

Humanitarian Assistance for IDPs in Rakhine State

Brief background

- An independent Rakhine Investigation Commission to probe into the cause of the communal violence and to seek short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions was established by President on 17 August 2012. This commission is made up of representatives from all strata of society, including widely respected personalities from the Buddhist, Islamic, Christian and Hindu faiths.
- The Government established a Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State (CCISD) on March 23, 2013.
- In order to implement the policies adopted by the CCISD, the recommendations of the Rakhine Investigation Commission and other necessary actions, the Government has also established seven subcommittees on the rule of law, security and law enforcement, immigration and review of citizenship, temporary resettlement and reconstruction, social and economic development and strategic planning.
- The investigation commission released its report to the public on 29 April 2013.

Priorities in Rakhine State

- The government pays serious attention to ensure the security of populations there, food security and economic development.
- Priorities of the government, among others, are to relocate displaced persons to monsoon-proof shelters, to ensure food security and medical supply, to make sure that children get enough food nutrition, to relieve psychological pain and insecurity, to prevent communicable diseases, to normalize livelihoods and to implement development projects.

Shelters, Schools and Others

- Each and every sub-committee is divided into three groups to ensure that the members are available on the ground for ten days alternately implementing the recommendations of the Investigation Commission.
- Coordination Centre has been opened in Sittway since 4 May for more effective coordination and sharing information among the regional government, UN agencies and INGOs together with the two communities.
- 939 living quarters out of the total numbers of 989 have been constructed with the special fund of the President Office. Remaining 50 living quarters will be completed soon and 90 percent of displaced persons have been relocated to monsoon-proof shelters. Only 23 houses remain to be finished out of 1242 houses.
- 216 living quarters among 564 under the supervision of UNHCR have yet to be finished.
- 8 schools out of 34 remain to be finished. The Ministry of Education and UNICEF have been working together on it. Currently, 7260 Bengali students have been taking classes with 106 teachers funded by UNICEF.

- The Government of Rakhine State has approved to construct the schools in respective villages by utilizing US\$ 1 million Aid from Indonesia.
- 11 water ponds and 4 water wells have been completed in five designated townships— Minbya, MraukU, Yathedaung, Myebon and Pauktaw, costing 34.82 million kyats.

Food

- Food provided by the Japanese Government through WFP will remain available till December 2013.

Health

- 29 temporary clinics will to be built in 11 townships of Rakhine State.

Rehabilitation

- 15,487 baskets of seed paddy have been supplied to 9,930 acres of farmland as of 4 July and the remaining seed paddy will be distributed to the required areas.
- 2 tractors, 282 power tillers and accessories, with a total cost of 506.93 million kyats, have already been distributed.
- The Agricultural Mechanization Department has already conducted nine training courses for proper utilization of tractors and power tillers in villages of Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Minbya, Maungdaw and Yathedaung Townships in Rakhine State.
- 3521 acres of land have been cultivated utilizing 17 tractors and 2 power tillers owned by State Government. The remaining land will be cultivated during the current ploughing season.
- 8, 614 fertilizer bags have been distributed to various townships—Minbya , Kyauktaw, MraukU, Yanbye, Maungdaw, Pauktaw, Yathedaung and Sittway.
- 2000 sets of different types of fishing nets and accessories have been distributed. Over 430 million kyats is required to procure fishing boats and related fishing nets.
- Phone cards have been delivered to 69 camps for better communication.

Field Missions to Rakhine State

- Chairman of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace and Stability and Development in Rakhine State, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, paid a field trip to Rakhine State on 7 and 8 July 2013.
- On the field trip, he was accompanied by diplomats and officials from UN agencies to observe the ground situation, the work of the Central Committee and regional government.
- The Vice-President and the group visited Thayaykonbaung village and Mawrawati village in Maungdaw Township, Kantha Htwetwa and Taungpaw relief camps in Myebon Township, Kyainnipyin relief camp in Pauktaw Township, Khaungdokka and Setyonsu relief camps in Sittway where they met with the displaced persons and observed the construction of monsoon-proof shelters, clinics, temporary primary schools and water tanks.

- A press conference on Rakhine trip by Vice- President Dr Sai Mauk Kham was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon on 9 July 2013. It was attended by Secretary of the Central Committee and chairmen of the works committee, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister, the State Advocate-General, foreign ambassadors, diplomats, officials from UN agencies and local and foreign media.

Facilitating humanitarian assistance

- Donation of non-discriminatory, non-biased humanitarian assistance are being accepted and facilitated on the government-to-government basis.

Accountability

- In Rakhine State, five hundred and seven culprits of 195 cases have been sentenced. Courts are still hearing 45 cases involving 662 culprits.
- In the case of Meiktila, the rioters have been charged in 52 criminal cases and action has been taken against 95 others. 46 people have been given sentences and 70 people are still under investigation.
- Perpetrators who committed crimes have been punished and imprisoned, regardless of their faiths. In our country, no one is above the law.
