



Myanmar floods:

Food security and livelihoods still at risk, recovery must focus on building resilience for future disasters

The flooding and devastation caused by Cyclone Komen in July-August last year has exacerbated food insecurity for poor rural communities living in Myanmar's hardest-hit regions and highlighted their vulnerability to withstand similar emergencies in the future.

An assessment mission conducted by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the UN and **World Food Programme**¹ six months after the floods has highlighted that additional assistance to rebuild livelihoods is urgently needed to ensure long term recovery and rehabilitation especially in remote areas, which concentrate highly vulnerable populations with little resilience and low agricultural productivity.



Immediate needs to rebuild livelihoods

- Distribution of seeds for 2016 monsoon planting season in most affected areas;
- Urgent restocking of livestock to avoid further fall in protein intake;
- Rebuilding of fishing gear and boats and rehabilitation of fish ponds;
- Distribution of water and pest-resistant storage containers to protect farmers' seeds, along with drying nets and post-harvest equipment in the most affected areas.

Long-term recovery must include resilience building measures

The report includes recommendations for **long term recovery, resilience building** and **disaster risk reduction** so that farmers are better able to withstand future emergencies.



Chin and Rakhine

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Vulnerable farming households and communities may face severe food shortage



of fish & shrimp ponds lost
99% in Rakhine



Highest **livestock losses** were recorded in **Rakhine, Sagaing** and **Ayeyarwaddy** states



up to **15 %** loss in annual paddy production **Rakhine and Chin**

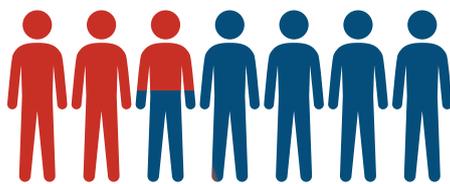


in **Rakhine & Chin** flooding exacerbated vulnerability towards malnutrition in areas where children were already malnourished

¹ The Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission was conducted by FAO and World Food Programme in Nov/Dec 2015 at the request of the Government of Myanmar. The assessment report, released in March 2016, is available at: www.fao.org/3/a-i5460e.pdf



More support needed for flood-affected people



150 000
assisted under
2015-2016
funding to date

More than
270 000
still to reach
in 2016

US \$7.6 million
still needed to assist total
target population in 2016



Resilience-building activities highlighted include:

- Establishing **strategic grain reserves** to serve as a supply buffer for future emergencies;
- Developing on-farm and **community grain storage** at communal and regional levels to reduce post-harvest losses;
- Increasing the availability of **smaller farm machinery** for hire;
- Increasing the availability of **fisheries brood stock**;
- Implementing **nutrition disaster preparedness** programmes targeting wasted children before the rainy season.

How FAO is helping

Through a series of livestock and agricultural recovery and resilience projects FAO will provide assistance to around 150 000 farmers and fisher people in the worst-affected areas of **Rakhine, Chin** and **Sagaing**.

- Supporting livelihoods through agricultural input distribution (seeds, fertilizer etc.);
- Improving, rehabilitating and/or rebuilding household and community assets;
- Distribution of livestock (goats, chickens, ducks and pigs);
- Mapping disaster risk reduction systems and identifying needs;
- Training farmers in disaster risk reduction skills to enable them to recover quicker and make best use of emergency recovery inputs provided.

More support is needed

FAO recognizes its generous early donors: the **UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** through its **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** and the **Governments of Japan** and **Belgium** who have made significant contributions to bolster FAO's own funding.

More international support is urgently needed. Under the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, FAO is urgently seeking USD 12.1 million to help 332 750 flood-affected people.

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