoid overlapping in provision of assistance. Although all the camps closed in China, Kokang refugees have been staying with host families or separately along the border. All these returnees in Kokang were previously displaced to northern Shan and Wa by the armed conflict between the Government forces and an ethnic armed group, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, in first half of 2015.

In Nam Tit of Wa Self-Administrative Region and Theinne and Kutkai of northern Shan State, WFP and partners will undertake in-depth needs assessments to determine their food security situation and to identify the genuine IDPs as some extended families of IDPs from non-affected villages were believed to have moved into camps.

**Cash based transfers in flood response:** In 2015, WFP accommodated food needs of more than half a million flood affected people, through relief assistance and community asset rehabilitation activities in nine states and regions. After the first month of emergency, WFP started to implement cash based transfers in the areas with undisrupted market access. As of December 2015, cash transfers benefited over 25,000 people, participating in rehabilitation of village access roads, drinking water ponds, irrigation canal, and upland/lowland terracing and fish ponds in Chin state, Rakhine State and Magway Region. In 2016, WFP aims to support early recovery of 200,000 people through continued relief and asset rehabilitation activities as well as nutrition support in the worst affected communities.

**Humanitarian access to Sumprabum:** In January, UNDSS and WFP completed a logistical assessment, which had been undertaken to explore the practicability of delivering food assistance by land route to IDPs in Sumprabum, Kachin State. Based on the findings of the assessment, reflecting formidable condition of road access, including possible landmines, WFP will reiterate its request to the Government for delivery of food by more feasible water way. A total of 1,200 IDPs have been displaced by internal conflicts since June 2015 to Sumprabum, which has been the last remaining IDP location for WFP to reach in Myanmar.

**Targeted relief assistance in Kachin:** In January, WFP continued its regular relief assistance for IDPs in Government controlled areas (GCA) of Kachin through food and cash based transfers. Over 27,600 IDPs with access to functioning markets received cash assistance and more than 8,700 IDPs with limited or no market access continued to receive food rations. More than 16 percent of total IDPs receiving cash assistance and 14 percent of IDPs receiving food rations were identified as the most vulnerable households by a prior household profiling exercise in November-December 2015 and hence entitled to full ration of food or equivalent cash. The remaining majority in both categories were provided with a reduced level of food or cash assistance. Regardless of transfer modality and vulnerability, pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children from IDP families inclusively received fortified blended food.

### Emergency response to fire outbreak in Nam Hsan:

With provision of high-energy biscuits, WFP rapidly responded to a fire outbreak, which destroyed a total of 209 houses in Nam Hsan town of northern Shan State on 4 February. On 5 February, OCHA, UNDSS, UNICEF and WFP conducted a joint rapid assessment, which found that Government, civil organisations and public donations of basic food, drinking water, non-food items and emergency shelter were sufficient at that stage. In addition, WFP staff in Myanmar made a collective personal donation of cash and clothing for the families affected by the incident.





A woman beneficiary from an IDP household receiving unconditional cash assistance for the first time in Kachin. © WFP/ Pansy Dwe



Director of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Left), Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (Centre) and WFP Resident Representative and Country Director (Right) at WFP country office in Yangon.

#### Handover ceremony between Korea and WFP:

On 9 February, a handover ceremony between the Government of the Republic of Korea, represented by Ambassador of Korea His Excellency Lee Baek-soon and WFP in Myanmar, represented by Resident Representative & Country Director Mr Dom Scalpelli took place at WFP Country Office in Yangon. U Kyi Thar, Director from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, on behalf of the Myanmar Government, also attended the ceremony. In December 2015, the Republic of Korea made a contribution of USD 300,000 to WFP in support of unconditional food assistance to populations affected by landslides in Chin State. With this grant, WFP locally procured over 500 tons of rice, which is currently being delivered to distribution points in Hakha, Falam, Mindat, Razua and Tongzan Townships of Chin State. Chin is one of the four disaster zones that were worst hit by floods and landslides in 2015. WFP reached more than 61,300 people in Chin until the end of 2015. WFP's flood response would have not been possible without funding support from various government and private sector donors, including the Republic of Korea, which has been an important partner to WFP globally and now also in Myanmar.

**Complaint and Feedback Mechanism:** Since February, a corporate Beneficiary Complaint & Feedback Mechanism (CFM) has been functional and running in Myanmar, further strengthening WFP's accountability to, and promoting active involvement of, its beneficiaries. In order to facilitate easy access for beneficiaries to lodge complaints, WFP has set up a variety of user-friendly channels such as hot lines, correspondence and emails. Beneficiaries' complaints or feedback will be dealt by two operators at each sub-office under the supervision of CFM focal persons at WFP Country Office in Yangon. WFP will convey CFM related information to its beneficiaries and local communities primarily through dissemination and displays of communications materials at its sub-offices and distribution points. From February to April, CFMs will be tested to firstly comprehend the nature of complaints and feedback and their impact on WFP's current programmes. Results observed in the pilot phase will inform revision and finalisation of CFMs which will be kept under regular review and updated accordingly.

**Resource Situation:** WFP currently faces a funding shortfall of **US\$47 million** to meet all food assistance needs till the end of 2016. Due to limited funding, WFP in Myanmar continues to prioritise activities focusing on its relief assistance to conflict-affected IDPs in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan; ongoing recovery support to 2015 floods/landslides affected populations in the worst hit areas of Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing; and nutrition support to malnourished children under the age of five and pregnant and nursing mothers in various operational areas. As a result, other activities such as school feeding, community assets creation and HIV/TB programmes remain underfunded. With current resources available, full rations to IDPs are only covered till April. Considering the lead time of procurement and delivery of food to the operational areas, new funding is required as soon as possible.

WFP's top five funding partners are Japan, USA, EU, Australia and Switzerland.