

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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low=1 Moderate=2 High=3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low severity <12 Mod severity 12 to 17 High severity >17

Early Warning Report: Key Shocks Reported in January

Severity	Shock	Region/State	Township	Shock severity score	Recent FSIN classifications ¹		Direct effect and likely human impact
					Post	Pre	
Low	Prices fluctuation	Shan	Lashio	3			Higher transportation costs at the beginning of the year resulted in an increase in rice prices in Lashio township. Transportation costs have increased due to large volumes of seasonal fruit production exported to China.
	Water constraint	Chin	Tonzang	3			Limited water availability compared to normal has led to localized vegetable crop losses and reduced fresh food availability in Tonzang Township.
Moderate	Low border trade /tensions	Rakhine	Maungdaw/ Buthidaung	12			Trade and agricultural labour have been adversely affected by reduced opportunities for cross-border trade due to political instability in Bangladesh. It has also decreased the availability of goods on markets whilst causing a hike in prices of key commodities (rice and oil). Additional communal tensions have constrained fishing activities, reducing production and income for fishing communities.
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.

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.

FSIN	Situation	Report
Shan State	In Pekon and Hsihseng townships, no particular shocks have been reported and agricultural activities (rice, vegetables and pulses) are progressing normally. However, an increase in rice prices has been recorded in Hsihseng markets due to an increase in wholesale prices.	
Rakhine State	In Northern Rakhine, a significant decrease in cross-border trade starting from mid-December due to political instability in Bangladesh has had negative impacts on agricultural labour and trade in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships. Seasonal agricultural activities are progressing normally; however, there has been a generalized reduction in fishing activity (river, sea and aquaculture) due to political instability and access issues. According to the department of fisheries (Maungdaw district), fishing activities were suspended for about 5 days, resulting in a decrease in production volumes estimated at 20% for fish and 13% for shrimp. In the markets, an increase in rice and oil prices has been recorded. Although the health situation remains stable, partners continue to report an elevated incidence of malnutrition.	
Magway Region	No shocks were reported in Pwintbyu, Pauk and Yenangyaung townships where agricultural activities are progressing normally. In those three townships, labor opportunities have attracted a higher number of seasonal migrants. Price variations have been recorded on the markets such as higher rice prices in Pwintbyu, and higher pulse prices in Pauk. In Pwintbyu, the rice price has reached a high 37,000 MMK per bag for high quality and 24,000 MMK per bag for low quality rice compared to 34,000 MMK and 17,000 MMK respectively in December 2013, as a result decreases in production of 20 to 40%. In Yenanchaung Township, the price of jaggery has increased, resulting in better income opportunities for local producers. Chauk Township has seen a significant increase in the yield of both groundnuts and pigeon peas compared to last year (20 to 30 tins per acre instead of 15 to 16 tins in 2013). In the markets, a slight increase in pulse prices was reported. In Magway Township, price fluctuations have had a generalized negative impact on agricultural labour, resulting in an increase in seasonal migrations. Cooking oil prices are reported to be higher than normal due to a shortage in the markets. In parts of Yesagy Township, groundnut and chickpea fields are facing pest infestation issues and the farmers anticipate that the harvest production will be lower than normal years. In Nat Mauk Township, erratic rainfalls and rodent and pest infestation have had a widespread impact on agricultural production. 70% of pigeon pea farmers have lost their entire production whilst the remaining 30% expect low yields and are facing pest infestation. There are also reports of pest infestation affecting chickpea plantations. Conversely, there has been an increase in seasonal migration due to lack of labour opportunities in the area. A similar trend has been observed in Pakkoku where it is estimated that 10 to 40% of the pigeon pea production will be affected by erratic precipitations.	
Chin State	No particular shock was reported in Madupi Township where agricultural activities are following a normal course. Market prices have remained stable in January. There was a slight increase in seasonal migration due to various road construction projects in neighbouring townships. In Tonzang Township, lower than normal rainfalls are adversely affecting vegetable production, resulting in localized crop losses in a few villages. Rice price has increased in the wholesale market of Kale, leading to an increase in retail prices. Localized episodes of fever and diarrhoea have been affecting children under 2 due to weather changes.	
Ayeyarwady Region	Pest and rodent infestation have been reported in parts of Danuby Township, with localized impacts on crop production (less than 10% loss). Elsewhere, agricultural production is progressing normally. Rice and fuel prices have increased in the market due to an increase in wholesale prices. In Einme Township, limited water availability, below seasonal averages, impacted seasonal crops production. Lack of labour opportunities in the area have led to a significant increase in seasonal migrations. Higher wholesale prices have also had negative repercussions on the rice and fuel prices in the local markets.	
Sagaing Region	Parts of Monywa Township have seen their agricultural production adversely affected by pest and rodent infestation but agricultural activities are progressing normally in most of the township. Commodity prices are stable in the main markets, with the exception of vegetables that have lost retail value as a result of increased supply. A slight increase in seasonal migration has also been recorded.	
Mandalay Region	Significant parts of Kyaukpadaung Township have been affected by rodent and pest infestation, resulting in crop losses of 10 to 40%. Vegetable prices have been lower than seasonal averages due to excess supply. Migration patterns remain stable. In Pyawbwe and Thazi townships, agricultural activities (vegetables and pulses) are progressing normally with no particular shock reported.	

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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Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund

