



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR October - November 2016 Operational Report

Partial Resumption of Operations in northern Rakhine:

Having received permission from local authorities to assume provision of life-saving assistance for affected populations as well as to resume its regular operations in northern Rakhine State, WFP delivered cash assistance to 9,000 most vulnerable people from both Muslim and Rakhine communities in Buthidaung Township in October. In early November, WFP assisted 7,230 newly displaced people and its regular recipients from the four villages of north Maungdaw Township that have been affected by the shocks. WFP also stands ready to resume regular distributions to the remaining 28,000 people in Buthidaung and 50,000 people in Maungdaw. Of the total 28,000 people in Buthidaung, food distributions for 17,000 mothers and malnourished children have not proceeded as planned due to lack of availability of river transport services after the attacks and WFP has been working with service providers and partners to resolve the issue. Regarding the school feeding programme, WFP plans to assess the situation and considers resuming school feeding activities when pre-primary and primary schools re-open, catering to 65,000 children throughout northern Rakhine State.

WFP's Needs-Based Targeting Transition Suspended in Rakhine:

Considering potential risks and impacts of attacks in northern Rakhine State on 9 October, WFP has suspended the vulnerability and needs based targeting strategy in Rakhine State. As a result, the 6,000 returned/resettled former IDPs in the villages of Kyauk Taw, Minbya and Mrauk U (Zone 1), Myaebon, Pauktaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe, who had hitherto been excluded from the targeted protracted relief beneficiary list of most vulnerable in July, August and September have been reinstated. Therefore, the resulting total number of beneficiaries has now increased to 60,000 people, including all 22,000 returned/relocated former IDPs. People from the host communities already identified as most vulnerable, all pregnant women, nursing mothers and young malnourished children as well as populations to benefit from the community asset creation projects. Meanwhile, an estimated 99,000 IDPs, who remain displaced in the camps, continue to receive the monthly food assistance as they have been receiving every month since 2012.

Food Assistance for Conflict-affected Children in Kayin State:

As of end October, an estimated 5,400 people displaced by armed conflict between Democratic Karen Buddhist Army and a combined force of the Government's military and a Border Guard Force have remained in temporary shelters and with host communities in Myaing Gyi Ngu areas of Hlaingbwe Township. In spite of termination of clashes, displacement is expected to prolong considering IDPs' perceived fear of possible landmine contamination and ill-treatment by armed personnel. Preliminary findings demonstrated children are in need of nutritious food given their vegetarian diets and lack of family income. WFP is assisting 930 young children from IDP families with High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) and intends to reach another 5,000 children from the host community through regular school feeding programme.

WFP's Response Plan for Repatriation of Myanmar Refugees from Thailand:

In October, a total of 71 refugees were voluntarily repatriated from the border camps in Thailand to regions/states of Bago, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Tanintharyi and Yangon in Myanmar. While the numbers of returnees are lower in other states/regions, more than 50 percent of total returnees have resettled in southeastern Myanmar – Kayin State, Mon State and Tanintharyi Region. In addition, 17 people, who are temporarily being accommodated in Yangon, are believed to prepare for relocation to Kayin State when feasible. The returnees received a three-month provision of cash assistance, which enables them to purchase food upon their return, in Thailand from WFP. WFP also plans to integrate its existing community asset creation activities with returned families in southeastern Myanmar.

Restricted Access in Kachin and Shan States:

In Kachin State, 21,000 IDPs in areas beyond Government's control (NGCA), who previously received WFP food, are still affected by the Government-imposed restriction on humanitarian access since June 2016. In Shan State, due to elevated military tension, access to some remote areas in northern Shan and Wa Region for regular food delivery remains restricted, impacting more than 20,000 people in total. WFP is assessing feasibility of cash transfers in Wa in order to circumvent the bottlenecks and allow flexibility in food choices.



With funding from the United Kingdom, a dam was constructed in Pike Myaung village of Maungdaw Township. ©WFP/World Vision

2016 Floods Response: In October, WFP signed agreements with its cooperating partners to implement community asset creation activities, targeting a total of 2,640 flood-affected people to be assisted in Magway Region. With the aim to help restore income generation and community's resilience, WFP will implement projects ranging from road or dyke renovations to home gardening in the Region. WFP also aims to conduct asset rehabilitation in Ayeyarwaddy Region and is assessing the possibility of partnerships with international and national NGOs. From August-September, WFP assisted 187,000 people with 1,173 tons of food and approximately US\$76,100 in cash.

Nationwide Operation: In October, WFP provided in-kind food and cash assistance to a nationwide total of 457,450 people under its five programmes, namely Relief, Community Asset Creation, School Feeding, Nutrition and Food-by-Prescription to people living with HIV (PLHIV) and TB clients. Through Relief activities, approximately 170,580 persons comprising IDPs, people in need of temporary support during lean season and conflict-affected people were reached in Kachin, Kayin, northern Shan and Rakhine States. An estimated 4,590 food-insecure and marginalized populations earned cash or food assistance in exchange of participation in community asset creation activities in Chin and Shan States. A total of 233,540 pre-primary and primary school children received daily school feeding in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States as well as Magway and Wa Regions. A total of 39,460 pregnant women, nursing mothers and malnourished children from displaced and non-displaced families were provided with fortified blended food in Magway, Sagaing, Shan and Rakhine Regions/States. More than 9,280 HIV/TB clients were assisted with food and nutrition support in Kachin, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Yangon. Due to violent attacks in northern Rakhine State, WFP had to temporarily adjourn its operations in October and as a result, WFP was not able to reach pregnant women, nursing mothers, malnourished children, school children and food-insecure populations in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships of northern Rakhine State. WFP's work in Myanmar is frequently compromised by recurring military conflicts, violence and natural disasters.

Funding Requirements: WFP's overall needs for 2017 currently amount to US\$53 million. Without continued support, a major pipeline break is expected in January 2017, particularly leaving over 200,000 conflict-affected IDPs more vulnerable and less protected. Moreover, due to the recent violent events in Rakhine State, the number of conflict affected populations and their immediate food needs are likely to increase significantly in 2017. It is anticipated that 45,000 vulnerable people normally assisted during the pre-harvest lean season in Maungdaw and Buthidaung, running only from May to November, may require food assistance from December to April as well, especially if harvest is missed and subject to a more detailed assessment. As the vulnerability and community needs-based targeting strategy had to be suspended due to conflict-sensitivity reasons, full rations have also been reinstated for all resettled/relocated former IDPs in Rakhine State. Furthermore, former Myanmar refugees who will continue to repatriate from Thailand to southeastern of Myanmar will be in need of immediate support for early recovery livelihood support after their resettlement. Other activities such as nutrition treatment for under-five-year-old malnourished children, pregnant women and nursing mothers, daily school-feeding for 300,000 pre-primary and primary school children, and food-by-prescription to HIV/TB clients, are also affected by this funding shortfall. Given the lead time of procurement and delivery of food to operational areas, new contributions are required as soon as possible. If firm figures or commitments are not necessarily possible at this stage, even identifications of expectation to potential support would be helpful. WFP would be able to use such indication as collateral to activate internal financing mechanisms, pending the eventual confirmation of actual funds.

Resource Situation: In October, USA granted a contribution of US\$2.5 million to WFP in support of its relief activities in Myanmar. WFP urgently requires **US\$30 million** to avoid a food pipeline break and to meet immediate food assistance needs until June 2017. Without urgent support, food assistance for IDPs will be particularly at risk as of January 2017. WFP's top five funding partners in Myanmar are Japan, United States, European Union, Australia and Switzerland.