



Food Security Update- August 2012

Key Events and Early Warning

Roundup

Purpose: Monthly food security updates outline the key events occurring throughout Myanmar that are currently impacting the food security situation. By focusing on these events, it is possible to highlight areas where food security is likely to deteriorate in the short term, facilitating response and ensuring that all actors are aware of the evolving food security situation. Monthly updates are also intended to provide continuity and context to the WFP's Quarterly Food Security Bulletins. Quarterly Bulletins and Monthly Updates can be accessed online at <http://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar/hunger-info>.

Source of information: To compile monthly updates, WFP synthesizes information from a variety of sources, including observations from WFP and partner field staff, information from WFP and partner assessment activities, community reports or requests for assistance, government requests for action and information from various media outlets.

Interpretation and use of information: On a monthly basis, WFP classifies townships as "Stable" or "At Risk". Areas are considered "At Risk" if there is a strong likelihood that the food security situation will deteriorate in the near term. Often, this includes areas that have experienced a significant shock. By contrast, an area is considered "Stable" if there is no indication that the situation is changing. WFP also highlights the actions taken to address emerging problems.

Potential link with Food Security Information Network (FSIN): WFP hopes to incorporate monthly food security updates into existing FSIN activities, as FSIN participation will ensure a more holistic approach.

Current situation

Key Events:

- **Floods/heavy rain (August 2012)**
 - Ayeyerwaddy
 - Bago
 - Kayin
 - Kachin
 - Northern Shan
 - Southern Shan
- **Drought-like conditions (Since July 2012)**
 - Magway
- **Conflict (ongoing since June 2011)**
 - Kachin
- **Inter-community tension (ongoing since June 2012)**
 - N. Rakhine

Stable

(Region/State at little risk of change in food insecurity)

Locations:

- Wa Special Region
- N. Shan State (Laukai area)
- Chin State
- Kayah State
- Central Rakhine State

At Risk

(Region/State at risk of deterioration in food insecurity)

Locations:

- Kachin
- N. Shan
- Ayeyerwaddy
- Kayin
- N. Rakhine

Key Issues:

Threat to Paddy harvest

Threat to Sesame, Pigeon pea and groundnut harvests

Threat to Cheroot leaf and Chilli harvests

Livestock sales increase (coping mechanism)

Actions Taken/ Needed

Flooding---WFP and partners immediately responded to flooding events, providing assistance to IDPs as well as people stranded in villages. Food distributions reached 100,000 people, ensuring that the immediate needs of the population were met. Impacts on crop production and livelihoods are likely and will need to be monitored.

Conflict/ Inter-community tensions--- In Rakhine State, assistance from WFP and partners reached 67,000 IDPs in Sittwe and Kyauktaw. Nutritional support was also provided to children under 3 and pregnant and lactating women. In northern Rakhine State, WFP remains unable to resume normal activities, thus leading to mounting concerns about the food security and nutritional status of the population in these areas. In Kachin and Northern Shan States, WFP and other actors continue to provide assistance (in accordance with the multi-sector Response Plan) to displaced populations, with almost 50,000 IDPs reached in the first 6 months of the year. In August, WFP delivered 430 MTs of food to displaced persons.



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Expanded Summary

At Risk

Events: Floods, Drought-like conditions, Conflicts / tension **Threats:** Crop production, Livestock

Upcoming Paddy harvest likely to be lower

Kachin	Myitkyina and Bamaw	Conflict and pockets of heavy rain are believed to be impacting paddy production levels. Conflict in August has resulted in additional displacement in the Pha Khant area.
N. Shan	Lashio, Man Tone, Man Koe	Localized heavy rainfall and flooding have destroyed paddy fields in certain areas. While farmers have been able to replant, production levels may be impacted. Conflict and insecurity continue to affect livelihoods, commodity prices and daily wages in certain areas.
Ayeyarwaddy	Thabaung, Pathein, Kangyi Daunt, Pantanaw, Danybyu, Kyaunggon, Ngathaingchaung, Kyon Pyaw townships	Production levels as well as local and regional rice prices should be monitored as August flooding impacted 270,000 acres of paddy land, severely affecting close to 126,000 acres and destroying over 55,000 acres (Source: Ayeyarwady Government Office Bulletin). This could be mitigated to some extent by the post flood seed distributions that will facilitate the post monsoon crop.
Kayin and Bago	Kyaukkyi, Shwegyin, Nyaunglebin, Waw, Daik-U, Bago, Kawa, Hpa-An	Production levels as well as local and regional rice prices should be monitored as August flooding displaced households and damaged croplands. The extent of the impact on crops and livelihoods will need to be monitored moving forward.
N. Rakhine	Maungdaw	Reports indicate that paddy production has been severely impacted by on-going inter-community tensions. Reportedly, a substantial amount of paddy land has either not been cultivated or was cultivated/transplanted much later than normal. As a result, rice prices are reportedly 30-50% higher than normal and household purchasing power is reduced.

Threat to Sesame, Pigeon pea and groundnut harvest

Magway	Chauk, Yesagyo, Yenangyaung, Pauk, Pakokku	Drought-like conditions in the early monsoon led to as much as a 25% reduction in yield. While farmers in certain areas were able to replant, reports indicate that many had to rely on loans to do so, increasing debt levels. With harvests reduced, sesame and groundnut prices have increased 70% from last year. Prices of rice have also risen.
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Threat to Cheroot leaf and Chilli production

S. Shan	Hopong, Hsihseng and Phekon	Chilli and cheroot leaf harvest lower due to heavy rains and declining soil fertility respectively. WFP is providing emergency food assistance to chilli farmers in Phekon and a further request has been received for extending food assistance to an additional 24 villages in Phekon.
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Livestock sales increase (coping mechanism)

Magway	Chauk, Yesagyo, Yenangyaung, Pauk, Pakokku	Temporary animal fodder shortage leading to sale of cattle, particularly in Myitthae. Significant percentage of monitored households reporting sale of livestock to cope with increasing debt levels.
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