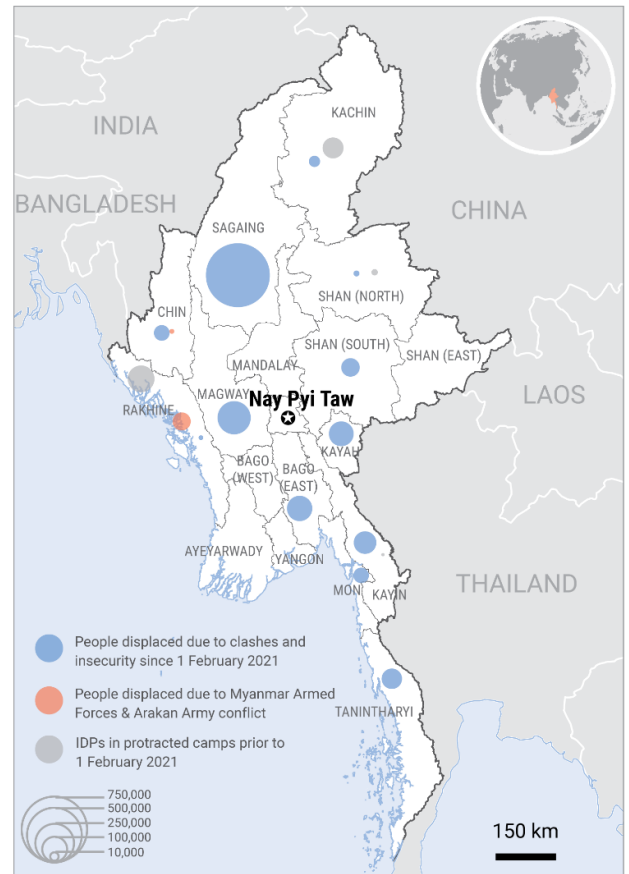


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 25 September, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued in October 2023.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Ongoing conflict and monsoon floods continue to cause new displacement, civilian casualties, and destruction of civilian properties, further worsening the already dire humanitarian situation in Myanmar.
- Nearly two million people are now internally displaced in precarious conditions and require lifesaving assistance.
- The threat to civilians from explosive ordnance is spreading with new data showing that for the first time, landmine casualties have now been recorded in every state and region, except Nay Pyi Taw.
- Local and international humanitarian partners continue to scale up and adapt in response to the deepening needs, reaching at least 1.8 million people during the first half of 2023.
- Access and administrative restrictions are causing prolonged delays or postponements of scheduled relief efforts, further compounding the suffering of affected and displaced communities.
- To date, the combined [US\\$887 million Humanitarian Response Plan and Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeals](#) remain critically underfunded, with only 28 per cent of the required funding received.
- Provision of additional financial support and easing of access restrictions are imperative for the humanitarian community to address urgent needs.



### KEY FIGURES\*

**2M**

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

**1.7M**

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

**306K**

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

**75K**

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

Nine months into 2023, humanitarian needs and protection risks have intensified throughout the country, driven by persistent conflict that has led to unprecedented levels of displacement, extensive property damage, and the expanding presence of landmines, particularly in the Northwest and Southeast. The United Nations Development Programme's

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

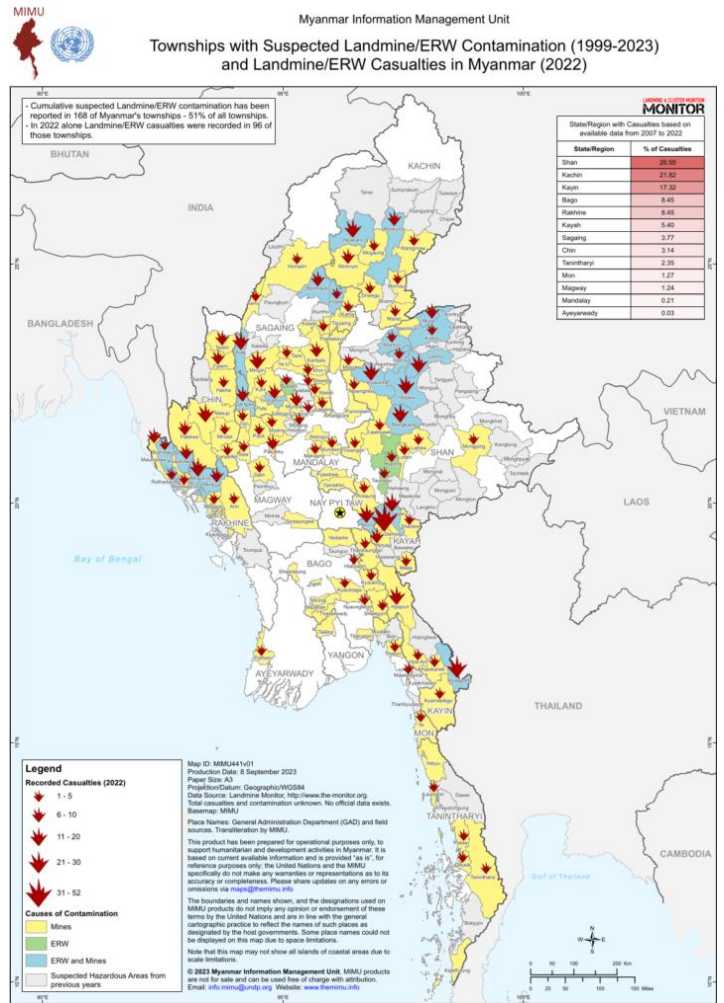
Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU), in collaboration with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), has produced its annual map for 2023 of townships with suspected contamination by anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Since 2021, for the first time, contamination by anti-personnel landmines has been reported in all states and regions except Nay Pyi Taw. Now, the latest data reveals that casualties due to landmines have occurred in every state and region of Myanmar, except Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

Nearly two million people remain internally displaced across the country – many of them multiple times. They face increase risks from explosive ordnance while they are on the move or staying in unfamiliar areas. In addition, more than 63,000 people remain displaced across borders into neighbouring countries since the 2021 military takeover.

Humanitarian partners are increasingly concerned about the SAC’s gradual implementation of the national IDP camp closure policy with many people being pushed to return to their places of origin or other locations even where this is against their wishes and is premature given the current security conditions. During the reporting period, approximately 100 out of 500 displaced families living in sites slated for camp closure in Kyauktaw township in Rakhine in 2023, had to return to their places of origin. The remaining IDPs face pressure to return by the end of the rainy season. Displaced families who were moved from the Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu township to a nearby relocation site, have been facing persistent flooding issues. In total, more than 50,000 IDPs nationwide are estimated to be at risk of premature return in 2023, particularly in Rakhine, Chin and Shan. They face potential protection concerns, lack of livelihood opportunities, absence of social services, and inadequate shelter in villages affected by conflict. Many IDPs are expressing fears about safety in their home villages in conflict areas where there is often ongoing fighting and significant explosive ordnance contamination. Sustained access to those who have been prematurely returned, reclassified or relocated by the State Administration Council under this policy remains crucial so that conditions and needs can be monitored, and assistance is not interrupted. Humanitarians continue to stress that any return, relocation, or reclassification of IDPs from displacement camps and sites must be safe, voluntary, informed and dignified, taking into account the wishes of affected people and the prospects for sustainable solutions that allow them to resume their normal lives.

Severe monsoon weather conditions also persist, triggering floods in multiple areas, mostly in the Northwest and Southeast, resulting in the destruction of civilian infrastructure, displacement and new humanitarian needs. Thousands of people sought refuge in evacuation centres or safer areas on higher ground in August, with most of them returning to their homes in September. Nevertheless, many remain in need of support as they have lost their homes and belongings due to flooding. Local and international partners have extended immediate assistance wherever access is possible.

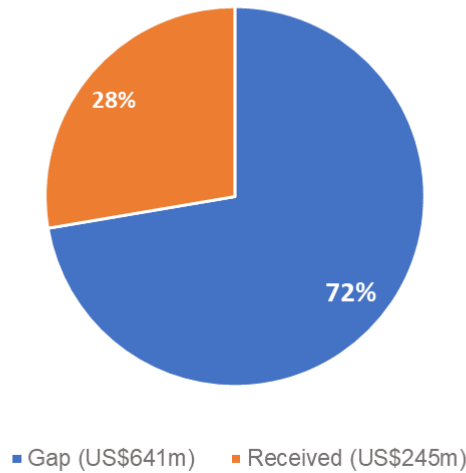
Suffering is being exacerbated by significant access constraints, despite sporadic openings in some areas in recent months. Administrative and physical access limitations have intensified in the Southeast and Kachin, curtailing people’s ability to access critical services and impeding the distribution of aid to affected communities. In the face of these formidable challenges, at least 1.8 million people received humanitarian assistance in the first half of the year<sup>2</sup>. However, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal remain severely underfunded, with only a fraction (27 per cent) of the total requirement secured. This shortfall jeopardizes



<sup>2</sup> Myanmar: Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 - Mid-Year dashboard (Jan - June 2023) - Myanmar | ReliefWeb

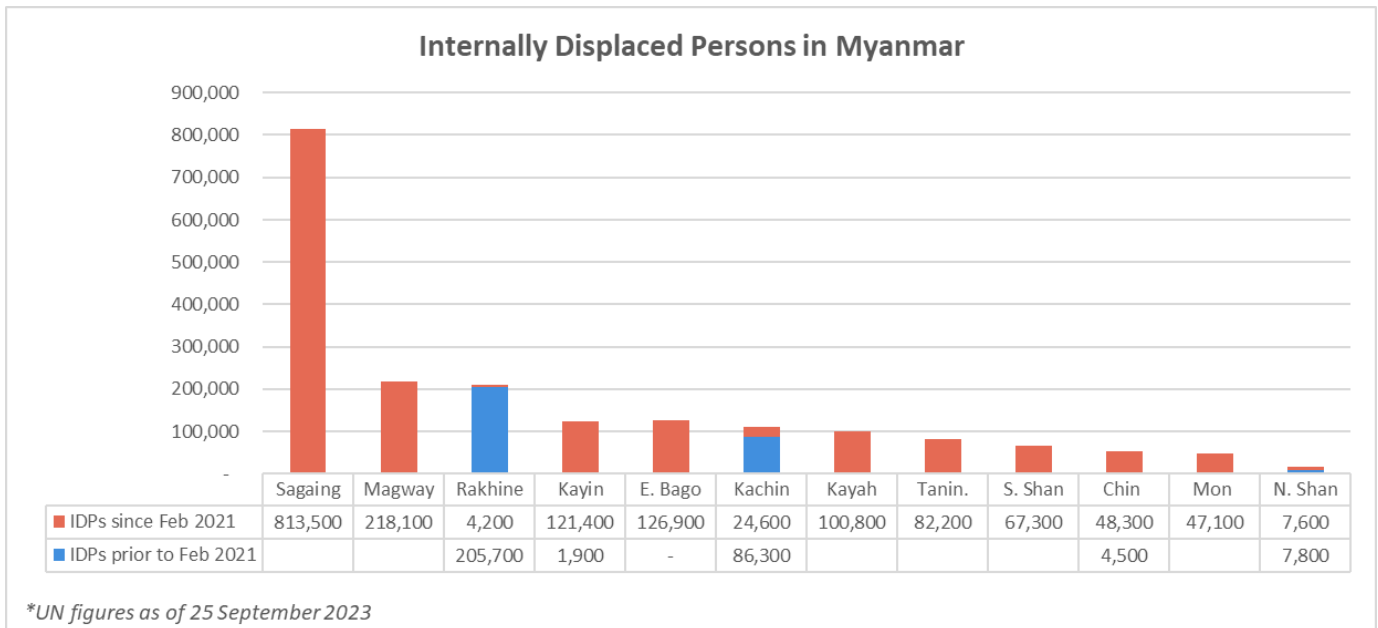
comprehensive assistance delivery and negatively impacts vulnerable communities. Urgent and substantial funding is essential to alleviate suffering and enhance the resilience of the affected communities amid this multifaceted crisis.

Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan + Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal- 2023 (US\$886.7m)\*



**Ongoing conflict and monsoon floods drive severe humanitarian needs**

Since the 2021 military takeover, close to 1.7 million people have been forced from their homes due to violence and insecurity. This is in addition to more than 306,000 people who were displaced during previous conflict, taking total displacement to almost 2 million people. The Northwest continues to host the highest number of new IDPs with more than a million people displaced in Chin, Magway and Sagaing, while the Southeast accounts for more than half a million IDPs across Kayah, eastern Bago, Kayin, southern Shan, Mon, and Tanintharyi. An estimated 75,000 civilian properties, including houses, religious structures, education, and health facilities, have reportedly been destroyed in conflict-affected areas, mostly across the Northwest and the Southeast, although this data is difficult to verify.<sup>3</sup>



Across the Southeast, armed conflict involving aerial bombardment and artillery shelling continues to lead further displacement, civilian casualties, and destruction of houses. The overall number of IDPs in the Southeast has

<sup>3</sup> Data for Myanmar (up to 31 July 2023)

increased since late August. This includes the displacement of more than 26,800 people in eastern Bago, Kayin, southern Shan and Tanintharyi in September, as well as deaths and injuries and damage to more than 100 civilian structures including houses, religious and school buildings in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin and Tanintharyi. In the Southeast, although some of the 80,000 people affected by the August floods have now returned to their homes, a significant number remain displaced and in urgent need of assistance. Humanitarian partners have been assessing the situation of flood-affected communities and providing them with the necessary support where possible.

In the Northwest and central Myanmar, armed clashes and conflict-related hostilities continue in Chin, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing. Sagaing has seen intense fighting including clearance operations, multiple airstrikes, and ambush attacks in numerous townships over recent months. Consequently, more than 30,000 people fled their homes in Sagaing in early September. This includes approximately 10,000 IDPs from 21 villages in Wetlet township who were displaced due to military raids between 2 and 5 September. In addition, there were also deaths and injuries to civilians in Magway and Sagaing in September. In Mandalay, sporadic fighting took place in Mogoke, Myingyan, Singu and Thabeikkyin townships, while the security situation in Mandalay City area worsened with ambush attacks, random checks, and arbitrary arrests. In Sagaing, approximately 1,000 people from 6 wards in Kale town were relocated to safer locations on 8 September due to flooding.

In the Northeast, the security situation remains tense with frequent armed clashes in Kachin and northern Shan that resulted in new displacement and destruction of houses in several townships. In Kachin, at least 200 houses along Ayeyarwady River were reportedly burnt down in Shwegu township. In northern Shan, more than 100 people from 2 villages were displaced to a monastery in Nawngkhio township on 11 September where they remain.



*Food distribution in Bilin township, Mon in August. Credit: Partner/2023*

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

**Humanitarian Access:** The humanitarian access situation in the country remains challenging, with significant restrictions largely due to refusal of travel authorizations, bureaucratic barriers, ongoing armed clashes, and natural disasters such as flooding and landslides that are hampering operations. Active military operations in more than 10 states and regions - including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Sagaing and Shan - have significantly affected planned humanitarian activities, forcing humanitarian partners to halt basic health and education services for more than 10 days in some areas. Humanitarian movement through several key access routes was affected in the conflict zones due to closures following armed clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and their allies. Attacks, armed confrontations and airstrikes are reported to have damaged four healthcare facilities in Sagaing and Kayah, including one that was set on fire. Two ambulances in eastern Bago were reportedly

attacked, injuring a health worker and causing considerable damage. Additionally, the MAF imposed a travel ban on the Bhamo and Myitkyina road in Kachin, and several humanitarian initiatives were stopped in Tanintharyi township where the MAF restricted the movement of supplies. In two separate incidents, five aid workers, including three medical doctors, were reported to have been detained by the MAF in Rakhine and Tanintharyi.

The humanitarian sector has increasingly faced bureaucratic obstacles, including Travel Authorization refusals, in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Tanintharyi, and both northern and southern Shan. This has resulted in prolonged delays or postponements of scheduled relief efforts. In Rakhine, two UN shipments of cyclone relief supplies have arrived in Sittwe with Travel Authorizations for distributions to hundreds of locations submitted and now pending approval. The Arakan Army continues to demand that humanitarian partners register with them, while partners in Chin state were asked to obtain prior authorization from another EAO for the movement of staff and goods.

## Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

*The information below is provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups/areas of responsibility 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

- In Kachin, provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services is still required for students and teachers in Bhamo, Chipwi, Mansi, Momauk, Puta-O and Waingmaw townships.
- In Rakhine, there is an immediate need to rehabilitate 62 public schools in Rathedaung township that were destroyed or damaged during Cyclone Mocha. They need school furniture, WASH facilities, and teaching materials.
- In the Northwest, the following needs were identified in August:
  - Teaching and learning materials for more than 3,840 primary and secondary students (2,160 boys, 1,682 girls) and 140 volunteer teachers (32 men and 108 women) in Kale and Tamu townships in Sagaing as well as in Pauk, Saw, Seikphyu, and Yesagyo townships in Magway.
  - Essential supplies, including first aid kits, recreational materials, solar batteries, and inverters, are required to support the wellbeing of 300 children (158 boys and 142 girls) and allow nighttime studies in Gangaw township, Magway.
- In northern Shan, there is an urgent need to provide Essential Learning Packages (ELP) for 43 newly displaced children who are currently sheltering in the Lashio Catholic Church Compound. These children are among 82 people, who were displaced in late August due to heavy fighting in Lashio township.
- In the Southeast, the following needs were identified in August:
  - Essential education items, such as stationery, teaching and learning materials, umbrellas, and incentive fees for teachers, are needed in IDP temporary learning centres (TLCs) in Demoso and Hpruso townships.
  - There is a need to establish Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah.
  - More than 59 schools in Bilin, Chaungzon, Kyaikmaraw, Mawlamyine, Mudon, Paung, and Thaton townships have been shut down since 8 August after being affected by flooding. They now need renovation.

#### Response

- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - In Minbya and Mrauk-U townships, a partner provided monthly incentives to 38 volunteer teachers (20 men and 18 women) and 24 community facilitators (15 men and 9 women), benefiting a total of 2,346 students (1,231 boys and 1,115 girls). Additionally, the partner also provided 840 roofing sheets for 13 public schools in these townships, where 2,000 children (858 boys and 1,142 girls) are studying.
  - In Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, and Sittwe townships, one partner started an Open Learning Program for 49 displaced students, 38 of whom have disabilities.
  - Education partners distributed ELPs to 7,840 children (3,710 boys and 4,130 girls) in 23 monastic schools and 13 public schools in 7 townships.

- In Pauktaw and Sittwe townships, partners assessed 30 students in TLCs for Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and provided MHPSS services to 15 children (10 boys and 5 girls) and their caregivers.
- In Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung townships, a partner distributed student kits to 46 children (35 boys and 11 girls), conducted an education awareness session for 210 parents and caregivers, and identified safe spaces for catch-up classes, benefiting 684 students (387 boys and 297 girls). Additionally, 1,650 children (837 boys and 813 girls) in 8 monastic schools received individual ELPs to support their learning during this academic year.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - Cluster partners provided incentive fees to 16 female Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilitators and 134 volunteer teachers (34 men and 100 women) in Kale and Tamu townships in Sagaing as well as Gangaw, Pauk, Saw, Seikphyu and Yesagyo townships in Magway.
  - In Magway, a training on learning and wellbeing in emergency and reading club sessions were organized for 26 staff members of education partners and for 933 primary students (712 boys, 221 girls) in Pauk and Saw townships. In Gangaw township, learning materials were distributed to 300 primary students (158 boys, 142 girls).
- In northern Shan, cluster partners carried out education response activities, including basic life skills sessions, First Phase Response (FPR) kits, recreational activities, personal hygiene, and learning materials for 43 students (23 boys and 20 girls) in Lashio township. Teacher kits were also distributed to five camp-based teachers.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - In southern Shan, partners distributed workbooks to 3,713 students (1,909 boys and 1,804 girls) and 706 guidebooks on basic education volunteer teachers (159 men and 547 women) in Hsihseng, Nyaungshwe, Pekon, Pinlaung, and Taunggyi townships.
  - In Kayin, partners organized a 7-day Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) training session for 98 facilitators (97 women and 1 man), as well as an Open Learning training for 240 teachers (208 women and 32 men) in Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi, and Thandaunggyi townships.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, the following gaps and constraints were identified in August:
  - Progress on construction of TLCs was hindered due to the heavy rainfall.
  - One partner faced delays in receiving a travel authorization due to a lack of MOU, and the transportation of teaching materials in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, and Rathedaung was delayed due to bad road conditions caused by the heavy rains.
- In Kachin, parents of more than 200 students at the Tanai Church of Christ Camp face challenges affording essential educational materials due to increasing prices in Tanai township. In addition, challenges in transporting education supplies have caused delays in school repairs and material procurement in Momauk and Mansi townships.

### Food Security

#### Needs

- By mid-year, the Food Security Cluster had reached 1.1 of the 2.6 million people targeted for assistance in 2023, leaving significant unmet needs amid a severe funding shortfall (14 per cent of required funds received).
- Nationwide, there is an urgent need to increase financial support for agriculture and livelihood responses. To date, support for these interventions remains insufficient, leaving a gap of 585,000 people across the country.
- In Sagaing, an estimated 20,000 people from 52 villages in Ye-U township are having difficulties in accessing food due to ongoing military operations, including raids in these villages. The residents had to flee their homes multiple times, and many had their houses burnt down, losing all their belongings and food supplies.

#### Response

- Cluster partners undertook the following responses in July and August:
  - Partners distributed food and rice as well as cash for food assistance to approximately 484,600 people across Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine and Shan in July and August. This included a second-round of distributions to 3,800 IDPs in Pinlaung township in southern Shan, 14,200 IDPs in eastern Bago, and about 11,000 IDPs in Rathedaung township in Rakhine.

- Crop production inputs, including vegetable and paddy seeds, organic and non-organic fertilizers, and tarpaulins, were provided to about 4,870 families in 6 townships in Rakhine and in 2 townships in Ayeyarwady.
- Cash for food assistance was provided to about 9,000 families and productive grants for agriculture businesses were distributed to about 600 families in Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway and Shan.
- A partner provided food assistance to about 14,200 families in 22 townships; agricultural assistance to more than 600 families in 6 townships; and livestock support to about 400 families in 8 townships across Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Sagaing, and Shan in July.
- In Kachin, two partners distributed nutrition supplies and conducted agricultural and nutrition training across 6 villages in Bhamo township. Cash assistance was also provided in 3 villages in Shwegu township.
- In northern Shan, a partner provided cash assistance to 90 people in Kutkai township, 60 people to Namtu township and about 100 people in Namhkan township.
- In Chin, a partner distributed nutrition and food assistance to 1,000 people in Falam, Mindat, Tedim and Tonzang townships and cash assistance to families in Kanpetlet and Matupi townships.
- In Sagaing and Magway, one partner provided food assistance to 750 families in Yinmarbin and Saw townships.
- In Rakhine, cluster partners provided cash assistance to 1,250 families in Kyauktaw, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe townships, and food assistance to 600 families in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships. Furthermore, a partner distributed paddy seeds across 9 townships, while in Kyauktaw, another partner provided cash assistance to 1,350 families, organized home gardening training for 150 farmers, and supported another 100 farmers in preparing ponds for fish breeding.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Access challenges persist in the Northwest for Food Security partners, and the cluster presence remains low in Magway and Sagaing due to conflict and approval issues. Achieving the cluster's targets in most townships of Magway and Sagaing remains a considerable challenge. The Food Security Cluster has reached 184,218 people in the Northwest, which is 30 per cent of the 2023 target of 619,732 people.

### Health

#### Needs

- In Kachin, there is a need for essential medicines and medical supplies for health facilities in hard-to-reach areas across several townships. In particular, IDPs sheltering in forests and temporary displacement sites need health assistance, as mobile teams are not reaching these areas due to the unstable security situation.
- In northern Shan, people who were newly displaced in Muse township in July need basic health care and awareness-raising activities on health issues. In addition, there is a need for vitamin-A in Wa self-administrated area, as well as food or micronutrients for mothers and children in Mongyai township.
- In the Northwest, the following needs were identified:
  - In southern Chin, the townships affected by Cyclone Mocha are confronted with a two-fold challenge regarding health services with a shortage of healthcare professionals in public hospitals and limited partner access due to safety and security concerns.
  - In Sagaing, there is a need for basic health care services for over 6,000 newly displaced people in Kawlin, Wuntho, and Yinmarbin townships.
- In the Southeast, the following needs were identified:
  - In Kayin, Malaria commodities, medicines, and nutrition supplements are urgently needed for local communities and service providers in Hpa-An and Hlaingbwe townships.
  - In Kayin and Mon, there is a critical need for water purification tablets and hygiene kits to ensure safe and clean water supply in areas affected by flooding in August.

#### Response

- In Kachin, Cluster partners conducted 5,368 health consultations for patients in August. Health partners also provided medical assistance to four newly displaced pregnant women through community volunteers.
- In Northern Shan, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - Some 2,816 health consultations were provided through 5 mobile clinics in 11 IDP camps and 38 villages in 9 townships.
  - Health partners provided newborn kits and multi-vitamins to newly displaced pregnant women in Kokang Self-Administered Area. Additionally, partners have also arranged emergency patient referrals.

- Health partners continued to provide cash assistance, organized health education sessions on exclusive breastfeeding and danger signs among children under five, measuring mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC), and conducted school health activities in several townships.
- Health partners conducted screening for 3,100 suspected malaria cases in Hopang, Laukkaing and Mongmao townships. Some 141 malaria-positive cases were identified and treated. In addition, partners distributed long-lasting insecticide bed nets to affected families in these townships.
- In the Northwest, health partners conducted 1,124 health teleconsultations in 5 townships in Magway in August. In Chin, they provided an orientation session for 12 health partners on surveillance and event-based surveillance for communicable diseases, including vaccine-preventable diseases.
- In Rakhine, health partners provided consultations to 23,905 patients through mobile teams in 10 townships and provided cash assistance to 1,100 affected households in Rathedaung township via local partners.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - In Kayin, 634 people received primary health care services through 11 mobile clinics in Hlaingbwe (422) and Thandaunggyi (212) townships. In addition, 141 pregnant women received Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC) referral support, and 93 children received Early Childhood Care (ECC) referral support in Hlaingbwe, Hpa-An and Thandaunggyi townships. In Hlaingbwe and Kawkareik townships, some 600 Hygiene kits were distributed in flood-affected areas.
  - In Mon, 500 dignity kits were distributed in flood-affected areas.
  - Health partners provided emergency referral support to 68 patients, including 25 mothers and 38 children.
  - In Kayah, essential medicines were distributed to community-based volunteers to treat IDPs in Demoso and Hpruso townships.

### Gaps & Constraints

- The continuity of essential health services provision in conflict areas, especially in rural areas, remains a major challenge due to safety and security risks, along with funding constraints.
- In northern Shan, mobile clinic activities could not be conducted in several areas, including in Mongyai township, due to travel restrictions and administrative constraints.
- In Kayah, frequent airstrikes have affected mobile clinic activities in Demoso township.
- Malaria-related services and commodities remain a continuous gap in conflict-affected areas, where there is a shortage of partners.

### Nutrition

#### Needs

- A total of \$5.8 million is still needed for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and micronutrients to avoid the projected gap in supplies in September. If financial support is not urgently received, there is an increased risk of around 7,500 children falling ill or dying from malnutrition in Myanmar this year, out of nearly 40,000 children projected to be affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- In Rakhine, the following needs were identified in August:
  - There is an urgent need for the replenishment of 1,600 cartons of RUTF for proper treatment of children with SAM.
  - A service gap analysis conducted in Rakhine and Paletwa in Chin revealed that 142 out of the 178 MAF-Arakan Army (AA) displacement sites still lack appropriate nutrition response services for children under-5 due to access restrictions.
- In Kayin, nutrition supplements and micronutrient tablets remain in high demand to support mothers and children, particularly in conflict-affected areas.
- In the Northwest, 100 cartons of RUTF are urgently needed for proper treatment of children with SAM in Chin, Magway, and Sagaing. Additionally, micronutrient tablets and powders are urgently needed for preventative and therapeutic treatment. Some 43 children (18 boys, 25 girls) with SAM, 600 children (252 boys, 348 girls) with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and 227 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) urgently need treatment. Half of all confirmed cases will not receive timely treatment unless the necessary nutrition supplies are delivered.

#### Response

- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - More than 7,080 primary caregivers of children (0-23 months) received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) education and counselling.
  - In collaboration with WFP, IYCF messages were disseminated to more than 7,080 caregivers as part of WFP's food distribution activities.



- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - One partner provided individual top-up conditional cash assistance for 484 PLW for August and September to raise awareness about nutrition.
  - Cluster partners provided refresher trainings on mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) to 48 community health workers, camp-based staff, and volunteers (25 male, 23 female) in different townships, including Sittwe.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Nationwide, partners continue to face difficulties in transferring and transporting SAM and MAM patients for referral support due to increased fuel prices and roadblocks.
- In Kachin, except for WFP-supported partners providing support through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme, there is still a lack of other partners available for the management of SAM and other nutrition-specific services required in Mohnyin township. The Nutrition Cluster is exploring ways to address this gap, working in collaboration with other partners and clusters.
- In Chin, a new policy around registration and tax exemption that local People's Defense Forces (PDFs) are trying to impose on humanitarian programming could prevent access to affected communities, particularly those in hard-to-reach and underserved areas. Partners are currently discussing how to address this matter.
- In Sagaing, there are insufficient specialized nutrition service providers for various reasons, including lack of capacity and resources, as well as funding. The Nutrition Cluster is exploring ways to address this issue by encouraging partners to expand interventions into areas of high need and through collaboration with health partners already operating in the targeted areas.
- In Rakhine, the following gaps and constraints were identified:
  - Delays in the issuance of TAs continue to limit response coverage.
  - In seven townships in southern Rakhine, only two partners are implementing preventative nutrition services. Collaborative efforts are being made to meet nutrition needs for more than 700 estimated SAM cases, and more than 2,900 MAM cases in this area.
- Due to the lack of funding, there is a gap in cluster capacity to coordinate and strengthen localization efforts.

### Protection

#### Needs

- In the Southeast and Northwest, the following concerns and needs were identified in August:
  - Indiscriminate shelling, airstrikes and explosive ordnance continue to claim lives and threaten the safety and security of civilians. Arbitrary arrests and detention, and destruction of civilian properties, including health and education facilities, remain major protection concerns.
  - Ongoing conflict and various hostilities, movement restrictions and blockages of supply transport, restrictions on humanitarian access, tight scrutiny of humanitarian actors at checkpoints, roadblocks and road damage continue to raise protection concerns and drive humanitarian needs.
  - There is an urgent need to address civilian casualties, displacement, and safety concerns; implement measures to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), child protection (CP); provide critical psychosocial support; and advocate for the removal of roadblocks, movement restrictions, and supply blockages for unhindered humanitarian access.
  - GBV issues including early marriage, intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and unsafe migration were reported, particularly in the Northwest.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs were identified:
  - There are reports of household checks and interrogations by the SAC, as well as more stringent checks of civil documentation (i.e., ID cards) and searches of vehicles at entrance and exit points of Sittwe and Mrauk-U towns, further restricting movement of people and their access to basic services. In addition, tight security measures were imposed on the movement of Rohingya people between Sittwe and Rathedaung townships, as well as between Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in late August.
  - Premature IDP returns by the SAC from the MAF-Arakan Army (AA) displacement sites to people's places of origin continues. About 100 out of 500 displaced families living in camps in Kyauktaw township that are slated for closure in 2023, had to return to their places of origin in August. The remaining IDPs are under pressure to return by the end of rainy season.
  - Movement restrictions on Rohingya villagers and IDP communities continue to be reported in Kyauktaw and Kyaukpyu townships, adversely affecting their access to services. A night-time curfew continues at the Kyauk Ta Lone relocation site in Kyaukpyu township and Rohingya community members continue to be asked to secure village leaders' endorsements to travel into town.

- In northern Shan, forced recruitment, extortion, forced labour, fewer job opportunities and limited access to livelihoods due to armed conflict and presence of armed actors remain major protection concerns.
- Child Protection (CP) partners identified the following concerns across the country in August:
  - There is a need to address physical and emotional violence, trafficking, and exploitation.
  - Six grave violations against children were reported, mainly in the Southeast, that require a response.
  - There is a need to address arbitrary arrests of youth that continue to be reported in the Southeast.

## Response

- Between January and July 2023, Mine Action partners reached more than 225,100 people, including children, across the country. They received Mine Action services, including Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - Partners identified 30 persons with specific needs in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin and southern Shan; provided community resilience training in Kayin and Tanintharyi; supported legal consultations for 21 people in Kayah, Kayin and southern Shan; and continued ongoing legal and civilian documentation support, as well as case referral to relevant actors across the Southeast.
- In the Northwest, protection key messaging, awareness sessions, capacity building and distribution of essential kits continued despite access challenges. In Sagaing, partners provided cash assistance to 177 people with specific needs and 150 women and girls in Kale, Monywa and Yinmarbin townships.
- In northern Shan, a partner provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to more than 400 people, specifically on handling stress and positive coping mechanisms.
- In Rakhine, cluster members conducted a session on protection mainstreaming in humanitarian action for 25 young people in Sittwe township. In addition, partners established a coordination mechanism for sharing information and referral cases involving drug use.
- Partners continue to develop and disseminate safety messages in three languages (Myanmar, Rakhine and Rohingya).
- CP partners undertook the following responses in August:
  - Partners continue to prioritize MHPSS and awareness raising, especially in Rakhine, along with case management and provision of CP kits across the country. Community-level CP remains a priority and a localization dashboard is being used to develop a workplan to strengthen localization.
  - The Protection Cluster organized a training on CP in Emergencies for about 30 national and local partners from various states and regions and another training on tracking and monitoring of CP progress and gaps for nearly 100 people from CP partner organizations in August.
  - In the Southeast, in response to the August floods, CP partners provided specialized support to children with specific needs/risks including CP kits.
  - CP AoR Gender Steering Committee has produced a tip sheet for CP AoR actors on gender sensitive programming for children under the age of 13.
  - CP and GBV partners shared messages on child marriage for different stakeholders and a guidance note for GBV safe houses that includes CP.
- GVB partners undertook the following responses in August:
  - In southern Shan, about 1,500 dignity kits and about 100 delivery kits were distributed to displaced women and girls in Pekon township.
  - In Rakhine, partners continued to provide routine GVB prevention and response, ran a safe house, and undertook Menstrual Hygiene Management activities.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Due to limited access in the Southeast, there has been a gap in response for IDPs residing in the eastern and western part of Pekon township in southern Shan and in the western part of Demoso township and Hpruso township in Kayah. The needs of these IDPs for food, medicines and other essential relief items are growing.
- In Rakhine, flooding had an additional impact on cyclone-affected people in many townships, increasing their needs. Paddy fields, water ponds and livestock were damaged. Compounded by the monsoon season, ongoing humanitarian access limitations and uncertainties after the cyclone will continue to impact all communities with elevated protection-related risks if unresolved.
- In northern Shan, due to insufficient funding and limited technical capacity, the current coverage of protection services is low compared to the huge need. The cluster is trying to mobilize resources for additional funding to protection services and capacity building to expand its coverage in this area.
- Gaps remain in CP service delivery due to access constraints and funding. To date, according to the Financial Tracking Service, less than 19 per cent of required money has been received for CP services, forcing partners to focus on priority interventions.

- Funding remains a major constraint for the Mine Action, with less than two per cent of the required funding received.

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

### Needs

- In Kachin, more than 18,000 IDPs mostly in southern townships across Bhamo District urgently need NFIs including kitchen items, clothes, solar lamps, mats, and umbrellas. There is a need to stockpile more NFIs and shelter support for these IDPs as fighting continues.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners identified the following needs in August:
  - In Sagaing, more than 15,700 newly displaced people in 4 townships need emergency shelter and essential relief items. In Kale township alone, about 1,500 displaced families remain in need of shelter and NFI assistance amid access restrictions. Destruction of houses was reported in Chaung-U, Kale, Kanbalu and Tabayin townships during August. Due to continued movement of IDPs, people in need reported they preferred multi-purpose cash assistance.
  - In Chin, many older emergency shelters constructed in in displacement sites in Hakha, Matupi and Mindat townships in 2021 need renovation.
- In the Southeast, humanitarian needs remain high due to ongoing fighting and monsoon flooding in August. Immediate shelter assistance is needed for affected and displaced people in many impacted townships, including Dawei and Launglon in Tanintharyi.
- In Rakhine, particularly after Cyclone Mocha, shelter assistance remains a primary concern and shelter reconstruction and repairs are needed in IDP camps, displacement sites and villages. Some 207 out of more than 1,500 shelters urgently need reconstruction.

### Response

- Countrywide, cluster partners provided shelter and NFI assistance to more than 20,000 displaced families in August as below.
  - In the Northwest, 432 families received emergency shelter support in 2 townships in Chin; 112 families received NFI kits in 2 townships in Sagaing; and 1,936 families received cash assistance for shelter and NFI items in 8 townships in Chin and Sagaing. Some 155 out of the 1,700 displaced families in Sagaing were reached with shelter and NFI support in August.
  - In the Southeast, 7,350 families in Bago and Kayin received shelter and emergency NFI assistance.
  - In Kachin, more than 280 families received NFI assistance, including firewood. Partners also plan to provide tarpaulins to these displaced families in the next phase of distribution.
  - In Rakhine, more than 10,200 families in villages, displacement sites and camps in 7 townships received shelter and NFI assistance, including tarpaulin and ropes. In addition, partners reconstructed 35 longhouses.
  - In southern Shan, shelter partners distributed 475 roofing sheets, a set of solar streetlights, 5 tarpaulins and 40 mosquito nets to displaced children in 2 boarding schools and a monastery in 3 townships.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Ongoing conflict and heavy monsoon rains and flooding remain major challenges for cluster partners with regard to their operations and movement.
- In the Southeast, access restrictions, flooding, landslides, and damaged roads delayed transportation of supplies for two weeks.
- In the Northwest, increasing landmines along public roads are also a growing concern for humanitarian workers. In Sagaing, cluster partners are facing several challenges, including restrictions on movement and transportation of NFI supplies to displacement sites.
- Transportation routes to Khin-U, Shwebo and Ye-U townships have become more challenging due to military operations, as well as heavy rains, hindering access to about 3,000 displaced families in Khin-U and Shwebo townships.
- In Kachin, a gap for about 9,000 IDPs in Shwegu townships persists due to a lack of humanitarian access. Kitchen sets remain a major gap in stock for most of the partners.
- In Rakhine, land issues continue to cause problems in IDP camps in Sittwe township, affecting renovation and repair of the damaged infrastructure in the camps. Market prices of household items remain high since Cyclone Mocha, exacerbating the living conditions of affected and displaced communities. Furthermore, access constraints in northern Rakhine continue to be of significant concern.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- In Kachin, cluster partners identified that nearly 17,300 newly displaced people critically need WASH support in Hpakant, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, Shwegu, Tsawlaw and Waingmaw townships in August.
- In northern Shan, there is a significant need for WASH facilities, including water supply, latrines, and essential hygiene items for 1,125 families who were relocated from 18 IDP camps and integrated with nearby host communities in Hseni, Kutkai, Namhkan, Namtu and Muse townships.
- In Rakhine, more than 88 water ponds in Kyauktaw, Maungdaw and Minbya townships have been contaminated due to flooding in August, leading to additional hardship because of a shortage of clean water for daily use. In addition, an estimated 37,000 people in at least 4 townships across Rakhine have been affected by flooding and were forced to seek refuge in temporary shelters in religious buildings.
- In the Southeast, essential WASH items and support are needed for affected people, including IDPs, in eastern Bago, Kayah and Kayin, following the flooding in August.

### Response

- In Kachin, cluster partners reached more than 61,000 people in 13 townships with water supply in August.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in 134 Rakhine and Rohingya IDP camps/sites in 10 townships in August.
  - WASH partners organized 28 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies, benefiting 59,700 IDPs. These supplies included 3,581 hygiene kits, sanitary pads for women and girls, 640 bars of soap, 684 jerrycans/water buckets and 52 water filters.
  - Cluster partners undertook dewatering activities and provided direct cash support to village committees for fuel and rental fees to maintain 87 ponds in Kyauktaw and Minbya townships.
- In Shan, the following responses were undertaken in August:
  - In southern Shan, a partner provided WASH emergency assistance, including water filters, tarpaulin sheets and latrines, to 124 families in 3 IDP sites and distributed 1,700 meters of pipes to both IDPs and host communities in 2 villages in Pinlaung township.
  - A partner provided hygiene kits, water buckets, jerrycans, tarpaulins and ropes for temporary water storage tanks and latrines in 13 displacement sites in Pekon township, benefiting 5,430 IDPs.
  - In northern Shan, partners provided cash for food for a week and hygiene kits to nearly 900 IDPs in 6 temporary displacement sites in Muse township.
- In the Southeast, cluster partners provided the following WASH responses in August:
  - In Kayin, a partner distributed WASH items to flood affected families. These included hygiene kits, ropes, tarpaulin sheets, water buckets/jerrycans, water containers, water purification tablets for 880 families in Hlaingbwe and Kawkareik townships. Another partner constructed 20 emergency latrines and 9 bathing facilities in displacement sites in Kawkareik and Myawaddy districts.
- In the Northwest, the following WASH responses were undertaken in August:
  - In Chin and Sagaing, partners provided water containers to more than 6,500 IDPs; distributed hygiene kits to nearly 37,000 IDPs; and organized 126 hygiene education sessions for more than 3,500 IDPs.
  - In Sagaing, a partner constructed 300 fly-proof emergency latrines for 1,500 IDPs. Another partner provided 1,200 300-liter water containers for displaced families across Sagaing.
  - Cluster partners organized trainings for more than 200 volunteers and staff, aiming to enhance hygiene awareness among affected and displaced people in Chin, Magway and Sagaing. In addition, partners facilitated 205 community consultation meetings on hygiene awareness with nearly 4,200 participants in Chin and Sagaing.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, market prices continue to increase and there is limited stock available, further complicating the procurement of essential supplies. In addition, many WASH partners and staff members from local organizations are facing challenges with their TAs, primarily due to complications related to registration and MoUs.
- In Kachin, the provision of WASH assistance to more than 100 new IDPs in Hpakant township has been delayed due to transportation issues for WASH supplies which might increase health risks in the affected area. In Shwegu township, access restrictions and denial of travel authorizations continue to hinder cluster partners from reaching 14,364 IDPs with vital WASH assistance, leaving the affected people without necessary support.
- In the Southeast, WASH operations, including provision of sanitation facilities in Kayah, Kayin and several other states and regions have been hampered primarily by continuous airstrikes, as well as by roadblocks and security checks.

- In the Northwest, ongoing conflict and multiple checkpoints continue to be a challenge for WASH partners, leading to inaccessibility or delays in delivering assistance. Ensuring the safety of staff remains a top challenge, given previous detentions and investigations by local forces in Sagaing. Additionally, the absence of reliable internet access in many areas across the Northwest continue to pose communication challenges with partners and hinder program monitoring and implementation.

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