






Food Security Update - February 2014

Early Warning and Situation Reports





Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Purpose and Interpretation: Food Security Updates (FSUs) have two key components; 1) an Early Warning (EW) section and 2) a Situation Report (SitRep) from main States and Regions. *The EW section outlines the key events occurring throughout Myanmar that are currently impacting the food security situation.* By highlighting these events, it is possible to identify townships where food security status is likely to deteriorate in the short term, facilitating decision-making and response. Methodologically, WFP classifies the severity of shocks as Low, Moderate or High, depending on the likelihood that a shock is significant enough to result in deteriorations in key food security indicators as defined by the Food Security Information Network (FSIN). Indicator scores are then summed to determine a shock severity score. This methodology is summarized below. *The SitRep, by contrast, provides general information on a monthly basis about the food security situation in key Regions and States in Myanmar.* SitReps summarize the evolving food security situation and help provide context to more in-depth FSIN periodic monitoring rounds.

Source of information: Information included in Food Security Updates (FSUs) comes from a variety of sources, including observations from field staff, information from assessment activities, community reports or requests for assistance, government requests for action and information from media outlets. Monthly Updates can be accessed online at <http://www.fsinmyanmar.net>.

FSIN Food Security Classifications	FSIN Key Indicators	Shock impact on each indicator is estimated and scored as follows:	Shock severity scoring is sum of indicator scores, categorized as follows:
 Generally food secure  Moderately food insecure  Highly food insecure  Severe Situation  Emergency Situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop Production Food stocks Market stocks Purchasing power Dietary diversity Hunger Acute malnutrition Disease Migration Coping 	Low=1 Moderate=2 High=3	Low severity <12 Mod severity 12 to 17 High severity >17

Early Warning Report: Key Shocks Reported in February

Severity	Shock	Region/State	Township	Shock severity score	Recent FSIN classifications ¹		Direct effect and likely human impact
					Post	Pre	
Low	Pest infestation	Magway	Natmauk	11			In Natmauk 80% of the farmers reported a decreased yield for groundnut compared to last year's harvest. Additionally, pest infestation affected chickpea production throughout the township.
	Pest infestation and price fluctuation	Ayeryarwady	Einme	6	N/A		Pest infestation affected summer paddy, resulting in crop losses for farmers across the township. On the markets, prices of key commodities were on the rise (rice, cooking oil and fuel), making it difficult for casual labour and small-scale traders to purchase key commodities. High fuel prices also impacted on farmers' ability to conduct land preparation activities.
Moderate	Conflict	Shan	Manton / Kutkai	13			Frequent fighting between the Military and Non-State Armed Groups disrupted transportation for the residents of Manton and Kutkai townships and interrupted land preparation activities. In addition, it led to an increase in the number of IDPs, reaching a total of close to 8,200 people in 19 camps across 6 townships.
	Conflict	Rakhine State	Sittwe / Maungdaw	13			In Northern Rakhine, upon request by the District Commissioner, food distributions were suspended in February in Du Chee Yah Tan village. So far, no detailed assessment could be conducted in the village to establish detailed or long-term food needs. A series of demonstrations occurred in Sittwe and several other townships against the presence of humanitarian organization. MSF was expelled by the Government from Rakhine State.
High	Nothing to Report						



Actions Taken/ Needed

Based on the information reported, the situation is not expected to further deteriorate and does not require immediate actions. Regular food assistance and food security/livelihoods programmes are on-going in various areas of the country which contribute to mitigate these localized events. Regular communal tensions remain however a concern as they continue impacting food security and livelihoods recovery and the delivery of health services.

¹ In 2013 FSIN food security classifications were made prior to the monsoon ("pre") and in late monsoon ("post"). Classifications included in the table above detail the last two classifications observed in periodic monitoring rounds prior to the monthly report.

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FSIN	Situation	Report
Shan State	<p>Drought-like conditions in Hsi Hseng caused damage to over half of the pigeon pea plantations. In one village, planting of asparagus was introduced by a private company, with a demo plot of 12 acres for this year. The company provides seeds and technical support and will expand to villages that have sufficient water supply for asparagus.</p> <p>In Phekon, last year's harvest is expected to last until April-May 2014. Most villagers already cleaned and prepared their upland for the next season cultivation.</p> <p>Across Southern Shan State, inflated labour wages for poppy harvesting activities are adversely affecting availability of labour for other routine agricultural activities. Farmers fear that increased labour wages will persist even after the poppy harvest is completed.</p> <p>In Northern Shan, migrations to China continue to be observed in almost all townships. Domestic migrations for casual labour from plain areas to Lashio town are also reported this month.</p>	
Rakhine State	<p>In Northern Rakhine and Central Rakhine, a series of demonstrations hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance to some villages. In addition, the central government took the decision to ban MSF activities in the whole State. Decisions are being discussed within the government to provide alternative services to cover gaps left by the departure of the medical organization. It is however feared that, because of communal tensions, all villages and communities will not be able to benefit from similar access than what they could get with MSF programs.</p> <p>A rapid survey in Aung Mingalar quarter of Sittwe highlighted potential implementation of programs to provide assistance to the population with very limited livelihoods. Programs could include cash transfers. Decisions on implementation are however still pending as recurrent communal tensions continue to impact the delivery of humanitarian assistance.</p>	
Magway Region	<p>No particular shocks were reported in Magway and Pwintbyu townships where the harvesting of vegetable and pulses respectively has been progressing normally. Ongoing seasonal migrations continue with stable labour and commodity market prices.</p> <p>In Chauk where paddy land preparation was underway in most of the Township's villages, rice prices have gone up in the markets from 18,000 MMK to 24,000 MMK per bag. Simultaneously, pulse prices decreased significantly as a result of excess supply in the markets. In Pauk Township, the pulses harvest was negatively affected by the lack of rain, with 80% of farmers reporting a decrease in production of 3 to 4 tins compared to last year's.</p> <p>There were good job opportunities in the harvesting of onions, chickpeas and in the irrigation of corn and tobacco fields in Yasagyo Township this month, even though the production of onions was slightly reduced due to pest infestation. The daily wages were stable at 2500-3000 kyats for male workers and 1500-2000 kyats for female workers.</p> <p>In Pakkoku, lower than normal chili production led to reduced opportunities for daily labour. The production of tomatoes and other vegetable was good but prices remained low, with an average cost of 100 MMK per viss of tomato.</p> <p>In Yenanchaung Township, the high jaggery prices did not carry forward from last month with a halving of the price per viss from 1200 MMK to 600 MMK.</p>	
Chin State	<p>No particular shocks were reported in Hakka. Seasonal migrations are ongoing as February is the season for temporary migrations to Mizoram for off-farm job opportunities. Reports coming from a FSIN partner of bamboo blooming in some areas of Paletwa Township are being explored.</p>	
Ayeyarwady Region	<p>In Einme Township, pest infestation affected summer paddy, resulting in crop losses for farmers across the township. Other agricultural activities (harvest of pulses) were progressing normally. On the markets, prices of key commodities were on the rise (rice, cooking oil and fuel), making it difficult for casual labour and small-scale traders to purchase key commodities. High fuel prices also impacted on farmers' ability to conduct land preparation activities.</p>	
Sagaing Region	<p>In Myinmu Township, according to Government data and community reports, higher than usual and erratic rainfalls occurred in February. These adversely affected onion production but other agricultural activities (pulses) are progressing normally. No particular shocks were reported in Monywa Township where paddy land preparation activities are underway. Vegetable prices were reportedly lower than normal due to excess supply in the markets. A slight increase in seasonal migrations was also observed.</p>	
Mandalay Region	<p>There were no reported shocks in Thazi Township. Erratic rainfalls did not have a significant impact on agricultural activities that have been progressing normally, dominated by paddy land preparation across the township. Pulses prices were lower than usual due to excess supply in the market.</p>	

The FSIN is a network of technical experts and information managers from lead food security stakeholders. The FSIN seeks to improve information systems by facilitating information flow, harmonizing assessment activities and managing a coordinated Food security Monitoring System (FSMS). To date there are 29 members of the FSIN, including UN agencies, INGOs as well as local NGOs and CBOs. For more information on the FSIN please visit <http://www.fsinmyanmar.net> or contact Thaung.htay@wfp.org

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