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FACT SHEET

Feed the Future Burma Fish for Livelihoods



Introduction

Fish provides over 60% of animal-source food for the people of Myanmar. Capture fisheries, both inland and marine, are in decline while aquaculture production is increasing (currently about 1 million metric tons annually and predominantly from freshwater sources). In response to this growing market opportunity, planning for the supply of quality aquaculture inputs, information, microfinance, fish seed, and feed needs to be improved. Aquaculture has great potential to satisfy the increasing demand for fish; however, to develop sustainable and resilient aquaculture systems, there needs to be a secure water supply and land tenure, as well as inputs, information delivery and quality product distribution. Myanmar must develop a sustainable aquaculture industry that minimizes potential environmental impacts and ensures that aquaculture practices are socially acceptable and economically sound. The Feed the Future Burma Fish for Livelihoods project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to increase fish production, labor productivity, food availability and fish consumption, especially for women and young children from vulnerable households. It will provide opportunities for entrepreneurial activities in small-scale aquaculture systems and promote social behavioral change that results in improved nutrition, direct home production and market purchases toward nutritious-conscious household decisions.

Goals

To support inclusive and sustainable small-scale aquaculture growth to increase income and dietary diversity, and to reduce poverty among beneficiary populations, especially women and children, in central and northern Myanmar.

Target group

The project's targets primarily include small-scale aquaculture households (with ponds less than half an acre in size) and associated value chain actors. The targeted number of individuals will be at least 10,000 for the duration of the project. The project will also integrate vulnerable groups including internally displaced people, women of reproductive age, youths and children under 5 years old.

Intervention pathways

The project will ensure that fish production in areas distant from the Ayeyarwady Delta will provide fish closer to fish deficit areas while promoting market systems and value chains to deliver food-safe fish and fish products to local markets. This will be accompanied by nutrition activities alongside water, sanitation and



Geographical Coverage

- Central Dry Zone: Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing
- North: Shan and Kachin

Expected Impacts by 2027

- Increased small-scale aquaculture production
- Increased access to food-safe fish and fish products in the markets
- Improved nutrition, food safety and WASH practices

Partners

- Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Ar Yone Oo Social Development Association (AYO-SDA)
- BRAC Myanmar
- Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS)

Timeframe

October 2021 to September 2027 Fish for Livelihoods had a 2-year initial phase 2019-2021 under a different funding modality

hygiene (WASH) protocols. These will integrate gender to ensure a more holistic approach that comprehends various aspects of small-scale aquaculture. The following three dimensions will be approached through intervention pathways:

1. Increase small-scale aquaculture production through strategic activities, including improved land and water use, increased access to high-quality inputs (feed, seed and equipment), capacity development and research into production, and access to credit.
2. Develop and use market-based system approaches to increase access to food-safe fish and fish products.
3. Deliver enhanced nutrition and WASH practices via social behavior change communication activities, and develop capacities for improved production, processing and consumption of food-safe aquaculture and other fish-based products.

Achievements from October 2019 until September 2023

- **14,226** training sessions on different modules delivered to partners staff, aquaculture promoters, aquaculture farmers, and fishers.
- **4,585** (farmers received stocking for nursery + grow-out/ demo) aquaculture farmers received fish seeds from the project.
- **9.6** million fish seed distributed to the aquaculture farmers.
- **5,397 (36%)** female members received assistance from the project.
- **14,908** participants (male=64%, female= 36%), aquaculture farmers, farmer household (HH) members, fishers, hatchery farmers, nursery farmers, and the project staff received assistance with a range of interventions.
- **2,823** farmers, their family members, and community members reached through nutrition awareness campaign across Myanmar.
- **56,437** farmers and community members received information education and communication (IEC) material from the project with customized messages on COVID-19.
- **2,225** farmers and their HH members had improved access to basic sanitation services.
- **2,255** farmers and their family members were provisioned and had access to water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.
- **3,462** farmers adopted better management practices (BMP) for improved technology and management for aquaculture.
- **483** (cultivation only on dike) farmers and their families provisioned with vegetable and fruit seeds to grow on pond dykes.
- **1,733 (22% females)** fisherfolks and Small-scale Aquaculture (SSA) farmers get improve access to micro-credit facility.
- **16** hatcheries were supported and all of them signed a contract as part of enhanced support.
- **1.99** million (nursery Stocking) fish nursed in 72 nurseries.

Acknowledgments

This fact sheet is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Feed the Future initiative.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed here belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of USAID, the United States Government, WorldFish, the CGIAR Initiative on Aquatic Foods or CGIAR.

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Citation

This publication should be cited as: WorldFish. 2023. Feed the Future Burma Fish for Livelihoods. Penang, Malaysia: WorldFish. Fact Sheet: 2023-32.

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