Purpose and Interpretation: Monthly Food Security Updates (FSUs) outline 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSIN Food Security Classifications</th>
<th>FSIN Key Indicators</th>
<th>Impact on Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generally food secure</td>
<td>Food stocks</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately food insecure</td>
<td>Purchasing Power</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly food insecure</td>
<td>Market stocks</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe situation</td>
<td>Dietary diversity</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency situation</td>
<td>Hunger</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coping</td>
<td>Low/ Mod/ High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicator scoring: Low=1; Mod=2; High=3
Shock severity scoring is sum of indicator scores, categorized as follows:
Low severity<8; Mod severity>8 and <14; High 14 and above

Early Warning Report--- Key Shocks Reported in February

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Shock</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Shock severity score</th>
<th>Recent FSIN classifications¹</th>
<th>Direct effect and likely human impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Nothing to Report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Fewer acres cultivated</td>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>All conflict-affected townships</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Insufficient data for classification</td>
<td>Winter crop cultivation decreased throughout conflict-affected areas due to generalized insecurity. The acreage of pulse crop cultivated declined 24%, while the acreage of oil crops declined 26%. Likewise, acreage of vegetable cultivation declined 21%. As food and cash crops are affected, this will likely impact both purchasing power and dietary diversity in the near and medium term. Notably, February pulse prices in Waingmaw township market remained lower than normal, largely due to an influx of pulses from other parts of Myanmar. This suggests a certain capacity to cope with local production shortages. As many as 20,000 farming households may be directly impacted by reduced cultivation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Nothing to Report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Actions Taken/ Needed

Fewer acres cultivated—in Kachin, WFP will continue to monitor the situation to assess the extent of actual production loss, given the reduced area cultivated. WFP and other actors in the food security sector are also conducting situation monitoring in a subset of IDP camps in order to have an indication if food becomes more difficult to access or if dietary diversity begins to deteriorate. Thus, it will be possible to ensure that any resulting crop losses are not affecting the most vulnerable populations.

¹ FSIN food security classifications are made pre-monsoon, mid-monsoon and post-monsoon. Classifications included in the table above detail the last three classifications observed in periodic monitoring rounds prior to the monthly report.
Situation Report

Conflict continues to threaten health and livelihoods

Reports of crop losses and reductions in cultivated areas continue to emerge. As indicated in previous FSUs, paddy production declined 16% in 2012/2013 due to the prevailing insecurity. Given new reports this month, similar losses are likely to be observed in other crops, namely pulses, oil crops and vegetables. Coupled with this, food stocks have also reportedly been targeted in certain areas due to beliefs that certain villages have allied themselves with one of the warring parties. The latest reports emerge from Nsi Yang village in Putao township, where paddy storage buildings were burned and 260 baskets of paddy were destroyed. There are also emerging indications that insecurity is already hampering land preparation activities for the 2013 monsoon harvest, with parts of Chipwe and Waingmaw particularly affected.

Kachin

Taken together, these reports point to a likely deterioration in the food security situation as the lean season approaches. The extent of this deterioration will depend on market dynamics as it will be necessary to bring in foods from other parts of Myanmar to compensate for local shortages. It will also depend on the availability of work opportunities and the ability to maintain adequate purchasing power, as many households will need to compensate for losses with increased food purchases.

IDP populations in government controlled areas increased 9% (by 2,676) in February. (Source: Relief and Resettlement Department) Population fluctuations in non-government controlled areas were less clear. WFP, in collaboration with partners, provided assistance to approximately 38,000 IDPs in February. This represents a 19% increase since January, as WFP was able to reach (via convoy) 16 previously unassisted camps in Hpakant.

In non-government controlled camps, KBC field staff reported increased malnutrition in Border Post 6 camp and other camps in Chipwe. Reportedly, infant mortality is high in Border Post 6, as unconfirmed reports indicated that 5 infants died within the two weeks that KBC field staff were present.

N. Shan

While the security situation appeared stable in February, WFP continued relief assistance to over 8,000 IDPs, distributing 137 MT of food.

Rakhine

In central Rakhine, there is growing concern that the coming rainy season will lead to disease outbreaks in IDP camps with those located in paddy fields and other flood-prone areas at highest risk. The focus in the coming months will be on relocation of vulnerable camps. In northern Rakhine, NGOs expressed concerns over the health of IDPs in Muslim camps, as these needs are currently not being met. Further discussions with authorities are required as these camps are largely outside the operational areas of pertinent health-focused NGOs.

WFP continues to provide assistance to IDPs in Sittwe, Kyauktaw, Kyauk Phyu, Minbya, Mrauk U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ramree, Rathedaung and Maungdaw. WFP delivered over 2,100 MTs of food to over 126,000 IDPs in February.

Water shortages are impacting the health of both villagers and livestock

Magway

As reports of water shortages continue, the hardest hit areas are Chauk, Yanangyang and Pauk townships. Those affected are forced to purchase water from tube well owners earlier than normal. There is increasing concern over the health of livestock given limited fodder and clean water. Reports of cattle deaths have emerged from Chauk.

S. Shan

Water shortages are reportedly impacting certain villages in Hopone township. Surface and ground water has subsided earlier than normal this year, leading to scarcity of drinking water in affected villages.

Crop failures/ infestations continue to affect food security status

Chin

Consensus is emerging that there will be a long food gap in Chin State in 2013, primarily due to crop failures. Data from a variety of sources indicate that food stocks will likely only be sufficient to last until the end of April or Mid May in most villages, with stocks in the hardest hit villages already reportedly expired. While this has been reported as a “food crisis” by certain actors, there is limited evidence that the food gap this year will be substantially longer than normal. Thus, while there is concern that a subset of the hardest hit villages could require seasonal support, WFP is focused on working with affected villages to implement longer-term measures to mitigate crop shortages in the future.

Wa

A pest infestation damaged upland paddy fields in 16 villages, affecting over 800 households in Ai Chen township. A WFP assessment indicates that the food gap in 2013 will be approximately 50% longer than normal. Thus, food stocks will likely expire for most affected households in April or May. WFP is currently exploring the extent to which households will be able to cope with shortages.

Source of Information for 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 media outlets. Monthly Updates can be accessed online at http://www.wfp.org/countries/myanmar/food-security/reports-and-bulletins. Queries, comments or any other correspondence related to WFP Monthly Updates should be addressed to:

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