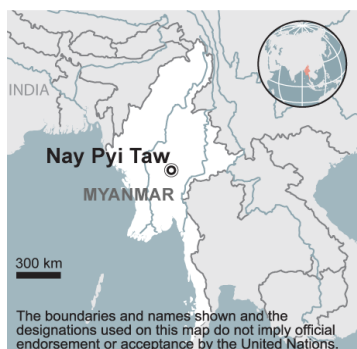


Rehabilitating and upgrading essential infrastructure in the North Rakhine State



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Myanmar

Duration: February 2002 to December 2005

Implementing UN Agencies: WFP

Other Implementing Partners: Action Contre la Faim; Bridge Asia Japan

Budget: \$859,074.69

Key Words: Isolated rural communities; food insecurity, community and infrastructure development

BACKGROUND

One of the poorest regions of Myanmar, the northern Rakhine State is isolated, underdeveloped and densely populated. The region is prone to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and mudslides that threaten its fragile infrastructure and further exacerbate its limited access to the rest of the country. Preceding this project, villages in the northern Rakhine State

experienced chronic food insecurity estimated at an annual food deficit of 20,000 to 40,000 metric tons by the WFP. At the same time, infections and water-borne diseases afflicted large segments of the population, while lack of economic opportunity hindered prospects for sustainable development in the region.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

By addressing the complex challenges facing vulnerable communities in northern Rakhine State, the project intended to contribute to community development through local partnership and capacity building measures. In particular, the project supported vulnerable households through the direct distribution of food as well as the exchange of 'food for work' such as the building of roads, bridges, wells, latrines

and culverts – all of which improved the lives of the local population and were selected by the participating communities themselves; 'food for education' increasing school enrolment and improving regular attendance; and 'food for training' by imparting income-generating vocational skills that remained within communities after the completion of the project.

BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted entire populations in the three townships of Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung in the northern Rakhine State. More directly, 10,000 households benefited from improved roads and water sources, and 160 acres of land were brought under improved irrigation schemes, with increased yields as a result. Meanwhile, 7,200 students obtained access to new water and sanitation facilities in their schools, and

8,700 students, teachers and parents received training in a broad range of skills from hygiene to vocational training. The combinations of these factors enhanced the personal, economic, health and food security of the participating communities, thereby improving their resilience and their capacity to generate income and to ensure a brighter future for themselves and their communities.