I. Highlights

• Continuous rains in Chin State during the first and second week of October damaged roads, bridges, paddy fields, upland farms and irrigation canals in Chin State.

• Increased food assistance is required in the Southern townships following the recent rat infestation which caused damages to the crops in the area.

• WFP has completed a food security assessment and the findings will be shared with the partner soon.

II. Situation Overview

Chin State encountered heavy rains in early October which reportedly led to small-scale floods and landslides in different areas. Agencies reported that the damages in the Southern townships were worse than those in the northern part.

Paddy lands, upland farms, roads, bridges and irrigation systems were damaged in most areas in the southern part of Chin. In Northern townships, transportation became difficult due to road damages. Damages of agricultural lands, though, were minimal.

Madupi Township in the southern part was reported to be hardest hit. According to UNDP, 197 acres of paddy fields in 48 villages in Madupi were destroyed and a total of 3539 households in the area is likely to encounter food shortage starting from November. Other 20 villages under the ADRA’s coverage were also affected by the heavy rains that damaged the paddy fields and the upland farms. A hydropower plant in Bontalar was also damaged by the rains.

Many sections along the road between Madupi town and Rezua Sub Township became completely unusable following the heavy rains in the area. The renovation works are yet to be done.

In Paletwa Township, the water level of Kaladan River rose to 15-20 feet on 9 October. According to IRC, around 90 houses were flooded and the affected people were relocated to a nearby monastery. The water level receded in the third week of October and the people have now returned home.

Majority of the population affected by the heavy rains in the Chin State was provided assistance by the community-based organizations and local residents. Local authorities have requested assistances from the humanitarian partners but the intervention has been impeded due to various constraints including transportation difficulties.

Regarding the recent rat infestation problem, Chin SPDC provided OCHA and WFP with the data on the level of damages in Mindat, Kanpetlet and Hakha Townships. A total of 626.43 acres of paddy fields in Mindat Township, 749 acres in Kanpetlet Township and 138 acres in Hakha Township were affected by rat infestation from June to August 2010. The Secretary of the Chin SPDC also requested WFP to consider providing emergency food assistance to the affected communities in those three townships.

III. Sectors

Food – Agencies present in the Southern part reported that more food assistance will be required particularly for the communities in the southern townships such as Mindat, Kanpelet and Madupi which were seriously affected by rat infestation and heavy rains in 2010. A systematic food assessment is also needed for Paletwa Township which was not included in the recent assessment done by WFP.

WFP Hakha office has proposed to its Country Office to initiate ECCD activities in 40 villages in Tiddim Township with KMSS next year.

ADRA will extend Food for Work (FFW) programme with WFP to Kanpetlet in 2011.

Health – IRC conducted the second batch of Community Health Worker (CHW) Training in 20 villages and CHW monitoring in 13 villages together with its partner, Karuna, in Paletwa Township. Auxiliary Midwife Training (AMW) is also ongoing in targeted villages in Paletwa.

In collaboration with Department of Health (DOH), Merlin conducted a three-day Basic Health Staff (BHS) Training in Hakha and Htantlang with the participation of BHS from the villages. The bed nets census was undertaken in 11 Merlin coverage villages in Hakha and 45 villages in Htantlang in October. Merlin also distributed long-lasting
insecticides treated nets to 11 nutrition project villages in Htantlang for under five children, pregnant and lactating women.

**Nutrition** – Due to the long prevailing food insecurity problems in Chin State, nutrition surveillance activities are needed for townships currently not covered by UNICEF supported surveillance system.

Merlin Htantlang will have the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition activities, supported by WFP, completed by the end of 2010.

**Agriculture and livelihood** – During the month of October, UNDP provided six capacity building trainings for self-reliance groups from 17 DANIDA funded villages in Tiddim. UNDP also established a rice bank, a seeds bank and a sprinkler irrigation system in three villages in Tiddim.

Farm tools were distributed by IRC to 612 beneficiaries from 15 villages in Paletwa. IRC is currently working on designing and preparing for training and winter crops demonstration plot activities in Paletwa.

GRET provided assistance in cow and goat breeding in six villages in Htantlang, Hakha and Falam Townships. GRET also supported terrace extension in 10 villages in Hakha, Falam, Tedim and Htantlang Townships with GRET inputs.

**Protection** – Myanmar Police Force and UNIAP conducted an awareness raising workshop on human trafficking for agencies’ staff from northern township in July 2010.

**IV. Coordination**

Inter-agency coordination meetings are temporarily suspended in October and will be held again in Chin State after the elections in November.