



## WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR September 2016 Operational Report

**WFP's Transition in Rakhine:** WFP has been uninterruptedly providing monthly life-saving food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State since mid-June 2012. In March 2015, the Rakhine State Government initiated the return and relocation of approximately 22,000 now former IDPs. As the situation has evolved and the needs changed to varying degrees in some areas since 2012, WFP has recently developed a transition strategy for these former IDPs with vulnerability to food insecurity as a basis, shifting from previous unconditional emergency relief assistance to a more targeted and needs-based approach. In this respect, WFP has been engaging the host communities as well as the settled/returned former IDPs inclusively in vulnerable household identification, including through focus group discussions, village meetings and household visits. Moreover, a comprehensive livelihoods profiling, which uses qualitative research methods of focus group discussion, key informant interviews and triangulation, is being undertaken to understand livelihood situation such as type of livelihoods and income levels so as to be able to assist those in need of livelihood support through asset creation activities.

Currently, more than 12,000 former IDPs, who meet the pre-agreed criteria (elderly, disabled, orphans, female-headed families, and able-bodied people with limited/no viable livelihood opportunities, movement restrictions) are receiving a full food ration, as assessed meeting the most vulnerable criteria, through the provision of lean season programme. While 6,500 children under five and pregnant and lactating women in the broader communities are being provided with blanket nutrition supplementary feeding, and 23,000 host and former IDPs have been identified so far to be assisted through livelihoods support asset creation activities. It is expected that more people will be identified when the currently ongoing in-depth livelihoods profiling analysis is finalized around mid-October. Meanwhile, an estimated 99,000 IDPs, who remain displaced in the IDP camps, continue to receive the monthly life-saving food assistance. In collaboration with partners, WFP will continue to monitor the food security situation, with flexibility and readiness to respond, to ensure the needs of the vulnerable households continue to be met.

**Relief assistance for conflict-affected people in Rakhine:** Beginning in September, WFP has launched its intervention for an estimated 1,500 Chin and Rakhine ethnic people displaced by sporadic military skirmishes between the Government forces and Arakan Army in January-April 2016 in Kyauk Taw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung Townships of Rakhine State. Since the onset of hostilities, the Government in collaboration with NGOs had been responding to food needs of the displaced people till end August. WFP is now filling this gap as of September for these IDPs.

**Security situation and limited access in Kachin and Shan States:** Military offensives between ethnic armed groups and the Government forces have intensified in northern and eastern parts of the country, culminating in new and renewed displacement and limited humanitarian access. In Kachin State, access of humanitarian agencies along the Myitkyina to Bhamo road in Government controlled areas (GCA) has been stopped until further notice while access to areas beyond Government's control has been restricted to monitoring visits only. Moreover, WFP's food delivery to Man Wine Gyi IDP camp in GCA has not been permitted since early September. In Shan State, military skirmishes between Government's forces and Ta'ang National Liberation Army, Shan State Army and other unidentified armed groups, resulted in tighten security controls. WFP has been denied access to remote villages in Kut Khai, Nam Kham and Man Tone Townships. WFP did manage to conduct food distributions in the IDP camps before access was prohibited by the local authorities. Food deliveries from northern Shan to Wa Self-administered Region have also been blocked for four months.

**Relief plan for IDPs in Kayin State:** As of October, 1,000 people displaced by armed conflict between Demoractic Karen Buddhist Army and a combined force of the Government's military and a Border Guard Force have remained in Myaing Gyi Ngu areas of Hlaingbwe Township. The local authorities affirmed that staple food supplies for the IDPs were sufficient. In close coordination with the relevant governmental departments, UN and NGOs, WFP stands ready to conduct a joint assessment and fill food gaps if required.



Under Community Asset Creation programme, a bridge renovation project was conducted in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State.

**WFP's Kokang Reponse:** Since February 2015, WFP has been assisting people affected by an armed conflict, which lasted for eight months in Kokang Self-administered Zone. WFP's response started with 6,500 displaced people in northern Shan State and Wa Region when access to Kokang itself was impermissible due to perilous situation. In September 2015, access to Kokang became feasible and WFP proceeded with its distribution for returnees. In September 2016, WFP provided 839 metric tons of food baskets to a total of 13,800 returnees in 48 villages and 3 camps. WFP's food assistance is expected to fill a 4-6 month vacuum till harvest when local agriculture will become stable, given the observed fact that majority of agricultural farms remain intact and local businesses are well functioning.

**2016 Floods Response:** By end of September, WFP has reached 187,000 flood-affected people with 1,173 mt of food assistance and US\$76,100 in cash. While distributions of in-kind food were conducted in 12 townships across Ayeyarwaddy, Bago, Magway, Mandalay Regions and Rakhine State, cash distributions for 18,100 people were implemented in Kangyidaung and Patheingyi Townships of Ayeyarwaddy. Cash transfer is employed for people with reliable market access to make preferred food choices. In the first week of September, WFP received US\$1.4 million from United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund for its emergency floods response. With this funding WFP aims to assist 67,000 affected people with life-saving food assistance and immediate livelihood support through community asset creation activities in Ayeyarwaddy and Magway Regions.

**Resource Situation:** In September, WFP received JPY 30,000,000 (US\$291,971) from Japan Association for WFP in support of school feeding programme in Myanmar.

WFP urgently requires **US\$ 44 million** to avoid a food pipeline break in the coming months and to meet immediate food assistance needs through 2017. Without urgent support from donor partners, food assistance for IDPs will be at risk as of January 2017. WFP's top five funding partners in Myanmar are Japan, United States, European Union, Australia and Switzerland.

**Assessment in Naga SAZ:** Naga self-administered zone (SAZ), the least developed area in Sagaing Region, has sustained a fatal measles outbreak that killed tens of children in June-August. It was also reported that children were severely malnourished. For the purpose of assessing the nutrition status and exploring viable response in Naga SAZ, comprising of Layshi, Lahe and Nanyun Townships, WFP conducted an initial assessment in August. The results showed that seven percent of total 41 children engaged in mid-upper arm circumference measurement was found to be undernourished. Moreover, the majority of children were suffering from intestinal parasitic infection, likely due to poor sanitation practices, and needed treatment for deworming. Naga community's nutrition intake was found to be limited, relying on small grocery shops for dried meat and seasonal farm produces without well functioning market in place. Access to market in bordering India is frequently disrupted by intermittent military tensions. According to local farmers, crop yield has declined during this monsoon season due to heavy rains and extreme heat. WFP intends to follow up with more comprehensive assessments in all of the townships. Local authorities as well as national NGOs are interested to collaborate when WFP phases in its operation in Naga SAZ. WFP staff members also collectively donated "Alpha Nutri Soup Mix" in value of 600,000 Kyats for undernourished Naga children.



Cooking demonstration at the nutritional promotion event in Myitkyina of Kachin State . © WFP/ Seng Seng