



Myanmar

Summary of the baseline results and recommendations

Project: “Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT) Improvement of food and nutrition security of vulnerable population in Rakhine state”

Key facts

Collection period:

July 2019

Provinces/Localities covered:

Rakhine : Buthidaung and Maungdaw.

Sample:

300 households

Methodology:

Quantitative methods, using the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA).

Lesson learned from the baseline process

Operationalization within high insecurity context needs to be on the learning agenda to ensure improved ways of working, access to communities and quality control.

Within the Myanmar context, resilience programming needs to the right balance between humanitarian assistance and capacity of all parties to improve service delivery (small scale rural infras aquaculture, social protection, early warning early action).

Commented [PP1]: Would suggest rewording:

Interventions should be conflict sensitive and adaptative to access and contextual changes with the flexibility to change between emergency and resilience programming. The learning agenda should include conflict sensitivity monitoring, access modalities in insecure contexts and more broadly, adaptative programming mechanisms.

Key Finding 1: Despite the same resilience profile, there are differences in accessing critical services between Buthidaung and Maungdaw

Maungdaw households show difficulties in accessing basic services due to distance and constraints in moving. Administrative constraints are one of the main challenges.

Recommendation: seek for partnership with international organizations UN agencies/INGOs/NGOs is crucial to improve access to essential services for all communities and households. Resilience-building activities should be focusing on improving access to basic services, and on creating synergies and complementarities with specialized organizations, working on the improvement of access to safe water, sanitation and education allowing for substantial renovation and investment. Involvement of local authorities is also essential.

Key Finding 2: Female-headed household have lower resilience capacity compared to male-headed households

Female-headed households are at a disadvantage in access to essential social services and assets, showing deficiency in adaptive capacities. The evidence is in the effort made by them to maintain an adequate level of food consumption. They rely mostly on social safety nets, given the priority access to humanitarian assistance.

Recommendation: Resilience-building activities in these areas should be targeting women more. Capacity-building activities are particularly important and should focus on skills for generating income, finding employment and establishing businesses. Partnerships with women-oriented actors such as UNWOMEN should be explored

EU-FAO Partnership Programme “Global Network Against Food Crises” seeks to enhance the resilience of populations in food crisis contexts by strengthening the quality and frequency of food security and resilience analysis; building a body of evidence on effective options and interventions to enhance livelihoods resilience at country level; and bolstering stronger alliances at all levels to collectively address food crises through sustainable solutions.

As part of the EU-FAO Partnership Programme, this project, which covers areas in Myanmar, is one of 10 pro-resilience projects in food crisis contexts implemented within the broader framework of the Global Network Against Food Crises that aims at shaping food security and nutrition decision-making at national, regional and global levels to sustainably address food crises. Baselines and impact evaluation analysis of these projects are conducted to measure the contribution of the project to the resilience to food insecurity of the targeted beneficiaries and to generate knowledge on a set of typologies of effective response options.

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Key Finding 3: Large households, coupled with a high dependency ratio, may put pressure on food security.

More broadly, individuals of working age represent only 36% of the beneficiary population.

Recommendation: Considering the households composition, resilience-building activities in these areas should target youth, including young women. Capacity building activities are particularly important and should focus on skills for generating income, finding an employment and establishing businesses. Partnerships with young-oriented actors such as UNICEF should be explored.

Key Finding 4: Households relying mostly on agricultural production as primary source of income are less resilient.

The most important component of the RCI is represented by the possibility to access productive and non-productive assets, both playing a critical role in ensuring resilience. Households in Maungdaw are facing serious constraints with respect to land ownership and livestock.

Recommendation: Resilience-building activities might require adjustments to how activities can be implemented to support access to productive land. Restocking, provision of animal feed and veterinary services, and training in improved animal husbandry techniques remain very relevant.

Key finding 5: Disparities in access to financial services.

Rakhine households have much better access to financial services and government loans as compared to other ethnic groups.

Recommendation: Support and approach systems to facilitate access to formal and informal financial services for all households through saving groups, cash transfers, and formal micro finance of bank services to improve access to financial services.

The layered conflict dynamics and continuing violence and insecurity necessitates that interventions are conflict sensitive. Community engagements and interventions should be impartial, transparent and understanding of the impact of the conflict on inter-community relations and access to markets and services. In areas vulnerable to insecurity, longer-term livelihoods and resilience interventions should possess a built-in flexibility to provide emergency programming.