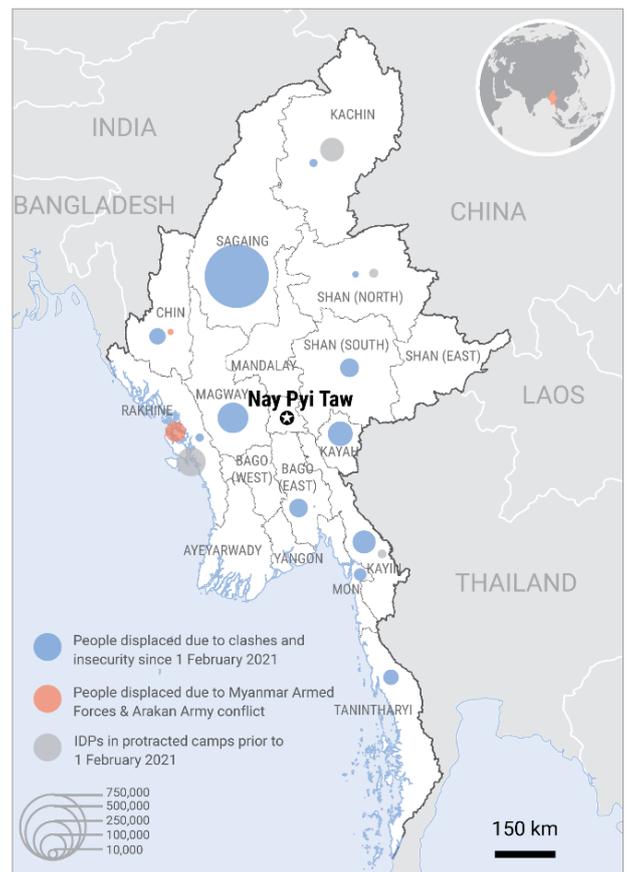


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 27 February, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued at the end of March 2023.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Humanitarian needs are rising across Myanmar and the operational environment is tightening. Martial law is now declared in 47 townships across multiple states and regions.
- Concerns persist around the impact of new registration requirements on humanitarian operations.
- In the first two months of 2023, more than 154,000 people have been internally displaced and are living in precarious conditions in camps and informal sites often in jungles and forests. This brings the total number of IDPs since the military takeover to 1.3 million. As of 27 February, more than 1.6 million remain displaced from previous and current conflicts.
- Heavy fighting continues, particularly in Kachin, the Southeast, and Northwest, endangering lives and hampering humanitarian operations.
- The ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) in Rakhine is still holding and the access environment has improved.
- Humanitarians reached a record 4.4 million people with assistance in 2022, however the support was not as deep or multi-sectoral as planned due to access constraints and severe underfunding.
- Some 17.6 million people - nearly one third of the population - are estimated to be in humanitarian need in 2023. The humanitarian community has prioritized support for 4.5 million people with severe needs, predominantly in conflict affected rural areas.
- Generous funding to the [US\\$764m Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023](#) is critically important to make this work possible.



### KEY FIGURES\*

**1.6M**

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

**1.3M**

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

**328K**

People internally displaced due to conflict prior to February 2021, mainly in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, and Shan

**55K**

Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.<sup>1</sup>

\*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently verified as displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Two months into 2023, reports of civilian casualties, displacement and destruction of civilian properties have continued. As of 27 February 2023, more than 1.6 million remained displaced across the country, according to the latest UN figures. This includes more than 1.3 million people who were displaced since the military takeover and more than

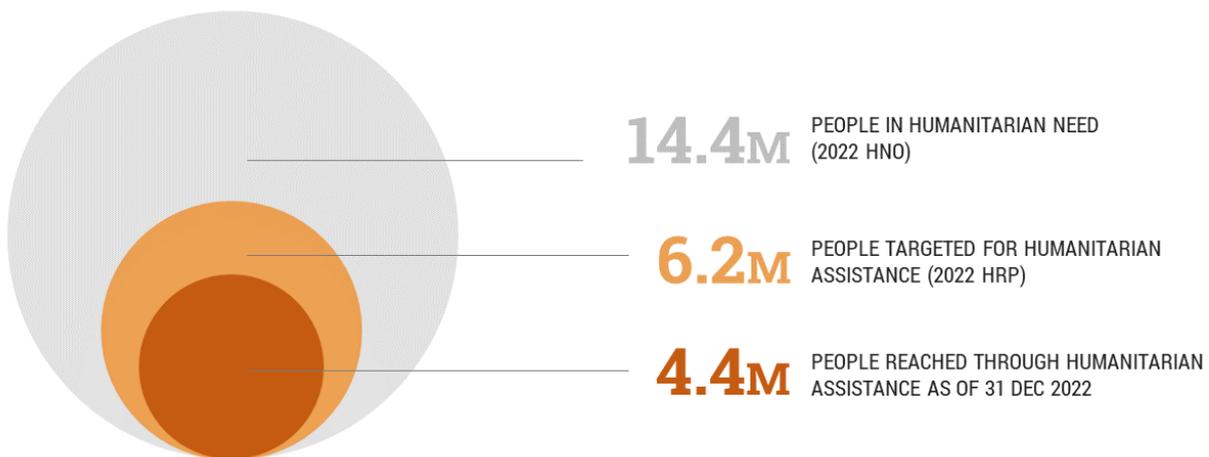
<sup>1</sup> Data for Myanmar (up to 31 January 2023)

328,000 people who were displaced from previous conflicts. Of the total IDPs since the military takeover, the Northwest is hosting the highest number - now 915,000 people - followed by the Southeast - 379,200 people.<sup>2</sup> IDPs are living in precarious situations in camps and informal sites, often in jungles and forests, with large-scale returns impossible due to the intensity of fighting, landmines, destruction of homes through aerial bombardment, and loss of livelihoods.

Humanitarian partners estimate that 17.6 million people are in need in 2023. The [2023 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) targets 4.5 million people with the most severe needs, predominantly in conflict-affected rural areas.<sup>3</sup> This will require the removal of physical and bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian access and more generous funding than was received last year (41 per cent of requirements in 2022). Two months into 2023, the humanitarian response plan is only two per cent funded. Generous funding for humanitarian interventions this year is critical.

In 2022, humanitarians were able to reach a record 4.4 million people, including 750,00 IDPs, with at least one form of assistance, at least once, however the assistance wasn't as deep, multi-sectoral or sustained as planned due to underfunding and severe access constraints. This reach includes 900,000 people in the Southeast, more than 660,000 people in Rakhine, more than 500,000 people in the Northeast and almost 270,000 people in the Northwest.

## 2022 RESPONSE OVERVIEW



### Informal ceasefire provides respite for communities in Rakhine and southern Chin

An informal ceasefire, signed at the end of November between the MAF and the AA, ended four-months of intense fighting in Rakhine and southern Chin. It brought huge relief to affected communities and displaced people with some choosing to return home. According to the latest UN figures, as of 20 February, more than 230,000 people remain displaced across Rakhine. This includes 86,000 IDPs from past and present AA-MAF conflict since end of 2018 and more than 140,000 Kaman and Rohingya IDPs, who have been living in formal camps established in 2012.

Following the ceasefire, most of the roads and water routes have reopened and the restricted areas have become more accessible. Since December 2022, humanitarian partners have been able to gradually resume their operations and deliver lifesaving assistance to people in need. The lifting of travel restrictions has permitted the transportation of vital medicines and medical supplies, which had been blocked during the fighting in Rakhine.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a bi-annual revision process, the number of protracted IDPs has recently been revised downwards from 330,400 to 328,000, as of 31 December 2022, mainly due to a small group transitioning towards more durable solutions

<sup>3</sup> [Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 \(January 2023\) - Myanmar | ReliefWeb](#)

The assistance that has been provided so far includes food and other relief items. For instance, in December 2022, 45 longhouses for about 2,145 IDPs in Kaman and Rohingya camps were constructed, and reconstruction of 60 longhouses for more than 2,600 Rohingya IDPs in Sittwe township is underway. Shelter and NFIs kits were provided to IDPs in Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships in Rakhine. In addition, WASH partners organized 394 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies to 91 of the 151 AA-MAF displacement sites across 8 townships in Rakhine, reaching almost 49,000 IDPs in December 2022 and nearly 54,000 IDPs in January 2023. In Chin, WASH partners distributed water filters, water pumps and fan blades, jerrycans, buckets, hygiene kits, bars of soap, and sanitary pads to more than 39,815 IDPs in 231 of the 336 displacement sites across 6 townships in December 2022. Formal, and informal educational activities have also resumed in Rakhine, and humanitarians were able to visit several townships to assess the situation facing affected and displaced people.

Despite these positive developments, physical and bureaucratic impediments continue to prevail across Rakhine and southern Chin. Access by the UN and INGOs to Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships is still limited to specific locations in and around urban areas, and many of the rural areas are still inaccessible to international staff. Delays and heavy scrutiny at checkpoints, although shortened from four to two hours during recent weeks in certain locations, are still hindering the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. Obtaining travel authorization, which is a prerequisite to access affected areas across the state, is a long process and has faced delays due to the fluid situation.

Just before the ceasefire began in November 2022, the UN estimated that more than 23,000 people were forcibly displaced from their homes and villages due to the four-months of fighting. With the pause in fighting, some of these new IDPs have gradually returned to their villages of origin. Those who remain displaced fear the resumption of clashes, the risk of landmines and the lack of livelihood opportunities at home. Pressure has nevertheless been mounting on this group to return. The de facto authorities have also indicated that they plan to close the Kyauk Ta Lone camp in Kyaukpyu township in Rakhine by end of March 2023 and to relocate the 334 households (about 1,000 Rohingya and Kaman people) to a new site where there are concerns about flood proofing and access to livelihoods. The UN and its humanitarian partners continue advocating with the relevant authorities to ensure the realization of durable solutions for the displaced people.

## Ongoing displacement amid fighting during February

Intense conflict, compounded by tight security and access restrictions on the movement of people and goods in multiple states and regions, continues to endanger the lives and safety of the people of Myanmar and undermine their livelihoods.

**Across the Southeast**, the security situation remained tense due to ongoing clashes with airstrikes and artillery fire, as well as the heavy presence and movement of MAF troops. Following the imposition of martial law in 14 new townships in Bago, Kayah, Kayin and Tanintharyi on 2 February 2023, MAF troops have reportedly installed new checkpoints, prompting people to flee out of fear of potential fighting in their area.

**In Kayah**, civilian casualties, displacement and destruction of civilian properties continued amid artillery fire, aerial bombardment and the use of explosive ordnance. On 6 February, four civilians were reportedly killed and another two seriously injured when their car hit a landmine near Za Yat Hpyu village, at the exit from Loikaw town. A clinic in Loikaw township that was providing services to IDPs was reportedly destroyed by aerial bombardment. Local partners reported that the IDPs were relocated to safer areas. Fighting was reported along the Pekon-Moe Bye-Loikaw Road, and on 7 February, the local People's Defense Forces (PDFs) announced the temporary shutdown of this road and warned locals to evacuate. On 9 February, a 19-year-old girl and 13-year-old boy from Loikaw township sustained injuries in armed clashes. Due to ongoing fighting and travel restrictions, humanitarian organizations have been struggling to reach and assist IDPs in many conflict areas. On 14 February, the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force (KNDF) announced that the Loikaw-Bawlake Road is blocked until further notice and advised locals not to use it. This is one of three main roads that residents of villages along this road have been using as an alternative route since other roads are already restricted by the MAF.

**In southern Shan**, fighting continued in Pekon township along the border with Kayah. On 4 February, a church and at least 10 houses were reportedly destroyed by 2 artillery shells in War Yi Kaw Khu village of this township, according to local partners. In addition, an unverified number of people fled their homes to safer locations.

**In Kayin**, armed clashes between the MAF and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and its allied forces continued to be reported in Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships since early this year. The MAF reinforced its presence and operations in these two townships which have been placed under martial law since 2 February 2023. Since 8 February, the Walley-Kapale Road in the southern part of Myawaddy township has been closed by the KNLA.

Furthermore, the MAF has set up more checkpoints in the area. Consequently, all movements, including the movement of local humanitarian organizations, across Kayin have been strictly limited. In Kyainseikgyi township, there were increasing reports of arrests, interrogations, and extortion at checkpoints, as well as shootings at night. These measures have triggered fear among the residents and affected their access to basic services and livelihoods. In Kawkareik township, about 3,600 people from 13 villages who fled their homes on 10 February due to airstrikes and heavy artillery fire, are still sheltering in nearby forests or across the border in Thailand. Due to similar airstrikes in Hpapun township, six houses, seven schools and other public infrastructure have reportedly been burnt down or destroyed in February, according to local partners. Between 19 and 20 February, three displaced people, including a child, were reportedly injured by artillery shelling in Kawkareik township. On 21 February, MAF troops reportedly burned seven houses in Thandaung town in Thandaunggyi township following an exchange of fire with local PDFs.

**In Bago**, sporadic armed clashes between the MAF and local PDFs, as well as attacks on and assassination of people perceived to be affiliated with or supporting the de facto authorities have been reported in multiple locations since early 2023. At least three de facto ward and village administrators were reportedly killed in Paungde and Taungoo townships in early February 2023. On 13 February, an explosion reportedly occurred at the railway station in Nyaunglebin town in eastern Bago; three people were consequently killed and another nine people sustained injuries. In addition, some parts of the railway station building were damaged. On 14 February, a woman was injured, and her three-year-old daughter was reportedly killed during armed clashes near Thar Yar Kone village in Yedashe township.

**In Mon**, frequent armed clashes were reported in several townships in February. On 2 February, a 29-year-old driver of a private vehicle was reportedly shot dead on the road between Thanbyuzayat and Ye townships in the vicinity of a MAF convoy. On the same day, a young man in Lamaing town was injured by a landmine explosion and was admitted to a local hospital for treatment. **In Tanintharyi**, intense fighting was reported in Palaw and Tanintharyi townships. Consequently, two civilians were seriously injured in Palaw township on 9 February. An unconfirmed number of people were consequently displaced to safer locations. Partners are verifying the exact number and their locations to assess their needs. According to the latest UN figures as of 13 February, 14,886 IDPs remain in Palaw township and 8,200 IDPs remain in Tanintharyi township respectively.

**In Kachin**, the security situation remains fragile and tense due to continued reports of security incidents, including explosions, arbitrary detention, and killings. An explosion was reported in a middle school in Mohnyin town on 1 February. There were no civilian casualties as the school was closed at the time of incident. On 14 February, a 50-year-old man was severely injured due to a landmine explosion while searching for vegetables in Ndung Dabang area in Momauk township. On 20 February, brief fighting between the KIA and joint forces of the Border Guard Force (BGF) and a 'People's Militia', which are allied with the MAF, took place near a bridge on the road between Sadung and Waingmaw towns in Waingmaw township. Despite ongoing fighting, there were no reports of major new displacement across Kachin during the reporting period. More than 500 IDPs returned to their villages of origin in Momauk township between January and February 2023. Arbitrary arrests and forced recruitment remain major protection concerns in Kachin. On 14 February, the KIA and PDFs detained 20 young people in Waingmaw township reportedly for the purposes of forced recruitment. Following an intervention by Warshawng monks and elders from the Warshawng village, some have been released and negotiations continue for the remainder.

**In northern Shan**, armed clashes between the MAF and different ethnic armed organizations in Hseni, Kunlong, Kutkai, Lashio, Laukkaing, Mongmit, Nawngkhio and Muse townships have continued in early 2023. Consequently, temporary displacement of 11 families comprised of 43 people was reported in Lashio township due to fighting in the area in early February. However, the families returned to their homes on 8 February after the security situation had calmed down. More than 700 people were displaced in Mongmit township on 10 February and remain in displacement sites.

**In the Northwest**, conflict between the MAF and various local PDFs has continued during the reporting period. This involved airstrikes, mortar fire, raids, explosions, and landmine incidents, resulting in civilian casualties, and widespread destruction of houses and other civilian properties. Consequently, the number of IDPs across the Northwest has increased from 881,700 in the previous report to 915,000 as of 27 February 2023. More than 64,400 people were newly displaced across multiple townships in Magway and Sagaing, while displacement in Chin generally remained stable during February 2023. On 22 February, three more townships (Ayadaw, Shwebo and Wetlet) in Sagaing were brought under the declaration of martial law, bringing the total number of townships under martial law to 15 in Sagaing and 47 across the country.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### Humanitarian Access

Continued fighting, heavy military presence and installation of checkpoints are creating ongoing challenges for aid workers, further shrinking humanitarian space, at the same time that needs are rising. Martial law has now been extended to 47 townships in multiple states, mainly in the Southeast and Northwest. Challenges around MOUs and registration are hampering the ability of NGOs to secure travel authorizations, putting crisis-affected people at risk of missing out on the support they need to survive.

Humanitarian operations faced challenges in February due to ongoing military operations and hostilities in Kayin, Kayah, Sagaing, northern Shan, Chin, Magway, and eastern Bago. Administrative restrictions, including travel authorization approvals, were also a primary concern for partner organizations working mainly in Kachin, southern Shan, and Magway. Various access incidents were reported, including violence and threats against humanitarian personnel in Mandalay and Magway, which led to the detention of four aid workers and the abduction of a health worker in Mandalay. Security concerns resulted in the relocation of staff members from Sagaing by two humanitarian organizations, affecting their planned operations. Furthermore, many partners had to delay or cancel field missions in Magway, southern Shan, Kachin, and Kayah due to increased scrutiny and prolonged waiting times at military checkpoints. Some organizations were denied access to certain checkpoints, such as those leading to Hpakant and Hsihseng townships in Kachin and southern Shan.

The access situation in Rakhine moderately improved in February as humanitarian organizations received TAs for all townships, including those that were previously restricted. International staff were allowed to move within urban areas of northern and central Rakhine, Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, and southern Rakhine. As a result, humanitarian activities and services such as health referrals and transportation of goods and medicines, resumed.

### Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

*The information below is provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups in Myanmar. Information is self-reported by aid organizations to the relevant clusters on a monthly basis for inclusion in this update. Accordingly, this section is not necessarily reflective of all humanitarian interventions undertaken on the ground but rather those voluntarily reported by partners. All partners are encouraged to report their work via the relevant clusters to ensure good visibility of gaps and response. The ICCG's Information Sharing Protocol allows for this information to be shared in a non-identifiable manner.*

### Education in Emergencies

#### Needs

- Professional development training and mental and psychosocial support for teachers working in IDP camps remains an urgent need.
- Higher quality education support is still needed for displaced children and young people who are often denied access due to inadequate learning spaces, bureaucratic issues (e.g not possessing a transfer letter from their former school) or security challenges.
- In Kachin, the following needs were identified in January and early February 2023:
  - In Puta-O township, there is a need to distribute winter clothes for students. Schools in this township were closed due to very cold weather.
  - In northern Kachin, the Children's Comprehensive Development Center in Share Uma village in Sumprabum township needs to be repaired and there is a need for educational materials for the children in the center. In addition, the Basic Education Mission Middle School needs shelter repairs, clean drinking water, educational materials and sport equipment. This school has 137 students and 15 teachers and is located in a remote area.
  - In southern Kachin, according to multi-sectoral joint assessment conducted from 7-8 February, the newly displaced children in five displacement sites in Momauk and Bhamo townships continue to attend nearby schools within the same townships, but they need raincoats and umbrellas. IDPs also reported that pre-school-age children do not have access to early childhood care and development (ECCD) education.
- In Chin, there is an urgent need for Education in Emergency (EiE) activities in 18 villages in Falam township. These villages have been isolated due to ongoing fighting and access restrictions.

## Response

- In 2022, cluster partners reached 897,800 with educational services. This is 64 per cent of the target (1.4 million) in 2022.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in January 2023:
  - In Chin, Education in Emergencies training was organized for 46 volunteer teachers in 23 villages.
  - In Magway, Child Participation and Life Skill Multiplier training sessions were organized for teachers in four villages in Pauk township and in five villages in Myaing township, and a 'Social Emotional Learning (SEL) training was held for monastic teachers in three villages in Pakokku township.
  - One partner established Early Warning Early Response systems in Tedim township in Chin.
  - UNICEF and its implementing partners implemented Bring Back Learning (BBL) activities in 28 townships in Sagaing. BBL activities will be also implemented in Magway and Chin.
  - In Chin and Sagaing, with funds secured from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), cluster partners reconstructed 10 community learning centres and provided home-based learning (HBL) books to students.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in 2023:
  - In Kayah, partners conducted project orientation sessions on six new project areas in Demoso township.
  - In Kayin, partners enrolled 100 new non-formal education (NFE) students in Thandaunggyi township.
- In Mon, partners organized a 'Numeracy for All' training, as well as first-aid and teaching methodology training for volunteer teachers in Mawlamyine township. In addition, partners conducted a 'Volunteer for Development Standard' workshop for local CSOs in the same township.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Intense fighting, airstrikes and artillery fire have limited access to communities, delaying education service delivery, and making program implementation more expensive and difficult to execute.
- Due to supply chain disruptions and inflation, the cost of fuel, transport, electricity, and other inputs have continued to increase, negatively impacting the implementation of education services.

## Food Security

### Needs

- According to an assessment by the [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#) in published January 2023, the transformation of the food processing sector in Myanmar has stalled due to the twin crises of COVID-19 and the military takeover. The food processing sector, especially rice milling, is very important in Myanmar as it makes up more than 80 per cent of the revenue and value adding in the local industrial sector.
- According to IFPRI assessment, between 2020 and 2022, the value of food consumption significantly decreased by 30 and 36 per cent for rural and urban areas respectively. However, consumption levels in rural areas are still lower than in urban areas.

### Response

- In 2022, Food Security Cluster partners reached 3.5 million people, 86 per cent of the annual target. While a record in terms of reach, this assistance was not as deep or multi-sectoral as planned due to underfunding and access constraints. People were often only reached once and often only with one or two types of assistance, rather than a full package that covers all their needs. Food made up the vast majority of the assistance provided. Among the cluster's activities, agriculture support was particularly underfunded despite soaring needs, allowing partners to reach only 27 per cent of their target.
- In 2022, the Food Security Cluster continued to support people in hard-to-reach areas, mostly in the Northwest and Southeast, mainly through cash-based transfer (CBT) and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). During the fourth quarter of 2022, the overall highest number of people reached with food security services were Kayah, Kayin, Magway and Rakhine.
  - During January, WFP and its partners reached about 462,442 people (79 per cent of their monthly plan) in Magway, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kachin, Chin and Kayah. About 49 per cent of them received in cash assistance or a mixed rice and cash assistance as they have access to functioning markets.
- Food Security Cluster members provided unconditional cash distributions to 1,000 households in Demonso and Hpurso townships in Kayah and vegetable seeds and compound fertilizer to 7,300 households in several townships across Ayeyarwady, Kayin and southern Shan in January 2023.

## Gaps & Constraints

- The consistent underfunding of agriculture and livelihood projects, in favor of more emergency-type food assistance has led to an increasing number of people sliding into more severe levels of food insecurity as their assets continue to deplete.
- Continued increases in inflation – particularly in the cost of food and fuel - are impacting partners' implementation capacity. Inflation has forced cluster partners to adjust their programming by either decreasing the amount allocated per person or by decreasing the size of the assistance provided per person. The Cluster projected 40 per cent of inflation in its planning, however the cost of an average food basket increased by 53 per cent between January and December 2022.

## Health

### Needs

- Nationwide, essential medicines, first aid kits and emergency referral services are still urgently needed amid ongoing armed conflict.
- There is a need to consolidate the emergency and trauma care elements of the primary health care complementary package for IDPs, returnees, stateless and crisis-affected people.
- In Kachin, referral support to Emergency Maternal and Obstetric Care (EMOC) and Emergency Child Care (ECC) cases in one site in Waingmaw township and 9 sites in Bhamo township are urgently needed.
- Drug supplies to control non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as hypertension and diabetes, and for sexual and reproductive health services (e.g. long term contraception, medicines used in STI syndromic treatment) are needed nationwide. There is a heightened need for drugs to treat hypertension in southern Shan and Kayah in particular.

### Response

- In 2022, Health partners reached 552,900 people or 38 per cent of the annual target.
- In northern Shan, 9 mobile clinics provided 1,865 consultations in 26 IDP camps and vulnerable people in the community in 6 townships.
- In Kayah, the following responses were undertaken in January 2023:
  - 74 people in Hlaingbwe township and 127 people in Thandaunggyi township received primary healthcare services through mobile clinics.
  - 118 pregnant women received EMOC referral support, and 85 children received ECC support in Hlaingbwe and Thandaunggyi townships.
  - 1,117 people received essential healthcare consultation through mobile clinics in Hlaingbwe and Hpapun townships.
- In Kayah, health partners undertook the following response in January 2023:
  - Emergency referral support to government hospitals.
  - Provided fuel to ambulance that are operated by local civil society organizations (CSOs) and support in cost of maintenance.
  - Provided cash for food to IDPs in Loikaw township.
  - Provided emergency obstetric care to 13 pregnant women in IDP camps located in the eastern Loikaw.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Implementing healthcare services in conflict areas remains challenging because of frequent and scattered armed clashes, numerous checkpoints, transportation difficulties, the risk of explosive ordnance and movement restrictions.
- In Kachin, COVID-19 vaccination, routine immunization for children and other health service provision has been postponed in hard-to-reach areas due to safety and security concerns for both service providers and communities.
- In northern Shan, local organizations are facing challenges in implementing their interventions due to security risks, loss of Community Based Organizations (CBO) to partner with due to migration, and the impact of the new registration requirements and MoUs.
- In Kayah, blockages of transportation routes had a significant impact on delivering medicine supplies to conflict-affected areas in January 2023. Partners have been exploring alternative routes, but more advocacy efforts are needed to address this challenge.

## Nutrition

### Needs

- In Rakhine and the Northwest, there is a need to expand screening, early identification and referral of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to save lives through therapeutic nutritional interventions. Recent anecdotal evidence gathered through programmatic evaluation assessments based on representative surveys indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence levels above the 15 per cent WHO threshold in some areas. For example, in one such screening exercise in Minbya township, 23 severe acutely malnourished (SAM) children and 51 moderate acutely malnourished (MAM) children were newly detected and referred for treatment.
- In the Northwest and Shan, there is a lack of supplies of life-saving and preventive therapeutic foods with some partners facing imminent pipeline breaks for Vitamin A, de-worming tablets, micronutrient powders (MNP), ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF), and ready to use supplementary feeding (RUSF) and all types of wheat soya blends (WSB).
- With new partners coming into the nutrition response, there is a need to expanded capacity strengthening on community infant and young child feeding (CIYCF) and simplified approaches to the management of acute malnutrition as part of the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programme. In the Northwest in particular, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of more partners and conduct more trainings in Falam and Tedim townships as SAM and MAM cases are currently being referred elsewhere.

### Response

- In 2022, Nutrition partners reached 218,700 people or 21 per cent of the annual target.
- In Rakhine, WFP and its implementing partners screened 511 children under five years and 140 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for malnutrition.
- A total of 28,681 children (6-59 months old) received support through a blanket supplementary feeding programme.
- In the Southeast, partners provided 112 cartoons of RUTF supply for 2-months to 280 children with MAM in Myawaddy.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Delayed provision of travel authorizations is endangering the health and survival of malnourished children.
- In Rakhine, at least four organizations will terminate their programming at the end of March 2023 due to lack of ongoing funding.
- Access restrictions in some villages in Myebon township in Rakhine, in Hpakant, Bhamo, Momauk townships in Kachin, and in Kongyan township and some areas of Monekoe in Muse township in Shan affected the delivery of supplies and services to affected people. More advocacy efforts are needed to lift these restrictions.
- In Shan, the impact of the new NGOs registration requirements has started to affect people in need in Tangyan, Namtu, Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Mongyai townships due to the suspension of operations.
- In the Northwest, planned nutrition activities in Kampalet and Mindat townships from Chin have not been able to start due to lack of access. The Nutrition Cluster is working with the Access Working Group to explore various modalities of response.
- In the Southeast, delivery of nutrition services in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah, and Kawkereik and Hpapun townships in Kayin due to fighting, checkpoints and inaccessible roadblocks. The Nutrition Cluster is working with the Access Working Group to explore various modalities of delivery and is also working on a plan to pre-position supplies for emergencies.

## Protection

### Needs

- Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to pose a threat to the life and safety of civilians in Myanmar. Landmines are being laid indiscriminately and randomly within communities. Whilst the full picture of contamination remains unclear, data on mine incidents indicates that the presence of contamination is having a devastating impact on people's lives all over the country. The numbers of landmine/ERWs incidents and casualties reported in 2022 stood at 390 - the highest recorded in the past 5 years.
- Persistent pressure by the de facto authorities for IDPs to return to their villages of origin in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan remains a major protection concern. In Rakhine, IDPs from the AA-MAF conflict are being pressured to return without any commitment to repair damaged and destroyed homes and infrastructure and without assurances of their personal safety and security.

- Nationwide, children are suffering from severe mental health and psychosocial distress. Violence at home and in the community continues to be reported.
- In the Southeast, the following concerns and needs were identified:
  - Death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling; arrest and detention; destruction of civilian property; and restrictions on humanitarian access remain major protection concerns in Kayah and southern Shan. Of particular concern is the situation in Loikaw, Demoso, Hpruso, Bawlekhe, Shadaw and Hpasawng townships in Kayah.
  - Arbitrary arrest and detention; destruction of civilian properties; and death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling remain the main protection risks in Kayin, Mon, Tanintharyi and eastern Bago. Main areas of concern are Hpapun, Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi in Kayin; Kyaikhto, Bilin and Thanphyuzayat in Mon and Kyaukkyi, Shwegyin in eastern Bago due to heavy fighting during January.
- In the Northwest, humanitarian needs remain extremely high, particularly in Sagaing and Magway, due to high displacement, regular airstrikes, use of landmines, ERW, and destruction of civilian properties. There is a particular need to enhance protection for children, as well as survivors of gender-based violence and explosive ordnance incidents.
- In Kachin, reports of drug use, early marriage, and child trafficking were on the rise in January.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs continue to prevail:
  - Humanitarian needs remain high in the previously restricted townships despite the gradual resumption of humanitarian assistance.
  - Concerns are increasing over arrest or detention of Rohingya IDPs, including children, who are trying to leave Myanmar through irregular travel routes in search of better living conditions and opportunities.
  - Mine action activities, including clearance and mine risk education, are urgently needed, especially in Ponnagyun, Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Myebon townships, which have witnessed heavy fighting over recent months.

## Response

- In 2022, Protection partners reached 1.4 million people or 70 per cent of the annual target.
- Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities have continued across the country. EORE remains the only available intervention to save lives and minimize number of casualties and maiming in Myanmar as landmine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal activities are not permitted. The number of people reached through EORE is low in comparison to needs. Most of the partners have adjusted delivery to overcome security and access challenges. These adjustments, along with a response-wide commitment to mainstream EORE into broader humanitarian interventions, aim to increase reach with these awareness trainings in 2023. Partners are also conducting surveys to determine the extent of contamination and they continue to advocate for mine action activities beyond EORE.
- Child Protection partners have continued to provide awareness raising activities on key child protection issues across the country. Adolescent programming, GBV mitigation and prevention activities, MHPSS and case management were key priorities in January 2023. In addition, capacity strengthening on specific child protection issues continued to be provided to AoR members to strengthen prevention, response and monitoring of cases. Additionally, 748 child protection kits have been distributed to 2,244 displaced children in Kayin and Mon.
- In the Southeast, partners undertook the following responses in January 2023:
  - UNHCR and its implementing partners completed four Rapid Protection Assessments in Kayin, Shan South, eastern Bago and Tanintharyi. They also provided essential core relief items to 41 displaced families in Hpa-An township and 5 laptops to a women's organization in Thandaunggyi township, both in Kayin, to conduct computer classes for GBV survivors; 20 tables and chairs to the Karen Public High School in Htantatabin township in eastern Bago; and reached 261 Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) with cash assistance in Kayin, Mon, eastern Bago and Tanintharyi.
  - During a joint distribution mission in four townships in Shan South from 9-14 January, UNHCR distributed essential relief items to 1,556 households.
  - Rapid Protection Assessments and Post Distribution Monitoring was conducted in Kayah and southern Shan remotely. Age Gender Diversity (AGD) training for the ECHO FLER partners in Taunggyi was organized from 31 January to 2 Feb 2023.
  - UNFPA distributed adolescent dignity kits to 800 adolescent girls in IDP camps in Kawkareik township in Kayin.
  - GBV partners distributed 604 dignity kits to women and girls at IDPs sites in four townships in southern Shan during.
- In the Northwest, gender-based violence, child protection, mine action and other protection interventions have continued during January despite access constraints and funding limitations. More interventions are required,

particularly in conflict affected and hard-to-reach areas. Child protection in emergency (CPiE) workshops have been organized for Child Protection actors to enhance quality of care provided.

- In Rakhine, the Protection Cluster and its members continued to undertake the following activities in January:
  - Close monitoring of the humanitarian situation and provision of protection services, including GBV, protection and child protection, MHPSS and mine action.
  - The Protection Cluster and OCHA continue to advocate with the relevant authorities around safe and voluntary return of IDPs in line with the National Resettlement and Camp Closure Plan
  - Monitoring freedom of movement and its impact on access to services by IDPs living in the 2012 protracted IDP camps.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In the Southeast, the following challenges were prominent in January 2023:
  - Access remains a huge challenge due to unpredictable armed clashes, landmines, checkpoints, and breakdown of telecommunication and internet services. EORE awareness is essential for all partners and affected people.
  - Ongoing fighting and road blockages continue to put legal aid providers at risk and undermine their access to courts in Myawaddy and in Kawkareik township in Kayin.
  - Due to the unstable situation, the police are increasingly reluctant to take action in relation to GBV cases, limiting legal operations for survivors.
  - Partners are facing challenges in supporting the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) and child protection case management, due to access restrictions and safety risks. To address this, partners have been relying on community-based volunteers to provide services where they are available. Solutions are more challenging where community-based volunteers are not available. More advocacy efforts are needed to ensure access of aid workers and their safety.
- In the Northwest, humanitarian access constraints and shortfalls in funding continue to impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance at a time when needs are increasing.
- In Rakhine, protection partners are still facing difficulties in reaching affected people despite November's ceasefire agreement.

### Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

#### Needs

- In Kachin, more than 600 households have been displaced in Mohnyin and Waingmaw townships since mid-2022. Among them, 12 households (about 60 IDPs) in Mohnyin township need shelter support as they cannot afford to pay rent. There is also a need for monitoring as some new displacement sites in Waingmaw township may temporarily close because IDPs are planning to return to their villages of origin by the end of March.
- In Rakhine, the number of IDPs from the AA-MAF conflict remained stable with only some fluctuation in a couple of townships. More than 6,000 displaced households remain in need of shelter assistance in AA-MAF displacement sites in central Rakhine. Pressure by the de facto authorities continues to be exerted on IDPs to return.
- In the Northwest, affected and displaced people are in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, including clothing, blankets and mosquito nets.
- Across the Southeast, new displacement was reported in all states and regions in January 2023, particularly with a large-scale displacement reported in Kyondoe town of Kawkareik township. More than 11,100 new displaced people were verified in the Southeast and the vast majority require shelter and other assistance.

#### Response

- In 2022, Shelter, CCCM and NFI partners reached 516,200 people or 83 per cent of the annual target.
- In Kachin, cluster partners have identified resources to provide NFIs to four displacement sites in Mohnyin township, including some in hard-to-reach areas. One of the cluster partners is on-site to conduct further assessments as only one agency can travel to the displacement sites. Cluster partners are currently monitoring the security situation and aim to arrange for the transportation of relief items before the monsoon season in June, as some displacement sites will be inaccessible during the monsoon season.
- In northern Shan, roofing sheets were provided to 16 families in February to repair their houses that were damaged during shelling in Namhsan township.
- In central Rakhine, in January, cluster partners provided NFIs to 566 displaced households who recently arrived in displacement sites. In parallel, shelter reconstruction of 60 longhouses for more than 2,600 Rohingya IDPs is underway in Sittwe township.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners conducted an assessment in new displacement sites in Chin, Magway and Sagaing. During January, 177 households (914 IDPs) who have lost their houses in Indaw township in Sagaing

received cash assistance. About 40 households (195 IDPs) in Pakokku township in Magway received NFI support. Basic CCCM training was also conducted for nine community leaders from Chin.

- Across the Southeast, cluster partners provided NFIs, including roofing sheets and winter kits, to 3,837 households (14,275 IDPs) in Taungoo township in eastern Bago; in Demoso, Hpruso and Loikaw townships of Kayah; in Hsihseng, Lawksawk, Loilen, Pekon and Pinlaung townships of southern Shan; and in Hpa-An, Myawaddy and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin during January.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In northern Shan, major gaps remain in the preparedness for assistance with a majority of the camps now slated for closure by the de facto authorities.
- In Kachin, for those new displacement sites in Mohnyin, Momauk and Waingmaw townships, further resources are needed to prepare for prolonged settlement.
- In central Rakhine, speculative land sales within Rohingya and Kaman camps in Sittwe township continue to threaten humanitarian space and infrastructure and limit the potential options for long-term solutions. The de facto authorities are moving forward with the camp closure of Kyauk Ta Lone Camp and the relocation of Rohingya and Kaman IDPs into a flood prone and poorly designed relocation site in Kyaukpyu township.
- In the Northwest, access constraints remain a major challenge for procurement and transportation of humanitarian aid. The new NGO registration requirements are likely to increase delivery challenges. Some IDPs in Chin are reportedly being pushed to return to their villages of origin without any assistance.
- Partners were required to postpone or change their implementation modality in January due to access restrictions caused by increased checkpoints. Humanitarian volunteers across different regions, who are implementing humanitarian responses, often had to flee as communities were targeted.
- The banking system is not properly functional, hindering timely implementation of activities by partners. Carrying cash to the communities puts volunteers at additional risk due to reports of robberies.
- Access constraints, safety, and security risks, including for humanitarian workers, present serious impediments to responses in the Southeast. Due to conflict and TA requirements, the delivery of NFIs and shelter materials to IDPs in Hpapun, Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships in Kayin; Kyaukkyi township in eastern Bago; Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah; and Pekon township in southern Shan remains very limited.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- In the Northwest, 72 per cent of 700 displacement sites covered by WASH partners still lack appropriate sanitation; and 100 per cent of them had hygiene gaps in December 2022 due to shortfalls in funding and access constraints (Cluster 3W analysis, December 2022).
- In Rakhine, 48 per cent of 155 AA-MAF displacement sites still lack sufficient water; 41 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 46 per cent still have hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, December 2022).
- In northern Shan, nearly 70 households (more than 300 IDPs) who have been living in Monekoe area in Muse township are in need of latrines. In addition, regular hygiene items, water purification materials and water supplies are reportedly needed for thousands of IDPs in various sites and camps across northern and southern Shan.

### Response

- In 2022, WASH partners reached 1 million people or 51 per cent of the annual target.
- In Rakhine, WASH partners organized 287 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies to 100 of the 155 AA-MAF displacement sites across 8 townships, reaching 53,554 IDPs in January. These supplies included 6,934 hygiene kits, about 4,249 sanitary pads for women and girls, more than 2,552 bars of soap, 931 jerrycans/water buckets, and 202 water filters.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners distributed 355 jerrycans/water buckets, 355 hygiene kits, more than 760 bars of soap and 760 sanitary pads in January, reaching:
  - 39,815 IDPs in 231 of the 336 displacement sites across 6 townships in Chin
  - 3,868 IDPs in 21 of the 52 displacement sites across 2 townships in Magway
  - 89,091 IDPs in 128 of the 312 displacement sites across 12 townships in Sagaing
- In Kachin, a partner provided soap for 119 newly displaced households at 2 monasteries and 1 displacement camp in Momauk township in January.
- In Shan, the following WASH responses were undertaken in January:
  - UNICEF provided water purification items, 500 bars of soap and 2 water filters to 210 affected families from Kone Thar and Hu Man villages in Namhsan township of northern Shan. In addition, another partner distributed hygiene kits to 84 families from the same 2 villages.

- A WASH partner provided 110 hygiene kits to 54 newly displaced families in Mongmit township of northern Shan.
- During the inter-agency multi-sector distribution in 4 townships in Hsiseng, Lawksawk, Loilen and Pinlaung townships in southern Shan between 9 and 14 January, WASH supplies were among 22 items that were provided to 1,542 households (5,650 IDPs).

### Gaps & Constraints

- WASH activities during the first quarter of 2023 are being supported with carryover funding from 2022 with only \$2m in new funding appearing in FTS for 2023.
- In Rakhine, access constraints and MOU requirements for WASH partners continue to impede the granting of TAs and the delivery of humanitarian items.
- In the Northwest and Southeast, access restrictions, blocking of transportation and insecurity continue to hinder WASH responses to affected people.
- Most WASH partners in the Northwest could not conduct assessments for new projects due to funding gaps. No hygiene kits were distributed in the Northwest as there were shortages in WASH supplies and contingency stocks in January.
- In southern Shan, with the increased movement restrictions by the de facto authorities, WASH partners have limited access to displacement sites. In northern Shan, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in protracted IDP camps and new relocation and resettlement sites are facing funding gaps during January 2023.

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