



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME MYANMAR

March 2016 Operational Report

Conflicts in northern Shan: In early February, an armed conflict between the Restoration Council for Shan State (RCSS)/ Shan State Army (SSA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) erupted in Kyauk Mae Township of northern Shan State, forcing 4,000 civilians to 19 camps in Kyauk Mae town. By end-February, over 3,400 people remained in the camps. UN agencies, including WFP, conducted a rapid assessment in all camps, except for one inaccessible site. Food provided to IDPs by private donors and civil society organizations was sufficient for two months. However, as IDPs' food/crop stocks are looted and livestock is killed, food needs are expected to increase when displaced families return to their villages of origin, albeit the security situation is currently volatile and the conflict is predicted to persist. Moreover, farmers are likely to miss harvesting season, if conflict remains elevated further. The irregular intake of protein and no specialised/supplementary nutrition food by mothers and children was observed, and WFP considers to provide nutrition support after reassessing needs and gaps in end-March. Protection remained the main concern for locals as abduction/detention, torture and killing of civilians reportedly occurred, while some elderly and disabled people and their caretakers were trapped in villages. As of mid-March, fighting between Government's forces and TNLA has generated a further displacement of over 1,000 people to temporary camps in Kut Kai Township. WFP and its cooperating partners are prepared to provide two-month ration of life-saving food, and WFP will conduct rapid assessments in end of March if security situation becomes stable.

Relief in Kokang, northern Shan and Wa: In March, WFP conducted beneficiary retargeting exercises, as planned, in Laukkaing Township of Kokang Region and Theinne Township of northern Shan State to identify better-off IDPs, who had varied livelihoods access/opportunities, and genuine IDPs, respectively. However, on account of instability the exercise has been postponed in Kutkai of northern Shan. In Chin Shwe Haw Township of Kokang, the Government has facilitated a relocation for about 14 households, with provision of low-cost housings. After the Chinese New Year, the number of people returning to this area is steadily increasing. In Nam Tit of Wa Region, the local authorities requested WFP to put food distribution on hold 150 IDPs until the government's screening and re-registration process has completed.

Food delivery to NGCA of Kachin State: In February, WFP attained permission from the Government for exclusive access to areas beyond its control (NGCA) in Kachin State for the period from February to December 2016. WFP will provide a total of 564 metric tons of food to more than 28,000 IDPs, complementing regular food assistance provided by local NGOs. Food assistance this time will include blended food for pregnant and lactating women, and malnourished children.

CFSAM report: In March, FAO and WFP launched a report* on crop and food security assessment mission (CSFAM) in Myanmar. In December 2015, the joint mission visited 11 of 15 states/regions with an objective to ascertain and measure the extent of a food shortage in the 2015/16 marketing year (October/September) and to identify the country's nutritional and agricultural support needs until the next main harvest. Although damages caused by the 2015 floods were significant, the overall amount of irreversible damages was limited. The 2015 main season paddy crop was estimated by the mission to be 4 percent below the corresponding season in 2014. However, secondary season was considered unlikely to be affected by any long-term effects of the floods. Meanwhile, populations in remote areas, in particular Chin and Rakhine, which concentrate highly vulnerable populations with little resilience and low agricultural productivity, may face severe food shortages in the coming months and require relief assistance as production and livelihood of farming households and communities did not recover fully as in other affected areas. The flooding was perceived to have moderate impact on children's nutritional status and little impact on infant and young children feeding practices. Recommendations made by the mission include food assistance needs to be provided in the form of cash and/or vouchers and rebuilding/reconstruction of assets and infrastructures. Since October and November 2015, WFP has employed cash based transfers in its relief and community asset rehabilitation activities from respectively. In 2016, WFP intends to incorporate nutrition education and counselling to care-givers, in addition to provision of blended food.

*The full report can be accessed here:

<https://www.wfp.org/content/special-report-faowfp-crop-and-food-security-assessment-mission-myanmar>



Terraced land, as a WFP community asset creation project, in Lian Haw Township, Pangkham of Wa Region © WFP/ Aik Kham Lyan

Relief and early recovery support in Rakhine: The Government has started facilitating voluntary resettlement or relocation of estimated 14,000 IDPs in Kyauk Taw, Minbya and Mrauk U Townships of Rakhine (Zone 1), where WFP has been providing monthly food rations since October 2012. WFP intends to provide return food packages for returnees until May, allowing the review for livelihoods recovery needs. While development actors are to take over the livelihoods support for sustainable recovery of returnees who are no longer considered IDPs, WFP will continue provision of nutrition support to pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children. Meanwhile, WFP continues providing yet gradually reduced unconditional assistance for the remaining IDPs, who are found less vulnerable or have access to livelihoods opportunities, including from other areas in Rakhine, in order to encourage self-reliance on food. In this regard, WFP has started undertaking a beneficiary review in order to identify genuine and eligible IDPs as well as household vulnerability assessment to classify IDP households. While humanitarian and development organizations are assisting returnees (former IDPs) and the people have remained displaced, resettlement and recovery for some people, who lost livelihoods in the aftermath of the initial conflict and have been in pursuit of external support will be considered for assistance by the Government.

WFP's humanitarian response in figures: In February, WFP provided relief food and cash assistance to more than 167,000 people, composed of IDPs in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, flood-affected people as well as Kokang returnees. Under nutrition programme, WFP with fortified blended food, reached more than 50,000 malnourished children and nearly 13,000 pregnant and lactating women, including from IDP households. A total of over 4,700 people living with HIV and TB clients received WFP's food-by-prescription and some 154,000 pre-primary and primary schoolchildren benefited from on-site feeding with high energy biscuits. More than 7,600 people were provided with cash or food assistance through asset creation activities. In April, WFP foresees increased humanitarian needs in northern Shan State with conflicts remained elevated and in Kokang Region, where refugees have started returning from China.



School construction project supported by WFP's community asset creation programme in Pang Kham of Wa Region. (Above: before completion & below: after completion) ©WFP/ AikKhamLyan



Resource Situation: In March, WFP received a flexible contribution of CHF1.8 million (US\$ 1.9 million) from Switzerland. WFP currently faces a funding shortfall of **US\$34 million** to meet all food assistance needs till the end of 2016. A major food pipeline break is expected in June. Considering the lead time of procurement and delivery of food to the operational areas, new funding is required as soon as possible.

WFP's top five funding partners in Myanmar are Japan, USA, EU, Australia and Switzerland.

