



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR October 2015 Operational Report

Flood Response: From September, WFP has commenced its early recovery support with food for relief activities. More than 65,000 food for relief beneficiaries in Chin and Rakhine States as well as Sagaing Region received WFP's food assistance. In order to understand the impact of the cyclone and associated aftershocks on agriculture and livelihood in the most affected Regions/States, the [Agriculture and Livelihood Flood Impact Assessment](#) was conducted during September 2015 in Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing. The assessment was jointly led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries & Rural Development, FAO and WFP under the framework of the Food Security Sector with the partnership of CARE, CESVI, JICA, LIFT, UN Women and World Vision. Key findings indicate that there has been a significant impact on crops, seed stock, agricultural inputs and agricultural land that could generate severe reduction of yields during the upcoming monsoon harvest and may even hamper this winter crops production. Loss of fish and prawn ponds, fishing equipment as well as small livestock is likely to cause loss of income and decreased job opportunities and exacerbation of existing food insecurity. Damages to roads and bridges have prompted increase in transportation costs which has further led to inflation in markets in many areas. In consequence, there has been an increase in borrowing money and selling of productive assets as main coping mechanisms, highlighting support for debt relief being an immediate need. Support for recovery of livelihoods is recommended to be provided within three-six months as a medium need.

Food Assistance to Kokang Returnees: In September, WFP provided food assistance to approximately 6,400 returnees across four townships in Kokang for the first time since the outbreak of the armed conflict in February. WFP had not had access to Kokang until August, however, WFP has been providing food assistance to Kokang people displaced to northern Shan and Wa. WFP intends to continue general food distribution until end of the year and assist the affected people with livelihoods support in 2016. Martial law and state of emergency in Kokang were extended in August and still remains in order.

Humanitarian Situation in Kachin State:

Since early September, sporadic fighting between the Government's military and the Kachin Independence Army have intensified around Mansi Township of Kachin State, resulting in the road access being confined to 6 am - 6 pm daily for public use. Humanitarian organizations including WFP have been trying to attain access to the people displaced by the conflicts. This prevailing tension has also impeded the WFP's bi-monthly delivery for the IDPs in the areas beyond government control particularly in Lai Za. IDPs in these areas receive regular relief food assistance from local NGOs. Due to difficulty in sourcing pulses locally or in neighbouring China by the NGO, WFP has agreed to fill the protein gap and has been delivering pulses previously through occasional cross-line missions. After April, WFP and the government counterparts reached an agreement to exclusively allow WFP to carry out bi-monthly delivery of pulses during July-December. In October, WFP carried out the second time delivery as planned, delivering 37 metric tons of pulses to more than 10,000 IDPs in four out of total nine camps. WFP is still awaiting the permission for the access to the remaining IDPs from authorities concerned.

Handover Ceremony between Japan and WFP:

On 14 October, a handover ceremony of Japan-funded rice in support of WFP's assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations affected by the recent devastating floods throughout Myanmar was held at the WFP warehouse in Yangon. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency Tateshi Higuchi, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Director U Chun Hre and the Resident Representative and Country Director of WFP Myanmar Mr Dom Scalpelli. In August, Japan made an emergency contribution of US\$1.3 million in support of [WFP's life-saving flood response](#). With this grant, WFP procured locally over 1,900 metric tons of rice, which is being distributed to the worst affected populations in Chin, Magway, Rakhine and Sagaing. Japan is the top funding partner for WFP in Myanmar.





Schoolgirls enjoying high energy biscuits in Pang Kham, Wa Region. © WFP/Aik Par



H.E Tateshi Higuchi (L), U Chun Hre (C) and Mr. Dom Scalpelli (R) at the handover ceremony. © WFP

Celebration of World Food Day: On 16 October, FAO and WFP participated in the Government led World Food Day event at Yezin University in Nay Pyi Taw. On this occasion, FAO and WFP released [a joint statement](#), marking the partnership with the Government of Myanmar and reaffirming their commitment to reducing hunger nationwide. FAO and WFP commended the significant progress and efforts made by the Government in fighting hunger and undernutrition in recent years to achieve zero hunger by 2025 in Myanmar.

Trust Fund for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR): In October, WFP received generous contributions from the UK/DFID and Germany in support of EPR activities. With a total of US\$310,000 allocations from DFID, WFP will support technical assistance to the government's Emergency Operations Centre for early warning system and preparedness measures; identify and resolve existing operational constraints; conduct logistics capacity assessment and sectoral assessments to explore feasibility of cash transfer; and conduct feasibility study and capacity building for establishment of national grain reserves. The Government of Germany also granted US\$1 million trust fund for WFP in Asia Region, considering the region's higher proneness to a number of natural disasters. The first priority for Myanmar is to identify registered aviation assets available in the country to import international assistance in case of a large-scale humanitarian emergency and thus, an aviation assessment is scheduled during 2015.

Prioritization of Activities: Due to insufficient supplies in the country and the funding shortfall, WFP is compelled to prioritize available resources to IDP/relief and life-saving activities. In October, WFP prioritized food assistance to IDPs, food for relief beneficiaries and MDR-TB patients as well as nutrition support for children and school feeding activities. WFP provided full ration to IDPs and MDR-TB patients; slightly adjusted ration to the flood-affected people and protracted relief beneficiaries in northern Rakhine State. WFP also provided fortified blended food to children under 2 and 5 years of age and high energy biscuit to schoolchildren. In order to perform this triage, WFP had to suspend provision of food basket to pregnant and lactating women and HIV/TB patients who only received fortified blended food. Regular food for asset activities have also remained suspended. WFP expects continued suspension of food ration to PLW and HIV/TB patients in November. Furthermore, full ration to all IDPs is only secured until November distribution. WFP urgently requires new funding to continue uninterrupted life-saving food assistance to all IDPs. Considering the possible disruption of services during the upcoming general election, WFP plans to complete all the distributions before the end of third week of October and to resume the activities from mid-November onward.

Resource Situation: In September, WFP welcomed JPY 20,000,000 (around USD 165,000) from Japan Association for WFP and USD 3 million from the UNCFER in support of flood response. In addition, WFP received approximately USD 200,000 from the UNCFER for treatment of MAM and USD 1.1 million for Relief activities in Rakhine.

WFP currently requires USD 50 million to cover all food assistance needs in the country until June 2016.

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