



Food Security Update- October 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.fsinmyanmar.net>.

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 Oct:

- **Heavy rains/Landslide**
 - Kachin
 - Chin
- **Pests (rats, wild pigs)**
 - Kachin
 - Chin
 - N.Shan (Laukai area)
- **Conflict (on-going since June 2011)**
 - Kachin
- **Communal violence (on-going since June 2012)**
 - N. Rakhine
 - C. Rakhine

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

Locations:

- Wa
- S. Shan
- N. Shan (Lashio area)
- Magway

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

Locations:

- Kachin
- Chin
- N. Rakhine
- C. Rakhine
- N. Shan (Laukai area)

Key Issues:

Threat to health and livelihoods, Threat to Paddy harvest



Actions Taken/ Needed

Communal violence--- In Rakhine State, communal violence erupted in 7 townships in the northern and central part of Rakhine state in the last week of October, resulting in the displacement of an additional 35,000 people. The newly affected townships included Myebon, Minbya, Mrauk U, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Ramree and Kyauk Phyu. WFP immediately moved to provide assistance to the displaced.

Assistance to previously displaced persons in Sittwe, Maungdaw and other affected townships continued in October as usual. In total, assistance from WFP and partners reached 73,800 IDPs. Nutritional support was also provided to children under 3 and pregnant and lactating women. In northern Rakhine, WFP's resumed protracted relief in August. Distributions continued throughout September and October but were subsequently disrupted by the second wave of violence.

Conflict---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 30,000 IDPs reached in October.

Harvest losses--- In Chin, recent reports on the hill-side paddy harvests in Paletwa and Matupi indicate a second consecutive year of significant harvest losses, as a result of both pests (wild pigs) and untimely heavy rains. WFP is currently assessing the situation. **In Laukai**, recent reports of damage to paddy fields due to heavy rains and pests are being explored by WFP staff. While initial indications suggest that impacts are localized (affecting only 1-2 village tracks), WFP will continue to monitor the situation.



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Expanded Summary

At Risk

Upcoming Paddy harvest likely to be lower

Kachin	Wai Maw, Man Waing	While conflict continues to limit paddy production, harvests are also reportedly impacted by heavy rains, landslides and pests. Recent landslides and flooding in Man Dawng village tract have resulted in the loss of 100 acres of lowland paddy, 18 acres of upland paddy, 29 acres of orange crops, 47 acres of home gardens. Likewise, in Hpung Tang Kawng village tract, 50-70% of paddy production is reportedly damaged due to rat infestations.
Chin	Paletwa, Matupi	Heavy rain has affected paddy production in Paletwa, resulting in significant harvest losses. Overall, paddy production in 2012 is half of 2011 productions totals. Hilly-side paddy fields were destroyed by wild pigs in Matupi, resulting in harvest losses in Matupi. As seen in Paletwa, the production is estimated to be half of 2011 totals.
N. Rakhine/ C. Rakhine	Sittwe, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Myebon, Minbya, Mrauk U, Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Ramree and Kyauk Phyu	Communal violence erupted in 7 townships in the northern and central part of Rakhine state in the last week of October, resulting in the displacement of an additional 35,000 people. Previous displacement in Sittwe and other townships in northern Rakhine continued to impact livelihoods, including agricultural work and fishing. Reports from the Myanmar Agricultural Service (MAS) in Maungdaw suggested considerable declines in paddy production in 2012. Specifically, the MAS estimated that 7% fewer paddy lands were cultivated in 2012 (as compared to 2011--- about 5715 acres), resulting in an 8-10% decrease in total paddy production.
N.Shan (Laukai)	Konkyan	Paddy harvests were impacted by heavy rains and pest infestations in at least 1-2 village tracks. The impacted households will likely have fewer food stocks, with many reporting they will migrate to China to find work once food stocks expire.

Continuing concerns from previous Updates...

Problem	Location	Summary
Paddy harvests	N.Shan (Lashio)	Due to unusual rainfall patterns this monsoon season, paddy yield for 2012 is likely to be less than last year.
Sesame, pigeon pea and groundnut harvest	Dry Zone	Harvests are being monitored after drought-like conditions damaged crops in August, which led to as much as a 25% reduction in yield. While replanting was possible, the success of this replanting may have been impacted by another dry spell in September. Prices of groundnut oil and sesame oil are also being monitored to assess impact of potential crop losses. Initial post-harvest reports indicate the prices of groundnut oil have fallen significantly, indicating more than sufficient supply at present. The decline in prices is largely due to falling demand from the Chinese markets as well as increased consumption of cheaper Malaysian palm oil.
Malnutrition/ health issues among children	Chin	A Food and Nutrition Survey, covering all townships, was conducted by the Government recently. Informal reports from the survey team indicated observable cases of acute malnutrition, including severe acute malnutrition in certain parts of Chin. WFP is awaiting results from the National Nutrition Centre before programmatic decisions are taken.