



## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR

### June 2016 Operational Report

**Change to food assistance:** Since early 2016, distinct changes in type and level of WFP's relief assistance have ushered in Kachin IDP camps. Firstly, cash-based transfer was introduced in order to enable IDPs to diversify their food choices. In this regard, 27,600 IDPs have transitioned to cash based transfers. Based on a recent market assessment, WFP intends to employ combined cash and food (rice only) transfer modality for the remaining 8,000 IDPs currently receiving regular food baskets. Secondly, level of assistance was adjusted in line with improved food security status of IDP households. Based on a retargeting exercise implemented through participatory approach, provision of assistance was reduced by 30 percent for the IDP households, who were identified as less vulnerable on account of having access to additional income sources. Meanwhile the most vulnerable families, such as unaccompanied elderly people, disabled persons, female-headed households and others continue to receive a full ration. Nutrition support for pregnant and lactating women as well as malnourished children under 5 will remain unaffected by these changes. Furthermore, some IDP households, who have already relocated to the resettled areas, established by the State government, will be assisted with cash provision for the initial three months. These changes will not be applied to IDPs in areas beyond government's control (NGCA). In May, WFP delivered two-three month food rations for over 8,400 IDPs in five IDP locations. Delivery to Laiza has been postponed due to volatile security situation.

**IDP prioritisation in Shan:** Since fighting resumed in Kachin in 2011, WFP has been uninterruptedly assisting 9,800 people displaced to five townships in northern Shan State as well as Mansi Township in Kachin State, which is currently covered by WFP's Lashio area office due to its geographical proximity. In May, WFP conducted prioritisation exercise in 23 IDP sites to substantiate and prioritise the most disadvantaged IDP families as per vulnerability criteria and wealth ranking. Results demonstrated 44 percent of current population receiving WFP's relief assistance already had access to additional income sources and hence, assistance would be discontinued for 25 percent of total IDPs, who were found better-off in four IDP sites. In addition, assistance for 19 percent of total in the rest of the sites would be reduced by 50 percent.

**New displacements in Shan:** By end of May, nearly 68 percent of more than 11,000 persons, displaced by sporadic skirmishes during early and mid-2016, returned to their places of origin. WFP will discontinue unconditional relief assistance to resettled households from June onwards. Moreover, WFP will cease provision of assistance to over 1,600 people, who originate from host communities or non-affected areas and intentionally move into the camps to get humanitarian assistance. Therefore, only 900 genuine IDPs remaining in Nam Kham and Kut Kai Townships will continue receiving relief assistance.

**WFP's ongoing response in Kokang:** Since the onset of armed conflicts in Kokang, WFP has been providing relief assistance to Kokang IDPs in northern Shan and Wa. As access became possible in August 2015 in Kokang itself, WFP assisted 6,000 people, who were gradually advancing from southern to northern part, where security situation remained precarious. As a result, WFP's relief operations in the southern Kokang were scaled down. Currently, WFP provides assistance to over 4,800 IDPs in Chin Shwe Haw and Laukkaing Townships. However, relief assistance is considered no longer needed for nearly 2,800 people from June-July onwards. Meanwhile, WFP will continue supporting 5,455 returnees in the northern part, and retargeting will be conducted after three months.

**Small-scale localised floods:** Along with monsoon season, heavy rains set in the country, causing floods in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region. On 10-11 June, WFP conducted a rapid assessment in two flood affected townships in Sagaing Region to explore immediate food needs. More than 25,000 people were affected and insignificant number of livestock was reported being killed. Medicinal drugs as well as household assets were also destroyed. Nevertheless, food stocks in the assessed areas were found sufficient, while affected families were additionally receiving public donations for meals. Therefore, no urgent need for food assistance was identified. In Rakhine State, preliminary findings showed that more than 9,300 people were affected and 213 houses were destroyed. Public donation of rice and staple foods was sufficient for one month and WFP might assess further food needs afterwards.



WFP is collaborating with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development in food security and poverty estimation surveys. © WFP

**Partnering with Government for food security:** In second week of June, WFP held a training on mobile data collection, data analysis and Geographic Information System (GIS) in the nation's capital Nay Pyi Taw, engaging public services staff from relevant ministries in food security situation monitoring and analysis. Since 2013, WFP has been collaborating with the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development for food security and poverty estimation surveys to generate the nationwide ever-first food security atlas and for establishment of resource centres, serving as a platform for relevant staff to acquire skills and to coordinate efforts at sub-national levels across the country. With the technical assistance and resources, WFP supports the Government achieving the national Zero Hunger Challenge.

**Operation in Wa:** Since 2004, WFP has been implementing community asset creation, school feeding and food-by-prescription for people with HIV and TB clients in Wa Self-Administrated Division of Shan State. More than 30,000 people, including primary schoolchildren and people in need of food are being assisted by WFP on a monthly basis. In May, WFP resumed its food delivery, which were halted for two months due to changed administrative procedure. WFP has reached an agreement with Wa Health Bureau as well as Women Association and subsequently attained approval from Wa central authority to implement nutrition intervention from 2016 onwards.

**Post-flood situation in Chin:** All evacuation camps for the 2015 flood affected victims were closed in Chin State by end May, after people had resettled in relocations sites. Since the onset of the flood response in August 2015, WFP has provided unconditional relief assistance to the affected population in Chin State, which was one of the worst affected areas in the country. The Republic of Korea was one of the most active funding partners who supported WFP's emergency flood response in the State. The Republic of Korea's timely and generous contribution of US\$ 300,000 allowed WFP to procure more than 500 MT of rice, which from January to June 2016 has been distributed unconditionally to 6,000 flood victims in worst affected townships of Falam, Hakha, Mindat, Razua and Tonzang in Chin State. All the rice was procured locally, thus contributing to the local agricultural development and economy. Subject to food security situation and needs identified by further assessments, WFP will consider introducing cash-based transfer to support livelihood resumption of the relocated households.



WFP's relief assistance to flood-affected communities in Chin State funded by the Republic of Korea. © WFP Chin

**Resource Situation:** In May, WFP received a timely and generous contribution of EUR 1 million (US\$ 1.1 million) from Germany in support of relief cash-based transfers to IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan States. In June, WFP received US\$ 444,000 from the Global Fund in support of the National HIV programme.

WFP currently faces a funding shortfall of US\$ 13 million to meet all food assistance needs till the end of 2016.

WFP's top five funding partners in Myanmar are Japan, United States, European Union, Australia and Switzerland.