I. Highlights

- Food security is a major concern in Chin State, particularly in the Southern part, following torrential rains which caused damages to the harvests. These also resulted in transportation difficulties leading to an increase in the price of food commodities.
- An increasing number of people are leaving Chin State to look for better job opportunities.

II. Situation Overview

Continuous rains in Chin State in September damaged harvests particularly in the southern townships. The roads were also destroyed by the heavy rains, and transportation to and from the region has become difficult. This has resulted in an increase in prices of food commodities. Since the recent rat infestation in the area has also caused damages to more than 2000 acres of the cultivated lands in the southern part, agencies operating in the area projected a worsening food security situation in Mindat, Kanpetlet and Paletwa Townships.

According to the findings of the local nutrition surveillance system, the malnutrition rate in Hakha remains a concern, suggesting that further attention to food security and livelihood is required.

Due to the local sensitivity on programmes including cash distribution, the discussion between WFP and IRC to sign a Field Level Agreement (FLA) for Cash for Work activities in Paletwa Township has been called off.

Community based organizations active in Chin State set up a working committee in September in preparation of future projects that would be implemented in early 2011.

The Secretary of the SPDC requested 3W information on agencies’ activities in Chin State.

III. Sectors

**Food** – Even though the Food for Work/Training (FFW/ FFT) activities are ongoing in Chin State, continuous rains in September hindered the activities of WFP and its implementing partners in most areas.

WFP has started calling for proposals from potential partners for FFW/ FFT activities. The FLAs will be signed on time in order to implement the activities in the dry season lasting from March to June.

**Health** – Merlin provided malaria awareness and behavior change trainings in its project villages in Hakha from 13 to 24 September. In collaboration with Department of Health (DoH), Merlin also provided training on prevention and protection measures against malaria on 28-30 September to 20 Basic Health Staffs (BHS) in Hakha. In Htantlang, a ten-day Community Health Workers (CHW) refresher training on Primary Health Care and Malaria was provided by Merlin to 45 CHWs from 6 to 17 September.

World Vision (WV) conducted basic medical check-ups and provided follow-up treatment for 569 children from three targeted villages in Tiddim in cooperation with local health staffs.

The UNICEF-supported Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) intervention in the hard-to-reach areas will be expanded from 3 to 6 months per year in Vuamtu Station hospital, a Rural Health Centre in Mindat, and Kyin Dwe Station Hospital in Kanpetlet township.

**Nutrition** – UNICEF reported that even though the findings of the nutrition surveillance system as of July indicate improvements, continued nutrition support will be needed during the lean season to prevent a worsening situation in Hakha and Htantlang. UNICEF supports all screened villages with therapeutic feeding.
Merlin carried out the nutrition screening of under 5 children, pregnant and lactating mothers and provided rations supported by WFP in 56 villages in Htantlang Township in September.

**Wash** – WV renovated micro-hydroelectric plant and a reservoir in Tiddim Township. A water supply system in Lailui Village in Tiddim Township, funded by Karuna Myanmar Social Service (KMSS), was completed in September. Country Agency for Rural Development (CAD) plans to provide 5,000 pesos in Chin State in the coming months but exact villages are yet to be selected.

**Education** – WV, with support from Yinthway Foundation, provided a one-month Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) training to 58 ECCD teachers in Tiddim. WV Tiddim also distributed piglets to the caretakers of 14 orphans and vulnerable children in five villages to cover the education expenses.

**Agriculture and livelihood** – IRC provided a training on diversification and improved agricultural technology in Paletwa in late September. The community based resource persons from 15 targeted villages participated in the training. The distribution of farm tools is ongoing in the same villages.

GRET/MFI (Micro Finance Initiative) provided a Micro-Enterprise Loan Distribution Training in three villages in Hakha Township during the last week of September.

GRET/Paung Ku delivered a presentation on its activities in three villages in Hakha Township.

UNDP distributed 40,000 mouse traps in Mindat, Madupi and Kanpetlet Townships as part of its efforts to alleviate the rat infestation in Chin. CARE, in collaboration with MAS, provided a training on control mechanisms against rat infestation for its staffs.

UNDP also organized capacity building workshops such as on bookkeeping and accounting for Self Reliance Groups (SRG) in Mindat, Madupi, Kanpetlet and Hakha Townships.

Community Agency for Rural Development (CARD) provided trainings on ecology awareness, organic farming (compost making), food processing, and soap and shampoo making in Hakha Township from 9 to 13 September.

**Protection** – The four care givers (including one monk) who attended the UNICEF supported Care Giver training in August are now applying these minimum standards in their teaching to approximately 110 orphans at Kanpetlet Orphanage Institutions.

**IV. Upcoming Events**

The UNDP donors’ visit to Chin State in September has been tentatively postponed to 11-15 October.

A UNDSS mission will travel to Southern Chin State on 10-15 October.

**V. Coordination**

Inter-agency coordination meetings will be postponed in Chin State until after the election.