



Food Security Update- November 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.

Current situation

Key Events in November:

- **Heavy or irregular rains/Hail**
 - Chin (Thantlang, Matupi, western Hakha)
 - S. Shan
 - N. Shan (Laukai area)
- **Landslides**
 - Kachin (Wai Maw)
- **Crop infestations**
 - Wa (Ai Cheng)
 - Kachin (Wai Maw)
- **Rice shortage/ market disruption**
 - Kachin
- **Drought-like conditions (Since July 2012)**
 - Magway
- **Conflict and communal violence**
 - Kachin
 - N. Shan (Manton)
 - N. Rakhine
 - C. Rakhine

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

Locations:

- Remaining townships (Falam, Tiddim, Kampelet) in Chin State
- Other townships in Wa than Ai Cheng
- Lashio areas in N. Shan

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

Locations:

- Kachin
- N. Shan (Manton)
- N. Shan (Laukai area)
- Chin (Thantlang, Matupi, western Hakha)
- S. Shan
- N. Rakhine
- C. Rakhine
- Wa (Ai Cheng)
- Kachin
- Magway

Key Issues:

Threat to Paddy harvest

Rice shortages and market disruption

Scarcity of water for domestic use and agriculture, Crop production lower

Actions Taken/ Needed

Conflict and communal violence--- 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 more than 30,000 IDPs reached. WFP delivered 457 MTs of food to displaced persons in November. According to KMSS and UNHCR reports, close to 900 people living in 3 temporary IDP camps in Hpa Kant (Kar Mine, Gau Ri and Nan Shan) are in urgent need of food assistance.

In Rakhine State, WFP continues to provide assistance to IDPs in Sittwe, Kyauktaw, Kyauk Phyu, Min Bya, Mrauk U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree, Buthidaung, Rathedaung and Maungdaw. In total, assistance from WFP and partners reached over 100,000 IDPs. WFP supplied fortified blended food, design to prevent malnutrition amongst the most vulnerable especially young children.

Pest infestations --- In Kachin, Wai Maw (Hpung Tang area), paddy crop losses from destruction by rats were reported. In response to this the government provided 100 rice bags. **In Wa,** according to local authority, 80% of paddy field (1275 acre) was destroyed by serious crop infestation. WFP sub office is planning to carry out an assessment and submit the findings for decision regarding potential further response.

Crop loss--- In Chin State, WFP plans to assess in early January villages of Thantlang, Hakha and Matupi Townships where substantial crop losses are reported. Decisions will then be taken on how best to address the situation.

In Magway, the situation requires further monitoring to assess the extent of the water scarcity and crop losses..



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Expanded Summary

At Risk

Paddy harvest likely to be lower/ Less rice available in market

Kachin	Wai Maw, Myitkyina, Putao	<p>Paddy harvests are likely to be lower as conflict continues to disrupt harvesting activities in the eastern parts of Myitkyina and Wai Maw townships. Rat infestations as well as landslides in Mandaung and Hpung Tang Kawng village tracks (in Wai Maw) have exacerbated the situation. WFP recently assessed the situation in Mandaung and the government has provided 100 bags of rice to villages in Hpung Tang Kawng.</p> <p>In Putao (Hka Hku area), flatland and upland paddy as well as maize production were affected by heavy rains. As transportation to this area has also been disrupted, there was no rice available in the markets. WFP will continue to monitor the situation.</p>
Chin	Thantlang, Matupi, western Hakha	<p>There are unconfirmed reports of harvest losses (both of paddy and maize) in Thantlang and Matupi townships, with most affected villages near the border areas with India. Local reports from Chin indicated that at least 19 villages (and maybe as many as 30) are affected, with losses a result of irregular and untimely rains. While food is currently available, losses will result in a longer than normal hunger gap in 2013. Most affected villages reported that food stocks will only last until January 2013. WFP is working with its partners to assess the situation, with field visits to affected villages planned for early January.</p>
N. Rakhine	Rathedaung, Maungdaw, Buthidaung	<p>While Protracted Relief has resumed in Maungdaw, WFP was not able to reach all beneficiaries in Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in November. In Buthidaung, distributions were scaled back as movements of food could not be safely organized. In Rathedaung, tensions and residual fear between communities impeded beneficiaries to access food distributions points.</p> <p>Unconfirmed messages were received that some drinking water ponds in Buthidaung were contaminated, leading many to rely on local streams or rivers for drinking water. UNHCR delivered samples to UNICEF for testing.</p> <p>While progressively resuming its activities in nutrition centres of Maungdaw, ACF screened approximately 200 children on a weekly basis. Around 30% were admitted for nutritional treatment.</p> <p>According to the assessment jointly conducted by UNHCR and WFP in Rathedaung township, close to 3,200 people remain displaced following inter-community violence. The displaced are currently suffering from food shortages and WFP is recommending food assistance to be provided. Work opportunities remain scarce as movements are still restricted.</p>
C. Rakhine	Sittwe, Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Myebon, Minbya, Mrauk Oo, Kyau Phyu, Ramree	<p>The 2012 monsoon Paddy harvest is expected to be poor as many paddy lands were either destroyed or not accessible for cultivation. Additionally, many livestock have been lost, further depleting the coping capacities of households. Movement restrictions continue to badly affect livelihoods and income-generating opportunities.</p> <p>Health continues to be a major concern, as there are few medical teams servicing the IDP camps. This said, malnutrition among children (according to first hand reports from the camps) was reportedly not widespread.</p>
S. Shan	Hopone	<p>Due to hail and unexpected rain during harvest time, nearly 40% of crop was damaged in Hopone area.</p>
Wa	Ai Cheng	<p>Ai Cheng township authorities requested WFP assistance due to a serious crop infestation in 16 villages spanning three village tracks (Xing Kai, Shan Dong and Guan Yar). In the affected villages, 80% of paddy was destroyed according to local authorities, with approximately 3,000 acres of paddy land impacted.</p>
Scarcity of water for domestic use and agriculture		
Magway	Pakokku, Chauk, Yenangaung	<p>Due to insufficient rain, onion farmers near Yaw Creek (border of Pauk and Pakkoku) lost their first onion crops. Likewise in Pakkoku and Natmauk, groundnut harvests are approximately 50% lower than last year, with some villages reporting yields as low as 10% of 2011 levels.</p> <p>With water levels in villages ponds approximately 5 feet lower than normal, some villagers have to buy water from deep tube well owner for domestic use.</p>

Continuing concerns from previous Updates...

Problem	Location	Summary
Paddy/Maize harvest	N.Shan (Manton)	Due to unusual rainfall patterns and security concerns, paddy and maize yields this year are reportedly 20-30% less than last year. Observed yields vary between 15 and 30 baskets per acre.
Paddy/Maize harvest	N.Shan (Laukai and Konkyan)	Paddy and maize production were affected by late monsoon and pest infestations. Yields of lowland/upland paddy and maize are likely to be one-third to one-half less as compared to last year. The most affected village tracks include Tauk Shwe, Par Sin Kyaw, Cong Gang and Xing Tang. Sugarcane production was also reportedly lower due to pest infestations.