



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR January 2016 Operational Report

2016 humanitarian response in Myanmar:

In December 2015, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Myanmar released the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The new HRP is developed in line with the country's changing political climate and humanitarian situation and targets over 1 million displaced and other particularly vulnerable people, with 83 percent of total beneficiaries being assisted under the FAO and WFP co-led Food Security Sector (FSS). Support to IDPs in conflict-affected areas of Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States will still be the mainstay of overall humanitarian response, and FSS partners will continue to provide food assistance to 210,000 IDPs across these States. Since late 2015, WFP has been reviewing its beneficiary targeting and household vulnerability to determine feasibility of cash based transfers and targeting of assistance for IDPs. From early 2016, this transition will have been fully operational in Kachin State, enhancing beneficiaries' self-reliance and resilience building opportunities for the affected communities. The HRP also focuses on early recovery and durable solutions for displaced people, which involve voluntary return/resettlement, freedom of movement and resumption of livelihood. If durable solutions become viable, FSS may provide assistance to returnees/relocated IDPs to support their voluntary return and resettlement. More importantly, the HCT will engage closely with the government to advocate for adequate humanitarian access for organisations delivering critical life-saving services to people affected by disasters or emergencies. Through either bi/multi-lateral agreement for exclusive access or UN humanitarian crossline missions, WFP will continue to assist IDPs in areas beyond Government control in Kachin. Subject to stability and secure access, WFP plans to assist an estimated 2,000 conflict-affected people in central Shan as well as more than 9,000 existing and potential returnees in Kokang. Considering the substantial impacts in 2015 of the nationwide floods on agriculture and food security, FSS will also continue its relief assistance to 36,800 people in the worst affected areas during the first quarter and asset creation activities for 55,000 people in the first half of the year.

Inter-sectorial nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities will be integrated with health and WASH clusters as well as the food security sector. FFS will provide specialized fortified food to pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children, contributing to the nutrition sector's integrated management of acute malnutrition.

WFP IDP response in Kachin: The transition to cash based transfers for relief commenced in December in IDP camps in Puta-O Township in partnership with ACTED. From January, the transition will further reach other target areas in Government controlled areas with market access for a total of 28,500 IDPs. Meanwhile, in areas beyond Government control with less reliable market access, WFP completed the final delivery of food within the agreed timeframe of an exclusive access granted to WFP by the Government. A total of over 18,000 IDPs from six camps received 30 tons of food. With regard to 1,200 relatively new IDPs in Sumprabum, feasibility to deliver food by permissible land route is currently being assessed logistically. In 2016, WFP plans to assist over 38,500 IDPs in areas beyond Government control.

Humanitarian situation in Kokang: Following the termination of martial law and state of emergency in Kokang, an estimated 3,600 refugees are expected to return from China. According to the Ministry of Border Affairs, the returnees will need food assistance during their temporary stay in the Laukaing area, due to difficulty to resettle immediately in places of origin. The return of refugees has not been confirmed yet and WFP's response will depend on stability of the situation and accessibility. Meanwhile, WFP's regular food assistance for over 6,000 existing returnees has been hampered by a security incident in Chin Shwe Haw town of Kokang. On 26 December, a bomb explosion killed three civilians and in the aftermath, security measures have become stringent, resulting in WFP's humanitarian access to Kokang returnees being restricted. WFP may continue to assist returnees through asset creation activities.





Women beneficiaries, who receive WFP monthly relief food assistance, at Twe Khain Zan camp in Tong Zang Township, Chin State. They have been displaced by localized landslides as a result of nationwide floods in late July 2015. © WFP/ Pyay Thein Kyaw

WFP response to needs of IDPs in central Shan:

In December, WFP continued providing specialised fortified food for nearly 200 mothers and children from IDP households in central Shan. WFP provides fortified blended food to fill nutritional gap of mothers and children, complementing the daily diet of the IDPs provided by the public. Initially more than 6,000 households were displaced by armed conflict between government forces and the ethnic armed group, Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), in early October and as of end-December, approximately 2,000 IDPs still remained in camps. After preliminary agreement for limited offensive reportedly reached by the warring actors, the relevant authorities have been planning the resettlement for the IDPs. As to whether WFP response will continue in 2016, this will depend on the realisation of resettlement plan and stability.

WFP support for recovery of flood victims:

In December, WFP provided monthly relief food rations to a total of 29,900 flood-affected people. In Magway, nearly 1,300 beneficiaries received unconditional cash for relief, while a total of 2,000 people were provided cash through community assets rehabilitation activities in northern Rakhine and Magway. Community assets rehabilitation activities for flood response included renovation of roads, embankments and ponds in northern Rakhine and rehabilitation of road and canal in Magway. In December, WFP implemented its flood response in collaboration with Ar Yone Oo, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity, Save the Children International and World Vision. WFP will continue its flood response for some people either remaining in camps or facing food insecurity in the worst affected areas at least until June 2016. WFP flood response will put focus especially on resumption of livelihoods through community asset rehabilitation activities as many irrigation systems and agricultural land have been damaged by the floods. [Visit our website for stories:](#)

- [Myanmar: Five Months After The Floods](#)
- [Myanmar Floods: Affected Communities Count The Cost](#)

WFP operation in Rakhine: In 2016, WFP will carry on the beneficiary review exercise and household vulnerability assessment for targeting of food assistance for IDPs. WFP aims to introduce cash based transfer to IDPs in northern Rakhine State. As for households who received shelter assistance for resettlement/relocation, an initial provision of return package (that is, 2 month food ration) will be provided prior to livelihoods assessments to explore the food security and livelihoods situation in the relocated/resettled areas. WFP and its partners will employ the “Do No Harm” and conflict sensitivity approaches when assessing beneficiaries’ reliance on unconditional food assistance and enabling livelihoods opportunity. With regard to the school feeding programme, the activities will be expanded to Pauk Taw and Myebon areas. Nutrition support will be delivered to pregnant and lactating women as well as malnourished children through integrated moderate acute malnutrition (IMAM) approach, incorporating nutritional education and consultation services. WFP will also provide food-by-prescription to 700 TB patients in Maungdaw Township of Rakhine State.

Resource Situation: In December and January, the following contributions were received.

- Australia - USD 0.9 million (earmarked to school feeding);
- Japan Association for WFP - USD 255,000 (earmarked to school feeding);
- Switzerland - USD 0.5 million (flexible, for overall WFP activities in Myanmar); and
- USA - USD 5 million (earmarked to IDP relief activities).

WFP currently faces a funding shortfall of US\$51 million to meet all food assistance needs till the end of 2016. WFP’s full rations for all IDPs are secured only until the end of April 2016 if new funding is not available as soon as possible. WFP’s top five funding partners are Japan, USA, EU, Australia and Switzerland.