Life-saving assistance for conflict affected people in Northern Rakhine

HIGHLIGHTS

Target Area: Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in Northern Rakhine
Donor: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
Contribution: USD 750 000
Project Code: OSRO/MYA/801/CHA
Key Partner(s): Livestock Veterinary and Breeding Department (LBVD) of MOALI, Myanmar Heart Development Organization (MHDO)
Beneficiaries: 5 200 vulnerable households comprised of 29 600 vulnerable women, girls, men and boys affected from Northern Rakhine
Implementation Period: 6 months (January 2018 to June 2018)

BACKGROUND

A series of events prompted by the armed attacks against the Myanmar border security forces by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August 2017 in the northern part of Rakhine State, precipitated a massive movement of Muslims and other ethnic minority groups making the current situation in Northern Rakhine as one of the fast-growing humanitarian crises in the history. As a result, it is estimated that approximately 700 000 refugees had crossed the border into Bangladesh. People who remained in their villages are facing substantial hardships, including significantly reduced access to markets and agricultural land, which have created a compounding negative effect on their livelihoods and increased the need for immediate humanitarian assistance.

While the majority of humanitarian actors active in Northern Townships of Rakhine State focused on provision of immediate food assistance, FAO and its implementing partners MHDO and LBVD supported the local agriculture productions to stabilize and increase the availability of foods.
OBJECTIVE
The project objective is to ensure that crisis-affected women, men, girls and boys receive food assistance in a timely manner to meet their distinct daily food and nutrition needs and communities produce sufficient diversified food to ensure availability and accessibility to nutritious foods during the upcoming seasons.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
FAO’s intervention strategy was to identify and deliver immediate agriculture support to the most vulnerable households, mostly small scale farmers to improve access to food and reduce the reliance on food assistance through re-establishing the production, increasing productivity and ultimately, improving availability of fresh foods at household level.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
The project assisted 5,200 households to restore their agricultural livelihood and increase their production capacities. Particularly,

- 2,200 small scale farming households in received 62 Kg of paddy seeds and 50 kg of compound fertilizer to meet the planting requirements for two acres during the monsoon season.

- With the support of LBVD, 1,150 beneficiary households received two goats per households to improve animal production and productivity and hence increase the availability of animal protein.

- In order to enhance the availability of vitamin/mineral rich fresh foods, FAO provided vegetable seed packages composed of bitter gourd, okra, yard long bean, eggplant, roselle, and red hot chili seeds, watering can and 25 kg of compound fertilizer.

- Staffs from the implementing partners - MHDO were trained by FAO agronomist and nutritionist to deliver agricultural and nutritional awareness in the project areas. All beneficiaries who received vegetable, crop or livestock packages also received one day agricultural awareness training and one day nutrition awareness raising to maximize the use of the inputs distributed.